

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

2022

***145th Annual Session
Held at Scattergood Friends School
and Farm near West Branch, Iowa
Seventh Month 27-31, 2022***

Iowa Yearly Meeting



of Friends (Conservative)

Hickory Grove Meetinghouse
Scattergood Friends School and Farm

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Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative)

145th Annual Session

Seventh Month 27 - 31, 2022

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FIFTH DAY – THURSDAY MORNING –7/28/2022

At the 145th Annual Session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) held at Scattergood School and Farm and online from Seventh Month 27 to Seventh Month 31, 2022.

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

We are pleased to welcome these visitors:

Nancy Craft of Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative), **Bobby Trice** from Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and **Michelle Downey** from North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

Caretakers appointed by monthly meetings this year are: Kathy Van De Walle and Bob Jones (West Branch); Ed Taylor (Omaha); John Andrews (Iowa City); Roy Helm (Lincoln); Ann Robinson (Des Moines Valley); Doyle Wilson (Paullina); and Jon and Angelika Shafer (Penn Valley).

The caretakers appointed Sheryl Wilson and Ed Taylor to carry microphones this morning.

Readers for this morning’s business sessions are Deborah Fisch and Stan Sanders.

Dan Treadway has agreed to close meeting for worship on First Day.

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: Jean Eden, Ruth Hampton, Mary Snyder, Steve Snyder.

Epistle and Special Replies Committee: Stan Sanders, George Bergus, and Judy Plank

Audit Committee: Carole Winkleblack, Bob Winkleblack

* * * * *

Minute: We thank the 2021 Entertainment Committee for their report and for the great job they did gathering us online for the 2021 annual sessions.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Tapestry Of Transformation: Sharing Our Light

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) met virtually for the second year in a row and second time in history, to protect the health of F(f)riends and Scattergood staff and students. More than 100 F(f)riends from at least seven states participated in all or part of the gathering, with programming focused on the theme, *Tapestry of Transformation: Sharing Our Light*, described in registration materials, as follows:

“A tapestry evokes interconnectedness, with many interdependent threads coming together to create beauty, strength and vitality. As Spirit guides us, we will gather this year to celebrate all of our gifts. Beginning within each person’s heart and spirit and rippling out to our monthly and yearly meeting, to Scattergood, our country and the broader world, many of us sense that dramatic transformation is happening now. As we gather, we trust that we will glimpse new understanding of how disparate threads, including connecting more intimately with the Light, working to address systemic racism and economic inequality, practicing sustainability, seeking right relationship with Indigenous Peoples, welcoming migrants and championing peace, are intimately connected. This year’s workshops, panels, worship sharing, Bible study, Evening Collections and concert, and Pre-Meeting speaker offer opportunities for each of us to be stretched into deeper connection

with one another as we share the Spirit-led work of transforming ourselves and the world into Beloved Community.

The Entertainment Committee included representatives of Ames Monthly Meeting, Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting, and Penn Valley Friends Meeting, who met regularly for months to work with the IYMC clerk and a small technology committee to discern the way forward. The program that resulted included:

- Inspired Bible lessons with Elizabeth O’Sullivan;
- Evening Collections on *Sharing Our Light in Africa*, *Monthly Meetings Sharing Their Light*, and *Music as Light* -- a videoconferencing concert and conversation with Quaker folk singer John McCutcheon;
- Workshops on *Experiment with Light*, *Examining Racism*, *Sustainability*, and an introduction to Scattergood’s new Head of School John Zimmerman; and
- A First Day Pre-meeting with thoughtful insights on Quakerism from Jana Schroeder, recent clerk of the Committee on Friends Relations/American Friends Service Committee.

As always, sessions also included worship, business, special programs and time for catching up with F/friends new and old, with “Under the Tree” breakout sessions for informal visiting and interest groups.

Feedback from evaluations after IYMC 2021 were very positive and appreciative of the work of the Entertainment Committee, speakers, the clerk, the committees and especially the technology team, (led by Thomas Hinshaw,) who made it possible to meet together virtually. As they wrapped up planning, the Entertainment Committee agreed that their work together to plan two unprecedented virtual Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) gatherings had been a positive, Spirit-led experience -- even as they looked forward to passing the work on to others.

(Entertainment Committee Financial Report follows on next page)

Entertainment Committee Financial Report

RECEIPTS

Forwarded from 2020 Committee

Special Contributions for

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| John McCutcheon Concert | 4,465.00 |
| General Funds | 2,000.00 |
| 2021 Contributions | <u>200.00</u> |
| Total | 6,665.00 |

EXPENSES

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| John McCutcheon Concert | 2,500.00 |
| Program Expenses | 200.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 21.94 |
| Forwarded to 2022 Committee | |
| For Future Music Ministry | 1,965.00 |
| General Funds | <u>1,978.06</u> |
| Total | 6,665.00 |

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 thank the Publications Committee for their report and for their good work in publishing and shipping the minute books.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Publications Committee is charged with preparing, publishing and distributing the minute book of our annual sessions. The committee is greatly appreciative of the timely and accurate receipt of the minutes and committee reports from our yearly meeting clerk, Carol Gilbert. Online access to draft and final reports and minutes set up and maintained by Cheryl Sutton made this process nearly seamless.

The costs of printing and shipping the *2021 Minute Book* to each monthly meeting and to a few individuals and institutions who requested our annual publication are listed below. The Committee will continue our practice of asking each monthly meeting clerk for the number of spiral-bound and spine-bound copies they would like for their members/attenders. We ask that clerks be conservative in their estimates, while ensuring that all who want a physical copy get one. 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. Nat Case deserves our continued appreciation for compiling the Directory of Members and Attenders - information so often used by members of yearly meeting.

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

Printing and Postage Costs for the 2021 Minute Book
 157 Perfect Bound Minutes
 47 Spiral Bound Minutes

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Books - 206@ \$9.4466 each | \$1,946.00 |
| Shipping and Freight | 185.00 |
| Sales Tax | <u>116.76</u> |
| Total | \$2,247.76 |

* * * * *

We listened to the Midyear Planning Committee report with gratitude and were glad to remember this happy online gathering that included both children and adults.

MIDYEAR MEETING COMMITTEE REPORT

Midyear Meeting was held primarily via video conferencing on Third Month 26-27, 2022. Because the COVID-19 pandemic had had a series of lulls and surges for more than two years leading up to Midyear, the Committee encouraged monthly meetings to discern whether to host a group in person at their respective meetinghouses. Four or five meetings found that Way was open to do that, which Friends seemed to appreciate.

Eighty-five households registered for the weekend, including students and staff from Scattergood Friends School. Twenty-eight of

those households indicated more than one person would be participating.

Ruth Hampton (Whittier Meeting) served as this year's resource person, and we deeply appreciated her gift of weaving stories from her lived experience and her personal journey into what she shared on the theme of *Joy, Irreverence, and Working with Love*. Friends noted how timely this topic was. Learning about spiritual skills that were openly talked about and could be put into practice, like the use of humming and the *HeartMath* exercise, were meaningful to many. We "so very much needed [this positive atmosphere] at this troubled time in our world," wrote one Friend on the evaluation form.

We also were pleased to be able to provide activities for Junior Yearly Meeting. The Committee received reports of how the cookie kits were put to good use, and that the joke books and joke-telling session drew many laughs. We're glad that children and adults participated and helped make this session of sweet irreverence so memorable.

The committee is grateful for a few other things that typically aren't a part of Midyear Meeting: Thank you to Decorah Friends Meeting for the hospitality you provided Ruth, and for doing the tech rehearsal with her, so that she could be in community during Midyear Meeting. Thank you to Ruth's invited friends who came to Decorah Meeting to accompany her in song. Thank you to Ruth's guest who shared tenderly about the HeartMath Institute and some of its exercises: We will remember the tools of breathing through our heart and the use of humming before, during, and after challenging times. And thank you to the technology team, who hand-delivered electronic devices to Decorah Meeting, optimizing both the stability and flexibility of the video conference.

Many Friends commented on how welcome they felt and how smoothly Midyear went as a result. We all pray that Way will open for us to gather again in person at Bear Creek Meeting for Midyear Meeting in 2023.

Midyear Meeting Financial Statement 2022 (online gathering)

| | |
|------------------------------------------|------------|
| Donations: | \$1,390.00 |
| Expenses: | |
| Junior Yearly Meeting supplies & mailing | 153.00 |
| Audio & Video | 199.35 |

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Printing and postage | <u>21.75</u> |
| Total expenses | \$374.10 |
| Forwarded to Yearly Meeting treasurer | \$1,015.90 |

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

* * * * *

Minute: We accept the Interim Meeting minutes which were distributed online and to monthly meeting clerks via email in March and are printed here.

INTERIM MEETING REPORT

Interim Meeting was held Third Month 24, 2022 via video conferencing.

Appointed members in attendance: Ames: AM Fink, Steve Cannon; Decorah: Bill Deutsch; Des Moines: Dorothy Lifka; Iowa City: Bob Winkleblack; Lincoln: Catherine Dorenbach, Tom Hinshaw; Omaha: Bob Ramaley, Ginny Winsor; Paullina: Deborah Fisch, Andy Juhl; Penn Valley: Shirley Scritchfield; West Branch: George Bergus; Whittier: Alice Hampton; Only Bear Creek Meeting was not represented. Others in attendance: Penny Majors, Nancy Jordan, Bob Yeats, Roy Helm, Jim Cottingham. Carol Gilbert served as clerk.

Representatives to conservative yearly meetings annual sessions: Because North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative and Ohio Conservative Annual Sessions are held around the same time as ours, our practice is for Interim Meeting to approve appointments of people to attend those meetings as our representatives. Ohio Yearly Meeting's is scheduled for August 2-6, 2022 (probably at Olney, and possibly online as well). There were no volunteers. The clerk will beat the bushes. North Carolina's is scheduled for July 13-17, 2022, at Guilford College, with business sessions available online. We appointed Deborah Fisch who plans to attend virtually.

The meeting approved holding our 2022 annual sessions in-person and online because it allows participation of people with medical risks and other barriers. We ask that the Entertainment Committee work with Scattergood and the Virtual Access Committee to estimate costs and set up deadlines for registration. We appreciate the good work of these committees to make this added flexibility

possible. We ask that the Entertainment Committee consult with Scattergood regarding changing to fully virtual if necessary. Participants should be aware that business sessions, Bible Study, Evening Collections, and First Day sessions will be available online, but other activities generally will not.

We approved creating a place on our website (iymc.org) where we can post things related to non-violence activities among our members, meetings, and committees. These could include things like minutes, letters to newspapers and politicians, and news items. We ask that posts be approved by monthly meetings or by the yearly meeting's Peace and Social Concerns committee before posting.

The yearly meeting is grateful to Des Moines Valley Friends for their careful discernment on the controversial issue of the AFSC's restructuring plan, and for writing the below letter. Along with Des Moines Valley Friends, we affirm our strong support for the whole AFSC community as we navigate this difficult moment.

Letter to the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
General Secretary and the AFSC National Board of Directors
[from Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting] Third Month 13,
2022

Warm greetings to the American Friends Service Committee Board and to the General Secretary from Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting, Conservative.

We write to express our concerns about the ongoing process examining restructuring the AFSC and formally changing how program decisions are made. We agree that our collective seeking to optimize the effectiveness of the Strategic Plan is important. But this process, though slowed down in response to concerns raised by many individual Friends, remains a source of division. We are troubled by the impact on the organization and on the people who are the heart of the AFSC. This includes the communities where and with whom we work.

We truly love and care deeply about the AFSC, whose presence in Iowa dates back to the 1930s. Until the recent closure of the Iowa program and the Des Moines office, the relationship between our Friends meeting and the AFSC was strong and vibrant. With these recent changes that relationship has been strained and challenged. We believe that the restructuring process needs to stop until greater unity is found. The wisdom of

Quaker process is that we understand that to move forward without substantial unity is a mistake. As a meeting, conducting our business while grounded in worship, we slow down or stop when we must. We urge you to follow Quaker process now.

Our close relationship with the AFSC was grounded in joining and supporting the wonderful work of the Iowa program, which included many Friends from our meeting serving on the local program committee. Listening to seasoned voices with decades of service to the AFSC, we are concerned that any further and formal diminishment of the “agency” of the local staff in the remaining four regions in the U.S. to make their own decisions will be a profound mistake. They, and the communities in which they work, know best how to be effective. We believe such changes will further erode relationships between the AFSC and Friends meetings and churches. Restoring the power of local program staff to make important decisions in consultation with the communities where they work is the best way forward. Restoring the diminished role of the regional executive committees is also crucial. Our shared mission and the vision provided in the Strategic Plan guide us all. Your support and leadership is essential for our shared success. We are mindful of and appreciate the co-design process now ongoing and hope that the revised proposal will reflect all of our wisdom and experience and will result in widespread unity in support of the best way forward for the AFSC.

The process of creating the ten-year Strategic Plan was inclusive and well considered. We strongly support the current plan, which is now in year three. We strongly agree with the three broad areas of focus for our work- Sustainable Peace, An Economy that Works for People and Earth and Just Approaches to Forced Displacement and Migration. Aspiring to be as effective as possible in creating systems change, this plan is well grounded in Quaker values and testimonies. However, the real power to create systems change comes from sharing power rather than formalizing most power to reside in the Philadelphia office. Transformative change always comes from the grassroots. This is our voice, emerging from the unity of our monthly meeting.

Sincerely and on behalf of Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting,
Dorothy Lifka, clerk

* * * * *

Minute: We listened carefully to the epistles from our sister Conservative yearly meetings. It was a refreshment to hear these heartfelt and Spirit-filled epistles. We were glad to hear that Deborah Fisch was able to attend Ohio's online sessions unofficially in Eighth Month of 2021, and North Carolina's online sessions earlier this month as our official visitor. We note that our epistle committee will be preparing letters which the clerk will send to these yearly meetings after these annual sessions.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Seventh Month 17, 2022

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

No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is about. I have called you friends, because I have disclosed to you everything that I heard from my Father. You did not choose me; I chose you. I appointed you to go on and bear fruit, fruit that will last; so that the Father may give you whatever you ask in his name. This is my commandment to you; love one another. John 15: 15-17

With this opening Scripture, we gathered in person at Guilford College and online via videoconferencing for our 325th annual sessions, seventh month, 13-17, 2022. Our theme this year was *Let Truth Lead Us*.

We received and welcomed Friend Deborah Fisch and minuted sincere appreciation for the comfort her presence gave us. We are grateful for the continued visitation between our yearly meetings and 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 Nancy Craft from our meeting will be present when you meet later this month.

It was with great joy and fondness we reunited with Friends we have not seen in person since our annual sessions in 2019. We continue to appreciate that technology allows us to maintain contact with those unable to travel. It is in fellowship that we find

holy communion with each other in shared waiting worship, open to Divine guidance.

Our meetings have undergone changes and challenges during the pandemic, but we take comfort in the solid foundation of our faith and in the unchangeability of the Divine. We enjoyed the wisdom as each monthly meeting shared their responses to our current queries. The process of revision continues on our *Faith and Practice* and an interest group was held to discuss two of the proposed new queries. Even as queries ask us to examine our corporate practice, so too does the revision process.

One area of focus discussed during our sessions is our relationship with indigenous people and with the land. As we honor the Light within all peoples, we also face a reckoning with the actions taken in the past that still inflict grief and suffering in our own time. We are tasked to use all the Light that is available to us and to grow our understanding. The Inner Light is our experience of and connection with God.

We have been greatly blessed to once again sit together side by side in expectant waiting worship. Our joy has overflowed in the simplest pleasures that had been lost to us in the past two years: heads huddled together in intimate conversation, laughter bursting from one of the tables of people in the dining room, hugs and hands on shoulders in care, walks down the wooded pathways in silent companionship, tears allowed to fall, and comfort provided. It is in this loving company that we renew and refresh ourselves and nurture our spirits to go back out into the world strengthened and fortified, prepared to let the Truth lead us.

Our wish for you, Friends, is a deep and fruitful blossoming of the Holy Spirit within you that in turn shines the Light of Christ upon all you encounter. With hearts open, we welcome you to join us next year to share your experiences in faith with us—as way opens and as the Spirit leads.

In Holy Peace,
Anne Olsen, Clerk

Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends

Dear Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative):

The Ohio Yearly Meeting has met for 143 years within the Stillwater Meetinghouse in the beautiful rolling hills of southern Ohio. We wait in the stillness to find an inward felt awareness of Christ's Spirit within. While we rejoice in the amazing outward beauty of this campus where at least 29 species of birds have been spotted and a herd of goats graze in a nearby pasture, our inward eyes are centered on the unfathomable, eternal world.

Friends in Iowa gather at the Hickory Grove Meetinghouse, once a part of Ohio Yearly Meeting. Our histories are intertwined, and there remain family ties that keep us connected, but inter-visitation between us has fallen off and we suffer from the loss of it. We pray that way will open for visitation between our yearly meetings to resume, and that we might be strengthened thereby.

We are a double gathering this year after the pandemic: the familiar gathering of ourselves on Stillwater worship grounds among the comforting hills, and the new and unfamiliar gathering of ourselves online from the worship spaces of our many homes across miles and oceans. As we learn to bring these two parts of us together for Yearly Meeting sessions, we ask, "what is the tie that binds, that makes us one?" Again and again, we hear and feel it is the Living Christ who gathers us into one community, one communion of Love.

At Yearly Meeting, Ohio Conservative Friends begin each morning session with Bible reading, where as in meeting for worship, we gather and wait in the presence of Jesus Christ. At first people read scripture silently from wherever they are led to start. As different individuals feel led to read various passages aloud, they do so without comment. Christ who inspired the writers of Scripture guides our reading. Whether from the road to Emmaus (Luke) or the road to Ethiopia (Acts) Christ comes to teach, to edify, and to train us in righteousness (2 Timothy).

Later in the mornings we have conducted business either as a Yearly Meeting, or as the Yearly Meeting for Ministry and Oversight. Our afternoons have included more Yearly Meeting business. All such times of business begin with meaningful times of worship, which are frequently favored with Gospel ministry.

Two of our evenings were devoted to worship. Another evening we explored what it means to be a Friend. Much discussion continued throughout the week involving teens, as well as older

Friends about how being a friend applies to being a Friend. On a third evening the Friends Center held an open house for the Taber Room expansion of the Friends Center, which we have been led to build for those known and unknown to us who seek to gather with us and the living Teacher.

Our prayers are for all people as well as those Christ has brought to us for nurturing healing and epistle.

On behalf of Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends,
Seth Hinshaw, Interim Clerk
(Charles Thomas, Jr. has been appointed our new Yearly Meeting Clerk for 2022)

* * * * *

Minute: We are moved by the selections the Document Committee chose to read to us and appreciate their report. We so appreciate the letters that these yearly meetings have written. We approve having the Website Committee post a link on our website to the FWCC archive of epistles.

DOCUMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The report includes excerpts of epistles that share experiences not only about how God has moved among Friends around the world, ministering to us through one another, but also about what God has seemingly laid on our collective hearts, from grave concerns to renewed commitment to address them. The Document Committee would like to request that IYMC approve posting on the website a link to the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) site where a number of full epistles can be accessed: https://fwcc.world/resources_cpt/epistles

Britain Yearly Meeting

Held in person and online from Fifth Month 27-30, 2022

...We were given powerful evidence of Quaker engagement in the transatlantic slave trade. It is important to understand and tell the truth about the past – it is even more important to recognise its enduring consequences: the trauma and impact on lives in the present. We must start making changes now and for the future: “planting flowers as well as pulling up weeds.”

Britain Yearly Meeting resolves to build on our decision last year to be an anti-racist church, working with partners, including

churches and faith groups, to look at ways to make meaningful reparations for our failings...

Epistle from the [Friends World Committee for Consultation] FWCC Europe and Middle East Section Annual Meeting held in person at L'Enclos Rey in Paris and online from 20 - 23 May 2022

We met in the long shadow of the war in Ukraine which has fallen over Europe and the rest of the world. We recognise the on-going suffering in other parts of the world which could be forgotten at this time. On Sunday morning we joined in Meeting for Worship with Quakers in Kiev. We heard first hand accounts of the work being done by Friends across Europe to support those affected by the war... We listened to the fears. Our prayers are with all those involved... We need to be courageous and draw strength from our Quaker community if we are to act in response to the promptings of love and truth in our hearts...

Canadian Yearly Meeting (Eighth Month 8-14, 2021)

If our Quaker practice is not changing us, we cannot change the world. We must know and understand our own story and understand the part played by these hierarchies in our own lives. What calls you to Quakers? Why do you stay? What is eternal for you?

Intermountain Yearly Meeting (Six Month 16-20, 2021)

The theme for this year's gathering was Race and Faith. We were reminded that those who are marginalized in our culture have much to teach us about the world we live in. We want to listen for these voices, learn from them, and join them in pursuing justice. We can begin by acknowledging the people who have inhabited these lands long before they were designated as the states in which we now live. Indigenous people have hunted, farmed, traded, fought, lived, loved, and prayed on these ancestral lands for thousands of years. They have resisted attempts to eliminate their languages, cultures, and ceremonies. We lament this history. We also acknowledge Indigenous peoples' presence as sovereign nations, their enduring love for the land, and the valuable contributions they make in our communities today.

Australia Yearly Meeting (Seventh Month 3-9, 2021)

Junior Young Friends

We learned from two Young Friends what “Stepping out” looks like when you have Quaker values in your pocket. It looks like: having a sense of purpose; expanding and going beyond; living simply, having inspiring friendships, and taking time outside of the workplace at lunchtime. It was useful to hear of ways we can represent ourselves outside, as Quakers. JYFs shared what it looked like for them which included wanting to look after the earth, being a peacemaker in arguments, not playing violent games with friends, and not joining the army cadets.

...One JYF was happy to share with the Quaker Panel the questions they are asked: What is a Quaker? What do they do? What are their beliefs? What is it like to be a Quaker? A panel of three adult Friends gave a range of responses. A lot of knowledge about Quakerism was gained. A Quaker is someone who invites difference in order to grow; recognises that of God in everyone; and follows a certain way of life. Quakers make patterns of their lives; listen inside; and commit themselves to service. They focus on the next step, are open to changing beliefs; and are upheld by a fabric of support.

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

* * * * *

FIFTH DAY – THURSDAY AFTERNOON – 07/28/2022

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

*We are on a journey together and it may not even
matter so much where we end up,
but that we rise up to take the voyage.*

*We speak the truth of our lives,
hear each other and are changed.*

*We can love without complete understanding
walking the light together while miles apart.*

from The Journey Worth Taking

Sarah Katreen Hogatt, Freedom Friends Church

* * * * *

We are pleased to welcome visitor **Ken Lawrence** from Broadmead Monthly Meeting, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting.

* * * * *

Readers for this afternoon’s business session are Bill Deutsch and Penny Majors. Jon and Angelika Shafer are serving as microphone carriers.

* * * * *

Minute: We listened carefully to the M&C Report. We appreciate their work throughout the year and echo the Committee's gratitude for the skill and care of their outgoing clerk.

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL REPORT

During the course of the year, the Ministry & Counsel Committee met eight times prior to its preparation for annual sessions, all online. Despite the ongoing pandemic, members of the committee brought energy, dedication, and warmth to their faithful service. Activities of the M&C Committee this past year include:

- Support for the ongoing program of Spiritual Sharing Small Groups, still faithfully coordinated by Cheryl Sutton (Bear Creek), Lorene Ludy (Lincoln), and Deborah Fink (Ames). Two “shuffles” of the groups have happened this year, with more than two dozen Friends participating each time, many of whom chose to continue in a new group.
- An enriching exchange about how meetings provide meaningful and effective ways to include more Friends in the monthly query discussions.
- Convening two online gatherings for monthly meeting clerks. The gatherings allowed clerks an opportunity to hear from one another about how meetings are navigating the pandemic; share concerns with one another; and reduce isolation in general.
- Outreach to three monthly meetings whose State of the Meeting reports last year referenced concerns. The M&C Committee reminds monthly meetings that M&C exists as a resource not only during annual sessions but all year round.
- Taking up a complex concern that provided M&C the opportunity to consider what is the “lane” in which M&C operates. The Committee reflected on the creative tensions that exist among the relationships between the Yearly Meeting, Scattergood Friends School and Farm, the School Committee, other educational institutions, and the secular world in which we all live, learn, work, worship, and grow. After a number of months, unable to come to unity about whether or how to respond to such a complex

concern, the Committee laid it down, an action that was not done lightly.

- Receiving a report from Deborah Fisch about her travels in the ministry and the formation of a new anchor committee for her. The Committee has named two Friends serving on M&C to participate in the anchor committee. The travel minute for Deborah, provided by Paullina Meeting and endorsed by the yearly meeting in 2021, will be valid until discernment by Deborah in consultation with family and Friends indicates otherwise.

The M&C Committee also spent time reviewing the timeline, context for, and status of the Guidelines for the Protection of Children at Yearly Meeting Sessions and Functions. Following a request by Friends in 2019, all meetings were given access to the draft Guidelines this year and were invited to review them and provide feedback to the committee. No such feedback was received but the Committee is aware that it has been a trying couple of years and few meetings have children.

In its reconsideration of this draft, the Committee was reminded that “[i]t’s better to have something, even if it’s an imperfect document, than to have nothing” in terms of policy and recommendations for protecting children. As a faith community with children and youth among us, the yearly meeting needs to provide for their safety as best we can. We remember and affirm: **The consideration of safety of children is not only a recommendation but a priority for us.**

The Ministry & Counsel Committee reaffirms that the document in its draft form be shared with Friends who, during Yearly Meeting activities, will be working with children and youth (e.g. Midyear Meeting and Annual Sessions). The Committee also will again share the draft directly with meetings after Annual Sessions, soliciting feedback, with a few simple structures in place for better accountability and follow through.

With Annual Sessions approaching, the Ministry & Counsel Committee received and reviewed five Religious Education Committee reports. We are encouraged by how meetings learn and grow spiritually together. These reports remind us to cherish the diversity of how Friends interpret “religious education,” which include everything from focusing on a single word for shared reflection to book discussions and Bible study. Some meetings without children had not considered that religious education for

adults could be included in these reports. Six meetings explicitly mentioned they had no children and/or no report to provide.

The Committee also received 13 State of the Meeting reports. We see the thread of Love that flows through our meetings, not only for those in attendance and those who are online, but also those who show up through our doors even once and never return. We frequently heard about the use of hybrid meetings and the challenges of meeting in person as the pandemic continues and as circumstances change. We found it heartening to hear the voice of each meeting. It felt as if we were peering in virtually to get a feeling for what each community of Friends has been experiencing. We return these reports to the yearly meeting clerk with the recommendation that, if Way is open, the State of the Meeting reports be read during annual sessions.

We approve Deborah Fisch to serve as clerk of the committee; Cheryl Sutton to serve as assistant clerk for organization—such as to find a consistent meeting time and notify members of when meetings are scheduled; and Nancy Jordan to serve as assistant recording clerk. In addition, Friends expressed their deep appreciation and gratitude for the committee’s outgoing clerk.

On behalf of the Ministry & Counsel Committee,
Elizabeth (Liz) Oppenheimer, clerk of the committee

* * * * *

Minute: We listened carefully to our State of the Meeting Reports, pleased to hear of joys, sorrows and blessings of the past year. It is good for us to hear how the Spirit is working among us, and it makes us happy to be part of a group of people who are helping one another to live faithful to that Spirit.

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS

Ames Friends Meeting

The lingering shadow of COVID and recently of a new war has hung over our Ames Friends Meeting this year, just as it has for our nation. We have returned to the Meetinghouse to worship together once again, to eat together, and to share our blessings and concerns. We also offer online connection, averaging three to five Friends per week participating virtually. This has been our meeting’s great blessing for the year.

Our small meeting continues to average 12 to 16 people each

Sunday for worship, with occasional visits from family members and visitors boosting our numbers. Our time together in worship remains truly fulfilling, whether in the silence or with the occasional vocal ministry punctuating the silence. Our First Day meeting's worship is both healthy and uplifting. Supplementing our weekly worship is our monthly Meeting of Worship with Attention to Healing. Begun last year, this has remained an integral part of our worship and a blessing to those in need. Additionally, our meeting has returned to a monthly query inviting members to share their deepest concerns--to draw the Meeting closer together and to provide a basis for a peace and social action committee, should that committee be activated. We have heard from most in our group and, as a result, have been blessed with a deeper understanding of what calls each of us to action. Our query consideration has also brought us closer together as F/friends and as a meeting.

For a small meeting of Friends, we nonetheless have remained active. Several have banded together under Friends Committee for National Legislation's (FCNL)'s guidance to form the Western Iowa Advocacy Team. As such, we have lobbied our congressional representatives on behalf of peace and justice issues. One very active member also serves as clerk of the FCNL Policy Committee and therefore on the FCNL Executive Committee. Others serve on the Scattergood School Committee. Still, others have continued to advocate for the needs of refugees, undocumented immigrants, and American Indians. The activities of all these members and attenders are regularly presented and discussed during our monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Finally, our meeting space itself also serves our community as a place of weekly worship for two other groups, a Mennonite congregation and a group of Mid-Iowa Soto Zen practitioners, and, at times, a consultation room for the Ames Sanctuary and Interfaith Partners (ASIP) members.

Our Meetinghouse is now 20 years old. Its skylights leaked rainwater and needed replacing. In addition, a new roof and gutters were installed. To be able to finance a major job like this without a large building campaign was another blessing for us. In contrast to hired help, Friends have continued to beautify our property with regular maintenance and care for our trees, flowers and shrubs. Our roses are luminous! Through major effort by one

member our basement was brought back to life following a much-needed upgrade in paint and cleaning.

As a meeting, we are grateful to be worshipping in person again, albeit still with masks. We are again growing in Spirit together, healthy as a Meeting and sharing our grace and kindness with others. We are hoping for more of the same in the coming year.

Bear Creek Friends Meeting

When we ponder how the Truth might prosper within the life of the Meeting, the image of tending a garden may suit our purpose.

Our meeting for worship is a foundational Spiritual Presence, much like the soil, that nurtures and sustains us and allows us to move and grow in relationships beyond the walls of the meetinghouse. These tendrils of relationships have included:

- The Meeting has seeded new growth with the transition to a new Clerk. We welcome the opportunity for this relationship to develop, as we are mindful that we each bear responsibilities to nurture the tasks and flow of the Meeting.
- A family in transition was able to meet with Bear Creek for nurture, care and support in their leading to find place to call home. Deep and prayerful discernment took place over a few periods of discussion for this unusual and somewhat unexpected circumstance. The experience reminds us that when Friends are actively connected to one another through the Spirit, no matter where we are, we can call upon one another to be bridges to those who travel spiritually across the region.
- The ongoing focus, with renewed deliberation, to deepen our connections with Native peoples through a local Prairie Awakening ceremony, a letter of support for a county conservation department's effort to create a land back donation to the Iowa tribe, and increased awareness in efforts for Mutual Aid and the Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition.
- The welcome addition of the new organic produce farm neighbors next to the meetinghouse, creating opportunities for local connections.
- The renewed presence of Laughing Waters Friends, who often join us for our query discussions and worship. We are glad to offer our support in their journey from a Preparative Meeting to a Worship Group.

- The opportunity to share resources and provide spiritual support for an Afghan family that needed to flee an increasingly threatening situation and begin a long journey to be reunited with family members in Canada.

A few growing concerns move our Spirit, not so much as weeds that might inhibit growth, but as a way to check the weather amidst our community.

Our annual hosting of Midyear Meeting during the constraints of the pandemic brought concerns forward. We struggle to find balance. We grieve not being able to gather physically, yet we celebrate that we can be together at the virtual level through modern technology. It can seem overwhelming to contemplate a return to a full physical presence for Midyear Meeting. How do we balance the physical capacity of providing hospitality for future Midyear Meetings when we are now an aging, smaller group of worshipers than in years past?

Laughing Waters Friends Worship Group

(Under the care of Bear Creek Monthly Meeting)

This year Laughing Waters decided to lay down our aspiration to become a monthly meeting and become a worship group instead. This concern emerged from previous years' discussion of how we bring social justice topics to the meeting, which led to discussions of what sorts of expectations and functioning we have capacity for. Friends are not unified on how we are experiencing this change. Some experience it as loss with a great deal of pain, others are experiencing it as calm, a port after years of storm. In different measures, Friends feel more settled than previous years. The decision to become a worship group, though difficult, has felt rightly led and like a release. Through this year, several long time attenders have stopped attending or otherwise increased their distance with Laughing Waters. This is a loss. We have been grateful for several long distance attenders. We hope to continue to discuss our sacred community: what are we to each other and what are we led to be to each other?

Decorah Friends Meeting

*and the end of all of our exploring
will be to arrive where we started
and know the place for the first time*

These lines from T.S. Eliott describe much of the Spirit life of Decorah Friends Meeting; our coming together following our travels during the week, and returning to find each other in a gathered place on First Day mornings in an old Victorian house which shelters Decorah Friends Meeting.

Our usual gathering on First Day mornings is six to nine people, though we have also enjoyed gatherings when our circle is a dozen or more people. We returned to in person meeting in October of 2021, with strict limits on indoor time, with use of masks, and with use of an air filtration device that provides a soft “pink noise” in the background. One of the grace-filled group experiences for the year was hosting Ruth Hampton as resource person for Midyear Meeting on 03/26-27 in our meeting space. We have the benefit of knowing Ruth as our upstairs tenant, as our contact with Scattergood, and as an occasional provider of leftover catering food. We provided food for Ruth and for each other on this weekend, and shared our first potluck meal together in over two years, a form of communion for which we have been longing.

We have been blessed by the presence of several newcomers and other visitors to Decorah Friends Meeting in the past year. We wished there were a bigger cohort of attenders in the 30-year-old range. We miss the presence of long-time attenders and members who no longer participate in meeting, and we miss what they brought to us. We also know that they may miss the changes and growth that continue to happen with us. Is it a good idea to ask what they are seeking, or what we are not providing?

The nourishment that we find in Meeting is experienced differently by each of us. We find nourishment in our activities for social and peace witness, with our involvement in community justice issues, and in the care and maintenance of this fine Victorian structure. We found great joy in giving away \$5000 to be used for feeding people and for supporting refugees.

We find nourishment in our just coming together, in the “intersection” of what happens in our lives during the week, and

with what happens in our lives when we gather on First Day morning.

Des Moines Valley Friends

During the past year Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting has continued to experience that community and spiritual connection are not place-specific. A recent visitor commented that our hybrid meeting for worship was the best hybrid meeting he had attended. While we continue to work on the challenges of being both in-person and virtual, being hybrid has allowed geographically distant Friends to participate in meeting for worship, on committees and in other leadership positions.

IYMC offering a virtual option allowed a number of DMV Friends to participate in spiritual sharing groups, Yearly Meeting and Midyear meeting. This increased spiritual development overall and also fostered a greater spiritual connection with other meetings and with IYMC as a whole. Some Friends were also able to participate in inter-meeting visitation because of other meetings having virtual options. The clerk of DMVF benefited from participation in two virtual meetings of IYMC clerks and hopes this resource will be available to future DMVF clerks.

Our meeting continues to reach out to Friends in need due to physical or mental health challenges and natural disasters, providing practical as well as spiritual support. Our meeting has also collaborated with meetings in other states and internationally to support a family affected by world conflict.

An ongoing Second Hour, *Journey to Friends*, has provided an opportunity for individual Friends to share their spiritual journeys with us. We continue to enjoy fun and friendship through sharing our weekly joys and concerns, our yearly Christmas caroling – hybrid this year – and a talent show. We hope to resume other opportunities to gather together including our monthly soup lunches and yearly picnic. As many of us heard at Midyear Meeting, joy can be an important part of our spiritual journeys.

We are concerned about Friends who no longer participate in our meeting due to discomfort with the virtual option, scheduling conflicts or reasons unknown to us. We hold them in the Light and will continue to reach out to them.

We remain concerned about the aging of our membership. This concern is mixed with hope as several youth, preschool to middle

school age, have been participating in First Day School virtually and in person.

We are also concerned about our relationship with Friends House as DMVF and other tenants of the building continue to adjust to the departure of the American Friends Service Committee. Several members of DMVF are active on the Friends House board and we are optimistic that we will be able to continue a mutually beneficial relationship.

Addressing concerns about the shrinking of our membership, the Outreach Committee has come up with many ideas for how we can be more welcoming as a meeting. Some of these are resuming pre-COVID traditions such as having hosts to greet attenders at meeting for worship, especially people who are new to our meeting. Others are adaptations of our hybrid approach including a welcome screen with information about Friends and about our meeting. One member of the committee has taken on the task of following up with newcomers by email. Updates and improvements have been made to the DMVF website and a Google calendar that is linked to our website is in process. We look forward to sharing the message of Friends with the wider world.

Iowa City Friends Meeting

Iowa City Friends Meeting gratefully opened our meetinghouse to attenders this year. We continue to be a hybrid meeting with approximately half of our attenders online. It is likely that we will permanently maintain an online option. Hybrid meeting gives attenders from outside Iowa City the opportunity to worship regularly without the need to drive and is helpful to those with health or mobility issues that prevent them from attending in person. We have invested in video conferencing technology thanks to the advice of other monthly meetings. The technology was most apparent when the highlight of our year occurred, the wedding of a couple who met with a Marriage Clearness Committee two years prior. We gathered in the meetinghouse for worship with attention to marriage in traditional Quaker fashion with the addition of video conferencing for those who could not attend in person. Attenders to the wedding participated from all over the world including Australia, Canada and Washington DC. The meeting felt joy in the couple's expression of love and commitment and in being able to assist family and friends to participate both in person and from afar.

We tried to mitigate the isolation of online worship by having two outdoor meetings for worship with potluck following. Everyone agreed that the events helped ease the feeling of isolation. We long for the time when we can resume monthly potlucks and socializing at the rise of meeting.

Our attenders express the joy they experience in worshipping together, whether online or in person. Mutual care expressed strengthens the sense that the Meeting is truly our spiritual community. Attenders often remark how blessed they are by the attendance, either online or in person, of children.

Business meetings are attended sparsely unless there is a serious decision to be made. When issues such as mask policy or outreach allocations are on the agenda, the measured response, the listening to other concerns, and the wisdom that leads to decision making is remarkable.

A continuing concern is engaging new attenders. Because we are a university town, we often have guests. These newcomers, often young people, are seekers. But most do not return. It is difficult not to feel we have somehow not fulfilled a need.

Lincoln Friends Meeting

The state of the Lincoln Meeting can be summed up in one word – grateful. Early in Fourth Month, we began meeting in-person again due to lowered COVID infection rates and vaccinated (and boosted) attenders. We have also decided to continue our use of virtual components, making our meetings hybrid, thus allowing F/friends who either are not yet comfortable meeting in-person or who live too great a distance away from us to make it practicable to attend, to join us. Having F/friends from afar join with us in worship, albeit virtually, has been such a joy and blessing for our community and we are so very grateful and blessed for their participation in every facet of our activities, not to mention the joy of being together in the meetinghouse. Although we have not yet resumed our first First Day potlucks, we continue our practice of sharing following Meeting for Worship.

We continue to meet with folks from the Omaha Meeting which, in conjunction with attenders from afar, has enriched our community and has a positive impact on our spirituality, for which we are grateful.

Our Midweek Meeting for Worship has just recently been laid down due to a lack of participation of anyone other than the host(s) and, considering the time invested in providing a virtual opportunity that most were not utilizing, it seemed that the usefulness of this meeting had run its course. We are grateful to the hosts who, over the past couple of years, made way for us to worship, connect and share during very uncertain times.

Business meetings are normally well attended, and we are grateful for participation not only in the conducting of business, but with respective committee participation as well. We have newer attenders who are taking on some responsibilities and even some from afar are helping out as they can, where virtual participation is possible.

Long-time attenders have been convinced to join or transfer membership to our Meeting and for this, we are extremely grateful to welcome them. While we appreciate all who choose to worship with us, there is something to be said about receiving such a commitment to our small monthly meeting.

Vocal ministry is not always a given but well received when it happens. One never really knows when they will be so moved to speak, but we all are willing to listen and when it does occur, we are grateful for the messages.

Each month we continue to consider the Advice and Queries and find that some months we are more engaged than others, which is not necessarily a result of the topic, but rather, with our own frame of mind or being focused on other events. Nonetheless, we are grateful for the work that was done in drafting them and for the enriching and thought-provoking content contained within.

The spiritual state of our meeting is robust and strong: even with the challenges of day-to-day living and horrific events transpiring in the world around us, we take great comfort in knowing that we have a community in support of each other. We are willing to share the wonder of joy and the burden of sorrow carried individually or collectively, for which we are not only grateful, but also extremely blessed. There is a level of trust, compassion, empathy, concern, and love that knows no bounds, giving us the strength and clarity to face any situation, no matter the difficulty, because not only is the Spirit with us at all times, but so is our community.

Omaha Monthly Meeting

The Omaha Monthly Meeting is still meeting as a double-hybrid meeting for the first hour on each First Day. We meet both in person and on videoconferencing AND the Omaha Monthly Meeting joins with the Lincoln Monthly Meeting utilizing Lincoln's Owl equipment. After a short break, during the second hour on the first First Day of the Month, we continue to be joined as one group meeting to share our mutual joys and sorrows having occurred during the past month. On the second hour of the second First Day of the month, we separate into two groups - Omaha and Lincoln, each discussing a Query from Faith and Practices. The two groups have independent methods of when to discuss what Query. The third First Day of the month is a Meeting for Worship doing Business in Lincoln and a totally unrelated Meeting for Discussion of something else on Omaha's videoconferencing. The final (and also fifth if applicable) is usually continued with Lincoln and Omaha still joined for Discussion. As the Lincoln Meeting is quite a bit larger than the Omaha Meeting, they usually have more ideas and materials for our discussions. Omaha also has two gatherings during the month, usually on the second and fourth Fourth Day of each month; the one on the second is dedicated to catching up with each other and sharing "How God has Dealt with Us Since Last We Met", and the fourth one is Meeting for Worship doing Business.

This joined mix of meetings has both pros and cons as we continue to discuss and consider our future options. During COVID, when everyone was avoiding in person contact as much as possible, all our gathered members and attenders from all over the country, met via videoconferencing. This made us all feel like a large group joined in meaningful Worship and also allowed the people from each group a chance to get to know one another in a more spiritual way. We all seemed to be rejoicing in that sharing.

Now that we are no longer meeting together as much, the separation feels much larger and the differences stand out. Among the questions we are prayerfully considering:

- Should the Omaha Monthly Meeting try to travel to Lincoln once a month for Meeting for Worship and sharing with each other? Currently, we feel like outsiders when we are meeting on videoconferencing and the Lincoln Meeting is in person and on their videoconferencing.

- Should we have separate meetings in Omaha and Lincoln, with Omaha using our own videoconferencing account, so that far flung members and attenders can continue to meet with us on a regular basis and feel a greater sense of belonging?
- Should we again consider becoming a Worship Group under the care of the Lincoln Meeting? One or more of our members may choose to no longer attend with us or feel they are part of the Omaha Meeting.
- By having a presence in Omaha would there still be a “home meeting” feel, and is that valuable?
- Should we do more service projects in the community? Some of our members/attenders have been unable to participate in service projects of the Omaha Meeting, while other folks who have drifted away from Meeting because they desire a more active group. Since we don’t do these projects, most members/attenders do various projects and activities for the betterment of the community on our own.

Paullina Friends Meeting

Our meeting continues to be an important part in the lives of those who attend weekly and those who are remote and able to communicate with us via videoconferencing or other media.

We have met weekly being mindful of each other in continuing COVID transmissions. A number of members have been gone for periods of time in the cold months. We appreciate the ability to contact members through social media during those periods. We are restarting our monthly potlucks on fourth Sunday and adult discussions. Our physical property has been cared for by meeting members in the past year, including mowing, tree removal and trimming, and other building maintenance items. We appreciate the times we spend together in meeting for worship, quilting, shared meals, maintenance, visiting after Meeting, visiting on videoconferencing during the winter months and other gatherings for reunions or memorials services.

The spiritual life of Meeting continues and as we grow older as a meeting, more personal. Some read the Bible, books, *Friends Journal*, listen to *Quaker Speak*, and other sources of inspiration to fit our needs. During winter, some attend other meetings for worship and gain perspective outside our Meeting. Vocal ministry

is sparse but greatly appreciated during our weekly meetings for worship.

We look forward to what the next year will bring and to meeting in person for Yearly Meeting.

On behalf of Paullina Meeting, Doyle Wilson, clerk

Penn Valley Monthly Meeting

In many ways this State of the Meeting Report reflects our Meeting's Joys, Sorrows and Concerns during this past year, mirroring Penn Valley Friends' custom at the end of worship on First Days.

Despite entering into the third year of the COVID Pandemic with all the challenges that reality brings, we rejoice that our Meeting is growing, spiritually and also physically. We have welcomed new attendees to our Meetings for Worship and our committees and our Bible study, both in person and via videoconferencing. A sense of acceptance and inclusion is apparent as visitors and new attenders are integrated into our Meeting community.

At the beginning of the fifth month, we had the joy of again holding our annual Meeting Retreat that had been postponed for two years due to the pandemic. Most Friends joined us in person at the Hollis Center west of Kansas City for a weekend, while others joined on videoconferencing. The theme was *Our Quaker Toolbox*, covering key facets of Quaker process – *Unity Within the Meeting, Clearness Committees, Eldering and Vocal Ministry*.

It is a blessing to experience " a flowing of Elder energy " as one Friend expressed it. An openness and commitment to understand our relationship with the Divine from our life experiences – and sharing those experiences without judgment from those who differ. We continue to worship in a blended/hybrid format with often more Friends attending via videoconferencing than in person at the meetinghouse, and yet are amazed at the Sense of Spirit that imbues our worship despite the physical separation.

Friends have been active trying to create a better world. One Friend works in various locations in Africa, bringing clean water, safe sanitation and malaria prevention to villages. Another Friend works with endangered youth in one of the poorest areas of Mexico City through "Projecto DUQ" a non-profit she founded several years ago. Yet another Friend continues to carry her concern and work among the homeless of Kansas City. The Meeting continues to support a

former Scattergood student and his brother, both originally from Afghanistan, while they now live in Ottawa, Canada, and several members are part of their support group in the effort to bring their Family to Canada as well.

Our great sorrow this past year was the passing of our beloved and inspiring Friend John Griffith on March 27, 2022. Many in our community who knew John well and served with him in our Meeting mourn the loss deeply; and for many, it seems that a cornerstone of our Meeting has passed into the “cloud of witnesses.”

Some of our concerns come with the changes the pandemic brought, including how to foster and nurture a sense of community now that we worship and meet in hybrid format or in our committees mostly on videoconferencing.

How do we focus on the opportunities rather than the crises this new reality brings? Often we struggle with a sense of some division in the Meeting given our hybrid reality. There is a felt need to do some deep soul-searching as a Meeting about who we are and who we wish to be as we move forward. What is our role and engagement in the wider community and the world? Are we good stewards of our resources with regard to our meetinghouse? These are concerns we presently hold in God’s clarifying Light.

West Branch Friends Meeting

Our experience this last year has been shaped by many things, including continuing to explore our Quaker relationships within Meeting, the ongoing pandemic, social and global unrest, and the war in Ukraine.

We have been able to gather in person and on videoconferencing using our new system. This hybrid approach has enabled more Friends to join in for worship and fellowship on First Day.

Our query discussions and business meetings rise out of worship on the first and second Sunday of each month. Third Sunday is Adult Education. The group is reading a Pendle Hill pamphlet entitled “Mind the Oneness, the Mystic Way of the Quakers” by Rex Ambler. These discussions have helped us delve more deeply into Quaker process. On the fourth Sunday, we continue to hold our meeting book group which shares conversation on thought provoking books.

Our annual Christmas sharing and Easter breakfast were held in person this year. We welcomed these opportunities to share food

and fellowship. We have lingered a little longer after meeting for worship because we are so glad to be together.

We are making a conscious effort to share our personal relationships to Quakerism. We seek to be faithful to Quaker process, Divine wisdom, and to center in loving discernment with one another. As with any growth process, “progress” is not always felt in time frames we might prefer, especially when faithfulness is called for. The Meeting agreed to set aside time before closing worship on May 1, July 3, and September 4 to reflect on three questions:

- 1) What brings you to meeting on Sunday morning?
- 2) What are the core principles of Quakerism that are important to you?
- 3) How are Quaker principles reflected in your daily life?

We know that Spirit holds all things, conflict as well as ease. We seek this guidance and wisdom as the life of our Meeting continues to unfold.

Yahara Friends Worship Group Report to West Branch Monthly Meeting

Yahara Friends Worship Group members have been worshipping with West Branch Monthly Meeting via videoconferencing; some regularly, some occasionally, this past year. The "Owl" technology also allows our members to serve on committees including the Ministry and Counsel committee and the Growth committee. Yahara members participated in Midyear Meeting this year and were very moved by the testimony of Ruth Hampton.

Health concerns of one member were shared between Yahara and West Branch with many well wishes expressed. Throughout the year of 2022, Yahara continues to hold up to the Light our shared vision of inclusion which defines our group as a tiny island of inclusion in the bigger ocean of Quakerism in Madison.

Whittier Monthly Meeting

“You are my friends if you do what I command you.” John 15:14 (RSV). The Religious Society of Friends was formed in the middle of the 17th Century. In the more than 350 years since our founding, Friends have known all kinds of ups and downs, prisons and persecutions, executions and redemptions. Somehow in our corner of the world, Whittier Monthly Meeting seems to have emerged

from the doldrums of the COVID pandemic with more energy than we had before it.

We wait upon the Light, the Holy Spirit, the Lord in silence. We seek mystical direction for our lives and wait in faith. What are the “marks” of a Quaker? What would the Spirit have us do in these troubled times when our world is so divided and when the scourge of war stalks the lands and millions of our brothers and sisters are food insecure while many millions more lack access to life prolonging medicines, vaccines, and basic needs such as safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. Once again, we are living in times that try our souls.

Spiritual guidance is not always precise. Some Biblical directions sound a rather general tone – such as 1 John 3:17, *If anyone has the world’s goods and see his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him?* Obviously, this passage of scripture encourages our sharing of our resources with those in need; but how much should we send to whom now? When the needs seem so great and our resources so small, how do we answer that of God in everyone? We wrestle with these issues while the wicked thrive. Is there no balm in Gilead?

Some days, it is tempting to stay away. It is tempting to avert our eyes from those who are hungry or naked, beaten and wounded on the Road to Jericho. (Luke 10:29-37). We are all tempted. *In this world, you shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer. I have overcome this world.* (John 16:33)

We wrestle with the knowledge of the suffering in our times and the caution that one cannot serve both God and mammon. The knowledge of the history of the Quakers who have gone before us inspires us. Who would not be inspired by the lives of such strong Friends as Fox, Margaret Fell, and Benjamin Lay? Daily, we seek more Light. And we strive to be worthy to call ourselves Friends.

* * * * *

We heard the assistant clerk's selection of responses of our monthly meetings to Queries 1-3. [Selected query responses start on Page 77.]

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

SIXTH DAY – FRIDAY MORNING - 07/29/2022

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

The walk through the woods is nearly silent. As I walk along the path and observe the unearthly beauty, I start to fall behind my family, who continue on ahead. This is when I usually have a chat with God. . . I meditate deeper than in a regular meetinghouse. It seems I feel closer to God on walks in beautiful places with no one else around. And afterward I feel enlightened and I find myself thinking what I can do.

Flynn, 14, Vancouver Monthly Meeting, Canada Yearly Meeting from How Does God Find and Touch You?

We are glad to have these visitors with us today: **Rex Sprouse** of Bloomington Friends Meeting, part of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting; and **David Ely** from Ohio Yearly Meeting.

Readers for this morning’s business session are Bob Yeats and Jane Cadwallader Howe. Ed Taylor and Roy Helm are serving as microphone carriers.

Minute: We listened carefully to the Yearly Meeting Trustees Report. The treasurer reports that the trustees are owed another \$1000 which she will send from the General Fund. We accept the report gratefully.

YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES REPORT

In September 2021 we appointed Cheryl Sutton to fill the vacancy left when Larry Marsh retired from the Foundation Trustees when his term ended last year. This year we have reappointed Barb Garlinghouse and Carole Winkleblack to continue to serve as Scattergood Foundation Trustees for terms ending in 2026. The activities of the Foundation Trustees are described in their annual report, which is attached to this report.

Last year we agreed to a request from the Representatives that the Yearly Meeting Trustees accept responsibility for managing a gift of about \$3,800 from Omaha Friends Meeting, to be used as a fund to support 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.

Once again as COVID continued, we did not spend any funds on meetinghouse maintenance. We expect that some work, including interior painting, will take place in the coming fiscal year and that our current funds, along with our anticipated annual allotment in the Yearly Meeting budget, will be sufficient to cover anticipated expenses.

For the Trustees,
Jim Cottingham, clerk

Trustees Financial Report 2022

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Initial balance 7/1/21 | \$6,656.37 |
| From Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative | 0.00 |
| Interest | <u>3.28</u> |
| Total Funds Available | \$6,659.65 |

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Total disbursements | 0.00 |
| Bank balance 6/30/2022 | \$6,659.55 |
| Funds available 6/30/2022 | \$6,659.55 |

Minute: We gratefully accept the Scattergood School and Farm Foundation Trustees report.

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL AND FARM FOUNDATION TRUSTEES & GROWTH OF ENDOWMENT REPORT

The Scattergood Foundation is charged with the stewardship of the school's growing endowment, currently valued at \$6 million. Through a diversified portfolio of socially responsible investments, primarily stocks, bonds, cash, and farmland, the Foundation makes annual distributions to support the school's mission. At present, approximately one quarter of the distributions supports capital improvements to the campus, one quarter supports the operations of the school, with the remaining half supporting scholarships to students. Funds are invested with a balanced approach to capital preservation and moderate growth.

In calculating the annual disbursements to the school, the Foundation follows the instructions of donors as well as the Foundation’s own standard payout policy. During the 2021-22 school year, the Foundation distributed \$105,000 to support tuition scholarship, as well as \$86,550 plus \$26,950 for a total of \$113,500 toward capital improvements and the operation of the school. The Foundation has committed to new distributions for the 2022-23 academic year totaling \$107,250 for scholarships, as well as \$91,850 plus \$28,150 for a total of \$120,000 toward capital improvements and operations.

Assets Held by the Scattergood Friends School Foundation as of 6/30/2022:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Westwood Trust #1 (Scholarships) | \$ 1,956,832.01 |
| Westwood Trust #2 (CapEx/OpEx) | \$ 2,603,335.59 |
| Westwood Capital A/C (CapEx/OpEx) | \$ 633,389.70 |
| Pemberton Farm (estimated value) | \$ 200,000.00 |
| South Dakota Farm | \$ 325,000.00 |
| Hills Bank checking | \$ 199,096.99 |

* * * * *

Minute: We deeply appreciate hearing the reports from Scattergood Friends School and Farm. Those of us here in person are blessed to feel the cool breezes, see the green around us, and hear the sounds of the birds and insects. We are impressed with the creative energy of the school and its staff, and grateful for those who developed the middle school and made it a reality. We are glad for a financial report that makes sense. We are keenly aware that staff are not paid enough, and we share in the responsibility for making their compensation fair. We look forward to participating in the capitol campaign which is now in its silent phase, and which will allow for needed upkeep and improvements on the campus. We are pleased that the School Committee has shared with us the fact that the lack of separation between the school and the Yearly Meeting may present legal problems, and we look forward to discussing this in our monthly meetings and at future gatherings as we discern a way forward. Finally, we appreciate the Spirit-led nature of the school committee in the way it is guiding the school. We know they

have been working extra hard this year and facing difficult issues with grace and love.

FARM REPORT

Dear Friends,

When I arrived at Scattergood in 1999, David Rossell, who was a Humanities and Social Studies teacher, was completing his dissertation on the spread of mulberry trees in colonial America. These trees were intentionally planted to support the nascent sericulture (silk) industry which soon created its own speculative bubble that ultimately burst and left mostly fodder for future PhD students. Of course, our contemporary mulberries leave behind much more than that, often on our sidewalks, windshields and clothes drying on the clothesline. I feel that this year in particular, I have been thinking much about mulberries. They fill the fruit gap between strawberries and raspberries, often providing a welcomed snack while we work in the fields and pastures; however, they also fill the gaps between fence posts, in our prairie plantings and elsewhere that require us to constantly remove them, an unpleasant job that never ends. Many weeds can feed us, but few offer such extremes in pleasure and pain.

On the Scattergood Farm, there was much to be pleased with during the past year.

Students were again involved in the farm in many ways, beginning with Farm Fun Day during fall orientation. This introduction was followed up with more intensive interactions through the high school Farm Term classes offered on Trees, Flowers and Seed Saving, and with the middle school beginning each day at the farm with Collection, livestock chores and science class. This fall the middle school will also be doing their own Farm Term and will join the high school on the farm many mornings. Throughout the year there were Crews working on the Farm, Farm Team PE classes in the fall and spring, a Food Preservation Project in the fall, and a Meeting for Worship Spiritual Practice group which went to the farm to quietly observe the livestock. Two students volunteered to do evening chores several times per week and Ben Heller worked hard to get the Biology and Advanced Biology classes learning on the Farm during all times of year and in all weather conditions. During May Term Ben and Annabel Higgin-Howser taught an Ornithology class that amongst many other things, raised broiler chickens.

The Farm continued its outreach to the wider community with visits from The Tamarack School in Iowa City, Taproot Nature Experience, Camp Scattergood, staff from the Iowa Valley RC&D, Grinnell College student gardeners and their faculty advisor, farmers from Sundog, Bluegate, Millet Seed, and Genuine Faux (pronounced “Fox”) Farms, gleaners from Table to Table, attendees to a Field Day co-sponsored by Iowa State University Extension and Practical Farmers of Iowa, parents and alumni during Scattergood Day and Commencement Weekend, and volunteers who came last spring to help rebuild the high tunnel which was damaged in what appear to have become our annual derechos. We are doing two PFI field trials this year, presented at their Annual Conference and attended their Cooperators Meeting, as well as conferences conducted by Iowa Organic Association and The Savannah Institute. A group of student cyclists rode to Echollective, Sundog and Lucky Star Farms where they camped and worked, and the Seed Saving class did service work at Genuine Faux Farm. We also served on a grant committee for NCR-SARE and were featured in a PFI video (<https://youtu.be/p8lySv3oHkc>) detailing our work in creating beneficial insect habitat on the Farm.

This was the work of many people starting with Ben Heller, who is beginning his second year as Livestock Manager. In addition to all of the farm work that Ben accomplished, he has also been an instrumental part of the team of teachers who helped with the Middle School farm adventures and taught Farm Term and May Term classes. Inikka Dalton has been indispensable as an hourly employee this summer and Irving Treadway, Adam Hanson and Karen Huff feed us well with so many things from the Farm. The Farm Subcommittee of the School Committee has offered wise guidance and Kent Tjossem somehow found time to help with big projects and big equipment. Many thanks to all.

There is much to learn from, appreciate and lament on a very small diversified farm, and mulberries will continue to provide opportunities for each of these, perhaps even more so as Ben researches the viability of planting non-fruiting mulberries for grazing on a problematic pasture. Rethinking a common piece of our landscape is worthy practice for all of us as we engage with our complex, frustrating and beautiful world.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Quee, Farm Manager

HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

The 2021-2022 school year has been one of slowly returning to a sense of normalcy following the massive disruption caused by COVID-19. We began inviting guests back to campus, integrated the Middle and High school programs in a variety of ways, and adjusted our policies and procedures as we responded to the ever-evolving pandemic. For many this felt like a return to form, for others it was a chance to experience much of Scattergood for the first time. For all of us, it was a year filled with challenges, triumphs, and lots of opportunities for learning and growth.

We welcomed 48 students to Scattergood throughout the year across both programs. As of this writing, we have enrolled 35 students for the Fall term, with plans to continue to grow that number throughout the year. We are taking steps to strengthen our marketing efforts and admissions process to both attract more prospective students and accurately evaluate their fit for our program. Despite our enrollment numbers being less than what we had hoped, our tuition revenue remains strong. We ended our year with a small profit without the assistance of PPP loans or other lines of credit and feel confident we will do similarly this coming school year.

Our development efforts this year proved to be very successful and have helped us maintain our financial balance. Thanks to the efforts of Ethan Huelskamp, who stepped into the role of Development Coordinator last summer, we hit our annual fund goal of \$280,000. Additionally, we have been hard at work on many smaller projects as well as setting the stage for a large fundraising campaign that we intend to launch in the summer of 2023. All of these efforts are, of course, possible because of the generosity and support of our extended Scattergood community, for which we are both humbled and grateful.

On Sunday, June 5th, we celebrated the graduation of 10 seniors. Sabra Crock, Max Fauchier, Kathryn Arnold, Gillie Schmidt-Quee, Bazz Vande Hey, Elise Wittek, Asher Hockersmith, Eliza Meisenbach, Alia Kauper, and Ceci Clark. For their senior project, these students worked with staff to build a small greenhouse designed to be a cozy meeting space during our cooler months. We will miss this departing class very much and wish them well in the future as they scatter good along their journeys.

This year we say goodbye to a number of beloved staff members,

each of whom has contributed to Scattergood's program and community in both their work and friendship. Shari Sollars (Director of Admissions), Christalyn and Stacy Thjorne (Teachers), Hanna Fay (Registrar), Annabel Higgin-Houser (Student Wellness), Katie Herbert (Marketing/College Counselor), and Karen Huff (Kitchen Staff) will be moving on to other communities and roles. Their work will be picked up by a number of current and new staff members including Asa Fisher (Teacher), Blueberry Morningsnow (Teacher), Mark Blackman (Director of Admissions), and Greta Optz (Registrar/College Counselor). We are saddened to say goodbye to our F/friends and colleagues, but excited to welcome our new staff and their families into the community.

Our academic program continued to engage students and challenge them with lessons in and outside of the classroom. A personal highlight was our Spring production of the musical *Godspell*. I was fortunate enough to be the director of this production and was joined by Sonja Sponheim on music and Sadie Kirschenman on choreography, along with eight brave and very talented students. We explored the many parables and lessons presented in the show and had many conversations about how the values expressed in the show reflected our values individually and here at Scattergood. It was a joy to watch these young people bring the show to life and gain confidence in themselves and each other through many hours of hard work.

Our Middle School program entered its second year ready to begin interacting more fully with the High School following a year of strict COVID-19 protocols that saw the two separated almost entirely. We have initiated a mentor program in which each Middle School student is partnered with a High School student for a once-a-week meeting to talk, play games, and close the age gap a bit. The mixing of the HS and MS students hit its peak this May as students from all grades participated in our May Term classes. Despite the fact that we have two academic programs, it is becoming clear that we are, in fact, one school with seven grades and should be thinking about ourselves in that manner.

There are several big projects that are currently ongoing in the background and helping pave the way for Scattergood's future. We are well underway with our next ISACS accreditation process, a lengthy task that takes place over multiple years. The teaching staff worked throughout the year to develop and refine a comprehensive

Curriculum Scope and Sequence, which will serve as both an internal tool for consistency in our program, but also as a marketing tool providing prospective families with a clearer sense of what Academics look like here at Scattergood.

We are also in the process of transitioning our Healing Project from a place of initial listening and learning to one of action, conversation, and continued openness to further stories. This July, I sent a follow-up letter to my initial correspondence in the 2021/2022 school year. This letter is not the end of our work, but rather the beginning of an ongoing effort to educate our community and listen to those who choose to come forward with challenging stories of what they have experienced at Scattergood.

As we prepare to embark on the 2022/2023 school year, it seems that we are at a turning point for Scattergood. The work we have done to strengthen Scattergood is being felt by our staff and students. At the same time we must acknowledge the challenges we continue to face and seek means of addressing them, particularly with regards to enrollment and retention. I am confident that we will continue to deepen and grow our program as we seek to attract more students who fit our mission and ability to meet their needs. I remain enthusiastic about the future and our ability to address these challenges and I look forward to working with this community to do so.

Respectfully submitted in peace and gratitude, John Zimmerman

SCHOOL FINANCE REPORT

Cash:

- Scattergood Friends School ended the FY with the strongest cash position in 5 (five) years. Strongest cash months were January and August by sheer volume, with weaker cash availability in February, March and June. Strong months coincide with tuition deposits, foundation payments and prepayments for camp/other programs.
- Strong cash allowed the school to use savings in slower cash months rather than having to rely on loans, lines or federal PPP funds.
- Increased tuition boosted the revenue by more than \$90k this fiscal year

New Systems

Scattergood moved to **CASH** method of accounting rather than formerly used **ACCRUAL** to more closely monitor cash.

Scattergood is operating as co-employers with a new Professional Employer Organization (PEO) called Focusone Source. Focusone prepares payroll, provides a competitive healthcare (reduced out of pocket expenses for staff) and provides some HR functions.

The school introduced **SMART TUITION**, an online, automatic payment system where users can make payments electronically, using debit/credit cards and direct deposits. The system has 24hr access and provides customer service M-Sun with translation services for international users.

NAIS introduced a financial modeling system POST COVID for schools. The tool assists the business office with providing predictive financial information that has been useful to tracking budget shortfalls or potential budget concerns. Reports provided quarterly to the School Committee.

Expenses

Generally, this fiscal year the expenses trended lower than was expected in most departments with the exception of Personnel, Food, Operation, Technology and Insurance. These expenses all increased due to increased student #'s, changing needs/expansion of the school and post-COVID adjustments.

The school purchased two new vehicles this FY year with minimal impact to the school budget that includes a 10- passenger mini-van purchased outright and a 12- passenger van purchased with a minimal loan of \$27,500. The school currently has enough savings to close out the loan before the school year begins.

FY YE: NET INCOME

The school ends this fiscal year with a net gain of \$42,444.64 that the writer attributes to an accounting correction for payroll taxes in the 2021-2022 budget plan and the switch to the PEO.

INCOME VERSUS PLANNED

| | Fiscal Year – YE | Fiscal Year Budget |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Total Income | \$1,532,514.76 | \$1,450,707 |
| Total Contributions | \$831,806.58 | \$825,252 |
| Total Tuition | \$698,593.96 | \$600,825 |
| Total EXPENSES ¹ | \$1,520,070.12 | \$1,482,969.00 |
| Net Income/(Loss) | \$42,444.64 | \$(32,262) |

*Terms above: *FY- is Fiscal Year/ *YE-is Year End/ *PPP is the Payment Protection Program, NAIS is the National Association of Independent Schools*

SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT

(See next page)

| | Proposed | | Actuals YE | 2021-2022 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----|-------------------|------------------|
| | 2022-2023 | | 2021-2022 | Budget |
| | Budget | | | Budget |
| INCOME | \$ 1,448,482.62 | \$ | 1,562,514.76 | \$ 1,450,707.00 |
| Contributions | \$ 804,782.62 | \$ | 831,806.58 | \$ 825,282.00 |
| Annual Giving | \$ 250,000.00 | \$ | 321,810.49 | \$ 280,000.00 |
| Annual Giving | \$ 250,000.00 | \$ | 282,940.14 | \$ 280,000.00 |
| Fees | \$ - | \$ | (1,170.44) | \$ - |
| Designated Donation | \$ - | \$ | 5,936.23 | \$ - |
| Farm/Prairie | \$ - | \$ | - | \$ - |
| STO/Financial | \$ 27,018.62 | \$ | 1,000.00 | \$ - |
| Other | \$ - | \$ | 6,250.00 | \$ - |
| Wreaths | \$ - | \$ | (313.77) | \$ - |
| Auxillary Programs | \$ 30,000.00 | \$ | - | \$ 20,000.00 |
| | \$ - | \$ | - | \$ - |
| Reimbursable Income | \$ - | \$ | 5,201.65 | \$ - |
| Designated Capital | \$ 56,750.00 | \$ | 45,275.00 | \$ 63,825.00 |
| Admissions portion | \$ 20,000.00 | \$ | - | \$ 21,275.00 |
| Iowa Yearly Meeting | \$ 54,000.00 | \$ | 54,000.00 | \$ 54,000.00 |
| Measey Foundation | \$ 225,264.00 | \$ | 225,264.00 | \$ 237,907.00 |
| SFS Foundation | \$ 161,750.00 | \$ | 175,975.00 | \$ 148,275.00 |
| | | | | \$ - |
| Tuition Revenue | Net Tuitio \$ 625,000.00 | \$ | 698,593.96 | \$ 600,825.00 |
| Non-Tuition Revenue | \$ 18,700.00 | \$ | 26,332.71 | \$ 24,600.00 |
| EXPENSES | \$ 1,490,920.60 | \$ | 1,520,070.12 | \$ 1,482,969.00 |
| Payroll | \$ 835,921.60 | \$ | 763,893.85 | \$ 790,412.00 |
| Personnel Costs | \$ 177,295.00 | \$ | 200,528.74 | \$ 148,844.00 |
| Residential Life | \$ 13,555.00 | \$ | 22,044.98 | \$ 12,555.00 |
| Health | | \$ | 5,740.81 | \$ 10,000.00 |
| Communications | \$ 14,300.00 | \$ | 14,052.21 | \$ 11,520.00 |
| Contracted Services | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ | 29,110.73 | \$ 31,000.00 |
| High School | \$ 9,720.00 | \$ | 9,467.95 | \$ 11,600.00 |
| Middle school | \$ 5,300.00 | \$ | 6,856.56 | \$ 7,075.00 |
| Farm | \$ 16,650.00 | \$ | 21,548.13 | \$ 20,580.00 |
| Food Service | \$ 58,000.00 | \$ | 55,083.64 | \$ 48,000.00 |
| Insurance | \$ 76,984.00 | \$ | 51,529.00 | \$ 46,547.00 |
| Administrative | \$ 25,300.00 | \$ | 53,798.72 | \$ 39,790.00 |
| Professional Services | \$ 39,350.00 | \$ | 29,251.10 | \$ 50,900.00 |
| Admissions | \$ 30,000.00 | \$ | 37,414.19 | \$ 51,000.00 |
| Development | \$ 12,450.00 | \$ | 12,298.87 | \$ 14,800.00 |
| Technology | \$ 39,720.00 | \$ | 45,199.49 | \$ 31,587.00 |
| Vehicles/Equipment | \$ 11,075.00 | \$ | 13,968.36 | \$ 12,275.00 |
| Operational Costs | \$ 94,300.00 | \$ | 92,676.84 | \$ 85,600.00 |
| NET INCOME/ (LOSS) | \$ (42,437.98) | \$ | 42,444.64 | \$ (32,262.00) |

SCATTERGOOD SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

Looking ahead—it has been many years, long before COVID, since we’ve felt the luxury to use the phrase “looking ahead”. Both Scattergood and the School Committee have begun the shift from reactive to proactive modes, thanks to the dedication and problem-solving actions of the school and its Head. As some pre-pandemic elements have been reintroduced, we strive to keep that which we love as well as evolve and rebuild, utilizing what we have learned during this time.

Part of our optimism this year comes from two major financial achievements: 1) the Annual Fund fundraising goal of \$280,000 was successfully reached, and 2) the school ended the year with no deficit, all without the help of the forgiven PPP loans or using our line of credit. These are significant accomplishments, and we are grateful for the staff, development and business offices, and our Head of School for their creativity and hard work, and for the generosity of our donors. Though managing cash-flow can be a challenge during certain months and enrollment numbers need continuing attention, we are in a stronger place than we were a few years ago. It is encouraging to see the school begin to tackle projects that had been deferred during the leaner years—things like payroll increases, a front entry counter in the Main, housing improvements, and investigating a shift to solar power.

Two years ago, the school began the process of adopting rolling 5-year planning models, one for financial forecasting and another for strategic goals. These models have improved our ability to consider future expectations and have broadened our perspective for the school’s potential. These tools have especially complimented John Zimmerman’s strengths: seeing *Big Picture* innovations as well as fostering stability and growth—all of which help us to stay grounded while creating the path forward. A significant part of the plan for the next few years will focus on the Comprehensive Campaign and involves fundraising for, and then construction work on, the dorm and campus improvements. If all goes well, we hope to launch the public phase of the fundraising campaign at an on-campus reunion in August of 2023, and to begin construction work in the summer of 2024.

The Middle School, now two years into its manifestation, continues to mature. It has been especially successful in expanding our local exposure and bringing active local families into the

Scattergood community. Many thanks to Jamie Newton and Dana Foster for their dedication to the program. Our seven-year accreditation cycle with the Independent School Association of Central States (ISACS) has begun with a self-study phase, and next year Friends Council on Education (FCE) will launch a new and more robust accreditation process for Quaker Schools, and we will be one of the first to participate.

In the fall of 2020, an *ad hoc* Healing and Boundaries Committee began a process to listen and learn from challenging stories from the school's past, specifically concerning inappropriate or hurtful behaviors. Hopefully this project gave opportunities for some healing, and we are considering other ways to address the past. Though John's follow-up letter was recently sent to the entire Scattergood community, he will continue being available to listen if people are seeking to be heard. For the present-day campus, the focus has been to ensure more safety around personal boundaries, and the school has been updating their reporting procedures along with expanding the ongoing training for both staff and students.

Looking inward—The School Committee is trying to navigate the hurdles of hybrid meetings, where some of us are on campus and some are online. Though it is challenging, we will continue to improve on this, especially as we seek out new and needed School Committee members. Internally we've been working with Chi Achebe of Chicago and devoting time to cultivate a better understanding of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion within our group. We recognize the enormity of the task of our ongoing inner growth. Part of the greater work includes considering the makeup of the members of the School Committee, how that affects the school, and how we might welcome greater diversity into our governing body. We also acknowledge that if we invite in more diverse voices, we need to be ready to listen. This work must become part of our culture within the committee and not just an occasional training.

Over the years it has come to our attention that the School and the Yearly Meeting, operating as the same corporation with the same tax ID number, is a complicated structure. A major concern with this model is that there is no legal firewall between Scattergood and IYMC, and if anything should happen resulting in legal action against the school it would come directly to the Yearly Meeting, its Trustees, and its assets. Embracing the relationship between the two entities, we have been asking ourselves how we might set up ways

to protect the Yearly Meeting, and allow the school and its mission to thrive as we look ahead 10, 20, 30 years and more. An option to consider would be to research what is called a ‘spin-off corporation’, which would create a separate non-profit for the school, but its ties to Yearly Meeting would continue. More information and conversation will be needed, including an ‘interest group’ during Annual Session. In addition to the Yearly Meeting’s internal discernment process, perhaps we could schedule a question & answer session with an entity familiar with these kinds of structures to help us better understand the possibilities.

In closing, as we take in what is happening around us, it can be easy to feel crushed by the world these days from so much that is out of our control and which shakes us to our core. With the ravages of war, attacks on our government and judicial system, the empowerment of extremist beliefs, and the lingering effects of the COVID pandemic, it is no wonder that the mental health of our nation, especially our youth, is suffering. We believe that Scattergood is a catalyst for hope in these times. Now, more than ever, not only do we need this school, but the greater community and the world need it as well. We are grateful for all who have contributed to the Scattergood experience in a myriad of ways over time. Our appreciation for the current staff and administrative team is deep: because of their determination, passion and commitment, our hope is shifting to optimism. We are also grateful that IYMC has provided us the opportunity to be a part of this journey that is Scattergood, which nurtures our connection to the Spirit, and inspires us to give even more of ourselves. Although the future remains uncertain, we hold to the feeling of hope and renewal of and for the school, and that is our true blessing.

For the School Committee,
Ruth Hampton, clerk and Roy Helm, assistant clerk

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

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SIXTH DAY – FRIDAY AFTERNOON - 07/29/2022

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

The only way to reduce ugliness in the world is to reduce it in yourself. Bayard Rustin

There is a spirit which I feel that delights to do no evil, nor revenge any wrong, but delights to endure all things, in hope to enjoy its own in the end . . . As it bears no evil in itself, so it conceives none in thought to any other. . . If it be betrayed, it bears it, for its ground and spring is the mercies and forgiveness of God. James Naylor

We are pleased to welcome Christine Sheller from Iowa Peace Network.

Doyle Wilson and Penny Majors have been appointed readers this afternoon.

Minute: We listened prayerfully to the Peace and Social Concerns Report and are grateful for the gentle way their report addresses our treatment of indigenous people, a very sad topic in our history and present. We approve the minute printed at the end of their report. We accept the dual challenges of recognizing that of God in every being and endeavoring to practice that in one small way by using requested pronouns. We look forward to growth from this seed that they have planted. Our school is a resource for us on this topic, led by students who have been working on gender issues for years. We may see fruits from this seed in next year's report from the P&SC Committee.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT

Many meetings and individuals have contacted their representatives, appeared at demonstrations, and in other ways worked on issues related to gun violence, racial and identity discrimination, rapidly escalating environmental devastation, and wars. A number of meetings and Friends are making progress helping a family from Afghanistan get to Canada to be reunited with two of their children.

Quakers today are struggling with what we are learning about Friends' history of the harms done at Quaker Indian Boarding Schools and the policies of forced assimilation.

We don't judge the Friends who worked in those schools. We love them because we are members of one another in the Spirit. From

today's vantage point, we can see more clearly that forced assimilation is always a tragic mistake. We realize in retrospect that as Friends, we must not impose our values, beliefs, and ways onto those who grew up in a different culture.

We feel we have been on a continuing journey, begun earlier in our lives and intensifying in the present because so much is opening up. Native peoples are lifting up their voices in greater numbers and are beginning to be heard by those of us who are settlers. Settler people are beginning to be open to awareness of the harm we have inflicted on all that is indigenous to the land we now live on.

In 2019, Friend Paula Palmer held a series of workshops and presentations in Iowa and Nebraska related to her ministry, *Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples*. One of those presentations was "The Quaker Indian Boarding Schools. Facing our History and Ourselves."

In the summer of 2021, ground penetrating radar located the remains of 215 children near the Kamloops Indian Residential School. Native peoples knew many of the children who attended those schools never returned home. But the location of these remains reopened deep wounds. And as feared, thousands of remains have been found at other schools since. The searches continue.

Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland created the Federal Native American School Initiative in June 2021. The initial report was released recently. The next phase will focus on the role of churches who operated these schools. About 30 of these schools were operated by Quakers.

Today, we support the establishment of a federal Truth and Healing Commission. We encourage Friends and Quaker meetings to research the involvement of their ancestors and meetings in the Indian residential schools. And share what they find.

Friends are urged to learn more about injustices indigenous peoples continue to face, including forced assimilation, missing and murdered relatives, racist mascots, Indigenous Peoples Day, expanding fossil fuel infrastructure, and pollution of Mother Earth.

Decorah Friends Meeting is working to support an effort to realize a Meskwaki language workbook.

This past year our committee decided to reserve our budget for an opportunity that might present itself. Because of years of Friends' relationships with Sikowis (Christine) Nobiss, she asked if we could

help support the screenings of the video “They Found Us”, about finding remains of children at the residential school of her nation, George Gordon First Nation. Our committee was glad we could give our budget of \$1,100. We would like to reserve this year’s budget for a similar Spirit led opportunity.

Jeff Kisling, clerk

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee has approved this minute and asks the Yearly Meeting to consider its approval.

There is that of God in every being. We support and respect those of all gender identities and sexual orientation. We will endeavor to use the pronouns by which each person identifies themselves.

* * * * *

Minute: We listened attentively to the Report from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) representatives to Friends Committee on National Legislation. We appreciate hearing about the work that FCNL has inspired and supported this year.

**FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION (FCNL)
REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) appoints six representatives to serve on the governing board of Friends Committee on National Legislation, the General Committee. Karen Greenler also serves on the General Committee as an At-Large appointment. Several of us also serve on FCNL standing committees. Ebby Luvaga is Policy Committee clerk and also serves on the Executive Committee, Carole Winkleblack serves on the Nominating Committee, and Rebecca Bergus is Treasurer of FCNL Education Fund and Executive Committee member.

As well as participating in FCNL governance, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Quakers and friends of Friends field Advocacy Teams in Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Iowa who lobby throughout the year on a single timely issue selected by FCNL. In 2021 we lobbied for the repeal of the 2002 (Iraq) Authorization for the Use of Military Force. We were disappointed that the repeal failed to pass in the Senate and was not included in the end-of-year National Defense Authorization Act. But we never give up hope that change can happen - in 2022 we are lobbying to pass a Yemen War Powers Resolution to terminate unauthorized U.S. involvement in the Saudi

led war and blockade of Yemen. Monthly Advocacy Team network-wide videoconferencing calls help us understand the issue we are lobbying about, offer support to and from teams across the country, and provide us with a community working towards the same goal – creating the world we seek as Friends.

One of the highlights of the year is attending FCNL’s Advocacy Team Summit and Quaker Public Policy Institute/Annual Meeting, this year a wholly online event. As well as attending to governance business, this year we celebrated the work of retiring General Secretary Diane Randall and welcomed incoming General Secretary Bridgette Moix, former U.S. Executive Director of Peace Direct, FCNL General Committee clerk and staff member, and attendee at IYMC annual sessions. The theme of the 2021 FCNL annual meeting was “Choose Hope, Work for Justice” and the goal of our virtual lobby visits was passage of the Build Back Better Act, a unique opportunity to rebuild the U.S. economy and put children and families at the center.

FCNL offers an array of programming and opportunities for engagement to Quakers and those working for peace and social justice. FCNL’s Witness Wednesday is an opportunity (online or in person) to join with others in silent reflection. FCNL also hosts online speakers and discussion groups on a wide variety of topics of interest to Friends. Information is located at www.fcnl.org/events. Friends Place (formerly William Penn House) – a Quaker learning center and guesthouse – opened in 2022 and is a new opportunity for FCNL to encourage civic engagement, especially among the young.

Many Iowa Friends will remember Jim Cason, FCNL’s Associate General Secretary for Policy and Advocacy, who has attended our annual sessions. Jim will be leaving FCNL to return to his first love, journalism. We will miss him.

We thank Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) for supporting FCNL and us, your representatives. We challenge you to join us in our work by joining or forming an Advocacy Team, attending FCNL’s Quaker Public Policy Institute, or donating to FCNL.

Carole Winkleblack, on behalf of IYMC Representatives to FCNL

* * * * *

Minute: We thank our Representatives to the AFSC Corporation for their report and their hard work this year engaging with and keeping informed about the conflict over restructuring. We recognize that this is a complex issue and we continue to hold the AFSC in love as they move forward.

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES TO THE AFSC CORPORATION REPORT

The past couple of years have been difficult and trying for everyone. Thanks to the world-wide Covid pandemic, staff and volunteers alike were forced to instantly bring their computer and online communications skills up-to-date while working from home. In Philadelphia and around the world, racial tensions ran high around police brutality, the murder of George Floyd and the ensuing protests. The American Friends Service Committee did not escape these times unscathed.

Before the beginning of the pandemic, the AFSC created a vision statement and strategic plan that were intended to guide us through the years 2020-2030. As the pandemic closed in, the leadership team embarked with the help of consultants and governance volunteers, on a complete revamping of the structure of the AFSC. Staff and volunteers stressed by events and feeling isolated from the decision-making process became restless and fearful. Staff were asking, what will the restructuring mean for my job, my programs and my beloved AFSC? Plans were leaked and opposition groups were formed. Frank discussions of old wounds from previous loss of programs were finally started. By the April Corporation Meeting, which is generally a pretty routine affair, it was apparent that the process would have to slow down. To its credit, leadership decided to rethink changes and slow their pace. After a number of online meetings, a way forward was found and in person meetings have resumed. People are meeting and again coming together in love to solve problems, with love all things are possible.

In a series of online meetings we heard reports that the organization is succeeding in getting itself back into better financial order. Reserves are being rebuilt and the organization is on a much more solid footing than in the past. The highlight of Corporation meeting is the chance for us out in the hinterlands to interact and learn from the marvelous staff about their work and the great programs that they have created. Many workshops were held

including those on Palestine, prison abolition, work on the Guatemala-Mexico border and a great roundtable on dealing with climate change. Videos of these presentations are available.

It is always apparent that the real gem of the AFSC is the staff on the ground and the fine and dedicated work they do. All of us volunteers, supporters, donors and Friends need to hold our folks in the Light as they do our work in the world. Now is a good time to thank the staff and volunteers who are creating and staffing our programs. They and we have all been through a lot. Now is the time to be gentle with each other and join hands for a better AFSC and a better world.

Bob Yeats, Bob Ramaley, Peter Clay, Ann Stromquist

* * * * *

We will hear reports from our representative to the Friends Peace Teams Council and the Iowa Peace Network at a later session if time allows.

* * * * *

There is no report from our representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness this year but Nan Fawcett, our representative, will have a report for us next year.

* * * * *

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

SEVENTH DAY – SATURDAY MORNING – 7/30/2022

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

Those who go forth ministering to the wants and necessities of their fellow beings experience a rich return, their souls being as a watered garden, and a spring that faileth not. Lucretia Mott

We appreciate the online presence of recent Scattergood graduate, Hassan Leo Kooshan, of Ottawa Monthly Meeting.

* * * * *

Readers for this morning’s business sessions are Betsy Baertlein and Deborah Fink.

* * * * *

The clerk expresses thanks for the people who are helping manage this hybrid yearly meeting. The Virtual Access Committee has Tom Hinshaw and John Andrews here with us and the rest

helping online. John Andrews also serves on the special needs committee. The website committee set up our Google Doc and Cheryl Sutton has been putting documents up for us to read as we go. This helps the minutes get published more quickly.

* * * * *

Minute: We heard a lovely Epistle from the Junior Yearly Meeting. There were nine children with us this year, at different times. Their presence lent us a joyful Light this week. We are thankful to Evelyn and Sonja and several others who volunteered as leaders for parts of the week.

EPISTLE FROM JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING

Dear Friends Everywhere,

We gathered at Scattergood Friends School and Farm, at Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative’s annual gathering, and we did many fun activities. We enjoyed playing ping pong in the game room (which is also called the student lounge). We also liked swimming in the pond and going for a bike ride followed by ice cream. It was fun to visit the Scattergood farm where we fed pigs, played on hay bales, and went into the barn with Rosie the cat, Ned the donkey and a sheep. Meeting Rosie the cat was the favorite part of yearly meeting for some of us. She is 17 years old. We picked basil at the farm that people will eat at dinner tonight, but we got a little hot while doing so.

A lot of us are looking forward to going to a water park together tomorrow, and also playing capture the flag on the lawn tonight, maybe with some Scattergood high school students. We are also looking forward to playing with water balloons after we write this Epistle.

We had a good time at our yearly meeting and hope you had a good time at your yearly meeting too.

Yours Truly,
The Friends of Junior Yearly Meeting

* * * * *

Minute: We listened carefully to the Reports from Auditors & Treasurer. We gratefully accept these reports. Guidelines for requests for reimbursement are included in the minutes so that committees know how to receive and use these budgeted funds.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

We are pleased to report the Iowa Yearly Meeting Treasurer’s accounts are in good order. We were provided with bank statements and a color-coded electronic spreadsheet that made it easy to read and understand income, outlays, and balances. Thanks to Rebecca Bergus for her continued service to Iowa Yearly Meeting.

Carole and Bob Winkleblack, Audit Committee

TREASURER REPORT

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

| Contributions | Budgeted | Actual |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| American Friends Service Committee | \$1,000.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| Friends Committee on National Legislation | \$1,000.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| Friends General Conference | \$500.00 | \$500.00 |
| Friends Peace Teams | \$500.00 | \$500.00 |
| Friends World Committee for Consultation | \$700.00 | \$700.00 |
| Iowa Peace Network | \$100.00 | \$100.00 |
| Joint Scattergood & IYM Project | \$5,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| Peace and Social Concerns Committee | \$1,100.00 | \$1,100.00 |
| Pendle Hill | \$500.00 | \$500.00 |
| Quaker Earthcare Witness | \$500.00 | \$500.00 |
| Quaker United Nations Office | \$500.00 | \$500.00 |
| Quaker Voluntary Service | \$500.00 | \$500.00 |
| Right Sharing of World Resources | \$500.00 | \$500.00 |
| Scattergood Facilities | \$2,000.00 | \$2,000.00 |
| Scattergood Friends School | \$54,000.00 | \$54,000.00 |
| Total Contributions | \$68,400.00 | \$63,400.00 |

(Report continues on next page)

| Delegate Expenses | | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| FCNL | \$1,200.00 | \$0.00 |
| Friends Peace Teams | \$600.00 | \$0.00 |
| FWCC - General | \$1,200.00 | \$0.00 |
| Quaker Earthcare Witness | \$1,200.00 | \$0.00 |
| Conservative Yearly Meeting Visitation | \$1,200.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total Delegate Expenses | \$5,400.00 | \$0.00 |
| Yearly Meeting Expenses | | |
| 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 | \$0.00 |
| Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees | \$1,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| Junior Yearly Meeting | \$1,500.00 | \$0.00 |
| Pendle Hill Scholarship Match | \$400.00 | \$0.00 |
| Publication Committee | \$3,500.00 | \$2,247.76 |
| Website Committee | \$450.00 | \$167.88 |
| Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship | \$500.00 | \$0.00 |
| Special Needs Committee | \$750.00 | \$0.00 |
| Young Adult Friends | \$300.00 | \$0.00 |
| Young Friends | \$1,500.00 | \$0.00 |
| Midyear Planning Committee if receipts | \$500.00 | \$0.00 |
| Clerk's Contingency Fund | \$2,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total Yearly Meeting Expenses | \$16,400.00 | \$2,415.64 |
| Total Budget | \$90,200.00 | \$65,815.64 |

(Report continues on next page)

Statement of Cash and Funds

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Total Cash Balance July 1, 2021 | \$27,213.73 |
| Receipts: | |
| Monthly Meeting Apportionments | \$72,100.08 |
| Midyear Meeting Excess Receipts, Donated ti | \$1,015.90 |
| Other Contributions, Designated for IYM & Scattergood Joint Project | \$950.00 |
| Total Receipts | \$74,065.98 |
| Disbursements: | |
| 2021-2022 Expenses for Budgeted Items | \$65,815.64 |
| Payment of Check from Previous Fiscal Year | \$50.00 |
| Cash Balance Reconciled with Bank | \$35,414.07 |
| Yearly Meeting Trustees (21-22) | \$1,000.00 |
| Reserve Funds | \$15,000.00 |
| Balance Available for FY 22-23 Budgeting | \$19,414.07 |

Rebecca Way Bergus
Yearly Meeting Treasurer

* * * * *

Minute: We listened to the Representatives Report and gratefully accept it.

REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee met 10 times in the past year by video conference. We have found it helpful to meet throughout the year as a standing committee.

Early in the year we focused on our hopes and concerns for the yearly meeting. We noted that our connection with Scattergood is so much a part of what the yearly meeting is. We wish to continue the mission of the school; it is such a precious gift.

We then tended to questions about annual sessions including what schedule to follow and how to anticipate the use of technology for a hybrid in-person and video meeting format.

After that our primary focus was to develop a budget. Friends shared priorities in their monthly meetings such as developing right relationship with Native Americans affected by Quaker boarding schools, the plight of Ukrainian refugees, and Black Lives Matter

work, as well as concern for maintaining and growing our community through our yearly and mid-yearly meetings. Friends expressed concern for how we keep meetings in touch with our highest budget priority – Scattergood – and a wish to increase contact between Scattergood staff, students and the monthly meetings for a broader and deeper connection.

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

Apportionments & Budget:

We propose a budget for the following year based on apportionments equal to those of last year. (See attached budget).

Yearly Meeting Officers:

We thank the current officers of the yearly meeting for their recent service and submit the following same names to serve the yearly meeting in the coming year: clerk, Carol Gilbert; assistant clerk, Bob Winkleblack; treasurer, Rebecca Bergus; assistant treasurer, Shirley Scritchfield; and recorder, Tim Shipe.

We remind Friends that our next annual sessions are scheduled to be held at Scattergood Friends School & Farm, near West Branch, Iowa, seventh month 26-30, 2023.

For the committee,
Penny Majors, clerk

PROPOSED IYMC BUDGET 2022 TO 2023

INCOME

Apportionments

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Ames | \$4,400.00 |
| Bear Creek | \$5,500.00 |
| Decorah | \$2,500.00 |
| Des Moines Valley | \$14,500.00 |
| Iowa City | \$6,000.00 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Lincoln | \$7,200.00 |
| Omaha | \$3,250.00 |
| Paullina | \$8,500.00 |
| Penn Valley | \$5,500.00 |
| West Branch | \$11,250.00 |
| Whittier | \$3,500.00 |
| TOTAL APPORTIONMENTS | \$72,100.00 |

EXPENSES

Contributions

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Scattergood Friends School | \$54,000.00 |
| Scattergood Facilities | \$2,000.00 |
| Peace and Social Concerns Committee | \$1,100.00 |
| American Friends Service Committee | \$1,000.00 |
| Friends Committee on National Legislation | \$1,000.00 |
| Friends General Conference | \$500.00 |
| Friends Peace Teams | \$500.00 |
| Friends World Committee for Consultation | \$700.00 |
| Iowa Peace Network | \$100.00 |
| Pendle Hill | \$500.00 |
| Quaker Earthcare Witness | \$500.00 |
| Quaker United Nations Office | \$500.00 |
| Quaker Voluntary Service | \$500.00 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Right Sharing of World Resources | \$500.00 |
|----------------------------------|----------|

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Total Contributions | \$63,400.00 |
|----------------------------|--------------------|

Delegate Expenses

| | |
|------|------------|
| FCNL | \$1,200.00 |
|------|------------|

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Friends Peace Teams | \$600.00 |
|---------------------|----------|

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| FWCC - General | \$1,200.00 |
|----------------|------------|

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Quaker Earthcare Witness | \$1,200.00 |
|--------------------------|------------|

| | |
|----------------------------------------|------------|
| Conservative Yearly Meeting Visitation | \$1,200.00 |
|----------------------------------------|------------|

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Total Delegate Expenses | \$5,400.00 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|

Yearly Meeting Expenses

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Archives Committee | \$200.00 |
|--------------------|----------|

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Clerk's and Other Adm. Expenses | \$400.00 |
|---------------------------------|----------|

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Committee Expenses (Other) | \$300.00 |
|----------------------------|----------|

| | |
|--------------------------------------------|----------|
| Conscientious Objector PSC subcommittee | \$100.00 |
|--------------------------------------------|----------|

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Friends Travel & Conference | \$3,000.00 |
|-----------------------------|------------|

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) Trustees | \$1,000.00 |
|----------------------------------|------------|

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Junior Yearly Meeting | \$1,500.00 |
|-----------------------|------------|

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Pendle Hill Scholarship Match | \$400.00 |
|-------------------------------|----------|

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Publication Committee | \$3,500.00 |
|-----------------------|------------|

| | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Website Committee | \$450.00 |
|-------------------|----------|

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship | \$500.00 |
|-------------------------------|----------|

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Special Needs Committee | \$750.00 |
|-------------------------|----------|

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Young Adult Friends | \$300.00 |
|---------------------|----------|

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Young Friends | \$1,500.00 |
|---------------|------------|

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Midyear Planning Committee if receipts inadequate* | \$500.00 |
| Clerk's Contingency Fund | \$2,000.00 |
| Total Yearly Meeting Expenses | \$22,400.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$91,200.00 |

Sources of Funds

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2022-2023 Budget | (\$91,200.00) |
| Monthly Meeting Apportionments | \$72,100.00 |
| Carryover Funds (Cash on Hand) | \$35,414.07 |
| Reserve Funds | \$16,314.07 |

* * * * *

Minute: We listened to the Virtual Access Committee Report AND APPROVE IT WITH GRATITUDE FOR THEIR WORK. They make it look easy, but we know it is not. We were reminded that the yearly meeting videoconferencing account and website are available for monthly meetings and yearly meeting committees to use throughout the year.

VIRTUAL ACCESS COMMITTEE REPORT

This is a new standing committee taking over the role of the former Ad Hoc videoconferencing committee. It oversees and assures virtual access for IYMC meetings of all types: Yearly Meeting, Mid-Year Meeting, Spiritual Sharing groups, Yearly Meeting committees and other Yearly Meeting projects.

We just began working together in April to prepare for the first ever hybrid sessions of Yearly Meeting with both in-person and virtual attendance. So far, all our work has been focused on adapting technology at Scattergood to accommodate this format in the meetinghouse where equipment will be set up for Business, Worship, Bible Study and Evening Collections.

Internet/Wi-Fi connection. This has been tested and determined that Wi-Fi is adequate in the meetinghouse if we have only one videoconferencing connection and others are not trying to use Wi-Fi at the same time.

Sound – From the Special Needs committee we have existing wireless mics and a sound mixer board. Will continue to use this equipment in the meetinghouse.

Camera – OWL camera loaned by Lincoln Friends Meeting for Yearly Meeting sessions.

Monitor Screen – Large monitor loaned by Scattergood. Additional smaller monitor loaned by Tom Hinshaw and/or Carol Gilbert.

Laptop – Loaned by Tom Hinshaw. Set up in the meetinghouse hooked up with Owl camera and sound, etc.

Additional videoconferencing co-hosts needed for each session to help with tech access and questions.

For committee meetings held during Yearly Meeting sessions, clerks of those committees need to have their own laptops for conducting videoconferencing committee meetings.

We request an annual budget of \$200. Most of this is for the Yearly Meeting’s annual videoconferencing subscription which is \$160.76 for 2022. The additional \$40 requested will cover an occasional need for something like a cable.

Catherine Dorenbach, clerk

John Andrews, Julie Gaida, Tom Hinshaw

* * * * *

Minute: We heard a report from our representative to the Friends Peace Teams Council (FPTC). We accept this report with gratitude to our representative for helping to keep us in touch with FPTC.

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The global work of Friends Peace Teams continued with vitality and joy over the past year, despite the pandemic. The deep seeking to answer the question “Who IS the “we” of Friends Peace Teams?” continues to animate an ongoing conversation in the Friends Peace Teams Council of how Friends Peace Teams can become more proactively anti-racist and decolonizing in our work together. The richness of our sharing is nurturing every person. It is enhancing the effectiveness of all FPT programs.

We are examining how our history of being grounded in Quaker meetings in the United States and in Australia maintains structural power imbalances. These conversations continue to stretch and expand our awareness of how unstated and unexamined assumptions about one another limit moving forward in the best

ways. Increasingly, we are brave, honest, tender and vulnerable in our sharing. This is bringing us to deeper knowledge of one another. The Friends Peace Teams Council may become the North American Working Group, joining the working groups for African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI), Peacebuilding en las Americas (PLA), Asia West Pacific (AWP), Towards Right Relationship With Native Peoples (TRR) and The Friendly Book Collaborative (FBC). This would help address perceived and actual differences in power and encourage greater participation around the world with Friends Peace Teams programs. We are continuing to learn from one another and we regularly celebrate the tapestry of love that binds us together. Examining a possible new structure with leadership rotated among all of us is bringing new life to our shared work for peace and justice around the world. Continuing revelation is at work among us and we are grateful.

The Power of Goodness is part of The Friendly Book Collaborative. Grounded in sharing inspiring stories from many countries and cultures to connect our hearts, participating in Power of Goodness events changed me! I strongly encourage others in our yearly meeting to join one of the upcoming Power of Goodness events (<https://friendspeaceteams.org/power-of-goodness/>).

Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) is a program that grew out of Friends Peace Teams. It is a community-based trauma healing approach developed in the African Great Lakes region to help participants examine and discuss the consequences of violence in their lives by bringing together people from opposing sides of conflict. HROC emerged in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide and ongoing violence in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Today, Friends Peace Teams continues to support and work with HROC programs across the region. The current elevated levels of violence in eastern DRC and the growing tension between DRC and Rwanda have profoundly impacted HROC facilitators in Congo. Friends Peace Teams has been working to support these courageous, dedicated facilitators who themselves are now dealing with their own trauma recovery. Our yearly meeting is in this circle of love and mutual care. Listening Sessions for those traumatized by violence or by natural disasters such as last year's eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano is making a real difference. David Bucura, the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) coordinator, continues to

support HROC workshops and listening sessions in the region and travels to or near conflict zones as way opens. My hope is that Iowa Conservative Friends will set aside time to learn more about this crucial work which we are supporting (<https://friendspeaceteams.org/hroc/>).

Friends will find much to reflect upon in the upcoming November 2022 PeaceWays. The theme is transgenerational trauma and resiliency. Many Friends are now aware that FPT has sent out a MODEL MINUTE on the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative for consideration by yearly meetings. Your representative hopes that many individual Friends, monthly meetings and perhaps the body of the yearly meeting will find ways to unify around and support this important work of acknowledging past harms and working for truth and healing to emerge.

As with last year's report, I strongly urge Iowa Conservative Friends to make time to visit the Friends Peace Teams website (<https://friendspeaceteams.org>) and explore what is happening in Asia-West Pacific, Peacebuilding en las Americas, African Great Lakes Initiative, Towards Right Relationship With Native Peoples and The Friendly Book Collaborative. You will be inspired! I especially encourage Friends to watch and listen to the video version of the FPT April 2022 Epistle, which can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuUFxEn4iow>.

Seeing the faces and hearing the voices will connect you to the passion, courage and energy of the people of Friends Peace Teams!

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Clay

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Representative to Friends Peace Teams Council

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Minute: We heard a report from our representative to the Iowa Peace Network. The clerks will prepare a letter of thanks for the in person visit to our annual sessions from their coordinator, Christine Sheller.

IOWA PEACE NETWORK REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

The Iowa Peace Network continues to provide a comprehensive weekly email with links to peace and justice events and initiatives around Iowa and beyond. These include webinars, petitions and

other gatherings. IPN also publishes *The DoveTail* three times per year (newsletter). IPN links Iowa Conservative Friends with Iowa Yearly Meeting (FUM) and with the other traditional peace churches (Mennonites and Church of the Brethren) along with the United Methodist Church. The Joint Oversight Committee meets regularly on a quarterly basis. The IPN is a valuable resource that connects people of faith working for peace and justice to help enhance the impact of all the collective work being done to advance the cause of peace in Iowa. At a time when many of us are challenged to understand how to support peace during a time of so many ongoing wars the writing in *The DoveTail* and the many events that the IPN lifts up helps us to reflect upon our roles and to consider how we are led to work for peace.

Peter Clay, Representative to Iowa Peace Network

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We heard the assistant clerk's selection of responses of our monthly meetings to Queries 4-7. [Selected Query Responses begin on Page 77.]

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

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SEVENTH DAY – SATURDAY AFTERNOON – 7/30/2022

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

But the end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the beloved community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opposers into friends. It is this type of understanding goodwill that will transform the deep gloom of the old age into the exuberant gladness of the new age. It is this love which will bring about miracles in the hearts of men.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

from Facing the Challenge of a New Age 1956

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Nat Case and Roy Helm have agreed to be readers this afternoon.

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Minute: We listened to the Recorder's Report and Statistical Report. We paused to enjoy the memories of Friends who have passed. We are grateful for the way their lives touched us and our Yearly Meeting. It was noted that the names of memberships discontinued are not included in the report. A suggestion that these names be included in future reports will be passed to the yearly Meeting recorder. We are grateful for the faithful work of our Yearly Meeting recorder Tim Shipe who couldn't be with us today, and to Carole Winkleblack who stepped in to help him.

RECORDER'S REPORT

Deaths

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ames | Christina Kieltyka Theodore Solomon | Sept. 23, 2021 May 18, 2022 |
| Bear Creek | Willie E Moffitt Jr, Wendell Lewis Mott | Dec. 1, 2021 March 22, 2022 |
| Des Moines Valley | Joan Hammerly Tjossem Luke Bobbit* | Dec. 26, 2021 March 4, 2019 |
| Iowa City | Virginia Major Thomas* Harry Olmstead | April 23, 2019 July 2, 2021 |
| Penn Valley | John Griffith | March 22, 2022 |
| Whittier | Kathleen "Kathy" Jane Hall | February 2, 2022 |

Births

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Des Moines Valley | Hallie Winchell | (to John Winchell & wife) |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|

Marriages under the Care of the Meetings

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Iowa City | Katelyn Browne to Susannah Wakfer | April 23, 2022 |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------------|

New Members by Request or by Certificate of Transfer

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ames | Jim Coppoc John Spence | August 21, 2021 (by request) April 10, 2022 (by request) |
| Des Moines Valley | Billie Wade Matthew Gillespie Kelsea Gillespie Adeline Gillespie Ezra Gillespie | (by request) December 10, 2021 (by request) December 10, 2021 (by request) December 10, 2021 (by request) December 10, 2021 (by request) |

| | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Iowa City | Pat Ryan Joan Zorza | February 13, 2022 (by request) February 13, 2022 (by request) |
| Lincoln | Roy Helm Marilyn McNabb | June 12, 2022 (by certificate fr Whittier) June 19, 2022 (by request) |
| West Branch | David Hempel | June 12, 2022 (by request) |

**Death not previously reported*

| Meeting | Births | Deaths | Certificates of Membership Received (Transfers In) | Memberships Transferred Out | New Memberships Granted | Memberships Discontinued | Total Membership |
|----------------------|----------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Ames | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 27 |
| Bear Creek | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 73 |
| Decorah | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Des Moines Valley | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 60 |
| Iowa City | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 69 |
| Lincoln | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 16 |
| Omaha | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Paullina | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 67 |
| Penn Valley | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 73 |
| West Branch | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 92 |
| Whittier | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 33 |
| TOTALS | 1 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 4 | 533 |
| NET LOSS | | | | | | | 3 |

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Minute: We approve with gratitude the nominations put forward by our nominating committee with minor corrections. We also approve the gracious offer of Karen Greenler to serve on the Scattergood Friends School Committee for a term ending in 2024.

2022 NOMINATING REPORT

Archives Committee

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Tim Shipe | Dan Treadway Shel Stromquist, clerk | Jeff Kisling |

Book Table Committee

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Jane Cadwallader Howe, clerk | Sarah Andrews | Deborah Dakin |

Document Committee

2023
Bear Creek

Entertainment Committee

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Paullina | Ames | Decorah |
| Omaha | Des Moines Valley | Iowa City |
| Lincoln | Penn Valley | West Branch |
| Laughing Waters | | Whittier |

Interim Meeting (appointed by monthly meetings)

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

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Tom Hinshaw – (L) | AM Fink (A) | Bill Deutsch (D) |
| Andy Juhl (P) | George Bergus (WB) | Bob Ramaley (O) |
| Steve Cannon (A) | Alice Hampton (W) | Deborah Fisch (P) |
| Dorothy Lifka (DMVF) | Bob Winkleblack (IC) | Roy Helm (L) |
| Ginny Winsor (O) | | Stan Sanders (BC) |
| Meg McCormick (WB) | | |

Junior Yearly Meeting (at Yearly Meeting)

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Sonja Sponheim, clerk | Karen Greenler | Kathy Van de Walle |
| | Ann Robinson | Evelyn Bergus |

Midyear Planning Committee

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bill Deutsch | Liz Oppenheimer, co-clerk | Russ Leckband |
| Osa Bricker | Deborah Fink Tom Hinshaw | Jackie Leckband co-clerk |

Junior Yearly Meeting (at Midyear Meeting)

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--------------|------------------|---------------|
| Bill Deutsch | Gabrielle Zeiger | Carol Gilbert |

Ministry and Counsel Committee (appointed by monthly meetings)

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Ginny Winsor (O) | Jane Cadwallader Howe (WB) | Sharon Eiker (PV) |
| Andrea Holveck (DMV) | Lorene Ludy (L) | Nat Case (BC) |
| Nancy Jordan (L) | Liz Voss (IC) | Alice Hampton(W) |
| Cheryl Sutton (BC) | Deborah Fisch (P) | Marshall Massey (O) |
| Ann Stromquist (WB) | Daniel Willems (W) Peter Clay (DMV) | Ames -no appointment Decorah - no appointment |

Nominating Committee (appointed by monthly meetings)

| 2023 | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| A.M. Fink (A) | Roy Helm (L) | Carole Winkelblack (IC) |
| Russ Leckband (BC) | Carol Gilbert (O) | Judy Cottingham (WB) |
| Bill Deutsch, clerk (D) | Doyle Wilson (P) | Shirley Scritchfield (PV) |
| Dorothy Lifka DMVF) | Bob Yeats (W) | |

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Bob Ramaley | Quinn Dilkes | Bob Jones |
| Ann Stromquist | Russ Leckband | David Hansen |
| Rachel McNair | Margaret Jean Hansen | Caroline Hogan |
| Peter Clay | | Anthony Robinson Jon Schafer Deb Dakin, clerk |

Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Ruth Dawson | Shirley Scritchfield | Callie Marsh, clerk |

Publications Committee

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---------------------------------|------------|----------------|
| Katie Jacoby, clerk Nat Case | Bill Wines | Ann Stromquist |

Representatives Committee

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Deborah Fisch (P) | Shirley Scritchfield (PV) | Catherine Dorenbach (L) |
| Penny Majors, clerk (WB) | Ruth Hampton (W) | Carole Winkleblack (IC) |
| Deb Fink (A) | Bill Deutsch (D) | Ginny Winsor (O) |
| Roy Helm (L) | Doyle Wilson (P) | Dan Robidoux (PV) |
| Stan Sanders (BC) | Sonja Sponheim (BC) | Bob Yeats (W) |
| Sarah Andrews (IC) | | Rebecca Bergus (WB) |
| Bob Ramaley (O) | | |

Scattergood Friends School Committee

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

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Nancy Jordan | Ruth Hampton, clerk | Roy Helm, asst. clerk |
| David Wilcox | Matthew Gillespie | Kent Tjossem |
| George Bergus | Karen Greenler | Katie Jacoby |

Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees – appointed by YM Trustees

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
|--------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Lee Tesdell, clerk | Lowell Wilson | Bob Yeats | Barb Garlinghouse |
| Richard Johnson | Dan Treadway | Cheryl Sutton | Carole Winkleblack |

Special Needs Committee

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Bob Yeats, co-clerk | John Andrews, co-clerk | Deborah Fisch |
| | Sarah Rutledge | Billie Wade |

Virtual Access Committee

| | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Tom Hinshaw | Catherine Dorenbach, clerk | John Andrews | Julie Gaida |
|-------------|----------------------------|--------------|-------------|

Website/Technology Committee

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|---------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Cheryl Sutton | Katie Jacoby, clerk | John Andrews |
| Nat Case | | |

Yearly Meeting Trustees

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Bill Deutsch | Jim Cottingham, clerk | Bob Winkleblack | Jonathon Fisch |
| | | Deb Dakin | |

Young Friends for Yearly Meeting

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|------|------|------|
|------|------|------|

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

IYMC REPRESENTATIVES TO FRIENDS AGENCIES

AFSC Corporation

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|------------|----------------|------|
| Peter Clay | Ann Stromquist | |
| | Bob Yeats | |

FCNL General Committee

| 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Carole Winkleblack | Penny Majors | Ebby Luvaga |
| Rebecca Bergus | David Hansen | Deborah Fink |

Friends Peace Teams Council

Peter Clay

FWCC

2023

2024

2025

Angelika Shafer

Liz Voss

Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee

Nan Fawcett

Iowa Peace Network Joint Oversight Committee

Peter Clay

* * * * *

Minute: We approve the letter to Friends everywhere, trusting the committee to write similar epistles to Friends not able to be with us, North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative, and Ohio Yearly Meetings Conservative.

2022 EPISTLES FROM IOWA YEARLY MEETING (CONSERVATIVE)

TO FRIENDS EVERYWHERE

Seventh Month 31, 2022

Dear Friends,

We send you warm greetings from Iowa Yearly Meeting (conservative), as we joyfully gather for the 145th annual sessions of our Yearly Meeting. After two-years of absence, and with renewal and eager fellowship, we came together Seventh Month 27 through 31. Daily meetings for worship were followed by meetings for the business of the Yearly Meeting, bringing us in a combined collection face-to-face with electronic participation from afar. Videoconferencing continues to help our worship during our sessions. We had a session reader who was out of state and joined using videoconferencing. Our assistant clerk could not join us in person as he was isolating but was able to join us electronically and share inspiring quotes at the start of each session. Videoconferencing also allowed many of our more distant members to participate in our sessions.

We listened to the State of the Meeting reports. We are saddened to hear that the Sioux Falls Worship Group, under the care of Paullina Monthly Meeting has been discontinued, due to dwindling attendance. We are uplifted to hear that worship in our Monthly

Meetings on First Day mornings was in person again. Activities such as Bible Readings and quilting have resumed. It is striking how many of our monthly meetings are continuing to use videoconferencing. This allows members to worship together safely despite health concerns. Meetings also find videoconferencing allows distant Friends to return for First Day worship despite being hundreds or even thousands of miles apart.

The schedule of our Annual Sessions has been full. We begin each morning with early worship and then Bible Study. Evening Collections have been diverse and enriching. We learned about the benefits of organized mutual aid; people helping one another with projects such as food distributions and rent relief. In another evening collection we discussed ideas on how to welcome newcomers into our Monthly Meetings.

Time was set aside for committees such as Peace and Social Concerns to meet. We thank Jeff Kisling for his many years clerking the P&SC Committee as he steps down and a new clerk will take his place. We were brought up to date on P&SC activities of our Monthly Meetings, such as investigating Quaker boarding schools, assisting both Afghan and Ukrainian refugees, supporting Black Lives Matter, as well as continuing concerns for our communities.

We welcomed the positive report from the Scattergood School committee. We are thankful Scattergood is on solid financial footing at a time of world economic upheaval and wars. Scattergood continues its tradition educating youth to lead a World of peace and justice. The addition of a middle school extends the academic offerings and will help grow the enrollment in the high school. Many on-campus and farm projects have been completed, such as a new greenhouse that provided tasty ingredients for our meals. Other projects are in the works, such as finally adding air conditioning to the student dorms.

There is renewed energy in our Yearly Meeting despite the presence of COVID. This energy was palpable as we gathered together and engaged in our relationships with each other and the Divine.

We close with a passage from The Journey Worth Taking by Sarah Katrreen Hoggatt of Freedom Friends Church (Independent).

*We are on a journey and it may not even
matter so much where we end up,
but that we rise up to take the voyage.
We speak the truth of our lives,
hear each other and are changed.
We can love without complete understanding,
walking the light together while miles apart.*

In Love,

Carol Gilbert, clerk

On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting (conservative)

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CLOSING MINUTE

Our gratitude is palpable as we gather both in person on the Scattergood campus and via video conference using large screens, microphones, and loudspeakers set up in Hickory Grove Meetinghouse. In the three years since we last gathered in person, we have grown noticeably older. But we are heartened by the presence of young adults and families, including some Scattergood staff members whose participation is so appreciated. Nine elementary school-aged children are enjoying the lawns, farm, and pond. High school-aged Friends are helping with the children and staffing Yearly Meeting for Scattergood. The gathering seems extra joyful this year as we serve the process in our various ways: carrying microphones, sweeping floors, listening, inspecting buildings, and caring for children.

In person attendees are grateful to be able to see one another in three dimensions and share hugs, walks, and breezes under shady trees and canvas canopies set up by the school staff. Mindful of the COVID-19 virus that is so prevalent that it is likely among us, we are wearing masks indoors. Fortunately, the weather is beautiful and there are places outdoors to meet, play, and eat together. A Friend attending online reports that the technology makes “the veil between me and thee” both thinner and more opaque as she is

allowed to see and hear people gathered, but feels a yearning to be closer. We are finding ways for online participants to serve.

We are grateful for the spiritual state of our monthly meetings, which report Love in their midst. Many are enjoying renewed energy and hope as they emerge from pandemic isolation and return to worshipping together—most in hybrid format as we are at Yearly Meeting. Some struggle with their small size and diminished capacity. One preparative meeting became a worship group. Meetings report that videoconference technology has allowed people to participate who otherwise would not, including people who live far away. Some meetings shared concerns about the inability of technology to fully connect us with one another.

Several meetings are coming to terms with our history of participation in harmful dealings with Native Americans, by seeking to develop loving relationships with nearby Native Peoples and finding ways to make amends. Many of us are exercised about other social issues such as climate change, gender issues, racism in our meetings, and war. The meetings' responses to our queries show the diversity of thought and leadings among us. It is good to be walking *together* through these troubled times and to be helping one another to discern and be faithful to what God is asking of us.

News from the school is good. There are ongoing struggles with upkeep of aging buildings and making ends meet, but this year the school ended with a positive balance. Efforts to improve enrollment continue, balanced by the desire to ensure that those who do come can thrive here. The three middle school grades add energy and help to build the high school program as well. The school is beginning to think of itself as one school with seven grades.

The school committee has been working closely with the head and staff to improve our ability to truly welcome diversity among the students, staff, and the school committee. It is challenging but necessary to fight our own racism and other “isms” in this intimate community nestled in a society built on centuries of white supremacy.

The school committee is coming to believe that the yearly meeting should consider creating a separate nonprofit corporation for the school that would be *under the care* of the Yearly Meeting, rather than *part of* the yearly meeting's corporation. Most or all other

Quaker schools have already become separate corporations. The school and the school committee feel close to the Yearly Meeting and want that relationship to continue and deepen. The School Committee encourages monthly meetings to learn about this issue and is working on ways to assist with this.

At this, our 145th annual gathering in 2022, evening collections, morning Bible study, worship, and interest groups offered chances for fellowship and learning. We taught one another about mutual aid, welcoming newcomers into our meetings, Scattergood’s “comprehensive campaign,” and the Scattergood Middle School experience. We felt the Spirit strongly as Friend Bobby Trice from FCNL shared his journey as a Quaker. We were reminded how close we are to the Beloved Community and that we live in *it* when we remember that *it* lives in us.

Carol Gilbert, Clerk

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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. The assistant clerk looks for responses that represent similar ones from other meetings, as well as responses that stand out because they are different from the norm and warrant consideration. Because Yearly Meeting had to shorten the Annual Session due to the pandemic, there was not time to consider the responses in session. They are printed here at the request of the Body.

Query 1 - Meeting for Worship

Are our meetings for worship held in a spirit of expectant waiting and communion with the Holy Spirit? How do we prepare our hearts and minds for worship? How do we refer to that which is divine? How does ascribing gender to the Holy Spirit affect our worship? How do we integrate our daily lives with meeting for worship? Do we see opportunities for worship outside of meeting? How does the vocal ministry of the meeting contribute to its spiritual life? In what

ways do we recognize and nurture vocal ministry and other spiritual gifts?

Response: We note in the Advice an emphasis on diversity, on listening with a loving and open spirit. How do we refer to that which is divine? We may wonder whether it is safe to “unpack our backpack,” to be fully ourselves in our sharing in worship. We do not want to step on toes, to hurt another. Are we safe in at least acknowledging agreement that there is something greater than ourselves? We do seem to understand that there are diverse ways of expressing a sense of Spirit. We may feel vulnerable after sharing a message. There can be a sense of building on another’s message, but this does not seem to happen in this meeting. Some of us long for more vocal sharing during worship. We are aware of a variety of views and we may be overly respectful of others.

Our meeting is open and welcoming to those who are prompted to speak. The spiritual life of each one of us is continually enriched by the ministry of others in our meeting. A message delivered last week has been with this Friend all week. We can only have rich ministry during worship if we respect and reflect upon the messages that are shared during worship.

We agreed we are at worship when we are trying to live a life that respects other people and shines the light inside of us. When we practice kindness, especially to “the least of these” or those who we interact with routinely, often without thinking, such as at the pharmacy or the grocery store -- and to recognize the person behind the counter by name as “real” people.

To worship is to honor, revere the Holy Spirit, what we commonly understand as “God.” Another way of considering the meaning of worship may be an honoring of the Mystery. We may understand much about our Universe, but we are a small part of God’s world. Meeting for Worship gives us the gift of a living silence in which we can open to the “being” of God, open our hearts and minds to the reality of that vast Mystery.

Our meetings for worship are held allowing a spirit of waiting and communing with each individual’s vision of God. We each prepare in our own way for our community worship. Some read religious material, some find inspiration in television, and some in silence.

Most of us refer to the divine as God, not assigning a gender to that power. Members of the meeting integrate worship in ways that fit each of us. Interacting with others in our communities gives opportunity to put our faith in practice. Our worship can happen in times other than meeting for worship. Meeting then gives us time to reflect on our faith and how we can make it stronger.^[1]^[SEP] Vocal ministry in the meeting is encouraged and does enhance our own spiritual lives. We try to encourage vocal ministry by passing on thoughts and affirmation to the person doing the ministering.

Daily life and worship are not supposed to be separate. You can notice many moments in life when you are nudged to pay attention to God. If you pause and recognize those moments, it helps you be in a worshipful state as you navigate life. One person said that if she has an unsettled feeling, she tries to recognize that as a moment for openness or prayer. Then something will happen, God will speak in some way to resolve the unsettled feeling.

We talked about how we nurture vocal ministry in Meeting for Worship. It is a good practice to remind people that everyone can have a message for the group. Another good practice is, if so led, to express appreciation for the message, but not to praise the messenger who presumably is not the Source. It may be helpful to express appreciation to the messenger for having the courage to speak up. Demanding ministry, even saying “what canst thou say?” may not work. We shouldn’t be afraid to speak. We may not know the reason for the message. We need to recognize that all of us “outrun our guide” from time to time, and that can be forgiven. We also shouldn’t be afraid to admit we have “dry times” spiritually. All the saints had doubts and dry times.

When we consider the word “worship,” what does that image mean? There are historical and cultural references, such as bowing down, kneeling and other physical attributes. Worship can start with an attitude of thankfulness and praise. What do we praise as Quakers? What are we thankful for? We found that our worship can exist beyond the boundaries of Meetings and human-centric awareness. We can find the Sacred in all our relations, both living and inanimate, the Spirit that dwells in a rock or a mountain.

For some, the word “worship” refers to some Being that we are seeking in harmony. Others might prefer centering prayer or

meditation as a focus. Early Quaker words that can help connect us with attributes that are cherished in our faith are “Living Presence,” “Light Within,” “Shepherd,” “Guide,” “that Still, Small Voice” and others.

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: We may intentionally develop and nurture relationships with people with whom we are aware that have different faith perspectives, trusting the Holy Spirit to lead us. Others of us may have conversations with friends more focused on values, than on faith, out of respect for their faith tradition. We may have a friend with common faith understandings who chooses not to worship with us because some aspect of liturgy not practiced by Friends, such as music, may be important to them.

Being open to truth as understood by others has become very challenging in this time of deep divisions. We may be grieving in our awareness of these divisions deepened by our fear response to 9/11, and know we need a power greater than ourselves to begin to heal. Sometimes it is clear that there is no openness to a middle way, and holding another in the Light is our best response. Among many Friends there is a tradition of living our faith rather than talking about it. Sharing in some groups can be very challenging. Something we can do when we are out in the community witnessing against war or for protecting our environment, is make clear that we are coming from a place of faith, not from a political perspective.

Nonviolence is not just remaining passive but being active in creating a world that is nonviolent. In order to accomplish this, we must work on person-to-person violence. Rosa Parks did not just sit down one day in the “whites only” portion of the bus; much planning, work, faith and thought goes into nonviolent measures like hers.

Outreach does not result from telling others how to believe or live; it is not based on intellect; it does not judge. We attempt to live our faith, as a reflection of our experience of the Living Teacher, the Inner Light of God, found in all of us.

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: We try to center down, to settle ourselves, in worship prior to beginning business. Then we begin our search for a sense of unity on an issue. We listen trying to understand each other’s perspectives. Sometimes this requires seasoning over time and holding on to our belief that there is something of God in each of us. We are aware that there is a difference between an intent to win and an intent to clarify; we want to become clear and find unity.

Good process is important even when an issue seems small, seems to be a “no brainer,” because we don’t know when a question may be raised that will expand our understanding of the issue and need to be addressed. When we agree to “co-sponsor” something, we need to be willing to show up for whatever it is, to really be behind it.

Meeting for worship with attention to business can be a joyful, spiritual experience, opening one’s mind and heart to the Divine, bringing unity among friends. One of our members “learned how to be a Quaker” in another meeting which was quite clear that they held Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business” (rather

than business meeting) which might last several hours and include much worship; all were encouraged to come and together deal with many difficult issues. The meeting grew.

One Friend thought of a member from several decades ago who was often quite disruptive. It took time, but there came the realization that the member was simply speaking truth. This realization opened the way to see past the behavior and witness the truth as being presented. Friends speak their mind, and it can be disconcerting. Another Friend spoke of patience with each other, for while God speaks to us in many ways, the act of speaking often takes great courage—even if you think others agree with you.

One Friend spoke about the importance of blocking out a period of time, for often during business meeting what may be perceived as trivial may actually turn out to take hours for clarity. It is important to come back to the source, making a time for listening as spoken differences are an essential part of any meeting.

A Friend noted a concern in Yearly meeting may at times be the need to consider whether or not a certain committee is still needed – or maybe it's time to lay it down? There is a long tradition among Friends that once a need has been accomplished, such as founding a school or academy, the meeting dissolves their role in its maintenance and passes it on to those others to continue the project.

With so few attenders we tend to function as a committee of the whole instead of delegating tasks to various individual committees. We are so few that we would all have to be on most every committee anyway. Friends are ready to step up when there is a task to be done. We have a variety of talents which attenders are willing to share in order to complete necessary projects.

Trusting ourselves and each other is one key. To do this, it helps to know each other well, and we do this best with face-to-face contact, which of course has been difficult or risky during the pandemic. However we meet, really listening to each other helps us develop trust, and that can happen remotely as well as in person.

“Do we need to consult God to help us decide on a water heater?” Some decisions seem to be too mundane to require listening to each other and to the spirit, but the listening isn’t about the water heater, it’s about respecting the strong feelings behind an opinion about a water heater. We can feel as ignored talking about the water heater as we can about issues of peace and justice. This is an area where we can also ask ourselves what we are feeling, and if our opinion comes from ego, we can learn to stand aside.

Trying the query, we question if all who are led come forward? Unity is a group effort as we wrestle with finding what God would have us do; this sometimes takes time. As we seek unity we may hold a decision over – consensus coming further in the month of following business meeting, seasoning an idea, letting it set. We agree that “seasoning” is a wonderful word steeped in deeper meaning.

There is concern of members leaving the meeting over discord. Several members recall histories of such reactions. In query discussion we acknowledge memories of painful instances, recognizing the necessity of reaching out and listening deeply. Social issues brought before us have many points of view. We sometimes struggle to create a space for other opinions, a safe space to disagree. A member points out how strong leadings may give the meeting a new direction on a matter and we agree it is the way that our meeting responds to discord that is important.

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: Good communication seems to be a key to harmony. One of us realizes that times of feeling threatened or overly invested in an issue are the times when communication is not good. Gender often affects communication. Keeping communication open seems critical. Humility and humor are important as is cultivating a forgiving spirit.

Another Friend is reading a Jane Goodall book and has a new awareness of feeling connected with other, non-human, creatures. She feels herself to be in a state of gratefulness and acceptance that helps her to stay centered and not invaded by politics; perhaps this state of gratefulness is her role now. Another welcomes the reminder that the best of this comes from God; despite the almost apocalyptic nature of issues facing us now, our serenity is primarily a matter of our opening our hearts to God, of letting go and allowing grace to work.

Friends will have very strong opinions and feelings like anyone else, and we traditionally try to work through them within the collective eyes of our group.

Overarching Peace and a practice of unity gives one the sense of the Meeting rather than consensus. Seeking unity within supports a willingness to be able to practice together. It is within the Testimonies of Peace in the World—if we're not doing it ourselves, how can we expect it of others? It's as if operating without a net—a person knows their motion by confidence in themselves and others.

It helps to look at the history of the Quaker tradition and meetings dealing with past issues such as homosexuality and slavery. When confronted with divisive issues, the Quaker process allows strong emotions to sweep over us and then begin the process of discernment, allowing progress to be made. These principles will allow us to purify humanity and there is no more important time to employ Quaker principles than today.

We keep growing and learning and changing so that we get better at loving each other.

A Friend commented that when they were young, their convictions were all important; though this Friend still has convictions, they have come to understand, as they grew older, that loving one another is the most important, convictions second.

One Friend was struck by the advice “by opening ourselves to the Light Within, we can give and receive love beyond our human abilities.” Quite a step! We allow the possibility that God exists within us and we can feel God's presence.

Political issues are the one area we all struggle with when being with people from outside our own meeting community. If political topics come up, we have not found a way to deal with them in a loving and honest way and that has meant there have been hurt feelings and angry words.

We love each other: we do things separately and we do things together. We love each other **constantly** and we always remember that we love each other. The Advice reminds us that “Love is a gift.” Does that mean every day is Christmas? If so, that means we can open our gifts of Love every day!

Some of us realize that we are socialized to make assumptions based on gender, which impacts how we interact with one another. Striving to cultivate a non-binary view of the world can be applied in many ways; we can start to see and challenge the false binaries that we were conditioned to accept and which can unintentionally lead to judgment against our fellow human beings. We wondered if, to avoid divisive conversation, can we use the pronouns “us, our, we” more frequently?

Within the meeting, we always have a feeling of caring for each other. There is greater difficulty, however, outside the life of the meeting, especially about the political differences of the day. We must work to understand where others are coming from when we believe that their position is based on what we perceive as misinformation. Even Jesus said: “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

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: We appreciate the words in the advice on mutual care. It is hard for most of us to ask for help. It is hard to share our vulnerabilities. To ask requires a degree of vulnerability because our culture values individualism. And, letting oneself be vulnerable can

be painful if someone with good intention tries to fix us; an easy answer is probably not what is needed.

There was a strong emphasis in our sharing on the importance of mutuality in the offering of care, rather than philanthropy or doing for another. We need to be aware that each of us is both a giver and a receiver; this invites grace to be present. We need to be humble in offering help, not believing that we know what is best for someone. Others may not be just like ourselves. And we need to be ready to accept help ourselves.

It was noted that to be aware of a stranger's spiritual journey is the beginning in reflecting on our own journey. "As above, so below" came to mind. The intimacy and companionship while on a spiritual journey are best served in a small group rather than within a crowd. It perhaps explains a Friendly experience.

The meeting is more like a community than a family. Some among us have a natural reserve and others are refugees from faith traditions that had strict belief requirements and expectations that all need to conform to a set of rules and behaviors. There is a natural tension between exhibiting loving concern for another member of our community and prying. We are a community: we don't work together or live together but we worship together.

Query 6 — Education

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

Response: We live in a time that is challenging regarding fostering a "spirit of inquiry." Teachers, school boards and departments of education are under much pressure regarding what they can teach

and what books they can use. Whose decision is it as to what is taught and what books are read? Fostering loving and understanding attitudes is particularly difficult in these times. If we all are a part of the needed healing, how does this happen? One response is to consciously be a calm and healing presence in the midst of the chaos and confrontation that may be present in legislative or educational meetings/hearings. Perhaps we can be “present” with those we know to be challenging to governing processes, even though that ‘presence’ is not physical.

Looking to God, asking good questions of ourselves and each other, having curiosity, willingness, openness to all questions and topics, trusting each other. A Friend offers that some faith traditions (like Anabaptists and maybe Quakers) have contributed to the public school system because they believe in the value of equality, that everyone should have the opportunity of an education. Another Friend notes that Quakers also used education to force the enculturation of First Nation people and affirms the necessity of repenting for that violent form of education.

A Friend queries what happens if the child is moved by their own sense of God's purpose to oppose the parent's sense of what God wants for the child. Another Friend offers that many Quakers do not have an absolute certainty of God's meaning and intent but practices a process of discernment, so that, in terms of education, asking questions and encouraging a child in listening to spirit. The Friend shares that we do not all discern the same ways and Friends do not generally have the expectation that others will experience spirit as they do. Another Friend reaffirms their confidence in the inspired reading of scripture and a unitary understanding of it. A different Friend describes how for them sharing spirituality with others and finding spiritual inspiration in and through other people is crucial to its meaning and value.

As a group we offered our thanks for our Meeting's First Day School and its leaders. A friend commented that it does take a lot of commitment and is discouraging when the same people are always responsible. By incorporating children within the Meeting, we are providing a discipline by example. We learn social practices in the guise of meeting being a family affair. After all kids learn by example, and really don't learn much by being told what to do or think.

The spirit of inquiry can be fostered by listening. When we seek to learn we must listen to others who are also seekers, and we must appreciate all different perspectives. There is the listening to the spirit as well. A loving attitude toward life may be fostered by the practice of gratitude and attention to the present moment.

Friends have always been involved in the journey with education at Scattergood Friends School. We need to continue our participation in thinking, planning and deciding how our understanding of a Quaker education should move forward. We do not want the internet to influence the education of our children more than family life does.

We recognize that over the past years in meeting we have discussed important education issues emerging in our broader community. One topic considers how to help redirect traditional education to provide a more complete and inclusive history of the country; with a loving and understanding attitude how can we address the rising controversy about critical race theory and how this might be taught? We recognize how social class makes differences in the way students of different social class are taught, what they learn, availability of tools for teaching, and inequitable opportunity. Across our nation, prejudicial bias, reluctance to teach the full history of race, arrogance of white supremacy, and other negative attitudes lead us dangerously into banning books and prohibiting discussion.

Emotional, spiritual-religious and intellectual modes sometimes seem in struggle with each other. The words “query” and “inquiry” are crucial. They provide our ability to phrase thoughts as questions. But education is also about critical thinking, and we wonder if raising questions and the process of seeking answers is important in and of itself. “Love the questions” is an advice from Rilke.

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: The isolation that has come into our lives as a result of the pandemic has had its effects. A positive outcome for some has been a strengthening of couple relationships as we have spent more time together; this we value and intend to maintain as we begin to become more involved in the wider world. Another effect might be a sense of hunger for human relationships that makes us more open to strangers, or others outside of family, perhaps even to a sense of deep, mystical love of strangers. It has also opened us to the awareness that animals and plants are part of our family, as we slowed down, we are more aware of our connection with them.

Members of Meeting put a lot of work into the family of the Meeting. Our Meeting is a great teacher and parent, often offering each of us a second chance without judgement; adults and children. Mistakes happen! There can be a long-suffering grief that leads to seemingly magical spiritual revelations when the way clears, opening to bring Light upon our mistakes. It is crucial not to use the Bible as a weapon rather than as a loving guide. Some may seek to find peace in using control issues, when in fact no one is in control! We ended in profound silence and worship.

Now for two years we have been living in more isolation in our attempts to avoid the [COVID] virus, both for ourselves and for those we might pass it on to. It may well challenge us to return to our old ways. We will need encouragement, and a willingness to stretch and grow into a return to hospitality. We think of a variety of ways that we can be open, reach out to friends and neighbors. We can write letters or notes to those we care about. We may make phone calls. We can find a new creating process bringing new breadth, and perhaps depth, to our understanding of hospitality. We can invite family and friends to join us in our homes, perhaps testing ourselves for Covid-19 beforehand. We can learn to respect the virus at the same time that we find ways to reinforce our connections with people. We are reminded of the deep sense of connection we may have to our siblings whom we have always known. Friends from early childhood also may have strong connections for us. We need to give attention to these lasting relationships, as part of the way forward. We must care for others and ourselves, always.

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 considered “micro-aggression,” its basic meaning and the many ways it is used. It is like a mosquito bite, you get one and it is not a big deal, but you become covered with them and it wears you down. We can be aware when a micro-aggression is used against us, while we might not be aware that we are using one against someone else. We have become aware that they can be used against people who are African Americans, Native American, gay, trans and bi people, women - any group of people who are different and we feel free to disrespect, perhaps without realizing it. It may be necessary to speak truth in love in instances when we become aware that someone is using micro-aggressions against one of us. This is an area in which we all have something to learn and need to keep open to that learning.

We appreciate the words of the Advice. Honesty, simplicity, integrity and joy are central to our relationship and response to God. The word “integrity” is not easy to understand. The Advice expands the meaning of the word to what it means for us to live our lives with integrity.

We don't always find it easy to keep Spirit at the center of our lives. The pandemic may have freed us from some obligations and entertainments that took time, but in this time of turmoil Friends are often as active with issues, Zoom meetings and chores as ever. We are well intentioned but sometimes forget the center. Small practices like greeting the day with thanks and hope can remind us.

Many of us find our best, and perhaps healthiest, moments in walking, reading, playing music, gardening (a big one!), walking the dog or playing with the cat, as they bring fresh air and exercise and connect with neighbors and serenity.

For us, language issues have a lot to do with how things are said, more often than what is said. Whether speaking truth to a political opponent or to a difficult health care patient, we need to pay attention to the context and speak in the way that will be most effective. This is often by softening an assertion with an “I think” or by using “I statements.” Speaking in anger can give our power away.

We focused on the call to honesty, simplicity, essentially freeing ourselves from abstractions and addictions. We examined our personal lives and our life within the Meeting.

There were some present who voiced the lifestyle of not having any wealth and possessions beyond necessities, clothing and the Bible. They have never been near wealth save as domestics (sometimes for generations). No closet, no home, cold and hungry; they take the chance to relieve themselves of the indecencies for having never to have been invited to that table, and just don't miss it.

Another spoke about living in poverty, which has its own threats and complications. There are gangs that endanger themselves and everyone else. Also, the background checks for employment are a gamble for the outcome depends on who is making the check and their response to the individual in question. The Friend spoke of how they would love not to have to keep secrets. It can be hard to live Quaker values when we're surrounded by the world, and having this space within Meeting to talk about it is very helpful.

There is much that is true in the Personal Responsibility Advice, but issue must be taken with the assumption that there is a moral failure attached to addiction. Addiction is often a symptom of trauma. It's hopeful that the connection between trauma and addiction is increasingly understood as well as the notion that trauma also causes brain injury.

One thing to keep in mind is to emphasize the “personal” in personal responsibility. We set goals only for ourselves and though we may set an example, we cannot project our goals on others and judge them for failing to meet them.

The lives of many people are affected by illness and addiction in ways they have no control over. It's important to understand that the choices I make are not just about my own body and life but how I act to make simplicity, health, and so forth available to all people. The book Braiding Sweet Grass lifts up the importance of mutuality and reciprocity. There is a false dichotomy between our personal choice and the choice we make for the benefit of all. In our search for inner peace, we need to understand that inner peace does not mean retiring from the world. We should strive to facilitate inner peace for all which means we need to be active in the world working on the side of Love.

How do we remain open and pliable to the hand of the Spirit? We see personal responsibility and opportunity to allow Spirit to shape our relations with one another and with our community, holding mindful gratitude for healing and comfort from each, and for willing to be open to the Spirit. Gratitude is also present when we bear in mind the progress our lives make relative to where we've been, acknowledging that we are not perfect.

Personal responsibility includes civic participation, being honest, owning our influence, privilege, and status. We must weigh actions and choices that we make in support or opposition of Government actions and subsidies, some of which prey on minorities and people of limited income.

Within the discussion, it became clear there was a paradox to be parsed out. As Quakers we tend to hold ourselves to a certain standard when it comes to advocacy but when the Self is ousted as a result, the spirituality of the advocacy or volunteerism, the passion for the work itself is lost. Working within our means as individuals, and as a community, insures we can continue to hold space for both piety towards the Spirit in its call to act, as well as maintain compassion for ourselves and others. This is the true structure of simplicity; finding this balance.

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: As we listen to news, we feel the need to hold onto a rock of ultimate reality to withstand the waves of change, violence, hate. We value our silence at a time when words are weaponized. Speaking from our own experience, telling our stories, is a way around the use of words that trigger conflict.

We delight in experiences of the Divine Spirit at work as we witness genuine openness and positive connection between peoples who are different. We who have privilege must seek ways to share it. We must maintain hope that even with the hate and anger in our culture, fairness and equity can prevail; it is what most of us long for. We want to recognize that in today's world, most of us are under stress of some kind and we need to be patient with each other.

Remember to listen to others' political beliefs; the humanity we share and desire of others to be heard are as important as one's own political convictions.

Politics can be a danger to one's mental health. The needs are overwhelming, and achieving one's own end goal seems an uphill struggle. Maybe added to that query; should be the need to balance one's own mental and spiritual health with political action.

Quaker history shows us that violence is a deep-seated problem. If we are called to protest, let it be a decidedly nonviolent protest. As Barbara Lee (U.S. Representative from California) said during the Viet Nam war era: "As we act let us not become the evil that we deplore."

In the divisive atmosphere in our country, it has become more difficult to speak truth to power. We often don't participate in discussions as much as we should because the outcome won't change the other's position on a topic. Asking questions to others who disagree with our viewpoints may be helpful to determine

where our differences lie. Our members feel more comfortable discussing issues among ourselves than in the wider community. It is difficult seeing our democracy being torn apart and social issues not being resolved by elected officials when the wider public supports those programs. Civic duty calls some of our members to volunteer in community organizations and on boards that support conservation, food pantries, elevators, education etc. As volunteers of those organizations, we strive to be fair and honest and rely on our Quaker values as important decisions are made by those in power in those organizations.

Some of us have participated in the Advocacy Teams, under the care of the Friends Committee on National Legislation. We work on how to avoid war. We take tiny incremental actions. Lobbying officials does not often create change. We get discouraged. What other action can be taken?

What is our responsibility as citizens? We try to live as if our actions are one with our beliefs. Is there a bigger picture that we have difficulty seeing? How do we truly live with equality and justice? Sometimes we feel that we can't teach anyone anything, but we must try. "And sometimes," a colleague said, "something works."

Practicing Quaker testimonies will bring us in conflict with the government at times. This should not keep us from speaking out, but we can also choose how we speak out. FCNL's (Friends Committee on National Legislation) advocacy groups approach elected officials with stories and with attempts to find common ground.

George Fox and recent activists tell us to be well prepared, listen carefully, do what we can and then let it be. Be tactful but persistent. We can benefit from sharing our leadings with the Meeting to season our impulses and to give the Meeting the opportunity to support us in our efforts.

When we organize, we do well to listen to those we seek to serve, making sure that processes are clear and everyone has a chance to be heard. When we feel powerless, we may seek out others with the same needs and feelings, sharing power as we acquire it. At all

times it is important to try to discern if the power we have or seek is ego power or divine power.

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: There was a concern that the onus is placed too often on the individual consumer; we need to use our collective voices to call out industries that are environmentally irresponsible. We need to be vigilant about systemic causes of environmental degradation.

Evidence of the realities of climate change are all around us — as are examples of ingenuity, creativity, and commitment in helping to reverse climate change and heal the earth that is truly our wellspring and source of life. More individuals are developing the awareness that everything we purchase requires many kinds of energy to produce. We are related to people who are unknown to us through our consumption. At times, this awareness can alter our buying habits in ways that allow for somewhat lighter, less encumbered living for all involved. Connecting with the reciprocity of the earth comes with an awareness of living with the earth. When we stop and tend, we recognize the earth's many gifts. We need to be mindful that we share the planet with countless people and creatures who have lives and needs of their own. We live within wise and resilient ecosystems that actively call for our creativity, commitment, and reverence for our common life.

Our Meeting's query responses showed an agreement on the importance of acting with greater respect and consideration for the environment and is understood as a fundamental tenant of the Quaker belief. However, the individual implementation of this practice is not easily accomplished, given the general nature of society and individuals looking for greater convenience and the lowest cost in their personal and collective behaviors.

Being in the natural world can help us be more understanding of the needs of the planet and of all people and can help us see the interconnectedness of it. We find ourselves wishing that present-day children could be exposed often to the natural world and also to the wisdom of our forebears who understood how to use only what they needed and to fix and reuse what they could.

We find it satisfying to try to live our lives with an environmental mindset, developing the habit of looking at things we buy with a critical eye: Do we need it? Where does it come from? Did its manufacturing process contribute to climate change? We enjoy gardening and composting, and we try to travel in ways that leave the smallest carbon footprint. And many of us practice advocacy for regulation that will forestall the worst consequences of climate change.

Query 11 - Social and Economic Justice

How are we beneficiaries of inequity and exploitation? How are we victims of inequity and exploitation? In what ways can we address these problems? What can we do to improve the conditions in our correctional institutions and to address the mental and social problems of those confined there? How can we improve our understanding of those who are driven to violence by subjection to racial, economic or political injustice?

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

Societal attitudes make a difference; believing in the potential of each person rather than categorizing some as just criminals. Radical respect for everyone is basic. It is easy for us to dismiss and not believe the story of someone from a background different from our own; we must listen, believe and accept others' stories if we are to

understand where they are coming from. Talking circles are a good tool. We need to see society as a “we” rather than “us v them.”

Our news coverage continues to follow numerous stories of minority citizens victimized by the injustices of our society. The immigrant population seeking to become U.S. citizens have been treated horrendously. We believe that our world would benefit greatly from the contributions of all peoples, and we advocate for policies that work to make this happen. We continue to work with AFSC (American Friends Service Committee), FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) and other organizations sympathetic to the goal of making our world a better place for all members of the human family. We support those politicians who will forward these policies as well. Some of our members are active in the local Peace Links chapter and organizations which try to help with food insecurity issues in our communities. And while our country is divided on how we address prejudice and the injustices that it causes, we are gratified when we see any progress in eliminating these injustices.

Injustice has so many victims that we are challenged to know where to start in countering it. The direct victims are those who can't afford basic necessities, including safety.

Our correctional institutions result from but also create mental and social problems.

We are heartened by the government's current effort to tax the richest among us, but we can also be aware of and support the countless efforts made by everyday people to help counter injustice.

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 are aware that as Quakers we have participated in violence against the native people in our country in establishing and running boarding schools that have taken children from their families, their people and their culture attempting to immerse them in “white” culture. We acknowledge that this unloving practice was begun with good intention. We hope to find a way of reconciliation that is well received. We are supportive of education that honestly addresses our country’s history of exploitation of the earth and its people.

We are struck by the Query: “How do we support one another so that healing can take place?” We know we can’t do it alone; we need our community and each other’s support. How can we learn to do this?

It is easy to be discouraged as we listen to the daily news. Our individual actions seem so small in a world so full of strife. Sometimes it seems we spend our whole lives attempting to make this world a better place, only to see little progress for our efforts. We must always remember when we work patiently, in cooperation with scores of others, regardless of the outcome, we will not have failed, but have forwarded the work God has given us to do.

REPORTS RECEIVED BUT NOT READ DURING SESSIONS

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Archives Committee met via a series of email messages over the last two months. Since the Yearly Meeting's deposit agreement with the State Historical Society expires in 2023, the Archives Committee plans to meet with the Special Collections Coordinator at the State Historical Society of Iowa and explore our options for the housing and preservation of the paper and digital records of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

BOOK TABLE REPORT

The Book Table committee has been largely inactive due to the fact that recent IYMC sessions have been held virtually because of the Covid pandemic. With 2022 annual sessions available in a hybrid model (and with the pandemic still with us), it was clear that in-person attendance would be lower. For this reason, we decided not to offer the IYMC Book Table this year.

The IYMC Book Table has traditionally displayed a generous selection of books of particular interest to Friends of all ages to browse and/or purchase. We are aware of challenges the committee faced during pre-pandemic years with receiving book orders through Quaker Books (FGC) for yearly meeting. The FGC Gathering, held just prior to our yearly meeting sessions, depleted their book supplies. Workarounds were found, though potential issues relative to book availability remain.

Our committee hopes to discern workable solutions to these issues in the coming year as we seek to continue to support yearly meeting participants and meeting libraries on fostering ongoing learning and nurturing our practice of faith.

Jane Cadwallader Howe

On behalf of the Book Table Committee

EXERCISE COMMITTEE REPORT

Our theme, Finding Hope in Troubled Times, provided a frame for our worship.

When we “hear the falconer” we know that things are not falling apart.

Like a caterpillar, we are in a time of transformation. Let injustice die.

“Tis the gift to be simple ...to turn will be our delight ... until by turning we come round right.”

God called creation good, how can we return to a loving and respectful relationship with this earth?

“There is a balm in Gilead”

In Afghanistan I struggled to live, in the US I enjoy living.

We need to know what we are saying “yes” to.

“Cause me to come to thy river, oh Lord ...Cause me to come, cause me to drink, cause me to live.”

All flourishing is mutual.

We have to believe things can be different.

I seek to be with all of you remaking the world.

Christ is with us if we will but listen.

Love calls us to action. What action are we being called to as a yearly meeting?

Worry comes from fear and the need to fix things. Prayer is about trusting, loving, and being loved.

EPISTLE TO NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING CONSERVATIVE
Seventh Month 31, 2022

Dear Friends of North Carolina Yearly Meeting,

The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. --Jeremiah 29:11

Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake to guide the future as He has the past.

Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be bright at last. --From the Finlandia hymn, Jean Sibelius

It is a special treat to send warm greetings to you from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), as we gather for the 145th annual sessions

of our yearly meeting. After two-years of absence, in a spirit of renewal and eager fellowship, we came together Seventh Month 27 through 31, in daily meetings for worship followed by meetings for business; bringing us in a combined collection face-to-face with electronic participation from distant members, guests, and Friends.

We were delighted to have visitation and participation by Nancy Craft and Michelle Downey, of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative. We are blessed by your continued warm relationship with our conservative Yearly Meeting.

Although we met in person, videoconferencing continues to help our worship during our sessions. We had a session reader who was out of state and joined using videoconferencing. Our assistant clerk could not join us in person as he was isolating but was able to join us electronically and share inspiring quotes at the start of each session. Videoconferencing also allowed many of our more distant members to participate in our sessions.

We listened to the State of the Meeting reports from our Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups and learned with great sadness the loss of several of our active members. The love we have for each other and the love of the Divine Spirit supports us and comforts us. One worship group has been discontinued, due to dwindling attendance. This causes us to reflect and draw close to the Spirit in discernment for a response in a time when our message seems to offer light into the darkness. We are uplifted to hear that worship in our Monthly Meetings on First Day mornings is in person again. Activities such as Bible Readings and quilting have resumed. It is striking how many of our monthly meetings are continuing to use videoconferencing. This allows members to worship together safely despite health concerns. Meetings also find that videoconferencing allows distant Friends to return for First Day worship despite being hundreds or even thousands of miles apart.

The schedule of our Annual Sessions has been full. We begin each morning with early worship and Bible Study. Evening Collections have been diverse and enriching. We learned about the benefits of organized mutual aid; people helping one another with projects such as food distributions and rent relief. In another evening collection we discussed ideas on how to welcome newcomers into our Monthly Meetings.

Time was set aside for committees such as Peace and Social Concerns to meet. We were brought up to date on P&SC activities

of our Monthly Meetings, such as investigating Quaker boarding schools, assisting both Afghan and Ukrainian refugees, supporting Black Lives Matter, as well as continuing concerns for our communities.

We welcomed the positive report from the Scattergood School committee. We are thankful Scattergood is on solid financial footing at a time of world economic upheaval and wars. Scattergood continues its tradition educating youth to lead a World of peace and justice. The addition of a middle school extends the academic offerings and will help grow the enrollment in the high school. Many on-campus and farm projects have been completed, such as a new greenhouse that provided tasty ingredients for our meals. Other projects are in the works, such as finally adding air conditioning to the student dorms.

There is renewed energy in our Yearly Meeting despite the presence of COVID. This energy was palpable as we gathered together and engaged in our relationships with each other and the Divine.

In Love,

Carol Gilbert, clerk, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

EPISTLE TO OHIO YEARLY MEETING

Seventh Month 31, 2022

Dear Friends of Ohio Yearly Meeting,

For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him.

--Psalm 62:5

But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

--Psalm 27:14

It is a special treat to send warm greetings to you from Iowa Yearly Meeting (conservative), as we gather for the 145th annual sessions of our yearly meeting. After two years of absence, in spirit of

renewal and eager fellowship, we came together Seventh Month 27 through 31, in daily meetings for worship followed by meetings for business; bringing us in a combined collection with both face-to-face and electronic participation from distant members, guests, and Friends. We are blessed by your continued warm relationship with our conservative Yearly Meeting and were delighted once again to have visitation and participation by David Eley from Ohio Yearly Meeting.

Although we met in person, electronic media continues to help our worship during our sessions. We had a session reader who was out of state and joined using Zoom. Our assistant clerk could not join us in person as he was isolating but was able to join us electronically and share inspiring quotes at the start of each session. Zoom also allowed many of our more distant members to participate in our sessions.

We listened to the State of the Meeting reports from our Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups and learned with great sadness the loss of several of our active members. The love we have for each other and the love of the Divine Spirit support and comfort us. One worship group has been discontinued, due to dwindling attendance. This causes us to reflect and draw close to the Spirit in discernment for a response in a time when our message seems to offer light into the darkness. We were uplifted to hear that worship in our Monthly Meetings on First Day mornings was in person again. Activities such as Bible Readings and quilting have resumed. It is striking how many of our monthly meetings are continuing to use audio and video remote electronic media. This allows members to worship together safely despite health concerns. Meetings also find electronic media allows distant Friends to return for First Day worship despite being hundreds or even thousands of miles apart.

The schedule of our Annual Sessions has been full. We begin each morning with early worship and Bible Study. Evening Collections have been diverse and enriching. We learned about the benefits of organized mutual aid; people helping one another with projects such as food distributions and rent relief. We heard from FCNL's Bobbi Trice about how he became a Friend and dedicated his life to social activism. In another evening collection we discussed ideas on how to welcome newcomers into our Monthly Meetings.

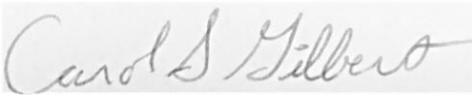
Time was set aside for committees such as Peace and Social Concerns to meet. We were brought up-to-date on P&SC activities

of our Monthly Meetings, such as investigating Quaker boarding schools, assisting both Afghan and Ukrainian refugees, supporting Black Lives Matter, as well as continuing concerns for our communities.

We welcomed the positive report from the Scattergood School committee. We are thankful Scattergood is on solid financial footing at a time of world economic upheaval and wars. Scattergood continues its tradition of educating youth to lead a world of peace and justice. The addition of a middle school extends the academic offerings and will help grow the enrollment in the high school. Many on-campus and farm projects have been completed, such as a new greenhouse that provided tasty ingredients for our meals. Other projects are in the works, such as finally adding air conditioning to the student dorms.

There is renewed energy in our Yearly Meeting despite the presence of COVID. This energy was palpable as we gathered together and engaged in our relationships with each other and the Divine.

In Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol S. Gilbert". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Carol Gilbert, clerk
On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
7834 Jackson Street
Omaha, Nebraska, 68114

SPECIAL REPLIES

Seventh Month 31, 2022

Dear _____,

As we gather here on the beautiful campus of Scattergood School for our annual worship with attention to business of the Yearly Meeting, we are missing your presence here with us. After two-years of absence, in spirit of renewal and eager fellowship, we came together in a combined collection face-to-face with electronic participation from distant members, guests, and Friends. We remember your active and consistent support of the work of the Yearly Meeting.

Reading the State of the Meeting reports from our individual Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups, we have learned with great sadness the loss of several of our active members. The love we have for each other and the love of the Divine Spirit supports us and comforts us.

Although we met in person this year, videoconferencing continues to help us worship during our sessions. We had a session reader who was out of state and joined using videoconferencing. Our assistant clerk could not join us in person as he was isolating but was able to join us electronically and share inspiring quotes at the start of each session. Videoconferencing also allowed many of our more distant members to participate in our sessions.

We listened to the State of the Meeting reports. We grieve the loss of the Sioux Falls Worship Group, which has been discontinued due to dwindling attendance. We are uplifted to hear that worship in our Monthly Meetings on First Day mornings was in person again. Activities such as Bible Readings and quilting have resumed. It is striking how many of our Monthly Meetings are continuing to use videoconferencing. This allows members to worship together safely despite health concerns. Meetings also find videoconferencing allows distant Friends to return for First Day worship despite being hundreds or even thousands of miles apart.

The schedule of our Annual Sessions has been full. We begin each morning with early worship and Bible Study. Evening Collections have been diverse and enriching. We learned about the benefits of organized mutual aid; people helping one another with projects such as food distributions and rent relief. In another evening

collection we discussed ideas on how to welcome newcomers into our Monthly Meetings.

Time was set aside for committees such as Peace and Social Concerns to meet. We thank Jeff Kisling for his many years clerking the P&SC Committee as he steps down and a new clerk will take his place. We were brought up to date on P&SC activities of our Monthly Meetings, such as investigating Quaker boarding schools, assisting both Afghan and Ukrainian refugees, supporting Black Lives Matter, as well as continuing concerns for our communities.

We welcomed the positive report from the Scattergood School committee. We are thankful Scattergood is on solid financial footing at a time of world economic upheaval and wars. Scattergood continues its tradition educating youth to lead a World of peace and justice. The addition of a middle school extends the academic offerings and will help grow the enrollment in the high school. Many on-campus and farm projects have been completed, such as a new greenhouse that provided tasty ingredients for our meals. Other projects are in the works, such as finally adding air conditioning to the student dorms.

There is renewed energy in our Yearly Meeting despite the presence of COVID. This energy was palpable as we gathered together and engaged in our relationships with each other and the Divine.

We close with a passage from The Journey Worth Taking by Sarah Katreen Hoggatt of Freedom Friends Church (Independent).

*We are on a journey and it may not even
matter so much where we end up,
but that we rise up to take the voyage.
We speak the truth of our lives,
hear each other and are changed.
We can love without complete understanding,
walking the light together while miles apart.*

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

WEBSITE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Website Committee continues to maintain, refine, and update 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.

We are in the process of advising and assisting a couple of committees in setting up their own website as a subdomain, which will allow them to manage their site and content separate from the IYMC site. We are also consulting with the Yearly Meeting clerk as to how best to use the site to share time sensitive information and announcements. We continue to provide a private working site for the IYMC clerk to organize reports and other documents in preparation for Annual Sessions.

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

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

**Guidelines for Request for Reimbursement from
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)**

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

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

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

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

Friends seeking to use unassigned budgeted funds, such as the scholarship money available for Quaker Youth Camp, are asked to submit requests to the Yearly Meeting clerk for approval before April 1, 2022. After April 1, those seeking assistance will be informed of the amount available. Those seeking assistance for the first time will be given priority so that as many young people as possible have the opportunity to attend a Quaker camp. If no requests are received by April 1, the clerk will approve requests on a first-ask basis.

Unbudgeted requests: All requests for financial assistance not in the fiscal year budget should be submitted to the yearly meeting clerk, who will consult with the Interim Committee clerk if action must be taken before the next annual sessions. If there is an urgent request, the Interim Committee, which conducts the business of the Yearly Meeting between sessions, may be called to meet.