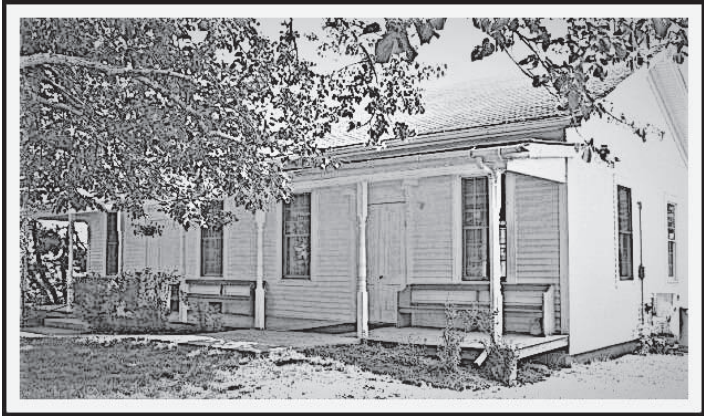


Minutes of
***Iowa Yearly Meeting
Of Friends (Conservative)***

2021

***144th Annual Session
Held Online
Seventh Month 22-25, 2021***

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative)



Hickory Grove Meetinghouse
Scattergood School and Farm

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of Friends (Conservative)

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## Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative)

144<sup>th</sup> Annual Session

Seventh Month 22 to Seventh Month 25, 2021

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FIFTH DAY – THURSDAY AFTERNOON - 07/22/2021

At the 144th Annual Session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) held online from Seventh Month 22 to Seventh Month 25, 2021.

Bird Shadows

*My God is the god in the next room,
Cooking unseen feasts and humming*

*the ache of the moment before the rain
when you're sure the whole June
cloud is ready to burst through
though you haven't felt a single drop*

Excerpt from *Bird Shadows* by L. Callid Keefe-Perry
Rochester Monthly Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting

We are pleased to have these visitors with us today:

- Nancy Craft of Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting and North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
- Justin Hurdle and Julia Gledhill from Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)
- Alicia McBride from FCNL and Sandy Springs Monthly Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting (a letter of introduction for Alicia was read on Sixth Day and appears there)
- Thais Carr from Nashville Friends Meeting, Nashville, Tennessee, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
- Tom Roberts member of Noblesville Friends Meeting in Indiana, Western Yearly Meeting.

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Readers for this morning's business sessions are Ginny Winsor and Roy Helm.



We approve the appointments listed below as suggested by the Representatives:

- Exercise Committee – Jean Eden and Deborah Fisch
- Epistle & Special Replies Committee – Steve Snyder, Bill Deutsch, Jane Cadwallader Howe and Carole Winkleblack
- Auditing Committee - Carol Winkleblack and Bob Winkleblack



We listened to the Entertainment Committee Report and are grateful for their flexibility in providing meaningful programs in 2020, a year of challenge and learning. We are grateful that they volunteered to continue serving in this role for 2021 and look forward to the events of the next few days. The Entertainment Committee proposes to designate extra funds raised for the John McCutcheon concert last year to be passed along to future Entertainment Committees for music ministry.

**ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

*In this year, 2020, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) held its 143rd annual session, which means we have been gathering (at least) since the year 1877, or even earlier. It doesn't take an historian to realize that some of those annual sessions were held in times of rejoicing and gratitude for prosperity, good harvests and good health. In other years, Friends met during times of war, drought, civil unrest and pandemics. And many of those years, like this one, were times of uncertainty. Our theme was "Finding Hope in Troubled Times," and we spent these days together exploring how to do this. Being together reminded us that in both good times and bad, what we are called to never changes: to Love God with all our hearts, with all our souls, with all our minds and all our strength; and to love our neighbors as ourselves.*

-- Outgoing IYMC clerk Deborah Dakin (Whittier Meeting) in the Fall 2020 Message to Monthly Meetings

**Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Holds First-ever Online Gathering**

The first-ever virtual gathering of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), 07/24-26/2020, with the theme "Finding Hope in Troubled Times," was moved online in response to the pandemic.

The sessions drew more than 120 registrants, including Friends from North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and Ohio Yearly Meeting, several who have roots in Iowa or other IYMC states.

Sessions included worship, business sessions with reports from Scattergood Friends School, State of the Meeting Reports and a Time for Remembrance. Other highlights included an evening Collection practicing worship-sharing in small groups facilitated by Penn Valley's Shirley Scritchfield; a lively conversation with Scattergood's new Head of School, John Zimmerman; and a Pre-Meeting talk and discussion on "Faith in Action" with Jose Santos Woss, of Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). There was also precious time for informal catching up with each other and sharing joys and concerns, and an inspired Bible study led by Elizabeth O'Sullivan.

Evaluations after the 2020 Session were mostly positive and appreciative of the opportunity to meet during the pandemic when in-person meetings were a serious health risk. Most people reported adjusting well to the video conferencing format, and many said not having to travel made it easier to participate.

Monthly meetings that shared responsibilities for the 2020 Entertainment Committee planning were Ames Friends Meeting, Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting and Penn Valley Friends Meeting. The coronavirus pandemic caused major changes in Entertainment Committee's original plans for the 2020 program, which included a concert by folk singer John McCutcheon (now rescheduled for next year). But we regrouped to coordinate a meaningful Annual Session, thanks to a core group from all three meetings, who worked closely with the IYMC clerk Deborah Dakin, assistant clerk Carol Gilbert, and a tireless and patient technology support team led by Cheryl Sutton, Bear Creek Meeting, and Nat Case, Laughing Waters Preparatory Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Save the date for next year's Annual Session, 07/21-25/2021. Find more information about IYMC's 144<sup>th</sup> Annual Session at <https://iymc.org>

### **Entertainment Committee Financial Report**

This report has two unusual features. Special contributions were made for a concert by John McCutcheon, which was postponed. These funds will be carried over to 2021 for a rescheduled concert. Since we did not meet in person at Scattergood, funds were not

needed to cover hosting expenses by the school. A number of Friends were moved to make contributions with the understanding that funds beyond what was needed to cover Entertainment Committee expenses would be forwarded as a contribution to Scattergood.

**Receipts**

|                                                          |                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Forwarded from 2019 Committee                            | 2,000.00         |
| Special Contributions for<br>John McCutcheon Concert     | 4,465.00         |
| Contributions with balance<br>designated for Scattergood | <u>3,585.00</u>  |
| <b>Total</b>                                             | <b>10,050.00</b> |

**Expenses**

|                                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Forwarded to Scattergood        | 3,385.00           |
| Entertainment Committee Expense | 200.00             |
| Forwarded to 2021 Committee:    |                    |
| John McCutcheon Concert         | 4,465.00           |
| General Expenses                | 2,000.00           |
| To Yearly Meeting Trustees      | <u>0.00</u>        |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>\$10,050.00</b> |

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We heard the report of the Midyear Planning Committee noting that their program on white supremacy seems to have planted seeds that are continuing to grow even this week. We appreciate their work.

2021 MIDYEAR MEETING COMMITTEE REPORT

Midyear Meeting was again held via video conferencing, 27-28 Third Month, 2021. This year’s resource person was African American Friend Vanessa Julye of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. She is the Ministry on Racism Program coordinator and the Youth Ministries Program coordinator at Friends General Conference. Vanessa lifted up for us the query *How is white supremacy keeping us from hearing God’s voice?* Janice Domanik, a Friend of European descent from Illinois Yearly Meeting, served as an elder for Vanessa.

More than 120 households registered, including students from Scattergood Friends School. In addition to short presentations that touched on the theme, Friends gathered in video-conferencing breakout groups to reflect on Vanessa’s remarks while in small groups. Additional queries that Vanessa raised included:

- *Who are your ancestors? How has the system of white culture and supremacy impacted your life?*
- *How is the system of white culture and supremacy reflected in Friends of African descent's experiences in the Religious Society of Friends?*
- *What is the one thing I will do to help transform the Religious Society of Friends into an antiracist body?*

In concurrent sessions, Janice met with white Friends/Friends of European descent and Vanessa met with Friends who identify as Black, Indigenous, Asian American, Latinx, and other People of Color (BIPOC). Vanessa also met with a group of middle and high school students. An afternoon session on Seventh Day allowed Junior Yearly Meeting to do an online activity called Code Names, and the head of Scattergood Friends School John Zimmerman invited Friends to consider what is meant by a "Quaker education" before he shared with us his five-year vision for the school.

With thanks to the Technology Team and Website Committee, recordings were made of Vanessa's presentations. Vanessa has agreed to allow Yearly Meeting to retain the links to the recordings, which are to be used only by Friends and meetings in IYMC

Midyear Meeting Financial Statement 2021- Virtual Gathering

Donations	2,080.00
Printing and mailing	90.90
Resource Person- Vanessa Julye	1,000.00
FGC Ministry on Racism	200.00
Zoom format update (Cheryl Sutton)	53.50
Forwarded to Yearly Meeting	735.60
Total Disbursements	2,080.00

Submitted on behalf of the Midyear Meeting Committee,
Jackie Leckband and Liz Oppenheimer, co-clerks

~~~~~

We heard the Interim Meeting Minutes and accept them with a few corrections regarding attendees and non-attendees. We especially feel grateful to Tom Hinshaw and others who have helped and are now helping us have successful gatherings online.

## **Interim Meeting was held 3/28/2021 via video conferencing.**

There were 13 appointed members and 10 others in attendance. Carol Gilbert served as clerk.

(1) We received a recommendation from the Representatives Committee which had consulted with Scattergood and with the Entertainment Committee:2021-03-05 "Please note that the sense of Representatives is that annual sessions should be virtual this year!"

*We approve the recommendation of the Representatives Committee to plan for Annual Sessions to be online in Seventh Month 2021.*

(2) We received the attached report from the Website Committee. This was provided to Interim Meeting appointees prior to the meeting, but not read in its entirety during Interim Meeting. *We discussed the request of the Website committee to form a separate committee to run online meetings. We considered having this be an ad-hoc committee just for annual sessions, or an ongoing committee that could help with future online or hybrid meetings. We discussed hiring someone to assist us with this but had concerns about their ability to adapt to our processes and culture.*

*We approve forming an ad hoc committee to manage online sessions this year and ask that they work with the Representatives Committee to assess whether they should continue past this Annual Session.*

Note: Tom Hinshaw and Billie Wade volunteered to be on this committee. Roy Helm agreed to check with Scattergood to see if they have expertise in managing online meetings. It might also be appropriate for one or both Yearly Meeting clerks to join this committee.

(3) Because North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and Ohio Yearly Meeting annual sessions are held around the same time as ours, our practice is for Interim Meeting to approve appointments of people to attend those meetings as our representatives. North Carolina's 2021 Yearly Meeting Session is online 7/14-18/2021. Ohio's Annual Session is scheduled for 8/2-8/2021 but we don't know whether they will be online or in person.

*We approve Deborah Fisch as our representative to North Carolina's Session. We were unable to find someone willing to represent us at Ohio's Session. The clerk will include this opportunity in correspondence to monthly meetings.*



(4) We discussed whether Interim Meeting should be laid down and Representatives Committee take on the role of representing monthly meetings at meetings called for the purpose of making decisions between Annual Sessions.

*We think this plan needs time to season and ask the Representatives Committee to consider it as their time allows. We recognize that committees do not have decision making power, and that whatever body has this authority should be named to reflect that. We believe our processes need to be clearly laid out, including whether all monthly meeting members are to be invited to decision-making meetings.*

~~~~~

We listened with tenderness to the epistles from our sister Conservative yearly meetings. We deeply feel their ministry to us. Their generosity of Spirit nourishes us. We appreciate how we are connected to those yearly meetings and to Friends everywhere, and feel challenged to make our meetings outposts of God's Kingdom on Earth. We thank Deborah Fisch for attending North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative on our behalf.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

PO Box 4591, Greensboro, NC 27404 - ncymc.clerks@gmail.com

Seventh Month 18, 2021

To our dear Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative),

We received and welcomed Friends Deborah Fisch and Liz Oppenheimer from your yearly meeting and are grateful for the continued visitation between our yearly meetings. We feel a special connection with Iowa Friends arising from our shared faith and practices and the travel of Friends among us. If according to Divine will, we anticipate that our yearly meeting will have representatives present when you meet later this month.

"So Friends are not to meet like a company of people about town . . . but to wait upon the Lord, and feeling his power and spirit to lead them, and order them to his glory, that so whatsoever they may do, they may do it to the praise and glory of God, and in unity in the faith and in the spirit and in fellowship in the order of the Gospel." - From

"The Works of George Fox" Epistle 313, vol. 8, p.70, George Fox, 1674.

We gathered via video conferencing for our 324th annual sessions, Seventh Month 14th – 18th, 2021. We began our gathering with the above reading, which expresses our intention to worship and obey the guidance of God. Our theme this year is the consideration of our first query dating back to 1682: *How does Truth Prosper among you?*

We heard from representatives of each of our monthly meetings during the course of our gathering. As they spoke earnestly and with an open heart about the current sense of their meetings, a common theme arose. Meetings have struggled through the pandemic year with a feeling of a lack of cohesion, they have grieved the loss from the death of members and have yearned to be together physically. Friends noted the challenges of virtual meeting for worship – the way it worked for some and not others. There was gratitude for the way virtual meeting allowed Friends to attend our meetings even though they are distant or have limited mobility and cannot physically attend. Still, there was concern moving forward with hybrid meetings from Friends who do not want technology in meeting for worship. Overall, there was a sense of hope and optimism for our ability to rebuild our Christian Body, and a gathering energy toward that end.

In addition to recovering and learning from the pandemic, we continue to wrestle with our homogeneity, and labor with implicit, institutional, and systemic racism in our meetings, schools, and communities.

We are still working on revising our *Faith and Practice*, but the core of our faith and practice remains the same. We share a belief in the direct, perceptible, and immediate guidance of God in every moment of our lives, individually and as a community. We worship in silence in our meetings, without a plan or program, and experience the Holy Spirit moving among us and using us as instruments of Truth. We agree with Elton Trueblood, who said, "Quakers have not abolished the priesthood, instead, they have abolished the laity." And yet, we expect our meetings to nurture and cultivate the gifts of ministry, eldering, and service in the individual lives of members and stand ready to record ministers who are consistently called to organize their lives around the Gospel Order.

We believe members are called to make our meetings outposts of the Kingdom of God and become well used in the service of the gathered meeting. We are explicitly and proudly Christian, seeking to follow the radical teachings and loving example of Jesus Christ in our lives. We treasure the Scripture and find great wisdom of the Spirit in those sacred words, listening for the motion of the Spirit which animates them.

We embrace our peculiar combination of faith and practice as a treasure and welcome the chance to share these gifts with Friends everywhere, even as we cautiously hope to avoid the idolatry of confusing our faithfulness to process with our faithfulness to God.

We have gathered together again this year to lovingly practice this tradition of Quakerism with others who are drawn to these ways of ancient Friends. We hope to deepen and broaden our faith community together in the coming years. We welcome visitation among all yearly meetings and pray Friends may feel open to join us next year.

On behalf of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative,
Anne Olsen, Clerk

Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends

Eighth Month 24, 2020

“The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.” - Luke 10:02

Dear Friends Everywhere,

Greetings from Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends, one of the three Conservative yearly meetings, which met via video conferencing with members from NYC to California, Virginia to Michigan as well as Ohio and Pennsylvania, with visitors from Canada, Kenya, Indonesia and Costa Rica; and California, North Carolina, Indiana, Maryland, and Tennessee participating from home. While we missed being together in person, we did appreciate being able to be together safely. For some being on video conferencing made it easier to attend.

We learned together how to use the technology and asked ourselves how we might use it during the year and in the future for the advancement of our life in Christ as individuals and as a meeting.

We have already found the needs of the pandemic have blessed us with opportunities to share in wider community, such as Seekers' Haven and Crossroads worship. We met for the normal number of days, but understanding that business might take more time, we decided to address mostly business that needed decisions and have other reports available to be read separately with all being published in our minutes.

We had early morning study of what it means to be a Conservative Friend and Bible sharing and evening programs continuing our thinking about the future of our yearly meeting - *Let us pray to discern His plans and promise to follow them.* Jeremiah 29:11 - and outreach, as well as many opportunities for expectant waiting worship.

We met as a corporation of our Walton Retirement Home where we learned again of the fine, loving care they give their residents.

We took advantage of space made for fellowship to catch up with old Friends and get to know new Friends. We shared concern for loved Friends unable to be with us with health challenges, such as two you may know, Fran Taber and David Eley.

During business sessions, we prepared a memorial minute for recently departed Friend Arthur Berk who passed from COVID-19 just before his 93rd birthday. Just before passing he sent us an epistle which we share with you now:

"Friends, God's Ministry is far more vital than our own, that's why Jesus urges us to welcome the Lord in silence."

We invite you to join us and to invite others to join us. Information as to how to do that can be found on our website, www.ohioyearlymeeting.org.

We are holding all Friends in prayer during this time of pandemic and unrest.

In Christ,
Philip W. Helms, clerk Ohio Yearly Meeting



We heard the selections from epistles of other yearly meetings that were provided by the Document Committee. We appreciate their bringing to our attention some of the struggles other meetings are going through that are similar to ours. And also some of the struggles we are fortunate not to have to contend with. We thank

the committee for their work and approve their request to share the link of the FWCC Epistle web page on our website.

DOCUMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The report includes excerpts of epistles that share experiences about how God has moved among Friends around the world and how Friends are ministering to one another, to “Friends Everywhere.” In this light, the Document Committee would like to request that IYMC approve posting on our website www.iymc.org a link to the FWCC site: <http://fwcc.world/epistles-from-quaker-groups-from-around-the-world>

Australia Yearly Meeting Responds to Messages of Concern Following Bushfires 1-22-2020

...Our summer fire season has many weeks, if not months, to go, and the threat of further fires remains palpably with us. It is a painful time, reminding us that we are all experiencing a shared calamity, one that makes new demands on every citizen in Australia, as it does on people all around the world. We hope together that we will address the climate emergency vigilantly, yet with openness to each other with cooperative spirit, unfettered by the restraints of national boundaries...

Monteverde Friends Meeting (May2020)

So many of these lessons, from our history, from our many elders, are reflected in the work of Monteverde Friends School, our major ministry as a meeting. Last fall students organized a climate march in which 500 people took part. In the midst of a successful school year, everything was disrupted by the close of the physical school, and yet students continue learning through diverse tools and the dedication of our phenomenal teachers and staff.

We also use these lessons to help us be truly aware of our many gifts, especially the unexpected gifts of this time of upheaval: deeper reflection on what is truly important, more unpressured time to observe and appreciate small things, reminders of the joys—and perhaps challenges—of friends and family, a greater sense of belonging, awareness of our responsibility for caring for others, more kindness in how we treat one another...

Asian West Pacific Section Gathering Epistle (Sept. 2018)

...Climate change is a double injustice: it has been caused by actions that have benefited the affluent; while its adverse impacts fall most heavily on the poor and disadvantaged. A just response must recognize this.

While responding to climate change is challenging, there are messages from the heart of the Quaker testimonies on simplicity, community and equality that speak to the changes required. Further, we can be joyful about making change as it supplies reason and opportunity to embrace and promote greater community engagement....

Belgium and Luxembourg Yearly Meeting (10-11 October 2020)

Letting Our Lives Speak: Linking Quaker Theology, Spirituality and Social Action

.... We need to remain open, to seek discernment of our promptings and follow our leadings. The journeys on which we are led are their own rewards. Acceptance of our limits and being gentle with ourselves can help us to find authenticity in our lives and avoid 'Quaker guilt' at not doing enough. We can see ourselves as 'well-oiled cogs' in a bigger machine. We do not move, spiritually or physically, in isolation, but rather in concert with others. Our own movements affect and propel and perhaps inspire the movements of others...

Canadian Yearly Meeting (8-13 August 2020)

...This is a richly fertile time of change and transformation, looking at what is essential and what we are ready to do away with (both in our daily lives and within society). We need to prime ourselves and build our resilience to do the hard but necessary work ahead of us, addressing the many injustices of racism, poverty, sexism, LGBTQ+ issues, the environmental crisis, and other concerns which, as we reform a new world, may we approach with new energy and commitment. ...may we find the Light ever present in our lives, drawing us together...

Baltimore Yearly Meeting [BYM], (9th Month 26th Day, 2020) Selection from the Epistle of Young Adult Friends

...This year YAF [Young Adult Friends] continued to struggle with increasing awareness of white privilege, harm, and the suffocating atmosphere that minorities continue to live with. Current events

have made the need for this work all the more obvious. BYM YAF sees the declaration of BYM's intent to become an anti-racist community as a promise made to Friends of Color; one that it has become clear we have not been pursuing with the dedication and seriousness these Friends deserve. Instead, we have come to feel that Friends within BYM are more concerned about preserving the positive self-images of our white Friends than they are about confronting behaviors and practices that harm and exclude Friends of Color... [We] must continually remind each other that our own work is not done. Declaring that we wish to become anti-racist is only the first step. Our experiences with the wider BYM community in the past year have made it clear to BYM YAF that not all Friends are willing to see that we all have more to do. Friends of Color still have to contend with a legacy of subtle and overt racism...



We heard with gratitude the report from the Publications Committee that each year assembles and publishes the *Minute Book* for us. We remind Friends that many needed reports are available online soon after sessions and included in an email that goes from the Yearly Meeting clerk to the monthly meeting clerks in September.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Publications Committee of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) is charged with preparing, publishing, and distributing the Minute Book of our annual sessions. The committee always appreciates the timely and accurate receipt of the minutes and committee reports from our yearly meeting clerk.

The cost of printing the *Minute Book* and the cost of postage in mailing these books to each monthly meeting are listed with this report. Also listed is the cost of mailing books to a few individuals and institutions who have requested our annual publication. The Committee will continue our practice of asking each monthly meeting clerk for the number of spiral-bound and spine-bound copies they would like for their members/attenders. We always ask meetings to be conservative in these numbers to save the cost of printing/ mailing and the cost of resources. The Iowa Yearly Meeting Directory of Members and Attenders has been prepared by Nat Case of Laughing Waters Preparative Meeting, and he deserves our

continued appreciation for compiling this information so often used by members of Yearly Meeting.

Assistance and printing came from Bob Goodfellow Printing in Iowa City.

Printing and Postage Costs for the 2020 Minute Book

Spine Bound Minute Books	164	
Spiral Bound Minute Books	<u>54</u>	
Total Books	218@ \$9.69 each	\$2,112.42
Shipping and Freight		140.00
Sales Tax – Johnson Co. 6%		<u>126.72</u>
Total		\$2,379.14

For the committee,
Martha Davis, clerk

~~~~~

We adjourn until tomorrow at 9:30 AM when we will take up business related to Scattergood Friends School and Farm.

~~~~~

SIXTH DAY – FRIDAY MORNING - 07/23/2021

We heard a letter of introduction for Alicia McBride that should have been read on Fifth Day when she was with us.

Friends Committee on National Legislation
Lobbying with Quakers
July 2021

To our Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative):

Please welcome Alicia McBride as she visits the 2021 Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) sessions. We are excited that she will have ample opportunities to hear your concerns and leadings while sharing in worship and holding your business meeting in the Light. She is grateful to be in faith and community with you.

As the Director of Quaker Leadership, Alicia leads FCNL’s work to nurture, expand, and deepen relationships with Friends across the United States. She also works to ensure that everyone engaged with the organization understands the spiritual basis of FCNL’s advocacy.

She oversees FCNL events at the Quaker Welcome Center as well as Annual Meeting and the Quaker Public Policy Institute.

Alicia’s work builds on her previous roles at FCNL in communications, integrated strategy, and impact assessment. She joined the FCNL staff in 2004. She is a member of Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting (Baltimore Yearly Meeting) and has been part of a number of committees, including religious education, marriage and family relations, and membership and spiritual care. Alicia serves on the Earlham School of Religion Board of Advisors. She lives in Takoma Park, MD with her husband and two children.

We at FCNL seek to strengthen our connection to Friends meetings and churches around the country and find areas where FCNL can offer opportunities for action on issues concerning Friends. We are supporting this virtual “travel” in the tradition of Friends’ intervisitation with hope to stir our spirits and open opportunities for understanding one another’s experiences of how the Spirit is working in the world toward peace and justice.

We send you greetings, hold you in our prayers, and trust that God will bless your time together in loving community.

In peace,

Ron Ferguson
Clerk, FCNL General Committee
Pastor, Winchester Friends Church (IN)

~~~~~

The clerk would like to acknowledge to the Body that the clerk’s team is effectively a team of three this year. The clerk and assistant clerk are doing a lot of the talking, but behind the scenes, Cheryl Sutton, in her role on the Website Committee, has been collecting reports and putting them into an online agenda document. She is the one who has been sharing her screen so you can see the reports as they are read. Then she and the clerk are putting the approved minutes into the same online document, which will hopefully make it easier to put the minutes together after sessions. The clerks are grateful for this extra help.

~~~~~

We listened with appreciation to reports from the Yearly Meeting Trustees and the Scattergood School Foundation Trustees. We were

grateful for an explanation by Jim Cottingham of the role of the trustees in managing the secular affairs of Yearly Meeting. He noted that the Yearly Meeting was incorporated in 1945 and the Scattergood Friends School Foundation, which manages the School's Foundation, was incorporated in 1989. Scattergood Friends School and Farm, which is our biggest operation, is itself not incorporated, but is run by the Scattergood School Committee. It is not legally a different entity from Yearly Meeting. We are grateful for the steady service and clear reporting of these committees over the years.

YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES REPORT

During the past year we agreed to a request from the Representatives that the Yearly Meeting Trustees accept responsibility for managing a gift of about \$3,800 from Omaha Friends Meeting, to be used as a fund to support meetings in meetinghouse building projects, meetinghouse purchases, or technology upgrades to allow for better access.

The only disbursement of Trustees' funds during the past fiscal year was for electrical maintenance on the meetinghouse heating and cooling system. Work on additional maintenance items for the meetinghouse, including interior painting, was postponed while the campus was closed due to the pandemic. We expect this work to take place in the coming fiscal year, and that our current funds, along with our anticipated annual allotment in the Yearly Meeting budget, will be sufficient to cover anticipated meetinghouse maintenance projects.

(Trustees Financial Report on Following Page)

Trustees Financial Report 2021

Initial balance 07/01/20	\$6,643.18
From IYMC	\$1,000.00
Interest	<u> \$5.33</u>
Total Funds Available	\$7,648.51
Disbursements	
Albaugh PHC, INC.	\$992.14
Total disbursements	\$992.14
Bank balance 06/30/2021	\$6,656.37
Funds available 06/30/2021	\$6,656.37

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**SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL  
FOUNDATION TRUSTEES REPORT 2021**

The Scattergood Foundation is charged with the stewardship of the School's growing endowment, currently valued at \$6 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 one quarter of the distributions supports capital improvements to the campus, one quarter supports 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 as well as the Foundation's own standard payout policy. During the 2020-21 school year, the Foundation distributed \$107,100 to support tuition scholarship, as well as \$85,100 plus \$26,700 for a total of \$111,800 toward capital improvements and the operation of the School. The Foundation has committed to new distributions for the 2021-22 academic year totaling \$105,000 for scholarships, as well as \$86,550 plus \$26,950 for a total of \$113,500 toward capital improvements and operations.

**Assets Held by the Scattergood Friends School Foundation as of 06/30/2021:**

|                                  |                 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Westwood Trust #1                | \$ 2,178,150.56 |
| Westwood Trust #2                | \$ 2,861,529.38 |
| Westwood Capital A/C             | \$ 698,236.01   |
| Pemberton Farm (estimated value) | \$ 200,000.00   |
| Hills Bank checking              | \$ 180,691.54   |

**SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL FOUNDATION TRUSTEES REPORT 2020** *(this report was inadvertently left out of the 2020 Minute Book)*

The Scattergood Friends School Foundation is charged with the stewardship of the school's growing endowment, currently valued at \$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 one quarter of the distributions supports capital improvements to the campus, one quarter supports 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 as well as the Foundation's own standard payout policy. During the 2019-20 school year, the Foundation distributed \$109,350 to support tuition scholarship, as well as \$108,200 toward capital improvements and the operation of the School. The Foundation has committed to new distributions for the 2020-21 academic year totaling \$107,100 for scholarships, as well as \$85,100 plus \$26,700 for a total of \$111,800 toward capital improvements and operations.

**Assets Held by the Scattergood Friends School Foundation as of 06/30/2020:**

|                                  |                 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Westwood Trust #1                | \$ 1,940,206.27 |
| Westwood Trust #2                | \$ 2,493,868.29 |
| Westwood Capital A/C             | \$ 613,501.07   |
| Pemberton Farm (estimated value) | \$ 200,000.00   |
| Hills Bank checking              | \$ 368,887.23   |

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We listened with interest and appreciation to the reports from Scattergood Friends School and the School Committee. We are in awe of their work this year especially in adapting to the pandemic. They managed to continue on as a community while educating both high school and middle school students, virtually and on campus, without transmissions of any virus cases.

We appreciate the difficult decision to add air conditioning in the dorms as the School faces the dangers of climate change.

We feel blessed to be a part of the mission of love that our school continues to be. We cannot really comprehend the enormous energy and love that are put into the School year after year by the staff and the School Committee. For us, these reports reflect a ministry. Even, or perhaps especially the Farm Report, which is full of science, but seems very much like the recording of ministry. We feel that Scattergood is run by staff who are all teachers and ministers in the sense that they are the hands and feet of God.

HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

What a year it has been! The 2020-2021 school year at Scattergood was one of transition and adaptation as we launched a new Middle School program, responded to a global pandemic, and continued to further the mission of the School.

We began the year with 32 students in High School and 11 in Middle School. Throughout the year we saw five students depart the HS community, while five others joined; the Middle School gained one student to end the year with 12 total.

On 05/30/2021 we celebrated the graduation of six seniors: Dasani Bichell, Jad Tamari, Hussain “Leo” Kooshan, Ruth Zakelj, Sona Bedeyan, and Tom Kuo, all of whom were joined on campus by members of their families and Scattergood students and staff for a beautiful outdoor ceremony. In our awards ceremony prior to graduation, it was announced that Eliza Mesenbach was selected for the Gwen Shupe Arts Award, while Gillie Schmidt-Quee was chosen for the Berquist Award.

We say goodbye to two of our dear friends and colleagues as they move on from Scattergood, Kendall Smith (Director of Development) and Jeneveve “Jenny” Beben (College Counselor/Teacher). The Scattergood community is grateful for the contributions made by Jenny and Kendall during their time with us. While we are saddened by their departure, we are also heartened by the arrival of several

new staff members. Joining our team for the 2021/2022 school year are Sadie Kirschenman (Math/Science), Chloe Nagel (Health Coordinator), Katie Herbert (Marketing/Communications), and Ben Heller (Biology/Farm).

In a bit of serendipitous timing, we were joined this fall by journalist Andrea Seabrook as Friend in Residence. This proved particularly fruitful during the presidential election and transition between administrations as Andrea was able to offer us unique insight as both a Quaker and a former congressional correspondent for NPR. We are grateful for Andrea's time at Scattergood and the perspective she brought to our community during this historic year.

Scattergood finds itself in a financially stable position following a year filled with challenges and surprises. While our annual giving efforts did see a 14% dip, this decrease is less than the 20-25% drop we had been anticipating. A second PPP loan was granted and forgiven, helping us close the budget gap and end the year with a small surplus.

One of our goals for the year was to shift our timeline for re-enrollment to occur in March, rather than the end of the school year. This allows us to more accurately project for the following year's budget and staffing. This shift has been a success as the vast majority of our families re-enrolled in the early spring and paid deposits which greatly improved our cash flow throughout the late spring/early summer

Our tuition schedule for the 2021/2022 school year is \$13,000 for Middle School, \$19,000 for High School Day, and \$36,600 for High School Boarding (five and seven-day). Tuition assistance is available for all grade levels.

A major focus of Scattergood's work to the 2020/2021 school year was responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in a manner that kept students safe and allowed for in-person learning. To this end, we examined all aspects of Scattergood-life and adjusted our procedures and expectations accordingly. Thanks to the hard work of our staff, students, and parents, we successfully prevented the transmission of COVID-19 on the Scattergood campus. As we look ahead towards a return to normalcy, we hope to hold on to the things we liked about this year, such as an increased focus on utilizing outdoor spaces and using communication technology to allow for greater collaboration over a distance.

In my conversations with staff members, it became clear that health insurance was their most pressing concern and one that would require creative solutions to address. One of the biggest healthcare challenges facing Scattergood is the relatively small size of our organization. This limits our ability to secure competitive premiums for insurance and severely limits our options. With this in mind, Kim Jones and I began a conversation with Focus One, a professional employer organization, or PEO. By partnering with Focus One, we can provide our staff with a variety of services and benefits, including a dramatically reduced healthcare deductible. Our partnership with Focus One will also provide access to payroll management tools, a wellness program, and professional support services. Best of all, we will accomplish this with only a moderate increase to our anticipated budget for insurance using our previous provider.

As I close this report, I would like to thank IYMC for the continued support given to Scattergood. From the members of the School Committee to the Friends who joined our presentation at Midyear Meeting to the generous Friends who donated to our annual fund or in response to the derecho, I have been repeatedly humbled by the love and care this community so clearly holds for Scattergood Friends School. I am honored and delighted to continue to lead and serve our Scattergood Community.

Respectfully submitted,
John Zimmerman

FINANCE REPORT

Strong finish to FY 2020-2021. This is the strongest cash position that Scattergood has been in for several years.

Cash: Cash pre-payment tuition deposits and summer camp payments strengthened the on-cash position for the School. A last-minute annual fund donation above \$25,000 kept the School in good financial position going into the new fiscal year.

The loan for \$138,000 of PPP funds is currently being reviewed for forgiveness. The request for forgiveness is likely to be approved. It is under preliminary consideration pending the review of supporting documentation.

Expenses: No large expenses expected or anticipated. Following a year of COVID the School has enough on hand materials to prepare for the upcoming fiscal year post-COVID.

Net loss of only two employees means that we'll retain a large number of the staff.

Upcoming Concerns/or Items: New systems on board for 2021 anticipate some growing pains:

- Moving families to tuition payments with a third-party means they will no longer be manually charged by the business office – Scattergood will receive regular disbursements rather than process payments. This will allow greater payment options (checks, credit cards, Venmo/PayPal, others) for families, and will reduce mailing and move processes to digital correspondence.
- Moving staff to new payroll systems- set for the first payroll period.
- New healthcare rates- set for first payroll period. We are unsure of the billing so this will be a learning process

Budget Implications: Current student levels are not yet at the minimum level to sustain the current budget. We are anticipating that more students will enroll by August and the School will be on track to meet the set financial targets.

Post COVID enrollments will mean that the school will likely return to more regular business operations. Maintaining a tight budget for the year will be key to meeting budget projections.

The Middle School has materialized as a feeder program for the High School with several students enrolling in the High School this upcoming year. The significant sticker price gap between the two programs will need to be re-examined to ensure that students who are financially below the minimum for High School can still afford to attend when they begin High School.

What is on the horizon? Transportation for Middle School/High School and Post-COVID-19 operations.

(Finance Budget Report on Following Page)

INCOME		\$ 1,429,432.00	\$ 1,386,761.11	\$ 1,351,684.02	\$ 1,191,642.00
Contributions		\$ 804,007.00	\$ 827,821.01	\$ 777,357.00	\$ 769,383.00
	Annual Giving	\$ 280,000.00	\$ 241,022.60	\$ 280,000.00	\$ 280,000.00
	Designated Donation	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 11,840.00	\$ 16,244.00	
	Farm/Prairie	\$ -	\$ 150.00		
	STO	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,244.00	\$ 16,244.00
	Other	\$ -	\$ 12,190.00		
	Wreaths	\$ -	\$ -		
	Auxillary	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -		
		\$ -	\$ -		
	Reimbursable Income	\$ -	\$ 2,229.69		
	Designated Capital	\$ 63,825.00	\$ 55,900.00	\$ 63,825.00	
	Admissions	\$ 21,275.00	\$ -	\$ 21,275.00	
	Iowa Yearly Meeting	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 54,000.00	\$ 54,000.00
	Measey Foundation	\$ 237,907.00	\$ 237,907.00	\$ 229,882.00	\$ 227,589.00
	SFS Foundation	\$ 148,275.00	\$ 163,700.00	\$ 149,650.00	\$ 191,550.00
		\$ -	\$ -		
	Tuition Revenue Net Tuition	\$ 600,825.00	\$ 524,739.96	\$ 355,171.00	\$ 383,034.00
	Gross Tuition		\$ -	\$ 499,422.00	
	Less Financial Aid given		\$ -		
Non-Tuition Revenue		\$ 24,600.00	\$ 34,200.14		\$ 39,255.00
			\$ -		
Fee&Charges			\$ -	\$ -	
	Enrollment Fee	\$ -	\$ 1,000.96		
	Application Fee	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 612.36	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
	Fees & Charges	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 486.03	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 78,000.00
	Interest Earnings	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 25,965.81	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
	Other Operating	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
	Rental Use	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,350.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
	Farm	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 1,750.98	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
	Row Crop		\$ 2,034.00	\$ -	
	Meat/Produce/other	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -		
EXPENSES		\$ 1,475,632.57	\$ 1,352,772.97	\$ 1,335,134.05	\$ 1,273,036.14
Payroll		\$ 829,162.00	\$ 722,950.48	\$ 719,432.00	\$ 681,114.00
Payroll Expenses		\$ 61,772.57	\$ 68,160.00	\$ 53,555.00	\$ 52,105.00
Personnel Costs		\$ 204,616.57	\$ 119,231.01	\$ 142,844.00	\$ 119,763.30
Residential		\$ 17,135.00	\$ 16,894.00	\$ 7,935.00	\$ 20,929.49
Communications		\$ 11,520.00	\$ 165,548.00	\$ 10,920.00	\$ 19,644.67
Contracted Services		\$ 31,000.00	\$ 40,967.61	\$ 33,275.00	\$ 40,098.93
Curriculum		\$ 11,100.00	\$ 11,334.24	\$ 10,900.00	\$ 14,106.69
Middle School		\$ 7,075.00	\$ 2,762.31	\$ 5,000.00	
Farm		\$ 20,580.00	\$ 12,862.80	\$ 11,929.97	\$ 19,670.29
Insurance		\$ 46,547.00	\$ 43,119.55	\$ 51,120.00	\$ 51,106.72
Food Service		\$ 48,000.00	\$ 48,321.57	\$ 41,431.05	\$ 50,315.05
Miscellaneous		\$ 37,790.00	\$ 34,536.35	\$ 17,590.00	\$ 26,040.00
Professional Services		\$ 50,900.00	\$ 28,613.59	\$ 43,800.00	\$ 18,000.00
Admissions		\$ 51,000.00	\$ 42,846.14	\$ 51,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Development		\$ 14,800.00	\$ 11,117.53	\$ 13,150.00	\$ 10,915.94
Supplies				\$ 14,920.00	\$ 18,620.00
Technology		\$ 31,587.00	\$ 42,598.80	\$ 31,587.00	\$ 22,840.00
Vehicles/Equipment		\$ 12,275.00	\$ 6,691.80	\$ 11,875.00	\$ 12,486.74
Operational Costs		\$ 82,600.00	\$ 77,267.95	\$ 77,600.00	\$ 83,548.81
NET INCOME/ (LOSS)		\$ (46,200.57)	\$ 33,988.14	\$ (182,356.56)	\$ (81,394.14)
ESTATE GIFTS			\$ 61,229.76		
PPP Cares Act	Total		\$ 158,300.00		
	Payroll		-135,674		
	Other Expenses		-6498.05		
SBA LOAN	Forgiven		\$ 158,300.00		
PPP Cares Act	Total		\$ 138,937.00		
SBA LOAN	Forgiven		\$ 138,937.00		
	Total SBA FUND		\$ 297,237.00		

FARM REPORT

Dear Friends,

Several years ago, I began to consider the eight acres of gardens and orchards at the Scattergood Farm as a canvas on which we paint an ever-changing picture, starting in March when the garlic pokes through and the cover crops break dormancy, and ending in December, by which time we have dug our last root crops and have mown our restored prairie pieces. The size of the canvas ensures that beauty exists somewhere every day, while the expansive timeframe helps us dismiss the weed patches or insect and wind damage, knowing that the piece isn't finished, and beauty can yet be revealed. This collaboration of soil, seeds, people, machines, weather, climate, invertebrate life, charismatic critters and the many things unseen and unknown gives us the necessary perspective to show up each day and do our part, which is often simply noticing.

Our students, too, had opportunities to notice: The Middle School began each day on the Farm (barring lightning and below 0 wind chills), feeding and watering the livestock, helping with special projects, learning about soils in their science curriculum and often practicing morning Collection on the large round hay bales.

And once again, the High School started the year with Farm Term, spending each morning on the farm, taking interdisciplinary classes on Farm Frights; Fences, Boundaries and Borders; and Landscape, Ecology and Design. There were also High School PE classes that featured: harvesting in the fall; moving portable sheep fences in the spring; an Intersession class that pruned apples and pears and set up livestock fences; a year-long crew that spent three days each week doing various farm tasks; and the Biology class which researched uncommon fruit and nut trees which we will plant next spring.

The Farm also engaged with the wider community, providing food for Table to Table in Iowa City, local consumers through our Saturday Market, and exchanges with Millet Seed Farm and Sun Dog Farm. We welcomed visitors with Taproot Nature Experience, the Scattergood Summer Camp, Middle School families for a derecho cleanup day, and hosted a field day for Practical Farmers of Iowa. We shared our rotational grazing experiences with Sustainable Iowa Land Trust farmers, seasonal practices with the Ames Catholic Worker's 'Ask A Farmer' series, knowledge of beneficial beetle populations with a graduate student from Montana State University,

and our successes and failures of integrating a farm and a school with folks from Friends Meeting School in Ijamsville, Maryland. We are currently conducting two on-farm field trials for Practical Farmers of Iowa and one for Iowa State University Extension and Horticulture. We have received grants for our work from the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, the Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation and a Community Food Grant through the City of West Branch.

This was the work of many people starting with Dana Foster and Jamie Newton who shepherded the Middle School throughout the year; Jenny Beben, Sadie Kirshenmann, Ethan Hueslkamp, Jennie Schmidt, Lars Marroquin-Haslett, Estella Newton and Inikka Dalton who at various times have worked on the Farm; Irving Treadway and Karen Huff, who feed us so well; the Farm Subcommittee of the School Committee which offers support and guidance, and Ken Fawcett who remains a trusted advisor.

As farmers, often overwhelmed by the many required tasks ahead, noticing and appreciating the beauty around us lessens the burden. And recognizing our role in this beauty as both artists and audience brings purpose and joy. I hope you now have a better picture in mind of the artistry of the Scattergood Farm and next year may we enjoy it together, in person.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Quee, Farm Manager

SCATTERGOOD SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

I will love the light for it shows me the way.

Yet I will endure the darkness for it shows me the stars.

– Og Mandino

It was a year of both loving the light and enduring the darkness, and cultivating the practice of appreciation for both. The staff, leadership and students of the School found new ways through these unprecedented times, and we are deeply grateful for their immense efforts and creative solutions.

Last July, in the depths of the pandemic, we welcomed John Zimmerman and his family (Stephanie, Jack and Miranda) to Scattergood. And what a year it was to begin his journey as a new Head of School! Here are but a few of the major milestones that were faced: the launch of a Middle School program; beginning a Healing

and Boundaries project to listen and learn from the challenging stories of the School's past and to ensure more safety on campus; surviving then recovering from the severe derecho storm in August; planning and directing Covid-19 safety practices on campus; creating virtual learning programs; and sustaining community when online learning was necessary.

This was a year to be nimble and flexible, so we were grateful to be small. The school tackled the daunting logistics of adaptation such as reimaging living arrangements, meals, and classrooms, to nurturing a sense of connection while maintaining distance and wearing masks. The Covid protocols were well planned and followed so even when a positive case did appear, the virus did not spread throughout the campus.

Much of the work needed to sustain the School from a standpoint of admissions, outreach and governance was put on hold because of Covid, but the connections that have been made through the necessity of virtual interactions have provided previously unthought-of possibilities. For instance, we are now able to include people on the School Committee and subcommittees who may not have otherwise been able to participate. It is our intention that even as we are able to meet in-person for School Committee business, we will continue to have virtual and hybrid meetings to provide more access with less travel.

Long overdue, the School and School Committee have begun work with Chi Achebe from Chicago to help us take a deeper look into our systems, policies, attitudes and participants through a lens of racial equity and bias awareness. This work is not just a marathon, but rather an ongoing daily walk, and it must be integrated into our culture and all that we do.

Financially we are ending the year on a relatively strong note. We nearly reached our Annual Fund Giving goal and the School qualified for two forgivable PPP loans. This helped with our cash flow so we did not tap into our line of credit, putting us in a stronger position to begin the 2021-22 academic year. Enrollment was higher and the increase in revenue was welcomed. The Middle School has shown itself to be a successful educational program and as a feeder school for the secondary grades. Five weeks of Camp Scattergood this summer filled a need in the area, yielded some profit, and also served as a playful outreach to connect with local youth. There are plans underway to continue and expand the summer camp program.

Looking ahead, we are in the planning stages for a capital campaign to address the installation of sprinkler systems, as well as a few other costly facilities updates. The five main projects include: 1) sprinkler systems in the dorms; 2) a new well; 3) dorm bathroom renovations; 4) air conditioning in the dorms; and 5) installation of more solar panels to offset energy use.

The State of Iowa requires the School to install sprinklers in both dorms, and a water holding tank for the entire system. A new well is needed and it is prudent to attend to this proactively instead of waiting for an emergency. The dorm bathrooms will be updated to provide more privacy, improve ventilation, and possibly to relocate the water heaters closer to the showers instead of hot water traveling the long distance from the basement.

We have come to the conclusion that air conditioning is necessary in the dorms for a number of health and safety reasons: weather is becoming even more unpredictable and there could be dangerously high temperatures in dorms during the school year. We are planning to expand our summer options to include residential programs but would need temperature-safe dorms to do so; and lastly, air conditioning with an air filtration system improves air quality which is crucial for students living with allergies. We have begun conversations with Dwight Schumm of Design Engineers to help us find energy efficient options. Dwight specializes in designing green HVAC systems and has connections to IYMC. The addition of more solar panels will offset the increase in energy associated with air conditioning and hopefully provide electricity for other areas of the school as well.

Although the pandemic is not yet over, we are in a better place and are grateful to get back to our business of things like future planning, outreach, facilities updates, and our seven-year reaccreditation process which begins soon. We offer our resounding appreciation to the faculty, staff and our Head of School for their tireless efforts. Without their sacrifices of time, energy, resources and family support, this year would not have been possible. We also thank the students and their parents and guardians for their patience, perseverance, and support in keeping the community together and thriving. Although the challenges were many, the grace and resilience of the community shone through. This past year had many blessings when viewed through a lens of gratitude, and we

hold all who made it possible in the Light as we faithfully look forward to continuing this mission of Love.

On behalf of the School Committee,
Ruth Hampton, clerk and Roy Helm, assistant clerk

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We adjourn to meet again this afternoon at 1pm.

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SIXTH DAY – FRIDAY AFTERNOON - 07/23/2021

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

To be afraid is to behave as if the truth were not true.

Bayard Rustin

Therefore, putting away falsehood, let everyone speak the truth with their neighbor, for we are members one of another.

Ephesians 4:25

Margaret Vrana and Charlie Johnson have been appointed readers this afternoon.

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We listened tenderly to the report from the Yearly Meeting Ministry and Counsel Committee. We appreciate their loving care of Yearly Meeting and the monthly meetings, and their willingness to take on a new task, receiving and summarizing the monthly meetings' religious education reports. We approve having the IYMCIYMC clerk endorse Deborah Fisch's minute for travel in the ministry from Paullina Meeting\*.

*\* Travel Minute for Deborah Fisch will be printed in the Reports Received but Not Read During Sessions section of the Minute Book.*

**MINISTRY & COUNSEL ANNUAL REPORT**

*As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.*

1 Corinthians 12

The year has been a rich time for Ministry & Counsel. In the late summer of 2020, the Committee launched the Spiritual Sharing Small Groups program (SSSG). A second round of small groups will be finishing soon and, if Way is open, a third round will begin. The SSSG program continues to be shepherded by Cheryl Sutton (Bear Creek), Lorene Ludy (Lincoln), and Deborah Fink (Ames).

In Fifth Month, M&C reflected together on the metaphor of addressing racism and whiteness as a journey that we are on, individually and as a body. This was in part due to Midyear Meeting's theme and Friends' engagement with it. There are challenges and helpers on the journey when we run into difficulty, so we don't have to travel alone, and there are resources available to us to learn more.

We read together the State of the Meeting reports and were struck by how heartfelt and thoughtful many of these are. A number of meetings have been enriched by having a wider reach to and greater inclusiveness of Friends, as well as easy inter-visitation across our meetings due to the access that video conferencing provides. We also noted concerns held by some meetings about how to engage in more effective outreach and how to provide and sustain inclusive worship as we emerge from the pandemic. We hope some of what is offered in these reports will provide guidance. We return these reports to the yearly meeting clerk with the recommendation that, if Way is open, they be read during annual sessions.

Religious Education - We received the Religious Education reports, and we include a summary here. Because Friends appreciate learning of resources that our meetings used, we include those as well.

Six Religious Education reports were received. Only one meeting out of twelve continued their First Day School during the year via video conferencing, providing activities for the pre-elementary and middle school children, with one group on First Days after worship and the other on weekday evenings.

The older children from the meeting explored the Quaker testimonies and other faith traditions. Together they wrote a play about the Children's Meeting of 1663 when the adults were imprisoned. The play was presented via video conferencing to their meeting, including costumes, background scenery, and music. It was well done, enjoyed and appreciated.

Meetings also reported on Adult Religious Education activities. Adult Religious Education took the form of book discussions, spiritual

formation groups, query discussions, and invited speakers. Friends deepened their understanding of Quaker history and ways to grow in their spiritual journey. Topics also focused on the rights of Indigenous People, immigrants and racial justice. All of this was made possible through the use of technology.

Resources mentioned: Articles from *Friends Journal*; *QuakerSpeak* videos; webinars from *National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition*; epistles from the website of *Friends World Committee for Consultation*; Quaker workshops held via video conferencing; the *Sparklers* curriculum for children in First Day School; and a number of books: *Nothing Lowly in the Universe*; *To Be Broken and Tender: A Quaker Theology for Today*; *The Quakers, 1656-1723* (Rosemary Moore's chapters); and *Turning to One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future*.

Proposed Guidelines- Related to the youngest among us in the Yearly Meeting, in 2019, M&C recommended that a document titled *Safety Guidelines for Children and Youth* to be used during IYMC functions, be posted on the IYMC website. Friends wanted to have time to review the document, with the intention to reconsider M&C's recommendation in 2020. The pandemic prevented us from attending to that follow-up work. The Yearly Meeting clerk and the M&C clerk will work together to send a reminder for meetings to review the document in preparation for 2022.

Delayed a year by the pandemic, M&C has received a report this year from Deborah Fisch (Paullina) about her experiences of responding to the call from the Spirit to travel in the ministry. Her anchor committee also shared a report, and a new travel minute from Paullina Meeting has been received. In Friends tradition, when a monthly meeting tests and records that a Friend is being called to travel in the ministry beyond Yearly Meeting, the monthly meeting's travel minute is brought to the YM's M&C for consideration. M&C unites with the discernment of Paullina Meeting and recommends that Yearly Meeting approve having the IYMC clerk endorse the travel minute. M&C looks forward to receiving a report from Deborah next year about her continued travels in the ministry.

Friends asked Liz Oppenheimer (Bear Creek) to continue serving another year as clerk of Ministry and Counsel. Liz agreed to do so.

M&C has provided a clearness committee to Omaha Meeting this last year, as they discern God's direction for them as a meeting. The IYMC Ministry & Counsel Committee remains an important resource



for our monthly meetings going through struggle and as they provide care and nurture to their members and attenders, whether floundering or growing and everything in between. We are Friends in the Spirit, parts of the same body, all worthy of attention and care.

On behalf of the committee,  
Liz Oppenheimer, IYMC M&C clerk

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We listened carefully to the State of the Meeting Reports, appreciating the similarities and differences among our 13 far-flung communities. The effects of the pandemic were strongly felt as meetings contended with problems of exclusion and benefits of inclusion because of using technology and needing to be physically distanced. These reports brought to mind the three-legged stool of the Divine, the community, and our work in the world. We appreciate the discipline of having to consider the states of our meetings each year in order to write these reports, as well as the discipline of listening to them. We were reminded that the roots of the redwood trees are not deep, but the trees intertwine their roots and weather the storms together.

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS

Ames Friends Meeting

June 29, 2021

Clerk: Lee S. Tesdell

Ames Friends Meeting (AFM) has worshiped in a hybrid form for most of the past year, with some of us masking and distancing at our meetinghouse, while others join via video conferencing. The technology for virtual meeting has allowed online visitation and we have felt fortunate to have met Friends from other locations in the US and from other countries. Although we have transitioned primarily to in-person meetings as of early summer, 2021, we are grateful for the gifts of those who have participated virtually. We plan to continue to offer a video conferencing option as we emerge from the pandemic. An additional blessing is the transfer membership of two Friends from the Live Oak Friends Meeting in Houston, Texas.

Our vocal ministry during meeting is sparse. We, nevertheless, are grateful for the ministry of Silence as well as speech. Some members have also participated in a number of complementary practices of Spirit, including a monthly Meeting for Healing, a monthly *Experiment with Light* meeting (with a reduced number of meetings during the pandemic), and regular participation in virtual meetings for worship at Pendle Hill. Some have participated in Yearly Meeting Spirit Sharing groups, bringing these fruits of the Spirit to our worship. We are again resurrecting our monthly discussion of queries and other topics on the first Sunday of each month, although we have not seen our way clear to address Yearly Meeting Queries in a systematic way.

The AFM has been involved collectively in a number of projects and concerns, both local and global. The AFM has provided support for DACA immigrant fund and sponsors a student to attend the annual FCNL Spring Lobby weekend. The AFM is a congregation member of A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy (AMOS), the Story County Coronavirus-19 Emergency Immigrant Fund, the Ames Interfaith Refugee Alliance (AIRA), the Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partners (ASIP), and Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). The AFM's FCNL involvement includes an Advocacy Team, which regularly interacts with our elected representatives in Iowa. Our meeting for business agenda includes regular reports on Scattergood Friends School, AFSC, and the Ames Climate Action Team. Many in our meeting are led by their faith to be actively engaged in other activities in the community and beyond.

Despite these considerable involvements of "faith in practice," we recognize weaknesses. The AFM does not have a Peace, Social and Environmental Concerns Committee. We recognize that the AFM has room for greater collective activity and common focus as a meeting.

We are especially grateful for the faithful corps of regulars who have been able to pitch in with the mundane work of maintaining a meetinghouse by shoveling snow, paying bills, housecleaning, yard work, maintenance, and negotiating equipment purchases. We are also pleased to have the meetinghouse used by a variety of groups, including a Zen meditation group, writer's group, ASIP, and Mennonites. We hope in the coming year to continue to share our meetinghouse with these and other such groups.

Bear Creek Friends Meeting

We notice the strengths of our meeting to adapt to change, accompany one another tenderly, willingness to consider difficult issues and create new ways to be in service to one another and our community. This has been a challenge as well as a very “wholesome” experience.

Despite the concerns of how the pandemic might impact our meetings, we’ve adapted and learned how to communicate with the technology. After the pandemic subsides, we hope to continue the opportunity for Friends farther away to participate.

Even when we have not been meeting in person, members have helped with the business of the meeting as each can by taking notes, hosting video conferencing, responding to queries, small groups of Friends with committee responsibilities and attending video conferencing-based meetings. Friends assist with the business of the meeting: emailing queries ahead of time; handling correspondence; and care of the meetinghouse and grounds.

Our meeting sent a newsletter to distant members and we’re thankful that several responded. It feels good to remember the connections we have across our group.

We contributed to a barn-raising project for a new organic CSA farm just south of the meetinghouse. We are grateful that a member of our meeting placed the land in an agricultural land trust. This can provide a path to help build community and mitigate the challenges of climate change.

This has been a painful year with the isolation, the deep polarization of our country and the interpersonal and even violent conflicts resulting from it, and the loss of natural habitat to climate change. And we miss those who are no longer among us. In spite of the pandemic, Friends continue to reach out to make local connections. We appreciated the endeavors of the Peace & Social Concerns Committee and how it helped us connect with each other through that work.

Even when things are hard, we stick together; we are always at the same table. The commitment to the Meeting as a whole and the love we have for one another was very much there during times of disagreement.

We seem to come up with queries of the Queries, allowing us to question where we are right now as a meeting. Sometimes we have needed the wider world to minister to us in ways that the Advices and Queries haven't addressed: gender identity and family make-up; addressing racial issues and racial bias in parts of our Quaker practice; reflecting on the good intentions behind boarding schools for Indigenous children and the Quakers who participated there, and the harmful impact reported by Native American adults with whom some of us are connected.

We helped host Midyear Meeting this year virtually with the theme facilitated by our resource person, Vanessa Julye: "How Does White Supremacy Keep Us From Hearing God's Voice?" We were challenged as a community to look at ourselves in regards to racial justice. We missed being together physically, but were enriched by the Spirit together.

The Spirit has been speaking to us in new ways as we take time to center in our own homes and being involved in other groups for spiritual enrichment. We see how far our meeting reaches and welcome new opportunities to be together.

We wonder if we have made the most of the technology to check in with each other, deepen our relationships, and walk with one another during challenging times noting the evidence and impact of climate change; commemorating Black lives lost; connecting more intentionally with Laughing Waters Friends, and participating in small group Spiritual Sharing.

We are discerning how Way might be opening for our meeting to invite other members of the Yearly Meeting and community to bring forward gifts, knowledge, and skills that our small meeting may not have. We are reminded that we are one in the Spirit, one family, one body, one planet...

Inviting hospitality forward encourages paying attention to building relationships and showing up repeatedly in the hopes that new patterns will emerge, and we will know one another more fully in That Which Is Eternal.

Decorah Friends Meeting

The past year was a challenging one for Decorah Friends, as it has been for many communities of faith who are accustomed to meeting in person to share their worship experience. There is a verse from the Koran that states “I am closer than the beating of your own heart”. For much of the past year, we missed the nearness of hearts sitting one chair away in our meetinghouse. We suspended First Day programs (except for a couple times) and times of singing were out of the question, especially in the “early days” of learning about how we could take care of each other. Friends received the same messages as the culture did about what are best practices for keeping us safe from transmission of virus. Some Friends were not at ease with meeting in our space, even with masking and with a virus filtering system; others did not have access to internet, and so could never join us for online Meeting. We did discover about ourselves that what was most important was that we stay together as a group. We were uncomfortable with some of us worshipping in person at the meetinghouse if it meant others were excluded. We were uncomfortable meeting via video conferencing until we all could access it. We considered “walking meeting” for colder times of year, but this would have precluded those who had challenges with ambulation.

Our third way was to gather for outdoors meeting in a rural setting for mild times of the year – from May through early November in 2020, resuming outside meeting again in May 2021. The music of birds, water and wind accompanied us during these individual and group worship times. We met via video conferencing during the winter months.

This year presented technical challenges, and we met some of those challenges with technological responses: we used a high-tech air filtration system for a time at the meetinghouse, for improving air quality, and for screening out of viral particles, with one goal of having the space safe should we decide to use it. We learned about video conferencing, and while we are not yet entirely proficient at it, we are much better at it! We will continue to use technology as a backup when weather does not allow for outdoor gathering, and look forward to the time when we again feel at ease in the

meetinghouse, hearing the sound of the heart in the neighboring chair.

We have just begun to study about making reparations to Indigenous people and People of Color, and it is our intention to take action on this in the coming year.

Des Moines Valley Friends

Des Moines Valley Friends has continued to meet for worship primarily via video conferencing, with a small group meeting outside the meetinghouse last summer and fall. Recently a small group of Friends has been meeting in-person both inside and outside of the meetinghouse; we continue to use video conferencing to keep us all connected.

The pandemic highlighted both strengths and concerns of the meeting. Members of the Ministry and Counsel Committee focused on care of our members and attenders and checked on Friends who were not attending the video conferencing meetings on a regular basis. Attempts were made to adjust Meeting traditions to foster community while keeping everyone safe: at Thanksgiving several Friends made extra helpings of food which were delivered to solitary members; we had our traditional Christmas caroling via video conferencing complete with piano accompaniment and harp solos.

Our concept of membership expanded as we welcomed members, attenders and visitors from other parts of Iowa, other states, Spain, and Germany. We are currently exploring how best to continue our combination of in-person and virtual worship to continue to include Friends not currently living in the Des Moines area.

Members commented about a perhaps paradoxical increased intimacy while meeting virtually. There were more messages during meeting for worship and during the sharing of joys and concerns which followed meeting; people shared at greater length about what was going on in their lives.

We missed the presence of Friends who are not comfortable with attending meeting for worship virtually. We missed the presence of children in the meetinghouse and were grateful for the

one family whose children were with them for worship via video conferencing.

Fewer people have attended business meetings, which have also occurred via video conferencing. Nonetheless, we have addressed weighty issues both in business meeting and during Second Hours, including AFSC moving out of our attached neighbor, Friends House, our relationship to Friends House, Meeting finances and our financial relationship with IYMC

Very few people have attended this year's *Advice & Queries* which were moved to a midweek evening and held via video conferencing. Nonetheless the discussions have been lively and there has been a comfort level in meeting from our own homes.

Like many meetings DMVF feels challenged by the aging of our membership. Most of our children and grandchildren do not identify as Friends. An Ad Hoc Outreach Committee is planning to meet to consider ways to reach out to the community so that we can be more inclusive. Yearly Meeting could help by sharing how other meetings are addressing this issue and resources to address this issue. Several Friends have invited others to our meeting; each of us could be more mindful of individual opportunities for outreach.

Iowa City Friends Meeting

The necessity of replacing in-person worship with virtual worship affected our meeting in a number of ways. We had regular visitors, many from other meetings, that allowed us to build stronger relationships. We grew particularly close to Paullina Meeting. Members and attenders that live outside the Iowa City area were able to attend more regularly.

Missing from virtual meeting was the social interaction that happens after meeting and at our monthly "meetings for potluck." To counter the lack of social interaction, we incorporated a "what was your week like?" time at the close of meeting. We became comfortable sharing our daily lives and its joys and challenges. The fact that we shared with everyone allowed personal relationships, particularly with newcomers, to grow more quickly. The presence of young children in our meeting has brought

us joy. One member remarked that, although they missed looking into the eyes of an individual, they loved being able to see the whole Meeting all at once displayed on the video conferencing screen.

We have decided to continue to have the virtual option as we begin to open the meetinghouse. At this point our attendance is about 50% virtual and 50% in person, all who are vaccinated. We are struggling with the protocols for attending in person. We do have many first-time attenders throughout the year. What should the practices be in order to be welcoming, but also safe?

The open mindedness, flexibility, and “can do” attitude of our members and attenders have strengthened our meeting although the “let’s just get through this” feeling may have stalled our spiritual growth. Before closing the meetinghouse, we had started once-a-month Quaker education programming which was paused when the pandemic quarantine began. We need to restart these programs to help us understand one another and guide us on our spiritual journeys as Quakers. We often express at meeting that gathering as we do is important to our mental health and our search for meaning.

Laughing Waters Friends Preparative Meeting

Way has not opened for Laughing Waters Preparative Meeting to write and approve a State of Society report in the usual manner. This is being written by the clerk to explain our situation and report to the Yearly Meeting.

We spent much of the year holding up the question of how we as a meeting might address issues of social justice. Though we learned a great deal about each other over that time, in individual conversations and as a whole in meetings for worship with attention to business and other sessions, we remain deeply divided in ways that go beyond the original question. We've been made aware of pain and grief that this work has given to many of us. We ask for the Yearly Meeting's prayers as we continue to seek discernment.

This statement was received via email by the active members of the Meeting, who responded by accepting it or standing aside.

Nat Case, clerk

Lincoln Friends Meeting

Lincoln Meeting remains a group meeting faithfully and nurturing each other by our presence (albeit virtually). We are enriched by more people (and animals) attending regularly via video conferencing. We are happy to be joined in worship by Friends in Omaha Meeting, finding strength together and getting to know each other. One special gift from meeting online: a longtime Friend, who could not attend Meeting after moving to an assisted living center far-away, was able to rejoin us online for regular worship until his passing this winter. Having his memorial online enabled us include his family from across the country.

We value our connection to each other and the powerful experience of worship together. Greater involvement, especially of younger people, has broadened our community and added strength to our worship. We appreciate the beautiful and faith-affirming vocal ministry “putting on the path” or giving comfort. It meant the world, especially in this past rough year. Some expressed yearning for more vocal ministry, for insight into what is going on in each other. We appreciate ministry when it comes and the Silence as well.

Meeting for business has been well attended, sometimes better than meeting for worship.

We are blessed by a Midweek Meeting for Worship that we started this year. The sharing of worship and conversation at midweek helps to get through life-struggles and feel connected throughout the week.

We miss the physical presence of being in the meetinghouse together and the personal connections of casual conversation over dishes or coffee. As this COVID-19 time is ending, we are looking forward to meeting in person. We fear loss with change: will we lose faithful attendance, as worship together becomes more challenging, especially for those who are far away or have health issues? As we move back to worship at the meetinghouse, we hope to find the technology to include those who cannot share physical but can share spiritual connection.

Omaha Monthly Meeting

We ended 2020 struggling with the actual state of our monthly meeting. Small in numbers and being unable to meet in person because of COVID-19, we had begun meeting jointly with Lincoln Monthly Meeting for worship each First Day and having our own meeting for business and meeting to check-in with one another during each month. As the months went by, we joined together with Lincoln's meeting for worship for business and to do our check-ins each month in addition to our own meeting for business and check-ins. In many ways this has become the silver lining to COVID-19 for many of our members and attenders. During the past year, we have become loving Friends with a greater understanding of one another in both meetings. IYMC's Ministry and Council Committee's clearness committee, set up in 2020 to help us try to discern God's direction for us, has been a great help with their loving and prayerful guidance. Even though no final decision has been discerned as yet, we are comfortable in the knowledge that we are all supportive of one another and clear that Yearly Meeting will support our continued existence and each other. We feel Omaha and Lincoln need to have a meeting together to openly discuss how the Friends in both groups feel about our current method of meeting together, with each welcome to be a part of the other's meetings and fellowship, but each still having a visible presence in their own city's identity.

One of the most spiritually helpful things that has come out of COVID-19's need for video conferencing meetings, has been the Spirituality Groups hosted by IYMC's video conferencing and Friends with knowledge of how to set those meetings up. The Friends in the Omaha Meeting who have participated have found them to be very meaningful and a great help in exploring our spirituality. We hope those groups can continue even as we are able to get back to joining our own groups in meeting face-to-face.

Experiencing these IYMC video conferencing meetings has encouraged many Friends to find other ways of joining with different groups of people, learning new things and new ways of thinking by joining video conferencing workshops, book club studies, and other explorations of life. An Episcopal series called *Sacred Ground* is about the history and real results of slavery;

Braver Angels, a group out of Wyoming, provides many speakers and conversational topics, including a group reading and discussing Ben Sasse's book *Them: Why We Hate*; and Lincoln's study of Parker Palmer's *A Hidden Wholeness* (led by Lorene Ludy) are some of the areas explored by Friends.

Meeting by technology has allowed several Friends to participate in worship together when they would not have been able to do so in person because of distance and personal circumstances – another enhancement of the spiritual quality of our meeting. Some have been able to join meeting for business and other gatherings that would not have been possible.

All things considered, even though we have not reached complete clearness, we are emerging from this past year in a much stronger state of the meeting than we began it.

Paullina Friends Meeting

We have made it through the pandemic with few casualties. The Meeting has aged but we are still having meeting for worship on First Days. Meeting for business has resumed and fourth Sunday potluck is coming. House and Grounds has been supported well by attenders, and non-attenders. As we worship, mow, clean buildings, trim trees, and maintain the cemetery, we feel our sense of community. We hope this coming year brings us closer together and video conferencing is not our venue for worship.

Penn Valley Monthly Meeting

This past year has seen many joys and sorrows in our meeting community. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all our lives on a personal level and Meeting level. As we decided to mainly meet and hold worship via video conferencing, all of us had to enter a new electronic learning curve, bringing some frustration, but also a great thankfulness that we are able to continue to meet, worship and share together. We all miss the face-to-face interactions and hugs we shared prior to the pandemic, but technology has also opened doors to welcome regular new attenders and has made it possible for Friends that live out of the Kansas City area, and our elderly Friends who find it difficult to be physically present, to fully participate in our meeting activities.

We added a midweek time of open video conferencing time for worship, sharing and check in. Although often only sparsely attended, Friends do take advantage of this added possibility to connect with each other. This was recently modified to become our Midweek Meeting on Fourth Days at 7 p.m.

First Day morning Bible study has a steady attendance and offers an experience of deep listening and sharing to the unspoken and written word. Its leader Sharon Eiker remarried and moved to Marshall, MO. She's kept her KC home and continues to be active, though stepping down from her presiding clerk's role.

We have found that we have grown in our willingness to patiently listen to each other, hear new ideas, and encourage each other to exercise passions and gifts. Friend Chris Roesel continues his volunteer work through People 2 People in Africa, bringing clean water & sanitary toilets to villages in need.

We were blessed with the presence of Hussain "Leo" Kooshan, a student at Scattergood Friends School from Afghanistan. He spent a large part of the last year in Kansas City with his host family, due to the School going to all online classes because of the pandemic. We raised over \$5,000 using Go-Fund-Me and a Sufferings Fund so he could have two root canals taken care of.

We were also blessed with the attendance of other new Friends who brought and shared their Light with us and continue to do so. Our Resident Friend, Kai McCoy, moved to Indiana, so our comfy meetinghouse is not used as fully now. We continue to seek ways of using it more fully.

With great sorrow we had to say goodbye to our dear Friend Shane Rowse who passed away in September 2020 from a heart attack. A Sufferings Fund was also established for his family.

As we enter a time of eased pandemic restrictions, we upgraded our video conferencing set up at the meetinghouse, cleaned and cleared and rearranged our worship space to make our worship as inclusive as possible and moved to a blended meeting/worship experience.

Our hopes and prayers for the future are that we will deepen our relationship with the Divine Presence and with each other, and that we are open and faithful to the leadings of God's Spirit.

West Branch Friends Meeting

Our experience this last year has been shaped by many things, including the pandemic, continued social unrest and political uncertainty, and unanticipated conflict and struggle within the Meeting. Through it all, we have also been shaped by the continuities that help us hold the Center as we navigate our journey as a meeting.

We have gathered via video conferencing since late March 2020. The hour before Meeting provides a time for sharing, fellowship, and connection before we center ourselves in worship. We have been enriched by the presence of many distant Friends during this last year. We have welcomed and treasured these exchanges and are exploring options so that Meeting can continue to be accessible to those who are not able to be physically present. We are grateful for video conferencing which has facilitated our ongoing life this last year and continue to experience a sense of depth and sharing in Meeting.

Our query discussions and business meetings rise out of worship on the first and second Sundays each month. Adult education participants share readings and discussion on the third Sunday before Meeting, and on the fourth Sunday, we continue to hold our Meeting Book Group, where we share conversations on thought-provoking books.

Our annual Christmas sharing, New Year's Eve gathering, and Easter breakfast were held via video conferencing, as well as a late-winter Friendly Circle where participants created a group poem.

As vaccinations became possible and spring arrived, we have had two gatherings at Rochester Cemetery, a nearby native prairie rich with wildflowers and plants, bird songs, old and new headstones, and old growth oaks. We also held a Meeting work morning, and had a good turnout to bring down cobwebs, dust, and oil furniture, begin organizing upstairs classrooms, clean stoves, work in the flowerbeds, and bring fresh air and new life to the meetinghouse, which we hope to begin to inhabit when our technology/accessibility plan is in place. It has been so good at these spring events to be together.

While these regular connections have helped provide continuity through an unusual year, we have also experienced unexpected

conflict, hurt, and struggle over the last ten months. We continue to navigate this as best we can, though the path has not been easy. We hope for healing as we continue to take steps toward greater understanding and insight. We know that Spirit holds all things — conflict as well as ease. We seek this guidance and wisdom as the life of our meeting continues to unfold.

Whittier Monthly Meeting

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. Matthew 18:20 KJV

Whittier Monthly Meeting continued holding simultaneous in-person and online First Day worship through this past year. Worshiping together and caring for each other became central to our experience as Whittier Friends, both inside and outside our practice together as Friends. The business of the meeting was kept to a bare minimum.

The number of people attending worship each week stayed steady, evenly split between our two formats, and it felt right to be able to accommodate everyone's needs. Both styles of worship were rich and meaningful.

A steady number of local visitors, curious about Quakers, enriched our meeting throughout this past year and a half, and remain interested in exploring Friends.

We have grown closer as a community, both leaning on and learning from each other through illness, family care, financial struggles and major life changes. Both the pandemic and the derecho of August 2020 deeply impacted all of us in very direct ways and we rediscovered how good it is to need and help each other.

Recently, we decided to discontinue our online worship and return to meeting together as a single group at Whittier Meetinghouse. Our first time together in person felt like a homecoming. The simple joy of shaking hands was a source of wonder. Of course, we immediately scheduled a potluck to celebrate!

When two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them was a favorite Bible quote from a beloved Whittier Friend, now passed. She would remind us of it frequently when our numbers remained small, and the quote itself found its

way into our State of the Meeting Reports of years past. But this year, it seems these words speak ever more directly to our experience and perhaps we are learning what the words point to in fresh ways:

- We have learned the joy of simply being together, while continuing to love and hold dear those faraway Friends unable to join us in person.
- We continue to seek the Source to which these words of Jesus point us.
- It is the same Source, the same Seed, the same Light of which early Friends spoke.
- It is the same Light our Whittier elders gently reminded us of time and time again.
- It is that Light that guides and leads us when we sit together in expectant, waiting worship.
- What a blessing it is to sit. Together.

We are grateful.

Whittier Monthly Meeting.
Seventh Month, 11th day, 2021.

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We listened to the Archives Committee report. We are thankful to have four people on this committee who know a lot about history and archiving things. We request that they help us discern how best to archive Yearly Meeting records in this age of electronic minutes. We want to be sure that we are meeting the requirements of the Iowa State Historical Society where we deposit our records each year.

**ARCHIVES REPORT**

Archives Committee has no activity to report this year.

For the committee,  
Dan Treadway, clerk

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We adjourn to meet again tomorrow morning at 9:30.

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**SEVENTH DAY – SATURDAY MORNING– 7/24/2021**

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

*Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of Love and Truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God whose Light shows us our darkness and brings us to new life.*

Britain Yearly Meeting

We are pleased to have the presence of Jana Schroeder visiting us today from Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Jana will be presenting for us tomorrow before meeting for worship.

Readers for this morning’s business sessions are George Bergus and Andrea Holveck.



This year’s Audit Committee members were Bob Winkleblack and Carol Winkleblack. We approved the report of the auditors, and the report of the treasurer. We appreciate the clear and careful work of the treasurer as she pays our bills and tracks our finances. Gratitude was expressed for a Building Fund donation from Omaha Monthly Meeting.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Treasurer, Rebecca Bergus, reviewed the financial records of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) with us outdoors on a lovely July morning just before Annual Session. We find them complete and in good order. Thanks to Rebecca for her service to Yearly Meeting.

Bob and Carole Winkleblack, Audit Committee.

**TREASURER REPORT**

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) received more funds than were spent this year. This unusual occurrence is due to the COVID-19 pandemic. No one traveled to attend meetings and our annual sessions were held virtually.

Once again members were generous in donating their own funds to carry out Yearly Meeting business. We encourage members who contribute in this manner to submit these expenses to the Yearly Meeting treasurer. It is important that we recognize these gifts and are all aware of the actual costs of doing Yearly Meeting business.



We want all members to be able to participate in wider Quaker activities. We urge everyone to reach out to their monthly meetings and to Yearly Meeting for financial assistance whenever it is needed.

Yearly Meeting received a gift of \$3,927.13 from Omaha Monthly Meeting. These funds were collected for a new building. They will not be doing that, so they wanted it to be used for similar projects. Representatives Committee hopes that the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Trustees will handle these funds.

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**Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021**

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| <b>INCOME</b>                                          | Budget             | Actual             |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Total Apportionments                                   | \$72,100.00        | \$72,100.00        |
| Building Fund (to be transferred to the IYMC Trustees) |                    | \$3,927.13         |
| Other Donations                                        |                    | \$150.00           |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                                    | <b>\$72,100.00</b> | <b>\$76,177.13</b> |
| <hr/>                                                  |                    |                    |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                                        |                    |                    |
| <b>Contributions</b>                                   |                    |                    |
| 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           |
| National 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         |
| Quaker Voluntary Service                    | \$300.00           | \$300.00           |
| Urban Dreams                                | \$300.00           | \$3.00.00          |
| <b>Total Contributions</b>                  | <b>\$63,800.00</b> | <b>\$63,800.00</b> |
| <hr/>                                       |                    |                    |
| Delegate Expenses                           | \$5,400.00         | \$0.00             |
| <b>Total Delegate Expenses</b>              | <b>\$5,400.00</b>  | <b>\$0.00</b>      |
| <hr/>                                       |                    |                    |
| <b>Yearly Meeting Expenses</b>              |                    |                    |
| Archives Committee                          | \$200.00           | \$0.00             |
| Clerk's and Other Adm. Expenses             | \$400.00           | \$30.80            |
| Committee Expenses (Other)                  | \$300.00           | \$0.00             |
| Conscientious Objector PSC subcommittee     | \$100.00           | \$0.00             |
| Friends Travel & Conference                 | \$3,000.00         | \$0.00             |

|                                                    |                    |                   |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees                       | \$1,000.00         | \$1,000.00        |
| Junior Yearly Meeting                              | \$1,500.00         | \$0.00            |
| Pendle Hill Scholarship Match                      | \$400.00           | \$0.00            |
| Publication Committee                              | \$3,500.00         | \$2,378.72        |
| Website Committee                                  | \$450.00           | \$167.88          |
| 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         | \$0.00            |
| Midyear Planning Committee if receipts inadequate* | \$500.00           | (\$735.60)        |
| Clerk's Contingency Fund                           | \$2,000.00         | \$0.00            |
| <b>Total Yearly Meeting Expenses</b>               | <b>\$16,400.00</b> | <b>\$2,928.25</b> |
| <hr/>                                              |                    |                   |
| Balance 7/1/2020                                   |                    | \$21,641.98       |
| Income FY 2021                                     |                    | \$76,177.13       |
| Building Fund to Trustees                          |                    | -\$3,927.13       |
| Expenses FY 2021                                   |                    | -\$66,728.25      |
| Balance 6/30/2021                                  |                    | \$27,163.73       |

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We approve the Representatives Committee Report, including their recommendations that our budget help fund a joint project with Scattergood School to work for environmental justice and against racism; that the trustees manage a new building fund for monthly meetings; and Yearly Meeting officers for the coming

year. We appreciate our representatives' efforts to be more intentional with the budget and look for how Love is guiding us. We want our budget to express the leadings of the Spirit. We are pleased that the dates for upcoming Annual Sessions will allow Scattergood to run a summer program. And we especially approve the Representatives' suggestion that we meet next year at Scattergood instead of via video conferencing.

REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee met nine times over the course of the year by phone or video conference. We submit for Yearly Meeting consideration a budget, a proposal for future Yearly Meeting Annual Session dates, and officers for the coming year.

Apportionments & Budget: We propose a budget for the following year based on apportionments equal to those of last year.

Scattergood is our witness and gift to the world. We propose funding a joint Scattergood and Yearly Meeting project to focus on racial and environmental justice, reflecting our abiding faith in the unity of all Creation. Individuals are encouraged to contribute.

Omaha Meeting collected funds 20 years ago to buy a meetinghouse but has decided not to proceed with this plan. Their meeting wishes to apply the funds in faithfulness to the original donors' wishes and has gifted \$3,927.13 to the Yearly Meeting. We recommend that the funds be maintained by the Yearly Meeting trustees as a zero-interest loan fund for monthly meetings to upgrade or purchase meetinghouses.

Proposed Yearly Meeting dates: Scattergood Friends School and Farm requests advance approval of Yearly Meeting Annual Session dates for the next four years to better plan for summer programs and staffing levels. We support this request and recommend the following dates for future Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions:

- July 27-31, 2022 (School Committee meeting - Tuesday, July 26)
- July 26-30, 2023 (School Committee meeting - Tuesday, July 25)
- July 24-28, 2024 (School Committee meeting - Tuesday, July 23)
- July 23-27, 2025 (School Committee meeting - Tuesday, July 22)

Yearly Meeting Officers: Representatives Committee thanks the current officers of the Yearly Meeting for their recent service and submits the following names to serve the Yearly Meeting in the coming year: clerk, Carol Gilbert; assistant clerk, Bob Winkleblack; treasurer, Rebecca Bergus; assistant treasurer, Shirley Scritchfield;

and recorder, Tim Shipe. In their acceptances these Friends replied: “glad to”, “happy to” and “yes, I am honored.”

We propose that Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions be held at Scattergood Friends School & Farm, near West Branch, Iowa next year, as Love allows.

On behalf of the Committee,
Penny Majors, clerk

Proposed IYM Budget 2021 to 2022

INCOME

Apportionments

Ames	\$4,400.00
Bear Creek	\$5,500.00
Decorah	\$2,500.00
Des Moines Valley	\$14,500.00
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	\$3,500.00
TOTAL APPORTIONMENTS	\$72,100.00
Contributions to Joint Scattergood IYMC Project	\$3,200.00
TOTAL	\$75,300.00

EXPENSES

Contributions

Scattergood Friends School	\$54,000.00
Scattergood Facilities	\$2,000.00
Peace and Social Concerns Committee	\$1,100.00
American Friends Service Committee	\$1,000.00
Friends Committee on National Legislation	\$1,000.00
Friends General Conference	\$500.00
Friends Peace Teams	\$500.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation	\$700.00
Iowa Peace Network	\$100.00
Joint Scattergood & IYM Project	\$5,000.00
Pendle Hill	\$500.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$500.00
Quaker United Nations Office	\$500.00
Quaker Voluntary Service	\$500.00
Right Sharing of World Resources	\$500.00
Total Contributions	\$68,400.00

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 (C) 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
Clerk's Contingency Fund	\$2,000.00
Total Yearly Meeting Expenses	\$16,400.00
Total Expenses	\$90,200.00

SOURCES OF FUNDS

Monthly Meeting Apportionments	\$72,100.00
Other Donations	\$3,200.00
Cash on Hand	\$14,900.00
Total	\$90,200.00



We approve the Website Committee Report with great appreciation for their work, which has facilitated the work of the Entertainment Committee, the Spiritual Small Groups, and the sharing of our minutes and agendas. We realize that they do a lot of work behind the scenes for us, and we know that the website has helped allow some seekers to find us. We approve of their description of their function, their current content, and their policy of not deciding on content changes themselves. Although we do not have a report from the ad hoc [video-conferencing] team led by Tom Hinshaw, we are grateful for their work as well. The School Committee has informed us that it is a “best practice” not to share financial information for the School online, and although we do not feel the need to hide our financial information, we ask that the Website Committee seek approval from the Scattergood School Committee before financial information for the School is posted on the website.

We are aware of many advantages of using distance technology and believe there is a need for the Yearly Meeting to maintain the needed skills and equipment in a formal way. The Special Needs Committee, Website Committee, and current Ad Hoc [videoconferencing] Committee all have expertise. It may be possible to have Yearly Meeting provide resources that the monthly meetings are currently providing at some expense. We ask that Representatives and the Nominating Committees consider together how this need can be met on an ongoing basis.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE REPORT

Website: The IYMC website is designed to be an easy-to-navigate site with access to our minutes, Faith and Practice, epistles, helpful links, and the “find a meeting” app. Equally important, it is also

designed to be an introduction to seekers or those who are curious about who we are. With input from Ministry and Counsel we developed a home page with an introduction to who we are as part of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) and our core beliefs.

The website is designed to not require constant monitoring and updating. The Website Committee continues to maintain and refine the IYMC website, in accordance with the Yearly Meeting's direction. For instance, we are expanding the links page to include organizations IYMC actively supports. We have Yearly Meeting representatives for some of these organizations and will seek their input regarding the link listing.

Service to Our Monthly Meetings: In addition to IYMC's website, we build websites for our monthly meetings that can be easily maintained and used by Friends who are comfortable with technology, but may or may not have programming skills, using a content management system called WordPress. Monthly meetings are responsible for the content of their site and, once up and running, the maintenance of their site. We provide additional assistance as needed. We encourage any monthly meeting who would like to create or update a website to speak with us.

Notices and Announcements: The Committee is having ongoing discussions with Yearly Meeting clerks as to how best to share announcements and other time-sensitive information of interest to members, with possibilities including a dedicated "announcements" email, a listserv, and/or a page on the website.

Responsibilities Laid Down: For FY 2020-21, we were in charge of the virtual Annual Sessions 2020 and the Midyear Sessions 2021 and are grateful that responsibility for this aspect of the meeting business has been moved to a new committee.

Content: Website content is almost entirely from Yearly Meeting business – reports, epistles, *Faith and Practice*; and minutes. Some documents are offered in multiple formats – for instance, a downloadable bookmarked PDF of the *Minute Book*. We also post information relating to Midyear Meeting and Annual Session, and other information as requested.

Our committee does not determine content outside of these parameters. Additional content is solely at the discretion of the Yearly Meeting, or in the case of announcements/time sensitive information, at the request of our clerk.

We propose the following as a formal description of the work of the website committee:

Purpose: To build websites for our yearly meeting and monthly meetings that can be maintained easily and in a timely manner by Friends who are comfortable with technology but may or may not have programming skills.

Functions:

1. Manage the Bluehost account for hosting websites and email accounts.
2. Build, update, backup and maintain the function of the Yearly Meeting website; upload relevant documents, event materials, minutes and information that is of direct concern to our yearly meeting; adjust documents as needed; use keywords and meta-data to help search engines bring visitors to our site.
3. Maintain a private Google Docs site for webminder@iymc.org to archive backups; maintain records of usernames and passwords; archive registration forms and spreadsheets; and create a private working site for the IYMC clerk to organize Yearly Meeting reports in preparation for Annual Session.
4. Host monthly meeting websites as a subdomain of iymc.org, using WordPress, that can then be updated by a member of the local meeting. Assist as needed the local web-minder to learn and use the WordPress technology.

Cheryl Sutton, Nat Case, Marshall Massey, John Andrews
Katie Jacoby, clerk

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We now adjoin our morning session to meet again this afternoon at 1 p.m.

~~~~~

SEVENTH DAY – SATURDAY AFTERNOON – 7/24/2021

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

*When we speak, dear God,
May it be for your glory, and not our own.
May it be for Truth, out of love.
May our practice of Truth, reveal Truth.
Teach us what we are to be.
Lovers above all*

Kody Gabriel Hersh, Miami Monthly Meeting (SEYM)

Stevie Holmes and Ruth Hampton have agreed to be readers this afternoon.

Our fond memories of Friends who have passed from this world warm our hearts. We miss them very much and we are grateful for the treasure they left here with us. We appreciate the patient and faithful work of our yearly meeting recorder.

RECORDER'S REPORT

Deaths

Bear Creek

Margaret A. Smith Lacey	October 14, 2020
Marie Holmes*	November 6, 2020
Eldon Morey	November 18, 2020
Karen Mott Walek	May 11, 2021

Des Moines Valley

Owen Newlin	July 12, 2020
Charles ("Charlie") Day*	March 12, 2021

Lincoln

Harold Wilson	January 21, 2021
Bruce Bundy	February 2, 2021

Paullina

Donald Mott	December 18, 2020
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Births

Iowa City

Marina Rose Manalein Feb. 8, 2021
(to Betsy Baertlein and Theo Manahan)

Marriages under the Care of the Meetings

None

New Members by Request or by Certificate of Transfer

Ames

Victoria Albright April 25, 2021 (by certificate from
Live Oak Meeting, Houston)

David Wilcox April 25, 2021 (by certificate from
Live Oak Meeting, Houston)

Bear Creek

Ingrid Case August 16, 2020 (by certificate from Twin Cities
Friends)

Nathaniel Case August 16, 2020 (by certificate
from Twin Cities Friends)

Decorah

Nina Clopton June 13, 2021 (by request)

Des Moines Valley

Michael Luick-Thrams October 30, 2020 (by certificate
from Twin Cities Friends Meeting)

Lincoln

Nancy Jordan December 20, 2020 (by certificate
from St. Louis Friends Meeting)

James Connor June 20, 2021 (by request)

Penn Valley

Dan Robidoux September 6, 2020 (by request)

West Branch

Evelyn Anne Bergus

February 14, 2021 (by request)

*Attender; not included in the official Statistical Section.

Meeting	Births	Deaths	Certificates of Membership Received (Transfers In)	Memberships Transferred Out	New Memberships Granted	Memberships Discontinued	Total Membership
Ames	0	0	2	0	0	0	27
Bear Creek	0	3	2	0	0	0	76
Decorah	0	0	0	0	1	0	12
Des Moines Valley	0	1	1	0	0	1	59
Iowa City	1	0	0	0	0	0	69
Lincoln	0	2	1	0	1	0	14
Omaha	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Paullina	0	1	0	0	0	0	68
Penn Valley	0	0	0	1	1	0	74
West Branch	0	0	0	0	1	0	91
Whittier	0	0	0	0	0	0	35
TOTALS	1	7	6	1	4	1	536
NET GAIN							2

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The Nominating Committee Report was prepared by its clerk, Bill Deutsch. We appreciate the report and appreciate the work of the Nominating Committee.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

*[\* denotes clerk and \*\* denotes co-clerk]*

### Archives Committee

| 2022         | 2023      | 2024                               |
|--------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Jeff Kisling | Tim Shipe | Dan Treadway, *<br>Shel Stromquist |

### Book Table Committee

| 2022               | 2023                  | 2024          |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Suspended for 2021 | Jane Cadwallader Howe | Sarah Andrews |

### Document Committee

2022 - Bear Creek

### Entertainment Committee

| 2022        | 2023            | 2024              |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Decorah     | Paullina        | Ames              |
| Iowa City   | Omaha           | Des Moines Valley |
| West Branch | Lincoln         | Penn Valley       |
| Whittier    | Laughing Waters |                   |

### Interim Meeting Representatives (appointed by monthly meetings)

*Each monthly meeting can name up to two members to represent them at Interim Meeting. The clerk of IYMC serves as clerk of Interim Meeting.*

| 2022                      | 2023                 | 2024                 |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Bill Deutsch (D)          | Tom Hinshaw – (L)    | AM Fink (A)          |
| Rachel Macnair (PV)       | Andy Juhl (P)        | George Bergus (WB)   |
| Catherine Dorenbach (L)   | Steve Cannon (A)     | Alice Hampton (W)    |
| Shirley Scritchfield (PV) | Dorothy Lifka (DMVF) | Bob Winkleblack (IC) |
| Deborah Fisch (P)         | Ginny Winsor (O)     |                      |
| Bob Ramaley (O)           | Meg McCormick (WB)   |                      |

### Junior Yearly Meeting/Young Friends (for Yearly Meeting)

| 2022           | 2023            | 2024 |
|----------------|-----------------|------|
| Karen Greenler | Sonja Sponheim* |      |

### Junior Yearly Meeting/Young Friends (for Midyear Meeting)

| 2022                   | 2023         | 2024 |
|------------------------|--------------|------|
| Sharon Eiker           | Bill Deutsch |      |
| Lucina Winchell, clerk |              |      |

**Midyear Planning Committee**

**2022**

Russ Leckband  
Jackie Leckband \*\*

**2023**

Bill Deutsch  
Osa Bricker

**2024**

Liz Oppenheimer, \*\*  
Deborah Fink  
Tom Hinshaw

**Ministry and Counsel Committee** *(appointed by monthly meetings)*

**2022**

Sharon Eiker (PV)  
Sarah Andrews (IC)  
David Hansen  
Ebby Luvaga (A)  
Alice Hampton (W)  
Liz Oppenheimer (BC) \*  
Marshall Massey (O)

**2023**

Ginny Winsor (O)  
Andrea Holveck (DMV)  
Nancy Jordan (L)  
Cheryl Sutton (BC)  
Ann Stromquist (WB)

**2024**

Jane Cadwallader Howe  
(WB)  
Lorene Ludy (L)  
Liz Voss (IC)  
Deborah Fisch (P)  
Daniel Willems (W)  
Peter Clay (DMV)

**Nominating Committee** *(appointed by monthly meetings)*

**2022**

A.M. Fink (A)  
Russ Leckband (BC)  
Bill Deutsch (D) \*  
Sharon Eiker (PV)

**2023**

Doyle Wilson (P)  
Carole Winkleblack (IC)  
Jean Eden (L)  
Carol Gilbert (O)

**2024**

Bob Yeats (W)  
Shirley Scritchfield (PV)  
Judy Cottingham (WB)

**Peace and Social Concerns Committee**

*(\*Addt'l co-clerk to be named)*

**2022**

Jon Shafer  
Jeff Kisling, \*\*  
Anthony Robinson  
Jane Cadwallader Howe  
Kathy Hall

**2023**

Bob Ramaley  
Ann Stromquist  
Rachel McNair  
Peter Clay

**2024**

Quinn Dilkes

**Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee**

**2022**

Callie Marsh

**2023**

Ruth Dawson

**2024**

Shirley Scritchfield

**Publications Committee**

**2022**

Ann Stromquist

**2023**

Katie Jacoby\*  
Nat Case

**2024**

Kathy Hall  
Bill Wines

**Representatives Committee**

**2022**

Carole Winkleblack (IC)  
Andrea Holveck (DMVF)  
Ginny Winsor (O)  
Jan Powell (PV)  
open position, Ames  
open position, Decorah  
Bob Yeats (W)  
Rebecca Bergus (WB)  
Jean Eden (L)

**2023**

Deborah Fisch (P)  
Penny Majors\* (WB)  
Deb Fink (A)  
Roy Helm (L)  
Stan Saunders (BC)  
Sarah Andrews (IC)  
Bob Ramaley (O)

**2024**

Shirley Scritchfield (PV)  
Ruth Hampton (W)  
Bill Deutsch (D)  
Doyle Wilson (P)  
Sonja Sponheim (BC)

**Scattergood Friends School Committee**

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

**2022**

Kent Tjossem (P)  
Roy Helm (O)

**2023**

Nancy Jordan (L)  
Tom Wahl (IC)  
David Wilcox (A)  
George Bergus (WB)

**2024**

Charlie Johnson(A)  
Ruth Hampton\*(W)  
Matthew Gillespie  
(DMV)

**Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees** *(appointed by IYMC Trustees)*

**2022**

Barb Garlinghouse  
Carole Winkleblack

**2023**

Lee Tesdell\*  
Richard Johnson

**2024**

Lowell Wilson  
Dan Treadway

**2025**

Bob Yeats  
*(\*person still to be appointed)*

**Special Needs Committee**

**2022**

Deborah Fisch

**2023**

Bob Yeats

**2024**

John Andrews\*  
Sarah Rutledge

**Website/Technology Committee**

**2022**

John Andrews  
Nat Case

**2023**

Cheryl Sutton

**2024**

Katie Jacoby\*

**Yearly Meeting Trustees**

**2022**

Jonathan Fisch

**2023**

Bill Deutsch

**2024**

Jim Cottingham\*

**2025**

Bob Winkleblack  
Deb Dakin



**Young Friends for Yearly Meeting**

**2022** Tommy Greenler                      **2023** Gabrielle Zeger                      **2024**

**ZOOM *ad hoc* Facilitation Committee for 2021**

Tom Hinshaw    Billie Wade                      Carol Gilbert  
Bill Deutsch    Bob Winkleblack                      Ann Robinson

**IYMC Representatives to Friends Agencies**

**AFSC Corporation**

**2022** Bob Ramaly                      **2023** Peter Clay                      **2024** Ann Stromquist  
Bob Yeats

**IYMC Representatives to FCNL General Committee**

**2022** Deb Fink                      **2023** Carol Winkelblack                      **2024** Penny Majors  
Ebby Luvaga                      Rebecca Bergus                      David Hansen

**Friends Peace Teams Council**

Peter Clay

**FWCC**

**2022** Tommy Greenler                      **2023** Angelika Shafer                      **2024**

**Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee - Nan Fawcett**

**Iowa Peace Network Joint Oversight Committee - Peter Clay**

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We appreciate the thorough Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report and hope our monthly meetings can use it as guidance. Although we know present day people are not directly to blame for what happened in the past, we are often called to take responsibility for righting the wrongs. It is important to recognize that people who respond to disasters caused by climate change pay a price along with the direct victims. We are glad the Peace and Social Concerns Report tells Truths that we need to hear.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT

This has been a year of great upheaval locally, nationally, and globally. The work of our monthly meetings has been impacted by

the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet we have found ways to continue our peace and justice work, and had more time for prayer and reflection.

Global chaos from rapidly accelerating environmental devastation is highly likely to occur, breaking down our economic, social, and political systems. As air and water temperatures increase, water supplies are drying up. Widening areas and severity of drought are decreasing crop production and forcing people to flee. Rising oceans are creating more climate refugees. The trend of increasing numbers of more ferocious wildfires, hurricanes and other storms are expected to accelerate. All kinds of infrastructure will likely be destroyed, creating more climate refugees, many migrating to the Midwest. How can we prepare our own communities for these disasters, and plan for the arrival of climate refugees?

Justice work by white Friends has changed in recent years. An important concept of justice work is to follow the leadership of oppressed communities who are working tirelessly for their liberation. Those who consider themselves white Friends are learning how to step back and be supporters and allies.

Many injustices today trace their roots to the arrival of white Europeans on this continent. These include a whole history of enslavement, as well as genocide of Indigenous peoples. It is important for white Quakers to know we are not expected to feel guilt or blame for injustices that occurred in the past. But knowing what we know now, it is up to us to learn more about those wrongs, and work toward repair and healing. This will be a primary focus of this committee's work in the coming year.

As a society we have been forced to face systemic racism. For example, public murders by police have generated sustained protests regarding police brutality, with calls to limit police powers and change or abolish prisons.

Also dating back to the arrival of white Europeans are the genocide of Indigenous peoples, the theft of Indigenous lands, and the atrocity of Indigenous children taken from their families to institutions of forced assimilation, often far away; places where attempts were made to the erase their culture. Many were subjected to physical or sexual abuse. Thousands of Indigenous children died. This intentional cruelty broke the resistance of Indigenous peoples who were trying to hold onto their lands.

The recent validation of the remains of Indigenous children on the grounds of those institutions is having devastating effects in

Indigenous communities and those who care about them. Searching the grounds of the institutions in this country is about to begin. Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland, has launched a federal investigation into these institutions of forced assimilation in the US

A number of Catholic churches, who ran those institutions in Canada, have been burned or vandalized. There are renewed calls for truth and reconciliation. Canadian Yearly Meeting has done a great deal of work on this.

These injustices are some of the effects of systems of white supremacy. The concept of Mutual Aid is becoming an increasingly used model for communities working for justice. The idea is to have a horizontal hierarchy, where everyone has a voice, and work to ensure a vertical hierarchy does not develop. Without a vertical hierarchy, there can, by definition, be no superiority. Several of our meetings are supporting existing Mutual Aid communities or considering creating their own.

These are opportunities to begin to disengage from the colonial capitalist system and white supremacy - ways we can model justice in our own meetings and communities:

- We can show up for Black Lives Matter and other racial justice events.
- We can support those who meet with local, state, and Federal government officials.
- We can show up in the streets to support agitation for change, train in nonviolent civil disobedience, or accompany arrested activists through the justice system.
- We can show up, when appropriate, at events of Indigenous peoples, such as the Prairie Awakening ceremony.
- We can share Indigenous news on social media platforms so others are aware of these things.

Indigenous leaders in the Midwest have asked us to learn about and find ways to engage in the concepts of Land Back. The website *LANDBack Friends* has been created and will be updated as our work continues. <https://landbackfriends.com/>

We pray for guidance for how our committee might work together at the intersection of our responsibilities and those of Ministry and Counsel.

We will continue to seek Spiritual guidance, both for what we are called to do and ways to offer spiritual support for those who are not

Friends. There is great spiritual poverty in many communities. Spiritual support will be needed by those who suffer the consequences of environmental and other disasters. And those responding to these disasters.

It is important to understand this work depends on us all working together, in the community, outside our meetinghouses. Developing friendships in the local community. We encourage more engagement with our youth. They can teach us about justice. We and our meetings will be revitalized.

Many monthly meetings are adapting to these changing ways of doing peace and justice work by building relationships with communities of Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color and exploring ways to be in right relationship with these communities. All of us, learning from each other, sharing our stories and deepening spiritual connections.

Jeff Kisling, clerk
Peace and Social Concerns Committee

Peace and Social Concerns Budget 2021

There are ongoing discussions about how we use our budget, so we are not designating how our budget will be distributed at this time.

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We approve these beautifully written epistles and appreciate the work of the Epistle Committee. The clerk will make a few suggested changes and send the epistles as directed. We hope that we can use budgeted Yearly Meeting funds to help alleviate the suffering in Cuba, and thank the Peace and Social Concerns Committee for helping us do that.

### **2021 EPISTLES FROM IOWA YEARLY MEETING (CONSERVATIVE)**

Respectfully submitted by the Epistle Committee:  
Jane Cadwallader Howe, Bill Deutsch and Stephen Snyder.

To Friends Everywhere,

Our theme for this IYMC Annual Session was “Tapestry of Transformation: Sharing our Light.” In one evening plenary session we were invited to share our encounters with poverty and injustice and then reflect on whether this current world order is under God’s

plan. Our Bible study continued this theme of right relationship focusing on how deep knowledge and reverent attention to the natural world sustains us and is necessary to our survival. God invites us to love all our neighbors. As we reflected on how we might more rightly share the world's resources, address systemic violence including racism, and repair our relationships with the natural world, we were reminded that we do not need to be afraid. We do not walk alone. May we learn to trust in God's love and the leadings of the Spirit as we discern our individual and collective responses to these issues.

Our beloved Scattergood School and Farm continues to be a central part of sharing our Light in the world. We feel awed and blessed by the ministry of the School, the care and dedication of its staff, the loving care of the Farm and the many committees which support its work. Classes for Middle and High School continued both in person and remotely while keeping staff and students safe during this year of the pandemic. In a major decision, the Yearly Meeting agreed to install air conditioning in the living spaces on campus, in addition to its continuing financial support.

The State of Meeting reports from our 13 meetings and worship groups testify to our efforts to safely continue worship and remain spiritually connected during the Covid pandemic this past year. While some Friends have not felt clear to join worship with video conferencing, it has allowed others living at a distance to participate more frequently. Opportunities for participation in midweek worship, *Experiment with Light* Groups, Bible study groups, the Yearly Meeting Spiritual Sharing groups, worship with other meetings and Quaker groups (including Pendle Hill) and collaboration on the work of racial, social and climate justice have all contributed to our spiritual growth and connection. There is a sense that we have remained connected to the three-legged stool of the Divine, our blessed community and our work in the world. We have missed the participation of our children and youth at our annual session this year. The pandemic has made it especially hard for these young Friends to remain connected to each other, and we to them. We look forward to the day when all meetings feel safe to resume worship in our meetinghouses but feel blessed by the many ways we have maintained our life together in the Spirit of Love.

We enjoyed an evening of song and conversation with John McCutcheon. As we bring our annual session to an end, we invite all

Friends everywhere to unite with the words of George Fox, “Sing and rejoice ye children of the day and the Light, for the Lord is at work in this thick night of darkness that may be felt; and the Truth doth flourish as the rose, and lilies do grow among the thorns and the plants atop the hills, and upon them the lambs doth skip and play.”

In love,

Carol Gilbert, clerk

On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

*(Note: The wording of the three epistles is identical except for the following first paragraphs to North Carolina and Ohio.)*

*Dear Friends of Ohio Yearly Meeting,*

We send you warm greetings from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) as we gather by video conferencing as individuals and in small gatherings to attend to the business of our 144th Yearly Meeting Session, held 07/22- 25/2021. Meeting remotely for a second year, we are grateful for the technology that allows us to gather with you at a distance. We listened with tenderness and a sense of connection to the ministry shared in your 2020 epistle and felt lifted up by your generosity of spirit. We are challenged to make our meetings outposts of God’s Kingdom in the world. We look forward to another year when it might be possible to visit in person.

*Dear Friends of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative),*

We send you warm greetings from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) as we gather as individuals and in small gatherings to attend to the business of our 144th Yearly Meeting Session, held 07/22 through 25/ 2021. Meeting remotely with video conferencing for a second year, we are grateful for the technology that allows us to gather with you at a distance. We listened with tenderness and a sense of connection to the ministry shared in your recent epistle and felt lifted up by your generosity of spirit. We are challenged to make our meetings outposts of God’s Kingdom in the world. The presence of Nancy Craft from North Carolina was a special gift to those of us gathered here in Iowa. We look forward to another year when it might be possible to visit in person.

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We approve with gratitude the frank and eloquent AFSC Report prepared by Bob Yeats. We acknowledge that the proposed restructuring affects people in the Des Moines Valley Meeting particularly.

AFSC CORPORATION REPRESENTATIVES REPORT 2021

Making Peace with Justice

For the second time during the pandemic, the American Friends Service Committee Corporation met online via Zoom. There were pre-meeting sessions where business was presented that would be discussed in subsequent meetings. There were also a series of presentations in the days before the meetings that featured work in prison abolition, restorative justice, peace in Palestine and worldwide economic justice. Esther Mombo, clerk of the Africa Region gave an inspiring talk following programmed worship. These can be viewed at afsc.org/corpprogram. Smaller breakout groups of Corporation members with staff also took place, providing an opportunity for two-way conversations.

Most discussions centered around the 2020-2030 Strategic Plan that has been in the works for over two years. Though not completed or approved in time for the Corporation meeting, the now-approved document divides the organization by programs that fall into these three categories:

- Sustainable peace
- Economic justice
- Just approaches to forced migration

An additional document proposes eliminating governance by geography and creating a structure of governance by program. This would eliminate regional directors and executive committees. Program choice would be placed in the hands of staff with consultation from volunteers and partner communities (more or less an admission of what takes place now). There was also a caution against taking direct action and seeing action as only an entree into organizing affected communities.

Change is difficult and sometimes painful. The intention of the planners was to use a consultative process to put AFSC on a sustainable path forward. Just the geographic reach and diversity of the organization made this a huge challenge.

Some staff, many of whom have been affected by financially-motivated cutbacks since 2008, were suspicious of the motivations for the suggested massive restructuring of governance, engaged in a very vocal push-back, causing implementation of this plan to be put on hold.

The good news is that the AFSC is financially stable, allowing it to repay funds to its reserves that were drawn out in leaner times.

The real gem of AFSC is, of course, the work and the wonderful people that do it. It is truly the work of our faith in the world.

We are concerned that the accelerating centralization may affect AFSC's relationships with our partners, communities and supporters that are at a great distance from Philadelphia. Many of us are still grieving the loss of programs in our region in the last few years. We hope that AFSC will be able to use its peacemaking skills to heal frayed internal and external relationships.

Please continue to hold in the light those who do the difficult work of governance as well as those who work with local communities building "A Just, Peaceful, and Sustainable World, Free of Violence, Inequality, and Oppression"

Bob Yeats for the IYMC Corporation Representatives



We adjourn to hear the closing minute tomorrow morning as way opens.

CLOSING MINUTE (*Shared First Day morning after Meeting for Worship*)

We held our annual sessions online again this year, due to the pandemic and the lead time required for planning. We miss being on the Scattergood campus where we can sit under the actual maple tree and feel real breezes, but we are grateful that technology allows us to meet safely.

The theme of our programs was "Tapestry of Transformation: Sharing our Light". Our Entertainment Committee planned morning Bible study, afternoon workshops, and evening Collections, along with many chances for informal online visiting. Program sessions were well attended and enriching despite the fact that participating meant long hours in front of screens. We were pleased that this

Yearly Meeting Annual Session helped us deepen our understanding of one another and how the Spirit is teaching us in our 13 diverse worship communities.

Morning Bible study was Spirit-filled, under the guidance of Elizabeth O’Sullivan. Friends considered the close-knit community that nurtured Jesus as a child, and the fact that communities sometimes fail to recognize God among them. They explored the idea that there are “weighty Friends” in the natural world, and the importance of maintaining our connection with “the lilies of the field”.

Racism, and racism among Friends, was the topic of our Midyear gathering, where our guest, Vanessa Julye, provided history lessons. Some of this week’s sessions helped us ponder these lessons in our hearts and with one another.

We find ourselves exercised by the recent news of nearly 1,000 bodies of Indigenous children and adults having been found on the grounds of two former boarding schools in Canada. Friends spoke openly and tenderly about the history of Quaker boarding schools and their role in traumatizing families and destroying cultures. Although we personally did not cause this harm, many feel responsibility to help repair it. An evening collection titled “Sharing our Light and Building Community in Africa,” facilitated by Chris Roesel of Penn Valley Meeting, was also an opportunity to share deeply and consider privileges we have but are unaware of.

In one evening program we considered together examples of how our meetings have worked to discern and follow the Light. We found connections with one another in some of our common shortcomings, and found encouragement as we recognized that Light emerges in spite of our stumbles.

Interest groups allowed us to visit with staff from Friends organizations. Justin Hurdle, Julia Gledhill and Alicia McBride joined us from the Friends Committee on National Legislation for informal conversation about their new and ongoing work. Lucy Duncan from the American Friends Service Committee gave us updates and spoke about some of AFSC’s anti-racism projects that she has been a part of, including a new program “Quakers Uprooting Racism” which is a collaboration between AFSC, Pendle Hill, Friends General Conference, and the Friends Council on Education.

In a workshop with Rebecca Musselman we enjoyed learning about and trying out a technique that Ames Friends Meeting has been using called “Experiment with Light”. We considered the similarities and differences between using this technique and what we do in meeting for worship.

In another workshop we were impressed by the expertise of a panel on sustainable farming that included Scattergood’s Mark Quee, Kathy Dice and Tom Wahl from Iowa City, Kathy Byrnes from Des Moines, and Lee Tesdell from Ames Meeting. A lively discussion on farming and caring for land followed.

Both our own State of the Meeting reports and epistles from other yearly meetings taught us that many are struggling, as we are, with the way video-conference technology has helped to include some people but exclude others. We ended up strongly affirming the benefits of this technology and our desire to continue using it even when most can return to being physically together. We are also pleased with our website technology, which has helped us communicate among each other and helped seekers to find our meetings.

Wonderful reports about Scattergood Friends School and Farm inspired us. We are humbled by the good work that is done there. Feeling a need to be more connected to the School, we approved and allocated funds for a joint project to address racism and the environment.

We found much joy in listening, on Sixth Day evening, to an online concert and storytelling session with the Quaker musician, John McCutcheon.

On First Day morning, Jana Schroeder helped us understand the AFSC experiment to learn how to live our faith as we seek to serve a diverse and unjust world. “Heart Listening Sessions” have helped AFSC understand that people on all sides are harmed by unjust systems. Serving this world often involves letting go of control, but we can give up the privilege of having things done our way, and still be included.

We were reminded, from Jesus’ words about the lilies of the field, that we can give up control. We can let our agendas and ourselves be changed by the Spirit, the Spirit of Christ that *does* teach and guide us *if* we listen.

We now conclude our 2021 Annual Session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), planning to meet again at Scattergood Friends School and Farm, near West Branch, Iowa, from Seventh Month 27 to 31 of the year 2022.

Carol Gilbert, clerk
Bob Winkleblack, assistant clerk

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## **REPORTS RECEIVED BUT NOT READ DURING SESSIONS**

### **REPRESENTATIVE TO FCNL**

FCNL is thriving in a good way—financially solid, continuing its mission, evolving its programs.

The approaching retirement of General Secretary Diane Randall will be a major adjustment. Over 10 years of leadership, Diane has guided the organization through significant expansion, including a successful capital campaign, the opening of the Quaker Welcome Center on C Street, and a renewed emphasis on the talents of young adults. A search committee is at work and plans to submit the name of a proposed successor at the October Executive Committee Meeting.

Last year the FCNL Education Fund assumed governance and management of the William Penn House, a historic property on Capitol Hill which operated for decades as a site for Quaker hospitality. Considering the tragic reality that renowned Quaker William Penn enslaved African Americans, the decision was made to change the name of the property to Friends Place. The building is currently closed for repair and renovation but will soon open for hospitality and educational programs.

The continuing expansion of FCNL Advocacy Teams enhances grassroots lobbying across the country. This year the Western Iowa Advocacy Team organized to complement the work of the Eastern Iowa Advocacy Team, which has been in existence for several years. The current focus of the teams is repeal of the 2002 Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against Iraq, an overdue step toward Congress reclaiming its constitutional responsibility to declare war or not to declare war.

Operating revenue and support increased significantly from 2019 to 2020, with resources expended strategically and responsibly to further FCNL’s mission. Beyond monetary gifts, FCNL operates through the continuing engagement of Friends in setting policies and priorities, lobbying, and serving on committees.

**REPRESENTATIVE TO FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS COUNCIL**

As your new representative to Friends Peace Teams Council I was delighted to find myself joining a remarkable group of dedicated people from all over the world working at the community and grass-roots level for peace and for justice. A deep seeking to answer the question “Who is the “we” of Friends Peace Teams?” has guided an ongoing examination in Friends Peace Teams Council of how “we” can become proactively anti-racist in the structure, policies and practices of FPT. Tender and challenging, these conversations in Friends Peace Teams Council have expanded my awareness of how unstated and often unexamined assumptions about one another may constrict our way forward. These unexamined assumptions also distort our ability to fully see one another as the whole, gifted and infinitely beautiful human beings that each one of us truly is. I have experienced Spirit animating and guiding the meetings of Friends Peace Teams Council for these challenging conversations and for all of our council meetings.

My leading to offer to serve as your representative is grounded in my long relationship with the east African nation of Rwanda and in my growing awareness of the need for Truth and Healing between Indigenous Peoples everywhere and people of European origins who have come to dominate the political, economic, social and cultural landscape across the world. The seeking for “Right Relationship” that is the explicit focus of the first North American program of Friends Peace Teams is present in all programs of Friends Peace Teams. This includes the many local partner organizations actually doing most of the work on the ground. Together, Friends Peace Teams and our partners are weaving a new world grounded in Hope and in Love. Programs such as: The Power of Goodness; Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities; Children’s Peace Libraries; and, Listening Sessions for those traumatized by violence or by natural disasters, such as the recent eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano in the North Kivu province of the Democratic Republic of Congo are just a few of the many innovative and powerful programs that are

making a real difference in the lives of people everywhere that Friends Peace Teams has a presence. I strongly urge Iowa Conservative Friends to make time to visit the Friends Peace Teams website (<https://friendspeaceteams.org>) and explore what is happening in: Asia-West Pacific; Peacebuilding en Los Americas; Great Lakes Region Initiative; Towards Right Relationship with Native Peoples; and, The Friendly Book Collaborative. You will be inspired! Please reflect on how YOU may be led to more actively support all of this good work.

Finally, I attended the more than five-hour memorial gathering online for David Zarembka. David founded the African Great Lakes Initiative in 1998. It was his vision for creating a better shared future for everyone and his selfless dedication in particular to the people of the African Great Lakes region that inspired so many of us for so many years. Both David and his wife Gladys Kamonya died quite suddenly in Kenya in early April of COVID-19. We have lost a passionate advocate for peace, for justice and for equity among the peoples and nations of the world. Please see <https://friendspeaceteams.org/gladys-kamonya-david-zarembka/>

In closing this letter to each of you, my fellow Iowa Conservative Friends, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your representative to Friends Peace Teams Council. I have also joined the Working Group for the African Great Lakes Initiative and am finding great satisfaction as I seek to grow into that role. Thank you Friends!

Peter Clay

### **Approved Minute of Travel in Gospel Ministry**

*(IYMC approved Ministry & Counsel's recommendation that the Yearly Meeting clerk, add her signature of endorsement to that of the clerk of Paullina Friends Meeting for a Minute for Travel in Gospel Ministry for Friend Deborah Fisch of Paullina Meeting. The minute was approved by Paullina Meeting at their Seventh Month 2021 regular business meeting and forwarded to the clerk of the Yearly Meeting M&C. They requested that if approved by M&C it be sent on to the YM clerk so it could be considered for approval and endorsement by Yearly Meeting.*

*Deborah's leading is to travel among meetings and Quaker bodies outside of IYMC as well as visiting the IYMC meetings and worship groups. This is why Yearly Meeting was also asked to consider approving the travel*

*minute. IYMC approved the M&C recommendation and directed its clerk to sign the minute to indicate its endorsement.*

Paullina Friends Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Doyle Wilson, clerk

07/14/2021

Dear Friends,

We commend to your loving care and attention our cherished friend, Deborah Fisch. Deborah is a member of Paullina Friends Meeting (in rural Northwest Iowa) which is a part of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) of the Religious Society of Friends and is sojourning with Des Moines Valley Friends in Des Moines, IA, also a part of IYMC. The minute for travel in the Gospel ministry was allowed during the meeting for worship with attention to business of Paullina Friends Meeting of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) on Seventh Month 11, 2021.

Deborah's calling continues to be finding Opportunities to worship with Friends in various monthly, quarterly, and/or yearly meetings (primarily in the US and Canada), sharing Gospel ministry as led, whether by vocal ministry during waiting worship or leading courses, workshops or retreats for meetings or groups of fellow seekers. Whenever possible she will be traveling with a companion in ministry. As in the past, a committee for care and accountability (or anchor committee) will be appointed to help her discern and test invitations/requests for visits, as well as personal leadings to travel. She plans to continue to offer a ministry as led through Broken Vessels Quaker Ministries, a small nonprofit based in Iowa that was started after her retirement as the result of a joint leading with Lloyd Lee Wilson of Friendship Meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). [www.bvqministries.org](http://www.bvqministries.org)

Deborah served as clerk of IYMC for several years and as assistant clerk for many years prior to that. She formerly served as coordinator of the Iowa Peace Network, as well as on the governing boards of Friends Journal and Scattergood Friends School & Farm. Before retiring Deborah worked for Friends General Conference (FGC) for 17 years, helping to build and supervise FGC's Traveling Ministries Program. During her last 8+ years at FGC she also served as Associate Secretary for Ministries, where she supervised staff for the various ministry programs of the organization and was a part of

the Admin Team. She carried a minute for travel in ministry during that time, as IYMC recognized it as a part of a call to ministry.

Deborah shares freely her thoughtfulness, commitment, faith and gifts of the Spirit. Our meeting is enriched as Deborah shares her experiences with us and we observe her spiritual growth as she submits to a clear call of the Spirit to travel in the ministry.

We hold her in the Light and pray she has safe and fruitful travels. We hope that you will benefit from her presence among you as we treasure her life among Iowa Friends.

Yours in peace and friendship,

Doyle Wilson, clerk Paullina Friends Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) IYMC

Carol Gilbert, clerk Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

*(Approved by IYMC on 07/24/2021)*

## **REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT ON THE JOINT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (JOC) OF THE IOWA PEACE NETWORK (IPN)**

Your representative attended the JOC meetings in April and in July. I was gratified to be in community with representatives from Church of the Brethren, Mennonite Church, Friends United Meeting, and the United Methodist Church. The JOC continues to function in providing oversight, guidance and support for the Spirit-led work of the Iowa Peace Network that Christine Sheller so capably leads.

Peter Clay

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Representative  
to the Iowa Peace Network

## **SELECTED RESPONSES TO QUERIES**

*Each year the IYMC assistant clerk receives the responses of its monthly and preparative meetings prior to Annual Session. The assistant clerk chooses excerpts of those responses to be read in Annual Session. The assistant clerk looks for responses that represent similar ones from other meetings, as well as responses that stand out because they are different from the norm and warrant consideration. Because Yearly Meeting had to shorten the Annual Session due to the pandemic, there was not time to consider the*

*responses in session. They are printed here at the request of the Body.*

### **Query 1 - Meeting for Worship**

*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 see 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?*

### **Response:**

- Sometimes in receiving vocal ministry we need to “listen in tongues,” or translate in our own minds words that may trouble us into terms with which we are comfortable. We do nurture gifts of hospitality and maintaining community, but it is not clear that we nurture gifts of vocal ministry. And what would such nurture look like? We would like to nurture such ministry as a gift of the Holy Spirit and not as something to reward an ego.
- When considering how to prepare for worship, one must think about what is needed throughout the week to create an attitude of worship on First Day. With everything demanding attention, it is helpful to create some quiet each day. This practice is preparation for worship.
- There is something powerful about the juxtaposition of us being alone in our own worship and yet altogether on the video conferencing screen. We can go about our day imagining we are still altogether.
- To us, worship means opening ourselves to what the Spirit might reveal, to the Voice within us that tells us what is right, and wrong. To do this we need to allow time together to wait expectantly and with tenderness of heart, which includes tenderness toward one another, and toward other inhabitants of the planet.



- It is better for us to focus on how we can follow God better, than for us to focus on defining God more precisely. One test for whether something comes from God is whether it makes us kinder. Sometimes we are afraid to antagonize someone else, other times we fear being disapproved of. However, a diversity of views helps us by challenging us to seek more deeply for the unifying Truth.

## **Query 2 – Outreach**

*Do we encourage intervisitation 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?*

### **Response:**

- In one Friend's experience Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) this year has seen the greatest amount of intervisitation; we gathered even in a blizzard! Virtual meetings have made this intervisitation possible and for that it can be appreciated.
- The clerk used the word "appreciate" when asking us to pause between responses to the query. If one can live as a person of appreciation, it is noticeable to others. Being a person of appreciation has an outreach in and of itself.
- Because there is so much stark disagreement in the wider world, we have been thinking about how to reach across the liberal/conservative and other dividing lines. Some of us have been enriched by conversations with people on "the other side" and found common ground (although not agreement) on some social issues. We recognize that people on our side (perhaps even ourselves) can be narrow minded too.

### Query 3 - Meeting for Business

*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 pressure of time? How do we respond when no one else in the meeting seems to hold the views that we do on an issue? How do we respond to a dissenting minority? How do we share responsibilities among Friends in our meeting? How do we serve our meetings?*

#### Response:

- One of the foci of our consideration of this query was Quaker process. We do believe it works, but among some it has a bad reputation for taking too much time and discouraging initiative. We need to come to it with a positive attitude. We need to listen and to speak with both respect and humbleness. We need to let the process work.
- We do value different perspectives. We think God likes diversity. Working through difference with non-combative dialogue brings us all closer to our true selves and to a greater truth. You can't reach consensus when one person is right. Though there are many schisms in our history, there have also been many differences carefully worked through. Current conversations between different varieties of Friends point to our yearning to understand each other more deeply. We need to allow ourselves to be guided by something greater than ourselves; centering prayer is good.
- In worship with attention to business, there is something of value in a dissenting voice that can help us overall. There is the *Still, Small Voice of God* in all of us. One of the things we learn as a Quaker community is that our community changes and grows. The last issue of deep concern was gay marriage. Our meeting is currently wonderfully peaceful but there are issues that can rise up. It takes a great deal of discernment to know when to disagree and it runs the risk of separating one person or dividing the entire meeting. But without disagreement we maintain the status quo and perhaps growth is inhibited.
- As we each bring our talents and gifts to our beloved community, we cherish the notion and are mindful that, although Friends join in a Spiritual journey without formal clergy, laity or creed, we weave together the tasks that

accomplish our leadings. In our manner of decision- making, there is an understanding that the Spirit is at the center, and our job is to determine what the will of that Spirit is. To do this requires some skills on our part. It involves listening to each other and giving weight to all opinions. It also involves listening to our own inner voices and deciding how important our opinions are. Possibly we raise a dissenting voice mainly to make sure others have considered all options, knowing we will give up our stance if it is contrary to the sense of the meeting. Sometimes we feel a need to hold fast to our stance. If we do, it is our responsibility to examine our needs and motives to be sure that it will help the meeting find a spirit-led solution

#### **Query 4 - Harmony within the Meeting**

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

#### **Response:**

- The importance of humility was lifted up in deepening relationships. We need to show up and be vulnerable about ourselves. Meeting is a place to practice loving, treating others as we would like to be treated. It can be difficult for us to be aware of our own weaknesses, to see ourselves as we truly are. Perhaps gender relationships are a place where expectations about roles may keep us from seeing the truth in ourselves.
- As we gather to engage the Spirit and each other in our meeting, at times, we are a three-part harmony. Occasionally, the collection of voices includes 12 to 15 among us, striving to find a clear tone and a common melody.
- We realize that conflict and disharmony exist beyond our meeting, sometimes with members of groups who are different from ourselves. Similar practices of forgiveness and deep care for one another can be useful beyond Friends

circles and communities. At the same time, certain groups who experience tremendous and repeated injustice may assert that care for “them” looks like more action and direct engagement with decision makers, not just words or silent affirmation that we care.

- We have had people attend our meeting with more conservative views. We have tried to make them feel welcome, and we have engaged in some good conversations. It is important to come into a discussion with the idea that your views might be changed after listening with an open mind. A person could be “the fertilizer for the plant we are growing into.” Look for God in ourselves and seek it in others with whom we disagree. We hope we can be respectful when we disagree.

### **Query 5 - Mutual Care**

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

### **Response:**

- It is not “do unto others as you would have them do unto you” but “do unto others as THEY would have you do unto them.” People have different needs and we need to be sensitive to those needs. It is also our responsibility to communicate our needs to our community so that they can appropriately respond.
- We are reminded that mutual care also extends to our awareness to recognize that, at times, we need to accept the grace and nurture from kindness and care that might be offered our way. This may also involve overcoming a reluctance to seek care and guidance from our meeting community. The seeds of compassion and learning to care for others can be nurtured by feeling loved and cherished. The response from a recent newsletter sent to our distant, perhaps inactive,

members was encouraging. Our meeting remains vital in hearts and spirit, even at a distance. Celebrating good times and health while holding space for difficult challenges is a precious and necessary ability for us to survive and thrive. There are deep reasons we are called Friends.

- Whether in giving or in receiving help there is a similar dilemma. Sometimes we see a need but do not feel that we have anything to offer. We may not feel that we have what is needed to make it better. Alternatively, we may not feel that our needs should be brought forward or we may doubt that our community can address them. We tend to look at what we can offer as too small and too insignificant. When asked what we need, are we able to articulate what we really need?
- Giving one another space to become our truest and best selves is an important dimension of mutual care. This is true for helping our children to learn and grow in the best way and it is also true for the relationships among the adults in our community. As we closed our time of reflection and sharing with some worship there was a sense of gratitude for the many ways that our Quaker meeting holds us together in a strong web of mutual care and concern.

### **Query 6 — Education**

*How can we most effectively foster a spirit of inquiry and a loving and understanding attitude toward life? What effort are we making to become better acquainted with the Bible, the teachings of Jesus, our Judeo-Christian heritage, the history and principles of Friends, and the contributions of other religions and philosophies to our spiritual heritage? In what ways can we encourage an educational process that is consistent with the values Friends cherish? How do gender based expectations affect the goals we set and the way we learn? Do we take an active and supportive interest in schools, libraries and other educational resources in our communities and elsewhere? How do we prepare ourselves and our children to play active roles in a changing world?*

### **Response:**

- We are aware that events of the past year and particularly the past week have begun to awaken us to our country's attitude

of white privilege and white supremacy. We must begin to teach our history with honesty. We have been telling ourselves a story that we could take over other people's lands and develop those lands using yet other people's slave labor. We must honestly face that history; it is part of who we truly are. We need to listen to all the voices, to everyone's version of who they are and what their reality is. We must stop trying to impose our version of reality on others. We need to have the hard conversations about things we do not all agree to be self-evident. We need to listen humbly and respectfully to each other to begin to have a sense of the whole picture of who we are. We need to accept the fact that our ancestors were misguided; much wrong has been done in the name of God. We cannot change the past, but we can try to understand it. We must be open to Love and Mercy as we recognize that anger and hate are shutting down thoughtfulness and tender connection with each other. We feel that a veil is being lifted that has kept us from recognizing the truth of our history and our present reality.

- In our meeting we try to stay open to each other's point of view as we discuss issues and share by way of programs. We are gentle with those who have been brought up harshly, with only one path being acceptable, and while we offer a popular Bible study, we are interested in and open to many paths. We see that there can be "Twelve gates to the city." We recognize that growing up grounded in a firm religious tradition, although we come to question it, can be very valuable.
- We are aware that children growing up now still see oppressive gender roles and may have a hard time breaking through rigid expectations. We hope to show the children in our lives, by example, a more accepting way of being with each other and living as fully realized people.

### **Query 7 - Home and Family**

*How can we make our homes places of love and hospitality? What different expectations do we hold for women and men, boys and girls? How can we bring more equality into our relationships? How*

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

**Response:**

- For some of us, recognizing a spiritual relationship with our pets can be renewing and deepening. Animal connections can affect our relationships with humans and give us hope. Loving animals is important to many of us.
- If we have not invited guests and friends, neighbors and acquaintances who have racial backgrounds and identities different from our own into our homes, what is getting in our way to do so? We remember one late Friend who opened her home to many types of people, regardless of their background, and her ministry of hospitality still speaks to those of us who knew her.
- We gently offer a new version of one part of this query, “What expectations do we hold for each other as family members, regardless of gender, gender identity, or gender expression?” Do we wish “peace on earth, good will to all” as compared to “peace on earth, good will to men”? Such inclusiveness allows us to grow more fully into our shared and collective humanity as One Family.
- In our households, we sometimes become aware of different perspectives that are grounded in our individual upbringing, cultural differences, differences of ability/disability. We need to find courage and humility to speak about difficult things within our families, and we need to find humility to be receptive to what is brought to our attention, whether out of conflict, difference, yearning, love, or leading.
- We support the variety of families we have in our lives, whether by personal visits to young children, or sharing stories about some of our non-traditional households that are families, nonetheless. Committed couples who decide not to marry deserve affirmation that they may be considered family.

## **Query 8 - Personal Responsibility:**

*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 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?*

### **Response:**

- In a way this time of Covid isolation has been a blessing as it has pushed us into more simplicity; things we might have thought we needed, we have learned we don't need or things we thought we must do may remain undone. And our lives still can become too cluttered with video conferencing meetings and classes. The increased use of the internet can bring new technology challenges, especially to those of us who are older. A possible positive use of the time made available through the simplicity of our lives is prayer; we may have dear friends and family who are suffering and in need of our prayers. We have the opportunity to learn what it means that we are called to pray.
- "Personal responsibility" may put too much emphasis on the conservative "pull yourself up by your own bootstraps" idea that puts the blame on individuals who are having problems. Blame never helps but we do need to strive to be accountable.
- A question was raised about the use of alcohol in moderation; some Quakers do use alcohol. There are many more addictions than drugs or alcohol – gambling, work, shopping; realizing the breadth of addiction is important. One Friend is hit very hard by this query. Having been exposed to addictions, this Friend has learned that addiction is not merely the result of eschewing "personal responsibility" but is a disease.
- One Friend spoke of their experience receiving charity for the first time in the wake of Iowa's recent derecho. This was an



opportunity for reflection about charity, about being a grateful receiver instead of a giver and the value of this vantagepoint. This Friend will be more open to just taking care of community members without focusing on who should or should not qualify for charity.

### **Query 9 - Civic Responsibility:**

*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 in 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 through worship? Are we open to Divine leadings?*

### **Response:**

- We see Friends evolving over many years in our understanding of what it means to respect those we hope to serve. Every year we consider this query at tax time when we are aware of our personal conflict with the payment of taxes that support the military, yet we pay them in part because we know that taxation also supports much that we need and support.
- There is so much in this query. Many of us have become aware that laws are not applied in an equitable way (e.g. recent deaths of Black people at hands of police). This query gives us many options: civil disobedience, prayer, advocacy. This friend struggles with how to live out Quaker testimonies with the demands of work and family.
- One Friend sees this as the darkest moment in American history. But in their lifetime, we have gained, not lost, civil rights, equity for women, rights and fair treatment of persons with nontraditional gender and sexuality. The challenge is great, but it is our responsibility to struggle. This Friend

challenges those who have the time to engage in civic responsibility.

- Our discussion for this Query occurred two days before the 2020 election. Our hearts were filled with both cautious optimism and serious apprehension. Although the query can inspire and challenge us in our testimonies, we acknowledge that this query was conceived as a snapshot in a certain time, and the thoughtful, faithful discernment that was required could not envision the extreme polarization of our political discourse and the real, immediate threats to our democracy. In this light, we were challenged to ask what might be missing within this narrative of our advice and query. Do some of these go far enough to reflect the times we now inhabit? A suggested further query might include: "How do we respond when so many experience systemic loss and suppression of their voting rights?"

### **Query 10 - Environment**

*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?*

### **Response:**

- Perhaps we can focus more on a sense of reverence toward all of creation. Historically we have had a sense of hierarchy with man at the top and coming from that perspective we were not aware of the harm we were causing other aspects of creation. We are glad for more awareness now and an opportunity for a better relationship with all of creation. We appreciate this quotation in the FCNL newsletter from John Woolman, "the produce of the earth is a gift from our gracious Creator to the inhabitants, and to impoverish the Earth now to support outward greatness appears to be an injury to the succeeding age." We need to think of the whole network of life, both now

- and in the future. We must use creativity to re-imagine new ways of living harmoniously with creation.
- The challenging part is how to do this work as a community – not individuals and only accessible to people of higher socio-economic classes who have the resources to be “environmentalists.” It is a struggle to develop a system that doesn’t require people to choose between expense and environmental benefit.
  - We were interested to learn the Pope has recently spoken out about the wrongs of capitalism, and against the concept of a “just war”. These two things have driven the unconscionable, excessive use of fossil fuels that are responsible for the environmental chaos we are experiencing now.
  - There was a concern that the onus is placed too often on the individual consumer; we need to use our collective voices to call out industries that are environmentally irresponsible. We need to be vigilant about systemic causes of environmental degradation.

### **Query 11 - Social and Economic Justice**

*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?*

### **Response:**

- In our meeting there is serious concern about and action related to incarceration and those who are incarcerated. Talents are wasted which have not been allowed expression. We know that some programs within prisons have beneficial effects and reduce recidivism rates: Alternatives to Violence Project, yoga, 12 step and literacy education are good examples. Programs offering help to those who reach out for it and overall positive systems of incarceration make a huge difference in outcomes.

Societal attitudes make a difference; believing in the potential of each person rather than categorizing some as just criminals. Radical respect for everyone is basic. It is easy for us to dismiss and not believe the story of someone from a background different from our own; we must listen, believe and accept others' stories if we are to understand where they are coming from. Talking circles are a good tool. We need to see society as a "we" rather than "us versus them."

- It is not enough to learn about racism and all the inequities detailed in this query. We must do something about them! We not only can confront racist speech, acts, cultural norms that we witness but we can use our voices to press for laws to change structural racism.

## **12 - Peace and Non-Violence**

*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 settlements of differences locally, nationally, and internationally? How do we support institutions and organizations that promote peace? Do we faithfully maintain our testimony against preparation for and participation in war?*

### **Response:**

- Several themes emerged in our sharing. We must become aware of and acknowledge the enormous impact of our history on present conditions. Building a nation on stolen land, with slave labor, and exploiting the environment is our true history. Our present-day racism, climate crisis, economic inequality and political division are natural results. We need to recognize what we have done and where we are. Only then can we have hope and move forward. This does seem to be happening; we are becoming more aware.

- Our violence involves not only physical violence, but also emotional violence against each other and violence against the natural world. Only by living in harmony with nature can we survive. Our continued exploitation has led us to the coronavirus and to other serious danger.
- There was a great surge of protest during the Viet Nam War and the nuclear build-up during the Cold War, but currently war and violence is hidden by the ruling elite. The true cost of war is hidden. We must realize the proliferation of war and scrutinize the way war has changed and how it is aided by both the military/industrial complex and the media.
- The overreaction and brutality exhibited by our militarized police and undocumented Federal agencies in response to non-violent peaceful protests have created even more pervasive traumatic experiences among those same communities and a deep-felt concern for all those with a conscience. We struggle to find an appropriate path to mitigate and metabolize the damage this has caused us all.
- Noting that fear and feeling threatened cause violence in general, we discussed how this works in our lives, and examples we're familiar with. We fear change, changes in our way of life, and losses, including the loss of power and control. Remembering that not we but God is supposed to be in control could help relieve our fear, but this faith is something we need to work on.
- We fear differences, and people we see as different from ourselves. We build narratives around the way we see things and tell ourselves we are right and those who disagree with us are misguided or misinformed. Working on internal, implicit biases is seen as a spiritual discipline. The sources of bias may include lack of exposure to people who are different (a different race or class, for example), or things we tell ourselves to justify how we earn our money or how we have invested our time. Our examples included inordinate faith in our own professional paths, and herd mentality. Past hurts may also be a source of a bias, and healing from the past may be important to creating future peace with in ourselves, between ourselves and others, as well as among nations.
- The Friends testimony of integrity asks us to check frequently with our inner guide and speak and act accordingly, rather than

in accord with our employers, the State, or our social groups. Or sometimes be silent. The Guide may speak to us through others, whether they are right or wrong, perfect or not.



## **EXERCISE COMMITTEE REPORT**

We have learned to use video conferencing so we can meet for worship, committee meetings, and special events. Our meetings have been enriched as F/friends who seldom if ever shared vocal ministry within the meeting for worship have begun sharing ministry, much to the enrichment of the meetings. And having a virtual access to meetings has meant that members and attenders who have moved away have been able to become active in the life of the meetings once again. We have even received visitors who have ended up becoming regular attenders of our meetings without ever stepping foot in one of our meetinghouses.

The theme selected by this year's Entertainment Committee, *Tapestry of Transformation: Sharing Our Light* seemed to serve as a steppingstone from which the Spirit could find voice through Friends during these sessions.

The Spirit helped us find ways to share in the grief of our losses and at the same time reminded us that despite it all, we have been richly blessed by Love. There were times when we were exercised by the Spirit of Love, shining Light on things that made us uncomfortable because they revealed to us as individuals, meetings and/or as a yearly meeting, places we need to be willing to grow more, so we can live more faithfully, and Love ourselves, each other and our neighbors with the more complete and profound Love we can learn to grow into as we surrender our hearts to the Love available to us the Spirit.

We were reminded that we, as a faith community have the strength to not just weather difficult times, but to even grow in the Spirit of Love. And we were reminded that like a seedling, at the same time as our roots grow deeper in dark, rich soil of Love, we also reach through that dark soil breaking through to the Light along with hundreds of other seeds planted around us, and we grow and strengthen until our lives can bear the fruit of that Love to share with others. We F/friends were reminded over and over that we have much more to offer this hurting world than we have given so far,

especially if we are willing to, with the help of the Spirit and each other, discern where we need to grow deeper in understanding and begin to make the changes necessary to join other faith traditions in showing the Way of Love in our personal lives, as well as in the ways our meetings minister to seekers and the World. The following are only a selection of ministry of the Spirit given this week.

*“And He said to the disciples, I tell you, therefore, do not be anxious for the soul, what you might eat, or for the body, what you might wear. For the soul is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, they who have neither storehouse nor granary, and God feeds them. How much more valuable are you than birds? And who among you can by being anxious add a cubit to the span of his life? If, therefore, you are incapable of the least of things, why are you anxious concerning the rest? Consider the lilies of the field, how they neither spin nor weave; but I tell you, Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed as one of these. And if God thus clothes the grass, which is in the field today and tomorrow is flung into an oven, how much more do you, you of little faith? Luke 12:22-28 Bentley Hart translation of the Christian Scripture*

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*Thank you [Yahweh] for helping us think about our own lives and how we can make a difference. Changing is beyond what I could or wanted to do. — What if we first made a commitment to talk to each other and choose attainable goals? You have to start somewhere. A journey begins with first step. — I must not sit down.*

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*The bonds we have with each other can make us fear losing that love or feel threatened by change, by hearing the Truth [that might require change.] – Lies are so deeply imbedded in our culture and most of the time we don’t even realize they are lies. When we are the ones in power we are easily deceived. – When we are “poor” that is, without power, we understand by experience the Truth of what is happening.*

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*Are our meetings outposts of God’s kingdom on Earth?*

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*We need to start individually and as Friends to change with the help of God, by paying attention to creation and wonder about it and by opening ourselves to the Light.*

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*Those who are given a lot have an obligation to share with those who don't have a lot. [Luke 12:48 – "To whom much is given, much will be required."]*

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*What we can do is stay and listen. In the "Experiment with Light" experience my heart felt frazzled. – I needed to relax – I remembered the lilies of the field.*

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*All reports from Scattergood [staff and committee] are ministries because they are written by ministers.*

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*What would we do differently to help someone, not a part of our meeting, to feel welcome? – Are we willing to take risks, to observe and learn from other cultures? – We have to be willing to keep asking and learning as we go.*

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*[Unlearning systemic racism as a white person] is not a one and done deal. It might seem inconvenient at first because it depends on being willing to get involved with a project where we can unite. Where I can join with them instead of expecting it to be a Person of Color helping me [a white person] to feel better.*

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*Marginalization happens when we feel we need to protect what we have; when we fear our meeting might splinter and so we avoid exploring what we believe might lead to the splintering; when we intentionally keep ourselves and others from hearing the Truth; when we don't trust the Spirit of Love or the protection of the Spirit of Christ to protect and hold us together.*

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*As we journey away from our practice of marginalization at different rates, we need to speak – Can we do this with Love? – This is a risk we need to take with humility.*

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*Quakers have a gift that we could take to the world, and that is that we must pull together with Love. But we have to learn to live into it and understand it first.*



*God, we don't know what to do!*

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*[I] can get caught up with the feeling, "I want to get things done!" And then I remember the Bible says, "Love is patient." [I Corinthians 13:4]*

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*The Spirit of Christ does teach us! And it helps if we listen!*

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*I have been reminded about the importance of not only expecting to be changed, but also being willing to be changed. I have been learning more about the need to take in and share (not take in and hold on it) the Light into the world. If we want to give ministry in the world, we must first be willing to be transformed ourselves and let Love change us.*

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*"Sing and rejoice ye children of the day and of the Light for the Lord is at work in this thick night of darkness that may be felt; and the Truth doth flourish as the rose, and the lilies do grow among the thorns and the plants atop the hills, and upon them the lambs doth skip and play." George Fox (1663)*

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*Walking near streams, I have fallen in love with the cottonwood trees. I feel accompanied by them and cared for by them.*

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*We were blessed this morning with a very powerful Bible study about how we have lost touch in our connection with creation and how we are created to be as a member of that community. If we get back to that right relationship we come to understand the trees and all around us can be our elders, to help us learn how to be in right relationship with creation. And in doing so we grow in our relationship to God.*

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*Worshipping this morning brings back how deeply significant this community has been in my development as a Friend. When I first started attending [monthly meeting] and Yearly Meeting I was met with a Love I'd never experienced before. I didn't have to be anything but me. It planted a seed which has taken decades to grow and flourish. – I realize I can offer that Love to others, and it is a wonderful thing to come to [understand.] It is a Love that offers shelter, kindness and faith. It is very moving to be worshipping here this*

*morning and feel I am under that tall tree that has been offered me and so many others.*

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*I have experienced excruciating Joy and felt that that was about as good as life gets and if I died at that moment I would be happy. But then, I felt my figurative hand wanting to close around that Joy and keep some of it. Joy is not a solitary act. It has to be found in community and shared and this is where I practice that Love.*

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*Many years ago, now, I was asked why early Friends seemed to have a strong faith and a willingness to act on that faith, even at risk to themselves. I called a Friend, a Quaker historian, and shared the question with her expecting her to give me several resources, but she said, "Earlier Friends went to worship expecting to be changed, but too often we modern Friends go to meeting to see each other, have an hour of quiet when we can "think."*

*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, 2022. 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.