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# IOWA YEARLY MEETING CONSERVATIVE

## Minutes of 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Sessions Eighth Month 5-10, 2003

### Fourth Day – Wednesday – 8/6/03

At the 126<sup>th</sup> annual session of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative held at Scattergood Friends School, near West Branch, Iowa from Eighth Month 5-10, 2003.

*“Sing and rejoice, ye Children of the Day and of the Light; for the Lord is at work in this thick night of Darkness that may be felt: and Truth doth flourish as the rose, and the lilies do grow among the thorns, and the plants atop of hills, and upon them the lambs doth skip and play. And never heed the tempests nor the storms, floods nor rains, for the Seed Christ is over all and doth reign. And so, be of good faith and valiant for the Truth.”*  
—George Fox 1663

We are glad to have the presence of these visitors: Penelope Wright, who travels under the care of Nashville Monthly Meeting, Southern Appalachian Meeting & Association, and is a Friends General Conference visitor; Elizabeth Duke, General Secretary of Friends World Committee for Consultation, and a member of Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting, sojourning in Britain Yearly Meeting; Nancy Craft, an FWCC visitor who travels under the care of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative and is a member of Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting; David Eley, of Austin, Texas; Don Nagler who travels under the care of Pine River Monthly Meeting, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting; Mike Thielmann who attends Center Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting, FUM; Elizabeth O’Sullivan of Twin Cities Friends Meeting, Northern Yearly Meeting.

Monthly Meeting appointments to Yearly Meeting Representatives are:

Ames	Gordon Bivens, Dan Treadway
Bear Creek	Alberta Kisling, Herbert Standing
Decorah	Martha Davis
Des Moines Valley	Sherry Hutchison, George Welch
Iowa City	Ruth Dawson
Lincoln	Dan Schlitt, Mary K. Stillwell

Omaha	Debbie Galusha, Marilyn Mantel-Guss
Paullina	Jonathan Fisch, Lois Tjossem
Penn Valley	Cathy Gardner, Ginger Kenney
West Branch	Larry Marsh, Ed Clopton
Whittier	Roy Hampton, Bob Yeats

Monthly meeting appointments of Caretakers to Yearly Meeting are:

Ames	Sandi Tomer, Mark Tomer
Bear Creek	Cheryl Sutton, Roy Knight
Decorah	Perry-O Sliwa
Des Moines Valley	Brynne Howard, Cindy Winchell
Iowa City	none appointed
Lincoln	Marce Hinshaw, Harvey Hinshaw
Omaha	Carol Gilbert
Paullina	Owen Crosbie
Penn Valley	Jim Kenney
West Branch	Mark Patton
Whittier	Deborah Dakin

There are 17 Representatives and 9 caretakers present. Others may be attending later sessions.

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

Ames	A.M. Fink
Bear Creek	Jackie Ieckband, Wanda Knight
Decorah	none appointed
Des Moines Valley	D.J. Newlin
Iowa City	Ruth Dawson
Lincoln	Marge Schlitt
Omaha	Debbie Galusha
Paullina	Galen Tjossem
Penn Valley	Terry Matz
West Branch	Margie Haworth
Whittier	Jim Bromwell

We approve the following appointments suggested by the Representatives:

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Exercise Committee:</b>       | Muriel Bivens, Deborah Dakin, Laura Baltaro, Jean Eden |
| <b>Epistle Committee:</b>        | Olive Wilson, Carol Gilbert, Mary K. Stillwell         |
| <b>Special Replies:</b>          | Herbert Standing, Bob Yeats, Lorene Ludy               |
| <b>Yearly Meeting Reporters:</b> | Dan Treadway, Jeff Kisling                             |
| <b>Auditing Committee:</b>       | Dan Schlitt, Jim Kenney                                |

We approve the Yearly Meeting Reporters taking photos for possible publication. Photos will not be taken during meeting for worship or meeting for worship with attention to business.

Readers for this morning's business sessions are: Penny Majors and Jim Kenney.

We listened carefully to the Midyear Meeting Report prepared by Ginger Kenney, the Midyear Meeting Youth Report prepared by Jackie Leckband, and the Midyear Meeting Treasurer's Report prepared by Osa Bricker. We appreciate the hosting of Bear Creek Friends and our fellowship time together. We approve the reports as amended.

We look forward to gathering for Midyear Meeting next year at Bear Creek. We are aware that homes once used for hosting Midyear Meeting attendees are no longer available due to Friends moving from the area. Bear Creek Friends suggest the Yearly Meeting raises the budget from \$500 to \$1000 to allow for housing funds and scholarships. We ask the Representatives to consider this request as they prepare the Yearly Meeting budget.

We learned the schoolhouse at Bear Creek will either need major repairs or to be replaced. We also ask Representatives to consider the request that the Yearly Meeting allocate all Midyear Meeting donations after expenses to the hosting fees line item to assist with those costs. We ask that future Midyear Meeting reports/treasurer's report indicate how these funds are being used and update the Yearly Meeting on the project. The Yearly Meeting will consider other support for this project at future annual sessions if requested.

## MIDYEAR MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Bear Creek Meeting blessed us this year with a peaceful and full retreat for our spiritual growth as a yearly meeting and we all thank them for their work and efforts. The weather even cooperated and we had a glorious weekend together.

After our arrival and browsing through the shop to help fund AFSC's work in Iowa and Kansas, we had our opening worship. Thanks again to Wanda Knight and Reva Griffith and others for putting the shop together. Next was the opening session with our speaker, Thomas Hamm from Earlham College, where he is the archivists and a professor of history. His insights into Conservative Quakerism and Pastoral Quakerism really managed to open our minds to new concepts of where we have been as a group and where we may be going..

The first session was on decision-making and business and Tom led us into thinking how our practice of business and the world's practice differs so greatly. He charged us with attentively listening to each other so that we may grow toward the understanding to which the Spirit would lead us. This, of course, is very different from using *Robert's Rules of Order* and hopefully will produce a more complete answer to any problem.

Tom's second session on peace brought us to a new depth of understanding of the peace testimony and how this is not always the basis of Quaker actions for all Quakers. We all felt that the peace testimony is one of the bases of our understanding of Quakerism and finding that the emphasis on peace is not universal but still important to all Quakers makes the peace testimony even more vital to us as Conservatives.

The final session for the group was on simplicity. Tom managed to bring our understanding of this testimony to the present time and he led us toward a new and more complete embracing of all our testimonies. We thank him for making history live today and for stretching our minds.

The entire weekend could not have moved on so smoothly but for all the work that the people of Bear Creek gave to it. We had delightful home stays thanks to Alberta Kisling and others, marvelous meals (you sure are good cooks) and good times to renew our friendships. The youth of our group under the able leadership of Jackie Leckband and her committee

entertained us with a play on Saturday evening that continues to make me think of what we mean by the words we use. Again, the Scattergood class joined us for our sessions and meals. They add so much to our understanding of what is happening today at Scattergood School and we enjoy meeting with them each year.

This committee thanks all the people of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) for making this weekend one of growth and happiness.

Prepared by Ginger Kenney, clerk  
Midyear Meeting Planning Committee

### MIDYEAR MEETING YOUTH REPORT

Youth created greeting cards for the AFSC sale, and enjoyed camaraderie in games, drumming and painting. Supplied with rope, tarps and poles, the group planned and assembled two shelters. This project incorporated discussions on consensus decision-making, living simply and Quaker values.

Marion Love facilitated a skit with the youth adapted from Walter Wink's presentation at FGC gathering 2002. Several examples from Jesus' teachings on nonviolent resistance were brought to life with creativity and humor.

Young Friends of high school age were invited to attend the sessions with the adults. During breaks, they went hiking or practiced for the skit. A group of staff and students from Scattergood school were able to attend the sessions this year.

The expansion of the Young Friends Committee for Midyear Meeting, and the new youth representatives were appreciated, and enriched the activities for young participants.

Jackie Leckband, clerk

## MIDYEAR MEETING TREASURER REPORT

INCOME	
Contributions	\$2,961.65
DISBURSEMENTS	
Expenses	
Food	\$695.95
Cook	400.00
Child Care	144.50
Comm. Exp.	21.44
Thomas Hamm	300.00
Total Expenses	\$1,561.59
Hosting fee	300.00
Forwarded to Yearly Meeting	1,100.06
	\$2,961.65

Osa Bricker  
Midyear Meeting Treasurer

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We listened with interest to the informative Interim Committee Report prepared by Cheryl Sutton, clerk and Carol Gilbert, Assistant clerk of the Committee. We approve the report.

### INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETING

Fourth Month, Twelfth Day, 2003

Held at Bear Creek Friends Meetinghouse near Earlham, Iowa

The meeting opened with a time of worship. The Interim Committee appointed Carol Gilbert as assistant clerk.

We approved asking the Publications Committee to make as many copies of the most recent IYM(C) Discipline as possible for the \$400.00 budgeted during the 2002 session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (C).

We received a letter from Friends General Conference Advancement & Outreach Committee offering to list the meetings of IYM(C) on their new Website that is a monthly meeting locator called QuakerFinder at no cost to the Yearly Meeting. We approved the Yearly Meeting clerk sending names and contact information of the monthly meetings to Friends General Conference to be listed on their Website



QuakerFinder.org. We suggest that their listings refer to our QuakerNet Website as well, in case the FGC Web page is not updated as often.

We approved the Interim Committee clerk sending a letter to each monthly meeting of IYM(C) inviting them to seek visitors to the Ohio Yearly Meeting annual session to be held at Barnesville, OH, 8/13-18/2003. The monthly meetings are asked to send suggestions to yearly meeting sessions by way of their nominating committee representatives.

We approved asking Ed Clopton to serve as visitor to North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Conservative from IYM(C). Ed Clopton will attend North Carolina Yearly Meeting(C) if way opens. We ask the Yearly Meeting clerk to consult with the Yearly Meeting treasurer to look at the budget (contingency and clerk funds) to fund cost for attending North Carolina Yearly Meeting(C). Our intention is to cover the cost of travel expenses and registration for Ed Clopton to attend North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

The Interim Committee asks the Yearly Meeting Representatives to consider adding to the budget the cost of travel and registration for visitors to Ohio Yearly Meeting and the North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Conservative. Clerk of Interim Committee will see that this request gets communicated to the Yearly Meeting clerk.

We received a request for support of Michael Luick-Thrams traveling exhibit on Scattergood Hostel from Sherry Hutchison and do not feel lead to act on it at this time.

The Interim Committee approved the letter by Peace and Social Concerns Committee opposing military action by the United States government and encouraging peaceful avenues such as the International Criminal Court. The Committee approved the letter being signed by the Yearly Meeting clerk on behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and sent to the representatives and senators of the meetings of IYM(C), as well as the president of the United States. Copies will also be sent to the clerks of the monthly meetings of IYM(C) and others suggested by the P&SC Committee.

The Committee appoints Cheryl Sutton as clerk and Carol Gilbert as assistant clerk for next year's Interim Committee.

Cheryl Sutton, clerk and Carol Gilbert, assistant clerk

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We listened carefully to the excellent AFSC Corporation Report prepared by Larry Marsh. We appreciate the good representation the IYM(C) Friends give to AFSC on our behalf.

### AFSC CORPORATION REPORT

"For us there is only the trying, the rest is not our business." This quote from a poem by T. S. Eliot began a letter to the Corporation members of The American Friends Service Committee from its clerk, Paul Lacy. Paul then went on to describe how Eliot's words had haunted him over the years with their sense of bleak hope in the face of overwhelming odds, and how much more poignant they seem in these days when workers for peace find themselves surrounded once again by war.

"Naturally, we want to see that our labor has borne good fruit," Paul continues. "Success, winning a victory, is a great encouragement to increased effort . . . but we cannot assess our lives solely by our achievements; they must be measured by the vision we have embraced and the integrity and persistence with which we have followed it."

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), continues to honor the vision which set it in motion 85 years ago "to transform conditions and relationships both in the world and in ourselves that threaten to overwhelm what is precious in human beings . . . [to] nurture the faith that conflicts can be resolved nonviolently, that enmity can be transformed into friendship, strife into cooperation, poverty into well-being, and injustice into dignity and participation."

While much of the energy of AFSC this year went toward opposing the escalation of war and violence in the Middle East, it faithfully continued its programs in more than 40 countries, as well as in many regions of the United States, programs which are aimed at removing the causes of war, not just mopping up war's aftermath or decrying its escalation. It was a

year that the Visioning Process, a two-year, organization-wide undertaking to set program and fund-raising priorities for the next five years, came to fruition and final clarification. In conclusion, six broad goals were included: work for peace, humanitarian assistance, economic justice, immigrant rights, equitable systems of justice, and support for young people in their work for peace and justice. Each goal is accompanied by detailed objectives listing measurable results.

A three-year program called the African Initiative was begun to provide support for programs in both Africa and the United States. Working within current Quaker organizations, this initiative seeks to promote and encourage intercommunication between local, governmental and non-governmental groups who are working for a fuller participation of currently marginalized populations as they work for economic and political power sharing. In Africa, particular emphasis is directed at youth and women, providing training in peace building, and organizing community projects. The U.S. focus will be largely aimed at heightening public Africa awareness through people-to-people programs such as the AFSC Africa Peace Tour, student exchanges, and media campaigns.

The AFSC Corporation, the legal entity of the American Friends Service Committee as established by the by-laws and to which Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) appoints four representatives, held its annual meeting this year in Philadelphia on the first and second of November. Along with reports from various committees and worship in both the programmed and unprogrammed manner, public gatherings were also held. This year's guest speaker was the clerk of Ramallah Friends Meeting in Palestine, Jean Zaru, who gave us a personal account of her daily life as a resident in Ramallah and the difficult life of Palestinians. Her talk was followed by panel discussions on topics related to peace and conflict resolution. A concert featuring violinist Judy Geist playing a composition by Hannibal called "When Peace Comes," and a presentation by a Doylestown Friends Meeting group called "Faith and Practice" was offered Friday evening. Sobering photographs of people on death row taken by Lou Jones and collected in a book entitled *Final Exposures* lined the walls of one of our meeting rooms, a forceful reminder of the humans that are facing capital punishment and its cost to us all.

Larry Marsh

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We listened with interest to the informative epistle to IYM(C) sent by Ohio Yearly Meeting. Due to the closeness of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)'s annual sessions to our own, the clerk has not yet received an epistle from them. It will be read in session if it arrives later in the week and be included in the Minutes. We appreciate receiving epistles from our sister Conservative yearly meetings as they help us keep our spiritual ties strong. We are glad that Jim and Ginger Kenney were able to attend the Ohio Yearly Meeting sessions last year and appreciate having visitors from these yearly meetings at our annual sessions.

**From North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative):**

Seventh Month 12, 2003

To Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative),

Greetings from North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)! We came together this Seventh Month 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> on the campus of Guilford College for our 306<sup>th</sup> annual session. We were pleased this year with the turn out from all our monthly meetings. Many people arrived early and stayed for the entire session. We noted an especially strong turn out of Friends new to the yearly meeting and visitors from California, Michigan, Florida, Texas, and New Hampshire. Their presence blessed us with the opportunity for mutual sharing and support.

Mica 6:8 asks us, "What does the Lord require of us but to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God?" These times of outward strife have compelled Friends to deep internal scrutiny of the very core of our faith. At our gathering this year, Friends have sought each other out for discernment, support, and comfort as we seek clarity on such challenges.

Days began joyfully with Bible study by David Eley on "The Christ in You: The Hope of Glory." In meeting for business, all of our monthly meetings communed with one another through readings of the query responses and State of the Society reports. Friends from the various Friends' Schools in our yearly meeting brought us up to date, and they reported prospering Friends education. Buildings are being built, enrollment continues to rise, and students have been heard to complain that summer break is too long. Several other groups appeared before the gathered meeting including the American Friends Service Committee, Right Sharing of World Resources, Southern State Prison Worship Group, Friends Center at Guilford College, and the Peace Tax Fund. We met all of these groups with heartfelt thanks for their witness and prayers of support. We also united on a minute in support of the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act.

Evening presentations included School of the Spirit students and teachers sharing their experiences from the program on being a spiritual nurturer. Carin Anderson and Chris Moore-Backman reported on their work with, and continuing witness for, the Fellowship of Reconciliation's international accompaniment program in Columbia. On our last evening we enjoyed a truly diverse selection of entertainment provided by Friends young and old at our talent show.

Though your thoughts and prayers were palpable in our midst, we surely missed your physical presence with us. We are grateful for the many opportunities we have and will continue to have for fellowship in Christ. We look forward to reconvening in Seventh Month 2004 on the campus of Chowan College in Murfreesboro, NC if consistent with divine will.

In Christ,  
Jeanne Rose, clerk

### **Epistle from Ohio Yearly Meeting**

*But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you salute only your brethren, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. Matt. 5.44-48*

To Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting:

Living in this time of national crisis and war, the Ohio Yearly Meeting fully appreciates and treasures the loving ties which continue to bind our meetings together, spiritually and corporately. We have welcomed Jim and Ginger Kenney from your meeting, enjoying their presence with us. We are hopeful the way will open for Ohio Yearly Meeting members to attend Iowa Yearly Meeting next year. We apply our memory of George Fox's reply to the Commonwealth Commissioners, attempting to lure him into the army: "I lived in the virtue of that life and power that took away the occasion of all wars, and I knew from whence all wars did rise, from the lust . . . I told them I was come into the covenant of peace which was before wars and studies were." In the days ahead our shared testimony for peace may require some personal sacrifice and perhaps even suffering. The letters we have received from yearly meetings this

year have expressed concern about what the future holds for Friends who are obedient to the commands of Christ Jesus.

During this week, many Ohio Yearly Meeting Friends have expressed concerns that we will be challenged and pressed on all sides as a result of recent events. The opinion of some is that while it is difficult to anticipate what would be required of any of us, Friends are certain the near future will plumb our spiritual depths. In larger groups and those of two or three, Ohio Yearly Meeting Friends have begun to contemplate what it means to hold the peace testimony. The word “hold” implies and amplifies that, like a parent with a child, the testimony is precious to each of us, deserving of nurture and care as required in a time most of our fellow citizens are filled with warlike emotions. We must be mindful of particular points listed in a response to a query, which was read this week.

“Christ loves us even though there are times when we do things He doesn’t approve of. We were brought up with forgiveness as a way of life . . . Now that we have been wounded and our pride damaged, it is essential to share with others that forgiveness starts with us and is a major step towards both inner peace and world harmony . . . As we realize more of our shortcomings, that leads to greater repentance and dependence on the Lord, which will strengthen the love among us.”

Despite our sense of uneasiness and disquiet, we began our yearly meeting held at Stillwater 13-18 8<sup>th</sup> 2002 under a new clerk with a waiting attitude and deep gratitude for the presence of God among us. We soon discerned in our deliberations and discussions that for us, indeed, “Christ has come to teach his people himself,” as evidenced by the work of the various yearly meeting committees during the past year. (On days which began with Bible Reading and ended with an evening program, we have attempted to be authentic Friends, concluding all outstanding business and management matters to the satisfactions of all.)

As our country is embroiled in war and preparations for war, the members of the Peace and Human Relations Committee have sought a clear, reasoned statement which would reflect Ohio Yearly Meeting’s peace testimony; the anticipation was the statement would be printed in a newspaper within the locality of each of our monthly meetings. The committee has completed its work and the statement was read this week.

It is worth reporting the Peace Committee's compilation of the testimonies of Ohio Yearly Meeting members, Statements Opposing War, has undergone three printings in 20 years.

An outgrowth of a Ministry and Oversight concern for pastoral care of the local meetings seven years ago, the Committee on Renewal and Encouragement expressed in its deliberations the perception of a sense of new life in the Ohio Yearly Meeting. In part this awareness is due to a retreat sponsored by this group, one which explored "Living Prayerfully with Jesus and the Psalms." The latter weekend retreat drew over 30 participants, including some visitors. The Wider Fellowship of Conservative Friends held a pleasant and productive gathering of 75 Friends from across the United States.

The Friends Center of Ohio Yearly Meeting also had a productive and fulfilling year, sponsoring seven weekend retreats on diverse subjects, including one about Robert Barclay's *Apology* and one on the subject of "Hymns and Private Meditations" a one-day workshop on growing in grace was also successful with participants at all activities numbering nearly 100 this year. Members representing the Committee on Indian Affairs attended a national conference in Oklahoma, thus concretely confirming an ongoing concern of Ohio's Conservative Friends for over a century and a half. Ohio Yearly Meeting members are now able to utilize the Website developed by the Electronic Evangelism Committee to acquire information and to educate ([www.ohioyearlymeeting.org](http://www.ohioyearlymeeting.org)).

We continue our ministry to older members through the Walton Retirement Home. The Historical Committee is attempting to remind members that Ohio Yearly Meeting has a long history with exhibits in the Historical Room. We are inspired by the response of our younger Friends to the Christian Education Camp in the summer (to which others are welcome) and the work undertaken by Junior and Young Friends during yearly meeting week; these groups meet separately following our worship before each business session. Each presents a concluding program on Seventh Day evening.

We have spent a whole week of work, worship, and fellowship in the Lord. In closing, we are encouraged to recall the words from George Fox's Letter 158.

Friends and brethren everywhere, dwell in that which makes for peace and love. For, "blessed are the peacemakers, for theirs is the Kingdom," (Matt. 5.9) Therefore, seek the Peace, in which is

the welfare and good of everyone . . . Be careful to watch over one another for each other's good. Be patient, keep low and down in the Power of the Lord God, that there you may come to enjoy the Kingdom of Peace and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the same. And let no prejudice boil in any of your hearts, but let it cast out by the Power of God, in which is the Unity and the everlasting Kingdom.”

Yours in the Light of Christ,  
Seth Hinshaw, clerk

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Each year the clerk receives many epistles from yearly meetings and Friends fellowships around the world. Decorah Friends Meetings served as the Yearly Meeting Documents Committee, reading the epistles and selecting portions of them to be read at IYM(C) in session. We appreciated hearing some of these and all received epistles will be available for perusal during annual sessions.

We were reminded of the tradition of early Christian churches and Friends meetings sending epistles and that we continue the tradition of sharing how the Spirit is revealed to us when we exchange epistles. Decorah Friends shared with us the manner in which they read and select portions of epistles in worship together, and that this time is precious to their meeting. We thank the Document Committee for selecting these readings.

### **Excerpts of YM Epistles Read In Session at IYM(C)**

#### **New England Yearly Meeting of Friends**

**August 2002**

“The musical ministry of Annie and Peter Blood-Patterson blessed our meeting for worship and Bible Half Hours. They explored the prophetic all through scripture, song, and vision. Singing and the song, *Give Yourself to Love if Love is What You're After*, we realized we must make the commitment first, before we can live the message. They reminded us that being called is uncomfortable, and the message of the still small voice may be frightening.”

#### **Joint Nordic Yearly Meeting**

**Sixth Month 2002**

“At the Nordic Folk High School, surrounded by the natural beauty of Kungälv, Sweden, Friends from Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden



have for the first time gathered for a joint yearly meeting together with friends of Friends and foreign guests. The Nordic Folk High School has Quaker roots and strong traditions for Nordic co-operation, and we felt as if we had come home. From 27-30.06.2002 we have enjoyed the fellowship of worship and conversation. What is fellowship, and how can fellowship develop? In smaller groups and in plenary sessions we have spoken about the role of fellowship and how it thrives. Hans Eirik Aarek reminded us of the strong fellowship, which characterized early Friends. They turned to the example of the first Christians and had a radical understanding of their call to be the salt of the earth. We wish to let their understanding continue to inspire us.”

### **Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Eighth Month 2002**

”Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting met on the campus of Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, July 31 – August 4, 2002. We gathered together with the theme of “Healing the World,” humbled at the enormity of the challenge we had placed before ourselves. Who were we, a small group of Midwestern Quakers, to think that we could heal the world? What might we have to say?”

### **Fellowship of Friends of African Descent Eighth Month 12<sup>th</sup> Day, 2002**

The seventh gathering of the Fellowship of Friends of African Descent met at Pendle Hill, Wallingford, Pennsylvania from Thursday, August 8 through Monday, August 12, 2002. We gathered this year under the theme, “Come Holy Spirit, Revive Us Again.” . . . The Continuing Committee reported on a concern raised during the last Gathering. Some Friends reported experiencing their monthly meetings as less than welcoming and supportive of them, and wished that membership in the Fellowship, rather than a local monthly meeting be the basis of their membership in the Religious Society of Friends. Upon investigation, the Continuing Committee concluded that membership in the Religious Society of Friends occurs only through monthly meetings. . . . We visited the Chester County Historical Society Museum, where we viewed an interactive exhibit on Chester County’s involvement in the Underground Railroad. We were uplifted by the dramatic depictions of free African Americans, Quakers and other abolitionists aiding the efforts of enslaved Africans to gain freedom from bondage. Later, we had a presentation from one of the principal archaeologists involved in an extensive dig in Philadelphia. He showed slides of a number of artifacts that have been unearthed documenting the history of free

African Americans living in close proximity with Quaker families during the 1700-1800s in what is now Philadelphia's Old City area. This dig has produced, in quantity and in quality, one of the greatest archeological finds documenting the early presence of free African Americans.

## **Monteverde Monthly Meeting, Costa Rica**

**6/11/2002**

We send you warm greetings from Monteverde, Costa Rica! In this year of war and change, we feel a heightened sense of gratitude for the gift of life, for the joy of love, and for the privilege of living in a safe community and in a country that works to live peacefully. . . . The events of September 11 brought home to us our interconnectedness with the world, on a national as well as a very personal level. We felt a new commitment to strengthen our relationships with our neighbors of different cultures and religions. We shared in the ecumenical service for peace at the local Catholic Church and received the local priest in our meeting. For several months we were blessed by the presence of a Jewish family headed by two rabbis. They shared the richness of their traditions by including us in their worship and celebrations, they learned about Quaker practice by engaging fully in the life of our meeting.

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

## **Fifth Day – Thursday – 8/7/03**

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

*“We must not minimize how difficult it is for us, having absorbed the individualistic values of our culture, to give any authority to community or to expose our private selves to others. At the same time, we must be aware that spiritual community requires of us precisely such trust, openness and yieldedness. The community, in turn, must work to be worthy of that trust, openness and yieldedness. Accountability runs in both directions. In order for an individual to be accountable to a community for her spiritual growth, the community must be accountable to its individual members as a place of loving support for spiritual growth—with some genuine humility about its fallibility.”*

*—Patricia Loring 1999*

Karen Greenler and Jonathan Fisch have been appointed readers this morning.

On the evening of Third Day, Friends gathered for a Collection on Christian Peacemaker Teams in Israel and Palestine. We were sorry to learn that scheduled presenter Marian Solomon, a member of Ames Meeting, could not attend as she is recovering from recent surgery. She sent instead a video, "Inside God's Bunker," (interviews of Israeli settlers produced by the BBC) for us to watch. Following the video, Jim and Ginger Kenney who are members of Penn Valley Meeting and also a part of the CPT organization in Kansas City, answered questions.

On the early morning of Fourth Day Friends gathered for meeting for worship to hold the Yearly Meeting in the Light. These morning times of worship will continue throughout the week.

On Fourth Day afternoon Patti McKee, coordinator of Iowa Peace Network, Kathleen McQuillen, Iowa Program Director of the Central Region of American Friends Service Committee, and Jonathan Fisch, a representative to Friends Committee on National Legislation, presented updates on the ongoing work of their organizations. They have been heavily involved in peace and justice work including: helping build state-wide and national coalitions for peace; working on economic justice concerns; educating Friends and others about civil rights and the Patriot Act; lobbying legislators; and speaking out for the children of the world being affected by the many wars and conflicts. All are concerned with being faithful to the work of Friends and being voices speaking Truth in these hard times. Their written reports will be included in the Minutes.

A powerful meeting for healing was held later in the afternoon and other meetings for healing will be held during the week.

Some F/friends spent the part of the afternoon working in the organic gardens of Scattergood's farm.

Jeff Weiss of the AFSC Central Region office in Des Moines was the Evening Collection speaker. He gave a clear overview of the history of the Middle East region and the events that have led up to the complex conflicts and wars in the area. He also shared about some of the work that is being done by AFSC including their Comfort a Child program, which invites Friends and others to donate materials for infant care kits

to be sent to the hospitals of Iraq. A good question and answer period followed his presentation.

## FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT

**Introduction**—In troubled times such as these repressive “War-on-Terrorism” times, some religious communities turn inward. One can see a long history of religious communities escaping the chaos of human events by concentrating on achieving inward perfection and seeking avenues to consolation. Not so for FCNL. God calls us to a practice of faith that takes us out into the world. We walk through it in the company of a creator God. The work of creation is not yet finished. We have been put into this world for a purpose. We have work to do in it.

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is a Quaker lobby in the public interest, founded in 1943. FCNL labors to bring the spiritual values of Friends to bear on public policy decisions in its work with Congress and the Administration, and is devoted to furthering the causes of peace and social justice at home and abroad. FCNL staff work with volunteers around the country to bring a persuasive Quaker voice to a variety of Friends’ concerns. Each year national and world events have a significant impact on FCNL’s legislative work, and 2002 was no exception.

Here is a brief summary of how FCNL—our staff, committee, volunteers, and constituents around the country—worked to prevent war, and to promote peace and justice in 2002. Much more information along with resources for citizen action, can be found on the FCNL Website <[www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org)>

**The political reality and the continuing effect of September 11 attacks on work with Congress in 2002**—In 2002 the Washington policy debate, legislation, and budget appropriations processes were dominated by one theme: “all war all the time.” From the war in Afghanistan, to the “war on terror,” to the possible expanded war in Iraq, the Administration set a war agenda for the United States, and because the U.S. is a superpower, for the world.

The events of September 11, 2001 affected FCNL’s legislative activities well into 2002. Opportunities for progress in some areas simply dried up, while at the same time the challenges of this new “war” consumed much

of our staff and volunteer effort. Communications with Congress, our constituents and donors were severely disrupted by the anthrax attacks in October 2001, which shut down much of the mail service to Capitol Hill and Senate offices for several months.

**War is not the Answer: Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict is the answer**—The “war on terror” promises to be the most enduring legacy of the Bush presidency, and, this past year, the Bush administration rapidly expanded the scope of the war and took significant steps toward making the war economy and national security state permanent. This agenda so focused Congressional, national, and even international attention on war-making that other important issues—including some FCNL legislative priorities—were ignored or crowded out.

The Bush Administration has decided that global military dominance and the preemptive use of military power will be its chief weapon in its “war on terror.” Alternative policy approaches that emphasize conflict resolution, prevention of deadly conflict, diplomacy and international cooperation are in great need, but few organizations are prepared to articulate and promote such policies.

In 2002, we at FCNL concentrated our resources to oppose the expanding “war on terror” and to promote the peaceful prevention of deadly conflict. We worked to build public and policymaker awareness and support for policies that can increase capacities to manage conflict peacefully, resolve disputes before they reach crisis levels, and address the structural or root causes of war.

Within this framework, much of FCNL activity focused in the areas of 1) opposing war and preparations for war; 2) arms control and nuclear disarmament; 3) conflict prevention and resolution through international law and peaceful institutions; 4) reducing military spending and redirecting funds to support conflict resolution, prevention of violent conflict, restrictions on small arms and conventional weapons transfers, and domestic and international humanitarian and development needs, and (5) start up of a civil liberties and human rights program.

**Opposing War in Afghanistan**—Early in the year FCNL documents, analyses and information were in demand, especially the talking points, “If not military force and war, then what?” FCNL was one of the few organizations providing practical alternatives to war. FCNL also advocated expanding the UN peacekeeping mission, increasing U.S.

development assistance, and establishing an “Afghan Victims Fund” to provide compensation and aid to civilian victims of U.S. military operations.

**Opposing an Expanded War on Iraq**—FCNL’s Campaign to Prevent Expanded War with Iraq began early in 2002, and went into high gear in the fall. Working with coalition partners and grassroots supporters around the country, we succeeded in growing the core of dissent in Congress concerning the President’s limitless “war on terror” and his plans to expand the war against Iraq. FCNL raised critical questions, promoted peaceful alternatives to war, and challenged the President’s unilateralist, militarist, lawless approach to international relations. We helped to constrain the President’s choices about waging unilateral, preemptive war and to create widespread, visible, and educated public opposition to a U.S. invasion of Iraq. FCNL staff initiated and served as chair of the Iraq Policy Working Group (IPWG), a diverse group of national and international religious, humanitarian, public interest and arms control organizations. The IPWG focuses on legislation and policy initiatives to prevent war, and has become a center of coordination among a wide range of groups providing congressional education and advocacy on Iraq.

**The Quaker Nuclear Disarmament Project**—FCNL continued to provide leadership on nuclear disarmament issues to the national arms control and religious communities. The FCNL lobbyist is one of only four registered lobbyists on these issues in the arms control community. In 2002 nuclear disarmament advocates had both victories and losses. The Congressional ban was retained on the development of nuclear weapons of less than five kilotons, also known as “mini-nukes.” Funds for a three-year feasibility study on another new nuclear warhead, called the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator (RNEP), or “bunker buster,” were deleted by the Senate. The final version of the bill funded a feasibility study for this warhead but with several restrictions.

**East Asia Policy Education Project**—Begun in March 2002, the project goal is to avert armed conflict on the Korean peninsula through public policy education activities focused on Congress, the Executive Branch, selected non-governmental organizations, and the public in order to raise awareness and promote understanding of U.S./Korea issues. In 2002 the project provided peace-directed alternative views on North Korea to members of Congress and their staff and encouraged them to help prevent violent conflict; and assisted Korean Americans in gaining

greater understanding of the legislative process and how to engage with it. Often FCNL offered a contrasting approach to current U.S. policies toward North and South Korea.

**Military Information and Analysis Project**—A retired military officer joined FCNL staff to help us interpret the impact of military programs and policy on the legislative agenda. FCNL provided Congress and the public with incisive and timely analysis and commentary, as well as more in-depth research and writing, on current issues related to international peace and security. These addressed the war on Iraq, U.S. policy toward North Korea, and the state of global conflict and UN peacekeeping. FCNL commentary was picked up by various media outlets, including print, Web-based, and talk radio.

**Alternatives to War through International Cooperation**—FCNL advocated alternatives to war and the importance of international cooperation in the prevention of deadly conflict. FCNL sought to bridge the gap between current U.S. policy, focused heavily on military responses to global problems, and promising international initiatives (at the UN and in other arenas) to develop new capacities for the peaceful prevention of deadly conflict as an alternative to the war system. FCNL brought the international agenda for conflict prevention into the U.S. policy arena through visits with members of Congress and other policymakers. We worked to build a core group of policymakers and colleague organizations that will support U.S. policies for the peaceful prevention of deadly conflict.

**Threats to Civil Liberties**—The “war on terror” was used as the excuse for other troubling initiatives by the U.S. government, including assaults on civil liberties and human rights at home and abroad. Preservation of human rights and civil liberties has been a part of Quaker engagement with governments since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The continuing “war on terrorism” and legislation such as the USA PATRIOT ACT encroached on freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights and on the Constitution’s separation of powers. Research and analysis by a full-time volunteer Friend-in-Washington (a Quaker lawyer and civil liberties expert) convinced FCNL that the threat to civil liberties is real and imminent and that FCNL can play an important role in the coalitions to defend freedom. FCNL launched a Civil Liberties and Human Rights program in response to this rapid and extensive erosion of civil liberties.

**How Did FCNL Educate the Public and Policymakers?**—FCNL’s approach included in-depth research on the workings of Congress and pending legislation; continuous networking and consultation with members of Congress, their staff and the staff of other concerned organizations; developing and maintaining timely, relevant and usable legislative information for constituents, colleagues and members of Congress; and education and training programs such as briefings, conference calls and workshops on related issues for FCNL constituents, members of Congress, and their staff

The analyses and action materials prepared by FCNL informed Friends and other constituents on the status of bills and other legislation and the positions of their legislators. These legislative resources were relied upon by many of our colleagues in other organizations and sometimes shared or adapted for use with their constituencies. FCNL’s publications which included the weekly Legislative Action Message (“the LAM”), and the monthly FCNL Washington Newsletter also provided a vehicle for spreading FCNL’s Quaker message to Capitol Hill and the White House. A wealth of information on many Quaker concerns is available on the FCNL Website [www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org), including the monthly FCNL Washington Newsletter.

**Community-based advocacy increased dramatically**—Policy makers who debate, shape, and decide the course our nation takes urgently need to hear the voices and judgment of citizens. Relying on a foundation of competent, relevant, and timely legislative work, the FCNL Field Program sought to find, engage, and sustain relationships with individuals and groups who are rooted in communities across the country and who work for change in national policy.

In our efforts to generate a high level of grassroots messages to Congress on a variety of issues, FCNL sent multiple e-mail legislative action alerts to thousands of constituents; hosted several lobby days and lobby training events; staffed a public information service to provide responses to inquiries; and organized conference calls to bring together activists and policy experts. Traffic on FCNL’s Web site reached new highs as thousands of constituents new to FCNL used the Website Legislative Action Center which features a congressional database and e-mail, faxing, and letter-writing center on-line. This resulted in a significant increase in the number of messages being sent to Congress. FCNL staff also traveled throughout the United States to speak, lead workshops, and inform Friends and public audiences about policies being decided by



Congress. Increased media work ranging from radio interviews to strategic placement of op-eds in newspapers helped to both spread the word about FCNL and raise public awareness of avenues for legislative policy change.

Quaker youth and other young adults are actively involved in the life of FCNL. Each year 3-7 young people serve as Legislative Interns; college students and young professionals participate in FCNL's Annual Meeting and a Spring Young Adult Lobby Day; and each May one Quaker college brings several students to Washington for a 2- to 3- week May Term. Campus visits by FCNL staff include public lectures, guest lecturing in courses and Quaker studies programs, and meeting with students in campus religious life or otherwise interested in FCNL.

**Building for the Future**—FCNL's home on Capitol Hill, so heavily used by Quaker and like-minded groups to witness on our concerns, has reached the end of its useful life. A substantial renovation and reconstruction will begin in the summer of 2003 to preserve this program resource. The FCNL Education Fund, which owns the building, is working with an architectural firm with specialties in both historic renovation and green architecture. The total project (including temporary relocation during construction and perpetual reserve for maintenance) will cost over \$6 million. Over \$4 million had been raised by the end of 2002.

**Engaging All Friends**—For almost 60 years Friends have benefited from the vision and hard work of the organizers and sustainers of FCNL. Throughout these years FCNL has stayed closely connected to our supporters in Friends meetings and churches around the country. Planning began in 2002 to offer special programs in local meetings and churches during 2003. The Engaging All Friends project will introduce new supporters to FCNL's program work, and also stress the urgent need to complete the building campaign.

As we write this report, many of us are focused on opposing war against Iraq. FCNL's work in 2002 helped lay a foundation of strong and growing Congressional opposition to war. The peace and justice campaigns of 2013 or 2023 are beyond our knowledge, but not beyond our vision. For 350 years Quakers have practiced a living testimony of peace, even when the world around is filled with the horrors of violent conflicts. While the U.S. government continues to waste hundreds of

billions of dollars each year preparing for and fighting these conflicts, Friends continue to testify that “a good end cannot sanctify evil means.”

That’s what we’ll keep doing in the months ahead. Thank you for your partnership in this important and historic effort.

Joe Volk, Executive Secretary

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## IOWA PEACE NETWORK REPORT

Over the last year, Iowa Peace Network (IPN) has continued to be a strong voice for peace and strove to bring a message of hope in the midst of death, destruction and despair. We were part of the largest worldwide peace movement that has ever started before a war began.

IPN has been very busy working on and coordinating peace events locally and statewide. Through the statewide coalition, our on-line peace calendar ([www.iowapeacecalendar.org](http://www.iowapeacecalendar.org)) and our own statewide action alert e-mail lists, we disseminate information on peace events both nationally and within the state, information and requests for action on national legislation and in the United Nations, and information on the Iraq situation in general.

Over the past year, much of our focus has been on the war in Iraq. IPN has been a part of a statewide coalition, as well as a central Iowa group, planning events around the issue. The events included a September 25 Grandmothers’ Call to End War Rally at the State Capitol (over 300 people attended), and an October 7 demonstration at Federal Buildings around the state to call our Congressional delegation to vote against the resolution for war against Iraq, and also to mark the anniversary of the start of the bombing of Afghanistan. On October 26, two statewide events were held in Des Moines. About 75 people attended a demonstration and civil disobedience action at the Iowa Air National Guard Base to call the Air Guard to stay home and not enforce the illegal “no-fly” zones in Iraq. The afternoon peace rally at Nollen Plaza drew about 250 people to say “no” to the possible war in Iraq and to call for a nonviolent resolution to the conflict. The rally also marked the anniversary of the signing of the US PATRIOT Act, which curtailed civil liberties in this country; the speakers called for no more assaults on our civil liberties. This event was held in conjunction with other similar

events around the country, as well as the national demonstration in Washington, D. C., which at least a bus load of Iowans participated in.

IPN has helped plan and carry out local weekly peace vigils from January to April. Other events we have helped plan and participated in include: presentation of a resolution against the war in Iraq to the Des Moines City Council; forum on the economic impacts of the Iraqi war on Des Moines and Iowa; an alternative State of the Union address; two candlelight vigils in Des Moines drawing about 1,000 people together; a demonstration the day after the Iraq war started drawing 150 people; and an ecumenical prayer service for mourning and repentance drawing 500 people. IPN has also helped plan the regional peace rally and march, which also drew 500 people, in Des Moines on April 5. I have led discussions on various peace topics at churches and student groups and have provided nonviolence training in Ames and Cedar Falls and for peacekeepers. With other Des Moines groups, we wrote a letter about the clean-up of munitions and depleted uranium in Iraq and took it to our Congressional delegation offices. In June, IPN helped plan and carry out a statewide planning meeting on how to proactively counter our nation's ongoing nuclear and foreign policies, which was held in Ames.

Upcoming events this fall that IPN has been working on include a conference that will focus on women and peace to be held on September 13-14 at Grandview College in Des Moines and another statewide planning meeting to be held September 27 in Cedar Rapids.

Other IPN programs continue. Our newsletter, the *Dovetail*, is printed on a quarterly basis. This year the **Penalty Sharing Community**, which provides support for people who for reasons of conscience refuse to pay taxes for war, helped one resister pay his penalty. The **Peace Resource Center** still offers books, bumperstickers, cards, posters, buttons and T-shirts on peace and justice topics. IPN helped plan the Tax Day 2003 event and the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Commemoration.

IPN has undergone some changes; we have dropped our **Peace Education Project** due to lack of usage by the community. IPN has a new program that focuses on the spiritual, material and political aspects of voluntary simplicity. IPN had a four-week class on voluntary simplicity in October 2002. For a few months IPN sponsored a "Conscious Living" discussion and support group for people trying to simplify their lives and live more in line with their core values. I plan to

offer the class again this fall and hope to restart the “Conscious Living” group.

Our office has moved to the second floor of Friends House directly above our old office. Some of the Peace Resource Center items will still be on the first floor; the rest will be in our new office. When you are in Des Moines, please stop by and see our new office.

In connection with the Justice Commission of Ecumenical Ministries of Iowa, we have developed a packet of materials to help congregations to start discussions and studies about peacemaking. The packets are available through the Ecumenical Ministries of Iowa’s Website, [www.iowachurches.org](http://www.iowachurches.org).

I will leave you with this message of hope from Jim Wallis in his book *The Soul of Politics*: “From the perspective of the Bible, hope is not simply a feeling or a mood or a rhetorical flourish. Hope is the very dynamic of history. Hope is the engine of change. Hope is the energy of transformation. Hope is the door from one reality to another . . .” He also states that, “Hope is believing in spite of the evidence and watching the evidence change . . .”

I am available to speak to church and community groups on the Iraq situation, draft, conscientious objection and alternatives to military service, war tax resistance, voluntary simplicity, the “Unplug the Christmas Machine” workshop and other peace issues. For more information about IPN, to subscribe to *Dovetail*, or to arrange a presentation to your meeting, please contact Patti McKee at 515-255-7114 or e-mail: [info@iowapeacenetwork.org](mailto:info@iowapeacenetwork.org). Our Website is [www.iowapeacenetwork.org](http://www.iowapeacenetwork.org). Our address is 4211 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50312.

Thank you for your ongoing support, without your prayers and monetary support IPN could not continue its work.

Patti McKee, Coordinator

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## AFSC CENTRAL REGION REPORT

AFSC offices around the Central Region and around the world mobilized over the past year to oppose a military attack by the United States on Iraq. While those efforts were ultimately unsuccessful in preventing such an attack, the work reinvigorated the peace movement. This past year we witnessed unprecedented opposition to war as literally millions of people raised their voices for peace. Indian activist Arundhati Roy called the peace mobilization that occurred over the past year “the most spectacular display of public morality in history.” Thanks to generous financial and volunteer support from our supporters, the AFSC played a leading role in the mobilizing that display of public morality in the United States.

The AFSC’s work in Iraq continues, and it also continues in Afghanistan. We currently have staff in both of those countries helping to rebuild after the military devastation of air bombing campaigns. The AFSC is helping to build schools in Afghanistan and help widows learn to read and develop practical skills to provide an income for their families. In the months leading up to the war in Iraq, the AFSC distributed emergency food, blankets, medicine and water containers. We are currently providing support to local organizations that provide support to the mentally ill and the physically disabled. We plan to continue support for water purification and basic education programs in Iraq once the security situation becomes more stable and allows for safer transport of materials and staff.

Dan Pearson  
American Friends Service Committee  
Regional Director, Central Region  
515-274-4851, ext. 11  
dpearson@afsc.org

### **Iowa Area Program Report**

#### ***Peace Building***

AFSC – Iowa gave particular focus to bringing more people into the peace building work.

**Statewide Network**—The Iowa office played an important role in initiating and facilitating the development of a statewide network to resist the war in Iraq. This entity helped with statewide efforts, i.e., contacting congressional delegation and peace rallies.

Out of the statewide network a faith committee was started.

**Faith Communities Outreach**—The Faith Committee expanded and has presented several worship services involving hundreds of persons.

A letter, People of Faith Against War, was circulated throughout Iowa and the returned letters numbering in the several hundreds was delivered to Congressional offices prior to the October Congressional vote giving the president the authority to wage war.

**Partnership for a Nuclear Free World**—AFSC is working with AFSC New England office, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Clarion Alliance (Iowa) and Stop the Arms Race Political Action Committee (Iowa) to raise issues of nuclear policy to public debate.

Pending events:

- October 5-7, 2003** Setsuko Thurlo, A-Bomb survivor from Japan to tour throughout Iowa
- October 18-21** Joseph Gerson (AFSC), David Culp (FCNL) touring on nuclear policy in the current administration
- September 13-14** Lifting Women’s Voices, Grand View College, Des Moines

### ***Immigrant Rights***

AFSC—Immigrant Rights Project (IRP) has been working with immigrants to advance and protect their human rights. The need for this work has grown dramatically in the aftermath of the U.S. response to the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and the accompanying encroachment on civil liberties.

The immigration specialist position has been expanded from two-thirds time to full time.

The job of this person is to help secure documentation to those immigrants who are eligible to receive it.

**September 28, 2003**, Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride will cross Iowa and stop for events in Des Moines and Davenport. There is also an event in Omaha

### ***Economic Justice***

**November 8, 2003**, AFSC / Iowa Faith and Labor Committee is partnering with Ecumenical Ministries of Iowa and a Catholic Social Justice committee to present: *Theology of Economics*. The Des Moines forum location is to be announced.

Kathleen McQuillen

Iowa Program Coordinator  
4211 Grand Ave. DM, IA 50312  
kmcquillen@afsc.org

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We are blessed to have these visitors among us: Randy and Martha Giffen of Stillwater Monthly Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting; Sean Egan, Director of Scattergood Friends School; Ian Rhodes, Twin City Friends Meeting, Northern Yearly Meeting.

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We listened carefully to the report of our FWCC representatives prepared by Marion Love. We appreciate the report. Friends are strengthened and enriched by coming together in worship and fellowship. We approve referring the request for an increased contribution to FWCC to our Representatives for consideration.

### FWCC COMMITTEE REPORT

This year the FWCC representatives attempted to carry forward your affirmation last year that FWCC work is worthy and our stewardship is important.

This week's program in some ways reflects our efforts better than this report does. We have a guest bringing news from FWCC's World Office and a Thursday night report from our FWCC Peace Conference attendees. Betty Hawthorn and I bend any willing ear about our joyful experiences at March's annual meeting in Houston. If you ask, I will tell you about spiritual awakenings among Quakers from other traditions and how I wonder what it means to be a Quaker today, both here and around the world. Is our willingness to work with other Quakers a reality check on peace potential in the world? Betty will tell you about enthusiasm for Quaker internationalism, work at the United Nations and world economic justice.

In the Collection on the evening of Fifth Day you can hear from Brynne Howard of Des Moines and Deborah Fink of Ames on their participation as the IYM(C) delegates to the Peace Conference. Deborah Fisch and Lynne Chakoian will also speak of their experiences at the conference. They weren't the only Iowa Friends in attendance: father and son team Mark and Nathan Patton of West Branch Meeting, Flossie Cox, daughter

of Jeff Cox of Iowa City Meeting, Wilmer Tjossem of Des Moines Valley Meeting, and Barbara Luetke-Stahlman of Penn Valley Meeting all attended, some with the assistance of IYM(C) funds. Wilmer served as a panel convener at the conference.

At annual meeting in Houston, the renewed vigor for peace was tested by the first days of bombing in Baghdad. Peace vigils and messages in worship carried the hope that war would end by the strength of public protests and diplomatic objections around the world.

The Houston meeting also concentrated on economic forces and dwindling income. The incoming executive director, Margaret Fraser, known to some of you from Pendle Hill, asked us to vision around FWCC's mission and saying it—succinctly. Until we can articulate what makes FWCC a vital part of Quaker life, we will have difficulty reminding Friends that it deserves their contributions, both of time and money.

Your representatives are aware of a narrow support base among Iowa Conservative Friends. For example, at my home meeting, less than a third of a typical First Day worship group had heard of FWCC, and those who had were most aware of activities no longer under FWCC's care. It's hard to maintain financial support for a group that is not in mind.

At Midyear Meeting in Earlham, Betty Hawthorn and I worshipped for guidance on how to carry out the worthy work of FWCC. We found that the suggested activity, a regional conference modeled on the Peace Conference, was beyond our known resources. Instead, Spirit said, start at home, and raised up traveling to monthly meetings. I asked for clearness from my home meeting, and it approved a traveling minute for ministry to Iowa (Conservative) monthly meetings.

Betty and I will ask monthly meetings for invitations during the next year. We will bring news of our experiences, and we will present the needs. The needs are:

- One more representative called to carry out FWCC work in Iowa, preferably a young Friend between 18 and 30 years old;
- Increased donations by individuals or meetings, with an ideal rate of \$10 per person per year. FWCC/Americas averages a \$1,000 weekly deficit, and its contingency fund is nearly depleted. At Annual Meeting, we were asked to raise \$1,000 from individuals between March 12 and April 30, which was not possible under our



discernment about good stewardship last year. The need for funds continues.

- Calling on former representatives and supporters to bring FWCC work home. To make the "face to face, heart to heart" experience real to our monthly meeting members and attenders, we need to create opportunities, either events or visitations. I ask FWCC supporters in attendance at these annual sessions to offer their ideas and their time toward creating exchanges in their meetings.

We only need a good excuse to get started. For example, Elizabeth Duke's visit at this Yearly Meeting session made an opening for Conservative Friends to reach out. We invited FUM representatives and supporters here on Tuesday afternoon, and five attended. Elizabeth also gave up her day off Monday in Des Moines for a sandwich supper, to which Paul Knupp (the new pastor at First Friends Church in Des Moines) and I invited three Central Iowa meetings and eight churches. About 15 people attended, including Iowa FUM's incoming general superintendent, a "face to face, heart to heart" mini-event.

In summary, we seek Friends who love Quaker diversity to join the representatives in bringing the FWCC experience home. We need to support our representatives by subsidizing their travel and registration. We ask individuals, monthly meetings, and the Yearly Meeting to consider if they might be able to give more to FWCC Section of the Americas.

We benefit from the peace conference, the visit from General Secretary Elizabeth Duke, and the exchanges with Friends from around the world, and right next door.

On behalf of the FWCC representatives,  
Marion Love

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We were happy to receive the Publication Committee's report prepared by Ed Clopton, convener of the committee. We appreciate all the work put in by the committee to prepare the minutes not only for us, but also for future generations who may be helped by reading them. We appreciate having multiple copies of the minute books and Disciplines in our meetings and find it worth the expense.

We were reminded that having our minutes on the Web means that individual names of Friends may be found through the Google search engine. We are mindful of the risk and ask the publication Committee to explore the ways in which to keep our minutes from being indexed by search engines. For Friends with special concerns, particular pages might be blocked from being indexed.

## PUBLICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Minutes of the 2002 sessions of Iowa Yearly Meeting were typeset by the convener and were printed and bound by Goodfellow Printing, Inc. of Iowa City. 325 copies were printed at a cost of \$7.29 per copy, not including distribution costs.

At the request of the Interim Committee, 160 copies of the 1974 *Discipline of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative)* were produced for use by Friends and meetings until the revised Discipline is ready. The reprints include the Advices and Queries approved in 1996, along with notes about the laying down of Hickory Grove and West Branch Quarter in 1988 and the recognition of Decorah and Omaha Monthly Meetings in 1995. Printing and binding were done by Zephyr Copies of Iowa City at a cost of \$2.05 per copy.

Printing 325 copies of 2002 Minutes	\$2368.85
Shipment of Minutes to monthly meetings	70.44
Distribution of individual copies to libraries, other meetings, etc.	82.55
Toward convener's expenses (telephone, computer usage, packing supplies)	20.00
Printing 160 copies of the 1974 Discipline	328.00
Total	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> \$2869.84

A reply card was included with each of the 51 copies of the 2002 Minutes mailed to individual Friends and Friends organizations asking whether they wish to continue receiving copies of the Minutes. To date only seven replies have been received. A separate mailing will be made this fall prior to ordering the 2003 Minutes to ascertain more definitely which recipients wish to remain on the list.

The Minutes of Iowa Yearly Meeting (minus the directory section) have been posted on the World Wide Web at [www.quakernet.org](http://www.quakernet.org) beginning in 1998 through the efforts of Jeff Kisling. Persons who find the on-line

version sufficient for their needs should communicate that to their monthly meeting clerk so fewer printed copies of Minutes can be ordered.

Jeff Kisling has agreed to take over compilation and typesetting of the Minutes for the coming year. Ed Clopton will continue to handle printing and distribution of the Minutes.

For the Committee,  
Ed Clopton, Convenor

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We listened carefully to the Entertainment Committee Report for 2002 annual sessions of IYM(C). We approve the report.

### ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The monthly meetings, Penn Valley, Des Moines Valley, and Ames were the hosts for the 2002 gathering. Scattergood Friends School provided the facilities and we are grateful for the staff and Ken Hinshaw in providing for the care of the facilities.

#### **Income and Expense Report**

##### **Receipts**

Received from the 2001 Committee	\$4,190.37
Interest income (not yet recorded)	
Contributions	8,885.00

<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>\$13,075.37</b>
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##### **Expenses**

Scattergood Friends School	\$8,000.00
Programs and postage	114.74
Child care	400.00
Child care supplies	14.99
Junior Yearly Meeting supplies	199.64

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 8,729.37</b>
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<b>7-31-02 Bank balance</b>	<b>\$4,346.00</b>
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On behalf of the Entertainment Committee  
A. M. Fink

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We listened attentively to the Archives Committee Report prepared by Dan Treadway, clerk of the committee. We approve the signing of the extension agreement with the State Historical Society of Iowa for the deposit of our archived minutes and records with the Society Library in Iowa City for another five years. We understand our records are open to the public. We encourage our monthly meetings to consider depositing their historical records at the library. The wording of that agreement is printed below the report.

### ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

Joan Tucker continues her work with the Quaker books in the William Penn room, here on the Scattergood campus. She has identified many duplicates in the collection, which we feel should be offered to monthly meetings. See Joan if you are interested in adding some of these volumes to your meeting's library.

Our arrangement with the State Historical Society of Iowa, whereby records of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and its subordinate meetings are housed and made available for public inspection in their Iowa City library, expires at the end of this calendar year. The Archives Committee recommends that the Yearly Meeting renew this agreement for another five years. A copy of the renewal agreement accompanies this report.

We request that the Archives Committee be allotted \$200 in this year's budget.

For the committee,  
Dan Treadway, clerk

## **State Historical Society of Iowa**

The Historical Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs

AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA  
And  
IOWA YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS (CONSERVATIVE)

*CONCERNING PRESERVATION OF THE RECORDS OF THE YEARLY MEETINGS AND SUCH QUARTERLY, MONTHLY AND SUBORDINATE MEETINGS AS MAY BE ENTRUSTED TO THE YEARLY MEETING.*

The State Historical Society of Iowa agrees to continue to accept these records on a deposit basis, legal title remaining with the Yearly Meeting and subordinate meetings, for a period of five years ending December 31, 2008. Although it does not conform to the Society's established policy of permanent acquisition of materials, the Society is willing to enter into this agreement because of its interest in the preservation of these records in a safe repository.

The staff of the State Historical Society of Iowa will prepare finding aids for the material that is deposited. A receipt will be provided for all materials that are deposited. The Yearly Meeting will encourage subordinate meetings to deposit records at the State Historical Society of Iowa.

If the Yearly Meetings decides to remove the records to a repository such as Scattergood School during or at the end of the five years covered by this agreement, the Yearly Meeting must provide the Society with a microfilm copy of the records so the Society's finding aids will continue to be of use. Prior to withdrawing the records, the Yearly Meeting must provide one year's written notice to the State Historical Society of Iowa. At the end of the five-year period, the two parties will enter into negotiations for the preparation of an agreement extending the period of deposit, or to arrange for the removal of the records.

Records to be deposited will include but not be limited to: Minutes, First Day School Records, Treasurers' Record Books, Membership Records, Birth and Marriage Records. Duplicate materials will be returned to the originating meeting.

TRUSTEES OF THE  
YEARLY MEETING OF  
FRIENDS OF IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Roy Hampton  
Jim Cottingham  
A.M. Fink  
Beth Wilson  
Doris Jean Newlin

Shaner Magalhães, Bureau Chief  
Mary Bennett, Special Collections Coordinator

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We heard the report of the Special Needs Committee prepared by Jackie Leckband. We appreciate hearing of the concerns and how the committee is helping us take care of them. We approve the report. We are aware that one Friend who has chemical sensitivities has had to leave sessions. We miss her presence. We do not yet have the answers, but our Ministry and Oversight Committee is taking this and other concerns under consideration. We are reminded to be mindful of the fragrances in our

after shaves, deodorants, soaps, and other personal care products which may be harmful to all of us in varying degrees. We still have been unable to adequately address the wheelchair accessibility issues with The Main on campus, and this keeps other members from attending. Friends are asked to give names of Friends not present due to accessibility and special needs to members of the Special Replies committee so we can send them letters letting them know their absences have been noticed and we miss them.

## SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Registration forms for Yearly Meeting and Midyear Meeting have space for participants to share specific needs which might include diet, housing, transportation, mobility, audio or visual needs in addition to the hospitality that is available.

Mention is made in the program about seeking to work toward having Midyear Meeting and Yearly Meeting be fragrance free environments. At YM in 2002, fragrance-free lotions and shampoos were donated and were available in the campus dorms and restrooms.

The personal FM Audio transmitting system with four receivers is used twice a year at YM gatherings. Wheelchairs are available at Scattergood Friends School and Bear Creek meeting.

Jackie Leckband, on behalf of the  
Special Needs Committee

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We heard a proposal from Ministry and Oversight Committee for a year round youth program with a budget of \$600. We think this is an exciting idea and we approve the proposal. Debbie Galusha will coordinate the planning committee and the Ministry and Oversight Committee asks those interested in serving on this committee to let them know. The program will be under the care of the Religious Education Committee. There will be an interest group on this later in the week.

## MINISTRY AND OVERSIGHT REPORT ON PROPOSED YEAR ROUND YOUTH RETREATS

We have received a proposal from Omaha Monthly Meeting. Debbie Galusha would like to begin a retreat program for the youth in Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). At this time, youth in grades of fourth through ninth would be included with the hope that Young Friends would be involved as youth sponsors or leaders.

It is suggested that a committee be formed to coordinate these retreats and that they work with Debbie Galusha under the care of the Religious Education Committee. Retreats addressing a theme would be held several times a year and locations will rotate through different communities within the Yearly Meeting and Scattergood. Monthly meetings would be encouraged to be involved in the program.

These retreats would be a means by which to strengthen relationships among our young people and would be an investment for their future roles in Iowa Yearly Meeting. To cover the cost of administering the program, Debbie is suggesting \$600 for the first year and reevaluating for the following years. This amount has approval of the Representatives.

We support the program and the funding of such a youth program under the care of the Religious Education Committee.

Martha Hampton, clerk of the Ministry  
& Oversight Committee

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We received the interesting report from the William Penn House Consultative Committee, prepared by Birdie Kisling. Many of our members have benefited from stays at the William Penn House when in D.C. We approve the report.

## WILLIAM PENN HOUSE REPORT

The 2003 newsletter from William Penn House, a Quaker seminar and hospitality center on Capitol Hill that continues to serve visiting members of IYM(C) and Friends around the world, gave a good summary of their work and needs.

“2003: Our nation is at war, our economy is in a shambles, and basic needs are not being met. Yet, Quakers, Mennonites and other peace and social activists continue to work for a better, more peaceful and just society. Here at Wm. Penn House, we have hosted those protesting the lead-up to the war; those who are lobbying against the war, for the environment, civil rights, and against the erosion of our civil liberties.

“We see the future among the youth that stay and learn at Wm. Penn House. George School spent 10 days working on a service project. The Congressional Hunger Fellows are trained to help alleviate hunger in America. The Quaker Youth Seminar focused on the Peace Testimony and the upcoming Young Friends Summer Seminar will study the meaning of “That of God in Everyone.” In addition, school groups from 4<sup>th</sup> grade to graduate school stay here while they study and visit the Nation’s Capitol and museums. We co-sponsor with Friends Committee on National Legislation the annual FCNL Lobbying Weekend. This year 26 college-age students and two professors spent the weekend learning how to lobby and then actually lobbied their elected representatives.

“Last year we started a new program for neighbors and area Quakers. It is our Potluck and Quaker Dialogue series. We meet the evening of the first First Day of each month for supper and discussion. Programs are by Quakers on their leadings or interests. Programs have included: Racism Among Quakers; Quaker History; John Woolman; William Penn; Quakers and Islam; Alice Paul; Quaker Theology; Robert Barclay; Quaker Peace Teams; and James Naylor. William Penn House also coordinates for the area meetings an ad in the *Washington Post* by responding to calls and inquiries of seekers.

“Like most of the hospitality industry we have been affected by the events of the recent past, whether it is various colored alerts or the feeling of uncertainty that is felt throughout our nation. To offset the drop in visits to D. C., we have broadened our outreach to better inform others of our services, programs, and mission. We have an active Web site that is kept current. We work closely with other peace programs,



national and local non-profit agencies, schools, meetings, and churches throughout the country.

“Through the generous support of monthly and yearly meetings and our broad support among individuals, we are able to continue to provide safe, comfortable and inexpensive lodging in one of the nation’s more expensive cities. Through these donations, we can continue to host the above programs for youth, peace and justice and to provide a visible and vital Quaker witness on Capitol Hill.”

We ask IYM(C) to continue its support of William Penn House with the budgeted \$300.

Birdie Kisling, on behalf of the Wm. Penn House  
Consultative Committee representatives

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We have listened carefully and prayerfully to the first six sets of 12 queries and selected responses from our meetings, prepared by the assistant clerk. We will read other answers in session as way opens. All selected responses will be printed in the minutes. We found many answers inspiring and reflect on past queries and answers of other Yearly Meetings sessions. We truly value our tradition of having advices and queries to answer and their consideration during annual sessions.

## 1. MEETING FOR WORSHIP

*Query: Are our Meetings for Worship held in a spirit of expectant waiting and communion with the Holy Spirit? How do we prepare our hearts and minds for worship?*

*How do we refer to that which is divine? How does ascribing gender to the Holy Spirit affect our worship?*

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

*How does the vocal ministry of the meeting contribute to its spiritual life? In what ways do we recognize and nurture vocal ministry and other spiritual gifts?*

*Selected Response:* A good portion of the discussion of this query centered around vocal ministry and the spirituality of the meeting.

One participant in the discussion felt that our meeting appears not to have a common, shared spirituality and that this may contribute to our difficulties in keeping young people in the meeting. Because vocal ministry tends not to come from a large variety of members, young

people may not view the individual messages as messages from the meeting, but as messages from individuals.

Other participants expressed different viewpoints. One felt that our young people are here *because* of our spirituality. Another pointed out that one's view is dependent on the definition of "spiritual," and said that if a common belief is the basis of a common spirituality, then she felt that it was not necessarily desirable to have a common spirituality. She grew up in a meeting where there was a great deal of unity of belief, yet she was not entirely comfortable with all aspects of this belief. In thinking about the definition of spirituality, one participant expressed the view that spirituality is an aspect of what we share and how we care for each other. Another participant felt that it is not necessary to have a single definition of spirituality to have a collective sense of spirituality.

A number of participants expressed their personal experiences with spirituality. One expressed the difficulty during meeting for worship of letting go of one's own thoughts and letting the Spirit lead. Another talked about the ups and downs of life and the Spirit. There are times when a person clearly feels the presence of God and feels a sense of being led, but there are also times when a person feels utterly alone and adrift. One must be ready and open at any time for the presence of God to be felt. Sunday morning meeting for worship is in a sense the opportunity to practice readiness for communion with God. A third participant expressed her growth in spirituality through her struggle to find a deeper level of spiritual energy in an effort to try to help others in the meeting.

## 2. OUTREACH

*Query: Do we encourage intervisitation within the Yearly Meeting and with other Friends?*

*What are we doing to share our faith with others outside our Friends' community? How do we speak truth as we know it and yet remain open to truth as understood by others?*

*In what ways do we cooperate with persons and groups with whom we share concerns? How do we reach out to those with whom we disagree?*

*How do we make the presence of our meeting known to the larger community? Do we invite others to share in our Meetings for Worship and other meeting activities? Do we welcome everyone and appreciate the gifts that differences such as race, creed, economic status, disability, age, gender or sexual orientation may bring to us?*

*Selected response:* We respect and value the diversity of our membership. We appreciate the warm welcome we have received from

the Meeting and try to extend this to newcomers, but we are reluctant to speak openly about our personal beliefs. It is a challenge to take advantage of opportunities to share deeply held convictions with others, even within our fellowship.

Social justice is non-denominational. Many of us feel our values are not those of the society as a whole. The War on Terror and state budget cuts which have decimated programs for the disadvantaged are calling us to action. We seek ways of connecting with like-minded citizens regardless of religious affiliation.

Speaking our truth to hostile audiences, whether they are right-wing activists or family members with differing views is most difficult for us. We often “don’t bother” since we doubt our ability to change minds. Here the counsel of those who have trained and experienced conflict resolution are most helpful. They reminded us the goal was not to evangelize the opposition by converting them to our truth but to simply state the truth as we saw it honestly and directly. Speaking truth has value even if it appears our message was not heard. We cannot know the long-term results of our actions.

We reach out to the community by making the Meeting House available to community groups. Our meeting is enriched by members’ participation in FWCC, FGC and Iowa Yearly Meeting. We enjoy Thanksgiving fellowship with First Friends, and young friends from across the Yearly Meeting have gathered at a friend’s rural farm house for weekend retreats.

### 3. MEETING FOR BUSINESS

*Query: How can we hold our Meetings for Business in the spirit of love, understanding and patient search for unity without becoming frustrated by differences of opinion or the pressures of time?*

*How do we respond when no one else in the meeting seems to hold the views that we do on an issue? How do we respond to a dissenting minority?*

*How do we share responsibilities among Friends in our meeting? How do we serve our meetings?*

*Selected response:* We are fortunate in this meeting that we seem to share common views on important matters and therefore do not face the frustration of strong dissent. Probably the most often occurring point of contention is over when the lawn needs mowing or the buildings need cleaning mainly because of personal schedules. Working together on projects for the care of our facilities is, however, a service of joy for us as we share a common expectation that when something needs to be done, everyone will be involved.

We try to be open and listen to a dissenting opinion whenever it is expressed, but the challenge seems to be more how we respond after we have heard what another has said. We find that faith in and use of Quaker process helps keep the level of frustration at a minimum.

Most accept committee responsibilities willingly recognizing that as a small group everyone must share in the care and support of the meeting. Although we are cautioned to keep in mind an individual's strengths in appointments, we are aware of times when a person finds an opportunity to develop an unexpected ability or to grow into a responsibility when given a new appointment.

#### 4. HARMONY WITHIN THE MEETING

*Query: What can we do to deepen our relationships with one another? How does gender affect the way we relate to each other?*

*How does our meeting balance the needs for honesty and kindness? What topics do we avoid for the sake of "unity"?*

*When in conflict with others, do we cultivate a forgiving spirit? Do we look to that of God in ourselves and seek to address that of God in those with whom we disagree?*

*Selected response:* We think we should have harmony, yet we often don't. Instead of expressing honest feelings of disagreement, it is easier to avoid touchy issues. Meeting should be a place where we can express differences and strong feelings with honesty. Dealing with conflict and differences can help deepen relationships. One member works to own her feelings of non-charity toward others. She knows that she can change her own feelings and reactions and not those of the other person. Many of us have been raised to be polite and not stir up conflict or mention differences. If we are honest, our honesty should be tempered with kindness. We must hold one another in tenderness and acknowledge others' feelings and opinions. It is much harder to listen to criticism from those who don't seem to care for us. Love and trust must be present in a relationship before honest disagreement can be successful.

Shared activities bring people closer. It is important for us to get together for social times such as potluck after meeting one Sunday a month, soup night, or an open house night with board games and food. We seem united in our wish to spend more time together.

Our meeting does a good job of sharing chores such as washing dishes, cleaning, and yard work between men and women. We should all be aware of and sensitive to personal preferences and boundaries of touch and topics of conversation when interacting with persons of either gender.

Several people have left meeting recently. Some here feel that they may have said or done the wrong thing and offended someone. There are many reasons why people leave, and often they have little to do with us.

It is good to remember that a clearness committee can help people deal with sensitive issues. Healthy meetings do not let one or two people control the tone of the meeting and make others crazy or guilty. When the harmony of the meeting is threatened, the Ministry and Oversight Committee can act as “choir director” to help restore health and harmony. Harmony within our group is not an easy goal. When we are able to express ourselves honestly in an environment of love and trust, become closer through shared activities, respect each other’s differences and see “That of God” in each person, even those with whom we disagree, we will have taken important steps toward achieving harmony in our meeting.

## 5. MUTUAL CARE

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

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

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

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

*Selected Response:* Our community is blessed with a sensitivity that responds to the needs and challenges of members and friends-in-need in compassionate, appropriate, and thoughtful ways.

We cherish the example of a caring commitment that one member has shown for the past fourteen years. By caring for his elderly mother, he has allowed her to remain in her home and continue as a close part of our meeting family. Her recent passing has saddened us all and our community feels truly diminished.

Although we do not now have children who regularly attend Meeting, we have concerns and commitments within the community that exhibit loving care for all children. Members are involved with Crisis Intervention, child abuse issues, the court advocate CASA program, and a children’s art group.

The outreach events that we sponsor such as a rummage sale, ice cream social, and quilt show are opportunities to include attenders and new members in affairs of the Meeting and to give those outside our community a glimpse into the Quaker experience.

## 6. EDUCATION

*Query: How can we most effectively foster a spirit of inquiry and a loving and understanding attitude toward life?*

*What effort are we making to become better acquainted with the Bible, the teachings of Jesus, our Judeo-Christian heritage, the history and principles of Friends, and the contributions of other religions and philosophies to our spiritual heritage?*

*In what ways can we encourage an educational process that is consistent with the values Friends cherish? How do gender based expectations affect the goals we set and the way we learn?*

*Do we take an active and supportive interest in schools, libraries and other educational resources in our communities and elsewhere?*

*How do we prepare ourselves and our children to play active roles in a changing world?*

*Selected response:* Our First Day School regularly studies Quakerism and the Bible, and we are pleased that some of our grade school children are standing up at school as Friends and against war. It would be a good idea to donate books in which Quakerism is explained to public and/or school libraries.

We recognize that our kids are still exposed to gender and sexual preference prejudice in society, and we need to provide an alternate view, especially for young teens who are forming their gender identities. Some of our children are concerned about homosexuality and not wanting to appear to be gay. We need to be aware of our children's adult role models, of the attitudes they're exposed to and taught in school.

We do encourage our children to question the status quo, in First Day School and in discussions at home. We talk to our kids about what we, and those we admire, have done. We ask questions and challenge authority in front of and with our children. Our children participate with us in service projects such as Brush Up Nebraska, directly learning that we value giving of ourselves.

Some of us remember rebelling against our parents and their churches when we were young. Often the problem was hypocrisy or inconsistency. When we discuss our ideals and admit our shortcomings it might be easier for children to understand and accept both our religious principles and our human flaws.

Second selected response: We feel the need to nurture within our children a wholesome balance of trust and common sense in this sometimes unsafe world. One of our members mentioned seeing a T-shirt that read, "children need to be seen, heard and listened to." We support programs in the school that teach conflict resolution and mediation skills.

A law student in our group raised a concern that higher, as it exists today, often promotes hierarchical rather than democratic values. Children need to have a healthy balance in their lives of activities that nurture their bodies, minds, and spirits. In order for children to gain self-esteem, they need to experience success. We feel the public education frequently places too much emphasis on competitive athletics, causing children who aren't skilled in athletics to experience rejection. We were reminded that meeting First Day School needs is the responsibility of everyone in the meeting. A suggested learning experience would be to have children interview adults in the meeting in order to learn what adults do in the world.

## 7. HOME AND FAMILY

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

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

*How do we develop and maintain lines of communication?*

*In what ways do we share our deepest experiences, struggles, concerns and beliefs with our children and others, yet encourage them to develop their potential as the Spirit leads them?*

*What place do we make in our daily lives for meditation, spiritual renewal and reading of inspiring literature, such as the Bible?*

*How does our Meeting support families of all kinds?*

*Selected response:* One opinion was quoted to the effect that “a home is a place you go out from,” not a place you retreat to.

More than one person observed that the nature of the physical plant of the home has real importance.

It was noted that children often display opinions regarding gender roles that do not derive from parental influence.

It is true that “rest, recreation and creative activities” are important. It is also true that it can require real effort and planning to make sure that we have these.

A sense of humor is a vital asset.

It was observed that our “friendly suppers” contribute to making our homes “places of love and hospitality.”

Some published responses in Iowa Conservative minutes were read and considered helpful. These included saying that (1) one should not consider other people to come from the same framework that one has one's self; and (2) one should not expect the very young to have the same maturity of decision-making capacity that their elders have; i.e. a home is not a democracy. Nevertheless, one person reported growing up in a family in which there was a surprising amount of equality between the

parents and the children. The children were trusted without special scrutiny, there were no curfews and the children could join in the adult discussions of such things as family finances as if they were adults. This atmosphere worked out all right, without calamity.

Although admiration was expressed for some families' practice of scheduling regular family meetings to discuss important issues of living together, some people reported that attempts to do this had fallen through, as they had turned out to be embarrassingly artificial.

Games can provide a good opportunity for communication. So can other activities that are performed together.

For meditation, spiritual renewal, etc. a person may prefer setting aside a certain time of the day (e.g. very early or very late) or a certain day of the week.

Offspring can desire greater closeness to their parents, to be let in on the workings of the parents' inner lives. Fathers are sometimes aloof, frustrating this desire.

## 8. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

*Query: How do we center our lives in the awareness of God the Spirit, so that all things may take their rightful places?*

*How do we structure our individual lives in order to keep them uncluttered with things and activities? How does Meeting help us examine our personal lives for simplicity?*

*Do we choose recreational activities which foster mental, physical and spiritual health?*

*How are our lives affected by tobacco, alcohol and drug use? What can we do to deal with problems resulting from their use? What can we do to recognize and deal with unhealthy ways we treat ourselves?*

*How do we ensure that we act with fairness and integrity?*

*Are we sensitive to our own use of language which may be offensive or oppressive to others?*

*Selected response:* "A life of unhurried peace and power takes no time, but occupies all our time"—*Thomas Kelly*. Time should not be set aside for peace, power, and living from the center. These should permeate all life.

Our meeting does not have an example of someone living extreme simplicity. Sometimes living low tech is not simple. Having a low impact on the environment, having a low income to avoid taxes or taking a vow of poverty are not testimonies of simplicity but they can be motivated by a wish to live with integrity and consistency. Affirming instead of swearing in legal matters represents the tradition of Quakers living with integrity and consistency.



The intent of the soul is important. The same item or activity may be chosen by one for its function and spiritual import while another may choose the same item or activity to impress others or some other spiritually irresponsible reason. Personal Responsibility involves making choices to act in ways that promote, and refraining from acting in ways that will inhibit, the spiritual growth of yourself and those you are with at the time. Discussions in Meeting of personal responsibility give us ideas of how others live this out and remind us to continue to work towards it.

Clutter and activity can get in the way of peace. It takes time to find things in clutter. One attendee spoke of the many cards given to frequent shoppers. She has quit carrying cards for places where they can look up her purchases on a computer. We need to keep only what we use frequently so we spend less time maintaining things we rarely use.

Personal responsibility involves trust. We can show our trust of others and the workings of the Spirit on our jobs by sharing information and physical resources.

Is the Pledge of Allegiance a pledge to the kind of personal responsibility we aspire to? Casinos in Nebraska are a legislative topic. What stand should the meeting take on this issue to promote the kind of personal responsibility we believe in? Can investing in stocks be personally responsible if the businesses are socially responsible, or is this gambling?

## 9. CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

*Query: What conflicts do we perceive between the laws of the State and our religious convictions? How do we resolve those conflicts in our lives? In what ways do we assume responsibility for the government of our community, state, nation and world?*

*How do we share our convictions with others? Do we express our opinions with courage, yet with love, mindful of the Divine Spirit within everyone?*

*How do we maintain our integrity when we find ourselves in a position of power? How do we respond when we feel powerless? Do we really respect and help those we seek to serve?*

*Are we careful to reach our decision through prayer and strengthen our actions with worship? Are we open to divine leadings?*

*Selected response:* We had a thoughtful query discussion about civic responsibility, with many sharing comments and, especially, challenges we find in the query. One person noticed that some of the speakers at the Peace March in Washington, DC were contentious and directed anger at certain political leaders. He finds the Query's suggestion that we be

"mindful of the Divine Spirit in everyone" a challenge for him, one that is important to keep in mind.

Another member commented on the importance of maintaining integrity when in a position of power. He believes he has little power, but realizes he has chosen to give up power in his life twice. He gave up the career of pastor and also decided later not to pursue a Master's Degree in counseling. In both instances he was uncomfortable that people asked his advice, and often did what he said. He wonders now how we can help those in power and is recently aware that much of his protest has consisted of complaints, something he would like to change; he would like to help people in power grow in their integrity.

Another observed that the more successful people in elected positions are those who do not take strong stands, and therefore do not risk losing their positions. He finds himself challenged to express his opinion without browbeating, how to listen to others in such a way that he might expand his own thinking. Someone else shared how difficult she finds it to share her thoughts in her workplace, that she is sorry still about an exchange she had during the Vietnam War with a Native American who had been drinking for three days, that she now wants to understand those who disagree with her, to listen to their guilt and fears. She sees new possibilities in asking questions of her co-workers, to think of them, rather than attack them.

One person expressed his difficulty with this query, in that he is not interested in, nor trusts politics. Someone else agreed that she struggles with discouragement and the apathy of hopelessness. She had been in San Francisco during the Peace March, told how fun the experience had been, the delight, for instance, of seeing a child carrying a sign that read, "Another 3<sup>rd</sup> grader for peace." She compared this experience to the account of someone from our meeting who went to the march in Cedar Rapids, which was much smaller, in frigid and windy weather, and how the responses from the public to the march were mixed, some of them being angry and negative. She sees the real challenge in working closer to home, where the work may be less fun and exhilarating, but where real need exists.

Again, someone expressed how she hates being in vigils, and how a small group is planning future vigils in West Branch. She struggles with carrying signs that only serve to antagonize. She does not want to participate in making George Bush or Saddam Hussein the focal points of hatred. She likes the 3<sup>rd</sup> grader's sign and thinks hers may say, "Another grandmother for peace." She finds she is afraid of mobs and of the possibility of mob action, even when the groups are very small. One

has, she concluded, no idea how to measure the results or consequences of a vigil.

Another member spoke of a sign she saw years ago in Connecticut that said "Seek Peace and it will find you." She hopes her standing up for peace can be a support to a passerby, who, for instance, may be tending toward such beliefs, but has not clarified them yet.

Others commented on the Cedar Rapids vigil, one saying she found positive responses outnumbered negative ones, another pointing out the vast majority did not respond. Someone wondered which is harder for the protester, a negative response or none at all.

Finally, someone spoke to the words in the advice, "staying informed." He is aware of how in the Vietnam War we were concerned with the same struggles, and how frightening and appalling it is to be in the same place again today. Those who want power and wealth do not ever cease in pursuing those goals, but enjoy the fruits such as their yachts and fancy homes. He concluded that those who desire peace may want to reap the harvest of peace and do not stay the course so steadily, which may be at the root of our difficulties.

## 10. ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

*Query: What are we doing about our disproportionate use of the world's resources?*

*Do we see unreasonable exploitation in our relationship with the rest of creation? How can we nurture reverence and respect for life? How can we become more fully aware of our interdependent relationship with the rest of creation?*

*To what extent are we aware of all life and the role we play? What can we do in our own lives and communities to address environmental concerns?*

*Selected response:* Balancing the need of work to support one's family and concerns for the environment was a serious concern voiced by one friend but experienced by all. Many friends spoke to this concern. As a nation, we use far more resources than other nations. There is a wide gulf between our country's priorities and those of particularly poor or underdeveloped countries. The term "American way of life" seems to be a diplomatic way of referencing our culture of consumerism. Individually, and as a community, we can learn more about public policy on the environment, speak out on issues, and discuss our concern about the environment with each other. Awareness of the disparity and the misuse of resources would be helpful programs for our meeting.

One friend pointed out that if the military spending in this country for one year were spent on food production and water disbursement, we

could just about feed and bring drinkable water to almost all of the earth's population. The current relationship of humanity to the earth is spiritually unhealthy. While one friend thought that we should feel a little healthy guilt because of our role in the environmental problems, another friend questioned whether guilt is a very good motivator. A sense of disappointment was expressed because although 15-20 years ago it seemed that we were on the edge of a new enlightenment, now it seems as though we are far from it. Another perspective was shared concerning progress. We now have an EPA in the government and the term "environmentalist" is now a part of our lexicon when it wasn't much heard 20 years or so ago. Vegetarianism was suggested by a friend as a more environmentally friendly approach. An analogy that seemed to speak to many friends was a description of a beach resort for the wealthy with beautiful vistas and luxurious accommodations separated from a poor village of shacks by a line of trees and hills. Awareness of the "beach" around us and the "village" around us deepens our understanding of and action on behalf of environmental concerns. Another friend shared that many Americans follow the idea of "rugged individualism" without realizing that there is no distinct individual separated from everyone else. We are a part of each other and we carry in us, from our past and present, teachers, leaders, friends, antagonists and parents. We are physical expressions of the chemical, intellectual, spiritual, and biological connections that continue to transform who we are and link us to each other. Because we are not separated from either the "beach" or the "village," we are wounded as much by the poverty of one as by the negligence of the other.

## 11. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

*Query: How are we beneficiaries of inequity and exploitation? How are we victims of inequity and exploitation? In what ways can we address these problems?*

*What can we do to improve the conditions in our correctional institutions and to address the mental and social problems of those confined there?*

*How can we improve our understanding of those who are driven to violence by subjection to racial, economic or political injustice? In what ways do we oppose prejudice and injustice based on gender, sexual orientation, class, race, age, and physical, mental and emotional conditions? How would individuals benefit from a society that values everyone? How would society benefit?*

*Selected response: Economic disparity by those in the U.S. continues to increase; disparity between countries in the western world continues to*

increase, and third world countries continue to fall behind. How do we, as a government, as religious bodies and NGOs respond?

Except for the power of prayer and giving donations, sometimes we may feel helpless. The advice about spiritual nurture speaks to our condition; the need to seek spiritual guidance is necessary on a continuous basis. The power of prayer is very active; one Friend has found a Buddhist prayer and practice—which brings negative force in on the inhalation, and exhales love—helps to clarify prayer. Beyond prayer, how much can we do? It is important to support people who are victims of the system. Sometimes it helps people to realize they are not alone.

How are we victims? Because we live in the U.S. and are surrounded by benefits based on exploitation, we tend to think that these benefits are all right. We can address problems by what we choose to read, by the decisions we make, by being intentional, and reminding ourselves that our comfort is based on exploitation.

We are victims of the benefits we enjoy because we ultimately pay for them. We pay for benefits through legislation making basic minimum tax for corporations zero retroactive for fifteen years and by allowing corporations to put the money in offshore banks. One approach to changing these corporate practices could rest with states. The attorneys general of the states are allowed to remove the charters of these corporations if they fail to meet the conditions of the charters. Sierra Club suggests that one can fight every violation of the charter. Our soldiers have been willing to die to protect this type of system. In the state of Iowa, the “new world order” is hog confinements.

## 12. PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE

*Query: What are we doing to educate ourselves and others about the causes of conflict in our own lives, our families and our meetings? Do we provide refuge and assistance, including advocacy, for spouses, children, or elderly persons who are victims of violence or neglect?*

*Do we recognize that we can be perpetrators as well as victims of violence? How do we deal with this? How can we support one another so that healing may take place?*

*What are we doing to understand the causes of war and violence and to work toward peaceful settlement of differences locally, nationally, and internationally? How do we support institutions and organizations that promote peace?*

*Do we faithfully maintain our testimony against preparation for and participation in war?*

*Selected response:* This is a topic of great concern to members of this meeting. The following ways in which we are trying to meet the challenge of peace and nonviolence were gathered from the discussion.

Peace begins with the Spirit within each of us. It requires us to follow the lines of love and forgiveness in our own lives. Then we must reach out to others in the same spirit. We have to recognize that we are not always right and be willing to listen carefully to others and weigh the issues. John Woolman's personal life is a good example of not compromising with wrong-doing, while working tirelessly and with patience to change the beliefs and actions of many around him. Protesting violence is not enough. We must practice nonviolence in our own lives.

We cannot really change government policies, but we can contribute to change by supporting good legislation, by voting carefully, and by supporting such organizations as FCNL and AFSC both financially and by word of mouth. Some of our members have attended peace rallies. We have contacted our government representatives repeatedly on various issues and should do more. We recognize that money raised by taxes is being used as a military weapon. We support a peace tax.

We are going through a period when both government and big business seem to base their policies on greed without thought of the cost in human lives. Some of us try to use smaller businesses who seem to honor their employees.

We try not to be overwhelmed by conditions in the world at the present time, and are grateful for the reports from Quaker and other concerned organizations who give us relatively unbiased views and propose ways in which we can work for nonviolence and peace.

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

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## **Sixth Day – Friday – 8/08/03**

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

*“This is what you shall do: Love the earth and sun and the animals, despise riches, give alms to everyone that asks, stand up for the stupid and crazy, devote your income and labor to others, hate tyrants, argue not concerning God, have patience and indulgence toward the people, take off your hat to nothing known or unknown or to any man or number of men, go freely with powerful uneducated persons and with the young*

*and with the mothers of families, . . . re-examine all you have been told at school or church or in any book, dismiss whatever insults your own soul, and your very flesh shall be a great poem and have the richest fluency not only in its words but in the silent lines . . .”*

—Walt Whitman, *Preface to the Leaves of Grass 1855*

Dan Treadway and Ginger Kenney have been appointed as readers this morning.”

During the afternoon of Fifth Day, several Friends met to share with each other and discuss their understanding of what it means to be a Conservative Friend today. This discussion was enriched by the presence of Friends from all three Conservative Yearly Meetings.

Another interest group met to learn about the Alternatives to Violence Project. A member of the Lincoln Meeting has worked hard to establish the AVP in Nebraska prisons. Friends involved in AVP are now exploring openings for introducing AVP in Iowa prisons and are encouraging other Friends to become involved in both Iowa and Nebraska.

Morning Bible study, meetings for healing, working opportunities at the Scattergood organic gardens and evening singing also continue.

The evening Collection was a panel of four Friends who attended the FWCC called peace conference held at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC, First Month, 2003. Panelists included Lynn Chakoian, a member of Northern Yearly Meeting and their representative to the Scattergood Friends School Committee; Brynne Howard a member of Des Moines Valley Meeting and an appointed YM representative to the conference by IYM(C); Deborah Fink of Ames Meeting, also a Yearly Meeting representative; and Deborah Fisch of Paullina Meeting, who served on one of the presenting panels at the conference. Friends shared that the conference was attended by representatives from all four branches of Friends (United, Evangelical, Conservative, and liberal unprogrammed) and that this was an important part of the sharing at the conference. They also shared of their own experiences while there, how the Spirit moved among Friends, and a renewed sense of calling. As one plenary presenter said at the conference, “We must listen for what God would have us do in these times, test our leadings with each other, and then when convinced take the first step to begin. The conference was a first step.

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We are pleased to have these visitors among us: Mary Autenrieth of Salem Friends Meeting, North Pacific Yearly Meeting; Horace Autenrieth of Salem Friends Meeting, North Pacific Yearly Meeting; Lynn Chakoian of Kickapoo Valley Monthly Meeting, Northern Yearly Meeting.

We received the epistle from North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Conservative via e-mail while here in session and were happy to hear it read this morning. Nancy Craft's presence brings the work of our sister Conservative meeting even closer to our hearts. (See Third Day Minute.)

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We listened carefully to the Yearly Meeting Trustees Report prepared by A.M. Fink. A.M. gave a summary of the Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees Report. The Scattergood Friends School Trustees are appointed by the Yearly Meeting Trustees, and report to that committee. We are deeply grateful for the repairs and improvements on the Hickory Grove Meetinghouse and for the many volunteer hours given to make it possible. The faithful work of Friends, their careful decisions in helping make this as environmentally friendly as possible, and the love they gave to this project are obvious to us. Our meeting is enriched by having such a welcoming and newly quiet place to worship.

## YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES REPORT

We appoint Gordon Bivens and Doyle Wilson to the Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees with terms to expire in 2007.

This was a year to do extensive repairs and remodeling of the Meetinghouse. The acoustical ceiling was installed, the east exterior has new siding, and the furnace and air conditioning were installed. In addition, a group of Friends from the West Branch Meeting made some repairs on the interior wall and painted them. We are indeed grateful for their fine work. Special thanks should be given to Don Laughlin and Larry Marsh who arranged for a new service box and rewired the Meetinghouse. This accounted for a savings of several thousands of dollars.

In order to accomplish these tasks, we asked for and obtained one anonymous donation and a no-interest loan. The air conditioning and



furnace installation is not in its final form, but the work needed will be expensive.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

### Calvert Fund

Initial balance 7/1/2002	\$17,26.58
Interest income	<u>8.52</u>
Funds available	\$1,735.10

### Funds Dispersed

Donald Laughlin for repairs	1,005.85
Transferred to general account	726.81
Closing costs	<u>2.44</u>
Total dispersed	\$1,735.10

### Checking Account

Initial balance 7/1/2002	\$2,646.43
Interest	27.17
From Yearly Meeting	1,000.00
From the Calvert Fund	726.81
Anonymous gift	1,200.00
From Certificate of Deposit	3,182.13
From sale of wood stove	50.00
No-interest loan	<u>1,500.00</u>
Funds available	\$10,332.54

### Dispersal from checking account

Hager's Acoustics, Inc.	\$3735.00
West Branch Heating and Air Conditioning	3431.00
Donald Laughlin—Wiring supplies	50.00
Laughlin Design	2425.00
Ken Fawcett—Paint	175.28
Judy Cottingham—Spackle	<u>13.62</u>
Total dispersals	9829.90

Balance on hand \$502.64

Liabilites - no interest loan \$1500.00

A. M. Fink

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL FOUNDATION  
TRUSTEES REPORT

Scattergood School Foundation received donations of \$155,125, which is a 12% increase in the endowment. Earnings for the year have been 2.5%. The value of the assets has stayed steady for the past year.

**Income**

Donations	\$155,125
B.C. Ziegler interest and dividends	\$3,669
Edward Jones Account	\$453
Checking Account	\$854
Westwood Interest and dividends	\$38,143
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$198,244</b>

**Expenses**

Support to Scattergood School	\$26,014
Checking account distribution	\$12,899
Westwood Trust distribution	\$13,115

**Expenses**

Investment fees and bank charges	\$9,077
	<b>\$9,077</b>

**Excess (deficit) of revenue over expenses** **\$163,153**

Less: realized and unrealized losses on investments	(\$15,337)
Deficit after loss adjustment	\$147,816

**Growth of Foundation**

	2001-2002	2002-2003	Incr/(decr)
<b>Investments and Earnings</b>			
<b>B.C. Ziegler</b>	<b>\$47,266</b>	<b>\$51,353</b>	<b>\$4,087</b>
Edward Jones Account	\$10,856	\$12,964	\$2,108
Westwood Trust	\$878,017	\$1,014,788	\$136,771
Cash in checking account	\$6,398	\$1,040	(\$5,358)
Accrued Income	\$201	\$5,275	\$5,074
Interest Free loan	(\$5,000)	(\$5,000)	0
Payable (Fiduciary Corp)	(\$5,134)		\$5,134
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$932,604</b>	<b>\$1,080,420</b>	<b>\$147,816</b>
<b>Growth of Foundation</b>			<b>\$147,816</b>

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We heard the Yearly Meeting Religious Education Committee Report prepared by Judy Cottingham. We appreciate the report.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Seven monthly meetings have submitted reports. All but one have a program for children and adults. One meeting has three classes including preschool, elementary, middle-high school.

Some topics in the children's programs include peace, pacifism and conscientious objection, race relations, honesty, dealing with emotions, and holiday themes from a Quaker perspective.

Adults read and discussed books including *Why Christianity Must Change or Die* by J.S. Spong, *Quakerism* by W. Kenworthy, *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time* by M. Borg, also Pendle Hill pamphlets, and articles from the *Friends Journal*.

Both adult and children programs include the Bible, Quaker testimonies, How we handle money, Friends organizations, meeting committees, Quaker Q and A, and Quakerism 101.

Several committee reports included comments on planning for the future.

For the committee  
Judy Cottingham, Bill Deutsch, Carol Gilbert,  
Kate Swatta

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We listened carefully to the Scattergood School Farm Report prepared by Mark Quee, farm manager, and the Scattergood School Committee Report submitted by school committee clerk Lucy Hansen.

We appreciate the positive, informative reports and the humility and humor with which they were prepared. We are grateful for the many hours of love given to this school by its staff. We are aware of the absence of Ken and Belle Hinshaw, who have left the school after 17 years of service, including several as director and farm manager. We can never thank them enough for their service to this yearly meeting. Even as we say good-bye to the Hinshaws and other staff, we look forward to the

new school year and the many gifts our new director and staff will bring. We welcome new director Sean Egan to the school. We are blessed by the outreach the organic garden of the school farm gives to the wider world. We have been reminded that when we travel we can take the opportunity to wear our Scattergood T-shirts and share about the school. Although we sometimes forget, we are Scattergood Friends School, and it is important for us as a yearly meeting and as individuals to be intentional in our care of the school. We approve the request of the School Committee to raise the Yearly Meeting support by \$5,000 to \$30,000.

## SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL FARM REPORT

Tomatoes, zucchini, green beans, garlic, green peppers, cucumbers, cabbage, basil, parsley, potatoes, eggs.... I hope you are enjoying the fruits of a bountiful harvest provided by the seeds and soil at the Scattergood School Farm. The weather has been generous and so much has been given; there is much to be thankful for and much to eat.

In January 2003, members of the School Committee, Scattergood Farm employees and other interested staff members gathered together to talk about and revise the mission for the Farm. The results of this meeting provided the necessary direction as Scattergood and the Farm entered an important year of transition:

- the farm should serve as an educational tool for students and be incorporated into as many classes as possible;
- the farm should provide fresh organic fruits and vegetables as well as residue-free meat and eggs to the students, staff and groups using the school throughout the year;
- the farm should act as a tool to reach out to the wider Scattergood Community;
- the farm should not be a financial drain on the school and should look for paying markets for surplus produce.

In light of this renewed focus, there are many positives to report from the Scattergood Farm.

An unprecedented number of classes used the farm as an educational resource during Spring 2003. Biology worked with plants; General Science conducted composting experiments. One Project class planted seeds, built a mobile chicken house and cared for the goats, while another Project incubated eggs, cared for the pullets that will replace our

existing laying flock, and since it was an art class, even found time to sketch and draw the chicks at various stages of their development. A social studies class weeded strawberries and P.E. classes used the paths to and around the farm for jogging. Several students routinely transported themselves in a garden cart, while others walked or were driven simply to look around or check in on the livestock.

With a renewed focus on providing food to the Scattergood kitchen, the greenhouses were put into action, and favorable spring conditions allowed the students to eat lettuce, spinach, Chinese cabbage, and radishes before Commencement Weekend. Since then the Farm has provided produce to Family Camp, a class reunion, School Committee, and now Yearly Meeting. Already during this growing season, the farm has provided over 500 pounds of fruits and vegetables to be used in the School.

Spring also saw many visitors to the Scattergood Farm. Groups from Lake Country School in Minnesota and Tandem Friends School in Virginia came seeking models of farm/school interface, while students from a Washington State independent school came to experience life at an Iowa private school and see an alternative model of farming. Family Campers pleaded to harvest more carrots and lettuce, but were easily distracted when strawberry smoothies were mentioned. Scattergood staff gladly harvested strawberries and garlic, while many former staff and nearby Friends also stopped in to pick their own berries.

The Scattergood Farm continues to sell much of its surplus produce to New Pioneer Cooperative in Iowa City and also has been providing fruits and vegetables to the newly opened West Branch Natural Market. While these markets provide some income for the farm and some outreach for the school, they are not markets large enough to purchase all the excess that the farm is able to produce. To get more food into the mouths of more people, we are currently studying the possibility of starting a Scattergood Farm CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) for next year. Talk to Mark to express interest or ask questions.

These successes are the result of much hard work by many people. Chris Peterson often worked off-the-clock doing demolition and construction and even helped lead the Farm Project both last fall and this spring. Former student Wren Almitra has offered her work ethic and attention to detail to help maintain the gardens. Ken Fawcett and Fawcett Family Farms continue to do an exemplary job with the conventional row crops

while also being available for consultation and emergencies. But most of all, we should thank Ken and Belle Hinshaw who, for sixteen years, have poured much sweat (as well as some blood and tears) into transforming the farm into what it now is.

As we look to the future, Scattergood continues to seek a livestock manager who can step in and build on the strengths and opportunities that exist at the Farm. This person will be asked to design a diversified livestock program that gets the students directly involved and provides the school with high-quality meat.

The Farm Subcommittee of the School Committee has also been exploring the possibility of constructing a new building on the farm that would house a classroom, a public restroom, as well as vegetable and egg processing and storage facilities.

Hopefully one year from now we can report many new successes as the Farm strives to fulfill its mission and offer a variety of people education, opportunity and sustenance.

Submitted on behalf of the Farm Committee  
Mark Quee,  
Farm Manager

## SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL REPORT

This was a good year at Scattergood despite the occasional unease felt as we searched for, found, and worked toward the transition to a new Director. We welcome Sean Egan as the new Director of Scattergood and encourage you to get to know him and make his job as easy as possible. We bid Ken and Belle Hinshaw a fond farewell and good wishes as they leave Scattergood. The school is undoubtedly in much better health than when they first set foot on campus in August of 1986, and we are indebted to their hard work and dedication.

Fourteen seniors graduated on June 1, 2003, leaving Scattergood and setting out around the world to share what they have learned. The seniors were David Abell, Isabel Burbeck, John Connell, Mila Hamilton, Georgia Kashnig, Marin Lane, Lucia Balcazar, Kyoichiro Matsudaira, Gabe Middaugh, Anna Mikhailova, Sang Wook Seo, Nadya Warthen, Eli Wentzel-Fisher, and Janna White. The Sara Berquist Scholar in next year's senior class is Matt Allis and the Fine Arts Scholar is Beth Barrett.

A wonderful group of staff has worked very hard, as usual, this past year. Those returning are Dan Rhudy, Beth Bliss, Dana Foster, Erin Lane, Hans Neihus, Heather Godley, Irving Treadway, Jan Luchini, John Morman, Mike Watson, Sarah and Joey Giffen-Hunter, Mark Quee, Margie Figgins, Amy Scattergood, Sara Karbeling, Shannon Pingenet, and Jennifer Warneke. Those Scattergood says goodbye and thank you to are: Linda Bowman and her wonderful cooking, Health Coordinator Betsy Wentzel, Dean Nan Fawcett, Director's Assistant and caretaker of the international students Anne Beerman, teachers Victor Garza, Kyle Maher, Chris Petersen, Don Harris, Ardith Tjossem, and Ken and Belle Hinshaw. We will certainly miss all of them and are very appreciative of what they each brought to and shared with the Scattergood community.

We started the school year with 53 students and ended with 51. Full boarding tuition this year was \$18,900, five-day boarding was \$16,800, and day student tuition was \$10,500. Approximately \$548,387 was received in tuition, for an average cost per student of \$10,445. \$293,463 was granted in financial aid, of which \$129,113 was provided through donations from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), the Scattergood Friends School endowment, and the Measey Fund. The remaining \$164,350 was unfunded. An additional \$318,476 was received from the many donors to Scattergood, to whom we are extremely grateful. Overall, we finished the year with a loss of approximately \$16,632 primarily due to reimbursable expenses. It was a tough year for the budget with many increases in fixed costs and lower than expected income. We extend a big thank-you to Business Manager Jan Luchini and the rest of the staff for keeping expenses well below budget.

A few projects to improve the Scattergood campus were undertaken this year. Among them, an addition to the sound wall along the interstate is nearly complete, giving Scattergood a 700-foot buffer from the traffic noise and lights. This spring the seniors planted trees along the path to the new pond and created terraced steps west of the science building through the old windbreak at the beginning of the path. The teachers' office in the science building was cleaned and reorganized, a new well pump, some new carpet along with a carpet cleaner, and new coats of paint here and there helped keep the campus in good condition.

During seventh block, staff members Betsy Wentzel and Kyle Maher led a group of twelve students to Mexico for community service work, and three students and staff member Hans Niehus rode their bicycles back to Scattergood from Natchez, Mississippi, along the Natchez Trace

Parkway. Trip week this spring saw students and staff camping, hiking, and canoeing in Iowa and Missouri. More locally, the whole school took a movie trip to the New Strand Theatre in West Liberty and at the end of the year had a picnic at the Cedar Valley Park. Throughout the year the faculty offered some unique course topics. Among these were a literature class featuring Iowa Writer's Workshop authors who had readings at Prairie Lights Bookstore in Iowa City; bookbinding; Fantasy Genre literature; The Beauty Myth, an examination of gender and roles; archery; rapier; banned books; historical linguistics; glassblowing; and The Poultry Project, during which students learned how to feed and care for the chickens as they grew, build movable pens, and sketch them at various stages of development.

Community service continues to be an important aspect of the Scattergood curriculum, with 30 hours of off-campus service required for juniors and seniors to graduate. Scattergood has an ongoing relationship with the Hoover Elementary School in West Branch, where Scattergood students read to the younger kids and assist the teachers with instruction and classroom tasks, and one student taught art as well. International students from Scattergood were featured guest speakers during International Day. On Valentine's Day all Scattergood students were part of a daylong service project in such places in Iowa City as the Ronald McDonald House, Planned Parenthood Clinic, Emma Goldman Clinic, the Humane Society, a soup kitchen, and a daycare center in Coralville.

The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS) conference on "changing lives, changing cultures" was attended by staff members Chris Peterson, Dan Rhudy, Mark Quee, John Morman, Beth Bliss, Erin Lane, Heather Godley, and Sara Karbeling. Mark Quee and Irving Treadway led a group of students to the Quaker Youth leadership Conference in Delaware this spring, and Mark also attended the Friends Council on Education Conference, "Seeking a Praxis of Peace", at Pendle Hill in June.

The Scattergood community is happy to report that many people came to share their ideas, talents, and energy again this year as Friends in Residence. Ed Clopton, former staff member, taught CPR during staff orientation. Michael Luick-Thrams, author and lecturer on Scattergood Hostel years, and families of German POWs held in Iowa during WWII visited the school and talked about 'meeting the enemy'. Will Power, a hip-hop storyteller, captured our imaginations with his stories. Truman Robertson, former staff member, helped out with the physics class.



Alum Ron Stackland gave a glass blowing demonstration during Scattergood Day. Salaam, a Middle Eastern style band, presented an educational slide show and played music. Alum Cherry Hilgendorf Flowers and five friends associated with the Lake Country Day School in Minnesota came to study our school/farm connection. Former staff member Jim Allen and some of his Loras College students came to study Scattergood's community aspect of education and the relationship between students and their teachers. Gretchen and Leah Spicer, mother and sister of a current student, helped out in the library, academic office, development office and the kitchen. Alum Jeremy McAdams gave a lecture on human architecture; and alum Harold Jamison helped in the kitchen and with campus projects.

We also thank Lawrence Tjossem and Hawkeye Stages for again driving everyone to Decorah in a charter bus for camping weekend last fall and the many other individuals who gave us various books, magazines, and other supplies as well as their time and energy. We deeply appreciate everyone's continued efforts on behalf of Scattergood.

A special note of appreciation is due to the Yearly Meeting Trustees for repairing the meetinghouse. The Scattergood community was very happy when morning Collection and weekly Meeting for Worship could once again be held there. These regular gatherings are very important aspects of life on campus, and we can't help but wonder how much better the world might be if everyone was required to attend Collection and Meeting for Worship.

It is our hope that the members of the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) recognize the crucial role that they play in the existence of Scattergood. Your involvement and support allow this school to be a special place for staff, students, and their families, as well as the number of people who come in and out of our community each year. It should be the goal of every member of the Yearly Meeting to come to the campus for a visit during the school year, to live the energy with the school community. We welcome you always.

On behalf of the School Committee,  
Lucy Hansen, Clerk (with assistance from Sean  
Egan, Margie Figgins, and other staff members)

Scattergood Friends School Committee  
To Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) from July 26, 2003 meeting.

We discussed requesting an increase in the school’s funding from IYM(Conservative), and for a longer-range commitment for planning purposes. The nature of IYM(C) budgeting makes future increases difficult to plan, although we can presume the amount will remain constant unless changes are requested. We will plan to request regular increases, potentially on the order of 5%.

For this year, the school committee requests a \$5,000 increase in funding, to \$30,000.

**SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL AND SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL FARM COMBINED BALANCE SHEETS**

<b>Assets</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Farm</b>	<b>Foundation</b>	<b>Combined</b>
<b>Current Assets:</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$125,223	\$550	\$2,954	\$128,727
Accounts receivable (net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$4000)	28,749			28,749
Farm inventories		1,881		1,881
Investment in growing crops		6,205		6,205
Accrued interest and dividends			5,275	5,275
Short term investments – marketable securities	134,291			134,291
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>288,263</b>	<b>8,636</b>	<b>8,229</b>	<b>305,128</b>
<b>Property and Equipment:</b>				
Land and land improvements	157,439	107,562		265,001
Buildings and improvements	2,364,599	103,841		2,468,440
Automobiles	116,572	11,808		128,380
Equipment	605,917	45,334		651,251
Less: accumulated depreciation	(1,270,935)	(112,391)		(1,383,326)
<b>Total Property &amp; Equipment</b>	<b>1,973,592</b>	<b>156,154</b>		<b>2,129,746</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>				
Long term investments- marketable securities			979,543	979,543
Long term investments-cash & cash equivalents			97,648	97,648
New Horizons Farm Service stock	3,035			3,035
Interest in net assets of Scattergood Friends School Foundation	1,080,420			
Total other assets	1,083,455		1,077,191	1,080,226
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$3,345,310</b>	<b>164,790</b>	<b>\$1,085,420</b>	<b>\$3,515,100</b>

<b>Liabilities &amp; Fund Balances</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Farm</b>	<b>Foundation</b>	<b>Combined</b>
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>				
Accounts payable	\$5,968	\$1,127		\$7,095

Interest payable	1,616			1,616
Retirement contribution payable	36,438			36,438
Student deposits	11,900			11,900
Deferred income	3,348			3,348
Loans payable (interest free)	20,000		5,000	25,000
Current portion of long term debt	40,679			40,679
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>119,949</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>126,076</b>
<b>Long-term Debt:</b>				
Note payable – Mazda Credit	9,878			9,878
Note payable – US Bank	193,119			193,119
Less: current portion	(40,679)			(40,679)
<b>Total Long – Term Debt</b>	<b>162,318</b>			<b>162,318</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>282,267</b>	<b>1,127</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>288,394</b>
<b>Net Assets:</b>				
Unrestricted	1,674,823	163,663		1,838,486
Temporarily restricted	316,029		8,229	316,029
Permanently restricted	1,072,191		1,072,191	1,072,191
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>3,063,043</b>	<b>163,663</b>	<b>1,080,420</b>	<b>3,226,706</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$3,345,310</b>	<b>\$164,790</b>	<b>\$1,085,420</b>	<b>\$3,515,100</b>

### Combined Statements of Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2003

	School	Farm	Foundation	Consolidating Entries	Combined
<b>Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets</b>					
Tuition – Gross	\$884,400				\$884,400
Less: Scholarship allowance	(336,013)				(336,013)
Tuition support – Measey Foundation	78,099				78,099
<b>Tuition and tuition support-Net</b>	<b>626,486</b>				<b>626,486</b>
Contributions and other support-Schedule 1	249,054			(26,014)	223,040
Fees and charges	11,036				11,036
Other operating income	10,386				10,386
Farm income – Schedule 3		19,915			19,915
Investment Income:					
Interest and dividends	7,332				7,332
Net realized and unrealized loss on investments	(39,352)				(39,352)
Investment fees	(3,055)				(3,055)
Net assets released from restrictions	170,975		26,014		196,989
<b>Total Revenues and Other Support</b>	<b>1,032,862</b>	<b>19,915</b>	<b>26,014</b>	<b>(26,014)</b>	<b>1,052,777</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Payroll	476,433				476,433
Personnel costs	125,371				125,371

Personnel development	6,844			6,844
Professional services	5,195			5,195
Contracted services	27,987			27,987
Insurance	42,042			42,042
Occupancy costs	54,920			54,920
Supplies	46,502			46,502
Food service	42,145			42,145
Vehicles and equipment	19,092			19,092
Communications	14,124			14,124
Promotion	71,977			71,977
Technology	64,891			64,891
Other expenses	21,657			21,657
Bad debts	14,111			14,111
Depreciation (excluding laptops)	119,454	6,104		125,558
Farm expenses--Schedule 3		27,029		27,029
Grants of Scattergood Friends School			26,014	(26,014)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	1,152,745	33,133	26,014	(26,014)
<b>Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	(119,883)	(13,218)		(133,101)
<b>Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</b>				
Investment Income				
Interest and dividends			43,119	43,119
Less: Investment fees			(9,077)	(9,077)
Contributions and other support – Schedule 1	59,647			59,647
Change in interest in Scattergood Friends School Foundation	8,028			(8,028)
Net assets released from restrictions	(170,975)		(26,014)	(196,989)
<b>Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets</b>	(103,300)		8,028	(8,028)
<b>Changes in Permanently Restricted Net Assets</b>				
Contributions			155,125	155,125
Net realized and unrealized loss on investments			(15,337)	(15,337)
Changes in interest in Scattergood Friends School Foundation	139,788			(139,788)
<b>Change in Permanently Restricted Net Assets</b>	139,788		139,788	(139,788)
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS</b>	(83,395)	(13,218)	147,816	(147,816)
Net Assets, beginning of year as previously reported	2,188,834	176,881	932,604	3,298,319
Prior period adjustments	957,604			(932,604)
Net Assets, beginning of year as restated	3,146,438	176,881	932,604	3,323,319
Net Assets, end of year	\$3,063,043	\$163,663	\$1,080,420	\$(1,080,420)
				3,226,706

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We listened with interest to the Discipline Committee's Report prepared by Carol Gilbert, clerk. We appreciate all the work of the Committee and approve the report as amended.

## DISCIPLINE REVISION COMMITTEE REPORT

We have had four meetings since last Yearly Meeting. Our committee includes Gordon Bivens of Ames Meeting, Sherry Hutchison of Des Moines Valley, Ed Clopton of West Branch, Martha Davis of Decorah, Carol Gilbert of Omaha, Marge Schlitt of Lincoln, Marc Robinson of Penn Valley, Beth Wilson and Olive Wilson of Paullina, Jim Bromwell of Whittier, and Herbert Standing of Bear Creek. The Iowa City Monthly Meeting Ministry and Oversight Committee has been serving as liaison to their meeting members.

We have agreed on a table of contents, consisting of three major sections: our spiritual experience and testimonies, individual and corporate practices stemming from that faith, and our organization.

We intend to recommend that the revised publication be titled FAITH AND PRACTICE, The Book Of Discipline Of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative), Religious Society of Friends.

We have received comments from most meetings regarding our sections on monthly meeting record keeping, sexuality and marriage.

We feel we have completed work on the topics of Traveling Minutes and Recording of Ministries, the Yearly Meeting and Monthly Meeting committees on Ministry and Oversight, Death and Bereavement, Business Procedures, and Funds and Property. We have not distributed sections on those topics for comment from monthly meetings, however, because their final form will depend on how they fit into the larger structure of the discipline.

We are in the middle of updating sections on Yearly Meeting Sessions, Peace and Social Concerns/Testimonies, Formation of new meetings, and Quaker organizations and other "reference" material.

We intend to improve our communication with monthly meetings through their clerks to ensure that everyone has a chance to review what we've worked on.

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We received the good report of the Yearly Meeting Library committee prepared by Martha Davis, clerk of the committee. We appreciate having the book table at Yearly Meeting and thank those that volunteer to make that possible.

## LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT

Reading has always been an important ingredient in the lives of Quakers. All of our meetings' libraries continue to add books to their shelves through purchasing and donations. Individual meeting libraries are being well used—one meeting mentioned the problem of some books not being returned. Some meetings have book reviews periodically, which is helpful in choosing reading material.

Des Moines Valley Meeting subscribes to *Highlights* and *Zoo Books* from a member. Most of our meetings subscribe to Pendle Hill Pamphlets, *Friends Journal*, *Quaker Life*, and distribute Friends calendars.

The book display at Yearly Meeting is a popular attraction. The Friends General Conference bookstore is most helpful in supplying quality books for Friends to purchase.

The Library Committee is open for suggestions for further services. The committee remains excited and sensitive to Friends awareness of the growth in mind, body, and Spirit through reading.

On behalf of the Library Committee,  
Martha Davis, clerk

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We treasure the time we spend together listening to the reading of our monthly meeting State of the Meeting Reports. We have read several of those at this session and will finish reading remaining reports in Seventh Day morning session. All reports are printed here.

## STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS

### **Ames**

We feel tugged in too many ways. Many of us would like to commit more to meeting, yet job and family obligations are very time consuming. It is a continuous struggle. The meeting is family for many of us. Social time is enjoyable for all. For example, we generally extend our social time after meeting for worship. We have begun to mark special occasions in people's lives with simple gestures such as singing 'Happy Birthday.' We would like to nurture our community by meeting more often. We do meet at least one evening each month at midweek frugals. We have converted our monthly workday into Saturday fellowship and potluck.

A.M. Fink did a series of informal lectures on Quaker history, providing us with background on the beginnings of our faith. We discussed a new query each month, which strengthened our understanding of each other and our sense of shared values and respect for "that of God" in each of us.

More young Friends in First-Day School and ISU students have invigorated our meeting. We are saddened that some long-time attenders and members are no longer participating in the life of our meeting. We try to keep abreast of special needs of the people who come to meeting, although we are still sometimes brought up short by learning that individuals suffer deeply and privately without sharing concerns.

Our meeting has been concerned about the war in Iraq and our government's role in it. Some of us took action by attending weekly peace vigils and handing out flyers on tax day. Marian Solomon visited Iraq before the war and has shared her experiences and insights broadly.

We have derived satisfaction from our meetinghouse being used by Ames groups and Iowa yearly meeting committees. It feels great to offer hospitality after having no space of our own for a long time.

### **Bear Creek**

Each person in our meeting has certain skills and somehow all the jobs to prepare for Mid-Year Meeting get done. It just kind of happens—ready or not. Attenders pitch in to help with meal prep, dishes, and clean up. Tom Hamm of Earlham College faculty led us in discussions about Quaker decision making and business meetings, the peace testimony, and simplicity. Exchange of ideas is stimulating. We do not meet together often enough and our time together is precious.

Mildred Standing died a few weeks short of her 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday. Her son, Herbert, lovingly cared for her in her home until shortly before her

death in November. She loved to chat with her neighbors, play hymns on her piano, and attend the monthly sewing circle. We miss her.

While much remains unchanged in our meeting life, occasionally a new challenge presents itself. Termites have been discovered in our dear little school house. Many Quaker children have been educated there and many children have spent happy and educational weekends there during Mid-Year Meeting. We are carefully considering several options.

Pre-meeting discussions are led by different people, on many subjects, and are an important time of sharing our thoughts and becoming familiar with each other on a deeper spiritual level. We are an active, busy group of people and while we work hard for many worthy organizations we support, we don't find enough time for fun, relaxing and enjoying each other.

We are distressed by the recent preemptive attack on Iraq, and our members have been active in opposing the war with letters to Congress, the President, and newspapers, attending town meetings, taking part in peace rallies, putting up yard signs and bumper stickers, attending AFSC and FCNL meetings, opening the Meeting House on a regular basis for worship and prayer, and gathering together in worship groups as we search for ways to be channels of God's love, peace, and power.

By speaking out we might encourage others to speak and think. It is very important that we learn how to speak to those who don't agree with us in such a way that dialogue can take place. We need to listen to them and respect their belief and speak with love, seeking God's leading on how to best proceed.

We try not to be overwhelmed with what seems to be a nation in disagreement. It is important to use our energy in POSITIVE ways. We believe in our hearts that good things can happen. We can support small happenings. We can support a vision of a peaceful world.

We try to balance the urge to be active, the need to be doing something, with taking time for worship and searching for God's leading. It is essential we try to live in the fullness of the Spirit of Truth and to know its Life and Power.

## **Decorah**

Decorah Friends have continued to worship, eat, laugh and grieve together for another year. We are grateful for the opportunity to worship in the manner of Friends, and we are grateful for our connection to one another, to our community, and to the wider family of Friends.

The shadow of war has felt ever-present in our meeting this year. It has created opportunities to witness for peace in Decorah and in Washington, D.C. It has permeated many hours of adult discussion time,



and it has created a certain amount of despair. We believe that we are called to work for peace and to leave the results in God's hands, yet we ache to see peace achieved.

Several peace-related activities occurred throughout the year. George Walumoli from Uganda shared about his work as an international facilitator for the Alternatives to Violence Project. Michael Luick-Thrams brought visitors from Germany, all of whom were either POWs in Iowa during World War II or family members of those POWs. Peace cranes and children's books on nonviolence were displayed at the Decorah Public Library. We were invited to Hesper Friends Meeting to hear a report from Maxine Nash about her recent visit to Iraq with a short-term Christian Peacemaker Team. And some members participated in weekly vigils in town or daily prayer at 9:00 pm, holding the people of Iraq, Israel and Palestine in God's light.

We have cared for each other spiritually, emotionally and physically through illnesses, death of loved ones, and birth of a child. For the first time, we created a phone tree to make sure each of us knows when an attender is ill or hurting. We have felt the absence of Friends who spent the year in England, and we welcome them back, anticipating their presence among us.

Decorah Friends have continued many traditions. We shared meals together after worship throughout the school year. At Christmas time we enjoyed singing and our own version of a "Christmas pageant." We celebrated New Year's Eve together with a potluck, games and conversation. And Easter festivities included natural egg dyeing, sunrise worship, singing and a potluck brunch with an egg hunt. Inter-visitation between meetings within the Driftless area of Friends also continues to be a rich experience.

Outreach within the Decorah area includes contribution of a religion article to the Decorah newspapers in rotation with other area churches, and participation in the Decorah Area Faith Coalition. Examples of outreach to the larger world include collecting books to be sent to prisoners in Iowa prisons, supporting the high school-equivalent education of a Ghanaian youth who has personal ties to our meeting, and sending *Friends Journal* subscriptions to recent graduates who have attended our meeting.

Approximately every six weeks, we have an inter-generational First Day activity. One activity was to record thoughts and memories of the year in preparation for this report. Some of the specific things listed in the personal reflections but not contained in the above paragraphs include canoeing, healing, young Friends overnight, hope for the future,

red onion skins saved for two whole years to be used in egg dyeing, and playing with the ever-changing assortment of toys from Toys Go Round.

As we move into a new year, we look forward to a visit from Mary Snyder who feels called to travel to meetings in order to, in the words of John Woolman, “feel the people’s condition,” then explore with them what they need at this time in religious education. We will rejoice with our only teen-age member, as she leaves to be an exchange student in Mexico. We know we will feel her absence, including her loving care of our younger children. And we will continue to deal with tensions brought to our lives from many sources, including our president’s choices and our own choices. We pray that we will be instruments of God’s love in this volatile world and that God’s peace will prevail.

## **Des Moines Valley**

It’s been a busy year as we tended to the life of our meeting. Babies were born, engagements entered into, preparations made for marriages, new attenders and members joined our worship. These joyous developments played out against a backdrop of violence, destruction, war, devastation, and erosion of civil liberties at home and abroad, all of which pose challenges to our Quaker faith, values, and principles. It’s been a year of contrasts.

We celebrated the births of two babies into our community. On January 21 Alyza Charae-Lin Dixon was born to parents Katy Bobbitt and Erin Dixon, and grandmother Wendy Vasquez. Thea Elizabeth Steinbach was born on February 28 to parents Genevieve Lifka-Reselman and Luke Steinbach, grandmother Dorothy Lifka and aunt Alix Lifka-Reselman.

John Holveck became engaged to Davel Patel, a young woman he met in Guyana while he served in the Peace Corps and she was with the British Voluntary Service. Marion Love and Dennis Kirkwood are engaged and will be married in October 2003, under the care of our meeting, although the ceremony and reception will take place at Bear Creek Friends Meeting in Earlham. Ann Robinson and Charlie DuCharme were married in our meeting, under our care, on July 5. We will miss Ann and Charlie, and Ann’s daughter Julia Robinson-Frantsvog when they relocate to Columbia, Missouri.

Our sympathies flow to Brock Wommack who lost his father, Sidney S. Jackson in April. We welcomed Jean Sandstrom and Andy Shafer, and their son Neal Shafer, into membership. Anita Shakina relocated to Des Moines and will transfer her membership from Olympia, Washington; Michael Luick-Thrams has transferred his membership from Germany to our meeting; newcomer Rayf Schmidt attends Meeting,

as do Dan and Kristina Pearson and their children. Nwinee Williamson has been a faithful attender this year and we appreciate his insights into the struggles of his homeland, Nigeria.

We are comforted by our traditional gatherings—a fall picnic at the Winchells’, Thanksgiving potluck, holiday music, a garage sale for the camp fund, end of the school year picnic at a local park—which were augmented by baby showers, a Mother’s Day brunch hosted by our men, followed by a Father’s Day brunch hosted by the Meeting’s teens.

We appreciate the work of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee who help us put our faith into action through ongoing education, letters, vigils, petitions, and so forth. A special Child Care Committee organized and implemented a plan of care for youngsters, which involves our older teenagers.

We are proud of Brynne Howard who has been awarded a Pickett Leadership Grant for summer work at AFSC and at the Family Violence Center. The presence of young people enriches and enlivens our meeting.

Topics for 2nd Hour Discussions included a worship sharing during the war in Iraq, social capital, a report on Quakerdale, and several sessions on membership. A special report was heard from Brynne Howard, Deborah Fink, of Ames Meeting, and Wilmer Tjossem who attended an FWCC meeting on discerning the direction of peacemaking. Wilmer led a panel at the meeting. A Quakerism 101 course provided an overview of Quaker history, beliefs, and traditions.

We wrestle with how to juggle the need and desire for fellowship on Sundays with the importance of taking time to discuss the Advices and Queries and other topics of concerns, and attend Business Meeting. We search for ways to promote joyous participation in the work of the Meeting. We detected an increase, though not documented, in attendance at Meeting for Worship, the place where we replenish our spiritual beings.

At one of our business meetings in the spring, we decided to purchase a banner, to be held at a weekly vigil on our yard. The lovely white, with blue lettered banner was procured by Clerk Mikel Johnson. While we have had difficulty sustaining a weekly presence on our busy street corner, the simple message of the banner continues to guide us: “Peace is the way”.

## **Iowa City**

We held our October Meeting for Worship, followed by a potluck picnic and fellowship, on a scenic hillside of Hickory Hill Park in Iowa City as a way to become better acquainted with the new fall meeting attenders on the UI campus.

Iowa City Friends welcomed two children and three adults as members to the meeting this year. They are Kristin Gast, Gabriel Middaugh, and Carolyn Turvey and her two young daughters, Mary and Sonya Liebig.

We joyfully acknowledged the births of Sonya Grace Liebig to Carolyn Turvey and Chris Liebig on December 20, 2002, and Jeremiah Haravon Collins to Lea and Steve Haravon Collins on Christmas Day 2002. We held a special meeting for worship on the first potluck Sunday in May to celebrate these recent births. During this meeting for worship we remembered Jacob Haravon Collins, Jeremiah's twin brother, who died at birth on Christmas Day. Our special thoughts and prayers are with the parents, Lea and Steve.

We found the two worship-sharing sessions we held this year to be meaningful. The first session was on the topic "What it means to be a Friend." The second one was on "Centering for worship." We thought the first session provided a nice transition into the second session. Participation by meeting attenders was excellent in both sessions.

Susan Murty, a member of our meeting, also a volunteer for Hospice of Iowa City, led discussions on end-of-life issues, reminding us that we are all touched in some way by the end-of-life events of close friends and relatives. She explained how Hospice can step in to give support, alleviate suffering and help to remove feelings of isolation that often accompany the grieving process. We shared suggestions regarding pre-planning and beginning the conversation about living wills and funeral arrangements with our own loved ones to help prepare for death.

As a member of the Iowans for Peace Consortium, our meeting participated with other peace-oriented groups in two interfaith services of singing, praying for peace, and giving voice to our various peace testimonies, at St. Thomas Moore Church in Iowa City.

Our meeting has a growing program for First Day schoolchildren initiated by parents in the meeting. A visit from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders from the Unitarian Church in Iowa City was inspiring, as they asked us many questions about Quakerism. The Unitarians have offered to share materials for teenagers with us. We acknowledge that our meeting needs to develop a stronger program for teenagers in order to make them feel more welcome. Children have always taken an active part following meetings for worship as they eagerly report to the meeting what they did in First Day School. In December, they created a miniature town of Bethlehem with lights, and organized a Christmas pageant followed by carol singing. One of the children accompanied the singing with her violin.

As we prepared responses to the Friends' queries, we became deeply aware of the importance of balancing activities in our daily lives. The Quaker value of spiritual simplicity takes on more importance for us in this age of rapidly developing technology, with its many gadgets and fast pace of life constantly distracting us from setting right priorities. When we feel overwhelmed by many situations that need to be changed for humankind, we consider the words of Thomas Kelly, who advises us that we are not alone as we work in the world. He reminds us that "The Cosmic Patience becomes, in part, our patience, for after all God is at work in the world."

## **Lincoln**

In July 2002 we celebrated the wedding of Deb Boettcher-Howe and Ted Sheely, who were married under our care in the manner of Friends.

New families with children encouraged us to do a deep cleaning of our basement children's play area. Many hands vacuumed, scrubbed and reorganized. Marce and Harvey Hinshaw laid a new tile floor in the basement hallway, and Marie Brock donated a new area rug. It was well worth the effort.

Friendly Suppers continue in people's homes with small groups. Our monthly potluck after worship, a longstanding tradition, is still a favorite for families. And the Reading Group continues to meet weekly for reading aloud. Our newsletter is an active means of communication for those both near and far.

Our meetinghouse is no longer a distribution site for the Food Net program; however, the meetinghouse is now being used as a weekly AA meeting site.

Pre-meeting discussion topics have been so plentiful we have had trouble fitting things into the schedule. Among other things, we read aloud "A Different Kind of Christmas" by Alex Haley. For most of the year we discussed a query once each month; however, that has been temporarily replaced with Quakerism 101. We are each signing up to lead a portion of that curriculum. Our library has been well used.

Marge Schlitt has been very busy bringing Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) to Lincoln. She has lead several workshops, and many Friends have provided food for those gatherings. We have also enjoyed visitors drawn to Lincoln for these workshops.

With the war in Iraq, many of us participated in war protest activities.

Again, many in our group have suffered in health over the past year. We have done our best to try to help those in need. Our

bodies get older, but our spirits stay young. We feel we are welcoming to new members and visitors.

## **Omaha**

This year, Omaha Friends Meeting has emphasized outreach to the community and other monthly meetings.

1. We developed and printed business cards that our attenders can pass out to friends or leave in public places. We printed flyers on Quakerism and peace that we passed out and had on literature tables at an interfaith prayer meeting and peace demonstrations.
2. People from our meeting have visited other member meetings of Iowa Yearly Meeting (C), as well as Great Plains Yearly Meeting. We have enjoyed visits to our Meeting from Friends from other meetings.

As our children mature, we have felt a concern to begin to help them transition into the adult meeting. This led us to having Family Worship on fifth Sundays. Family Worship Sundays consist of partially programmed worship, with an intergenerational second hour of service and fun. Realizing our teens' need for peers as being important to their retention in Friends, we have recently begun to reach out to the middle and high school young people in Iowa Yearly Meeting. In June, we invited Yearly Meeting youth to join us at Adventureland. We are currently planning an overnight at the zoo or other Omaha attraction for the late fall.

We added Hospitality Coordinator to our meeting positions. This person coordinates our monthly potluck and our weekly coffee and fellowship break. We also appropriated some money in our budget to support needs of Meeting families. Our traditions of Thanksgiving potluck and Christmas caroling party have continued to be important to us.

A long time regular attender, Margaret Hu, moved to Hawaii. We miss her as well as some others whose life changes have caused them to attend less regularly.

We continue to be open to exploring different meeting places which might meet our goals of having a meeting place that invites and welcomes fellowship, worship, and service to the community. Part of this exploration has included "trying out" locations for a Sunday.

## **Paullina**

The life of the meeting continues to be enriched by visitors and new attenders. The unease with our government's current policies has brought people to our quiet meetinghouse seeking a community of like-minded, concerned individuals. We seek through worshiping and studying together to introduce guests to the other aspects of Quakerism, the spiritual well from which our political beliefs arise. Two people have become regular attenders after first seeking us out because of our public peace testimony.

The meeting has become more closely connected with the Sioux Falls worship group as we try to support them in their efforts to make their presence known in the area. We have enjoyed the occasional participation of two Sioux Falls families in our meetings for worship and business. Three members of our Ministry and Council Committee traveled to Sioux Falls to share in their meeting for worship as well. We look forward to continued contact with this small group, which has enriched both of our meetings.

We enjoyed having our guesthouse used for a month by a visiting Friend from Illinois Yearly Meeting. Her participation in and observations on our business practices helped us to see where our strengths are and our need to be mindful of what is valuable and worth holding on to.

The vocal ministry of the meeting continues to be Spirit-led, and often is prompted by concern for national and international events as we seek to respond in a loving and thoughtful way to violence in our world today. We struggle with the effort to promote a different response to violence and militarism and also to share our vision of a world free of suffering and terror. We find the query challenge to recognize "that of God" in those with whom we disagree especially difficult at times.

Meetings for Business are usually attended by a good representation of the active members and attenders. Our practice of answering a query together each month has proved to be a good way to get a true sense of the meeting and also a way of sharing with one another our individual thoughts and concerns which the queries address.

## **Penn Valley**

Penn Valley is still adjusting to the moving away, last year, of many regular and involved persons, and is missing some Friends who come less often or no longer attend.

Our meeting seems to be different from those of the rural past. We are often scattered and busy, and less connected to each other than we would like. But our worship and fellowship refresh us.

Fortunately, many who have moved write or visit us, and we have enjoyed both in the past year. New people arrive, and we celebrate them. Our meeting growth, like a garden, can never be predicted, sometimes dying down and sometimes flourishing.

We don't quite agree about the State of the Meeting, some wanting less tradition and some more, while others seem content. We are mostly patient with each others' viewpoints, and sometimes find we agree with those who contradict us.

One Friend is active working with prisoners, others working to abolish the death penalty, and many of us protesting the war and working for peace. Even when we approached these issues differently, we learned by listening to each other.

This has been a year of rediscovering our history. We revisited minutes the Meeting wrote in 1987 and 1988 on the subject of gay and lesbian Friends. Ministry and Oversight reviewed some conflicts from the past that have not fully healed, and while we cannot undo what has occurred, it felt right to reconsider it openly. We continue to seek guidance.

We see evidence of the commitment and involvement of members and attenders in increased attendance at the programs that follow Worship, and at Meeting for Business. Some committees have been less active, but others have been lively and productive. In particular, the Quaker Education Committee has arranged an educational program every month dealing with the fundamentals of Quakerism, and a series of "Inquirers' Meetings" for new attenders. Old and new, members and attenders, have found something of value in taking time to rediscover what attracted them to the Quaker way.

Meeting has suffered some loss from the absence of the Spiritual Formation program and a small Bible study group this year.

Many Friends have visited other meetings and returned to share with us how they found these like or unlike our own. One member remarked that she found worship in other meetings "a living bridge" between us. That bridge runs to us as well as from us. We enjoyed visits from members of other meetings. We offered hospitality to a group of Scattergood students at the Meetinghouse and found them to be considerate and enthusiastic guests.

A difficult loss came in the recent death of Paul Ruhlen, a former Penn Valley clerk. He was a brilliant, loving and very talented man who was only in his thirties. He came from a large and warm family, and they miss him greatly.



Not all is loss. We have acquired two babies this year. We were lacking, and take joy that these little girls are here. “A baby is God’s opinion that life should go on.” (*Carl Sandburg*)

## **West Branch**

Members of the Ministry and Oversight Committee met May 18 to review the state of the meeting for the past year. It was felt in general to be in good standing.

Friendly Circle has been revived and found to be of value, enabling those in the meeting who attend to share meaningful and pleasant times together. Friendly Eights also continues on a regular basis, and brings the same benefits of sharing—a chance to know each other better and become more aware of each other’s lives and needs—all important components to the well-being of the members and our spiritual support for each other.

In the same way, ending meeting by sharing news of family and friends has helped us understand and support each other’s joys and sorrows, lives and needs. This is a year in which several of our members are facing difficult health concerns. The meeting has been responding in several ways, including visiting, individual prayers, providing food, helping with daily needs, and meeting together to pray.

Vocal ministry has increased to some degree, and is felt to be welcomed and inspiring.

Having query discussions on the first Sunday of each month as an extension of meeting for worship continues to work well. Since nearly all those who come to meeting for worship stay on for the query discussion, all have the opportunity to share in the discussion, and a very large proportion do. Responses to the queries are sincere and thoughtful, and support us all in our efforts to live out our beliefs and testimonies.

Business Meeting was felt to be well conducted and the discussions appropriate.

Inasmuch as the peace testimony is an outgrowth of Friends’ spiritual seeking, it is an important part of our lives. Several members are involved on an ongoing basis in peace-promoting activities in the community. There have been programs in the meeting to help our young people consider militarism and the draft. Mark and Nathan Patton, with the support of the meeting, attended the Friends World Committee for Consultation’s Peace Conference at Guilford College.

Yahara Friends, a worship group in Madison, Wisconsin, has asked our meeting to explore with its members the possibility of becoming a preparative meeting to West Branch Monthly Meeting, and eventually a member of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). West Branch being

agreeable to this, a committee was appointed and went to Madison to meet with Yahara Friends. The committee found the group well grounded and already well on in its way toward becoming a preparative meeting, and recommended several steps in proceeding toward that goal. On May 11 several members of Yahara Friends came to attend our meeting for worship, business meeting, and potluck. There was much sharing and good fellowship, and both groups felt the potential for enrichment and spiritual nourishment from the association. In June Yahara Friends found clearness to make a formal request to become a preparative meeting under our care, and at our business meeting we readily agreed to this request.

There has been a decline in the number of young people attending First Day School. We also noted that business meetings and potluck meals afterwards are less well attended lately, and wonder if this is a symptom of over-busy lives as young families in particular try to respond to many demands and the increasing scheduling of young-peoples' activities on Sundays. When a family is noticed to be attending less regularly than usual, we need to be mindful of keeping in touch and being supportive. Members of the Ministry and Oversight Committee will make a concerted effort to contact such families.

## **Whittier**

It is with joy that Whittier Monthly Meeting reports our continued slow but steady growth. We welcomed Dixie Collins as a new member this past year, as well as a steady number of attenders who participate regularly not only in our meetings for worship but our business meetings and potlucks. While our overall numbers remain small, it is not unusual on any given Sunday for visitors to join us in worship, some coming from local Iowa towns, and some from as far away as England.

Again, we were thankful that a number of us were able to participate in Midyear Meeting at Earlham, and Eastern Iowa Gathering in West Branch.

We continue to be grateful for each other's presence. We have been using our monthly potlucks as a means for exploring our relationship to each other, and as Quakers to the larger world. As a group we have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know each other better, as well as being stretched by the thought provoking dialogue that arises without fail each month. In coming together on a regular basis for worship, study and conviviality, we hope to lay the foundation for whatever growth needs to occur in the future. Whittier Monthly Meeting continues to be the source of a very strong and real presence in each of our spiritual lives.

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

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## **Seventh Day – Saturday – 8/09/03**

We return to the business of Yearly Meeting.

*Oh, that we who declare against wars and acknowledge our trust to be in God only, may walk in the Light and therein examine our foundations and motives in holding great estates! May we look upon our treasures and the furniture of our houses and the garments in which we array ourselves and try whether the seeds of war have any nourishment in these our possessions or not. Holding treasures in the self-pleasing spirit is a strong plant, the fruit whereof ripens fast. A day of outward distress is coming and divine love calls to prepare against it! Harken then, Oh ye children who have known the Light, and come forth! Leave everything, which our Lord Jesus Christ does not own.*

—John Woolman, *A Plea for the Poor* (1773-74?)

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Debbie Galusha and Cathy Gardner have been appointed as readers this morning.

We are pleased to have Sheila Voss of Kickapoo Valley Meeting, Northern Yearly Meeting present as a visitor to these sessions.

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We listened with joy in our hearts to the epistle of the Junior Yearly Meeting, which also serves as their report to us. We very much appreciate the message of our young Friends and the Spirit with which it was presented. We value the time they have given worshipping, working, and playing with us. We also appreciate the good work of the Friends who guide them. We are indeed blessed and we want the children to know we love them very much!

## JR. YEARLY MEETING EPISTLE

We young Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) met on and near Scattergood Friends School to do lots of things.

On Wednesday afternoon we started pounding wire to make keys for our thumb pianos. Each person pounded at least three to five keys. The hammering made everyone's arms sore and the ringing of the hammers on metal made all of our ears ring. They could even be heard from the meetinghouse, which is very far away. But all of the work paid off after the finished keys were put onto the wood frames, and how they sound beautiful.

While we were in meeting for worship, we heard many things such as:

- Little children whispering
- Benches creaking
- Coughing
- People speaking out of the silence

The other day in meeting some of us learned an interesting lesson: things that look or seem ugly can be beautiful because of what they produce.

Some of our favorite Yearly Meeting traditions are: swimming, playing capture the flag, camping, playing in the game room, holding the koosh ball, and the talent show story.

In Friendship,  
Junior Yearly Meeting Friends

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We listened carefully to the Yearly Meeting Treasurer's Report given by Burt Kisling, treasurer, and the Audit Committee Report. This year's Audit Committee members were Dan Schlitt and Jim Kenney. We note that the scholarship fund for Youth Camp was not spent this year and we want to encourage our families to take advantage of this fund by contacting the Yearly Meeting clerk. It would be helpful to the Treasurer if monthly meetings would consider sending a portion of their apportionment to the Yearly Meeting treasurer earlier in the year, if it is possible for them. We approve the reports.

YEARLY MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT  
JULY 1, 2002 - JUNE 30, 2003

CONTRIBUTIONS	Budgeted	Spent
AFSC Native American Programs	\$125.00	\$125.00
American Friends Service Committee	\$500.00	\$500.00
Friends Committee on National Legislation	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Friends General Conference	\$100.00	\$100.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
FWCC Guildford Peace Conference	\$100.00	\$100.00
Iowa Peace Network	\$2,600.00	\$2,600.00
Nebraskans for Peace	\$250.00	\$250.00
Peace and Social Concerns Committee	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
Quaker United Nations Office	\$200.00	\$200.00
Right Sharing of World Resources	\$200.00	\$200.00
Scattergood Friends School	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
William Penn House	\$300.00	\$300.00
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$32,975.00</b>	<b>\$32,975.00</b>

DELEGATE EXPENSES		
American Friends Service Committee	\$500.00	\$234.70
Friends Committee on National Legislation	\$600.00	\$0.00
FWCC General	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
FWCC Peace Conference Guilford College (one time)	\$300.00	\$0.00
FWCC Triennial	\$500.00	\$500.00
<b>Total Delegate Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,900.00</b>	<b>\$1,734.70</b>

YEARLY MEETING EXPENSES		
Archives Committee	\$100.00	\$0.00
Clerk and other Adm. Expenses	\$400.00	\$189.13
Committee Expenses (other)	\$500.00	\$0.00
Contingency Fund	\$500.00	\$457.21
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Junior Yearly Meeting	\$2,000.00	\$134.91
Midyear Planning Committee	\$500.00	\$0.00
Publication Committee	\$3,000.00	\$2,869.84
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship	\$300.00	\$0.00
Special Needs Committee	\$500.00	\$0.00
YM Entertainment Committee	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Young Friends	\$1,500.00	\$900.00
<b>Total Yearly Meeting Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,300.00</b>	<b>\$5,551.09</b>

<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$48,175.00</b>	<b>\$40,260.79</b>
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## STATEMENT OF CASH AND FUNDS

CASH BALANCE JULY 1, 2002 \$22,939.82

### RECEIPTS

Monthly Meeting's Apportionments	\$40,000.00
Interest Earned	\$215.32
Sale of Disciplines and Minutes	
2003 Midyear Meeting Excess of Receipts	\$1,100.06
Book Sale, 2002 Yearly Meeting	\$41.22
Miscellaneous-Expense	
Reimbursement/contribution	\$40.00

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Total Receipts \$41,396.60

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TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE \$64,336.42

### DISBURSEMENTS

Budget 2002-2003 Expenditures	\$40,260.79
Peace and Social Concerns	
carry over disbursed this year	\$300.00
Total Expenditures 02-03	\$40,560.79
Less transferred to F.W.C.C. Travel Fund	\$500.00
Total Disbursements	\$40,060.79

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CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2003 \$24,275.63

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### FUNDS

General Fund balance available for year 2003-04 \$20,526.63

F.W.C.C. TRIENNIAL TRAVEL FUND	\$3,250.00
Disbursed this year	\$0.00
Added this year	\$500.00
Balance June 30, 2002	\$3,750.00
Peace and Social Concerns carry over	
Disbursed this year	\$300.00
	\$0.00

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TOTAL FUNDS June 30, 2003 \$24,276.63

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### EDCO Community Credit Union, Des Moines

Savings Account	\$22,078.27
Draft (Check) Account	\$2,197.35

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TOTAL CASH June 30, 2003 \$24,275.62

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## AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT

We have examined the Iowa Yearly Meeting Treasurer's records for the period of Seventh Month 1, 2002 (July 1) to Sixth Month 30, 2003 (June 30), and find them to be in good order. We believe the treasurer's report accurately represents the financial position of the Yearly Meeting. We appreciate the care and attention that Burton Kisling gives to maintaining the Yearly Meeting's financial records.

Dan Schlitt  
Jim Kenney

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We listened to the excellent report of the Yearly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committee, and the statements of concern and letter they prepared. We approve both statements and the letter and encourage our members to copy and make use of the letter in their own communities. Friends can share the letter with local stores and wholesalers. The clerk will send the letter to coffee processors and marketers. The Committee is asked to provide information on where to purchase Fair Exchange coffee and this will be sent to the monthly meetings. We were reminded as we gave careful consideration to the coffee minute that the minute on substance abuse also needs the same care. Caffeine, after all, is a drug on which many of us are dependent. Hearing of the many things being done by individuals and monthly meetings gives us hope and increases our strength.

## PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS REPORT

These are difficult times. Different people across the world have suffered from economic programs structured to benefit the wealthy rather than the majority. Wars and other mass killings have affected persons around the world. We in the United States are keenly aware of our government's promotion of wars and military solutions and of the deterioration of our civil liberties. Our meetings have ached while watching the detrimental effects of these actions. While often feeling overwhelmed and ineffective in influencing the apparent predominant climate of public opinion and of our national leaders, our monthly meetings have found many ways to address our strong concerns.

Friends may notice a radical departure from this committee's usual practice of drafting a number of letters to be sent to Congress on pressing issues. The issues are no less pressing than usual, but we leave the

responsibility for drafting such letters this year to meetings and individuals.

Throughout Yearly Meeting's monthly meetings, the primary peace concerns have focused on the threat—and later reality—of war in Afghanistan and Iraq, and in being mindful of the continuing unrest in those areas and elsewhere in the world. We seem to be trying to abide by and spread the message of George Fox's words, “. . . the Spirit of Christ which leads us unto all truth will never move us to fight and war against any man nor for the kingdoms of this world. . . . Therefore we cannot learn war any more.”

The anti-war efforts brought out meeting members in the usual ways and with a strong, consistent presence. We participated in demonstrations; vigils; lobbying of national political representatives; and wrote letters to the editor for local and statewide newspapers, elected officials, and to President Bush. The Committee drafted a letter endorsed by the Yearly Meeting about the attack on Iraq that was sent to elected officials and newspaper editorial pages. We promoted petitions to strengthen this anti-war voice, attended conferences and participated in speaker forums. A workshop was attended to learn how to effectively question candidates on peace issues. FCNL's "War is not the Answer" signs have been established in many of our yards and meetinghouses. In several of our communities, coalitions with other peace and justice groups were initiated or established relationships strengthened. Finding people within our communities with similar perspectives toward our government's domestic and foreign policies has been a reward of its own.

We have participated in a teleconference of Iowa Senators and in AFSC's forming of an Iowa coalition against war. There is a Yearly Meeting member who was a part of AFSC's delegation to Iraq who had several speaking engagements in Iowa.

The political atmosphere, events, and peace testimony were discussed in several monthly meetings as part of their First Day programs. This extended into programs for our youth on conscientious objection and on the nature of violence.

Several minutes have been written by monthly meetings. Topics for these include opposition to military action in Iraq, nonviolence, the consequences of military action, and speaking against Iraqi sanctions.



Hygiene kits, clothes, and school supplies have been sent to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Though war has been at the center of much of our attention, our monthly meetings have continued their support in many other avenues. We serve on local and national boards of peace and justice groups, and of Quaker organizations. We attend national Quaker conferences. Volunteering is a way individuals and monthly meetings continue their outreach into communities, and our interests are diverse. Look for us building homes with Habitat for Humanity; serving food in soup kitchens and shelters; working in an advocacy center for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and homelessness; spending time with incarcerated youth, seniors, and mentally ill in group homes or day centers.

One meetinghouse has become an Alcoholics Anonymous site. A member in another meeting has been instrumental in producing a local access cable television program where peace and justice issues have been discussed with local leaders. Other members have held several Alternatives to Violence workshops.

We continue our traditional events, as well. Meeting for worship is held at the Nebraska State Penitentiary with a member. Monthly meetings have again held an annual trash pick-up day; painted homes of low-income elderly in the Brush Up Nebraska program; participated in an annual community dinner and bake sale whose proceeds support the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and a county assistance office; and used proceeds from a monthly soup lunch during the school year to support peace and justice organizations.

Within our meetings, we have provided many educational programs that include labor issues, community issues, alternative energy, and the Green Party. Many meetings act as a clearinghouse for peace activities and information.

Our efforts within monthly meetings are responses to needs we recognize. But committee discussions this week have led us to query what we can do with the hesitancy or fear we may feel as individuals that inhibits interactions with neighbors and colleagues with the subjects of military conflict or other social justice issues. The Committee wishes to encourage Yearly Meeting to foster meaningful conversations over issues of probable discord, believing that the impact of these individual contacts to lead to the way of peace cannot be minimized. As Jesus said in John

14:27, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid,” and in James 2:26, “For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.” Regardless of the obstacles that present themselves to us in peace and social justice work, with faith and vision of what goodness can encompass our world, we need to tenaciously continue our work in these areas.

Details of the process, forgetting that our wish for the end is identical, can sidetrack sometimes even traditional peace churches. Embodying our efforts in love and the Spirit may lead to overcoming differences as William Penn suggested in his advice of “Let us see what love can do.”

Many community coalitions have been built or strengthened as a result of military actions in Afghanistan and Iraq. Continuing to bolster these bridges may lead to more productive peace and justice efforts as well as extend friendships.

Our budget of \$1,100 also included a carryover of \$350.00 from last year. These are the disbursements for this fiscal year:

AFSC (Iraq Campaign)	\$250
AFSC (Mike Gray’s work camps)	50
Casa de los Amigos	100
Christian Peacemaker Teams	100
Criminal Justice Ministries	150
FCNL Capital Campaign	100
Friends Committee on Unity with Nature	25
FWCC Peace Conference	50
Friends Peace Teams	50
Monteverde Friends School	50
National Peace Tax Fund	50
Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty	100
New Covenant and Peace Center (Omaha)	75
Peace studies scholarships	100
Ramallah Friends School	100
Western Missouri Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty	<u>100</u>
<b>Total Disbursed</b>	<b>\$1,450</b>
Carry over from 2001-2002	350
Budget 2002-2003	<u>1,100</u>
<b>Total budget</b>	<b><u>\$1,450</u></b>
<b>Disbursed</b>	<b><u>\$1,450</u></b>

Following this report are two proposed minutes and a letter written by the Committee during Yearly Meeting.

For the Committee,  
Debbie Galusha, clerk

### **Chemical Abuse Statement of Concern**

The abusive use of chemicals is a huge destructive reality in today's society. We see this as a symptom of a general societal malaise rather than a root cause. This malaise or sense of hopelessness may be caused by economic, medical, geographical, social, and/or political problems. We believe that this drug abuse operates in the absence of spiritual nourishment.

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee asks Yearly Meeting to consider chemical abuse as it affects the people of our local communities and the communities themselves. Is there an internal pathology of society that contributes to chemical abuse? As we do this, we must be conscious of the ramifications of the common military metaphor used to discuss this issue, as in the "war on drugs." We hope that Friends will address the problem as the way opens.

A member of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, Deborah Fink, will be contacting monthly meetings in the next year to arrange a visiting time during First Day discussion to assist our education on this enormous problem.

### **Coffee Statement of Concern**

It has come to our attention that our consumption of coffee involves us in a human rights problem. A deregulated coffee market has led the multinational corporations which process and market coffee to pay the farmers and their families who grow and pick the coffee beans less than it costs them to grow the crop. According to Oxfam International, this results in over 100 million people living in poverty in Latin America, Asia and Africa. Farmers who can't afford to feed their families often resort to taking their children out of school in a frantic attempt to harvest more coffee.

An alternative is available: fair-trade coffee, which guarantees a set export price for coffee farmers regardless of the global market value. This pays them a living wage.

This coffee also is organic and shade-grown—but it does cost more. Our committee would like to suggest that Friends use fair-trade coffee in our homes, our meetinghouses, at Midyear Meeting and Yearly Meeting as much as possible. We should be willing to pay a higher price as our witness in avoiding the exploitation of coffee workers.

Fair-trade coffee may be more readily available in some communities than in others. Friends who don't find it in their grocery stores could ask the managers whether they plan to order some.

Friends are also encouraged to consider other products that we consume which involve exploitation of people in the Third World and developing nations.

### **Coffee letter**

It has come to our attention that the consumption of coffee brings with it a problem of human rights. A deregulated coffee market has led corporations which import and process coffee to pay the farmers who produce it less than their cost.

According to Oxfam International, the result is over 100 million people living in poverty in Latin America, Asia and Africa. Farmers who can't afford to feed their families often resort to taking their children out of school in a frantic attempt to harvest more coffee, thus perpetuating the cycle of illiteracy and poverty. Political unrest often is the result of such exploitation of workers.

There is an alternative: fair-trade coffee, which pays farmers a living wage. Of course, it costs more. We realize that many customers haven't thought about this problem. For those who have, it's becoming more readily available as a result of increased demand.

We hope you will consider making fair-trade coffee available as an alternative for customers who are willing to pay more in order to avoid exploitation of coffee workers.

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

We resume the business of Yearly Meeting

*Rise up, O Lord! Do not let mortals prevail;  
let the nations be judged before you.  
Put them in fear, O Lord;  
let the nations know that they are only human.*  
*Selah.*  
Psalm 9:19—20

Ed Clopton and Marge Schlitt have been appointed as readers this afternoon.

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The clerk has endorsed travel minutes for Friends Charles and Marjorie Lamb of Waterford Monthly Meeting, Ireland Yearly Meeting, who were able to join us for part of the morning session on their way to Iowa Yearly Meeting (FUM) and other meetings in the U.S.

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On the afternoon of Sixth Day Friends had an opportunity to meet with and ask questions of the new Scattergood director, Sean Egan, and other members of the staff. Other Friends gathered to hear more about the plans for the new year-round youth retreat program. Elizabeth Duke, General Secretary of Friends World Committee for Consultation, was the evening presenter for Collection. She shared about the work of the Committee around the world, and specifically about the many projects for peace being carried on in each of the FWCC's sections. Following her presentation, Friends were given the opportunity to ask questions and see photographs of Friends around the world that Elizabeth has visited.

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We listened to the epistle of the Young Friends, which serves as their report to the Yearly Meeting. We are full of joy at the presence of these Young Friends in our meeting. We realize how blessed the young people and we are in having the faithful leadership of Joseph Kieltyka. We thank him for this work and the teens for their good work as well. We look forward to their traditional talent night this evening.

## YOUNG FRIENDS EPISTLE

This year we had a lot of people in our group. Our grand total was 10 people ranging from about 13 to our leader who this year is 26. This year we were blessed by two foreign students from Japan who are here at Scattergood Friends School (where we have our yearly meeting.) to study about farming for a month.

To start off our epistle we would like to state some of our feelings about what we have done and what we have learned: we would describe our time as fun, short, relaxing, educating, good food. The weather was perfect the whole entire week and it didn't rain once.

On Tuesday night, a majority of our group arrived and settled into their rooms and saw their friends and got a couple hours to catch up with all of their friends. On Wednesday there were five of us and in the morning we had a small business meeting to discuss what we wanted to do in the upcoming days that we would be together, after that we went over to the art studio and made clay sculptures and pots until a beautiful lunch was served. After lunch, we drove into West Branch and went to the Herbert Hoover Presidential Museum to see the exhibit that they have about our good Friend Herby. Wednesday evening we ate a great dinner, and played sand volleyball and went swimming after dark. It was a lot of fun because there were no bugs. We managed to swamp the canoe and have a lot of fun with that. Thursday morning another three of our members had arrived and we went to meeting and after that we had a good discussion about Scattergood Friends School and Camp Woodbrooke headed by representatives from each establishment. We also worked on our signs for the talent show that we will be hosting on Saturday night. After lunch, we went to the Humane Society and did some of our community service stuff playing with the cats and dogs there. Thursday night some of us skipped dinner with the Iowa Yearly Meeting and went swimming. Others joined us later. Others of us went and got pizza and soda and watched movies into the late night. It was a lot of fun all in all, but everyone was a little tired in the morning. Friday morning we talked about gender and the roles and stereotypes in our society today. After the discussion, we went outside and participated in trust exercises that were very fun and very character building. Friday afternoon we drove out to a neighboring Quaker's pond and went swimming. We can now say that we have had a taste of heaven, the water was beautiful and there was a floating dock out in the middle of the pond that we sunk repeatedly. In the cabin, there were delicious chips, salsa, cookies, Gatorade and

lemonade. We had a lot of fun diving off the dock on the side and trying to swim down and bring some mud up from the bottom. That night we had a productive discussion about the Selective Service, and went and played sand volleyball until we couldn't even see the ball anymore. Saturday morning we wrote the epistle and wrote a letter to one of our friends who is in Mexico for a year. After lunch, we are going to go swimming with the Junior Yearly Meeting. Tonight we are going to MC our talent show that is a tradition for our group.

Our closing thoughts were that we all learned something new and we can't wait until next year when we will be together again.

Sincerely,  
Young Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

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We listened carefully to the report of the Yearly Meeting Ministry & Oversight Committee. We are tender to the concern brought before us around the use of the word "oversight" and the hurt it brings to Friends of Color. We are also aware of the weight and importance of our being a Conservative meeting holding up the tradition of Friends practices, even as we seek continuing revelation from God. While we do not find it easy to give up the word "oversight," we have heard the ministry of the importance of not holding on too tightly to words if the good work they are intended to name might be hindered by their use. With great tenderness we approve the change of this committee's name to Ministry and Counsel.

We approve the appointment of Jim and Ginger Kenney as visitors to the 2004 annual sessions of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (C). The Committee will continue to search for visitors to Ohio Yearly Meeting. We appreciate the work of the Committee. We approve the report.

#### MINISTRY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT

Yearly Meeting Ministry and Oversight Committee met at Scattergood Friends School during the 2003 Yearly Meeting sessions. Each day we opened and closed our meetings with a period of silent worship.

We received a request from a small Conservative Friends Worship Group in Athens, Greece, asking for a donation to help with costs of translating Quaker literature into Greek so that it would be available to more people.

Elizabeth Duke, General Secretary of FWCC, shared with us how these small Friends worship and meetings, such as this one, grow around the world.

At this time, we feel led to keep in communication with this Friends group in Greece, sending them words of encouragement and seeking to know more about them. Since two of them have affiliate memberships in Ohio Yearly Meeting (OYM), the Ministry and Oversight clerk is directed to be in communication with the OYM clerk to find out more about their relationship with this worship group.

A request was received from France Yearly Meeting asking for contributions for the purchase and restoration of the only Quaker meetinghouse in France. We also read a supportive cover letter from Marsha Holliday, a well-known and trusted American Friend. This meetinghouse, built in 1822, hopefully will once again serve primarily as a place of worship with the possibility of including some overnight accommodations for visiting Friends.

The Ministry & Oversight Committee felt it does not seem appropriate for the Yearly Meeting to make a contribution to this project. However, there may be individuals who have an interest in the purchase and restoration of this historic meetinghouse in France. For those who care to make a contribution, checks may be made payable to: Amis Quakers (Congenies) and sent to: The Appeal Fund Treasurer, Axel Jensen, Poutet d'en Bas; 09350 Costex, France. The Ministry and Oversight clerk was also asked to send copies of these letters to each monthly meeting so that other individuals have the information.

It is important that we continue to encourage intervisitation within the Conservative yearly meetings so that we do not lose the precious spiritual ties, which bond us together. We were sorry to learn that our appointed visitor to attend Ohio Yearly Meeting next week will not be able to attend as she had planned. We have appreciated the presence of Nancy Craft, who has been with us this week as a visitor from North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). As our appointed visitors to attend North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative), in July 2004, we suggest the names of Jim and Ginger Kenney.

The concern was brought to us that we might consider whether or not the Ministry & Oversight Committee may be led to change our name to Ministry & Counsel. One thing Friends of Color and others are asking is



for meetings to consider finding another word for *Oversight* and *Overseers*. After laboring with those concerns and hearing how wounded it makes some Friends of Color feel, many Friends groups have decided to remove “oversight” from their name. After due consideration we request changing the name of this committee to Ministry & Counsel.

We have read with interest the State of the Meeting reports from the monthly meetings. They inform us and inspire us as we hear each meeting’s joys and struggles. There seems to be a strong sense of community and the joy in caring for and nurturing one another. The shadow of war seems to be ever-present in the monthly meeting reports with various responses to the issue of violence in the world today. We appreciate the honesty and commitment the reports reflect, and the care which has gone into the preparation of these reports.

Even with all of our efforts to make Yearly Meeting a fragrance-free environment, we are aware that there have been some problems with chemicals/fragrances here this week and that some Friends have been adversely affected. We spent time in prayerful silence seeking guidance as to what can be done. This is a widespread problem and will become more serious as our environment becomes more chemically saturated. We feel informed people can no longer keep quiet about the use of harmful chemicals which can affect all of us. We suggest the Entertainment Committee for next year be even more specific about ways we can minimize the presence of harmful chemicals in our daily lives as we come to Yearly Meeting.

We appreciate hearing the report from Deborah Fisch as she continues to feel blessed in her spiritual ministry as coordinator of the Traveling Ministries Program and staff person for Advancement & Outreach and Ministry & Nurture Committees for Friends General Conference. As we listened to her report we realized how important is her role as she shares her spiritual gifts with wide variety of Friends. She has a deep desire to be faithful in her everyday walk where God leads her.

The Ministry and Oversight Committee encourages Deborah in her ministry, and as a means of support we send with her a traveling minute and appoint a support committee to meet with her periodically.

We received from Peace and Social Concerns Committee a request for us to consider two particular concerns for the Native Americans in the Meskwakie Settlement in Iowa and the Pine Ridge Reservation in South

Dakota. While we unite with a concern for the situation of the Native Americans, this committee does not feel called or able to take up these particular issues. However, we do encourage our yearly meeting committees to continue to look for opportunities that might help us speak to the concerns of Native Americans.

Martha Hampton, clerk  
Ministry & Oversight Committee

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We completed the reading of the State of the Meeting Reports. We are happy to learn that West Branch Meeting has taken Yahara Friends of Madison, Wisconsin, under their care as a preparative meeting. And we are saddened by the news of the death of Paul Ruhlen, whom many of us have known and loved. We are happy to hear that Whittier Meeting is experiencing a slow but steady growth. We continue to value hearing these read in session. All State of the Meeting Reports are printed in the Sixth Day session of the Minutes.

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We listened with care to the report of the Yearly Meeting Recorder prepared by Tim Shipe. We note that Paullina membership has decreased by ten members without showing any loss or addition of members. This reflects a new accounting and correction given by the Paullina Recorder to the Yearly Meeting Recorder that more accurately reflects Paullina's membership. Although a small gain in membership numbers, we note that our yearly meeting has increased in membership this year.

Following the report the meeting paused to remember those who have died this past year.

### RECORDER'S REPORT

#### Deaths

Iowa City	Jacob Haravon Collins	12/25/2002
Penn Valley	Paul Ruhlen	6/4/2003
West Branch	Mary Helen Fawcett	11/20/2002

#### Births

Iowa City	Jacob Haravon Collins	12/25/2002
	Jeremiah Haravon Collins	12/25/2002
	(both to Leslea and Steve Haravon Collins)	

#### Marriages

Lincoln	Deb Boettcher-Howe to Ted Sheely	7/15/2002
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MEETING	BIRTHS	DEATHS	CERTIFICATES OF MEMBERSHIP RECEIVED (TRANSFERS IN)	MEMBERSHIPS TRANSFERRED OUT	NEW MEMBERSHIPS GRANTED	MEMBERSHIPS DISCONTINUED	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP
Ames	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
Bear Creek	0	0	0	0	0	0	72
Decorah	0	0	4	0	0	0	10
Des Moines Valley	0	0	1	0	3	0	75
Iowa City	2	1	0	0	5	0	48
Lincoln	0	0	2	0	1	2	24
Omaha	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Paullina	0	0	0	0	0	0	66
Penn Valley	0	1	0	0	2	0	71
West Branch	0	1	0	0	0	0	101
Whittier	0	0	0	0	1	0	47
TOTALS	2	3	7	0	12	2	557

We listened carefully to the Representatives Report submitted on behalf of the Committee. We understand that the need for an increase in the budget may mean meetings will have to give some feedback on whether some growing meetings are now able to take on more of the burden of apportionment and others less. We approve the report.

### REPRESENTATIVE' S REPORT

This year's proposed budget is \$8,100 more than last year. Changes from last year's budget are:

1. Removal of one time expense items relating to the Peace Conference held at Guilford College. (\$100 contribution and \$300 in delegate expenses.)
2. An increase of \$5,000 in the contribution to Scattergood Friends School (for a total of \$30,000).
3. The Archives Committee budget has been increased \$100 (to a total of \$200) to cover an anticipated project.

4. The Publications Committee budget has been reduced to \$2,700. It had been increased last year to allow for a limited reprint of our present Discipline in addition to the printing of the minutes.
5. A line item in the amount of \$600 has been added to help fund a series of youth retreats for IYM 4th - 9th graders (A new program under the care of the IYM Religious Education Committee.)
6. A line item was added for young Friends travel and conferences in the amount of \$1,000. This is to make it possible for IYM young Friends to participate in events such as Quaker Youth Pilgrimage or Youthquake.
7. An increase in the Midyear Planning Committee line of \$500 (for a total of \$1,000).
8. An increase in the Contingency Fund of \$500. (for a total of \$1,000)
9. A one time line item of \$1,100.06 to transfer the 2003 Midyear Meeting Excess of Receipts over Expenses to Bear Creek MM for improvements to facilities.

These changes represent a significant increase to the Yearly Meeting budget. Most of the increases are directed at programs and opportunities for our young people: helping to fund our own Scattergood Friends School, creating a program to allow our young people to be together more often, and giving opportunities for young Friends to participate in the wider Quaker community. We feel this level of care and nurture of our youth is important to the future of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

This increase in the Yearly Meeting Budget will necessitate an increase in the apportionments to our monthly meetings. Because past experience indicates that we do not usually spend our entire budget, and we have a cash balance adequate to cover the difference, we recommend that \$48,000 of the \$56,275.06 total budget be raised by apportionment. This is a 20% increase in the amount apportioned to the monthly meetings. We are not suggesting changes in the percentage asked of each Meeting, but changes may need to be made next year based on individual monthly meeting experience in raising their share of the apportionment.

We wish to express appreciation for the work of the Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Statistical Reporter for the past year. The following names are suggested for the coming year:

Clerk, Deborah Fisch  
Assistant Clerk, Deborah Fink  
Treasurer, Burt Kisling

Assistant Treasurer, Larry Marsh  
Statistical Recorder, Tim Shipe

We recommend that Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) convene at Scattergood Friends School Seventh Month 27th to Eighth Month 1st, 2004.

To break meeting on first day we suggest Olive Wilson.

Proposed Budget 2003-2004

Contributions

American Friends Service Committee	\$500
AFSC Native American Programs	125
Friends Committee on National Legislation	1000
Friends General Conference	100
Iowa Peace Network	2,600
Friends World Committee for Consultation	1500
Nebraskans for Peace	250
Peace and Social Concerns Committee	1100
Quaker United Nations Office	200
Right Sharing of World Resources	200
Scattergood Friends School	3,000
William Penn House	300
Total Contributions	\$3,7875

Delegate Expenses

American Friends Service Committee	500
Friends Committee on National Legislation	600
FWCC-General	1,000
FWCC-Triennial	500
Total Delegate Expenses	\$2,600

Yearly Meeting Expenses

Archives Committee	200
Clerk and other administrative expenses	400
Committee expenses	500
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	1,000
Junior Yearly Meeting	2,000
Young Friends	1,500
Special Needs Committee	500
Publication Committee	2,700
IYM youth retreats (4th—9th grade)	600
Quaker Youth Camp scholarship	300

Young Friends Travel & Conference	1,000
Yearly Meeting Entertainment Committee (if receipts inadequate)	2,000
Midyear Planning Committee (if receipts inadequate)	1,000
2003 Midyear Meeting Excess of Receipts (to Bear Creek MM for improvements)	1,100.06
Contingency Fund	1,000
Total Yearly Meeting Expenses	15,800.06
Total Budgeted Expenditures	\$56,275.06
Income	
To be raised by apportionment	48,000.00
From other income sources and General Fund	8,275.06
Total Budgeted Income	\$56,275.06

#### MONTHLY MEETING APPORTIONMENTS

Ames	5.5%	\$2,640
Bear Creek	9	4,320
Decorah	1	480
Des Moines Valley	18.75	9,000
Iowa City	7.5	3,600
Lincoln	4.75	2,280
Omaha	3.25	1,560
Paullina	15	7,200
Penn Valley	8	3,840
West Branch	20.25	9,720
Whittier	<u>7</u>	<u>3,360</u>
Totals	10	\$48,000

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We listened to letters to be sent to Friends who were not able to be present at these annual sessions, prepared by the Special Replies Committee. We approve the amended letters being sent out by the Yearly Meeting clerk.

Dear Friend name inserted here,

We are meeting once again at Scattergood Friends School and attending to the business of our yearly meeting. The theme *Called to be Peacemakers* is reflected in morning Bible study and evening programs

on peacemaking in Palestine and Israel, Iraq, the FWCC called conference on Friends' peace witness, and sharing from Elizabeth Duke, General Secretary of FWCC. We have been moved and inspired.

Meeting approved a year-round program for youth. A committee intends to hold 4 retreats during the year for Yearly Meeting youth in grades 4-9. We met Sean Egan, the new director of Scattergood Friends School. The Yearly Meeting approved a \$5,000 increase in our annual donation to Scattergood Friends School, which as you know is owned by the Yearly Meeting and remains our major outreach effort.

This year we have welcomed visitors from Ohio Yearly Meeting and North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative. The exchanges with these Friends have been rich, and an interest group considered what it means to be a Conservative Friend.

We enjoy this time to renew friendships and establish new ones. We are aware of the absence of dear friends. We miss you and send you our loving greetings. We hope you will be able to join us at our annual sessions next year, which are scheduled to be held at Scattergood Friends School near West Branch, Iowa from Seventh Month 27 to Eighth Month 1.

In the Light and on behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting, Conservative  
Deborah Fisch, clerk

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We listened to the well-written epistles to Ohio Yearly Meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative and Friends Everywhere, prepared by the Epistle Committee. We approve the epistles as amended.

To Friends at Ohio Yearly Meeting

Dear Friends,

As we meet together in our annual sessions, we again cherish the continued contact amongst our Conservative Yearly Meetings. Though we may be small in numbers, we believe that we still fill an important place in the Religious Society of Friends.

We are delighted to have Randy and Martha Giffen, members of your yearly meeting, with us here this week. Worshipping with them and conversing at meals and between committee meetings has helped us feel connected with you, in spite of the many miles between us.

We also are thankful that their son and his wife, Joey and Sarah Giffen-Hunter, will be continuing as staff persons at Scattergood Friends School. They have made valuable contributions to our meetings and to our school.

May the Lord strengthen and empower us all in meeting the challenges of the coming year.

In the Light and on behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative),  
Deborah Fisch, clerk

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Eighth Month 2003

To Friends at North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative). We are gathered at our Scattergood Friends boarding school for our 126th session. We once again cherish the continued contact amongst our Conservative Yearly Meetings. Though we may be small in numbers, we believe that we still fill an important place in the Religious Society of Friends.

The presence this week of Nancy Craft of your yearly meeting has enriched us. We are sorry we were not represented at North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) this year. We are impoverished by not having attended and are pleased to be sending Jim and Ginger Kenney to you in 2004.

May the Lord strengthen and empower us all in meeting the challenges of the coming year.



In the Light and on behalf of Iowa Yearly  
Meeting of Friends (Conservative),  
Deborah Fisch, clerk

Eighth Month 2003

To Friends Everywhere:

*How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of one who brings good news, who heralds peace, brings happiness, proclaims salvation, and tells Zion "your God is King". —Isaiah 52:7*

During worship, this quotation reminded us that our beauty is found in what we do.

*This is my commandment; love one another, as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this that a man should lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I call you servants no longer; 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.*

—John 15:12-15

Greetings from the heartland of North America where Friends are gathered together for the 126th annual sessions of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). We meet at Scattergood Friends School, our boarding high school near West Branch, Iowa. The lovely rural campus is surrounded by fields of growing soybeans and corn. Our theme this year is "Called to be Peacemakers." With all the violence in the world today, our time spent here among Friends and close to nature is particularly nurturing, and strengthens our resolve to work and pray for peace.

Again this year, we are fortunate to have visitors from other yearly meetings across the United States, and even from abroad, including Elizabeth Duke, General Secretary of FWCC. The function of the Biblical epistles to share truth, guide and inspire continues in the 21st century with our traditional correspondence among Friends. As our government leaders cultivate fear, offering military answers to almost all problems, we are especially thankful for the worldwide community of Friends who share the conviction "that peace is the way."

Tensions and war in the Middle East weigh heavily upon us. A powerful film about hostilities in Israel/Palestine reminded us of our calling to genuinely understand and love all those involved in conflict wherever it occurs. The reports and query responses from our meetings reflect the difficulty we sometimes have in addressing conflicts even in our own communities. When we worship together, committed to seeking that of God in one another, the love that grows among us helps us to overcome our differences. That same divinely inspired love can provide the foundation for peace and justice in the world.

Every year we are blessed to have a large group of grade school and middle-school children, and in recent years the number of high school age youth has been increasing. We cherish the laughter and voices of the young people, who are obviously enjoying one another's company. Plans are afoot for more youth gatherings during the year.

While noting the boundless energy of our children, we are conscious that many of the world's children are not so well fed, clothed, or housed. We feel privileged to enjoy the produce of Scattergood's large organic garden, groceries easily purchased in local stores, and plentiful and safe drinking water.

We look forward to continued success of Scattergood Friends School under the leadership of a new director, Sean Egan. This spring, the school sent 14 new graduates into the world. We have faith that their Scattergood education, combining critical thinking and academic excellence with practical experience, will help them become responsible adults and capable leaders wherever they may go.

Throughout this week at Yearly Meeting, though we are isolated physically, we are mindful of the injustice and violence many of our brothers and sisters around the world endure. We have labored in committees and in our business sessions, to find ways to do our part in building a better, more peaceful society.

In the Light and on behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative),  
Deborah Fisch, clerk

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We received the report of the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee. We appreciate the work of that committee. We approve these appointments.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Nominating Committee appreciates all the volunteer efforts by people willing to work on committees. We wish to remind Yearly Meeting that if you are interested in becoming involved in a particular area to let someone within your monthly meeting or the Yearly Meeting clerk know of your calling.

The Committee also appreciates the Representatives monthly meetings send to Yearly Meeting. Preparations done in advance by monthly meetings to find complementary matches of tasks and talents strengthens the work done by Yearly Meeting. Having Representatives attend Nominating Committee meetings facilitates efforts in completing the roster of committee members. Appointed clerks of 2003-2004 committees will receive the names of their committee members following Yearly Meeting.

## YEARLY MEETING APPOINTMENTS TO OFFICES, COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Nominated by the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting in session unless otherwise indicate.

\* clerk of the committee

\*\* assistant clerk of the committee

### **Offices** (nominated by the Yearly Meeting Representatives)

*Clerk:* Deborah Fisch, 916 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Des Moines, IA 50312, (515) 277-1970, [deborahfisch@earthlink.net](mailto:deborahfisch@earthlink.net)

*Assistant Clerk:* Deborah Fink, 222 S. Russell, Ames, IA 50010, (515) 232-2763, [afink@iastate.edu](mailto:afink@iastate.edu)

*Treasurer:* Burt Kisling, 1227 Wesley Lane, Indianola, IA 50125, (515) 961-0884, [buckyo@msn.com](mailto:buckyo@msn.com)

*Assistant Treasurer:* Larry Marsh, 5775 180<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Solon, IA 52333, (319) 624-3613, [marshlar2@aol.com](mailto:marshlar2@aol.com)

*Statistical Recorder:* Tim Shipe, 423 Ronalds Street, Iowa City, IA 52245, (319) 337-3178, [moonship@ia.net](mailto:moonship@ia.net)

**Archives****2004**

Don Mott  
 Wilmer Tjossem  
 Margie Haworth

**2005**

Bob Berquiest  
 Joan Tucker  
 Tim Shipe

**2006**

Herbert Standing  
 Dan Treadway\*

**Document Committee****2004**

Decorah Friends Meeting

**Entertainment Committee****2004**

Paullina  
 Lincoln  
 Omaha\*

**2005**

Ames  
 Des Moines Valley  
 Penn Valley

**2006**

Decorah  
 Whittier  
 West Branch  
 Iowa City

**Yearly Meeting Young Friends Planning Committee****2004**

Sarah Winchell\*

**2005**

Joseph Kieltyka  
 Ryan Howe  
 Jacob Howe

**Junior Yearly Meeting (for Yearly Meeting)****2004**

Bill Deutsch\*  
 Ed Clopton

**2005**

Christine Kelly  
 Catherine Dorenbach

**2006**

Lucinda Harms  
 Carol Gilbert  
 Penny Majors

**Interim Committee****2004**

Marilyn Mantel-  
 Guss  
 Roy Knight  
 Lois Tjossem  
 Ruth Dawson  
 Ernie Wilson  
 Deslonde Lamb  
 Carol Gilbert\*\*  
 John Griffith

**2005**

Ebby Luvaga  
 Larry Marsh  
 Norval Tucker  
 Cheryl Sutton\*  
 Marcelline Hinshaw  
 Catherine Dorenbach  
 Brian Treadway  
 Martha Davis

**2006**

Ted Solomon  
 Jim Kenney  
 Owen Crosbie  
 Richard Johnson  
 Wilmer Tjossem  
 Margie Haworth  
 Dixie Collins  
 Mary Mendenhall

Bill Deutsch

Kathy Day

### **Library Committee**

**2004**

Wanda Knight

Terry Matz

Martha Gerstenberger

**2005**

Olive Wilson

Muriel Bivens

Marc Robinson

**2006**

Mary K. Stillwell

Betty Hawthorn

Martha Davis\*

### **Midyear Planning Committee**

**2004**

Sarah Winchell

Cheryl Sutton

Mary Ellen Tjossem

A.M. Fink

Roy Hampton

**2005**

Ed Clopton

Osa Bricker

Alberta Kisling

Jackie Leckband

Reva Griffith

Nickolas Kieltyka

Megan Knight

Kate Swatta

**2006**

Christine Ehl

Wanda Knight

Winifred Standing

Marion Love

Christine Kelly\*

Elsie Kuhn

### **Jr. Yearly Meeting/Young Friends (for Midyear Meeting)**

**2004**

Claire-Cumbie-Drake

Ian Taylor

Megan Knight

**2005**

Jules Galusha

Cindy Winchell\*

Carol Spaulding-Kruse

**2006**

Ryan Howe

Dan Pearson

### **Ministry & Counsel Committee**

*members are appointed by each monthly meeting*

**2004**

Jerry Matthews

Megan Knight

Beth Wilson

Marilyn Mantel-Guss

Mark Patton

Martha Hampton\*

**2005**

Alberta Kisling

Martha Davis

Ruth Dawson

Brian Treadway

Doyle Wilson

Cathy Gardner

**2006**

Christine Ehl

Marge Schlitt

Bill Deutsch

Ginger Kenney

Wilmer Tjossem

Laura Neece-Baltaro

Nancy Ewald

### **Publications Committee**

**2004**

Margie Haworth

**2005**

Ed Clopton

Jeff Kisling\*

**2006**

David Duer

**Peace and Social Concerns Committee**

**2004**

Judy Plank  
Winifred Standing

**2005**

Jane Cadwallader-Howe  
Herbert Standing

**2006**

Jim Bruner  
Jim Cottingham

Jackie Leckband  
Debbie Galusha  
Rachel McNair  
Brynne Howard

Ian Taylor  
Janet Cook  
Marjorie Parris  
Wendy Vasquez  
Richard Baltaro

Marian Solomon  
Sherry Hutchison \*\*  
Deborah Dakin\*  
Joey Giffen-Hunter

**Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee**

**2004**

Ginny Winsor

**2005**

Roy Hampton

**2006**

Wilmer Tjossem\*

**Religious Education Committee**

**2004**

Carol Gilbert

**2005**

Judy Cottingham\*

**2006**

Kate Swatta  
Bill Deutsch

**Youth Retreat Subcommittee**

**2004**

Irving Treadway

**2005**

Marion Love

**2006**

Debbie Galusha\*  
Jules Galusha

**Scattergood Friends School Committee**

Clerk of the committee is Lucy Hansen of IYM(FUM). Illinois Yearly Meeting and Northern Yearly Meeting are also invited to name a representative to the Committee.

**9/04**

Jim Kenney  
Dan Treadway  
Jeff Cox  
Bob Winchell

**9/05**

Anita Richards  
Dan Schlitt  
Dwight Schumm  
Barb Garlinghouse

**9/06**

Debbie Galusha  
Bob Yeats  
Perry-O Sliwa  
Lynne Howard

**Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees**

*This committee is appointed by the IYM(C) Yearly Meeting Trustees*

<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Cathy Gardner	Jack Holveck	A.M. Fink	Gordon Bivens
Lucinda Harms	Judy Cottingham	George Welch	Doyle Wilson*

**Special Needs Committee**

<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>
Jackie Leckband	Joy Giffen-Hunter	Marilyn Mantel-Gus* Sherry Hutchison

**Yearly Meeting Trustees**

<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Jim Cottingham	Beth Wilson	Doris Jean Newlin	Roy Hampton
A.M. Fink*			

**AFSC Corporation Members**

<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>
Karen Greenler	Nancy Ewald*	Lori Nelson Jean Eden Dan Schlitt, alt.

**Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)**

<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>
Gordon Bivens Callie Marsh	Jonathan Fisch* Alberta Kisling Harvey Hinshaw, alt.	Richard Baltaro Burt Kisling

**Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)**

<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>
Christine Kelly	Marion Love*	Betty Hawthorn Jamara Knight

**Iowa Peace Network**

Cindy Winchell	Russ Leckband
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**William Penn House Consultative Committee**

Alberta Kisling* Richard Baltaro, alt.	Wilmer Tjossem
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We listened to the report of the Exercise Committee, which is the “exercise” or vocal ministry and prayer that occurs during the sessions. The Committee may add to this report if vocal ministry or prayer arises in our remaining times of worship. We acknowledge that at times our words may appear difficult or opaque to others, and yet they are represented as they come at us at this time. The Committee has been favored in gathering these messages and we hope those not present will benefit from reading them

## EXERCISE COMMITTEE REPORT

We were blessed by the opportunity to reflect on Friends’ vocal ministry. The depth and faith of Friends’ messages moved us. The messages were:

I remember the old saying, “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news of peace!” However, feet are not fast; rather they are dirty, callused, sore, sweaty, and smelly. How are they beautiful? They are beautiful because of the news they bring good news of peace. The beauty is in what they are doing.

The Angel Gabriel (Gabriel meaning man of God or hero of God) is associated by historians with the experience of Mohammad. There is a fine line between Quaker Peace Testimony and the motivation of the warrior who seeks to disrupt torture when he becomes aware of it. If one is walking down the sidewalk and sees a piece of litter on the path, picking it up is not strange to most Iowans. But if you go off the path to pick it up, Iowans may think that is a problem. *Israel*, in the prophetic context, may be defined as “men and women united under God.” *Jerusalem*, means “foundations of peace.”

Dear Lord, May we be united under God. May we be united under You, and in You and through your presence in us. May each heart here be opened and filled, that our feet might carry us down the path you have for us to walk. And, as we go about our business, may we remember that the business we go about is not ours, but yours.

I have within myself many parts that are my ‘feet;’ that is, many parts that I want to hide, to push away as far as possible, parts that I would not want anyone to see. But, before I would be united within myself, and before I would be united with any others, I have to let those “foot-parts”



of myself be brought together with the other parts of me, and be united then with who I am.

Last week I was at Bible study looking at Psalm 121. Verses 1 and 2 read: “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.” The hills were places where there were cities and fortresses, places of perceived strength. But where does our help really come from? Not from cities or fortresses, but from God. If I can continually turn my eyes and heart to God, perhaps I can better turn my focus to the tasks before me. We *can* change the world if we are faithful.

In Isaiah 30:15 the Lord speaks to the Jews of old through the prophet and says, To return and rest is your salvation. Your strength is to be still, but you would not.” As Friends we are called to stillness. In the stillness we have not only strength, but a way of knowing, and not only knowing, that God is God. We can actually know everything that Jesus knows, or, at least, that would seem to be indicated in one of three verses in John 15 from which our name Friends comes. In John 15:15, Jesus says, “Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knows not what his lord does; but I have called you friends; for all things that I have known of my Father I have made known to you.” We are called to stillness.

As I sit here this morning many good thoughts come to my mind and they are things I already know. And I am surrounded by people I know well, and with whom I could share these thoughts. But these precious moments of being in this room, with this group of people, are to be open to something I don’t already know.

[Singing:] Step by step the longest march, can be won, can be won.  
Many stones do form an arch, singly none, singly none  
And by union what we will, can be accomplished still.  
Drops of water turn a mill, singly none, singly none.

[The song *STEP BY STEP*, adapted by Waldeman Hille & Pete Seeger from the American Mineworkers Constitution Preamble]

What should be? How can people live and work peaceably together? Through a sense of tenderness and forgiveness, and by holding one another with a tender hand, with a passion for the truth and seeking to reflect all different Friends’ understandings of Peace, we have an opening for God to lead us forward.

Peacemaking is every single day—every moment of every single day. We must integrate our Peace Testimony into our lives and into our actions, lest it be the end of Christianity. Terrible things have been done in the name of Christianity. We must go forth as peacemakers with truth and integrity. The work has just begun.

Yesterday, I shared a story with a Friend about a time in which I actually felt God move me in my life and this Friend said I should share this story with Friends in Meeting. My brother hurt me as a child and I felt anger, fear and resentment at what he had done. I carried the anger and fear for 40 years. Some years ago at yearly meeting I felt a call that said, ‘Please forgive your brother.’ And I said, “No way, I can’t do that!” A year later, I felt this same call, “Please forgive your brother.” And I said [with an air of resignation], “Oh all right, I will.”

I called my sister and told her about this message and she asked, “How will you do this?” I decided I would break free of talking about my resentments and sharing them with others, especially my sister. The next morning, my sister had a call that our brother had a very serious and life-threatening illness. I was grateful I had accepted God’s invitation beforehand, so that my forgiveness was not out of pity, or because I felt sorry for him. I was freed of my resentment. The burden of hating him was gone. My forgiveness of my brother had opened me up to positive living and sharing with others.

This morning I felt a similar call to not control the actions of another person, here at this meeting, and because I accepted this call, I am released and that person is released. That is my testimony about God working in my life today.

Last November, I had the happy opportunity to be in India during *Diwali*, the Festival of Lights. At night I was not so happy, because there were lots of firecrackers and noises. But during the day, it was very happy and festive. The cows were painted with spots and decorated with bright colors. Even some dogs had spots. And outside their houses, people created designs with colored sand.

It seems such a waste for people who have so little to put all those resources and all that effort into such frivolous things that will be gone in a few days. It did give a lesson: that sometimes we are meant to be really extravagant in saying thank you for all the really good things that come to us.

Very strong with me this morning are thoughts about words, and how we rely on words to communicate with each other. Oftentimes it seems we

have only words. We each bring our own experiences, both with the words we use and with the words we hear. We hope our words bring understanding. But often our words can be misunderstood. It is only when we use words that come from the Holy Spirit, words that come from that “deep well” of love, grace, and mercy. Words that bless our heart, mind and soul when we really speak to each other. Jesus spoke to the woman at the well, and told her that he would give her living waters. When we draw our words from those living waters we are safe and secure. I have heard many words this week that come from those living waters.

May our times be blessed and may there be times when we go from this place and remember these words from the living waters and may their message be kept ever flowing in our hearts.

Muriel Bivens, Deborah Dakin, Jean Eden, Laura Neece-Baltaro

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*“Come unto me all ye who are weary and heavy laden and I will give thee rest. Take up my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and ye will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*

—Matthew 11:28

This past year has been filled with wars and rumors of war and many Friends and their meetings have labored under the concern of how best to respond to our own country’s heavy involvement in that violence. It has also been a year when several of our members have been weighed down with serious illnesses or injuries, and some from our beloved family have passed away. We have found ourselves pulled together in these times of trouble, encouraging each other in our work, praying for healing of spirit and body, and treasuring the simple presence of each other in our lives. And so, we have gathered together for these annual sessions under the theme “Peace, Held in the Grace and Love of Christ.” In many ways coming to Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) has been like finding an oasis in the desert. For here, in the countryside of Iowa, at our school nestled in among the fields of beautiful green crops, we have found a time for rest and learning and encouragement.

The meetinghouse lovingly repaired and improved through the hard work of many in this yearly meeting, and the almost completed sound barrier

near the interstate, have provided Friends with the most physically restful and quiet meetings we have had in many years.

We have been blessed with visits by many Friends, some treasured and familiar guests and others new to our meeting, but now also a part of our family. A number of younger children graced these sessions; their hugs, smiles and happy noises lightened our hearts. The cheerful presence of Junior Yearly Meeting and Young Friends, and their help in the dining room, kitchen, and with younger F/friends continues to be a blessing. We are excited about the newly forming year-round retreat program for our middle school/junior high age Friends, and look forward to watching it grow. We are also happy for the opportunity to meet Sean Egan, the new director of Scattergood Friends School. We have been reminded of our own responsibilities in representing our school and finding ways to give it support throughout the year. Many of us benefited this week from the opportunity to work in the School Farm's organic garden and apple orchard and all of us benefited from its produce during our meals.

Presentations in afternoon programs and evening collection by representatives of various Friends organizations have helped us better understand some of the complex problems that have led to the current conflicts in the world, and the work the organizations are doing on our behalf to provide windows of hope that peace may prevail.

This week has also been a time for us to both encourage and learn from each other. Once again, we listened with open hearts as the State of the Meeting Reports were read. We have learned of the Spiritual condition of our meetings and the many ways in which we have been responding to the world. We have been heartened by hearing that many of our meetings, including our smaller ones, have welcomed new attenders and are finding rich opportunities for worship and fellowship. We welcome Yahara Preparative Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, which is now under the care of West Branch Meeting. We have also heard of experiences from our members involved in the Christian Peacemakers, and Alternatives to Violence Project, and from Friends who attended the FWCC called peace conference last winter. We are encouraged by their stories and experiences.

Truly, this week has been a time when we have found blessed rest held in the grace and love of Christ through each other. Our meetings for worship and worship with attention to business have seemed rich and

gathered and they have been a blessed time of renewal and deepening of faith for many. We have labored together in faith and love.

And now, as we prepare to return home, we are reminded that though at times we may feel lonely, and the sorrows of the world may seem beyond our ability to address, we are never alone. We are never expected to do more than we can, but we *do* need to *do* what we can. Day by day, step by step, breath by breath, with God's help, we leave this place to begin again and put our faith into action.

We now conclude our 2003 annual session, planning to meet again God willing at Scattergood Friends School, near West Branch, Iowa, Seventh Month 27 to Eighth Month 1, 2004.

Deborah Fisch, clerk

Deborah Fink, assistant clerk

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

## GUIDELINES FOR REQUESTING REIMBURSEMENTS 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 Publications 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. Af-

ter 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.

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