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Minutes of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

128th Annual Sessions
Seventh Month 26 – 31, 2005

FOURTH DAY – WEDNESDAY – 7/27/05

At the 128th annual session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) held at Scattergood Friends School, near West Branch, Iowa, from Seventh Month 26 to 31, 2005.

“We don’t have a set of a priori rules to determine how we should behave in order to nurture and sustain community, or what the community should do in order to be faithful. We do have another way to direct our actions. Community comes out of our common praxis—our practice. Community is nurtured when we try something together, and reflect together on what happened and why, and then try again—but this time a little different, based on the fruits of our common reflection.”
Lloyd Lee Wilson, *Wrestling with Our Faith Tradition*, 2005

We are glad to have the presence of these visitors: Margaret Hart—Friends General Conference Yearly Meeting Visitor, Beacon Hill Monthly Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting; Nancy Craft—carrying a minute from Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Conservative; Edward Sargent—Friends World Committee for Consultation Section of the Americas, Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting; Paul Knupp—Iowa Peace Coordinator, pastor First Friends Church, Des Moines, Iowa, Iowa Yearly Meeting FUM; Mary Lord—Associate General Secretary for Peace and Conflict Resolution of American Friends Service Committee, Adelphi Monthly Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, sojourning with Greet Street Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting; Liz Oppenheimer—Conservative leaning, yet to be named unaffiliated worship group in Minneapolis, Minnesota; David Ely—Austin, Texas; Heidi Blocker—Sandwich Monthly Meeting, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, New England Yearly Meeting; Joseph Unduga—Friends World Committee for Consultation Associate Secretary, London office, Central Yearly Meeting, Kenya.

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REPRESENTATIVES

Monthly meeting appointments of Representatives to Yearly Meeting:

Ames	Gordon Bivens, Mark Tomer
Bear Creek	Burt Kisling, Herbert Standing
Decorah	Martha Davis
Des Moines Valley	Marion Love
Iowa City	Jeff Cox
Lincoln	Catherine Dorenbach, Dan Schlitt
Omaha	Debbie Galusha, Marilyn Mantel-Guss
Paullina	Olive Wilson, Jonathan Fisch
Penn Valley	Cathy Gardner, Karin McAdams
West Branch	Jim Cottingham, Karen Greenler
Whittier	Bob Yeats, Roy Hampton

CARETAKERS

Monthly meeting appointments of Caretakers to Yearly Meeting:

Ames	Dan Treadway, Betty Young
Bear Creek	Cheryl Sutton
Decorah	none appointed
Des Moines Valley	Sherry Hutchison
Iowa City	none appointed
Lincoln	Marge Schlitt
Omaha	Carol Gilbert, Rebecca Guss
Paullina	Owen Crosbie
Penn Valley	Jim Kenney
West Branch	Callie and Larry Marsh
Whittier	Deborah Dakin, Dixie Collins

There are 14 representatives and 8 caretakers present. Others may be attending later sessions.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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

Ames	A.M. Fink
Bear Creek	Alberta Kisling, Jackie Leckband
Decorah	none appointed
Des Moines Valley	Andrea Holveck
Iowa City	none appointed
Lincoln	Dan Schlitt

Omaha	Debbie Galusha
Paullina	Beth Wilson
Penn Valley	Nancy Moon, Jim Kenney
West Branch	Lois Laughlin, Jean Eden
Whittier	Martha Hampton

We approve the following appointments suggested by the Yearly Meeting Representatives:

Exercise Committee	Sandi Tomer, Cheryl Sutton, Dan Treadway, Larry Marsh, Nancy Moon
Epistle Committee	Herbert Standing, Callie Marsh, Marshall Massey
Special Replies	Olive Wilson, Debbie Galusha, Jean Eden
Yearly Meeting Reporters	Ed Clopton, Mark Tomer,
Auditing Committee	Marion Love, Karen Greenler
To close the meeting on First Day	Herbert Standing

Readers for this morning's business sessions are: Ed Clopton and Marilyn Mantel-Guss

We listened carefully to the Midyear Meeting Report prepared by Christine Kelly, convener of the Midyear Planning Committee and the report from Bear Creek Monthly Meeting concerning the Yearly Meeting contribution toward the School House Project. The financial report will be brought to a future session this week if it becomes available. We accept the reports.

MIDYEAR MEETING REPORT

The 2005 Midyear Meeting was held at the Bear Creek Meetinghouse on April 16 and 17, with the theme of Quaker Community. 114 people attended from all Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) meetings, coming from Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Nebraska.

Stephen Angell, professor of Quaker studies at Earlham School of Religion, led the sessions, speaking from his extensive experience in nurturing in-reach and outreach among Friends. Sensitive and thoughtful discussions inspired many to consider their own personal experiences of Quaker community. An evening "Meeting for Mirth" brought stories,

memories, and much humor to the gathering. Again items were contributed and sold to fund the work of AFSC.

The organization and hospitality provided by members of Bear Creek Meeting are very appreciated.

Prepared by Christine Kelly,
Midyear Planning Committee convener

Financial Report was read and approved on Sixth Day and is printed here for continuity.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MIDYEAR MEETING

Contributions:		\$3,016.65
Expenses		
Food	\$814.10	
Committee Expense	30.31	
Child Care	80.00	
Steve Angell	413.30	
Cook	<u>400.00</u>	
Total Expenses		\$1,737.71
Hosting Fee	\$300.00	
School House Fund	<u>978.94</u>	
Total Transfers		<u>\$1,278.94</u>
Total Disbursements		\$3,016.65

REPORT FROM BEAR CREEK MEETING

Bear Creek Meeting would like to express appreciation to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) for the contribution to the school house project of Midyear Meeting funds remaining after expenses. The contribution of \$978.94 forwarded from IYMC is encouraging, as we continue to work toward the goal of approximately \$20,000. With memorial gifts and additional contributions, the fund has grown to \$5,264.

The schoolhouse was utilized again during Midyear Meeting for youth programs and we hope to continue to use the building, until the fundraising is completed. Your contribution will assist Bear Creek Meeting with providing a space for youth activities and hospitality during Midyear Meeting and other gatherings during the year.

We listened with interest to the Yearly Meeting Interim Committee minutes recorded by Cheryl Sutton, clerk, and Carol Gilbert, assistant clerk. We accept the minutes.

INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Sixteenth Day, Fourth Month, 2005

Meeting was opened with a time of silent worship.

Deborah Fisch read a letter drafted by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee about supporting the president of the United States in his stand against Israeli settlements in the West Bank near Beit Ummar. Knowing that more than this will be necessary for peace, the Committee approved the letter to be sent to the President, Secretary of State, and US Senators and representatives from our states.

The Interim Committee learned that Friends United Meeting is having its triennial session in Des Moines, Iowa this summer, July 13–17. The committee drafted a letter of welcome as follows.

Dear Friends,

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) has learned that Friends United Meeting is having its triennial session in Des Moines, Iowa this summer.

We want to extend a warm welcome and we hope your meeting is productive and blessed by the Spirit.

In The Light,

Deborah Fisch, clerk

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.

Cheryl Sutton, clerk

Carol Gilbert, assistant clerk

We listened carefully to the good report of the Yearly Meeting representatives to the American Friends Service Committee Corporation prepared by Jean Eden. We are challenged by the work before AFSC and therefore us as well. We are reminded that serving together on projects of AFSC is one way we can teach our children and build our beloved faith communities. We appreciate that AFSC is helping us learn appropriate ways to serve others as the needs of the world change.

REPORT OF AFSC ANNUAL COMMITTEE MEETING

On Nov. 5, 2004, Board clerk, Paul Lacey welcomed corporation members and reflected on the election. He noted that this is not a triumphal time, but a time of sorrow and impending crisis. We feel people do not understand, but we have not been able to make ourselves understood. We have to find a way to express that we have no enemies.

We have to look for the Light in our adversaries. What we are called to do is live out the role of a visionary and practical people. This is the only time we have.

General Secretary, Mary Ellen McNish, said that the AFSC is still in the business of hope as our faith makes it impossible to do otherwise. These are pivotal years for the AFSC. We have evaluated ourselves and now are reaching out to Friends United Meeting, Friends General Conference and other Friends' organizations and schools. "While much divides us, the world situation is too grave to let there be division among us. Inclusivity is important to AFSC and we are a diverse organization. We need to do better with this as recent polls have shown differing perceptions from within the AFSC.

The Eyes Wide Open display, traveling to many parts of the country including the political conventions, has been a significant peace effort. It has had an impact on many, including families of those in military service who died. Local Quaker volunteers were needed to set up the display and this provided an important link between Quakers and the AFSC. The Board has approved two major statements: Working Papers on Israel and Palestine and "Putting Dignity and Rights at the Heart of the Global Economy: A Quaker Perspective." AFSC did major voter registration work last summer for the first time since the 60's and was involved in peaceful demonstrations. Abroad we are involved in work in Columbia trying to stop the cultural genocide and to change U.S. policy. Our Iraq staff, Rick McDowell and Mary Trotochaud, have had to leave Iraq and are now speaking around the U.S. and to members of Congress about the realities of life in Iraq. We are working to bring peace and

healing to Iraq and Afghanistan. We are circulating a petition calling for an end to the Iraq war.

The Simplicity Committee, a special committee of the Board, has been looking at AFSC to see if there are costly inefficiencies. A significant amount of time was spent sharing with corporation members the work of this committee clarifying decision making in the AFSC. Each member of the committee, coming from a different part of the organization, shared his/her experience of the importance of this work and corporation members' comments and questions were invited. The work has become a hard look at governance and organizational structure and an effort to clarify the distinction between governance (a board function), and implementation (a staff function).

The AFSC's Strategic Plan delineated six major goals in order to have more of a sense that we all are rowing in the same direction. Two are lifted up for major focus in the present: Peace and Migration.

Mary Lord noted that it is important to talk of the spiritual foundation of our peace work. Our country seems embarked on empire; we have to witness that there is a different way. Peace is both opposing and exposing war and lifting up peacemakers. We are a different face in this country, one that wants to build relationships and reconciliation.

In our migration work, immigrant and refugee rights programs are grounded in international human rights. We seek to place the rights of immigrants at the center because we see them as the "canaries" who are testing for the rights of all. We need to affirm a vision of the right to be human and AFSC must act like an organization without borders recognizing the violence of migration. In Columbia three million people are internally displaced and we have trained non-violent guards and provided mental health workshops for these people. Project Voice lifts up grassroots immigrant voices to the national level so that people in Congress know what is actually going on.

Material Aids is making a shift in its work. Used clothing is no longer wanted on the international level; standardized kits are the new approach to international material aid.

Financially, bequests were large last year, but this means a loss of donors. We need to increase our donor base, and the campaign to do this will focus on peace and migration work in an outreach to Friends.

The major annual meeting address was given by Chris Hedges, a journalist who spent most of his adult life in war. He said we have become tyrants, isolated, propelled by fear. War appears to be the way to banish our enemies, but we do not see the real death and destruction that is war. War crushes its victims and intoxicates its perpetrators. We need to see war through its victims, the real windows to the reality of war.

Paul Lacey had lifted up for us as the meeting began, the words of George Fox: “Sing and rejoice, ye Children of the Day and of the Light; for the Lord is at work in this thick night of darkness that may be felt: for the Truth doth flourish as the rose...for the Seed of Christ is over all and doth reign. And so be of good faith and valiant for Truth.”

Jean Eden, a representative to the AFSC Corporation

EPISTLES

We listened with interest to the epistles to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) from Ohio Yearly Meeting and North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative. We also received the travel minutes sent with Herbert Standing who was appointed to visit the 2004 annual session of Ohio Yearly Meeting and Deborah and AM Fink who were appointed to visit the 2005 North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) annual sessions. We appreciate the loving care expressed in both epistles. We also appreciate the willingness of members of our yearly meeting to serve as visitors to our sister Conservative meetings.

Ohio Yearly Meeting

8/20/2004

This is what I have asked of God for you: that you will be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love, and that you will have the rich experience of knowing Christ with real certainty and clear understanding. For God’s secret plan now at last made known, is Christ himself. Colossians 2:2

Dear Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative,

Greetings from your brothers and sisters in Christ, as we share the joys and efforts of doing the work of the Kingdom. We are enjoying the companionship of Herbert Standing of Bear Creek Meeting as he ministers among us this week. Many thanks for sharing him with us!

American Friends are a tiny minority living in a culture which can so easily take us away from the pure following of the Inward Light and Life of the Living Christ.

Just as Friends of historic Quakerism, we are still called to keep our eyes on the true Guide in the midst of the temptations and pressures of our time. Even if our clothing and some of our practices have changed, we are still called to keep attention to the True Guide, who can keep us centered and faithful in the Source of all peace, Christ Jesus.

This Source also leads us into obedient service in a number of ways. The OYM Friends Center has sponsored programs designed to offer nurture, and guidance to participants. The Friends Center Committee has also extended hospitality in various forms to Friends and visitors throughout the year. Monthly meetings are exploring new ways to keep up with the new attenders and members who live at a distance. As a meeting we are trying new ways to practice pastoral care and ministry in the twenty-first century. This has involved opening our eyes anew to the ways of the world around us—with changing technology and social structures—has affected the lives of Friends, bringing opportunities as well as difficulties.

We trust that Iowa Friends will share our happiness about an important event that took place this year on 8/19/04 at 1:01 a.m.; the birth of Julian Martin Becerra, born to parents Debora Taber and Robert Becerra.

In Christ’s love,

Seth Hinshaw

Ohio Yearly Meeting, clerk

North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative

7/16/2005

To Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Greetings from the 2005 sessions of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative):

We are grateful for the ways the bonds between our yearly meetings have been strengthened in recent years by inter-visitation in both directions. It is good to have Deborah and AM Fink with us again this year, and we look forward to more visitation in the future.

These sessions have been a time of renewal for our yearly meeting, as we hear reports of genuine new life in our various meetings. We are diminished by the departure of beloved friends who have made the transition from works to rewards this past year, but inspired by their example to press on even more determinedly toward the prize set before us.

Many other visitors, Friends from other yearly meetings, and non-Friends as well have joined us at these sessions, reminding us that a wider audience is eager to hear what we can share of our particular faith and practice. Let us not be hesitant to give an account of the joy that is in us, for the One who has come to teach His people Himself dwells and sups with us.

We hold you in our prayers, that you may prosper spiritually, becoming a city set on a hill that cannot and will not be hidden.

In Christ's love and on behalf of the Yearly Meeting,
Jeanne Rose, clerk
NCYM(C)

We quietly listened as portions of epistles received from Friends yearly meetings around the world were read. We are reminded of our connections with these Friends as seekers and are struck by the range of challenges before our meetings; recognizing some of them in our own yearly meeting. We thank Decorah Friends for serving on Document Committee and making the selections for us.

Monteverde Monthly Meeting of Friends, Monteverde, Costa

Rica

6/2005

"...In March we were drawn tangibly together again by a terrible tragedy—an assault on the local bank. The violence and brutality of the assault was unprecedented in Costa Rica and the entire country grieved as nine people were killed and many others wounded. The entire community was stunned with shock and loss, and many were moved to offer help in healing this trauma. We feel profound gratitude for the lives of the friends we have lost – like our beloved postmaster, William Suarez, who had an unimaginable capacity to make friends and affect people for the good. All this reminds us to choose love rather than fear, as we continue to live our lives, for love is the most important thing in life..."

New York Yearly Meeting

7/2004

"...We met for the 309th session of New York Yearly Meeting at Silver Bay on Lake George in the Adirondack Mountains, July 25–31, 2004, 637 strong, including 147 children. The theme of our sessions, "Transforming Hopelessness into Centered Peacemaking," remind us of the hidden springs of love that fill our lives with Grace. It is from deep within ourselves that we are called to respond to the world's challenges. He urged us to respond to the nagging cynic inside us with confidence that true nonviolence is the greatest power on earth. Part of our renewal and hope lies in reinstating, after several years, the position of general secretary. This appointment comes at a time when New York Yearly Meeting has already both deepened its spiritual roots and strengthened its focused peace-making. The new general secretary, Christopher

Sammond, noted with appreciation the years of careful discernment, searching, and hard work that have led the yearly meeting and him to this time. Like the harrow that breaks down the earth to ready it for seeding, we together will be able to deepen our roots in God's love, so that new life can emerge. We are being called into deeper relationship to God in order to strengthen our witness in this world..."

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association

6/2005 – 35th annual session

"...As we have increased the length of time we are together, the tension between fellowship and business seems to be subsiding. With this expanded time the business itself has become an opportunity for fellowship and a building of the body....We heard a minute forwarded to us by the Central Committee of Friends General Conference about their experience of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer Friends. We were asked to go deep to see how the minute spoke to our condition. As we labored to respond, we affirmed a deeply felt sense of unity and blessing while not knowing exactly what this will require of us, yet trusting that both the Spirit and the process will transform us and the work will be carried out. As our witness, we include the fruit of our labor here. SAYMA's experience has been that spiritual gifts are not distributed with regard to sexual orientation or gender identity. SAYMA's experience has been that our work has been immeasurably enriched over the years by the full participation and Spirit-guided leadership of gay, lesbian, bisexual transgender and queer Friends. We will not go back to silencing those voices or suppressing those gifts. Our experience confirms that we are all equal before God as God made us, and we feel blessed to be engaged in the work of SAYMA together. We call upon ourselves as individuals and in our monthly meetings to take this minute into our hearts and take action as we are led. Through our work with these minutes we affirm both the value and need of seasoning concerns, and the imperative of being faithful to the Spirit in the moment. Further, a growing understanding of Friends is that our work is not done when we commend the minute to paper. We must also write it on our hearts and live into it..."

Baltimore Yearly Meeting

8/2004 – 333rd annual session

"...Traveling minister Vanessa Julye and Donna McDaniel blessed our gathering by sharing with us historical research they have undertaken, supported by Friends General Conference, on the

relationship of African Americans with and in the Religious Society of Friends from 1688 through the present day. The sources they presented described Friends' lengthy practice of slave holding, fears of interracial marriage and denial to African Americans of membership in the Society and admission to Friends schools. We learned that despite our testimony of equality and examples of creative resistance, Quakers share a legacy of racism similar to the world in which we live. Friends labored with several threshing sessions, over a concern regarding our relationship with Friends United Meeting (FUM), to which we belong. The concern was minuted by several monthly meeting, brought before our Third Month Interim Meeting, seasoned, revisited in Sixth Month Interim Meeting and then forwarded to the Yearly Meeting in session. FUM has a long-standing policy requiring its staff and volunteers to affirm to being celibate outside of marriage while also defining marriage as solely between one man and one woman. Yearly Meeting Friends feel the injustice in this policy has visited upon us all..."

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Jr. Young Friends Epistle

"...Later we took a trip to the Arboretum to walk through the memorial garden and do the labyrinth. Kevin Lee, visiting from New England Yearly Meeting, accompanied us with drumming as a centering activity. We walked the labyrinth in silence, many tried to walk barefoot on the gravel to improve their Earth connection. It was a very spiritual and centering experience for many of us..."

Pacific Yearly Meeting

8/2004–58th annual session

"...We used that time to challenge ourselves to go deeper on fundamental issues: the health of our intergenerational connections, the challenges of living our 17th century Peace Testimony in a 21st century world, and the effort to address more directly the long-standing question of creating a Yearly Meeting permanent site. And we were challenged by our meeting for memorials by the loss this year of 42 of our members, those "living testimonies" who have touched our lives in so many ways... We heard questions which were held up to the Light. Is our small size a blessing or a challenge? Have we lost the process of corporate discernment? Is it possible to be a "nominal" Quaker? Must we all dive deeply or can we value small, steady steps into spiritual waters?... We listened to our yearnings for this beloved community. A Friend shared a desire for the radical faithfulness and fire of early Friends. A parent yearned for support from other adults in the community to raise our

children. Another Friend asked for more joy in our Quaker life, in the sense of "making a joyful noise unto the Lord." And several voices asked that we know each other more deeply and that we lovingly hold each other to accountability... Friends, we have begun journey of taking a deeper look at who we are called to be as Quakers in this time..."

Japan Yearly Meeting

11/2004

It is with a great joy that we are able to report to you that the annual session of the Japan Yearly Meeting was held at the Tokyo Meetinghouse from Saturday, November 13 through Sunday, November 14th. The common theme chosen for the session was, "let us think of the practices of the Yearly Meeting and monthly meetings for the future." Representatives of all the five member monthly meetings were gathered and the unprogrammed form of worship was observed throughout the session. Regrettably the Toyama Monthly Meeting, whose foundation went back to the times when the American Friends Service Committee was doing its epoch-making work for rebuilding the war-torn Japan, closed its doors after 47 years of existence. Over half of its remaining members have transferred to other monthly meetings.

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

FIFTH DAY – THURSDAY – 7/28

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

“It is an absurd illusion to consider that we can work for peace, which means to be actively involved with people who are behaving in an unpeaceful way, if we are inwardly in turmoil and ill-at-ease; or to help people change their lives for the better if our own experience is disordered and impoverished.” Adam Curle, *Another Way*, 1995

Karen Greenler and Martha Davis have been appointed readers this morning.

On the evening of Third Day, Friends Collection presenters were Sarah Winchell of Des Moines Valley Meeting and Rebekah DeWild of Paullina Meeting. Sarah shared about her participation last summer in the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage that took her to Britain, Germany, and the Netherlands, and how her spiritual journey and understanding of the traditions of Friends have deepened as a result. Rebekah shared about plans for an upcoming trip that she and Emma Davis Deutsch of Decorah Meeting will be taking as IYM(C) delegates to the World Gathering of Young Friends being held at Lancaster, England, Eighth Month, 2005. Friends, 18 to 35 will gather around the theme, “I am the vine, you are the branches...now what fruit shall we bear? Let us then try what Love will do.” Among the queries they will be considering are: What is Quaker witness today? and What is the present and future of the Religious Society of Friends worldwide?

On Fourth Day afternoon Friends gathered to hear presentations from three Quaker organizations that this yearly meeting helps support. Jonathan Fisch shared about the work of Friends Committee on National Legislation in the last year. Paul Knupp presented on behalf of Iowa Peace Network. Jeff Weiss presented on behalf of the Central Region of American Friends Service Committee.

Our Collection speaker for Fourth Day evening was Mary Lord, Assistant General Secretary for Peace and Conflict Resolution of the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia. Mary’s theme was “Where Does God Lead?” She shared with us what she is learning about discernment, leadings, and being faithful as a Friend who has been called to various kinds of peacemaking through the years. She told us, “God doesn’t call us to do everything, but we are called to do

something.” Making space for listening to God and testing what we hear with others is part of how we figure out what that “something” might be. Submitting to a leading once we have discerned it, she told us, requires us to be willing to turn to each other for assistance and guidance.

We are blessed to have the presence of these visitors: Byron Sandford–Friends Meeting of Washington, DC, Baltimore Yearly Meeting and director of William Penn House in Washington DC; Susan Griffith–Friends Meeting of Washington, DC, BYM; Clifford Goetz–Minneapolis Friends Meeting, Northern Yearly Meeting; Lucy Marsh, sojourning at Putney Friends Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting

We listened to a preliminary report from Peace and Social Concern Committee requesting consideration for line item funding of the Friends Peace Team. We are impressed by the faithfulness of Friends in the project. We approve naming a representative to the Friends Peace Team Advisory Council and recommend that our representatives take the request for a \$600 travel expense line under consideration. The Yearly Meeting would like to give more support to this work and asks Representatives to consider this possibility as they work on our budget.

PRELIMINARY PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS REPORT

On the morning of Fourth Day, the Peace and Social Concerns Committee listened to Deborah Dakin’s report as IYM(C) representative to the Coordinating Committee of Friends Peace Teams (FPT) this past year. We value the frontlines peace building work of Friends Peace Teams.

Some members of IYM(C) have had other chances to hear first hand of the work of FPT. This past month a number of our monthly meetings helped sponsor the speaking tour of Cecile Nyiramana. It was inspiring to learn of the work the African Great Lakes Initiative (a working group of Friends Peace Teams) is doing to facilitate trauma healing and reconciliation in situations almost beyond comprehension.

Joseph Andugu (FWCC representative from Central YM in Kenya) also spoke to us during our review of Friends Peace Teams. He gave a very strong endorsement of the work that African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) and Friends Peace Teams are doing in Africa. He shared a couple of very important points with us:

It is discouraging for Africans to continuously have organizations appear who want to help and then quickly disappear after only a few years. He hopes our yearly meeting will create a line in our budget to show our commitment for ongoing support for FPT.

Frequently people excuse the lack of support for peacemaking work in Africa by saying that “there is no money.” Then when a terrible crisis arises, the same money is magically found. The costs of dealing with these terrible problems could be lessened if money was found before crisis became horrible tragedy! He personally knows of the work of AGLI, and strongly encourages us to support their peace team work in building the foundation to avoid wars.

Last year, there was a one time line item of \$600 added to the 2004 IYM(C) budget to help with Deborah Dakin’s FPT meeting and travel expenses. This next year, Deborah Dakin will continue to serve Friends Peace Teams on their newly formed Board of Directors. Because of this, the Peace and Social Concerns Committee hopes that another person will be able to serve on the Advisory Council as an IYM(C) representative. The Advisory Council’s main charge is to help ensure that FPT remains faithful to its Quaker roots.

We ask that Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) continue to support the valuable work of Friends Peace Teams by naming a representative to the Advisory Council of Friends Peace Teams, and making permanent the \$600 line item in the budget to support their meeting attendance.

Respectfully submitted,
Peace and Social Concerns Committee
Deborah Dakin, clerk

We heard the report of the IYM(C) representatives to the Friends World Committee for Consultation. Some concerns were expressed about the lack of balance of our support for FWCC, AFSC, and FCNL, as well as the support of young Friends’ Quaker travels. We were reminded that this discernment is part of the work we ask Representatives to consider on our behalf. We accept the report and forward the requests to the Representatives Committee for further discernment. Friends with concerns or suggestions are encouraged to talk to their monthly meeting representative.

FWCC REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

We continue to make visits and seek ways to build bridges between Friends.

Sarah Winchell of Des Moines Valley Meeting toured Europe in Eighth Month 2004 as a part of the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage, and she made a presentation Third Day evening of these annual sessions.

As requested by the Yearly Meeting, FWCC representatives appointed two adult young Friends, Rebekah DeWild of Paullina Meeting (living in Des Moines) and Emma Davis Deutsch of Decorah Meeting to represent IYMC at World Gathering of Young Friends, Eighth Month, 2005, at the University of Lancaster in Lancaster, England. This gathering is not a part of FWCC, but FWCC and other wider Quaker organizations have taken an interest in assisting the young adult Friends by promoting it in various ways. Rebekah talked about her hopes for this trip in the Collection on Third Day evening of this annual session. Both will be expected share of their experiences upon their return. Through the Yearly Meeting’s budgeted support and donations from individuals, more than enough funds were raised to pay for the costs of Rebekah and Emma’s travel and registration.

In a continuing effort to bring FWCC work home to monthly meetings, Marion Love and Rebekah DeWild visited Paullina, accompanied by Rebekah’s husband, Louis. We were warmly received and encouraged.

Betty Hawthorn attended Iowa Yearly Meeting, Friends United Meeting, in Eighth Month, 2004, as an FWCC visitor.

Martha Davis was our representative to the Section of the Americas Annual Meeting in New Mexico in Fourth Month 2005. She reports:

"The Annual Meeting of the Section of the Americas was held in Tempe, Arizona, in April 2005. As an FWCC representative of Iowa Yearly Meeting (C), I was able to attend this meeting with other Friends from Canada, United States, Mexico, Central American and South America.

FWCC strives to organize opportunities for Friends from all parts of the world and from all Friends traditions. This was certainly the overwhelming impression I had from the moment I walked into the gathering, and throughout the weekend. All the group sessions—and many of the small groups—were interpreted for our Spanish-speaking Friends. The worship sessions were held in a variety of ways, from a Spanish worship service to a silent worship session on First Day morning. This was ‘organized’ by the Conservative Friends (of which I

was one) and seemed very 'quiet' after the gospel singing and enthusiastic vocal sharing of some of the earlier worship times.

There were many business sessions, committee meetings, and small regional gatherings held during the four days. This gave one a great overview of the work Friends are doing in this part of the world and the concerns that need to be addressed. I particularly enjoyed sharing with Friends about the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage and the World Gathering of Young Friends that will encourage youth and young adults to become active participants in the wide world of Friends."

Looking ahead, we remind Friends that the 2006 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage will roam the United States, and we are seeking young Friends to apply for the trip. We also request \$1,500 for a registration and travel stipend.

Chuiqimula, Guatemala, will be the site of the 2006 Section of the Americas Annual Meeting, Third month 16-19. The 22nd Triennial will be at Kings Hospital [school] in Dublin, Ireland, Eighth Month 11-19, 2007, at the invitation of Ireland YM.

In hopes of building love and understanding, Betty and Marion attended the FUM Triennial, a worldwide gathering of Friends United Meeting, in Des Moines a few weeks ago. We also welcome Joseph Undugu, assistant secretary of the FWCC World Office, as a guest for these sessions.

We ask that representatives consider raising the FWCC donation by \$100 to \$1,600. We continue to seek ways that will engage high school and young adults in the wider world of Friends. To encourage this, as well as provide a budget line recording individual donations, we ask that a young Friends travel and conference fund be generously funded. We also ask that it become a rollover fund, that unused money be held for future travels. Mindful of next year's Quaker Youth Pilgrimage and other activities for 16 to 35-year old Friends, we request a total of \$2,500 for the 2006 budget.

Submitted by Marion Love on behalf of the FWCC representatives of IYMC

We listened to the report of the Yearly Meeting Publication Committee. We appreciate those who do the typesetting and proofreading of the Yearly Meeting Minutes. We also are thankful for all the work done by the Publication Committee on our web page and are amazed at the possibilities of outreach it has provided us. We remind monthly meetings to give careful consideration to the personal information they choose to publish on the monthly meeting web pages of

the Yearly Meeting Web site. We are mindful of the general loss of our privacy in the wider society created with the world-wide web access and by our government. However, we are also reminded that Friends are publishers of the Truth and so we want to be careful not to let caution turn to fear and keep us from expressing our understanding of the Truth in these times to the wider world. Friends are easy with keeping the directory and minutes together in one book and approve moving the responsibility of updating the directory information from the Yearly Meeting clerk to the Publication Committee. We approve the report.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Minutes of the 2004 Annual Sessions of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) were collated by the Yearly Meeting clerk using Microsoft Word, proofread by the committee members and corrected and converted to Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) by the convener. 310 copies were printed and bound by Goodfellow Printing, Inc., of Iowa City, at a cost of \$6.98 per copy. In response to some interest, we looked into the possibility of using a binding that would allow the directory to be separated from the minutes but have not been successful. We would like to know if there is interest in either finding such binding or publishing the directory separately.

One expense this year was the purchase of Adobe Acrobat 7.0 software which creates PDF documents. By doing the conversion to PDF ourselves (rather than having the printer do it from the Word document), we have more control of the published version of the minutes. This also makes it possible to put the PDF version of the minutes (minus the directory) on the QuakerNet web site so anyone can download a version that looks the same as the printed version (and saves significant time that used to be spent creating the web version of the minutes). Similarly, the Advices and Queries were converted to PDF format and can be downloaded from QuakerNet.

The QuakerNet web site continues to be one of our responsibilities and we are always open to ways to use it to further the work of the Yearly Meeting. For example, we have been working with the Peace and Social Concerns Committee on ways to use the Internet for their work. Also, a PDF version of the parts of the new Discipline that are ready for review has been posted on QuakerNet. 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. Submissions concerning monthly meeting activities should be made by monthly meeting clerks and announcement

for Yearly Meeting committees by Yearly Meeting committee clerks to the Publication convener. All other announcements should be sent to the IYM(C) clerk for forwarding to the Publication Committee.

The QuakerNet web site continues to get many visits. Last month 22,207 pages were viewed by 6,065 separate connections to the site. Connections were made from 33 states, Canada, 16 European countries, three South American countries, 15 countries on the Asian continent, Australia and Africa. The Committee has begun discussions of ways to use QuakerNet as a way to inform and attract potential attenders. Since the responses to the Queries give a sense of the meeting, we seek guidance from the Yearly Meeting in regard to publishing of the Advices and Queries that includes the selected responses for each query from the past several years.

Another idea is to work with Friends meetings and Friends churches geographically close to each other to create advertisements in telephone Yellow Pages of worship times and related information.

Now that the directory is in a (Microsoft SQL Server) database, it is easy to create a current directory list for each monthly meeting. We suggest a change in the procedure to update the directory, in which the Publication Committee would send each monthly meeting clerk the current list of the monthly meeting members several months prior to Yearly Meeting annual sessions. The corrected list would then be returned to the Publication Committee clerk, rather than the Yearly Meeting clerk.

2004–2005 Budget	\$2,700.00
Printing 310 copies of 2004 Minutes	\$2164.78
Shipping and supplies	63.96
Adobe Acrobat 7.0	<u>316.94</u>
Total	<u>\$2545.68</u>
Balance	\$154.32

For the committee,
Jeff Kisling convener

We listened carefully to the Entertainment Committee Report for the 2004 Yearly Meeting annual sessions. We treasure our tradition of depending on donations to fund costs of IYM(C) in session. We are reminded that these is a line item of \$2,000 for the Entertainment Committee to use if donations during Yearly Meeting sessions don't meet costs that has never been completely used and that the \$2,000

forwarded to the Trustees was only for fiscal year 2004. With this information we do not feel the need to appoint a committee at this time. We accept the report.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The monthly meetings of Lincoln, Omaha, and Paullina were hosts for the 2004 Yearly Meeting gathering, the theme of which was "Maintaining Hope and Confidence in a World of Transition". Scattergood Friends School provided the facilities and excellent support by many of its staff members.

Contributions were down by nearly \$1300 from the prior year though attendance was comparable. By coincidence, this is the amount used to pay 2004 program presenters. The committee selected several speakers from outside Yearly Meeting, which resulted in higher than usual expenses. The committee felt comfortable in doing this because of the large beginning balance of its account.

A Yearly Meeting decision was made this year to forward anything in excess of \$2000 from the Entertainment Committee's account to the Yearly Meeting Trustees, thereby leaving the following year's Entertainment Committee a balance forward of no more than \$2000. If a similar pattern of contributions is seen for the 2005 Yearly Meeting, there will be no funds to forward to the Trustees and a possible insignificant amount of funds from which the Entertainment Committee has to begin work for the following year.

This year's financial summary follows:

Checking Account Balance 15 June 2004	\$5,770.52
Contributions	
Income Contributions	8,842.00
Interest	3.91
Total Income	\$,8845.91
Expenses	
Young Friends	27.00
Program (travel expenses)	1,302.10
Scattergood Friends School	8,500.00
Child care	382.00
Supplies	115.75
Printing, Postage, and Phone	111.48
Total Expenses	\$10,438.33

Checking Account Balance 14 October 2004	\$4,178.10
Forwarded to Yearly Meeting Trustees	\$,2178.10
Balance Forwarded to 2005 Entertainment Committee	\$2,000.00

This year’s payment to Scattergood was increased by \$500 because the past director indicated that the school had lost money from hosting Yearly Meeting in 2003. The current director requested an increase for 2004 and later provided an itemization for 2004 Yearly Meeting of how the payment was allocated. It is suggested that a committee be formed to review procedures of determining what is to be paid to Scattergood for Yearly Meeting so that the school is not left in arrears and also so that the books of the Entertainment committee are left with a working amount for the next year.

We received the report of the Archives Committee. We appreciate the report and the work of the Committee.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

This committee has two jobs: caring for the archives of the Yearly Meeting and for the Quaker books in the William Penn Room here on the Scattergood campus. We have an agreement with the State Historical Library in Iowa City through the year 2008 to house our archives and make them available to the public for viewing during their regular hours.

Over many years Joan Tucker has spent untold hours cataloging the books in the William Penn Room. She now considers this work complete and will be leaving the Committee. We are very thankful for her dedicated service.

The Committee is investigating how we might get some of the more delicate volumes in the collection repaired.

We ask that our budget apportionment of \$200 per year be continued.

For the Committee,
Dan Treadway, convener

RESPONSES TO ADVICES AND QUERIES

We listened carefully to responses of our monthly meetings to the first five Advises and Queries as selected by the Yearly Meeting assistant

clerk. Hearing our answers to the Queries helps bind us together in one faith community and become more aware of where we are being faithful and where we are laboring to be faithful to the leadings of the Spirit. We will listen to the other queries and answers if way opens in our sessions. All selections will be printed in the Yearly Meeting Minutes.

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: Meetings for Worship here are very quiet compared to others Friends have participated in. Some of us tend to edit ourselves, waiting for the right message, or for the right time to give it. Sometimes we settle in so deeply that it is difficult to speak. We have attended worship meetings where Friends seem to speak too easily about what is on their minds or on the news, and we don’t want to follow this path. Perhaps in this meeting we are taking too seriously the instruction that we should speak only if we feel God is nudging or pressuring or commanding us to do so. We won’t know the exact meaning of our message to each of those present, or the effect our message might have, but we can have faith that God will help the message to be used or not used as it is needed.

People have appreciated spoken ministry from gathered meetings, and have sometimes voiced their appreciation to the speaker. Since we are a small, intimate group, this is naturally an unstructured, spontaneous occurrence rather than a formal procedure by the M&O Committee, as it is in some larger meetings.

Preparing our hearts and minds during the week helps to make our weekly corporate worship richer both in the silence and in the vocal ministry, but many of us feel we don’t prepare as we should. One person noted that vocal ministry is more frequent after Yearly Meeting sessions, when many of us have been spending time focused on spiritual matters. One person makes a habit of carrying an exercise or meditation with him during his work day, and believes this deepens his weekly worship

experience. One person spoke of her efforts to become more aware of God in the world, seeking guidance more frequently, remembering God every minute and every second as she goes through life. Our daily individual spiritual practices do not replace Sunday worship, which feels like a safe time set aside for the purpose and away from distractions and fear.

We are concerned about passing on our faith to the meeting's children. We want them to have genuine experiences of the Spirit, not just to go through the motions of attending meeting and repeating things we have said. We need to choose our words honestly when talking about our meeting for worship. Instead of calling it "silent" we like the phrases "Spirit-led" or "waiting worship."

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 had a lively and wide-ranging discussion of this advice and query, perhaps reflecting other discussions we've had recently about the vitality and diversity of our meeting.

How do we make the presence of our meeting known to the larger community? Some churches have taken to conducting mass mailings that advertise their "grand openings." Maybe they're on to something—a mass marketing approach can get the word out to busy people with active lives.

Why are we reticent to reach out like that? We don't want to push our beliefs on others. The topic of religion is generally avoided in polite company. Is there a way that we can express our beliefs in social situations without offending others? Perhaps we are overly shy or careful in this area.

It's important to let people in our community know that our meeting exists. If we were to put an ad in the local paper, for example, what would it look like? We suggested that it might be time for us to hold another open house. We have sponsored speakers in the past and extended open invitations to the community, but we've primarily drawn members of the Friends Church. We discussed the possibility of holding our Oxfam Simple Supper as a public and publicized event, as the Paullina Meeting has done for many years. It would offer us an opportunity to open our doors to the wider community. We pointed out that our trustees are looking at ways to spend some of the funds that the meeting will receive from the estates of Bob Berquist and Bob Darby. Should some of those funds be devoted to outreach projects?

The Whittier Meeting recently had a letter to the editor published in *The Gazette*. It seems that someone has repeatedly taken from the meetinghouse property signs that express the meeting's anti-war position. The letter invited that individual or individuals to discuss their objections with the meeting rather than taking their signs. Sometimes, outreach occurs in unexpected ways.

We talked about how some of us have come to Quakerism. One person first encountered Friends as a college student through an older brother's gift that enabled her to experience an AFSC Work Camp. Many misconceptions about Friends exist today among young people. They would benefit from an introduction to Friends and Quakerism.

It's true that we've generally been raised to avoid talking about religion and politics in social settings, but it seems that we should be able to have civil dialogues about our values and beliefs. Perhaps we should concentrate on listening to others' points of view before or rather than explaining our own. By doing so, we could begin to find the common ground that unite us, rather than focusing on the differences that divide us. The simplest things are often the most difficult to do. If we look for that of God in others, if we conduct every encounter in that manner, our lives can serve as powerful statements of our beliefs.

Out of politeness, we sometimes remain silent when others say things that we disagree with or that we believe are wrong. Perhaps we should feel comfortable saying that we don't see things that way. Perhaps it's better to make a comment that offers an alternative to that statement, rather than responding directly and judgmentally to the statement.

One challenge to keeping our meeting vital seems to be the cerebral and meditative nature of our worship experience. Churches that offer a more physical and sensory service might especially appeal to youth. We marvel at the ability of many young people to handle multiple sensory stimuli: listening to music, watching TV, studying, all at the same time.

Many people have the mental capacity to manage all that input and perform effectively in a world that often seems to overload us with stimuli. And yet, we noted that we all need a balance in our lives. Many young people relish the opportunity for silence and meditation.

We acknowledged that the traditional Quaker message of simplicity and inwardness seems to conflict with contemporary culture, especially contemporary youth culture. But we also acknowledged that Friends' testimonies on peace and nonviolence, social justice, environmentalism, and communalism have always resonated with youth and their idealism.

In the end, we were left to wonder about and challenge ourselves with much the same question that we began with: How do we make our beliefs and values more widely known?

3. MEETING FOR BUSINESS

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

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

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

Selected response: We recognize we have difficulty in achieving the goal stated in this query. Pressures of time especially affect our deliberations. However, having much of the work of the meeting processed by committees helps to bring focus to our discussions. And, in the Meeting for Business, items needing processing are often referred to standing and/or special committees. For example, dissatisfaction with having a workday to care for the meetinghouse and grounds was referred to the house committee, which offered an alternative approach which seems to be working better.

Our meetings for business follow worship. After a rich and deep experience in worship it sometimes is a bit difficult to move into a "business mode." The feeling was expressed that having more periods during Meeting for Business for silence/centering might help to make that transition smoother. Our smallness may lead to being a bit "chatty" during conduct of business rather than thoughtful listening with silence between expressions of views. We recognize that, desirably, one is speaking (with respect to business) as prompted by the Spirit. We need to be aware of the need to assist newcomers to learn the purpose of silence during Meeting for Business and that we are doing business out

of an attitude of worship. We experience some conflict at times between the method of accomplishing the business of the meeting in a Quaker way contrasted with secular experience in business meetings. We reminded ourselves of the need for patience, listening, focus in the conduct of the business of the meeting.

One person paraphrased Sister Wendy to the effect "Silence helps to break the hold that time has on us" with the thought that it may be helpful to us. Another felt the industrial revolution had betrayed us in that, rather than time being freed up by the marvels of the industrial revolution, we seem to feel busier than ever, contributing to our frustration in dealing with time in general and, in particular, our attitude about time in Meeting for Business.

Since we seem not to have a lot of dissension, the question was raised, "Is that because we are not doing enough (on difficult issues)?" It was pointed out that attendance at Meeting may have an element of self selection, which minimizes likelihood of differences of views. Sometimes we may feel that facing up to differences of views isn't worth the effort, yet when we reflect more fully we recognize that it is essential to confront differences for the care and health of the Meeting. That calls for honest acknowledgment of differences of view when they exist, patience in dealing with them, and keeping judgment at bay, always acting out of love.

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: Although some Friends have felt very well supported by the meeting in difficult times and some have not, all agreed that we need to remember to follow up when someone lets us know that they are experiencing a difficult time. Often just seeking that person out during social time can let them know of our caring is helpful. E-mails and phone calls give us a way to find out if more help is needed.

In our meeting, both men and women participate in care giving; it is a joy to see the men playing with the children as well as leading them in activities. The children see men in roles not always associated with fathers.

Lately we have been paying particular attention to drawing the children into the life of the meeting. A recent suggestion to invite the children to the first few minutes of some programs has already borne fruit. The children especially enjoyed seeing pictures of the stories they were hearing, and this fact reminded us that everyone likes pictures. There is no reason why people planning programs, even if only adults are expected to attend, should not consider adding visuals or interactive components. The query discussion, for instance, could be conducted in a different format if the reader so chooses.

When it's not appropriate for the children to share their First Day School projects at the beginning of the program, perhaps they could be invited to do that during announcement time.

We are often reluctant to stay in touch with inactive (local) members. They receive the newsletter but often don't get enough personal messages to be assured that we care about them. Ministry and Oversight can lead the way by asking those best connected to contact absent Friends, but we can also encourage other individuals to call and send e-mails.

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're open to requests for support, including requests for prayers. Prayer is one form of action, because it can lead to one's own action. People from the meeting supported Sherry Hutchison and others, who were on trial last spring for crossing the line at the National Guard headquarters, by attending their trial.

Not having a paid minister, sometimes we don't do as well as we should, or may not know about a need. We need to reach out to people in crisis more than we do. We assume the Ministry and Oversight Committee knows everything!

We try to be a network.

Different adults from the meeting could be called on to work with the children. Quiet activity helps them learn ways of Friends. Two

children new to our First Day school are a resource to others about the Bible.

The *Friendly Line* is our outreach to distant members and infrequent attenders.

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 moved slowly into the discussion of the Advice and Query on Education, considering various ways in which we try to live our values in this area. It was not difficult to see that many of us are active as parents and citizens in our local public schools, that we are working to strengthen our relationship with Scattergood Friends School (a process, we noted, which results in their giving to us also), and that some of us have been active with the local television program, "Conversations," which focuses on issues of peace and justice and involves high school students in the production of the show. The Library Committee is glad to report that the library is being well used.

We recognized that the spirit of inquiry that the advice suggests we foster is a natural trait in our young children. Early in their development, our work may largely be to step out of the way to effectively enjoy, and avoid squelching that natural inquisitiveness. As children grow, we ruefully agreed, their spirit of inquiry can lead them to places we prefer them not to go. Guidance always has its place. We remember that, not uncommonly, adults too can use guidance.

As we considered how central it is to our Quaker beliefs to teach by living our testimonies, we encountered the tension that exists between teaching by example and the need to sometimes articulate our values to our young people. Friends shared doubts about not having been clear enough with their children about the reasons behind their decision to live

simply. We are perhaps reticent about talking about why we choose the way we live. We also remembered that our young people are astute in their understanding of our values, spoken or not, and that we respect and trust them as they move into adulthood. Implicit Quaker values may teach our young people how to consider who they wish to become. We must release them with grace as they find their own ways with the world, remembering that as we have found our own paths, so shall they.

It became apparent in our discussion that we especially search for ways to teach simplicity, and that we are not sure we have been successful. It helped us when a Friend reminded us that the complications in our lives can interfere with our awareness of the presence of God. A simple life better enables us to be in harmony with the Spirit. We were grateful also for the reminder of one Friend that God's love and generosity are in great abundance everywhere around us, and that our search for simplicity needs to focus on that very abundance, not simply on our response to materialism. We strive for simplicity within the experience of God's abundance.

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: Relationships with those closest to us can often be a dance between sharing ourselves with, and imposing ourselves on, a person. It is not always easy to find ways to help a person to follow his or her own leadings. Being open about letting a person know they can follow their own instincts can help a lot, but may be just a start.

As we move from childhood to being adults, then parents, and eventually seniors, role reversals take place. We have the full range of generations in our meeting. Those of us who are parents worry over our teens and our own parents, neither of whom want to be worried over quite so much. How do we balance between reaching out and intruding in our intergenerational relationships?

Separations can occur within families. There are many reasons for this, including missed opportunities and misunderstandings in our expressions of concern for one another. Other issues can arise within families. Two that we spoke of include difficulties with mental health and differences in faith choices within families. Dealing with family members who have chosen fundamentalist views on faith raises difficult issues that are often easiest to simply avoid speaking about.

Openness is a key to any relationship, and within families we need to be aware of the need to ask questions that can encourage sharing of our joys and apprehensions. These do not always have to be initiated in face-to-face conversations, but e-mails and writing things down for later sharing can be helpful, allowing one to respond (or not respond) in a way and a timing of his/her choosing.

Family does not have to have a narrow definition. Jesus encourages us to look at the wider world as being more important than family. In our own experience we know that the kindness of a stranger can sometimes have more meaning than that of a family member. A society or community focused on family can become closed to newcomers. So it is healthier to have a broader definition of family. Family can be a source of considerable pain, especially when relationships and/or health falter. These issues can make it difficult to embrace a wider world view at times. The opportunity to share our personal issues can help us keep them in perspective with the wider world.

Communication is critical to recognizing the needs of others and responding to them. We discussed how we might create greater opportunities for this in the life of our meeting. Making time in the face of schedules and busy-ness is difficult, but what choice do we have if we are to provide opportunities to discuss things that are most important and/or difficult? We will make an effort to have a mutual sharing during our frugals, allowing each person in attendance an opportunity to discuss what is happening in their life. More frequent frugals and reading groups were also suggested, and we will hope to move in this direction in the life of our meeting.

Children's response:

We are influenced by our families. They are always there for us, no matter what. We get our ideas from our family. How they raise us shapes us. Our names come from our family and we learn language from them too.

We like being a part of our family. We laugh with our families. They care about us. They provide food, shelter, give us advice and accept us for who we are. We are happy to be part of each other.

Sometimes things are so busy we would like to be a bigger part of their lives.

Sometimes we do not appreciate our family though. They can embarrass us. Sometimes they care too much. There are rules and things seem too controlling sometimes. Not all the advice we get is welcome, and we are not always understood. Siblings can get annoying sometimes too.

We learn to help people by being in a family. These lessons can be chores, giving advice, caring for our family and going to them with our problems. We help people communicate and learn to explain things to people that are not always easy to talk about.

Being in a Quaker family is different from other families. We do not stress out about what we wear to worship. There is an emphasis on peace. Our prayers before meals are silent, not spoken. We learn to respect each other as equals and are sure not to be violent.

There is love in our families. We know this because they care for and take care of us. We laugh together. We have things explained to us. We get treats and privileges from our parents. We are told we are loved. We are comforted. Someone is always asking for a hug.

God speaks to us about our family from the silence. Our family is important to us. Our siblings and parents are people just like us. We can be relaxed around our families because they accept us. Even though you wonder what they are thinking sometimes, you realize how much you love them. Our family is a part of us. We are most grateful for them.

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: The meaning of simplicity is reflected in our desire to reduce our attraction to, and dependence on, modern technology

such as computers, cell phones, and other aspects of mass media culture. We strive to disconnect with external distractions and connect with the inner peace and light that we have come to cherish within our meeting community.

Although many of us acknowledge the usefulness of setting priorities and creating daily lists, the importance and desire to leave the time and space for life to flow naturally allows us the awareness and recognition of that preciousness of each moment.

We often feel a hopelessness and dismay when we confront the entrenched power of corporate, military, or political interests. The use of humor, satire or irony is often the most effective means of speaking truth to power. We affirm the gift of laughter as a means to lighten the spirit and as a reminder that the source of joy can be found in our continual seeking along our personal and corporate journey.

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 are deeply concerned about our national government's emphasis on a military response to many forms of terrorism and international issues. We find it difficult to truly find the truth about many situations when the administration seems to declare lies or misinterpretations as fact and the media seems to only promote false impressions through their reporting. The emphasis on spinning the facts of a situation to suit a specific agenda pervades our society today in many areas besides the government, although it seems to be most often used in that context. There are so many areas with which we feel alarm and concern because of state and national policy decisions that we often feel overwhelmed and discouraged. We struggle to find constructive ways of speaking our truths that will be understood by both the public and our legislators. Many of us seek alternative sources of information

to the popular press in order to try to discern the truth of a situation. Some of us contact legislators and contribute editorials and letters to the editor on a regular basis, while others call or e-mail on specific issues of concern which arise when alerted by FCNL and other organizations.

We are concerned about the lack of trust in our fellow citizens and the unwillingness to work together with those who hold different points of view in order to find a truth both can support. The pervasive atmosphere of mistrust and confrontation keeps individuals polarized and fearful. We regret that there is no orderly public debate of issues that concern all of us, including the rest of the world, but only acrimony and dispute, with no recognition that there are as many different truths as there are individuals. It is up to all of us to find reconciliation of those differing truths.

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: We have the challenge of endeavoring to live in tune with all of creation and to endeavor to be kind and considerate of all creatures.

Credit cards make us concerned about the increased spending and materialism that they encourage. We are concerned about fuel economy for our vehicles and the need for new alternatives. Determining the best type of energy for transportation is a puzzle for those of us in rural areas. The food packaging currently being used tends to waste lots of materials. We find it helpful when friends share their knowledge and ideas on how to lower our contribution to the waste problems. Global warming raises questions as to what one can do individually.

We believe it best to think before we act. Sharing information and resources can cut down our disproportionate use of resources. It is helpful to pay attention to legislation being proposed and being voted on.

The problems and challenges that confront our environment often result in a forlorn or cynical outlook. Perhaps this cynicism can be overcome with a more spiritual or saintly passion that counters being

naive with education and awareness. The balance that we seek can only be measured by the depth of our love for the environment and our capacity for hope.

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: In a wealthy country like the United States, we benefit from the cheap labor provided by the world's poor, who manufacture much of our clothing and other products. We noted a particular concern with the importation of raw materials, including and especially, oil from abroad, a situation that puts the greatest burden of work on citizens of those countries for the least portion of the profit. Most of us in this meeting could find no specific ways in which we were the victims of inequity.

We felt that we could address some of these problems by paying attention to our purchases. We can purchase products such as coffee and clothing from fair trade companies, and buy the bulk of our groceries from local suppliers. We can also purchase clothing and household goods from thrift shops that use their proceeds to help others.

One note that grew out of our discussion was many people's lack of health insurance, which often causes them to use expensive services such as ambulances and emergency rooms because they do not have to pay in advance of treatment, and often because they wait until they are *in extremis* to seek health care. We noted that a consequence of this is more expensive health care for everyone, and wondered if a charitable fund to pay for rides for indigent patients to see doctors and hospitals might help alleviate some of this problem.

We noted that one big problem with people in prison is that they often have difficulty returning to life on the outside. People may get out of prison only to be called back in for crimes committed prior to their

entering prison, but which have remained tangled in the courts. As a society we also tend to continue to punish ex-prisoners, as though we are not content that they have paid their debts. It is difficult for ex-prisoners to find homes and employment. Programs designed to support people while they return to society will help.

With prisons, we noted the extreme inequity and cruelty of the death penalty in all of the different ways it is practiced. We also noted that prison guards are often both the victims and perpetrators of violence in the prison system. Guards who are treated badly by their bosses and other guards will tend to take out their frustration on prisoners.

One way we can oppose prejudice and injustice is by making sure that our leaders know we don't approve of treating people like they are less than people. Any of us can write a letter to the editor or write our local congresspersons. This is especially important if we live where the prevailing opinion seems to be one that supports unjust attitudes. We can support legislation that prevents discrimination against our GLBT neighbors in areas like housing, employment, and family life.

People benefit from a society that values everyone in many ways. One of the most important is that each of us is, or potentially will be, in a category that gets short shrift. Any of us could become disabled or have a GLBT family member, and all of us, if we live long enough, will grow old. Society benefits from equity because it keeps us from wasting people's gifts, and it prevents the kind of resentment that builds until it can lead to violence.

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: It is always reassuring to get together with people of like mind, who need the support of each other. In particular when we represent a minority point of view. There was a Friends Journal article that spoke about non-violence training, suggesting that if you are able to get your attacker to help you, enlist their help, it can transform the situation. None of us has had the intense kind of experience that the woman spoke of in the article.

It can be a difficult thing to maintain a consistent testimony against war, since we live in such a violent country—there is so much anger and polarization, related to various cultural, religious, economic ways of thinking and being. War tax resistance is not an easy choice since it involves putting oneself at risk financially and in a social sense. It is also a difficult choice to live in such a way that one does not pay taxes, meaning living “closer to the edge”, but there is also satisfaction in not having to pay money for war making.

Bumper stickers are not enough. One parent spoke about their child having conflicts with another sixth grader, and picking out the good things about that person, to remember when the inevitable difficult time to be around them occurred. With our youth, we talk about not using words that hurt.

It seems clear that, in this country and the world, we will eventually have conflicts over water and food. It is not clear why decision makers think they are providing a safer, more stable, more secure country.

Even the poorest of the poor in this country are not as impoverished as in much of the rest of the world. Conditions of this kind of economic disparity promote much anger and result in many conflicts.

At the college, there is a wide range of economic backgrounds; no negative connotations (with any particular economic class) that one student has observed. At one time or another, many of the issues bubble up in the form of chalk wars (on the sidewalks).

We think it is a good idea to change consumer habits, but aren't sure if it is possible to change so that we don't purchase or consume things made by sweatshops or slave labor. Buying locally grown food supports local growers. It takes time and effort to send a letter to someone to let them know that you didn't buy their product because of their labor practices.

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

SIXTH DAY – FRIDAY – 7/29/05

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

“You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness.” James 1:19

“Dispatch business quickly and keep out of long debates and heats. ...be swift to hear and slow to speak and let it be in the grace which seasons all words.” George Fox, Epistle 418, 1690

Mark Tomer and Karin McAdams have been appointed as readers this morning.

On the afternoon of Fifth Day Friends had an opportunity to tour the Scattergood grounds and farm. The Yearly Meeting Discipline Revision Committee held an open discussion on proposed revision to the history section of the *Faith and Practice, the Discipline of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative*. Friends were also offered opportunities to schedule interest groups and many were able to take advantage of this.

Byron Sandford, director of William Penn House in Washington, DC, and member of Friends Meeting of Washington, DC, in Baltimore Yearly Meeting was the evening Collection speaker. Byron’s topic was, “Putting *Religious* Back in the Religious Society of Friends.” Stating that there is a hunger among Friends for spiritual community, Byron shared ideas and queries to help create and nurture those beloved communities in our home meetings. Byron said that as he read and reflected on what he might be called to share with us, he found that for Quakers, religion and society cannot be separated. He said it is from our faith that our testimonies grow. Who we are and what we are about are the glue that binds. Without our journey of faith, we are just a group of folks hanging out together. He urged us to remember that Christ calls us to love one another because it is the learning to love that makes us still the Religious Society of Friends.

We are pleased to have these visitors present: Doug Hamilton, visiting from an unaffiliated meeting in Fairfield, Iowa; Elizabeth O’Sullivan, Twin Cities Friends Meeting, Northern Yearly Meeting, and

the yet-to-be-named Conservative leaning worship group in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

After Fifth Day business session some Friends did further research on last year’s budget and available funds for the Entertainment Committee. It was found that the minutes do state as reported by the 2004 Entertainment Committee that the Yearly Meeting approved an annual policy that if Yearly Meeting contributions were in excess of \$2,000, Entertainment Committee would forward excess money to the Yearly Meeting Trustees. (pg. 86) The Trustees are easy with this policy being rescinded at this time so that the Entertainment Committee has use of the excess funds from the prior annual sessions. There is no need to amend the Entertainment Committee report and we suggest that the Fifth Day minute be corrected. There is no need to change any other part of the report or minute.

We listened to the Yearly Meeting Trustees Report. We also appreciate the new cushions in the meetinghouse. We appreciate the care and up keep of the Hickory Grove Meetinghouse by the Scattergood students and staff and particularly recognize and thank Joey Giffen Hunter for his work.

YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES REPORT

We appointed Judy Cottingham and Susan Murty to the Scattergood School Foundation Trustees with their terms to expire in 2009.

We provided cushions for the meetinghouse from funds augmented by last year’s minute, which gave the excess of the entertainment committee fund to us. The cushions were deeply appreciated by the students who use the meetinghouse on a daily basis. Each of the trustees received a thank-you card with numerous signatures.

It has come to our attention that there is a Trust for the preservation of the Whittier meetinghouse. It is in the bylaws of that Trust that one of the trustees of that Trust also be a Trustee of Iowa Yearly Meeting. No action is required of us now, but we should be aware of this provision.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Checking account: First National Bank of Primghar

Initial Balance July 1, 2004	\$502.77
Interest	5.35
Received from Yearly Meeting	1,000.00
Donation toward cushions	300.00

IYM Entertainment Committee	<u>2,178.10</u>
Funds Available	\$3,986.22

Funds Disbursed	
Remainder of no-interest loan	500.00
Waggoners Inc. for cushions	<u>3,382.27</u>
Total	\$3,882.27

Balance on hand June 30, 2205 \$103.95

Respectfully submitted
A. M. Fink

We received the Scattergood Foundation Trustees Report. The work of Scattergood Trustees is under the care of the Yearly Meeting Trustees. We were told that the goal of the Foundation Trustees is to provide \$60,000 to Scattergood each year. Due to market investments and other factors we were a little short this year at \$57,215. However, our endowment fund is continuing to grow a bit. We are glad to hear we are moving in the right direction.

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL FOUNDATION TRUSTEES REPORT

The Foundation has continued to carry out its mission of stewardship of the funds entrusted to its care for the use of Scattergood School. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005

Total Income	\$102,923
Donations	64,232
B.C. Zeigler Interest and Dividends	3,680
Edward Jones Account	112
Checking Account-Interest	80
Land Rend	3,450
Westwood Interest and Dividends	31,369

Total Expenses and Transfers	\$68,628
Support to Scattergood School	57,215
Checking Account Distribution	57,215
Westwood Trust Distribution	
Accrued Payable	

Expenses	\$11,413
Accounting Services—paid by school	
Investment Fees and Bank Charges	11,413

Excess (Deficit) of Revenue over Expenses	34,295
Less: Realized & Unrealized Losses on Investments	(73,002)
Deficit after Gain (Loss) Adjustment	\$107,297

Growth of Foundation

As of Fiscal Year Ending	6/30/05	6/30/04	+/-
Investments & Earnings	\$1,352,609	\$1,245,312	\$107,297
B.C.Zeigler	56,755	53,188	3,567
Edward Jones Account		14,276	(14,276)
Westwood Trust	1,200,789	1,091,936	108,853
Cash in Checking Accounts	1,717	8,857	(7,140)
Accrued Income	3,198	4,705	(1,507)
Interest-free Loan	(5,000)	(5,000)	

Book Value of the Endowment	
6/30/05	\$834,846
2001-02	840,574
2002-03	995,699
2003-04	1,093,909
2004-05	1,158,142

We listened with interest to the Scattergood School Farm Report prepared by Mark Quee, farm manager; the Scattergood Director's Report by Jan Luchini; and the Scattergood School Committee Report prepared by Lucy Hansen, clerk. We appreciate the good reports. We are happy to hear about the work the farm staff has done to integrate the farm, school, and wider community. We are blessed by the presence of the director and other staff at our annual sessions. We learned that there are eight former Scattergood students on the current staff. We appreciate the hard work of the Scattergood staff especially during these last two years of transition. We especially appreciate the dedication of Jan Luchini who stepped up in a difficult time and offered stability and continuity for Scattergood. We hope to give her the support she needs to be with us as director for years to come! We are happy to see how many former staff members remain active members of our year meeting. As we recognize those of us who have been students, staff, school committee members, and parents of students, we are reminded that we are a part of Scattergood and Scattergood is a part of us. It continues to be our primary inreach and outreach to members of IYM(C) and the world.

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL FARM REPORT

In the midst of a challenging season, I am reminded of farmer/writer Gene Logsdon's admonition that doing hard work on the land is not a means to an end, but an end in itself. Lately each day, this end has been ending earlier—just after noon—as the farm team seeks shelter inside from the relentless heat and unremitting drought. In spite of the challenges of growing food in these conditions, we are all fortunate to be engaged in this endeavor and appreciate even more not only our lifestyle of working with the land, but also the ripening tomatoes, the fattening ears of sweet corn, and the promise of a cooler, and perhaps wetter, autumn.

Several years ago the Scattergood Farm embarked on a renewed mission to integrate itself into the academic life of students, to produce

for the school and others vast quantities of organic fruits and vegetables as well as residue-free meat and eggs, to reach out to the surrounding community to spread the news of good things happening at Scattergood and in sustainable agriculture, and finally, to not be a financial drag on the school. Many structures are in place to make these things happen and now, hopefully, each year we will continue to better fulfill all aspects of this mission.

Here is some of the progress we have made:

During the last year the farm was a significant part of many students' academic life. Biology and advanced biology classes seeded pastures, kept vigil on expectant ewes, studied different soil types around campus, helped burn the prairie, and aided in several large projects at the farm. In addition to the farm and poultry projects which previously existed, last fall we added a food preservation project which found ways to store for later use much of our garden bounty. In addition, farm, compost, and chicken crews continued throughout the academic year. All students also took part in a farm work day during student orientation, and several returned the week before graduation to again help out with some spring cleaning. We continue to look for new and varied ways to use the farm as an outdoor laboratory in as many classes as possible.

We finished last year providing over 3000 pounds of organic produce to the school, in addition to 1200 pounds sold to New Pioneer Coop and 23 weeks of vegetables supplied to 22 CSA subscribers. The chickens laid over 550 dozen eggs for school with an additional 100 dozen sold to CSA subscribers. We also slaughtered two lambs, three feeder pigs, eight turkeys, and 55 hens that were all used in the Scattergood kitchen throughout the year. 2005 is off to a good start with greater greenhouse capacity for winter harvests, a productive spring garden, as well as more turkeys, pigs, lambs and steers ready for slaughter this fall.

The farm continues to act as an important part as Scattergood reaches out to the wider community. Last fall we hosted a field day in conjunction with Iowa City's Field to Family Food Festival, during which about 40 visitors attended workshops, took tours, and enjoyed a lunch of spit-roasted lamb, fresh green salad, and roasted root vegetables—all raised on the farm. This spring, we twice welcomed over a dozen four-to-eight-year-olds from the Pheasant Ridge Community Center in Iowa City. These children, many of whom are from families who recently emigrated from Sudan and the Middle East, interacted with our livestock, gathered eggs, and enjoyed walks all around the farm. Also, through the CSA, we have developed a relationship with the Iowa

City charity, Local Foods Connection. This organization buys CSA subscriptions for poor families, and provides volunteer labor to the farms producing the food. Through Local Foods Connection, the University of Iowa men's golf team and women's crew team spent two hours accomplishing what would have been weeks' worth of labor. Smaller volunteer crews have also helped at various times with weeding and garlic harvesting. A chapter on Scattergood (featuring the farm and the kitchen) will be included in a book by Kurt Michael Friese about people living and eating well. The book will be published by the University of Iowa Press and is titled *Slow Food in the Heartland: A Cook's Tour*. The Scattergood Farm was also selected to take part in a promotional effort by New Pioneer Coop that features local growers. This fall, large posters featuring the farm should appear in each New Pi location. These larger outreach efforts complement our many on-going efforts, which include the CSA (up to 32 subscribers this season), and the many tours given to prospective families, visiting parents, class reunions, and others.

Finally, profits realized by the farm are fed back in to infrastructure and programmatic upgrades. We continue to add new fences to ease our livestock program and make other purchases that help provide new and innovative ways of enriching Scattergood students' education.

All of this is the work of so many people, foremost including all of the Scattergood faculty and students, who continue to support the farm through hard work and innovative use. The enthusiasm and support of alumni and members of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) is also so valuable. Most important are those who work directly in making things happen on the farm: Ken Fawcett and Fawcett Family Farms, who continue to provide valuable consultation and management of our conventional row crops; Matthew Goldfarb, who as farm assistant helped establish our livestock program before moving back east; Dan Carter, our current farm assistant, who has adjusted quickly to life on the farm and has innovative ideas for his biology classes; Dana Foster and Jennifer Warnecke, who, through crews and projects, help further integrate the farm into students' lives; and Flossie Cox, Ellen Ekmann, and Emma Hardy, who have helped shoulder the burden, delightedly, of the summer workload.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Farm Subcommittee
Mark Quee, farm manager

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This was another wonderful year here at Scattergood. 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 ten seniors this year who participated in the graduation ceremony on May 29, 2005. They included Katy Boulet, Nora Brock, Alex Bruner, Shane Crew, Shin-Young Kim, Fabrice Musoni, Balta Pena, Moriah Spicer, Naz Tarhan, and Molly Uzzell. Four of our recent graduates were international students, hailing from Korea, Rwanda, Mexico, and Turkey. All graduates have been accepted into accredited colleges or universities. Katy Boulet will attend Cornell College in Iowa; Nora Brock will attend Beloit College in Wisconsin; Alex Bruner will attend Evergreen State in Washington; following a stint in Italy working on an organic farm, Shane Crew will be choosing a college to attend. He was accepted at both Northland College in Wisconsin and Warren Wilson College in North Carolina; Shin-Young Kim will attend the University of Minnesota; Fabrice Musoni will attend either Luther College or Simpson College in Iowa; Balta Pena will attend college in Mexico (post-graduate); following a year working in Chicago, Moriah Spicer will attend Knox College in Illinois; Naz Tarhan will attend Coe College in Iowa; Molly Uzzell will attend St. Andrew's University in Scotland. Congratulations and best wishes to all of these 2005 Scattergood graduates.

Congratulations to next year's seniors Yang Li, who was named the Bob and Sara Berquist Scholar, and Angel Mills, who was honored as the Fine Arts Scholar.

Several staff members have left Scattergood and will not return next year. They include Carrie Fattig, Debby Goodwin, Matthew Goldfarb, Anders Matney, Erin Lane, Mike Watson, Heather Godley, Jeremy Tinder, and Elisabeth Beasley. We wish to thank them for their numerous and vast contributions to the school and wish them the best in their future.

Staff members choosing to return for the 2005-06 school year include Adam Kurth, Beth Bliss, Carrie Marsh, Dana Foster, Emily McLain, Hans Niehus, Irving Treadway, Jan Luchini, Jamie Michener, Jennifer Warnecke, Joey Giffen-Hunter, John Mormon, Lorry Perry, Margie Figgins, Meisha Goodhue, Mark Quee, Sarah Giffen-Hunter, and Shannon Pingnot.

Staff members new to Scattergood for the upcoming school year include: Kay Kimble, Rachel Thomson, Michal Lynch, Riley Lark, Sam Taylor, Dana Smith, Nan Fawcett, and Dan Carter.

We began the 2004-05 school year with 46 students and ended the year with 41 young adults who learned what it means to live in community. The school committee approved not increasing the tuition for this year, which stayed at \$20,000 for full boarding, \$18,500 for five-day boarding, and \$11,000 for day students. The total net revenue for tuition was \$480,853, for an average cost to parents per student of \$11,054. Financial aid totaling \$358,897 went to students, with \$191,873 of that being funded with donations from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), the Scattergood Friends School Endowment, and the Measey Fund. The remaining \$167,024 was unfunded. Annual giving and other donations totaled \$379,586. 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 \$8,825. This amount represents a small gain, when I thought we might be in the red due to not reaching our tuition revenue budget. This net gain is due to the staff who continue to spend the school's resources responsibly.

We are currently between 86-92% of completing our Bridging the Gap campaign goal. The range is due to some of our specific goals having been surpassed, while others are still in need. The Bridging the Gap campaign has allowed us to make quite a few improvements to the campus and facilities in the past year. A new and more compact (thus easier to park), van has been added to the Scattergood fleet of vehicles. The exteriors of the instruction building, the boy's dorm, the north side of the Berquist House, and parts of the Main have been painted. Several roofs have been replaced or repaired, and staff apartments in the science building, duplex, and farm house have received new paint, repairs, and new flooring. The auditorium received new padded (and less squeaky) chairs, the interior gym walls have been smoothed and the metal beams padded, and carpeting was replaced in high traffic, heavily used areas of the social room, library hallway, boy's dorm lounge and hallway, and the student lounge. Some much needed electrical upgrades have already occurred, with more scheduled to take place in the coming months. This year's senior project included removing a number of older, overgrown shrubs near buildings and replanting with smaller varieties. They also planted a number of trees at the farm.

Each year Scattergood students and staff enjoy numerous trips, which serve to strengthen our curriculum, as well as increase our sense of awareness of the world and the role we all play in contributing to making a difference in the world community. The all-school fall

camping weekend was held at Coralville Lake, where we enjoyed hiking, sailing, swimming, and kayaking. The annual Quaker Youth Leadership Conference, held in Philadelphia, was attended by six students and two staff. All came away with a greater appreciation of Scattergood. During the seventh-block trips this year, 14 students went to Costa Rica with two staff members for three and a half weeks. Students learned about the country, met Friends, and participated in a rural community service project. The group traveled to Zapotal, a small village high in the mountains bordering the rainforest, where they worked to clear and maintain nature trails through the forest, raised a butterfly garden, helped in the cheese factory and restaurant, milked cows, played soccer, learned from the community, and visited the nearby ecological coffee cooperative. They also traveled to Monteverde, a community famous for its biodiversity contained in an ecological rainforest preserve. The existing preserve was founded by members of the Religious Society of Friends, and the Scattergood group was lucky to meet several Friends who shared their stories. While the group was there they visited the Monteverde Friends School, and volunteered with the upper-class students to work on a nearby nature trail and education project.

Four students took part in the popular trip that biked back to Scattergood's campus from Natchez, MS, with Hans Niehus. Four students and trip leaders Anders Matney and Adam Kurth hiked and performed service work in Utah's national parks.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following Friends in Residence or visitors to the school this year: Teri Jean Breitbach and Monica Leo of Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre Company (October), sculptor Michelle Acuff (January 23), the Irish band The Beggarmen (February 26), Boston area singer/songwriter Anne Heaton and Frank Marotta, Jr. (December 3), Joel Service Cadbury (February 19-22), Linn Lovett Stone (Scattergood class of 1967) and her mother Janet Toy (February 24-March 7) and Eric Roalson (March 5) all visited Scattergood to share their musical and artistic skills and passions with the community.

Matthew Lauterback from the University of Illinois and Bob Winchell of the Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting talked to students about being a conscientious objector, and about peace and conflict resolution (November 13). Dr. Sadako Tokumaru, of the University of Joetsu in Japan, spoke with Quakerism students as part of her research on spirituality in school settings (October 28).

Michael Luick-Thrams, author of *Out of Hitler's Reach: The Scattergood Hostel for European Refugees 1939-1943*, and Rod Pump, of Clear Lake, IA, held an informal discussion with students and staff on

gender issues and sexuality (October 16). The Iowa City Hapkido Club gave a martial arts demonstration, Ed Clopton of Iowa City spoke on his paramedic experiences, and the Mennonite Mutual Aid Foundation gave a program on responsible money management. Our February Intersession offerings were further enriched by Mark Helm's (Scattergood class of 1975) class on Judo and Women's Self Defense, A.R. "Mac" McNamara's explorations of Hypnosis and the Media, Michelle Acuff's workshop of American Beauty Art History and Installation, and Puppetmaking by Breanne Hunter, Erin Coleman, and Michelle Thompson.

We are in our third year of the seven year ISACS (Independent School Association of the Central States) accreditation cycle. We produced a lengthy and thorough self-study report, which analyzed and explained all of the facets of the school and farm. In February, a visiting team came for a week to review our school and produce their own report of accommodations and recommendations. It was a very valuable tool for the faculty to perform this self-analysis and then to reflect on the report from the visiting team. Our status as "accredited" has been tabled until they receive our audit this August.

Due to our lower enrollment, we quickly became a very close-knit community. Together, in Community Meeting, we tackled such issues as restructuring the weekend open-dorm policy, and created a new dorm lounge co-ed weekday study time. These meetings were key in demonstrating that we all have a voice in the community and in our lives here at Scattergood. Fun activities included Faculty Follies, which spoofed the school as a School for Super Heroes. Erin Lane, Dean of Students, created a new event this year, which was Dessert with the Dean, an informal monthly time for students to express their thoughts and concerns while consuming tasty treats. Another new attempt at informal information gathering was small group discussions with parents after the Scattergood Day Tea. These small group discussions generated many wonderful ideas that we are now looking forward to putting into practice in the coming years.

I would like to acknowledge and thank IYM (Conservative) for their generous and continued spiritual and financial support of the school collectively and individually.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Luchini, director

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL AND RELATED ENTITIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
JUNE 30, 2005

	School	Related Entities Farm	Foundation	Consolidating Entries	Consolidated Totals
ASSETS					
Current Assets					
Cash & cash equivalents					
Cash in bank	\$352,780	\$12,463	\$1,717		\$366,880
Petty cash	600				600
Cash & equivalents- Westwood Trust			72,479		72,479
Total cash and equivalents	\$353,380	\$12,463	\$74,196		\$439,959
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$4,000	\$45,216				\$45,216
Accrued interest & dividends			3,199		3,199
Farm inventories		5,665			2,690
Investment in growing crops		2,836			1,666
Prepaid expenses	43,651				43,651
Pledges Receivable	250,419				250,419
Total Current Assets	\$692,666	\$20,884	\$77,395	(\$7,800)	\$790,945
Property & Equipment					
Land & land improvements	\$213,889	\$109,526	\$85,150		\$408,565
Buildings & improvements	2,462,652	106,720			2,569,372
Vehicles	135,113	11,808			146,921
Equipment	547,498	47,473			594,971
Breeding stock		8,852			8,276
Less: accumulated depreciation	(1,399,144)	(126,759)			(1,525,903)
Total property & Equipment	\$1,960,008	\$157,620	\$85,150		\$2,202,778
Other Assets					
Pledges Receivable	\$314,529				\$314,529
Long term	940,344		\$1,195,064		\$2,135,408

investments – marketable securities					
Interest in net assets of Scattergood Friends School Foundation	1,352,609		(1,352,609)		
Total Other Assets	\$2,607,482	\$1,195,064	(1,352,609)	\$2,449,937	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$5,260,156	\$178,504	\$1,357,609	(\$1,352,609)	\$5,443,660

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS					
Current Liabilities					
Accounts payable	\$28,688	\$516		\$29,204	
Interest payable	1,150			1,150	
Student deposits	18,732			18,732	
Deferred income	27,188	5,217		32,405	
Loans payable (interest– free)	18,000		5,000	23,000	
Current portion of long- term debt	37,938			37,938	
Total Current Liabilities	\$131,696	\$5,733	\$5,000	\$142,429	
Long-Term Debt					
Note payable – Mazda Credit	\$1,426			\$1,426	
Notes payable – US Bank	108,532			108,532	
Less: Current portion of long- term debt	(37,938)			(37,938)	
Total Long- Term Debt	\$72,020			\$72,020	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$203,716	\$5,733	\$5,000	\$214,449	
Net Assets					
Unrestricted	\$2,494,588	\$172,771		\$2,667,359	
Temporarily restricted	1,403,710		194,467	(194,467)	1,403,710
Permanently restricted	1,158,142		1,158,142	(1,158,142)	1,158,142
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$5,056,440	\$172,771	\$1,352,609	(\$1,352,609)	\$5,229,211

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$5,260,156	\$178,504	\$1,357,609	(\$1,352,609)	\$5,443,660
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**COMBINED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR
ENDED JUNE 30, 2005**

	Related Entities				
Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets	School	Farm	Foundation	Consolidating Entries	Consolidated Totals
Revenues & Other Support					
Tuition – Gross	\$839,750				\$839,750
Less: Scholarship allowance	(358,897)				(358,897)
Tuition support – Measey Foundation	104,658				104,658
Tuition & tuition support-Net	\$585,511				\$585,511
Contributions & other support-Schedule 1	482,128			(57,216)	424,912
Fees & charges	11,237				11,237
Other operating income	8,737				8,737
Farm income – Schedule 3		26,222			26,222
Investment Income:					
Interest & dividends	18,977				18,977
Net realized & unrealized gains on investments	136,324				136,324
Investment fees	(7,709)				(7,709)
Net assets released from restrictions	650,815		57,216		708,031
Total Revenues & Other Support	\$1,886,020	\$26,222	\$57,216	(\$57,216)	\$1,912,242
Expenses					
Payroll	\$415,128				\$415,128
Personnel costs	129,207				129,207
Personnel development	9,651				9,651
Professional services	5,165				5,165
Contracted services	27,509				27,509
Insurance	73,365				73,365
Occupancy costs	53,860				53,860
Supplies	36,588				36,588
Food service	46,096				46,096
Vehicles & equipment	24,999				24,999

Communications	14,662			14,662	
Promotion	136,371			136,371	
Technology	41,627			41,627	
Other expenses	20,700			20,700	
Bad debts	1,159			1,159	
Depreciation (excluding laptops)	107,529	6,844		114,373	
Farm expenses— Schedule 3		20,866		20,866	
Grants to related parties			57,216	(57,216)	
Total Expenses	<u>\$1,143,616</u>	<u>\$27,730</u>	<u>\$57,216</u>	<u>(\$57,216)</u>	<u>\$1,171,346</u>
Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$742,404	(\$1,508)			\$740,896
Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets					
Rent income			\$3,450		\$3,450
Investment Income					
Interest & dividends			35,242		35,242
Less: Investment fees			(11,314)		(11,314)
Contributions & other support – Schedule 1	1,775,176				1,775,176
Net realized & unrealized gains on investments			73,002		73,002
Change in interest in Scattergood Friends School Foundation	43,065			(43,065)	
Net assets released from restrictions	(650,815)		(57,216)		(708,031)
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$1,167,426		43,065	(43,065)	1,167,426
Changes in Permanently Restricted Net Assets					
Contributions			\$64,232		\$64,232
Changes in interest in Scattergood Friends School Foundation	64,232			(64,232)	
Change in Permanently Restricted Net Assets	\$64,232		\$64,232	(\$64,232)	\$64,232
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	\$1,974,062	(1,508)	\$107,297	(\$107,297)	\$1,972,554
Net Assets, beginning of year	<u>\$3,082,378</u>	<u>\$174,279</u>	<u>\$1,245,312</u>	<u>(\$1,245,312)</u>	<u>\$3,256,657</u>
Net Assets, end of year	<u>\$5,056,440</u>	<u>\$172,771</u>	<u>\$1,352,609</u>	<u>(\$1,352,609)</u>	<u>\$5,229,211</u>

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

In December of 2004 the School Committee accepted the recommendation of the Search Committee to hire Jan Luchini as director of Scattergood Friends School. A year ago at this gathering she was adjusting to her new role as interim director, and we were collecting applications. There were some good people interested in being director and the Search Committee was kept busy last fall reviewing and discussing the possibilities. In the end it became clear that Jan was the right person to lead the school.

To quote from a letter announcing our choice: “During her tenure as interim director, Jan demonstrated her ability to work collaboratively with Scattergood staff and faculty and her willingness to learn and grow to fulfill the duties of the directorship. We are unanimous in our belief that Jan’s strengths and her deep belief in and commitment to the mission of Scattergood made her the strongest candidate for the position. She brings a sense of stability and security to the school and has a vision for new growth and development consistent with Scattergood’s history of providing quality education based upon Quaker principles.”

Jan taught art classes for several years at Scattergood before moving into the business office as assistant, and has been the school’s business manager since 1993.

We hope members of the Yearly Meeting will support Jan in her work for Scattergood.

On behalf of the School Committee,
Lucy Hansen, clerk

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTE

Greetings Friends,

At the July 23, 2005 meeting of the Scattergood Friends School Committee, there was discussion concerning the allocation to Scattergood Friends School from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). It was decided to request an increase this year of \$1,500, for a total of \$33,000. The minute reads:

For this year the school committee requests a \$1,500 increase in funding, to \$33,000.

On behalf of the School Committee,
Lucy Hansen, clerk

We heard the William Penn House Report prepared by the IYM(C) Consultative Committee members. We appreciate the good report and approve it as amended.

WILLIAM PENN HOUSE REPORT

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) has had a long and harmonious relationship with William Penn House. Committee members, Scattergood School students, college students, and others have enjoyed the hospitality at William Penn House. We continue strengthening the ties that bind us together with the attendance and participation of Byron Sanford, Executive Director, at our yearly meeting sessions this year.

The project to develop a curriculum for teaching peace studies in schools resulted in a pilot seminar presented last October. It was attended by Quaker educators of varied traditions. Feedback indicated the pilot was a success and additional seminars would be well received.

The recent partnership of the Washington Quaker work camps and William Penn House is working very well. Andrei Israel has moved from part time to full time director. This school year three times as many young people have been involved in Spirit-centered service.

An important goal of William Penn House is to provide a place where the next generation of Quaker leaders can be nurtured. The intern program promotes this goal as recent college graduates come to work at William Penn House and often go on to work for Quaker or other non-profit organizations.

FCNL has continued to benefit from the hospitality of William Penn House during its construction project. Lobby weekends were co-sponsored and committee meetings meet there regularly.

Other highlights of the year were a graduate level seminar on human rights conducted by the University of Washington, working with the Emerson Hunger Fellows, and hosting Native Americans participating in the opening ceremonies of the Museum of the American Indian.

Meeting for worship is held daily. On the first Sunday of each month 20 to 30 Quakers from the area monthly meetings come for potluck and dialogue.

Plans are underway to completely repaint the whole house and upgrade the Cory Conference Room. We are thankful for the vision and energy of Byron Sandford, executive director, and his associate director, Patricia Coffman. The Committee suggests a \$300.00 donation from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

On behalf of the William Penn House Consultative Committee,
Alberta Kisling, Richard Baltaro, Jim Kenney

We appreciated hearing the report of the Special Needs Committee. We are reminded to use unscented products for our own well-being and to project our voices clearly even when using the microphones so all have benefit of hearing what we are being led to share. We approve the report.

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

As before, registration forms for Yearly and Midyear Meeting have a space for people to indicate special needs such as diet, mobility, housing, and others.

These forms also mention fragrance-free environments and chemical sensitivities. We have been only partially successful in achieving our goals in this area, but we encourage Friends to continue their awareness of this issue.

The FM transmission system has been used at both Yearly and Midyear Meetings. We would remind people speaking, whether out the silence of worship or during discussions, that if they don’t use the mikes, there will be some who won’t hear and who will feel excluded from the community. We would like to point out that “just speaking louder” doesn’t usually help hearing-impaired people. The analogy would be that making the lights brighter doesn’t help if you don’t have your glasses. Also, remember that a microphone is like an ice cream cone—please hold it close to your mouth.

Wheelchairs are available at both meetings, and Midyear has a stairway lift. There is still a concern for accessibility at Scattergood, which includes mobility between floors in the main building, as well as handicapped-accessible bathrooms and showers. Friends are again asked to give names of F/friends not present due to lack of accessibility or other special needs to the clerk of the Special Needs Committee, so that we may address those problems in the future and so that the Special Replies Committee may be asked to send letters letting them know that they were missed.

Special Needs Committee
Marilyn Mantel-Guss, clerk

We heard the report of the Discipline Revision Committee. We appreciate the report and the extended and faithful work of the committee.

DISCIPLINE REVISION COMMITTEE

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

The committee has spent most of the past year rewriting the History section, writing the Faith and Testimonies section, and completing the Living our Faith section. The following is a rough table of contents, noting the status of each section:

I—The introduction—Quotations will be selected after other sections have been written.

II—The History section has been reviewed by monthly meetings and rewritten according to comments received from a few individuals. We will give further considerations and make changes as a result of the good discussion held on Fifth Day afternoon at these sessions.

III—The Faith and Testimonies section has been sent to monthly meetings and comments have been received from most. This draft includes paragraphs on:

- Inner Light
- Spirit Led Corporate Worship
- Continuing Revelation
- Discernment and Decision Making
- Equality
- Integrity
- Simplicity
- Peace and Non-Violence

IV—The Living Our Faith Section has been submitted to monthly meetings for discussion (except for one subsection, Life's Work, which is not yet ready). Most meetings have been reviewing

these subsections and giving us their comments. We expect to be revising these during the next few months and bringing them to the 2006 Yearly Meeting sessions for approval. The subsections are:

- Stewardship of Personal Resources
- Drugs and Alcohol
- Marriage
- Sex
- Children
- Death
- Honors and Titles
- Oaths and Secret Societies
- Education
- Life's Work: Career, Family and Community—This section is not ready.
- Resistance to Militarism
- Citizenship and Civil Disobedience
- Special Testimonies Concerning Human Dignity
- Criminal Justice
- Capital Punishment
- Economic Justice
- Environmental Issues
- International Relations

V—Queries and Advices—were approved in 1996

VI—The Organization section, how we're organized and how we get things done: Much work has been completed on this. The subsections are:

- General Procedures (business, clearness committees, etc.)
- Monthly Meetings
- Yearly Meeting
- New Meetings and Worship Groups

VII—Appendices (glossary, index, list of Friends organizations, bibliography) Much work has been completed on this.

We have been enriched by the process of writing the Faith and Testimonies and Living our Faith sections this year. Though it is a big time commitment, we are learning a lot about our faith and enjoying each other's company. Our work during the coming year will involve

rewriting those sections in response to monthly meeting comments as well as finishing the Organization section, the appendices, and the introduction. We realize that we will be putting a burden on the monthly meetings to allow time in their schedules to read and discuss the drafts of sections during the coming year. We appreciate the time and care meetings have already given. We especially appreciate the work of several non-committee members on the History section, and we may to ask for help on other sections as well, as need arises.

We continued with the reading of sixth through eighth queries and selected answers. We continue to affirm the gifts we receive by answering these queries in community and hearing them read during sessions. We learn and are encouraged by them. All queries and selected responses will be printed in the Minute Book in the Fifth Day section.

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

SEVENTH DAY – SATURDAY – 7/30/05 MORNING SESSION

We return to the business of Yearly Meeting.

“We are made ignorant by what we are certain we know....Creeds and ideologies were seen by (George) Fox as the apple offered by the serpent in the Garden of Eden....Giving up beliefs requires the discipline of feeding on the Inward light. It requires us to go into the silence again and again until we learn to let go of thinking about how we can make the world fit our desires. We need instead to be open to being filled by what is, and to let our actions be true to what has been made known to us.”
Robert Griswold, *Creeds and Quakers*, 2005

Jules Galusha and Nathan Tomer have been appointed as readers this morning.

We are pleased to have the presence of these visitors: Ken and Katherine Jacobson–Stillwater Monthly Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting, sojourning in Chicago; Ian Rhodes–Twin Cities Monthly Meeting, Northern Yearly Meeting, and yet-to-be-named Conservative-leaning worship group in Minneapolis; Sara Brenner–Madison, Wisconsin; Andy Crowl–Omaha, Nebraska; Conner and Nick Cottingham–Des Moines, Iowa.

We listened carefully and with love to the wonderful epistle/report of Junior Yearly Meeting. We really celebrate the presence of our Jr. Yearly Meeting F/friends and the leadership and preparation that makes their week possible. We thank the parents for bringing their children and sharing them with us all. We receive the epistle with joy and it will be sent by the Yearly Meeting clerk in Yearly Meeting’s epistle to Friends everywhere.

JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING EPISTLE

To Junior Yearly Meeting Friends Everywhere,

We thank you for sending your letters and hope you like ours. We have done many things during our week in Yearly Meeting. Our theme this week was shelter. The first activity we did this week was to build bluebird houses to help encourage the bluebird population. Another of our challenging projects included researching what the Bible says about

heaven. We had homework, which was to ask two older Friends what they thought heaven was like.

On Thursday our group built two structures, one larger than the other. The smaller one was a short rock structure that was more like a stool or bench. The largest structure was a lodge or Hogan. We had help from a lady named Lucy. We had to cut down willows surrounding our pond so we could tie them together and bury the ends in the ground. Once we had that done we laid a blanket on the ground and about five blankets on the willows. Our Hogan fit ten people.

In the time that we were making the Hogan, we had a two hour break to swim in the Fawcett's pond. When we were there, we wrestled, swam, sank a small platform in the middle of the pond, tackled Joseph, and watched the giant catfish eat. They weighed about 30 pounds.

On Friday, we went to Habitat for Humanity, and volunteered to help a family from Sudan. Then later that night we went to the Laughlin's house for a campout in their yard. It was very fun considering they get their energy from the wind/windmill. While we were there we lit a bonfire in a tree stump, roasted hot dogs, and roasted marshmallows to have in s'mores. In between all our activities, the kids of the Meeting played games, such as ghost-in-the-graveyard, capture the flag, hide and go seek, tag, pool, table hockey, and foosball.

We have had a wonderful time this week and we hope to hear from you next year.

Yours in Friendship,
Junior Yearly Meeting,
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

We listened carefully to the good epistle/report prepared by Young Friends. We have a lot to learn from these Friends. We were impressed with their service projects. We are happy they are considering serving on our monthly and yearly meeting committees and look forward to serving with them. We continue to be grateful for the thoughtful and faithful leadership given by Joseph Kiltyka.

YOUNG FRIENDS EPISTLE

To Young Friends Everywhere,

We started out on the 26th of July. That evening we went to a presentation of one of our young Friend's Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. The next morning more teens came to increase our numbers. We started out by meeting that morning to go over to meeting for worship. After

meeting for worship we worked on personal symbols and discussed plans for the rest of the week. After lunch we pulled together to weed the volleyball sand court for Scattergood. We rested our sore hands in the murky water of the Scattergood pond. We managed to do a yearly tradition of filling the canoe with water. We had a record number of people in the water filled canoe. After showering off the muck from the pond, the Junior Yearly Meeting joined us in a game of ultimate Frisbee. We did some trust games lead by our fearless leader Joseph Kiltyka and some AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project) exercises led by Marge Schlitt. She had us be guided by our own morals on what is violence in one of the exercises. The teens then made up a new Quaker game that will soon take over Quaker entertainment. We then went over to the Social Room to watch the first part of *Gandhi*, the movie.

Thursday morning started out with our usual meeting for worship. We then gathered in the boys' dorm lounge to listen to Debbie Galusha talk about committees in our own monthly meetings and yearly meeting. The teens talked about spending our mornings next year at Yearly Meeting talking and learning about Quaker history and Quaker 101. The last half hour of our morning we played basketball in the gym at Scattergood. After eating lunch someone in the Yearly Meeting gave a talk on the William Penn House in Washington, DC. Afterwards we enjoyed another yearly tradition of going swimming in the Fawcett's pond. The Junior Yearly Meeting joined us making the afternoon a lot more lively. Later, after dinner, we made preparations to go to the Young Friends Cabin. We headed off at 7:30 that evening. We played card games outside while waiting for the 4,000 (exaggerated a little) bats to leave. We got tired of waiting for the bats to leave so we swept up some bat poop, played more card games, and roasted hotdogs and made s'mores. The 40 bats actually left when everyone was cozy in their sleeping bags around midnight. The most common card game that was played that day had an inappropriate name for a Quaker gathering so we changed it to Gandhi-B (Gandhi and Bush).

The next morning we celebrated the break of day at 8:30 by eating donuts and talking about the little conversations people had in their sleep. Meeting for worship was held outside under the trees with the sounds of birds, trees rustling, and cows in the background. Immediately after arriving back to Scattergood showers were taken and teeth were brushed. The consensus was to play another game of Gandhi-B and then we had a brief presentation on Sarah Winchell's Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. She showed us a slide show of pictures and her own journals and scrapbooks. Later that day we did another service project at the Crowded Closet, which is a Mennonite used goods store. There we helped sort, tag and

hang donated clothing. The tagging was especially entertaining as we got to use a special gun to shoot the tags through the clothes. Shortly after we got back from the Crowded Closet we worked on the kitchen and in the dining room serving and cleaning dishes. Right after working we finished the epistle, watched the second half of *Ghandi* and had a short discussion on the film. After that, we ordered a few pizzas and got a fun movie to watch.

Saturday we plan to go to meeting for worship and stay for business meeting in order to read our epistle to the Meeting. In the afternoon we are going swimming with JYM at a pool in a nearby town instead of swimming in the natural water in the school pond. If we get back before dinner, we will probably play some fun games outside. In the evening we are going to host the talent show for all of Iowa Yearly to enjoy or participate in if they choose. As Sunday comes, all of our feelings are bittersweet. We enjoyed the time to reunite with old friends and meet new ones. But at the same time, we all are looking forward to sleeping in our own beds. We all hope you enjoyed your yearly meeting as much as we enjoyed ours.

In the Light,
Young Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting

We received the reports of the Auditing Committee and the Yearly Meeting treasurer. It is evident that a lot of work goes into the Treasurer's report and throughout the year, and we thank Burt Kisling for this service. We approve the reports.

AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT

7/30/05

We have examined the Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) treasurer's records for the 2004-2005 fiscal year 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 Burt Kisling gives to maintaining the Yearly Meeting financial records.

Karen Greenler Marion Love

TREASURER'S REPORT

Thanks to the monthly meetings that took time to send at least a part of their IYM apportionment early in the new year. Yearly Meeting expenses are due throughout the year, not at year end, and this helps.

The balance sheet has two more reserve accounts than last year. The Iowa Youth weekends (4th – 9th grads) has a balance, as participants reimbursed \$206.27 more than was spent. The World Gathering of Young Friends received donations from monthly meetings and individuals in excess of actual need, as one Yearly Meeting family donated a complete registration fee. This leaves a balance of \$354.07 to cover contingencies for attendees. There is also the amount of \$1,684.10 in the FWCC Triennial reserve account.

The general fund balance available for the 2005-06 year is \$21,903.54 compared to \$22,120.82 for 2004-05. These figures are minus reserves.

Sincerely,
Burt Kisling, IYM treasurer

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Treasurer's Report Year Ended June 30, 2005 Budget for Fiscal 2004-05

Contributions	Budgeted	Spent
American Friends Service Committee	\$500.00	\$500.00
AFSC Native American Programs	125.00	125.00
Friends Committee on National Legislation	1,000.00	1,000.00
Friends General Conference	100.00	100.00
Iowa Peace Network	2,600.00	2,600.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation	1,500.00	1,500.00
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	31,500.00	31,500.00
Will Penn House	300.00	300.00
Total Contributions	\$39,375.00	\$39,375.00

Delegate Expenses

American Friends Service Committee	\$500.00	\$0.00
Friends Committee on National Legislation	600.00	579.90
World Gathering of Young Friends	2,500.00	2,500.00
FWCC-General	1000.00	1000.00
FWCC- Triennial	500.00	500.00
Friends Peace Teams	600.00	424.30

Total Delegate Expenses	\$5,700.00	\$5,004.20
Yearly Meeting Expenses		
Archives Committee	\$200.00	\$0.00
Clerk's and Other Adm. Expenses	400.00	150.70
Committee Expenses (Other)	500.00	150.81
Conscientious Objector PSC Subcommittee	100.00	0.00
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	1,000.00	1,000.00
Junior Yearly Meeting	2,000.00	441.50
IYM Youth Weekends (4 th -9 th grade)	400.00	0.00
Young Friends	1,500.00	945.00
Young Friends Travel and Conference	500.00	0.00
Special Needs Committee	500.00	0.00
Publication Committee	2,700.00	2,545.68
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship	300.00	0.00
YM Entertainment Committee	2,000.00	60.00
Midyear Planning Committee	1,000.00	0.00
Contingency Fund	1,000.00	0.00
Total YM Expenses	\$14,100.00	\$5,293.69
Total Budget	\$59,175.00	\$49,672.89

**Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
Treasurer's Report
Year Ended June 30, 2005**

Statement of Cash and Funds

Cash balance July 1, 2004	\$23,304.92
Receipts	
Monthly Meeting's Apportionments	\$49,000.00
Interest Earned	217.91
Sale of Disciplines and Minutes	40.00
IYM Youth Weekends (4 th -9 th grade) Reimbursement	1,165.00
Book Sale \$172.00, Check #1275-\$25.00	197.00
Contribution for World Gathering of Young Friend	1,079.07
Total Receipts	\$51,698.98
Total Cash Available	\$75,003.90

Disbursements	
Budget 2004-2005 Expenditures	\$49,672.89
World Gathering of Young Friends Expensed	3,224.40
IYM Youth Weekends (4 th -9 th grade) Expensed	958.63
Less Transferred to World Gathering of Young Friends	- 2,500.00
Less Transferred to F.W.C.C. Travel Fund	- 500.00
Total Disbursements	\$50,855.92
Cash balance June 30, 2005	\$24,147.98
Funds	
General Fund	
General Fund balance available for Year 2005-06	\$21,903.54
Reserve Funds	
FWCC Triennial Travel Fund as of 7/1/04	\$1184.10
Disbursed this year 7/1/05	0.00
Added this year 7/1/05	500.00
IYM Youth Weekends (4 th -9 th grade) balance 7/1/05	206.27
World Gathering of Young Friends balance 7/1/05	<u>354.07</u>
Balance June 30, 2005	\$2,244.44
Total funds June 30, 2005	\$24,147.98
EDCO Community Credit Union, Des Moines	
Savings Account	\$19,520.96
Draft (Check) Account	\$4,627.02
Total cash June 30, 2005	\$24,147.98

We listened carefully to the thorough report of the Yearly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committee. We appreciate the work of our monthly meeting peace and social concern committees and the Yearly Meeting Peace and Social Concern Committee. They help us discern how best to put our faith and leadings into actions. At times it is hard to find words that both tenderly and strongly address concerns laid on our hearts. It is part of the hard work we do together and we lovingly yield to each other at times trusting that the Spirit will continue to lead us as we take the risk of beginning the work. We approve the report as amended.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT

“It is important to us to try to live our faith and to use the presence of the Light to hold us on the course of hope and the belief in the power of Love and Truth. We voice concerns and issue the support to provide safety and welfare from the inhumane practices and conditions that others encounter in their lives on a daily basis. We pray for strength in facing cruelty and oppression, strife and violence, and to find a way to overcome these atrocious circumstances.”

This statement by one monthly meeting’s Peace and Social Concerns Committee speaks for us all as we continue to seek ways to put our faith into practice. It is an ongoing task. Here are just a few of the ways different members answered the call this past year:

All of us share an ongoing deep concern over the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Responses included work with national Quaker organizations such as FCNL and AFSC. Some meetings joined with other Quaker meetings nationwide in placing an apology in Arabic in an Iraqi newspaper. We continued to join state and local groups in bearing public witness in peace rallies, writing letters to newspapers, and communicating with our elected representatives.

There is great need for both military counter-recruiting and conscientious objector counseling. This issue speaks clearly to us as Quakers. Much work has been done this past year helping young people to see the true costs of our war fever. More work will be done in the year to come.

Other international neighbors have commanded Friends’ attention as well. We have helped send aid to Cuba, and in sponsoring a Rwandan speaker. Some meetings carried through with our yearly meeting’s request for letters addressing the building of new settlements in Palestine. In response to an earlier concern, a number of meetings now serve fair trade organic coffee.

We joined with others in our communities to address important issues. These included raising money for a mental health center, and support for local and national charities. We cherish the resulting connections between different churches, a local police chief, and the local Sudanese refugee community, to name only a few.

One of our deepest joys comes from seeing our youth express their faith. Some ways Young Friends did this were by painting homes for elderly and disabled people, and working to restore the voting rights of convicted felons. One member was able to attend the FCNL Young Friends Lobbying Days in Washington DC.

As Friends were in the past, many of us are called to ongoing prison work. Participation in Alternatives to Violence workshops, collecting books for prison libraries, working in groups helping prisoners in their return to society, and restorative justice programs continue.

Some members felt called to the ecological concerns that we brought to the Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) last year. Some wrote letters to the newspaper on a regular basis. One meeting created a book table at the Earth Charter Summit. They also offered resources to educate both members and the general public about environmental issues and how to make changes (such as traveling in environmentally friendly ways) to their lives.

P & SC committees help their monthly meetings discern how to take action. One committee was asked to “educate the meeting” about issues of Social Security, the federal budget and military spending. The P & SC Committee took this request seriously. They met numerous times to discuss and debate the issues to take to the meeting for discussion and approval. They prepared informational packets on Social Security and on the federal budget for discussion by the meeting in two different sessions. The result was a statement of concern based on the Judeo-Christian tradition of care for “the least among us” that was sent to the President, their senators and representative, as well as local, regional, and state newspapers.

Another committee helped its meeting unite on a minute addressing the proposed amendment to Wisconsin’s state constitution opposing all forms of same gender partnership. This minute was shared with another Friends meeting, *Friends Journal*, as well as local groups concerned with the issue.

Our budget of \$1,100 included no carryover from the previous year. These are the requested disbursements for this coming fiscal year:

AVP	\$50.00
AFSC	100.00
AFSC (earmarked for Iraq/Afghanistan work)	175.00
Criminal Justice Ministries	100.00
Friends Peace Teams	100.00
Iowans Against the Death Penalty	80.00
IYM P & SC subcommittee for CO-CR Training Expenses	60.00
Monteverde Friends School	50.00
National Peace Tax Fund	50.00
Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty	80.00
New Covenant Peace Center	50.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	25.00

Ramallah Friends School	100.00
Western MO Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty	80.00

During this past year, this committee has asked ourselves, “How can we best serve the Iowa Yearly Meeting(C)?” This question characterizes much of our spiritual work. We hope to offer support and resources for IYM(C) members to express a Quaker response to the world they live in. We have been holding an ongoing discussion about this and we ask you to share ideas and suggestions with us.

We also have an action for the IYM(C) monthly meetings and worship groups to consider: We ask a very short statement of your activities and concerns be sent to the clerk of the IYM(C) P & SC Committee by the 15th of each month. They will be put together in a single e-mail to be sent back to each meeting, and posted on www.Quakernet.org. We hope this dialogue will help increase fellowship and encourage each of us throughout the year.

We ask the Yearly Meeting to consider the following four letters and two minutes for endorsement. If approved, we would also like to post them on the IYM(C) web page, www.quakernet.org, to allow monthly meetings to use them in whatever ways they are led.

1. We ask the Yearly Meeting to approve this letter and hold it for release as needed:

To whom it may concern:

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) is called to reaffirm our historical testimony against capital punishment. For over 300 years, Friends (also called Quakers) have opposed capital punishment because it violates the sacredness of life. No person is beyond redemption. The God-given dignity and worth of every human being require that any punishment allow for reform of the offender and for revision of the sentence in the event of a miscarriage of justice.

2. In March or April 2005, the leadership of the Mennonite and Church of the Brethren congregations in the United States called an Anabaptist convention on military conscription and alternative service. This was caused by contact from the Selective Service Administration to the Brethren Volunteer Service enquiring about BVS capacity to provide alternative service in event of a military draft. Representatives of the Religious Society of Friends from Northwest Yearly Meeting, (Evangelical Friends International), Friends United Meetings, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (Friends General Conference), and American Friends Service Committee were invited as observers. The

Anabaptists have proceeded to develop contingency plans for alternative service in event of a draft. In view of the Quaker observers, Friends also need to prepare. The only appropriate convening body is Friends World Committee for Consultation of the Americas. FWCC has been contacted and is willing, but needs instruction from FWCC constituent meetings. We have learned it would be helpful if IYM(C) could approve the Yearly Meeting clerk sending a letter to the FWCC Section of the Americas asking it to convene a consultation of U.S. Friends and the appropriate wider Quaker bodies to consider how Friends can prepare to provide alternative service in the event of military conscription. The letter would explain that it seems to IYM(C) Friends and others that FWCC would be the appropriate body to call Friends together because it serves the most yearly meetings in the wider body of Friends in the United States.

Dear _____

At the annual session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) held 7/26 to 27/2005, the Yearly Meeting was made aware of the work being done by the Brethren and Mennonites to develop a contingency plan for alternative service should a draft be reinstated by the US government.

We feel Friends should also be preparing for such a possibility. Because FWCC serves the largest number of yearly meetings, crossing the wider bodies and branches of Friends, we are led to ask you to consider the possibility of holding a consultation of Friends to consider how we can provide alternative service should the draft be reinstated.

We thank you for hearing our request.

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

3. We ask the Yearly Meeting to approve this letter to be sent to Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State ; Alberto Gonzales, Attorney General; and Michael Chertof, Director of the Dept. of Homeland Security. We also ask monthly meetings to consider using this as a basis for letters to the editor and to their elected representatives.

Dear _____

The Religious Society of Friends is one of the historic peace churches. Our members do not use, advocate, or condone violence. This makes it impossible for us to understand why 36 Quakers from Kenya were refused visas to enter the U.S. to participate in a large international gathering of Friends United Meeting held in Des Moines, Iowa, July 13-17. U.S. officials have been understandably cautious about visitors from other nations since 9/11, but why should 36 peaceful African Quakers

encounter the kind of suspicion which would result in their being denied visas? This is only one example involving a much larger number of people from many nations during the past several years. This isolates us from others in our faith community, and we lose the opportunity to hear their experiences.

The U.S. used to have a reputation as a welcoming nation. Sadly, we are losing that reputation. Members of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) are grieved by that loss and hope you will be able to consider this concern.

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

4. We ask this letter be sent to Richard Sours, president of William Penn University and Michael Moyer, campus minister. We ask copies of the appropriate AFSC counter recruitment brochure be enclosed.

Dear _____

We have learned that there is heavy military recruiting on the William Penn University campus, with no organized resistance. This is troubling to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), especially since we have been working with our own youth to make sure that they seriously consider being ready to become conscientious objectors if the draft is reinstated.

Some of our members are alumni/ae of William Penn University, and several have been members of your board of trustees. In keeping with the Friends peace testimony, we would like to encourage you as a Quaker institution for higher learning to discontinue this military presence on the campus. We would like to offer copies of the materials we're using in our conscientious objector work with our youth. We hope you will consider reinstating the peace studies program that was recently abandoned.

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

We ask the Yearly Meeting to approve the following minutes to be posted on the web, and sent by the IYM(C) clerk to the monthly meetings and worship groups for their consideration:

1. As Friends, we believe in the Divine Light with each person, and we include the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals among us. State by state, the rights of these individuals are being eroded. We

cannot bear to remain silent when fellow human beings are being used as scapegoats to divert people's attention from our country's ills. We wish to affirm that the life of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) has been enriched and strengthened by the spiritual gifts of all Friends, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. We stand with people of faith across the United States against recent legislation that bans same gender marriages, partnerships and civil unions.

2. As American citizens, Peace and Social Concerns Committee is deeply concerned with the use of torture in our name. We will be communicating different possible actions for members to take on this issue, as well as posting them on quakernet.org. We also ask the Yearly Meeting to consider the following minute in support of John Calvi's proposed conference at Guilford College for the spring of 2006. Because we recognize the need for and endorse this conference, we hope IYM(C) will send a representative when the occasion arises.

IYM(C) strongly supports the proposed Quaker conference focusing on our responsibility as Quakers to address the issue of torture from our spiritual center. We believe it important that all of us lend our voices to break the silence on this issue. Torture is abhorrent. Torture can never be excused or justified. We support John Calvi's leading to make this conference a reality. We endorse the goal to strengthen laws and policies banning torture. The rehabilitation of both victims and perpetrators must occur to stop the cycle of violence.

We know all of these represent mere actions unless accompanied by deep life changes. We ask that you hold us in the Light as we continue to seek our way for the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). We will be holding you in the Light as well.

For the committee,
Deborah Dakin, clerk
IYM(C) Peace and Social Concerns Committee

We have heard and approve the report of Ministry and Counsel. We appreciate the thorough work of this committee and the report of the good work of Deborah Fisch as coordinator of the Friends General Conference Traveling Ministry Program, as well as clerk of our yearly meeting.

Minuted by Deborah Fink, assistant clerk (The clerk stood aside for the reading of this report.)

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL REPORT

Our committee met regularly during the 2005 Yearly Meeting Sessions. We reviewed the Ministry and Counsel draft of the discipline revision and found it to be satisfactory.

It has come to our attention that some committee members are not informed of their appointment. We urge clerks of committees to contact their committee members with information about their responsibilities and when they can expect to meet. We also urge meetings to include their young people on committees and help them learn what the committee functions are and when and where they meet.

We appreciated the opportunity to read and share the State of the Meeting reports. Many of the monthly meetings seem to be dealing with some form of adversity. As we acknowledge our fears, concerns, and problems we are able to delve deeper into our sense of community, our spiritual strengths, the power of love, mutual care, and nourishment. Many reports spoke of social activities and projects and how those activities strengthened their meetings. We remind meetings to avoid the use of names and to remember to accentuate the spiritual and leave the activities to the Peace and Social Committee to report.

Our committee was deeply moved as we listened to Deborah Fisch's report on her travel in the ministry and work with Friends General Conference in the Traveling Ministries Program. She spoke of her spiritual journey in learning to surrender and be obedient. She has observed many changes in the world of Friends and had many questions for our meetings about our testimonies, the choices we make, and how truthful we are with ourselves. It is our wish that she could share more completely with all in the Yearly Meeting. We are united in requesting the Mid-year Planning Committee to consider asking her to lead us in a spiritual weekend at Bear Creek. Her testimony touches a tender yearning in each of us. Endorsements on traveling minutes returned to us are glowing in their appreciation of her ministry. We encourage and support her with the continuance of the anchor committee to meet with her regularly. We send a traveling minute with her holding her in the Light and praying for her safe and fruitful travel.

We have appreciated the presence of Liz Oppenheimer, Elizabeth O'Sullivan, Ian, David, and Emily Rhoades from the yet unnamed worship group in Minneapolis. Their worship group has requested a

committee from Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) to visit them. Roy and Martha Hampton have agreed to form a committee to meet with them.

We have welcomed many visitors to our sessions this year. Intervisitation is very important and we hope many of us can travel to other meetings.

On behalf of the Ministry and Counsel Committee,
Alberta Kisling, clerk

We listened carefully to the Yearly Meeting Recorder's report. We appreciate the work of the Yearly Meeting recorder and approved the report. We paused in waiting worship to remember the lives of Yearly Meeting Friends and family who have passed away this year, as well as Bill Taber, Mary Autenrieth, and Allen Treadway, beloved Friends of this Yearly Meeting. We are so grateful that these all these Friends came into our lives and enriched our meetings with their faithful and loving service and we will miss them. We know we will continue to learn from their examples that have been written in our hearts. Let us love one another as we have been loved.

YEARLY MEETING RECORDER'S REPORT

Deaths

Ames	Barbara Rogers	April 1, 2005
Bear Creek	Roy Knight	March 10, 2005
Penn Valley	Vera Elleson	February 12, 2005
West Branch	Helen M. Fawcett	April 12, 2005
Whittier	Morris J. Hoge	September 5, 2004
	Lynette Hoose Dietz	September 6, 2004
	Donald J. White	January 7, 2005

Births

Ames	Maya Cleopatra Staley****	January 18, 2005
	Zoe Juliet Stanley****	January 18, 2005
	(to Janelle and Matt Stanley *****)	
Iowa City	Erin Christina Liebig*	May 27, 2004
	(to Carolyn Turvey and Chris Liebig)	
	Sigourney Anna Bradshaw	October 16, 2004
	(to Anna and Shannon Bradshaw)	
	Ariel Haravon Collins	May 12, 2005
	(To Lea Haravon Collons and Steve Collins)	

Marriages

Paullina	Charity Yesis to Marcello Muñoz	May 28, 2005
Penn Valley	Donnie Morehouse to Kevin Chafin	July 3, 2004

MEETING	BIRTHS	DEATHS	CERTIFICATES OF MEMBERSHIP RECEIVED/(TRANSFERS IN)	MEMBERSHIPS TRANSFERRED OUT	NEW MEMBERSHIPS GRANTED	MEMBERSHIPS DISCONTINUED	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP
Ames	0	1	1	1	0	0	31
Bear Creek	0	1	0	0	0	0	73
Decorah	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Des Moines Valley	0	0	1	2	3	0	79
Iowa City	2	0	0	0	5	0	52**
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Omaha	0	0	0	0	1	0	14
Paullina	0	0	0	0	0	0	75
Penn Valley	0	1	0	1	0	0	67
West Branch	0	1	0	0	0	0	100
Whittier	0	3	0	0	0	0	43
TOTALS	2	7	2	4	9	0	568

*Overlooked in previous year's report. Not included in this year's birth numbers, but added to total membership

** Includes one birth omitted in previous year

*** West Branch statistics include 5 attenders of Yahara Preparative Meeting, which has a total of 17 attenders

**** Attenders not counted in statistical section

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

**SEVENTH DAY – SATURDAY – 7/30/05
AFTERNOON SESSION**

We resume the business of Yearly Meeting

“I bequeathe myself to the dirt, to grow from the grass I love;
If you want me again, look for me under your boot soles.
You will hardly know who I am, or what I mean;
But I shall be good health to you nevertheless,
And filter and fibre your blood.
Failing to fetch me at first, keep encouraged,
Missing me one place, search another;
I stop somewhere, waiting for you.

Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*, 1855

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

Sixth Day Minute

The afternoon of Sixth Day was filled with committee meetings and opportunities to attend a number of interest groups. Evening Collection speaker, Mary Lord, spoke about “Being People of Peace.” She told us we are living in a time when the people of God are required to speak God’s Truth to the powers of the world. The 20th century, besides being a century of warfare, also saw miracles: the fearsome face-off between the Soviet Union and the U.S. dissolved and the apartheid government in South Africa crumbled. Our 21st century dilemmas call for continuing faithful struggle. Mary Lord raised up Quaker testimonies of integrity, simplicity, equality, justice, community, and peace to guide us as we move forward joyfully.

We listened carefully to the report of the Iowa Yearly Meeting representatives. They have set Seventh Month 25-30, 2006 for next year’s annual sessions. We approve the report.

REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

This year’s proposed budget is \$900 more than last year. The following are the changes from last year’s budget:

- An increase of \$1,500 in the contribution to Scattergood Friends School, for a total of \$33,000.

- An increase in our contribution to Iowa Peace Network from \$2,600 to \$3,500.
- The addition of a contribution of \$100 to Friends Peace Teams.
- The line item of \$600 for delegates to meetings of Friends Peace Teams was added last year as a one-time item. We recommend that this become a continuing line item in our delegate expense budget.
- The one-time line item of \$2,500 under Delegate Expenses to help send two young adults to the World Gathering of Young Friends in 2005 has been dropped for 2006.
- It is our recommendation that unspent amounts in the line items for IYMC Youth Weekends and Young Friends Travel and conferences be carried over to the following year so that these funds can accumulate.
- We recommend \$800 for the coming year for IYMC Youth Weekends with the expectation that \$400 would be the budgeted amount in subsequent years.
- We recommend \$1,000 for the coming year for Young Friends Travel and Conferences with the expectation that \$500 would be budgeted in subsequent years.
- 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 \$50,000 of the \$60,075 total budget be raised by apportionment. We have also recommended some changes in apportionment percentages assigned to monthly meetings. We are grateful that some meetings are able to offer to pay a larger share as others find that their ability to pay has diminished.

We express appreciation for the continuing service rendered to our yearly meeting by the clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, assistant treasurer, and statistical recorder. 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

Herbert Standing has been asked to break meeting on First Day.

On behalf of the representatives,
Jim Cottingham

Proposed Budget for 2005-2006**Contributions**

American Friends Service Committee	\$500.00
AFSC Native American Program	125.00
Friends Committee on National Legislation	1,000.00
Friends General Conference	100.00
Iowa Peace Network	3,500.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation	1,500.00
Nebraskans for Peace	250.00
Peace & Social Concerns Committee	1,100.00
Quaker United Nations Office	200.00
Right Sharing of World Resources	200.00
Scattergood Friends School	33,000.00
William Penn House	300.00
Friends Peace Teams	100.00
Total Contributions	\$48,875.00

Delegate Expenses

American Friends Service Committee	\$500.00
Friends Committee for National Legislation	600.00
FWCC – General	1,000.00
FWCC – Triennial	500.00
Friends Peace Teams	600.00
Total Delegate Expenses	\$3,200.00

Yearly Meeting Expenses

Archives Committee	\$200.00
Clerk and other admin. Expenses	400.00
Committee expenses	500.00
Conscientious Objector P&SC Subcommittee	100.00
IYMC Trustees	1,000.00
Junior Yearly Meeting	2,000.00
Young Friends	1,500.00
Special Needs Committee	500.00
Publications Committee	2,700.00
IYMC Youth Retreats (Grades 4-9)	800.00
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarships	300.00
Young Friends Travel & Conference	1,000.00
Yearly Meeting Entertainment Committee (if receipts are inadequate)	2,000.00
Midyear Meeting Planning Committee (if receipts are inadequate)	1,000.00

Contingency Fund	1,000.00
Total Yearly Meetings Expenses	\$15,500.00

Total Budgeted Expenditures	\$60,075.00
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Income

To be raised by apportionment	\$50,000.00
From other income sources and General Fund	10,000.00
Total Budgeted Income	\$60,075.00

Monthly Meeting Apportionments

Meeting	Percent	Amount in Dollars
Ames	6.5 %	\$3,250.00
Bear Creek	9	4,500.00
Decorah	1	500.00
Des Moines Valley	20	10,000.00
Iowa City	7.5	3750.00
Lincoln	6	3,000.00
Omaha	4	2,000.00
Paullina	11.5	5,750.00
Penn Valley	8.5	4,250.00
West Branch	20.25	10,125.00
Whittier	5.75	2,875.00
Total	100 %	\$50,000.00

We listened to the good letter prepared by the Special Replies Committee. We approve the work of the committee.

SPECIAL REPLIES

Dear Friends,

The 128th session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) has been held this week, July 26 through 31st, at Scattergood Friends School near West Branch. Your presence and participation have been missed.

The evening collections have centered on the topic of “Renewing Our Faith and Practice.” A presentation was thoughtfully given by our own young people on their experience of international youth gatherings. Mary Lord, of AFSC, explored how we respond to God’s leadings. She also asked us to consider how we can be a “people of peace” in today’s violent world. Byron Sandford, of William Penn House, shared thoughts

on how we nurture each other within our meetings. Callie Marsh led pre-meeting on First Day, speaking on “Faith and Testimonies.”

Workshops have broadened our horizons from the Mexican/Arizona border immigration concerns to current news of Scattergood School. Human needs in our prisons are a concern addressed by the Alternatives to Violence program and prison visitations. Other special interest sessions included planning the second annual Iowa Yearly Meeting women’s retreat and discussing the role of the Yearly Meeting in regard to the environment. David Eley led Bible study each morning.

The depth of our worship has provided grounding for business consideration, and strength and guidance for our daily lives. Our routine business resulted in being conducted with sensitivity and in a Spirit-led fashion.

We hope that your activities and your health may allow you to attend the 2006 sessions of our yearly meeting.

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

We listened with interest to the well-written epistles prepared by the Epistle Committee to be sent to Friends everywhere, North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and Ohio Yearly Meeting. The letters make us feel truly grateful for this time together and the love and care with which they were prepared. We approve the letters.

EPISTLE TO FRIENDS EVERYWHERE

Seventh Month 30, 2005

To Friends Everywhere,

We greet you with full hearts, wishing to reach out to you all in these precious days of our yearly meeting sessions at Scattergood Friends School, near West Branch, Iowa. We are particularly aware this year of the importance of the epistles, as we hear from Friends around the nation and world and sense the connection among us. It is good to know that Friends in other parts continue to wrestle and find ways to be true to the Holy Spirit, as we too work to find God’s way.

Our days here have been rich with worship and activity as we share our concerns and work in the areas of peace and social justice. We have heard from Friends about work with the people on the Mexican/American border, and about our involvement with Friends Peace Team. Our young people enjoyed an afternoon working with Habitat for Humanity. We have welcomed old and new Friends,

especially appreciating the involvement of Friends from Yahara Preparative Meeting, Madison, Wisconsin, and the visits of Friends from a small as-yet-unnamed worship group from the Twin Cities in Minnesota. We have been blessed with many visitors from various Friends’ organizations and several other yearly meetings.

Busy as we are during these sessions, we sense a depth of affection among us, tendering us, as we wash dishes, sweep floors, sing late into the evening, visit with each other on the deck under the big tree on the lawn, and listen for God’s leadings in our business sessions.

We have continued to explore questions of who we are as Conservative Friends. We had a lively and spirited discussion about our history, in preparing a revised Discipline, now to be named Faith and Practice. Friends gathered later to discuss our “Conservative Distinctives.” Perhaps Friends visiting us from the Wisconsin and Minnesota groups encourage us to seek a greater understanding of who we are, and how our heritage has formed us.

Like other Friends, acutely aware of the role our nation plays in global affairs, we yearn to find ways to help ease the suffering of all people. Our collection speakers, Mary Lord of the American Friends Service Committee and Byron Sandford of William Penn House, lovingly challenged us to remember the importance of nurturing our faith communities, turning to them to help us learn to hear God’s call, test it, and find the courage to act.

Our sorrows about the sufferings of people around the world perhaps bring us closer to each other in appreciation of the love and Spirit among us. This was particularly evident as we heard the Scattergood Friends School reports and recognized how many of us have been involved with the school as students, staff, committee members, parents, and grandparents. We are grateful for the liveliness of the school, which keeps us alive and strong in our determination to offer this bit of Quaker education among the corn and beans of Iowa. We also heard with joy from a young Friend who traveled last summer with the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage to England and on the continent. We hold other young Friends in the Light as they plan to attend the World Gathering of Young Adult Friends in Lancaster, England, in August.

May the Light of God help us to be faithful and continue to show us the way forward, step by step.

In the Light on behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative),

Deborah Fisch, clerk

EPISTLE TO OHIO YEARLY MEETING

Seventh Month 30, 2005

Dear Friends of Ohio Yearly Meeting,

Our yearly meeting has been brought together again on the campus of Scattergood Friends School for a time of fellowship and searching. As you gather once again in the graceful old meetinghouse at Stillwater, you will be remembered with appreciation by certain of our members who have had the opportunity to meet with you in years gone by. We have appreciated the presence of Ken and Katherine Jacobsen during the closing sessions of our gathering.

We have been made aware of the suffering and economic uncertainty in our world, a world where war and famine still prevail. But we have also been made aware of efforts for reconciliation and caring.

We have been saddened to learn that William Taber has been taken from us. We were fortunate to share his life here in Iowa during his college years, and cherish the enduring witness which he made.

In our busy lives, and in our yearly meeting sessions, although we are encumbered with everyday cares, yet we endeavor to be faithful to the leading of that pure Spirit of Truth which will never lead us astray. In a time of fear and terror, may we be drawn closer in the bonds of love, reaching out to the lonely and the rejected—that all may be encouraged by the forgiveness and joy of that Everlasting Mercy in which we all may find our peace.

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

Deborah Fisch, clerk

EPISTLE TO NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING (CONSERVATIVE)

Seventh Month 30, 2005

Beloved Friends,

We greet you again from the Scattergood campus, where we are gathered in God's love and in loving care for one another.

Several things have combined this year to set us asking with new interest, just what it means to be Conservative Friends. Our Discipline Revision Committee has presented us with a review of our history, reminding us of the importance of understanding how and why we came to be. Visitors and members of newly-formed worship groups and

meetings are among us, telling us how much they value the opportunity to be with us here. We are humbled by these things, even as our collection speakers challenge us to find ways to grapple with the world's problems, and to keep faith with our religion.

We know that this journey of discovery, finding what it means to be Conservative Friends, is one on which we walk side by side with you. We are gladdened by the presence of Nancy Craft, member of your meeting, and are enriched by her sharings. We cherish memories of Lloyd Lee Wilson's visit and address to us last year. Though we are separated by many hundreds of miles from you, we know we are one family.

In the Light of God on behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative),

Deborah Fisch, clerk

We listened carefully to the report of the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee. We were reminded that we approved sending a representative to Friends Peace Teams Advisory Board. We ask members of the Nominating Committee to appoint someone and notify the Yearly Meeting clerk who will notify the monthly meeting clerks and the Publication Committee clerk so that the nomination can appear in the Minutes. We thank the Nominating Committee for the work it has done on our behalf.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating Committee had representatives from eight monthly meetings to guide us to clearness for committee assignments. Some of these representatives brought input of individuals' preferences for committees, which greatly facilitates our task. There are several youth and new attenders joining committees this year. The Nominating Committee appreciates the willingness of Friends to serve on committees and the effort and commitment they give. Some expressed concerns that they weren't contacted for the committee work or felt their voices weren't heard. We hope that conveners contact committee members soon, welcoming the new members. We urge committees to continue dialogues of what the vision of the Yearly Meeting is for all of us and how each particular committee can bring that vision to life. The success of our yearly meeting lies in the involvement and commitment each of us brings to it, at whatever level we are individually capable.

Committee Appointments approved at IYMC 2005

*** indicates convenor**

Archives Committee

2006	2007	2008
Herbert Standing	Owen Crosbie	
Daniel Treadway*	Wilmer Tjossem	Tim Shipe
Margie Haworth		

Document Committee

2006
Decorah Monthly Meeting

Entertainment Committee

2006	2007	2008
Decorah	Paullina	Ames
Whittier	Omaha	Des Moines Valley
West Branch*	Lincoln	Penn Valley
Iowa City		

YM Young Friends Planning Committee

2006	2007
Sarah Winchell*	Joseph Kiltyka
Rebecca Guss	Ryan Howe
	Evelyn Tomer

Jr. YM (for Yearly Meeting)

2006	2007	2008
Faisal Luvaga	Bill Deutsch*	Scott Greenler
Carol Gilbert	Ed Clopton	Danielle Black Eyes
Penny Majors	Jules Galusha	Kay Meyer

Interim Committee

2006	2007	2008
Ted Solomon	Marilyn Mantel-Guss	Ebby Luvaga
Jim Kenney	Bill Deutsch	Larry Marsh
Owen Crosbie	Lois Tjossem	Cheryl Sutton*
Richard Johnson	Ernest Wilson	Carol Gilbert (ass't *)
Wilmer Tjossem	Susan Murty	Martha Davis
Margie Haworth	Deslonde Lamb	Jeff Kisling
Dixie Collins	Lorene Ludy	Marge Schlitt
Mary Mendenhall	John Griffith	Catherine Dorenbach

Kathy Day
Russ Leckband

Library Committee

2006	2007	2008
Mary K. Stillwell	Wanda Knight	Olive Wilson
Muriel Bivens	Joan Tjossem	Jane Cadwallader-Howe
Martha Davis*	Megan McCormick	Marc Robinson

Midyear Planning Committee

2006	2007	2008
Christine Ehl	Lois Tjossem	Betty Young
Wanda Knight	Teri Groover	Alberta Kisling
Winifred Standing	Roy Hampton	Megan Knight*
Marion Love	AM Fink	Osa Bricker
Christine Kelly	Nancy Plagman	Jackie Leckband
Elsie Kuhn		Lea Gadzikowski

Jr. YM/Young Friends (Midyear)

2006	2007	2008
Ryan Howe	Megan Knight	Jackie Leckband * co
Dan Pearson	Emma Deutsch	Debbie Galusha * co
Carol Spaulding-Kruse	Claire Cumbie-Drake	Cindy Winchell
Nathan Tomer	John Winchell	Jules Galusha

Ministry and Counsel Committee (Appointed by monthly meetings)

2006	2007	2008
Christine Ehl	Lynda Fife	Alberta Kisling *
Marge Schlitt	Elsie Kuhn	Martha Davis
Bill Deutsch	Andrea Holveck	Dorothy Rogers
Ginger Kenney	Beth Wilson	Doyle Wilson
Wilmer Tjossem	Martha Hampton	Dixie Collins
Laura Neece-Baltaro	Megan Kinght	Gordon Bivens
Nancy Ewald	Jane Cadwallader-Howe	

Publications Committee

2006	2007	2008
David Duer	Margie Haworth	Jeff Kisling *
		Ed Clopton

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

2006	2007	2008
Jim Bruner	Judy Plank	Wendy Vasquez
Jim Cottingham	Winifred Standing	Herbert Standing
Marian Solomon	Jackie Leckband	Ian Taylor
Sherry Hutchison**	Rachel McNair	Susan Clymer
Deborah Dakin*	Brynne Howard	Bob Yeats
Joey Giffen-Hunter	Lori Nelson	
	Jesse Leckband	

Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee

2006	2007	2008
Wilmer Tjossem	Ginny Winsor*	Roy Hampton

Religious Education Committee

2006	2007	2008
Bill Deutsch	Marshall Massy	Judy Cottingham *

Youth Retreat Subcommittee of Religious Education

2006	2007	2008
Debbie Galusha*	Kay Meyer	Cheryl Sutton
Jules Galusha	Daniel Treadway	

Scattergood Friends School Committee

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

Terms ending after September 2006 meeting

Debbie Galusha, Bob Yeats, Perry-O Sliwa, Callie Marsh

Terms ending after September 2007 meeting

Ed Clopton, Daniel Treadway, Jeff Cox, Robert Winchell

Terms ending after September 2008 meeting

Kirk Bragg, Anita Allwood, Dan Schlitt, Susan Clymer

Scattergood Friends School Trustees

This committee is appointed by Yearly Meeting Trustees

2006	2007	2008	2009
AM Fink	Gordon Bivens	Alberta Kisling	Susan Murty
George Welch	Doyle Wilson	Mark Patton	Judy Cottingham*

Special Needs Committee

2006	2007	2008
Marilyn Mantel-Guss*	Jackie Leckband	Joey Giffen-Hunter
	Sherry Hutchison	

Yearly Meeting Trustees

2006	2007	2008	2009
Doris Jean Newlin	Roy Hampton	Jim Cottingham	Beth Wilson
		AM Fink*	

Friends Agencies Representatives of IYMC**AFSC Corporation Members**

2006	2007	2008
Lori Nelson	Robert Yeats	Rebekah DeWild
Jean Eden*	Dan Schlitt	

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

2006	2007	2008
Richard Baltaro	Gordon Bivens	Jonathan Fisch*
Burt Kisling	Debbie Galusha	Alberta Kisling
Harvey Hinshaw alt.		

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

2006	2007	2008
Mark Patton	Martha Davis	Marion Love*
Sarah Winchell	Ginny Windsor	

Iowa Peace Network

Wendy Vasquez	Russ Leckband
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William Penn House Consultative Committee

Jim Kenney	Alberta Kisling*	Richard Baltaro, alt
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Friends Peace Teams Advisory Board

Judy Plank

We listened with interest to the tenderly written State of the Meeting Reports prepared by our monthly meetings and forwarded to us by the Yearly Meeting Ministry and Counsel Committee. We note that in many of our reports Friends are asking themselves who we are as Quakers and Conservative Friends. In some ways the reports help us answer our own

question. As we seek together to discern the spiritual state of our meetings we find it in the concrete and sometimes mundane acts of faith in our monthly meetings. When we share them with each other in session we recognize some of our own meetings in each of the reports. We are grateful.

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS MINISTRY AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE

We appreciated the opportunity to read and share together the State of the Meeting reports and ask that they be read in the Yearly Meeting.

Many of the monthly meetings seem to be dealing with some form of adversity. By actually opening up to and acknowledging our fears, concerns or problems, this enables us to go deeper into our being, and to perceive such things as our spiritual strengths, our sense of community, the sustaining power of the love of our community, mutual care and nourishment. Many of the reports spoke of their varied social activities and projects and how these efforts have strengthened the meeting. It is evident that our monthly meetings appreciate the children and the joy and insights which children bring.

On behalf of the Ministry and Counsel Committee
Alberta Kisling, clerk

Ames State of the Meeting Report

For us in Ames Friends, the mutual support we offer one another is a central source of spiritual strength and sustenance. Our lives are enriched by one another and the promise of new lives in our midst.

This has been a year of joys and sharing, but also struggles that have provided trials of faith. We have experienced spiritual growth as individuals and as a community in several ways. Queries provide ongoing opportunities to examine ourselves and deepen our recognition of the unique gifts that each individual can offer. Queries help us reflect on our own contributions and responses to local and global issues. We initiated personal sharing during our monthly frugals, giving us each a chance to share joys and concerns of daily life and to deepen our connections with each other. Our meetinghouse continues to be a place of spiritual sharing and peace. We are grateful for this gift and for efforts in the garden and building that magnify it. We are also grateful for sharing across the Yearly Meeting, and have found midyear, yearly, and youth-retreat gatherings heighten our sense of connectedness with each other. We have welcomed new attenders to our midst and shared the joy of the birth of twins.

Life is not always easy, though, and this year has brought its share of pain. We have experienced separations in several forms. Several dear Friends have moved away or left our meeting for personal reasons. We miss the regular presence and contributions of these individuals. We welcomed Barbara Rogers' transfer from Indiana and experienced her warmth and vibrant faith as a member, mother, and grandparent. We now grieve, and struggle to accept her sudden passing. Our members have experienced pain and struggle with deaths or serious illnesses of a family members. Our youth have been troubled by a myriad of questions and concerns which create yet another form of separation, and yet, opportunities to open our hearts to one another. Behind all these concerns, we continue to be troubled by actions of war, intolerance, and lack of environmental awareness by dishonest leadership in our country.

We pray for healing and the light of the Spirit to be present in our lives, individually and collectively. We trust in the Spirit's presence as we reach out to each other and to our community.

Bear Creek State of the Meeting Report

As we have reached our long-sought goal to provide a building in Adel for the mentally ill in our community we have many reactions: great joy to have at last completed the project, thankfulness for the amazing energy and support from individuals and groups who joined us and worked and donated side by side with us, and an intense awareness of spiritual blessings that have surrounded our meeting as we have become closer to each other, and to the Spirit that guides and nurtures us.

As Roy Knight's family cared for him during his final days, and his family and friends gathered at the Village and Bear Creek Meeting for our last goodbye, we felt again the powerful blessing of our Spiritual Family and God's comfort and care of all things we endure together.

Stephen Angell was our resource leader for Midyear Meeting April 16-17, with the topic being Quaker Community. As always it was one of the highlights of our year as Friends from other communities gathered to listen, laugh at the jokes on Saturday night, sing together, and share our joys and sorrows.

Memorial services were held at Yellow Springs Meeting in Ohio, and Bear Creek Meeting for Allen Treadway in June. He was an active member of Bear Creek Meeting and Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) for many years, when the family lived in Earlham.

Now that the building project task is completed we can shift our energy and commitment to other areas of Spirit-led activity. We feel strongly our love for each other knowing we can depend on each other and the Holy Spirit for help and guidance with any problems we face.

Decorah State of the Meeting Report

The coming and going of members/attenders has significantly affected our year at Decorah Friends Meeting. Included in those leaving for extended periods were Friends on whom we have depended for leadership and spiritual insights. We celebrate their journeys and value our connections to their new places and circumstances. We experienced some doubts as to how our spirits would remain nourished without them. But God's Spirit is sufficient, as we learn again and again when we trust and offer ourselves in service. We still feel their absence in many ways, but we have been reminded that each of us has unique spiritual gifts and that we are not dependent on specific Friends to worship or to work at spreading God's love in our world.

Our commitment to having First Day educational experiences is strong. Adult discussions continue throughout the school year, with topics ranging from politics to social concerns to spiritual disciplines. Children, preschool through junior high age, share a First Day lesson and activity together, and high-school-age youth join the adults. The children's programming is a change from the past few years, during which time our younger children attended Sunday School at a local Baptist congregation. We are grateful for the opportunity to educate our children in the manner of Friends.

Our sense of community and our joy in welcoming visitors and new attenders remain strengths of our meeting. We share lunch together each First Day throughout the school year, and we continue to value our special traditions, including those at the times called Easter, Christmas and Overall, at Decorah Friends Meeting, it has been a year of adjustment, and therefore a year of growth. We will feel more whole when all who are temporarily away have returned. In the meanwhile, we remain a vibrant spiritual group, worshipping, playing, and working together, seeking to do God's work.

Des Moines Valley State of the Meeting Report

Des Moines Valley Friends had many reasons to celebrate this year: a birth, two new members and a transfer of membership, high school diplomas for three teens, college and graduate degrees for three, a retirement, the release from prison of a conscience-led peacemaker, return of a Quaker Youth Pilgrim, and a 61st wedding anniversary. Such an abundance of joy we have received.

The celebrations were tempered by other events in the year: transfer of memberships for two long-time Friends, departure by two attenders to enhance their work practices, distant moves by a lively member and a

couple that anchored us, and a divorce that weighed heavy on every heart.

Several Friends mourned the loss of family members, which called upon our love as well.

The Meeting lost a valuable and long-time attender, Bill Stoppel, who died on August 10 of thyroid cancer. Bill was willing to help out wherever needed, had insightful comments and asked probing questions. We miss him.

We are struck by the generosity of Friends, near and far, in the funding of and carrying through of our kitchen renovation project. We now have lovely new cupboards, appliances, floor covering, dishes and paint-new surroundings in which to prepare, present and enjoy food and fellowship.

Our cohesiveness and stability is dependent on the work of faithful Friends. As some experienced Friends hand over their work to new hands, we thank them and are grateful for the commitment of those who sustain work year after year after year.

The business of the Meeting is conducted through committees, reported at monthly meeting for business and chronicled in great detail, in our monthly newsletter, *The Friendly Line*. We are deeply thankful for the members who faithfully work on this project each month. It helps to keep us connected.

The Religious Education Committee experiences concern about its purpose since we seem to have fewer children than in years past.

We have deeply troubling concerns about the war in Iraq and wonder how we can make a difference. Friends write letters, hand out leaflets, and participate in anti-war activities to show our opposition. We worked hard this year to educate our youth and assist in their decisions about conscientious objection.

Meeting for Worship could be characterized as quieter than normal; people are drawn to the silence, a regular weekly time period to withdraw from the world, to be quieted, to be renewed.

A poem by John Greenleaf Whittier, often read by a cherished member, moves us:

And so, I find it well to come
For deeper rest to this still room,
For here the habit of the soul
Feels less the outer world's control;
The strength of mutual purpose pleads
More earnestly our common needs;
And from the silence multiplied

By these still forms on either side,
The world that time and sense have known
Falls off and leaves us God alone.

Lincoln State of the Meeting Report

Silent worship is the core of our spiritual life. We do not have a lot of vocal ministry, but enriching messages are shared fairly consistently. We always look forward to our worship time together.

Many people have passed through our meeting during their lives, and some who have been gone for years remain in touch and still feel a connection. We are enlivened by all who join us, even if only for a short time. During this past year some friends have moved on, but others have joined us. Every one touches us uniquely in some way.

We have had some lively discussions, including queries and sections of Faith and Practice, which led us in various directions. Several attended a public talk by Quaker pastors Phil Gulley and James Mulholland; we then discussed one of their recent books. This seemed to provide a spiritual boost. Discussions always help new attenders understand a little more about Quakers, and give us all a new perspective.

Currently we have a group of nine children, ranging in age from college freshman to pre-school. A special effort has been made to encourage them all to come on pot luck Sundays when we have a planned program. It has been great to see them work together on various projects. We don't know if any of them identify themselves as Quakers, but we're providing some framework.

After twenty years of marriage, one of our couples decided to recommit to each other in a Quaker wedding ceremony. The meeting as a whole met with them as a clearness committee after worship one day, listening to the journey of their courtship and married lives together. It was an enriching gathering for all of us. We helped them plan and carry out the worship ceremony on a Sunday afternoon in their back yard. Their vows were spoken from the heart and we all felt like family.

Our group is small, but has a strong spirit. Although the greater world may not realize our presence, we feel very connected to one another.

Omaha State of the Meeting Report

Omaha Friends continue to meet in The Common Grounds Coffee House, a less than ideal building which we rent on Sunday mornings from Benson Presbyterian Church. It has been a difficult year for many of our members and attenders. Several of us have parents who have been seriously ill or died, necessitating travel and time away from Meeting

and families. Several members continue to struggle with personal and family difficulties which include illness, divorce, and loss of jobs.

Intervisitation, both within and outside Iowa Yearly Meeting, has been important to us this year. A few of us were able to attend the All-Nebraska Friends Gathering in Central City, and others enjoyed connecting with Central City Friends at meetings on conscientious objection, which they organized. Our worship has been enhanced by a number of Quaker visitors, among them: Brian Treadway, Herbert Standing, Cheryl Sutton, Mary Snyder (Northern Yearly Meeting), Jean Eden and Talmadge and Edith Neece.

We were led to purchase copies of *Worship in Song* this year, and for a time incorporated singing at the beginning of our worship. Many of us enjoy singing, but we are not clear as a group that singing is truly Spirit-led worship. We are experimenting with how we can best include music in our community life, finding that it fits well with our occasional intergenerational worship times and at some pot-luck gatherings.

We find that the number attending our meetings for worship remains constant. While newcomers do find us, a number of them do not continue to attend, and this is a great concern for us. We wonder if we are not enough of a community to sustain their participation, or whether they just do not find what they need. Perhaps our lack of a welcoming building discourages continued attendance.

We are searching for ways to attract and retain new people and would welcome input from other meetings.

Paullina State of the Meeting Report

Attendance at meeting for worship continues to be steady and enriching for those who join us. Meeting for business is sometimes rather small, but active families are usually represented. The spiritual health of the meeting seems strong and nourishing, while the vocal ministry often is lead by the Adult Sunday School discussions that precede worship. There is a sense of a beloved community in our relationship with the meeting and its attenders as we try to care and nurture the life of the Spirit in each individual.

Many of us find support for our testimonies on peace and justice as well as other social issues with ecumenical groups rather than through the meeting activities only. It is encouraging to feel that we are not alone in our concerns for the world and its environment.

We joyfully helped with the marriage of Charity Yesis and Marcello Munoz in Fifth Month. Although the ceremony was held in Omaha rather than in our meetinghouse, we met and advised the couple in

planning their wedding after the manner of Friends. Six of us were able to travel to Omaha to witness the ceremony.

The care of our facilities is undertaken with loving concern by our membership with lawn mowing and cemetery care responsibilities as well as building maintenance being done by meeting members and attenders on an as-needed basis.

Our outreach activities continue through informational material being made available in a welcome packet distributed by one of the local towns and notices in the local papers along with other area churches. We continue to have visitors attend our meeting for worship on occasion, especially during the summer months, and we make an effort to welcome them whenever they come. We try to invite people to join us at our regular Fourth Sunday pot-lucks whenever there is an interest expressed in learning more about Friends and their worship practices and testimonies.

Penn Valley State of the Meeting Report

It is a truism that a natural disaster brings out the best in a community, but we tried it, and it worked. Of course none of us intended for the year 2005 to start with an ice-laden 50-foot tree falling on the back of our meeting house, but it did, and we found strengths and talents hitherto undiscovered.

Also building-related, we were astonished when the house next to our meetinghouse suddenly came up for auction. Of course, there was the possibility of our bidding on it. And, of course, Quakerism is not well suited to quick action. However, we refused to be rushed, and when the time came to consider this decision, we were gratified to find that a thoughtful process yielded a thoughtful result. We decided to let the purchase possibility go, but we also decided to embark on a visioning process, letting considerations of space be the focus but not a limitation. This process is continuing, generating quiet but tangible excitement.

The year has been full of events and milestones. At the end of last year's report we were anticipating the marriage of Donnie Morehouse and Kevin Chafin. It took place in July in a festive and joyous ceremony, with the house packed with just the right number of friends/Friends.

We have celebrated the return from Wales of Joel Hembree, a member who was extremely ill and, while he is not yet able to attend meeting due to immunity issues, we enjoy frequent telephone conversations with him. Now we have a new joy in the birth of Joseph Gary Pearson on May 27, 2005. Joe's birth brings to seven the number of children active in our meeting.

At a time when we are still tender from Reva Griffith's death, we were saddened again by the passing of Vera Elleson, once clerk of Penn Valley Meeting and a woman who has blessed the world by her presence in many ways.

It has become clear to many of us that gathering together in different times, places and configurations strengthens our sense of community. We have maintained such regular programs as a monthly Quaker Education program for adults, Bible study and Spiritual Formation. Last September a Meeting for Picnic with Attention to Frolic was popular enough to have called for a repeat, coming up in June. In January we celebrated a fresh snowfall with a weekend retreat at Hollis Retreat Center, led by Deborah Fisch. Twenty five adults and six children participated, and this too contributed to the ongoing sense of purpose that had just been renewed by the falling tree.

Our joy in the meeting's children led us to include them in the beginning of appropriate programs. One First Day, for example, before Rachel MacNair shared her new book for children, *Winning With Non-Violent Action*, with the adults, she started by telling some of the stories to the children. They were typically squirmy until she started showing the pictures, at which point she had a rapt audience indeed. We will also use this time to let them share their reports, i.e. the creations that came out of their time upstairs.

The meeting made it possible for Karin McAdams to attend Arthur Larrabee's clerking workshop at Pendle Hill this spring, bringing the number of Larrabee graduates in our meeting to three. We hope to conduct our own clerking workshop this summer.

Working on issues and ideas together is always challenging, because we know we are not always of one mind. But there seems to be high interest in trusting the process to bring us to the unexpected resolutions that can come of opening ourselves to Spirit, and we have great hope for the coming year.

West Branch State of the Meeting Report

While our depleted numbers give us a feeling of the Meeting being in a vulnerable time, we are also experiencing renewed spiritual vigor as a community. The past year has included rich discussions of spiritual matters in the contexts of pre-meeting, query discussion, and meeting for business.

Among the pre-meeting discussions we have considered "Why am I a Quaker," prayer, discernment, evil, the Twenty-Third Psalm, Quakers in a time of war, and conscientious objection. Individuals have prepared carefully to lead these discussions and they have been well attended. The

sharing stimulated by considering together matters of deep mutual concern has enriched us individuals and as a group, and has carried into our meetings for worship.

Query discussions have been another source of spiritual enrichment. Our current practice of going directly into query discussion without breaking meeting has enabled and encouraged all those present at meeting to participate. The practice also reminds us of the added quality of discussion arising out of worship. It is common for nearly everyone present to offer his or her personal response to the query. The sense that individuals feel free to offer a variety of insights gives us hope that the Meeting is a setting in which people feel supported and held in the Light as they seek their own understanding of critical spiritual matters. We are invariably pleased by the impressive summation of our rich and sometimes far-reaching discussions.

Children add depth and vitality to our meeting. We are grateful for each of them. We feel the loss of energy of the larger numbers of past years and feel concerned for families that may experience this loss most acutely. We particularly appreciate the children sharing their own responses to the queries and projects they are working on in First-Day School. We are pleased by the participation of the older children in retreats with other Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) young people and feel sure they come back to our meeting enriched. We hold our young members in the Light and wish to nurture our relationship with them.

A series of discussions on Social Security and on the federal budget and its ramifications for human needs in our country, exceedingly well prepared and led by members of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, sparked much interest and enthusiastic discussion. Some members are concerned that topics of spirituality, such as Bible study, do not generate the same level of excitement. We wonder whether this is due to the wide range of spiritual and theological traditions and convictions within our meeting, and our reluctance to hurt or offend each other by discussing them openly. Perhaps we tend to focus instead on our commonly shared values such as love and caring for each other. In another way of looking at this, political concerns and action are a deeply held expression of the spiritual lives of many of our members. Also, some people view the presence of God within as a source of spiritual authority equal to or greater than the Bible, but something not readily put into words for discussion.

Meeting for worship remains the heart of the Meeting. Sometimes, even if we may at first be unsure about what we've gotten out of meeting for worship, we soon realize that it has been a great source of spiritual nourishment and renewal. The sensitivity and sincerity of the vocal

ministry is much appreciated, leaving some of us wishing for more. We feel deeply the loss of Bob Berquist, Janet Cook, and Helen M. Fawcett in the last year and a half. Their spoken messages and spiritual presence were a vital core of the Meeting.

Yahara Preparative Meeting State of the Meeting

We are grateful for the support of our care committee of West Branch Meeting in our time together at yearly meeting 2004, in their visit to our new "home" in March 2005, and in the regular e-mail contact we have with the committee clerk.

Ideas on outreach suggested at last summer's meeting were followed up with further consideration and reflection. One outcome of this was an invitation to Roy and Martha Hampton and a highly valued visit with them.

With gratitude to Steve Deatherage for his generous hospitality in allowing us to use his home for worship and potlucks, we made a decision to move to Eagle School. We found joy in the wonderful space for kids to move freely, but disappointment in that the space does not feel like ours. Ken Lawrence has kindly constructed a book cart to hold our library, and signs to indicate our new place of worship. Megan McCormick has obtained table service and kitchen equipment so that we may continue to enjoy potlucks together. Steve has updated our web site.

We wrote a letter of introduction to New Zealand Friends for our valued attender, Jay Robinson who made the decision to move to New Zealand rather than pay taxes to support the wars. With his departure we feel a significant loss. We also sent a traveling minute with Meg McCormick as she followed her leading to go to Connecticut for training in the Listening Project.

Spirit has helped us to become more comfortable with our small size and this comfort may allow us to grow. We feel blessed in the quiet commitment of those in our meeting, joy in worshipping together, hope for our continued spiritual growth, and gratitude for the continued work of the Spirit in the life of our meeting.

Whittier State of the Meeting Report

Whittier Monthly Meeting is in the process of replacing our meetinghouse sign. It was falling apart: the paint was peeling off, the land around it filled with sinkholes caused by rusting pipes laid under the ground 60 years ago. The new one is almost finished, the posts to hold it on new ground have been secured with cement, and it should be up in the meetinghouse yard before too long.

This past year has been one of seeking and spiritual growth for Whittier Meeting.

We have wrestled as a group with what it means to be a Quaker, and how a small rural meeting such as ours can fulfill our mission as way becomes clear. This has led to a number of heartfelt discussions between us. We did not feel called as a group to discuss the monthly queries, but rather used the time allotted to probe and reflect on the “state of Whittier Meeting” over the year.

We are small in number. A significant number of us have suffered from illnesses and the increasing frailties that come with age. Our meeting is located on a rural road in a sparsely populated area, and unlike in the past, many of us do not live nearby. The people charged with maintaining our meetinghouse do not feel called to worship with us. It seems easy for outsiders to view us as the “quaint Quakers in the historic meetinghouse.” We continue to grapple with what this might mean for us, both frankly and honestly.

Those of us who do attend meeting for worship on a regular basis continue to find it a source of great spiritual strength and weekly renewal. We cherish each other and are deeply grateful for the opportunity to be together each Sunday. While our actual membership numbers have not increased, it is apparent there is slow and steady growth. Over the years, our attenders have been a strong and vital part of our meetings for worship. More recently, we have had a steady number of visitors join us for worship. This past year, in addition to first time visitors, we also welcomed a number people who return as they are able. We have been blessed by the presence of the small child of one of these returning friends. A small group of Cornell College students joined us periodically throughout the school year. Our meetings for worship open a silent space for God to enter our lives, and we are grateful to be able to share this.

Like the need to change our meetinghouse sign, we also had many discussions centered on making operating changes to ensure our continued growth. We are finding new ways for the current membership to care for the meeting as need becomes clear. Each small change is a step clearing the path for our future.

The year 2005 brought small changes to strengthen the old: a new sign, and new ways to continue our religious way of life that reaches back for more than three centuries. Whittier Monthly Meeting is glad to continue on this joyful path.

We have received reports from the Religious Education Committee, Library Committee and Exercise Committee and they will appear in our minutes. We especially want to thank Friends on these committees for their work.

FINAL MINUTE

When Friends began arriving for the 128th annual sessions of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative, the Scattergood campus was finally getting relief from a heat wave that had been gripping the area. This seemed very appropriate because, for many of us, the Yearly Meeting in session feels like a blessed time when the cooling breath of the Spirit and the Living waters of God’s love refresh and renew our souls.

Many of us came to annual sessions distressed about the condition of the world, including the wars and senseless violence being perpetrated by our government. Many of us feel that what we are able to do is not enough, and at the same time wonder how we can possibly take on more in our busy lives. We received encouragement and new ideas for dealing with these concerns as the Collection speakers helped us consider this year’s theme, “Renewing Our Faith and Practice.” They talked about the importance of claiming Friends testimonies as our own and being intentional in making them a part of our everyday lives. We were reminded that if we want to hear what God is asking us to do, we need to make time and space in our lives to be able to hear that Still Small Voice of Christ Within. We were told that God does not ask us to do *everything*, but we *are* asked to use the gifts we are given. We were invited to discern, encourage each other, and work together as we seek individually and as meetings to be faithful in developing and using those gifts. The deep commitment and faithfulness that we observed in these Friends this week has been an example to us.

During the meeting for worship of opening session we heard ministry that invited us to come to the waters so we might be bound in the blessed community and come to know each other in that which is eternal. During these past five days we have been given opportunity after opportunity to do just that through sitting together in early worship, listening to young adult Friends share about past and upcoming Quaker travel, serving on various committees, holding each other in the Light as we have strived to give careful attention to the business before the Yearly Meeting, listening to and learning from the Collection speakers, remembering and celebrating the lives of beloved Friends who have passed on in the last year, making new friends with visitors and first-time

attenders, watching the children at work and at play among us, getting to know some of the Scattergood staff, talking together under the old maple tree in front of the Main, sharing our stories over meals, singing together, and playing together, even enjoying the good company of several family pets on campus. We have become very aware of what a blessing our yearly meeting brings to our lives and it makes us aware that we are hungry for experiencing more of this kind of beloved community.

Now once again we have reached the time to close our annual sessions and begin to return to our homes, monthly meetings, and wider community. We leave refreshed by the Love that has nurtured us here and with renewed resolve to work together beginning in our own homes and communities, to speak Truth to the world. With renewed hope we return to our home meetings with a better understanding of the discipline needed to put our faith into practice.

We now conclude our 2005 annual sessions, planning to meet again, God willing, at Scattergood Friends School near West Branch, Iowa, Seventh Month 25 to 30, 2006.

Deborah Fisch, clerk

Deborah Fink, assistant clerk

Reports not read in session at IYMC

LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT

Most monthly meetings have added at least some books to their collections. Penn Valley notes a unique happening with one member having produced another book. This keeps their string unbroken of having one of their members publishing once a year.

Yahara Preparative Meeting (our newest one) has accumulated approximately 170 books plus pamphlets, tracts, etc. They, along with other meetings, have put much energy into cataloguing and organizing their libraries.

Probably the most such action has occurred at West Branch where the acquisition of the Berquist collection has been the single most important event for the Library Committee. All the books of the collection have been catalogued and await shelving and book plates for each item. The papers of the Berquist Collection are currently being processed. They are a rich resource, though in a more difficult format than the books. They include important histories of some of the monthly meetings in Iowa and of the Yearly Meeting. A contribution of photographs has been received also.

Lincoln Friends have approved of spending \$200 from their education fund to provide books about Friends in the public library.

Use of monthly meeting libraries varies greatly. All would probably benefit with more activity.

Submitted by Martha Davis

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Eight monthly meetings and one preparative meeting are represented in this report.

The age span and numbers of children vary widely from meeting to meeting. Friends in several of our meetings expressed a sense of feeling challenged by their meeting's small size, and by the consequent difficulty of simultaneously addressing the needs and interests of children of widely differing ages. However, none of the meetings reporting this difficulty seems to have found the problem insuperable. We find a sense of cheer, of optimism, even of excitement in all the reports we received.

Our meetings' First Day School programs include both traditional topics and activities, and very timely modern ones as well. Some topics

listed are Friends history, Quaker values, Bible literacy, values clarification, the nature of silent worship, prayer, experiencing and sharing God's love, the Underground Railroad, the Obadiah books, and the Sermon on the Mount. Activities include building a C.O. file, marching as witnesses for peace, collecting money for AFSC assistance to tsunami victims, collecting money for the Heifer Project, developing the Earth Day Birthday (which is celebrated by giving something you already own and receiving something someone else owned), and building and using solar cookers.

Several meetings regularly have intergenerational learning/sharing. These times include: discussions, sharing books, and a variety of activities that may include food and games. Some games have been devised especially for the Friendly settings.

Adult programming more generally involves study and discussion. Several meetings mention the Advices and Queries, revisions of our Discipline, FWCC, Christian Peacemaker Teams, religious books, spiritual journeys, social issues, Bible study, politics, and extensions of our spiritual faith.

Only one meeting reports not having regular programming for adults or children.

All reports show a continuing interest in meeting spiritual needs of people in a time of changing personal relationships and challenging national and world circumstances.

For the committee,

Judy Cottingham, Bill Deutsch, Marshall Massey

EXERCISE COMMITTEE REPORT

(Exercise Committee records ministry given in worship during annual sessions, or as early Friends said, records how the Spirit exercised the meeting during sessions.)

Fourth Day

"O everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters. He that hath no money, come ye buy and eat. Come ye to the waters without money to be fed without price." I remember these words of my grandfather when I was a small child at the Bear Creek Meeting; words that came down from centuries before from the prophet Isaiah. 'O everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters.' The poor, the despised, the suffering, come to the hope and the everlasting water and mercy. Save and keep

us; bind us in blessed community that we may come to know one another in that which is eternal."

"As we prepare to consider business of the Yearly Meeting this week, if we would keep in mind a query that's been on my mind: 'What is the business of the yearly meeting?' What is the purpose for our existence? It isn't the committees we serve on, the reports we hear, the minutes we consider or the causes we support. What is it that brings us here year after year? What is our reason for being; the most basic business of the Yearly Meeting?"

"God surely loves us as individuals. But Jesus often talks about the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom of God is within us now. This implies a community. So we're not just individuals but exist in a society. We are the Religious *Society* of Friends. A society where we are to love one another and form loving communities. Our task is to love one another."

"Some of us talked this morning of how Friends' collective faith witness in the world appears to be weakened because we are divided among ourselves. We are a tried people at this time. As I sit in worship this morning it came over me what a joy this is to be a tried people. A joy this is to be part of this tried people. The people of God are a tried people. Its test is not whether it is tried or not, but whether it abandons its place as God's people. Friends struggle amongst themselves. Jacob wrestled with the angel; as long as we wrestle for our faith, our task is to wrestle with God, we are God's people. We are wrestling for the blessing, not for a victory or anything that is of self-will. What is this blessing? We will know it when we receive it...to each of us and corporately: Let us be a tried people in Joy, Let us wrestle for the blessing."

Fifth Day

"Last night, we were encouraged by Friend Mary to look at four questions about making decisions in allocating three precious resources: our time our energy and our talents. As I thought about what Mary said I thought at times I seem out of touch with myself, and in order to answer these questions honestly I need to be in touch with myself: I need to know 'Who am I?' We do an exercise in AVP [Alternatives To Violence] workshops with prisoners which consists of answering 'Who am I?' And I am awed that the prisoners, with some guidance, have such amazing honesty and frankness with which they answer that question.

As I reflect on Friend Ed's message yesterday in which he questioned 'what is the essence of the yearly meeting?' I thought again how important it might be for the Yearly Meeting to reflect on 'who are we?'"

Sixth Day

"I don't suppose I know much about spiritual life, and I know even less about surfing, but I'm imagining that there might be similarities. The surfer paddles out away from the shore and waits for a wave. The surfer doesn't make the wave. The surfer doesn't control the wave. When the wave comes I understand that when the surfer is at his or her best, she becomes one with the wave and goes where it takes her. I hope we can do that."

"The message was shared in 1985 at the yearly meeting:
'Praise God, praise God, all ye little children. God is love, God is love.
Praise God, praise God, all ye little children, God is love.'
True in 1985; true today."

Seventh Day morning

[Sung] "Brother sun and sister moon, I seldom see you,
I can't hear your tune, preoccupied with selfish misery.
Brother wind and sister air, open my eyes to visions pure and fair,
That I may see the glory around me.
I am God's creature, of Him I am part,
I feel a love awakening my heart.
Brother sun and sister moon, now I can see you,
Now I hear your tune.
So much in love with all that I survey.'

[spoken word] I went home for a few minutes between Bible study and meeting for worship and found in the mail from a precious friend of mine a poem by Kabir:

'There is a secret one inside of us, all the planets from all of the galaxies slip through His fingers like beads. This is a string of beads we should look upon with luminous eyes.'

We are given a great and sacred gift in creation and in one another, and I pray that we might willingly and freely fall into that mystery."

"As I think about the words 'Make a joyful noise unto the Lord' I think, how could there be a more joyful noise than the sound of our youth and children?"

"I never knew what a ministry children and youth can be in a Quaker gathering until I experienced it at a weekend gathering of Friends in Germany, where the Friends of all ages, from newborn to teens, spent the entire time together. There was no business conducted, but plenty of worship and worship sharing. There was no separation between the ages. I find myself longing for more of this; where Friends live together like family."

Seventh Day afternoon

"We are called together to drink from a well that nourishes our souls and spirits. We are called together to be the Body of Christ. Our hearts are sewn together with a small, ever-so-thin thread, but ever so strong. It binds us and keeps us together. We are called to this world to do God's work, to be God's hands, to be God's voice, to nurture God's people. To care for those who are desperate and lonely in the world. As we receive nourishment from this well we all share together, may we keep in mind that we are called to be whole within ourselves in the Body of Christ, so that we can minister to those who are lost and lonely."

First Day

"The words of a song, a hymn, from YWCA meetings when at college long ago come to mind. 'Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred hearts is like to that above.' And that's Yearly Meeting."

"A very strong parallel emerged into my consciousness early this morning with the force of a hammer blow. I thought it was only for me, but now I wonder if perhaps it is also to share. And the parallel is this: In my nuclear family there is a situation where a very wonderful young man fell in love with a beautiful and also very wonderful young woman. They were both very inexperienced in the ways of love. The young man made some serious mistakes early in the relationship. He had an ideal in mind of what marriage would be like. The young woman, being very real, did not meet the ideal. He attempted to get the situation from real to ideal without considering the rightness or wrongness of the way he was behaving. It did not occur to him that the young woman was not his to be reformed. Being an untutored young man, though raised in a religious family, he did not consider in his bowels whether he might be wrong. The parallel hit me: I see many friends coming to us telling of dissatisfaction with relationships they were leaving behind. I reflect on how I myself came to Friends some thirty-odd years ago; I had an image of an ideal religious community; but I saw a real community not without

its flaws. And being naïve I tried to make the real into the ideal. I did not consider how I behaved. I did not consider that the community did not belong to me and I did not consider in my bowels whether I might be wrong. In religious terms these actions were equivalent to the sins of idolatry (worshiping something we have made) and attempted adultery (trying to take the spouse of God). I have been pondering in my heart and feeling indicted; I was not respecting their conviction. It occurred to me that George Fox had something to say on the subject; I went to my collection and found the reference. He wisely did not confront the sins directly but showed them a path forward. In 1683 he wrote to Friends in Barbados: ‘The holy men and women of God must not strive, but be gentle to all; and in that alone keep their dominion: for truly, friends, love gathereth into love.’ What for me has been magical about a truly gathered community is that it has the gut instinct and wisdom to practice in that way. But nevertheless one has to learn to do it for oneself. That is the message for me and that was the lesson I felt led to share.”

“In pre-meeting this morning we were encouraged to share our faith experiences with one another and with our faith community. I heartily unite with that idea. Many small lights together create a greater glow. Sharing one’s spiritual experience can be tricky, even among Friends. At FGC years ago a Friend shared a remarkable experience. Having been in tremendous pain; she spoke how Jesus came to her and entered into her body; His arms came into her arms; His legs into her legs; Jesus assumed her pain so that she could survive this terrible episode. It was really a powerful and moving testimony. After she had spoken another Friend stood and spoke with great indignation about the previous message; regarding the insensitivity of using Christocentric language that she should know would be offensive and hurtful to others. I didn’t know what to make of either contribution. I expect I would experience a miraculous remission of pain differently, but that was her experience. I am satisfied that that was her experience and I’m grateful that she shared it and spoke it in the way she experienced it. I gather from this: that as we share honestly, genuinely from our own experience, that is the truth and we are called to bear witness to it. When we’re on the receiving end of sharing that we be open to that of God in the person sharing and receive ministry as it is offered, always mindful that even if something doesn’t speak very directly to our condition it may very well speak to someone else’s very directly.”

“I’ve been reminded this week of a quotation from Quaker Rufus Jones: ‘The Great Presence doesn’t send us everything to do but sends us a few things. In doing these and doing them well we’re given the opportunity to express God’s Love.’ I’ve waited for God to send something Big. I have waited for only the Big Things. I was reminded by a dear Friend in New Zealand that God has plenty of chores to do as well. By listening carefully, we can rightly discern those things that are our emphatic responsibility. And by doing them well, we are gifted with the opportunity to express God’s love. They are all important work for God to have done.”

“Is a flower faithful when it turns to face the sun?”

“When we do something as alive and vital as nurture an unconditional love seed, we will find that facing the sun is not a choice but something we do.”

“This morning we were read a few verses of Chapter 12 of First Corinthians. Chapter 12 and 13 of First Corinthians are two of my favorite chapters. They seem to be a lot about what I’m trying to learn anyway. Reminding us we shouldn’t be placing value judgments on certain individual gifts. All are important. The Body rejoices in its wholeness not in its separate parts. Chapter 12 ends with the words, ‘And I will show you a still more excellent way.’ [I Cor 12:31b] and I Cor. 13 begins with, ‘If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.’ [I Cor 13:1-2] The chapter ends with: ‘And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.’ Sometimes when I focus on other peoples’ gifts (ones I wish I had) I forget to tend to the gifts God has given to me. I realize that almost every time I hear those verses, I think of Joe Henderson, who sat on the facing bench from where I sat at meeting. I don’t remember if he ever said anything during meeting but every First Day after worship, he would go to each child in our meeting and hold his suit coat pocket open, without touching, smiling at each of them in turn and they would reach in and get one of those pink soft peppermints. My daughter might have thought that she was being rewarded for being really good in meeting; I know that she started learning she was loved and an important part of the meeting. He ministered to all of us. If he hadn’t been faithful I wonder what the effect would have been on my family. After he passed, Olive took up

that ministry; she may not have liked peppermints because she brought malted milk tabs; but it was a variation of the same ministry of love. Earlier this spring, someone told me about the difference between trying to do something and just doing it. I heard this as challenging me to quit *trying* to be faithful (something I often tell people I am doing) and just *be* faithful. The same is true for love. Many people in this meeting know how to love. It's in the loving. I'm not talking about the love of the Hawkeyes or the Cyclones; pets or even children; I'm talking about the Love that just Is."

"This morning I've been thinking about how beautiful this campus is to visit and the gifts of those who have come through this campus. When I was a student in the 50's at Scattergood, one of my heroes of that time was Bob Berquist. I miss him so much. How I remember him. I look at the row of windbreak evergreens. This is some beauty that has lasted many years and will last many years more. He taught me how to plant trees. I liked the time I was on the building and grounds crew because Bob Berquist oversaw it. Sorting sweet potatoes or whatever, I always learned something. I learn from someone else's gifts. He had many gifts; being able to plant a tree was one of them."

"As we draw toward the close of this gathering together, how can we do more than to encourage one another to be faithful together in trust of that Enduring Spirit that must keep us and guide us though the path be dim and our calling be difficult. Yet we also know to face the flowers; to face the glory around about us and learn to live in that Forgiving Spirit that will renew us and keep us and bring our world to a time of peace. May we be faithful and live in that hope."

AFSC Central Regional Program Work

I'm thrilled by the prospect of working with you, our volunteers and staff to deepen and strengthen AFSC's work for peace and justice.

Below is a short summary of some of the recent program work happening throughout our 11-state region. If you have questions, comments, concerns or ideas, I welcome them at STuma@afsc.org or 515-274-4851, ext. 12.

The Kansas City Area Office

AFSC-KC organized a large March 20th event on the plaza marking the second anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. For a number of years now, AFSC-KC has hosted well-attended weekly teach-ins

featuring speakers on various peace and justice issues. Strong program work continues around youth and militarism, conscientious objection, and informing high school parents of their children's right to opt out of military recruiting.

Over the July 4th weekend, AFSC hosted a very successful "peace is patriotic" picnic and fundraiser.

Forum Theatre continues to be a powerful tool for educating and enlightening youth in the Kansas City area. AFSC staff work with groups to role-play problems and then together create nonviolent solutions.

The KC area program committee has been working on identifying its own struggles with racism. The committee has devoted two of its meetings to this work, watching a video and talking about racism.

The Colorado Area Office

Colorado AFSC is very pleased to have Sarah Gill as our new program coordinator. She's settled in well and has already spoken with a number of area Friends meetings. Danielle Short, program director, is continuing her work on immigrant rights. She is serving as treasurer for Rights for All People (RAP), an immigrant-run organization which has devolved from AFSC. Danielle's work has shifted to working more with allies of immigrants to confront upcoming legislation. She's also been speaking with Friends meetings.

The Youth and Militarism Program, directed by former intern and now Program Director Erin Durban, is going great. The work is focusing on draft counselor training and opting out of military recruitment in high schools. In the spring, Erin organized a dynamic local conference called "Kerpow."

The Austin (Texas) Area Office

Formerly known as the TAO Office, AFSC-Austin has been active on a number of peace and justice endeavors. The Third World Coalition-supported Project Monarch began in April; it's a series of workshops offering immigrants the most important information they need to survive in this country. It included lots of participant storytelling and visuals. Next came a training for trainers. There's been substantial interest in this event in the Spanish press in Austin.

St. Louis Area Office

Over the life of AFSC's Africa Initiative, AFSC-St. Louis has given an incredible amount of support to this unique program of youth exchanges and advocacy for a new Africa. The program has helped connect youth across Africa as well as African and American young people.

Pine Ridge Program

AFSC staff have offered expertise in the areas of diabetes prevention and health promotion. Staff gave input on a statewide diabetes prevention standards and curriculum.

AFSC helped plan and moderate an Oglala Sioux Tribal Candidate Forum and gave testimony for the South Dakota Equal Justice Commission.

One of the recent highlights of AFSC's work on Pine Ridge has been the establishment of an AFSC area program committee on the far-flung reservation. This committee is bringing together people from all parts of the reservation to strategize on how best AFSC can help meet the many needs of people on Pine Ridge.

Iowa Area Office

If you blink too long you might miss one or more of the peace events organized by the Iowa Area Office in Des Moines. Members of Military Families Speak Out partnered with AFSC to provide a powerful witness against the U.S. war in Iraq, as well as an impassioned plea to bring U.S. service members home. The exhibit stopped in four Iowa cities and garnered significant media.

Also this summer, AFSC-Iowa hosted the parents of Rachel Corrie and the family of the Palestinian home Rachel was trying to protect when she was killed by an Israeli bulldozer. The Corries and Nasrallahs were on a five-state speaking tour to raise funds for homes bulldozed in Palestine.

AFSC-Iowa's Immigrants Voice Project continues to advocate for the rights of immigrants and to document abuses of immigrants. In addition, an AFSC specialist on immigration law provides help for hundreds of immigrants—some documented, others not—who are striving to remain in the U.S. legally.

AFSC/IMYM Joint Service Project

The JSP has enjoyed another successful summer of work projects on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. The JSP helps build homes on the reservation during the summers and travels to Mexico in the spring and fall to work with indigenous communities on projects chosen by local leaders.

Tsunami Relief

The generosity of people throughout the Central Region and the world in response to the tsunami has been extraordinary. AFSC received more than 17,000 gifts on the web site and through the mail, ranging from children's savings and Christmas money to large foundation grants. The total amount received, now more than \$4,000,000, means that in addition to relief, AFSC can offer substantial longer-term recovery assistance to people in tsunami-stricken areas.

In conclusion: Our connection with Friends

I hope these brief highlights have given you some sense of the breadth and depth of work for peace and justice across the Central Region. Thanks go to our staff, volunteers, Executive Committee members, Corporation members and Board members for the dedication of their time and hearts.

Our thanks also go to you for the support Friends have given AFSC over its 88 years. We quite literally wouldn't be here without you.

Sonia Tuma, regional director

IOWA PEACE NETWORK

Iowa Peace Network is at a pivotal point in its history. We face what Jim Wallis, in *God and Politics*, calls the choice between hope and cynicism. IPN chooses hope, for as Wallis writes, "Our faith says that new beginnings are possible—always and in every circumstance" (*God and Politics*, pg. 345).

Part of our hope comes from you, the Iowa Yearly Meeting. Your continual support over the years has made a crucial difference in our effectiveness. We thank you. Still, our total support has dwindled. So, we must face the reality of overall shrinking financial support. We understand that it may be time "to lay down," as we Friends put it, the IPN. But, given the IPN's almost thirty year history, we will not do this without also doing everything we can to enact a new beginning, a new beginning based on hope and faith.

The new beginning of Iowa Peace Network starts now. The Joint Oversight Committee recognizes that we must expand our financial support base. With extreme gratitude to the founding members, the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), The Iowa Yearly Meeting (FUM), the Mennonite Church, the Church of the Brethren, and the United Methodist Church, we plan to broaden our constituent base by inviting full participation from other mainline denominations. This broadening of denominational membership is not driven primarily by monetary necessity, but by a recognition that true peacemakers come from all branches of Christianity.

In the midst of this outreach, IPN continues its peace ministries. These familiar ministries include the quarterly newsletter, *Dovetail*, the tangible items of the Peace Resource Center, and support for war tax

resistance through the Penalty Sharing Community. In addition to these peace efforts, renewed programs are underway to advocate counter recruitment and opting out, as well as advising and promoting conscientious objection. For instance, on the upcoming high school registration day in Des Moines, we plan to staff booths making information and counseling about these peace options available to students. A debt of thanks is due Jessica Ireland, for as the past IPN coordinator, she admirably maintained these efforts and more. Thanks also to Russ Leckband, who is the IPN presider and a member of the Bear Creek Friends Meeting. Russ and the rest of the IPN JOC carried on the work in the absence of a coordinator.

Advocacy and education are not the only peace tools of the IPN. As the new state coordinator, I currently participate in the Des Moines Ecumenical Peace Committee, as well as the weekly community of peace demonstrations at the Military Processing Station in West Des Moines (organized by the Catholic Worker and Catholic Peace Ministry) and at Nollen Plaza in Des Moines (organized by Wendy Vasquez of Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting). IPN is a regular co-sponsor of the commemoration of the Hiroshima-Nagasaki bombings, this year marking the 60th anniversary. Working with these groups, as well as with others, such as the American Friends Service Committee and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, adds significant range and depth to the IPN peace ministry

For more information about IPN, or to subscribe to *Dovetail* please contact Paul Knupp Jr. by phone at 515-255-7114, or by e-mail at info@iowapeacenetwork.org. Thank you once again for making peace a priority through your support of the Iowa Peace Network. In hope, we look forward to a more peaceful future for our world. May we, like George Fox, "...come into the covenant of peace which was before all wars and strife."

In friendship,
Paul E. Knupp Jr.
Iowa Peace Network

DIRECTORY OF MONTHLY MEETINGS

Ames

Worship 10 a.m. First Day; Business 2nd First Day following worship;
Location 121 S. Maple, Ames, Iowa; **Clerk** Deborah Fink, 222 S. Russell, Ames, Iowa 50010, (515) 232-2763, afink@iastate.edu

Bear Creek

Worship 11 a.m. First Day; Pre-Meeting 10 a.m. First Day; Business 3rd First day, 1 p.m.; **Location** approximately 3 miles north of Earlham, Iowa; **Clerk** Jackie Leckband, 1916 Bear Creek Road, Earlham, Iowa 50072, (515) 758-2232, newharmony@earthlink.net

Decorah

Worship 10:30 a.m. (9:30 a.m. in summer) First Day; Pre-Meeting 9:30 a.m. First Day; **Business** Scheduled every six weeks; **Location** 603 E. Water Street, Decorah, Iowa; **Co-clerks** Martha Davis, davismar@luther.edu and Christ Kelly, ckell1@juno.com

Des Moines Valley

Worship 10 a.m. First Day; Business 2nd First Day, 11:30 a.m.; **Location** 4211 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, (515) 274-4717 (answering machine); **Clerk** Mikel Johnson, 1424 42nd Street, Des Moines, IA 50311, (515) 274-1408, mjohnpeace@aol.com

Iowa City

Worship 10 a.m. First Day; **Business** 2nd First Day following worship;
Location 311 N. Linn Street, Iowa City, Iowa; **Clerks** Tom Truss and Ruth Dawson, iowacityfriends@hotmail.com

Lincoln

Worship 10:30 a.m. First Day; Business 3rd First Day, beginning at 9:15 a.m. and continuing after worship; **Location** 3319 5. 46th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, (402) 488-4178; **Clerk** Catherine Dorenbach, 1900 Perkins Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68502, (402) 475-2277, cdorenbach@neb.rr.com

Omaha

Worship 9:45 a.m. First Day; **Business** 3rd First Day, 11 a.m.; **Location** inquire of clerks; **Clerk** Marilyn Mantel-Guss (305-6451) assistant clerk Debbie Galusha , mailing address: 10623 Cuming, Omaha, NE, 68114, email agalusha@cox.net

Paullina

Worship 10:30 a.m. First Day; **Business** 2nd First Day, 9:30 a.m.; **Sunday School and Pre Meeting** 9:30 a.m.; **Location** on U.S. 59, 3 miles east and 1 ¼ miles north of Paullina, or 5 ½ miles south of Primghar, Iowa; **Clerk** Doyle Wilson, 5541 A 400th Street, Primghar, Iowa 51245, (712) 757-3875, sawilson@tcaexpress.net

Penn Valley

Worship 10 a.m. First Day; **Business** 1st First Day following worship; **Location** 4405 Gillham Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64110, (816) 931-5256, FAX (AFSC office) (816) 561-5033; **Clerk** Karin McAdams, (913) 642-7530, karinm@kcnet.com

Scattergood Friends School

Collection 8:25 a.m. weekdays except 5th Day; **Worship** 2:45 p.m. 5th Day; **Community Meeting** 5th Day, 3:30 p.m.; **Location** 2 miles east and ½ mile south of West Branch, Iowa; **Director** Jan Luchini, 1951 Delta Avenue, West Branch, Iowa 52358, (319) 643-7600

West Branch

Worship 10 a.m. First Day; **Business** 3rd First Day following worship; **Location** 317 N. 6th Street, West Branch, Iowa, (319) 643-2832; **Clerk** James Cottingham, 1996 Delta Avenue, West Branch, Iowa 52358, (319) 643-5949, cottinghamjj@cs.com

Whittier

Worship 10:30 a.m. First Day; **Business** every two months at call of clerk; **Location** Whittier, Iowa; **Clerk** Deborah Dakin, 3200 Whittier Road, Springville, Iowa 52336, (319) 895-8133, debdakin@earthlink.net

Yahara Friends Preparative Meeting

Worship 10:30 a.m. First Day; **Business** 11:15 a.m. First Sunday; **Clerk:** Jean Eden (608) 251-3375

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