

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

2024

***147th Annual Session
Held at Scattergood Friends School
and Farm near West Branch, Iowa
Seventh Month 24-28, 2024***

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative)

Hickory Grove Meetinghouse
Scattergood Friends School and Farm



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of Friends (Conservative)

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Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative)

147th Annual Session

Seventh Month 24 - 28, 2024

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FIFTH DAY – THURSDAY MORNING –7/25/2024

At the 147th Annual Session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) held at Scattergood School and Farm and online from Seventh Month 24 to Seventh Month 28, 2024.

The depth of Quaker worship, its richness, its power and its ability to meet the needs of each worshipper as well as the gathered group, depends on the commitment of every participant, and on the way we all come to our meetings with hearts and minds prepared.

Jack Dobbs in *Quaker Faith and Practice*, 5th ed.,
Britian Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends

* * * * *

We are pleased to welcome these visitors: **Peter Blood-Patterson** (Mt. Toby Friends Meeting and 3 Rivers Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting), **Kris Hilgendorf** (Twin Cities Monthly Meeting, Northern Yearly Meeting), **Amy Clark and Sam Clark** (Gallup Friends Worship Group under Albuquerque MM), **Rick Wilson** (AFSC Economic Justice), **Kent Palmer** (Rockingham Monthly Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting), Autumn___ from New York Yearly Meeting, **Nathan Kleban** (Iowa City Monthly Meeting and Right Sharing) and **Rex Sprouse** (Bloomington Friends Meeting, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting), **John Edminster** (Stillwater Monthly Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting).

* * * * *

Caretakers appointed by monthly meetings are Judy Cottingham, Jim Cottingham, Jane Cadwallader Howe, Kathy VandeWalle, (West Branch), Martha Davis (Decorah), Deborah Dakin, Lisa Blomme, Caygeon Jun kin (Whittier), John Andrews (Iowa City), Catherine Dorenbach, Nancy Jordan (Lincoln), Peggy Frantz, Jon Shafer (Penn Valley), Anna Geischen (Paullina), Ed Taylor (Omaha), Clarie Cumbie-Drake, Deborah Fisch, Peter Clay (Des Moines Valley), Stan Sanders (Bear Creek).

Readers for this morning’s business sessions are Ruth Hampton and Stan Saunders.

Angelica Shafer has agreed to close meeting for worship on First Day.

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Minute: We approve the appointments suggested by the Representatives Committee.

The Representatives Committee has suggested the names of Friends to serve during these sessions.

Exercise Committee: Deborah Fisch, Jean Eden, Mary Snyder Marshall Massey .

Epistle and Special Replies Committee: Bill Deutsch, Anna Gieschen

Audit Committee: Carole Winkleblack, Bob Winkleblack

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Minute: We appreciate the good report of the EC, the work of the many people who helped provide an enjoyable program during our 2023 sessions, and the EC committee's offer to help the 2024 session EC.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) annual sessions were planned and hosted by Paullina, Omaha and Lincoln Monthly Meetings. This was again a hybrid meeting, combining people in person at Scattergood and people online through video conferencing. The approximate attendance in person at Scattergood Friends School was 72, both adults and children. The number who registered to attend online was 56.

Our theme was “Knowing Ourselves, Knowing Our Neighbors.” Evening Collections included:

- John Zimmerman and Ruth Hampton reviewing answers to queries posed about Scattergood and talking about the future vision of the school.
- Marshall Massey discussing his book-in-progress that deals with environmental crisis and how our practice and discipline can lead in the response.

- Paula Palmer showing us her research on Quaker Indigenous Boarding Schools, reflecting upon our history with queries on how to contribute toward healing.
- On Saturday evening John Zimmerman entertained us with storytelling and songs.

The First Day pre-meeting program featured Billie Wade sharing her own experiences on the trauma of perpetual racism.

Surrounding the business sessions were daily Bible Study with Deb Dakin's leadership, worship, singing, interest groups and committee work. We enjoyed *delicious* food. The weather was hot, but we did our best to provide many cool spaces.

The Entertainment Committee is grateful for the tremendous coordination and on-site assistance provided by Jessica Ireland at Scattergood, as well as many other Scattergood students and staff members.

The devotion, time commitment and skills provided by the Virtual Access, Website and Special Needs Committees are greatly appreciated and essential to the success of annual sessions.

Our committee is extending a warm helping hand to the group of monthly meeting hosts that follow us in 2024. We hope sharing our experience will eliminate some of the initial overwhelming nature of the Entertainment Committee's responsibilities.

For the committee,
Catherine Dorenbach
Clerk

Entertainment Committee Financial Report

RECEIPTS

Forwarded from 2022 Committee

For Future Music Ministry	1,965.00
General Funds	2,000.00
2023 Contributions	<u>12,910.00</u>
Total	16,875.00

EXPENSES

Scattergood Friends School	10,220.98
Program Expenses	500.00
To Yearly Meeting Trustees	2,189.02
Forwarded to 2024 Committee:	
For Future Music Ministry*	1,965.00
General Funds	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total	16,875.00

*In 2020 a number of Friends made special contributions totaling \$4,465 to support the planned concert by John McCutcheon. The concert was postponed until 2021, when it became a virtual concert, which was less expensive. The donors requested that the extra funds be carried over to future Entertainment Committees for future music ministry.

Jim Cottingham
Entertainment Committee Treasurer

* * * * *

Minute: We are grateful for the minute books and the hard work we know goes into them. The treasurer noted that though we are a non-profit, we are not a tax-exempt nonprofit, so we do pay sales tax.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Publications Committee is charged with preparing, publishing and distributing the minute book of our annual sessions. The costs of printing and distributing the *2023 Minute Book* to each monthly meeting and a few institutions who request our annual publication are listed below.

The clerk is chagrined to report that she did not take full advantage of the skills brought to the committee by each member and strives to do better at “sharing the load” in the coming year.

We also wish to remind folks that the minute books from 2003 to the present are available on the IYMC website for viewing or download.

Once again assistance and printing came from Bob Goodfellow Printing in Iowa City.

Printing and Shipping Costs for the 2023 Minute Book

143 Perfect Bound Minutes and 49 Spiral Bound Minutes

Books - 192 @ \$9.81771	\$1,885.00
Shipping and Freight	180.00
Sales Tax	<u>113.10</u>
Total	\$2,178.10

Submitted on behalf of the committee,
Katie Jacoby

* * * * *

Minute: We recognize that midyear meeting relies on the support of many people in addition to the members of the committee, especially members of Bear Creek Meeting, which welcomes us each year even though their numbers have dwindled, and other nearby meetings. We are grateful for this chance to be together in community each year.

MIDYEAR MEETING COMMITTEE REPORT

Midyear Meeting was held at Bear Creek Friends Meeting near Earlham Iowa on Third Month, 23rd-24th, 2024. The hybrid format welcomed approximately 40 participants in person and 40 who joined remotely from the Midwest regions of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative.

The resource person this year was Lee Tesdell, a long-time farmer, educator and current clerk of Ames Meeting. He shared perspectives on changes in agriculture and land stewardship, from native peoples to today. Lee led us in thoughtful reflections and listening on the theme of Environmental responsibility with a focus on IYMC's Query 10, lifting up these questions:

- *How can we be more aware of our interdependent relationship with the rest of creation?*
- *How can we nurture reverence and respect for life?*

Reflections from the body through the sessions focused on spiritual awareness and practical actions, including: Indigenous knowledge and teachings, climate change, health and food, water use, transportation, etc., and being mindful to take personal responsibility for our actions.

Attendees were encouraged to listen for new ideas and prepare a personal resolution for a change in lifestyle over the coming 12 months that will benefit the natural environment. We were inspired to realize that no one is alone in our effort to make a small difference, even if only in our own homes.

Appreciation was expressed for the technology volunteers that managed the hybrid format so many could participate. The committee will continue to focus on updating the technology and the sound system. One co-clerk has been released for several months in order to address ongoing stressors in her life.

During Midyear, there were hybrid opportunities for Interim Meeting and for the Peace & Social Concerns Committee to meet, in addition to separate occasions for fellowship for those attending in

person and for those online. The meals were greatly appreciated and there was lots of variety for a range of diets.

Many adults who were at the meetinghouse for Midyear joined in the tour of the organic market grower farm nearby. Friends gathered for music on Saturday evening. A suggestion was shared to consider ways to appeal to and welcome young adult Friends; the committee has begun exploring some ideas for that, especially for next year.

The snowy weather was a challenge, with some Friends heading home early. As a result, it was suggested that the committee consider meeting a little later in the spring, in Fourth Month, while keeping in mind the schedule of Scattergood and the yearly meeting clerk and others. Nevertheless, the fellowship and spiritual time together was felt across the miles as Friends gathered together once again for Midyear Meeting.

In the Light,
Jackie Leckband and Liz Oppenheimer, co-clerks
on behalf of the committee

Midyear Meeting 2024 Financial Report

<u>Donations:</u>	\$2984.00
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Food	696.03
Travel–resource person	100.00
Cook	500.00
Printing & mailing programs	78.31
<u>Hosting fee</u>	<u>300.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$1674.34
Remaining Funds to Yearly Meeting	\$1271.00

Osa Bricker, Midyear Meeting treasurer

* * * * *

Minute: We approve the minutes from Interim Meeting, adding that Deboarh Fisch was able to attend part of North Carolina YM online, and that Jon Shafer plans to attend Ohio YM on our behalf.

INTERIM MEETING REPORT

Interim Meeting was held at 3:30 PM on 7th day, 3rd month 23rd (3/23/2024)

Simplicity is the name we give to our effort to free ourselves to give full attention to God's still, small voice: the sum of our efforts to subtract from our lives everything that competes with God for our attention and clear hearing. -Lloyd Lee Wilson

Members present were Stan Sanders, Tom Hinshaw, Deb Dakin, Bob Yates, Katie Jacoby, Meg McCormick, Roy Helm, Dorothy Lifka, Deborah Fink, AM Fink, Carol Gilbert.

The purpose of Interim Meeting is to make decisions on business of the Yearly Meeting that can't wait until annual sessions seventh month 24-28, 2024.

One item that the committee addresses every year is approving representatives to attend the two other conservative Friends yearly meetings.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative Annual Sessions are scheduled for 7th Month, 10 - 14 at Guilford College, with the theme: Kinship with All Creation.

Ohio Yearly Meeting plans to have its annual sessions Eighth Month, 6th 2024 at Stillwater Meetinghouse near Barnesville Ohio. Several in the room have enjoyed attending these events in recent years, but at this time way doesn't appear to be open for anyone to attend in person. Deborah Fisch plans to attend both meetings online if possible. If no one can attend in person, Deborah is willing to serve as our representative. If people volunteer for in person attendance, we approve them as our representatives at the clerk's discretion.

The meeting ended with a period of worship.

Carol Gilbert, Clerk

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative)

* * * * *

Minute: We appreciate hearing lovely and loving epistles from Ohio and North Carolina Conservative Yearly Meetings, and appreciated the honesty, intimacy, and Truth of what they shared with us. We're grateful for the companionship that sharing of epistles provides for us as our respective communities change and grow. We are also grateful for recent inter-visitation opportunities we have had with these two meetings.

Having heard the Epistles, one friend, inspired by the age of those YMs , and noted that the 150th year of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) is coming in three years. He suggested that this could be occasion marked by things like updating our history, or including a celebration of some kind at that time. The clerk will discuss this with the representatives and the entertainment committees.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Dear Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Greetings! We joyfully gathered together from the 10th to the 14th of Seventh Month, 2024 for our 327th annual session during the hot days of midsummer on the campus of Guilford College, built on land previously cared for and claimed, at various times, by the Keyauwee, Saura, and Saponi Peoples. We were accompanied by several cherished Friends online as well.

We welcomed Friend Deborah Fisch, who was able to join us online. We were grateful for her presence, and we 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 in accordance with Divine will, we anticipate Susan Lees from our meeting will be present when you meet later this month.

It is good to share with you how the Spirit is working among us. We have considered the role of outreach, and heard from visitors that we have something to share.

However, as a body we are not always clear on how to do that. Perhaps this was evidenced by an initial hesitance of Friends to step forward to write this epistle. But we continue this practice both because we very much want to share the life of our Meeting with you, and because we appreciate the historical importance of epistles in the life of Friends: this is an important way for later generations to know about our experiences and concerns.

Our theme this year was "Kinship with All Creation." In a variety of ways, we have explored how God is manifest in the natural world, and what is our proper relationship with that world. Marguerite Dingman led our Bible class. She traced the traditional Western attitude that nature exists merely for human exploitation and destruction back to the creation story in Genesis in which Adam and Eve were given dominion over the plants, animals and earth - even though other, more positive attitudes can also be seen in Genesis,

Job, and other scriptures. She also pointed out the ways in which earthly powers and interests influenced even choices in Biblical translation (for example, translating *logos* as "the Word" rather than "the Conversation") in ways that shut us off from understanding God as manifest in our relationships with others and with the natural world. But early Friends felt they had discovered a way back to the Garden in which all is one.

In keeping with our theme, our plenary talk on Sixth Day evening was given by Dr. Randy Woodley, a Native American thinker and leader in the fields of Indigenous and Intercultural Studies, Ecology, Spirituality, Race, Theology and Mission. Dr. Woodley shared with us his experience as an Indigenous theologian who does not consider himself a Christian, even though he feels he is a follower of Jesus. He emphasized that belief as an abstract thing - as a notion separated from practice - is empty, and no basis for true religion. He has lived and researched Indigenous cultural and spiritual practices, and finds in them a tendency to - in different ways - seek harmony and balance both among humans, and between humans and the natural world. Through numerous stories and reflections, he shared with us how Indigenous practices helped him see the importance of listening to others, respecting their stories, valuing community and seeing oneself as part of Creation.

We had two other evening sessions. In further keeping with our theme of "Kinship with All Creation," Darlene Stanley and Nan Bowles led "Encountering the Sacred in Nature," a time focused on encountering the Divine in nature, and how being in nature has healed and taught us. Friends shared many stories of their experiences of these encounters. Michael Misenheimer & Susan Wilson led a worship sharing on "Do Quakers Still Quake?" We had a rich experience of listening to one another and giving voice to the inward motions of feeling and sensation we experience when the Spirit is prompting us. We also enjoyed afternoon sessions on "Early Quaker Spirituality," led by David Johnson, and on a new program of the School of the Spirit, "God's Promise Fulfilled: Embodying and Encountering Grace in the Shadow of Empire," led by Joann Neuroth.

We were joined by visitors from many monthly and yearly meetings, some as far away as Australia. Their presence enriched our sessions greatly.

As is our practice, each business session grew out of, and closed with, waiting worship.

During business sessions, Emma Condori from Holiness Friends Yearly Meeting in Bolivia spoke about her concern for the indigenous people in Bolivia and how they have been affected by climate change, especially lately through drought. Guilford College president Kyle Farmbry shared with us that, while they are facing the same problems faced by all small colleges recently, enrollments are up for the past couple of years. As always, monthly meeting State of the Meeting reports were read in the face of the Meeting, as were the monthly meeting responses to the relatively new queries we adopted recently. In this way, we share the condition and concerns of each monthly meeting, so that we can each serve as a source of support and accountability for one another.

These days we have had together - learning, sharing, doing business and simply being in each other's presence - have been precious. We were further delighted by the presence of children and youth of all ages. Their program included a tour of a local history museum, swimming, bowling and simply hanging out and playing games. They joined the adults for some activities as well.

Our time at annual sessions has been not only useful, but centering and restorative. We welcome you to join us at our sessions in 2025 if way opens.

On behalf of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative,
Michelle Downey, clerk

Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends

8th Month 1-5, 2023

The earth is the Lord's and all they that dwell therein. ... Lift up your heads oh ye gates and the Son of Glory will come in. Psalm 24:1,9

Greetings in the Lord to Friends everywhere.

Imagine, if you will, the famous (among Friends at least) Doyle Penrose painting of "The Presence in the Midst," but instead of worshipping with their heads bowed in prayer, imagine the gathered assembly looking slightly up, beyond the image of the risen Christ, to the wall behind the facing bench. Now, imagine that on that wall there is a large screen on which is projected small images of names and faces of other Friends from near and far, as near as a sick bed in

Barnesville or a Mennonite Church in Findlay, Ohio, as far as a retirement community in Florida or even in New Zealand, Ghana and Honduras.

If you can imagine that, then you may begin to imagine the strange and wonderful blessing that it was to attend Ohio Yearly Meeting during these strange and wonderful times of the coming of the Living Christ in our age. For He has promised to be present whenever two or three are gathered in His wonderful *name*, and we have experienced that Presence and realized that the promise did *not* say that we must be gathered in the same *place* to know that Presence among US.

We have gathered at the Stillwater Friends Meetinghouse for the 2023 annual sessions of Ohio Yearly Meeting. "Unless the Lord builds the house, we labor in vain that build it..." "We are sensing the unseen yet peaceful Presence and direction of Christ's Spirit with us, in us and among us. Friends sometimes speak of having leadings. We were reminded that a "leading" comes to us through having a relationship with our Lord. The Gospel messages shared arose out of our quiet worship and deepened our understanding of that relationship. Our background music has been the sound of birds and the chatter of young children.

We remember the vision of Richard Hall, a recorded minister of the traditional style that many of us still living were privileged to know and to hear, a vision of the walls of our meetinghouse coming down to accommodate all the people being drawn to us. And another vision he had of wires, going out and coming into the meetinghouse, connecting us with Friends all over the world. Though Richard lived during the dawning of the computer age and before anyone had ever heard of the internet, we have experienced that connection through Zoom. And though the bricks of our meetinghouse are still solidly in place, we feel the walls of division and misunderstanding between different branches and cultures of Friends and even in our own communities and families no longer preventing our hearts from being drawn together in the Precious Love of our Living Savior.

What visions remain for us to experience? We can only imagine what blessings lie ahead of us as if we continue to be faithful to Christ's calling on our hearts. During our business sessions we heard reports of His work among us during the past year. In one evening program we reviewed the painfully mixed history of our ancestors'

relationships with the indigenous peoples of this beautiful land. In another we envisioned together how we have come to this time and place and how we might faithfully move forward. In worship and in fellowship with one another, we know

that it is good that we are here.

We look at the hungry, hurting multitude in the world around us, and we hear Him say, "You feed them." We feel we have so little, barely enough for one another in these troubled times. He says, "Bring me what you have," and he shows us how to thank God for providing it, to divide it up and share it with the people where they are, and He reminds us to gather up the leftovers. Then after all have been satisfied, and we are amazed, he quietly journeys on, seeking to feed hungry souls everywhere, still promising to be with us, wherever two or three are gathered in His name.

The Truth revealed through His Holy Spirit is much deeper, more far reaching than our intellect can comprehend. Our circle of community far away has become near at hand. Repentance is worked by our maker as we open our hearts to Him. The purifying power of His Love works in us daily as we turn our minds toward Him.

Of course, we wish we had more, could do more, could share more with you. We welcome, embrace and are blessed by those we have, and are grateful for those who have gone out from among us into the world. And so it is in the heavenly realm that is being birthed among us, that as we are faithful in our stewardship of what we have been given, we are given more, and we give and receive it all to the Glory of God.

On behalf of Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends, Charles C. Thomas, Jr., Clerk

* * * * *

Minute: We thank the documents committee for sharing with us just a taste of the many epistles from yearly meetings around the world.

We are cheered by the birth of a new yearly meeting in Europe, and by some themes we have in common with other Yearly Meetings. We appreciate the chance to hear some of these together. We encourage friends to visit the FWCC website to read more of these epistles.

DOCUMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Document Committee reviewed the collection of recent Epistles on the Friends World Committee for Consultation site. Several excerpts were selected to provide a sense of yearly meeting gatherings around the world, seeking together God's call and guidance. The full Epistles and archives may be viewed here:

https://fwcc.world/resources_cpt/epistles/

As the committee read the many wonderful Epistles from the many places and Friends of various ages around the world, we were struck by the many common themes and concerns in the assorted letters. The committee chose to try to show the people of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) that no matter the great diversity from all the many Quaker communities around the world, all share similar thoughts, concerns and ideas. The committee also decided to try to post as many full copies of the various FWCC Epistles in the hallway at Scattergood school during yearly meeting where people line up for meals so they can read all the epistles from which the committee strove diligently to pick the best parts for this report.

Epistle from New York Yearly Meeting Young Adult Friends who came together with the Quaker United Nations Office in New York, February 2024

We sensed a deep importance of youth not just feeling, but being seen, acknowledged, powerful, and supported. Guided by our testimonies of Peace and Equality, we call on Friends everywhere to actively seek out young voices and listen deeply to their concerns. Remembering that they will inherit the consequences of our actions, let us grant young adults agency in decision-making spaces. Their fresh perspectives and insights are vital as we work towards a more just and peaceful future. We call for further building of meaningful partnership and mutually useful people-to-people connections, including between QUNO and local meetings in New York and beyond.

We see a hunger among YAFs to be engaged in Quaker life, institutions, and process. We ask Friends to hold this enthusiasm and nurture it near and far. Thank you for joining us in empowering weighty Friends of the future.

Ciudad Victoria Tamaulipas, May 5, 2024. Epistle of the 46th General Meeting of the Friends in Mexico.

To all Friends everywhere:

We, the Ciudad Victoria Monthly Meeting, and the Mexico City Meeting, met in the absence of the San Nicolas Monthly Meeting, with our guests from Guatemala City, the Matamoros City Meeting, and the Pacific Yearly Meeting.

We come to the conclusion that Jesus is perfect, that one is not, but imperfectly we must do the best we can, today more than ever we must look for that of God in us, we must find the strength and wisdom to be able to act and to be able to empathize in community.

The term Ubuntu comes from Africa and encapsulates the meaning of this gathering, to be for others. Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me", I am because we are, we take the challenge of taking care of our biosphere and being the gardeners of our Earth, working on a new theological interpretation on the subject.

We say goodbye in the light of our differences, together within our diversity for a common good, to learn and enrich our world.

Central European Yearly Meeting 16-19 May 2024 New Quaker YM in Europe.

Dear Friends all around the world,

Let me tell you a story about 50 Friends from 11 European countries (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia, Ukraine, United Kingdom) and Australia. They met in the city of Budapest, Hungary and online to celebrate the first time they gathered from start to finish as the Central European Yearly Meeting. This story is about us, the youngest Quaker Yearly Meeting in Europe. We are basically newborns so we have the difficult task (and also the privilege) to define ourselves including membership procedures.

We also had an interest group about the Image and Likeness of God. We did not forget to call attention to the climate emergency thanks to Arne Springorum and Pavel Marušinec.

We felt held in the Light by Friends spiritually supporting us from afar.

Stories accompany us during our whole life, we are living history at this very moment.

Epistle from the FWCC Europe and Middle East Section Annual Meeting held Online 26-28 April 2024

Living the Spirit of Ubuntu A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:34-35

...an enthusiastic community of between 60 and 90 Friends, from 23 different countries, gathered together online to investigate the theme: “Living the spirit of Ubuntu”, using John 13:34-35, about love, as our guiding gospel. ...Our theme of Ubuntu was highlighted in many sessions and in many ways: Quote from Albert Schweitzer at the first Epilogue, “We are united with all life that is in nature. We can no longer live our lives for ourselves alone”;

Our main speaker Hezron Masitsa, Justice & Peace Secretary FWCC World Office and Nairobi YM, said the word “Ubuntu” embodies a set of values and principles that emphasise the interconnectedness of all people and the importance of community, compassion and mutual respect: Our humanity and wellbeing is tied to others. The happiness and dignity of one person is linked to the entire community It is also linked to all of God’s creation. We are all part of one great whole.

In our EMES section wars are raging. Our Peace and Service Network asked the vital question “How can we be of service?” and on Saturday afternoon, with the help of a friend from Georgia and one from Russia, the question was partially answered. At present there are two ad hoc groups at work within the network. One is concentrating on helping deserters from the Russian Army and supporting conscientious objectors, mainly from Ukraine. The second working group is focusing on ways of helping people caught up in the war in Palestine. Our thoughts and love go to our friends in Ramallah and Brummana, who could not join us this year, and to all people afflicted by these atrocities. Friends, let us join hands and hearts, and pray for a cease-fire in Ukraine and in Palestine – and for universal peace.

Epistle of the Yearly Meeting of Aotearoa New Zealand, Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri, held at Sonninghill Hostel, Hamilton and online 24th – 27th April, 2024

Kia ora koutou, greetings to Friends everywhere.

We are challenged to consider what we need as an organisation, and how we keep our foundations strong – balancing looking after ourselves so we can look after others.

Historical changes in our membership numbers and our capacity to maintain our major functions and enterprises remained a continuing theme of this yearly meeting.

The 2024 Quaker Lecture: “A Queer Gift: Stepping beyond the mindset” – was presented by some of our Rainbow community who shared personal stories of struggles, courage, and joys. Although we may believe we do not suffer from prejudice, we were reminded that residues of prejudice remain within.

Climate justice is an ongoing concern from our Yearly Meetings and 2024 was no exception. In the context of governments and those in power we were encouraged to be strategic, innovative and joyful in an holistic approach to raising issues and advocacy on critical climate change issues.

A legend of the Quechua people from Peru was shared. It is about a hardworking and persistent hummingbird, though small, that continued to try to put out the forest fires, because to do nothing was not the answer.

We now adjourn to meet again this afternoon at 2:00.

* * * * *

FIFTH DAY – THURSDAY AFTERNOON – 07/22/2024

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

Take these hands, I give them over.

Make my heart an open door.

Make my life a house of Spirit.

Make me an instrument, nothing more.

Carin Anderson, Chico California Friends Meeting

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Minute: We are pleased to welcome these Friends into our midst.

Chaddo (London, Ontario Meeting).

Susan Lees (Fayetteville, North Carolina Meeting Conservative)

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Readers for this afternoon's business session are Deborah Fink and Nathan Kleban.

Catherine Dorenbach and Jane Cadwallader-Howe are carrying microphones.

* * * * *

Minute: We recognize that the Ministry and Counsel committee has taken on several challenging issues this year, and appreciate their good work for the Yearly Meeting. We share concern for the the health of some of the monthly meetings, and in particular for members and attenders of Omaha Friends Meeting which was laid down this year. We are grateful for the committee's work on the child safety document and look forward to its continued use by yearly meeting committees caring for children and youth.

On the issue of Query revision, friends expressed fondness for the present queries and were positive about their use in their meetings, though some mentioned changes they would like to see. We advise M&C to ask meetings how the queries are working within our monthly meetings. We note that meetings are using the queries in different ways, and some only use the advices. We urge meetings to send specific suggestions to Ministry and Counsel, and consider whether any of their members would be willing to serve on a query revision committee should one be formed.

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL REPORT

On the issue of Query revision, friends expressed fondness for the present queries and were positive about their use in their meetings, though some mentioned changes they would like to see. We advise M&C to ask meetings how the queries are working within our monthly meetings. We note that meetings are using the queries in different ways, and some only use the advices. We urge meetings to send specific suggestions to Ministry and Counsel and consider whether any of their members would be willing to serve on a query revision committee should one be formed. The Ministry and Counsel Committee has met monthly from September through April and weekly in June and July, attended by those who are able. We gather to worship, to share the concerns of our meetings, and to be available to provide care; hoping to help foster the spiritual life and good order of the yearly meeting and monthly meetings.

The Committee is to consist of two representatives appointed from each monthly meeting. We note with sadness that one

monthly meeting has no representative and several meetings have only one. We wonder how that affects the spiritual life and good order of the yearly meeting and monthly meetings.

Pre-pandemic (2020) the Committee met daily during yearly meeting sessions, and perhaps once during the year. This year all of our meetings, and work, have occurred virtually throughout the year. We recognize that this is a change in how the committee and the YM does our work. “How we’ve always done it” no longer applies, and we no longer follow the practices outlined in our Faith and Practice.

We have read the State of the Meeting reports and forward them to the Clerk to be read in session. We note the vibrancy of some meetings; we appreciate the use of technology which allows wider participation in meetings, yet have a concern for a lack of rooted members providing the care of our meetinghouses, especially as our meetings report aging members and transitory newcomers. Our hearts are broken by the laying down of Omaha Meeting, the survival struggle of other small meetings, and the loss of dear Friends Beth Wilson and Judy Plank.

We continue to hold the possibility of revising the Queries and wonder how the Yearly Meeting would like to proceed.

“Safety and Protection of Children & Youth at Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions, Midyear Meeting, and Other Functions.” For the past 10 years the Ministry and Counsel Committee has shepherded an ad-hoc committee concerned with safety of children in yearly meeting. A summary of their work is in the 2018 M&C report to YM. The fruit of the work was a draft document which the M&C Committee presented to the yearly meeting in 2020 . This led to lengthy discussion and a stated commitment to continue to “wrestle with these issues so that we can create guidelines that fit the circumstances of OUR yearly meeting.” The Ad-hoc Committee, which is now the Ad Hoc Child Safety Revision Committee, followed up with seeking feedback from monthly meetings and in virtual listening sessions. The input led to a rewrite of the document into three separate documents for different audiences/uses. Drafts and outlines of these documents were available at the 2023 YM Session. This year the Ad Hoc committee completed its review and incorporation of feedback from meetings and presented the completed revised and expanded draft. The ad hoc committee has done its best to be faithful to the leadings of the Spirit while

considering all of the detailed feedback and comments received and the committee asked to be released. We appreciate the work of ad-hoc committee. The Ministry and Counsel Committee believes that our leading to undertake this work has been accomplished. The completed document, which continues to be labeled “draft” as it is a living document, has been shared with the Junior Yearly Meeting and Young Friends Committees with the expectation that they will use and update it. These committees have been using the guidelines. We hope they will distribute or publish the document as appropriate and continue to revise it to reflect their practice.

While conflict is natural, we know that sometimes Friends are at a loss for how to respond to it, especially when feelings are hurt and some may not feel safe. Biblical counsel and an explanation of the ways that Quakers have historically responded to conflict within monthly meetings was shared with a monthly meeting that reached out to M&C for support.

The Spiritual Sharing Small Groups are in their fourth year. Participating friends make a six-month commitment to their small group. Every six months there is a “shuffle” when new groups are formed. We expect the next shuffle in September. Friends have expressed appreciation for how their experience has deepened connections and creates a safe place to share how God is working in each person's life.

We hold a concern for ministry in our meetings: how do we encourage ministry and bring those who minister under the care of the meeting? We hope to encourage monthly meetings to support those called to minister.

The Ministry and Counsel Committee is planning a retreat for the committee in the coming year. We ask the Yearly Meeting to help fund this event, if necessary, so that all committee members can participate regardless of their contribution of time and/or money.

We received Religious Education reports from [5] meetings and recommend that they be printed in the MinuteBook.

The Ministry and Counsel clerk for the coming year will be named during our next meeting scheduled for August 25.

Submitted by

Cheryl Sutton and Lorene Ludy, co-clerks

Minute: We listened with appreciation to the state of the meeting reports from all our monthly meetings. We note with sorrow the

laying down of Omaha Monthly Meeting and offer our support as their members and attenders find their way forward as a worship group that can welcome and nurture seekers in the Omaha area.

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS

Ames Friends Meeting

Ames Friends Meeting remains a spiritual support to its twelve to sixteen members and attenders and provides encouragement for work for peace and justice. Planned activities include a Quaker conversation at the end of each month, a monthly meeting for healing, reading of Quaker literature in the hour before worship, and monthly potlucks. While we treasure the silence in some meetings for worship, there is often vocal ministry. All offerings are respected and received as messages from the Divine.

Business meetings are well attended and respected. Reports come from those active in FCNL, AFSC, IYMC, regional and national Native American affairs and immigration/DACA. Family reunification efforts remain a priority.

Our only standing committee is Ministry and Counsel. Care of our beautiful meetinghouse and grounds is in the hands of volunteers within and outside our meeting. We are glad that our meetinghouse gets good use by others, including yoga and Zen groups as well as writing and spiritual support meetings.

Violence in Palestine/Israel leads Ames Friends to action, including co-sponsoring a public showing of the film “Angel of Gaza,” as well as individuals participation in rallies, protests and lobbying for a ceasefire. We have endorsed the campaign “A Different Future is Possible” and have added our meeting statement on a ceasefire to FCNL’s website.

Few of us attend Yearly Meeting sessions in person, but six are active in Yearly Meeting committees: Nominating, Ministry and Counsel, Midyear Planning, Yearly Meeting Planning, Scattergood, Peace and Social Concerns, and Representatives. Two of us were active for a time in small worship groups. More are apt to attend and participate in Midyear Meeting. One of our members capably shepherded the FCNL Priorities Committee for the past three years. We do not routinely take up the Yearly Meeting Advices and Queries.

How does one gauge the movement of Spirit within a meeting from year to year if not by our attendance, attention to our business, and by our collective and individual actions? Using this gauge, Ames

Friends Meeting is doing well, and laboring to ensure that a persistent witness to peace and social justice will one day manifest in the world we seek.

Bear Creek Friends Meeting

Wait on the LORD: Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart; wait I say, on the LORD! Psalms 27:14

Our monthly meeting is lightly attended at present even though the membership-of-record is far more extensive. We recognize several factors that weigh on our diminished attendance. We collectively are slowing down because of aging and declining physical capacities; and this at a time when overwhelming national and global issues pull heavily on the hearts and spirits. It is tempting and perhaps easier to turn inward when there are so many outward opportunities to pursue and work for: peacemaking, healing, and policies that are needed to strengthen democracy and address historical harms. Attendance is also diminished by loss of beloved members. We are particularly touched by the recent loss of a longtime birthright member, Birdie Kisling. Our benches are missing dozens of family and friends who were the core of a more vital Bear Creek Meeting only two decades ago.

The Meeting holds a variety of spiritual and communal meanings in the lives of its members. For many of us, it is our primary “spiritual Home” – our physical link to a treasured past and to ancestors with whom we share love and legacy. A quiet sanctuary, a connection with the silence. For others its primary gift is as a safe place in which to share and discuss our views and concerns for the greater world beyond the physical presence of the Meetinghouse. The Meeting can put us in touch with so many other Quakers and non-Quakers alike beyond its walls who may share views quite divergent or similar to our own, or views we have not yet discerned for ourselves.

The Bear Creek Meetinghouse for many decades has served the Iowa Yearly Meeting, conservative, as the host facility for the annual Mid-Year Meeting. The planning and active preparations for these sessions bring together many members of the Yearly Meeting and Bear Creek in a Spirit-lead effort each year. The meetinghouse also serves as a gathering place for the Bear Creek//Earlham community with activities beyond its primarily religious focus – open houses, a quilting society, family reunions, and the like. These connections and activities are critical to the continued “life” of the Meeting; they

underscore to the greater community the potential resource the Meeting provides and the historical treasure that exists within its midst.

Responsibility for maintenance of the Meetinghouse and its grounds has rested for many years on the shoulders of a select few dedicated individuals. Maintenance of the building and upkeep of the grounds relies not only on caretakers but also on sustainable financial means to make this happen. These factors cannot go on indefinitely; we remain, as we are guided by Scripture, “in good courage,” open to any ways forward at this time.

We appreciate video technology that enables participation of distant Friends from Minnesota, Kansas, Wisconsin, and other parts of the region with those who meet face to face at the Meetinghouse. We have discussed possibilities of using video technology to re-engage those who remain on our membership rolls and are currently exploring ways to attract new spiritual seekers.

Decorah Friends Meeting

At DFM there is a center core of 8-12 regular attenders who gather in person weekly in expectant waiting. We are strong in supporting issues that act out our beliefs, connecting us to each other, our community and the greater world. We range in age from 36 to 93 and enjoy a closeness that comes from witnessing each other’s life journeys over the course of years of regular meeting together.

For many, spiritual connection is through encounters with the natural world or being in outdoor space. Spiritual connection for others is with action toward “creating the world we seek,” peace and justice efforts and contacting elected officials. For others, spiritual connection is in being in a quiet space with others, listening for the still small voice of God.

Every six weeks, meeting for business is well attended.

Our strengths include skilled, dedicated people who do the important work of serving our meeting as clerk, recording clerk, and treasurer. Another blessing is that we own our meetinghouse; the upstairs apartment rental covers the costs of taxes and insurance. The tenants shovel sidewalks and mow grass. Having a fixed, known location for DFM helps others find us. Discussing home ownership responsibilities leads us to

acknowledge different opinions about purchasing insurance or deciding what kinds of trees to plant.

Though it is not set at a time that would make it possible for all to attend and is not chosen by others, those who gather regularly mid-week for spiritual nurture find it enriches their journeys of experiencing Spirit in their lives. We spend the hour with an introduced topic, writing, sharing what we have written and naming a way we would like to be held in the week ahead.

There is not much spoken ministry during worship, but we benefit from the gathered silence. At the rise of meeting we share thoughts, joys, sorrows, concerns, sometimes a song. That sharing helps us deepen our awareness of each other and what's fresh in our lives.

We wonder what might deepen Spirit in our meeting. Maybe occasional planned worship sharing. Maybe meeting for learning (first hour) based on our Faith & Practice.

Gratefully, Bill

Des Moines Valley Friends

Diversity and new people joining us are two big strengths of our meeting. We also strive to be fully inclusive of Zoom attenders in the life of the meeting. Another strength is how we care for one another.

Our diversity sometimes leads to tensions among community members, such as over differing opinions regarding appropriate ministry. We have asked individuals to practice more discernment about when to rise to speak during waiting worship and how to offer ministry.

As a community we have been delighted with the movement of the Spirit among us this past year. We are grappling with many changes and challenges but there is a new sense of possibility among DMVF and a growing sense that we have much to offer the wider community. The arrival of new attenders has brought us new Spiritual energy, helping us to put our faith into action in new ways.

Sometimes our worship feels deeply grounded, whether or not there is vocal ministry. Other times it feels less Spirit-led and more secular, depending upon the messages offered on a given First Day and the receptivity each of us brings with us to meeting.

Generally, we need more individuals to participate in meeting for worship with attention to business. As a community we do not seem to fully understand this responsibility. Our collective skills around

doing our business after the manner of Friends will be enhanced with more attendance on a more regular basis.

We enjoy lively discussions when we gather to consider the query each month. Participation has been good, and the sharing has provided one important venue for our community to deepen our relationships with one another. The queries continue to challenge us and continue to encourage our spiritual growth.

The spiritual life of our meeting will continue to be strengthened as we deepen the relationships between us. Witnessing against racism by many community members and generous informal sharing after worship both help deepen our connections to one another. Our ongoing efforts to create a safe environment that supports diverse voices, while honoring that of Spirit in each of us continues to bring us closer together.

We feel that Yearly Meeting could benefit our monthly meetings by creating and encouraging such activities as inter-visitation and shared participation in special opportunities among all monthly meetings. Yearly Meeting M & C could, perhaps, hold a workshop on the work of M & C committees or Yearly Meeting P & SC could gather us to consider leadings together. Other ideas include bringing our meetings together for vigils or statements in local newspapers. Could our Yearly Meeting help connect younger attenders and members of monthly meetings? Perhaps Scattergood could share some of their activities via Zoom.

Iowa City Friends Meeting

Our meeting continues to be both static and in motion. Like stones in the river, we have a core of rock-solid attenders whose relationship to the Spirit and to one another strengthens with each meeting. Around us flows young attenders who freshen us with their presence while at the University of Iowa and then move on, hopefully finding another Quaker community elsewhere. We said goodbye to an attender married under the care of our meeting last year and are losing a family who are relocating this summer. We will miss their insight and fellowship. They are starting down new paths that we are sure will enrich them. The combination of foundation and fluidity makes meeting for worship a genuine opportunity for spiritual growth.

Peace and social issues are a deep concern of our meeting and are described, at length, in our meeting's Peace and Social Concerns

report. Caring for the environment continues to inspire us. Several attenders are involved in the Iowa City cohousing project Prairie Hill. The goal is to live with a small environmental footprint within a supportive community. Updates on the work of Quaker Earthcare Witness are provided regularly. Many of us are gardeners. We draw spiritual strength from the natural world, and our community volunteers with and supports a variety of environmental groups such as the Savanna Institute, Burr Oak Trust, Practical Farmers of Iowa, 100 Grannies and Table to Table. We are blessed by service.

The reading of Advices and Queries, which we try to do monthly as part of our worship, is important to us. We are enriched by the responses shared and often remark how responses offer new perspectives on the testimony explored. Although the Advice and Queries often remind us of the ideals of Quakerism, we have consistently been concerned with the emphasis on personal responsibility, particularly addiction behaviors that would be better understood and helped with a medical model approach rather than blaming. The concern about gender roles incorporated in almost every Advice and Query seems artificially added on and somewhat dated.

Business meetings are generally poorly attended. However, when guidance on an issue of substance is needed, attenders respond.

Our demographics are a concern. We are composed of older, mostly retired, people who have less energy to give to the meeting, as do young people whose lives are busy with school, work and family. Their transitory position makes them less likely to commit to leadership in meeting. We struggle to find volunteers to serve on our meeting's committees as well as on Iowa Yearly Meeting standing committees. Peace and Social Concerns Committee is shepherded by a clerk; it meets regularly and has a small core of participants. Ministry and Counsel meets very occasionally, has no formal clerk and is a "committee of the whole." A Committee for Clearness convened this year and was helpful for a member who was facing a life decision. One issue that is on the back of most attenders' minds is the physical state of our aging building. Major repairs may be necessary; with this in mind, we have a growing Building and Grounds fund.

Iowa City Friends Meeting is important to our faith community and some appreciate the wider fellowship and nurture provided by Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

Bob Winkleblack and Anthony Robinson, clerks

Lincoln Friends Meeting

Another rotation of seasons has occurred, and we again find ourselves reflecting on the state of our monthly meeting, which seems on the one-hand, to not have changed much, but on the other hand, there have been significant changes, the most significant being the laying down of the Omaha Monthly Meeting.

The folks from Omaha are no strangers to us as they have joined us in our hybrid format for meeting for worship, meeting for business and our “second hour.” We are very appreciative of the benefits of this virtual format, and we are also cognizant of the divide between the on-line and the in-person folks and how that affects our interactions. We continue to learn how to navigate this path so we can all to feel a part of this community.

We possess a genuine and strong sense of caring not only for each other but also for our community and the world at large. Our empathy encompasses what we are learning of the past, especially with regard to Quaker involvement in the “Indian Boarding Schools” and how we can face the hard truths of the past without casting blame or carrying the burden of guilt. This empathy also encompasses those among us who have been unable to attend due to illness or the loss of a loved one. In their absences, we grieve the loss of their physical presence and the uncertainty of physical outcomes, although our pastoral care may be somewhat lacking.

Meetings for Business are well attended with folks being attentive and involved, however, we do sometimes struggle with allowing time for pause in-between verbal offerings, which can be problematic for on-line participants. During these meetings, we are able to find unity in our discernments as we all share in the decision-making process. The same can be said for our Query considerations. And while we may sometimes wonder if these Queries should be updated, those feelings have not yet led us to recommend as such.

There is a sense of a welcoming nature within our community – we are willing to share and be supportive not only of regular attenders but also of those who occasionally attend or who are “passing through” on their own spiritual journeys for although we

may possess different views on what God is, we are willing to listen and possibly learn from these deepening conversations.

As much as we listen to others, we may not always hear what is being said, no matter how much we care. Perhaps we may, at times, need more input, or, we might be considering how what is being said affects us. This is an area worthy of further discernment.

We are spiritually strong and diverse. We genuinely care though at times may be a little insensitive. Most of all, we are appreciative of each other and the gifts that we have to offer and the spirituality that we share in the safe space of our Meetinghouse.

Omaha Monthly Meeting

After several years of growing smaller and smaller, we finally realized that we needed to admit that we could no longer manage to support a Monthly Meeting with our limited numbers. After much conversation, prayers, and deep regret we came to the agreement that we must lay down the Omaha Friends Meeting and become a Worship Group, hoping to be under the care of the Lincoln Monthly Meeting. We contacted all of our current members explaining what we felt we needed to do and why. Receiving support from those responders, we then contacted Lincoln Meeting and all our Attenders and all others on our email list explaining what was happening. We suggested that our current members, and interested others, consider submitting their names to the Lincoln Meeting to ask for membership or at least having their names and information added to Lincoln's contact lists. Lincoln has welcomed us into their midst.

Since the onset of Covid in 2020, we have been meeting every First Day on Zoom for the first hour of Meeting for Worship with the Lincoln Meeting and have continued to do so ever since. We continued for the second hour of the first First Day of the month for the discussion about how we all have dealt with life during the past month. Lincoln has its Meeting for Business on the third First Day and usually has its Query on the second First Day.

Now, as those of us from Omaha are able, we travel to Lincoln to join with them for the first First Day to also share their Pot Luck. We also try to attend the Lincoln Business Meeting in person. Those who are unable to travel to Lincoln, are able to participate using Zoom. The remaining First Days, we continue participating on Zoom with Lincoln.

Someone from the former Omaha Friends Monthly Meeting, tries to attend the second, fourth, and (if occurring) the fifth First Day Meeting for Worship at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in case a visitor shows up to attend our Meeting.

We are grateful, not only for our times with Lincoln but also their warm and welcoming nature, and are still trying to be sure we are truly a Worship Group or just actually a portion of the Lincoln's Monthly Meeting.

Paullina Friends Meeting

As we end the year before the Yearly Meeting, we have much to be thankful for. Our small group in the Paullina Meeting, continues to meet, worship together, work together and enjoy and draw strength from each other. We are saddened by the loss of two of our members. Beth Wilson and Judy Plank, who have nurtured us in worship and our social conscience for many years. We miss their presence, messages in meeting for worship and Beth with her memory and history of the Meeting.

We have cared for our facilities, and hosted various events, such as family reunions, and celebrations of life. During these events we enjoy reconnecting with friends we don't often see. Three large ash trees were removed and disposed of during the summer. Due to lack of rain mowing was limited to topping the weeds that always seem to grow.

Meeting for worship, Business and potlucks are attended well in the warm months. During the winter, as members go South for warmth from cold weather, no meetings for business are held, and the meetings for worship are sporadic. As we look forward, we are seeking direction for Paullina meeting. Not having younger families to continue gives us few options. How we maintain our buildings and Meeting is on our minds with no easy solution in site. We will continue to look for answers that can be good for all and realistic.

Penn Valley Monthly Meeting

Penn Valley continues to move forward. We are a work in progress. With concerted effort we have decided to stop criticizing what we have as a Meeting and begin the task of visioning the Meeting we want.

We still have no children in our meeting, and this is a loss. We are blessed, however, with much elder energy. We are learning to

appreciate and understand the wide variety of gifts and callings among us.

We are able to see how conflict is an opportunity for growth. We have an abundance of opportunity. Whatever was God thinking when God gave us free will!

Covid really caused our small community large problems. We became a blended meeting, both in-person and on Zoom at the same time, and this helped us stay connected from great distances. This separation during Covid left us with a few people caring for the Meeting's business and maintenance of the Meetinghouse. Burnout is a real challenge for us. Hold us in the light as we step up, step aside, step down, let go, or change as the Divine Will guides us.

We are for the most part a group of seekers and refugees from other faith communities who have found a home here in Penn Valley. That of God in all of us is the glue that holds us together. Several new members and attenders have joined us this year and each brings gifts we can all celebrate.

The programs this year were for the most part presented by our own attenders who have stepped up to lead. The Queries continue to inspire us.

Our Bible Study has grown over the past few years. We go to the Revised Common Lectionary for scripture readings and we read from several translations during Bible Study. We all are taking turns leading. Attenders read the word with who we are. In sharing our lives lived, all are enriched. Sharing openly and honestly with each other has brought deep meaning among us and fueled us for lives new challenges.

Our Library is now able to share books due to the hard work of cataloging that has been completed. We extended our shelving into our old office space and created areas to comfortably read.

Our annual retreat at the Hollis Center was refreshing to all attenders. Our focus was on deep listening to each other and searching ways to connect, as well as what it is that brings us together. In a world that is spinning apart this is important to our Quaker Community and the World as the divides are healed.

We are so grateful for our Quaker forefathers and mothers for serving as placeholders for the Holy so we have a place to be and tools to do what is ours to do.

May the Love of the Divine and the Peace that passes all understanding find you in Health and Harmony.

West Branch Friends Meeting

On First Day we gather in our meetinghouse. Some come in person, others come digitally. It is no longer the fear of the pandemic that causes some to digitally join us in worshipping but distance or accessibility. We are grateful to have access to the technology that supports our desire to collect. Our hybrid format enhances entry to worship on First Day. Worship is often rich with insight and reflection. At times, we must wonder what other innovations we could make use of to strengthen our worship. It is very fitting that last year in our State of the Meeting Report we closed with a quote from Daisy Newman in which she reminded us that “Quaker worship is a living experience not (something) embalmed in history.”

In our efforts to enhance the connectedness of our members, we are encouraging our meeting committees to gather on a regular basis for fellowship and work. Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee has been active in looking for opportunities that allow us to be more involved in our community. Once a month our meeting now volunteers at Open Heartland where we help this organization feed and clothe the needy who have recently immigrated to our community from Mexico and Central America. We find this a meaningful way for us to give back to our community while getting to know each other each other better. Food arrives at Open Heartland in bulk packaging, and we break down the food into smaller containers which are then offered to needy community members. After an evening of work, we often share a meal with each other at a nearby restaurant. Often there is the opportunity to reflect on how grateful we are that we do not have to worry about where our next meal is coming from or whether we can feed our children.

Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee also hosted a potluck dinner followed by watching a movie about Bayard Rustin a Quaker activist who faced racism and homophobia as he changed the course of Civil Rights history by orchestrating the 1963 March on Washington. We plan to have additional potluck and movie nights.

We continue to look for opportunities to deepen our faith and our understanding of Quakerism. Our Adult Education Committee offers us the opportunity to reflect on our faith and the opportunity to grow in our understanding. We are grateful for the committee’s dependability in finding meaningful readings for each month. Our Library Committee continues to strengthen our meeting as it actively

searches for pamphlets and books that speak to our condition. We are grateful for their ongoing curation of our collection.

This past year under the guidance of our Buildings and Grounds Committee we discussed replacing the aged and worn carpeting in the meetinghouse. We have decided this is not a frivolous endeavor, but an issue related to safety. The old carpet had come loose and had many ridges that could easily trip an individual. After careful consideration we found the will and funds to make this change.

As a meeting we have concerns about the school voucher program that our governor has unrolled throughout Iowa. This program allows families to use funds appropriated for public education to pay for private school education. This movement of funds can benefit individual students while raising the concern that this movement of funding from the public sector might weaken public education in the state. It can be difficult to reconcile competing interests.

In closing, we are grateful that the health of our meeting is strong, and we hope to seek out new activities which further strengthen our meeting.

Whittier Monthly Meeting

And he said, "How may we depict the Kingdom of God, or by what parable may we present it? As a grain of mustard that, when sown upon the soil, is smaller than all the seeds on earth, and when it rises up and becomes larger than all the garden – herbs, and produces great branches so that the birds of the sky are able to shelter under its shade." Mark 4:30-32(David Bentley Hart)

Not too long ago, Whittier Monthly Meeting was a tight knit group of deeply faithful rural Friends who lived and farmed in the meetinghouse area. Most were birthright Friends. They were neighbors who shared a religious practice and faith, along with livelihoods and child raising.

Today, Whittier Friends and attenders who now gather for worship on first day are a long way from such homogeneity. We are small in number, and live in a variety of towns and cities. Our small number also represents a wide range of backgrounds, livelihoods and political beliefs. We don't share many outside activities like meals and book groups. This is not because we don't wish to, but mostly because of time constraints for those still working and/or raising kids, and the

fact that we all live spread so far apart. The paths of our daily lives simply don't cross. They don't even run near each other.

Because of this, we tend to visit for extended periods of time after each week's worship. Our monthly potlucks are appreciated not only for the good food, but also offer a way to stay in tune with each other's lives. In our talks, we hear of the joys, illnesses and struggles for each of us. We stop and offer support by holding each other in the Light. We often share questions that arise as we grow in faith together. These questions led one experienced Whittier Friend this past year to offer a class after worship on the roots of Quaker practice, and gift these seekers and the meeting with copies of the Pendle Hill Pamphlet, A Guide to Quaker Practice by Howard Brinton. The class itself was widely attended and greatly appreciated. It demonstrated how we yearn for guidance in faith.

Our post-meeting discussions this past year have been particularly wide ranging. They have led us to discover just how diverse are the thoughts, experiences and opinions that each of us brings to the group. For example, a question about what it means to officially join the Religious Society of Friends by becoming a member brought up a very impassioned discussion about identity, clearness committees, and being "defined by others" through an outside process vs. making a personal statement of one's own. It revealed to us a bit of the sheer breadth of experiences and opinions within our little group.

Yes, we are a diverse lot. But on each 1st Day, we are one as we sit together in silent worship and in caring for each other and whomever happens to wander into our remote meetinghouse in the country.

And yes, we are small. Small like the mustard seed.

* * * * *

We heard the assistant clerk's selection of responses of our monthly meetings to Queries 1-10. Selected responses to Queries 1-12 start on Page 84.

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

SIXTH DAY – FRIDAY MORNING - 07/28/2024

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

* * * * *

There is a principle which is pure, placed in the human mind, which in different places and ages hath had different names. It

is, however, pure and proceeds from God. It is deep and inward, confined to no forms of religion nor excluded from any, where the heart stands in perfect sincerity. In whomsoever this takes root and grows, of what nation soever, they become brethren in the best sense of the expression.

John Woolman, 1720-1772

We are happy to have these guests with us today who were not introduced in previous sessions. We thank them for coming to spend time with us this week, and feel blessed by their presence.

Christine Shiller, Iowa Peace Network

Michelle Downey, North Carolina Yearly Meeting

Readers for this morning's business session are Martha Davis and Roy Helm. Jim and Judy Cottingham are serving as microphone carriers.

Minute: The Iowa YM Conservative was incorporated in 1945. all the YM members are members of this corporation. The Yearly Meeting Trustees act on our behalf to care for the meetinghouse and they appoint the Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees, whose purpose is to support the school. The Foundation is a separate corporation, and decisions about what to do with funds are made independently from the Yearly Meeting Trustees. We approve both of these reports with gratitude for the work of these committees.

YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES REPORT

We have reappointed Lowell Wilson to continue to serve as a Scattergood Foundation Trustee for a term ending in 2028. We have also appointed Shirley Scritchfield to replace Dan Treadway, who is leaving the Foundation Trustees after serving for several terms. We are very grateful for Dan's years of service. Shirley Scritchfield's term will also end in 2028. The Scattergood Foundation plays an important role in the financial stability of the school. The activities of the Foundation Trustees are described in their annual report, which is attached to this report.

In 2021, the Yearly Meeting Trustees agreed to a request to accept responsibility for managing a gift of from Omaha Friends Meeting designated as a fund to support monthly meetings in meetinghouse building projects, meetinghouse purchases, or technology upgrades to allow for better access. We have not yet received any requests for these funds. This is the fund referred to as “Meeting House Fund” in the Trustees Financial Report.

Some of our funds were spent on Hickory Grove meetinghouse maintenance during the past year. The work done included painting the interior walls and trim, together with plaster work on the chimneys. The floor of the meetinghouse porch was cleaned and coated with sealer, and the outdoor benches were repainted. We anticipate additional meetinghouse work in the coming year and expect that our current funds, along with our annual allotment in the Yearly Meeting budget, will be sufficient to cover anticipated expenses.

Trustees Financial Report 2024

Initial balance 7/1/23	\$11,089.02
From Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative	1,000.00
From Entertainment Committee	2,189.02
Interest	<u>6.45</u>
Total Funds Available	\$14,284.49
Total disbursements	<u>1,775.00</u>
Funds available 6/30/2024	\$1,775.00

Meetinghouse Fund

Initial Balance	\$3,928.72
Interest	<u>1.62</u>
Meetinghouse Fund Balance 6/30/2024	\$3,930.34

Bank Balance 6/30/2024	\$16,439.83
Bank Balance 6/30/2023	\$15,017.74

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**SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL FOUNDATION
TRUSTEES REPORT**

The Scattergood Foundation is charged with the stewardship of the school's growing endowment, currently valued at approximately \$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 2023-24 school year, the Foundation distributed \$109,800 to support tuition scholarship, as well as \$92,850 plus \$28,550 for a total of \$121,400 toward capital improvements and the operation of the school. The Foundation has committed to new distributions for the 2024-25 academic year totaling \$113,181 for scholarships, as well as \$94,727 plus \$28,901 for a total of \$123,628 toward capital improvements and operations.

In December 2023 the South Dakota farms sold at auction for 544,344; proceeds were invested in certificate of deposit at Hills Bank.

Assets Held by the Scattergood Friends School Foundation as of 6/30/2024:

Westwood Trust #1 (Scholarships)	\$ 1,995,266
Westwood Trust #2 (CapEx/OpEx)	\$ 2,763,463
Westwood Capital A/C (CapEx/OpEx)	\$ 660,062
Pemberton Farm (estimated value)	\$ 200,000
South Dakota Farm	\$ 212,724
Hills Bank checking	\$ 842,546

Minute: Scattergood staff present include John Zimmerman, Head of School; Sonja Sponheim, Dean of Students; Ethan Hillscamp, Director of Development, who is beginning his fifth year on staff; Mark Quee, Farm Manager, who is beginning his 26th year on staff;

Sam Taylor, Academic Dean, who is starting 20th year on staff; Matt Gauder, Facilities, who is starting his sixth year; Kim Jones, Business Manager, beginning her 8th year; Kate Furman, who has worked in the business office for 18 months.

Those of us who do not serve on the school committee or work at the school probably can't comprehend the amount of work this takes throughout the year. We are so grateful for their work on our behalf, and we are awed by their ability to hold responsibility for both the spiritual and business aspects of the school. We appreciate the clarity and integrity of the reports, and the profound statement of philosophy that purports to be a farm report.

Although the school and many Yearly Meeting members do not support Iowa's Educational Savings Account (ESA), sometimes referred to as the Voucher system, the school does participate. The school's participation does not create entanglements such as curriculum requirements from the state. Participation gives Scattergood visibility to families seeking a different school environment.

We appreciate the school's invitation to us to participate in the life of the school in many ways, from engaging with the current students and staff, to recruiting new students, to sharing ideas and opinions about how students can be kept safe, how faculty can be treated fairly, and the how school should interact with the secular world. We know changes are happening but believe Love is the constant.

FARM REPORT

Dear Friends,

Like many of you, I'm sure, I have a number of personal and professional strictures that I follow to address varied crises and injustices in our world. Logically, the leap from these small actions in rural Iowa to heat waves in India, hurricanes in Mexico, wars anywhere and resentment everywhere is strained; however, the compulsion to do something is real. Occasionally I'm asked about these actions: why hang the laundry outside, raise livestock on pasture and grow vegetables organically, when easier alternatives are available? These are not frivolous questions. Ultimately, my answer is that I desire to live in a complex universe where individual actions matter, in which we are empowered to act and doing so engages us with the great totality of things. This modest appeal by a small actor to the vast universe, to me, sounds a lot like prayer.

Once again, students were engaged in many ways on the Scattergood Farm. Student Orientation again concluded with Farm Fun Day for an afternoon of work, food and fellowship on the farm. Farm Term classes studied Fables and Futurism, Manure, and Annie Dillard's Pilgrim At Tinker Creek, while a May Term class looked deeply into prairie ecosystems. The Middle School began each day on the Farm with chores and Collection in the fall, as well as occasional science lessons with soil as an organizing concept. Separate Farm and Livestock crews continued this year as well as a Food Preservation Project class and Farm Team PE classes, which met in the fall and the spring. The Advanced Biology class was frequently on the farm and attended a day of the Practical Farmers of Iowa Conference, while another student attended the Savannah Institute Annual Gathering and the Marbleseed Conference as they learned about grafting fruit trees as part of the Sustainable Agriculture Focus Program. Several students again volunteered to do evening chores on weekdays and we paid a small group of students to do livestock chores on the weekends.

The Scattergood Farm also engaged in outreach to the wider community. We welcomed visits by The Good Earth School, Taproot Nature Experience, Willowwind and Tamarack School. The Scattergood Camp made weekly visits to the farm and enjoyed working with the livestock and sampling various food crops. We consulted with students from St. Olaf College as they sought ways to bolster a school garden project, and with John XXIII Montessori Children's Center in Front Royal, VA as they expand their farm program. We offered tours for Scattergood Weekend and Commencement, and presented at the Marbleseed Conference, the PFI Cooperator's Meeting, an Earth Day celebration at Grinnell College, and tabled an event for Field to Family. We donated hundreds of pounds of organic produce to Table to Table and the Iowa City Free Medical Clinic. We attended conferences hosted by Practical Farmers of Iowa, the Savannah Institute, Seed Savers Exchange, the Iowa Organic Association and Marbleseed. During spring trips, a group did service work at the Savannah Institute in Spring Green, WI, while another biked to and did service work at three local vegetable farms. Mark continues to serve on the steering committee for the Rodale Institute Midwest Organic Center and as a grant reviewer for SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education--a USDA program).

The past year was quite productive. Nearly all of the school meat consumption was a result of the Scattergood Farm, with two steers and one cull cow, 25 lambs, three hogs and 25 turkeys harvested for our meals. Vegetable production was also robust, with many fall meals featuring a great variety and abundance of vegetables and with beets, carrots, cabbage, garlic, onions, celery root, parsnips, popcorn and sweet potatoes lasting deep into our second semester. A mild winter helped contribute to early spring growth and we were able to enjoy salad greens, spinach, kale, Napa cabbage, bok choy, cucumbers and nettles before students left for the summer. Tree fruit production was harmed by a spring hail storm resulting in no pears and far fewer apples than most years, though peaches were abundant.

All of this was the result of the hard work of many. Ben Heller continued to manage the livestock program and offered a wide variety of innovative classes and experiences for students to be involved with the Farm, while Dana Foster integrated Middle School experiences. Elias Birchett (class of 2024) has been an enormous help this summer. Our kitchen staff, led by Irving Treadway, did the hard work of converting farm products into delicious meals. Kent Tjossem has been generous with time and guidance as part of the School Committee.

The universe is too large to be understood, but engaging is necessary. Anne Lamott has identified the essential aspects of prayer as “Help. Thanks. Wow.” In my daily life here I appreciate the opportunity to experience each of these often, in thought, word and action.

Respectfully submitted

Mark Quee, Scattergood Farm Manager

HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

As the Head of School, my work affords me the opportunity to travel the nation and meet with Friends, alums, schools, Meetings, conferences, and the occasional national park. I get to talk about Scattergood, its history, its values, its people, and its future. I get to hear what the school was like with Leanore Goodenow running things, and learn what has changed and what remains constant. While these travels are very rewarding, I am always grateful to

return to our beautiful campus and these amazing people, where I become once again inspired to share the story of Scattergood and the wonderful work happening.

In this report I will endeavor to be brief, but know that I am happy to share more, should we have the opportunity to visit in the coming year. During the 2023/2024 school year, Scattergood welcomed 11 Middle School students and 25 high school students to our campus. Two were international students from Germany and China, four were staff children, and seven were participants in the Iowa state ESA program. Commencement was held on June 1st in the Meetinghouse for the first time since 2019 and celebrated a class of 8 seniors, half of whom joined us during the unusual and challenging quarantine year of 2020. The legacy of this senior class will be felt for years to come, perhaps most clearly in the form of the beautiful glass tile mosaic they created for their Senior project.

Our staff roster saw several shifts this year as we welcomed some new faces, said goodbye to others, and saw some roles shift. Those joining us included Jess Havlicek-Epps, as our School Nurse, Jeremy Schwenker as a part-time counselor, and Salomé Phillmann teaching Spanish. Staff members who joined us for the year before moving on, include Jennifer Peterman (Math and Computer Science), Hochi Rosario Cuevas (Spanish), and Maor “Bug” Shapiro and Cameron McReynolds, who each spent a semester as our Student Activities Coordinator. Barbara Fisher, has taken on the role of Learning Support Coordinator and works with our teachers and students to support students with learning differences and/or neuro-diversity. CY Costa, who joined us as our Artist-in-Residence in the fall of 2023, returns to direct our Drama Program. We are grateful for all of these new staff members, as well as all of those who returned for their second, fourth, or even twentieth year. In March, the staff transformed the auditorium and themselves into Mt Olympus and the pantheon of Greek Gods, creating a unique and memorable experience. Our staff bring the magic of Scattergood to life and should be celebrated for their Herculean efforts. We have begun taking steps to bring compensation more in line with industry standards and to more accurately reflect how deeply we value their work.

This year we completed our re-accreditation with the Independent School Association of Central States (ISACS) and the membership renewal with the Friends Council on Education (FCE). Scattergood

staff members conducted a self-study over a year and a half using the ISACS rubric, exploring all facets of school life, policy, and operations. In November, we welcomed four ISACS representatives, Joe Mueller (Friends School Minnesota), Christian Acemah (Olney Friends School), Sherry Krebsbach (St. John's Preparatory School), and Adrian Spencer (Chicago Friends School), who affirmed our work, and recommended continued accreditation. This Spring we submitted our Membership Renewal Report to

FCE, which focused on the school's spiritual life, values, and connection to Quakerism. We welcomed Peter Gaines (Tandem Friends School) and founding Head of Princeton Friends School, Jane Fremon. This was a delightful visit and reaffirmed our membership with the FCE.

The work of maintaining a campus the size of Scattergood is an ongoing and ever evolving challenge. Matt Gauder and Eli Ehlinger have risen to this challenge and worked with a number of contractors to further projects both large and small. This winter we activated our new Solar Grid and began meeting our energy needs in a more sustainable manner. As I write this, work continues on the exterior of the instruction building which looks to be a major improvement to the appearance of our campus. Behind the scenes we have also been looking to the future and both the capital projects that will be undertaken in the next year or two, and to the future of the campus as our program and needs continue to evolve.

This past fall, we introduced a new Daily Expectations System, that aims to utilize timely conversations with advisors, crew leaders, teachers, and others, to help students address challenges, correct behaviors, and live into our community and student expectations. This program has been a success and we have seen a reduction in the overall number of slips given and conversations with students whose behaviors have risen to a more serious concern. We are grateful for Sonja Sponheim and Sadie Kirschenman, who have led this work.

Using the Farm Concentration as inspiration, we have crafted a Focus Program for students who seek to align their High School work around one of three areas: Sustainable Agriculture, Arts and Craftsmanship, or Peace and Social Transformation. Students in the Focus Program will work with a mentor, complete a capstone project, and select electives, all aimed at providing practical opportunities for students to explore their interests while in High

School. We launch our pilot of this program this coming school year with 7 students and representation in each Focus. The school website contains more detailed information on the program and I look forward to updating you as it evolves.

While we are excited for the wonderful work being done, we cannot ignore the challenges the school has faced this past year. Last July, I shared that we were undertaking a shift in our approach to admissions, utilizing a team, rather than a single admissions director. Throughout the year Jamie Newton has led our admissions efforts, working closely with Sam Taylor and a team of administrators to build a community of learners that fit the program and values of Scattergood Friends. This work is wide-ranging and includes outreach and relationship building with local independent elementary schools and regional Quaker and progressive schools, alongside improved communication, marketing, and customer service. These efforts will not solve our enrollment challenges in a single year, but have already shown indicators of success. Seven of our eight 8th graders will be returning as Freshman this coming fall. Additionally, we enter the year with eight prospective students who have plans to join us for the 2025/2026 school year. As the Tortoise and Hare teach us, slow and steady wins the race.

The greatest gift I have ever received as an educator has been watching students grow and evolve over the course of our time together. Often, the students whose journeys prove most inspiring are those who encountered challenges, and through perseverance, reflection, and compromise, were able to find growth and a path forward. Right now, we seek to take on major projects and to implement new initiatives, while simultaneously grappling with questions as to our identity, our values, and our future goals as a Quaker school. This work and these conversations can be challenging, however, they can also be fruitful, rewarding, and can ultimately strengthen both Scattergood Friends School and Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). We are learning, adjusting, and maturing as a school, just as so many of our students have. Perhaps you, too, can appreciate witnessing Scattergood evolve as we build on the good work of those who came before us. I am continually humbled and honored by the faith that has been placed in me to lead the Scattergood community and look forward to working with you in the coming years as we work to ensure that Scattergood

remain a strong option for students seeking a Quaker education, far beyond our time as its stewards.

Respectfully submitted in peace and gratitude,
John Zimmerman

SCHOOL FINANCE REPORT

July Year End Finance Report

Income:

Scattergood's total income ended the year at \$2.2M well over the budgeted \$1.8M.

Annual Giving: Annual Giving did not reach the budgeted amount of \$250k and ended at \$177k. The shift from the annual fund to the capital campaign resulted in fewer monthly donations to the school than anticipated. The Development committee authorized the transfer of balance to the annual fund from the capital campaign to meet the shortfall.

Summer: Summer programs revenue came in \$3k under budget BUT performed higher than the two previous summer revenues.

Measey Fund: The Measey Fund distribution brought in over \$850k well over the conservatively budgeted amount of \$425k.

Tuition Revenue: Tuition Revenue performed around \$160k below the projected \$780k budget. The lower monthly tuition revenues resulted in far less available cash flow making the school rely heavily on the Measey Fund to maintain monthly expenses.

Expenses:

The school's expenses outpaced income for the full year of operation. Many of the line items in the year-end financials are over their budget. Of the items in the budget, only seven expense categories remained in the budget or fell under budget projections. Below are a few notable budget overages:

Personnel Costs- Some shifts in staffing led to savings from the projected \$1M to just under \$980k for payroll. However, health care expenses increased the personnel costs by \$90k. The school anticipated the increased costs and looked for other PEO providers in early spring. The Health Care program is HIGHLY favorable among staff and no action was taken with competitors despite some savings available with a new vendor. Scattergood continues to pay 100% of the Health care for the employee without a cost share.

Administrative Expenses: This line operates mostly as a catchall for expenses that are uncategorized or unexpected. It currently includes Travel, consultant fees, contract items, and special projects.

Admissions: The loss in admissions reflects the long-term contract with NICHE this multi-year contract totals 24k annually before anything is spent.

Development: The overage in the development budget is due to the capital campaign. There is not currently a separate capital campaign budget reflected in this report to delineate between regular development work/capital functions.

Upcoming Concerns/Items:

The audit continues. The current audit has stalled due to data requested from the Foundation. The auditors have asked to meet with Foundation Trustees to determine if they can resolve the issues. The school is not able to close out FY 22/23 and was advised that a lack of resolution from the Foundation will mean that they cannot complete the audit. The school would have to do a full audit and scrap the compilation to be compliant with GAAP standards if the audit cannot continue.

We are currently transitioning to QuickBooks online. We begin FY 24 with the new system allowing us to automate several functions in the business office while also learning at the same time.

What's on the horizon? Completing the Audit, Transitioning to QB online

Respectfully Submitted, Kim Jones

(School Financial Report on following page)

SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT

Operation Statement Short Form 2024-2025 PROPOSED BUDGET and YEAR END 2023-2024		Proposed Budget 2024-2025	2023-2024 Budget	YE 2023-2024	2022-2023 Budget	YE Actuals 2022-2023
INCOME		\$2,122,632.73	\$1,837,843.83	\$2,237,373.41	\$1,448,482.62	\$2,993,779.90
Contributions		\$1,426,032.73	\$1,025,888.83	\$1,571,273.41	\$804,782.62	\$2,208,297.84
Annual Giving		\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$290,846.99	\$250,000.00	\$973,732.14
Annual Giving		\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$262,856.13	\$250,000.00	\$174,835.76
Fees		\$-	\$-	\$-302.51	\$-	\$-120.00
Estate		\$-	\$-	\$28,293.37	\$-	\$799,016.60
Designated Donation		\$-	\$-	\$112,320.57	\$-	\$48,723.62
MISC		\$-	\$-	\$28,909.42	\$-	\$91,541.90
STO/Financial		\$33,223.73	\$35,688.83	\$35,688.82	\$27,018.62	\$27,018.62
Other		\$-	\$-	\$11,622.33	\$-	\$-
SUMMER		\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$26,399.00	\$30,000.00	\$18,324.25
Reimbursable Income		\$-	\$-	\$8,289.85	\$-	\$-
Designated Capital		\$76,265.00	\$74,975.00	\$74,975.00	\$56,750.00	\$20,650.09
Iowa Yearly Meeting		\$50,000.00	\$54,000.00	\$60,700.00	\$54,000.00	\$-
Measey Foundation		\$830,000.00	\$425,000.00	\$850,217.00	\$225,264.00	\$54,000.00
SFS Foundation		\$156,544.00	\$156,225.00	\$170,500.00	\$161,750.00	\$167,225.00
		\$0.00	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Tuition Revenue		\$680,000.00	\$780,000.00	\$622,800.28	\$625,000.00	\$617,088.81
Gross Tuition		\$0.00	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Less Financial Aid given		\$0.00	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Non-Tuition Revenue		\$16,600.00	\$31,955.00	\$43,299.72	\$18,700.00	\$-
Fees/Charges Enrollment Fees		\$2,000.00	\$31,955.00	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$78.00
Application Fees		\$1,200.00	\$1,255.00	\$1,170.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,083.92
Fees & Charges		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$65.00	\$-	\$83.59
Interest Earnings		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$26,270.17	\$1,000.00	\$6,555.51
Other Operating		\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$-886.85	\$5,000.00	\$88,432.81
Rental Use		\$2,700.00	\$2,000.00	\$4,243.00	\$4,000.00	\$2,754.15
Farm		\$4,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$10,438.40	\$2,300.00	\$6,513.10
Meat/Produce/other		\$-	\$1,000.00	\$-	\$2,000.00	\$-
Grants		\$2,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$-	\$-	\$1,207.00
		\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$-	\$-	\$-
EXPENSES		\$2,071,077.00	\$1,760,844.25	\$2,036,086.71	\$1,477,444.44	\$1,847,294.90
Bad Debt, write off						
Capital Expense						
DO						
Payroll		\$1,125,830.00	\$1,018,500.00	\$978,314.38	\$773,645.44	\$787,262.37
Payroll Expenses		\$83,873.00	\$75,878.25	\$72,221.51	\$62,276.16	\$58,058.55
220 Company FICA		\$67,549.00	\$61,100.00	\$43,085.46	\$50,155.30	\$58,058.55
224 Company MED		\$67,549.00	\$14,768.25	\$18,677.48	\$12,120.86	\$39,171.11
Personnel Costs		\$289,787.00	\$218,711.25	\$264,597.54	\$177,295.00	\$231,740.02
Residential Life		\$24,700.00	\$23,902.00	\$17,979.91	\$7,555.00	\$33,958.88
Health		\$11,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$8,408.99	\$3,000.00	\$4,061.94
Communications		\$15,000.00	\$14,800.00	\$11,192.88	\$14,300.00	\$14,566.90
Contracted Services		\$46,000.00	\$32,300.00	\$52,520.20	\$25,500.00	\$67,096.12
High School		\$14,000.00	\$16,800.00	\$20,628.44	\$8,020.00	\$19,253.25
Middle school		\$7,250.00	\$7,800.00	\$5,378.31	\$4,300.00	\$4,084.23
NEW: FOCUS Programs		\$48,000.00	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Farm		\$23,960.00	\$20,250.00	\$26,957.40	\$16,650.00	\$31,074.27
Food Service		\$59,200.00	\$60,200.00	\$66,322.51	\$58,000.00	\$67,912.75
Insurance		\$85,500.00	\$75,367.00	\$74,280.00	\$76,984.00	\$60,770.00
Administrative		\$32,300.00	\$38,327.00	\$88,650.21	\$55,300.00	\$69,128.79
Professional Services		\$73,100.00	\$44,440.00	\$46,143.75	\$39,350.00	\$61,860.71
Summer Camp		\$25,000.00	\$27,000.00	\$24,741.39	\$27,000.00	\$22,551.30
Admissions		\$29,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$45,870.38	\$30,000.00	\$60,391.42
Development		\$11,800.00	\$12,272.00	\$44,141.35	\$12,450.00	\$27,541.65
Technology		\$39,000.00	\$38,400.00	\$41,361.05	\$39,720.00	\$58,910.84
Vehicles/Equipment		\$13,450.00	\$10,475.00	\$18,275.56	\$11,075.00	\$17,241.54
Operational Costs		\$97,200.00	\$95,300.00	\$90,249.77	\$94,300.00	\$101,098.13
NET INCOME/(LOSS)		\$51,555.73	\$76,999.58	\$201,286.70	-\$28,961.82	\$1,146,485.00

SCATTERGOOD SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

With so much instability in the world, we are grateful for the relative stability within Scattergood that has enabled the school and School Committee to continue the work of strengthening our structures and foundations—both physically and organizationally—to help us thrive for years to come.

The Facilities team and subcommittee have been updating the 20-year Facilities Replacement Plan, and will begin the process of a Campus Master Plan to guide campus choices. We are excited to share the big news that 281 solar panels were installed last fall in three locations. The price was \$298,000, including installation. We have been approved for federal rebates, and a \$280,000 loan was secured to cover expenses in the interim which will be repaid with rebate money and electricity savings. Solar panels have been on the wish-list for many years; they will significantly reduce the school's dependence on fossil fuels, and the school has already seen a reduction of thousands of dollars a month in electric bills. Much is happening in the planning phase for the state-mandated sprinkler system and other dorm updates. Due to construction during the summer of 2025 and probably 2026, there will likely be disruption in dorm use during those IYMC annual sessions.

The Consultation and Finance subcommittee has been working with the Business and Development offices to update current policies and create the numerous needed ones such as an Investment Policy, a Cash and Debt Management Policy, and a statement on Non-Disclosure Agreements, among others. Financially the school continues to be in a more stable position. You may remember the lean reports from four, five and six years ago, and we are grateful to be proceeding with both optimism and prudence.

After hosting the ISACS visiting team as part of our accreditation cycle, we happily received news that the school has been re-accredited and we now look to their recommendations. The school also hosted a site visit from Friends Council on Education for renewal of our membership with FCE as a Quaker School. A formal response is coming, but in the meanwhile Jane Fremon of FCE sent a personal letter relaying how moved she was by the school, its vibrant sense of community and of place, its spirit of positivity, and the commitment to Quaker testimonies. She calls Scattergood one of

the “best kept secrets within the network of Friends schools”. We can share this letter if Friends are interested.

Strengthening relationships has been part of this quieter, organizational work. Following the All-School Arts Reunion last August, the alumni-based “Friends of Scattergood” group was formed to cultivate connections with former students and staff. In May, the group raised money to provide gifts (a class photo and custom printed shirt with design input from the students) to Scattergood’s graduating seniors, welcoming them into the alumni community. We also applaud Scattergood’s numerous efforts to build partnerships and affinity with the other Quaker schools in the Midwest. The Open Book project was yet another example of relationship building. This story-telling project, funded by the Yearly Meeting as a way to reconnect with Scattergood, was an exercise in compassion, listening and understanding others. We are grateful for this community-building venture with the students and look forward to more activities with the Yearly Meeting.

Internally, the School Committee is taking a deeper look at how we, as a governance body, can best support the mission of the school. We are examining our subcommittee structure, asking what format supports the work we need to do, and what shifts might enable that to happen. During the year we will test the changes, then next spring review what worked well and what needs adjusting. For example, the Spiritual and Community Life subcommittee will now turn more attention towards nurturing connections between Scattergood students and members of IYMC, as well as the wider Quaker world. They hope to re-establish the Friends in Residence program, inviting Quakers to spend time on campus and be in community with students. These built-in bonds used to be more inherent when more kids from IYMC and other Yearly Meetings attended Scattergood. As that has changed, we feel that re-invigorating these relationships needs to be an overt and intentional part of the School Committee’s work, and we want to continue to find creative ways to invite each other in. What perfect timing for the Open Book project this year, and for the interest and investment by the Yearly Meeting in such ventures. These interactions help us to listen deeply and prayerfully **in both directions**, so we can learn from and understand each other. This keeps us open.

Additionally, the School Committee has formed an ad hoc subcommittee to explore business structures that reduce the risk to both the school and the Yearly Meeting, and specifically to explore the incorporation of the school separate from the Yearly Meeting. This is something that has been strongly recommended at least twice by ISACS, and most recently by FCE. We call it the Structure and Governance Exploratory ad hoc, or SAGE for short. Currently SAGE members are Katie Jacoby and Ruth Hampton from the School Committee, with Karen Greenler and Catherine Dorenbach serving as non-School Committee members, with input from Jim Cottingham, IYMC Trustees and others. The SAGE ad hoc will host a short presentation at this year's annual session introducing the current structure and its challenges, then there will be opportunities for feedback and conversation during the year. We are grateful to **not** be in crisis mode and thus able to tenderly hold these larger questions.

Bob Dylan once said "There is nothing so stable as change". Many things at Scattergood have changed over the decades, it has experienced numerous phases, with highs and lows. But throughout, the foundation of Quakerism has, and will continue to, support the structures of this school where young people may become truer versions of themselves, more accepting of others, be challenged academically **and** grow spiritually by listening for that "still small voice". They can develop habits that foster a sense of purpose and connection to the world, which builds their resilience to adversity and the pressures of today's realities. These young people are greatly needed, and the School Committee wants to express our deep appreciation for the staff and leadership of the school, who lovingly carry out this mission.

For the School Committee,
Ruth Hampton, clerk

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We adjourn to meet again this afternoon at 2 p.m.

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SIXTH DAY – FRIDAY AFTERNOON - 07/26/2024

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

*This old world's in a fix
Something's not right
Everywhere you look, either war is ragin'
Or someone's lookin' for a fight
Right now, we got to shout the good news 'til the walls tumble and
fall
war and People, let's spread the words, Hallelujah,
God's kingdom is in us all
Eric Bibb (American singer), 1951 –*

The Representatives Committee has appointed Liz Oppenheimer (online), Stan Sanders as readers for this morning. Judy Cottingham and Catherine Dorenbach are carrying the microphones..

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Minute:

We are heartened by the Spiritual Depth of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee's work together and thank them for their report. The challenge grant mechanism was creative and an effective way to make sure all the monthly meetings knew of the opportunity to contribute to Gaza relief through AFSC. We thank the Peace and Social Concerns Committee for summarizing the important story of the Ramazani family from Afghanistan. The clerks will send the below minute of thanks to all individuals and meetings involved.

Dear Friends in _____,

We are deeply touched by the response of several individuals and monthly meetings to the human needs of two young people who were stranded far from their homeland because of wars between nations and the threat of violence if they returned. It is almost miraculous that Friends from four different yearly meetings in two countries came together and found the resources to meet this urgent need, but through faithfully following the Spirit, way was found to host, educate, and resettle Leo and Hassan and their family in Ottawa Canada.

For us, the story began when Hussein Ramazani (also known as Leo) was accepted as a student at Scattergood and a Penn Valley family

became his host family. Because of COVID, he stayed with that family for much longer than expected. After Hussein graduated, his brother Hassan arrived, hosted by a family from Minneapolis Friends Meeting and planning to attend an Arizona boarding school. When the US military left Afghanistan, the Ramazani family, a member of the Hazara ethnic group, was in danger at home, and the brothers decided to try to move them all to Canada. Ottawa Friends meeting agreed to assist the family with immigration, and In the fall of 2023, the rest of the family arrived in Ottawa. A fund that had been established by Penn Valley's treasurer and was managed by a committee of people from IYMC, Canadian Yearly Meeting, and Northern Yearly Meeting has raised a total of \$82,00 to help with this.

We wish to thank the Friends, Scattergood staff, and Meetings who set aside what they had been doing and turned toward the many tasks needed to provide shelter, money, companionship, and legal support. We are grateful for the strength and industriousness of Leo and Hassan, and send our love to them and their family. We are cheered by the occasional online presence of Leo at our meetings. And we appreciate Friends, especially in Ottawa, who continue to provide support and assistance as needed.

We hold your story up as an example to ourselves, a reminder that sometimes God asks something of us, and we are here to listen and follow.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT

Our committee met most months, with the first decision being to whom should we donate \$1100 which the yearly meeting budget allocates to us. After several months' discussion we decided that the Gaza relief efforts of the American Friends Service Committee(AFSC) were our choice, given the dire needs there.

In hopes of increasing donations to AFSC's work in Gaza (which began in 1948) we set up a challenge situation whereby monthly meeting donations would be matched up to \$100 per monthly meeting. This approach worked, as all 10 of our monthly meetings donated at least \$100. Several monthly meetings donated \$500 and one \$1000 for Gaza relief work. AFSC provides the most relief in Gaza of any non-governmental organization. The remaining \$100 we decided to donate to the Iowa Peace Network for their efforts to stop

the activation of the Selective Service system (the draft) which the US House of Representatives recently passed.

At each meeting we also asked those attending what peace or other social concerns efforts they were involved in at the monthly meeting level. Consequently, we learned of work in immigration, Native American issues, lobbying Congress and the President, defending democracy, enabling wells and improved sanitary facilities in Africa, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Braver Angels, and other American Friends Service Committee work.

The clerk asked for assistance in the form of a co-clerk, and that request was fulfilled by Russ Leckband. We agreed that the co-clerks would take turns presiding, with the other being the recording clerk. Jon Krieg, American Friends Service Committee staff in Des Moines, also pitched in and took minutes at Mid-Year Meeting when Russ was busy with hosting duties.

We are inspired and feel supported by all the peace and social concerns efforts at the monthly meeting level. We also appreciate those who represent our yearly meeting working with AFSC, FCNL, Friends Peace Teams and other Friends social concerns efforts.

We will be seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit and Friends as to what direction our work should take in the coming year. If you have any suggestions or questions, please contact one of us or anyone on IYMC Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

Russ Leckband and Jon Shafer, co-clerks

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Minute: We encourage Friends to attend Pendle Hill events and be mindful of the financial resources available from our Yearly Meeting to do so.

PENDLE HILL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

There were no requests for Pendle Hill Scholarship Funds this year. Funds are available through this committee for events or online classes at Pendle Hill.

-Callie Marsh

On behalf of the committee

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**IYMC REPRESENTATIVE TO FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE
FOR CONSULTATION**

Although there was no report, we look forward to more participation in FWCC events in the coming year.

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FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE GATHERING

Although we do not send an official representative to the FGC Gathering, we heard with gratitude a letter from Billie Wade describing her experiences there this year.

*The Gathering, an FGC Event - Rooted in Story 28 June - 6 July, 2024
Haverford College, Haverford, Pennsylvania*

I had the pleasure of attending The Gathering for the first time. FGC (Friends General Conference) protocols required COVID-19 testing 24 hours and 12 hours in advance plus upon arrival. They suggested, but did not require, masks in common areas. I masked unless eating. What a heady experience to be in the company of hundreds of Quakers, many of whom looked and/or identified like me.

FGC chose the breathtaking campus of Haverford College in Haverford, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia. The campus is a 216-acre arboretum. I marveled at trees with branches that touched the ground but were high enough inside to walk in. Some had two chairs or a picnic table inside the branches.

Golf Cart Central was a phone number we could call to request transportation around campus. I always received a ride within five minutes. Using my walker, I explored some parts of the campus on foot. I was relieved to know the single dorm rooms were air-conditioned. Dining Services were superb, and the food was both healthy and delicious.

Friday, June 28 through Sunday, June 30 was a retreat for Friends of Color. I missed Friday evening’s dinner because of a delayed flight. Once I figured out the building that housed the FoC activities, I took part on Saturday and on Sunday, both interactive.

Of the many workshop offerings, I selected The Sampler, which took place in the same room on different days. The workshops were:

- Monday: Spiritual Journey

- Tuesday: Continuing Revelation and the Future of Quaker Testimony
- Wednesday: Exploring the Effects of Trauma in Community, Part 1
- Thursday: Exploring the Effects of Trauma in Community, Part 2
- Friday: Death—Opening to the End of Life

All workshops gave me information I could readily apply to my life and share with others. In that regard, all were excellent. I wrote copious notes.

A 7am worship service was available as well as worship services for Friends of Color and LGBTQC. Meeting new people meant joining a table with an empty chair and asking to join. Everyone said an enthusiastic “Yes.”

The Gathering 2025 will be all virtual. The Gathering 2026 will be held at the University of Vermont. I am planning on attending both.

With Love, Light, and Gratitude.

Billie Wade

Des Moines Valley Friends

Peter Clay, Des Moines Valley Friends, also attended.

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Minute: We thank our representatives to FCNL for serving, and for their good and informative report.

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION (FCNL) REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

FCNL’s Annual Meeting titled Justice Calls Us. Love Unites Us. was held November 17 - 19, 2023 in Washington, DC with the opportunity to lobby our Senators and Representatives in person before the business meetings. Three of our six representatives were in Washington, DC, and the remaining representatives joined online.

In early 2023 FCNL asked Friends meetings and churches across the country to engage in worship and discernment about the issue of reproductive health care and abortion. The policy committee received over 300 responses which they used to guide them in developing a recommendation. During the annual meeting there was a great deal of thought and revision put into this new policy. This is the policy that was approved by the General Committee:

III.2.7. Reproductive health and abortion. Quakers recognize that human life is sacred, and that Spirit can guide us individually and collectively. Based on these beliefs, members of the Religious Society of Friends have come to different conclusions regarding abortion. FCNL supports individual discernment in a spirit of love and truth in making reproductive healthcare decisions, as we do in other areas of conscientious moral choice. Government must ensure that people have the legal right to make these decisions. We oppose the criminalization of people seeking, undergoing, or involved in abortion services. We support equitable access to abortion services. FCNL also supports policies that reduce unwanted pregnancies by ensuring equitable access to contraception, sex education, family planning, fertility and adoption services, and support for all who decide to have children.

As an organization FCNL has grown rapidly over the past few years. This was intentional and has enabled FCNL to involve many young people in the work of peacebuilding and lobbying. The horrific events in Israel-Gaza, for example, have lent an urgency to the work of FCNL. Like most other nonprofits, FCNL has seen a decrease in donations and the leadership is in the process of right-sizing the organization for long-term sustainability.

Friends Place on Capitol Hill hosted a group of students from Scattergood over February Intersession. Friends Place, formerly the William Penn House, offers a facility where groups can stay and learn about issues of interest and how to make change happen.

Iowa Yearly Meeting members continue to be very active in the workings of FCNL by participating in the FCNL Advocacy Teams and serving on FCNL standing committees.

On behalf of the representatives,
Rebecca Way Bergus

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Minute: We appreciate the work of our representatives to the AFSC corporation and we received their thorough report with gratitude.

**AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVES TO THE AFSC CORPORATION REPORT**

“Weaving the Threads of Democracy and Peace in an Age of Conflict” was the theme of the 2024 Annual Meeting of the AFSC

Corporation held 11-13 of Fourth Month in a hybrid format. During the registration period there were tours of the AFSC Archives, of the green technologies now in place at Friends Center, and tech support offered for navigating to the various computer reports and records. Brian Blackmore, Director of AFSC's Quaker Engagement effort, joined the Presiding Clerk Alvaro Alvarado and General Secretary Joyce Ajlouny during the first session. Last year's Minutes were approved and nominating committee reports given. Alvaro then gave his report, followed by a reading of proposed bylaw changes. There was active discussion of the proposed changes, and some minor modifications made. In addition, there was agreement reached that these changes would be re-evaluated at next year's Corporation meeting to determine if they work as planned. Some were concerned the cutting back on the regional management might lead to more centralized policy making. A fall meeting of the Corporation was added to review plans.

These changes were part of the effort to update the description of how AFSC works, so it is in compliance with the 2020-2030 Strategic plan which the Board had approved. The good financial news is that AFSC's bottom line has been in the black for the past four years, following almost 12 years of red ink. The financial reserves had become too low to sustain further losses, so some significant changes were required such as laying off peace staff. Funding has now increased, but with inflation and cost-of-living also increasing continued financial diligence will be required. Selling one building helped us get back into the black.

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas shared his moving personal story as an undocumented migrant. After the financial reports were four workshops: Stop Cop City; Ending Israeli Apartheid; Standing in the Gap (during political global regression); and Emerging Leaders (engaging youth activists of the future). Following another business session was a programmed worship led by Cherice Bock and Christy Randazzo.

The last business session was next, then centering silence preceding a discussion of "Witnessing Quaker Values." The closing unprogrammed worship led into a reception which featured former staff Robert Levering, who introduced the film screening of "The Movement and the 'Madman'," as he was its Executive Producer. The 'Mad Man' of the title was a self-description of Richard Nixon's, as in 1969 he wanted the North Vietnamese to believe he was so

‘Mad’ that he would drop nuclear bombs on their cities. This 83-minute film features peace movement leaders Stewart Meacham, David Hartsough, George Willoughby, Ron Young, and Trudi Schutz, all former AFSC staffers. Finally, other former staff who were draft resisters joined Bob Levering in discussing the film and answering questions. The film is available for viewing through PBS.

-Jon Shafer for our Corp Reps.

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Minute: We appreciate the report from our representative to Friends Peace Teams.

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Friends Peace Teams continues to decolonize and flatten the global organizational structure by sharing leadership among all global teams. The former Friends Peace Teams Council is no more. Now there is the North America Region of Friends Peace Teams. As a small, Spirit-led organization propelled by the energy, courage and passion of peace and justice practitioners we are challenged as we move forward through this time of transition. Now is a good time to consider how your gifts may be used to enhance the work that FP Teams coordinates or supports. Populating new global teams from the various regions is one particular challenge. Your representative to the North American Region also supports the work of the African Great Lakes Region. With the yearly meeting’s support I was able to visit two of the Children’s Peace Libraries in Rwanda and to see the efficacy of the Conservation Agriculture / Savings for Life programs which are generally done together. The greatest strength of Friends Peace Teams is that everything is grounded in relationships and connections.

-Peter Clay, Representative to North American Region, Friends Peace Teams

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Minute: We appreciate the service of Peter Clay on the Joint Oversight Committee of the Iowa Peace Network, and his informative report.

IOWA PEACE NETWORK REPORT

The Joint Oversight Committee of the Iowa Peace Network continues to meet every three months. At the July, 2024 meeting we

welcomed retired United Methodist Pastor Brian Carter to the committee. Through the comprehensive weekly email updates the Iowa Peace Network continues to provide vital connections to all those individuals and organizations working on behalf of peace and justice within Iowa and beyond her borders. The IPN Coordinator also puts out The Dovetail three times a year and regularly refreshes content on the IPN website. Each year the Coordinator visits both Iowa Yearly Meetings as well as Central Plains Mennonite Church conference and Northern Plains Church of the Brethren District conference thus linking all the traditional peace churches through the Iowa Peace Network. The Coordinator helped expand awareness of the proposed changes to Selective Service laws to encourage Friends to consider what they may have to say to our Senators and Representatives.

-Peter Clay, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Representative to the Iowa Peace Network

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Minute: We appreciate Nan Fawcett's report about Quaker Earthcare Witness which was inspiring and included many invitations for us to participate. We also heard an enthusiastic report about Keith Runyon the new General Secretary of QEW and look forward to more news.

QUAKER EARTHCARE REPORT

I am ending my second full year of being one of 50 steering committee members of the international organization, Quaker Earthcare Witness. And I continue to be grateful to play this role for the yearly meeting. The QEW website opens with this phrase: "Bringing Friends Together to Care for Earth." And as we are all increasingly aware, we can no longer afford to ignore the sometimes catastrophic effects of climate change. The picture, if we're brave enough to look at the statistics and projections, can feel pretty depressing. As single worried individuals, what can each of us do? That's when an organization like QEW wonderfully fills a need. Through it, we can accomplish community action, banding together to make a difference, mutual support, sharing information, and engendering hope. Each month I attend several QEW meetings (all online) with different working groups or committees, and even

though I have never met any of these folks in person, they feel like a close community to me.

As you know, QEW has a myriad of offerings, and I'm hopeful that this year more folks in IYM will be interested in taking advantage of some of them. There are online workshops on different environmental topics; videos and pamphlets; mini-grants for community and group projects; curriculums for adults as well as children; special educational events; monthly worship sharing; and many more. I'm hoping to help the Scattergood community dip into some online workshops and perhaps apply for a mini-grant of their choosing. Individual meetings can consider doing this too. An after-Meeting film or discussion group, or a visit online from one of the QEW speakers is something some Friends Meetings are doing.

Last year I asked all the IYM clerks to send an invitation to their members to sign up for notices about QEW events. Unfortunately there was only one person, outside our local area, who responded. I'm hoping that instead of getting on the list, some of you went to the Quaker Earthcare Witness website yourselves and got on their mailing list. If not, please consider keeping in touch with QEW offerings by letting me know your email address so I can forward these to you. There are not that many emails, and who knows, you might be enticed to participate in something special. I have attended many of the monthly worship-sharing evenings, and they are inspiring. The focus for the night is explained, you break up into groups (all online), and then share in your small group. Once I was in a group with someone from Australia, from England, from Canada, Mexico and a couple from the US. What a privilege!

QEW's new director, Keith Runyan, has been traveling for the last several months, going from meeting to meeting, event to event. As a younger person himself, he is dedicated to bringing more young people into the QEW community. We need their worldview and current experiences as we ponder how to best respond to this climate crisis. Working in tandem with Keith is another young person, Miche McCall, who tends the home offices in many ways while Keith is traveling. As someone looking in from the outside, it feels like there is creative energy shining out from the hub of QEW, and I want to do my best to spread it around! Here's the website address: quakerearthcare.org.

-Nan Fawcett

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Minute: We heard summaries of monthly meetings' responses to Queries 11 and 12. We are pleased that some meetings are using the Queries for careful consideration of conditions in the world, our meetings, and in ourselves. The queries have changed over the years but they continue to help us to seek and study, and to grow. We depend on the Inner Light to help us discern the path we are meant to take in the face of the challenges in the world. We thank the assistant clerk for these summaries, and are glad to hear from him that queries often lead to action by monthly meetings. **RESPONSES TO QUERIES BEGIN ON PAGE 84.**

We now adjourn to resume business tomorrow morning Saturday at 9:30.

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We now adjourn to resume business tomorrow morning at 9:30.

SEVENTH DAY – SATURDAY MORNING – 7/27/2024

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

The lamp of the body is the eye; if, therefore, thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. Matthew 6:22

I will not allow my life's light to be determined by the darkness around me. Sojourner Truth, 1797-1883

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Readers for this morning's business sessions are Martha Davis and Catherine Dorenbach. Stan Sanders and Jane Cadwell-___ are carrying the microphones.

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Minute: We thank the junior yearly meeting for this report, and admit that sometimes we wish we could participate in the activities you get to do during yearly meeting. We are very happy to have you with us in worship each morning and to see you among us for meals and other parts of the day. You bring us joy and we want you to know you are very welcome here. To the adults and young people who are working with you this year we express our deep appreciation.

JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING REPORT

Three JYM age youth participated in activities planned for this weekend – 9 and 13 year old siblings, and an 11 year old youth. These three participated in afternoon activities, which involved visits to a sustainable family farm down the road, and an organic market grower farm near the Meetinghouse.

They also learned about a native garden tradition of planting “3 sisters”, planting traditional foods of corn, beans and squash together. The JYM participants learned about their interrelationship: The beans climb the corn stalk and the squash leaves provide shade. Three sisters seeds were provided for the JYM attenders to take home and plant.

Evening JYM volunteers stepped in to provide childcare for two and four year old siblings, while their parents attended the evening collection program. The committee always had at least two adults with children in any non-public space. All of these adults had a child abuse [background] check completed in the past two years, or were parents of one or more of the youth.

-submitted by Bill Deutsch, JYM clerk

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Minute: We are grateful for the good work of the treasurer, and for her clear report. We thank the auditors for their diligence in verifying the accounts for us.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

We have examined the financial documents, including the end-of-fiscal year balance sheet and a color-coded spreadsheet of transactions by month and type, provided by Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Treasurer, Rebecca Bergus. All is in good order. We hope you will join us in thanking our Treasurer for her careful work.

-Carole and Bob Winkleblack, Audit Committee

TREASURER REPORT FY 2023 -2024

		Budget		Post Closing Transactions
Contributions to other Organizations	American Friends Service Committee	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
	Friends Committee on National Legislation	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
	Friends General Conference	\$500.00	\$500.00	
	Friends World Committee for Consultation	\$700.00	\$700.00	
	Iowa Peace Network	\$100.00	\$100.00	
	Friends Peace Teams	\$500.00	\$500.00	
	Pendle Hill	\$500.00	\$500.00	
	Peace and Social Concerns Committee	\$1,100.00	\$1,000.00	\$100.00
	Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$500.00	\$500.00	
	Quaker United Nations Office	\$500.00	\$500.00	
	Right Sharing of World Resources	\$500.00	\$500.00	
	Scattergood Friends School	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	
	Scattergood Facilities	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
	Quaker Voluntary Service	\$500.00	\$500.00	
Delegate Expenses	FCNL	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	
	Friends Peace Teams	\$600.00	\$600.00	
	FWCC - General	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	
	Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	
Yearly Meeting Expenses	Conservative Yearly Meeting Visitation	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	
	Archives Committee	\$200.00	\$0.00	
	Clerk's and Other Adm. Expenses	\$400.00	\$0.00	
	Committee Expenses (Other)	\$300.00	\$0.00	
	Conscientious Objector PSC subcommittee	\$100.00	\$0.00	
	Friends Travel & Conference	\$3,000.00	\$513.15	
	Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
	Junior Yearly Meeting	\$1,500.00	\$1,237.35	
	Pendle Hill Scholarship Match	\$400.00	\$0.00	
	Publication Committee	\$3,500.00	\$2,186.10	
	Virtual Access Committee	\$1,000.00	\$180.46	
	Website Committee	\$450.00	\$292.74	
	Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship	\$500.00	\$0.00	
	Scattergood & IYM Project	\$5,000.00		\$4,000.00
	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		
	Clerk's Contingency Fund	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	
<u>TOTAL Disbursements</u>		\$87,200.00	\$66,509.80	
Statement of Cash	Checkbook Balance 6/30/2023		\$34,921.42	
	Total Receipts		\$71,163.26	
	Expenses	\$66,509.80	(\$66,509.80)	
Checkbook Balance 6/30/2024			\$39,574.88	
Transactions after 7/01/2024	Iowa Peace Network		(\$100.00)	
	CulturaAll		(\$4,000.00)	
	Late Apportionments		\$4,458.33	
	Checkbook Balance (as of 7/22/24)		\$39,933.21	
	Amount Needed for 24-25 Budget		(\$14,800.00)	

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Minute: We thank the representatives committee for their faithful service to this yearly meeting, recognizing that they serve throughout the year with love, involving every meeting in the process of setting our budget and other tasks. We approve the report and the budget, which is a good moral document and a good map of the heart. We especially appreciate the long and patient service of Penny Majors, the clerk of this committee.

REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Representatives Committee met eight times in the past year by video conference.

We submit for yearly meeting consideration a budget and officers for the coming year.

The apportionments for monthly meetings for 2024-2025 total \$71,350. The proposed budget includes small adjustments for the Special Needs Committee, Friends Travel and Conference, Publication, and "Committee, other" expenses. The yearly meeting approved \$5,000 last year for a joint IYMC and Scattergood Project to foster closer ties between the school and the yearly meeting. Individuals from the yearly meeting also contributed funds. The success of this endeavor motivated representatives to include \$5,000 in the budget for 2024-2025 to continue the project in some form next year.

The yearly meeting provides funds for delegates to attend national Quaker organization meetings but historically has not done this for AFSC Corporation delegates. The proposed budget shows delegate expenses divided evenly between the total number of delegates, now including the delegates for the AFSC Corporation. These funds support delegate attendance, but they don't cover total expenses. Delegates who wish to be reimbursed above the budgeted amount are invited to submit receipts with a request for reimbursement. The overall budget includes funds in other lines which can be used as needed to cover additional delegate expenses.

We are so grateful for the service that our current officers provide to the yearly meeting. We would like our current officers to continue to serve the yearly meeting for 2024-2025 and we have included someone to serve as assistant treasurer. We recommend as clerk, Carol Gilbert; assistant clerk, Bob Winkleblack; treasurer, Rebecca Bergus; assistant treasurer, Catherine Dorenbach; statistical

recorder, Tim Shipe and assistant statistical recorder, Carole Winkleblack. We are scheduled to meet again, as Love allows, at Scattergood Friends School & Farm, near West Branch, Iowa, seventh month 23 – 27, 2025.

For the committee,
Penny Majors, clerk

PROPOSED IYMC BUDGET 2024 TO 2025

Apportionments

Ames	\$4,400.00
Bear Creek	\$5,500.00
Decorah	\$2,500.00
Des Moines Valley (\$7,500 approved for 6 months)	\$15,000.00
Iowa City	\$6,000.00
Lincoln	\$10,200.00
Paullina	\$8,500.00
Penn Valley	\$4,500.00
West Branch	\$11,250.00
Whittier	\$3,500.00
Total Apportionments	\$71,350.00

Contributions to Other Organizations

Scattergood Friends School	\$50,000.00
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 World Committee for Consultation	\$700.00
Friends General Conference	\$500.00
Friends Peace Teams	\$500.00
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
Iowa Peace Network	\$100.00
Total Contributions	\$59,400.00

Delegate Expenses	
AFSC	\$1,440.00
Conservative Yearly Meeting Visitation	\$720.00
FCNL	\$2,160.00
Friends Peace Teams	\$360.00
FWCC - General	\$360.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$360.00
Total Delegate Expenses	\$5,400.00
Yearly Meeting Expenses	
Archives Committee	\$200.00
Clerk's and Other Adm. Expenses	\$400.00
Clerk's Contingency Fund	\$2,000.00
Committee Expenses (Other)	\$500.00
Conscientious Objector PSC subcommittee	\$100.00
Friends Travel & Conference	\$3,500.00
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	\$1,000.00
Joint Scattergood & IYMC Project	\$5,000.00
Junior Yearly Meeting	\$1,500.00
Midyear Planning Committee if receipts inadequate*	
Pendle Hill Scholarship Match	\$400.00
Publication Committee	\$2,500.00
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship	\$500.00
Special Needs Committee	\$500.00
Virtual Access Committee	\$1,000.00
Website Committee	\$450.00
Young Adult Friends	\$300.00
Young Friends	\$1,500.00
Total Yearly Meeting Expenses	\$21,350.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$86,150.00
SOURCES OF FUNDS	
2023-2024 Budget	(\$86,150.00)
Monthly Meeting Apportionments	\$71,350.00
Carryover Funds	\$38,719.88
Reserve Funds	\$23,919.88

BOOK TABLE REPORT

Minute: We accept the report of the book table committee.

The committee will examine our practice of offering books for sale at yearly meeting to see if this remains a viable option for us. We ask Friends to help us in our discernment by sharing their thoughts on this matter with members of the committee.

(Jane Cadwallader-Howe, Sarah Andrews or Deborah Dakin)

Minute: We appreciate the honesty, passion, and ambition expressed in this year's report of the Special Needs Committee. We are glad they are helping us to see the world from the point of view of people with difficulty accessing buildings on the campus, and reminding us that all our abilities are temporary. We appreciate the golf cart and the meetinghouse sound system. We thank the clerk of this committee who has served for many years.

We will try in the future to call Scattergood "in" and ask the school committee, the YM representatives, and the Yearly Meeting Trustees, to consider how they can join the Special Needs Committee in bringing these suggestions to the school, especially now, as it implements current plans funded by the Capital Campaign. WE note that it may also also possible take advantage of grant funding, student projects, or joint YM and student projects. Improved accessibility might also allow the school to welcome more students.

As a YM we also need to consider the fact that we are excluding some people due to our lack of COVID precautions for any of our gatherings, including masking, immunization, testing, and ventilation. Each year, decisions about COVID protocols have been made by the Yearly Meeting's Entertainment Committee in consultation with Scattergood.

Three Friends volunteered to join the Special Needs Committee to help them address COVID and other accessibility issues: Carole Spaulding Kruse, George Bergus, and Billie Wade. We ask that the Entertainment and Midyear PLanning Committees consult with and receive help form the Special needs committee about these issues as they plan for future sessions. We suggest that the committee rename itself as, perhaps, the safety and accessibility committee.

SPECIAL NEEDS REPORT

The purpose of the special needs committee was to make our meetings open and accessible to all regardless of physical challenges. We have helped folks with better sound and help for hearing aid users, a ramp to the stage, transport around the grounds and now hybrid meetings. We did all this on a very limited budget. It has been disappointing, that during this time, Scattergood itself, has made little or no effort to make the campus welcoming to people with disabilities. There are many improvements that can be made. Simple things like a ramp to the area in front of the main so wheelchair folks can sit in the shade with everyone else and ramps to all the building. Bathroom renovations should include one first floor bathroom with grab bars, one shower with grab bars. Plans should be made for an elevator or lift in the main. Some acoustic treatment in the cafeteria would also help folks with hearing problems stay connected. These are just a few items. I am sure that others have even better ideas. Until Scattergood makes some improvements, we can only help with the details.

* * * * *

Minute: We thank the virtual access committee for their attention to the needs of both online and in person attendees to hear and see our business and other activities. We appreciate their attention to the myriad tasks this requires.

VIRTUAL ACCESS COMMITTEE

Catherine Dorenbach, clerk; John Andrews, Julie Gaida, Tom Hinshaw

The hybrid meeting system continues to work smoothly allowing Friends to attend sessions when unable to travel. Most people are now familiar with the process of having both in-person and online attendance. Our committee tries to make this a good experience for all.

For annual sessions this year we rented an 11' screen along with a 3400 lumens projector from Aero Rentals in Iowa City. We purchased four blackout curtains to cover the meetinghouse windows on the south side behind the screen and the people speaking on the stage. By minimizing the backlighting, we hope visibility is improved. Blackout curtains attach temporarily on the windows and hopefully can be reused in the future. Because music

is part of this year’s program, obtaining a better microphone is also being explored at an estimated cost of \$100. We have tested and confirmed that the laptop mic and the Owl mic do broadcast vocal and instrumental music sounds to online participants.

Tom Hinshaw spends time with each of our presenters prior to annual sessions, making sure the tech goes smoothly for the audio and visual needs of their presentation.

Because time in the meetinghouse is completely scheduled, clerks of committees that meet during Yearly Meeting sessions, and include online participants, need to have their own laptops for connectivity. Committee meetings need to be held somewhere other than the meetinghouse. Tom can send online participants to the appropriate virtual breakout room.

We appreciate the volunteer co-hosts who are a welcoming presence for our online participants.

Expenses over the past year have been:

Zoom Subscription (renews in Oct; likely \$171)	160.76
Amazon, 4 blackout curtains	105.68
Aero Rentals,Screen & projector	<u>372.95</u>
Shielded wire for sound board	<u>12.86</u>
Total:	\$652.25

Catherine Dorenbach, Clerk

* * * * *

Minute: We appreciate the work the website committee does and approve this report.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Website Committee continues to maintain, refine, and update website content with each year’s reports and minutes in accordance with the Yearly Meeting’s direction. The website provides access to our minutes, Faith and Practice, epistles, helpful links and the “find a meeting” app. We hope that it is a useful resource for our yearly meeting as well as seekers or those who are curious about who we are as a faith community.

Over the past year there were two instances that we were aware of where the website went down. One instance was a temporary glitch that resolved before we needed to take further action. Another

required the assistance of our web-hosting service Bluehost to resolve and the site was down for almost a week. We have since subscribed to a back-up/restore service so in the future if the site goes down we will be able to get it up and running much more quickly. This service adds less than \$50 to our annual budget.

We continue to provide a private working site for the IYMC clerk to organize reports and other documents in preparation for Annual Sessions. This working site also provides a seamless transition of the minutes and reports to the Publications Committee for the minute book. We would like to remind our monthly meetings that if they would like to set up or update an existing website, we are happy to assist. Monthly meetings are responsible for the content on their site and, once up and running, its maintenance.

-On behalf of the committee, Katie Jacoby, clerk

* * * * *

Minute: The archives committee report was appreciated, and the deed of gift document is approved and will be included in this year's minute book.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

As discussed in last year's Archives Committee report and minute (pages 61-63 of the 2023 Minute Book), we have been depositing our yearly meeting records on loan with the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI) for safekeeping since 1978. The fact that our records are on loan to the SHSI instead of deeded to them means that, though they are safe, they aren't fully catalogued or accessible to people who want to study our history. Last year following the recommendation of the Archives Committee, this body asked the Archives Committee to sign another interim deposit agreement with the SHSI and "begin work now to move to a deed of gift arrangement as soon as practical . . . and present it to the Yearly Meeting body for approval when it is ready." This year, the Archives Committee has created a legal document based on an SHSI standard gift agreement, and similar agreements used by the University of Iowa and New England Yearly Meeting, which deeded its records to the University of Massachusetts Special Collections Department. This draft Deed of Gift has been reviewed and accepted by the State Historical Society of Iowa Archives Department, and we recommend approval.

If approved, the Yearly Meeting Trustees will sign it on our behalf, and it will apply to all the records that have previously been deposited on loan. Our recommendation is that all future deposits will be made using updates of the same agreement. Future deposits will be arranged by the IYM-C Archives Committee and the gift addenda signed by the Clerk of the Archives Committee and the Clerk of IYM-C.

In summary, the agreement states that:

- SHSI will now own the documents (including digital records), catalog and preserve them, and make them available to the public (including us).
- Ownership of copyright will be retained by IYM-C for materials we created (such as our minute books). For materials in the collection created by other individuals, those persons retain copyright ownership in those materials. We grant permission for anyone to use, paraphrase, and quote materials that IYMC created, if cited appropriately. But we may also restrict use of any confidential or sensitive materials for up to 40 years.
- If, at some point in the future, SHSI does not want to keep some portions of the collection, they will return them at their expense to IYM-C or another repository we designate.
- The full text of the Deed of Gift is available for IYM-C members to review.

Shelton Stromquist
Clerk, IYM-C Archives Committee

DEED OF GIFT

This Deed of Gift ("Agreement"), effective as of the last date of the signatures below ("Effective Date"), is by and between the IYM-C which shall be construed to mean Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative), "we", and the State Historical Society of Iowa ("SHSI").

[paragraph 1]

We affirm that we are the sole owner of all title and interests in the property listed below, excluding copyright, as identified in the description of donated materials. We irrevocably and unconditionally give, transfer, and assign to the State Historical

Society of Iowa by way of gift, with access restrictions outlined below, all title and interests in, to, and associated with the property listed in the description of donated materials. The property can be managed and, with restriction, exhibited, loaned, used for research, and digitized for preservation and access purposes (including internet access), at the discretion of the State Historical Society of Iowa. In the event that SHSI shall elect to dispose of the collection or any of its constituent parts, after consultation with the donors, such materials shall be returned at SHSI's expense to the donors (listed below) or to any third party IYM-C shall designate. In the event IYM-C in the future dissolves as an organization, access restriction and disposition is solely SHSI's responsibility to determine based on existing federal copyright law as well as Iowa Code and Administrative rules governing the State Historical Society of Iowa.

Copyright

Copyright ownership and control

[paragraph 2]

We own the copyright in some of the donated materials: some of the donated materials were created by us, or we acquired the copyrights in some of the donated materials, but the donated materials also contain works for which other individuals or organizations own the copyright. IYM-C will make every effort to determine which, if any, materials are copyright restricted by July 1, 2025 and will inform SHSI of any copyright restricted materials that are part of any new future accretions to the collection.

[paragraph 3]

Assignment of copyright ownership

We retain copyright to donated IYM-C materials, but we grant the State Historical Society of Iowa a nonexclusive right to use and to authorize all non-commercial uses of these materials for research, scholarly, or other educational purposes pursuant to a Creative Commons Attribution, Noncommercial license.

[paragraph 4]

Restriction of Access

Iowa Yearly Meeting—Conservative (IYM-C) reserves the right to restrict research access to any body of records within the collection

due to concerns over personal privacy, confidentiality, or any other points of sensitivity. It is understood by both parties that it may not be possible, in every case, for IYM-C to make the request for closure prior to transfer of records to SHSI. For materials already held by SHSI under the current deposit agreement (January 1, 2024-December 31, 2028), IYM-C will make every effort to determine by July 1, 2025, which, if any, materials require access restriction. Closure of materials in subsequent accretions to the donation covered by this Deed of Gift will be identified at the time of transfer. The containers of any closed material, as well as accompanying finding aids or inventories, will display a firm date after which the records can be made available to all researchers without restriction.

Any material the IYM-C deems sensitive may be restricted for a period no longer than 40 years from the date the Deed of Gift for that material is signed.

Individuals identified by the Clerk of the IYM-C Archives Committee or by the Clerk of IYM-C shall be allowed access to any restricted records upon request. All other access to restricted records shall be prohibited during the period of closure.

[paragraph 5]

Ongoing accretions (“Deposits”) to the IYM-C Collection

Accretions of physical or digital records to the IYM-C Collection may be accepted by the SHSI at any time. IYM-C representatives will propose new deposits and provide a list of materials. SHSI will review the proposal, and both parties will then need to agree to a transfer. All deposits must be accompanied by a signed addendum to this agreement.

Donations of recordings of oral history interviews, personal statements, presentations, or performances should include copies of signed release forms. If releases were not obtained or are not available, the donor should indicate why, to the best of his or her knowledge (e.g. the person recorded is now deceased.)

Description of donated materials:

All IYM-C records previously donated under Deposit Agreements dating from 1978.

See attached shelf list and inventory

[paragraph 6]

Signature of donor

We represent and warrant that we are the owners of the materials described above; that we have full right, power and authority to donate the materials to the SHSI; that we have the full right and authority to assign and/or grant the rights herein; and that the information we have provided is accurate. The terms of the Deed of Gift shall apply to all of the donated materials described above and on any subsequently delivered, notwithstanding that some materials may be delivered before or after the date of this Deed of Gift.

Signed:

Trustees of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends—Conservative
[Signature Blocks]

Acceptance by the State Historical Society of Iowa:

The SHSI hereby accepts this gift and agrees to the conditions as stated in the Deed of Gift.

[Signature Blocks]

* * * * *

*We now adjoin our morning session to meet for our final session
at 3:00 pm today.*

* * * * *

SEVENTH DAY – SATURDAY AFTERNOON – 7/29/2023

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

*Death is but crossing the world as Friends do the sea; they live in
one another still. William Penn 1644-1718*

*We offer loving concern and support for the family of a loved one
who has left, rejoicing that this Friend has been with us.*

Faith and Practice, 2011 edition, The Book of Discipline of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative)

Carole Winkleblack and Jennifar Cisar are readers this afternoon.

* * * * *

Minute: With tears of sadness and joy we remembered the Friends who left us this year, speaking of the extraordinary gifts each of them brought us while they lived. Many spoke of the ways we carry these gifts with us in our lives when we follow our hearts. We are honored to have had time with these Friends.

RECORDER’S REPORT

Deaths

Bear Creek	Hazel Alberta Kisling	September 12, 2023
Paullina	Judy Ann Plank	October 12, 2023
	Lora Beth Henderson Wilson	January 24, 2024
West Branch	John Thomas Fawcett	December 10, 2023
	Thomas Charles Walsh	March 6, 2024
Whittier	Gertrude Ellyson	December 15, 2023

Births

Des Moines Valley	Claire Ione Winchell	December 2, 2023
	(to John Tryon Robert Winchell and Kaitlyn Davis Winchell)	

Marriages under the Care of the Meetings

None

New Members by Request or by Certificate of Transfer

Iowa City	Christina Smith	January 14, 2014 (by certificate from Friends Meeting at Cambridge (MA))
Lincoln	Robert Ramaley	(by certificate from Omaha Meeting)
	Virginia Windor	(by certificate from Omaha Meeting)
	Linda Fife	(by certificate from Omaha Meeting)
	Carol Gilbert	(by certificate from Omaha Meeting)
Penn Valley	Kai McCoy	November 11, 2023 (by request)
	Michael Frisch	February 4, 2024 (by certificate from Old Chatham Meeting, (MA))

Meeting	Births	Deaths	Certificates Of Membership Received (Transfers In)	Memberships Transferred Out	New Memberships Granted	Memberships Discontinued	Total
Ames	0	0	0	0	0	1	25
Bear Creek	0	1	0	0	0	.0	70
Decorah	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Des Moines Valley	1	0	0	0	0	0	61
Iowa City	0	0	1	0	0	0	69
Lincoln	0	0	4	0	0	0	20
Omaha	0	0	0	4	0	7	0*
Paullina	0	2	0	0	0	0	63
Penn Valley	0	0	1	1	1	1	72
West Branch	0	2	0	0	0	0	89
Whittier	0	1	0	0	0	0	32
TOTALS	1	6	6	5	1	9	513
NET LOSS							12

*Omaha Monthly Meeting was laid down.

* * * * *

Minute: We approve the report of the nominating committee, with gratitude for their hard work over the year. We recognize that a member who wishes to serve in a particular way is not invited to do so, and want him to know that his concerns have been and continue to be heard, that some of them have already been addressed, and that we will continue to listen. We pray that Love holds us all.

(Nominating Report follows)

Archives Committee

2025	2026	2027
Jeff Kisling	Tim Shipe	Shel Stromquist, clerk

Book Table Committee

2025	2026
Deborah Dakin	Jane Cadwallader Howe, clerk

Document Committee laid down in 2024; epistles from other Yearly Meetings available on FWCC website

Entertainment Committee-Final

2025	2026	2027
Decorah	Paullina	Ames
West Branch	Penn Valley	Des Moines Valley
Whittier	Lincoln	Iowa City

Interim Meeting

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

2025	2026	2027
Bill Deutsch (D)	Meg McCormick (WB)	Bob Winkleblack (IC)
Deborah Fisch (P)	Dorothy Lifka (DMV)	Shirley Scritchfield (PV)
Roy Helm (L)	Stan Sanders (BC)	
Angelika Shafer (PV)	Bob Henderson (DMV)	
	Andy Juhl (P)	
	Steve Cannon (A)	
	Ginny Winsor (L)	

Junior Yearly Meeting (at Yearly Meeting)

2025	2026	2027
Kathy Van de Walle	Sonja Sponheim, clerk	Karen Greenler
Ann Robinson	Evelyn Bergus	

Midyear Planning Committee

2025	2026	2027
Russ Leckband	Bill Deutsch	Tom Hinshaw
Jackie Leckband, co-clerk	Osa Bricker	??? co-clerk

Junior Yearly Meeting (at Midyear Meeting)

2025	2026	2027
Carol Gilbert	Bill Deutsch, clerk	Ann Robinson

Ministry and Counsel

Each monthly meeting can name up to 2 members to represent them on Ministry and Council.

2025

Sharon Eiker (PV)
Nat Case (BC)
Alice Hampton (W)
Decorah – no appointment
David Wilcox (A)

2026

Kathy Van De Walle (WB)
Amanda Emerson (PV)
Billie Wade (DMV)
Cheryl Sutton (BC)
Sarah Andrews (IC)
Ginny Winsor (L)

2027

Jane Cadwallader Howe (WB)
David Wilcox (Ames)
Liz Voss (IC)
Deborah Fink (A)
Lorene Ludy (L)
Daniel Willems (W)
Deborah Fisch (P)

Nominating Committee *(appointed by monthly meetings)*

A.M. Fink (A)
Dorothy Lifka (DMV)
Doyle Wilson (P)
Bob Yeats (W)

Russ Leckband (BC)
Carole Winkleblack (IC)
Jon Shafer (PV)

Bill Deutsch, clerk (D)
Roy Helm (L)
Judy Cottingham (WB)

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

2025

Bob Jones
David Hansen
Anthony Robinson
Nathan Kleban

2026

Peter Clay
Jon Shafer, co-clerk
Russ Leckband, co-clerk

2027

Jean Hansen
Jon Krieg
Bob Yeats

Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee

2025

Callie Marsh, clerk

2026

Pam Blackburn

2027

Shirley Scritchfield

Publications Committee

2025

Ann Stromquist

2026

Katie Jacoby, clerk
Nat Case

2027

Bill Wines
Ruth Dawson

Representatives Committee

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

2025

Catherine Dorenbach (L)
Carole Winkleblack (IC)
Bob Yeats (W)
Rebecca Bergus (WB)
Ames-no appt

2026

Carol Spaulding Kruse (DMV)
Ann Robinson (DMV)
Penny Majors (WB)
Stan Sanders (BC)
Roy Helm (L)

2027

Jon Shafer (PV)
Bill Deutsch (D)
Doyle Wilson (P)
Lisa Blomme (W)
Peggy Frantz (PV)
Sonja Sponheim (BC)

Scattergood Friends School Committee

2025	2026	2027
Roy Helm, Assistant Clerk	George Bergus	Ruth Hampton, Clerk
Kent Tjossem	David Wilcox	
Katie Jacoby	Nancy Jordan	

We give thanks to the School Committee members who serve but are not appointed by IYMC:

- Alex Lippitt (representative from Illinois Yearly Meeting)
- Linda Corbin-Pardee (representative from Northern Yearly Meeting)
- Aaron Woolfson (at-large member)
- Eric Stakland (at-large member)
- Kris Hilgendorf (at-large member)

Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees – appointed by YM Trustees

2025	2026	2027	2028
Bob Yeats	Barb Garlinghouse	Lee Tesdell	Lowell Wilson
Cheryl Sutton	Carole Winkleblack	Bob Jones	

Special Needs Committee

2025	2026	2027
Deborah Fisch	Bob Yeats, co-clerk	John Andrews, co-clerk

Virtual Access Committee

2025	2026	2027
John Andrews	Tom Hinshaw, convener Carol Spaulding-Kruse	Kathy Dice (attend via Zoom)

Website/Technology Committee

2025	2026	2027
John Andrews	Cheryl Sutton	Katie Jacoby, clerk

Yearly Meeting Trustees

2025	2026	2027	2028
Bob Winkleblack, co-clerk	Jonathan Fisch Deb Dakin	Bill Deutsch, co-clerk	Carol Spaulding-Kruse

Young Friends for Yearly Meeting Committee

2025	2026	2027
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We have been unable to identify persons to serve with this committee.

IYM(C) REPRESENTATIVES TO FRIENDS AGENCIES

AFSC Corporation

2025	2026	2027
Jon Shafer	Peter Clay	Ann Stromquist Andrea Jilovec

FCNL General Committee

2025	2026	2027
Ebby Luvaga	Carole Winkleblack	Penny Majors
Deborah Fink	Rebecca Bergus	David Hansen

Friends Peace Teams - Peter Clay

FWCC

2025	2026	2027
Liz Voss	Angelika Shafer	Marion Love

Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee - Nan Fawcett

Iowa Peace Network Joint Oversight Committee - Jon Krieg

* * * * *

Minute: We approve the epistles drafted by the committee with gratitude, and with two changes: adding the paragraph about FCNL to all and omitting the phrase "The list is long". We approve the innovation of sending the special epistle to Iowa Yearly Meeting (FUM). The clerk intends to reach out in friendship to the West Branch Friends Church with invitations to attend yearly meeting events.

2024 EPISTLES FROM IOWA YEARLY MEETING (CONSERVATIVE)

Your faithfulness continues from generation to generation. Psalms 119:90

Dear Friends Everywhere:

The 147th Annual Session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) was held at Scattergood Friends School and Farm, near West Branch, Iowa, Seventh Month, 24th at suppertime through lunchtime on the 29th, 2024. We gathered together in person and online to rekindle friendships and to attend to the business of IYM(C). The theme of our gathering, followed in evening collections and guest presentations was Keeping the Faith – Across the Generations.

Our evening collections are celebratory and reflective times in which we are gathered together in God's presence. In the program

of Fourth Day, seasoned Friends and newer seekers shared their experiences of what brought them to Quakerism and how their Quaker values show up in their lives.

Fifth day evening collection brought Friends together with storytelling from the Open Book program. Members of IYMC were paired with Scattergood students, who created short video stories of values and experiences that informed their lives. Scattergood students did the production work on these stories and on their own life stories. A query presented at the end of each story encouraged Friends gathered in the meetinghouse to reflect on values and experiences in their own lives. Questions like “Who have your mentors been?” and “What disruptions have changed your life?”, and “How have you reinterpreted events in your life?” were considered.

Peter Blood presented on Sixth Day, “Transforming the World through Radical Obedience and Communal Song” with assistance from musically talented members of IYMC. Peter related Quaker history to his own life story and to the songs that were performed.

Peter also introduced us to his website inwardlight.org, a searchable treasury of Quaker writings sorted by topics such as Worship, Faith, Gospel Order, and Transitions. The site brings together an accessible collection of resources for Quaker study and education.

Our business sessions gave us opportunity to seek together God’s will for us, as it shows up in our efforts with many Quaker service organizations and projects. Business meetings reported on ways in which Friends have been engaged in the world.

Scattergood continues to be a major way in which our Yearly Meeting interacts with the world. Sixth Day’s morning session focused on practical and financial matters related to the meeting house and school property at Scattergood. A highlight was the farm report which connects local food production and animal care to “the great totality of things.” Scattergood’s commitment to earth friendly agriculture is inspiring. Much of our outreach to the world is through Scattergood Friend School, and we are inspired and gratified with our direction in educating and preparing students not just for college, but for life. A new Iowa law which provides taxpayer funded

educational benefits for students attending private schools has been accessed by several families whose children attend Scattergood. We continue to discern the benefits and drawbacks of this law and our participation with it.

The afternoon session turned to peace and social issues with the report of the Peace and Social Concerns committee and reports from several Quaker and related organizations, AFSC, FCNL, Iowa Peace Network, and others. The Committee's successes included their collection of funds for AFSC in Gaza, and successfully helping an Afghani family to safety in Canada with the help of Ottawa Monthly Meeting and many US meetings.

Our final morning began cheerfully with the report from Junior Yearly Meeting which included five young friends from second grade through eighth grade. Auditor's and Treasurer's Reports, and reports from various committees followed. The Special Needs Committee Report resulted in discussion of issues of access, safety, disability, and ability.

First Day pre-meeting reflection will be centered on Quaker Beatitudes.

With gratitude for the Love that has been granted to us, and in hope that we are led by that Love,

On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends, Conservative,
Carol Gilbert, Clerk

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

To Friends of Ohio Yearly Meeting

Dear Friends of Ohio Yearly Meeting,

We are grateful for your commending to our care your member John Jeremiah Edminster. We appreciated his presence and engagement with Friends in quiet conversations, Bible study, and in worship, including business sessions. We found giftedness in his presence, and trust that he found his time here to be fruitful. We hope that we may be able to continue, God willing, with these exchanges between our Yearly Meetings.

To Friends of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Dear Friends of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative),

We found delight in the virtual presence of your yearly meeting representative, Susan Lees, at our Yearly Meeting in session. Technology challenges prevented her being present in person, and also allowed her to be present in video link. She is familiar to many in Yearly Meeting from past visits with us, and we hope that these visits and bonds between our Yearly Meetings can continue to be strengthened.

To Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends

Dear Friends,

We write to you from our annual session held at Scattergood Friends School. We trust that this finds the Spirit prospering among you, and that you might appreciate learning of our Yearly Meeting in session.

In Love,
Carol Gilbert, clerk
On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Special Replies

Dear...

We are gathered at the 2024 Yearly Meeting in session on the Scattergood campus, and remember tenderly the times that you were able to be present with us. We take delight in those who are able to be present in person or online, and fervently hope that you may be able to join us again in the future. We hope that all is well with you and yours.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE
EXPLORATORY AD HOC COMMITTEE**

Minute: The Yearly Meeting acknowledges the work of the School Committee's Structure and Governance Exploratory ad hoc committee (SAGE) as they explore potential business structure changes to Scattergood Friends School, including exploring

incorporation of the school. Their work would be with special focus on continuing the relationship and strengthening the spiritual bond with the yearly meeting, in conjunction with the School Committee's Spiritual and Community Life subcommittee who is tasked with nurturing this relationship. The SAGE ad hoc seeks input from IYMC trustees and members and encourages people to send thoughts and suggestions to sage.iymc.org@gmail.com. This committee will bring back information to the Yearly Meeting for further discernment.

CLOSING MINUTE

We gathered this year in hybrid format once again, with Friends joining both online and in person at Scattergood Friends School. The technology that allows us to see and hear one another requires some extra patience, but we are grateful to be able to be together although not everyone is able to travel or risk exposure to COVID. Those at the school were treated to heavenly weather, with lush green lawns and fields because of the plentiful rain this summer. As always, the food is from the farm, healthy, and delicious. A project underway to put new siding on the instruction building foreshadows many campus improvements that are coming soon. We had about 75 in-person attendees and as many as 40 attending online. Love gathered us together, followed us through the days, and seemed only to grow as we met together seeking its guidance.

The theme this year was “keeping the faith across the generations”, which seems appropriate at this school that continues to nurture generation after generation of young people. An inter-generational panel helped us explore our faith and what makes us Quakers. We were moved by a series of deeply personal video stories made by Yearly Meeting people from old and middle generations, and three current or recent Scattergood students. We were cheered by the evening program of our guest Peter Blood, that was historical, personal, and very musical. Many were able to enjoy Peter’s company throughout our session, because he stayed joining us in worship, business, conversation, singing, and even playing, as he joined the Junior Yearly Meeting children on their excursion to Tipton pool.

This year we learned more about the reasons for making a legal distinction between Scattergood and the Yearly Meeting, to meet

many requirements of the secular world the school operates in. There is much sentiment on both sides that we don't want to change other aspects of our relationship. The Yearly Meeting loves and seeks to support the school, while the school values its "Quakerliness" and the counsel of the Yearly Meeting. The school has set up a committee that will investigate the many possibilities open to us, and seek input from members. As mentioned in a minute approved on Seventh Day, the committee wants to hear from us. They set up a special email address for this purpose, and plan to have group conversations as well. They intend to bring a proposal to the Yearly Meeting for approval, possibly as soon as next year.

The Scattergood School Committee sets major policies, hires the director, and provides guidance. We recognize that challenges, internal and external, often require them to make difficult decisions. Sometimes a perfect path forward is hard to see. The Yearly Meeting relies on its committees to act on our behalf. Though we as individuals don't always know the full set of facts or agree with every choice, we walk with them, trusting that they are allowing God to lead them and lending our Light as best we can.

We labored over the lack of accessibility of our annual sessions for some who would like to participate in person but cannot. We were reminded again that not requiring COVID precautions such as masking means that some members are not able to attend in person, and risk is increased for all who do attend, given some of the unknown and unpredictable effects of COVID. Similarly, we continue to exclude people because of physical barriers. It takes continuous and conscious effort to include everyone in our hearts and plans, and we are grateful to the ministers among us who help us see better and do better.

Though we welcomed the participation of five grade-school aged children in Junior Yearly Meeting, most of our participants are over sixty years old. What opportunity is missed because of this imbalance? Are there ways we can be more welcoming to younger adults and children?

We adjourn to meet again as Love allows Seventh Month 23 – 27, 2025.

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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 as time permits. 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. 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: We expressed appreciation for silence in worship, both as a container for presence and as an important part of spoken message. Some of us prepare for communion with spirit using breath and mantra. Some of us have experienced what seemed to be a leading of spirit thorough silence and community. We also spoke of the harm done by those who claim to speak for God. We are reminded of an infinite God beyond our comprehension, and to be mindful of what we are idolizing.

The invitation to “speak from our own experience” is a gift not always extended in religious circles, and we are grateful for it. Expressing gratitude for another’s message and ministry in ways that encourage being faithful to that experience can help us find our

voice. Encouraging people to ask questions is a way to stay open to spirit. We are reminded that it also takes an openness of spirit to hear different ways of speaking.

There is a sense of calm as one enters the Meeting. This serenity competes with a slight anticipation, waiting on that still small Voice. The group settles in. Some are reading, some are sitting peacefully with their eyes closed. All are quiet and waiting. If the spirit moves them to speak, a thoughtful comment is told, and all contemplate. Then all is quiet again, waiting. Some members prepare for meeting by reading the Bible. Others think of the past week and wonder how they might do better in the next week.

What does the word “worship” mean? It can be love and movement toward that of God in everyone. It is more than fondness and affection. We can find that we are humble, that we are loved by God, that we are all right. God can be the “more,” that which we experience sometimes when we know God, when we walk into profound peace with that “moreness.”

Worship can be seen not only as the culmination of spiritual work done during the week past but also as a way to set our spiritual path during the coming week.

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: "It is important to speak with integrity as well as listen to others..." Given the condition of the country politically, we considered how the concept and testimony of integrity is in tension with the ability to learn, unlearn, and relearn with an open and flexible mind.

For those of us who work in certain settings, there may be opportunities to talk about Quakerism and its spiritual and religious resources, including the use of silence, God as Divine companion, etc. We share our religious conviction and traditions simply when we show up as we are, as Friends. Small town life and its activities to celebrate life's milestones can be a model of loving interactions when we are brought together as a community.

We reach out in a variety of ways. We work on our meeting's committees; some of us work for national Quaker organizations, as board or corporation members. We share work we have done, as in our writing and speaking. Some are volunteering for local organizations, such as Open Heartland. These activities exhibit our faith.

Truth is a big concern for one Friend who is prompted to speak about it. One who is seeking truth with others should have good listening skills. Emotions which accompany our beliefs get in the way and cause polarization. It seems so obvious to most of us that our own belief system is right so we must commit to listening deeply to others.

We are encouraged to consider Outreach advices and queries in light of the fact that there is no formal, institutional contact between our yearly meeting and the other yearly meeting of Friends in Iowa that one Friend knows of. Consider the following lines from our Faith and Practice regarding outreach:

- We seek fellowship with all branches of Friends and with other seekers of Truth.
- Do we encourage intervisitation within Yearly Meeting and with other Friends?

A Friend sees a paradox in Query #2. It promotes the skill of deep listening but the paradox comes when action is needed. It is possible to consider and hold a variety of ideas in your head, but when you act, you must hold to what you individually believe is true. As Quakers we are asked to commit to being an actor in a political decision. Your action might be in direct opposition to another's action. Our political system now is fraught and we may stir conflict with our political choices.

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: Friends spoke of the process of coming to consensus - of keeping everyone in the circle. Of respecting all voices. Friends felt this required an inner shift, a softening, a willingness to speak a truth aloud at times and to remain silent at times while listening deeply. Allowing ourselves to be changed. We spoke of the gift of silence being a time to consider what has been said and to hold it as we seek understanding and movement of spirit.

We were reminded of the words of John Wollman "Let Love Be The First Motion", and that love often demands action. Let love be a motivating force, not a limiting force. Perhaps remaining engaged when no one shares our view will allow us to see if love is that motivating force. We spoke of the need to trust the people you are with in order to be that vulnerable. Perhaps love is the cornerstone of our theology.

"Love is the first motion of our lives, and we are defined by how we respond to that motion." Christy Randazzo

It may be good to remember that the word “consensus” can be understood as a secular term meaning we have found agreement among ourselves. To find unity with God gives our decision-making a deeper and symbolic meaning. We have listened beyond ourselves. We are also aware that God is with us and can guide us when we search for consensus.

These are George Fox’s words: “The Light is that which is unity and that which lets you see that ye are written in one another’s heart.” These words do speak to how we seek the Light and find that we are indeed “...in one another’s heart.”

One Friend relates their difficulty with considering mundane (or trivial) matters during meeting for business in the spirit recommended by the Advices section of Query #3. This Friend, while clerking, is often pleased and surprised when others in meeting show way forward – find unity – on a concern when the clerk is having difficulty discerning. That task is not the clerk’s but the entire meeting’s.

Another Friend values being in that space in which, instead of lobbying for one thing or another, the whole meeting in attendance is endeavoring to move forward together. Decisions are made within that special space and Spirit comes into that space. There is a certain joy in remaining curious and finding consensus rather than holding to one’s own vision of what is right. There is a way to honor an individual’s sense of what is right without having to convince others to conform to it.

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: We began by speaking of the pleasure of spaces and times where we have experienced Harmony. Places where individuals and ideas were respected and voices heard. Places where dissonance was part of the harmony.

Friends asked how we respond when behavior does not fit norms. Who decides what the norms are? How do we create and maintain safety for all? Enough to hear the still small voice of our souls? How can we be more aware of our judgments and projections when gathered in our spaces? Can we stay still enough to “hear where words come from?”

Our previous discipline [Faith and Practice] from 1974 suggested that love understands. We must have mutual forbearance with each other. We must, in other words, with love and care, put up with each other. To find that depth of love and care we must be open to God’s love and care for each of us, understanding that to find unity with the Holy Spirit requires that level of openness to the Light.

One member reflects on the word harmony, which they chose as part of the name of their business after a traumatic time; the word ‘harmony’ kept coming up during organizing activities; they chose it because it brings the discordant and disruptive together. He also noted that with technology connecting us now, how he appreciates the ‘reporting in’ as members update one another with where we are, our travels, visitations, our concerns, and activities; and notes that Ministry and Council has urged Monthly Meetings to develop family trees of individual members, that we may have a deeper, harmonious understanding and appreciation of one another. Several members are currently active in addressing social injustice, speaking truth to the powerful, bringing light to the darker activities, greed, waste, and inhumane treatment; all kinds of turmoil, and how this can create feelings of anger and despair. One member reminded us that those who are called to ministry can reach out to our community for shared wisdom and support from support committees who listen and provide sounding boards; these aid in preventing burn-out, refining direction, approach, and grounding.

When we are in conflict with others, either in our meetings, or in the communities in which we live, it's good to remember how we got to the conclusion that we have come to. We need to realize that we are all individuals and have different sources of information on which to make decisions and conclusions. We need to be diligent in finding sources that are reliable. Looking to the teachings of Jesus and seeking God's guidance can help understand our own truths and others when we disagree. When working through disagreements with others is being "right" one of the reasons for conflict. Is it really that important to be in agreement on small details or can we stand aside for the sake of unity of a group or individuals.

One Friend expresses thankfulness for this query. The Friend is reminded of their past life and times when people were dogmatic and stubborn. There was a period when Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative struggled with the issue of same sex marriage. People were fighting and crying. It was a difficult time for the yearly meeting, but the meeting came to understand that this topic must be approached spiritually and talking must continue. The issue was finally resolved. It is the spiritual component that is essential. There was room in meeting to make way through the initial difficulty. Another Friend's favorite advice in Query #4 is "being aware of the possibility that we may be mistaken." A third Friend finds themselves attuned to the gender aspect of this query. To dismantle gender inequality we, as a meeting and a society, need to be more intentional.

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: A meeting spoke of the many ways we care for each other and remain connected. We have been faithful with our

newsletter, and in our regular times of listening and sharing life events, gratitudes, needs, hopes, fears and dreams. We respond with food, cards, and texts, offering our areas of expertise and our unique abilities to help each other. Accepting help is a different kind of strength. We spoke of gratitude for feeling a part of this community through receiving the newsletter and of having ways to contact each other. We also spoke of the desire to continue these ways of connection; of the desire for something to continue when the person who stewarded the form is done, of the desire to be heard and for a collective response to these needs. A wondering of how we can use our gifts and capacities.

Some reflections on the Query Advice centered on the passage “We listen to the silence within ourselves and to one another with openness of heart”. Much of recent public commentary about war torn conflicts such as Gaza, Ukraine, ect. have brought forth the comment “we are heartbroken”. Being heartbroken can be devastating and overwhelmingly paralyzing much like a shattered vessel. A broken heart can also become an opportunity. We referenced the book “Broken Open: How Difficult Times Help Us Grow” as a guide to understanding how a broken open heart can be receptive to transformational change, possibilities, and compassion.

Asking for help takes practice. As Friends model for one another how to share intimately and how to share what our needs are, our collective strength to speak, to listen deeply and to respond from a loving place increase. We recognize that not all people are comfortable reaching out or comfortable in receiving support. We endeavor to be mindful of each individual as we seek the best ways to be supportive.

Care for others among us may require some intentionality. The more we know each other, the more we will experience mutual care. It will happen more smoothly over time. We are reminded that the word “care” comes from a Greek word, “curas.” The word includes the recognition that care may be related to pain. We are all at some point challenged, stretched, grieving, in some way crying out. Mutual care means seeing each other as a whole person, whether

we do that by regular visiting, or by gathering each Sunday morning. We come together and share our quiet worship with each other. We become “our people;” no matter where life takes us, this is unchanged.

As the average age of our regular attenders continues to advance, one or another of our group always seems to be facing a medical or health concern. We all try to be as supportive as possible with one another during these times with visits, phone calls, and online communication. Our Meeting Facebook pages, email, and Zoom calls are important ways of maintaining our support of and communication with members who cannot attend. We enjoy our rare visitors and do our best to welcome others to attend our Meeting.

A Friend shares that their life has been enriched by the children who attend our meeting, reinforcing the certainty that God is alive in every being. It is a pleasure to experience a child’s delight and insight into the world. Given our manner of worship, it is sometimes difficult but always important to include and accommodate children.

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: Members feel that children in Quaker homes have more opportunity and greater freedom to explore their spiritual leadings, supported by strong core-family values. Parents can model

education as a life-long practice, nurturing reading and exchange of ideas, allowing for questions and seeking answers, valuing the enrichment that art, music, and literature bring to our lives. We sense a balanced life promotes emotional intelligence.

We speak of life-long learning and note that many among us continue seeking educational resources, doing personal research, reading, attending lectures, listening and watching media. Bible reading and other inspirational literature enriches our spiritual heritage, Quaker resources such as Callie Marsh' s book, "A Lively Faith," and Iowa Quaker history from Ellen Newlin' s writings.

Playing active roles is done by preparing ourselves: being around Quakers and those to speak truth to power, learning patience, maintaining our conviction, being open to other perspectives, but understanding where to draw the line. On-line communication separates us from the accountability of face-to-face conversation.

Restricting information that's available is controlling the input to children and makes it hard to foster their spirit of inquiry. Keep education focusing on the idea of what is actual information and engender clear analysis of that information. Curriculum is needed to teach children how to stand up to disinformation. Kids need to be taught to be independent thinkers while still being part of a community that may think differently.

Friends (Quakers) are life-long seekers. This distinguishes us from many, perhaps most, other religious or faith traditions. We value life-long seeking for ourselves and for our children. The dynamic and sometimes uncomfortable tension that comes from this is part of what we impart to our children.

The sun is everything. It is why we are able to be here on earth. We know, however, that we must not look at it directly. To do so would damage our vision. Likewise, if we focus on kindness and love, other problems and issues fade away. The challenge of education is that to talk about it directly is a little like looking at the sun during an eclipse. It is not helpful to talk about it. Education is the means to an

end, not the end in itself. It is a means to get to the point. It may be most successful when it is done for the development of the student.

One Friend stresses the importance of our support for Scattergood Friends School. All the principles in this Advice and Query are embedded in the curriculum and culture there. The Scattergood experience was “life changing” for this Friend. Another finds the emphasis on the foundation of Christianity and the Bible interesting, especially since the Bible is rarely quoted in our meeting. Many of us treasure the inner Spirit rather than the Bible. A third Friend sees the Bible as a valuable spiritual text, one of many that can give us openings and teach us about the nature of human beings. Perhaps the religious tradition one is steeped in as a child determines how you view the Bible and can lead to a negative view of its teachings. Another Friend comments that everything you love about Quakerism is rooted in Christianity. It is helpful to learn about Christianity and how Quakerism emerged.

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: We were grateful that the query was broadened to be inclusive of all kinds of families. We spoke of parents who are not gods, but humans capable of the whole spectrum of what that means. Many found family outside the normal definition; in friends, in places that we have lived, in community, in other families where hospitality was more evident.

The Query language about binary male/female designations led to our discernment about gender-based expectations. We recognize that gender roles can be societal constructs that differ across cultures, and that some of us were taught or encouraged to think differently about who we are, without labels or expectations, while others, from earlier generations, were raised to conform to wider society's norms. We affirm the importance of growing into who we were meant to be.

Family stories revealing negative aspects are as important as those demonstrating positive aspects of family relationships. And it is right to include in the Queries that it is important to talk about both.

The phrase "family, whatever its composition" speaks to one Friend. The "disintegration" of the family is talked a lot about these days but this Friend finds this untrue when looking at their children's and friends' relationships. There are blended families; families that contain gay and transgender individuals; intentional communities like Prairie Hill cohousing where a group of people practice group decision making and living in community. The definition of a family is a group of individuals who love and care for one another.

Another Friend was struck by the idea of teaching your beliefs, as parents, to your children but also remaining open for them to discover their own wisdom. Holding to old values but discovering new truths – an important balance.

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: We wondered how to separate want from need. How to approach each other without agenda while allowing the “dance between boundaries and existence.” How to let the universe flow without all the extra-ness in a society that seems to default to extra-ness. We are reminded what simply noticing the changing of seasons are daily reminders of the abundance of joy and beauty every day. “Today I choose love. Hate is too heavy a burden to bear.”

We recognize that when we engage in activities that we love, those activities help us center. Other times, we have to be intentional to make time to reflect and listen. Sometimes we don't begin to quiet ourselves until our lives are particularly unsettled. Then we may realize that Love is not at the center during those times. We have opportunities to sit back and ask frequently, "Is what I'm doing coming from Love and Divine Guidance?" By doing that over and over again, we may find that people trust us and seem more willing to be more vulnerable and open about the challenges they are going through. We seem to be part of restoring Right Order to the situation when we are intentional about acting out of Love.

One Friend is concerned that we fail to fully recognize that addiction is an illness, many times a result of trauma. Addiction is not a moral question and there needs to be changes to the way addiction of all kinds is framed. One of us looks at “Personal Responsibility” from the view of a family member who is watching family members they love struggle with addiction. They treat their family members with love and attend a support group, Al-Anon; these are the two things this Friend has found important.

Another Friend believes “Personal Responsibility” needs to be framed more about living from the “divine Center” than a list of things not to do.

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 wondered if we really respect and help those we seek to serve. As we look back at Quaker boarding schools we see how we were a part of the culture we lived in and the assumptions made from that culture. John Woolman and others may have shown us a way of listening deeply to others. How do we stay in the paradox of respecting the light in all, seeing what they are trying to honor, even while troubled by behaviors? How do we respect those in power when we feel they are being disrespectful of those over which they have power? How do we keep from othering people as we share our convictions and speak our truths?

One young person relates that it is difficult to be living through a time when the systems of government are not working and it is hard to speak out. This Friend feels as if they are facing down the future. Civic responsibility extends to environmental responsibility. Anger and isolation can make one feel shut out from the Divine, but a belief in life and a belief in love leads one to hope. Another attender works at a regenerative farm and thinks about “tenderness” as a career path – tending the land and animals in face of violent systems. Iowa is a difficult place to be; it is one of the most altered places on Earth. What does it look like to restore pockets of prairie and other native landscapes? The land is calling out to us to change and be in a reciprocal relationship with it.

Another Friend lifts up FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) Advocacy work which helps guide the world toward peace. The anxiety that all of us feel is genuine and can lead one to shut out the world for days. How does one overcome that anxiety? Approach every situation with the belief that there is “that of God” in everyone, even those who anger you. People in our county voted

for Donald Trump by over 60% and yet they display the “Light of God” in their love for their families and neighbors. Knowing this helps.

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: We pondered the wisdom of our elders. “What kind of ancestor are you?” from our indigenous tribes asks us to think beyond our own time. Wendell Berry asks us to stop imposing the answer and ask the land what it wants of us. The phrase “calls forth all our spiritual resources” reminds us that it will take all spiritual resources from all spiritual traditions.

Our world is continuously faced with the by-products of climate change in our daily lives. We are experiencing increasingly violent storms, heavy rains, flooding, wildfires, smoke pollution, etc., etc. with their catastrophic effects to mankind.

We support our nation's efforts to cooperate with other governments to address the problem of climate change and the devastation it is causing around the world. We hope we can make the changes necessary to ward off these continuing problems and threaten the future of the human race in the years ahead.

As individuals, we endeavor to live as responsibly as we can. We try to eliminate waste, to recycle when possible and to curb our causes of pollution as much as our lives and livelihoods allow.

For young people especially, the economic race, getting ahead and trying to “make it,” consumerism, and the constant media noise and threats seem to drown out everything else. We need another

“channel” that broadcasts simple concerns about the world we live in, our environment, and how we can truly help.

A Friend remembers that one of their most profound religious experiences involved coming to an emotional understanding of human beings’ connection with the entire natural world. That understanding made all of nature precious. This Friend has tried to be environmentally sensitive but realizes that, even so, they live in a 1st world nation and use more energy than people in the rest of the world. Guilt is felt but also the realization that you just need to do something a little more to mitigate environmental harm and you will be led.

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: One meeting has considered these questions from many places for many years. We have done deep work in ourselves as we listen for God in our weekly meetings. We have worked with others in our families, our schools, in meetinghouses, and in prisons. We have worked politically on campaigns, on initiatives, on policy, have signed petitions and written letters to elected officials. In many ways we have done much. Yet our hearts are breaking as we continue to live, see and hear stories of racial, gender and economic violence. Of othering. There is sadness and exhaustion as we acknowledge that we benefit and are hurt by these same systems.

The inequities within our society are unbearable to some Friends. Those of us who live with immense privilege frequently question how we should change our lives. Some Friends find great challenge

in considering ways to address the dramatic societal inequities using the wealth, land and other resources that came to us through intergenerational wealth transfer.

We need to read the Advice and be engaged in the best way possible. We may not reach the height we would like to. An example is our participation in establishing schools for Native American children, who were forced to attend and to board in such schools, for the purpose of assimilating them into white people's culture. Today we think and feel differently about that issue. How can we be more justly involved with Native Americans? The advice is important and valuable in that it brings us to think about such issues, face these important questions.

One Friend appreciates how war and militarism was linked to environmental harm but wants to also raise up the connection with social justice. Poor people are more affected by environmental problems. We need to be aware of the interconnections of these problems.

How are we beneficiaries of inequity and exploitation? All may gain benefits through our community or society affiliation but not equally or equitably or fairly: we who are relatively educated, and of European ancestry, are mostly healthy, and have had adequately paid jobs, in our present economic structure, depend on essential work done (presently and in the past) by devalued and exploited workers. The workers we presently depend on are often descendants of enslaved people with lingering life limitations due to that ancestry, people whose backgrounds include generations of family poverty, or newly arrived people escaping from other sufferings. Crops that become our food supply and environments we use and work in depend on their work. Our political system keeps in power those with more social and economic assets. Our cities, towns, parks, and farms are on land once the homes and gardens and hunting/gathering territories of people who were displaced or killed. Without reflection, we may, without realizing it, assume that our ease and comfort relative to our fellow inhabitants are due to better character or skills or wisdom. We may not see the

contribution their lesser wellbeing makes to our greater wellbeing. With closer examination we can see that others with less ease and comfort in life have intelligence, creativity, and energy similar to or greater than ours.

How can we improve our understanding of those who are driven to violence by subjection to racial, economic or political injustice? Many people who become incarcerated have lived in segregated neighborhoods that receive harsher police attention than more well-off neighborhoods. Fear of those unlike us may play a part in that and may be reduced by more person-to-person association and familiarity through reading and conversation. Research has shown that internalized oppression may cause a self-hatred that can be directed outward. Punishment or retaliation seems to be a framework that keeps resurfacing in our culture and in our institutions and in our individual thinking and needs to be questioned - does it ever contribute to society, community, and individual well-being? Realizing that a high proportion of incarcerated people have congenital and acquired brain injuries, learning disabilities, and adverse prenatal and childhood experiences may soften attitudes. The prison experience must not add another layer of injury and adversity to what the prisoner arrived with. Many of us never-incarcerated ones, if once incarcerated in our present system, would develop behaviors similar to those of prisoners we hear of. Many of us know instances where we ourselves have narrowly avoided acts that would carry prison risk, especially in our adolescent years. Long term or repeated incarceration may often begin with a poor decision made by a person with an adolescent level of brain development.

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: We seek peace within our own lives. Sometimes there are barriers to peace within families and meetings, and among individuals. Anger and frustration may result in hurtfulness which leaves physical, sexual or emotional wounds. Healing and forgiveness are possible when our hearts are opened to the transforming love that comes from the Spirit Within. The violence we oppose is not only war, but all unloving acts. Friends seek peaceful resolution to conflicts among nations and peoples. Wars can easily erupt when nations depend upon armed forces as an option for defense and order. To oppose war is not enough if we fail to deal with the injustices and inequalities that often lead to violence. We need to address the causes of war, such as aggression, revenge, overpopulation, greed, and religious and ethnic differences.

We spoke of our gratefulness for those places that provide structure for non-violence. Organizations like FCNL and AVP have given space for the practice of resolving conflict, addressing violence and helping to heal. The practice of sitting with others who have different experiences, of being both teachers and learners, and the act of witnessing in the spirit are ways we have found to grow toward peace. The perpetual journey of forgiving, understanding and being more open may help us be more aware of how we hurt others and leave wounds, and open us to transforming love.

This query is so relevant and so good in the midst of a war perpetrated against Gaza by Israel. There is a problem with suppressing anger which may be suggested in this Advice/Query. It needs to be made clear that simply suppressing anger is no solution.

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REPORTS RECEIVED BUT NOT READ DURING SESSIONS

EXERCISE COMMITTEE REPORT 2024

Jesus lived with a sense of urgency understanding the danger of bringing the message he was sharing with his disciples into the world.

We experience a wholeness when our young people are worshipping with us. The messages from our young are important.

How can we be in unity with all — how can we create a space where all feel safe?

God's kingdom is in us all.

For those of us who are neither white nor heterosexual, the experience of being in the majority can be transformative. Those of us in IYMC might benefit from seeking out wider Quaker communities.

The Kingdom of God is not about the future; it is about right here, right now. It is about Love and kinship.

The Kingdom of God is at hand, but sometimes we miss the experience because we are not paying attention.

We need to ask ourselves, "What is membership in the Religious Society of Friends? What does it mean?" We remember the story of the *Velveteen Rabbit* who became alive because he was loved by a little boy (and because he loved so much, he gave his life for the boy.)

Someone remembered ministry long ago in which a visitor said, "Please offend me! Offend me by being real — by being true self."

When we invite people into our community, what are we inviting them in to? Into a place where Or where it is possible for them to know God?

Attending IYMC Annual Sessions is very special. Annual Sessions is a place where I can get recharged by Friends and by the Spirit of Christ at work here. I need my spirit to be filled so I can go out and be and do what God asks of me. At Annual Sessions we begin to know each other at a deeper spiritual level and our Love for each other is palpable. However, I still hunger for more. I read somewhere many years ago a simply quote that says it best, "I knew not that of God in me until entwined with that of God in thee."

A number of years ago a man from Africa, perhaps Kenya, was in the country for an FWCC meeting and was visiting our yearly meeting in session afterwards. One of the times he was speaking to the assembled body he was moved to call out in a very celebratory voice, "God is Good!" and then looked at us expectantly for a response. We had none. He was surprised, but he explained that in Africa whenever anyone explains, "God is Good!" Those to whom he is speaking respond, "All the time!" (And then the first person says back, "All the time!" and then s/he hears the equally enthusiastic response, "God is good!" He tried it again, and we faithfully and appropriately responded, though with nowhere near his enthusiasm. During the week the same Friend happily worked with our children and on his final time with us the children gave him a Scattergood t-shirt, and he was visibly moved. He said with deep understanding and joy, "God is Good!" and those assembled just as enthusiastically loudly responded, "All the time!" He was joyfully taken aback responding, "All the time!" to which the Body once again enthusiastically responded, "God is good!" I believe all were deeply moved. My heart hungers for the day enthusiastic Joy and Appreciation for the presence of the Holy One in each and all of us is appreciated and celebrated as one Body, and we can share of our own spiritual journeys with joy and without fear.

One of our visitors used the word, “Sweet” when describing their sense of the IYMC Annual Sessions. There’s a *sweet* expression on each face....without a doubt we know that we shall be revived when leave this place.”

Annual Sessions are an adventure. It seems like nothing is happening and then I realize I have homework to do when I leave here. It’s not over when we leave here. In some ways we are just beginning.

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

GUIDELINES FOR REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT FROM IYMC

The IYMC 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 can 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.

MONTHLY MEETINGS, PREPARATIVE MEETINGS, WORSHIP GROUPS, AND SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL AND FARM

Ames Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10:30 a.m. First Day and via Zoom

Business Meeting: 11:15 Fourth First Day monthly

Query consideration or discussion: 11:15 First Day monthly

Potluck: 11:30 Third First Day monthly (on hiatus during COVID)

Location: 121 S. Maple, Ames, Iowa

Clerk: Lee Tesdell , 300 NW 158th Ave. Slater, IA 50224,

lee.tesdell@gmail.com (515) 201-6454

Meeting phone: (515) 232-4610

Email address: lee.tesdell@gmail.com.

Website: amesfriendsmeeting.wordpress.com

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting

(Schedule may vary occasionally – check email or phone number below.)

Pre-meeting: 10 a.m. First Day

Worship: 11 a.m. First Day

Business: 10 a.m. 3rd First Day, with potluck lunch following worship

Location: 18058 Bear Creek Road, rural Earlham. From I-80 Earlham exit #104, 1 mile north on "I" Ave. to Bear Creek Road, then East to 2nd driveway.

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

Clerk: Jeff Kisling, (765) 631-8197

Email address: jakislin@outlook.com

Website: www.bearcreekfriends.org

Decorah Monthly Meeting

Pre-Meeting: 9:30 a.m. First Day, except in summer

Worship: 10:30 a.m. (9: 30 a.m. in summer) First Day

Business: Scheduled every six weeks

Location: 603 E. Water Street, Decorah, Iowa

Clerk: Bill Deutsch, (563) 382-3699, billbdeutsch@gmail.com

Des Moines Valley Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10:00 a.m. First Day

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

Location: 4211 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa,

Phone: (515) 393-7677

Clerk: Carol Rohr Spaulding-Kruse, clerk@desmoinesvalleyfriends.com

Iowa City Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10:00 a.m. First Day

Business: 2nd First Day following worship

Location: 311 N. Linn Street, Iowa City, Iowa 52245

Clerks: Bob Winkleblack, (319) 648-5047, winkfam2@gmail.com

Anthony Robinson, (319) 217-1218, good.thinking@yahoo.com

Laughing Waters Friends Worship Group

Under the care of Bear Creek Monthly Meeting

Worship and locations: online, 1:30 on fourth Sundays.

Website: laughingwatersfriends.ymc.org

Email address: laughingwaters.friends@gmail.com

Contact: Nat Case, (612) 702-1333, nat@ingridandnat.com

Lincoln Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10:00 a.m. First Day

Potluck: after worship and sharing on first First Day at the Meeting House and on Zoom

Meeting for Business: following worship on third First Day

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

Clerk: Lorene Ludy, 5905 Wolff Lane, Lincoln, NE 68521,

(402) 318-4834, loreneludy@gmail.com

Omaha Worship Group

Under care of Lincoln Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10:00 a.m. First Day

Business (and/or other meetings and discussions): 11:00 a.m. First Day

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

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

(402) 926-6583 (cell), (402) 553-3220 (h), rramaley@gmail.com

Paullina Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10:00 a.m. First Day; Business: 11:00 a.m. 2nd First Day

Please check our Facebook page for our current schedules.

Location: 4468 Silver Ave Paullina, IA 51046. (on Highway 59, 3 miles east and 1.25 miles north of Paullina or 5.5 miles south of Primghar)

Clerk: Doyle Wilson, 5550 400th Street, Primghar, Iowa 51245,

Contact: (712) 261-0028, dswilson@tcaexpress.net

Assistant Clerk: Dan Mott, (712) 229-8700

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/paullinafriendsmeeting

Website: paullinafriendsmeeting.wordpress.com

Penn Valley Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10:00 a.m. First Day, followed by fellowship

Business: 1st First Day, 11:30 a.m.

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

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

Email: info@kcquakers.org or Penn.Valley.Friends@gmail.com

Clerk: Angelika Shafer, angelikaks6020@gmail.com

West Branch Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10:00 a.m. First Day

Business: 2nd First Day following worship

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

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

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

Email: wbfriendsmeeting@gmail.com

Clerk: Jane Cadwallader-Howe, (319) 643-7497

Whittier Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10:30 a.m. First Day

Business: every two months at call of Clerk

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

Contacts: Bob Yeats, (319) 210-2215 or (319) 895-8133,
bob.yeats@gmail.com,

Scattergood Friends School and Farm

Worship: Wednesdays 2:15-3:00 (2024-25 school year. Timing may vary
year to year. Check with school to confirm.)

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

Phone: (319) 519-1860

Head of School: John Zimmerman, jzimmerman@scattergood.org

Website: www.scattergood.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/scattergoodfriendsschool