

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative).

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MINUTES OF IOWA YEARLY MEETING (CONSERVATIVE)**

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**Minutes of
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
139th Annual Sessions**

Seventh Month 26 to Seventh Month 31, 2016

FOURTH DAY – WEDNESDAY – 7/27/16

Clerk – At the 139th annual session of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative held at Scattergood Friends School, near West Branch, Iowa from Seventh Month 26 to Seventh Month 31, 2016.

Assistant Clerk – *“How can we walk with a smile into the dark? We must learn to put our trust in God and the leadings of the Spirit.”*

Gordon Matthews 1987

We are glad to have the presence of these visitors: Lloyd Lee Wilson Friendship Meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting (C), Robin Mohr Executive Secretary of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Green St Meeting, Philadelphia YM, Janice Domanik traveling on behalf of Friends General Conference and the FGC Yearly Meeting Visitors Program Lake Forest Monthly Meeting, Illinois Yrly Mtg

Carol Bartles Burlington Worship Group, Illinois Yearly Meeting, Stephen Donahoe, Friends Committee on National Legislation Major Gifts Officer. Readers for this morning’s business sessions are Shirley Scritchfield and Dan Treadway.

MONTHLY MEETING APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO YEARLY MEETING

Ames – Dan Treadway
BearCreek- EldonMorey
Decorah – Martha Davis
Des Moines Valley – Andrea Holveck, Cindy Winchell
Iowa City – Sara Andrews, Carole Winkleblack
Lincoln – Jean Eden, Dan Schlitt
Omaha – Carol Gilbert, Frank Griffith, Paullina – Doyle Wilson
Penn Valley - Shirley Scritchfield
West Branch – Rebecca Bergus, Callie Marsh
Whittier - Ruth Hampton, Bob Yeats

MONTHLY MEETING APPOINTMENTS OF CARETAKERS TO YEARLY MEETING

Ames - Deb Fink and Ebby Luvaga
Bear Creek – Bob Winchell
Decorah – Bill Deutsch
Des Moines Valley – Jack Holveck
Iowa City – John Andrews
Lincoln – Marge Schlitt
Omaha – Marshall Massey
Paullina – Steve Snyder
Penn Valley – none appointed
West Branch – Larry Marsh
Whittier – Kathy Hall

There are 15 representatives and 7 caretakers present. Others may be attending later sessions.

The Representatives approved the name of the following appointments submitted by the monthly meetings for Nominating Committee:

Ames – A.M. Fink
Bear Creek – Alberta Kisling, Jackie Leckband (shared)
Decorah – Christine Kelly
Des Moines Valley – Cindy Winchell

Iowa City – Carole Winkleblack

Lincoln – Jean Eden

Omaha -Carol Gilbert

Paullina – none appointed

Penn Valley – none appointed

West Branch – Judy Cottingham

Whittier – none appointed

The Exercise, Epistle and Special Reply Committees, Yearly Meeting Reporters, and Auditing Committee are appointed by the Representatives. We approve the following appointments suggested by the Representatives::

Exercise Committee Callie Marsh, Bill Deutsch, Jean Eden

Epistle Committee Peter Clay, Penny Majors, Ruth Hampton

Special Replies Lucy Marsh, Marshall Massey, Mary Snyder

Yearly Meeting Reporters Martha Davis, Rebecca Bergus, Jeff Kisling, Carol Winkleblack, Jeff Kisling

Auditing Committee Carol Winkleblack, Dan Treadway

Our Midyear Meeting continues to be a cherished gathering for us each year. Hearing this good report reminded us how much joy we received in being together with the many people who come to Midyear Meeting. We hope those same Friends can find their way to our annual sessions so we can again enjoy the blessings of us gathering together.

It takes work to put on Midyear Meeting and we deeply appreciate Bear Creek and Des Moines Valley Friends in doing this labor of love for us.

MIDYEAR MEETING REPORT

Over one hundred Friends gathered for Midyear Meeting at Bear Creek Meetinghouse on April 9-10. Rebecca and George Bergus led a discussion of “Understanding Islam: Overcoming Fear.” We shared our perspective of Islam, discarding false views of what Islam teaches. In a quiz about the Prophet Mohammed, we learned about the beliefs of Islam and began to see what role culture plays in our perceptions of Islam. Finally we were challenged to learn more and be supportive of the Islamic communities in our neighborhoods.

We enjoyed the presence of eleven children, who gathered in Bear Creek Cottage to learn about Muslims and their faith. After a

presentation on the basics of Islam, they colored Arabic designs, which do not depict any living thing, made a Middle East village from large cardboard boxes, used blow-up globes to locate where we live and where large concentrations of Muslim children live. The globes also made great light-weight balls for games of “keep away” and “volleyball”. An afternoon highlight for the children was learning about the Arabic alphabet, and writing their own initials in Arabic, and writing the word for Peace. All the children enjoyed a Middle East dessert called k’nafi, which is also a favorite of Muslim children. They ended Saturday with an evening movie and popcorn. The children remaining on First Day attended Meeting for Worship. At mealtimes, they were helpful in collecting trays and picking up plates.

We also enjoyed the presence of a large group of students and staff from Scattergood. As usual, a sale on behalf of AFSC featured many gifted items.

Financial report:

Donations		\$3269.00
Expenses		
Dallas County Conservation	\$210.00	
Food	900.00	
Cook	500.00	
Committee Expenses	35.47	
Hosting Fee	300.00	
Scattergood Help	300.00	
Total Expenses		<u>\$2245.47</u>
Forwarded to Yearly Meeting		\$1023.53

Again we thank Bear Creek Meeting for hosting us and for Des Moines Valley Meeting for providing the children’s program under the leadership of D. J. Newlin.

Submitted by A. M. Fink, clerk

We appreciated hearing the Interim Meeting Report

INTERM MEETING MINUTES

Fourth Month 9, 2016
 Bear Creek Meeting House

Present:
 Deborah Dakin of Whittier, clerk

Peter Clay of Des Moines, assistant clerk
AM Fink Ames
Richard Johnson and Burt Kisling of Bear Creek
Bill Deutsch of Decorah
Bob Winkleblack of Iowa City
Jean Eden and Marge Schlitt Lincoln
Lynda Fife of Omaha
Deborah Fisch and Beth Wilson Paullina
Ruth Hampton and Sarah Rutledge of Whittier

Deborah Fisch, Martha Davis and Carole Winkleblack will attend the annual sessions held of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) on our behalf. We will continue to look for someone to attend Ohio Yearly Meeting, and hope to make an appointment at our annual sessions.

We discussed our ongoing difficulties in encouraging Friends to attend other Conservative Yearly Meetings. It feels important that we first encourage Friends to attend our own yearly meeting, and direct our main energies there. We noted that it can be difficult for many people to attend annual sessions when work and family commitments don't allow for time off.

We approved rewording Deborah Fisch's travel minute to state that she used to work for Friends General Conference. As this new stage of her life unfolds, Deborah might be led to further travels in the ministry. If this is the case and there are ways our yearly meeting can support her, we encourage her to ask!

We had an extended discussion regarding the relationship between our monthly meetings and the yearly meeting and how this relates to yearly meeting attendance. Last year, the 2015 YM Representatives asked the yearly meeting clerk to convene a committee to look into possible changes such as the time of year, days of the week, venues, and format to see if it would help improve attendance. Before convening a committee on the changing the schedule, the clerk felt it helpful for IYMC members to think about what it is that we meet for: *"Who are we as a yearly meeting, and how are we called?"*

With the hope of helping members in all of our 7 states discover what they share with the other IYMC members, the yearly meeting clerk wrote all meeting clerks and asked them to share what they love about being a member of their meeting. They were later asked to explore the same question within their meetings. Next, they were asked to reflect on changes they would like to see, and dreams for what a community of

faith would look like. The clerk collated and shared all the responses she received with Interim meeting. We then held a discussion about the participation and lack of participation of IYMC Friends in yearly meeting. Interim Meeting requested the ym clerk to follow up by sending the following two questions out to all of our monthly meetings:

1. Why do I go or not go to yearly meeting?

2. If I do not go to yearly meeting, what needs to change in order for me to attend?

The meeting approved having the yearly meeting clerk send the following letters brought forward by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee to their intended recipients:

1. To Iowa State Senators:

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) of the Religious Society of Friends urges you and the Iowa Senate to reject SF2281.

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) has minuted our support for Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) and this bill misrepresents the BDS movement. Being an "Anti-Boycott Bill", it essentially serves to be an "Anti-Free speech Bill."

SF2281 is a bill that:

1. Is outside the scope of responsibility of the Iowa Senate.
2. Is an infringement on the right of the people of Iowa to express themselves politically and morally on public issues.

The Iowa Senate does not have a responsibility to speak on Israel-Palestine, but has an absolute responsibility to protect free speech rights of the people of Iowa.

In God's love, and

On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) members living in your Senate District,

Deborah Dakin, clerk,

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Approved at the 2016 Midyear Interim Business Meeting of

Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative held 4/9/16 at Earlham, Iowa.

The AFSC Report was a challenging one to hear. We appreciate the good work of Kathleen McQuillen and will send a note of thanks to her in honor of her retirement.

Friends' practices are difficult to do. We struggle ourselves to do them with integrity and know from personal experience that we frequently fall short.

We join with AFSC in the prayer that they may continue to do good work that truly can stand in the Light.

AFSC REPORT 2016

Your two intrepid AFSC representatives made it to a relatively balmy early March in old Philly for the 99th year corporation meeting. Most of the business this year was relatively routine with much of the focus being on next year's 100th anniversary. Shan Cretin, General Secretary, announced that she will be stepping down after the Centennial. Throughout the many presentations there seemed to be a renewed emphasis on youth organizing and lobbying: Freedom Schools for youth of color, organizing in support of the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) movement that targets companies that profit from the Israeli occupation of and settlements in Palestinian lands, and influencing prison and sentencing reform.

A major highlight was an inspiring, thoughtful, and strategic speech by the Reverend William Barber, the North Carolina pastor who founded the "Moral Mondays" movement. The talk (which is available online) is a challenging and inspiring view of our society and its long standing challenges regarding race and wealth inequality in a way that is very much geared to Quakers.

Finances have stabilized a bit after the long recovery from the 2008 financial collapse. Donations are up a small amount but not enough to make up for the anticipated decline in bequests. Caution was expressed about the long range financial picture because of demographic changes and fluctuations in the financial markets. Because of this, alternative financial plans are being drawn up for reduced budgets in case they are needed.

In the time since the changes in governance structure and reduction of the number of regions, it seems that the culture of AFSC has become more a reflection of American corporate style of governance than that of Quaker practice. Much of the staff is unfamiliar with Friends Process or openly antagonistic to it. With the retention of all financial control in Philadelphia and the increased reliance on relatively short-term planning

and goal-setting with outside evaluation, decision making seems to be even further from the people who do the work and those affected by it. Regional executive committees are still charged with program choice but they are severely constrained by complete financial control from Philadelphia.

Changes are coming to the Des Moines and Kansas City Offices. Ira Haritt will be retiring after many years of doing an amazing job in Kansas City. Programming will be changing in Des Moines with increased emphasis on immigrant services and organizing. With Kathleen McQuillen's Fall retirement, the Peacebuilding Program will be laid down. I am sure that this is discouraging to Kathleen, as it is to many of us. Please be sure to thank her for the great work that she has been doing for many years. The weeds in her garden better watch out! Thanks Kathleen!

In addition to our corporation representatives, many IYM(C) folks are involved with AFSC at different levels. Victoria Albright has been co-clerk of the Midwest Region Executive Committee and a member of the National Board. Bob Yeats serves on the Midwest Region Executive Committee and Dan Schlitt is on the Board Program Committee. Many others serve as meeting liaisons and on local program committees. Thank You!

Bob Yeats, Convener

Dan Schlitt, Ann Stromquist, Andrea Jilovec Rebecca Bergus (alternate)

We read the two epistles from Conservative yearly meetings in North Carolina and Ohio. We appreciated learning of the international outreach of North Carolina Friends and Ohio Friends reminded us of the variety of word that can be used to express our faith.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

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www.ncymc.org

Seventh month 17, 2016

Dear Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative,

We gathered at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC on Seventh Month 14-17, 2016, for our 319th annual Sessions. As we gather we remember our distant Friends with great fondness and love.. This year

we are gathered under the theme “I Love to Feel Where Words Com From,” a translated quote from Papunehang, a member of the Delaware tribe in response to John Woolman’s ministry on Sixth Month 18, 1763. As we read your epistle to our body, we felt the love of your words to us. We hope that this epistle shares our love with you.

We are grateful for the visit from Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative Friends Carol Winkleblack, Martha Davis, and Deborah Fisch to our annual sessions. We appreciated their presence in our business meetings and in our other activities. Our member Lloyd Lee Wilson is planning to visit your sessions this year and we look forward to hearing about them when he returns.

We have been so excited this year as participation in yearly meeting has increased and our Young Friends number over 20. Our Young Friends have participated in annual sessions as Reading Clerk and by reading State of Society Reports for a monthly meeting. They have also helped illustrate stories during our morning Bible study and showed the Adult Friends how to dance. It has truly been a joy to be with and participate side by side with our Young Friends.

We were also blessed to have a young adult Friends Elizabeth Rolfe, represent us in Peru at the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) World Plenary. Her report to the meeting of the event include queries that made us think about our role as citizens of Earth and how we plan to live out our Quaker testimonies of peace and equality in relation to young adult Friends in our meetings. She is now the clerk of the Young Adult Friends Committee for FWCC and has started traveling internationally to build connections all over the world among young adult Friends.

For the past four years we have been supporting a Bolivian young Friends who has recently graduated with a degree in engineering. We have decided as a yearly meeting to continue our support for Bolivian young Friends and commit ourselves to supporting another student for the next four years. We were also given the opportunity to support a Cuban young adult Friend who hopes to attend Guilford College.

The *Journal* Committee completed our yearly meeting’s seventh *Journal* this year entitled “Keeping the Unit of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace”. There were 250 copies printed and they are almost gone! The *Journal* will be available on our website in the near future. By reading Yearly Meeting’s Journals some Friends were convinced that this was their spiritual home. The *Journal* Committee is now working on the theme for the next issue.

The Book of Disciple revision is in its third year. The committee has been faithful in its work and the Body is grateful for all it has done. The revisions process is giving us opportunity to share and discuss everything from important concepts to historical events to word choices. Even though this work can be slow and tiring, we are learning from each other and learning more about ourselves as a body. We are richly blessed to have undertaken this work and to have people who are gifted by God to do this work.

On our final evening together we had a grand time with a sing-a-long led by talented musicians on guitars and piano along with percussion instruments of all who wanted them. Young and old sang their hearts out and laughed out loud.

We hold you in our hearts and pray that you are able to feel the Love that we have for you. May you experience the Love of God with which we have been so richly blessed. Please know that it would warm our hearts if you were able to visit with us next year. We will be meeting for our 320th session in Wilmington, NC, Seventh Month 12-16, 2017, if in accordance with Divine Will.

On behalf of North Carolina Year Meeting (Conservative),
Nancy Craft, Clerk

North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative Young Friends Program Epistle

The Young Friends Convened for fun activities and learning opportunities during the sessions of NCYMC from seventh month 13-17, 2016 at Guilford College. We had a great turn-out with a number of families present and 16 Young Friends participating, from 4-15 years old. This year, we also had 4 Young Adult Friends participating, from 16-22 years old. These Young Adult Friends participated in some of the Young Friends activities as leaders, some of the adult program and also planned some of their own activities.

The Young Friends program included trying to go bowling (but not succeeding), playing board games and foosball, acting-out the story of the Young Rich Man from Mark 12:17-27 on Friday morning as part of an intergenerational Bible study, visiting Janice and Charlie Ansell's farm (Wings of Dawn Farm) to get dig potatoes and tour the farm, going swimming, starting a multi-year oral history audio recording project of active members of our yearly meeting, going to the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in downtown Greensboro, and working with

Bruce Arnold to develop something on worship to share before meeting for worship on first day morning.

One of the highlights was celebrating Liam Wilgen's birthday on Friday evening during the snack time. We had a big cake and lots of ice cream. Music and dancing followed until we felt it was probably time to quiet down and allow Friends to go to sleep.

Another highlight was the Saturday evening program led by Mark Wutka where the Young Friends had lots of drums and other rhythm instruments to experiment with as Mark led a reflection on sound as an allegory for various experiences of Quaker spirituality. Drumming and rhythm making continued during a time of group singing after Mark's program.

We are grateful to the yearly meeting for developing and supporting our participation in yearly meeting sessions.

Epistle From Ohio Yearly Meeting

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative),
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13: Delight thyself also in the Lord, and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Psalm 37:4

We greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who alone is our hope, our joy, our peace, and fondly reach out to you, lovingly remembering our historical ties, and spiritual connectedness in Christ. It was our joy to be reminded of, and to continue in Christian fellowship with you this year through the presence of Bob Winchell of Bear Creek Monthly Meeting from your yearly meeting. We also welcome from among you, Ken Hinshaw of Paullina Monthly Meeting, who has taken the role of head of Olney Friends School. We cherish the ties that hold us together in Christ, and desire that those ties might remain strong through our loving Savior. Blessed be the name of the Lord!

We enjoyed reading your Epistle and hearing of the many ways you are bringing Light into the world. We share your joy of the establishment of your new monthly meeting. Your practice of on-line Christ-centered waiting worship inspires us to stretch our own ministries, and we wonder what we might learn from offering time for sharing of prayers and conviction stories. As way opens, we hope visitations between our yearly meetings will continue and keep us close.

We have met this year from Eighth Month 4th-9th, 2015 on the grounds of Stillwater Friends Meetinghouse and Olney Friends School, and have enjoyed clear skies and gentle breezes in the verdant, rolling hills of God's creation near Barnesville, Ohio. During the waiting worship at our first yearly meeting session, we were enjoined to come to the foot of the cross of Christ, and to make sure that both all our words spoken and all our actions taken in yearly meeting worship and business might happen with the awareness of the shadow of His cross.

God has been faithful, and as the week has flown by, we have frequently sensed the covering of His Spirit in our worship and business as we have collectively submitted ourselves to Christ's leading. We are thankful for the strength and refreshment of spirit that we have received from spoken messages, and sweet fellowship together at meals and at times of informal sharing.

Here are some of the highlights of our time together this week:

We are thankful to the Lord for an increase of both His Spirit and numbers. This year we are gladdened to welcome a new meeting into the membership of Ohio Yearly Meeting: Marlborough Monthly Meeting in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.

We received a renewed reminder that God is calling us to be faithful for times such as these. We must build on the firm foundation of Christ in order to give the next generation a strong, sure base on which they can continue to build. We were challenged to ask ourselves:

Are we passing on our Quaker faith and practice to the next generation?

Are we being good and faithful servants with the physical blessings God has given us?

Are we being good and faithful servants with the spiritual message God has given us?

What are we doing to help those who don't yet have a relationship with our Lord and Savior? Have we let them know how deeply they are loved by God?

What are we both corporately and individually called to do in His service?

What does it mean to be a people of God - a peculiar people? ○ How are we responding to God's call in Isaiah 6:8, "Who shall I send?" Are we willing to respond as Isaiah did: "Here am I. Send me!"

Mornings, we have meaningfully begun our days with corporate silent Bible reading. Then, as different people felt led to read passages aloud, they did so, without comment. The Lord taught us much through the scriptures.

After Bible reading, some of us met for prayer to share prayer requests

and to offer vocal prayer. Others of us were challenged during a concurrent meeting with Henry Jason, who helped us examine our Christian Quaker Foundations through New Testament words and concepts as they were traditionally understood and explained by early Friends.

We spent an evening reflecting on the Friends peace testimony, hearing from a panel of individuals as they shared with us how they have interpreted and lived out Christ's call to love our enemies and to pray for those who would persecute us. (Matthew 5:44)

One evening we learned much from Marian Baker (a recorded minister from New England Yearly Meeting) who shared her Gospel ministry travels in Uganda and Tanzanian Yearly Meetings. The Lord has been moving in a mighty way among African Friends: where was once just one yearly meeting in Africa, there are now twenty yearly meetings with an estimated 200,000 Friends.

We eagerly look forward to hearing conviction stories (Sixth Day evening) from several of our members as they share their spiritual paths and how they found Christ in their spiritual journeys.

Our junior yearly meeting has been with us in our meetings for worship, and then moved to their own sessions when the adults turned to the business of the yearly meeting. We are looking forward to their presentation Seventh Day evening. We are also thankful to the Lord for the adults who have given their time and talents to nurture the youth attending.

Our Outreach Committee is exploring new ways via Internet technology to gather together isolated Ohio Yearly Meeting Friends for an experimental, called, online meeting of Christ-centered, waiting worship. This kind of experimental Internet meeting for worship is in its infancy, but might utilize new methods of online, live meeting using Internet software such as Skype, or Google Plus (Hangout), or Facebook Video Chat, or perhaps some other software. We will learn more if way opens to move forward with the experiment.

The fellowship this week with our Savior and with each other has been sweet. While we would love to stay on the mountaintop, we know that God calls us all to be His servants in His world, helping communicate Him to those He brings into our individual lives. We pray that the Truth will prosper among both you and us as we move into the coming year. May we all live, move, and spend our lives in service to Him, the Savior and Lover of our Souls.

On behalf of Ohio Yearly Meeting,
Seth Hinshaw, clerk 8/8/15

We heard selections from epistles from all over the world. They were rich and uplifting and reminded us that we join in carrying both the joys and sufferings of the world when we come to sessions and when they are over and we return home.

DOCUMENT COMMITTEE REPORT
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) March 31- April 3,
2016 Ireland Yearly Meeting, Dublin, Ireland

In our Ministry and Oversight session, the topic was “The Gift of Conflict”. We were encouraged to welcome conflict rather than avoid it, as it offers the potential for compassion, creativity and innovation. Our public lecture given by William D. A. Haire, was entitled, “Who is my Neighbour?” ” What is our Testimony of Inclusion? “ Drawing on the testimonies of Fox, Bellers and Woolman, Will noted that our faith and tradition is only of value if we also live it now. Poverty and social exclusion are not inevitable and can be changed. Reflecting on his career working in Government in Northern Ireland, Will found that “unreasonable optimism” was a very necessary requirement in life. A positive faith is essential in the face of tough challenges. This is also essentially the message of Quakerism.

Danish Yearly Meeting, April 2nd-3rd 2016
Copenhagen, Denmark

We examined the European refugee crisis from a Quaker perspective. We were reminded of the fifth Moses book chapter 24, verse 17 “You shall treat foreign and parentless justly...remember that you too were once slaves in Egypt...” as well as # 22 in Advice and Queries: “Respect the wide diversity among us in our lives and relationships. Refrain from making prejudiced judgments about the life journey of others...”

Remember that each of us is unique, precious, a child of God.”

Central and Southern Africa Yearly Meeting
Modderpoort, South Africa- April 27 – May 3, 2016

We have always been aware of our diversity, but this Yearly Meeting showed up some of the challenges we face, which are:

Tackling immediate needs...which caused us to set up a hunger relief fund...and longer term issues (the fact that drought is now the norm across wide sections of southern Africa).

Building interpersonal peace (via AVP for example) but also living in socio-economic environments characterized by violence, poverty and inequality.

“Do we divide our worlds into spiritual activities, family life, secular pursuits and political action, into good people and bad people, us and them, old ways and new ways? Let’s make them one.

Let’s find the goodness in the other. The infinite in the humdrum, the wisdom in the ancestor, the eternal in the here and now.”

**New England Yearly Meeting of Friends–Quakers
355th annual sessions , Castleton Vermont, August 1-6th 2015**

...Our hope for the work of the yearly meeting is a great hope. In humility and with divine guidance we partner with God in transforming the world.

**Britain Yearly Meeting
Friends House, London May 27-30, 2016**

...The problems that we face are big and urgent, and we may feel that we are standing at the edge of all that we know. However, if we have faith and trust in our leadings, when we take the next step together, either we will find earth under our feet or God will give us wings.

We now adjourn to meet again Fifth Day at 9:30 a.m.

Fifth Day – Thursday – 7/28/2016

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.”

"Quakerism is far from a comfortable faith. It is full of queries. Are you? Have you? Then as one grows in the silence and in the development of the craft of Hope, there comes the realization of another thorny growth-the inability to avoid responsibility for the suffering of others, 'Let your lives speak!' The challenge George Fox threw out three hundred years ago has not lost its barb. Do I? Am I? Should I? There are no easy answers." Elizabeth Stevenson

Jay Robinson and Bob Yeats have been appointed readers this morning.

MINUTE OF THIRD AND FOURTH DAY ACTIVITIES

IYMC Friend Lorene Ludy led our Third Day evening session with a program dedicated to storytelling and listening. We took turns sharing a story and attentive open listening with a partner. We discovered that stories are powerful, listening is powerful, and can deeply connect us to others.

It is our tradition to hear American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Midwest Region and Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) presentations during Fourth Day afternoon. Steven Donahoe shared his enthusiasm for lobbying with FCNL and shared stories about how developing personal relationships with your elected Representatives and their staff can bring about real change on issues that Friends care about. AFSC Communications Specialist Jon Krieg gave us a brief overview of the Midwest Region's programs and resources. Sandra Sanchez shared her experiences of over twenty years working on immigration issues in Des Moines. This is timely work, there is a lot to do and many ways to show hospitality to our neighbors.

In the evening of Fourth Day, we learned from Greg Elliot about AFSC's new Quaker Social Change Ministry program. There are two parts to this model: 1) using storytelling to ground the work spiritually and develop relationships, and 2) work with the people closest to the ground and those most impacted by the issue. IYMC Friend Jeff Kisling shared how his experience with Quaker Social Change Ministry has changed his life and helped his monthly meeting build a relationship with the K.I. Institute in Indianapolis. The vision of this work is to "co-create the Beloved Community" and both Greg and Jeff are passionate advocates for doing just that.

We are blessed to have the presence of these visitors:

David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson, Miami Monthly Meeting, Ohio Valley
Yearly Mtg

Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson, Miami Monthly Meeting, Ohio Valley
Yearly Mtg

Jay Robinson, Wellington Monthly Meeting, Aotearoa/New Zealand
Yearly Meeting

We heard of all the joyful work Friends World Committee for Consultation is doing to connect Friends around the world. We are very grateful for that work and for this good report. We are especially glad to welcome General Secretary of the Americas Robin Mohr at our sessions

this year. We encourage IYMC to participate in World Quaker Day, which will be held next 10/2/16.

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Answering God's call to universal love, the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications, and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world.

FWCC, through its four section offices, runs programmes in different regions, uniting Friends around the world. Here in North America, we belong to the Section of the Americas.

Although none of the Iowa (Cons) representatives were able to attend the FWCC World Plenary Meeting in Pisac, Peru, we have been active in other ways. For example, one Iowa representative is part of a new Correspondence Program Group. This personalized correspondence replaces Wider Quaker Fellowship publications.

Other programs of FWCC include, but are not limited to, World Quaker Day and Voices of Friends. FWCC invites every Quaker meeting and church from around the world to celebrate **WORLD QUAKER DAY** (WQD) on October 2, 2016. The theme, *Inspired by Faith - Witnessing Together in the World*, focuses on FWCC's mission of Connecting Friends, Crossing Cultures and Changing Lives.

Voices of Friends is an online educational program. To explore Quakerism today, see voicesoffriends.org.

Section meetings are now held every other year. The next section meeting will be March 23-26, 2017 in Pittsburgh, PA. The theme will be *Vivir La Pax, Living Peace*.

The deadline for applicants to the Traveling Ministry Corps has been extended to September 30, 2016. If you would like to share your ministry or to host a visitor at your local meeting, go to fwccamericas.org.

We look forward to having Robin Mohr, Executive Secretary, Section of the Americas, with us for part of this yearly meeting session. It will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more.

For the Committee,

Mary Snyder

We listened to the Publications Committee Report. Our published minutes are so important to us in so many ways and we are grateful for the hard work that Ann Stromquist, Martha Davis and the rest of the committee do to get these books put together and sent to us. We will try our best to make their work easier by proofreading our entries, and work to respond to all their requests for materials in a timely manner.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Publication Committee appreciated the timely receipt of the minutes and reports from our Yearly Meeting clerk for our 2015 Minute Book. We also appreciated the prompt response from the monthly meetings for information and corrections in the directory listings for each individual meeting.

The cost of printing the 2015 Minutes of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), and the cost of mailing this publication to the individual meetings will be listed with this report in the 2016 Minute Book. The Clerk of the Publication Committee apologizes for the delay in providing this financial report at the Yearly Meeting sessions. This list will also include the cost of mailing to Quaker colleges, institutions and individuals who have requested our yearly publication. This list is reviewed each year and anyone wishing to see this list is asked to contact Martha Davis at davismartha67@gmail.com.

Positive feedback from meeting members will continue to encourage us to make available spiral-bound copies of the Minute Book for those who specifically request them in their monthly meeting order.

It has been suggested that some changes be made in the Publication Committee to reflect the changing needs of the Yearly Meeting. Friends have had many discussions on the need for a Yearly Meeting website that can be enhanced and updated. A committee of Friends with the interest and expertise in this area could be the best way to proceed. The committee continues to be guided by the Yearly Meeting on this important issue.

The committee welcomes suggestions and comments on the minutes and directory of our Yearly Meeting.

The new Clerk wishes to especially thank Ann Stromquist for her faithful work on this YM project from 2012-2015.

For the Committee,
Martha Davis, clerk
Ann Stromquist

USPO costs for mailing 2015 Minute books:	
Within US 35 copies @ \$2.61	\$91.35
Great Britain 2 copies @ 10.72	21.44
Monteverde, Costa Rica @ 10.31	<u>10.31</u>
Total	\$123.10

Renewal of web hosting account for iymc.org website, \$143.88
 Total expenses were \$123.10 + \$143.88 = \$266.98

For the Committee,
Martha Davis, clerk
Ann Stromquist

We listened to the 2015 Entertainment Committee Report and appreciate the work of that committee.

2015 ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

“Growing in the Light” was the theme of the 2015 Iowa Yearly meeting annual sessions, planned and hosted by Decorah, Iowa City, West Branch, and Whittier Monthly Meetings. Evening Collections included a program by Jim Kessler on Backyard Makeovers, FCNL Program Assistant Hannah Evans sharing her experiences on the topic “Growing Stronger,” and a look by Scattergood staff and alumni toward the future of the school. On one evening singer-songwriter Trish Bruxvoort-Culligan and her family shared their musical message. First Day morning Julia Ryberg shared her spiritual journey during Pre-Meeting.

Receipts were somewhat less than expenses this year, resulting in a balance of \$1,800.22 passed on to the 2016 planning committee.

RECEIPTS

Forwarded from 2015 Committee	2,000.00
Contributions	<u>11,192.64</u>
Total	13,192.64

EXPENSES

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL	10,000.00
PROGRAM	1,300.00
PRINTING AND POSTAGE	92.42
Child Care	0.00
Forward for 2016 Committee	<u>1,800.22</u>
Total	13,192.64

For the committee,

Jim Cottingham

We enjoyed the good report of the Archives Committee

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT 2016

Our Faith and Practice says, "The Archives Committee is charged with collecting and preserving publications, documents, and records important to the yearly meeting."

This we stand ready to do.

There were no new developments this year.

The Special Needs Committee continues to work on improving the sound system. Their attention to detail at yearly meeting allows more of us to participate in our business. Though further work needs to be done, we are glad they are working to improve access to all our facilities for everyone.

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE REPORT 2016

The Special Needs Committee worked this year on consolidating and improving the quality of what we have been doing rather than embarking on any new projects. We focused on the quality and reliability of our sound system and induction loop hearing assistance. Our experience with a borrowed low quality lavalier mic showed us the advantage of this type of microphone for presenters while at the same time reminding us that you get the quality that you pay for. Our new professional quality microphone debuted at Mid-Year Meeting to good reviews. John Andrews has done much to streamline the setup of the sound and loop systems.

Much still remains to be done to make our meetings truly accessible to all people who wish to come. A way needs to be found to make the

downstairs cafeteria at Scattergood available to those who use a wheelchair. Perhaps a smoothed grade or sealed pathway around the back of the building might serve both wheelchairs and golf carts for a less hair-raising trip down the hill. An even better solution would be an elevator or wheelchair lift into the basement which would also protect from the, not always friendly, Iowa elements.

We thank the folks at Scattergood and Bear Creek Meeting for their help. We couldn't have done it without you.

Special Needs Committee: Bob Yeats, John Andrews, Harry Olmstead, Bob Winchell, Sherry Hutchison

Hearing our queries and listening to the responses from across the yearly meeting drew us into our Collected Body. The queries can help us discover who we are as Friends. They offer us the opportunity in our faith to say "yes" or "no" and we should not squander that opportunity.

Who are we as a people of faith? We are a people whose encounter with the Divine compels us to wrestle with these questions, and wrestling honestly with these questions is more important than a checklist of right or wrong answers.

Our answers are one more way God draws us in and shows us who we are, where we are going, where we have been, and will continue to offer us the opportunity to say "yes" or "no" as we wrestle with these queries in the future. As we heard in today's opening reflection: *"Quakerism is far from a comfortable faith."*

QUERY RESPONSES 2016

CONSIDERATION OF QUERY #1: MEETING FOR WORSHIP

QUERY

- Are our Meetings for Worship held in a spirit of expectant waiting and communion with the Holy Spirit? How do we prepare our hearts and minds for worship?
- How do we refer to that which is divine? How does ascribing gender to the Holy Spirit affect our worship?
- How does the vocal ministry of the meeting contribute to its spiritual life? In what ways do we recognize and nurture vocal ministry and other spiritual gifts?

RESPONSE

While we all experience moments of expectant waiting on our own, we agreed that the feeling of specialness in silent meeting helps us center and feel more aware of the spirit. As one Friend put it, “this is a great time for a meet-up [with God].” On the days when many feel expectancy among us, we may refer to that as a “blanketed meeting.”

Some meetings have designated people who help others settle for worship. We don’t do that, but we have people like John Griffith who do anchor the meeting even without doing so intentionally.

Thinking about preparing for meeting for worship led to thoughts of what we wear. Mormons traditionally change clothes into white clothes that are only used at this time. And in the Bible story about someone giving a party to which no one came, and then going out to find guests, those who weren’t dressed right were rejected. Perhaps this referred to inward preparation more than outward.

In any case, Quakers nowadays tend to more casual clothing, not necessarily their grubbies but clothes that feel right. We prepare for meeting in a more inward fashion than an outer one.

The quality of our vocal ministry varies. Do we speak from the spirit rather than our heads? Reva Griffith used to say that if we are too sure that our message is spirit-led, we may be deceiving ourselves.

It is difficult to discern where our urge to speak comes from. Is it God or is it NPR? However, we need to be slow to judge others’ messages as inappropriate, because they may inspire us anyway. Nor do we know what kind of inspiration others have had. It is possible, however, that announcements from the news or of a political nature may be better shared at announcement time.

A useful byway in the query discussion concerned the theology of Quakers, or perhaps we should say our various views of the divine. Even though our practice centers on our openness to messages from the spirit, there are Quakers who call themselves non-theists. While no one present uses that term for themselves, there are those who don’t believe that there is an “old man in the sky,” or a personified deity. And those of us who have talked to “non-theists” have the impression that they, like many of us, seek a sense of divinity while rejecting the traditional views that they were taught.

We don’t know much about each other’s’ views on God, and some are hesitant to share that in silent worship, although it might be just right. It might be productive to have a program on this topic.

CONSIDERATION OF QUERY #2: OUTREACH

QUERY

- Do we encourage intervisitation within the Yearly Meeting and with other Friends?
- What are we doing to share our faith with others outside our Friends community?

How do we speak truth as we know it and yet remain open to truth as understood by others?

- In what ways do we cooperate with persons and groups with whom we share concerns? How do we reach out to those with whom we disagree?
- How do we make the presence of our meeting known to the larger community? Do we invite others to share in our Meetings for Worship and other meeting activities?

Do we welcome everyone and appreciate the gifts that differences such as race, creed, economic status, disability, age, gender or sexual orientation may bring to us?

RESPONSE

Des Moines Valley meeting joined us as we prepared for a funeral. This also helped us to prepare for Mid-year Meeting the next weekend. Mid-year Meeting is a special time of learning, worshiping together, renewing friendships and the richness of vocal ministry.

Our rummage sale and the Sunshine Circle - which quilts and ties baby blankets - are some of the ways we are involved with the community. Two of our members serve on the Scattergood School Committee and meeting members support the school financially as does the Yearly Meeting. Yearly Meeting is attended by several from our meeting. They look forward to worshipping together and handling the Business of Yearly Meeting.

In thinking about cooperating with persons we disagree with one member used the term “non-reactive stillness”. We aren’t right and need to actively listen to others.

One of our distant members was grateful for our participation with them in prayers for a local child with Leukemia. The Grandfather is a local minister whose “outreach” goes beyond his congregation with ongoing acts of friendships beyond his congregation, with ongoing acts of friendship beyond his Church’s membership, and to anyone who is in need. He notices the “woodbox” and sometimes splits wood before he leaves their home.

Another distant member has worked with many more people outside of Quakers. He has joined in social action events with Indiana Moral Mondays, The Keystone pledge of Resistance, The Kheprw Institute and the Quaker Change Ministry Program. He has been writing Blogs on Sustainability Scout Indiana and Facebook. And also has been writing stories on Peacebuilding. With new technology there are many ways for us to take part in outreach.

CONSIDERATION OF QUERY #3: MEETING FOR BUSINESS

QUERY

- How can we hold our Meetings for Business in the spirit of love, understanding and patient search for unity without becoming frustrated by differences of opinion or the pressures of time?
- How do we respond when no one else in the meeting seems to hold the views that we do on an issue? How do we respond to a dissenting minority?
- How do we share responsibilities among Friends in our meeting? How do we serve our meetings?

RESPONSE

Disagreement

When we disagree we can search for unity without frustration.

We pay attention to spiritual aspects of mundane things.

Use silence to deal with frustration. During it, we try to discover what we disagree about.

Ask others with whom we disagree to help you find out where they are “coming from”.

Being alone in viewpoint

Listen to your internal voice and do not anticipate what might happen because of speaking out.

Have humility and ascertain how important the matter is to you.

Be authentic to yourself but also be communal with Spirit standing between these positions.

Shared Responsibility

Some people serve Meeting more than others. The amount of service depends on several factors, such as how important Meeting is to the person and, also, the person’s capability (mowing, repairs).

Service can be a form of love.

It is difficult to always know the needs of Meeting as some are subtle.

CONSIDERATION OF QUERY #4: HARMONY WITHIN THE MEETING

QUERY

- What can we do to deepen our relationships with one another? How does gender affect the way we relate to each other?
- How does our meeting balance the needs for honesty and kindness? What topics do we avoid for the sake of "unity"?
- When in conflict with others, do we cultivate a forgiving spirit? Do we look to that of God in ourselves and seek to address that of God in those with whom we disagree?

RESPONSE

We talked about how to balance the needs for honesty and kindness. There were concerns expressed about late comers and children making noise. Someone wondered if we are getting into avoidance in an effort to stay out of conflict. However, sometimes avoidance may be the best thing - way will open later - maybe the time is not right yet.

What topics are we avoiding now? Someone said child care and a program for young people.

How do we respond to each other's difficulties? We felt that we are doing well on this. Different examples were given. Marshall Rosenberg's suggestions on non-violent communication were recommended.

CONSIDERATION OF QUERY 5: MUTUAL CARE

QUERY

How do we respond to each other's personal needs and difficulties in sensitive and useful ways? Do we encourage both men and women to share in care giving?

What are we doing to welcome and draw members and attenders of all ages into the fellowship of the meeting?

How do we help our children feel the loving care of the meeting? What do the children contribute to the meeting?

How do we keep in touch with inactive and distant members and attenders?

RESPONSE

One of our members provides us with a current list of those who are active in the life of the meeting enabling us to keep in touch with each other; she asked for advice as to who should be included on this list. Friends agreed that rather than removing names, we prefer to continue to include even those we have not seen for a long time.

In thinking about children receiving the loving care of the meeting, someone who grew up in the meeting felt that today's common practice of having two adults be present with children is preferable to having only one adult, as was the practice when he grew up. Friends concurred with this for a number of reasons.

We are glad to have the new single page description of our worship for first time attenders, feeling it is a good way to welcome them. We had a number of elderly Friends who are no longer with us. Several have died. One moved away when he was approaching death to be near his sister. We miss him, we want him to know we care about him. Some feel sad at his rather sudden departure and our limited ability to communicate with him now. As we talk about those no longer with us we regret not paying as much attention to them as we might have. We experience the truth of the advice: that sharing our pain and joy-- our feelings rather than our opinions-- does bring us closer together.

We feel that gender equality is good in our meeting, although in the wider society, improvement is still needed. Sharing in care giving is clearly more important in today's world in which two adults in a family are likely to be working.

A new attender shared that she felt well welcomed.

CONSIDERATION OF QUERY 6: EDUCATION

QUERY

- How can we most effectively foster a spirit of inquiry and a loving and understanding attitude toward life?
- What effort are we making to become better acquainted with the Bible, the teachings of Jesus, our Judeo-Christian heritage, the history and principles of Friends, and the contributions of other religions and philosophies to our spiritual heritage?
- In what ways can we encourage an educational process that is consistent with the values Friends cherish? How do gender-based expectations affect the goals we set and the way we learn?

• Do we take an active and supportive interest in schools, libraries and other educational resources in our communities and elsewhere? • How do we prepare ourselves and our children to play active roles in a changing world?

RESPONSE

Education to integrate our intellectual, emotional and spiritual dimensions hopefully prepares us to face and deal with moral issues. It speaks directly to the values that embody an education at Scattergood Friends School. We seek to educate the whole individual. Such education can speak directly to the Quaker witness to community, in our families and other local communities, as well as the community of all people and the community of our planet, even our universe. Education must be more than about how we teach our children; we all need to learn about justice, reform, climate change and peace.

A pervasive and prevalent tendency in our society is to educate people to become successful, to get good jobs, and be comfortable financially. This educational focus results in a subtle and perhaps not-so-subtle judgment on people who have less education, on people who do unskilled labor. We could benefit from focusing on this underlying attitude. Does it affect education at Scattergood Friends School?

Our religious education can find its source in unexpected ways. One Friend spoke of being a chorister as a boy, and how the repertoire of the music educated him religiously. The experience was hugely enriching. In similar ways, we appreciate that Scattergood is open to, and furthers, the idea of integrating work, classroom learning, and communal worship.

A family in the Meeting made a trip recently to the Science Center in Des Moines, where one of the grandchildren was eager to share an exhibit on race. The exhibit showed why race has been reason to differentiate. We are reminded that we never stop learning and experiencing new ideas. We may underestimate our influence for the potential to encourage people to think in new and different ways. We may become less wedded to our old thinking.

CONSIDERATION OF QUERY 7: HOME AND FAMILY

QUERY

How can we make our homes places of love and hospitality?

• What different expectations do we hold for women and men, boys and girls? How can we bring more equality into our relationships?

- How do we develop and maintain lines of communication?
- In what ways do we share our deepest experiences, struggles, concerns and beliefs with our children and others, yet encourage them to develop their potential as the Spirit leads them?
- What place do we make in our daily lives for meditation, spiritual renewal and reading of inspiring literature, such as the Bible?
- How does our Meeting support families of all kinds?

RESPONSE

One of us remembers the importance to her of Girl Scouting as she grew up; this included learning songs which she taught her children. Looking back now with a greater sense of our white privilege and unawareness, she can see those songs as very racist. We all need to support each other in a growing awareness of our own racism.

Sometimes our children, growing up in a time of greater awareness, can help us in our growth. We know that we need to be more conscious and as fully aware as possible. We are aware that many in the working world today are under great pressure to work harder and faster, and thus become exhausted. The Query asks us if we set aside time for spiritual renewal and for many this is hard to do.

The Pope, in *Laudato Si*, advises us to “slow down.” Our own testimony of simplicity can help us to do that. Our sense is that our society is pushing people too hard; if we slow down we think more about what we are doing. Is there a way that we as Friends can witness to a slower and simpler life? Is there a way that we can support businesses which are respectful of their employees? That focus on their wellbeing rather than simply profit making? Are there ways we can actually nurture joy and a sense of contentment? One of us makes and sends cards expressing appreciation of co-workers.

CONSIDERATION OF QUERY #8: PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

QUERY

- How do we center our lives in the awareness of God the' Spirit, so that all things may take their rightful places?
- How do we structure our individual lives in order to keep them uncluttered with things and activities? How does Meeting help us examine our personal lives for simplicity?
- Do we choose recreational activities which foster mental, physical and spiritual health?

- How are our lives affected by tobacco, alcohol and drug use? What can we do to deal with problems resulting from their use? What can we do to recognize and deal with unhealthy ways we treat ourselves?
- How do we ensure that we act with fairness and integrity?
- Are we sensitive to our own use of language which may be offensive or oppressive to others?

RESPONSE

Personal responsibility is one of the most difficult of the queries because it is “personal”. Asking us to separate ourselves by refusing to take oaths, understating the full meaning of the word and the implication that we are only to be trusted when we “swear” to tell the truth, gives us the opportunity to demonstrate that we are who we are! Taking a stand may make others think about their own integrity.

Forming trust is a balancing competition for mutual good. Being careful of language that hurts, open to the language of others that is not our own, and being better listeners are all ways to strengthen trust. Ameliorating a problem by NOT speaking may also be the course of wisdom. If diversity is important, we must not take offense, but try to embrace differences.

When meeting new people each puts their best foot forward, revealing whom they want to be, but forming a relationship goes deeper so each accepts the other where they are trying to earn trust that makes each a stronger person.

James Baldwin said to treat every human being as a beautiful new record, then protect yourself from the monster they have become; we learn to set our own boundaries.

One other thought was expressed regarding how we treat addiction with the reminder that addiction is not a moral choice.

**RESPONSE TO QUERY #9:
CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY**

QUERY

- What conflicts do we perceive between the laws of the State and our religious convictions? -How do we resolve those conflicts in our lives? In what ways do we assume responsibility for the government of our community, state, nation and world?
- How do we share our convictions with others? Do we express our opinions with courage, yet with love, mindful of the Divine Spirit within everyone?

- How do we maintain our integrity when we find ourselves in a position of power?
- How do we respond when we feel powerless? Do we really respect and help those we seek to serve?
- Are we careful to reach our decisions through prayer and strengthen our actions with worship? Are we open to divine leadings?

RESPONSE

- difficulty seeing that of God in everyone at this time of presidential campaigning and congressional inaction
- our first allegiance should be to the holy spirit – are we careful to reach our decisions through prayer and strengthen our actions with worship?
- Friends need to keep informed and speak truth to power nationally and locally
- we profit and are victimized by our white privilege – need to be aware of racial profiling, income disparity, etc.
- we have a clear responsibility to remain aware of climate change and be willing to make personal changes, corporate changes, and be involved in local and national actions to affect significant changes ie. Bakken Pipeline, frac sand mining, etc.
- are we open to civil disobedience if called? Are we willing to offer sanctuary to refugees if called?

CONSIDERATION OF QUERY #10: ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

QUERY

- What are we doing about our disproportionate use of the world's resources?
- Do we see unreasonable exploitation in our relationship with the rest of creation?
- How can we nurture reverence and respect for life?
How I can we become more fully aware of our interdependent relationship with the rest of creation?
- To what extent are we aware of all life and the role we play?
What can we do in our own lives and communities to address environmental concerns?

RESPONSE

As we strive to be conscious of our relationship with the environment we recognize there are many ways to live responsibly.

We discussed the lack of water in California and the multiple ways people conserve and reuse this limited resource including reusing gray water and not washing vehicles.

We discussed understanding the “cost” of alternative energy or other environmentally friendly ideas. Is the environmental fad of the week really a good thing- it is hard to know.

We discussed better uses for trash and garbage: methane collection and increased recycling.

We discussed electricity usage and alternatives including solar power and LED lights.

We discussed transportation including the availability of buses and bike paths/routes. We recognize that much of Omaha and Bellevue are not bike or pedestrian friendly.

In general, we all related there are many ways to strive to be environmentally responsible and we all feel the need to continue these efforts and work towards more.

CONSIDERATION OF QUERY #11: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

QUERY

- How are we beneficiaries of inequity and exploitation? How are we victims of inequity and exploitation? In what ways can we address these problems?
- What can we do to improve the conditions in our correctional institutions and to address the mental and social problems of those confined there?
- How can we improve our understanding of those who are driven to violence by subjection to racial, economic or political injustice? In what ways do we oppose prejudice and injustice based on gender, sexual orientation, class, race, age, and physical, mental and emotional conditions? How would individuals benefit from a society that values everyone? How would society benefit?

RESPONSE

We should commend the Johnson County Board of Supervisors for implementing the raise in minimum wage, phase one of which goes into effect today.

Xenophobia is a disease that is hard to overcome. It is a sad fact that in the University of Iowa, a state supported institution, only 3% of the student population is black.

Our Quaker background certainly laid the basic patterns that have become emphasis on equality, justice, meeting human needs and providing education for all.

Deeds of justice really must begin at home: it's very simple really. We hope there will be a ripple effect. But our "system of justice" is more complicated and may even be obstructive.

Changing systems happens only when individuals are open to the responsibility of making personal changes first.

It is easy to delude ourselves into separating victims and oppressors of injustice and inequality. We must rely on divine guidance or a spirit outside ourselves to get clearness on what is "right" and look beyond what the law defines as "just". The Scripture used to introduce this query spurs us to action.

Turning points come from some when one realizes that he is both a victim and an oppressor. Holocaust victims who created Israel are now inflicting hurt on Palestine. The two are linked.

It is good to teach a man to fish, but we have to feed him first and provide the tools with which he can then feed himself.

CONSIDERATION OF QUERY #12: PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE

QUERY

- What are we doing to educate ourselves and others about the causes of conflict in our own lives, our families and our meetings? Do we provide refuge and assistance, including advocacy, for spouses, children, or elderly persons who are victims of violence or neglect?
- Do we recognize that we can be perpetrators as well as victims of violence? How do we deal with this? How can we support one another so that healing may take place?
- What are we doing to understand the causes of war and violence and to work toward peaceful settlement of differences locally, nationally, and internationally? How do we support institutions and organizations that promote peace?
- Do we faithfully maintain our testimony against preparation for and participation in war?

RESPONSE

Several spoke of their use of FCNL material to keep informed on important issues on the national and international level. Some of us try to use varying sources of information to try to keep a clear picture of key

issues and to understand the true reasons for wars and violence in our society. Many support financially the AFSC, FCNL, Friends Peace Teams and other like-minded organizations as well as the local Women and Children's Center and social service organizations in our area.

Being citizens of the US we are unfortunately identified as supporting violence and war around the world in spite of our best intentions. The widespread support of the gun culture continues to concern and alarm us, but no sweeping resolution seems to be considered by officials in any meaningful way. Some of us try to quietly counter this challenge in our local communities and we are heartened by periodically finding others who share our views. We also feel that violent video games may feed into this culture of guns as the only way to solve personal and international problems.

We find the extreme aura of patriotism that seems to surround us on almost every public occasion disturbing as we feel it only glorifies military accomplishments without recognizing the human costs.

We now adjourn to meet again Sixth Day at 9:30 a.m.

Sixth Day – Friday – 7/29/16 MORNING

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

"Friends schools carry out Penn's original vision by serving the general public with a mission to develop the human capacity for love and goodwill, analysis and reflection, and respect and responsibility towards others." Randy Granger and Irene McHenry

Lucy Marsh and Sonja Sponheim have been appointed readers this morning.

Minute For Fifth Day Activities

In addition to great conversations, meals, committee work and business sessions, Friends are also enriched by afternoon presentations and interest groups where people can approach large topics in more depth. Yesterday's offerings included groups on "Ending Mass Incarceration" and "Lobbying: What's Love Got To Do With It"?

Friends listened with open hearts to a panel of three people who shared the process their respective groups had gone through in creating guidelines to ensure the physical and emotional safety of children. Friends became gathered together in this concern, and in the immediate time afterwards, there was a safe space for deep and tender sharing within the group.

In our evening session on "Connecting More Deeply within the Religious Society of Friends", Robin Mohr helped us to remember that "We Are One." She reminded us that there is no such thing as the "Other" and there is no such thing as "Away". We explored our identities, and how they influence what we choose to care about, what we let go, and what we actively ignore. We discussed how becoming fluent in the languages of the identities most foreign to us would help us begin to *"Live up to the Light we've been given."* It was an encouraging evening and we left with spirits refreshed and new energy for the challenge that we *"Go forth and be the Quakers the world needs."*

We listened to the Scattergood Farm, Academic and Head reports during our morning Business Session. Our discussion of these reports went on right up until the time to break for lunch, to be continued when we returned.

Sixth Day – Friday AFTERNOON – 7/29/16-2:00 pm

Worship moving into business

(We listened again to the meditative quote from our morning session in preparation to return to our discussion of the Scattergood from Scattergood School and Farm.)

"Friends schools carry out Penn's original vision by serving the general public with a mission to develop the human capacity for love and goodwill, analysis and reflection, and respect and responsibility towards others." Randy Granger and Irene McHenry

Peter Clay and Nancy Jordan have been appointed as readers this afternoon.

We are glad to have the presence of Dan Clark, Muscatine, Iowa. Former Coordinator for the Iowa Peace Network

The reports from Scattergood School and Farm were honest and filled with integrity. We thank all the people who wrote these reports and all the staff for their continued hard work for the school. After listening to these reports, Friends asked good questions regarding financial details, retention of students, building maintenance and how to open the school to students from other communities not currently represented.

We recognize and enjoy that we have the opportunity to talk to students while we are here on campus, and a strong desire to deepen the relationship between the yearly meeting and Scattergood students was expressed in many ways. We ask the yearly meeting clerk ask the Midyear Planning Committee to explore ways that further engage Scattergood students with that gathering.

A Scattergood Staff member told us of the difficulties in caring for students who come from difficult circumstances at home and bring their traumas with them to school. We will hold the staff in the Light as they tend to the needs of these students, and we want to support and help them in doing so in any way we can.

Does Scattergood School and Farm need a miracle to survive? The title from one social work text seems fitting: "It is serious but not impossible".

Scattergood Friends School and Farm
Farm Report to the Yearly Meeting
July 2016

Dear Friends,

Many tools now seem so vital to farming. One wonders how we grew food before they existed: the tractor of course and its many implements; the walk-behind rototiller; the many hand tools, most of them for weeding or harvesting; the various trays for seed starting and seeders for planting; even Microsoft Excel, which I often tell people is one of the most valuable tools in our farming system, since it helps us track dates and data so that we might hopefully learn from our experiences and not remake mistakes. But in a challenging season like this one, with spring weather flipped, first warm then cool; an early summer drought followed by periodic rains which preclude field work; rabbits, ground squirrels, thistles and purslane claiming parts of the garden as their own...in seasons like this one the most trusted tool on the Scattergood Farm is the Serenity Prayer:

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change
The courage to change the things I can
And the wisdom to know the difference.

We can't make it rain, nor make it stop; we can't rescue the apple buds nor safeguard the peaches. But we can add resiliency through healthy soils, diverse crops and succession plantings. And we can be ready when the skies clear and the gardens dry, to work hard at sowing, cultivating and harvesting. We can recognize the beauty in aching muscles, clean rows and full bins and then rest, eat and play, preparing for whatever comes next.

What steps did we take this past year on the Scattergood Farm?

Ninth and Tenth grade students took part in the inaugural Farm Immersion Program, spending each weekday morning of the first quarter on the farm exploring academic subjects and sustainable agriculture. They harvested and did livestock chores, but also designed and implemented a scientific trial, researched changing demographics in the Iowa landscape, and learned much Spanish, including the words for “carrot,” “box,” “cows,” and “fence.” Later, the geometry class studied building siting and design and submitted a recommendation for a new building to house the Farm Immersion Program.

Agricultural Research again served as a capstone science class for several students and allowed them to research and explore topics in agriculture: introducing dairy goats to Scattergood, sustainable beekeeping, soil microbiology sampling, and soldier fly larva production for chicken feed protein supplementation.

May Term classes included constructing a butterfly garden and studying animal behavior, which had students training a chicken to run an obstacle course for a color-coded treat, teaching a pig to sit, and encouraging our very skittish rams to come when called. We also had one student working daily on the Farm during May Term, doing the necessary animal chores while also helping with the gardens and outreach.

These highlights were in addition to our Farm Fun Day which occurs at the end of Orientation, the daily crews, Farm and Prairie Projects and the various other ways that Biology, Agricultural Science and Art classes frequently utilize farm resources.

As we look to the future with our strategic planning, two areas of growth relate directly to the Farm: increasing students’ learning opportunities with livestock and developing a summer semester program to take better advantage of the seasonal opportunities on the Farm.

Outreach continued to be a major focus of the Farm as well. We hosted 80 guests as part of a Practical Farmers of Iowa Field Day, welcomed Taproot Nature Experience, Outdoor Adventures Camp, Scattergood Summer Camp, Willowwind School, West Branch Elementary School teachers, University of Iowa Visiting Scholars, Great Peace Marchers, and others who were visiting for Scattergood Weekend, Graduation and a wedding. We also took the Farm on the road, participating in two Farmer Fairs at Iowa City elementary schools, speaking at a publicity event hosted by Pesticide Action Network of North America, hosting two webinars, and consulting with Stone’s Throw urban farmers in Minneapolis.

We completed two SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) grants. One allowed us to increase our worm composting capacity, while the other helped us take erodible land out of production and restore it as prairie for pollinator habitat. We continue to use cover crops intensively on our gardens and work hard to build our soil and care for our livestock.

Many people had the courage to make these things happen on the Farm. Ben Bowman has been a steady presence, caring for the livestock, landscape and machines, while Sam Taylor and Brian Ratcliffe are supplying much needed summer support. Mike Severino loves shoveling manure as well as serving as a steady guide in all of the Life Sciences classes. Our cooks—Irving Treadway, Karen Huff, Dana Foster, Thomas Weber, and Stephanie Sheikholeslami continue to transform our farm products into meals in which (most of) the community finds joy and nourishment. Ken Fawcett continues to admirably manage our conventional row crops and freely advises us on all things Farm related. Neighbor Dave Sickles allows us to graze our sheep on his pastures through the summer and fall and the Farm Subcommittee continues to guide us as we find our way forward. Special thanks go to Louis Herbst who recognized immediately the academic potential of the Scattergood Farm and worked hard to help us achieve what was possible.

Not fixating on weird weather, lost crops or weeds are never easy, but I have gotten better at simply appreciating the wonder of working amidst the beauty of the Scattergood Farm. Though the job is often sweaty, dirty, and can feel never-ending, I have found serenity in the rhythms and rightness of what we are trying to do. Perhaps wisdom awaits.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Quee
Farm Manager

Scattergood Friends School
Report to the Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative: Academics
July 2016

Dear Friends,

It brings me joy to return to leadership in a school. I bring to Scattergood seven years of experience in teacher training programs combined with experience advocating for human rights, labor rights and social responsibility. For the last 18 years, I have been working at a non-profit organization designing, developing, and delivering multicultural

training programs worldwide. Working in this field allowed me to connect with different social actors such as Fortune 500 leaders, government authorities, activists, union leaders, shareholders/investors, and social auditors. These interactions made it crystal clear for me how important it is to educate open-minded, non-violent individuals with vision, values, and respect for diversity.

I have been asked several times: why, if had an exciting and meaningful job, did I decide to change careers and join the staff at Scattergood Friends School? The answer is that this is not just any school position. Scattergood is a different world. I literally fell in love with the community. We moved here two years ago so that my husband could teach Spanish at the school. Since then I have been constantly amazed by the strong connection between students and teachers at Scattergood, something that is unusual in high school settings!! I observed teachers' being passionate about their classes and their students about learning. I was amazed by the incessant activity and productivity of the community. I felt there was always something interesting that I was going to miss due to my constant traveling!

Amongst all this activity, what I enjoyed most when I was at Scattergood, was being able to sit in silence during collection and worship. I have always had an individual spiritual practice, but to have a spiritual community felt invaluable. To be honest, I was also drained, tired, and sometimes hopeless. It is not easy to work for social justice within the belly of the beast. The school and the Quaker values felt like an oasis of hope!

I know I'll have both an exciting and a demanding learning curve ahead of me. If I want to translate all my ideas into action, I will need to have a deep understanding of the school dynamics.

I know this: Scattergood is outstanding college preparatory learning environment but also an intentional community where Quaker values permeate the day to day routines. These values are not acquired by simply reading documents, they need to be learned experientially. I am grateful that I did not need to start this learning adventure by myself! Thomas, Louis, and Catherine have been very helpful. At the beginning I felt the paradox of feeling overwhelmed by loads and loads of information, yet grateful for the systems and processes in place at Scattergood.

Besides orienting myself to the mechanics of Scattergood I was excited to read the Academics Subcommittee Reports of 2016 to the School Committee and learn about all the innovative ideas and projects,

such as the Student Support Team, as will the professional development program implemented through class observation and feedback. It was also important to read the Strategic Plan for 2016-2019 and learn that the Farm Immersion Program is already taking place. Four of our teachers has been meeting on a weekly basis for the past 5 months to analyze the successes and challenges of last fall's pilot farm program. Based on this experience, they have developed an even stronger farm focused curriculum for this year.

At the same time we are not forgetting the more traditional classroom curriculum. This fall we will have very exciting class options for the Humanities such as The Sacred Harp -- Music Appreciation, Meskwaki Myths, Elections; American Cinema, Celebrity Musicians and Literature and the Natural World. Science based offerings include Human Health, Disease, and Physiology. Outside of the classroom our students sharpen their skills at Ceramics, Archery, Fencing and Soccer. Add to this the opportunity to address students' individual interests through independent study projects.

With all these wonderful academic actives at Scattergood I am diligently working on understanding how I can support our teachers and let them continue their outstanding work. It is essential for me, as a new educational leader, to understand how Scattergood works. [i] In the coming months , I will be conversing with as many members of our community as possible. That includes teachers, students, the Academic sub-committee, parents, and the administrative staff. In these conversations we will explore:

1. Individual's understanding of the school mission, the Strategic Plan 2016-2019, and how they relate their individual strategies and goals to this strategic plan.
2. What is working and how can we proactively continue with those projects/programs.
3. Which projects are in process of being implemented and what kind of support they need to make the implementation successful.
4. What needs to be improved and what are their ideas for improvement.
5. What do they expect from the Assistant Head and how I can help?

It is only after I have had the opportunity to learn from the community that I will be craft my goals for the 2016-17 Academic year. Although I still have much to learn I am very thankful to be a member of this blessed learning community!

Gabriela Delgadillo, Assistant Head of School

[1] “Starting Confused: How Leaders Start When They Don’t Know Where to Start” (B. Jentz and J. Murphy 2005)

Head of School Report
Scattergood Friends School and Farm
July 2016

Dear Friends,

No school operates in a vacuum (even one intended to educate students independent of “early knowledge of, or contact with, the evils of the world,”). Scattergood’s story has always been one dependent on energy within and without to sustain it in pursuit of its mission. This past school year has been my second as Head of Scattergood Friends School and Farm and my first in oversight of both external and internal operations. While I felt comfortable with the overall well-being of the community within the school grounds this year, having given it my fullest attention in the two years prior, the challenge to reach out to the many constituents who support the school from the outside has been significant and rewarding. Needless to say, both internal and external work has consumed a tremendous amount of energy. I keep marveling at how I continue. I am able to draw from something very deeply grounded that is neither within nor around me in any way that I can clearly define. This is perhaps my spiritual calling: like a large tree’s presence, indistinct, without feeling, elusive to my senses, and yet powerfully and quietly present.

This Past Year’s Themes and Accomplishments

Twelve students graduated June 5th as the **Class of 2016** this year with letters of admission to colleges and universities: **Grace Barrett, Emmet Bassuk, Jordan Connor, Sydney Dodson, Elijah Davis, Graciella Osborne, Laszlo Reed, Coriander Shapiro, Wubetu Shimelash, Haley Voss, Orianna Voss, and Zijun Yi.**

Isaac Chen ’17 was named our Berquist Scholar and **Jassana Baizel ’17** was named our Fine Arts Scholar for this coming year and each received \$500 scholarships for school tuition as well.

Programmatically, students engaged in a number of new experiences this year: a fully-integrated and interdisciplinary classroom on the farm during the entire first quarter for newly enrolled students in 9th and 10th grades, courses on dystopian societies and the poetry of war, and an intensive workshop with architects to forward design elements and a site

location for a farm classroom. Agricultural research culminated in three projects presented to the Iowa State Science Fair with one receiving an award by Arizona State University for research in sustainable agriculture.

Seniors remodeled the student lounge in the lower main during the week to themselves in May, while other students went off campus to canoe the Ozarks, cycle to Iowa farms and provide volunteer labor and camp, and work on a farm that promotes international rural development in Michigan.

May Term classes were again held after the conclusion of the fourth quarter, with student inspired inquiries into game theory and design, pollinator garden construction, design and building magical structures, animal psychology, and gender and sexuality.

Strategic planning has been the other critical element of this past year's work. Beginning on November 2015 the School Committee and I developed a coherent vision to respond to the dual imperatives of increasing enrollment and financial support. Put simply, we understand that the school's continuance depends on what is most unique and valuable about Scattergood: the farm's integration into the program and the school community's sustenance. By more clearly differentiating the school's program and assets in an increasingly competitive admissions market, Scattergood has a great deal to offer and grow. The effort is summarized in a document adopted by the School Committee, "*Scattergood School and Farm Strategic Plan: 2016- 2019.*"

Outreach

Iowa's Legislature and Governor enacted a law in May that will require Scattergood to be certified by the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) for maintenance of its residential program for minors. Scattergood worked closely and productively with its local State Representative Bobby Kauffman (R) and Senator Bob Dvorsky (D) to advocate for legislation that places no burden that changes the school's mission and ability to operate sustainably. To Rep. Kauffman's credit, Scattergood was prominently presented as an example of excellent practice in its educational and residential mission, highlighted by public testimony by **Ruth Hampton '85**, **Dan Treadway '75**, and me in the State Legislature. State officials, the press, and the public were in attendance. I also published a letter to the editor to the *West Branch Times* expressing Scattergood's support, saying that no school should be without transparent care for minors. Scattergood has been invited by Iowa DHS to participate and comment in draft regulations for the law's implementation, and work began this summer.

My wife Amy and I made several visits to monthly and yearly meetings in this past year to worship with members and attenders, alumni and alumni parents. They included: **Penn Valley (KS), Omaha (NE), Des Moines, Paullina, and West Branch**, and IYMC's Mid-Year Meeting in **Bear Creek**. We also spent time in worship and visiting with **Northern Yearly Meeting** and **Illinois Yearly Meeting** during their annual gatherings. In each location we shared news of Scattergood, and I have given thanks to each for their support of Scattergood. I also joined Scattergood staff **Sam Taylor, Alicia Taylor**, and student **Gifford Pollock '18** at **Friends General Conference** annual gathering, in which we presented the school's farm related work in a workshop on Quaker schools. I also travelled to Philadelphia and met with heads of other Quaker schools at a **Friends Council of Education** conference, and **Phil Henderson '60** introduced me to three additional friends of Scattergood.

To close this part of the report, it has been a busy summer: Camps in art and farm exploration for children and an adult workshop on dyeing with natural plants took place. 160 people came to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Great Peace March which highlighted the quest for global nuclear disarmament. **Irving Treadway**, himself a marcher back then, cooked meals from the farm. Irving also cooked for the wedding of **Laura Yeats '06**, daughter of **Deb Dakin** and **Bob Yeats**, to **Brett Armfield**, and for the wedding of Scattergood staff members **Sam and Alicia Taylor**.

Staffing

Six individuals have moved or are moving on to new chapters in life after service to the school: **Jody Caldwell**, Development; **David Cohen**, Geometry; **Louis Herbst**, Assistant Head; **Jenn Herbst**, Art Teacher and Business Clerk; **Kate Moon**, Chemistry and Physics teacher; and **Stephanie Sheikholeslami**, Social Studies, Dorm Sponsorship, and Cook. Each gave countless untold hours and made their stamps on the educational and community life of all students and staff. A full report of their contributions would extend several pages to tell how much their hearts and spirits were shared with us in their extended efforts. Each truly deserves our heart and spirit-felt thanks.

We welcomed **Karen Huff** in November who cooks lunches and dinners in tandem with **Irving Treadway**. **Andrew Orrego-Lindstad** joined us in March as our new Director of Development. **Claire Tanager (néé Palmerini) '10**, Physics and Chemistry and Dorm Sponsor, begins in August, and **Gabriela Delgadillo** was named the school's next Assistant Head of School in oversight of the school's academic and

residential programs. Gabriela joins me in the school's leadership into the days and years ahead.

We must include here appreciation for the services in kind by **Linn Stone '67**, who returned to mend student and staff garments with her sewing machine during a short residency, and poet/scholar in residence **Bruce Whiteman**, who taught courses in the first and third quarters.

Enrollment, Budget, Giving, and Major Capital Improvements and Needs

The school had 35 students enrolled at the beginning of the year and finished the year with 37 enrolled. One student left for personal reasons very shortly after school began. Another was asked to leave at the end of May this year. We accepted three mid-year transfers, and each has been successfully integrated into the school and each returning this fall. The school continues to receive several requests for applications. These are carefully screened to ensure that students are without significant behavioral or emotional concerns. Holding the line on quality over quantity is an ongoing challenge for the school on a return path to financially healthy enrollment.

Enrollment fell short of what was budgeted for tuition income. The annual fund campaign also fell short, and so the school has operated with restricted cash flows and a sizeable projected deficit throughout this year. By controlling expenses, not cutting value, and receiving cash influges from the Scattergood School Foundation and our bank's line of credit, the fiscal year ended with a significantly reduced deficit from its earlier projection. The school is not in arrears with any of its accounts with vendors and creditors. Looking forward, the situation calls for an additional \$109,000 to be raised in contributions in each of the next three to four years as the school continues gradual growth in enrollment to a more sustainable enrollment level of 50 or more.. In this coming year, we have budgeted more conservatively for 35 students while expecting increases in contributions to restore the school's fiscal stability. Of special note: increases in health insurance premiums for full-time staff—a critical benefit this school provides—is the school's most significant source of fiscal pressure. Special thanks go again to the School Foundation Trustees for their ongoing support and engagement in the process.

Capital improvements this year include rehabilitation of the duplex staff residence exteriors and interiors including the installation of a solar powered water heater using re-purposed panels donated by **Don Laughlin**, the replacement of the Science building boiler, replacement of

the Main lobby flooring, and a significant campus internet and intranet upgrade to the student and staff community.

Looking Ahead

Scattergood begins year-one of its re-accreditation cycle in 2016-17. A detailed survey will be issued this coming year to all constituencies to gather information in preparation for its next self-study. Furthering and developing the strategic initiative towards a strategic portfolio will be the other critical item on the agenda with a concomitant campaign for financial support from friends and alumni.

We will continue to attend to social issues in our community this year. Students and staff are highly engaged with responding to maturing understandings of gender identity. Iowa law is very clear that schools must provide full access to individuals regardless of their gender identity in bathrooms and athletic programs. It is less clear in residential settings. Scattergood is nonetheless moving forward in this direction towards fuller integration. The dormitories are no longer named by gender but as East and West, and the school is now giving close and deliberate study of the George School's substantive work in this realm (described in the May issue of *Friends Journal*).

News of inappropriate and abusive interactions between adults and minors in educational institutions in Iowa and elsewhere are evident to Scattergood. It is time again to review and improve our standards and practices. I will lead staff and community reviews and conversations about respectful and professional interactions beginning next month in orientations and will continue this upcoming year to apprise myself of the work being done in other residential programs around the country to improve our practices and keep them to a healthy level of attention.

Concluding remarks

And so I come full circle and close this letter with deep and sincere thanks to the Yearly Meeting and its many constituents for their continued support of the school. We must change our mindsets to respond to current challenges. Nonetheless, I remain committed to Scattergood's spiritual underpinning: the school remains indeed in the care of this Yearly Meeting. And it gives me strength in this labor. I hope that the Yearly Meeting continues in kind in commitment to supporting life-changing experiences by adolescents engaged in study, work, and spiritual worship on this, our patch of the planet.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Weber, Head of School

We listened to the Yearly Meeting Trustees Report and thank the Trustees for the care of the Foundation funds for our yearly meeting.

Yearly Meeting Trustees Report

We appoint Dan Treadway and Lowell Wilson to the Foundations Trustees with term ending in 2020.

The Foundation Trustees have reported that as of 6/30/2016 the total value of donations given to the foundation over the years to support scholarships was \$1,960,408.76. The total value of donations given to the Foundation over the years to support capital improvements and operations was \$2,068,250.00. The combined donations given over the years to the Foundation was \$4,028,658.76 and is currently valued at approximately \$5.29 million.

In calculating the annual disbursements to the school, the Foundation follows the instructions of donors and the Foundation's own standard payout policy. During the 2015-16 school year, the Foundation distributed \$97,400 to support tuition scholarship, \$25,500.00 to support capital improvements and the operation of the school. The Foundation has committed to new scholarship distributions for the 2016-17 academic year totaling \$104,650, as well as \$25,800 toward capital improvements.

Financial Report

Initial balance 7/1/15	\$206.40
From IYMC	1000.00
Interest	<u>.79</u>
Total Funds Available	\$1207.19
Disbursements	
Brandt Heating and Air Conditions	<u>638.00</u>
Total disbursements	\$638.00
Bank balance 6/30/2016	\$569.19
Funds available 6/30/2016	\$569.19

Submitted by A.M. Fink, Clerk

We enjoyed hearing the Scattergood School Committee Report. We appreciate both the fine report and the wonderful work that the school committee does.

School Committee Report to Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative July 2016

It has been a full year, with many rewards and uplifting experiences paired with the challenges of maintaining a boarding school in this day and age. The School Committee recognizes and greatly appreciates Thomas for his steady engagement in finding solutions, while running the extra miles in this endurance marathon that is Head of School, and bringing it all forth in the Quaker spirit of Light and joy. He and the staff continue to envision the future and cultivate the development of our school and its students with great care and dedication.

This has been another year of low enrollment which has forced us to look critically at who we are and what we do. In this time of reflection there are questions we ask:

“Why is living in a Quaker community important?”

As a Quaker school we strive to provide a safe, supportive and inclusive environment so young people may become more wholly who they are and realize their full potential. Over the last few years the community has been in deep discernment about gender identity and exploring ways we can better understand and meet the needs of transgender youth, and we believe the Quaker principles are guiding us upon this path of creating a welcoming community. Through this ongoing thoughtful work and with the blessing of the School Committee the school has renamed the dormitories to the “East Dorm” and “West Dorm”, and we enjoy the extra bonus that these new labels embrace our Midwestern fondness of compass directions. For more on gender identity in Quaker schools we encourage members to read the May 2016 Friends Journal article about George School’s journey through this process.

One a state level, Scattergood has been held up as an example of good practices for ensuring students safety. Thomas has been asked to work with state representatives on the delicate task of constructing legislation that serves to protect children not just at Scattergood but all students in residential facilities throughout the state. We are grateful for the careful work of Thomas and the ongoing support of our representatives.

“Why is Quaker education important?”

At Scattergood we work to foster the ideals of community, spirituality, responsibility, equality, stewardship and social justice; our curriculum is steeped in these values. We know that a student’s personal development is as central to their education as their academics, that character growth is as crucial as intellectual growth, and that teaching students to think and feel deeply is a way to change the world. We embrace that everyone can be both a teacher and a pupil, and experiential learning is part of our model. We are a work-in-progress of living out these ideals that are not common practices in most schools thus providing a unique opportunity for students, staff and faculty to experience living and learning in a Quaker community.

“Why is experiential learning important?”

Experiential learning bridges the gap between theory and practice. Students learn real-world skills with concrete experiences and are motivated because they are engaged in the relevancy of the lesson. Experiential learning creates self-directed learners and promotes curiosity.

“Why is the Farm experience in our academics important?”

The Scattergood Farm experience teaches stewardship, cooperation, service to the community, experiential learning, the scientific process, realities of food, and so much more. Louis Herbst said it well in his Farm Initiative document:

“How could we simultaneously emphasize our farm, college preparatory academic program and socially develop our students in an authentic and relevant way? From this query, our Farm Immersion Program was born. Our Farm Immersion Program encompasses freshmen and sophomores’ science, math, Spanish, and history classes for their entire first quarter. Students in the Farm Program spend all weekday mornings at the farm doing a variety of projects in which they learn and use skills from those four disciplines. Our approach is largely interdisciplinary, constructivist and inquiry based. Given this pedagogical approach, our two goals are to help students see the interconnected nature of all academic disciplines and create the opportunity to take co-ownership of our school’s organic farm.”

As stated earlier, enrollment continues to be low. Some of our long-term goals have been put on hold as we address the immediate issue of

attracting students. Our priorities are increasing enrollment and financial stability while still ensuring a viable community, for as we move forward to expand our student body we want to retain the core that defines us: living in community, Quaker education, amazing and authentic academics, a work program, and a farm experience.

Feeling the acute pressure of the enrollment issue we felt a bold step was needed. Last fall the school committee with Thomas and staff endeavored into the lengthy strategic planning process which focused on emphasizing our strengths and what makes us unique. The success of the Farm Immersion program has convinced us that the farm should be added to the already strong and creative academic program and should be central to our Strategic Plan. There is great excitement about this direction within both the school and the school committee.

It may be years before we reap the harvest of the Farm Immersion Program and our increased Admissions efforts and we cannot bank on enrollment increasing as rapidly as is needed. The school has felt the pressures of low cash flow throughout the year and we are grateful for the cooperation of the Scattergood Foundation helping us manage the low points. The Strategic Plan includes requesting three-year pledges beyond the Annual Fund to supplement the low tuition income during this experimental time when enrollment will likely remain below sustainable levels.

The School Committee is convinced that the world needs and is changed by these young people who have lived and learned in this Quaker community of Scattergood. We are deeply moved and inspired by the direction the school is taking to incorporate the farm as a major tool in teaching both values and academics. Our experience this year reaffirms, "Scattergood is the Yearly Meeting's witness to manifest Love in the world." We invite everyone to not only read our Strategic Plan but to visit the school, enjoy the food from the farm, visit with students and staff, and explore what it means to be a part of Quaker education within this unique community.

For the School Committee,

Ruth Hampton, clerk

This year's Audit Committee members were Dan Treadway and Carole Winkleblack.

We thank our auditors for examining the records of our Treasurer.

Audit Committee Report

After a meeting with the treasurer and a thorough examination of the various financial spreadsheets, bank statements, and supporting documentation, we can report that the books are in good order and properly kept.

The guide book "Friendly Audits," provided to us by the treasurer, claims "no meeting will have their records in perfect order;" however, our treasurer has accomplished just that.

Carole Winkleblack and Dan Treadway
July 28, 2016

As is her practice, the yearly meeting Treasurer offered her report along with an exceptionally clear explanation of all the figures in it. We are grateful for her work on our behalf.

Treasurer's Report

Statement of Cash and Funds

Total cash balance July 1, 2015 \$14,555.91

Receipts:

Monthly meeting apportionments rec'd by 6/30/16**	\$65,183.00	
Midyear Meeting excess receipts, donated to IYM	\$1,023.53	
Other contributions	\$50.00	
Interest earned on credit union accounts	\$39.90	
Total Receipts		\$66,296.43

Disbursements:

FY15 expenditures for budgeted items	\$73,185.14	
Payments from Reserve Fund	\$ -	
Less transfer into Reserve Fund	(1,000.00)	
Total Disbursements		\$72,185.14

Total cash balance June 30, 2016 \$8,667.20

Due from monthly meetings (rec'd after 6/30/16)** \$6,177.00

Total cash balance for end of FY16 **\$14,844.20**

Reserve Fund balance June 30, 2016 **\$3,000.00**

Balance available for FY17 budgeting **\$11,844.20**

**Total apportionments received for FY16 = \$71,360.00

*Yearly Meeting Entertainment Committee and Midyear Planning Committee each has a separate budget, bank account and treasurer.

For Midyear Planning Committee report, see p. ____.

For Yearly Meeting Entertainment Committee report, see p. ____.

Submitted by Jean Sandstrom, Treasurer

We were delighted to hear that a IYMC attender received a scholarship support to attend a Pendle Hill program. We thank the committee for their discernment on the use of these funds.

**PENDLE HILL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT
JULY 2016**

The Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee is delighted that again this year we have a scholarship recipient. Chloe Olivia Jackson of the Silver River Worship Group requested the Yearly Meeting’s help to enable her to participate in a Pendle Hill program for Young Adult Friends entitled: “Continuing Revolution.” She is well qualified in every way according to our discernment.

Chloe Jackson graduated in May from Truman State University with a major in Environmental Studies. In 2014 she had worked on a biodiversity farm in northern India. After her graduation this year her plan is to live as a community member at Karen House, an interfaith Catholic Worker and hospitality house for homeless women and children in north St. Louis. While living in St. Louis, she expects to worship with St. Louis Friends and already has connected with the AFSC in that area. I quote from her application to participate in this program, “Each day I try my hardest to recognize and address the violence in thought and action that I see in my own heart, for I view it as a microcosm of the whole world.”

The committee is grateful that our relationship with Pendle Hill allows us to assist Friends from our yearly meeting to participate in Pendle Hill programs. The committee approved giving Chloe the full \$400 provided in the Yearly Meeting’s budget.

Jean Eden, clerk
Pendle Hill Scholarship
Committee

It is a blessing to know of Friends Peace Teams work around the world and we appreciated hearing this good report that told us about it.

Friends Peace Teams Advisory Board report

As our yearly meeting representative, it has been exciting for me to learn about the work of Friends Peace Teams. In May, I attended the yearly face- to- face meeting of Friends Peace Teams in Olympia, WA, where Friends from U.S. Yearly Meetings, Australia Yearly Meeting, and the three initiatives gathered. Friends Peace Teams engage in

grassroots peace work around the globe, striving to live into a more just and peaceful world. For almost 25 years, Friends Peace Teams have been developing relationships with people in areas of conflict and distress that focus on peace building, healing, and reconciliation.

Friends Peace Teams is made up of three initiatives.

The African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) continues to implement Healing and Restoring Our Communities workshops (HROC) in Rwanda, and at the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. The HROC workshops take both survivors and perpetrators of genocide and other violence and strive to restore relationships between them. The workshop is based on the premise that there is something good in every person, and that each person and society has the capacity to heal. AGLI is also involved in Burundi, where violence has increased, and is preparing for Kenya's August 2017 election. Read more about African Great Lakes Initiative at <http://www.aglifpt.org/>

Peacebuilding en las Américas continues running Alternatives to Violence Project workshops in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Colombia. Coordinator Val Liveoak has stepped down, and the new coordinator, Monica Maher, will begin in October. Monica is based in Quito, Ecuador, and has worked with AVP in New York, Ecuador, Honduras, and Argentina. Read more about Peacebuilding en las Américas at <http://pla.friendspeaceteams.org>

The Asia West Pacific Initiative (AWP) works primarily in Indonesia and Nepal, and grew out of Friend Nadine Hoover's traveling ministry in Indonesia. I recommend the film Silaturahmi (the Power of Visiting) as an introduction to their work:

<http://consciencestudio.com/index.php?q=pub-silaturahmi> The film captures the work of Friends Peace Teams in Asia West Pacific, showing how in developing relationship and in being present to one another, we take our first steps toward peace. A notable example of their work this year occurred after the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, in which Friends provided substantial material aid to 3 villages which consisted of people of primarily untouchable caste, then offered AVP and trauma healing workshops to the community.

I appreciate the opportunity to be IYMC's representative to the FPT Council and welcome conversation about the Peace Teams' work. The work they are doing is good, and they value the yearly meeting's support. Respectfully submitted, *Sonja Sponheim*

Our Quaker Earthcare Witness Representative share the QEW goals and important work with our yearly meeting. We thank them for this good report.

We are glad to know that we join with Friends across the globe in working on these issues.

**2016 Report of IYMC Representative to Quaker Earthcare
Witness Steering Committee - July 26, 2016**

Dear Friends,

This year has been busy as Friends across the world have become more active in support of enlightened care of our earth.

A statement on earthcare, climate change and social justice was signed by Friends in 55 U.S. meetings and organizations and in nine other countries. The organizations that signed included QEW, AFSC, FWCC and FCNL. The document, titled *Facing the Challenge of Climate Change*, reads in part: “As Quakers, we are called to work for the peaceable Kingdom of God on the whole Earth, in right sharing with all peoples. We recognize a moral duty to cherish Creation for future generations. . . . We seek to nurture a global human society that prioritizes the well-being of people over profit and lives in right relationship with our Earth, [which means] a peaceful world with fulfilling employment, clean air and water, renewable energy, and healthy thriving communities and ecosystems. As members of this beautiful human family, we seek meaningful commitments from our leaders and ourselves, to address climate change for our shared future, the Earth and all species, and the generations to come. We see this Earth as a stunning gift that supports life. It is our only home. Let us care for it together.” (online at www.quakerearthcare.org).

Among the recent activities of QEW were mini-grants for the Friends Church in Grinnell Iowa to improve their energy usage and to plant a garden to help sustain monarch butterflies on their journey. These mini-grants are available to all Friends meetings and organizations.

Your yearly meeting QEW representatives have been Peter Clay and Os Cresson. Peter was not able to participate in QEW this year, but Os did serve as recording clerk and on two committees. He is retiring from QEW later this year to focus on other activities.

Best Wishes, *Oz Cressen*

We now adjourn to meet again at 9:30 a.m. Seventh Day

Saturday -Seventh Day- 7/30/2016 Morning

We return to the business of Yearly Meeting

Asking a group to come to consensus, while often a lengthy process, allows people to come together in a way that enables them to move forward cohesively. All one has to do is to look at Washington to see an example of the paralyzing effect of never coming together and always staking our distinctive territories with boundaries

Earl Ball

Chris Pohlman and Alice Hampton have been appointed readers this morning.

Minute for Sixth Day activities

In addition to morning and afternoon business sessions during 6th Day, Friends also managed getting together to finish committee work and hold an interest group.

Friends met twice to watch portions of the documentary "Symphony of Soil" and a TEDx video by a North Dakota farmer on soil health and sustainable farming. The film pointed to the promise of climate stabilization through farming methods that pull carbon from the atmosphere and put it back in the soil. Lively discussion followed. Some Friends were so excited they met for a third time after our evening session ended to watch the entire documentary.

Aaron Fowler and Laura Dungan, members of Great Plains Yearly Meeting, led us through an evening of song and music. We were asked to examine matters of heart and conscience and to connect with the holy place within each of us. We visited our fears and sang about Spirit asking us to rise above these fears so that we take the risks we need to take. "Holy Spirit come, Living Christ now come, Inward Teacher be my guide."

Dear Junior Yearly Meeting,

Thank you for your good report. It made us want to be kids again. It showed how cooperation works and modeled shared leadership for us.

Your presence this has given us energy and we loved the mandala. We are grateful for the loving work that Thomas and others have put into making this happen.

We look forward to seeing and hearing your report next year.

It can never be said too many times, that we want you to know:
We love you.

Epistle of Jr Yearly Meeting

Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative met at Scattergood Friends School in West Branch, Iowa, from the 26th to the 31st of July, 2016. Our Junior Yearly Meeting had seven young Friends in attendance. We had a fantastic week! Highlights included swimming in the Scattergood Pond and at our annual trip to the Tipton City Pool, going into Iowa City to see a movie, playing Magic, Foosball, Ping-Pong, and Pool, learning to use the Diabolo, and going into West Branch for a quick ice cream run.

On our first day together we watched a short movie on Tibetan Buddhist Monks and how they make sand mandalas out of colored crushed marble. After spending many days making a mandala, the monks will destroy it the following day and deposit the sand with healing prayers into the water near them. We then made our own mandala out of different colors of birdseed, which we dismantled during a ceremony later in the week. Members of the Yearly Meeting were then invited to scatter the seeds around Scattergood campus.

One day we talked about the different names of God, and then walked a labyrinth with prayers in mind using our favorite name for God, and reflected on how this went. Later the same day, Robin Mohr from FWCC came and talked to us about our Quaker craft and about Friends around the world, and Stephen Donahoe from FCNL came and talked about lobbying and how all of us can be lobbyists in our own lives.

Later in the week we went outside and wrote our own Haikus about nature, sitting in one place until we noticed details that we hadn't noticed before, and writing about them. We also painted friendship stones for the rest of the Yearly Meeting in many different languages, did Zentangle in a workshop lead by Karen Greenler, had a campfire (with s'mores and singing) at the pond, and hosted our Yearly Meeting's annual talent show on the final night.

It was a great week overall, and we look forward to sessions next year!

Blessings,

David, Reid, Chris, Bing, Liam, Kai, and Arius

Junior Yearly Meeting Friends of IYM(C)

We listened to the Peace and Social Concerns Report and approved the following minute and letters presented to us by the committee.

Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative Peace And Social Concerns Committee Report

We were blessed with the presence and passion of Friends representing most of our monthly meetings. We felt the absence of Sherry Hutchison, Ann Stromquist and Don Laughlin. Stephen Donahoe from Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and Greg Elliott from the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) joined us for many of our meetings, often providing helpful information and insights for our work. We spent our first session sharing the breadth and depth of the work being done in our monthly meetings. Those reports which were received in electronic form are available for you to see online at <http://bit.ly/IYMCPeace>.

We spent a good deal of time talking about how we approach work for peace and social justice. Last year we were introduced to Quaker Social Change Ministry (QSCM), an AFSC model which provides a framework to help bring a more spiritual focus to our activism, and is designed to help Friends engage directly with communities impacted by injustice. We are thankful that AFSC made it possible for Greg Elliott, who is in charge of this model, to join us this week. During an evening collection, Greg explained the model, and Jeff Kisling described his experiences at North Meadow Friends in Indianapolis, which participated in the pilot year of this model. North Meadow Friends has developed relationships with the Kheprw Institute, a small community in inner city Indianapolis that is focused on mentoring young Black men. A number of meetings are interested in exploring the use of this idea.

AFSC has decided to lay down the Iowa Peacebuilding program upon the retirement of Kathleen McQuillen. Kathleen has worked closely with members of our Yearly Meeting for many years, and we would like to express our deep appreciation for her passionate work for peace. The clerk of this committee spoke with Midwest Regional

Director, Brant Rosen, who explained the decision was forced by a significant shortfall in budgeted funds. Some Friends expressed concerns that Quaker process and local input were not used to inform this decision. Greg was able to share that it is a concern of Lucy Duncan at AFSC, who has strong ties with our Yearly Meeting, to address that.

AFSC will continue to focus on immigration issues, including providing legal services for immigrants. There will be a nationwide week of action on immigration August 22-26, 2016.

We had numerous occasions to discuss immigration. Sandra Sanchez, the AFSC regional staff person who has worked on this issue for over 20 years, spoke to us one afternoon and was joined by Jon Krieg from the AFSC Des Moines office. She asked for Friends' help and is already working with Des Moines Valley Friends regarding the possibility of offering sanctuary/hospitality, perhaps using the QSCM as the framework for doing that work.

We are very concerned by the increased militarization of police equipment, attitudes and tactics. Several meetings have expressed support of Black Lives Matter, decentralized organizations using nonviolence and civil disobedience, and submit a minute regarding racial justice. Some have created signs and decals and used them during peace vigils. We are submitting a minute we ask to be approved regarding to racial justice.

Related to this are the New Jim Crow laws which result in mass incarceration of a disproportionate number of Black men and women, and the increasing police involvement in our schools. Stephen Donahoe expressed FCNL's optimism that bills to address criminal justice reform have a good possibility of passing in Congress. He described the relationships FCNL helped create between young people and representatives that is furthering this work, including changing the attitude of Senate Judiciary Chairman, Iowa Senator Grassley. We ask the Yearly Meeting to approve and send the letters we wrote to senators and representatives about this issue.

We increasingly realize the interconnections between so many areas of concern today. The minute about the interconnections among dilemmas explains this.

For the committee,
Jeff Kisling, clerk

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Budget 2016

Alternatives to Violence Project	\$150
(split evenly between Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota)	
AFSC Midwest Region (for immigration issues).....	100
Frontera de Cristo (designated to Migrant Resource Center)...	100
Friends Peace Teams (for Peacemaking en las Americas).....	100
Nebraskans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty	50
Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty.....	50
Friends for a Nonviolent World	100
Monteverde Friends School	100
Ramallah Friends School	50
Quaker House near Fort Bragg, NC.....	150
STAR PAK	50
Catholic Peace Ministry	50
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.....	50
	\$1,100

Minutes

Interconnections Among Dilemmas

We as Quakers, experience the unifying core that animates all peoples and nature. This common experience compels us to work at resolving injustices that separate peoples and people from nature.

American society, in which we live and breathe, is today saturated by greed and violence to the extent that life as we know it veers toward extinction. Maladies that we experience as separate are in reality deeply interconnected.

Examples are legion:

Our imperialist foreign policy, which encompasses mass killings of people of color has the same roots as violence within our borders.

Gun violence parallels military violence and systemic racism.

Domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse are directly coupled with military violence and structural poverty.

Massive population displacement results from war, climate disruption and economic policy.

Climate disruption follows from the unquenchable greed and military dominance that alienates us from each other and the rest of the world.

Only radical turning will save the world. It is both frightening and challenging to consider that a great part of both the problem and the solution lies within U.S. society.

Our hope rests in the spirit of Christ moving within and among us and our attentiveness to its direction. Within Friends, different members bring different gifts of discernment and action.

Artistic creativity opens possibility and inspires broader participation. Those who faithfully lobby lawmakers and insert themselves in democratic processes move us forward. Those who engage in healing and rebuilding our communities provide the basis for peace and stability. Interrupting the racism woven into our culture opens untold possibilities. Alternatives to Violence workers dismantle roots of violence and build bridges. Those who aid in releasing us from the greed endemic to capitalism can do much to save the environment and interrupt rapacious resource exploitation. Spirit-grounded educators ease technological and intellectual barriers to the world we seek. Individuals nearing the end of their life may offer unique wisdom, love and support to those with the energy to continue life on earth.

Quaker Social Change Ministry of AFSC, Advocacy Teams of FCNL, Experiment with Light, and Clearness Committees are among the various Quaker techniques for moving us forward towards the Light and away from fear and despair. How we avail ourselves of them will rest on the particular resources of the communities in which we live and diverse gifts within our meetings.

We have one purpose; a spiritual awakening and creating a peaceful, loving, just and sustainable world. And there are diverse approaches to reach the goal. We act in harmony when we support, appreciate, and speak truth to those whose struggles intersect with ours, even when the paths seem to be different.

Letters to Senators and Congressional Representatives:

Letter to be sent to Congressional Representatives asking them to support HR3713 and HR759:

Dear Representative _____,

The Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) believe that all people deserve a just and fair chance to live a life of their full potential. With more than 2 million people currently in our nation's prisons and jails, incarceration in our country has gone beyond a system of

rehabilitation or deterrence. The poor, and especially people of color, are unequally caught up in our current unjust judicial system.

We urge you to support and vote for H.R. 3713, the Sentencing Reform Act, and H.R.759, the Recidivism Risk Reduction Act currently being considered.

Passing these bills will not only save U.S. taxpayers money, but will reunite families and give our incarcerated citizens a second chance.

Letter to be sent to Congressional Representatives thanking them for their support of HR 3713, and asking them to also support HR 759.

Dear Representative _____,

The Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) thanks you for co-sponsoring H.R. 3713, the Sentencing Reform Act of 2015 and urges you to support H.R.759, the Recidivism Risk Reduction Act. We hope you will use your influence in the House to get this legislation passed this fall.

There is a real bipartisan push for this reform now because it is both morally right to change unjust criminal sentencing laws and fiscally prudent to reduce incarceration rates.

Today the United States has the dubious distinction of being the world's leader in incarceration, with 2.2 million people in the nation's prisons. This is five times as many as thirty years ago.

Again, thank you for your support. This is a major positive step toward a better criminal justice system. We hope you will continue to support legislation to improve the system.

Letter to be sent to Senators thanking them for co-sponsoring (or introducing) S2123.

Dear Senator _____:

The Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) wishes to thank you for co-sponsoring S. 2123, the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act. We hope you will use your influence in the Senate to get this legislation passed this fall.

There is a real bipartisan push for this reform now – because it is both morally right to change unjust criminal sentencing laws, and it is also fiscally prudent to reduce incarceration rates. Today, the United States

holds the dubious title of being the world's leader in incarceration, with 2.2 million people in the nation's prisons. This is five times as many as thirty years ago.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this issue. This is a major positive step toward a better criminal justice system. We hope that you will continue to support legislation to improve this system.

Letter to be sent to Senators asking them to support S2123.

Dear Senator _____

The Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) believes that all people deserve a just and fair chance to live a life reflecting their full potential. With more than two million people currently in our nation's prisons and jails, incarceration in our country has gone beyond a system of rehabilitation or deterrence. The poor, and especially people of color, are unequally caught up in our current unjust judicial system.

We urge you to support and vote for S 2123, the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act currently being considered. Passing this bill will not only save the U. S. taxpayers money, but will reunite families and give our incarcerated citizens a second chance.

Passing these bills will not only save U.S. taxpayers money, but will reunite families and give our incarcerated citizens a second chance.

We listened to the good report of the Ministry and Counsel Committee and thank them for their loving care. We approved the travel minute for Deborah Fisch.

Ministry and Counsel Report 2016

The IYMC Ministry & Counsel who were able to arrive early met at 4:00 pm Third Day prior to the beginning annual sessions and at 1:00 p.m. Fourth through Seven Days. We noted that we usually have more things to tend to than the current structure allows.

We appointed Lorene Ludy as clerk and Deborah Fisch as assistant clerk for the coming year.

In recent years Ministry and Counsel has listened to concerns of individuals and our monthly meetings about keeping children safe from sexual abuse and other inappropriate behavior. M&C held a retreat in October 2015 and felt clear to bring this complex and tender concern to the yearly meeting. We presented a program--*M&C Concern: Tending to the Safety of Our Children and Youth*-- to Yearly Meeting on Fifth Day afternoon. This well-attended program increased awareness and served as a good opening to the topic. We minute our appreciation to the subcommittee which planned the event. Members included: Liz Oppenheimer, Penny Majors and Deborah Fisch. Their careful planning provided an informative panel of Friends whose meetings or Quaker organizations have approved child safety guidelines for teachers and other adults working with minors in their groups. The panel comprised of Thomas Weber, Head of Scattergood Friends School and Farm, Janice Domanik, former clerk of Illinois Yearly Meeting and Friends General Conference, and Sonja Sponheim, member of Laughing Waters Preparative Meeting. We are grateful for their participation. The structure allowed for tender and honest sharing during a worshipful period of reflection.

We continue to carry this concern, inviting monthly meetings to read the carefully discerned "Suggested Safety Practices and Queries for Laughing Waters Friends Preparative Meeting" which has been distributed to each meeting. We appointed a subcommittee to begin to develop guidelines for protecting children at our Yearly and MidYear Meeting sessions.

We received a question from one monthly meeting asking what written materials our monthly meetings provide for visitors. We offered our experience and wisdom to each other. We also discussed welcoming newcomers/first time attenders to Yearly Meeting. We recognize that this is a shared responsibility and remind all of us to be inclusive of Friends with blue dots. One idea was to post conversation prompts the walls along the hall and in the dining room where they could be read and practiced as people wait in line for meals.

We are aware that some of our yearly meeting queries are outdated and no longer seem relevant. We invite others to pay attention to this over the next year as our own meetings consider the queries. We plan to return to this concern next year.

We met with Deborah Fisch, who gave her final report to Yearly Meeting M&C after 17 years of ministry and service through employment with Friends General Conference. Her work with FGC ended in September 2015. Since then she has received two invitations for joint ministry. One, from Helen Thorpe of Mt. View Monthly Meeting, (Denver, CO) of Intermountain Yearly Meeting, involves co-authoring a book on moving toward a life of continual prayer. The other one is with Lloyd Lee Wilson of Friendship Meeting in Greensboro, NC, North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). We are pleased that he was able to join us at our Sixth Day M&C meeting. They are developing an 18-month course for Friends who want to grow deeper in the Spirit by living lives to dedicated Quaker faith and practice.

IYM(C) benefits from the insights Deborah shares from her travel among Friends. We unite in asking Yearly Meeting to continue to hold her work in our care by approving a travel minute. Deborah expressed her gratitude to the Yearly Meeting, Paullina Meeting, her anchor committee and all the Friends who have supported her the past 17 years.

We listened with care to the State of the Meeting reports. We find the reports encouraging; the Spirit is strong in our meetings even though they are small. We note a shift from the fear of smallness to living into smallness. Several meetings have lost beloved members. Most meetings have room for new members, and are curious about how to attract and keep new seekers without proselytizing. There is worry about having adequate resources, both in people and money, for maintaining meetinghouses and community. We continue to hear challenges around children: none attending, inadequate space, and meeting the needs of a range of ages. Meetings are recognizing our need to change and at the same time wanting to preserve what we value and can still serve to bring us closer to God.

We return the State of the Meeting Reports to the yearly meeting clerk with the recommendation that they be read during these annual sessions.

On behalf of the Ministry & Counsel Committee,
Lorene Ludy, clerk

State of the Meeting Reports help us see who we are and help us to keep our faith alive. They are our letters to each other where we share our joys and ask each other for help and support. Reading these once a year is a treasured time for us.

State of Meeting Reports

Sioux Falls Area Worship Group Under care of Paullina Monthly Meeting June 2016

Sioux Falls Friends met for worship on June 19th, 2016 to consider how the Spirit has been at work among us. We have two to three faithful friends who are present nearly every First Day and serve us all as a consistent presence in the community. Four to six other friends attend as we are able. We welcome our new attenders and are blessed by their presence. Regardless of who is present on any given day, we hold each other tenderly in love and are all enriched by the vocal ministry that is frequently offered.

Because many of us live at a distance from Meeting or travel during the year, we are grateful for this spiritual home to which we can return for refreshment and renewal. Our worship group is not only a refuge from the loneliness and horrors of the world, but also a living well from which we find strength to go back into the world using our gifts to bring a little more Light into the darkness. One advantage of living at a distance from meeting is that we are sometimes able to listen to NPR's "On Being" as we also marvel at the lush, green countryside bursting with life.

The solitude of our work or travel sometimes leaves us feeling disconnected or untethered from a spiritual community. As we observe Muslims all over the world (including our Muslim AVP facilitators in the prison) celebrating Ramadan, we are reminded of the importance of being connected to a larger spiritual community. Our small outpost of Friends here in Sioux Falls, and our occasional participation in IYMC activities, help us feel connected to a larger Quaker spiritual community and give us a greater sense of completeness or wholeness. The connection extends across time as well. In 1656 George Fox urged Friends to:

“Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations wherever you come; that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over

the world, answering that of God in everyone; whereby in them you may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you.”

We try to live with integrity and find we are often blessed by the Light that we receive in return.

State of the Meeting - Ames Friends Meeting

Ames Friends are doing well, finding our way toward a meeting community that is strong, flexible and nurturing for each of us. Our attendance has increased over the past year. We have shortened our First Day worship to 45 minutes on the first, third, and fourth weeks of each month. We appreciate having discussion, potluck and business on these First Days without holding people beyond their ability and willingness to engage. This abbreviated worship represents a compromise between those who get antsy when sitting for a full hour and those who experience their deepest centering in the latter part of an hour.

A beloved member of the meeting died unexpectedly in January, and others face profound health challenges. The presence of these persons and their families makes us more aware of the precious gift of life and unites us in love and service.

It has been gratifying to see a solid core of Friends step forward to meet our spiritual and material needs. We are grateful for our faithful clerks, for those who have led discussions, and those who have shared the upkeep of building and grounds. Distributing responsibilities mindfully is a continuing challenge.

Upbeat as we are, we know there are places where we fall short of what we would wish. Although we have a room for first-day school, we have not been able to interest children in participating or adults in leading a program. Further, we are disappointed when new people who seem to be interested in meeting fall by the wayside for reasons that we don't understand. We are caught between not wanting to proselytize or push on the one hand, while on the other hand we want newcomers to feel welcome and included.

State of the Meeting Report - 2016 - Bear Creek

While we are small in number, we no longer feel isolated. Des Moines Valley members came and spent the day helping us clean and prepare for a funeral and Mid-year meeting. Our distant members join us by computer, answering the Queries, and sharing their concerns and leadings with us. Our family reunions connect relatives whose roots are

here and feel a strong history with our meeting.

We keep in touch with our young members and try to nurture them. While not physically present, they are very much part of us.

It is great to be with people who share our concerns and values, and this includes distant members, and Laughing Waters Friends Preparative Meeting. We can express our thoughts and not feel judged. Our meeting has extended love and support, like a family, during difficult life transitions and times of joy.

We recently discussed that the roots of our meeting began 160 years ago in 1856, and that 100 years ago the meetinghouse was moved by horses from Earlham to the present site. We continue to gather for worship, thankful for beloved community, as we seek guidance of the Divine Spirit.

Our older members remind us of the extreme changes that have taken place during their lifetimes. Technology now brings circumstances around the world into our daily lives. This can be distracting and troubling, but it can also help us to be more aware of other people and cultures that need our understanding and support. Change is not easy for us. We need to balance between necessary change, while staying true to our central beliefs.

State of the Meeting 2016 Decorah Friends Meeting

“How does the Spirit prosper with you?” Though this may have been a common greeting for early Friends, it can be difficult to look inward, and to assess what the Spirit has been doing. For Decorah Friends Meeting, much of this year has been spent looking both inward and outward.

We have become better at being aware of the special needs of each other. In practical ways, this has meant being with one couple as they lived with extended cancer treatment and surgery convalescence, and with another Friend following a back injury that resulted in multiple hospitalizations. Several of our fellowship have had parents who have died in the past year. These situations helped us come together with special visits with one another, and with sharing of food and phone calls during the week. Helping each other has helped us feel more connected emotionally and spiritually, though it also presents a challenge when we are less often together “at full strength” for worship on First Days.

As we discussed how the Spirit prospers, one of our participants reported that “I am at the beginning” in returning to and exploring

Meeting in her life. Another Friend could not express the feeling easily in words, but knows that she feels part of our communion, even when weeks go by that do not allow her to be physically present. One of the strengths of our group is the freedom to be seeking, individually and corporately, what it means to be Friends in the world. Sometimes we turn inward to the physical needs of our fellowship, and at times we face the world more outwardly. Many of our actions to repair the world are done in collaboration with others in Decorah faith communities, in collaboration with the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and through our local peace and justice center. Though our group is small in numbers, our efforts are amplified when we act with others.

At times we struggle to accept each other's quirks and foibles, but it may be the case that our willingness to forgive, to allow space for seeking, and to allow for focus on the wonder of being, allows us to experience the grace of what it means to be spiritual. And maybe that's how the Spirit prospers among us.

Des Moines Valley Monthly Meeting

State of the Meeting

We continue to welcome new Friends into our fellowship, experiencing modest growth and embracing the energy that accompanies the arrival of new members and attenders. Our worship is frequently graced these days with the pre-language vocal ministry of a young Friend, who restores and gives voice to our capacity for delight, optimism and hope.

We celebrate all the children who attend meeting. We endeavor to provide spiritual enrichment and to offer a safe and friendly environment in which they can discover their faith. We involve our youth as much as possible in the overall life of the meeting, including participation on committees and sharing of their First Day School lessons and projects during post-worship circle.

We enjoy a robust and well-attended series of Second Hour discussions on an array of topics, including our monthly Query Discussions. Other

notable explorations over the past year were: the myriad ways in which we can each contribute to the sustainability of the Meeting; the aging-related changes we are experiencing individually and collectively and how we can best minister to the needs that arise from those changes; and our second Day of Remembrance on the last Sunday in December. Monthly singing, our yearly picnic, holiday dinners, talent shows and game nights offer additional opportunities for us to connect with each other in community.

Over the past year, we bid farewell to two of the people who helped form and shape our Meeting. We are diminished by their losses, yet take some solace in our memories of these cherished Friends whose lives enriched us each individually and our community, as a whole.

We are grateful for the new people who have found their way to worship with us and have become part of our discussions, business and committees. Our Meeting is aging and we need the involvement of these new Friends to fill the many roles—both formal and informal—that sustain us as a community.

We are thankful for the many blessings of our meeting as a place in which we can each commune with our personal version of a Higher Power, while also practicing community and collective service.

State of the Meeting, Iowa City, 2015-16

Though our meeting serves a community in constant flux, the Iowa City Meeting is truly a community of seekers. Some seek individually, more often we seek together a spiritual path in worship and service. This year has provided many opportunities for ministry to each other. Sharing spiritual journeys never fails to be inspiring and uplifting for those who

speak as well as those who listen, sometimes providing new avenues for exchange of life experiences that shape our thinking and beliefs.

The guided “Experiment with Light” groups have helped several people, young and older, stretch and deepen our thoughtful introspection toward meaningful, honest relationships.

Meetings for worship continue to be the center of our meeting for both members and attenders. Quite often the period for afterthoughts has gone far beyond the allotted time as people share concerns, joys, and experiences. Spoken messages from the worship have also increased in a loving and welcoming community of Friends.

With the improved library and frequent spoken reviews of new volumes, current interests have been expanded and the kitchen conversations tend to be fruitful. Most first days the meeting room is comfortably filled and we welcome all who come to worship and commune.

**LINCOLN FRIENDS MEETING
STATE OF THE MEETING
JUNE 2016**

Our Meeting, as a group and as individuals, has suffered loss and stress over the last year. One of our long-time members became seriously ill, left Lincoln, and then soon thereafter passed away. Several of our members have lost family and close friends this year. We are not always in complete unity with each other. Being vulnerable has allowed us to care for each other and has brought us closer together.

We have benefited from new young attenders, and we are grateful for those who have continued to attend. We miss those who have drifted away.

Over the last year we have had improvements to the physical grounds of the Meetinghouse. The good care of the house and grounds supports and enlivens us.

We have been reading together the papal encyclical on the environment. The document speaks to our condition. We appreciate experiencing it together.

We are more aware that our regular expenses exceed our income. We worry about the future of our Meeting if this is not resolved.

Laughing Waters Friends Preparative Meeting

State of the Meeting report

Summer 2016

From the Children and Youth One of the growing children shared with us that “It’s harder for me to be quiet during worship.” We also heard from them that “we enjoyed Laughing Waters a lot more this past year, and Godly Play. Especially with just the kids, it seems like everyone is happier and we don’t know why.”

We are glad that the Way has opened for us to re-engage our FDS teacher and Godly Play storyteller. Godly Play has continued for much of the past year and we’ve been able to include the children from a family who used to worship regularly with us. That reconnection among the children seems to have renewed some of the richness for all of us as a worship community.

We approved a policy to address the safety of our children and youth. Though we focused very much on the process of creating it, it was a lengthy season for us to be together in it, including a time of wandering through the desert and arriving at last to our destination. The slowness reminds us of how the Spirit can sometimes work.

For some of us, though, something has felt out of step as the year has gone by. Our safety practices document has specific steps for us to pursue as a meeting (background checks; First Aid training for adults; having a welcome document in place for new attenders) but we worry that it is not the document it is intended to be without those elements in place. Yet neither do we wish for it to become an obligatory tool, or forced it to be used for the sake of saying we’ve been able to follow the letter of the document, while foregoing its spirit.

Administrative work is lacking in terms of caring for the meeting as other IYMC meetings might, such as considering monthly queries; addressing yearly apportionments, etc. We wonder if there might be a new treasure or a different sense of preciousness if we were to return to answering monthly queries. How do we do the corporate work we need to do as part of our community?

What pattern are we holding up for ourselves toward which we could be heading? How do we live into God’s Majesty when we also have a sense of spiritual poverty or lack of energy because of the earthly or mundane Majesty we tend to in our families’ daily living?

We have reopened our twice-monthly meetings for worship to the public. We appreciate the care that local Friends and friends of Friends have shown by wishing us well and by letting us know they hope to visit.

We haven't done as much visiting with the wider community of Friends as we have done in the past. We were pleased that a few of us could attend Midyear Meeting, and a few of us carry out a form of electronic visits by answering monthly queries. Many of us are participating in this year's Entertainment Committee, and we look forward to hearing from a Laughing Waters Friend about her recent experience with Friends Peace Teams. A few of us also attended Northern Yearly Meeting sessions, since relationships have been formed and sustained over the years, and a number of their meetings are geographically close to Laughing Waters Friends.

Omaha Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting – 2016

The Omaha Monthly Meeting continues to be a small meeting but we have had some new attenders/ seekers along with visitors to the community that have begun to revitalize our meeting. Seldom do we have only one or two sitting in worship as has happened in the past.

Our members and attenders continue to be active in the community, living our lives in as much of a Quakerly manner as we can by sharing our resources, setting examples of simple living, recycling our resources, greeting life with joy and our neighbors with respect. Living across a large metropolitan community, we continue to try to join one another as often as possible for pot luck, to share our joy and our sorrows, and connecting more closely with one another.

Our meeting shared the grief of loss by the death of Danielle Dae Black Eyes this spring. Her life was celebrated in Lincoln by the joining together of three communities – the Lakota nation, the Omaha nation and Quaker Meetings across Nebraska and Iowa. Her smile will be missed.

We continue to network with other meetings in eastern Nebraska as we invite each other to special speakers and events at our own meetings. We are also working with them on planning the third annual area gathering in the fall. Our focus of the gathering this fall will be on Racism.

Paullina Meeting - State of the Meeting Report 2016

We are continually enriched by our weekly meetings for worship with our community of members and attenders. We are thankful for our families and friends who have visited us throughout the year. The children in our meeting particularly enjoy the Sunday school program

every fourth Sunday, while the adults are enlightened by discussions and presentations led by our members or invited guests. Everyone enjoys the fellowship of our potluck dinner that follows. Our meetings for worship are often silent, with each person searching for Light and guidance as we collectively worship together. Our monthly discussions of the queries help us to examine how we can maintain our peaceful and compassionate journeys through this world. The monthly meetings for business have been well attended with important decisions being made regarding the continued maintenance and repairs of our buildings. Our 130th anniversary celebration was a great success. The event included tours, music, and food with many moments of sharing stories and memories. It was a wonderful joy to share our Quaker heritage with the surrounding community. We have a deep pride in our past and a hope for the future as we live in the present, sharing our love with all.

Penn Valley Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

The winds of change are blowing through the Penn Valley Meeting; and those winds introduce crosscurrents of discomfort and enthusiasm. So, if there is a common theme for the year, it would be paradox—joy and uneasiness existing in the same moments, challenging us to listen for the leading of the Spirit in all.

Among the points of joy for the meeting this past year was the wedding of long-time members Karin McAdams and Linda (Echo) Ray, a wonderful retreat on meditation, and a new lift! The wedding filled the meetinghouse up to the rafters with love and spirit as well as well-wishers. It was truly a life-giving experience for all—a celebration of all that is good, right, and true about human relationship. The retreat was well received and life giving as well. And, at about the same time, we received another gift—the purchase by AFSC of a new lift for the meeting house which makes it possible for those hampered by physical disabilities to attend.

Yet, there were more paradoxical happenings in store for PVM.

Midyear, we learned that our much-loved clerk, Gary Marx, was leaving at the first of the year to move to southern Illinois. While that move was one of home going for Gary, it meant losing his presence among us—and having to name a new clerk. And, that change has been accompanied by other changes in key functions in the meeting, all of which introduces change.

The winds of change also brought new attenders and members, several with children of varying ages. Our delight at these new

participants is enormous. But, we are surely challenged with meeting the educational needs of children ranging in age from 10 months to 15 years. And, that joy is tempered by the realization that our meetinghouse does not provide space for exuberant children and silent worship simultaneously. These are good challenges, but they do pose interesting dilemmas when our elders, both in spirit and in age, often feel a weariness as we contemplate issues of brick and mortar as well as religious education. Again, we endeavor to listen for the Spirit's leading in our midst.

Early in 2016, several of our members began a weekly discussion focused on reflection and journaling in response to a Biblical scripture. Those who participate find it engaging and spiritually enlightening. For some who came to us as "refugees" from fundamentalism, or who prefer less scriptural approaches, there is some unease as to the implications of this Bible study. This has opened the way to more consideration of the historical roots of Quakerism, the origins of the testimonies, and ongoing efforts to honor those traditions and weave together the rich spiritual diversity that is part of Penn Valley Meeting.

As we stand in the midst of the winds of change, we at Penn Valley are challenged to allow the Spirit's leading to weave us into the rich tapestry of God's good creation. We seek the courage, wisdom, love and grace to walk into and with that Spirit. Knowing that Divine presence is with us always gives us hope.

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT **West Branch Monthly Meeting** **May 2016**

Don Laughlin no longer attends meeting for worship, as it is tiring for him. We miss him, but are glad that he continues to host the Earth Care movie nights, and that a number of Friends are able to visit with him regularly.

We were pleased to have Rebecca and George Bergus lead us in a consideration of Islam at Midyear Meeting in April.

This year we are making an effort to improve communication with absent Friends. With our annual letter we added personal messages and enclosed stamped return cards encouraging them to send us their news.

We are concerned that a few Friends take on much of the responsibility for the meeting.

We appreciate that tasks such as weeding, snow plowing,

mowing, making coffee, and other small, necessary chores are regularly attended to.

Our numbers have gradually increased. We enjoy the presence of Scattergood faculty who frequently join us for worship. We struggle with how to do effective outreach and wonder how other meetings are doing it. Can the Yearly Meeting offer assistance?

The richness of our worship is strengthened by our sharing at adult education. We are grateful for the depth of our worship.

Whittier State of the Meeting 2016

“Little Whittier is Small, but Oh, My”

Whittier Meeting is small in numbers, with many longtime members living around the country; one of our new members, though she lives in Washington, D.C. now, has been led to Whittier and the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) as her spiritual home.

The core holds, and new worshippers join us, at the Meeting House and in Tuesday evening worship in Cedar Rapids. From different backgrounds and by different means, we come together to build the Beloved Community. Our worship is often profound, as is our sharing, as we struggle to speak to the sacred in all of us, and to carry community with us into the world.

We have found blessing as we share our condition, and give and receive support and help, both physical and spiritual. A few times this past year, people who were passing through town wandered in seeking assistance. It felt good to be able to offer them hospitality.

We are a living, growing fellowship, although our numbers may be few, and we are gaining strength to live our faith more deeply.

Other tenderly in love and are all enriched by the vocal ministry that is frequently offered.

Because many of us live at a distance from Meeting or travel during the year, we are grateful for this spiritual home to which we can return for refreshment and renewal. Our worship group is not only a refuge from the loneliness and horrors of the world, but also a living well from which we find strength to go back into the world using our gifts to bring a little more Light into the darkness. One advantage of living at a distance from meeting is that we are sometimes able to listen to NPR’s “On Being” as we also marvel at the lush, green countryside bursting with life.

The Report from Yahara Worship Group is in Reports Received Not Read

We close the morning session to reconvene at 2:00 p.m.”

**Seventh Day – Saturday – 7-30-2016 Afternoon Session
Meeting for Worship moving into Meeting for Business**

We resume the business of Yearly Meeting

Be still awhile from thy own thoughts, searching, seeking, desires, and imaginations, and be stayed in the principle of God in thee...And thou being come to the principle of God (within), which hath been transgressed (by thee)*, it will keep thee humble; and (to)* the humble God will teach his way, which is peace.*

George Fox's advice to Elizabeth Cromwell Claypole, 1658

Sarah Andrews and Eldon Morey have been appointed as readers this afternoon.

We approved the following minute brought forward from Peace and Social concerns committee.

RACIAL JUSTICE

A testimony of Quakers is that all people are beloved and equal in the eyes of God.

We live in a society that is struggling to deal with consequences of slavery, and the failure to achieve equity for all after slavery was abolished. Conditions such as discriminatory lending practices, multigenerational inequities around home ownership, and easier access to education for white people persist in our laws and culture, resulting in institutional racism. Some Friends once owned slaves. William Penn believed that “slavery was perfectly acceptable, provided that slave owners attended to the spiritual and material needs of those they enslaved.”¹ Penn “had a curious blind spot about slavery. Quakers were far ahead of most other Americans, but it’s surprising that people with their humanitarian views could have contemplated owning slaves at all.

Picking up the work of colonial Quaker Anthony Benezet, who wrote an early tract opposing slavery, John Woolman traveled up and down the Atlantic coast laboring with Quaker slaveholders and testifying against the institution of slavery. It was through his years of patient dialogue that Quakers first freed their slaves then testified against slavery and over time became the backbone of the anti-slavery movement in America.

A gap in awareness exists today, which allows so many people who consider themselves white to continue practices that give them advantages over people of color.

The scope of these problems is extensive and deep. Racial tensions continue to result in violence and death. There is an increasingly militarized police response. The Black Lives Matter movement is helping raise awareness around these issues.

Many white people are still not as aware of some of these issues. But to continue to benefit from these privileges is not right.

Not having relationships with people of color often results in misunderstanding and unfortunate racial attitudes among white people. One significant consequence of that is the election of so many representatives who reflect these views to legislative bodies.

Building relationships with people of color is one way we can begin to address this, as we build Beloved Communities together. We urge each person to take a careful look at their life, to identify where one is benefiting from this, and work to correct that. We urge Friends to speak out and take action against these systemic injustices and violence occurring today. We appreciate how much we learn from communities of color.

¹ Wood, Betty *Slavery in colonial America, 1619-1776* AltaMira Press (2005) p14

² Jim Powell, a senior fellow at the Cato Institute

<http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/article/2008/11/20081112170035abretnuh3.838748e-02.html#axzz4FQtSH844>

We thank Tim Shipe for preparing our Recorders Report for us, and are glad to learn of growth in our membership.

Losing Danielle Blackeyes has left an especially large hole in our heart.

We have loved these Friends who have passed, we mourn their passing, and we will remember them

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) 2015-2016 RECORDER'S REPORT

This year our total membership increased for the first time since 2012, and we saw our largest single-year increase in membership in this century.

DEATHS

Ames	Marian Solomon	December 31, 2016
Bear Creek	Anna Mae Starbuck Moffitt	December 23, 2015
Des Moines Valley	Pat Dickinson (attender)	August 8, 2015
	DeWitt Clinton (attender)	August 21, 2015
	Kathy Day	February 4, 2016
Omaha	Te Wa'u Danielle Blackeyes (attender)	May 24, 2016
Lincoln	Earl Baker Barnawell	March 18, 2016
Whittier	Clyda Stanley Carpenter*	January 21, 2015
Penn Valley	Winifred Batson*	September 26, 2012

BIRTHS

Des Moines Valley	Tenoch Mia Escobar Howard*	March 28, 2013
	(to Brynne Howard and Jonathan Escobar)	
	Victor Wallace Escobar Howard	August 6, 2015
	(to Brynne Howard and Jonathan Escobar)	
Penn Valley	Harvey William Hennes**	August 7, 2015
	(to attenders, Mattew and Sarah Hennes)	
	Anna Lena Buck	August 22, 2015
	(to David Buck and Christina Cherry)	
West Branch	Ezra James Fawcett (attender)	August 12, 2015
	(to Thomas and Jennifer Fawcett)	

MARRIAGES UNDER THE CARE OF THE MEETINGS

Penn Valley	Linda (Echo) Ray to Karin McAdams	November 7, 2015
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Reported Marriages not under the Care of the Meetings

West Branch	Heidi Marie Cope Fawcett (in Beverly, MA—not a Friends Ceremony) (member) to Craig Ehrlich (non-member)	
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New Members by Request or by Certificate of Transfer

Ames	Carla Barten	March 2016 (by request)
	Steven Cannon	March 2016 (by request)
	Cynthia Hemingway	March 2016 (by request)
	Charles Johnson	March 2016 (by request)
	Rebecca Musselman	March 2016 (by request)
	Semakaleng Lebepe-Mazur	March 2016 (by request)
	Susan Ziegler	March 2016 (by request)
Bear Creek	Sonja Sponheim	August 23, 2015 (by request)

	Claire Margaret Sponheim	August 23, 2015 (by request)
	Christopher James Gauder	August 23, 2015 (by request)
Lincoln	Tom Hinshaw	November 8, 2015 (by certificate)
Penn Valley	Chad Stanley	January 2016 (by request)
	Lolli Ockerstrom	May 2016 (by certificate from Beacon Hill Monthly Meeting, Boston)
	Keith Snyder	May 2016 (by certificate from Beacon Hill Monthly Meeting, Boston)
Whittier	Christine Ashley	September 13, 2015 (by request)
	Julie Davis	September 13, 2015 (by request)

MEETING	BIRTHS	DEATHS	CERTIFICATES OF MEMBERSHIP RECEIVED (TRANSFERS IN)	MEMBERSHIPS TRANSFERRED OUT	NEW MEMBERSHIPS GRANTED	MEMBERSHIPS DISCONTINUED	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP
Ames	0	1	0	0	7	0	24
Bear Creek	0	1	0	1	3	0	80
Decorah	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Des Moines Valley	2	1	0	0	2	2	67
Iowa City	0	0	0	0	0	0	64
Lincoln	0	1	1	0	0	2	15
Omaha	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Paullina	0	0	0	0	0	0	71
Penn Valley	1	1	2	0	1	0	72
West Branch	0	0	0	0	0	0	92
Whittier	0	1	0	0	2	0	38
TOTALS	3	6	3	1	15	4	545
NET GAIN							10

We listened to the Representatives Report and we appreciate the work of the Committee. We approved the recommendations to form an ad hoc Possibilities Committee and to change the location of our yearly meeting bank account.

We will wait until hearing the Nominating Committee Report to consider making our Nominating Committee a Standing Committee.

2016 Representatives Report

Drawing strength from the silence, the 2016 IYM(C) annual sessions representatives completed all important business within the time allowed. We were blessed with a full representation from all our monthly meetings throughout the week. We approved the Nominating Committee brought forward by the monthly meetings, appointed readers for meeting for worship with attention to business sessions, appointed members of several committees to serve during our annual sessions, and found Friends to call the business meeting into session on Fourth Day and break meeting on First Day.

With our Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, the representatives proposed a budget for the coming year which is similar to the approved

budget of 2015. A transfer of \$1,000 to the Reserve Fund was approved with the recommendation the Reserve Fund have a cap of \$5,000. The Treasurer has authority to use the Reserve Fund for cash flow. A line item addition for one year of \$200 to the FCNL “Now Is The Time” Capital Campaign was approved. All other contributions stayed the same including the \$54,000 contribution to Scattergood and a special contribution to Scattergood of \$2,000 for facilities. Two monthly meetings increased their apportionment for a total increase of \$300. All other monthly meetings were agreeable in maintaining their apportionment at current levels.

The 2016 IYMC Representatives recognize the benefit of making the Nomination Committee a standing committee throughout the year. We make this recommendation.

The 2015 Representatives asked the Clerk to convene a committee to explore if there are changes we could make that would increase participation in our Yearly Meeting. Due to time constraints and because the Clerk felt there was some ground work to be done, a committee was never formed. The Clerk asked all monthly meeting clerks what they loved about being a Friend in their meeting and asked them to take this question to their respective monthly meetings. The responses were shared with the Interim Meeting and this meeting requested the Clerk ask the monthly meetings to think about what would need to change in order for one to attend year meeting. The Clerk received responses to this question and passed them on to the representatives at IYM(C) 2016 annual sessions.

The 2016 Representatives recommend the formation of an “Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Possibilities” ad hoc committee as follows: representative will return to their monthly meeting, preparative meeting, or worship group requesting that they appoint one member to serve on this ad hoc committee. The committee member will talk to members of their respective meetings, consider the replies to the Clerk’s questions, explore ways to build relationship between IYM(C) Friends outside the monthly meeting and consider ideas to increase participation in IYM(C) annual sessions. Each ad hoc committee member will report on their progress at the 2017 Interim Meeting. We recommend Carole Winkleblack of Iowa City Monthly Meeting as convener of this ad hoc committee.

The Representatives would like to express appreciation for the service to the yearly meeting by our Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Statistical Recorder. We suggest the Friends

name below be appointed to serve for the coming year. Please note our current Treasurer, Jean Sandstrom, asked to step aside to serve as Assistant Treasurer for personal reasons.

- Clerk - Deborah Dakin
- Assistant Clerk - George Bergus
- Treasurer - Rebecca Bergus
- For the Committee,
- Cindy Winchell*

Not previously reported or included in statistics** Not recorded as a member representative report

Yearly Meeting Budget for Fiscal Year 2016 (7/1/15 - 6/30/16)

Contributions	
American Friends Service Committee	\$1,000.00
Friends Committee on National Legislation	\$1,000.00
Friends General Conference	\$200.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation	\$700.00
Iowa Peace Network	\$100.00
Nebraskans for Peace	\$400.00
Friends Peace Teams	\$500.00
NRCAT	\$100.00
Pendle Hill	\$500.00
Peace and Social Concerns Committee	\$1,100.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$300.00
Quaker United Nations Office	\$200.00
Right Sharing of World Resources	\$400.00
Scattergood Friends School	\$54,000.00
Scattergood Facilities	\$2,000.00
William Penn House	\$300.00
Total Contributions	<u>\$62,800.00</u>
Delegate Expenses	
FCNL	\$1,200.00
Friends Peace Teams	\$1,200.00
FWCC - General	\$1,200.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$900.00
Conservative Yearly Meeting Visitation	\$1,200.00
Total Delegate Expenses	<u>\$5,700.00</u>
Yearly Meeting Expenses	
Archives Committee	\$200.00
Clerk's and Other Adm. Expenses	\$400.00
Committee Expenses (Other)	\$300.00

Conscientious Objector PSC subcommittee	\$100.00
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	\$1,000.00
Junior Yearly Meeting	\$1,500.00
Pendle Hill Scholarship Match	\$400.00
Publication Committee:	\$3,200.00
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship	\$500.00
Special Needs Committee	\$750.00
Young Adult Friends	\$300.00
Young Friends	\$1,500.00
Friends Travel & Conference	\$1,000.00
Midyear Planning Committee if receipts inadequate*	\$500.00
YM Entertainment Committee if receipts inadequate*	\$500.00
Contingency Fund	\$1,000.00
Transfer to Reserve Fund	\$1,000.00
Total YM Expenses	\$14,150.00
Total Budget	\$82,650.00
Cash balance available for budget	\$12,555.91
Monthly Meeting apportionments	\$71,360.00
Total anticipated available funds	\$83,915.91
Starting balance Reserve Fund	\$2,000.00

*Yearly Meeting Entertainment Committee and Midyear Planning Committee each has a separate budget, bank account and treasurer.

Monthly Meeting Apportionments

Dollar Amount	Percent
4,200.00	5.9
5,500.00	7.7
1,500.00	2.1
15,492.00	21.7
6,000.00	8.4
7,200.00	10.1
3,252.00	4.6
8,500.00	11.9
5,500.00	7.7
11,216.00	15.7
3,000.00	4.2
\$71,360.00	100.0

We listened to the letter prepared by our Special Replies Committee and thank them for creating this beautiful letter to send to dear Friends unable to join us.

Special Replies Committee Report

Loving greetings from the 139th annual sessions of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

You have been in our thoughts as we met this year on the Scattergood campus, and we felt a hope in the Spirit that we could somehow not simply share with you a little of what has happened, but include you in the life of these sessions.

The energy and excitement this year has been wonderful, and we have felt a renewed spirit of engagement stirring amongst us. Our program, on the theme, "Be Not Afraid, I Am With You", has given emphasis to empowering us in ways that help us take our testimony and concerns into the world, where we might bear good fruit.

In an opening exercise on the first evening, we shared our stories with one another and listened deeply into each other's telling. We felt our connections to one another renewed. On the second evening, Greg Elliot of the American Friends Service Committee introduced us to a new approach called "Quaker Social Change Ministry" which is designed to help Friends engage with communities such as those of people of color who are directly impacted by social injustice.

Robin Mohr of the Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of Americas, spoke to us the third evening, reminding us that

there is no such thing as “other” and no such thing as “away”, but that we are part of a communal One. She helped us realize how we are all together in a common project even if each of us seems to be working on a different thing. And on the fourth evening, singer-musicians Aaron Fowler and Laura Dungan shared with us a wonderful selection of songs bearing on our hopes, our fears, the risks we take, and the lessons that we draw.

The responses to our queries from our member monthly meetings were rich and nourishing this year. Several Friends observed in different ways, that both the queries and these responses gave us an opportunity to reflect on what we have felt God calling us to be and to do, and on how we have been measuring up. They are a powerful tool for spiritual growth, though not necessarily comfortable.

Our state of the meeting reports were honest and moving. We felt a shift in the yearly meeting as our member monthly meetings no longer grieved about their smallness, but instead, lived fully into the joys and challenges of being small and intimate. We were particularly struck by one meeting’s account of how it responded to its concerns for the safety of its children, not just by writing rules, but by writing queries to which it would hold itself accountable. As one of us remarked, rules don’t always take account of every contingency, but queries require us to do so.

Junior Yearly Meeting created a mandala for us on the Scattergood auditorium floor, which moved us by the way it brought birds and Buddhists into our living circle of Friends.

We Friends are often in pain, as we face the state of the world; yet when we gather in our yearly meeting sessions, we become a people of joy and love. This year we have felt our hearts fed, wakened, and stretched.

We remember you in love, pray that the Spirit has dealt in beautiful ways with your life, and hope that we may hear your stories when next we meet.

Our Yearly Meeting next year will be 7th Month, 25-30, 2017. We hope that you will be able to join us in person.

love,

Deborah Dakin,

Iowa Yearly Meeting, Conservative

We enjoyed the beautiful letter prepared by our Epistle Committee. It made us smile and we hope our Friends who receive it, do so as well.

Epistle Committee letter and additions for NCYMC and OYM

Seventh Month 30, 2016
To Friends Everywhere,

“Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations wherever you come; that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone; whereby in them you may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you.”

~George Fox

Alive and fresh, we are children of this yearly meeting and we traveled home from places as far away as Montana, South Dakota, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Indiana and Germany to be together during this blessed gathering in Iowa. It is striking that geographically we have become a diffuse group but our heartstrings are as strong as they are long. Visiting Friends joined us from Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, North Carolina and New Zealand.

The warmth of the weather matched the warmth in our hearts as we converged at Scattergood Friends School and Farm on Seventh Month 26-31, 2016 at the 139th annual session of our yearly meeting.

We searched for Truth this year through our theme “Be not afraid, for I am with you.” In one evening Collection we practiced active-listening in pairs formed by rotating concentric circles of Friends. Imagine “speed-dating” for God. The following evening Greg Elliot, Friends Relations Associate with American Friends Service Committee, and Jeff Kisling from Indianapolis, described how the Quaker Social Change Ministry helps Friends share stories and spiritual exercises, and then work with people closest to problems we hope to solve. Greg reminded us, “Really simple things, right now, really matter.” He encouraged us to overcome fear in accepting God’s call for us to co-create the Beloved Community. Robin Mohr, Executive Secretary for Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas helped us understand that we are not separate from any other person or concern on Earth; we share one story; and there are things for each one of us to do that are good and important. “God needs us to know about a lot, and work on a few.” But how can we trust that we are not avoiding work that is meant for us? A Friend shared, “The practice of staying awake to God in myself is how I know I’m not running away.” Stephen Donahoe, Major Gifts Officer at Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) was a joyful presence with us this week; he offered a

report on exciting changes made possible at FCNL through the financial support from Friends. In our last Collection, Aaron Fowler and Laura Dungan led us in an evening of joyful, thoughtful, spirit-filled song.

We cannot create the Beloved Community unless we know one another. Are we willing to listen deeply and truly know each other? Can we open ourselves to the transformation available to us through small acts of connection? Are we willing to be changed? The Spirit present in our midst challenged us with these questions, and our hearts were made tender as we took greater risks to connect. Often, it is not apparent how ready we are to reach out, to respond joyfully to the shedding of our masks and the sharing of our true selves. We rediscovered that in sharing the tasks of our faith community our connections are renewed and we are blessed.

We continue our shift from an assumed to a chosen relationship with our beloved Scattergood School and Farm. Miracles happen at the school every day and every school year. We look for ways to bring in youth from around the world and the U.S. who seek a rigorous education in an emotionally supportive, ecologically minded, and spiritually grounded boarding school.

During our State of the Meeting and Query reports we sit together and listen to the voices of our monthly meetings and know our corporate whole a little better; these small meetings express our discernment of Truth. Our Bible study sessions helped us lean into God's Love in order to know that sometimes the things of which we are afraid are much smaller than our fear of them. In our seeking we sometimes forget that God is always with us, just waiting for us to turn and open our hearts. Another moving program was led by our Ministry and Counsel Committee, which built our awareness for tending to the physical and emotional safety of our children and youth.

It is holy to be heard.

Our Junior Yearly Meeting Friends were a joy to us all week. JYM built and displayed a beautiful birdseed mandala which lifted our spirits. They brought adults into the ceremony of dismantling it in the manner of Tibetan Buddhists. In tossing the birdseed we experience the poignancy of lost beauty and we send out a blessing to all of Creation. May our epistle to you, our Friends, be such a blessing as we sadly close our annual sessions. Know the joy that we know - we are not separate; there is no "away". We shall live in one another still.

In Friendship,

Deborah Dakin, clerk

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Our 2017 yearly meeting will be held 7/25 to 7/30, 2017 at Scattergood School and Farm near West Branch, Iowa. We warmly welcome you to join us.

We agreed to have the currently named Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee serve as a standing committee for this upcoming year as an experiment to see if this is a good way for us to do business. A.M. Fink will convene this committee.

We appreciate all the work this Nominating Committee has done for us.

We are a small community and this mighty list shows just how many people serve our yearly meeting. We appreciate all of them as well.

Nominating Committee Report

Archives Committee

2017	2018	2019
Lucy Hansen	Daniel Treadway	Jeff Cox
Tim Shipe	Shel Stromquist	Jeff Kisling

Book Table Committee

2017	2018	2019
Sarah Andrews	Megan McCormick*	Mikel Johnson

DOCUMENT COMMITTEE

2017
Bear Creek

Entertainment Committee

2017	2018	2019
Ames	Decorah	Paullina
Des Moines Valley	Iowa City	Omaha
Penn Valley	West Branch	Lincoln
	Whittier	Laughing Waters

Interim Meeting (appointed by monthly meetings)

Each monthly meeting can name up to 2 members to represent them on Interim Committee

2017	2018	2019
Burt Kisling (BC)	A.M. Fink (Ames)	Marge Schlitt
Ginny Winsor (Om)	Richard Johnson (BC)	Bill Deutsch
Gordon Bivens (Ames)	Alice Hampton (W)	Deborah Fisch

Andy Juhl (Pl)	Bob Winkleblack (IC) George Bergus (WB) Carol Gilbert	Cindy Winchell Catherine Dorenbach
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Junior Yearly Meeting (for Yearly Meeting)

2017	2018	2019
Sonja Sponheim	Deborah Fink Elizabeth O'Sullivan Carol Gilbert*	Jean Sandstrom

Young Friends Planning Committee (For Yearly Meeting)

This should have at least one older adult

2017	2018	2019
Bill Deutsch*	Liz Oppenheimer Stephen Snyder	Claire Sponheim

Jr. YM/Young Friends (Midyear)

2017	2018	2019
DJ Newlin*	Carol Gilbert Jean Sandstrom	

MIDYEAR PLANNING COMMITTEE

2017	2018	2019
Osa Bricker Jenny Lumsden	Christine Kelly Ruth Dawson	A.M. Fink* Cindy Winchell Burt Kisling

Ministry & Counsel Committee (appointed by monthly meetings)

2017	2018	2019
Carol Gilbert Alberta Kisling Martha Davis Ann Stromquist Lorene Ludy* Liz Voss	Faith Juhl Catherine Dorenbach Dean Wilson Deborah Fisch** Liz Oppenheimer Peter Clay	Ebby Luvaga Alice Hampton Chris Pohlman Sarah Andrews

Peace & Social Concerns Committee

2017	2018	2019
Deborah Fink Nancy Jordan Ann Stromquist Frank Griffith	Sherry Hutchison Jim Bruener Quinn Dilkes Robert Yeats	Jeff Kisling* Judy Plank Winifred Standing Kathleen Hall

Elizabeth Levin	Patty Wengert	Stan Sanders
Christine Ashley	Bridget Durst	Chris Kelly

Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee

2017	2018	2019
Ruth Dawson	Shirley Scritchfield	Jean Eden* Callie Marsh

Publications Committee

2017	2018	2019
Jackie Leckband	Callie Marsh Ann Stromquist Martha Davis*	Ginny Winsor

Website/Computer Committee

2017	2018	2019
Sarah Andrews	Warren Miller	John Andrews* Katie Jacoby

Religious Education Committee

2017	2018	2019
Mary Snyder	Bill Deutsch*	Marshall Massey

Scattergood Friends School Committee

Iowa (FUM), Illinois YM and Northern YM are also invited to name a representative to the committee.

Terms start in August after Yearly Meeting and end after the July School Committee meeting. Doyle Wilson asks to not be renamed to this committee, and the School committee recommends Kent Tjossem to be named in his place, and hopes that Roy Helm, Robert Winchell and Russ Leckband will be asked to continue serving.

2017	2018	2019
Rebecca Bergus	Ginny Winsor	Kent Tjossem
George Bergus	Bob Winkleblack	Roy Helm
Dan Schlitt	Ruth Hampton*	Robert Winchell
Karen Greenler	Lucy Marsh	Russ Leckband

Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees

This committee is appointed by Yearly Meeting Trustees. Check with them to see who has been appointed.

2017	2018	2019
Robert Yeats	Barb Garlinghouse	Richard Johnson
Larry Marsh	Carole Winkleblack*	Lee Tesdell
2020 - Lowell Wilson, Daniel Treadway		

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE

2017	2018	2019
Bob Yeats*	Sherry Hutchison	Harry Olmstead
Bob Winchell	John Andrews	

YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES

2017	2018	2019
Faith Juhl	Jonathan Fisch	Bill Deutsch
2020 - Jim Cottingham, A.M.Fink*		

IYMC Representatives to Friends Agencies

AFSC Corporation Members *four people*

2017	2018	2019
Andrea Jilovec	Ann Stromquist	Robert Yeats*
	Rebecca Bergus (alt.)	Dan Schlitt

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (FCNL) *PLEASE DOUBLECHECK THE NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT WE CAN NAME

2017	2018	2019
Rebecca Bergus	Martha Davis	Deborah Fink
Carole Winkleblack	Dan Schlitt	Andy Juhl

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS ADVISORY BOARD *ONE PERSON*

Sonja Sponheim

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (FWCC) FOUR PEOPLE

2017	2018	2019
Chris Kelly	Thomas Greenler	Mary Snyder
	Ebby Luvaga	

Iowa Peace Network *one person*

Patty Wengert

Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee - number of reps?

Peter Clay*	Marilyn McNabb
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WILLIAM PENN HOUSE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
NUMBER OF REPS?

Alberta Kisling*

Jeff Kisling

Lolly Ockerstrom

We are grateful for the work of the clerk, assistant clerk, and our soundman during these sessions.

CLOSING MINUTE

"There is no fear in love but perfect love casts out fear" (I John 4:18)

"Love takes off the masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within" (James Baldwin)

We gathered together this week under a theme of **"Be Not Afraid, I Am With You"**.

Be not afraid. These three words point to a truth carried down through the centuries, in many traditions and cultures. Our week together offered us different ways to reflect on and bring these words alive into our being.

We discovered stories are a powerful tool to help us face fear. In Bible Study, Friends read and were read by a text that returns again and again to one story of overcoming fear. Our evening collections explored practical ways to lessen fear's grip on us: learning to share and to listen to another person, working for justice, building community with others who appear different from us as well as building community with those who belong to our worldwide family, and singing songs for courage. Junior Yearly Meeting brought us energy, gave us hope, and weakened our fears.

We sometimes fear our community isn't strong enough to sustain our differences, or the discussion of difficult topics where we are not in agreement. We had chances to face that fear at different times in our work this week. How good it was to remember that when our human strategies hit a wall, our practice teaches us to stop, stand in in the Light, and be open so that Spirit may enter.

And how do we stand in this Light?

Our worship takes us there.

And how do we overcome fears that we cannot live up to the commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves?

Our worship takes us there.

Early Friend John Woolman told us, "There is a principle which is pure, placed in the human mind, which in different places and ages hath had different names. It is deep and inward, confined to no forms of religion, nor excluded from anywhere the heart stands in perfect sincerity. In whomsoever this takes root and grows, of what nation what so ever, they become brethren."

Reading our queries and responses, our epistles, and the State of the Meeting Reports together reminded us that these are practices of our community to help each other stay honest in our our faith.

Sometimes we fear we don't have the patience or courage to wait until our promptings are well seasoned before we act. In community, we help each other stay faithful.

This past week, we found joy in using our practices, and found joy in knowing we don't have to be ruled by fear. There was joy in touching the love we felt being with our youngest Friends and sitting together with them in worship. "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear."

"Silence is the language of God. All else is poor translation" (Rumi)

We now conclude our 2016 annual session, planning to meet again, God willing, at Scattergood Friends School and Farm, near West Branch, Iowa, 7th month 25 to 30, 2017

Deborah Dakin, clerk

George Bergus, assistant clerk

Reports Received But Not Read In Annual Sessions

Exercise Committee Report, IYM(C), 2016

There are three lenses for looking at the phrase "fear not, for I am with you." In times of trouble, God is there to hear our grief, and God is the comforter; when we are called by God to do something scary, God is there and has your back; sometimes we are in awe and fear and trembling in the presence of God, and the sense of God's pure power. These are the different lenses through which we can experience God.

Whenever I am feeling discouraged, I think about John's verse "the light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it." I also think about George Fox's words about there being an ocean of darkness and of death, but that over all this is an infinite ocean of light and love, and in that, is the infinite love of God. And that there are small acts of love and kindness every day, even as we open to more difficult parts ahead.

Corinthians 13: Love is kind, love is perfect, love is slow to anger. Love is generous, love does not keep score.

Paul said without love, I am nothing but a clanging cymbal. May we know how to love more perfectly, to be part of the ocean that flows over and through us, above the ocean of darkness.

Jesus brought perfect love, but was not always a perfect person. God is perfection. God is not asking for perfection in behavior and thought, God is asking us to move toward perfect love. It is not our job to be God. It is our job to be human, and to move toward perfect love.

Mary Oliver said “things take the time that they take, don’t worry.” I had a friend many years ago who was planting trees in the conservation reserve program, who told me it takes a lot of work to plant a forest. The condition of the world is like planting a forest, it takes a lot of work. It is easy to feel discouraged, overwhelmed or afraid. Sometimes remembering that I am not alone, and not to worry, is useful. It is not that I can do everything every day. I have a lot of other things to attend to. But I know I am not the only one that needs to do the work.

The Bible tells us: Christ Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. And remembering is helpful: we didn’t bring ourselves to the place we are, Christ prepared the way of Life for us. That Truth paves the way to Light. Obstacles are removed. We are not that life. When we move into the world, it is Truth we bring, and that Truth is Christ. Our life is mystery. We are not that Life; Christ is that Life. We did not give ourselves this life. We’ve been given the opportunity to participate in life’s complexity, depth, perception, in the ongoing eternal nature of Life. Christ Jesus is the Way, the Truth, the Life.

Song: Cause me to come to thy river, O Lord (3X)
Cause me to come to thy river...to drink...to stay.

One of the things that the singers last night challenged us to was to take more risks, and I’m afraid I sometimes fail in that. How do we take risks to be more spiritual, and to be more spiritually vulnerable?

My heart is filled with love and appreciation for noises and sounds as Friends are gathering – in anticipation of taking up business. As I get older, I am more content in the present moment. I love having time with my beloved community, to worship together in this space, including with the children. In my home Meeting there was perceived the need for children to worship with adults, as the Spirit might come on any one of us – age is not a factor. In my travels, I visited Meetings where children only were present for a little while of worship, such that they never could get a sense of a centered Meeting. There was an occasion when I was at a retreat, and every morning we would gather for worship. I asked the host Meeting, couldn’t we have the children with us. They said that the children couldn’t possibly sit for a half-hour. I asked couldn’t we try

having the children with us. We sat in a big circle, and one by one, the children wandered into the middle of the circle, and I walked into the midst of the children. I told them “this is a time for us all to be in worship together. To make the community whole, can you sit with your parents or caregivers, and listen to what God tells us?” Yes, we could do that. The next morning, when I arrived to Meeting, several children were already seated where they thought that their parents/caregivers might sit, and the children were waiting for the community to gather. This was a sacred space and time, as the children taught us to gather and to listen to the Spirit, to see what it has to teach us about God’s plan for our hearts and our lips. This day we are in the present, to see what God will have us do.

God is kind of efficient, and only speaks to us once. I give this message, though it has been given before, but God’s message is consistent over time. I want you to know: we love you.

In thinking about our consideration of advice and queries: As a people of God, we respond to the advice and queries because God calls us to do so.

Unless God builds, the builder builds in vain. Unless God watches, the watchman watches in vain. In vain, we rise, eating the bread of anxious toil. God gives bread to those God loves.

It is important to do the specific work to which God calls us.

The world is broken and needs healing, none of us, and none of us together are sufficient to do all of the work. How important it is to hear that part that heals and reconciles, to hear the part to which we are individually called to do. To hear and to do work requires individual discernment, but also corporate discernment. It is important and valuable to discern, and that is how we know our work. It is also important to be able to discern and to say no. We are to stick to the work that God has give us. If we are sticking to the work that God has given us, the five loaves and two fishes will be sufficient; if it is not the work that God has given us, it will not be enough. Some have the task to break the unbroken sod, some have the task to harrow, some have the task to water, some have the task to weed, but the harvest is the Lord’s. When our labor comes to an end, how good to hear, “well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

Yesterday, I left Meeting for Business, and went to West Branch, where I entered the old Meetinghouse (at the Hoover center), and I sat down in the back. I was alone – there were all original benches, original flooring, and I felt surrounded. I was relaxing, and breathing and praying prayer of surrender to the Light. I was feeling release from the slavery of my thoughts and realized that I am a child of the Light. I’ve

had direct experience of this in the past, but more the experience that Light connects me to others, and others to me. We are connected through the Light. Let it shine, and I was feeling some kind of inner bliss, when a national park service officer came to close the meetinghouse. We talked a little bit about my experience, and I told him “you can visit Scattergood.” He wanted to see it, to let the Light shine.

A few days ago, I noticed the yellow caution tape surrounding a few trees in an area in the commons. One section of the tape was moving, though there was no wind, and it was moving in the particular motion of a wave. I knew that if I had touched it, or even if two of us touched any part of it, it would still continue. I walked backwards away from it, just watching it. I returned; it still moved. I imagined the section of tape between trees being like us, and I imagined that section of tape feeling “wow.” Like I might think, “I swept the floor perfectly, I composed that perfect minute, I captured the best special reply. I imagined the other sections of the tape saying I could have done that. But there was one section of the tape that was on the ground, saying “Someone stepped on me,” and-saying how I could never do it perfectly. This morning, when I was thinking about looking at this through God’s eyes, it has nothing to do with perfection. There are no colors, and no textures, and I felt love and warmth. In the gospel of Thomas, the name ‘Thomas comes from ‘twin.’ Jesus asks us not to be like Jesus, but to be Jesus’ twin. Be all of who we are, participate in love, stop seeking and sit quietly. Sometimes when we are doing nothing special at all, we feel perfect light. That is when God touches us and others.

You have so much to give, don’t keep it just for yourselves.

When I teach yoga, there’s a chant that I use “God and me, me and God are one.” We might chant this for 3-7 minutes. One year ago I stopped chanting this because my theology had changed to “God is God, and I am not.” I now think they are both true. I was gifted with reading that we are not one, not two, we are like the waves on the ocean or rays of light.

This morning at Bible study, I was reading the verse from Isaiah, about the lion lying down with the lamb, and the whole peaceable kingdom scene. I had time, and read further. The Jews were exiled to Assyria. They longed to return home from the four corners of the world to the peaceable kingdom. The story continues with the four tribes of Israel returning to the center of the world. They would destroy all of the other tribes, which is a very dark side. We tend to not read the second part of this Isaiah verse, and when we do so, we lose part of who we are as Christians, and as heirs of this tradition. We spend half of our experience floundering, not knowing what to do with the second half of

Isaiah. We have important work to draw in all of Isaiah, and make a new world that never existed before – being children of God, we must create a new world that has never been before. There’s a broader view of who we are and what our history is, that includes the darkness.

This morning I’ve been laboring with why am I feeling how I feel. My brow is wrinkled and furrowed, and I feel a sadness for leaving, and a sadness for something this week.

The 12th chapter of 1st Corinthians is a favorite Bible verse saying that different parts of the body have different roles. The teacher began with that chapter. There ‘s the part about don’t be jealous of each other’s gifts. I give to the body the part that fits. God says, be who you are, be who I’ve asked you to be. My response was, whatever you, God, ask, I will obey. What about if I ask you to be the part that’s less honorable, will you cover it up because of shame? I could not give all to the body. There is a piece I was not willing to say yes to. I was grieved and embarrassed, so sad that I claimed more for myself than was true.

I was at a community gathering. I was to give a talk. I spent two hours, walking a long block of this big city, with two friends, and I was moaning to God. I was asked to release, to accept, but didn’t want to do it. I did not get it, I couldn’t be faithful. I walked around...I was unsettled. My friends asked, “Is it like this always to companion you?” “Yes.” And so I went to the talk; I had promised. I prayed, and during worship, I asked for a message. I was already thinking about 12 Chapter of 1st Corinthians, and a Friend spoke: if we cover up that part (that’s private and embarrassing), the part that we use to eliminate wastes, we would poison our bodies from the inside, because we couldn’t eliminate our waste. It is not dishonorable at all. This didn’t really help me with my message that I was asked to give, but it gave me the possibility that “I didn’t ask you to BE that part, I just asked if you were WILLING to be that part. I am not as good as I thought I was. God still loved me. God gives lessons and gifts a little at a time. I was able to give my message, and Friends found it acceptable. The last part of 12 Corinthians is “and yet, if you’re looking for more, let me show you the most-excellent way.” It goes on into verse 13, the verse on love. There is no value without love. Love is patient and kind. It concludes that there abides faith hope and love, these three, but the greatest of these is love. That gift, love, God gives to us all, if we accept it.

Summer 2016

To All Friends in the Midwest

From Brant Rosen, Regional Director, AFSC Midwest Region

With a nod to fellow Midwesterner Garrison Keillor, it's been anything but a quiet year in AFSC's Midwest Region. Stemming from AFSC's Quaker roots, our staff and volunteers continue to grow in pursuit of our shared goals of peace and justice. Thank you, as always, for your prayers and support.

I'm pleased to share a few highlights with you, and I invite you to be in touch with me. I often answer the AFSC Chicago phone at 312-427-2533. You can also reach me at BRosen@afsc.org and on Twitter [@RabbiBrant](https://twitter.com/RabbiBrant).

I'd like to draw your special attention to an AFSC pilot project with Friends which is now expanding to more Meetings and Churches. The Quaker Social Change Ministry is a new, small-group model for peace and justice work that combines spiritual growth and sharing with a vision of working as allies with oppressed communities.

North Meadows Friends Meeting in Indianapolis and Red Cedar Friends in Lansing are two of the pilot programs. Special thanks to Jeff Kisling of Indy and Lucy Duncan and Greg Elliott of AFSC's Friends Relations Unit for their pioneering work on this project. More information is available at afsc.org/friends.

Dismantling institutional racism – inside and out

As an organization and as a region, in both external and internal ways, AFSC and the Midwest have made learning about and dismantling institutional racism a long-term priority. I'm pleased to share more about this urgent work, and I invite you to join with Friends and others in addressing this concern.

In St. Paul and St. Louis, AFSC staff and volunteers are hosting AFSC Freedom Schools, which are multi-day, intensive workshops for young people that unpack institutional racism and identify ways in which young people can advocate for their communities. In St. Paul, AFSC staffer Dominique Diaddigo-Cash writes:

“In the AFSC Freedom School, we are able to hear from young people about the issues that impact their daily lives. We share our stories about institutional racism, self-determination, and building power to transform our group from young people seeking local change to the work of building and maintaining a campaign to affect that change.

“The youth who attend Freedom School are then invited to become a part of Youth Undoing Institutional Racism (YUIR), putting them within a network of peer organizers who share the same analysis.... At a time when young people are capturing the political imaginations of people of

all ages, we seek to place this moment in its historical context, and to establish the value of youth participation in movements for social change.”

In St. Louis, young people decided to create a community garden (complete with a chicken coop!), bringing fresh produce and new hope to a neighborhood neglected by large grocers. In April, AFSC organized an alternative spring break in which students from Earlham College traveled to St. Louis to learn about and participate in this creative work.

Internally, AFSC staff and volunteers have been taking a hard look at how we can more consistently apply our racial justice witness. Paul Ricketts, a Friend from Fort Wayne, Indiana and a member of the Midwest Regional Executive Committee, has been steadfast in this effort. He and others deserve our thanks and renewed commitment.

From the Midwest to the Mideast

This Spring, peace activists, artists and allies with AFSC Chicago took to the Red Line train to stand up for a young woman killed by an off-duty Chicago police officer (#RememberRekia), to advocate for Chicago State University, and to demand that we fund education, not racism and state violence in Chicago. A “Gone But Not Forgotten” community quilt project memorializes the 144 people killed by Chicago Police since 2004.

Chicago is also the hub of much of AFSC’s work for justice and peace in Palestine/Israel. We invite you to join with other Friends in forming local chapters of the No Way to Treat a Child Campaign, a joint effort with Defense of Children International-Palestine. Please consider hosting a screening of the powerful documentary *Detaining Dreams*.

Recently, the campaign succeeded in encouraging 20 members of Congress to sign a letter to the president urging the appointment of a special envoy to investigate Israeli detention of Palestinian children. Your congressperson needs to hear from you, too.

Resisting the rise of Islamophobia has become even a higher priority for AFSC. In Kansas City, our staff is working with hundreds of people of various faiths to envision a world that welcomes everyone. Youth involved in this summer’s Social Change Institute hosted a Unity Fest recently to oppose the scapegoating of marginalized groups.

In Indiana and across the U.S., AFSC’s Humanize Not Militarize program helps young people explore peaceful alternatives through artistic expression. This year’s film festival will culminate with a visit to Washington, DC and AFSC’s Peace by Piece program in Baltimore.

Standing with immigrants and refugees

A long-time proponent of fair trade, AFSC continues to work with communities in Ohio to welcome refugees and benefit from their

entrepreneurial spirit. Staff recently met with a German delegation that was touring the US to learn how to welcome one million Syrian refugees to Germany.

This summer in Chicago, AFSC is hosting an immigrant activist training to deepen organizing skills among immigrants. One area of focus is access to higher education.

In Iowa, our immigrant youth organizing project assisted youth in telling their own stories about their lives. With such vitriol against immigrants in this election season, it's healing and empowering for young people to define themselves and express their dreams for the future. While the U.S. Supreme Court dealt a recent blow to our hopes for reform, our organizing work, in tandem with AFSC's much-needed immigration legal services, will move forward even stronger than before.

On prisons and politics

In Michigan, AFSC recently bid farewell to two outstanding staff members. Ron Simpson-Bey and Pete Martel, both former prisoners, have moved on to new roles in the criminal justice field. Fortunately, Natalie Holbrook, our long-time coordinator, continues to engage with youth interns and advocate for the fair and just treatment of prisoners, including women in an overcrowded prison.

While even some conservative politicians are now talking about reform, they will always need a strong push from peace and justice advocates. In Northeast Ohio, AFSC staff are providing key leadership for the upcoming People's Justice and Peace Convention, which will create a people's platform on a number of issues to be presented to both the Republican and Democratic National Conventions.

Final thoughts and thanks

Earlier this spring, Lucy Duncan and I engaged in a dialogue on decolonizing Quaker and Jewish faith. Lucy wrote, "When you believe, really believe, that there is that of God in everyone, that's a revolutionary idea if you take it to heart. It's foundationally decolonial and disruptive of the status quo in terms of power."

As I said in response, those are the values of Quakerism that have always attracted me. I feel very much at home at AFSC, and I thank you for that.

There's always so much more to say than time or space available. The good work of AFSC's staff, volunteers and supporters is only possible through your generosity. Thank you for that, too.

And, as I mentioned earlier, I'm always eager to connect more with Friends. Please give me a call at 312-427-2533. You can also reach me at BRosen@afsc.org and on Twitter @RabbiBrant. To stay connected with AFSC's work in the Midwest, please sign up for the monthly Midwest

Digest by clicking [here](#) or contacting Jon Krieg at Jkrieg@afsc.org.

2016 FCNL Representatives Report

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is our Quaker witness in Washington. Its work is communicating with Congress and Senate on our legislative concerns. This task, while huge, is but one way in which Friends live our testimonies. With the support of Friends of IYMC and many others, FCNL is expanding and deepening its labor.

While momentous political change sometimes happens quickly, it almost always takes its direction from many incremental actions. Or inactions. FCNL leverages small, faithful steps to effect larger turns.

IYMC appoints six representatives to serve on the FCNL General Committee, which meets annually in November. These representatives then work throughout the year to encourage Yearly Meeting people and their communities to participate in the work of FCNL. Two Iowa FCNL Advocacy Teams are currently educating themselves and lobbying on legislation in company with other FCNL Advocacy Teams around the country. One is based in Waterloo and the other in Iowa City.

The 2015 Annual Meeting encouraged lobbying to advance the Atrocities Prevention Board. Our government's existing peace building tools are primitive in comparison with its war machine. FCNL has worked for years to establish the Atrocities Prevention Board to react to festering violence before it erupts in war. Although the current administration includes an Atrocities Prevention Board, we continue to seek congressional authorization to stabilize its ongoing presence and include it in the budgeting process.

IYMC Friends and supporters were present in Washington and have worked during the past year to solidify the Atrocities Prevention Board.

The 2016 November Annual Meeting lobbying, open to all, will focus on mass incarceration. Sentencing reform bills are advancing in both the House and Senate; our work is easing them through the process. This year's business includes discerning FCNL priorities for lobbying with the incoming 115th Congress.

FCNL's capital campaign, "The World We Seek: Now Is the Time," is in its final, public phase, within reach of the \$15 million goal. A March campaign event in Des Moines was one of many being held across the country to top off the campaign and to present FCNL to a wider public. Planned through a local committee, the event featured FCNL Executive Secretary Diane Randall and was favorably received.

The aim of the capital campaign is threefold. First, it expands the participation of Young Adult Friends in FCNL work. Second, it creates a Quaker Welcome Center adjacent to the main FCNL building on

Capitol Hill. Third, it thickens the FCNL network. All of these goals are proceeding apace. All represent solid enhancements of FCNL work.

In addition to cyclical discernment of legislative priorities, FCNL has also appointed a Forward Planning Committee to look at the longer term horizon. Questions surrounding our continuing growth and new space challenges are among those being considered proactively. The Forward Planning Committee will present a report at the business meeting in November.

Persons of diverse political persuasions are discouraged with Washington, but FCNL offers hope for positive change. Standing humbly across the street from the massive Hart Senate Office Building, FCNL is our holy experiment.

“Let us then try what Love will do.”

Deborah Fink, on behalf of IYMC FCNL Representatives

July 2016

Religious Education Report 2016

Nine monthly meetings submitted religious education reports this year; the reports reflect a wide variety of approaches, a healthy measure of creativity, and an impressive level of success. The committee intends to distribute copies of all reports to all monthly meetings as useful resources in their development of educational programs.

The committee would also like all Friends to be aware of the following excellent religious education resources available on the web:

Quaker Religious Education Collaborative

www.quakers4re.org

Faith & Play

www.faithandplay@fgcquaker.org

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Resources

<http://www.pym.org/religious-education>

Discovering Our Faith

www.discoveringourfaith.com

Quaker Parenting Initiative

quakerparenting.org

QuakerSpeak

www.Quakerspeak.com

Quaker Books FGC

www.quakerbooks.org

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

fwccamericas.org

**SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL FOUNDATION
TRUSTEES REPORT 2016**

The Scattergood Foundation is charged with the stewardship of the school's growing endowment, currently valued at over \$5 million. Through a diversified portfolio of socially responsible investments, primarily stocks, bonds, and farmland, the Foundation makes annual distributions to support the school's mission. At present, approximately half of the assets support capital improvements and the operations of the school, with the remaining half supporting scholarships to students. Funds are invested with a balanced approach to capital preservation and moderate growth.

In calculating the annual disbursements to the school, the Foundation follows the instructions of donors and the Foundation's own standard payout policy. During the 2015-16 school year, the Foundation distributed \$97,400 to support tuition scholarship, \$25,500.00 to support capital improvements and the operation of the school. The Foundation has committed to new scholarship distributions for the 2016-17 academic year totaling \$104,650, as well as \$25,800 toward capital improvements.

**Assets Held by the Scattergood Friends School Foundation
as of 6/30/2016:**

Everence	\$33,754.74
Westwood Trust #1 (scholarship).....	\$2,007,154.32
Westwood Trust #2 (capital funds)	\$2,233,510.44
Westwood Trust Special Capital	\$569,859.37
Pemberton Farm	\$200,000 .00
Hills Bank checking	\$234,444.24

William Penn House Report 2016

On April 17th the William Penn House community, supporters, friends, current and former staff and board members came together to wish Byron Sandford a happy retirement. As the longest serving Executive Director, Byron's leadership has given the house a much needed makeover, has promoted the incorporation of the Washington Quaker Workcamps program into the Penn House ministry, has written newsletters and has been a leader and teacher to dozens of young Friends who were interns or staff members. He has been a wonderful leader and William Penn House has greatly benefited from his years there.

Under the leadership of Brad Ogilvie, William Penn House has been increasingly involved in the urban gardening movement. There

were over 50 gardens installed in the first year. Their goal for the second year would include more gardens in home yards and community spaces. They would join with “DC Urban Greens” and “Everybody Grows”.

The new Executive Director, Andrei Israel, will be celebrating the 50 years of service and witness by William Penn House. He will be sharing his ideas for new and developing programs. He wants to hear our stories of the past 50 years and our ideas for the future of William Penn House.

Alberta Kisting

Yahara Worship Group

Yahara Worship is still on "hiatus" and waiting for way to open on how best to provide the opportunity for worship in the manner of Conservative Friends in the most "low maintenance" set up.

Meg McCormick is hope to remain as convenor and explore simple ways to convene our relationship with West Branch Monthly Meeting and with IYMC.

**DIRECTORY OF
IOWA YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS (CONSERVATIVE)**

This directory is published solely for use by Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) and for personal use by members and attenders. Any other use of information obtained from this Directory requires prior permission of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative).

Meeting members appear with no asterisk in that meeting's listing. Single asterisks indicate other attenders of that meeting; double asterisks indicate membership in another meeting. Shared "household" phone and email addresses are below the address. Others are with the individual.

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**DIRECTORY OF MONTHLY MEETINGS,
PREPARATIVE MEETINGS, WORSHIP GROUPS, AND
SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL AND FARM**

Ames Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10:30 a.m. First Day
 Business Meeting: 11:15 Fourth First Day
 Simple Potluck each Sunday following worship
 Pre-meeting: 9:30 a.m. First Sunday of Month, Query Consideration;
 Other Sundays, reading and discussions
 Location: 121 S. Maple, Ames, Iowa
 Co-clerks: Charles Johnson, Susan Zeigler, 1978 210th St., Boone, Iowa
 50036
 Meeting phone: (515) 232-4610
 Email address: cjohnson@heartlandaea.org; suzzia@live.com
 Website: <http://amesfriendsmeeting.wordpress.com>

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting

(Schedule may vary occasionally – check email or phone number below.)
 Pre-meeting: 10 a.m. First Day
 Worship: 11 a.m. First Day
 Business: 10 a.m. 3rd First Day, with potluck lunch following worship
 Location: 18058 Bear Creek Road, rural Earlham. From I-80 Earlham
 exit #104, 1 mile north on “I” Ave. to Bear Creek Road, then East to 2nd
 driveway.
 Mail: c/o 19186 Bear Creek Road, Earlham, Iowa 50072
 Clerk: Jackie Leckband, (515) 758-2232
 Email address: newharmony@earthlink.net
 Website: <http://www.bearcreekfriends.org>

Decorah Monthly Meeting

Pre-Meeting: 9:30 a.m. First Day, except in summer
 Worship: 10:30 a.m. (9: 30 a.m. in summer) First Day

Business: Scheduled every six weeks

Location: 603 E. Water Street, Decorah, Iowa

Clerk: Bill Deutsch 1478 Friends End Road, Decorah, IA 52101,
(563) 382-3699

Email address: davismartha67@gmail.com

Des Moines Valley Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10 a.m. First Day

Business: 11:30 a.m. 2nd First Day

Location: 4211 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, (515) 274-4717
(answering machine)

Clerk: Mikel Johnson, (515) 299-0152

Email address: mjohnpeace@aol.com

Iowa City Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10 a.m. First Day

Business: 2nd First Day following worship

Location: 311 N. Linn Street, Iowa City, Iowa 52245;
(319) 648-5047 (clerk)

Clerks: Bob Winkleblack, (319) 648-5047, winkfam@windstream.net

Clerks: Quinn Dilkes, (319) 530-1756, quinndilkes@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.iowacityfriends.org>

Laughing Waters Friends Preparative Meeting

Under the care of Bear Creek Meeting

Worship and Business: We are in a transition. Check website for scheduling and location, often held on First Day afternoons in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

Website: <http://www.laughingwatersfriends.org>

Phone: (612) 567-8406.

Clerk: Liz Oppenheimer, (612) 567-8406

Email address: laughingwaters.friends@gmail.com

Lincoln Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10 a.m. First Day

Potluck: after worship and sharing on first First Day

Meeting for Business: following worship on third First Day

Location: 3319 S. 46th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, (402) 488-4178

Clerk: Jean Eden, 5905 Wolff Lane, Lincoln, NE 68521,
(402) 476-4948

Email address: jeanleden@gmail.com

Omaha Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10:00 a.m. First Day

Business: 11 a.m. 3rd First Day

Location: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 925 S. 84th, the Blue Room

Clerk: Ginny Winsor, 6324 S 96th Street, Apt #50, Omaha NE 68127, (402) 391-1950 (work); (941) 716-1761 (cell)

Email address: winsor.ginny@gmail.com

Paullina Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10:00 a.m. First Day

Potluck and discussion follow worship on 4th First Day

Location: on U.S. 59, 3 miles east and 1.25 miles north of Paullina, or 5.5 miles south of Primghar, Iowa

Clerk: Doyle Wilson, 5550 400th Street, Primghar, Iowa 51245, (712) 757-3875

Assistant Clerk: Beth Wilson

Email address: bewilson@iowatelecom.net

Website: <http://paullinafriendsmeeting.wordpress.com/>

Penn Valley Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10 a.m. First Day

Business: 1st First Day following worship

Location: 4405 Gillham Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64110, (816) 931- 5256, fax (AFSC office) (816) 561-5033

Website: <http://www.kcquakers.org>

Contact: Scritchfield, Shirley A., shirls720@gmail.com
(816) 942-3448

813 E 120th St.

Kansas City, MO 64146

Silver River Worship Group

Under the care of Penn Valley Monthly Meeting

Singing: 10 a.m. First Day

Worship: 10:30 a.m. First Day

Location: 28408 Frontier Lane, La Plata, MO 63549

Contact: Ethan Hughes, 28408 Frontier Lane, La Plata, MO 63549, (660) 332-4094

Contact: Victoria Albright, (713) 851-0613

Email address: albrightv@yahoo.com

Sioux Falls Area Worship Group

Under the care of Paullina Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10:30 a.m. First Day (Small group, wise to call beforehand)

Location: Dow Rummel Village Conference Room, 1321 West

Dow Rummel, Sioux Falls, across West Avenue from the stadium

Contact: Anna Gieschen, 1101 South West Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57105, (605) 376-8863

Email address: AnnaGieschen@gmail.com

West Branch Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10 a.m. First Day

Business: 2nd First Day following worship

Pre-meeting: 9:00 a.m. 3rd First Day

Location: 317 N. 6th Street, West Branch, Iowa

Mail: P.O. Box 582, West Branch, Iowa 52358

Clerk: James Cottingham, (319) 643-5949

Email address: cottinghamjj@gmail.com

Whittier Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10:30 a.m. First Day

Business: every two months at call of Clerk

Location: 3200 Whittier Road, Springville, Iowa 52336, 3 miles east of Highway 13 on County Home Road

Clerk: Deborah Dakin, (319) 895-8133 Contact: Andrea Jilovec, (319) 929-4622

Email address: debdakin@earthlink.net, or ajilovec@q.com

Scattergood Friends School and Farm

Worship: Thursdays 1:45 p.m. while school is in session

Location: 1951 Delta Ave., West Branch, IA 52358

Phone: (319) 643-7600

Head of School: Thomas Weber tweber@scattergood.org

Website: www.scattergood.org Facebook:

www.facebook.com/scattergoodfriendsschool

The following guidelines did not arise from the Yearly Meeting sessions but are printed here for reference.

GUIDELINES FOR REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT FROM IOWA YEARLY MEETING (CONSERVATIVE)

The Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) treasurer makes all reimbursements for budgeted funds.

Clerks of yearly meeting committees that have approved budgets should submit bills for payment and/or requests for reimbursement directly to the yearly meeting treasurer. Receipts should be included when requesting reimbursements. Clerks are also responsible for giving names, addresses, and clear instructions regarding to whom the check is to be written and where it is to be sent. For example, the clerk of the Publication Committee can send the bill for printing of the yearly meeting minutes directly to the yearly meeting treasurer.

Members of committees with expenses that are reimbursable by the Yearly Meeting are asked to submit their receipts to the clerk of their committee who will then forward them to the yearly meeting treasurer. For example, someone from the Junior Yearly Meeting Committee may purchase supplies for the Junior Yearly Meeting. They should submit the receipt for those supplies to the Junior Yearly Meeting Committee clerk who will then forward them as approved to the yearly meeting treasurer.

Members of the Yearly Meeting who are **official representatives to a wider Quaker organization on behalf of the yearly meeting**, such as AFSC, FWCC, or FCNL, can submit travel expenses with receipts and/or documentation directly to the yearly meeting treasurer. Funds are disbursed on a first-come basis. Representatives are asked to visit with their co-representatives to get an idea of who expects to be traveling and what kind of assistance they might need from the travel funds. Traditionally, these funds are underused and we urge Friends to seek reimbursement if needed.

Friends seeking **to use unassigned budgeted funds**, such as the scholarship money available for Quaker Youth Camp, are asked to submit requests to the yearly meeting clerk for approval before April 1. After April 1, those seeking assistance will be informed of the amount available. Those seeking assistance for the first time will be given priority so that as many young people as possible have the opportunity to attend a Quaker camp. If no requests are received by April 1, the clerk will approve requests on a first-ask basis.

Unbudgeted requests: All requests for financial assistance not in the fiscal year budget should be submitted to the yearly meeting clerk,

who will consult with the Interim Committee clerk if action must be taken before the next annual sessions. If there is an urgent request, the Interim Committee, which conducts the business of the Yearly Meeting between sessions, may be called to meet.