

Table of Contents

FOURTH DAY – WEDNESDAY – 7/25/18	8
Fifth Day – Thursday – 7/26/2018	20
Sixth Day – Friday – 7/27/18 MORNING	31
Sixth Day – Friday AFTERNOON – 7/27/18	39
Seventh Day Saturday 7/28/2018 Morning Session	48
Minute of 6th Day Activities	49
Seventh Day 7/28/2018 Afternoon Session	56
Treasurer's Report	47
Income & Expenses	46
Budget FY 2018-2019	60
Peace and Social Concerns Report part 2	61
Ministry & Counsel Report	62
STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS	63
NOMINATING REPORT	76
Letter to Absent Friends	80
Epistle to Friends Everywhere	81
Closing minute	84
Reports Received But Not Read in Annual Sessions	86
QUERIES AND SELECTED RESPONSES	98
Special Needs Report	116
Guidelines for Request for Reimbursement	123
Religious Education Reports	109

Minutes of
Iowa Yearly Meeting
of Friends
(Conservative)

2018

Held at Scattergood Friends School and Farm,
near West Branch, Iowa
Seventh Month 25 – Seventh Month 30, 2018

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative)

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS TO THE
MINUTES OF IOWA YEARLY MEETING (CONSERVATIVE)**

NOTE: Topical index is found at the end of the Minutes.

Table of Contents to the Minutes of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)	i
Minutes of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)	1
Fourth Day – Wednesday – 7/25/2018	1
Monthly Meeting Appointments of Representatives to Yearly Meeting	1
Monthly Meeting Appointments of Caretakers to Yearly Meeting ..	2
Representatives Appointments	2
Midyear Meeting Report	3
Midyear Meeting Treasurer’s Report	3
Interim Meeting Minutes	4
American Friends Service Committee Corporation Report	5
Possibilities Committee Discussion	5
Epistle from North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)	6
Epistle from Ohio Yearly Meeting	8
Selections from Epistles from Other Yearly Meetings	11
Fifth Day – Thursday – 7/26/2018	13
Minute of Third and Fourth Day Activities	13
Friends World Committee for Consultation Representatives Report	14
Publication Committee Report	15
Website Committee Report	16
Entertainment Committee Report for 2017	19
Archives Committee Report 2018	24
Sixth Day – Friday – 7/27/2018 Morning Session	24
Minute of Fifth Day Activities	25
Scattergood Friends School	
Farm Report	26
Head of School	28

Sixth Day – Friday – 7/27/2018 Afternoon Session	32
Yearly Meeting Trustees Financial Report	33
Trustees Report	34
Foundation Report.....	34
School Committee Report	36
Audit Committee Report	38
Iowa Yearly Meeting Treasurer’s Report and Financial Reports)	39
Seventh Day – Saturday – 7/28/2018 Morning Session.....	41
Minute of Sixth Day Activities	42
Epistle from Junior Yearly Meeting	42
AUMF Letter	45
Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report – Part I	47
Seventh Day – Saturday – 7/28/2018 Afternoon Session.....	49
Recorders Report	49
Representatives Committee Report	51
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Budget for Fiscal 2018-2019 (Budget figures have been corrected)	53
Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report – Part 2	54
Ministry and Counsel Committee Report.....	55
2018 State of the Meeting Reports.....	56
Ames Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting.....	56
Bear Creek Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting.....	58
Decorah Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting	59
Des Moines Valley Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting	60
Iowa City Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting	62
Laughing Waters Worship Group State of the Meeting	63
Lincoln Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting.....	63
Omaha Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting	64
Paullina Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting	64
Penn Valley Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting	65
Sioux Falls Area Worship Group State of the Meeting	66
West Branch Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting	67
Whittier Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting.....	68
Nominating Committee Report	69
Committees and Representatives to Other Quaker Bodies.....	69

IYMC Representatives to Friends Agencies	72
Special Replies Committee	73
Letter to Absent Friends	73
Epistle to Friends Everywhere	74
Epistle to North Carolina Yearly Meeting	76
Epistle to Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative)	76
Closing Minute	77
Reports received but not read in annual sessions	79
AFSC Report	79
AUMF Letter	83
FCNL Representatives Report	85
Exercise Committee Report	86
Friends Peace Teams Report	88
Pendle Hill Scholarship Report	90
Queries and Selected Responses	91
1. MEETING FOR WORSHIP	91
2. OUTREACH	92
3. MEETING FOR BUSINESS	93
4. HARMONY WITHIN THE MEETING	94
5. MUTUAL CARE	95
6. EDUCATION	96
7. HOME AND FAMILY	97
8. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY	98
9. CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY	99
10. ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY	100
11. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE	100
12. PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE	101
Religious Education Reports	102
Special Needs Report	109
Directory of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) 110	
Ames	112
Bear Creek	114
Decorah	119
Des Moines Valley	120
Iowa City	126
Laughing Waters Worship Group	130

Lincoln	131
Omaha.....	132
Paullina.....	133
Penn Valley.....	137
Sioux Falls Area Worship Group	142
West Branch	143
Whittier	149
Topical Index.....	150
Directory of Monthly Meetings and Worship Group	152
Guidelines for Request for Reimbursement from IYMC	156

**Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative Minutes of
141st Annual Sessions
Seventh Month 24 to Seventh Month 29, 2018**

FOURTH DAY – WEDNESDAY – 7/25/18

At the 141st annual session of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative held at Scattergood Friends School, near West Branch, Iowa from Seventh Month 25 to Seventh Month 29, 2018.

“When we pause, allow a gap and breathe deeply, we can experience instant refreshment. Suddenly, we slow down, look out, and there’s the world.”

~Pema Chödrön

We are glad to have the presence of these visitors: Lucy Duncan, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Greene Street Monthly Meeting, AFSC Director of Friends Relations, Susan Lees from North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative), Fayetteville Monthly Meeting, Jan Michael from South Central Yearly Meeting, Stillwater Friends Meeting (OK), Friends General Conference Development and Executive Committee

Monthly Meeting appointments of Representatives to Yearly Meeting

Ames – Deb Fink

Bear Creek – Stan Sanders, Sonja Sponheim

Decorah- Bill Deutsch

Des Moines Valley – Lynne Howard, Cindy Winchell

Iowa City – Sarah Andrews, Carole Winkleblack

Lincoln – Jean Eden, Dan Schlitt

Omaha – Carol Gilbert , Bob Ramalay

Paullina – Doyle Wilson

Penn Valley - Shirley Scritchfield

West Branch – Rebecca Bergus, Penny Majors

Whittier - Ruth Hampton

Monthly meeting appointments of Caretakers to Yearly Meeting

Ames - David Hansen

Bear Creek – Bob Winchell

Decorah – Martha Davis

Des Moines Valley –Jean Sandstrom, Andrea Holveck

Iowa City – John Andrews

Lincoln – Marge Schlitt

Omaha – Marshall Massey

Paullina – none appointed

Penn Valley – Peggy Frantz

West Branch – Larry Marsh

Whittier – Daniel Willems

There are 13 representatives and 7 caretakers present. Others may be attending later sessions or assuming other yearly meeting duties being held during meeting for worship with attention to business.

The Exercise, Epistle, and Special Replies Committees, and Auditing Committee are appointed by Representatives. We approved the following appointments suggested by Representatives to serve during the week:

Exercise Committee - Marshall Massey, Jay Robinson, Sonja Sponheim

Epistle Committee - George Bergus, Elizabeth O’Sullivan, Steve Snyder

Special Replies - Deb Fink, Jr. Yearly Meeting

Auditing Committee - Carole Winkleblack, Doyle Wilson

Readers for this morning’s business sessions are:
Martha Davis, Bob Winkleblack

Our deep gratitude to Bear Creek and Des Moines Valley Friends for creating a spiritual home for us at Midyear Meeting is deeply felt. The roots of Midyear Meeting reach way back to Friends, now gone. We are humbled by the gifts of Friends present and past who have made this precious gathering possible.

2018 Midyear Meeting Report

About 100 Friends met for Midyear Meeting at the Bear Creek Meetinghouse on 7th-8th of April 2018. Jeff Cox, University of Iowa History Professor and member of Iowa City Meeting, presented on the history, testimonies and worship of Conservative Friends. He outlined how Conservative Friends navigated the way through various separations, always holding fast to traditional insights and ways of worship.

We thank Bear Creek Friends for hosting the gathering and Des Moines Valley Friends who aided with hosting chores and provided the children's program.

As usual, there was a craft and rummage sale for the benefit of AFSC.

Finance Report

Donations		\$3533.00
Expenses:		
Dallas County Conservation		
lodging for Scattergood	\$200.00	
Food	623.58	
Cook	500.00	
Committee expenses	39.82	
Hosting fee	300.00	
Scattergood transportation	<u>200.00</u>	
Total expenses	\$1863.40	
To Yearly Meeting		\$1669.60
Total Disbursements		\$3533.00

Submitted by A.M. Fink, Clerk

We listened to the good report of Interim Meeting.

Interim Meeting 4/7/2018

Carol Gilbert, clerk , Alice Hampton, assistant clerk.

We are in unanimity in accepting the appointment of Carol Gilbert as Assistant Clerk of Yearly Meeting.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting sessions will be held Seventh month 12th through 15th 2018 at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina. We believe that, during our 2017 sessions, Nancy Jordan was approved as the representative. Ohio Yearly Meeting sessions will be held Seventh month 31st through Eighth month 5th 2018 at Olney Friends School in Barnesville, Ohio. At this time, no name has come forward for someone to visit Ohio Yearly Meeting, but if way opens they may be approved during annual sessions.

Concern was expressed about the growing length of the Minute Book, and we ask that this be discussed when the Publications Committee gives its report during annual sessions. We would like to suggest that, in the Clerk's request for reports, she encourage brevity.

We support the clerk granting Scattergood students' requests for funds to attend the FGC gathering if she so discerns. We ask that they follow standard procedure by requesting the funds in writing to the clerk and providing a report to yearly meeting sessions. We would not want this to preclude young Friends from within IYMC from receiving such funds, and we encourage any young people to attend IYMC sessions as participants.

We appreciated the good American Friends Service Committee Corporation Report that reminded us of how our yearly meeting is enriched by the work of AFSC.

AFSC 2018

This year's American Friends Service Committee Corporation Meeting was a little more restrained affair when compared with last year's Centennial Celebration. Contemporary events also hung over the meeting like a dark cloud. So much work to be done, and so few resources to do it with. Your representatives heard reports and attended meetings about various programs in the areas of peace building, immigrant rights, racial equality, Israel-Palestine, mass incarceration and economic justice. Our new General Secretary Joyce Ajlouny provided inspiring words and a quiet but active presence in many of the workshops and presentations that were given. Your representatives found this a time to inform their own knowledge and opinions and revitalize themselves for the year ahead.

While our national policies seem to be an object lesson into what racism looks like when put into action, AFSC stands strong to support the victims of these policies. The Des Moines office, for example, continues the difficult work of helping immigrants know their rights while helping them cope with an increasingly hostile immigration system.

Although AFSC is not a perfect organization, it is fine way to put our testimonies into action. The fact that the work is hard and the path is uphill makes it more important than ever that we support AFSC. When you meet someone who works or volunteers for AFSC, please buy them a cup of coffee and say "Thanks for your work ...what can we do to help?"

AFSC Corporation Representatives

Andrea Jilovecs, Dan Schlitt, Ann Stromquist, Bob Yeats

Possibilities Committee Discussion

We are grateful for the work of our Possibilities Committee and reminded of our role in helping our Representatives discern possible changes for our yearly meeting as they do their work this week.

The sharing of faith experiences in the epistles to us from our Conservative "family" reminded us that our faith in God's reality and caring love is what gives us hope.

It is good to be connected.

Epistle from North Caroling Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Eighth Month 15, 2018

Dear Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative,

We were pleased to hear your epistle read to us and missed the presence of visitors from Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative this year. We have been enriched by visitors from your yearly meeting in the previous years and hope way will open again soon for more visits. Susan Lees, a member of our Fayetteville Meeting, plans to visit your sessions this year and we look forward to hearing about them when she returns.

We gathered at Guilford College on Seventh Month 12-15, 2018, for our 321st Annual Sessions, remembering with love and gratitude our distant Friends. We were blessed with many newcomers and visiting Friends. Our theme this year was “Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire” - a line from John Greenleaf Whittier’s poem “The Brewing of Soma” that also references the passage in 1 Kings 19 about the “still, small voice”.

Our clerk opened the business sessions with Romans 12:9-13 that starts with “Let love be genuine,” and we experienced this love throughout our time together.

Our theme was also evident during the Bible study led by David Hobson of Rocky River Meeting (FCNC). The Bible study explored scripture through hymns, including “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”, which incorporates the words of the Whittier poem. We found that singing helped engage us in different ways, and our young Friends chose a number of favorite hymns for us.

During our annual sessions, each monthly meeting reads their responses to each of our 12 queries. This year, we started with query 11 - “Do we reverence that of God in every human being with concern for the needs of each individual? Are we seeking to rectify existing social injustice and racial discrimination in our local communities and in the world at large?” We set aside extra time for reflection after the reading of these query responses as we feel the times call for particular attention to these issues. We find a deep sense of closeness in sharing how the Spirit is moving in our meetings, and our struggles to remain faithful.

After a presentation about the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, we found that while we strongly supported the mission and goals of the campaign, we struggled with whether and how to convey that to the monthly meetings and their members and attenders.

On Fifth Day evening we enjoyed a dramatic reading of letters and journal entries written by North Carolina Friends during challenging times. It was helpful to look back at our history through first-hand accounts, and to see how the yearly meeting handled difficult issues in the past. It also helped us see that we sometimes made mistakes, such as supporting efforts to send freed slaves to Africa, which resulted in unanticipated suffering. The program also reminded us of the deep ties between North Carolina Friends and those in Ohio and Indiana.

We have been engaged for several years in revising our discipline. This year we turned our attention to the queries. We find that examining our practices in light of both the past and the present gives us new openings. Because the process has been deliberate and Spirit-filled, it is bearing good fruit.

During our time together we held numerous interest groups and heard from representatives from several Quaker organizations. Kendra Bradley, who has been the director of Quaker House for the past year, spoke passionately about the work being done there. Andrei Israel shared about the work of William Penn House in Washington. Lauri Langham reported for Quaker Earthcare Witness on the work of caring for and restoring our planet. Bill Geary expressed gratitude from the Southern State Prison Worship Group for the yearly meeting's continued support and encouraged us to write to the prisoners, as the ministry of letter writing is so important to prisoners.

On Sixth Day evening we headed across the street to New Garden Friends Meeting to hear Diane Randall, the executive secretary of Friends Committee on National Legislation. She titled her talk "Gracious Calling, Ordered Lives: the faith and practice of Friends in the political maelstrom", borrowing some phrasing from the Whittier poem. She described the difficulties of working in Washington, that are far from the calm Whittier speaks of, and more like the earthquake, wind, and fire. In describing FCNL's work, she quoted Edward Burrough's letter "To the Present Distracted and Broken Nation of England", saying "And we are not for Names, nor Men, nor Titles of Government, nor are we for this Party, nor

against the other, because of its Name and Pretence; but we are for Justice and Mercy, and Truth and Peace, and true Freedom, that these may be exalted in our Nation; and that Goodness, Righteousness, Meekness, Temperance, Peace and Unity with God, and one with another, that these things may abound". Diane touched on various aspects of FCNL's work in the areas of peace, Native Americans, mass incarceration, migrants and refugees, and an Earth restored. She noted that the world is hungry for a spiritual life lived both externally and internally. She demonstrated how FCNL's work proceeds from a spiritual basis and is grounded in a practice of being present with, and listening to, everyone. Her talk left us with a sense of hope for repairing what is broken in our nation.

Diane Randall asked us, "Can we see the Spirit moving among us?" In our patient processes of working together, in our times of study together, and in our socializing together, we have seen and felt the Spirit at work, and are deeply grateful. We meet for our 322nd session in Wilmington, NC, on Seventh Month 11, 2019, if consistent with Divine Will.

On behalf of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative,

Gwen Gosney Erickson, clerk

Epistle from Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative)

08-14-2017

There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. Psalm 46:4

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative),
Blessings in the name of our Teacher and Guide Christ Jesus.
We were again encouraged by the presence of our dear friend Bob Winchell with us this year. His visits have never failed to deepen the bonds between our Yearly Meetings.

We send you greetings from Barnesville, Ohio, a small, rural town just west of the Ohio River and the Appalachian Mountains. The first Friends moved here from more Eastern states very early in the nineteenth century. Some Friends among us trace their families back almost to those first Quaker settlers, some of us have become Friends very recently, and still

others somewhere in between. This year, as usual, we have visitors from an ever wider geographic area, coming from neighboring states, California, and as far as Australia. We come for these annual sessions, drawn together once again through the gentle love of Jesus Christ.

Friends, we were shocked and chagrined to discover recently that for a number of years you have not received in the mail the annual epistles that we have written to you. That lack has been the result of administrative miscommunication and not because of any intention on our part to cease correspondence. We hope you will forgive our apparent but unintentional neglect.

We have heard this week in vocal ministry that God's hand is stretched out still to every living person. We need not be afraid, for we know God to be a living and faithful Father who cares for each individual when we let him and even when we don't. One Friend testified that when he began to worry either about his sense of dwindling personal faith or about his meeting dying out, he heard God's voice saying, "Wait a minute! Your faith is the result of God's infinite faithfulness, no matter what. Your faith is a freely-given gift from God. You do not earn it or create it." We are each given a measure of faith with which we can experience Christ in us, the hope of glory. And with faith in God, we can have hope, even for things not now seen.

As we addressed our business agenda this week, we noted a sense of God's healing, both for individual Friends and for us as a gathered meeting. We revisited a matter of property ownership about which we could not find clearness last year. We still have not found unity, and Friends with differing perspectives have all again suffered disappointment, but we were able this time to speak clearly, briefly, and calmly to each other, to listen deeply and ultimately to wait to be shown God's way forward.

Also in our business sessions we have found comfort and peace both in being part of a body that is actively at work in many ways and, to our surprise, even in the gentle rhythm of hearing and accepting our various committee reports. We were glad to hear answers to our General Queries from each of our quarterly meetings, giving us a sense of the Life within each quarter. We were encouraged in our Meeting of Ministry and Oversight by the report from a few of our members who had been sent out in Christ's love to visit a larger Friends' group, and by a report from one of our members who traveled from his home in California to visit each of

our monthly meetings and worship groups in ministry of encouragement. Our evening sessions and morning sharing series have offered opportunity for intellectual stimulation to serve our spiritual growth. Henry Jason, with expertise in Latin and Greek, helped us understand the meanings of a number of key words used in the New Testament and by early Friends. Henry taught us with respect to religious authority that “Primus est Spiritus Christi.” The Spirit of Christ is primary. Christ’s Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible and it is through Christ’s inspiration that people can understand it. Henry declared that the purpose of those writings is to point us to that which words cannot express. Jack Smith, working from Carole Spencer’s book *Holiness: The Soul of Quakerism*, helped us to a better understanding of the meaning and role of holiness. Jack noted that the Old Testament teaches us that God is holy. The New Testament calls us to live in Christ’s love, allowing God’s grace and power to enable our obedience to God’s leading us step by step into more complete holiness. As we write this letter to you, we are looking forward to an evening with David Eley, who plans to share with us some of his spiritual experiences while visiting Jerusalem last fall.

As we reflect on our experiences at our yearly meeting this year, we note that in spite of all the troubles we see around us, the promise – the reality – is that God and God’s caring love will continue over all. We are encouraged not to be anxious, but to look to God. Live in God’s love so fully that your experience of it opens its peace and power to those other people whose paths cross yours.

On behalf of Ohio Yearly Meeting,
And in Christ’s love,
Philip W. Helms, Clerk
Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

The excerpts from epistles from around the world gave us a glimpse into the infinite variety of Friends’ experiences. The Document Committee Chose well for us.

Document Committee Report
(prepared by Bear Creek Friends)

**Epistle of Alaska Friends Conference 2017 Annual Meeting, Wasilla
Alaska, 6 August 2017**

To Friends Everywhere:

Alaska Friends met in our rustic Meeting House at Dickerson Friends Center in Wasilla. Our theme was “Embracing Diversity: Accompaniment and Witness.” We enjoyed glorious weather and warm water in Ashley Lake. We welcomed four Fairbanks and Anchorage leaders of NAACP to worship and discuss mutual concerns and work on climate justice. We recognized that climate disruption is an issue for all people, but minority communities are more threatened. We shared our hopes and dreams for our community in 50 years if we successfully address the threat of climate disruption. We described diverse and welcoming communities recovering the sense of shared endeavor and mutual support some experienced in early Anchorage. We envisioned healthy children fed from abundant fisheries and local farming, enjoying a restored natural environment. We asked ourselves to indicate our position on a spectrum from despair of success to confidence of successfully addressing climate disruption and achieving our shared vision; our positions were distributed throughout that spectrum. We also asked ourselves to indicate our position on the extent to which we felt engaged and empowered to address our concerns and bring about our shared vision. Most of us felt empowered and engaged, not having given up. Friends and NAACP leaders described a wide range of practical local actions underway as part of the solution: scholarships for training technicians to install solar panels, working to install solar panels on a local school in a low-income neighborhood, an interfaith coalition advocating for sustainable environment relying on renewable energy, a mobile solar power generator. Following shared worship, we felt inspired and committed ourselves to continuing collaboration on climate justice and other common concerns.

**New England Yearly Meeting 2017
Junior High Epistle**

Our theme this year was living in Transformation. Opening worship featured a story about a caterpillar changing into a butterfly. The speaker talked about how the caterpillar’s resistance to change was similar to society’s resistance to change. Later, Noah Merrill talked to us about a per-

sonal experience that led him to a spiritual transformation and how we may use events in our lives to accept spiritual transformation. Afterward, we took time to share our own experiences with spiritual transformation. We were able to take these stories to a deeper level in our small groups by answering queries. We also listened to individual stories from a panel of four Friends about spiritual leadings, which then sparked many more conversations within our small group

Epistle from Europe and Middle East Young Friends EMEYF Spring Gathering 2018 Moyallon, Northern Ireland

To all Friends everywhere,

This Easter, 37 adult Young Friends and 2 mini EMEYF members, aged 2 and 5, have gathered in Moyallon Centre, Northern Ireland (25th March to 2nd April) to recharge our Quaker batteries. Our concerns of a rise in nationalism and closing borders in Europe encouraged us to meet in a place where we could be physically close to other young Friends in order to explore the theme of Community. We heard from local Friend Simon Lamb about how Ireland Yearly Meeting, so theologically diverse, has never divided. This has been a powerful reminder of the possibility of continued unity amongst Friends in our section and worldwide. Our week has held spaces for friendship and deep worship; the silence holding together our busy, interesting, inspirational programme.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting Minute Repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery

Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends publicly repudiates the Doctrine of Discovery and supports the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Epistle South Central Yearly Meeting 2018

We began this year's gathering with Meeting for Worship. In spite of the room being somewhat void of physical bodies, it was swarmed with otherworldly hush. We amassed peacefully as individual flames of Light enlightened by the nearness of God. We each enabled ourselves to be defenseless against this experience as we silently shared our secrets, sorrows, leadings, and prayers in the Light. Light—a lighter tone in meeting for Business. A lighter touch in workshops, fun and games instead of another

task. A hug, a smile to light our way to spirit in these dark times. Light of the warm sun in gentle breezes, lightening bugs at dusk. Joy in silence.

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

Fifth Day – Thursday – 7/26/2018

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

If you only look at us, you might well miss the brightness. We carry this precious Message around in the unadorned clay pots of our ordinary lives. That's to prevent anyone from confusing God's incomparable power with us. As it is, there's not much chance of that. You know for yourselves that we're 2

Corinthians 4:7-8 (The Message Bible)

Nancy Jordan and Cheryl Sutton have been appointed readers this morning.

Minute for 3rd and 4th Day Activities

“The Spirit guides us, but we have to make ourselves receptive.” Jeff Kisling shared this statement to introduce his photographic presentation “Finding Truth and Beauty” on 3rd Day evening. A communal stillness took over the room as Jeff’s photos drew us into deep awareness. Simone Weil observed that “Absolutely unmixed attention equals prayer,” and for a remarkable 90 minutes, Jeff’s photos led us in this type of prayer.

On the afternoon of 4th day, Friends listened to Erica Johnson from the Midwest Region of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) tell heartrending stories of AFSC’s work assisting undocumented immigrants in Iowa who have been picked up, detained and deported by the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE).

Our yearly meeting representatives to the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) shared their experiences attending the annual national gathering and the two days they spent lobbying Congress for a moral budget. The FCNL step-by-step resources to help people lobby their elected Representatives are so effective, that one Friend shared, “I didn’t think I could ever do this. But it works! And if I can do it, so can you!”

How do we respond in faith and love in situations where we don't feel peaceful?

Later that evening, Lucy Duncan's participatory workshop, *Bystander Intervention Training* directly addressed this question. Lucy emphasized the importance of training ourselves to step back and ask, "What can I do to create a safe space for others?" Her vision of Friends is transforming from a group pushed to action by a "courageous few" into one that moves as a "courageous whole", and she helped us articulate, visualize, and practice ways to intervene when we witness public expressions of hatred, harassment and violence.

We are blessed to have the presence of Julia Neumann from the Friends Committee on National Legislation join us.

IYMC has ties to the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) in many ways. We were glad to hear this good report, to learn how FWCC has drawn upon our Ethical Transportation Minute and also that IYMC Friend Deb Fisch is now a member of their Traveling Ministries Committee.

We look forward to seeing how our relationship with FWCC continues to unfold. It is our understanding that we will have a direct opportunity to experience FWCC in our own area when the Section of the Americas holds their Spring 2019 meeting in Kansas City. This meeting is open to everyone.

Friends World Committee for Consultation Representatives Report

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) greatly increases Friends' presence in the world. Answering God's call to universal love, 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.

We have wondered about the FWCC Traveling Ministries Corps. Has anyone in your meeting contacted FWCC regarding the Traveling Ministries Corps? Is there something that we representatives should be doing to open ourselves to a Traveling Ministers visit? Comments, please, regarding your experience with the Traveling Ministries Program.

The second area of FWCC that we find particularly fascinating is cooper-

ation in religious education. Several curricula including *Faith & Play* are being translated into Spanish. Melinda Wenner Bradley, one of the developers of *Faith & Play* has been a speaker at several FWCC events. She is also speaker in four FWCC QuakerSpeak short videos.

We representatives have wondered whether Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) Friends are interested in using these materials for outreach to the many Spanish speaking immigrants among us in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, and South Dakota. There are so many ways we can get involved.

For the committee,
Mary Snyder

We had a wide-ranging discussion following the reading of our Publications Committee Report, underscoring just how vital and important the work of this committee is for our yearly meeting. We would like the printed minutes to be available to us earlier than they have been, and recognize our responsibility in making this happen, and also offer our help to the committee in any way we can. We appreciate the work of the committee.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT 2018

The Publication Committee of Iowa Yearly Meeting(C) is charged with preparing, publishing and distributing the Minute Book from our annual sessions. The committee continues to appreciate the timely and accurate receipt of these minutes and committee reports from our Yearly Meeting Clerk. Many of the Monthly Meeting clerks were also very helpful in providing accurate information and corrections in our Yearly Meeting Directory. Steven Deatherage of West Branch Meeting deserves our continuing appreciation for compiling this information that is often used by many members of our yearly meeting. This quick and accurate response from the monthly meeting clerks allows the committee to continue improving the amount of time necessary for publication of the Minute Book.

The cost of printing the Minutes of Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) and the cost of mailing these books to the individual meetings are listed with this report. Also listed is the cost of mailing copies to some Quaker colleges, institutions and individuals who have requested our annual publication. Many of these groups have stated they will use the online minutes and prefer not to receive printed material.

The Publications Committee will continue our practice of asking each monthly meeting for the number of spiral-bound and spine-bound copies they would like for their meeting and members/attenders. We continue to request that meetings be conservative in these numbers to save the cost of printing and mailing.

Assistance to the committee and the printing of the Minute Books came from Bob Goodfellow at Goodfellow Printing in Iowa City.

Printing and Postage costs for the 2017 Minute Book

280	Spine-bound and Spiral-bound books	
(Includes Set-up/Shipping)	\$3,195.00	@ rate of \$11.41
Shipping/Freight	\$195.00	
Sales Tax Johnson Co. 6%	\$191.70	
Total	\$3,581.70	

Iowa Yearly Meeting also requested the committee to have an additional printing of our 2011 Faith and Practice to meet the needs of the monthly meetings and the yearly meeting clerk. A minimum printing of 300 copies would be necessary for Goodfellow Printing to offer a price of approximately \$6.00 per book.

300 Faith and Practice Books	\$1,979.50	@rate of \$6.60
Sales Tax Johnson Co. %6	\$118.77	
Total	\$2,098.27	

For the Committee

Martha Davis, Clerk

The Website Committee Report offered much food for thought and we approved their request to entrust them to continue doing their work, and discussed at length the details of creating an e-mail list to help us communicate “front porch style” with each other personally between yearly meeting gatherings.

We realize there are a number of issues that need further thought and discernment. For instance, one is making sure people pictured on our website approve of having their pictures posted. We trust the committee to develop a satisfactory policy for the ethical use of personal photos on the website if they do such posting before we meet again as a body.

This committee's report asks for ongoing feedback and for the yearly meetings' approval for each step along the way, as they continue to explore creating a website that serves our needs. We understand that when we try something that doesn't work, we can change it.

We appreciate this committee and are very grateful for their work.

2018 WEBSITE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR YEARLY MEETING

The Website Committee considered the use of Quaker Cloud, at the annual cost of over \$300, to use their WordPress template. Yearly Meeting is paying an Annual Domain Registration of \$14.99, plus an annual hosting fee of \$155.88, for a total of \$170.87. We found that the Plus hosting package Yearly Meeting was paying for already included what we needed. Several different Web development platforms are available, including WordPress at no extra charge, that would meet our needs.

Therefore, the iymc.org website has moved to a WordPress site. Using WordPress allows all members of our committee to make updates to the site without needing to be a programmer. After looking into website hosting options, we decided that the most efficient and cost-effective course would be to stay with our current host, Bluehost.

Our committee has reproduced parts of the old website on the new site and we've added some new pages and postings. Pages including: *Worship*, *142nd Annual Session*, *Scattergood*, *Members*, *Faith & Practice*, *Advice and Queries*, *Committees* and *School Committee page*.

Issues:

There was a problem with embedding the online registration form. This delayed and may have lost some yearly meeting registrations. We believe this has been resolved, however, we will continue to refine this feature.

New email addresses:

Website Committee email address is webminder@iymc.org. Every person on our committee receives the messages sent to this email. We place a link located at the bottom of the home page so people can contact us with

ideas or other issues with the website.

Directory updates can now be sent to directoryupdates@iyhc.org. These emails are automatically forwarded to the John Andrews, who is responsible for updating the directory

Changes Under Development:

Home (landing) page:

Welcome to newcomers. What does the YM consider important to say to newcomers?

Images for pages

People such as children, worshipers, mealtime, members who have passed away, etc. *Concern* – How do we seek permission to use of photographs of IYHC Friends on the website?

Other concerns:

Discernment needed on moving some old content to new site such as previous years programs for Midyear and Yearly Meeting.

Going forward – website committee. Does the Yearly Meeting approve that the website committee can continue to develop and design the appearance and organization of the website, with the understanding that the committee would seek approval/advice/discernment as needed for new content, and would contact appropriate people for content on buttons, such as the Junior Yearly Meeting, Young Friends, etc.

Email Group – We propose that we create an email list for people to keep informed as to “current events” within the yearly meeting. We envision this as a “front porch” where we could share joys, concerns, updates regarding illnesses, deaths, or reminiscences about our meetings. What it would not be is a place to post political items or links to other sites we may find interesting (even though it may be a shared interest). This isn’t to say we couldn’t post about a political issue that weighs heavy on us or that we’re happy about – only that it would be in the context of “this is my concern and my experience of it.” Our hope is that this would help us stay more connected between gatherings and perhaps get to know each other more.

How it would work: We would set up a Google Group. Each person would receive an email explaining the group with instructions on how to

join. Upon joining, one can opt out if they wish (an easy to use function within each Google Group email). The group would be limited to people who have a connection to IYMC. When an email is posted to the group it goes to everyone on the list. When replying to emails it will go to the whole group, or you can reply to the sender individually.

Submitted for the committee,
John Andrews

We appreciate the report of the 2017 Entertainment Committee and of all the work it represents on our behalf.

2017 Entertainment Committee Report

Des Moines Valley, Ames and Penn Valley meetings were the hosts for the 2017 Iowa Yearly Meeting(C) annual sessions. Representatives of those meetings met once in person and several times by conference call. The theme selected was “Building Bridges.” About 105 attended sessions at least part of the week from July 25 through 30, 2017.

Inspired morning Bible study sessions by Elizabeth O’Sullivan of Laughing Waters Preparatory Meeting were well-attended and widely appreciated.

Evening Collections

Tuesday evening, Peter Clay of Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting facilitated a thoughtful discussion of Building Bridges with Native Americans that featured presentations by Christine Nobiss, Chair of Indigenous Iowa and founder of Little Creek Camp, and Donnielle Wanatee from the Meskwaki Nation, an Advocate for Iowa and Her People.

Wednesday evening, Quaker folksinger Tom Rawson, of Orcas Island, Washington, led a spirited collection of music that featured songs of faith, peace and justice. The next day, Tom led a workshop on song-making and met with youth for more music and discussion.

Thursday, FCNL’s Jose Woss told of his experiences with race as a Hispanic, African American man, and led thoughtful discussion.

Friday, Quaker anthropologist Linda Rabben of Adelphi, Maryland, Friends Meeting, spoke about the sanctuary movement, its history and current efforts.

The annual talent show on Saturday was a huge success, with JYM playing a prominent role. It was special to learn more of the hidden talents of IYM(C) members and Scattergood students through sharing of poetry, music, writing, storytelling, dance and more.

Shirley Scritchfield of Penn Valley meeting led Pre-Meeting on Sunday, bringing the week together beautifully through reflections on building bridges.

Junior Yearly Meeting leader Thomas Greenler held a fun and meaningful session for 3-6 youth that included writing letters to Quaker youth in other countries, along with many activities and outings. Childcare was provided by Young Friend Claire Sponheim and coordinated by Ann Robinson, with a number of friends volunteering to assist and enjoy precious time with Liam Blackeyes.

We greatly appreciated the opportunity to hold IYM(C) at Scattergood and all that the staff does to host the gathering, including the healthy meals, with fresh vegetables and meat sourced from Scattergood's organic farm.

Friends gave generously to help IYM(C) reach its budget goals to cover costs and provide seed money for next year's gathering. Respectfully submitted by 2017 Entertainment Committee Convener Ann Y. Robinson, on behalf of Ames Friends Meeting, Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting, and Penn Valley Friends Meeting

2017 Entertainment Committee Financial Report

RECEIPTS

Forwarded from 2016 Committee	\$ 2,000.00
Contributions	<u>13,380.00</u>
Total	\$15,380.00

EXPENSES

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL PROGRAM	\$11,000.00
PRINTING, POSTAGE & SUPPLIES	1,321.24
Child Care	180.03
Bank Fees	180.00
	16.05

To Yearly Meeting Trustees	682.68
Forwarded for 2018 Committee	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total	\$15,380.00

EC Treasurer Jim Cottingham, West Branch Friends Meeting

Our 2017 printed minutes left out the financial part of the 2016 Entertainment Committee Report by oversight. The meeting approved including the complete 2016 Entertainment report in the 2018 printed minutes.

2016 Entertainment Committee Report

The 2016 Entertainment Committee consisted of Omaha, Lincoln, Paulina monthly meetings, as well as Laughing Waters Preparative Meeting and Paullina's associated worship group in Sioux Falls. Having meetings and worship groups in four states, we made good use of technology.

The whole committee was able to meet face-to-face three times: Yearly Meeting 2015 to be oriented by the previous committee and do our own preliminary planning; Midyear Meeting to share what had been accomplished and finish planning; and Yearly Meeting 2016 to evaluate our work and orient the next committee. Although the option was open for anyone to arrange a conference call with the whole, the rest of the work was done by subcommittees by phone, email, conference calls and video chat.

Although there were options to register via email or postal mail, most (62 groups) registered online. The online registration collated the data in categories, so it was not necessary to go through individual registrations and do the count ourselves. The online registration also had the advantage of enabling subcommittee clerks to look at the collated data and individual registrations at their leisure. This was especially helpful for the Food, Registration, Evaluation and Childcare subcommittees.

The evaluations were also done online. The registration form asked for registrants' email addresses. This allowed us to email the access information for the evaluation to all registrants. Through this method, we received more evaluations than previous years. There were a limited number of printed evaluations available at sessions for those who chose to use paper. Paper evaluations were also given to Junior Yearly Meeting to fill out. The Evaluation subcommittee input the paper evaluations so that

all the data could be categorized and accessible online. We received 57 evaluations, eight that were paper. Access to the evaluations and collated data was given to all of the 2016 Entertainment Committee and also the contact person on the 2017 Entertainment Committee. This again, enabled us to access the evaluations and collated data at our leisure.

The program was published online on the IYM(C) website. We relied on monthly meeting clerks and IYM(C) contact people to publicize the program's online presence and ensure paper copies were printed for those in their meetings who did not have online access. Paper copies of the program were available during yearly meeting sessions for those who did not wish to access the program on their own phones or computers.

In addition to the increased access and collating of data categories, the printing and postage costs, as well as paper use, were diminished by these online practices.

The theme for Yearly Meeting 2016 was "Be Not Afraid, I Am with You." Elizabeth O'Sullivan (Laughing Waters) led the theme-based Bible study each morning. All evening programs were titled "Be Not Afraid Of..." Third Day, the program committee led an interactive evening subtitled "Looking at Ourselves and Sharing With Each Other." Fourth Day's program was a panel led by Greg Elliot (AFSC), subtitled "Change in Our Communities - Quaker Social Change Ministry: a model for Spirit-Led Action." Fifth Day's program was led by Robin Mohr (FWCC), subtitled "Connecting More Deeply Within the Religious Society of Friends". Robin also facilitated the theme based First Day Pre-Meeting. Sixth Day was a music program subtitled "Singing and Rejoicing" presented by Aaron Fowler and Laura Dungan (Great Plains Yearly Meeting). Since there were no Young Friends this year, Junior Yearly Meeting emceed the Seventh Night talent show.

The Program subcommittee had been asked by the Ministry and Council Committee to provide time for a workshop on "Tending to the Safety of Our Children and Youth". This happened on Fifth Day afternoon.

The Entertainment Committee had other responsibilities. They provided oversight of the game room and arranged for Judy Cottingham to volunteer her time to provide a preschool/childcare program. The committee worked with Scattergood to provide meals, on campus lodging, and meeting facilities. Set up and clean up before and after sessions were

accomplished. Transportation was coordinated for all presenters and for those attendees who requested assistance. An information/registration table was staffed most waking hours. We arranged for the collection and disbursement of the funds necessary to pay for the sessions and provide start-up funds for next year's committee.

We innovated and we accomplished, as we were led by the Spirit.

2016 IYM(C) Entertainment committee Financial Report

Beginning Balance **1,800.22**

Income:	Actual	Budget
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Contributions	12,962.00	13,000.00
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Disbursements:

Scattergood	11,000.00	11,000.00
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Program	335.20	1,000.00
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Signs and Supplies	17.94	25.00
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IYM for Meeting House	<u>1409.08</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
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Total Disbursements	12, 762.22	13,025.00
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Ending Balance for 2017	2,000.00	1,775.22
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Total Attendance - 106 individuals attended

cost per person	120.40
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We appreciate the work of our Archives Committee and will continue to

hold onto the question of what to do with multiple copies of our printed minutes from past years.

Archives Committee Report to Iowa Yearly Meeting, 2018

Your Archives Committee clerk has begun the process to renew our five-year agreement with the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI), which expires at the end of 2018, but has not yet received paperwork for the Yearly Meeting Trustees to sign. I will forward that to the Trustees as soon as I can.

During the past year, we have added monthly meeting records from Yahara to the collection at SHSI.

Friends from Paullina Monthly Meeting have decided to give up their meeting library. They brought over 300 volumes to Midyear Meeting this year and turned them over to Archives Committee. We made a list of these books and compared it with the books already in the William Penn Room (WPR) here at Scattergood. It was determined that about 50 of the books from Paullina were not tightly related to Quakerism. Of the books related to Quakerism, about 100 were found to be duplicates (or triplicates) of books already in the WPR, and the remaining (about 150) books were added to the WPR collection.

All the Paullina books not added to the WPR collection are now available for Iowa YM monthly meetings to claim for their meeting libraries. Please contact Archives Committee clerk Dan Treadway if your meeting is interested. The books are here this week, so could be turned over right away.

For the committee,

Dan Treadway
Clerk

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

Sixth Day – Friday – 7/27/18 MORNING

9:30 a.m. Meeting for Worship moving into Business

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

“Its who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That’s the kind of people the Father is looking for; those who are simply and honestly themselves before him in their worship. God is sheer being itself — Spirit. Those who worship him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves in adoration.”

John 4:23-24 (Peterson Bible)

Penny Majors and Jean Sandstrom have been appointed readers this morning

Minute of 5th Day Activities

In addition to simply visiting and enjoying being with each other, there were a variety of activities different Friends took part in the afternoon of 5th day. They could learn more about FWCC and lobbying from FCNL, attend an introduction to Alternatives to Violence (AVP), hear a presentation on the future of Scattergood School and Farm. There was even a chance to watch a lighthearted performance of juggling and unicycle artistry with Hanson Family Show in the gym.

In the evening, Geery Howe offered the presentation “Preventing and Recovering from Burnout in a Period of Prolonged Uncertainty.” In an age of moving at software and not human speeds, our lives of endless interruptions prevent us from wholeness. How do we regain our center? Cultivating relationships with others is what makes us whole. It is important to understand the difference between connectivity and real connections between human beings, and Geery encouraged us to *make* connections, *maintain* connections and have the courage to *create new* connections. In this way we can experience and learn that “God is the constant.”

The eloquent and moving testimonies embedded in the Scattergood Farm and Head offer us a vision of what happening in a relationship where true education takes place.

There are many relationships encompassed in education between the teachers, the students, the parents and also the supporters of Scattergood. The joy and hope in these reports call us to learn with intention what the experiences of the past year described in the report have to teach us. For many years our habit has been to see small enrollment numbers as a

problem. But is it possible to see and use the gifts of a small enrollment and act accordingly? If we changed to expect a small number of students, are there financial numbers and plans that could be adapted accordingly to better address this reality?

We hear the love in these reports. As a faith community, we must not overlook the miraculous. If we are a faith community, we must look through those eyes of faith, that we might see what God wants us to do.

Farm Report to Iowa Yearly Meeting(Conservative)

Dear Friends,

I remember farming at Scattergood before purslane took over our vegetable fields and wild parsnip sprang up in our pastures. Of course, other weeds preceded these—lamb's quarters, Canada thistle, pigweed and many others--but the purslane and parsnip form a distinct line of before and after in my memory.

The soil has a memory, too, much longer than mine. When we recently decided to retire some of our conventionally farmed corn and soybean acres and plant chestnut trees and pawpaws instead, I asked Tom Wahl how we should prepare the understory. Tom offered several suggestions of grasses and clover to plant, but also said that we could plant nothing and simply keep the former cropland mowed short and eventually Canada bluegrass would rise from the seed bank and spread. Seeds from the past, awaiting evocation and opportunity.

What should we choose to remember from the last year?

All students took part in four weeks of Farm Term, choosing amongst classes on water use, pastoral poetry, construction and animal behavior. Each day involved a walk to the farm, study and creation, snacks, chores and farm-related Spanish lessons. Farm Term followed orientation week, which again included a Farm Fun Day, with work projects done in small groups, followed by a picnic dinner and our first Meeting for Worship together around a bonfire in the woodlot. In Agricultural Research class students explored biochar production, tomato breeding and aquaponics; they studied mapping in a May Term class; they learned and worked on the Farm and Prairie in Project Classes; the entire school helped harvest vegetables one afternoon in October. Five students attended a conference for Quaker schools with farms and two helped provide childcare at the Practical Farmers of Iowa Annual Conference. Several students adopted

bottle fed lambs and cared for them in the dorms.

The Farm also welcomed the community. Classes from Willowwind School and Longfellow Elementary in Iowa City visited. Outdoor Adventures Camp, Taproot Nature Experience, two Scattergood Summer camps and the Iowa City Autism Community explored and ate. A researcher from the University of Iowa College of Public Health learned about variety selection. We grew flowers for a wedding, welcomed artists on retreat, hosted a dinner and field walk for the Iowa Organic Association. Educators from Ames explored farm opportunities as they consider starting their own independent school. The Governor of Iowa visited. We conducted a workshop on cover crops for the Iowa Valley RC&D and remained connected with Practical Farmers of Iowa, Sustainable Iowa Land Trust, Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education, and Field to Family in Iowa City.

All this is done through the hard work of many. Ben Bowman continues to manage our livestock program, while Dana Foster guided Farm Term in new directions. Kelsey Clampitt cared for our prairie and included the farm in her academic classes. Jenevieve George and Keva Fawkes have helped with field work and fence building this summer, while our cooks, primarily Karen Huff and Irving Treadway, continue to showcase in the dining room what we raise on the farm. Our rowcrop acres are now rented to neighbor John Black, though Ken Fawcett remains a valued consultant on many things. The Farm Subcommittee has been especially helpful this year: Kent Tjossem as our clerk, Tom Wahl as our guide to chestnuts and pawpaws, and Bob Winchell who is helping us secure two donkeys for the Farm. Thank you all.

Canada bluegrass is no native grass, but was introduced to this continent over 200 years ago. In that time, this piece of land we will soon transform has witnessed the destruction of the prairie, the advent of Scattergood, the construction of the interstate, the evolution of corn and soy genetics, the introduction of thistle, ragweed, mustards, purslane and parsnip. Soon chestnuts and pawpaws will separate the before from the now. The soil will remember and the Canada bluegrass will continue to wait.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Quee
Farm Manager

Head of School Report
Scattergood Friends School and Farm
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
July 2018

Dear Friends,

It has now been five years since Amy and I came to live and work as Scattergoodians. I remain called to be here, and I'm again grateful for this opportunity to report to the Yearly Meeting.

Priorities, themes and accomplishments this past year:

Nine students received diplomas June 3rd as the Class of 2018 this year with letters of admission to colleges and universities: **Iris Capra-Bateman, Matthew Cook, Marianne Finot, Kian Ganbari, Cameron McReynolds, Sydney Myers, Gifford Pollock, Athena Stark, and Ian Zakelj**. Of these, two were named Bonner Scholars for their matriculation to Earlham College in recognition of not only their financial need but their demonstrated capacity for nourishing community through service in their high school years. Together, these nine also received scholarship offers totaling \$945,000.

Caroline Daly '19 was recognized as this year's Berquist Scholar, and **Latif Behroz '19** earned our Fine Arts Scholarship.

Marianne and **Kian** were named Bonner Scholars for Earlham. These are full scholarships that also recognize these individuals' demonstrated capacity for building and nurturing community in the Quaker spirit. **Latif** has also been asked to Clerk for Adult Young Friends at FGC at its 2019 Grinnell Gathering.

The school year began and finished with historically low enrollment: just 23 students, a number which fell short of even our most conservative projections in the July prior. The School Committee report which complements this, recounts our challenge and our response, and I encourage you to study the well-told account submitted to this Yearly Meeting. In short, I will say that staff and students were remarkably unfazed by the challenge. We recognized how vibrant our program and community are and we joyfully, joyfully embraced the year's opportunities and experiences. Quite honestly, it has been one the most happy and rewarding years of my 31-year career in schools.

We continue to further strengthen the relationship between the farm and

student learning in rich ways that prepare them for college and life beyond. Farm Term, in which students begin the first month of the semester in project-based interdisciplinary learning on the farm each morning, saw the entire student body participate in this third year. The program's success with providing high-level learning that combines science, math, the arts, technology and practical engineering (STEAM education) was recognized by the Governor of Iowa in a visit to the school last autumn. Also of note was the high degree of successful completion of academic coursework by our students this year, thanks to diligent teacher involvement in each student, active coordination of **Gabriela Delgadillo** as Academic Dean, and the consistent presence of **Chelsea Hunt-Teachout** in providing individualized academic support for students. Seniors authored research papers this year on topics ranging from privatization of government services, a comparison of Obama and Trump foreign policies, felon voting rights, Bitcoin, an exploration of non-binary gender, and understanding the origins of religion through the lens of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs.

Off-campus explorations continued this year. February's Intersession saw students volunteering in Chicago's Catholic Worker House, Su Casa, and various service projects in Iowa City. Some students travelled with Dana Foster to Maryland, where they joined with other Friends School students and staff to share their study and work as farm-based programs. Camping trips included canoeing in the Ozarks and living and working on an eco-collective in Missouri. Last and not least, half the student body were either in Bolivia or on a 250-mile trek of the Appalachian Trail in the last three weeks of May, while the other half engaged in May Term investigations on campus.

Staffing

We wish farewell to the following staff who are moving on:

Gabriela Delgadillo, Assistant Head, 2 years

Fernando Finot, Spanish and Dorm Sponsor, 4 years

Keva Fawkes, Artist in Residence and Dorm Sponsor, 1 year

Chelsea Hunt-Teachout, Academic Support and Dorm Sponsor, 1 year

Kelsey Clampitt, Biology and Dorm Sponsor, 1 year

Gwen Morrison Andow, Social Studies and Dorm Sponsor, 2 years

Eric Andow, Math, Physics, and Dorm Sponsor, 2 years

Miranda Nielson, our Development Coordinator, is relocating to Maryland and will continue to support the work of the Development Office until a successor is named.

The extent to which each contributed their energy and spirits to the school is immeasurable as is our gratitude for each.

And we welcome the following staff to the school for the upcoming year:

Paul Pressler, Assistant Head and Academic Dean

Rachael Button, Student Dean and Dorm Sponsor

Peter Kraus, Biology and Dorm Sponsor

Greg Wickencamp, Social Studies and Dorm Sponsor

Steve Nordlund, Spanish (returning to a position he held at Scattergood for 5 years)

Kim Jones, Business Manager, hired August 2017

Sarah Dirks, Health Office Coordinator, hired September 2017

We're excited about their strong qualifications and enthusiasm for our program. Searches continue for a second math teacher who would also teach chemistry.

Enrollment, Budget, and Financial Review and Look Ahead

Fiscally the year ended on a very positive note as shown by the June 30 operating statement (after a very bleak outlook in September with the significant downturn in enrollment). Combine prudent management of our budget with gifts large and small from donors, a significant alteration of the School Foundation's distribution policy from the endowment accounts, a special disbursement from the School Foundation, and an estate settlement, the school stood at June 30 with a zero balance on its line of credit and \$144,000 in its checking account, giving the school a head start with cash flow not seen in several years. It is also worth noting that the school lost close to \$150,000 of annual tuition income as a result of denials of visas to academically and financially qualified students from Ethiopia and Afghanistan, despite our unusually strong track record of their recent predecessors' matriculation to colleges.

The new budget returns us nonetheless to facing head-on the continued existential challenge of low enrollment. The budget reflects long-forecasted salary increases for staff, continued conservative projections for tuition income, and the return of an additional administrator to the team. The light ahead is that we're expecting a net gain of at least four students to begin the year, the first increase in enrollment in about six years. We are optimistic that we are turning the corner with our new approaches to markets and continued discipline with admissions.

In the final analysis, an assurance of the Yearly Meeting's support for the

school taking on a new credit commitment is essential to the school's ability to make and complete this turn around the corner in the school's history. We're in the midst of a winter. And the larder is full: we arguably have one of the strongest balance sheets of any non-profit in Iowa, with close to \$8 million in assets and just \$123,000 in debt. The wise move in this period is not to hoard the larder and starve to death but to trust in keeping to a diet that protects against disease, nourishes honest work in a lean season, and prepare for spring ahead. We cannot guarantee that spring brings renewed life, yet we cannot lose faith in its promise. The promise lies in tangible signs we're seeing: an uptick in interest in our high school program, tangible and measurable enthusiasm for our middle school initiative, and honest interest by Grinnell College in our capacity to prepare students for their program.

Major Capital Improvements and Needs this year

With thanks to the tireless efforts of **Tim Schulte** and **Harold Jamison**, the Facilities Sub-Committee, the Development Office, and the seniors who installed the dining room floor, we celebrate the following improvements:

New stoves in the Scattergood kitchen

A re-surfaced dining room floor

Water heaters that reduce demand on aging boilers and reduce overall energy consumption

West dorm middle apartment renovations

Two significant projects ahead for us are negotiating with the State Fire Marshal about installation of a fire sprinkler system and drafting a site plan and selecting the type of structure to house the middle school classroom, bathroom, and storm shelter on the farm.

Outreach

My personal outreach for the school this past year has included the following:

Lincoln/Omaha, DMVF, Iowa City, West Branch, WB Friends Church FUM

Midyear Meeting at Bear Creek Meeting House

Alumni Gatherings in SF Bay Area, Oregon, and Seattle

Northern Yearly Meeting

Illinois Yearly Meeting

FGC in Toledo

Concluding remarks

I close with renewed thanks to the Yearly Meeting for their continued care of and for the school. We appreciate how deeply and widely felt the school is as a ministry, as we have devoted our lives and livelihoods to it as well.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Weber, Head of School

We close our morning session to meet again this afternoon at 2pm.

Sixth Day – Friday AFTERNOON – 7/27/18 2:00 pm

We resume the business of Yearly Meeting

“My dear children, let’s not just talk about love; let’s practice real love. This is the only way we’ll know we’re living truly, living in God’s reality. It’s also the way to shut down debilitating self-criticism, even when there is something to it. For God is greater than our worried hearts and knows more about us than we do ourselves.”

1 John 3:18-20 (Peterson Bible)

Sarah Andrews and Sonja Sponheim have been appointed as readers this afternoon.

We listened and discussed the financial portion of the Head of School’s report. It was underscored that the financial projections in this budget are very conservative. We appreciate the clarity of this report and are grateful for the hard work that has given us a document that is easy to understand.

Scattergood Friends School
Operating Statement as of June 30, 2018

	2018-2019 Proposed Budget	2017-2018 YE	2017-2018 Budget	2016-2017 Compare Year End
INCOME	1,167,630	1,534,874	1,290,330	1,289,644
Contributions	737,586	1,083,727	741,683	693,709
Annual Giving	280,000	417,268	389,000	248,789
Richard Tabor Estate		124,509		
Annual Giving	280,000	264,642		228,789
Onward Scattergood	-	28,117	109,000	20,000
Designated Donation	16,244	42,153	29,480	86,684
Farm/Prairie		100		-
Stove		9,523		-
Financial assistance	16,244	21,766	24,480	21,192
Designated Capital				44,383
Bolivia	-	3,108		-
Other	-	876	5,000	19,251
Gwen Schupe		30		(2,000)
Grinnell		5,000		
Reimbursable Income		1,750		3,859
Iowa Yearly Meeting	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000
Measey Foundation	196,366	177,208	158,153	173,860
SFS Foundation	190,976	357,168	111,050	130,376
Operating Revenue	430,044	446,206	548,647	595,935
Enrollment Fee		8,564		7,000
Application Fees	1,000	1,753	1,000	886
Fees & Charges	7,800	11	7,800	815
Interest Earnings	1,000	378	1,000	148
Net Tuition	383,034	368,556	499,422	537,926
Other Operating	5,000	23,987	5,000	21,490
Rental Use	13,785	14,355	16,000	12,510
Farm	6,000	14,519	6,000	4,102
Row Crop	12,425	14,084	12,425	11,059
EXPENSES	1,424,463	1,270,309	1,323,514	1,208,686
Payroll	699,818	671,093	610,000	613,420
Payroll Expenses	53,924	45,562	54,900	46,343
Personnel Costs	165,363	146,264	171,135	140,883
Activities	20,929	24,957	20,400	25,098
Communications	19,645	18,353	13,220	14,075
Contracted Services	40,099	17,069	38,566	29,518
Curriculum	13,880	7,105	12,960	12,250
Farm	27,176	25,662	20,000	18,174
Row Farming	5,461	5,302	2,600	5,677
Food Service	58,253	54,933	54,000	48,202
Insurance	51,107	52,863	70,300	48,683
Miscellaneous	31,260	31,702	29,150	23,988
Professional Services	42,500	34,673	25,000	20,282
Admissions	30,000	13,515	18,400	17,788
Development	10,916	12,167	12,400	14,601
Supplies	18,620	18,019	18,790	19,355
Technology	29,475	35,518	28,280	26,957
Vehicles/Equipment	12,487	13,111	21,592	12,328
Operational Costs	93,549	75,516	99,221	65,166
NET INCOME/ (LOSS)	(256,833)	264,565	(32,584)	80,958

We listened to both reports of the Yearly Meeting Trustees and the Scattergood Foundation Trustees and thank them for their work.

Yearly Meeting Trustees Report 2018

We appoint Carole Winkleblack and Barb Garlinghouse to continue to serve as Scattergood Foundation Trustees with terms ending in 2022. The activities of the Foundation Trustees are described in their annual report, attached to this report.

There were no disbursements of Trustees funds during the past year. This week the Trustees made a list of several, relatively minor, maintenance needs on the meetinghouse. We anticipate that our current balance and our budgeted funds will be more than sufficient to cover the cost of these.

Yearly Meeting Trustees Financial Report

Initial balance 7/1/17	\$1,219.16
From Iowa Yearly Meeting (C)	1,000.00
From IYM Entertainment Committee	682.68
Interest	<u>2.73</u>
Total Funds Available	\$2,904.57
Total disbursements	\$ 0.00
Bank balance 6/30/2018	\$2,904.57

Submitted by Jim Cottingham, clerk

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL FOUNDATION Trustees Report 2018

The Scattergood Foundation is charged with the stewardship of the school's growing endowment, currently valued at more than \$5.4 million. Through a diversified portfolio of socially responsible investments, primarily stocks, bonds, cash, 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 2017-18 school year, the Foundation distributed \$111,150 to support tuition scholarship, as well as \$19,850 toward capital improvements. In addition, the Foundation made two extraordinary payouts to the school: \$140,000 in December 2017 and \$96,032.45 in March 2018. The Foundation has committed to new scholarship distributions for the 2018-19 academic year totaling \$111,950 for scholarships, as well as \$105,500 toward the operations of the school.

**Assets Held by the Scattergood Friends School Foundation as of
6/30/2018:**

Everence		\$39,467.95	
Westwood Trust #1 (scholarship)		\$2,012,799.76	
Westwood Trust #2 (capital funds)		\$2,406,446.67	
Westwood Trust Special Capital		\$601,661.85	
Pemberton Farm		\$200,000.00	
Hills Bank checking		\$228,669.10	

We listened and discussed the Scattergood School Committee Report, and while acknowledging the expressed concerns, we give our support to the mortgaging of up to \$800,000 to develop the proposed programs. By doing this, it is important to understand that our support for Scattergood be not only financial, but in all ways that come before us. We ask the question, “Who are we without Scattergood?” If the answer is that Scattergood is our calling, then we must not only accept this report but also having a school that educates and serves as a refuge for students....one that is consistent with who we are created to be, and to the fundamental challenge that we fulfill our responsibility to heal the world.

We thank the School Committee for their dedicated, hard work.

Scattergood School Committee Report to IYMC 2018

Peacemaking is a slow, every day process. It requires us to over and over again, show up, be present, listen, build trust, work together and work through. It is not shiny or exciting, but creates an underlying foundation upon which we can build the world we envision. At Scattergood we give young people the chance to understand the slow work of making peace by not only learning about themselves, but also by learning to live with each other in community. This may be the most difficult practice of all, but it is a crucial skill for them to cultivate in these divisive times.

The current picture:

Development efforts are improving with increased alumni outreach, involvement, and giving. Thomas Weber and Ruth Hampton have hosted alumni gatherings in various parts of the country and we see results. The school's current financial reporting is dependable, giving an accurate picture of our finances. These reports reveal a budget where money is frugally and wisely spent. Thomas has worked hard at guiding the business office through changes and the school has survived the past few years of low enrollment because of good management and extensive effort and sacrifice by the staff to reduce costs. Through very tight budgeting and some extraordinary help from the Foundation, we have met our budget last year. However, this performance is not sustainable.

The frustrating anomaly is that enrollment is so low when the school's programs are so robust. The academic programs are exceptionally creative, including integration of the farm into the curriculum and project-based learning; students are excelling in college preparation. The residential program is healthy and Quaker values continue to guide us: the students are encouraged to explore their spiritual path, crews develop skills and provide them with a sense of community belonging, and they are given leadership roles in managing residential life. The innovations in the academic and residential programs of the past few years have been initiated by the Head and the staff, and their latest efforts are focused on identifying new strategic initiatives.

Our assessment:

We have witnessed an influx of energy, ideas, creativity, and optimism from the staff and Head that resonates within us, gives us confidence for the future, and the courage to change and evolve. For this we are grateful because simply carrying on with what we have been doing is not an

option. We, like most residential high schools in the US, are experiencing difficulties with enrollment, a result of shrinking middle class and a change in parenting styles. Further, the political climate nearly eliminates our ability to bring in international students, who have always been an important part of the Scattergood culture.

Marketing initiatives implemented in the past year based on the recommendations of an outside marketing firm are visible in the website and other materials are already proving fruitful, but these efforts are not reaching a broad enough audience. With our tight budgets we cannot adequately fund further marketing activities that would help our situation. Because of low enrollment, for the last several years the school has been unable to generate a sustainable level of revenue. The school is surviving, but this isn't a long-term solution. It will take a significant investment to implement plans to secure sound long-term footing. Putting appropriate resources into marketing and recruitment can't be expected to bear fruit in less than 2-3 years, and any substantive initiatives will need up-front funding to launch.

Our recommendation:

The School Committee approved a proposal to increase enrollment and improve our financial condition by pursuing the following initiatives that the school has cultivated. These programs would increase and diversify our income, outreach, and visibility:

1. merit scholarships based on community leadership qualities
2. the development of a middle school for day students of the Iowa City area
3. a gap-year program for under-resourced students admitted to Grinnell College
4. implementation of the marketing plan from Kelsh Wilson

The School Committee asks that the Yearly Meeting give us their support and trust to mortgage up to \$800,000 to develop these programs and bolster marketing and admissions for Scattergood's traditional program while we build the new programs. We believe all of these are consistent with the mission of the school and the work of our Yearly Meeting.

The choice the Yearly Meeting has to make is this: Are we willing to support this plan, trusting that school committee, Head, and staff have done the best job they can to develop a way forward for the school's future? Without the loan we are fairly certain the school would close, a process

that would also require significant funding.

There is certainly risk involved in launching these initiatives. However, utilizing the assets of the school on its future existence seems like the most responsible course of action at this moment in time. The collateral for a loan exists in the land the school occupies. The money borrowed would not jeopardize the Yearly Meeting nor the land. Though the loan would use the property as collateral it would be backed by the existing funds of the Scattergood Foundation, which was established to ensure Scattergood meets its financial obligations. It would provide adequate funding to financially secure the land in a worst-case scenario.

Our struggle to find a way forward for Scattergood Friends School has been difficult but it has also been good: it winnows away the chaff and keeps us true. This labor requires we give our full faith and attention to Scattergood Friends School, what we believe is the Yearly Meeting's peace-building ministry to the wider world, as it continues to nurture young people who give us hope for the future. The school is greatly needed and, God willing, we will find a way for it to continue and flourish. On behalf of the School Committee,
Ruth Hampton, clerk

This year's Audit Committee members were Doyle Wilson and Carole Winkleblack.

We thank the yearly meeting auditors for going over our books and confirming for us the very good job of our yearly meeting Treasurer. We are blessed to have such good work done on our behalf.

Audit Committee Report

7/25/2018

We have examined the financial records of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year and find them in good order. We thank the treasurer, Rebecca Bergus, for keeping clear and complete records and for preparing reports for our annual session.

Doyle Wilson and Carole Winkleblack

Income & Expenses
July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

Receipts

Monthly Meeting Apportionments	\$68,750.00
Apportionments Received After June 30, 2017	\$3,250.00
Excess Midyear Meeting Funds	\$1,669.60
FPCU interest earned	\$2.44
	\$73,672.04

Expenses

IYM Contributions	\$62,800.00
IYM Delegate Expenses	\$2,090.86
IYM Expenses	\$10,641.40
	\$75,532.26

Cash Balance

July 1, 2017 Balance

Veridian Checking	\$17,375.91
FPCU Savings	\$25.00
FPCU Checking	\$1,800.63
	\$19,201.54

Income 2017 - 2018

Apportionments	\$72,000.00
Excess Midyear Mtg	\$1,669.60
Interest	\$2.44
	\$73,672.04

Expenses 2017 - 2018

IYM Contributions	\$62,800.00
IYM Delegate Expenses	\$2,090.86
IYM Expenses	\$10,641.29
	\$75,532.15
	\$17,341.43

Veridian Checking Balance

\$17,341.43

Cash Balance Carried Forward

\$17,341.43

Cash Reserve Fund

\$5,000.00

Cash Available for 2018-2019 Budget

\$12,341.43

Yearly Meeting Treasurer's Report

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018

Contributions	Budget	Actual
American Friends Service Committee	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Friends Committee on National Legislation	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Friends General Conference	\$200.00	\$200.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation	\$700.00	\$700.00
Iowa Peace Network	\$100.00	\$100.00
Nebraskans for Peace	\$400.00	\$400.00
Friends Peace Teams	\$500.00	\$500.00
Nation Religious Campaign Against Torture	\$100.00	\$100.00
Pendle Hill	\$500.00	\$500.00
Peace and Social Concerns Committee	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$300.00	\$300.00
Quaker United Nations Office	\$200.00	\$200.00
Right Sharing of World Resources	\$400.00	\$400.00
Scattergood Friends School	\$54,000.00	\$54,000.00
Scattergood Facilities	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
William Penn House	\$300.00	\$300.00
Total Contributions	\$62,800.00	\$62,800.00
Delegate Expenses		
FCNL	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Friends Peace Teams	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
FWCC - General	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$1,200.00	\$890.86
Conservative Yearly Meeting Visitation	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Total Delegate Expenses	\$6,000.00	\$2,090.86
Yearly Meeting Expenses		
Archives Committee	\$200.00	\$0.00
Clerk's and Other Adm. Expenses	\$400.00	\$106.34
Committee Expenses (Other)	\$300.00	\$0.00
Conscientious Objector PSC subcommittee	\$100.00	\$0.00
Friends Travel & Conference	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Junior Yearly Meeting	\$1,500.00	\$1,025.03
Pendle Hill Scholarship Match	\$400.00	\$200.00
Publication Committee	\$3,000.00	\$3,624.77
Faith & Practice Reprint (one-time expense)	\$2,000.00	\$2,098.27
Website Committee	\$450.00	\$0.00
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship	\$500.00	\$0.00
Special Needs Committee	\$750.00	\$0.00
Young Adult Friends	\$300.00	\$0.00
Young Friends	\$1,500.00	\$1,028.00
Midyear Planning Committee if receipts inadequate*	\$500.00	
Clerk's Contingency Fund	\$1,000.00	\$258.88
Transfer to Reserve Fund	\$1,000.00	
Total Yearly Meeting Expenses	\$16,200.00	\$10,641.29
Total Budget	\$85,000.00	\$75,532.15

Monthly Meeting Apportionments

FY19

Ames	\$4,400.00
Bear Creek	\$5,500.00
Decorah	\$2,000.00
Des Moines Valley	\$15,500.00
Iowa City	\$6,000.00
Lincoln	\$7,200.00
Omaha	\$3,250.00
Paullina	\$8,500.00
Penn Valley	\$5,500.00
West Branch	\$11,250.00
Whittier	\$3,200.00
Total Apportionments	\$72,300.00

We now adjourn to meet again at 9:30 am, Seventh Day.

Seventh Day Saturday 7/28/2018 a.m.

We return to the business of Yearly Meeting.

*What a wildly wonderful world, God!
You made it all, with Wisdom at your side,
made earth overflow with your wonderful creations.
Oh, look--- the deep, wide sea,
brimming with fish past counting,
sardines and sharks and salmon.
Ships plow those waters,
and Leviathan, your pet dragon, romps in them.
All the creatures look expectantly to you
to give them their meals on time.
You come, and they gather around;
you open your hand and they eat from it.
If you turned your back
they'd die in a minute—
Take back your Spirit and they die,
revert to original mud;
Send out your Spirit and they spring to life—
the whole countryside in bloom and blossom.*

Psalm 104: 24-30 (The Message Bible)

Bill Deutsch and Stan Sanders have been appointed readers this morning.

We are pleased to have the presence of Nora Vera-Godwin of AFSC, Illinois Yearly Meeting, joining us this morning.

Minute of 6th Day Activities

Even after finishing the work of two extended business sessions, someone was heard to exclaim, “I really want to hear this!” “This” was Peter Clay’s sharing of what he learned at the “Truth and Healing Conference” at Pendle Hill this past year. Interested Friends remained in the meetinghouse to learn more about Native American history that needs a wider telling. We returned to the meetinghouse in the evening to hear IYMC Friends Deborah Fisch, Carol Gilbert, Bob Winkleblack, and Lynne and Bill Howard share their experiences “On Clearness, Discernment and Decision Making”. Each person offered their unique experience, and the additional sharing of clearness committee experiences among the whole group witnessed to the rich variety of ways that God works in our lives.

Des Moines Valley Friends told their meeting’s journey to reach unity on whether or not they were led to become a Sanctuary meeting. A profound deepening of their community came out of it, as well as the living realization that the process never ends once the decision is made but is repeated over and over again. As in each evening presentation that went before, our need for community in finding our way, was again made clear.

Thank you for this wonderful epistle, Junior Yearly Meeting. We also thank the adults who attended JYM with you to make this happen. It was fun for us to see you having fun, and we love learning from you.

Your youthful enthusiasm and experience really rock! We really enjoy having you here. **YAY!!!**

Junior Yearly Meeting Epistle

Dear Friends Everywhere,

Greetings from Junior Yearly Meeting of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), meeting at Scattergood Friends School in West Branch, Iowa, from July 24-29! We have had a lot of fun this week as we ran, learned, and played together.

Every morning, we went to worship. Then we met with adult Friends who talked with us about George Fox, peace, and how God lives within each of us. We dug potatoes on the Scattergood farm, we jumped on hay bales, and we took a walk on the prairie. We saw a huge ant hill there. We went on a scavenger hunt all over Scattergood. We also did a lot of things with color. We made tie dye shirts and bright blue slime. We also made mini volcanoes out of baking soda, vinegar and food coloring. If you combine all the colors together, it really looks like you're a mad scientist. Several evenings we joined Young Friends. We played capture the flag with them and had a campfire by the pond.

Our favorite place at Scattergood is the game room. We look forward to coming back next year!

In Friendship,

Asher, Liam, Maya, Samir and Shelby

Thank you so much, Young Friends, for this epistle and for all that you have done with us and for us this week. Words don't express just how important you are to us. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative Young Friends Epistle 2018

Dear Friends Everywhere,

Greetings from Scattergood Friends School and Farm in West Branch, Iowa! The Young Friends met here again at Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative sessions from 7/24-29, 2018. The week was a busy one, full of community building, swimming, farming, canoeing, eating ice cream, laughing and so much more.

Our week started with worship, for which we joined the greater yearly meeting every morning to center ourselves. Then we had a values auction, an activity where we wrote down a collection of values, and with a set amount of "money" had to decide which values were most important to each of us personally, represented by how much we were willing to spend. It was an interesting activity, both to learn more about each other, and as a self-reflection on our own values. Later that day, we reflected on this session's theme "Being Centered in an Uncentered World" as preparation for our *Young Friends Speak* video (inspired by Friends Journal's Quaker Speak videos) that we filmed later in the week.

We went swimming at the Scattergood pond, diving off the pond's new wooden raft, and playing with plastic swans, especially after we discovered that their heads could be taken off. That evening, we played an enthralling game of capture the flag alongside Junior Yearly Meeting and IYMC Student Staff. We played until it was too dark to see. The following day, we went on our annual canoe trip, this time paddling almost 8 miles down the Maquoketa River. It was a relaxing trip, complete with a stop for oversized sandwiches on a sandbar. After the trip, we set up a projector in our Young Friends lounge and settled in for a movie night.

We worked all week on an extremely difficult, 890-piece 3D puzzle. Despite our struggles to finish the puzzle, it functioned as a great exercise in teamwork and patience. We also did some service for Scattergood School, helping dig potatoes at the Scattergood Farm. We had a campfire and s'mores at the pond with JYM that same evening. On our final day, we helped our Friend Mary Snyder with a Quaker time line, went on our annual trip to the Tipton swimming pool (and nearby Dairy Queen), and wrapped up our week with the IYMC Talent Show.

We digress, it was a jubilant and joyful week, and we look forward to meeting again next year!

In Friendship,
Rhyla, David, Chris, Reace, Emily and Thomas
IYMC Young Friends 2018

While we agree that the AUMF)(Authorization for the Use of Military Force) should be repealed and not renewed, we were unable to unite with the letter/s to US legislators because of several concerns, including that it does not clearly state our opposition to war and the preparation for war. Because we need to take responsibility for this problem based on what is in our hearts, we recommend that individuals and monthly meetings use the proposed letters, editing as they see fit, to communicate with their own national legislators.

We thank the Peace and Social Concerns committee for bringing this letter to us.

AUMF letter

(different opening paragraphs proposed for different recipients)

opening #1

To (Wisconsin) representative Mark Pocan:

Thank you for co-signing the May 15, 2018 letter to Senators Bob Corker and Bob Menendez expressing your concerns regarding the lack of oversight and congressional responsibility in the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations' new draft of the authorization for the use of military force (AUMF). Your concerns are well founded.

*

opening #2

To representative _____:

We were disappointed to not see your name among your 50 Congressional colleagues who signed the May 15, 2018 letter to Senators Bob Corker and Bob Menendez, outlining concerns about the lack of oversight and congressional responsibility in the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations' new draft of the Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF). The concerns in the letter are well founded.

**

opening #3:

To senator _____:

Senator Jeff Merkley, member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, released the following statement regarding the proposed Corker-Kaine Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF):

"I cannot support an authorization that gives a blank check for endless war and turns Congress's power over the President. The Senate should indeed debate a new AUMF, but it must be one that has built-in timelines, mandates congressional approval, and limits the scope of the conflict."

We strongly agree with Senator Merkley and with the 50 Congressional Representative co-signers of the May 15, 2018 letter to Bob Corker and Bob Menendez, calling for **transparency and accountability** so that *"any future AUMF should take into account the lessons learned from previous AUMFs that were overly broad, vague and lacked sufficient oversight and transparency. ...It is up to Congress to make the hard decisions about when to send our brave service members to war and (members of Congress) have failed to fulfill that constitutional responsibility.*

AUMF letter text (after one of the appropriate openings suggested above):

We strongly agree with the letter's call for **transparency and accountability** so that *“any future AUMF should take into account the lessons learned from previous AUMFs that were overly broad, vague and lacked sufficient oversight and transparency. ...It is up to Congress to make the hard decisions about when to send our brave service members to war and (members of Congress) have failed to fulfill that constitutional responsibility.*

No country should ever take lightly a decision to go to war: the financial costs are high, and the human toll and moral costs even higher. Our U.S. Constitution grants Congress the power to declare war in Article I, Section 8, Clause 11. The President is granted power to direct the military in Article II, Section 2. The framers showed great foresight in making the President's power contingent on an act of Congress. This is an important safeguard. But the last time that Congress exercised its power to declare war was Dec. 8, 1941. Unfortunately, this has not prevented the United States from engaging in wars over the intervening years, at ever increasing frequency, cost, and loss of life. This also takes away funds for domestic needs.

By continuing to ignore the intent of our Constitution, Congress abdicates its responsibility and denies the American people the protection of a strong government made safe by a system of checks and balances. This is true no matter who is president and whichever political party holds the most power. Our need for Congressional oversight transcends differences of opinion regarding foreign policy decisions. Congressional checks on war powers were needed during President George W. Bush's tenure, President Barak Obama's tenure, right now during President Donald Trump's tenure, and will continue to be needed for future presidents, no matter who is in office.

We ask that you support repeal of the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs. Insist that any new legislation regarding the Authorization for the Use of Military Force be worded to conform to the powers delineated in the Constitution. As our elected member of Congress, you must represent your constituents by accepting and shouldering this life-and-death responsibility and subject all presidential use of military force to thorough and thoughtful Congressional oversight.

*Because this letter is in reference to a bipartisan congressional letter signed and sent on 5/15/18 by 50 US representatives to Senators Corker and Menendez, it is recommended the text of that letter also be included and sent to all except signer Mark Pocan. This letter is included in the **Reports Received Not Read** part of the Minute Book.*

We spent much time laboring this morning with the issues brought before us by our yearly meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committee. This response was in direct proportion to the work they do. We thank them. We continue to struggle with questions regarding the effectiveness of writing and sending letters to our elected Representatives. Our hope is that our wrestling with the ongoing issues brought forth for consideration not obscure the fact that we deeply appreciate and respect the work of the committee.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report 2018 part 1

Our committee meetings begin with Friends sharing about the work their meetings have been led to engage in during the previous year. These oral reports are wonderful complements to the written reports from the monthly meetings.

Many Friends continue their long-term relationships with the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and some were able to attend the celebration of FCNL's 75th anniversary last fall. The Friends Advocacy Teams that work to establish closer connections between Friends and their Congressional representatives continue to grow. The new Quaker Welcome Center has opened. There was an opportunity for IYMC Friends to engage remotely with Senator Grassley when he was at the Welcome Center.

Many Friends continue their connections with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). At these annual sessions Lucy Duncan (AFSC) taught us various ways we can help provide Sanctuary Everywhere and how to intervene when we see someone threatened in some manner. Although intervention may put us at risk, failing to do so will lead to our communities becoming less safe for all.

In 2001 AFSC arranged for an agricultural delegation from North Korea to visit Iowa, including a potluck dinner at Bear Creek. With increasing tensions with North Korea, Bear Creek meeting wrote a letter inviting another visit from North Korea. That letter was published by the Des

Moines Register. This spring AFSC's Linda Lewis and Daniel Jasper, who have been working with North Korean farmers for many years, visited Iowa to discuss the possibilities for another North Korean visit to Iowa. The Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC), aware of our Minute related to ethical transportation, asked permission to use a photo of a bicycle in front of Bear Creek meetinghouse to show one-way Friends are working on environmental concerns.

A number of Friends continue their years of work with the Alternatives to Violence Project. Lincoln Friends have obtained permission for certain prisoners to attend Lincoln's meetings for worship.

Several Friends have been involved with the new Poor People's Campaign. The campaign uses fusion politics to bring diverse organizations together to work on issues of common concern, such as poverty, racism, militarism and climate change.

There was a panel discussion at last year's annual sessions about building bridges with Native Americans. Since then, some Friends have engaged with Native Americans related to resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline. Bear Creek meeting continues its year's long connection with the Prairie Awakening/Prairie Awoke Native American celebration each fall. Some Friends plan to walk in the First Nation-Farmer Unity Climate March this September.

We approved a request to financially support Casa Pueblo, a nearly twenty-year old community based solar energy company in Puerto Rico that continues to supply renewable energy there post hurricane Maria. In 2016 the Yearly Meeting approved a Minute on Racial Justice. That minute concludes with the following: "We urge each person to take a careful look at their life, to identify where one is benefiting from this [white privilege], and work to correct that. We urge Friends to speak out and take action against these systemic injustices and violence occurring today."

This year during discussions about race relations, it became apparent that we continue to do and say things that are hurtful and harmful. Our committee came to realize we need outside help to learn more about privilege and racism.

Our vision is to make the meetings of our Yearly Meeting places where we trust each other, where everyone feels supported and safe. That is not

presently the case because of continued unintentional assumptions and actions based on white privilege. This committee will explore opportunities to learn about our own privilege with the intention of then being able to have a better idea of how we can help the Yearly Meeting address these things.

Jeff Kisling, clerk

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

Seventh Day 7/28/2018 Afternoon Session 2:00 p.m.

Mtg for Worship moving into Mtg for Business

We resume the business of Yearly Meeting

*Farewell and for your instructive frenzy,
Gratitude. The world does not end tonight
and the fruit that we shall pick tomorrow
Awaits us, weighting the unstripped bough.*

- Charles Tomlison Griffiths "Farewell to Van Gogh"

Karen Greenler and Shirley Scritchfield have been appointed as readers this afternoon."

We miss our Friends who have passed and will always remember them. They mentored us and helped us to see the path before us, and we will continue to carry all they taught and gave us during our time together on this earth.

Yearly Meeting Recorders Report

Deaths

Ames	Carla Barten	March 6, 2018
Bear Creek	Burton LeRoy Kisling	March 21, 2018
	Homer Moffitt	March 27, 2018
Des Moines Valley	Charlotte ("Sherry")	Hutchinson January 1, 2018
Lincoln	Ruth Raymond Thone	May 3, 2018

Paullina	Lois Tjossem	February 2, 2018
West Branch	Douglas Pemberton Smith	May 6, 2018
Whittier	Erma Hoge Lam	October 16, 2017

Births

Des Moines Valley Wesley Robert Winchell October 11, 2017
 (to John Winchell and Katie Davis Winchell)

Marriages under the Care of the Meetings

None

New Members by Request or by Certificate of Transfer

Bear Creek Elizabeth O’Sullivan January 21, 2018 (by
 certificate from Cannon Falls Friends Meeting, Northfield, MN)

Iowa City Osborn Cresson September 10, 2017
 (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	0	0	26
Bear Creek	0	2	1	0	0	2	76
Decorah	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Des Moines Valley	1	1	0	1	0	1	64
Iowa City	0	0	0	0	1	0	65
Lincoln	0	1	0	0	0	0	15*
Omaha	0	0	0	0	0	1	11
Paullina	0	1	0	0	0	0	69
Penn Valley	0	0	0	0	0	1	74
West Branch	0	1	0	0	0	0	91
Whittier	0	1	0	0	0	0	37
TOTALS	1	8	1	1	1	4	538
NET LOSS							

9

* Correcting for a member incorrectly dropped in the previous year.

2018 Representatives Committee Report

Representatives are submitting for Yearly Meeting approval a budget proposal for FY 2019, a proposal for a change toward improving Yearly Meeting function, recommendations for appointments to serve the Yearly Meeting, and dates for next Yearly Meeting in session.

The budget changes we propose that are different or need clarification from last year's budget are:

We continue to support Scattergood at current level, including giving \$2000 for facilities.

Under Delegate Expenses, Friends Peace Team delegate expense is being reduced to \$600.

We have increased the Friends Travel and Conference line item (under Expenses) to \$3000, to encourage Iowa Yearly Meeting Friends to participate in Friends activities and gatherings outside of Yearly Meeting, if funding is a barrier. We encourage Friends to ask their Monthly Meeting for support, as well as for possible organizational funds, if available.

We propose \$3500 for publication of the minute books, to allow for modest cost increases.

We approve transferring \$1000 to the reserve fund. Apportionments remain roughly the same; Decorah has increased its giving.

We note that \$ 72,300 is being raised by apportionment. If the entire budgeted amount of \$ 84,600 is expended, we expect that \$12,300 will be drawn from cash on hand, while \$6000 will remain in reserve fund. Representatives recommend the following change in Yearly Meeting structure, as proposed by the Possibilities Committee:

We recommend that Representatives Committee become a standing committee, approved by Yearly Meeting, with Monthly Meetings appointing representatives for three-year terms. To ensure continuity, this first year, the representatives will stagger the current terms from one to three years. After this time, the process will function like other monthly meeting committee appointments. Representatives committee will not assume the duties of Interim Committee, but will continue to meet its current responsibilities, just doing more of them outside of YM in session. Some

of this work may be done electronically or with technology; some of the work may be done face to face. Part of the work will be to continue working with ideas generated from possibilities committee.

The representatives propose that the following appointments be continued in this new committee structure:

2019	2020	2021
Carole Winkleblack IC	Sarah Andrews IC	Shirley Scritchfield PV
Rebecca Bergus WB	Deb Fisch P	Cindy Winchell DMVF
Lynne Howard, DMVF	Dan Schlitt L	Ruth Hampton W
TBD Penn Valley	Robert Ramaley O	Bill Deutsch D
TBD Ames	Penny Majors WB*	Doyle Wilson P
TBD Decorah	Stan Sanders BC	Jean Eden L
TBD Whittier	Deb Fink A	Sonja Sponheim BC

Carol Gilbert

*Clerk

We express appreciation for the work of our clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, assistant treasurer and recorder. We suggest the following appointments for the following year:

Clerk:	Deborah Dakin
Assistant Clerk:	Carol Gilbert
Treasurer:	Rebecca Bergus
Asst. Treasurer:	Shirley Scritchfield
Recorder:	Tim Shipe

We suggest that Yearly meeting be held from 7/23-7/28, 2019, at Scattergood School and Farm, near West Branch Iowa.

On behalf of the Representatives,
Bill Deutsch, Clerk

**Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative
Budget FY 2018-2019**

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
Nation Religious Campaign Against Torture	\$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	\$62,800.00

Delegate Expenses

FCNL	\$1,200.00
Friends Peace Teams	\$600.00
FWCC - General	\$1,200.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$1,200.00
Conservative Yearly Meeting Visitation	\$1,200.00
Total Delegate Expenses	\$5,400.00

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
Friends Travel & Conference	\$3,000.00
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	\$1,000.00
Junior Yearly Meeting	\$1,500.00
Pendle Hill Scholarship Match	\$400.00
Publication Committee	\$3,500.00
Website Committee	\$450.00
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship	\$500.00
Special Needs Committee	\$750.00
Young Adult Friends	\$300.00
Young Friends	\$1,500.00
Midyear Planning Committee if receipts inadequate	\$500.00
Contingency Fund	\$1,000.00
Transfer to Reserve Fund	\$1,000.00
Total Yearly Meeting Expenses	\$16,400.00

Total Budget **\$84,600.00**

Funding Sources

Monthly Meeting Apportionments	\$72,300.00
Cash on Hand	\$12,300.00

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report part 2:

Alternatives to Violence Project (split evenly between Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota)	\$150.00
AFSC Midwest Region (for immigration)	\$100.00
Frontera de Cristo (for Migrant Resource Center)	\$50.00
Friends Peace Teams (for Peacemaking en las Americas)	\$100.00
Nebraskans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty	\$50.00
Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty	\$50.00
Iowans Against the Death Penalty	\$50.00
Friends for a Nonviolent World	\$100.00
Monteverde Friends School	\$100.00
Quaker House near Fort Bragg, NC	\$50.00
STAR PAC	\$50.00
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom	\$50.00
Indigenous Iowa	\$50.00
Bold Iowa	\$50.00
Casa Pueblo (Puerto Rico solar power)	\$100.00
Total:	\$1,100.00

The yearly meeting approved the following minute proposed by our Peace and Social Concerns Committee:

Family Separation at the Southern Border

At the root of our faith is the sacredness of relationships among ourselves and between us and God. We have been heartbroken to see those sacred connections broken as children are separated from those who love them. We are so thankful for the efforts of those who are working toward the goal of reuniting every child with their family.

We would like our Congressional representatives to create and pass legislation to prevent such separations from ever occurring again. We affirm the right of anyone to seek asylum.

We believe a change in policy that does not recognize fear of gang violence, domestic abuse or rape as credible fear should be rescinded. We urge that mental health services be provided to traumatized children and their families.

Efforts by both our government and non-governmental organizations to help improve conditions in those countries people are fleeing from is a crucial part of addressing asylum. We recognize that historical and ongoing U.S. foreign policies have contributed to the violence in those countries.

Underlying all this should be reclaiming the moral narrative for our public policies. Too much of what the current administration has done, and continues to do, is related to stigmatizing those who are seen as ‘others.’ Rather, we believe in embracing diversity.

We approved the yearly meeting changes proposed in the 2018 Representatives Report. We are grateful to have such a clear report, and it makes visible the tremendous amount of work this committee has done on our behalf. We thank them.

We need and appreciate the care of our Ministry and Counsel Committee to help support and guide our spiritual life. We thank them for this work

IYM(C) Ministry & Counsel Report 2018

The Ministry and Counsel Committee of IYM(C) met daily, Third through Seventh Days, with representatives from nine monthly meetings present. We appreciate the opportunity to share with each other and feel a loss of both fellowship and input when we do not have representatives from all our monthly meetings present at our meetings.

We listened with care to the State of the Meeting reports. We are moved by the generosity of meetings who have given from their coffers to aid immigrants and the unhoused. Many of our meetings are still small, aging, and have no children; yet they are strong and vital. We are reminded not to judge meetings by their size, rather by the selfless sharing of talents. Our small meetings are joyfully and defiantly living “when 2 or 3 are gathered, I am with you.” We also heard about the vibrant energy of youthful attenders in several meetings. We hear that love overrides the sadness and frustrations we may experience. We return these reports to the Yearly Meeting clerk with the recommendation that, time permitting, they be read during these annual sessions, so that all may share the hope and joy they reflect.

We received Deborah Fisch's report of her work in the ministry and recommend that her travel minute be continued for another year. We support her leading to travel to all the meetings in IYM(C) and ask Friends to welcome her.

We affirm that we are available to advise the Website Committee on the newcomers' section of the website, and any other sections. Other committees may also ask for our support.

Our Ad-hoc Committee on Child Safety Practices has drafted a document: Guidelines for the Protection of Children at Yearly Meeting Sessions and Functions. These guidelines were developed over the course of several years and under the continued guidance of the Living Spirit as revealed to those who have taken up this work. The process involved listening to State of Meeting reports; work at an M&C retreat; attending to a meeting as it struggled and developed its own safety practices; and a panel presentation at the 2016 annual sessions. It is a document of guidelines and practices intended to help adults care for children at yearly meeting functions. It includes a brief description of Quaker beliefs regarding non-violence; a statement expressing our unity of purpose; a set of queries; the history of our work; basic program expectations at annual and mid-year sessions; expectations for leaders; steps to protect children's physical safety; and descriptions of social factors with affirmations to help us understand child sexual abuse. At the end of the document is a list of resources which can be used by monthly meetings or individuals who would like to learn more about this concern.

This document has been shared with the committees which serve our children and youth. We will share it with our monthly meetings and hope to receive feedback.

Words like "light" "enthusiasm" "heart" are some of the words in these reports that were a pleasure to hear. These reports help us to know each other, and the process of writing them also helps us to know ourselves.

2018 STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT - AMES FRIENDS MEETING, 2018

The Ames Friends Meeting has had a fulfilling, active year. Membership has been generally steady, with 10-15 typically attending worship service at the meeting house, and others in the community participating through

member visits but unable to attend due to health challenges.

While attendance hasn't noticeably increased, the Meeting has seen increased commitment and energy, leading to reactivation of several committees, more interactions with visitors and guests, and discussions on a number of important topics. The topic that has been most discussed in the Meeting in the last year is sanctuary: what role might the Meeting play in offering sanctuary to immigrant families or individuals in our community, who may face extreme hardship due to new immigration laws? We were also moved by our meeting with two DACA students - students who are pillars for their families, while also working and attending to their schooling. The Meeting was also happy to have been able to sponsor a student to attend the 2018 Spring Lobby Weekend, and to be able to meet with that student several times.

In the last two years, the Meeting has settled on a rotating schedule of worship in either a full-hour silent worship format, or 45 minute worship followed by discussion or activity (Quaker conversation, potluck, or business meeting).

The Ames group has also been holding a twice a month gathering for those interested in the Quaker "Experiment with Light" practice. This structured, focusing meditative practice was first described in England in the seventeenth century, and has been revived in the last twenty years and adopted as a practice by many Quaker meetings. This is an open group, and has attracted people from the local community to join and experience a Quaker meditative process.

Considering joys and concerns in the meeting in the last year: a joy has been that we have been able to engage more with other groups in the community that share the meeting's interest in social justice and peace. This has been an opportunity for outreach, discussion, and combined efforts. A concern has been that the meeting remains relatively small, with an older membership. We would like to be able to share the benefits of the meeting with more people. We were saddened by the loss of long-time member to cancer in early March, 2018, but were grateful to see the grace and courage with which she lived, and were grateful that she was willing to share with us as she lived this important period of life.

We remain fortunate to have a lovely, quiet worship space, in a residential neighborhood in south Ames. Members pitched in last summer to repaint

the building, and volunteer effort continues to keep the grounds attractive.

We continue to be actively engaged in support to the broader Quaker community. At a local community level, our Meeting is an official member of interfaith and social justice groups and provides funding and participates in diverse worthy community efforts.

Bear Creek Meeting- State of the Meeting 2018

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting has sojourned the valleys of loss and grief with the passing of a dear long-time member, a member's wife, and other close Yearly Meeting Friends, and family. Yet, we still celebrate the circle of life as we welcome new attenders, grandchildren, and new, hopeful relationships into our covenant community.

Our Meeting for Worship took on an enhanced intimacy when a spontaneous innovative rearrangement of our benches created a circle of worship that echoed, to some, the importance of the sacred circle to Indigenous spirituality.

We continue to cherish the devoted input from distant members to our query discussions, and extended relationships have developed with various Care committees. We are grateful for our ties with Laughing Waters Friends Preparative Meeting as we seek Divine guidance, and grow to know each other more deeply.

We have always had tributaries of concerns that our meeting carries. This year the flow of those concerns has increased, and we seek to remain faithful to that which God may require of us.

The Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is well attended and our small group is strong through the selfless sharing of talents. We have raised the possibility that our Meeting may seem too casual, although we accomplish much in a timely matter. The Meeting is also exploring the possibilities of options to help our clerk in the business of the community. When we discern how our Bear Creek community is faithful to what God has called us to do, we reflect on our simple worship, the opportunity for hospitality at Midyear Meeting and monthly meeting and potluck, we come to an awareness that our focus becomes less about what the meeting means to individual members, and more about how our faithful journeys enhance the Spirit of the meeting.

Decorah Friends Meeting
State of the Meeting Report
2018

“All shall be well again” is a refrain from a song frequently song by Decorah Friends Meeting in a weekly half hour time that precedes pre-Meeting adult discussion. It is a message that bolsters our concerns for the well-being of our world, of each other, and it helps us remember to remain grounded in Divine time.

Our spiritual life remains centered in weekly unprogrammed worship, with between 2 and 20 people attending, though most often, 6-12 people are present. At times, there are messages that “bubble up” during quiet worship. We share concerns, sorrows and joys at rise of each Meeting, every week. We have faithful participation in the business affairs of the Meeting.

Our spiritual life is also centered around our dining room table, where we frequently break bread together. Often it is around this table that we grapple with issues that have included how to heal relationships with Friends who left our fellowship due to strongly felt differences, and decisions on how to care for our Meetinghouse. The dining room table was the site for a paper crane folding event in which two police officers in full uniform (including weapons), were “disarmed” while learning the story of Sadako, and while learning to fold paper cranes for their children. It felt like a moment of grace.

We focus our attention on care for each other, as health issues mostly related to our age, require more time and attention. We focus our attention also on maintenance and care of the Meetinghouse, so that it continues to be a resource for community use. The Meetinghouse is used five days/week by an alcoholics anonymous group, it is used weekly by a local community supported agriculture group, and by local musicians as needed as rehearsal space. We focus our attention on the outside world, as we are engaged as individuals (with Meeting support), on efforts to eliminate gun violence, to feed the hungry, to provide medical care to those who need it, and to support just and compassionate immigration policies.

One sadness is that we do not have children attending Meeting, and that we do not have more young adults who participate in Meeting. We continue to sit with this, and know that, for now, this is where we are.

One area of change for Decorah Friends Meeting has been in learning about LGBTQIA+ issues, and in particular, learning to use pronouns that are not hurtful. We hosted a gathering for the larger community on this, and we continue to learn and practice this language that allows us to honor that of God in trans and non-binary friends. In all of these efforts, we wish to know and practice better ways of serving and connecting.

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting State of the Meeting Report 2018

Our meeting has endured many losses over the course of the year now finishing. We mourned the deaths of elders who helped found or who grounded our meeting. We reluctantly said goodbye to younger attenders whose time with us came to an end as life drew them elsewhere. These changes challenged us to find comfort in our memories, the strength of our resilience and in our mutual care for one another. Memorial gatherings for both young and old brought us together in grief, hope and appreciation for beloved Friends whose lives epitomized integrity and service.

We invited Friends from Bear Creek meeting, Ames meeting and from the Indianola worship group to join us for Thanksgiving dinner. Recognizing that these loving bonds are essential is a foundation of our spiritual life. The Day of Remembrance was an occasion to celebrate the lives that have enriched us and whose passing we mourn. We renewed our tradition of “Friendly Eights” which brought us together to share fellowship and a meal in the homes of meeting members and attenders. As in the past, this practice deepened our connections to one another.

Des Moines Valley Friends continued our engagement with the interdenominational Iowa Sanctuary Movement, which is led by the regional office of the American Friends Service Committee. Through the increasing pressure on our immigrant and refugee neighbors we stood with them, including sometimes accompanying them to scheduled meetings with Immigration and Customs Enforcement at the Federal Building in Des Moines. Standing on the side of love instead of fear, we hope that our support of these communities under siege helped them to feel safer. As part of this work we continued our support of Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON), which provides legal assistance for immigrants and refugees.

We responded to a request for a support committee from Friends who lead Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshops in central Iowa

prisons. This committee is now meeting regularly to offer Spiritual grounding for the work of AVP. As way opens, the committee may also assist in discernment regarding how to organize community-based AVP workshops. Des Moines Valley Friends also continued our support of Planned Parenthood of the Heartland at a time when they are burdened by diminishing resources and legal restrictions on their good work.

The work of matching the gifts of the individuals within our community with the positions on our committees and other important roles is becoming more difficult. Although we are blessed with a relatively robust community in terms of numbers not all of us are able to serve in these ways. We continue to seek the way forward so that pastoral care, care of our building and service to the larger community may all continue and thrive. During the course of the year we found occasion to reflect upon the meaning of membership in our meeting. The yearly meeting's Faith and Practice provided much needed guidance and understanding in this area and we are grateful to be part of the larger body.

How best we might nurture and encourage the gifts of ministry within our meeting was another focus, as we sought how to bring forth these sacred gifts so that all among us can become ministers of God and can share that ministry when we are gathered for worship as well as in our Spirit-led work in the world. We supported a Friend who represented the yearly meeting with Quaker Earthcare Witness and who represented regional Friends as a member-at-large of the corporation of the American Friends Service Committee. Through our Education and Enrichment Fund we supported one member who was led to participate in a Pendle Hill conference called "Truth and Healing: Quakers Seeking Right Relationship with Indigenous Peoples." We supported a Friend whose calling to ministry led her to create a series of Spiritual retreats working in concert with another Friend. We celebrated the commitment of one Friend who now works with the Catholic Peace Ministry as part of her Quaker work in service to the Peace Testimony.

As we begin another year as a Quaker faith community, we are mindful that it is up to each of us to discern what individual gifts we have which we can bring to our meeting. We seek how each person can help sustain and nurture this beloved community which, together with God, we truly co-create anew each year, each day and in each precious moment. We are grateful for the love that we know is always with us as we send loving encouragement to all Friends within Iowa yearly meeting.

Iowa City Meeting - State of the Meeting, 2017-18

Iowa City Meeting continues to be remarkably stable despite the fluctuation of members and attenders who come into our community for a time and then move on to jobs and lives and meetings elsewhere. We feel enriched and energized by these interactions and welcome those who seek with us a spiritual home where the sense of caring for each other encompasses everyone and where people feel comfortable enough to speak. The sharing of personal concerns as well as spiritual musings strengthens our community. We welcome several Friends who worship frequently with us from neighboring meetings as they begin to make their homes in Iowa City and several who drive some distance to worship with us.

This year one of the concerns that brought about extensive discussion was an examination of non-violent means of responding to attacks on people throughout the world, and frequently in communities much like ours. In defining ourselves as Quakers and pacifists, how should we respond to senseless acts of violence? What does “bystander intervention” mean? How can we prepare ourselves to intervene when caught in situations where violence is imminent? Though we have not developed a set of answers, the discussion will continue, both formally and in our shared experiential messages.

We feel that our location in the city, despite lack of parking, remains an attraction to both visitors and temporary residents. Anticipating that our house is getting old and may require major work in the near future, we are exploring the establishment of an escrow account to ease the financial burden of an emergency.

In preparation for Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) this year, we seek ways to encourage better participation from our meeting. On hearing the Scattergood Initiatives and discussing the Possibilities Committee Recommendations, we feel that there is more interest and sense of responsibility to get involved through committees and the opportunities to interact with many folks who share a spiritual bond.

Laughing Waters Friends Preparative Meeting State of the Meeting 2018

Laughing Waters Friends Preparative Meeting has experienced a sense of deepening worship this year as we have continued to heal from past struggles. Our ground has lain fallow, and we sense its richness returning. There have been losses from this time of laying fallow. Individual ministries have continued to grow with little corporate nurture. We have not been able corporately to nurture our children's spiritual growth.

For several years, we had been closed to newcomers. While we have been technically open since 2016, this year has brought a true feeling of openness and of returning fellowship, with affirmation and inspiration from newcomers. We have shared intervisitation with the Carleton Quakers, Quaker Voluntary Service, and Radical Quakers. We continue to value the grounding relationship we have with Bear Creek Friends Meeting. We feel the movement of the Spirit in these relationships.

There is sense of Way opening, but uncertainty as to what is next. After over a year without formal structures, we have a Clerks Team and a Ministry and Counsel. We are seeking to affirm and nurture individual ministries. We struggle with insecurity and impatience, yet also feel hope. We wish to stay low and listen to the Spirit as we see what rises out of the fallow ground.

State of the Meeting Report Lincoln Friends Meeting June 17, 2018

Strong and vibrant are words that could be used to describe the state of Lincoln Friends Meeting at this time. People coming regularly to Meeting have broadened and revitalized us. Members have felt a sense of sincerity, thoughtfulness, humility, and empathy, reflected both in the actions of individuals and the Meeting as a whole. The attendance of a group of residents from the local Corrections Center has added to our Meeting. Our Meeting gets strength from the faithful and quiet work done behind the scenes by the Clerk and by those who produce our newsletter, take care of the Meetinghouse, and manage our finances. The query discussions are an important part of the spirit of our Meeting. How we answer our queries has been inspired by practices in the Yearly Meeting. In this way the Year Meeting has strengthened us.

Our peace and social concern activities, including hosting the Alternatives to Violence Project, added to the vitality of the Meeting over the last year. We are amazed that we can do so much with so few people.

We are thankful that the Meeting has now more stability in its finances, reflecting increased confidence and commitment to the Meeting. We are concerned that we continue to be an aging community, with no children or younger people regularly attending.

State of the Meeting – Omaha Friends Meeting (2018)

We have maintained a stable attendance and sharing of spiritual gifts and discussion following first day worship and by the continued fellowship with the Lincoln meeting and at Midyear Meeting.

We benefit from having a peaceful meeting space for our first day meeting and discussions at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. This space is also easily accessible to visitors.

Our meeting has been blessed this winter by the attendance of a visiting friend from the Fort Morgan Kentucky (Cincinnati Ohio) area. We have also been appreciative of the regular (monthly) written comments and helpful insights of one of our members, who is now residing in Billings Montana.

Paullina State of the Meeting 2018

We are continually enriched by our weekly meetings for worship with our small community of members and attenders. We are grateful for our friends and families who have visited us throughout the year, especially the large family reunions. We were visited by a man from Norway named Geir Veland. He was searching for the relatives of his great-great-grandfather who emigrated to the United States and settled in Iowa in 1869. He was most interested in researching the Thompson's, Tjossem's, Wilson's and Crosbie's. His visit was very interesting and entertaining! Our children particularly enjoy the Sunday school program every fourth Sunday. They placed a peace pole near the Meetinghouse with the words "May Peace Prevail on Earth" inscribed in 4 languages: English, Spanish, Lakota, and Arabic. Our monthly adult discussions led by our members or guests give us the opportunity to reflect how we navigate this world as Friends. The monthly queries enable us to discuss how we as individuals and as a meeting can further our quest for a peaceful and compassionate

community and world. Out of these discussions we decided to donate to the Mt Pleasant Presbyterian church to help immigrant families in their community who were impacted by ICE raids. We are thankful for our community and look forward to another joyful year with family and friends. We share our love with all.

Penn Valley State of the Meeting

We at Penn Valley Friends Meeting send greetings, as well as thanks for the generosity of Friends within our own meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting and Friends from afar who felt led to assist us financially work was done to renovate the office vacated by American Friends Service Committee. The floor was refinished, walls repaired and curtains hung. We were excited to welcome Council on American and Islamic Relations - Kansas Chapter as tenants, we look forward to sharing our home as a way of supporting their work furthering justice and equality in our community. The writing in the February issue of Friends Journal asking the question “Can Quakerism Survive” awakened a stirring among our group. We began the process of worshiping with attention to visioning, seeking out how to be a thriving, vibrant group. After the first series of meetings, our sense was that we were being called to heal the relationships within our meeting and pursue better ways to resolve conflict. It has been a challenge for us to examine and begin the process of seeking reconciliation, sometimes for pain that has festered for years. As we continue in this process, we will focus on ways to grow spiritually, to reeducate ourselves as to what Quakerism is, and to seek ways our meeting can take united action together.

The political and social turmoil is leaving a deep impact on our meeting daily. We feel challenged by the message Friends Committee on National Legislation has displayed of “Love Thy Neighbor No Exceptions” we feel hurt and, often, helpless to leave an impact as a small meeting. We have empowered small works that are leaving an immediate impact on our community. We developed an ad hoc committee to reach out to the needy and unhoused in our community, leaving small gift cards to accessible eating locations. These small tokens have allowed the people who receive them a reprieve from the weather, access to clean hygiene facilities and fresh drinking water. Those who have been handing out the gift cards share the stories they hear and it has been a joyous mark in what feels like incredibly bleak times.

State of Society Report
Sioux Falls Area Friends Worship Group

Under the care of Paullina Monthly Meeting, June 2018

As we sit in worship reflecting on how the Spirit of Truth fares in our small worship group, we feel our hearts opening to one another and the Spirit. We find joy as we meet in the silence and open to the vocal and silent ministry among us. Our community is also enriched by our discussions after worship and during lunch which we regularly share together after meeting for worship.

Issac Bashev Singer writes, *“Surely if there is such a thing as truth it is as infinite and varied as a crown of feathers.”*

Our experience of Truth is like this crown of feathers or an intricate braid of many strands. We find Truth in the writing and experience of Friends across the centuries, in our Christian heritage and in other faith traditions as well. Truth reveals itself in nature as we take time to be present and observe the creation in all its fullness. It is also revealed in our many relationships and experiences in the workplace, in our work in the prison with the Alternatives to Violence Project, in our advocacy work with FCNL and the Quaker Religious Education Cooperative and with the humane society caring for our animal friends.

As we reflected on the state of our society we were reminded of the words of the prophet Micah.

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah: 6:8 (NRSV) And to quote former President Jimmy Carter we might also say, “Oh we try!”

As we try to be a bridge over the many divides in our society we also heed the words of Jesus in the great commandment.

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”*³⁸ *This is the greatest and first commandment.*³⁹ *And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’*⁴⁰ *On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”*

Matthew 22:36-40 (NRSV)

All our work to be in beloved community will be but a noisy gong or clanging symbol if we act out of anger, hang on to our grudges and fail to act with patience, generosity, kindness and forgiveness.

As a small group, we do know what the coming year will bring, but we trust that way will open in ways that continue to nurture the Spirit of love and community in our lives.

West Branch Meeting State of the Meeting 2018

This year we welcomed a number of visiting Friends and new attenders, and as we settled into worship on First Days, our meeting house often seemed more full. Our attendance at Meeting for Worship has also been bolstered by some staff members from Scattergood who attend fairly regularly. In addition we have sometimes been joined by a group of Scattergood students who typically walk from the school and worship with us. We benefit from the presence of these Scattergood community members and the messages they share with us.

As a meeting we try to attend to our spiritual growth. Most months we consider the Advices and Queries and find wrestling with these questions to be helpful. Our monthly pre-meeting adult education series enhances our spirituality and our pursuit of Truth. This past year we considered our mystical experiences as a central practice among Friends. We discussed what it means to seek “God within” and share revelations through vocal ministry. We also returned to our history and read about Benjamin Lay, an early Friend who recognized the evil of slavery long before many of his peers in his monthly and yearly meetings and dramatically tried to get others to see slavery through his eyes.

Our meeting has become increasingly concerned about immigration issues and the suffering our government is inflicting on immigrant families. The meeting was able to unite in strong moral and financial support for the Eastern Iowa Community Bond Project in hope that undocumented immigrants can access due process within the justice system. We feel that the process of coming together on this issue was a valuable unifying experience for the meeting.

Our social events such as potlucks, pancake breakfast, pre-Christmas sharing and New Year’s Eve gathering bring us together and help connect us on a broader level. We continue to stay in contact with non-attending Friends who are either nearby or far away, and we often receive notes from these members who appreciate their continued connection with the meeting. We are grateful that our monthly meeting is important to these

individuals and hope that occasions will arise for many of them be with us in person.

Whittier State of the Meeting 2018

This year the state of the Whittier Friends Meeting is one of change, growth and learning to understand how the Spirit leads and connects us. Many of our members/attenders are experiencing health issues, demands of employment, care of aging parents, sensitivity to mold, and commitments which prevent attendance. Our fragmented community is being bound together as love leads us to stay in touch, to communicate our love and concern and to let those absent know they are missed and valued. At the conclusion of worship, we share what news we have concerning those absent and share their joy or discuss their needs. Often the Spirit guides someone to make a contact to follow up.

While we have nearly 40 members (many of whom live out of state), 2 to 7 people are physically present for worship. In the past year vocal ministry has frequently challenged us to take comfort and find security in love, to explore love, to be shaped by love, and to seek a deepening expression of love.

We are convinced that we should not let our small numbers cause us to fear the survival of our community. Rather, we are beginning to understand that walking in the Spirit brings life, light, truth, love and vitality. These are the building blocks of community we hope for. We are grateful for the strong foundation older Friends have laid for us, and we feel called to build on it, for the present and future of Whittier Meeting. We may ask the assistance of Ministry and Counsel committee of the yearly meeting in this process.

We enjoy fellowship with one another at frequent potlucks. Tree-planting was an opportunity to work with each other and community members, and it was a strengthening experience.

As we face life's challenges we ask: "What does love require of us?" Together we support each other in implementing the guidance and light we are given.

We thank the Nominating Committee for doing this important job for us.

2018 NOMINATING REPORT

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Archives Committee

2019	2020	2021
Jeff Cox	Lucy Hansen	Daniel Treadway*
Jeff Kisling	Tim Shipe	Shel Stromquist

Book Table Committee

2019	2020	2021
Mikel Johnson	Sarah Andrews	Megan McCormick*
Judy Plank		

Document Committee

2019
Bear Creek

Entertainment Committee

2019	2020	2021
Paullina	Ames	Decorah
Omaha	Des Moines Valley	Iowa City
Lincoln	Penn Valley	West Branch
Laughing Waters	Whittier	

Interim Committee (appointed by monthly meetings)

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

2019	2020	2021
Marge Schlitt (L)	Lynda Fife (O)	A.M. Fink (A)
Bill Deutsch (Dec)	Nancy Osborne Johnsen (B)	Richard Johnson (B)
Deborah Fisch (PL)	Gordon Bivens (A)	Alice Hampton (W)
Cindy Winchell (DMV)	Andy Juhl (PL)	Bob Winkleblack (I)
Catherine Dorenbach (L)	Ginny Winsor (O)	George Bergus (WB)

Junior Yearly Meeting (for Yearly Meeting)

2019	2020	2021
Jean Sandstrom	Sonja Sponheim*	Deborah Fink
Elizabeth O’Sullivan		

Young Friends Planning Committee

2019	2020	2021
Joseph Sorenson	Bill Deutsch*	Thomas Greenler

Junior Yearly Meeting/Young Friends (Midyear)

2019	2020	2021
Ann Robinson	Mikel Johnson	Carol Gilbert
Cindy Winchell *	Jean Sandstrom	

Midyear Planning Committee

2019	2020	2021
A.M. Fink*	Osa Bricker	Ruth Dawson
Cindy Winchell	Jenny Cesar	Liz Oppenheimer
Jackie Lekband		

Ministry and Counsel Committee (appointed by monthly meetings)

2019	2020	2021
Ebby Luvaga	Carol Gilbert	Catherine Dorenbach
Alice Hampton	Alberta Kislang	Liz Oppenheimer
Sarah Andrews	Martha Davis	Megan McCormick
Ann Robinson	Ann Stromquist	Peter Clay
Sharon Eiker	Lorene Ludy*	Deborah Fisch
Liz Voss		

Nominating Committee (appointed by monthly meetings)

A.M. Fink (A)		
Jackie Leckband (BC)		
Bill Deutsch (Dec)*	Peace and Social Concerns	
Cindy Winchell (DMV)	2019	202
Carol Winkleblack (I)	0	2021
Jean Eden (L)	Jeff Kisling*	Nancy
Carol Gilbert (O)	Jordan	Jim Bruener
Doyle Wilson (PL)	Judy Plank	Ann
Shirley Scritchfield (PV)	Stromquist	Quinn
Judy Cottingham (WB)	Dilkes	
Whittier to be appointed	Winifred Standing	Frank
	Griffith	Robert Yeats

Kathleen Hall
Stan Sanders
Chris Kelly

Christine Ashley
Jack Holveck
Rachel McNair

Patty Wengert
Bridget Durst

Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee

2019
Jean Eden*
Callie Marsh

2020
Ruth Dawson

2021
Shirley Scritchfield

Publications Committee

2019
Ginny Winsor
Ann Stromquist

2020
Jackie Leckband
Lollie Ockerstrom

2021
Martha Davis*
Carole Winkleblack

Website/Computer Committee

2019
John Andrews*
Nat Case

2020
Sarah Andrews
Cheryl Sutton

2021
Katie Jacoby
Marshall Massey

Religious Education Committee

2019
Marshall Massey
Sonja Sponheim

2020
Jan Powell

2021
Bill Deutsch*

Scattergood Friends School Committee

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

2019
Kent Tjossem
Roy Helm
Robert Winchell
Russ Leckband
Ann Robinson

2020
Rebecca Bergus
Dan Schlitt
Karen Greenler
Tom Wahl
Charlie Johnson

2021
Ginny Winsor
Bob Winkleblack
Ruth Hampton*
Lucy Marsh

Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees

2019
Richard Johnson
Lee Tesdell

2020
Lowell Wilson
Daniel Treadway

2021
Robert Yeats
Larry Marsh

2022
Barb Garlinghouse
Carole Winkleblack*

Special Needs Committee

2019	2020	2021
Harry Olmstead	Bob Yeats*	John Andrews
Deborah Fisch	Robert Winchell	Sara Rutledge

Yearly Meeting Trustees

2019	2020	2021	2022
Bill Deutsch	Jim Cottingham*	Carol Gilbert	Jonathan Fisch
Kathy Dice			

IYM(C) REPRESENTATIVES TO FRIENDS AGENCIES

AFSC Corporation

2019	2020	2021
Robert Yeats*	Andrea Jilovec	Ann Stromquist
Dan Schlitt		

FCNL General Committee

2019	2020	2021
Deborah Fink	Rebecca Bergus	Dan Schlitt
Andy Juhl	Carole Winkleblack	David Hansen
Penny Majors, alt.		

Friends Peace Teams Advisory Board

Jay Robinson

FWCC

2019	2020	2021
Mary Snyder	Nancy Jordan	Thomas Greenler

Iowa Peace Network

Patty Wengert

Bob Ramaley

Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee

Peter Clay*

Marilyn McNabb

William Penn House Consultative Committee

Lolly Ockerstrom

We approved this letter with gratitude.

Special Replies Committee:

Letter to Absent Friends

7/28/2018

Meeting at Scattergood Friends School and Farm, we are sorry that you are unable to be with us. Our 141st yearly meeting session finds us mindful of both our rich history and the deep challenges we face today and tomorrow. We nurture hope.

At our opening plenary, Jeff Kisling shared his photography by showing slides that reveal a piece of his life and his passion for the earth and its people. Slides of diverse individuals protesting in order to lay nonviolent claim to life and health were a material lesson in possibility. Intimate pictures of flowers, leaves, water and ice formed a window into the depths and beauty of our natural world. Grand views of the Rocky Mountains brought home the powerful longevity of rock.

The gift of Jeff's meticulous vision stayed with us as we took up business, embraced each other, walked the prairie and farm, enjoyed delectable farm food, studied Bible passages, sang, and danced. We feel the bodily loss of persons central to the life of the yearly meeting, even as their spirits rest in our midst. Nothing is ever the same as it was or will be.

Our vision of Scattergood has been both close and broad. As the world changes in so many ways, we have been called to articulate our situation bravely and act deliberately. The soul of our yearly meeting circles around the school that together we have built, shaped and loved.

The exuberance of yearly meeting children and youth energizes, sustains and challenges. Junior Yearly Meeting adds its greeting to you. Different ones of them say they miss you and ask you to have a great day.

May we all have great days now and in the coming year as we wind our way through the puzzling labyrinth of life and death. We hold you in Light and Hope.

In love, and on behalf of Iowa yearly Meeting (C),
Deborah Dakin, clerk

We heard our epistles to be sent to Conservative Monthly Meetings as well as to other Yearly Meetings throughout our country and all over the

world, prepared by the Epistle Committee. We thank them for this work.

Epistle to Friends Everywhere

Seventh Month, 28, 2018

To Friends Everywhere,

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

-- John 1:1-5

“When we pause, allow a gap and breathe deeply, we can experience instant refreshment. Suddenly, we slow down, look out and there’s the world.” -- Pema Chodron (Buddhist teacher, author, nun and mother)

We send you warm greetings from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) as we gather at Scattergood Friends School Seventh Month 24-29 for the 141st annual session of our yearly meeting.

This week, we have explored our theme, “Being Centered in an Un-centered World.” We were reminded that God is the constant in our fast-changing world. The love and care of God is at the center of our being and all of Creation. By staying open and responsive to this Light Within, we find the path and hope needed to navigate these changing times.

During our time together, we practiced many ways of staying centered. A slide show of one of our member’s photographs taught us the importance of paying deep attention to the beauty of the natural world and people around us. We gathered for Bible study, reading a selected passage then sharing out of worship as the Spirit moved us. We learned how to stay grounded as we interrupt situations of interpersonal and state violence around us. We also examined ways to avoid or overcome burn-out, and we listened carefully as members shared insights about how to practice discernment. As always, our members’ diverse and sometimes humorous gifts made us laugh and uplifted us during our annual talent show.

As we look toward the future of Scattergood School and Farm, we want to build on our strengths. The school has been such a vital and precious part of who we are as a yearly meeting. Its influence extends across many generations and continents. This year we have been blessed by the gifts of Scattergood students and staff who fed, housed and nurtured us once more. During the week we considered and then approved a proposal from our School Committee to expand the mission of Scattergood School and Farm that included a major financial commitment that we accept on faith.

Considering change is unsettling. Change can bring angst to our hearts as we worry if we have anticipated all of risks we have to face. Change can be exciting as we consider new ways to undertake our work and our mission, and as we are invited to consider which parts of our mission hold the most Life. We struggled as we wondered if we are truly being led by the Light Within or by emotions around fear of loss many of us feel because of our deep connections with Scattergood school.

We are grateful for the development and seasoning of this proposal by the Scattergood School Committee and staff, for our process of discernment and our practice of doing business in meeting for worship as we attempt to be guided by the Inward Light. The path to the future is often uncertain. We ask our friends everywhere to hold our yearly meeting and Scattergood staff in the Light.

Another change we face every year is the loss of beloved, long-time members. Each year, this change touches us in a unique way, because each person brought different gifts to the life of the yearly meeting, and each of them leaves behind a different pattern of grief among us.

Our time together has been blessed by the presence of a small group of young people this year who attended worship daily and also made a video, flew kites, played capture the flag, went swimming, and ate s'mores by the Scattergood pond among other things. Two beloved young adults who grew up in the meeting have been leading all these energetic activities.

As we draw to the end of our yearly session, we send to you the love that we were able to experience together, and we look forward to hearing how the Spirit has been moving among you.

Our sessions next year will be held 7/23-28, 2019 at Scattergood School and Farm near West Branch, Iowa. Please join us!

In love,
Deborah Dakin, clerk
On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

expanded greeting sent to North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

To Friends in North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative),

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

-- John 1:1-5

“When we pause, allow a gap and breathe deeply, we can experience instant refreshment. Suddenly, we slow down, look out and there’s the world.” -- Pema Chodron (Buddhist teacher, author, nun and mother)

We send you warm greetings from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) as we gather at our beloved Scattergood Friends School Seventh Month, 24-29 for the 141st annual session of our yearly meeting. We were blessed by the presence of Susan Lees, the visiting Friend and member of Fayetteville Meeting and hope to welcome more Friends from your yearly meeting at our annual session at Scattergood next year from July 23-28, 2019. Our connections with Friends in North Carolina help us stay more grounded in our faith.

expanded greeting paragraph sent to Ohio Yearly Meeting:

Dear Friends of Ohio Yearly Meeting Conservative,

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all peo-

ple. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

-- John 1:1-5

“When we pause, allow a gap and breathe deeply, we can experience instant refreshment. Suddenly, we slow down, look out and there’s the world.” --Pema Chodron (Buddhist teacher, author, nun and mother)

We send you warm greetings from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) as we gather at our beloved Scattergood Friends School Seventh Month, 24-29 for the 141st annual session of our yearly meeting. We missed the presence of a visitor from Ohio Yearly Meeting Conservative and look forward to welcoming a Friend from your yearly meeting at our annual session next year from July 23-28, 2019.

Closing minute

This year, we gathered for our 141st yearly meeting to explore the theme “Being Centered in an Uncentered World”. (Some of us have already done extensive experimental background research on this topic, specifically on the “uncentered” part of the equation....)

The implied question within this theme is, *How do we remain centered in such times?* and our yearly meeting explored this question together throughout the week.

A prayer arose in our opening worship, asking God to help us enter “as a child, nothing more and nothing less.” Throughout our gathering, the Scattergood students working around us, our Jr Yearly Meeting and Young Friends, tutored us in ways to do just this.

Our evening presentations offered a variety of avenues for centering ourselves:

*stopping to be attentive to the truth and beauty in ALL of God’s creation, human and otherwise,

* moving beyond fear to care for our neighbors when help is needed,

*safeguarding the time to cultivate and nurture relationships that replenish our soul,

*taking the time to use the practices handed down to us from Friends through years past that help move us from acting as individuals to moving as one.

There was much slow, careful work involved in doing our business this year. We labored with our Scattergood School and Farm staff, students, School committee and Trustees as they prepare to move into a new phase. We labored slowly and carefully so that we might not fall into simply rubber stamping their decisions, but to challenge ourselves to faithfully accompany them on their next steps down new roads.

We also labored in similar fashion with challenges brought forward to us by our Peace and Social Concerns Committee, and also with our yearly meeting Epistle to Friends Everywhere, in order to find words that could speak for all of us.

As we explored our question of how to be centered in an uncentered world over this past week, we were reminded of 18th century Friend John Woolman's description of his own process in discerning whether he was following his own (small l) light, or the (capital L) Light of the true Spirit:

“Love was the first motion.”

“Love was the first motion” continues to be a trusted guideline for many Friends up to this day.

And then, still another question arose among us: *What is centered love, and how do we practice it?*

“It is sometimes difficult to remember that love is a gift of the Divine Spirit and not simply a human emotion. As imperfect human beings, it is not always possible for us to feel loving toward one another. but by opening ourselves to the Light Within, we can receive and give beyond our human abilities.” This is the opening of the 4th Advice from our “Faith and Practice; the Discipline of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative.

As we neared the end of our work together, we wrestled with one final question:

We try to act faithfully, but how do we know it's really love?

Then one Friend stood and shared her experience from her very first IYMC business session many years ago:

“We need patience.

We need patience: for when we hit an impasse, patience to stay instead of leaving,

patience when we get bored, patience when we don't understand, patience when we feel angry or lost. We need patience, and patience can help us.

*But when patience runs out, we are beyond patience.
And, when we are beyond patience and we are still here...*

What you see is Love.”

We now conclude our 2018 annual session, planning to meet again, God willing, at Scattergood Friends School and Farm, near West Branch, Iowa, 7th Month 23 to 7th month 28, 2019.

Deborah Dakin, clerk
Carol Gilbert, assistant clerk

Reports Received But Not Read in Annual Sessions AFSC REPORT

Brant Rosen's 2018 Letter to Yearly Meetings in the Midwest

I'm pleased to offer warm greetings to you from the Midwest Region of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). May your Yearly Meeting be a time of renewal and rejuvenation in your community of faith and action.

We are living in dark times, and it's difficult to overstate the many threats to our planet and peoples. And yet, as Leonard Cohen sang, "There is a crack, a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in." As Quakers and as AFSC, we love metaphors about light, and for good reason. Shining light in dark places is often the first step toward transforming hurt into healing, injustice into peace.

Please join me as we take a cursory spin around AFSC's Midwest Region. And please join us in this work by getting (or staying) involved in peace and justice work with AFSC and in your community.

There aren't many darker places in our country than prison cells, especially for people serving very long sentences. AFSC's Criminal Justice Program in Michigan works to connect mentors inside prison with mentors on the outside through our Good Neighbor Project.

With the hand of student interns and many volunteers, we answer dozens of letters each week from prisoners, helping to improve their conditions of confinement and, when possible, prepare them for parole hearings. Many people who have served long sentences are now vital members of our communities, and we're working with them to change the public narrative by sharing their stories.

AFSC's Freedom Schools and Youth Undoing Institutional Racism (YUIR) work in St. Louis and the Twin Cities are working to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline, which negatively impacts youth of color. In St. Louis, staff produced a 30-minute documentary called *Pipedreams*, shown recently at the St. Louis Friends Meetinghouse.

AFSC organizes highly successful peer mediation groups in St. Louis high schools where students work to resolve conflicts among themselves. In St. Paul, AFSC played a key role in supporting the St. Paul teachers' union as they secured funds for restorative justice pilot programs in schools. Through YUIR, youth decide together how best to address institutional racism in their communities.

In Ohio, AFSC is working with African student associations across the state on our "We Dream a World Project," designed to encourage civic engagement and address the xenophobia which African students confront. AFSC played a major role for years in the eventual empanelment of Ohio's New African Immigrants Commission. We continue to lift up the Welcome Dayton initiative as a model for communities across the country which want to grow thanks to the entrepreneurial spirit of new residents. The Trump administration and those politicians who follow its lead have been especially intent on oppressing immigrants across the country. In Iowa, AFSC led the struggle against a new anti-sanctuary cities law which forbids any restriction of local law enforcement cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

While we "lost" in the short-term, the community organizing and leadership development we've done in the immigrant rights community will pay long-term dividends. Meanwhile, our low-cost legal services program and immigration hotline play key roles in supporting immigrants.

In Chicago, AFSC has worked alongside young people as they continue to organize against a proposed \$95 million "cop academy." In a city devastated by school closures and cuts in human services, it's criminal

to spend even more on the police. Young people are charting their own course in this struggle, from holding a “die-in” at city hall to suing the mayor to canvassing neighbors in order to put pressure on alderpeople who’ve been voting against their constituents.

AFSC in Chicago is blessed to have staff who work locally and nationally in support of key AFSC projects. We led a group of Chicago teachers through an eight-week course in confronting and resisting Islamophobia and surveillance in the public schools. Our national “Communities Against Islamophobia” work is offering a number of helpful resources for allies, including Bystander Intervention Trainings. While prospects for justice and human rights in Gaza and the rest of Palestine may appear dim at the oment, we keep building and organizing for change. One key success is the introduction of Rep. Betty McCollum’s bill in the U.S. House, now with 24 co-sponsors. The “Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act” (HR4391) is an historic bill; please contact Congress today to urge its passage. This spring in Indianapolis, AFSC also made history by hosting “Hearing in the Heartland,” a congressional-style hearing featuring expert witnesses who shared seldom-heard stories about Gaza while encouraging changes in US policy.

After the hearing, people gathered for a lively celebration of Palestinian culture, music, poetry and food. Learn more and get involved at www.GazaUnlocked.org.

Our Indiana office exemplifies AFSC’s commitment to intersectionality. Staff, interns and volunteers work on a number of related areas of oppression, from support for undocumented youth to Black Lives Matter. Once again this spring, AFSC organized an “alternative spring break” for Earlham students interested in peace and justice work. Indiana Friends play an important role in volunteering and serving on the Indiana Area Committee.

None of this work would be possible, of course, without your support. Your prayers, voluntarism, local action and donations have driven AFSC since its birth, and we continue to count heavily on Friends for your support and guidance. Learn more about how you and your meeting or church can get involved by visiting afsc.org/friends.

As AFSC enters into a strategic planning process for the next decade, we

invite and need your input. How are you working for social change? How are you connected with AFSC, and/or how would you like to be? What is your meeting or church doing to address institutional racism? Which community leaders or “mavens” would you suggest we consult as we plan AFSC’s future work? Let us know at StratPlan2018@afsc.org.

At the regional level, I’m very pleased to welcome Sharon Goens-Bradley as the new Associate Regional Director. Sharon has served admirably as director of the Twin Cities program for five years. We’re grateful that Shanene Herbert has stepped into Sharon’s former role.

I invite you to stay connected with AFSC’s Midwest Region by subscribing to our monthly e-newsletter, the Midwest Digest (at tinyurl.com/MidwestDigest). And I encourage you to enlighten me directly.

AFSC’s phone in Chicago is 312-427-2533. My e-mail is BRosen@afsc.org, and you can connect with me on Twitter [@RabbiBrant](https://twitter.com/RabbiBrant).

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 15, 2018

Senator Bob Corker
Chair, Senate Committee on Foreign
Relations
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Bob Menendez
Ranking Member, Senate Committee
on Foreign Relations
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Corker and Ranking Member Menendez:

We write as members who care deeply about the lack of congressional oversight and constitutional responsibility over the authorization for the use of military force (AUMF) and our ongoing wars. We understand that your committee has drafted a new authorization and write to express our deep concerns regarding the overly broad legislation. While we firmly believe that a debate and vote on war can and should happen more regularly, we are opposed to this new legislation that would allow all current military operations to continue with no new constraints and no sunset. We are also concerned that this legislation would allow any president to unilaterally expand our wars indefinitely by omitting any sunset date and allowing the president to wage war against new groups or in new countries without congressional authorization. This legislation also further limits Congress's role in war-making by requiring a veto-proof majority to block military action from the president.

We believe that any new AUMF must be specific, tailored, limited, and clear for any situation for which force is being authorized. We hope that your committee will go back to the drawing board and ensure that the following principles are reflected in the legislation:

Sunset clause/reauthorization: The lack of a sunset in the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs resulted in a critical deterioration of Congressional oversight and in perpetual armed conflict for over 16 years, including against groups and in countries and regions where Congress did not intend to authorize force. A sunset clause also forces Congress and the administration to update and reevaluate priorities and the situation on the ground in current armed conflict(s). Therefore, a sunset clause must be included in any new AUMF to ensure congressional debate regarding the need for continued operations and the scope and conduct of any extended or expanded campaign. A sunset ensures that it is Congress and the public who decide when the president is authorized to use force, not the other way around.

Repeals the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs: We know that the nature and the extent of United States involvement in the Middle East has shifted from Afghanistan and Iraq, to places such as Yemen, Syria, and parts of Africa. Therefore, any new AUMF should fully repeal the 2001 and 2002


AUMFs as each has outlived its original purpose and now serve only as blank checks for endless war. By doing so, the new AUMF will ensure that this and future administrations do not continue to rely on old authorizations that could be interpreted beyond their original purpose.

Mission-specific: To rein in executive power and to prevent any overstepping of Congress' intent, any new AUMF should be limited to the current threats necessitating a military response and should be as specific as possible about the objectives, the entity against which force is being authorized, and geographic limits. Congress must clearly define the enemy and any use of "associated forces" in the legislation must include a definition of that term that is narrowly tailored to groups that force may be used against under the law of armed conflict.

Transparency and accountability: The United States' military engagements since the passage of the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs lack sufficient Congressional oversight regarding the United States' use of force. Understanding of the scope, progress, and costs of these military operations has unfortunately been left to the Executive Branch. Accordingly, any new AUMF should ensure that the President is updating Congress regularly and that he or she must come to Congress and seek authorization to expand the AUMF to new groups or new geographic locations (including the factual and legal basis for such expansions). Additionally, the new AUMF should require regular reporting describing the progress toward the mission's objectives and provide detailed information about civilian and military casualties on all sides. The President should also make clear to Congress and the public any legal analyses regarding uses of force.

We firmly believe that any future AUMF should take into account the lessons learned from previous AUMFs that were overly broad, vague, and lacked sufficient oversight and transparency requirements. It is critically important that Members of the Congress not only authorize the use of force because it is our constitutional responsibility, but also that we are regularly updated from the Executive Branch in matters of war and peace. It is up to Congress to make the hard decisions about when to send our brave service members to war and we have failed to fulfill that constitutional responsibility. We hope that these principles will help guide your committee in drafting a new authorization that is clear, specific, and narrow.

Sincerely,



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Justin Amash
Member of Congress

2018 FCNL Representatives Report

The General Committee of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) held our annual meeting in Washington, DC on November 5-7, 2017. Appointed IYMC representatives, Dan Schlitt, Deborah Fink, Rebecca Bergus, and Carole Winkleblack, as well as other IYMC members and friends, attended the sessions.

We began with two days of lobbying Congress. We met with our Senators and Representatives or their staff in their offices, asking them to support a Federal budget more in line with our faith – no cuts to human services and no increases for military build-up. We were challenged in a plenary by Sister Simone Campbell to confront economic injustice. You can hear all the talks on soundcloud by following the links on fcnl.org (<https://www.fcnl.org/updates/learn-lobby-lead-report-on-annual-meeting-2017-1107>). We were reminded that peace building is not a sprint, but a long, slow process that requires persistence.

FCNL continues to expand our network of Advocacy Teams. These grassroots groups meet monthly in communities around the nation. Each month FCNL has someone to speak about the issue and individuals tell stories about their successes. This year's issue is peace building on the Korean Peninsula.

The Quaker Welcome Center opened in October 2017. The Welcome Center provides a place for Friends to visit when in Washington, DC. Here you can find a quiet place to gather, find out about current issues and how to visit with your representatives on Capitol Hill. The Welcome Center also provides a neutral place for opposing groups to meet and calmly discuss differences and seek common ground.

In 1943 a group meeting at Earlham College founded FCNL. To celebrate this 75 year anniversary FCNL gathered people together in May in Richmond, IN on the Earlham College campus to hear about FCNL's history and participate in workshops. It was good to see the Washington folks west of the Appalachian Mountains.

The 2018 Annual meeting will be held November 28 – December 2 at the Washington Court Hotel, in Washington, DC. The theme will be “prophetic, persistent, and powerful Quaker advocacy”.

FCNL is grateful for the support of our Yearly Meeting, Monthly Meet-

ings, and individuals both financially and for the time spent serving on committees and grass roots advocacy.

Rebecca Way Bergus, on behalf of IYMC FCNL Representatives
July 2018

Exercise Committee Report Iowa YM (C), 2018

Let us be open to the joy, the beauty, of being present, and of letting our presence be felt.

It is good to be connected.

Help us come into your presence simply as your child. Nothing more. Nothing less. Ready to listen.

I was attending a yearly meeting over Easter weekend. Friends were going to gather for worship and singing as the sun came up. I noticed the chairs in the field were facing a direction different from where I'd seen the sun rise the day before.

On Easter morning, the birds started singing, the cattle started moving around, and the sun came up to the side of us. We laughed at our mistake. Musing about that, what deepens for me is the Friends had an intention to celebrate Easter by watching the sun come up. Despite the mistake, there was enough sunlight for us to see. There was enough light to figure out what we had done wrong. As we discern direction in our business meeting, may we have the intention to move. May Christ's light continue to guide as we do business. May we look at what God is calling us to do, having faith that if it's the wrong decision, God will send us Light. That way we can be a living meeting, living in the light of God's love.

It doesn't matter if we are facing the wrong way; what matters is that we make the effort, and then the Light will turn us around.

This morning, the sounds of the interstate have broken into my worship. I'm reminded of Agnes, my favorite cartoon character, a little girl who lived with her grandmother. She was searching for meaning and where she fit into the world. She was talking with her best friend, Trout, about something important that had been laid on her heart.

“Grandma said to listen to the still, small voice.”

“Did you hear the voice?”

“Yes.”

“What did the voice say?”

“I don’t know, a jet flew over.”

How is God speaking to us? In many ways; we cannot always make it out.

We tend to try to hear God’s voice in a way that jets can drown out. We all have our own jets. There are many ways to hear God: in people, in our hearts, in Creation, in Scriptures. The biggest thing is to spend time listening, and have faith we can hear.

We assume our jets will get in the way. They don’t have to. During sessions, let’s ask, “Where is God’s voice in this?” “What is God sharing with us about these concerns?” “What is my responsibility to the yearly meeting?” “Is this what love demands of you?” Is this in keeping with Jesus’ teaching? May I as a Friend and we as a yearly meeting be to faithful to Love. May we undertake projects that speak to that Love, and answer Love. We ask that God will use us to minister to the world in this time of hatred and misunderstanding.

In times of trouble and normalcy, we are biologically built to attend to potential threats. When terrible things happen, we ask, “Why did that happen? To me, or to us?”

When beautiful things happen, we are not programmed to say, “Why did that happen?”

What were the ingredients of this joyful year and the larder that feeds us so well and that has provided such a blossoming of joy?

Like seeds from the past, awaiting a vocation and a return. This speaks to both the reestablishment of Canadian bluegrass and the regeneration of Scattergood.

There was an undercurrent of anxiety, but anticipation of joy. This was the spirit of the school committee decision.

Look for God in the report. It’s easy to see the love; look also for the miraculous in the report and see God’s favor that Way opened for the funds to move forward. See Love in the people putting finances forward. If we can’t see through the eyes of faith, then we can’t be faithful. That the funds came forward for Scattergood is evidence that God values the

work that's being done here.

We are putting our hands on the plow. Actually, our great-grandparents put the hands on the plow. We're stuck with that! This describes our commitment to Scattergood.

Friends Peace Teams Report 2018

*Be Patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations,
wherever you come....*
1656

George Fox,

Friends Peace Teams continue their grassroots peace work around the world, participating in mutual and authentic relationships while sharing tools for waging peace. Simultaneously, they are working to create peaceful and effective structures within their own organization. A non-profit organization governed by a Council of Friends from numerous yearly meetings in the United States and Australia, Friends Peace Teams has primarily supported the work of the three individuals who began each initiative: David Zarembka in the Great Lakes region of Africa, Val Liveoak in Central America, and Nadine Hoover in Indonesia. These individuals have been the guiding force in the development of their respective initiatives. Eliciting commitment and courage from many, the personality and vision of each Coordinator have shaped the work under their care.

Now, the second generation of leaders of Friends Peace Teams takes its place in continuing this vital work. Rwandan Friend David Bucura coordinates the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI); Monica Maher coordinates Peacebuilding en las Americas; and John Michaelis continues to co-coordinate the Asia West Pacific initiative with Nadine Hoover. The second generation of leadership builds on the work of the founding Coordinators and brings a collaborative energy that is exciting to experience. While in many ways Friends Peace Teams is an umbrella sheltering three distinct programs, the organization is becoming more unified. New governance policies continue this unifying and collaborative energy. For instance, each initiative's working group now carries the authority and responsibility for the guidance and supervision of the work of the initiative. Previously, the working groups functioned only as a support to the Coordinator. If an issue arose on which the Coordinator and the Working Group disagreed, which was the case in AGLI, the process for discern-

ment was not clear. Distress ensued for all involved.

Here, briefly, is the work each initiative has been engaged with this year:

The African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) promotes grass roots peace activities in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda. Its current projects are Healing and Rebuilding our Communities workshops; the Friends Women's Association Clinic in Bujumbura, Burundi; Alternatives to Violence Project trainings; the Children's Peace Libraries in Rwanda; elections monitoring; and the Helping Increase Peace Program.

The Asia West Pacific Initiative (AWP) operates in Central Java, North Sumatra, Aceh, and Papua in Indonesia; Manila, Tagbilaran City, Cebu and Davao City in the Philippines; Seoul, Daejeon and Jeju Island in Korea; and Kathmandu, Pokhara, Surkhet and Timura in Nepal. This year, among other projects, the initiative worked with landless and land-poor in Nepal, providing flood relief, training in transformative mediation, and training on how issues of peace and armed conflict often mask hidden land agendas.

Peacebuilding en las Americas (PLA) has over ten active peace-building and trauma healing programs in Colombia, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. Recent work includes empowerment workshops for women in Afro-Indigenous and Indigenous communities defending their land rights against illegal development in Honduras; workshops that provide rehabilitation for former gang members and prisoners in Honduran prisons; and workshops with victims of violence as well as demobilized guerrilla and paramilitary fighters.

As I complete my third year as our yearly meeting representative to the Friends Peace Team Council, I feel thankful for the experience of representing our yearly meeting. In the process of connecting Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) to the work of Friends Peace Teams, I have learned a lot. I was able to participate in a 10 day Peace and Conscience Training led by Asia West Pacific Initiative Coordinator Nadine Hoover that gave me an experiential window into the tools of personal and societal transformation that Friends Peace Teams use. I was also able to attend two Face to Face Council meetings, which included Friends from many yearly meetings across the US as well as the initiative Coordinators. It is a gift to be among people willing to reach

out in friendship to communities in need, to be with those willing to be, in George Fox's words, "patterns and examples wherever they come." I welcome conversations about the work of Friends Peace Teams.

Respectfully submitted,
Sonja Sponheim

PENDLE HILL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT, 2018

The committee had one request this year for financial assistance in participating in a Pendle Hill workshop. The request was from Peter Clay of Des Moines Valley Meeting. Peter was strongly led to participate in TRUTH AND HEALING: QUAKERS SEEKING RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, May 3 -6, 2018. He requested only \$200 as his monthly meeting was also offering assistance. The committee enthusiastically approved this request and hopes for a full report when time allows.

For the committee,
Jean Eden, convener

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) Report – Annual Sessions 2018

As your representative, I attended the 2017 Steering Committee gathering at Pendle Hill from October 19th to 22nd. We observed and celebrated the thirty-year anniversary of the establishment of Friends Committee in Unity With Nature (FCUN), the original organization that grew from a cluster of concerned Friends coming together at Friends General Conference at Oberlin College in 1987. FCUN later became Quaker Earthcare Witness. From April 19th to 22nd I traveled to Chicago for the Spring 2018 Steering Committee gathering at The Cenacle. As a yearly meeting representative on the QEW Steering Committee, I joined the Outreach Committee and the United Nations Working Group. Between the QEW Steering Committee gatherings, seeking to encourage more engagement on the part of monthly meetings and on the part of individual Friends I sent letters to all the monthly meetings of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). The letters asked Friends to consider reading "BeFriending Creation," the newsletter of QEW and to consider applying for one of the QEW mini-grants to help with environmentally focused projects within their communities.

The work of QEW continues to reflect a diversity of leadings among Friends, including outreach to Indigenous Peoples through representation at the U.N. Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues and respectful engagement with the U.N. International Decade of People of African Descent through the United Nations Working Group. Following last year's side event on land and food sovereignty for the African diaspora at the U.N. High Level Political Forum QEW led a side event in July, 2018 on global challenges regarding access to clean water for People of African Descent. With this report, your representative again encourages Friends to take time to become more familiar with the work of QEW and to imagine ways to deepen their engagement with this work.

Peter Clay

QUERIES AND SELECTED RESPONSES

1. MEETING FOR WORSHIP

QUERIES

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 do we integrate our daily lives with meeting for worship? Do we seek opportunities for worship outside of meeting?

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?

Selected Responses

We talked about what the word *worship* means to us, and what we do during worship time. Some spend the time in reflection or introspection, some in meditation. Bowing down to or praising a King or Lord doesn't seem to describe what we do in worship, but bowing our *selves* (our thoughts, will, self-centeredness) down in deference to the Spirit does. We don't have special individual practices for First Day mornings, but some do have practices throughout the week that support worship. Bible reading and conscious orientation to God and Christ were mentioned. In theory we know that Spirit and God must exist way beyond gender, but we have to admit that gender is a powerful force in our thoughts and emotions. We notice that when we meet a person whose gender is ambig-

uous it gives us pause, because we're so used to categorizing people immediately. So thinking of God with a male or female pronoun attached may indeed affect our worship. One person suggested "if this throws us off our stride, let us recall that we are not coming to worship to have a stride of our own, but to learn to walk as God teaches us."

We find the advice with this query full of good wisdom, good stuff. We considered the question of how to recognize that we have a message that is meant to be shared in worship. We recognize the gradual movement within Quakerism from a traditional Christian basis to the present time when we refer to that which is Ultimate in a variety of ways and may experience that reality differently. . . . Pronouns referring to that which is Ultimate make a difference to many of us; ascribing gender to God may feel very limiting and the transgender community can bring new challenges to this issue. Silence following a vocal message is important to us and we find it hard to communicate this to others who come for special events, such as memorials or weddings. Some of us experience a sense of a message developing over time, moving into maturity over perhaps days or weeks until it is ready to be shared. Possibly an opposite of that is a message that comes in fragments over a few minutes during a single meeting for worship. Finally, we know we need to learn to love those with whom we differ and to experience love in our worship.

2. OUTREACH QUERIES

Do we encourage inter-visitation within 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?

Selected Responses

It seems that whenever we do outreach, "in-reach" occurs as well. Unless we have opportunities to share about issues and questions that are important to us, we can miss the chance to examine and clarify our values. It's notable that the query states the importance of expressing our faith in both words and deeds. We tend to focus on deeds, thinking it's enough to 'let our lives speak', or to 'see what love will do'. This query suggests that expressing our faith in words matters too. Someone who attends a weekly peace vigil wonders if that quiet witness is enough. It may be important to continue to work on expressing in words what our faith is about, and what we stand for.

3. MEETING FOR BUSINESS QUERIES

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?

Selected responses

Appreciation was expressed for the clerking as steady, faithful, helpful, peaceful, open and prepared. We recognize that process matters; what it feels like to conduct our business is important. Some feel frustration when something contentious comes to us and two individuals try to resolve it between themselves rather than letting the whole group hold the concern.

Some wonder what to do when they feel that no one will agree with them. While the importance of stating one's opinion or feelings was strongly affirmed and encouraged, there remains a reluctance to state something that may not be in agreement with what is generally being expressed. It was noted that it is important to hold Friends in the Light when they speak, implying a worshipful atmosphere. We do not want to keep people from expressing their opinions and wonder how we can support people in speaking up. While we recognize that dissent is healthy in principle, we may not fully allow for it by our attitudes and our haste to express ourselves. We may need to hear that different voice as it can bring a new perspective to the issue.

We understand that the Quaker decision-making process can be time consuming. It has been expressed that some members find this frustrating especially during Quarterly and Yearly Meeting business sessions. Generally, within our small group this has not been an issue as our members have a feeling of comfort with the group. We are free to discuss and ask the necessary questions so that we more fully understand the issues before the Meeting and can make informed decisions more easily. We feel that we have arrived at decisions expediently when possible and have had the patience to wait for a sense of the meeting concerning other issues when more time is required.

4. HARMONY WITHIN THE MEETING QUERIES

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?

Selected responses

We would like to have the opportunity to have discussions about controversial issues just for the experience of hearing one another and threshing out our own positions. It is valuable to do this before there is a deadline to make a decision. We need to feel free to speak an unpopular opinion. One member recalls, in the past, not feeling free to express an opinion that another disagreed with – having been given the message (not overtly) “we don’t think that in this meeting.” A friend offered to check into whether we could use a second hour to practice this type of discourse. One question we could work on is: “Do we really believe that there is that of God in each person?”

We agree that a topic we tend to avoid for the sake of unity is the Divine and our own experience of that. Such experience may well feel tender and so we are reluctant to speak of it for fear that it might be criticized by others. We realize that while speaking of God and/or Jesus is uncomfortable for some of us, we do want all who come to feel comfortable here and we want to be able to express our spirituality honestly. While we are comfortable as Quakers, feeling this is a good place for us, we tend not to feel that Quakerism is superior to other religions.

Conflict is difficult, but if everyone is not in agreement, honesty and kindness can help to maintain harmony. It is important to listen and to voice disagreement respectfully. In our meeting contentious issues do not arise often, but when they do, we have shown that we can respect the views of others through open discussion and dialogue on the topic at hand. It takes courage to speak out when we do not agree with others. Leaving disagreement unexpressed, or avoiding sharing one's thoughts and feelings, are not ways to find a solution or options on difficult issues. We in the meeting must always encourage others to share their views, even if they seem to not agree with the majority. Often it is through disagreement that the best solution is found, and this can create and maintain harmony in the meeting.

5. MUTUAL CARE QUERIES

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 caregiving?

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?

Selected responses

Ministry and counsel is available to assist people who have issues that they don't want everybody to be aware of. We share more of ourselves in circle after meeting through sharing joys and sorrows, and often time we follow up later in the week.

For people who are new to Quaker practice, it can be confusing where to find assistance, so members of ministry and counsel are now making an effort to introduce themselves as such during our social time after meeting, so newcomers know where to take concerns in need of pastoral concern. We also note with gratitude the efforts one particular member makes to send notes to members who are away, particularly college students. Several in our query circle celebrated our experience of meeting as our chosen family.

There are some who live in town but no longer participate in Meeting as their needs were not being met by the Meeting; they may prefer little or no contact. Those situations need to be respected; we hope to remain open to the possible return of such people.

6. EDUCATION

QUERIES

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?

Selected Responses

We are strongly united on the importance of public education. Public funding of private schools undermines public schools. The practice of taking one's children out of a failing school undermines the school and the system. Public education must be well funded to be able to address the great variety of needs among its students. Good public schools are basic to democracy as are public libraries and emergency response teams. They all are part of community. Poorer areas tend to have poorer schools as the parents are not able to give as much support as are parents in more wealthy areas; we need to equalize. We see charter schools as part of white flight and privatization. We need to come together as a community and agree on what we are going to teach our children. We note that bullying seems to be a big issue in schools today, and what that does in addition to harming people, small and large, is that it teaches children to bully.

In response to the last sentence of the Query, "How do we prepare ourselves and our children to play active roles in a changing world?" we feel that we need to stay close to the Source. We trust that God is good and that staying close will guide us and prepare us to take appropriate action. We feel that well considered and guided action is essential in today's world. We need to approach this action with eyes that are looking for the good in everyone we meet. This is a testament of our faith rather than a test of our faith. We realize that we must be working with all the people in our community, not just the ones who look or act like us; this includes

both those who have been part of our communities for generations and those who are new to us. Letters, phone calls and visits with our elected representatives from a centered, guided spirit are a good starting place. We are concerned for all those who feel and are threatened by recent governmental actions, realizing that trust will be hard to rebuild.

7. HOME AND FAMILY QUERIES

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?

Selected Responses

Our families abound, whether by birth and blood, or through our beloved spiritual communities. We celebrate our connections, but are often challenged by the changes in technology and time management, understanding broader definitions of gender and equality, and the search for creative paths to acknowledge and express feeling and emotions such as anger and frustration.

One Friend said “Love and concern for the well-being of all of God’s creation is in fact sometimes expressed through anger and through working to right “the things we cannot accept”.

Intimacy is fostered when there is space to feel and express authentically “all” of our feelings while also being guided to what are appropriate ways to behave when expressing ourselves. Whether our birth family or our chosen family of faith, our family creates and enhances bonds of love not when we are pressured to conform to the ways things have “always” been, but rather when we give and receive affirmations of and witness to one another’s growing into our God-given wholeness.

8. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

QUERIES

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?

Selected Responses

We struggle to find appropriate ways to confront these overwhelming issues, beyond the usual letters and calls to seemingly unresponsive officials and institutions. Among our witness were the following thoughts: “Staying informed on social issues,” as the Advice mentions, consequently requires more than just learning how our elected officials will vote on an issue and what our Meetings support or refute. Being informed also requires that we learn from communities who face greater oppression than ourselves, and who would bear far greater damaging consequences if officials continue to overlook or minimize the needs of those communities.

Another added, “ I try to focus on what God is wanting of me when I am out in the world and being called on to be brave. I know it is what is being asked because I am usually somewhat crippled with fear of speaking – stomach clenched, heart racing, and yet I cannot speak up. I feel relief when I do speak up. That dual feeling of crippling fear and must be brave is one of my personal physical touchstones for when I am being led to act. Being asked to do the hard thing instead of the easy thing. That feeling of being held firmly to a spot until I say what needs to be said, whether in the face of someone saying hateful things or engaging with someone who needs a friend. The feeling is the same.”

9. CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

QUERIES

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?

Selected Responses

Initial discussion centered around the inappropriate use of the phrase “Friends believe”. Since we do not have a dogma, but rather agree on the process of seeking together with respect for the views of others, there is no universal “belief”. We’ve been asked to comment on changes that should be made to our queries, and this is one that bears further discussion. This led to the importance of language and the responsibility to choose carefully how we state matters of faith, speaking always lovingly to others, even if differing in belief. In considering whether ... those whose beliefs or actions include violence would be welcome to worship within our community, there were doubts, though some felt that hateful attitudes in peaceful worship might be brought into the Light.

...

Our discussion of this query centered around several political issues that are currently prominent in the news. One person spoke of their mixed emotions about the recently passed more stringent requirements to the state abortion law. Another shared her personal experiences of working in a county hospital where she saw abuse of the legal right to an abortion and consequently felt strongly that the seemingly arbitrary taking of human life should not be condoned by the government. Another felt concern that there seemed to be a lack of understanding in Congress and the legislature of the economic conditions that effect personal decisions on many levels.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

QUERIES

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 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?

Selected Response

Our location in a rural area challenges us to seek means of responsible transportation, to limit miles driven, to be frugal in use of energy in all areas of our lives, and to encourage renewable energy sources when possible.

One of our members became concerned about environmental damage from cars and fossil fuels as a teenager and has chosen to not own or to drive automobiles, to use bicycles and public transportation where possible. He led us as a meeting to take up his concern about fossil fuel, which led to the approval of a minute on ethical transportation. A modified version of that minute was taken up and approved by the Yearly Meeting this year.

Others in our meeting choose to use alternative energy fuels, and lower-impact technologies, while others mindfully have chosen lower impact practices in farming and lifestyles or have made radical changes to their diets and no longer eat red meat, or choose to resource locally grown small-farm produce. We discuss how we are mindful of fair-trade and how we seek to appropriately distribute the weal to smaller economies.

11. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

QUERIES

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?

Selected Responses

This Query brings to mind the lack of justice and human rights for prisoners in Nebraska that we heard about yesterday from a speaker from the Nebraska ACLU. We feel great concern about the inequalities of our society and bullying of many groups of people who don't wield political or financial power. Fear makes us keep quiet in the face of inequity when we should speak.

In the workplace one of us noted that some people are enjoying their privileged positions because they have information or some other source of power, instead of feeling that they are serving the people. We feel that better communication across groups should lead to more justice, and that secrets are harmful at personal and political levels.

Economic practices are very often at the root of social injustices. While there are innumerable examples of inequities and discriminatory practices related to wages, access to housing, education, medical, and other services, we have failed to come to grips with some foundational economic injustices. We live and work on land that was outright stolen from Native Americans. Our buildings and infrastructure were built with the labor of enslaved African Americans and other people of color, with the resulting extensive benefits and profits going to white males. We will not be able to make progress regarding racial (including indigenous) injustice until we apologize for these wrongs and find ways to redistribute the wealth and resources that were created as a result.

12. PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE QUERIES

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?

Selected Responses

It was noted that at least five of the queries address peace. Some members said that they were attracted to Friends Meeting because peace issues are a fundamental concern of Quakers and Quakers actively work for peace. The question of whether inner peace is needed to be a peacemaker came up. Many individuals throughout history have done valuable work for peace, but did not enjoy an inner peace. Support of social justice issues is important in peacemaking. Those who live in fear in our communities cannot let themselves be open to others. People need security in their lives before they can reach out to others. We may need to show our compassion with those living in fear over and over. It was pointed out that avoiding all conflict is not always possible in promoting peace. Working for peace and non-violence can sometimes be discouraging. One friend expressed her belief that working for peace and social justice requires steady, constant effort.

We are very concerned about the current administrations attempts to address US safety concerns through more military methods. Several of us try to contact our legislators by email or phone when important issues are being considered in Congress regarding military spending, Health Care, international relations, domestic safety issues, etc. We have found the alerts and information on issues by the FCNL especially helpful in these efforts.

Religious Education Reports

Ames Friends Meeting

Ames Friends schedule a Quaker conversation for the first Sunday of each month. These conversations usually include a guest who is knowledgeable about a topic friends are interested in or discussion of a query. Many of our discussions this year explored the question of opening our meeting house for an undocumented resident seeking sanctuary. We also invited a Buddhist Priest who lives and teaches in Ames as a guest for one of our conversations. We also discussed three of the queries.

Twice a month some of our members and anyone from the community who is interested meet for an “Experiment With Light.” Experiment

with light is a meditation process based on early writings of Friends as a means of accessing the light within.

Bear Creek Meeting

Bear Creek Friends value the pre-meeting hour two or three times a month when we gather to share concerns, reading materials, leadings and inspirational activities.

Topics of interest during the past year include Deeper Roots Study reports from a member who is part of that group. We have also explored readings by Marty Grundy, ideas for outreach using social media such as having a facebook page or blog (as newsletter), contacting absentee members in order to update our membership listing.

Following up on AFSC sponsored visit with us from a North Korean delegation in 2001, we encourage another visit to help ease current tensions between our two countries. We approved a member's letter to the Des Moines Register (and others) related to this. It was printed! We learned more about North Korea from meetings with AFSC staff members Linda Lewis and Daniel Jasper.

One member initiated our getting acquainted, and supporting, her African American Friend in Pennsylvania via letters, phone and text visits, and conference calls.

Through these contacts we are becoming more aware of our white privilege and the societal racism that is part of our culture, even among Quakers. Another member and attender have been part of "Circles of Conversation" related to racism in central Iowa, and share their experiences with that group. We viewed videos of Quaker Hip Hop and Social Justice issues.

A number of us attended the annual Native American Gathering held at a nearby county park. As the future of this inspirational event is in question, we sent a letter of support, as well as financial assistance. We have appreciated visits from Laughing Waters Friends, who share their concerns and talents with us.

We were inspired by readings from the book "Forgive for Good", and challenged in discussion of the future of Scattergood school.

Decorah Friends Meeting

Decorah Friends Meeting has a healthy curiosity and interest in the world, and part of this shows up in the range of topics that we have considered. Our focus areas include multiple discussions on environmental action books and local environmental initiatives, nearly monthly consideration of an advice and query, discussions on gun safety, how to remain engaged in the political process, and participation in FCNL priorities process. Since we have had no children attending the Meeting regularly in the past year, we have not had any First Day programs for children.

Des Moines Valley Friends

First Day School/Child Care

Our format for children's programming this year was similar to last year. Six children 6 to 15 years of age attended First Day School on a regular or semi-regular basis. Children attended Meeting for Worship with family members for about 20 minutes before First Day School.

Child care was provided by Meeting volunteers for preschool children during Meeting for Worship. We have one toddler who attends regularly and several other preschoolers who attend occasionally.

We continued to use the Quaker principles summarized by the acronym SPICES (Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and Stewardship) as the basis of some of our first day school lessons. One first day school teacher focused on stewardship, emphasizing care of the earth and how the children could practice stewardship in their own lives. Two teachers used a curriculum on John Woolman, published by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

The range of ages in first day school remains a challenge, especially how to meet the needs of our older children. Three children in middle school and high school and an adult met several times at a local restaurant to talk about Quaker history. Everyone involved hopes to continue this next year. The children had put together a long list of topics in which they are interested.

We continue to involve children in the life of the meeting as much as possible. One child continues on the hospitality committee, another is on the ad hoc committee on children in the meeting, and one keeps our chalk board updated with upcoming hosts, child care providers, second hours and other events.

Although the ad hoc committee was formed, it has not yet met. We look forward to the guidance of this committee.

Midyear Meeting

Several members of Des Moines Valley Friends helped plan the Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) program for Midyear Meeting. Eight children, ranging in age from 5 to 13, attended all or part of the JYM activities. Following the adult program's theme of Quaker history, JYM activities included a field trip to the Quaker Museum in Earlham, and looking at old Quaker family journals with Bear Creek member, Nancy Osborn Johnson; the journals included photos of and writings about the Bear Creek meetinghouse being moved from Earlham using horses. Other JYM activities included reading Bible stories and making puppets to illustrate the stories, singing, a campfire with s'mores, and a movie Saturday evening in the cottage. The weather was cooperative; other outdoor activities were playing on the new play set and learning how to make and launch bottle rockets. The children also participated in Meeting for Worship.

Library Committee

Several years ago the library committee started a yearly book sale: members of the meeting donate books they no longer want and others buy them for a small donation. Each year the sale is more successful. The money originally went to the library committee, but now half of the proceeds is used to help with meeting expenses and half is given to the library committee. The library committee uses some of its budget to purchase books for children's programming.

BOOKS ADDED TO THE LIBRARY 2017-2018:

August	Knepper, Tim, ed.	A Spectrum of Faiths
	Klein, Naomi	This Changes Everything (gift)
September	Norris, Gunilla	Being Home: Discovering the Spiritual in the Everyday
	Bowles, Nan	Wisdom of Earth (gift)
October	Luick-Thrames, M.	Creating New Americans (gift)
	Maxwell, Edith	Delivering the Truth (gift)
November	Hedges, Chris	War Is a Force that Gives Us Meaning (gift)
	Francis, Kay et al	Peacemaking Circles (gift)
December		Holy Bible, New Revised Edition (gift)
	Moore-Backman, C.	The Gandhian Iceberg (gift)

January	DM Valley Friends Hillman, James Luick-Thrams, M.	Meeting House Memories The Soul's Code (gift) Oceans of Darkness, Oceans of Light (3 volumes)
February	Palmer, Parker	Healing the Heart of Democracy (gift)
March	Krupp, Fred Lawrence, Brother	Earth: the Sequel The Practice of the Presence of God (gift)
April	Mullen, Tom, ed. Newcomer, Carrie Collins, Chuck	Witness in Washington The Beautiful Not Yet (cd) Born on Third Base
May	none	
June	Newcomer, Carrie Johnson, Allan G. Holcomb, Julie	The Beautiful Not Yet (book to go with cd) Not From Here Moral Commerce: Quakers and the Boycott of the Slave Labor Economy
Children's Books:		First Day Stories Maybe God Is Like That Too Making It Right: Building Peace

Iowa City Friends Meeting

Our meeting has few regularly attending children at this time, and we sorely miss their light among us. We are open to instituting a First Day School and frequently ask ourselves is the lack of programming for children the reason we seem unable to attract families. Yet it is hard to motivate oneself when there is currently no reason to put together a Quaker education program when there is no predictable audience for such. We have no regularly scheduled Quaker education for adults but have programs when need is voiced. This year we explored nonviolence and how to respond to verbal or physical violence when encountered as a bystander. We hope next year to be more intentional about deepening our understanding of Quaker history and teachings through Quaker education.

Lincoln Meeting

We have no regular attenders who are children. We had the pleasure of a visit once -- or perhaps twice -- during the past year of a 5 year old.

Once a month we consider one of our Yearly Meeting's Queries and appreciate that reflection on who we are and how we live our lives. We

spent two First Days studying essays on John Woolman and several weeks reading together a pamphlet by Seth Hinshaw, “Quaker Influence on American Ideals: An Overview.” One First Day we talked about Quaker George Lakey’s book, “Viking Economics.” We had a one-day introduction to Quakerism focusing largely on our values. We were very appreciative of a visit from Thomas Weber and his wife, Amy, and the opportunity this gave us to have a good discussion about Scattergood Friends School.

At a day long gathering with Friends from Omaha and Central City Nebraska, we heard a speaker from the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union who shared with us the work of her organization with the Nebraska Department of Corrections. We are grateful for their work. We also heard from a former inmate who was a new attender on his views on that experience. We viewed a video “Cracking the Code,” to help us grow in our understanding of racism in our society.

Omaha Friends Meeting

Religious Education at Omaha Friends Meeting has been all adult education. We studied Thomas Kelly’s Testament of Devotion. We pondered and recorded our suggestions for FCNL priorities as well as the IYM-C Possibilities Committee Recommendations. Contemplating and responding to the queries was also educational for us. We were enriched in our discussions and learning by thoughtful submissions from a non-resident Friend.

Paullina Friends Meeting

This year in First Day School the children are learning about the Bible. We practice reading from the King James version and then read a children’s book based on the same Bible story. The children notice the language difference and seem amused by it. We sing songs about the books of the Bible and take notice of where in the Bible each story is. At the end of this year, we hope the children have a good first exposure to some of the oldest and most meaningful words ever written.

Attendance remains steady at two children. We are able to incorporate more age-appropriate reading and writing into the lessons. I anticipate that next year we may begin keeping journals. We are presently quite challenged to stay focused, and hope these issues are temporary. Adult First Day School continues to meet once a month. We used videos from Quaker Speak, FCNL, and Phillip Gulley to spark discussions. We discussed FCNL’s legislative priorities, ways to improve yearly meeting,

and how we might help Sanctuary Churches. We heard presentations on water quality and soil conservation and plans for new programs at Scatteredgood Friends School.

Sioux Falls Worship Group

Mary Snyder, a member of Sioux Falls Area Friends, has been working on curriculum development and communication at long distance.

Through the wonders of telephone and video hook-up she has participated in several circles sponsored by Quaker Religious Education Collaboration (QREC). The circles are core to the structure of QREC. The circles are a time for those who are working on various forms of curriculum development get together. There is one topic per circle.

The current topic is how to use the QREC website. She will have a QREC display at yearly meeting to help negotiate the website as well as find QREC events and publications.

In the coming year she hopes to continue curriculum work in two areas. One area is a time line with Quaker events on the top and worldly events along the bottom. Suggestions for material to be incorporated in this project are welcome.

The other is a short curriculum on listening. Listening exercises are presented as a foundational skill in Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). Now it becomes a skill for participation in meeting for worship. Watch for an interest group on listening during yearly meeting sessions. The latter two curricula will be available free of charge to all on the QREC virtual curriculum library.

While Sioux Falls Area Friends does not currently have any children attending meeting, we do have an informal religious education practice. We frequently share readings at the start of meeting for worship, and have many stimulating discussions about our faith or about books we are reading during lunch following worship. Several of our members also participate in or help facilitate AVP workshops in the South Dakota State Penitentiary. While not explicitly religious, we do offer participants spiritual guidance and encourage spiritual reflection as we meet together to affirm one another, build community, practice our listening and communication skills and seek non-violent approaches to conflict resolution.

Special Needs Report 2018

Your special needs committee had a quiet year, maintaining what has been accomplished and trying to stay alert for opportunities to make our meetings more accessible for everyone. Our sound system seems to be working nicely and the induction loop for hearing aids works well for most people who use it. The Scattergood Campus is a long way from being accessible to all. If there is some obstacle that prevents you or your friends from enjoying our meetings, please speak to one of our members and we will try to come up with a solution.

Possible future projects might include a lift or elevator to the first floor of the Main and perhaps making videos of presentations so that those not able to attend will be able to participate. Please let us know what you think. We are here to serve you.

Bob Yeats, John Andrews, Deb Fish, Harry Olmstead, Bob Winchell

(2018) TOPICAL INDEX

REPORTS

American Friends Service Committee Corporation Report.....	5
American Friends Service Committee Midwest Region Report.....	79
Archives Committee Report	24
Audit Committee Report.....	38
Entertainment Committee Report for 2017.....	19
Entertainment Committee Report for 2016.....	21
Exercise Committee Report for 2018	86
Friends Committee on National Legislation Report	85
Friends Peace Teams Report.....	88
Friends World Committee for Consultation Representatives Report.....	14
Interim Meeting Report.....	4
Midyear Meeting Report.....	3
Midyear Meeting Treasurer’s Report.....	3
Ministry and Counsel Report.....	55
Nominating Committee Report.....	69
Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report Pt. 1.....	4
Peace and Social Concerns Committee AUMF letter	45,85
Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report Pt. 2	54
Peace and Social Concerns Committee Budget	54
Peace and Social Concerns Committee Minute	54
Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee Report.....	90
Possibilities Committee Discussion.....	5
Publication Committee Report.....	15
Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee Report.....	90
Recorder’s Report	49
Religious Education Monthly Meeting Reports	102
Reports received but not read in annual sessions.....	79
Representatives Report	51
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Budget for Fiscal 2018-19.....	53
Monthly Meeting Apportionments.....	41
Scattergood Friends School and Farm - Farm Report.....	26
Scattergood Friends School and Farm - Head of School Report.....	28
Scattergood Friends School Operating Report.....	33
Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees Report.....	34
Scattergood Friends School Committee Report.....	36
Special Needs Committee Report	109
Treasurer’s Report.....	39
Yearly Meeting Trustees Report.....	34

Website Committee Report 17

EPISTLES FROM

Document Committee Report 11
North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) 6
Ohio Yearly Meeting 8

EPISTLES TO

Friends Everywhere 74
North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) 76
Ohio Yearly Meeting 76
Junior Yearly Meeting 42
Young Friends 43
Special Replies Report – Letter to Absent Friends 73

QUERIES AND SELECTED RESPONSES

1. MEETING FOR WORSHIP 91
2. OUTREACH 92
3. MEETING FOR BUSINESS 93
4. HARMONY WITHIN THE MEETING 94
5. MUTUAL CARE 95
6. EDUCATION 96
7. HOME AND FAMILY 97
8. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY 98
9. CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY 99
10. ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY 100
11. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE 100
12. PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE 101

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS

Ames Monthly Meeting.. 56
Bear Creek Monthly Meeting..... 58
Decorah Monthly Meeting 59
Des Moines Valley Monthly Meeting 60
Laughing Waters Preparative Meeting 63
Lincoln Monthly Meeting 63
Omaha Monthly Meeting 65
Paullina Monthly Meeting..... 64
Penn Valley Monthly Meeting..... 65
Sioux Falls Area Worship Group..... 66
West Branch Monthly Meeting 67
Whittier Monthly Meeting..... 68

DIRECTORIES

Directory of Friends..... 110
(pages in the printed book which included member and attender information are omitted from the online PDF.)
Directory of Monthly Meetings, Preparative Meetings, Worship Groups, and Scattergood Friends School and Farm 152

SESSIONS

Fourth Day – Wednesday 7/25/2018..... 1
 Meeting Appointments of Representative to YM..... 1
 Meeting Appointments of Caretakers to YM 1

Fifth Day – Thursday 7/26/2018..... 13

Sixth Day – Friday 7/27/2018 Morning Session..... 24
 Afternoon Session 32

Seventh Day – Saturday 7/28/2018 Morning Session 41
 Afternoon Session 49
Closing Minute..... 77

**2018 DIRECTORY OF MONTHLY MEETINGS,
PREPARATIVE MEETINGS, WORSHIP GROUPS, AND
SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL**

Ames Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10:30 a.m. First Day
Business Meeting: 11:15 Fourth First Day
Simple Potluck on 3rd First Day after worship 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: David Hansen
(515) 450-5222
 1506 13th Street
 Ames, IA 50010
Meeting phone: (515) 232-2763
Email address: afmhansen@gmail.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, road curves to the left. At the Y in the road follow the sign to Bear Creek Meeting. Stay to the right on “I” Ave., go one mile north to Bear Creek Road. Turn right. The meeting house is the 2nd driveway on the right.

Clerk: Jackie Leckband (515)758-2232

Mail: c/o 19186 Bear Creek Road, Earlham, Iowa 50072

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: billbdeutsch@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)

Co/Clerks: Ann Y. Robinson and Jean Sandstrom

Website: <https://www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org>

Email address: clerk@dmvf.org

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, winkfam2@gmail.com

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

Laughing Waters Friends Preparative Meeting

Under the care of Bear Creek Meeting

Worship: Twice a month at 1:30 p.m. On second First Days we meet at St. James on the Parkway, 3225 E. Minnehaha Pkwy, Minneapolis, MN. On fourth First Days we meet at Ian Rhoades' and Elizabeth O'Sullivan's Farm in Dundas, MN. We may also meet other times, see website for details.

Business: We meet for business three times a year, and additionally as needed. See website for details.

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

Clerk: Nat Case (612)702-1333

Co-clerk: Sonja Sponheim (651)659-9340

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: Bob Ramaley, 1517 Happy Hollow Blvd. Omaha, NE 68104

(402) 926-6583 (cell)

Email address: rramaley@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

Email address: dswilson@tcaexpress.net

Assistant Clerk: Dan Mott Correspondent: 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: Rachel MacNair, 811 E. 47th St., Kansas City, MO 64110
(816) 753-2057 (household)

Email address: rachel_macnair@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: Kathy Hall, 717 E. Post Ct. S.E. Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
(319) 393-2508 Email address: khall479@aol.com

Co-Clerk: Sarah Hampton Rutledge

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.