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IOWA YEARLY MEETING CONSERVATIVE

Minutes of 127th Annual Sessions
Seventh Month 27 – Eighth Month 1, 2004

Fourth Day – Wednesday – 7/28/04

At the 127th annual session of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative held at Scattergood Friends School, near West Branch, Iowa from Seventh Month 27 to Eighth Month 1, 2004.

I saw that there was an ocean of darkness and death, but an infinite ocean of light and love, which flowed over the ocean of darkness. And in that also I saw the infinite love of God; and I had great openings.

----Journal of George Fox 1622-47

We are glad to have the presence of these visitors: Richard Tiffany of Fayetteville Monthly Meeting, South Central Yearly Meeting, visiting on behalf of FWCC; Gladys Tiffany of Fayetteville Monthly Meeting, South Central Yearly Meeting; Johan Hachman, of Upper Fox Valley Quaker Meeting near Chicago, Illinois Yearly Meeting visiting through Quaker Earthcare Witness; Don Reeves of Central City Monthly Meeting, Great Plains Yearly Meeting; Ann Megan McCormick of Madison Monthly Meeting, Northern Yearly Meeting, attending Yahara Preparative Meeting; Lloyd Lee Wilson of Rich Square Monthly Meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Conservative, carrying a travel minute from his monthly and yearly meeting; Nancy Craft of Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Conservative, carrying a travel minute from her monthly and yearly meeting; and Jim Bruener of Minneapolis Friends Meeting, Northern Yearly Meeting.

We approve the following appointments suggested by the Representatives:

REPRESENTATIVES

Ames	Gordon Bivens, Dan Treadway
Bear Creek	Herbert Standing, Cheryl Sutton
Decorah	Martha Davis, Emma Davis Deutsch
Des Moines Valley	Marion Love
Iowa City	Jeff Cox

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Lincoln	Catherine Dorenbach, Mary K. Stillwell
Omaha	Carol Gilbert, Debbie Galusha
Paullina	Jonathan Fisch, Beth Wilson
Penn Valley	Ginger Kenney, Kathy Gardner
West Branch	Karen Greenler, Don Laughlin
Whittier	Bob Yeats, Roy Hampton

CARETAKERS

Ames	Sandi Tomer
Bear Creek	Wanda Knight, Jackie Leckband
Decorah	none
Des Moines Valley	Sherry Hutchison
Iowa City	none
Lincoln	Marge Schlitt
Omaha	Rebecca Gus, Marshall Massey
Paullina	Mary Ellen Tjossem
Penn Valley	none
West Branch	Judy Cottingham, Lois Laughlin, Callie Marsh (alt)
Whittier	Deborah Dakin

There are 15 representatives and 8 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:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ames	AM Fink
Bear Creek	Alberta Kisling
Decorah	none
Des Moines Valley	Cindy Winchell
Iowa City	Ruth Dawson
Lincoln	Dan Schlitt
Omaha	Marilyn Mantel-Guss
Paullina	Galen Tjossem, Lois Tjossem
Penn Valley	Jim Kenney
West Branch	Jean Eden, Norval Tucker
Whittier	Jim Brumwell

The Exercise, Epistle and Special Reply Committees, yearly Meeting Reporters, and Auditing Committee are appointed by the Representatives. The following have been appointed to perform Yearly Meeting responsibilities during the week:

Exercise Committee	Lorene Ludy, Norval Tucker, Betty Hawthorne, Catherine Dorenbach, Cheryl Sutton, Sandi Tomer
Epistle Committee	Larry Marsh, Alberta Kisling, Jay Robinson
Special Replies	Christine Kelly, Marshall Massey, Ed Clopton
Yearly Meeting Reporters	Karen Greenler, Mark Tomer
Auditing Committee	Don Laughlin, Roy Knight

Readers for this morning's business sessions are: Ginger Kenney and Marion Love

We listened carefully to the Midyear Meeting Report prepared by committee clerk Christine Kelly, and the Midyear Meeting treasurer's report prepared by Osa Bricker. We also heard a report from Bear Creek Monthly Meeting on their termite control project and plans for replacing the school house. We approve any excess funds collected be retained by Bear Creek Meeting for the replacement of the school house, and to continue this in the immediate future. We ask Bear Creek to update the Yearly Meeting as the project continues. We are grateful for the space provided by Bear Creek and encourage them in this project. We appreciate the care given in preparing the reports and approve the reports as amended.

MIDYEAR MEETING REPORT

The 2004 Midyear Meeting was held at Bear Creek Meetinghouse on April 3 and 4, with the theme of "Quaker Learning, Learning Quakerism." Loving contributions of talent from many Friends brought us an inspiring weekend. We became more mindful of how Quaker tradition and values are transmitted.

The opening session, presented by Richard Johnson, was "A Gathered Presence: Creating a Community of Caring in the Composition

Classroom.” Richard shared his experiences as a composition teacher and how his Quaker values and practices have informed his teaching.

The evening included breakout sessions in which small groups had the opportunity to share more detailed experiences related to the weekend theme.

On First Day morning, Mary Snyder presented on “Learning Quakerism,” drawing upon years of experience working and writing about religious education. These sessions gave us a new insight into the many ways that Quakerism is both “taught and caught.”

We continued the tradition of selling items to fund the work of AFSC.

We are grateful to the members of Bear Creek Meeting for providing hospitality and logistical arrangements for the weekend. Their devoted attention made the gathering a welcoming and enjoyable event.

Prepared by Christine Kelly, clerk
Midyear Planning Committee

MIDYEAR MEETING TREASURER’S REPORT

Contributions		\$2614.40
Expenses		
	Food	\$818.18
	Cook	400.00
	Child Care	80.00
	Comm expense	<u>30.45</u>
		\$1328.63
	Hosting fee	<u>300.00</u>
		\$1628.63
Receipts over expenses		\$985.77

Osa Bricker, Treasurer

Report from Bear Creek on Termite Control and future plans

Bear Creek Meeting thanks Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative (IYMC) for the donation last year toward control and elimination of the termite problem on their property.

A termite bait system for the whole property was purchased through an area pest control agency. The school house, where the infestation occurred was treated and a bait system put into place that protects the meeting house and the school house from any further damage. The \$1,100.06 donated last year by IYMC was put toward the total bill of \$1837. 50.

Although the school house is still useable as is, the building will require major repairs to return it to good condition. Bear Creek members have drawn up plans for tearing down the school house and building a new building in the same style as the school house. The estimated cost is near \$20,000. The current building will continue to be used (as long as it remains safe) until those funds can be raised. Bear Creek hopes IYMC will be able to continue donating any excess receipts from Midyear Meeting to Bear Creek to be used toward the new building, used by IYMC for young Friends during annual sessions and other gatherings during the year.

We have listened to the Interim Committee minutes prepared by Cheryl Sutton, clerk and Carol Gilbert, assistant clerk. We accept the minutes and appreciate those willing to serve on our behalf.

MINUTES OF INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETING

Third Day, Fourth Month, 2004

Meeting was opened with a time of silent worship

The Scattergood Friends School Committee asked Interim Committee to name two Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) members to serve on a search committee for a new director for the school. Qualities the Interim Committee agreed are important in search committee members are: membership in the Yearly Meeting, background knowledge in Scattergood and in Quaker education. The Interim Committee approved Callie Marsh of West Branch Meeting and Richard Johnson of Bear Creek Meeting, who are willing and able to serve

The Committee approved Cheryl Sutton and Carol Gilbert to continue as clerk and assistant clerk of Interim Committee for the coming year

The Interim Committee concluded with a time of worship.
Cheryl Sutton, clerk
Carol Gilbert, assistant clerk

We have listened to the thorough American Friends Service Committee Corporation Report prepared by IYMC representative Nancy Ewald. We approve this report.

AFSC CORPORATION REPORT

As the war in Iraq and related events in the world and in this country spiral ever more out of control, it is tempting to give in to despair. But at the American Friends Service Committee national office in Philadelphia, one is struck by the spirit of unquenched quiet determination to seek ways of bringing peace, economic and social justice, and hope to people everywhere. As it has for 86 years, the AFSC continues to address the issues of war, inequality, oppression, and injustice with a Quaker-centered commitment to the principles of nonviolence and justice, seeking to draw on the transforming power of love-both human and divine.

Fast's current programs take place in over forty areas of the United States and more than twenty foreign countries. In addition to the national office in Philadelphia, there are nine regional offices. The Central Region, with its office in Des Moines, administers programs in twelve states. Local, national, and international programs are grouped into six major areas:

Humanitarian assistance and education--working to build partnerships with communities affected by violent conflicts, natural disasters, and complex emergencies, in order to increase their capacity to rebuild and transform their lives.

Migration and human mobility--working to enhance the human rights of migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, and returnees, and to affirm the right of these people to define, implement, and monitor the policies, laws, and institutions that affect them.

Economic justice--working to improve social and economic well being, increase the ability of communities to secure access to resources for sustainable livelihoods, and advocate for national and international policies that support equitable and sustainable economic development.

A new vision of justice--working to lift up a vision of a world without prisons in which justice systems work to restore wholeness to

individuals and communities, to work against the death penalty and point out the bankruptcy of the current system, and to help those in other countries develop institutions and justice systems that create effective responses to human rights abuses, restore social balance, and build sustainable relationships.

Peace building and prevention of conflict--working to decrease global militarization and armaments, and to increase the capacity of people to prevent violence, foster the peaceful resolution of conflict, and achieve reconciliation and healing.

Youth--working with young people to build alliances among diverse constituencies that will actively promote peace and justice, to strengthen their capacity to lead initiatives that will contribute to the development of a world that recognizes the human rights of all people.

In response to the escalation of U.S. militarism and the war in Iraq, AFSC has thrown greatly increased energy and resources into its peace building work in the past year, creating the "Peacemaking in a Time of War" initiative and raising over \$2.5 million in additional funds to finance this initiative. In the United States, the AFSC worked to make peaceful dissent visible and give voice to the millions of Americans who oppose the war. It took a lead role in building a broad-based peace movement within the U.S., helping found two major national anti-war coalitions and a multitude of state and local peace groups. Also, for the first time in history, a global peace movement was born. Together with its coalition members, AFSC helped organize peace vigils and some of the largest anti-war rallies in history, and helped gather over a million signatures for a petition to the U.N. Security Council. It has sponsored interfaith peace activities between Christians, Jews, and Muslims, organized support groups for parents of children serving in the military, and created programs addressing the erosion of civil liberties, the plight of political prisoners and immigrants, and other issues of political repression. It is helping focus media attention and raise public awareness on peace concerns, is engaging presidential candidates on issues of peace and economic justice, and is organizing voter registration and education projects helping youth and minorities resist war through active participation in the election process. It is educating legislators about the dangers of nuclear escalation and new weapons systems, and is publicizing the connections between military profits and declining education, health care, and other human services. And it is taking a lead role organizing special social forums in connection with the Democratic and Republican National Conventions, inviting convention delegates to become part of the global process to build more human-centered societies.

AFSC is engaging college and high-school-age youth in work for peace and social justice, and has lent organizing support to the National Youth and Student Peace Coalition. Having been founded during World War I to provide alternative service opportunities to young men who were conscientious objectors, AFSC is committed to helping young people make informed decisions about military service. Its National Youth and Militarism Program researches and develops new counter-recruitment materials, provides leadership to a national network of counter-recruitment organizations, hosts a website, and provides training to groups resisting the Bush administration's intensive military recruitment campaign.

In the Middle East, AFSC is supporting local peacemakers in regions of conflict- indigenous groups working to end the killing and repair relationships in Israel, Jordan, and Iraq, as well as within the Palestinian community. AFSC also has staff in Baghdad who are looking for ways to empower NGOs in Iraq. It is also working to protect the rights of children and to bring the issue of child soldiers into the political agenda. AFSC works with the U.N. and a network of organizations to stem the flow of small arms and weapons in the Mid-East and North Africa.

The AFSC Corporation serves as a source of spiritual and practical counsel to AFSC on broad policy issues, and is the legal entity under which the AFSC is incorporated. The corporation serves as a liaison between the AFSC and the yearly meetings, and also appoints members to the AFSC Board of Directors. Approximately half the corporation's 160 members are appointed by 24 participating yearly meetings--four from Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative--and half by the corporation at its annual meeting. All corporation members must be members of the Religious Society of Friends.

At the corporation's annual meeting, in November, its members are updated on AFSC's programs, policies, and finances. The annual meeting also includes a public program, last year's marking 50 years since the Supreme Court's landmark decision in Brown vs. Board of Education that struck down racial segregation of schools. The public program focused on AFSC's 50 years of work to assure quality education of all children, from desegregation in the 1950s, and '60s; to student rights, sex role stereotypes, multilingual and multicultural issues, and militarism in the '70s; drug abuse, homelessness, gender and sexual identity in the '80s and '90s; and most recently, work to educate communities about the connection between failing public education and increased incarceration of youth--particularly youth of color. The keynote speaker was Roger Wilkins, Pulitzer Prize-winning author,

professor of history and American culture at George Mason University, and longtime leader in the NAACP. Following his stimulating presentation, panel discussions met simultaneously in three areas: "Closed Minds, Closed Schools," "No Child Left Behind?" and "Education & Exchange-International Dimensions."

The AFSC Corporation's annual meeting affords an exceptional opportunity to see our fundamental Quaker belief of God inherent in each person made visible in the workings of AFSC--our service organization--throughout the world.

Report prepared by Nancy Ewald

We listened carefully to the epistle from Ohio Yearly Meeting. We have not received an epistle from North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative as their annual sessions were held earlier this month. It will be read in a later session if it arrives this week, but in any case it will be included in the Minutes. We appreciate hearing from our fellow Conservative yearly meetings. It is good to hear Ohio Yearly Meeting's recognition of Christ in their meeting and their sessions.

Epistle from Ohio Yearly Meeting

To Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative

And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord, and great shall be the peace of thy children. Isaiah 54:13

Dear Friends in Iowa Yearly Meeting,

We greet you in the name of the One who has baptized us with the Holy Spirit. We were pleased that our members, Randy and Martha Giffen, were able to attend your yearly meeting and to share with us their experiences. We are glad for continued communication and visitation between our meetings. We welcome your members, Willie and Anna Mae Moffitt among us.

The Ohio Yearly Meeting gathered for its 191st session 13-16 of Eighth Month. This year has been an opportunity for many of us to consider together, what it is we believe and what is the special message of Conservative Friends. We are beginning the process of improving our ability to share this with others as we discern and pursue the Will of God. We find evidence that "Christ has come to teach his people himself" in the work our yearly meeting committees have undertaken over the past year.

In Fourth Month the Committee on Renewal and Encouragement provided a retreat which explored the questions: “What does God want me to do?” and “How shall I do it?” and continued with a session at Yearly Meeting involving a panel, small and large group participation to allow all members to respond to the dreams and visions emerging from the retreat. A family camping experience provided time for fellowship and spiritual growth.

We are thankful for the blessing God has provided this Yearly Meeting through our ministries. The non-profit Walton Home in Barnesville is supported financially and spiritually by OYM. The Friends Center of Ohio Yearly Meeting is a retreat and conference center an outreach of our Christian unprogrammed Quakerism; it continues to organize retreats which enable the participants to develop spiritually. Our website (www.ohioyearlymeeting.org) during the coming year will feature the discerning ministry of some of our more seasoned Friends.

Friends are pleased that the way has opened for OYM to host the Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs annual conference on 25th through 27th of Third Month, 2004. Younger friends and some adult members were blessed on several treks to Hominy, Oklahoma on a mission trip to the Osage people during which they repaired and refurbished a home as well as teaching the tribe’s children in a vacation Bible school, using lessons they had prepared.

Christ has one more edified the Yearly Meeting by the presence and activates of our youth. Two of our young people attended a gathering of Young Friends at William Penn House in Washington, D.C. Many participated again in a successful Christian Education Camp and volunteered as baby-sitters so the mothers could attend the Fourth Month retreat. We are always delighted by the program on Seventh Day evening of yearly meeting. It is our endeavor to develop a program for the better nurture of high school age and young adult Friends.

As a religious community we continue to experience great disquiet about our government’s ongoing bloodshed, and some members have sought ways of expressing their unease. An evening session, “Peace SEEDS (Small groups that support, educate, engage in actions and disseminate for peace) presented strategies for spreading the seeds of peace within our home communities.

We believe the success of the work of our committees this is due to the leadership of Christ in our individual meetings. We close with these edifying and relevant words from the sealed epistle of George Fox.

Let no man live to self, but live to the Lord, as you will die in Him. Seek the peace of the Church of Christ and the peace of all men in Him, blessed are the peacemakers. Dwell in the pure, peaceable, heavenly

wisdom of God, which is gentle, easy to be entreated, and full of mercy, all striving to be of one mind, heart, soul, and judgment in Christ, having His mind and spirit dwelling to you. Build up one another in the love of Christ- His Church – of which He is the holy Head.

On behalf of Ohio Yearly Meeting,
Seth Hinshaw, clerk

Epistle received from North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) after the close of sessions.

To Friends in Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative):

If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” John 7: 37-38

We send loving greetings from the shaded lawns of Chowan College in Murfreesboro, North Carolina, where we have been gathered for the 307th annual sessions of North Carolina Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Conservative). We were blessed to have among us James and Virginia Kenney of your yearly meeting. We are pleased that Nancy Craft and Lloyd Lee Wilson will again visit your yearly meeting, traveling with a minute from our yearly meeting.

Our worship, business proceedings, and discussions have been guided by our theme, “Who Are Conservative Friends?” How do we maintain the traditions of simplicity and expectant waiting in a world where openness to the living presence of the Spirit of Christ is ever more needed?

Most directly related to our theme, four long-time members of Cedar Grove Meeting, Rich Square Monthly Meeting, described their experiences “Growing Up Conservative” and what these have meant for their lives. Beloved visitors Bill and Fran Taber of Stillwater Monthly Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting, expended our vision of our heritage and challenged us to maintain “The Witness of Conservative Friends.” The value of this witness to the wider Quaker community is demonstrated by the significant number of visitors among us, thirsting for the experience we have to offer.

In our morning Bible study, Richard Miller of Greenville Monthly Meeting led us in examining scriptural examples of “Continuing Revelation,” a central element of Quaker faith. The process revealed in the texts felt surprisingly familiar: revisiting and reinterpreting inherited Truths.

Our Bible study also emphasized that faith requires us to carry our spiritual witness into the world, especially in these times with so many challenges facing our testimonies. We were moved by reports from the American Friends Service Committee concerning programs to reduce conflict in Atlanta public schools and to promote peace and justice in the Middle East. We also learned of the service projects being undertaken through Friends House Moscow. We are ever mindful that our social action derives its power from the depth of our spiritual life.

We recognized anew the value of our traditions as we listened to the full reports and responses to the queries from our monthly meetings. This discipline of accountability to each other binds us together in deeper understanding of how Truth prospers in all parts of our yearly meeting family. Much of the business of the meeting involved intervisitation and correspondence among Friends, especially related to travels in the ministry. These apparently formal matters are the glue that binds us to the wider community of Friends and the route whereby we share our gifts with our Religious Society.

We felt the power of the living presence of Christ in our corporate worship. We were reminded that we “worship the Giver, not the gift.” We were brought to a sense of shared suffering, being led to identify with those caught up in and put in harm’s way by armed conflict.

Our formal sessions have been interspersed with periods of fellowship through food, conversation, and song. We value the friendships made and strengthened in our time together.

Recognizing the renewal we have been privileged to receive these few days together, we pray that you in your yearly meeting may drink from the same Source.

In loving friendship,
Jeanne Rose, clerk

We heard the William Penn House report. We refer the request of a \$300 donation to the Representatives. We approve the report.

WILLIAM PENN HOUSE REPORT

The William Penn House staff has been developing a curriculum for peace studies training using the McDonald-Diamond Multi – Track format. They are looking for a small group of educators to test the course in September or October. Please contact William Penn House if you have interest.

William Penn House has been a wonderful blessing for FCNL during the reconstruction of their building. Many committees have been meeting there regularly. We appreciate the high energy and dedication of staff who have helped fit these meetings into their already busy schedule.

After many years under volunteer leadership, The Board of Washington Quaker Work Camps has hired Andrei Israel as its director and relocated their office from Baltimore Yearly Meeting offices to William Penn House enhancing a natural partnership. Six work camps were held during February thru June.

Twenty -one students recently attended a Young Adult Lobby weekend where they received training in lobbying skills from FCNL lobbyist David Culp, heard speakers and worshiped at the Florida Avenue Friends Meeting.

An adult lobby group took part in a “Witness in Washington” April 28th & 29th, visiting representatives and senators. Several stayed on for regular FCNL committee meetings.

Family Week was held July 18 thru July 24, 2004.

A Quaker dialogue and pot luck series meets the first Sunday evening of each month with programs on Quaker history, important Quaker men & women, Quaker service and theology.

Information on upcoming events can be found on the web site www.WmPennHouse.org or by phone (202) 543-5560, FAX (202) 543-3814.

The committee suggests a \$300.00 donation from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

On behalf of William Penn House Consultative Committee representatives,

Alberta Kisling, Wilmer Tjossem, Richard Baltaro

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

Fifth Day – Thursday – 7/29

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

---Galatians 5:22-23

We are happy to welcome the following visitors to our annual sessions:

Marie Kirk of Middleton Monthly Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting

Chris Coffin, Fairfield, Iowa, Iowa Yearly Meeting FUM

Martha Davis and Gordon Bivens have been appointed readers for the morning.

We have considered carefully the recommendation of the Ministry and Counsel Committee concerning appointment of two young adult IYMC F/friends to attend the World Gathering of Young Adult Friends next summer. We ask that our representatives be known by and have the support and clearness of the monthly meeting of which they are a member or attender. We approve the recommendation to appoint two young adult Friends and ask Representatives to consider the financial support suggestion as they prepare our budget.

REPORT FROM MINISTRY AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE

A request has come to the Yearly Meeting asking us to appoint two young adult Friends (18-35 years of age) to attend the World Gathering of Young Adult Friends in England next summer. We are in unity that this would be a wonderful opportunity and a significant experience for any young adults in our yearly meeting. We ask the Yearly Meeting's Friends World Committee representatives to be the coordinators and a selection committee, making sure that every monthly meeting gets a copy of this information and that the young people are aware of this conference.

We ask that the Yearly Meeting appoint two delegates to this conference and that \$2,500 be appropriated toward their travel expenses.

Martha Hampton, clerk

Ministry and Counsel Committee

We listened carefully to the Letter to the Iraqi people which the Yearly Meeting was asked to consider signing. We approve the clerk signing the letter on behalf of the Yearly Meeting and encourage individuals to consider signing if they are so led.

Iowa Yearly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns request

IYM(C) Peace and Social Concerns Committee has read and discussed the attached *Letter to the Iraqi People*. We strongly support this letter and the stated purpose and would like the IYM(C) to consider signing. The Friends who have written this letter have asked for people to join them in signing before the planned release on August 1st. Because of the time urgency, we ask that Yearly Meeting consider this before our report scheduled for Sixth Day.

Letter to the People of Iraq

We want to express our heartfelt apology and deep sorrow over our government's invasion and continued occupation of your country. We are painfully aware of the enormous suffering it has caused – the killing, wounding, and harassment of so many Iraqi children and adults; the deaths and injuries to combatants on all sides; and the destruction of Iraqi infrastructures leaving millions without adequate water or power, homes or food.

Please know that we who have signed this letter and countless other Americans are deeply opposed to this aggression that has been carried out in our names.

We understand that words of sorrow and apology are not enough and that as people of the United States we have a responsibility to do everything in our power to peacefully pressure our government to stop this war, end the occupation, make full reparations, and work in cooperation with the Iraqi people to repair the terrible damage that the war and occupation have caused. We pledge to you that we will make every effort to live up to this responsibility.

Finally, we want you to know that it is our sincere desire to live in peace with the people of Iraq. We believe it is possible for relations between our two countries to be based on honest and respectful dialog, a willingness to resolve our conflicts by nonviolent means, and a shared commitment to our common humanity and the sacredness of all life.

We heard the FWCC representatives report. We appreciate and approve the report.

FWCC REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

We representatives still grapple with how to bridge the miles between us, which makes us realize how much effort is required to bridge theological as well as geographic distances.

Continuing under earlier Guidance, we sought ways to make news and needs of FWCC better known at monthly meetings.

Christine Kelly and Marion Love worshipped and visited at West Branch in December, and Marion talked to three members in Iowa City the same day.

Betty Hawthorn represented the Yearly Meeting at the Triennial in New Zealand in January and the annual meeting in Ottawa, Canada in March. She says she was much moved, more deeply than her report below can express.

Betty agreed to clerk the FWCC North Central region, which includes Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and parts of Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska.

We are grateful that Jamara Knight, a student at Guilford College, was open to being appointed by the Yearly Meeting as an FWCC representative, and sorry she wasn't able to participate this year.

Another young Friend, Sarah Winchell, is traveling now in England, Germany and the Netherlands with the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. She left July 15 and is scheduled to return Aug. 13. Thanks to the Yearly Meeting, the monthly meeting and individual supporters for helping support of her trip. Sarah hopes to share her experiences by visiting monthly meetings and giving a report to the Yearly Meeting at some point.

We hope to work toward similar support for delegates to the 2005 World Gathering of Young Friends in England, an FWCC-affiliated event for ages 18 to 35 years. These trips offer young Friends the blessings of exchange that we treasure, in a world that needs relationships between cultures and traditions.

Marion keeps regular contact with Paul Knupp, pastor of First Friends Church in Des Moines and members of that church. She has particularly enjoyed a Bible study there. She and Sarah were warmly received by the First Day adult class for their talk about Youth Pilgrimage and conscientious objector information at adult First Day class.

Marion also attended a Development Committee meeting in October. Needs haven't changed much, although the deficit is being managed one month at a time, and work on the feasibility of a capital campaign is still underway.

Betty Hawthorn reports of her Triennial trip:

I arrived at the FWCC Triennial in Auckland, Aotearoa (N.Z.), fresh from a South Island tour conducted by Friends from Christchurch Meeting. Throughout the Conference, the acquaintance of my 12 "tour buddies" from Europe, Japan, South Africa and the U.S., provided a sense of familiarity and "home."

The bone carving necklace and coffee mug printed with Maori designs, which we received at registration, foreshadowed the colorful Powhiri, the traditional

Maori welcome ceremony. "God, the mooring post of all our canoes," set the tone of the conference.

Early morning worship, conducted each day in a variant of Quaker practice and culture, preceded the small daily Worship and Sharing Group gatherings.

People of different cultures, races, genders, sexual orientations, and forms of worship mixed with each other to create expanded empathy and understanding of each other and our "ways" through intimate listening and disclosing.

Plenary sessions reported on the regional Sections' work, FWCC projects (such as the Quaker United Nations offices in New York and Geneva), and FWCC finances.

While it may be easy to see the financial worthiness of service projects or action-focused Quaker efforts, it has not been so transparently obvious that the subtle miracle of gathering widely divergent Quakers for mutual spiritual growth needs support.

From all over the world, speaking about 50 languages, we came together to listen and share with each other our strengths, hopes, and experiences. We hope the miracle of Quakers finding our commonality and accepting our differences models some of the healing our world needs.

Submitted by Marion Love, clerk FWCC representatives

We listened carefully to the Publication Committee Report. We are grateful for the work of the committee and the thoroughness of the report. We acknowledge that our minute books and the information provided to the wider world through this committee's work are also

outreach tools for seekers. While we are interested in the offer of having our directory on line with a password access, we are not clear at this time to move forward on the suggestion. We approve the report.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Minutes of the 2003 Annual Sessions of Iowa Yearly Meeting were typeset by the convener and printed and bound by Goodfellow Printing, Inc. of Iowa City. 320 copies were printed at a cost of \$7.00 per copy, not including distribution costs. The Minutes of Iowa Yearly Meeting (minus the directory section) have been posted on the World Wide Web at www.quakernet.org since 1998. 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.

Printing 320 copies of 2003 Minutes	\$2,240.10
Shipment of Minutes to monthly meetings	103.65
Distribution of individual copies to libraries, other meetings, etc.	73.66
Toward convener's expenses (telephone, computer usage, packing supplies)	20.00
Iowa Book & Supply (envelopes)	7.99
Overseas Postage	21.60
(less \$1 toward postage)	1.00
Total	\$2,466.00

This was a year of change for the Publication Committee as Ed Clopton, after many years of labor on the Minutes of the Iowa Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions changed his role to coordinating the printing and distribution of the Minutes. We are grateful for his past work and for all the assistance he provided during this year's transition.

This change meant different software would be employed. The minutes were formatted using Microsoft Office Word 2003, and the member directory was loaded into a Microsoft SQL Server database.

Because of the time required to create and program the member directory database, most of the editing of the minutes was performed by members of the committee (Margie Haworth, David Duer and Ed Clopton), with additional help from Deborah Fisch, Beth Clopton and Josh Roberts. It is very helpful that the Yearly Meeting Clerk provides the first draft in Microsoft Word format with nearly all the reports already in their appropriate location.

Because the member directory is now in a database, it would be possible to have a searchable version of the directory online in the password protected area of QuakerNet if there is a desire for that. Advantages would be that updates could be made throughout the year, with the changes immediately available, and various reports could be created, e.g. addresses of members of a given committee, etc.

Last year concerns related to publishing names on the Internet were raised. Pages on QuakerNet that contain many names now have instructions to not index the page for search engines (<meta NAME="ROBOTS" CONTENT="NOINDEX,FOLLOW">). As other pages are edited, these (do not index) instructions are added.

Margie Figgins, Director of Development for Scattergood Friends School, arranged renewal of the QuakerNet.org domain name and also renewal of the Web hosting service at First WebHosting.

The publication committee welcomes submissions for QuakerNet at any time, including monthly meeting newsletters, announcements, etc. and will attempt to update the Web site in a timely manner. In the past most submissions have been placed on QuakerNet within 24 hours of receipt. Submissions concerning monthly meeting activities should be made by monthly meeting clerks and announcements for Yearly Meeting committees by Yearly Meeting committee clerks to the Publishing Committee convener. All other announcements should be sent to the IYM(C) clerk for forwarding to the Publication convener.

For the committee,
Jeff Kisling

We heard the Archives Committee Report. We also learned that Bear Creek Meeting has a number of Wilberite books they could make available. Herbert Standing would be the contact person for Friends requesting information on those books. We approve the report as amended.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

Joan Tucker continues her care for the books in the William Penn Room here at Scattergood. She has identified duplicate copies of many of the works. Last year, these duplicates were offered to monthly meetings for their libraries, and more than 70 volumes found new homes. Many more are available, and we'd like to find new homes for them, too. They would be more useful being the solo copy somewhere rather than

being a duplicate here, and finding storage space for them is a problem. Please see Joan if you are interested.

On behalf of the committee,
Dan Treadway, convener

We listened carefully to the first eight queries and selected answers from our monthly meetings. We will read the other four queries and answers at another session if way opens. The reading and answering of queries is one of the most important things we do. We are pleased to hear that our monthly meetings are grappling with these advices and queries and their answers. Through hearing these answers we are given a glimpse of the Spirit at work in our meetings. This is a treasured time during annual sessions for many of us.

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: Personal preparation is the key to how meaningful a meeting for worship will be for each of us. The Sunday School hour preceding meeting continues to mean much to those who attend, often contributing to our preparation. We sense that our meetings are usually held in the Light of the Living Spirit. Appreciation was expressed during our discussion of this query for the gift of silence in our noisy world. What goes on in our daily lives is very important to our spiritual life, and we hope that each one who comes finds comfort and inspiration in the living silence.

We recognize the historical description of God as a male father figure can be hurtful for many. Most of us are not uncomfortable with this image, but we do try to use more inclusive gender neutral terms in describing our own religious experience. Sometimes this produces new insight into overly familiar phrases and Bible passages.

The vocal ministry of our meeting, while not frequent, contributes to the spiritual life of the meeting. We try to recognize and value all spiritual gifts.

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 ponder why many Friends raised in the Meeting do not stay with it. Even William Penn's sons didn't remain as Friends. It is important for each of us to choose our faith. The issue of sharing faith requires us to walk a fine line: how to share without feeling as if you are "recruiting". Because of a lack of understanding, Quakers may seem "strange" or "weird" to outsiders. Because we don't proselytize, we wonder how hard it is for others to find out about Quakers.

In terms of visible philanthropy, we are more comfortable with the Biblical injunction from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, "let not the right hand know what the left hand doeth." This is a spiritual matter. When you give this way, the idea is to enrich the world and not the giver.

We are conscious of our different approach to many common cultural views. Being a Quaker is a very personal thing. Many times we strive to make our presence known to the community by example and precept. Our aim is not to push our religion but rather live it so that it may be seen.

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: The key to a good business meeting stems from answers to the questions: How do we dissent? How do we respond to Friends who express dissent? It's important to speak up about a topic so that we all know how people feel. It's also important for us to respond openly to those opinions. The ability for someone to express disagreement about an issue without feeling defensive is very important. We need to foster this environment.

How do we attain a "sense of the meeting" regarding decisions? Sometimes it comes readily. Sometimes we wait; postponing a decision until resolution becomes clear. Sometimes a third option is created (instead of the original opposing two options) and agreement is attained. For decisions we wait on, we need to continue to work on the issue, not just ignore it. Sometimes a statement can be made that gets people thinking about different approaches to the problem and leads the discussion in different directions.

The "worshipful" part of the business meeting experience often comes from the way we treat each other during the meeting.

When two or more Friends disagree how does the meeting proceed and accomplish its goals? Friends use the word clearness as a way of reaching an agreement or even a compromise. Sometimes clearness is attained simply by those in dissent saying nothing. Yet some argue simply because they enjoy the emotion of a good debate. If this Friendly? If God had wanted us to always agree He would have made us all alike. Strength and clearness come from diversity. God can speak to all of us at the same time. The problem is we all don't listen in the same way. But that is as it should be. The line between being right and being wrong is often blurred, and not always there. It is much more important to nurture that of God in everyone than to always be on what is considered the right side of every question. One example is when the meeting first turned aside my request to be a member. The time was not yet right so that was the right answer then, just as the next time the request was made saying yes was the right answer then, for me and for all, I believe. The worshipfulness of this example is that in the time between the two opposite decisions, true spiritual growth took place and continues even now.

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: It is painful to reflect on past divisions that tore this meeting apart.

Jesus never equivocated. "Love others as I have loved you". That is the way he lived: thieves on both his right and left, while saying "tonight you shall be with me in heaven."

We struggle to find the love that can heal the ruptures between us. Issues of identity are the most difficult to resolve by thought. Perhaps the answer lies in cultivating a forgiving spirit, and looking to that of God in ourselves and seeking to address that of God in those with whom we disagree.

We seek to know what it truly means to "hold someone in the light". How is this different from simply praying for them? Perhaps when we endeavor to hold someone in the light, we are also praying for ourselves to be illuminated by the love and grace of God.

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: We have no program in place for the small number of teenagers who attend our meeting. We are seeking creative ways in which the meeting can help to meet their needs. We are exploring ways to spend more one-on-one time with them since there are so few of them. We look at the fine example of Iowa Yearly Meeting as they provide youth retreats and youth week-ends which take place throughout the year. The children in our meeting are very important to us; they contribute to the richness of our meeting. First Day School provides an opportunity for adults in the meeting to become better

acquainted with children. One person suggested that the children might enjoy taking turns hosting an adult during First Day School.

As individuals, we need to be mindful and ready to be called into difficult situations that arise when people in our meeting need attention during illness or when they would like visitation from Friends. Meeting individuals are also sometimes in a position to ease difficult transitions that members and attenders may have in their living or working situations.

Because we are a small meeting, there are more leadership possibilities. Gender sharing has always been strong in our meeting.

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: We assume our second hour discussions foster a spirit of inquiry among adults. Children in religious education classes seem eager to learn. A spirit of loving and understanding is learned by example.

Several times religious education classes from other churches have attended meeting. We wondered whether we've missed an opportunity to ask them about their beliefs.

Quakerism 101 classes were held last year in pre-meeting sessions, and are being continued once a month this year. One recently was about the book of Thomas, which is not in the Bible. People who read about other religions sometimes share in meeting.

We're struggling with providing an education process consisted with Friends' values for our young Friends, and in decisions about the educational needs of our children.

One of our members was elected to the school board and exposed the school system to Friends' values, but decided not to run for re-election.

We spoke to the issue of gay and lesbian youth at a special meeting of the Des Moines School Board several years ago. Several members teach in the schools and bring values with them.

None of our students attend Scattergood at present. Quite a few attend Camp Woodbrooke, where they're exposed to Quaker values. We ordered Quaker book covers for our students to use at school instead of the ones the military services provide.

Friends whose children are grown serve as role models - perhaps unconsciously - for young parents. The activism of some Friends also provides a role model. Preparation for a changing world requires prayer.

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: We asked ourselves the question: What constitutes a "family" or "families?" We feel this would include the extended family, even though few extended families in our society live under the same roof. It would also include blended families arising from more than one marriage. It would include gay families. We realize that a family is sometimes a fragile bonding of people. This fragility makes it vital that we keep lines of communication open, and keep our own minds open, to a variety of ways of viewing the world. For instance, being a vegetarian may seem right for one member of the family and not for another. Our meeting doesn't put a heavy emphasis on Bible training; however, we realize it plays an important role in art, literature, and religions in our culture, and should not be neglected. We suggested different ways in which spiritual renewal can occur. This can happen individually or in groups as we seek recreation and relaxation. Meditation or simply taking a walk may accomplish this for us. Making our homes places of hospitality is a special, yet important, challenge in our busy world.

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: It is difficult to feel serene knowing our country is contributing heavily to the violent chaos in the world. It is important to find time to be quiet and reflect on what is happening. A walk in the woods, worshiping together at meeting, gathering in small discussion groups can help us be centered by divine guidance and help us to live our lives in the light.

During Mid-Year Meeting Richard Johnson spoke to us about his use of the queries in his classroom. This is a very good tool to use in discussions with those who disagree with us. By asking questions we can try to understand their viewpoints and share our share our concerns with them. The queries have always been valuable to our Meeting and to each of us personally as we evaluate our faith and practice.

Dealing with the clutter in our lives is an ever present challenge.

Several families in our meeting have moved to smaller homes and have recycled through the rummage sale, sold and given away items and still have more than needed. Letters, photos, diaries etc. are an important part of our personal history and are precious to us.

Families are too busy with sports, TV, computers etc. Many are overweight and living unhealthy lifestyles. We are not always tuned into ourselves, often denying our sadness or hurt feelings. Our society offers band aid solutions take a pill and get over it. We need to recognize the signs that create the need for self medication in the form of alcohol and drugs. There are tools and skills available to help people process these emotional needs and challenges.

We need to try to find a balance between the activities of living a responsible life and finding quiet times to be open to guidance by the Divine Spirit that nurtures us.

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 find it difficult being a member of a larger society when things are going on that we do not agree with. At the present, terrorism and religious differences are issues that are creating conflicts. We must find the solutions to these problems in order to have peace in the world. In a democracy we hope that the best things will rise to the top and find dominance, and that by careful thought and deliberation, this will be what occurs in our society. Our faith wavers when we see that things that are bothersome rise to the top. It is important to express our opinions in ways that will be heard. We are grateful to have alternatives to demonstrate our disagreements. There are many options to voice our concerns such as writing letters or talking to our elected representatives. These avenues give us the ability to let our voices be heard.

Someone mentioned a bumper sticker saying "If you believe in peace, work for justice." No matter how much money is spent on a problem, if justice is not achieved, society will not be benefitted.

We have often used the phrase "Speak truth to those in power," but sometimes we wonder what, or whose, truth is correct. Although God's truth is absolute, our understanding of it is a searching process. A big challenge today is deciding what "truth" is as a nation, community or society. A lot of decisions we need to make are not always black and white. An example of this is when we pay taxes. Our money is used for programs that we support and some that we definitely do not support.

Most of us don't feel powerful, but sometimes we are in positions of power, such as clerking meeting or being president of an organization. We should not avoid these positions for fear of being the one in power. When we go to see our elected representatives, they are the ones in power, but when they go to their governing bodies they may feel powerless also.

Power in itself is not a bad thing. It is what activates society's agenda. There is an equilibrium between being active and passive, similar to forces in nature which includes the power of regeneration in the spring and the power of reflection in the fall. If we are open to what is divine we will have the strength to stand up to power that is unjust.

There are several things we do at school to help in our community and solve conflicts.

Emily's class volunteers on the fourth Wednesday each month to help with the free lunch program held at the Wesley Center. Four students go to help serve food and clean up.

Grades 3-6 have a student council. The representatives are elected from each class. Thomas served this school year. The adults set the rules and student council only decides a few things. This year they decided how to raise money for homeless people in Iowa City. They also voted to raise money to adopt a raptor.

There are also conflict managers to supervise grades K-4 at recess. It's a good idea but doesn't always work. Some kids with a problem don't want to solve it.

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: Locally, the proposed new mall will promote increased consumption of the earth's resources and affect the environment and citizens within miles of the site. We want to stop the proposed mall from being built and will work individually to oppose it. We are concerned that our community is following an environmentally irresponsible path that will not bring us the tax revenue promised.

The natural cycles on earth are delicately balanced. Our interference in these cycles can cause great damage to us and other creatures. For instance, trace amounts of the most common drugs we take are found in our drinking water and that in turn negatively affects our reproduction and overall health.

When "obsolete" computers are thrown away the toxic substances in them pollute the water. In some poor countries where our computers are

dumped, the people who take them apart for scrap suffer ill health effects. We are, in effect, exporting our pollution problems for others to deal with.

We can help by keeping trash to a minimum, buy things we can use up, recycle or give away. In Kenya, everything is used, from empty cans, newspapers, plastic, used clothing, etc. Here people have so much, it's hard to give things away.

Sometimes it seems futile to conserve energy, because others will come along and waste it without thinking. People who walk are commented on as strange in a culture where many drive everywhere they go. Walking is seen as an inconvenience. Many towns are built around vehicles, not people, so we are forced to be dependent on our cars. This disconnects us from nature and the environment, divides people by class, and contributes to obesity. Walking or biking helps us have time to think quietly and reconnects us with nature.

Where are the positives? Effective environmental protections include a peaceful world, as war causes many environmental disasters. Our peace efforts are also clean earth efforts. We can all join and help the smart growth group here in town.

When thinking of ourselves as part of the world around us, one young Friend wondered, "What if I were a tree growing in an oil spill?" Our own pollution may be poisoning us and hurting other creatures. Some forms of plastic can choke fish or birds.

Some suggestions to ease pollution and littering include solar cars and Earth Day clean ups. We can use ethanol, recycle all kinds of waste, ride a bike or walk instead of driving, plant trees, use resources without wasting and buy locally produced food and other products.

Quaker ideas such as simplicity help us be less wasteful and rely on each other more. War is destructive to the environment, and working for peace, another Quaker ideal, helps both the environment and other people.

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: There are many, many social and economic injustices in the world.

Most clothing we wear is not made in this country, but has been made by people in other countries. Generally those people have been exploited by the system, have poor working conditions, and are not being paid a living wage. We can avoid contributing further to this problem by buying second hand clothing or buying from catalogues and stores that specifically carry clothing made by unexploited workers.

Agriculture is another area where the United States makes things more difficult for economies of other countries. We dump our surplus crops, selling to others below the cost of production, which drives down world price of these crops. Struggling countries can't get a fair price for their crops. Countries should try to produce at least some of their own food so they are less dependent upon others.

Correctional facilities need to improve educational opportunities for inmates, otherwise they will just return to prison after release. We also need to provide incentives to companies so they will be willing to hire released inmates. Such a high number of people are incarcerated now, hiring practices will have to change or employers won't be able to find workers. This won't happen until there is a worker shortage.

The correctional system focuses on punishment, not rehabilitation. This discourages education. The system is perverse. The inmates have no power, so there is no accountability for the treatment they receive.

Writing letters to people in power DOES sometimes have an effect, even though it may seem like a fruitless effort. Socially responsible retirement investing, while a noble idea, is very, very difficult to accomplish these days. Everything is so complex; it is impossible to be pure. We do our best and keep asking questions!

I wish to take issue with one statement in the discussion of this query. "The inmates have no power, so there is no accountability for the treatment they receive." Ah but inmates do have power. Sometimes we feel like we don't have any, but yes we do. For instance, just this Saturday morning an inmate friend and I decided to go around and pick up the trash on the yard. Now there are inmates that are assigned to do this work and be paid a low wage, \$1.21 a day to do it, and as a punishment inmates are often given "extra duty" and forced to go out and pick trash under escort of an officer. But today for an hour we two decided just to do it. It was within our power to do so. We asked no one's permission save our own. Many stopped by and asked what we had

done to get extra duty, as a punishment, and were shocked to learn we were doing this just to take care of our own limited environment. One even decided to help us. But we had the power to effect change within our world all on our own.

If a prisoner wanted to be educated, NOTHING can stop him. Lack of school opportunities hurts. That is true, but it will never stop that prisoner from writing off for courses, or reading every book in our limited library, or from being befriended by someone of knowledge who will visit them and share some of what they have learned in life and in school. I now have a degree from Maggie and Barney which no school could ever issue to me! But it is one I value a lot. One I chose to undertake by meeting with them and visiting and sharing silence together.

One friend helping to educate one friend can go a long ways to bringing about social justice. The GED book purchased for David Traxler is more than just a book. It was and is an incentive that says you believe in him and a trust that he will honor your trust in him.

It is a well known policy that Kawasaki is a great employer of men on parole, just out of prison. Why? Because they realize that a man on parole will show up to work because his parole officer will be checking up on him. Plus Kawasaki receives tax incentives for hiring ex-convicts that are on parole. Some have stayed on after their parole is over and stayed employed there for some time. Sadly they are the exception and not the rule in Lincoln. The half-way houses available to new releases limit your stay to thirty days, barely enough time to find an adequate job, and earn enough to get an apartment and transportation. Who can bridge the gap between prison and the outside so that no one ever need return here? Not more government programs! Not the right sort of governor, not the community corrections programs. It ought to be the basis of all we do, alas it is not, and this is not Eden. But a perfect world begins with perfecting a friendship with just one person who has none.

12. PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE

Query: *What are we doing to education 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: We tend to educate ourselves well about international and national areas of conflict by using different news sources other than the popular media. There do not seem to be areas of personal conflict within our meeting, but these are more difficult to see and evaluate. We are less sure of our response to them when they do occur.

We are conscious of sounds of inter-family conflict in our neighbors adjacent to the meetinghouse but puzzled as to how to counter this for the sake of the children within the families. We try to be courteous and warm when we do have opportunities to interact with these children and perhaps these small personal contacts can make a difference. We are reminded that it is necessary to forget about our own emotions and hesitations and respond to needs we see with faith that we will be led. "God doesn't call those who are qualified, but qualifies those who are called." Although we tend to feel that our system of social services is more capable of dealing with the needs we see, we also recognize that in spite of the best intentions it can be an obstruction to constructive aid.

Our faith in the long history of the Quaker Peace Testimony is strong and we try to do what we can to support institutions and organizations that promote peace. The current media reports that keep pointing out the misrepresentations that has been used by our administration for the Iraqi war hopefully will encourage recognition of the real goals for the invasion. Because the majority of Americans seem to support current policy, in a sense we are all perpetrators of violence in spite of ourselves. We are aware of how closely linked violence is to economic opportunities and exploitation. Other than protesting to our legislators, there seems little we can do to counter this.

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

Sixth Day – Friday – 7/30/04

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from ? Do they not come from our cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.
---- James 4:1-3

Deborah Dakin and Debbie Galusha have been appointed as readers this morning.

On the evening of Third Day Friends gathered to hear Collection presenter Don Reeves of Central City Monthly Meeting, Great Plains Yearly Meeting talk about "Agricultural Economy in a Time of Transition.

On Fourth Day afternoon Don was joined by a panel of IYMC members directly involved in agriculture (Mark Quee, Perry-O Sliwa, Jonathan Fisch, Doyle Wilson, and Ken Fawcett) for a discussion on Quakers in agriculture. Scattergood School Committee presented information on its new capital campaign and other information of interest.

Representatives from Iowa Peace Network and Friends Committee on National Legislation also presented on Fourth Day afternoon. Evening Collection was a panel of IYMC adult and young Friends (moderator Kay Meyer, Eli Stakland, Doyle Wilson, Lois Laughlin, Betty Hawthorn, Michael Taylor, Joey Winchell, and Hana Norval) who spoke about changes in the world and their lives and have been affected by those changes.

On Fifth Day afternoon Marion Solomon shared about her work with Christian Peacemakers, a Friend/Mennonite/Brethren coalition dealing with peacemaking in the Mideast and Iraq. There was also a review of the Youth Retreat Program approved at last summer's IYMC sessions. Parents and others shared about their experiences. That evening Friends welcomed Craig H. Marantz, associate rabbi at the Omaha Temple Israel. He talked about the basis for social action in the Tanakh, (what Christians have come to call the Old Testament) and engaged in a lively discussion with Friends.

There have also been many opportunities for Friends to spend time working on the school's farm and grounds, attend committee meetings and interest groups, quilt, and have fellowship with each other. We expect these kinds of opportunities will continue throughout the rest of annual sessions.

We are happy to welcome Richard Sauers, new president of William Penn University to our annual sessions.

We listened with interest to the 2003 Entertainment Committee Report. We ask the Representatives to confer with trustees and the 2004 Entertainment Committee as they consider how to disperse the excess funds of annual sessions.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The monthly meetings, Decorah, Iowa City West Branch, and Whittier were the hosts for the 2003 gathering. Scattergood Friends School provided the facilities under the leadership of Jan Luchini and staff.

This year we had over \$5,700 to pass on. This seems like a large amount. Perhaps some of it could be given to the Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees for more meetinghouse expenses.

	Receipts	Expenses
Received from 2002 Committee	\$4,346.00	
Interest (through 6/14/04)	30.37	
Contributions	10,133.00	
Total receipts	\$14,509.37	
Junior Yearly Meeting		\$ 88.05
Young Friends		70.29
Scattergood Friends School		8,000.00
Child Care		400.00
Supplies		71.58
Printing and Postage		108.93
Total expenses		\$8,738.85

Forwarded to 2004 Committee (6/14/04) \$5,770.52

On behalf of the Entertainment Committee
Judy Cottingham

We listened carefully to the report of the Discipline Revision Committee. We are very aware of the hard work this committee has been doing on our behalf. We approve the report, including the change in the title of the Discipline.

DISCIPLINE REVISION COMMITTEE REPORT

Current members of the committee are Gordon Bivens (Ames), Herbert Standing (Bear Creek), Sherry Hutchison (Des Moines), Jeff Cox (Iowa City), Marge Schlitt (Lincoln), Beth Wilson (Paullina), Marc Robinson (Penn Valley), Carol Gilbert (Omaha), Ed Clopton (West Branch), Jim Bromwell (Whittier). We do not currently have a representative from Decorah.

In order to better communicate its purpose to both outsiders and members, we recommend that our discipline be re-titled:

FAITH AND PRACTICE

The Book of Discipline of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friend (Conservative)

Religious Society of Friends

Having reviewed our mandate from Yearly Meeting minutes, most explicitly expressed in the 1997 Interim Committee Report, and repeated in subsequent Yearly Meeting actions on our annual committee reports, we believe our revisions are timely and will increase the usefulness of the Discipline. We appreciate the patience of the Yearly Meeting.

Attached is a copy of our current working outline. Sections that have already been distributed to monthly meetings or made available to them via their representatives on the revision committee are marked with an asterisk. Our intention over the next year is to post on the yearly meeting website, and distribute in hard copy to monthly meeting clerks, Sections II-IV before Midyear Meeting, and probably the remaining sections before the 2005 Yearly Meeting sessions.

Some meetings are discussing the draft sections together and finding this a good opportunity to examine aspects of our faith and practice; others are distributing sections for comments or having committees review them. We encourage everyone to read them and respond as they are led, keeping in mind the value of corporate discernment with their monthly meetings.

The following sections have been given to monthly meetings or are available from meeting representatives.

- Meeting for Business
- Death and bereavement
- New meetings

- History
- Marriage meaning and clearness
- Marriage procedure
- Stewardship of personal resources
- Ministry and Oversight/Counsel
- Sexuality
- Recording of ministries

Appendix to be included in printed minutes.

Status = *substantially complete.

I—Introduction-- Quotations from Iowa YM people have been collected. More are welcome. Selections will be made at the end of the writing process.*

II—History—has been updated and released for review by meetings.*

III—Faith and testimonies*

- An introduction to our Spiritual Experience: The Inner Light, Continuing Revelation*
- Meeting for Worship (retain the 1974 version)*
- Some principal testimonies such as Integrity, Simplicity, Peace and non-violence, Equality of all before God. Draft is nearly ready to share with Monthly Meetings.*

IV---Living our Faith--- from individual choices such as conscientious objection, personal relationships, choice of career, financial priorities, to corporate testimonies such as education, economic justice, criminal justice, and world peace. A few of these have been discussed by Monthly Meetings. This section needs the most work.

V—Advices and Queries—already approved by the Yearly Meeting.

VI—How we are organized and how we get things done

- Meetings for Business –draft has been shared with Monthly meetings*
- Monthly Meetings
 - organization,
 - membership*
 - Ministry and Counsel –almost ready to share*
 - Committees for Clearness—almost*
 - Care of members, marriages, memorial services*
 - Working with the Yearly Meeting

- How new meetings are started*
- Yearly Meeting
 - Organization, leadership, committees
 - Yearly Meeting sessions*
 - Scattergood Friends School

VII—Reference

- Friends Organizations*
- Bibliography & Suggested Readings*
- Glossary
- Index

Submitted on behalf of the committee,
Carol Gilbert, clerk

We heard the Yearly Meeting Trustees report and the Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees report. The Scattergood Foundation Trustees are appointed by the Yearly Meeting Trustees. We appreciate and approve the report.

YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES REPORT

We appoint Alberta Kisling and Mark Patton to the Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees with terms to expire in 2008.

We have received 24.68 acres of land from Ernest Pemberton. The care of this property is assigned to the Scattergood Friends School Foundation.

We would like to thank the 2004 Scattergood graduating class for the painting of the porch of the meetinghouse and to Joey Giffen-Hunter for his continuing care for the meetinghouse.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Checking Account-First National Bank, Primghar

Initial Balance 7/1/2003	\$502.64
Interest	0.13
Received from IYM	1000.00
Funds Available	\$1502.77
Funds Disbursements	
Partial payment of no-interest loan	\$1000.00
Balance on Hand 6/30/2004	\$502.77

Liabilities – remainder on no-interest loan \$500.00

Respectfully submitted,
A.M. Fink

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL FOUNDATION TRUSTEES
REPORT

Scattergood School Foundation received donations of \$98,210. Earnings for the year were at 3.5%, while the growth of the foundation was 15.6%.

	Income	Expenses
Donations	\$98,210.00	
B.C. Ziegler interest and dividends	2,897.00	
Edward Jones Account	486.00	
Checking Account	3.00	
Westwood Interest and dividends	33,721.00	
	\$135,317.00	
Checking account distribution		\$3,950.00
Westwood Trust distribution		29,325.00
Accrued payable		7,800.00
Support to Scattergood School		41,075.00
Investment fees and bank charges		10,575.00
Total expenses and transfers		51,650.00
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$83,667.00	

Growth of Foundation	2002-3	2003-4
B.C. Zeigler	\$51,353	\$53,188
Edward Jones Account	12,964	14,276
Westwood Trust	1,014,788	1,091,936
Cash in checking accounts	1,040	8,857
Accrued income	5,275	4,705
Interest free loan	(5,000)	(5,000)
Payable – school		(7,800)
Land – 24.68 acres		<u>85,150</u>
Investments and Earning	\$1,080,420	\$1,245,312

We listened intently to the Scattergood Farm Report, the Scattergood Friends School Director Report, and a report and minute from the Scattergood Friends School Committee. We are excited by the opportunities being created for Scattergood students and the wider community by the work being done at the farm. We appreciate very much the work and dedication of the school staff and the school committee and are indebted to them.

We know this has been a difficult year for the school and we are grateful to the staff, school committee and students for the way they met the challenges and carried the work of the school forward. We especially thank Lucy Hansen, School Committee clerk, and Jan Luchini, interim director for their leadership in this difficult time.

We approve the request of a five percent increase to the Yearly Meeting allocation and ask our representatives to seek to make that possible through our budget.

FARM REPORT

Dear Friends:

The Scattergood Farm is an ever-changing landscape: new fences, new pastures, new livestock, new employees, new students, new markets, new trees, and new relationships. Vitality and diversity are fundamental to the mission of the farm: to provide students with unique learning opportunities; to provide fresh, healthy meat and produce to the many people who use Scattergood; and to serve as an outreach tool for the larger Scattergood community. With these things in mind, there are many good things to report from the Scattergood Farm.

Innovative teachers continue to find new ways to use the farm in their classes. Matthew Goldfarb integrated plant ecology, animal biology, and soil sciences in his Biology and Advanced Biology classes. Students researched our various livestock, witnessed the birth of a lamb, later dissected the ewe they watched give birth (a hard lesson in pasture health and the evils of hemlock poisoning), helped plant asparagus, studied prairies and learned about the history of our soils. Seventh Block saw four seniors take part in a month-long “farm trip,” during which they lived apart from the students on campus, did the daily chores on the farm, assisted with much of the spring planting and helped complete the fencing of new pastures. Dana Foster again featured poultry in one of her project classes, in addition to the Farm Projects offered by Matthew and

Mark. Farm crew continued throughout the year and invited all students and staff to come out early on Thursday mornings, to join in larger tasks and enjoy a farm breakfast before heading back to campus for classes. We also added an egg crew that cared for the chickens while gathering and processing their eggs. With so many people actively engaged with life at the farm, the walking path wore thin by the end of the school year.

The farm emphasized food production for the school during the last growing season, ending the year having provided the kitchen over 3500 pounds of fresh organic vegetables. This total does not include thousands of pounds of apples that were processed into cider and sauce last fall. The cooks must be commended for their commitment, creativity and effort in using all these fruits and vegetables. The farm has also ambitiously embarked on meat production for the school by adding turkeys and roasting chickens, as well as grass finished lamb and beef. We currently have small herds of cows and sheep that will be built up until we reach our pasture's holding capacity.

The farm's commitment to reaching out the wider community has fostered many changes this year. We started a 23-member CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) in which families paid a subscription fee at the beginning of the year that entitled them to a weekly box full of farm produce throughout the growing season. Some current subscribers are so pleased that they are already trying to sign up for next season, and one person described Mondays as her family's favorite day of the week because of the fresh organic produce they pick up at the farm then. We continue to market to New Pioneer Coop and have also provided vegetables for Devotay Restaurant. Matthew and Mark have been invited as guest speakers at two Cedar County Farm Bureau meetings, welcomed many groups to tour the farm, and next fall will welcome many more guests as the school hosts a day of workshops for Iowa City's annual From Field to Family Festival.

The many successes are the result of the work of a multitude of people, starting with the many Scattergood faculty who somehow find ways to be involved at the farm through teaching classes, leading projects and crews, volunteering during their free time and subscribing to the CSA. Ken Fawcett must once again be thanked for his hard work in planting and harvesting the school's conventional row crops, while also acting as an all-purpose consultant for farm staff. Lucy Hanson, Larry Marsh, Don Laughlin, Tom Spicer and AM Fink deserve thanks and praise for helping with building maintenance, while Perry-O Sliwa and Bob Winchell have provided much ongoing support in their roles as members of the Farm Subcommittee.

While there is much now to celebrate, there remain many goals for the future: the farm continues to hope for a successful capital campaign to assist in construction of an on site classroom, public restroom and food processing area. Farm staff housing also needs strong future consideration. In general, there are many opportunities to spruce up the buildings at the farm and to provide a more pleasing aesthetic environment. And of course, we continue to seek new ways to maximize food production for school use.

Last year the report to Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) ended with "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." We have made much progress in many areas and look forward to everyone's support as we continue to meet these goals.

Submitted on behalf of the Farm Subcommittee by
Mark Quee
Farm Manager

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL REPORT

This was another wonderful year here at Scattergood despite some major transitions in the dean and director positions. We ended the year with a sense of peace with the events of the past, and a united reaffirmed optimism for our future.

There were 15 seniors this year who participated in the graduation ceremony on May 30, 2004. They included: Beth Barrett, Emily Rhodes, Da-Young Seo, Daniel Peña, Demario Davis, Maria Hwang, Matt Allis, NaLi Park, Paul Kabel, Ryan Howe, Sara Helm, Skyler McLean, Tara Kilgo, Young-Bong Kim and Zach Schaefer. Four of our recent graduates are from Korea and one is from Mexico.

Congratulations to next year's seniors Moriah Spicer, who was named the Bob and Sara Berquist Scholar, and Alex Bruner, who was honored with the Fine Arts Scholarship.

Several staff have elected to "graduate" also and not return to Scattergood next year. They include: Pam Williams, Sean Egan, Amy Scattergood, Michael Lynch (intern), Dan Rhudy, Jennifer DeFrancisco, Peter Craig, and Sara Karbeling. We are appreciative of and would like to thank them for their numerous and vast contributions to the school.

Those staff members choosing to return for the 2004-05 are: Adam Kurth, Anders Matney, Beth Bliss, Dana Foster, Elisabeth Beasley, Emily McLain, Erin Lane, Hans Niehus, Heather Godley, Irving Treadway, Jan Luchini, Jennifer Warnecke, Joey Giffen-Hunter, John

Morman, Matthew Goldfarb, Margie Figgins, Meisha Kun, Mark Quee, Mike Watson, Sarah Giffen-Hunter, Shannon Pingnot, and Lorry Perry. New additions to the Community include: Carrie Marsh, Debby Goodwin, Jamie Michener, and Jeremy Tinder. We are truly looking forward to working together in the months ahead.

We started the 2003-04 school year with 56 students and ended the year with 54 young adults that learned what it means to live in community. The 2003-04 year's tuition was set at: \$18,900 for full boarding; \$16,800 for five-day boarding; and \$10,500 for day students. (We were one of the few boarding schools that did not increase their rates in 2003-04.) This year the school committee approved an increase for the 2004-05 school year to: \$20,000 for full boarding; \$18,500 for five-day boarding; and \$11,000 for day students. The total net revenue for tuition was \$612,787, for an average cost to parents per student of \$11,141. Financial Aid totaling \$343,213 went to families, with \$156,915 of that being funded with donations from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), the Scattergood Friends School Endowment, and the Measey Fund. The remaining \$186,298 was unfunded. Annual Giving and other donations totaled \$359,171. Thank you to all of the many donors for whom we are extremely grateful. Overall we finished the budget (excluding depreciation), with a net gain of \$66,162. Not bad considering we were projected to break even again this year. This was due to a combination of things but mostly to being at 99% of our income goal and only 90% spent in expenses in the operating budget.

Thank you to all of the staff who continue to spend the school's resources responsibly and to the Admissions and Development offices for all their efforts.

As usual, this year a number of trips strengthened our curriculum. Students attended the Quaker Youth Leadership Conference in New York and attended Midyear Meeting in Iowa. The traditional service-oriented 7th block trips took one student to Mexico; three students and one staff member to the Great Smoky Mountains; six students and two staff along the East Coast. Four students interned at the Scattergood Farm, living in the farm cottage and quadruplex with two staff supervising their work; while three students also living in the quadruplex went to work at Uptown Bill's Small Mall in Iowa City. Four students biked with Hans Niehus from Natches, MS, back to Scattergood. All returned to campus with heightened senses of awareness and the satisfaction that they can and do contribute to making a difference in the world.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following Friends in Residence or visitors to the school this year. Michael Luick-Thrams,

author of *Out of Hitler's Reach: The Scattergood Hostel for European Refugees 1939-43*, came to visit with his Bus-eum that traveled across Iowa exhibiting correspondence and artifacts from WW II Prisoners, who were originally from Iowa. Cyril Paul & The Calypso Monarchs (Oct 10-14), singer/songwriter Anne Heaton, and The Friendly FolkDancers (Jan 16-18) were our musical guests this year, providing a wide-range of music and culture. Our February intersession Friends in Residence included Jennifer Hamilton teaching Vedic Meditation; Dawn Hunter with Improvisation & Modern Dance; Mark Helm leading a rigorous week of Martial Arts; and Erin Burkhart, who offered a hip sewing class. Life Coach Eric Roalson came for a Saturday evening required activity on communication skills.

Physical improvements included the purchase of a '95 Dodge pickup truck for the Facilities Department funded by a designated donation. We also saw several electrical upgrades to the wiring on campus. This year's senior project included improving the exterior of the north side of the gym, reworking the herb wheel, planting three new standard apple trees in the school's orchard and painting the front porch of the meetinghouse.

We continue to be blessed with Friends who donate gifts "in kind" and in the form of sharing. They include: Carolyn Berquist DeHority and the late Bob Berquist for the piano which now graces our dining room; the Bunn family for a student lounge sofa; Emily Chenoweth for books to our library; Ruth Hampton and the Howe family for external frame backpacks for camping trips; Roy Helm & Pam King as well as T.C. & Lorraine Strack for photography and darkroom equipment; Noah, Linda, and Joe Mills for an aquarium and equipment; David & Anita Tucker for a student lounge ping-pong table; and Lorry Perry for helping a student apply to and attend summer programming at Exeter. In regards to the East Coast seventh block trip, we thank Clay Boggs, The Old First Reformed Church in Philadelphia, Southminster Presbyterian Church in Pittsburg, Cambridge Meeting House, Earlham College, Olney Friends School, and Carolyn & Allen Treadway and John McLean. We thank Perry-O & David Sliwa as well as Edna & David Rhodes for hospitality offered during the seventh block farm trip. Thanks to Tom and Isaac Spicer, Wetherill Winder, Larry Marsh, Don Laughlin, Lucy Hansen, Jan & Karl Knock, AM Fink, and Perry-O Sliwa, for hard work done during the May 14th Scattergood Work Day and thanks to the many others who have made this a wonderful year for our community. This year the School Committee request a \$1,500 or a 5% increase in funding to \$31,500 for the 2005-2006 fiscal year.

We especially thank IYM (Conservative) for their continued support to the school in so many ways as individuals and as a meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Luchini
Interim Director

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL AND RELATED ENTITIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2004

ASSETS	School	Related Entities Farm	Foundation	Consolidating Entries	Consolidated Totals
Current Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents					
Cash in bank	\$39,938	\$15,463	\$8,857		\$64,258
Petty cash	\$600				\$600
Cash & equivalents-			34,209		34,209
Westwood Trust					
Total cash and equivalents	\$40,538	\$15,463	\$43,066		\$99,067
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$4000	\$26,267	\$699		(\$7,800)	\$19,166
Accrued interest and dividends			4,705		4,705
Farm inventories		2,690			2,690
Investment in growing crops		1,666			1,666
Prepaid insurance	31,800				31,800
Total Current Assets	\$98,605	\$20,518	\$47,771	(\$7,800)	\$159,094
Property and Equipment					
Land & land improvements	\$213,839	\$108,210	\$85,150		\$407,199
Buildings and improvements	2,370,736	105,055			2,475,791
Vehicles	113,667	11,808			125,475
Equipment	676,897	46,760			723,657
Breeding stock		8,276			8,276
Less: accumulated depreciation	(1,414,111)	(119,915)			(1,534,026)
Total property & Equipment	\$1,961,028	\$160,194	\$85,150		\$2,206,372
Other Assets					
Long term investments – marketable securities			\$1,125,191		\$1,125,191
New Horizons Farm	3,035				3,035
Service stock					
Interest in net assets of Scattergood Friends School Foundation	1,245,312			(1,245,312)	
Total Other Assets	\$1,248,347		\$1,125,191	(\$1,245,312)	\$1,128,226
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,307,980	\$180,712	\$1,258,112	(\$1,253,112)	\$3,493,692

LIABILITIES AND NET

ASSETS					
Current Liabilities					
Accounts payable	\$19,296	\$2,173	\$7,800	(\$7,800)	\$21,469
Interest payable	1,436				1,436
Retirement contribution payable	-	-	-	-	-
Student deposits	14,943				14,943
Deferred income	19,688	4,260			23,948
Loans payable (interest free)	20,000		5,000		25,000
Current portion of long-term debt	39,844				39,844
Total Current Liabilities	\$115,207	\$6,433	\$12,800	(\$7,800)	\$126,640
Long-Term Debt					
Note payable – Mazda	\$5,292				\$5,292
Credit					
Notes payable – US Bank	144,947				144,947
Less: Current portion of long-term debt	(39,844)				(39,844)
Total Long-Term Debt	\$110,395				\$110,395
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$225,602	\$6,433	\$12,800	(\$7,800)	\$237,035
Net Assets					
Unrestricted	\$1,752,184	\$174,279			\$1,926,463
Temporarily restricted	236,284		151,402	(151,402)	236,284
Permanently restricted	1,093,910		1,093,910	(1,093,910)	1,093,910
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$3,082,378	\$174,279	\$1,245,312	(\$1,245,312)	\$3,256,657
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$3,307,980	\$180,712	\$1,258,112	(\$1,258,112)	\$3,493,692

Combined Statements of Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2004

	School	Related Entities Farm	Foundation	Consolidating Entries	Consolidated Totals
Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets					
Revenues and Other Support					
Tuition – Gross	\$976,350				\$976,350
Less: Scholarship allowance	(363,563)				(363,563)
Tuition support–Measey Foundation	\$90,840				\$90,840
Tuition and tuition support -Net	\$703,627				\$703,627
Contributions and other support -Schedule 1	234,587			(41,075)	193,512
Fees and charges	14,835				14,835
Other operating income	11,706				11,706

Farm income – Schedule 3		40,181		(10,000)		30,181
Investment Income:						
Interest and dividends	4,287					4,287
Net realized and unrealized loss on investments	14,298					14,298
Investment fees	(2,070)					(2,070)
Net assets released from restrictions	285,999		41,075			327,074
Total Revenues and Other Support	\$1,267,269	\$40,181	\$41,075	(\$51,075)		\$1,297,450
Expenses						
Payroll	442,303					442,303
Personnel costs	125,887					125,887
Personnel development	7,981					7,981
Professional services	11,359					11,359
Contracted services	27,550					27,550
Insurance	42,057					42,057
Occupancy costs	57,799					57,799
Supplies	45,004					45,004
Food service	49,350					49,350
Vehicles and equipment	26,421					26,421
Communications	15,606					15,606
Promotion	103,299					103,299
Technology	56,963					56,963
Other expenses	23,047					23,047
Bad debts	13,182					13,182
Depreciation (excluding laptops)	107,100	7,524				114,624
Farm expenses–Schedule 3		22,041				22,041
Grants to related parties	10,000		41,075	(51,075)		
Total Expenses	\$1,164,908	\$29,565	\$41,075	(\$51,075)		\$1,184,473
Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$102,361	\$10,616				\$112,977
Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets						
Investment Income						
Interest and dividends			\$37,107			\$37,107
Less: Investment fees			(10,576)			(10,576)
Contributions and other support – Schedule 1	38,081					38,081
Net realized and unrealized gains on investments			81,225			81,225
Change in interest in Scattergood Friends School Foundation	66,681			(66,681)		
Net assets released	(285,999)		(41,075)			(327,074)

from restrictions						
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	(\$181,237)	66,681	(66,681)	(181,237)		
Changes in Permanently Restricted Net Assets						
Contributions		\$98,211				\$98,211
Changes in interest in Scattergood Friends School Foundation	98,211			(98,211)		
Change in Permanently Restricted Net Assets INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	\$98,211	\$98,211	(98,211)	\$98,211		
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$3,063,043	\$163,663	\$1,080,420	(\$1,080,420)		\$3,226,706
Net Assets, end of year	\$3,082,378	\$174,279	\$1,245,312	(\$1,245,312)		\$3,256,657

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

A year ago at this gathering we had the opportunity to meet and get to know the new director of Scattergood Friends School, Sean D. Egan. The search committee had worked hard in its efforts to find a good leader for the school, and we had faith that those efforts wouldn't need to be repeated in the near future. This past spring undid those hopes as we came to realize that Sean would not be with us next year, or even for the end of the school year. For personal and professional reasons, Sean left Scattergood on March 26, 2004 and returned to his home in Chicago.

The School Committee named long-time business manager, Jan Luchini, as acting director for the remainder of the year. At our May 15 meeting we accepted the recommendation of the Interim Director Search Committee and asked Jan to continue in the position of director for the coming year. She has done a wonderful job leading the Scattergood community through what could have been a disastrous time. The period of transition went relatively smoothly for which we have been very thankful. We should also recognize the hard work and stability all the staff members provide to Scattergood. They are a very dedicated and caring group of people.

A search committee consisting of Anita Allwood, Dwight Schumm, Bob Yeats, Lucy Hansen, Richard Johnson, Callie Marsh, Joey Giffen-Hunter, Dana Foster, plus two students to be added this fall, is in the process of finding a director to be in place for the beginning of the 2005-

06 school year. Fortunately, or not, the process is still fresh in our minds and we are optimistic for the future of Scattergood.

On behalf of the School Committee,
Lucy Hansen, clerk

Scattergood School Committee Minute

At the July 24, 2004 meeting of the Scattergood Friends School Committee, there was discussion concerning the allocation to Scattergood Friends School from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), and whether or not we should request an increase each year. It was decided to request an increase this year of 5%, or \$1500, for a total of \$31,500. The minute reads: **For this year the school committee requests a 5%, or \$1500, increase in funding, to \$31,500.**

On behalf of the School Committee,
Lucy Hansen, clerk

We heard the report prepared by the Yearly Meeting Religious Education Committee. We approve the report with thanks.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Reports were received from eight meetings. All express a variety of topics explored as part of individual and corporate spiritual development.

Children's programs report two expanding groups of young children. One notes a sharp decline.

Some topics mentioned are: the Bible, *Candles in the Dark*, prisons, slavery, Quaker history, queries, death, books of Proverbs, what Jesus said, miracles of prophets compared to those of Jesus, war, pacifism, and conscientious objection, moral and ethical decisions. Involvement with projects is also popular. Some mentioned are: establishing a peace pole, the Heifer Project, skits, recycle art projects, drawing portraits of members and attenders, making foot rests, preparing snacks to share after meeting.

One report noted a struggle for consistent programming. Several actively support involvement in Iowa Yearly Meeting events and activities. Several meetings enjoy intergenerational activities in the religious education program.

Discussion topics mentioned included: queries, Quakerism 101, FCNL priorities, Discipline revision topics, *Quakerism* by L. Kenworthy,

A Living Faith by W. Cooper, core Quaker themes of beliefs, traditions, and faith, James Naylor, Margaret Fell Fox, Inquirer's meetings in homes for attenders and others.

Within each report there was a wide variety of both topics and activities addressing concerns and interests of those involved.

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

We were pleased that way opened to have time to complete the reading of the queries and answers begun on Fifth Day. We appreciate that some meetings have included responses of their children, as has a meeting who has a prisoner who is a member. We thank the assistant clerk for receiving and selecting responses for us to hear. (For all queries and answers see Fifth Day minutes)

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

Seventh Day – Saturday – 7/31/04 Seventh Day A.M.

We return to the business of Yearly Meeting.

*A child said **What is grass?** Fetching it to me with full hands,
How could I answer the child? I do not know what it is any more
than he.*

*I guess it is the handkerchief of the Lord,
A scented gift and remembrancer designedly dropt,
Bearing the owner's name someway in the corners, that we may see
and remark, and say **Whose?***

-----Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*

Dan Treadway and Karen Greenler have been appointed as readers this morning.

On the afternoon of Sixth Day Friends were treated to a musical performance by Deborah Dakin and Bob Yeats, assisted by Jules Galusha. They performed a musical interpretation written by Duane Heller of a Wilfred Owen anti-war poem, *Strange Meeting*. Friends also

had the opportunity to attend a discussion led by Marion Love, Jackie Leckband and Frank Elder on conscientious objection and hear about an outreach project to Yearly Meeting youth regarding the topic. Richard Tiffany and Rusty Martin shared of their own experiences with the draft. Evening collection presenter was Jeanne Herrick-Starre, senior fellow for civil liberties and human rights with Friends Committee on National Legislation. Jeanne is a member of Mountain View Friends Meeting in Intermountain Yearly Meeting. She helped give Friends reason to remain hopeful and faithful as she shared about her own faithful work at FCNL.

We listened with joyful hearts to the epistle prepared and read by Jr. Yearly Meeting F/friends. We enjoyed seeing the walking sticks they made during the week and hearing about their many activities. We especially express gratitude to adult Friends who provide leadership and give of the time to JYM. We have noticed the way young F/friends care for each other. It is a good lesson for us.

To Junior Yearly Meetings Everywhere,

More than a dozen kids from three states and from Sweden gathered at Scattergood Friends School near West Branch, Iowa from July 27 through August 1 for Junior Yearly Meeting.

We make a project every year. This year we made walking sticks. People used to travel with walking sticks, used them to tell days, and shepherds used them with sheep. We thing they are actually made for walking. Do you think they could be good for pool sticks? Some people do.

We learned that Bible stories, pictures, people, and walking sticks are not always what they first appear.

We went to Fawcett pond, had a hayrack ride, and fed these enormous catfish. We also did games. We played capture the flag and sang silly songs. We camped at the Laughlin's farm, and looked at the wind generator and batteries that provide power for their house.

We hope to spend more time with kids just our own age next year. Mostly, though, we want people to know we are grateful for the things that they do for us and for the time we spend together. Signed by the members of Jr. Yearly Meeting

We listened carefully to the Auditing Committee Report and the report of the Yearly Meeting Treasurer. We appreciate the reports and the work that went into them. We are grateful for the good and careful care of our resources. We approve the reports.

AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT

We have examined the Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) Treasurer's records for the period of Seventh Month 1, 2003 to Sixth Month 30, 2004 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.

Don Laughlin and Roy Knight

YEARLY MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT

JULY 1, 2003 - JUNE 30, 2004

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
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	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
William Penn House	\$300.00	\$300.00
Total Contributions	\$37,875.00	\$37,875.00

DELEGATE EXPENSES

American Friends Service Committee	\$500.00	\$286.00
Friends Committee on National Legislation	\$600.00	\$0.00
FWCC General	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
FWCC Triennial	\$500.00	\$500.00
Total Delegate Expenses	\$2,600.00	\$1,652.92

YEARLY MEETING EXPENSES

Archives Committee	\$200.00	\$22.00
Clerk and other Adm. Expenses	\$400.00	\$149.70
Committee Expenses (other)	\$500.00	\$0.00
Contingency Fund	\$1000.00	\$0.00
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Junior Yearly Meeting	\$2,000.00	\$278.36
Midyear Planning Committee (Excess Receipts)	\$1,100.06	\$1,100.06
Midyear Planning Committee (for excess of expense over receipts)	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Publication Committee	\$2,700.00	\$2,466.00
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship	\$300.00	\$0.00
Special Needs Committee	\$500.00	\$0.00
YM Entertainment Co mmittee	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Young Friends	\$1,500.00	\$900.00
Young Friends Travel & Conference	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Total Yearly Meeting Expenses	\$15,800.06	\$7,359.60

Total Budget	\$56,275.06	\$46,887.52
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STATEMENT OF CASH AND FUNDS

CASH BALANCE JULY 1, 2003 \$24,275.63

RECEIPTS

Monthly Meeting's Apportionments	\$48,000.00
Interest Earned	\$257.71
Sale of Disciplines and Minutes	\$25.00
IYM Youth Weekends - Reimbursement	\$1,300.00
Recovery of outstanding checks over 1 yr old	\$200.00

Total Receipts	\$48,000.00
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TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE **\$74,058.34**

DISBURSEMENTS

Budget 2003-2004 Expenditures	\$46,887.52
FWCC Triennial Travel Fund Reserve Expensed	\$3,065.90
IYM Youth Weekends Expensed	\$300.00
Total Expenditures 03-04	\$51,234.42
Less transferred to F.W.C.C. Travel Fund	- \$500.00
Total Disbursements	\$50,735.42

CASH BALANCE JUNE 30, 2004 **\$23,304.92**

FUNDS

General Fund balance available for year 2004-05 \$22,120.82

F.W.C.C. TRIENNIAL TRAVEL FUND \$3,750.00

Disbursed this year \$3,065.90

Added this year \$500.00

Balance June 30, 2004 \$1,184.10

TOTAL FUNDS June 30, 2004 **\$23,304.92**

EDCO Community Credit Union, Des Moines

Savings Account \$22,200.98

Draft (Check) Account \$1,103.94

TOTAL CASH June 30, 2004 **\$23,304.92**

We listened with interest to the report of the Yearly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committee and a minute they brought forward. We ask the clerk to send out the letter in the report that concerns the Universal National Service Act to senators and representatives of all states where we have a number of active members and attenders. We approve the minute of appointment of Deborah Dakin to the Friends Peace Teams Coordinating Committee and request our Representatives to budget travel expenses for this work. We ask Representatives to consider the request for \$100 line item for the Peace and Social Concerns Subcommittee on Conscientious Objection.

PEACE AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Members of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) have felt the weight of current world conditions, and have worked, both as monthly meetings and as individuals, to express and live up to our concerns. There is no shortage of things to do. The tasks and concerns of last year still remain. Indeed most of the activities members engaged in last year through their meetings and in their communities continue to this day.

The war in Iraq has made the seeking of a way to live non-violently a higher priority in our lives. We come together to support each other in this and to teach our children as well. We gather regularly for many discussions on how to express our Quaker faith in the world. Our monthly meetings are a center for worship, prayer, discussion and education in finding what it means to express our faith, and how to allow our faith to guide us.

What the government calls "The War on Terror" and its related policies continues to compel many members to take a public stand. Throughout the area of our yearly meeting, we have joined others in vigils, protests and marches opposing U.S. foreign policy, and the domestic policy that enables it. AFSC, FCNL, Iowa Peace Network, STAR-PAC, the internet and many other sources enable our meetings to be well informed and join in the ongoing work to change our government's policies.

Some members were moved to civil disobedience as a public stand against the Iowa National Guard's participation in the war. Their monthly meeting served as a clearness committee for their action. During the process of their arrest and trial, they were able to give public testimony to the hope that others in the National Guard would resist service. Two of these same members were subpoenaed to give

information to a federal grand jury. Their monthly meeting responded with a minute that was quickly circulated across the country. The tremendous amount of publicity and public outrage caused the subpoenas to quickly disappear.

The proposed reinstatement of the draft has moved many members to action. Individual letters and personal visits to our elected representatives continue as we share our deep conviction that conscription is morally wrong. Members are working to help young men and women think deeply about being called to war, and to live the consequences of their decision about conscription. We are working to find the most effective way to do this. A subcommittee of our members is being formed to invite creation of a coalition of groups working on issues related to the draft and conscientious objection. Sample notebooks with information on creating a personal portfolio will be distributed to each monthly meeting. We strongly support the work that has already been started by our members, and encourage anyone in Iowa Yearly Meeting who feels so moved, to help in any way they can. We ask the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) to approve \$100.00 to become a line item for our subcommittee for conscientious objection.

A number of things have been done to offset the civilian costs of war. This has included helping send material aid to Iraq and Afghanistan, working with a refugee from Nigeria, and being involved with various events having to do with Israel/Palestine. We treasure our ties to Ramallah Friends School and this relationship continues to help keep us connected to the people there.

Last year, the Peace and Social Concerns Committee authored a minute and a letter regarding the human rights issues involved in the international coffee trade. As a result of this, several monthly meetings now buy and drink coffee that pay the harvester a living wage. Information is posted on the Quakernet.org website on how to purchase Costa Rican coffee from Monteverde.

War extracts its toll not only on people targeted in far away lands, but on the most needy at home. As disciples of Christ, we are called to respond to the ever-present needs in our communities. Our charge is to love and care for our neighbors. Jesus instructed us, "*Feed my lambs.*" (John 21:15) There is no shortage of things to do. IYM members are found working with both national and local community programs that feed, house and support the poor, elderly, and disabled. This past year, we have painted homes, served in soup kitchens, and served those with mental and physical handicaps and needs. We have cared for the ill and dying. We have tutored and taught.

Many members have been moved to work with those in prison. This has taken the form of visiting and writing prisoners, participating in *Alternatives to Violence* workshops, sharing our faith through Quaker meetings in prison, and helping with adjusting to life outside after the prison sentence is finished. Other members work actively with organizations to abolish the death penalty, serve on statewide and national boards of these groups, work legislatively for prison reform, and visit prisoners on death row.

A number of members have continued work with Native American issues. This has included financial support for education and remembrance events of local history. One member traveled to Colorado to participate in the Gathering of Native Americans and Quakers held at Boulder Meetinghouse. Friends interested in learning more about the Gathering are encouraged to contact Herbert Standing.

It has been exciting for members to discover ways to support life on earth in all aspects. We appreciate being introduced to the Earth Charter by one of our monthly meetings. This meeting found the process of studying and discussing the Charter in order to endorse it extremely beneficial. Peace and Social Concerns will be sending a copy of the Earth Charter to each monthly meeting, and requests them to study it and consider endorsing it, as so moved.

Indeed, there is no shortage of things to do. Sometimes it is easy to get overwhelmed. Then we remember the adage, “Anyone who thinks they are too small to make a difference has never been in bed with a mosquito”. We believe that each of us **does** make a difference if only as we strive to be examples of practicing non-violence in conflict situations and in our conversations with neighbors and with one and another.” John Woolman’s admonishment, “Don’t let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do,” continues to encourage us. We look back on this past year with gratitude for being able to worship and practice together, and a renewed commitment to continue taking whatever steps we can to make our world more just and livable for all.

Our budget \$1,100 included no carryover from the previous year. These were the disbursements for this fiscal year.

**Peace and Social Concerns Committee Budget
July 1st, 2003 – June 30, 2004**

AVP	\$50.00
AFSC (for Immigrants)	\$100.00
AFSC (Iraq, Afghanistan work)	\$100.00
AFSC (Iraq)	\$75.00

Criminal Justice Ministries	\$100.00
Friends Committee Uniting with Nature	\$25.00
Friends Peace Teams	\$50.00
Jackie Leckband – CO work	\$25.00
Joint Service Project (Pine Ridge Quaker Work Camps)	\$50.00
Monteverde Friends School	\$50.00
National Peace Tax Fund	\$50.00
Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty	\$100.00
New Covenant & Peace Education Center	\$50.00
Ramallah Friends School	\$100.00
Torrean Community Store	\$50.00
Western Missouri Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty	\$100.00
Total Disbursed	\$1,100.00
Budget	\$1,100.00
Total Budget	\$1,100.00
Spent	\$1,100.00
Carry over	\$0.00

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee decided to increase our contribution to the Monteverde Friends School this year because of the theft of all their laptop computers. This is a major financial setback, and we ask that any members of the IYMC to consider making a donation to the school to help offset the loss.

Following this report is a letter regarding the proposed reinstatement of the military draft, written by the committee during Yearly Meeting. We request it be sent to all the elected federal representatives in the geographic area of Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) . We strongly encourage others who feel similarly led, to follow suit with individual letters.

For the committee,
Deborah Dakin, clerk

Letter to Senators and Representatives

To senators from Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, South Dakota, Minnesota \ Nebraska and Wisconsin; also, all Iowa Representatives and the representatives from Kansas City, MO, and Lincoln and Omaha, Nebraska, and Madison, WI:

As a historic peace church, we are concerned about the possible reinstatement of the military draft, which some may see as a way around the extension of time that National Guard and other military units are being required to stay in Iraq.

The Universal National Service Act, HR 163 and S 89, would require every citizen of the United States and every other person residing in the United States between the ages of 18 and 26 to perform a two-year period of national service in a military or civilian capacity that promotes the national defense, including national or community service and homeland security. The President would prescribe regulations to carry out this Act, including means to determine conscientious objector claims. This bill would amend the Military Selective Service Act by including women.

A young person would have to be inducted before his or her claim for conscientious objection would be considered. This would be unacceptable to those whose consciences would not permit them to serve in the military, and probably would put them in legal jeopardy before their conscientious objector claims were even considered.

Section 8 (a), Conscientious Objection, includes the words, "...shall, when inducted, participate in military service that does not include any combatant training component," but such person may be "transferred to a national service program for performance of his/her obligation under this Act."

This required cooperation with the military would be unacceptable to our young people and probably many others on grounds of conscience, potentially resulting in resistance of the kind that happened during the Vietnam War.

We urge you to vote against this bill if it comes up in Congress. Please amend the Military Selective Service Act to provide a method for people to declare conscientious objector status at the time of registration.

On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative,
Deborah Fisch, clerk

Minute from Peace & Social Concerns

Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) has been invited to send a representative to serve on the board of the Coordinating Committee of Friends Peace Teams. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee read a letter from Deborah Dakin expressing her desire to do so. We support Deborah's leading to represent us and think it valuable to renew the IYMC connection with Friends Peace Teams.

The board meets twice a year. They will meet this November in Indianapolis, IN and the second meeting is tentatively scheduled for

March in Santa Monica, CA. Board members pay transportation costs as well as approximately \$70.00 for each meeting to cover food and expenses. We request financial assistance in the amount of \$600.00 towards travel and meeting costs for her to be in attendance as our representative.

We listened deeply to the report of the Yearly Meeting Ministry & Counsel Committee and to an excerpt of Deborah Fisch's report to that committee on her ministry through Friends General Conference. She has been led to ask herself and through her report, the entire Yearly Meeting, to consider whether we in IYM(C) have faithfully and fully responded to our spiritual calling. These words bless and challenge us. We humbly and gratefully receive this message, and thank the Lord for our continuing gifts through which we draw courage, hope and faith for the work before us.

Our loving ties to our sister Conservative yearly meetings give us strength. AS way opens, Herbert Standing will attend the 2004 sessions of OYM and AM and Deborah Fink will attend the 2005 session of NCYM(C). We approve the report.

(The clerk stood aside for consideration of this report. This minute was written by the assistant clerk.)

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE REPORT

We read the report from Ginger and Jim Kenney, who attended North Carolina Yearly Meeting (C) earlier this month and who found the experience very enriching. Once again we are grateful for the presence of Nancy Craft, and also Lloyd Lee Wilson, who come from North Carolina Yearly Meeting (C). We feel it is important that we continue to encourage intervisitation within the Conservative yearly meetings so that we do not lose the spiritual ties which bind us together. We recommend that, if possible, the Yearly Meeting appoint representatives to attend Ohio Yearly Meeting and North Carolina Yearly Meeting (C) next year. We ask that a traveling minute from the Yearly Meeting clerk be sent with them.

We appreciated reading the State of the Meeting reports from each monthly meeting. Working for peace and justice issues was evident. Meetings were concerned about ways to meet the spiritual needs of the members. Many reports spoke of concern for their children and young

people, helping them to understand Quaker values. Love and care for each other was evident as a strength within the meetings.

We need to be reminded that the State of the meeting reports are to reflect the spiritual condition of the monthly meeting. Specific lists of peace and justice activities of the meeting, and statistics such as births and deaths, etc. are usually included in other reports to the Yearly Meeting. Activities and events are an important part of our meetings but should be included here only as a general statement on how they relate to the spiritual enrichment of the meeting.

Alberta Kisling will work with Martha Hampton as clerk-in-training for the coming year so that she will become clerk of the Ministry & Counsel Committee the following year.

We appreciated hearing a very powerful and spiritual report from Deborah Fisch as she continues her travel in ministry and work with Friends General Conference in the Traveling Ministries Program and as staff person for both the Advancement and Outreach and Ministry & Nurture Committees. She expresses so beautifully how God has worked through her that she may share those Gifts of the Spirit. Deborah strives to be faithful in her ministry. She is most grateful for the roots from which she came as she continues to be nurtured by Iowa Yearly Meeting (C).

Some quotes from endorsements to her traveling minute express the importance to others of her ministry: “Deborah’s spiritual depth has enriched our fellowship and our meetings for worship with attention to business.” “We have been blessed with the fruits of Deborah’s love and many gifts. We felt continually God’s presence in her ministry.”

The Ministry & Counsel Committee encourages Deborah in her ministry. As a means of support we send with her a traveling minute and approve the continuance of the Anchor Committee which meets with her periodically. We include an excerpt from Deborah’s report.

On behalf of the Ministry & Counsel Committee,
Martha Hampton, clerk

Excerpt from written report by Deborah Fisch to IYM(C) Ministry & Counsel Committee

..... I was clear, before beginning this work (*at FGC*) that I have been called to be what is called a “Conservative” Friend. I do find rich opportunities to learn and grow in the Spirit through my worship, fellowship, and service among liberal, unprogrammed Friends, but so far at least, these experiences have only strengthened and deepened my roots here among Conservative Friends. I understand the importance of keeping balance between continuing revelation and teachings of the

Bible and other religious writings that have stood the test of time. But I also understand that as experienced by primitive Christians and early Quakers, both of those must be firmly rooted in the Spirit of the Living Christ. This is part of what I understand is *our* tradition, that which we seek to Conserve.... It is a wholeness that like three ply yard is impossible to pull apart without destroying the integrity of the individual strands or the yarn as a whole. It is a personal relationship with the Divine, the Christ Within; it is a community relationship and mutual accountability with the meeting (also in relationship to the Christ within). And it is living that faith in a way that we take it into the world (through our work, our families, our play, our relationships, our words, and our service.)

Many of the calls I get from Friends with concerns about the Religious Society of Friends, their meetings, and their own journeys are exactly the same concerns that I hear and feel here in our own beloved yearly meeting. We may have a seed of Truth for which the Religious Society of Friends and the world yearn, but we have not always been faithful to conserve it for ourselves, let alone for others. We have not been nurturing it.

Earlier this year I was asked to speak on the topic of not burning out in ministry and staying faithful for the long haul at a retreat for a group of Friends who travel in the ministry. I thought it a funny topic to be given since in the grand scheme of things six years is not a “long haul” and I have a tendency to go until I’m depleted of what the Spirit has given me to give, and then need to go and “whole up” for several days. I prayed that God would make it clear to me what it was I was supposed to share. What came clear to me is that if we want to be faithful for the long haul, we have to give up the idea of being faithful for the long haul. We are called to be faithful, period. Each day God asks us to give everything we can give (granted some days that is more than others) and each day God renews us as needed....as I write this I am reminded that the people of Israel could not hoard up their manna when they were in the wilderness, but rather had to trust that God would continue to provide them what they needed for each day’s journey. I wonder what are we at IYMC are waiting for, saving ourselves for? Is not this our time? How do we become “expectant” once again? How do we learn to support each other, be involved in each others lives, expect each other to be faithful and accountable as Friends? How do we begin to find words for experiences of the Divine that in the past have been shared by a lifetime of living in a rather closed faith community? How to we risk once again to be radical in our faith, with ourselves, our brothers and sisters in the meeting and then the world?

The night before I was to speak I had a dream and God was asking me to prophesy. It was one of those dreams that I've now forgotten, but was then vivid details. Still I remember the basic dream. I was arguing with God, telling him that prophesying was not one of my gifts, that I was supposed to be talking on not burning out. God didn't seem to be taking to my argument. When I awoke very early in the morning I was restless because the dream had been so vivid..... There was a large room next door *and a Bible* ... was open to the parable of the farmer and the tree. The parable was the one where the beautiful tree had not born fruit for three years. The farmer wanted his hired hand to cut down the tree, but the hired hand pled for him to give the tree one more year and he would fertilize it and tend its roots to see if it might yet bear fruit. The farmer relented and said, "Okay, one more year." My question that day was, "Are we (the Religious Society of Friends) that tree?" The question has not left me.

We were happy to listen to the report of Young Friends. We will send out their epistle with the epistle of IYM(C). WE hold Sarah Winchell who is on the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage in Europe in our prayers. We appreciate the report. We especially thank Joseph Kiltyka for his continued faithful service as the Young Friends adult leader.

YOUNG FRIENDS REPORT

On the first day of Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) there were very few of us and we spent a morning trying to figure out what we would be doing this week. Later that day we did a service project for Scattergood, taking shingles off of the art building roof (south side). It wasn't as hot as it could have been, but we all worked up a sweat. We went swimming in the Scattergood pond later that afternoon. That evening, we went to collection called "Changes in Our Lives."

On the second day of Iowa Yearly Meeting (C), more of us arrived and that morning Mary Snyder came and did a workshop with us on Quaker growth and education. Later that day, we played Frisbee and went swimming at the Fawcett Pond. The Junior Young Friends spent time with us too. A mud fight (in a very Quaker-like fashion) was endured afterwards. That evening, we went to the movie, *Fahrenheit 9/11* at Campus Three Movie Theater.

On the third day we sat in for Meeting for Worship, and half of business meeting. Afterwards we had a discussion about the movie,

(*Fahrenheit 9/11*) and what we thought of the events included. We thought it was a good movie, and that everyone should see it. It was very informative and moving. After we were done talking about the movie Emma showed us pictures and talked to us about her experience in Mexico last summer. It was good to have her back. That afternoon we listed to a two hour discussion about conscientious objection. It was a little long, but valuable. That evening we went to the Friends' cabin, where we played different kinds of cards, while trying not to get eaten alive by mosquitoes. We had a fire lit in the fireplace, where we roasted marshmallows for s'mores. We tried watching *Bowling for Columbine* on Ian's laptop, but towards the end the battery died. We were talking till the wee hours of the morning, but eventually we all fell asleep, some before others.

We celebrated the break of day this morning with Krispy Kreme doughnuts. We then packed up and drove back to Scattergood, where we don't have to sleep on hard wooden floors. Over all, we really enjoyed the cabin experience, and hope to return next year. Today we plan to finish writing or epistle, and later go swimming with the Junior Friends. This evening there's a contra dance, which we are all looking forward to.

To sum up, this week was a blast. The weather was great, and we learned a lot about Quakerism. We missed Sarah, because she is at a Quaker Youth Pilgrimage in Europe. We also wanted to thank the Tomer's for the use of their van, and the Fawcett family for the use of their wonderful pond. This week was great, and we look forward to next year's yearly meeting.

Possible ideas for next year: canoeing, back to the Friends cabin (but well prepared) Fawcett Pond, renting a movie, more Quaker workshops.

Sincerely,

Young Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

We have received the report of the Nominating Committee. We approve of the recommendations and the report.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The experienced Friends that were selected by their monthly meetings to serve on the Nominating Committee made our work go smoothly. It was particularly helpful when one monthly meeting reviewed the members of committees from their meeting and determined those who wished to be relieved of service and suggested possible replacements.

The Committee also appreciates the willingness of Friends to accept service on the Yearly Meeting committees when asked. Other Friends told members of the Nominating Committee of their interest in serving on specific committees. This also made our work easier. We encourage Friends with specific interest to continue this practice in the future.

On behalf of the committee,
Dan Schlitt, convener

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 41st Street, Des Moines, IA 50312, (515) 277-1970, deborahfisch@earthlink.net

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

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

Assistant Treasurer: Jim Kenney, 6100 W. 52nd, Mission, KS, 66202, (913) 362-8362, gkenney@kcnet.com

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

Archives

2005

Joan Tucker
Tim Shipe

2006

Herbert Standing
Dan Treadway*

Margie Haworth

2007

Owen Crosbie
Wilmer Tjossem

Document Committee

2004

Decorah Friends Meeting

Entertainment Committee

2005

Ames
Des Moines Valley

2006

Decorah
Whittier

2007

Paullina
Omaha

Penn Valley

West Branch
Iowa City

Lincoln

Yearly Meeting Young Friends Planning Committee

2005

Joseph Kieltyka
Ryan Howe

2006

Sarah Winchell*
Rebecca Guss

Junior Yearly Meeting (for Yearly Meeting)

2005

Christine Kelly
Catherine Dorenbach

2006

Lucinda Harms
Carol Gilbert
Penny Majors

2007

Bill Deutsch*
Ed Clopton
Jules Galusha

Interim Committee

2005

Ebby Luvaga
Larry Marsh

2006

Ted Solomon
Jim Kenney

2007

Marilyn Mantel-Guss
Roy Knight

Norval Tucker

Cheryl Sutton*
Marcelline Hinshaw
Catherine Dorenbach
Sheryl Scheffert

Owen Crosbie

Richard Johnson
Wilmer Tjossem
Margie Haworth
Dixie Collins

Mary Mendenhall
Kathy Day
Russ Leckband

Lois Tjossem
Ernest Wilson
Susan Murty
Deslonde Lamb
Lorene Ludy

John Griffith
Bill Deutsch

Library Committee

2005	2006	2007
Olive Wilson	Mary K. Stillwell	Wanda Knight
Muriel Bivens	Betty Hawthorn	Joan Tjossem
Marc Robinson	Martha Davis*	Megan McCormick

Midyear Planning Committee

2005	2006	2006
Osa Bricker	Christine Ehl	Lois Tjossem
Alberta Kisling	Wanda Knight	Teri Groover
Jackie Leckband	Winifred Standing	Roy Hampton
Nickolas Kieltyka	Marion Love	A.M. Fink
Megan Knight	Christine Kelly*	Nancy Plagman
	Elsie Kuhn	

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

2005	2006	2007
Jules Galusha	Ryan Howe	Megan Knight
Cindy Winchell*	Dan Pearson	Emma Deutsch
Carol Spaulding-Kruse		Clair Cumbi-Drake

Ministry & Counsel Committee

members are appointed by each monthly meeting

2005	2006	2007
Alberta Kisling	Christine Ehl	Jerold Matthews
Martha Davis	Marge Schlitt	Marilyn Mantel-Gus
Ruth Dawson	Bill Deutsch	Adnrea Holveck
Doyle Wilson	Ginger Kenney	Beth Wilson
Dixie Collins	Wilmer Tjossem	Martha Hampton*
	Laura Neece-Baltaro	Megan Knight
	Nancy Ewald	Jane Cadwallader Howe
		Elsie Kuhn

Publications Committee

2005	2006	2007
Ed Clopton	David Duer	Margie Haworth
Jeff Kisling*		

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

2005	2006	2007

Marjorie Parris	Jim Bruner	Judy Plank
Herbert Standing	Jim Cottingham	Winifred Standing
Ian Taylor	Marian Solomon	Jackie Leckband
Wendy Vasquez	Sherry Hutchison **	Rachel McNair
Kathy Gardner	Deborah Dakin*	Brynne Howard
	Joey Giffen-Hunter	Lori Nelson
	Jay Robinson	Jesse Leckband

Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee

2005	2006	2007
Roy Hampton	Wilmer Tjossem	Ginny Winsor*

Religious Education Committee

2005	2006	2007
Judy Cottingham*	Bill Deutsch	Marshall Massey

Youth Retreat Subcommittee of Religious Education

2005	2006	2007
Cheryl Sutton	Debbie Galusha*	Kay Meyer
	Jules Galusha	Daniel Treadway

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.

9/05	9/06	9/07
Anita Richards	Debbie Galusha	Ed Clopton
Dan Schlitt	Bob Yeats	Daniel Treadway
Kirk Bragg	Perry-O Sliwa	Jeff Cox
Barb Garlinghouse	Callie Marsh	Robert Winchell

Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees

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

2005	2006	2007	2008
Jack Holveck	A.M. Fink	Gordon Bivens	Alberta Kisling
Judy Cottingham*	George Welch	Doyle Wilson	Mark Patton

Special Needs Committee

2005	2006	2007

Joey Giffen-Hunter Marilyn Mantel-Gus* Jackie Leckband
Sherry Hutchison

Seventh Day – Saturday – 7/31/04
Seventh Day - 2 P.M.

Yearly Meeting Trustees

2005	2006	2007	2008
Beth Wilson	Doris Jean Newlin	Roy Hampton	Jim Cottingham A.M. Fink*

**Friends Agencies Representatives of Iowa Yearly Meeting
Conservative**

AFSC Corporation Members

2005	2006	2007
Nancy Ewald*	Lori Nelson Jean Eden	Robert Yeats Dan Schlitt

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

2005	2006	2007
Jonathan Fisch*	Richard Baltaro	Gordon Bivens
Alberta Kisling	Burt Kisling Harvey Hinshaw, alt.	Debbie Calusha

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

2005	2006	2007
Marion Love*	Betty Hawthorn	Martha Davis Ginny Windsor

Iowa Peace Network

Lucinda Winchell Russ Leckband

William Penn House Consultative Committee

Alberta Kisling* Jim Kenney
Richard Baltaro, alt.

We close the morning session to reconvene at 1:45 p.m.

We resume the business of Yearly Meeting

Love silence, even in the mind.... Much speaking, as much thinking, spends; and in many thoughts, as well as words, there is sin. True silence is the rest of the mind; and is to the Spirit what sleep is to the body, nourishment and refreshment. -----

Wm. Penn 1699

Carol Gilbert and Ed Clopton have been appointed readers for the afternoon.

We are happy to welcome Cynthia Schmidt, a member of Twin Cities Friends Meeting, Northern Yearly Meeting.

We listened carefully to the reading of the State of the Meeting Reports. We are mindful that this year's Ministry and Counsel Committee asked us to be more diligent in sharing with each other how the Spirit prospers in our meetings in our State of the Meeting reports. By this endeavor we all may benefit both in the examination and sharing it with each other. We are aware of the blessing visitors have brought to our monthly meetings and encourage each other to look for opportunities to visit fellow meetings and invite others to visit. We appreciate the tenderness of heart have has gone into the preparation of these reports.

Ames Friends State of the Meeting Report

Our small group continues to nurture each other in many ways. Fellowship is very important to us. Our monthly shared meals and weekly Quaker breakfasts continue to be a way for us to reconnect and find peace and light during our busy and sometimes hectic lives. Everyone must pitch in and play one or two roles to make things happen such as First Day School, library upkeep, yard work, clean up.

We have experienced joyful gains and painful losses. We welcomed Mark and Sandy Tomer and their children, Nathan, Evelyn, Adrienne and Justin as new members of our meeting. Longtime member Dick Squires moved permanently to Florida to live with his daughter. We miss him very much. Christie Ehl, Dan Ehl and Joseph Kieltyka lost

their son, stepson and brother, Dominic to drowning early this spring, and we grieve with them.

With several young Friends, First Day School is going strong, and we continue to be amazed at their thoughtfulness as they discuss and summarize our queries each month. They have also performed several entertaining and informative skits for us with some playing multiple roles. Currently, our Young Friends are planning a 12-sided peace pole for the Meetinghouse yard. Each of the young people will do research and translate the phrase "Let Peace Begin with Me" into two languages, making 12 languages in all.

Each month this winter and spring, we've discussed a different query of special interest. These discussions help us to grow in understanding ways we can contribute to a better world in large and small ways. Forums by special guests were given on Palestine, globalization, and the Holocaust and we discussed Discipline revisions. Our open house on October 9, 2003 drew people to listen to our special guests, David Culp and Joseph Gerson. Again this year we handed out flyers from the War Resisters League on Tax Day. Many participated in peace marches and forums in Ames and beyond throughout the year. We are extremely concerned about the conflict in Iraq that seems to be deteriorating as each day goes by.

The First Day room in our basement has been enclosed and finished with drywall and wooden trim. Our yard was full of blooming jonquils, bleeding hearts, violets, and other spring flowers this year, providing us and our neighbors with a beautiful reminder that love and growth are all around us, and that even after a dark and freezing winter that seems unending, the flowers return.

Bear Creek State of the Meeting

Our meeting is united in our effort and concern for the mentally ill. We are encouraged by the progress being made at New Horizons. With money raised on ice cream socials, rummage & bake sales and help from other donors we finally have a building erected to serve the clients of West Central Mental Health Center. Volunteers are busy wiring, framing the interior, and installing plumbing. There is much more to be done and more money is needed, but we are finally seeing the reality of our vision for a place for the mentally ill of Dallas, Guthrie and Adair County to come together for fellowship and help. We are grateful for the support and assistance of many outside our meeting.

Midyear Meeting was held April 3rd & 4th. "A Gathered Presence: Creating a Community of Conscience in The Composition Classroom" was presented by Richard Johnson and "Learning Quakerism" was

presented by Mary Snyder. We gathered in small groups Saturday evening sharing experiences and stories. We appreciated the active participation of those who attended and our time of fellowship with each other. Midyear Meeting is an important spiritual weekend for our small meeting. We value our worship together and the spiritual guidance of our leaders. It is a precious time of sharing with other Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) Friends and the opportunity to deepen our spiritual lives and recommit ourselves to our search for truth.

Members continue to work for peace in many ways; letters & visits to congressmen, marching for peace, and attending FCNL, AFSC and Iowa Peace Network sessions. We helped bring Bobby Muller, a Vietnam combat veteran and an anti-war leader to Des Moines. He is founder and president of the Vietnam Veterans Foundation. He was co-recipient of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for his work in the Campaign to Eliminate Land Mines. He spoke to several groups and was guest on the Jan Mickleson radio talk show.

We will be working to get out the vote in the November election. We are dismayed by the actions of our administration in the name of patriotism & national security. We have discussed the value of the use of queries in trying to talk to people who do not agree with us and in trying to understand their beliefs.

Arnold Hoge died in February. He had been an active member in Whittier, Costa Rica and finally in Bear Creek. He was a strong supporter of our meeting and a willing worker mowing the lawn, painting the school house and other tasks. He had a wonderful sense of humor and enjoyed a good time. We miss him.

Des Moines Valley and Bear Creek were joint sponsors of the wedding of Marion Love and Dennis Kirkwood, with many in Yearly Meeting in attendance.

We recently had a visitor day and invited people in our community for meeting and pot luck. While not many came it was pleasant and we became better acquainted with each other as we explained how we became Quakers.

Our meeting is small and we know each other well, and care for each other. We depend too much on one person for vocal ministry. We do not always put our spiritual life and our meeting as our first priority. Regular and punctual attendance is at times deficient. We find the queries useful as we question our faith and practice. Perhaps we err on the side of works, but our faith requires that we work for peace, care for the sick and unfortunate, and serve our community in whatever way we can. We hope our works are grounded in guidance from the Holy Spirit. We know that we need to "Be still and know that I am God."

Decorah Friends Meeting State of Meeting

Decorah Friends began our fall schedule with a weekend workshop led by Mary Snyder and Deborah Fisch, focusing on recognizing our own spiritual conditions and moving forward in God's light. Those in attendance were enriched by our time together and by the opportunity to consider discernment of God's leadings in our lives.

As the agenda for adult meeting for learning was formed, these considerations were strongly with us. As a result, scheduled topics revolved around spiritual matters such as discernment and intercessory prayer, and away from more common topics at Decorah Friends Meeting, such as social issues and our response to political situations. It created an unusual and interesting year. How is it that with spirituality strictly on the agenda, we talked less about our own spiritual passions, less about our personal present spirituality?

Do we open ourselves more to God's leadings and to an honest look at our own journey when we are scheduled to talk about prison reform, or when we do a Spear's Bible Study, or when we actually plan to talk about God's leadings and our own journeys? How can we be mindful of what touches each person?

Strengths of our meeting grow from our love for each other, and include personal attention to those who are sick or otherwise in need. Communal lunches on First Day allow us to be richly part of each other's lives.

Concerns about our meeting come from those who long for a more unified stance and base of action on social issues. There is also some concern about whether we are doing enough to help the children of our meeting understand the ways of Friends. Currently they are attending Sunday School at a Baptist congregation.

We hold dear the opportunity to worship together each week in the manner of Friends. We appreciate having our own meetinghouse in which to gather, and we appreciate being able to share the space with others. And we continue to value the special gatherings which have become traditional parts of our year, including at the times known as Easter and New Year's Eve.

Decorah Friends have a rich tradition of spending time together and of nurturing each other. We continue on that journey, seeking guidance from the Spirit. May the Love that we share guide us as we hold the past year in the Light, seeking clearness in reporting and in living our lives together.

Des Moines Valley Friends State of the Meeting

Could there be a better place to be than at a Quaker potluck?

Well, maybe, if you are staring at a multitude of desserts wondering when the fried chicken will appear; no, if you are a sweets lover; and yes, if you are trying to stay away from sugar. These were the choices confronting the attendees at our end-of-the-school-year picnic. As usual, everyone made the best of the situation and there were few complaints.

Opportunities to enjoy homemade foods, with a touch of store-bought supplements, are abundant in our meeting, from coffee and snacks after Sunday worship, monthly simple soup lunches, our plentiful Thanksgiving meal, treats provided by the Hospitality Committee for our Holiday music program and our talent show, Father's Day Brunch, to the final dessert blow-out at the picnic. We have embarked on a kitchen renovation project, to better serve our culinary needs, as well as groups that use our building. We look forward to those times when we can nourish our friendships and tickle our taste buds.

We joyfully welcomed Joe Howard and Kirk Bragg into membership. We are appreciative of the presence of regular attenders Peter Clay, Carla Barton, Elton Davis, Molly Davis, John and Louisa Findley, and Erin Stites.

Several people have moved and we miss them greatly. Dan, Kristina, Skyler and Grace Pearson have returned to Kansas City; Dan accepted a position as director of a community center serving low-income families. Charli Carpenter, Stuart Shulman and their children, Hayley and Liam will move to Pittsburgh; both Charli and Stuart will teach at the University of Pittsburgh. Brock Wommack has moved from Bonaparte, Iowa to Richland, Missouri to be closer to his family.

We celebrated the high school graduations of Katie Bobbitt, Corey Goerd, and Joe and Noelle Howard, as well as graduate degrees for Charli Carpenter and Dorothy Lifka. We acknowledge the retirement of Jack Holveck from the Iowa Senate and Judy Brutz who will take an early retirement from her position as chaplain at Opportunity Village in Clear Lake, Iowa.

Our condolences went to George Welch and Kathy Day, as both lost brothers this past year.

While we have no births to report, we note several marriages.

Dennis Kirkwood and Marion Love, married under the joint care of Des Moines Valley Friends and Bear Creek Friends Meeting, had their ceremony on a sunny Saturday afternoon, Oct. 11, at Bear Creek. John Holveck and Davel Patel married on March 30, 2004, in Washington, D.C. We're looking forward to a reception in their honor, in Des Moines,

in August 2004. Genevieve Lifka-Reselman and Luke Steinback married on May 15, 2004. Anita Richards, a former attender currently living in Grinnell, Iowa, married Joseph Allwood on May 17, 2003.

Martha and Richard Gerstenberger celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 19, 2004, in Windam, NH.

We hold Sarah Winchell in the Light as she travels, this summer, with the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage to follow the footsteps of George Fox in England and Europe. Noelle Howard traveled to Vietnam for a lengthy visit with her grandmother.

Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. have been a popular meeting time for discussion groups, this spring. Bob Winchell facilitated discussion of Elaine Pagel's *Beyond Belief* and Pam Blackburn continues a weekly meeting on the meditations in *Plain Living*, by Catherine Whitmire. Charlie Day hosts a weekly, evening meditation group. We felt the need for additional space and have contracted to rent a room, adjacent to our basement, from AFSC.

We try to maintain an air of humor and cheerfulness in the face of growing national and international outrage over our country's effort towards global military and economic dominance. It seems as if Meeting for Worship is heavy with the fog of war. We rallied around Sherry Hutchison, Wendy Vasquez, and Elton Davis in their ordeal of arrest and legal action, as a result of civil disobedience at the National Guard Armory. There are other concerns of a more intimate nature that need our attention -- interpersonal relationships, illnesses, stress, support for Friends in their endeavors whether emotional, financial, or spiritual. As always, we are supported by acts of kindness, thoughtfulness, hospitality, and compassion from members and attenders of our meeting. Children and young people brighten, uplift, and soften our troubles.

One of the highlights of the year was a talent show. A variety of entertainment, from poetry readings to musical numbers, was featured. It's appropriate that the title of the show was "Peculiar Talents of a Peculiar People on a Peculiar Day". And, of course, the goodies were plentiful and tasty.

Iowa City Friends Meeting State of the Meeting Report

We believe that the process we use in reaching decisions is as important as the decisions we make as we continue to seek creative ways to keep the Iowa City Meeting running smoothly. Listening to the Spirit Within for guidance is an important part of the process.

Anna Bradshaw, Jake Wedemeyer and Kate Cowles have served as co-clerks this year. We appreciate their special leadership abilities, and are exploring ways to delegate to other meeting attenders some of the

routine duties that our clerks have assumed in the past. These include checking incoming mail, greeting newcomers, and opening and closing the Meetinghouse on Sundays. Our meeting is small, and this influences how we fill positions and carry out responsibilities.

Informative Hospice discussions led by Susan Murty, a volunteer for Iowa City Hospice, continued from last year. Susan wrote a minute of support for Anna Bradshaw's application to become a certified chaplain for the Iowa City Hospice Program. We, also, welcomed Anna as a new member of our Meeting.

We believe that education in Friends' history and values, as they relate to world events, can better prepare us to make informed responses when these events occur. We organized a series of discussions for the spring and coming fall on the history and values of Quakerism. We refer to the class as "Quaker 101." The discussions have been lively, well attended, have raised important questions, and we are learning more about our Quaker heritage.

We are considering how we might provide a First Day program for teen-agers. We plan to do one-on-one activities and have started facilitating interviews by children with adults in the Meeting as a way to become better acquainted. Quinn Dilkes, our librarian, has purchased some useful books for the Meeting library, including a children's book on conscientious objection.

Rex Ambler's book, Light to Live By: An Exploration Into Quaker Spirituality, was the basis for a pre-meeting discussion. It presents a form of meditation used by early Friends, which present-day "Light Groups" are using. A "Light Group" was formed by Iowa City Hospice and, subsequently, one was formed within our meeting. Feedback from those who participate in these meditation groups has been positive.

Ruth Dawson meets regularly with the Consultation of Religious Communities. A major project has been coordinating volunteers to work towards alleviating lack of available space in Iowa City's Emergency Housing Project for the homeless. Plans have been set in motion for building a new facility as a result of these efforts.

A December worship-sharing session was held to explore the meaning of sharing as it relates to Christmas.

Noreen Gingerich gave a presentation on her daughter's paintings about Columbia that were on display at the Meetinghouse.

Lori Nelson presented a plan for a Peace Center that she is creating.

Jeff Cox was named our Meeting's representative to the Yearly Meeting Discipline Committee, and he serves on the Scattergood School Committee.

As Scattergood Friends School searches for a new director, we trust that our meeting, along with other monthly meetings within the Iowa Yearly Meeting, will give constructive input and support to the process.

The Iowa City Friends Meeting hosted the Eastern Iowa Gathering of Friends on November 16. Jake Wedemeyer gave a presentation on his summer experience in Mexico with the Border Committee of Women Workers. Mark Patton, new Director of the Iowa Valley Habitat for Humanity, also gave a presentation.

The war in Iraq has made the seeking of a way to live non-violently a higher priority in our lives. People in the meeting have participated more actively in peace activities, including the weekly vigils held near campus. When responding to the queries, we discussed that an alternative for our children to watching media violence might be teaching them how to lovingly care for the earth and all living things.

Lincoln State of the Meeting Report

Our meeting has been blessed with a larger attendance at meeting for worship this year. This is due to new attenders, return of previous attenders and the continuing attendance of the faithful few. Next year may be more sparse as graduate students complete their degrees and move on to other locales, and one family moves closer to relatives. We will miss them, but wish them well where ever they go.

Mary K. Stillwell was welcomed into membership in June 2003.

We again hosted a fall gathering of Nebraska Friends. Attenders came from the three old meetings (Central City, Lincoln and Omaha), a newly established worship group in Kearney and scattered Friends. Meeting together in these gatherings has been so successful that we plan to have more in the future, sharing the hosting responsibilities.

We continue our practice of discussing one query each month in a session before meeting for worship. Our answers are shared with our member in the State Penitentiary and he responds to our answers and gives his own answer.

Added to our pre-meeting activities this year has been discussion of the proposed sections of the Discipline. These have been an opportunity for thinking about aspects of Quakerism that we do not often consider. This has added depth to the discussions that we schedule on more familiar topics like membership and the peace testimony.

Sharing meals with each other strengthens our community. Once each month we have a potluck meal after worship, which attracts family members and others who do not attend worship. Friendly Suppers in people's homes are a way we expand our knowledge of each other.

We do our best to support those in our meeting community when health or personal problems occur. The passing of years creates the need for change. This year one family moved from their home of many years to a retirement community here in Lincoln. It has been a joy to have the children of members return to help in providing care when needed.

Omaha Friends Meeting State of the Meeting Report

The Meeting has been pleased to welcome several new attenders. Some have recently discovered Friends; others have had previous association with Friends. We are particularly encouraged by the steadfast and enthusiastic participation of Marshall Massey, a long time attender of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), who recently moved to Omaha.

Our lack of an acceptable place to meet continues to concern us. The current location of Meeting discourages attendance. However, efforts to find a new location that suits both our budget and our purposes have thus far proven fruitless.

We are fortunate to have young people who look forward to coming to Meeting each week and to being with each other. We hope that their relationships with one another will help keep them involved with Friends through their high school years, when children tend to drop out of meeting. We are grateful to the First Day School Committee for keeping the program going, despite our small size. Many of our young people have been enjoying the new Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) youth gatherings.

Our meeting has had a strong presence in Omaha Together One Community, a multiethnic and interfaith organization which improves our community by teaching people to become effective leaders and to work on social and economic justice issues. Working with OTOC puts us in contact with many other churches and faiths. As a part of OTOC's community work this past year, several of our attenders/members hosted immigrant worker freedom riders and were much enriched by the experience.

In November we enjoyed another gathering of Nebraska Friends, which this time included Friends from Kearney and Wayne in addition to the original Lincoln, Omaha, and Central City (Great Plains YM) monthly meetings. Central City Friends Meeting is planning a third gathering, when we may have some activity related to Wilmer Cooper's book *A Living Faith*, which many of us have been studying since we last met. We appreciate these opportunities to worship and become acquainted with nearby Friends and their concerns.

We continue to enjoy gathering together outside of Meeting for Worship. Our traditions of monthly potlucks, Thanksgiving potluck,

Christmas soup and caroling party, and summer picnic with park cleanup are important to us and are well-attended.

Paullina Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting Report

As our numbers continue to dwindle, we are more aware each year of how precious each one is to our sense of community and spiritual fellowship. Our meeting for worship continues to be spiritually renewing for us, and although the vocal ministry is limited, it contributes to both the spiritual side of our lives and the socially concerned side.

Those who attend Adult Sunday School have found the book by Parker Palmer entitled, *The Active Life*, often leading us into a lively discussion which in turn enriches the meeting hour. We miss having children in our worship and welcome them whenever there are visitors.

The loss of our long-time member, Mabel Wall, and our faithful attender, Virginia Rohwer, has left us with a sense of thankfulness for their full and active lives as well as a sense of sorrow that they are no longer with us. The two memorial services for them were especially tender times with many long-time friends and family once again joining us in worship and celebration of their respective lives.

Our contact with absentee members has continued with a letter of greeting from the meeting to each one, sent in March. The effort to compose a meeting newsletter is a struggle which means it doesn't often get done.

Meeting members and attenders continue to be active with ecumenical groups from the wider community with concerns for peace and justice, community betterment, and hospital chaplaincy. We find comfort that there are others who share our concerns on many issues as our own strength and energy diminishes.

On behalf of Paullina Monthly Meeting,
Ministry and Counsel Committee

Penn Valley State of the Meeting Report

This year could be described as one of quietude, punctuated by dramatic, sometimes difficult transitions.

Friends in Iowa Yearly Meeting have shared our grief over the death of Reva Griffith. One of her gifts was that we all considered her our friend, and each has mourned her in his or her own way. For Penn Valley Meeting, largely an organization of convinced Friends, Reva also represented a link with Quaker tradition. We already miss her in this role as well.

Our meeting was also saddened by the death of Ted Hain, a delightful man with roots in Pennsylvania who enlivened the meeting

with his pamphlets of quotes from John Woolman, Thomas Jefferson and William Penn. His passion was gardening, and many in the Meeting were blessed with wreaths of his garlic.

Joel Hembree, a member of the Meeting who has enriched our lives with his intelligence and thoughtfulness, has been gravely ill, and the life of the Meeting has been colored by concern for him. We have appreciated corresponding with his sister-in-law, as we also found it rewarding to get acquainted with Ted Hain's family.

For the first time in several years, there is a group of children large enough to inspire plans for First Day School. All the children are quite young, so the parents have time to be thinking about what kind of Quaker education they want for their children. We are delighted that Dan and Kristina Pearson have returned to Kansas City and that there are playmates for Skylar and Grace.

The spirit of the meeting during this year could be considered peaceful or slow, depending on one's point of view. There has not been a strong focus on social action, perhaps because of a sense of discouragement and lack of direction. So much needs to be done in the world that it can be difficult to know where to start. At the same time, many have noted that Meeting for Worship has a tangible spiritual quality that is widely appreciated. This quality would no doubt be strengthened by renewing some of the mid-week activities that tend to tighten our spiritual bonds to one another.

Kevin Chafin, our clerk, was very much inspired by the Pendle Hill clerking workshop with Arthur Larrabee. Perhaps as a result of his enthusiasm for creating a more worshipful Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, we have been experimenting with different physical configurations in which to conduct business. This has turned out to be an issue about which Friends have strong convictions, and we look forward to arriving in a Quakerly way at the configuration that is truly best for our meeting.

Penn Valley Meeting, being an urban meeting, has a constantly changing group of members and attenders. Very few have long histories of attendance at Quaker meetings. As a result, educating ourselves is an ongoing task and one that we take even more seriously when there are young children to guide. A series of inquirers' meetings, held in Friends' homes and dealing with different topics, was deemed very helpful by those who attended. In fact, these meetings were so satisfying to those who came that they may be offered again.

The Quaker Education Committee has supplemented the inquirers' meetings with monthly programs highlighting our Quaker heritage.

These have enriched long-time Friends as well as newcomers who were not able to attend the small meetings.

This fiscal year is ending on a note of joy and celebration. Penn Valley is proud to be holding in its care the marriage of Kevin Chafin and Donnie Morehouse. This wedding will take place July 3, 2004, in the Meetinghouse, and Friends are enjoying the flurry of preparations that are taking place in anticipation of it.

Truly, life is anchored by death, growth and love, and this year Penn Valley has felt the fullness of it all.

West Branch Meeting State of the Meeting Report

Our meeting has moved through a somewhat challenging year, though bonds of love and friendship among us remain strong. We have been saddened by the losses of Bob Darby, Bob Berquist and Janet Cook, and greatly miss their presence in our midst. Two families with children have chosen other faith communities, which has also impacted the meeting this year.

We have considered together our dwindling numbers. There are those who are actively seeking spiritual sustenance. We recognize that in order to maintain our vitality as a meeting, we need to be open and responsive to things individuals want to do, try, and discuss. We need to be robust enough individually to speak up about our needs, interests and suggestions for things we would like to do as a meeting, as well as receptive and welcoming enough to accommodate others' ideas. While we don't define our strength by our numbers, we recognize that we need to be ready to welcome new families, to embrace and involve them (without overwhelming them), and to make them feel a part of the whole. We need to continue to explore what it means to participate in a vital community of Friends.

Query discussions arising out of meeting for worship on the first Sunday of the month continue to be thoughtful and stimulating. This format seems to work well for us, and we have used this time to address other important issues at times.

There are those who would enjoy having a more consistent Adult Religious Education program. Some would like to have a place to talk about what we believe, to openly share about the inward journey, and to explore issues of faith. Too often we don't feel free to share the spiritual questions we are grappling with, yet this is an important part of our spiritual search, and perhaps an important part of our growth as a community. Good discussions occurred this year around readings about Margaret Fell and James Naylor. For several months, we discussed books in the hour before meeting. There are some who would welcome

more opportunities for this kind of sharing.

However, we continue to struggle to find an agreeable time for meeting activities. We have tried both pre- and post-meeting discussion times, Thursday evenings, and some Saturday mornings. It is nearly impossible to find times to gather that are not already promised to some other activity. This has undermined our ability to come together to share in the ways we would like. We need to recognize that even when a small number is able to gather, the experience can be valuable.

Though the number of our children and young people is considerably diminished as compared with previous years, First Day school continues to be a time of active exploration, with several meeting members participating as facilitators. We have had query responses frequently from the young people that reflect their thoughtfulness and insight. We appreciate their presence in meeting for worship and other meeting activities.

Meeting for worship continues to be the core of our shared experience. We are aware of our need to prepare for meeting adequately. We desire to be supportive of one another, as well as to prepare for the kind of spiritual engagement that participation in meeting for worship involves. Meeting involves communion with the Holy Spirit, and being receptive and prepared to respond. This is a challenging process, and something that we often fall short in, but it is worth engaging as deeply as we can. We appreciate the personal nature of vocal ministry. Often messages are inspired by nature, readings, or daily activities. Messages rooted in our personal experiences often carry deeper meaning.

Several members have been active in peace work this year, engaging in a wide variety of activities. These involvements are deeply rooted in spiritual values. For many, living their faith translates directly into being a witness for peace and to actively supporting the alleviation of suffering.

For many of us, this meeting is home. The bonds of love among us are strong and grounding.

We seek spiritual deepening and enlivening, in whatever forms that might take.

Whittier State of the Meeting Report

Whittier Monthly Meeting continues to be enriched by visitors; members traveling through that share their experiences in other parts of the country and the occasional person curious to find out about the Religious Society of Friends. We pray our meeting is a welcoming a spiritual haven for all who come.

Throughout the year, we had numerous discussions on how to practice our faith. Some of these discussions found easy accord among us. The main struggle was to find the right words to express the group's beliefs when we decided to take action. Some of these discussions uncovered deeply held differences of belief among us. Perhaps this was the true gift of coming together week after week to honor those differences and affirm our love for each other. We are grateful for all that we learn from each other.

During a recent discussion of the "spiritual health" of our meeting, one member emphatically stated, "We care for each other." May we continue to find ways to care for each other during the years ahead. Our numbers might be small in attendance, but our meetings are filled with god's presence and we appreciate sharing His presence with each other every week.

Ministry and Oversight Committee
Rachel Workman

Yahara Preparative Meeting State of the Meeting Report Madison/Manona, WI under the care of West Branch Meeting

This has been a quiet and stable year for our little meeting. We continue to be grateful for the generosity of an individual who opens his home to us each week. Attendance at meetings for worship and business and other activities usually ranges from four to seven households, sometimes more, sometimes less. We read and respond to a query from the IYMC Discipline each month, taking stock of how we put our faith into practice. We continue our monthly potluck and game night. We anticipate this gathering each month; it is filled with much laughter and sharing. A small group met weekly during the fall for worship and sharing on Patricia Loring's *Listening Spirituality, Vol. II*.

Last Fall we began to study the Earth Charter and in February '04 we endorsed it, committing ourselves to the realization of its aims. Later we sent a copy to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of the Yearly Meeting with the hope that the Yearly Meeting would also consider endorsing the Earth Charter.

Although we are small in numbers, individuals in our meeting have been involved in many activities which have enriched us all. These include: the IYMC youth retreats; Pendle Hill's "Nurturing the Spiritual Life of Friends' Meetings"; Quaker Earth Care Witness; Friendly Folk Dancers; the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice; and prison visitation supported by a minute from our meeting. In addition to this, our First Day school made and sold holiday cards to benefit the AFSC at the annual AFSC Fair in Milwaukee last December.

Our First Day school is small and we would like to have more children attend our meeting. We hope someday to have the problem of growing large enough to outgrow our space.

We appreciate our relationship with West Branch Monthly Meeting. We look forward to seeing what Love can do in our little meeting in the coming year.

We listened carefully to the report of the Yearly Meeting Recorder. We approve the report as amended with thanks to Tim Shipe for his good work. We paused to hold in prayer the beloved members and attenders of our yearly meeting who have passed in this last year, and remember tenderly the loving times we have spent with them. We will miss their presence among us, but we will continue to celebrate their love in our lives by treasuring the love we continue to hold for each other. Love never dies.

RECORDER'S REPORT

Births

Ames	Amy Marie Finklang ⁴ (to George and Julie Finklang)	12/22/2003
Bear Creek	Eric Kisling Horein (to Jeffery Horein and Lisa Kisling)	2/21/2004
Penn Valley	Olivia Rommel ¹ (to David Rommel ¹ and Amy Zeh-Rommel ¹)	

Deaths

Bear Creek	Arnold Hoge	2/14/2004
Paullina	Mabel Wall	12/10/2003
	Virginia Rohwer ¹	5/2/2004
Penn Valley	Reva Griffith	11/5/2003
	Ted Hain ¹	4/26/2004
West Branch	Robert Darby	9/15/2003
	Robert Berquist	11/8/2003
	Janet Laughlin Cook	4/12/2004
Whittier	Berdina (Betty) Hampton	3/10/2004

Marriages

Bear Creek and Des Moines Valley (jointly)	Marion Love to Dennis Kirkwood	10/2003
Des Moines Valley	Ann Robinson to Charles DuCharme	7/2003

MEETING	BIRTHS	DEATHS	CERTIFICATES OF MEMBERSHIP RECEIVED (TRANSFERS IN)	MEMBERSHIPS TRANSFERRED OUT	NEW MEMBERSHIPS GRANTED	MEMBERSHIPS DISCONTINUED	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP
Ames ⁴	0	0	0	0	3	0	32
Bear Creek	1	1	0	0	2	0	74
Decorah	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Des Moines Valley	0	0	0	0	2	0	77
Iowa City	0	0	0	5	1	0	44
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Omaha	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Paullina ²	0	1	0	0	0	0	75
Penn Valley ²	0	1	0	0	0	0	69
West Branch ³	0	3	6	0	0	3	101
Whittier	0	1	0	0	0	0	46
TOTALS	2	7	6	5	8	3	565

¹Attender, not included in statistics

²Discrepancy with last year's numbers noted; the Recorders of these Meetings feel that these numbers more accurately represent their membership.

³West Branch statistics include 5 attenders of the newly established Yahara Preparative Meeting, of whom four transferred membership from Iowa City Monthly Meeting and one transferred from Madison Monthly Meeting.

⁴Not recorded as a member, and not counted in statistics. In addition, the membership number for Ames is adjusted for Joseph Finklang, whose birth was recorded in the 2001/2002 report, and who was incorrectly counted as a member at that time.

We heard the report of the Representatives. If Yearly Meeting contributions are more than \$2000 over cost of Yearly Meeting sessions, the Yearly Meeting asks the Yearly Meeting Entertainment Committee to forward the excess money to the Yearly Meeting Trustees. This will be an annual policy. We approve the report of the Representatives with thanks.

REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

This year's proposed budget is \$2,900 more than last year. Changes from last year's budget follow:

1. An increase of \$1,500 in the contribution to Scattergood Friends School. (for a total of \$31,500)
2. A one time line item of \$600 was added under Delegate Expenses to help send a delegate to two meetings of Friends Peace Teams.
3. A one time line item of \$2,500 was added under Delegate Expenses to help send two IYMC Young adults to the World Gathering of Young Friends 2005 in England.
4. The line item for IYMC Youth Weekends was reduced from \$600 to \$400.
5. The one time line item of \$1,100.06 under 2003 Midyear Meeting Excess of Receipts over Expenses which was transferred to Bear Creek Monthly Meeting for improvements to facilities has been removed.
6. A line item of \$100 for subcommittee of Peace and Social Concerns to provide conscientious objector information to our young Friends has been added.

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 \$49,000 of the \$59,175.06 total budget be raised by apportionment.

We value the discussions that are taking place throughout the Yearly Meeting regarding the definition and value of membership. While we understand that Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) Friends are not of one voice on the issue of membership, the representatives reached clearness that they officers of the Yearly Meeting must be members of Iowa Yearly Meeting (C). This helps satisfy the requirements of fiduciary responsibility incumbent upon the officers of the Yearly Meeting.

We wish to express appreciation for the work of the clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, assistant treasurer, and statistical recorder 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, Jim Kenney
 Statistical Recorder, Tim Shipe

We recommend that Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) convene at Scattergood Friends School Seventh Month 26th to 31st, 2005.

To break First Day we suggest Sherry Hutchison.

Proposed Budget for 2004-2005

Contributions

American Friends Service Committee	\$500
AFSC Native American Program	125
Friends Committee on National Legislation	1,000
Friends General Conference	100
Iowa Peace Network	2,600
Friends World Committee for Consultation	1,500
Nebraskans for Peace	250
Peace & Social Concerns Committee	1,100
Quaker United Nations Office	200
Right Sharing of World Resources	200
Scattergood Friends School	31,500
William Penn House	300
Total Contributions	\$39,375

Delegate Expenses

American Friends Service Committee	\$500
Friends Committee on National Legislation	600
FWCC – General	1,000
FWCC – Triennial	500
World Gathering of Young Friends 2005	2,500
Friends Peace Teams	600
Total Delegate Expenses	\$5,700

Yearly Meeting Expenses

Archives Committee	\$200
Clerk and other administrative expenses	400
Committee expenses	500
Conscientious Objector P&SC Subcommittee	100
IYMC Trustees	1,000
Junior Yearly Meeting	2,000
Young Friends General Conference	1,500
Special Needs Committee	500
Publications Committee	2,700
IYMC Youth Retreats (4 th – 9 th Grades)	400
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship	300
Young Friends Travel and Conferences	500
Yearly Meeting Entertainment Committee	2,000
(If receipts inadequate)	
Midyear Meeting Planning Committee	1,000

(If receipts inadequate)	
Contingency Fund	1,000
Total Yearly Meeting Expenses	\$14,100
Total Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 59,175

Income	
To be raised by apportionment	\$49,000
From other income sources and General Fund	10,175
Total Budgeted Income	\$59,145

Monthly Meeting Apportionments

Ames	6.5%	\$3,185
Bear Creek	9	4,410
Decorah	1	490
Des Moines Valley	19.5	9,550
Iowa City	7.5	3,675
Lincoln	4.75	2,327.50
Omaha	4	1,960
Paullina	11.5	5,635
Penn Valley	9	4,410
West Branch	20.25	9,922.50
Whittier	7	3,430
Totals	100	49,000

We have listened carefully to the epistles prepared by the Epistle Committee for North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Conservative, Ohio Yearly Meeting, and Friends Everywhere. We are moved by the very well written epistles and approve the clerk sending them out on our behalf.

Epistle to NCYMC(C)

Seventh Month 2004

To Friends at North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative),

We feel a strong connection with you as Jim and Ginger Kenney share their memories of their recent visit to your yearly meeting. Nancy Craft hosted their visit and facilitated their time with you in a most gracious way. We are pleased to have Nancy here with us again.

Lloyd Lee Wilson is here and is scheduled to speak to us at pre-meeting on First Day morning. What a wonderful opportunity to make his acquaintance and hear the message brought to us through him. These

visits are valuable ways of closing the distance between us and joining us in Spiritual fellowship. God willing, AM and Deborah Fink from our yearly meeting will be visiting your 2005 annual sessions.

The theme of our yearly meeting session is “Maintaining Hope and Confidence in a World of Transition”. In our opening meeting a Friend quoted Francis Howgill, “The Kingdom of heaven did gather us and catch us all, as in a net...”

We walk in the company of God. May each heart be opened and filled that our feet may carry us down the path chosen for us to walk.

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

Epistle to Ohio Yearly Meeting

Seventh Month 2004

To Friends at North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative),

We feel a strong connection with you as Jim and Ginger Kenney share their memories of their recent visit to your yearly meeting. Nancy Craft hosted their visit and facilitated their time with you in a most gracious way. We are pleased to have Nancy here with us again.

Lloyd Lee Wilson is here and is scheduled to speak to us at pre-meeting on First Day morning. What a wonderful opportunity to make his acquaintance and hear the message brought to us through him. These visits are valuable ways of closing the distance between us and joining us in Spiritual fellowship. God willing, AM and Deborah Fink from our yearly meeting will be visiting your 2005 annual sessions.

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We walk in the company of God. May each heart be opened and filled that our feet may carry us down the path chosen for us to walk.

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

Letter to Friends Everywhere

Seventh Month 2004

To Friends Everywhere:

As we gather to conduct the meeting for worship with attention to business of Iowa Yearly Meeting we greet each other with love and joy. This is always a precious time of reconnection with our meeting family and a renewal of our spiritual fellowship. We have felt the power of the Spirit which encompasses us here and we feel a natural desire to share our love and fellowship with you, our distant Friends. We are encouraged and refreshed by the letters we receive from you.

Our theme for our sessions this year is “Maintaining Hope and Confidence in a World of Transition.” Don Reeves, president of the Board of the Center for Rural Affairs spoke about agricultural economy in a time of transition. The social institutions that we shape help to shape us and our society, in rural economy and beyond. Friends were reminded that our testimony for peace requires moving beyond being “anti-war” into being for activities and institutions that actively foster peace in the world and in ourselves.

A panel of youth and adults told stories about experiences in their lives that changed their lives and how they have been affected by those changes. Life brings many changes and our response to change can be the pivotal moments of our life. The cross generational membership of the panel made this a unique discussion.

Many find the readings of collected query answers a special time at Yearly Meeting. It provides an insight into the spirit of other monthly meetings. The selected answers speak to what is true for us. Personal experience is where our meetings and members reflect and grow in Spirit.

Quoting from last years youth epistle to the Yearly Meeting “..... We all learned something new and we can't wait until next year when we will be together again.” A new, very popular program of year-round retreats has been enthusiastically adopted by young Friends. We have fine, beautiful children and they add immeasurably to our time together.

A highlight of our meeting is always the Scattergood School Report. The school farm continues as an integral part of the school curriculum and an excellent food source for the school and local consumers. We are fortunate to have staff, committee, and students who carefully and tenderly care for our school. The school is a central focus of our

meeting; the education and care of our youth is one of our major priorities.

Many volunteer work opportunities extended themselves Friends during the time of Yearly Meeting. The flower beds on the Scattergood school grounds were carefully tended. At the Scattergood farm, beans were picked for Yearly Meeting consumption. Potatoes, tomatoes, corn and squash were all harvested for Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) delivery. Many volunteers and staff lined up to put two loads of hay into the mow.

As we listen for the still small voice of God within we have been reminded that, though we may want to turn up its volume so that we can hear more distinctly, our task might better be to reduce the clamor and demands of our daily lives and increase our sensitivity. We are called to be still. In stillness we will gather strength and know God's will and truth. We are called to a practice of faith that takes us into the world. We walk in the company of God. May each heart be opened and filled, that our feet may carry us down the path chosen for us to walk.

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

The reports of the Exercise Committee, Special Needs Committee, and Midyear Meeting Youth Report were not read in annual sessions do either to their availability before the close of sessions or restraint of time. They will be printed in the minutes of the Yearly Meeting.

We live in a time of great change, many of them hard for us to understand or address. Terrorism (both that inflicted upon us, and that perpetrated by us) and the cultivation of fear by government leaders continue to be thrust upon the world. Discerning how we as individual Friends and as Friends' meetings can respond faithfully in these times is especially challenging. It is easy to become discouraged or become frozen with the frustrating feeling that there is nothing we can really do. The selection of this year's theme, “Maintaining Hope and Confidence in a World of Transition,” has spoken to the condition of many Friends as we have gathered here on the Scattergood campus for our 127th annual sessions.

Throughout the week we have been reminded by visitors and collection presenters that it is often in the simple acts of kindness, of listening, of loving that seeds of peace and justice are planted. We do not

need to be frustrated by our seeming lack of ability to make major differences in the world. We do need to be diligent about doing the things we can. Conversations with neighbors, letters to leaders, thoughtful consumerism, and prayerful support of each other are essential as a part of faithful living. They are the rocks upon which we and others may someday build the peaceable kingdom. We are confident that as we live up to the Light we are given, new and unimagined paths forward will emerge. As we were reminded by one of the collection speakers, "What does the Lord require of us but to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God?" (Micah)

Another collection presenter said that one way to maintain confidence is by focusing on the places in our lives where we have successes, where seeds have been planted and are beginning to show signs of sprouting. We celebrated the good work of the Scattergood Friends School staff, students, and School Committee, inspired by the way they responded to some difficult situations at the school this year. We understand that the work that is done at the school is a ministry for the world. Scattergood is one of the not- so- little- things we are able to give to others. The students and staff give us reason to have hope and confidence in a world of transition!

We are blessed by the presence of children and teens among us at annual sessions. Their faithful presence at our meetings for worship, their laughter, and their willingness to help in many ways bring us great joy. We have been holding one of our young Friends in our prayers this week as she participates in the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. We have enjoyed reading her e-mails and look forward to a report sometime after she returns. Seeing our young adult Friends become active in the wider Quaker world is another reason for hope.

A part of being in blessed community is finding ways to celebrate each other and God's presence in our midst. Sharing stories around the quilt, leading interest groups, serving on committees, meetings for weeding, working together on a kitchen clean-up crew, walking together on the prairie or in school grounds, sharing meals, dancing, sharing music, singing until Quaker midnight and beyond, all have provided opportunities for us to minister to each other and come to know that of God in each other.

We continue to treasure the opportunity to listen to the State of the Meeting Reports and the answers to our advices and queries. Hearing the Peace & Social Concerns Committee report and the many things our meetings and their members and attenders have done to work for peace and justice this past year was especially encouraging. Through them we

learn how the Spirit prospers in our meetings and our yearly meeting. We are given confidence and hope.

Even as we are reminded of the many ways in which we can be thankful and hopeful, we have also found need for a time for us to comfort each other in our sorrow. We mourn the passing of beloved members and attenders of our yearly meeting and hold their families in our prayers, even as we celebrate their lives. We will not soon forget the many ways they found to be of loving service to this yearly meeting.

It has been a rich week filled with many blessings. We have found encouragement here in this blessed place where we come to renew and seek God's grace, and we are grateful.

We pray that as we go back into the wider world we will be faithful servants. That day by day, step by step, breath by breath, with God's help we will not only hold on to the hope and confidence nurtured in us this week, but in turn help nurture it for others.

We now conclude our 2004 annual sessions, planning to meet again, God willing at Scattergood Friends School near West Branch, Iowa Seventh Month 26 to 31, 2005.

Deborah Fisch, clerk

Deborah Fink, assistant clerk

Reports given afternoon of Fourth Day

IOWA PEACE NETWORK

Over the past year Iowa Peace Network (IPN) has continued to play an active role in peace building in Iowa. Through e-mail and the quarterly newsletter *Dovetail*, IPN has been a resource to peacemakers in Iowa and beyond. IPN once again sponsored a Hiroshima-Nagasaki Commemoration in August 2003, as well as a Tax Day educational table in Des Moines last April. IPN has also participated in many ecumenical services lamenting war and honoring those who have lost their lives in war. The **Peace Resource Center** continues as a resource for peace oriented items, such as T-shirts, buttons, bumper stickers, posters, and much more. In addition, the **Penalty Sharing Community** is still available to those in need of assistance with war tax resistance penalties.

The new coordinator, Jessica Ireland, started January 2004. It was only a few weeks later that the peace community in Des Moines was shocked when a member of the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force from the Polk County Sheriffs office, delivered grand jury subpoenas to four peace activists and the Drake University Lawyers Guild. One of those subpoenaed was the former coordinator of IPN, Patti McKee. They were subpoenaed because of their involvement in a non-violence training session in November 2003. This was the third of such trainings in 2003 in which IPN had participated. The purpose was to prepare individuals for a non-violent direct action protest at the Iowa National Guard Headquarters in Johnston. It was a very tense time not knowing what was going to happen and if IPN was next on the list for a subpoena. However, there was an amazing turn around. News of the subpoenas spread around the state, nation, and world which resulted in a public outcry. Due to the great display of community and perseverance of peace activists the subpoenas were quashed within a week.

IPN has continued to keep the occupation of Iraq as a primary focus. On February 15, 2004 IPN participated in a candle light vigil marking the year anniversary that the world peace community came out and said "No" to war in Iraq. On March 20, the year anniversary of the day war was declared on Iraq, IPN along with many peace communities around the state organized an International Day of Action: Lending a Hand for Peace. The day began at Drake University with a parade of more than a thousand people calling for an end to the occupation of Iraq. It was followed by a rally where Tom Hayden, Iowa Civil Liberties Union President Ben Stone, Bruce Nestor of the National Lawyers Guild, and many more led a crowd of 900 in lament of war and celebration of peace and freedom. On that day Iowa joined millions of other people around the world in the call for peace.

In April 2004 the IPN Joint Oversight Committee (JOC) discussed future actions and goals for IPN. The recent talk around reinstatement of the military draft has become a concern. The JOC decided that this issue will become a priority. Two bills that have been introduced in the U.S. Congress and the formation of draft boards around the country have already begun. IPN is concerned about the effects of a draft, especially when the country is divided over U.S. soldiers' presence in Iraq. In addition, IPN is worried about possible changes to conscientious objector status and alternative service. Over the next year IPN will keep up-to-date on the progression of the draft and resist any attempt to cancel or further resist citizen's rights to conscientious objection or alternative service.

For more information about IPN, or to subscribe to *Dovetail* please contact Jessica Ireland by phone at 515-255-7114, or by e-mail at info@iowapeacenet.org.

Thank you for your continued gifts, prayers, and monetary support. It is through these contributions that IPN can remain a strong voice for peace in Iowa.

Insert FCNL report here (get from Jon Fisch)

Reports not read during annual sessions

EXERCISE COMMITTEE REPORT

The exercise committee felt privileged to have the opportunity to record the words and meaning of the spoken ministry during our meetings for worship. The exercise of this committee deepened our understanding of the vocal ministry that was offered. The messages were:

Francis Howgill, an early minister of Friends, when describing first meetings for worship said "The Spirit of the Lord did gather us as in a net and drew us to land and gave us a place to stand in and showed us what to wait on so we may be gathered in the Spirit." So may we be brought near the kind compassionate life-giving Spirit and know one another in the depths of that love eternal, know one another in the beauty of truth and know one another in that which is good.

I need to express a feeling of gratitude. Often when I'm in need of hearing the Still Small Voice within; I wonder, "Is there some way that voice can be amplified so I can hear better?" I'm grateful that this meeting does that. How many Quakers would it take to amplify God's voice when it takes two or three to hook up our electronic sound system? I have come to realize what I seek isn't amplification of the voice of God; I'm seeking nothing more than a sensitivity to the Still Small Voice.

The voice of fear, the voice of control, the voice of anger is loud, insistent and demanding, while the voice of love is a whisper. Perhaps

today we can visualize that behind the fear, control and anger is the Still Small Voice.

“Every child” says Tagore “Every child comes with the message that God is not discouraged.” It seems our task is to pray for the strength to return the favor.

I do not think that we Quakers need to be in doubt or darkness about certain spiritual truths that are absolute. God is real. God is love. There is that of God in every person. There is the living Christ within us who tells us the Truth that we are to love each other. We are to practice justice and be humble before God. Humility can be defined in many ways, a willingness to be taught by God, to learn from him, and to put it into action. We can withhold judgment on the application of these principles, but there are those absolutes: God is. God loves. And there is that of God is in every person.

Jesus is reported to have said “suffer (allow) the little children to come into me”. The purpose of which is to learn about God. In addition to those who actually are little children, the message extends to those of us that are older, too. The challenge for us is to try to be childlike in so far as we have a sense of openness and of wonder and awe and curiosity in approaching a right relationship in God.

I often hear the word “faith” used in a way in which I would use the word “belief”. Last night’s presentation was a wonderful reminder that the word “faith” is as much hope as belief.

“This may be the last time I’m able to attend this yearly meeting”. How many times have I heard elder Friends preface statements with this? And that we understand they heard from their elders in days past. It’s become a catch word among us “midders”. As I’ve been meditating on this since our own session (NCYMC) closed a couple weeks ago, the wisdom of this attitude towards life has been impressed upon me. In the same way, as we close our monthly meeting minutes saying “We adjourn until Seventh Month Tenth Day if consistent with Divine will.” The future is in God’s hands. The present moment has been given to us; it’s

all we have in our hands; it’s all we can count on. Let us then bend our awareness and intent to be so attuned to the Divine conversation that we spend this moment... this moment...this moment doing the will of God. We can live a life so attuned that each moment we are listening and responsive to the divine voice. We can indeed lay ourselves down in the divine will and say “I am clear. I am clear. I am fully clear”.

Submitted by Sandi Tomer, Betty Hawthorn, Normal Tucker, Lorene Lusy, Catherine Dorenbach and Cheryl Sutton

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE REPORT

You shall not insult the deaf, or place a stumbling block before the blind.

You shall fear your God: I am the Lord. --Lev. 19:14

Registration forms for both Yearly Meeting and Midyear Meeting have a space for people to share specific needs, such as diet, housing, transportation, mobility, hearing needs, or visual needs.

These forms also mention having both meetings be fragrance-free environments. Fragrance-free soaps, lotions, and shampoos have been donated and are available for use at both meetings.

The personal FM audio transmitting system with four receivers is used at Yearly and Midyear meetings. Friends are asked to let the committee know if it would be useful to have this system made available for other purposes during the year, e.g., interim or subcommittee meetings.

Wheelchairs are available at Scattergood Friends School and Bear Creek Meeting. However, we are still addressing the concern for accessibility at Scattergood. Friends are asked to give names of Friends not present due to accessibility or other special needs to members of the both the Special Replies Committee (so that letters can be sent letting them know that their absences have been noticed and that we miss them) and to the Special Needs Committee (so that we may better deal with the problems).

Marilyn Mantel-Guss, clerk
Special Needs Committee

MIDYEAR MEETING YOUTH REPORT

The Junior Yearly Meeting gathered at Bear Creek on Seventh Day 4/03/04, for meeting for worship. They traveled to Kuehn Conservation Area where Jules Galusha led a workshop on making birdhouses. Afterward, they created percussion instruments assisted by Cindy Winchell, Jackie Leckband and Lynne Howard. The JYM spent the rest of the afternoon on a nature hike and playing outdoor games. That evening they participated in an intergenerational discussion about living as a Quaker, as expressed through art, writing and storytelling.

On First Day morning Marion Love facilitated a discussion of personal queries for youth, which encouraged the youth to talk about their beliefs.

The Young Friends of high school age attended the sessions with the adults. They spent part of the afternoon hiking with the youth. A group of staff and students from Scattergood Friends School were a welcome addition.

A variety of activities for preschool aged children were coordinated by Anada Fife Griffith and Lynda fife in the little school house.

Midyear Meeting Youth Committee,
Cindy Winchell, clerk

The Document Committee selects portions of epistles received by IYMC to be read in session. This year the selections did not arrive at the annual session in time to be read in the face of the meeting. Those selections are printed below so members of IYMC can have a flavor of how the Spirit has been moving among Friends throughout the world.

Netherlands Yearly Meeting

“.....On arrival at the Woodbrookerhuis we were all given a paper sun with many rays. In each ray we were asked to write our personal talents. The frank sharing of our talents helped us to become aware of the power of the Inner Light. In meeting for worship on Saturday morning the children were told about the metaphor of the prism, and how our diversity is demonstrated by the many colors that spring from one source of light. This metaphor was inspired by a design worked on the Quaker Tapestry. We reflected on the Quaker business method. A meeting

for business is a meeting for worship where we take heed of the Inner Voice, which can reach out to us in the silence.....”

New England Yearly Meeting

“....We discovered common themes throughout our sessions. In the midst of tumult and fear, whether from world events or interpersonal conflict, we are called first to be still. By waiting on God, we can discern the actions we are called to take. By shedding those burdens which are not ours to carry, we may find a singleness of purpose that allows us to overcome fear and to follow leadings of the Spirit. Our speakers suggested that in situations of conflict, we must wait, and sink beneath the emotions of the moment to a place of stillness, knowing that God is our refuge--- “Be still and know that I am God.” Confidence that God is there to be relied upon allows us to speak our truth out of love, knowing that healing is available. We recognize that God alone is the source of transformation and we are only the instruments.....”

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (FUM)

“.....God has given us the energy and vision to change the world. As Christians we have a story to tell, a song to sing, and a message to share to bring others to Jesus. It is our hope that you will join us in this vision....”

Baltimore Yearly Meeting

“.....We experienced the power of laughter and play as all ages came together in worship to sing and dance the Hokey-Pokey with new words that expressed our *Called to Be Peacemakers* theme: You put the peacemakers in, you take the warmongers out. You put the peacemakers in and you march and sing and shout. You do the power shuffle and you turn this world around and that’s what it’s all about....”

Britain Yearly Meeting

“.....Prayer is not just something that we do with our eyes shut, it is also facing the world with our eyes open. Prayer is love in action; it is profoundly subversive and can turn the world upside down.....”Dear God, help us to know the truth about ourselves, no matter how beautiful it is.”.....”

French Yearly Meeting

“....Two Friends introduced the theme for this year’s yearly meeting: “Inner Life: Silence and Ministry” with a presentation emphasizing our basic ideas, followed by practical exercises. There were also workshops to explore more deeply silence and ministry. We arrived at a level of silence which was deeper and more sensitive to the Inner Light in each one of us. Moreover we affirm our belief that our ministry and our social life should indeed be guided by the Inner Light so that we may be authentic Quakers, in other words, practical mystics.....”

Friends from Russia

“.....In small groups we shared our spiritual stories with each other and a session on interfaith dialogue broadened our perspectives. We shared our memories of the early years of Moscow Monthly Meeting and our visions for the future of Friends in Russia. With joy we met for worship every day and we closed each evening with a spiritual epilogue. Some of our F/friends enjoyed meditative walks in the snowy woods. The tea breaks gave us an opportunity for deep conversations. We promised not to forget each other and we ask Friends everywhere to hold us in your prayers as we struggle with the challenges of our developing community.”

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

“.....Bob Schmitt of Northern Yearly Meeting brought a powerful sense of the presence of the Lord in his plenary session. Bob called us to bring our love to the world and not just to focus on concerns of the day. He described his attempts to reach his own center as chipping away at the lump of coal inside him until he could find a small diamond, then holding that diamond up so that the light filled the whole room. He reminded us of the experience of Friends crying in the wilderness, like John Woolman who waited seven years to get his essay on slavery published by his yearly meeting, and enjoined us to be more tender to the unusual leadings in our midst. We are effective at attracting others by our warmth, but we need those who stoke the fire within our meetings. He reminded us that Jesus’ confidence in his disciples, even those who were weak,

provides an example for us that reliance on others in our meetings shows our love to the world....”

Great Plains Yearly Meeting

“.....We are told that war is not the answer. Quakers and others, should keep searching for ways to bring peace to the world. Friends should keep working toward this end and perhaps some day our nation will be at peace. We are trying to make our structure fit the needs and spirit of our yearly meeting at the present time, with the hope that we can find better ways to fulfill the needs of the Yearly Meeting as we grow in the future. Certain committees were laid aside, others adopted, and still others modified. These visionary moves show concerned effort on the part of Friends to accomplish our goals. It is hopeful that this will enable us to make better use of our people resource.....While the challenges at times seem overwhelming, we find that we are nourished and sustained by God’s Holy Spirit. We thus look forward to the future as we seek to practice radical obedience to Christ in living our lives. We challenge all Friends everywhere to do likewise....”

Fellowship of Friends of African Descent

“.....Earlier sessions on racism and on Spirit-led leadership reinforced the call to our being involved in the work Friends are called to do. In that spirit, two of our own reported movingly of their work: Vanessa Julye offered slices of her learnings as she continues her research on the book she is co-authoring with Donna McDaniel, **Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship**. The book explores the relationship between the Religious Society of Friends and African Americans. Gloria Thompson’s presentation of Manhattan Monthly Meeting’s workcamps in Kenya invited our attention and involvement. The Fellowship pilgrimage to the Martin Luther King Jr. historic sites and memorial served as inspirational witness of the American civil rights struggle and reaffirmation of our testimonies of peace and nonviolence.....Throughout our time together, Friends felt uplifted by the enthusiastic and wide participation of members and drew upon each others’ energy and passion, and on the vibrant Spirit present. The Fellowship looks forward to returning to Atlanta for

its eighth gathering in 2004 and to planning to gather in Africa in 2005.”

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

“.....In keeping with the peace building theme, Mary Lord offered an opening talk called, “When Peace Work Brings Division: the Prophet and the Mediator,” a workshop on “Discerning Leadings as People of Peace,” and the Walton lecture titled, “A Vision of Peace.” She reminded us of Raymond Wilson’s words, “If your toolbox contains only a hammer, then everything looks like a nail.” She challenged us to claim the lessons in peacemaking in our everyday lives, and use these insights to add to our peace tool kit. She urged us to come to our peacemaking not in our pride, but in our brokenness. Letting go of our pride as Quaker peacemakers allows the transforming power to work through us in our witnessing for peace.....As we return home in these times of turbulence and testing, may we draw strength from the inspiring Epistle of the French Yearly Meeting in the year 1943 as quoted by Mary Lord,” We do not ask that you pray that we be safe; we ask that you pray that we be faithful.” We send you our hopes and visions of peace and our prayers for all of our faithfulness.”