

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NOTE: Alphabetic index is found at the end of the Minutes

MINUTES OF IOWA YEARLY MEETING (CONSERVATIVE) 3
FOURTH DAY – WEDNESDAY – 7/26/06..... 3
REPRESENTATIVES..... 4
CARETAKERS..... 4
NOMINATING COMMITTEE..... 4
MIDYEAR MEETING REPORT 5
MIDYEAR MEETING YOUTH ACTIVITIES..... 6
INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 7
AFSC CORPORATION REPORT 9
EPISTLE FROM NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING
(CONSERVATIVE)..... 11
EPISTLE FROM OHIO YEARLY MEETING..... 12
FIFTH DAY – THURSDAY – 7/27/06 17
FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION
REPRESENTATIVE REPORT 18
PUBLICATION COMMITTEE REPORT 20
ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT..... 22
ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT 22
SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE REPORT..... 24
RESPONSES TO ADVICES AND QUERIES 24
WILLIAM PENN HOUSE REPORT 34
SIXTH DAY – FRIDAY – 7/28/06..... 35
YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES REPORT 37
SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL 37
FOUNDATION TRUSTEES REPORT 37
SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL REPORT 39
SCATTERGOOD FARM REPORT 50
DISCIPLINE REVISION COMMITTEE REPORT 52
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT..... 53
BEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING SCHOOLHOUSE REPORT..... 54
SEVENTH DAY – SATURDAY – 7/29/06..... 54
SEVENTH DAY A.M. 54
JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING EPISTLE 55
YOUNG FRIENDS EPISTLE 56
PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT..... 59
RECORDER’S REPORT 68
MARRIAGES UNDER THE CARE OF THE MEETINGS..... 68
MINISTRY AND COUNSEL REPORT..... 70
YOUTH RETREAT COMMITTEE REPORT 71
AFTERNOON SESSIONS 73
TREASURER’S REPORT..... 74
REPRESENTATIVES’ REPORT..... 78

PROPOSED BUDGET 79
SPECIAL REPLIES 81
EPISTLE TO NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING
(CONSERVATIVE)..... 82
EPISTLE TO OHIO YEARLY MEETING 83
LETTER TO FRIENDS EVERYWHERE 84
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 85
STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS 90
OF MONTHLY MEETINGS 90
CLOSING MINUTE..... 101
EXERCISE COMMITTEE REPORT 103
LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT 108
IOWA CITY MEETING STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT 2005 .. 109
IOWA PEACE NETWORK 110
AFSC CENTRAL REGION REPORT 111
INDEX 118

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Minutes of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

129th Annual Session
Seventh Month 25 – 30, 2006

FOURTH DAY – WEDNESDAY – 7/26/06

At the 129th annual session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) held at Scattergood Friends School, near West Branch, Iowa, from Seventh Month 25 to 30, 2006.

“Not by strength of arguments or by a particular disquisition of each doctrine, and convincement of my understanding thereby, came I to receive and bear witness of the Truth, but by being secretly reached by the Life. For, when I came into the silent assemblies of God’s people, I felt a secret power among them, which touched my heart; and as I gave way into it I found the evil weakening in me and the good raised up; and so I became thus knit and united unto them hungering more and more after the increase of this power and life whereby I might feel myself perfectly redeemed; and indeed this is the surest way to become a Christian.” Robert Barclay, *Apology*

We are glad to have the presence of these visitors: Kody Hersh of Miami Monthly Meeting, Southeastern Yearly Meeting; Liz Oppenheimer who carries a letter of introduction from Laughing Waters Worship Group in Minneapolis, MN, and is a member of Twin Cities Monthly Meeting, Northern Yearly Meeting; Mathilda Navias of Broadmead Monthly Meeting, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, and carries a letter of introduction from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting; Anna Sandidge, coordinator of Friends Peace Teams and a member of Sunrise Monthly Meeting, sojourning at St. Louis Monthly Meeting in Illinois Yearly Meeting; Arthur Meyer Boyd of Friends Committee on National Legislation and member of Stony Run Monthly Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting; David Eley of Austin, Texas, a recorded Friend of North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Conservative, and long time attender of our annual sessions; and Sonia Tuma ,director of the Central Region of American Friends Service Committee and an attender of Orange Grove Monthly Meeting in Pacific Yearly Meeting.

REPRESENTATIVES

Friends were appointed by their monthly meetings to service during Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative (IYMC) annual sessions. Monthly meeting appointments of representatives to Yearly Meeting are:

Ames–Dan Treadway, Mark Tomer
Bear Creek–Burt Kisling, Cheryl Sutton
Decorah–Martha Davis
Des Moines–Marion Love
Iowa City–Jeff Cox
Lincoln–Mary K Stillwell, Dan Schlitt
Omaha–Debbie Galusha.
Paullina–Beth Wilson, Jonathan Fisch
Penn Valley–Karin McAdams, Beth Sperry
West Branch–Callie Marsh, Jean Eden
Whittier–Bob Yeats, Roy Hampton

CARETAKERS

Monthly meeting appointments of caretakers to Yearly Meeting are:

Ames–Nathan Tomer
Bear Creek–Herbert Standing, Stan Sanders
Decorah–no one appointed
Des Moines Valley–Sherry Hutchison
Iowa City–none appointed
Lincoln–Marge Schlitt
Omaha–Marilyn Mantel Guss, Jules Galusha
Paullina–Beth Lower, Lois Tjossem
Penn Valley–Echo Ray
West Branch–Larry Marsh
Whittier–one appointed

There are thirteen representatives and six 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–no one appointed
Des Moines Valley–Andrea Holveck
Iowa City–Marty

Lincoln–Marge Schlitt
 Omaha–Debbie Galusha
 Paullina–Galen Tjossem
 Penn Valley–none appointed
 West Branch–Judy Cottingham
 Whittier–Martha Hampton

The following Friends were appointed by the Yearly Meeting Representatives to serve on committees during this annual session. We approve the appointments.

Exercise Committee–Lorene Ludy, Herbert Standing, Beth Wilson, Mary Kay Stillwell
 Epistle Committee–Judy Plank, Roy Hampton, Olive Wilson, Ed Clopton
 Special Replies–Jeff Kisling, Jean Eden, Bob Yeats
 Yearly Meeting Reporters–Dan Treadway, Nancy Moon, Margie Haworth
 Auditing–Don Laughlin, Jim Cottingham
 To call for business–Beth Wilson
 To break meeting First Day–Martha Davis

Readers for this morning’s business sessions are: Stan Sanders and Dan Schlitt

We listened with interest to the Midyear Meeting and Junior Midyear Meeting reports and the Midyear Meeting treasurer’s report. We appreciate the reports and the work they represent. We extend thanks to Bear Creek Friends for once again hosting Midyear Meeting.

MIDYEAR MEETING REPORT

Midyear Meeting was held at the Bear Creek Meetinghouse April 1 and 2.

Approximately 150 people attended during the weekend. Deborah Fisch, Iowa Yearly Meeting clerk and a coordinator of Friends General Conference Traveling Ministries Program was the resource leader. Her theme was “What makes us Conservative Friends.” She spoke about seeking a balance between early radical Quakerism and God speaking to each one in the present, and that Conservative Friends seek to maintain a

balance between use of the Bible as guide and teacher, and continuing revelation provided by the Inward Teacher, the Christ within each of us. She shared that Conservative Friends experience the use of both of these as ways to help discern leading of the Spirit; that they don’t contradict each other but rather help us to better understand teachings of Divine, and how we can be faithful Friends in these days and these times. Deborah shared about being a young adult convinced Friend in Paullina Monthly Meeting and invited those present to share with each other times when they were aware of God teaching them through events in their own meetings. She also described yearly meeting practices and what she finds especially helpful in being faithful to the work in business meeting and in worship.

The white elephant sale to benefit the American Friends Service Committee’s (AFSC) Iowa and Kansas City programs brought in over \$1000.00.

Once again the organization and hospitality provided by members of Bear Creek Meeting are very much appreciated.

Financial Report of Midyear Meeting

Contributions		\$4445.70
Expenses:		
Food	\$713.48	
Cook	400.00	
Committee expense	34.27	
Child Care	<u>193.00</u>	
Total expense		\$1340.75
Hosting fee	\$300.00	
Transferred to School House Fund	<u>2804.95</u>	
Total Transfers		\$3104.95
Total Disbursements		\$4445.70

Osa Bricker, treasurer

MIDYEAR MEETING YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Midyear Meeting was blessed with the attendance of many young people. Their enthusiasm and laughter added to the fellowship of the gathering. Junior Yearly Meeting youth visited the Earlham Friends

Church to volunteer in the community food bank and hear about faith traditions of pastoral Friends. They spent time together involved in art projects, games, worship, and even watching the design of a handmade bench take shape.

The Young Friends program joined Junior Yearly Meeting at the Friends Church to learn about some of the differences between our branch of Quakerism and theirs. A member of Bear Creek Meeting took them to a prairie area east of Earlham that is being made into a city park, where the Young Friends assisted in staking and putting on guards for young trees. We enjoyed having several Scattergood students and staff attend the programs on Saturday.

In the evening, young people of all sizes and ages could be found sleeping in the large tent set up by Bear Creek Meeting. Following the night's storm, sleeping bags were found to be harbors for earthworms, also of all sizes.

On behalf of the Midyear Meeting Youth Committee,
Debbie Galusha and Jackie Leckband, co-clerks

We heard the interesting minutes of the Interim Committee that met during Midyear Meeting. The report reminds us of the importance of the work of the Interim Committee in dealing with business that arises between sessions.

INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

First Day, Fourth Month, 2006

Meeting was opened with a time of silent worship.

Cheryl Sutton and Carol Gilbert were appointed to continue as clerk and assistant clerk for Interim Committee.

“Meister Eckhart wrote: ‘There are plenty to follow our Lord half-way, but not the other half. They will give up possessions, friends, and honors, but it touches them too closely to disown themselves.’ It is just this astonishing life which is willing to follow Him the other half, sincerely to disown itself, this life which intends complete obedience, without any reservations, that I would propose to you in all humility, in all boldness, in all seriousness. I mean this literally, utterly, completely, and I mean it for you and for me—commit your lives in unreserved obedience to Him.” *A Testament of Devotion* by Thomas R. Kelly

Interim Committee received notice that Wendy Vasquez can no longer serve as Yearly Meeting representative to the joint oversight committee of the Iowa Peace Network. We approve replacing her with Claire Cumbie-Drake of Des Moines Valley Monthly Meeting.

At the request of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) (IYMC) representatives, we approve Marion Love and Mark Patton as delegates to the FWCC Triennial, which will convene in July, 2007, in Dublin, Ireland.

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative Peace and Social Concerns Committee asked the Yearly Meeting to appoint at least one representative to the upcoming conference on torture in June at Guilford College. They suggest Sarah Winchell be one of the representatives and asked to make funds available for her travel. We approve Sarah Winchell, Callie Marsh, and Jean Eden as representatives from IYMC to the QUIT Torture Conference, June, 2006, at Guilford College, NC. We approve using un-needed funds allocated for the Young Friends Travel and Conference to help fund Sarah's travel.

At the request of the IYMC Peace and Social Concerns Committee, we considered, and then approved sending to Congress and newspapers the following letter written by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee over the signature of the IYMC clerk.

To Congress and newspapers:

As Quakers we believe there is that of God in every person and we abhor all violence. All the people on both sides of the Palestinian / Israeli struggle are victims of violence. As our government places conditions on Hamas (Palestinians) to recognize Israel, so should Israel be subject to accountability to the rights of the Palestinian people as a condition to U.S. Aid.

We approve the appointment of Callie Marsh to serve as our representative to North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) (NCYMC), which meets Seventh Month 13-16, 2006. Deborah Fisch will be traveling to speak at NCYMC. Bill Deutsch will draft a special letter to NCYMC from IYMC to be carried by Deborah and Callie.

We are unsure of the dates of Ohio Yearly Meeting sessions and will postpone approving a representative until our own yearly meeting session in Seventh Month, 2006.

We received a request from Omaha Friends Monthly Meeting that Interim Committee consider endorsing a travel minute approved by this meeting for Marshall Massey who has labored with them around a leading to travel on foot in the ministry from Omaha, Nebraska to

Baltimore Yearly Meeting, where he has accepted an invitation to be plenary speaker at their annual sessions. Carol Gilbert stepped aside as assistant clerk for the discussion and decision making around this matter, since she is from Omaha Meeting and on Marshall's oversight committee from that monthly meeting. Deborah Fisch was approved as acting assistant clerk for this piece of business.

We have learned that Omaha Friends Meeting has labored lovingly with Marshall and are united in clearness that this is a leading for Marshall. We approve Interim Meeting clerk endorsing the minute on behalf of the Yearly Meeting as we trust the faithful work of Omaha Friends.

We approved Omaha Friends Meeting contacting IYMC monthly meetings for financial support and approve the Yearly Meeting treasurer release up to \$500.00 from the available contingency fund of Yearly Meeting budget. We realize this leaves a lot to cover and ask Friends to give spiritual and financial support as they are led. We trust that Omaha Friends Meeting and Marshall will continue to discern God's call as we seek together to help the way open for Marshall to be faithful to his leading. We attach his report and travel minute.

Meeting was concluded with a time of silent worship.
Cheryl Sutton, clerk
Carol Gilbert, assistant clerk

Friends heard the beautifully prepared American Friends Service Committee Corporation report prepared by Bob Yeats. We are encouraged by the good work being done on our behalf by AFSC.

AFSC CORPORATION REPORT

In contrast to the previous year, my 2005 experience representing the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) at the American Friends Service Committee meeting was refreshing and educational. Even with a transit strike causing difficulties for travel across Philadelphia, the sun was shining and the folks at AFSC were upbeat.

It appears that the AFSC is again finding its footing as a strong and sure voice in the peace movement. Its Eyes Wide Open Exhibit has become a definitive icon, helping all to understand the true costs of our country's reckless militarism as well as giving the peace movement a place to stand. Newly revitalized programs supporting the rights of immigrants have been especially timely this year. The exciting, year old

program tackling worldwide economic injustices caused by "globalization" and international trade policies continues. The AFSC feels called to bring attention to our country's relentless "race to the bottom" caused by policies that venerate the low price of goods while ignoring the human and environmental costs of producing them. I was personally moved by the sessions on Youth and Militarism where we were told first-person stories of how the military spends its huge budget to sponsor recruiters to lure uninformed youth into the military in order to fill their quotas.

Financially, AFSC reported that it is doing quite well. Total contributions are down from last year primarily because 2004 had an extraordinary number of final bequests. However, because of publicity from the tsunami and Hurricane Katrina disasters, AFSC increased its total number of donors by 60,000. Friends should, however, be aware that there is an especial, continuing need for undesignated contributions. Many international programs could be in jeopardy without increased annual support.

Historian, civil rights leader, and author, Mary Frances Berry was the featured speaker at the public session on Saturday. She presented many anecdotes from her long-time leadership of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, as well as excerpts from her book, *My Face is Black is True*.

It was powerful to experience the renewed feeling of purpose evident in the joy with which the African American staff and members approached this year's work. They and the AFSC in general were galvanized by the work being done in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Working with under-served black and Hispanic communities providing food, shelter, and protection, the AFSC was able to move quickly to aid survivors of the devastation. We heard an amusing story of how young AFSC workers enlisted the aid of a group of nuns to prevent the eviction of a group of Hispanic workers from the Superdome. In the process, many connections with the African-American community that had lain fallow since the days of the civil rights movement were re-established.

The AFSC is working to deepen its connection with all Friends. Please continue to hold the AFSC Board in the Light as it strives to "act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God."

Bob Yeats

We listened carefully to the epistles sent to us by Ohio Yearly Meeting and North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative, our sister

Conservative yearly meetings. We appreciate hearing of the concerns and work of the other Conservative Yearly Meetings.

**EPISTLE FROM
NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING (CONSERVATIVE)**

To our brothers and sisters in Christ in Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Greetings from the 309th annual sessions of Friends in North Carolina. The ties between our yearly meetings are strengthened in these sessions by the presence of Deborah Fisch and Callie Marsh, whose words and example have contributed to our continuing exploration of our heritage as Conservative Friends and what meaning that heritage has for us in a changed and still changing 21st century world. Daily Bible study has reminded us that we are a community of memory of the past as well as a community of expectation and hope for the future, and we must be continually examining and interpreting our past so that it can be a support in present circumstances and a guide for future efforts.

Our attention this week has been shared by some things old, and some new. There is a new interest in the work of the Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs and much anticipation about the prospect of holding yearly meeting sessions next year for the first time in Wilmington, NC. Meanwhile the peace work of Quaker House in Fayetteville, NC, and the outreach work of our meetings in their local communities continue.

It is clear that only a rootedness in the Source of living water can adequately nurture us in these times and the times to come. We are working, as we sense Friends in Iowa are working, to send our roots deep so that we can become the Kingdom of God incarnate, witnessing with our lives and our love to the reality of God's presence in and love for all of creation.

We pray for every good blessing for Iowa Friends, so that you may find a place to stand "stiff as an oak and clear as a bell" in your witness for God's love everywhere.

On behalf of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
Sidney Lee Kitchens, clerk

EPISTLE FROM OHIO YEARLY MEETING

Dear Friends,

"This is the work of God – that ye believe in Him whom He sent."
John 6:29

This verse reminds us of the central purpose for which we are gathered together as a faith community, to witness to the Life and Power of Jesus Christ and His guidance in our daily lives as we remain open to His promptings. We have experienced moments of deep worship and unity of spirit as we waited to discern God's plan for this yearly meeting and its individual members. We have felt the Presence as we labored to complete business in a timely manner.

Following a retreat on "Articulating Our Faith" under the direction of the Friends Center this spring, Ohio Yearly Meeting (OYM) Friends continue to seek God's guidance as we explore ways of articulating our commitment to Jesus Christ so others may more accurately perceive the Christian witness of OYM.

The Agenda Committee was led to the theme for the 2005 Ohio Yearly Meeting, "The Witness of Conservative Friends." A thorough and very personal depiction of this year's theme is informed by the history of OYM as a corporate spiritual body as well as the life experiences of Fran and Bill Taber, who had discussed "the Witness of Conservative Friends" at North Carolina's 2004 Yearly Meeting. Based on that talk, Fran's thoughtful discourse on Fourth Day evening about the essential qualities of Conservative Friends that Bill and she had garnered during their lifelong examination of this subject was an illuminating account. The question period following her talk gave Friends much to ponder. Other evening sessions continued our consideration of the topic; on Fifth Day evening Ken and Katharine Jacobsen discussed "Witnessing as Conservative Friends in Chicago," and the following evening, Brian Drayton of New England Yearly Meeting spoke about "Seeking a Whole Gospel in a Fractured World: Reflections from a New England Friend."

As a result of the planning undertaken by the Committee on Renewal and Encouragement, OYM Friends will welcome a gathering of the Friends World Committee for Consultation, Great Lakes Region, at Stillwater at the end of Ninth Month, continuing our ongoing concern to share with others our faith in Jesus Christ. With God's assistance we will seek to illuminate the theme, "Whence Cometh Our Joy?" considering among other topics our unique corporate worship, the role of Scripture among OYM Friends, and the powerful ministry available through the work of the Friends Center.

In Christ's love and on behalf of Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends,
Seth Hinshaw, clerk

We listened with interest to some of the epistles received from other yearly meetings and Friends' meetings around the world. We are a small meeting. Hearing of the troubles, joys, work and blessing of the Divine experienced by Friends around the world helps us feel common ties and Love and encourages us in our own work. We were pleased to receive a letter of greeting from West Branch Friends Church. The meeting asks the clerk to respond with appreciation to West Branch Friends.

West Branch Friends Church

Dear Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative),

We send our thoughts and prayers to you as you open Yearly Meeting sessions for IYMC in 2006. May you sense God's spirit among you in a refreshing and challenging way. God bless you in your gathering, in your times of worship, in the work and worship of your business sessions, and in your work and witness as a Yearly Meeting.

Love and Light,

Ruthie Tippin, pastor; Jim Glasson, clerk

New England Yearly Meeting

With the continuing violence in the world heavy on our hearts, the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends met on the campus of Bryant University in Smithfield, Rhode Island, from August 6-11, 2005, for our 345th annual sessions. . . . Our plenary speakers told how, in their own lives, they had learned to be open to uncomfortable situations and ideas and to feel the pain of others who are suffering. . . . Young Friends brought a minute to the one of our business sessions, reminding us that worship must be centered and not full of talk. When we are grounded in our community and in the Holy Spirit we can begin to hear the voices of those who differ from us. When our hearts are tender, we are able to trust each other and to hear what God would have us do.

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association

We greet you in that which is eternal and send this epistle to tell you of how the Spirit fared with us during our annual sessions held at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, NC. . . . Our workshops, evening panel and keynote address reminded us of our testimonies as we heard each of our Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association Friends relate their stories: showing us lives that testified to the Truth they found in the

testimonies. These stories also told of the importance of truth, reconciliation and forgiveness in times of injustice or violence. . . . As we labored through our agenda, we found that hurts between Friends, between meetings or in our larger community of Friends also need this same healing ministry, so that we can act from a place of Love and trust. We were reminded of the full nature of eldering that calls forth and nurtures gifts of Friends. We witnessed the Spirit flow through our clerk as with skill and tenderness she led us through a lengthy agenda. . . . She lifted up for us an image that challenged each of us to relinquish our "own boats" so that we can go deeper into the Living Waters. . . . Chuck Fager chose to briefly speak of the work of Quaker House so that he could share with us a portion of Christian Peace Team worker and Quaker, Tom Fox's blog entry written just prior to his kidnapping. Hearing of Tom's quiet and faithful witness to the peace testimony touched us deeply. Despite his quiet mien, through his tragic death, Tom's voice resounds in the world. . . . Remembering the truth Anna Sandidge found in her encounter with a war survivor, we affirm that the most fundamental gift we can give each other is to listen with tender hearts and to be present for one another, "through this Love comes healing and unity.

Britain Yearly Meeting

"Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God. . . ." Advices and Queries 1. Greetings from Britain Yearly Meeting. . . . From the start, we have felt a strong sense of common purpose, of abiding in the power of the Spirit. . . . During this yearly meeting we have tried hard to avoid negative "murmurings" that would undermine our corporate discipline. We have returned to the question of trusteeship of Britain Yearly Meeting. Last year we were unable to reach unity on the question of appointing a small trustee body, such were the anxieties about issues of power and trust. . . . We are now ready to entrust a small group with the specific responsibilities of trusteeship, remembering that these responsibilities are grounded in terms of service, not of power. We, the Yearly Meeting, carry the authority and we all share responsibility of our work and witness, whether present in session or not. We commit ourselves to upholding our trustees and all others who undertake work on our behalf, not least by maintaining an interest in it. "Love is a constant challenge, not a resting place," Swarthmore lecture 2006

Japan Yearly Meeting

The beautiful late autumn weather greeted us as we gathered for the annual sessions of the Japan Yearly Meeting for 2005 which were held on 12-13 November, 2005 at the Mito Meetinghouse in Mito, Ibaraki Prefecture. The meetinghouse, which had originally been built in 1912 and was remodeled recently as three years ago, was an ideal setting for the annual sessions as the theme adopted for the occasion was, "Toward 120th year of Quaker mission in Japan." Seven friends from overseas who had participated in the earlier Asia West Pacific Section Conference of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) held in Seoul, came and so did the three young friends who had gone to the World Gathering of Young Friends held last summer in Lancaster, the United Kingdom. . . . In an evening session the topic of how each member should make him, or herself ready to come to the meeting for worship was talked about. The role of and the relationship between the Yearly Meeting and monthly meetings was also discussed; this will remain the topic for future consideration. . . . We have been supported and strengthened by Quakerism the past 120 years. It is our renewed conviction that to live with God in prayer and joy is the way to peace. . . . "Be still, and know that I am God." Psalms 46:10

Northern Yearly Meeting

Greetings from Rosholt, WI and the 31st annual session of Northern Yearly Meeting, where our theme is "Moving towards a Blessed Community." . . . Discernment and discipline in our Quaker process is being seasoned. And our hearts melt with joy over the love we feel in being together. . . . Our labors with three Faith and Practice chapters give our growing faith in that of the Divine in each other a new meaning, just as the first generation of Friends "came upon a faith which cut to the root of the way they saw life; radically reorienting it." A hope is instilled: might we be a generation of Friends who return the fire to the Religious Society of Friends and radically reorient our vision of life through the rediscovery of our faith in the wholeness of who we are? One friend terms our newly approved chapter on the Simplicity Testimony, which has required five years of loving midwifery, "Quaker writing for the ages."

Monteverde Friends Meeting

Once again we reach out to you with a message of love. This year has been especially challenging for our Monteverde community as we have faced tensions, divisions, and losses. Disputes about water use have raised our awareness of the need to care for and to share the earth's

resources equitably. We have felt daunted and dismayed by world conflicts, and the concentration of power and wealth in the hands of a few people who use fear and violence to achieve their ends. The Monteverde Friends School has had a difficult year of transition with the search for a new director and unanticipated teacher turnover. We have had limited success in involving our younger members in the life of the Meeting. Within the year, five young men with ties to the community met untimely deaths: former students, sons of Meeting members and former volunteer at the school. The grief of these losses drew us together with many others in our broader community, and we asked each other, "How can we prevent this from happening again?"

Holding people in the Light has helped in difficult times. The act of loving and praying in this way has nurtured hope and helped people to heal, not only those held in the Light but also the rest of us.

Celebrating life together lifts our spirits, especially when we do it with music. We have joined in song together to celebrate birthdays and the long lives of good friends. Many people come before Meeting each Sunday to sing. Friends, neighbors and visitors of all ages still fill the meetinghouse for coffeehouses and square dances.

We have been enriched and inspired by visitors throughout the year including Joe Volk from Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), Lama Wangchen from Barcelona, former teachers, Friends who came after the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) conference in Guatemala, other Friends from around the world, as well as many people who just stop in. These contacts help to renew our faith that our actions as individuals do make a difference. We plan to strengthen our ties with the small meeting in San Jose and to gather with other Latin American non-pastoral meetings. We are called to maintain and extend our wider Quaker fellowship and at the same time to focus more deeply within our own meeting.

Our meetings give each of us an opportunity to grow. How can we respond to the many calls for time, energy and interest, achieve spiritual growth, and maintain a balance in our lives? Can our meeting communities offer the encouragement to fearlessly put forth our ideas in the face of disagreement? To accept without judgment? To give and receive support? To heal? Conflict and pain can lead to personal growth, but only if we make time, search inwardly for guidance, and actively engage with each other. We are challenged to examine our beliefs, to accept imperfections, to become a more loving community, and to practice our Quaker values each day. We are one with all.

On behalf of the Monteverde Monthly Meeting,

Lucy Guindon, clerk and Jean Stuckey, recording clerk

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

FIFTH DAY – THURSDAY – 7/27/06

We return to the business of the yearly meeting.

“Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nation.’ Then I said, ‘Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a child. But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a child,’ for you shall go to all to whom I send you and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them for I am with you to deliver you,” says the Lord.” Jeremiah 1:4-8

Martha Davis and Cheryl Sutton have been appointed readers this morning.

On the evening of Third Day Collection speakers were Rebekah DeWild and Emma Davis Deutsch, who were the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) representatives to the World Gathering of Young Friends held last summer. With the aid of a Power Point presentation they shared statistical information about the programs and speakers, photos taken at the Gathering, and of their own personal experiences and reflections.

Fourth Day afternoon Arthur Meyer Boyd of Friends Committee on National Legislation, Sonia Tuma and Ann Nafier of the Central Region of the American Friends Service Committee, and Elton Davis of Iowa Peace Network talked about their respective programs. Those in attendance were impressed with the good work being done by these F/friends and their organizations.

Mathilda Navias of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting led an interest group on outreach without proselytizing aimed at helping meetings become more visible in their communities and welcoming to visitors and new attenders.

Collection on Fourth Day was presented by Anna Sandidge, coordinator of the Friends Peace Teams. Her topic was “Facilitating Hope,” and she shared her personal experiences as a reconciliation worker collecting stories of war survivors in Burundi. One of the most

powerful things she learned is the importance of providing time and space to listen to survivors tell their stories as a part of healing and peace building. She added that in order to listen we need to learn to say, “I could be wrong,” and mean it. She asked Friends to hold the work of Friends Peace Teams in our prayers at this time of transition.

We were blessed to have the presence of these visitors: Ruah Swennerfelt, general secretary of Quaker Earth Care Witness of Burlington Monthly Meeting in New England Yearly Meeting; and Larry Gordon of the Cedar Falls Worship Group.

We listened with interest to the report of the IYMC representatives to Friends World Committee for Consultation. We approve the report as amended.

**FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION
REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Hope of renewal grows in our work, both on the Yearly Meeting and Section of the Americas levels.

Marion Love, accompanied by husband Dennis Kirkwood, attended the section's annual meeting in Guatemala, and the location framed how fruitful the Spirit is.

Business was kept brief so Friends could enjoy extended worship, particularly evenings at village churches. There are three yearly meetings in Guatemala, planted a century ago by Quaker evangelists, some with ties to Iowa Yearly Meeting (FUM). While boisterous by Conservative standards, the music and messages wrapped guests with welcome and love. In closing worship a Friend spoke of being greeted ‘as if Jesus had walked into the church,’ and Marion and Dennis felt that embrace.

Emphasis was made on education, medical care and job training as work in God's hands. News about political and social pressures on Friends awakened delegates. Latin American Friends reminded North Americans that leadership training is vital for their efforts to make a difference, especially to improve economic conditions. We saw how dollars earned in the U.S. renewed villages.

Delegates spent much time on this Yearly Meeting's request for talks about alternative service to military conscription. Friends spoke about the geographic reach of compulsory military service, the personal risks of objection in some countries, and FWCC's ability to carry out the

request. As the final act of business, a minute was approved directing the Peace Interest Working Group to contact all branches of Friends in this hemisphere. Mark Patton agreed to participate in this work.

The section's treasurer reported that financial health has improved, as the life-threatening deficit shrinks apace. The giving campaign surpassed half its \$3 million target. This allows plans for more invigorating work than simply staying open.

Sarah Winchell, Callie Marsh, and Jean Eden were the Yearly Meeting's delegates to the QUIT conference on torture, held June 2-4 at Guilford College, Greensboro, NC. The conference was made possible by a generous donation by FWCC.

Martha Davis has agreed to serve on the Executive Committee of the Section of the Americas beginning in November. This summer she is serving on the committee for the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage held this year in the Midwest/USA.

At Interim committee meeting, Marion Love and Mark Patton were appointed as representatives to the Triennial, August, 2007, in Dublin, Ireland.

We still struggle with creating experiences for monthly meetings. Contact with other Friends fuels joy, refreshment and reflection. Reading about this is empty, and we yearn to bring it home. Yet we still fail to create time or opportunity to deliver this Spirit-filled joy to our beloved Friends. What grief to miss sharing this love.

FWCC representatives committee

Martha Davis, Marion Love, Mark Patton, Sarah,
Winchell, Ginnie Winsor

We listened carefully to the Publications Committee report. We approve Publications Committee adding an authorization of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) (IYMC) on the QuakerNet website. We ask the Yearly Meeting clerk to send the request concerning sending web postings in HTML when possible in the clerk's fall letter to monthly meetings.

A concern was raised that people looking for the IYMC web page may not easily find it with QuakerNet as our domain name. We ask Publications Committee to research how to include key wording so that people searching for IYMC will be directed to QuakerNet more easily.

We express deep gratitude to Jeff Kisling for the numerous hours he puts in making the Web page possible for us. We also appreciate the

work of Ed Clopton, who has served on this committee for many years and is rotating off.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Minutes of the 2005 Annual Session of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative were collated by the Yearly Meeting Clerk and proofread by committee members with the additional help of Nancy Ewald. The corrected Minutes were converted to Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) and sent to Goodfellow Printing, Inc., of Iowa City, where 310 copies were printed and bound at a cost of \$7.21 per copy. We are considering having Goodfellow also ship the Minutes to the monthly meetings.

In accordance with the change approved at last year's annual sessions, the Publication Committee clerk sent each monthly meeting clerk the current list of the monthly meeting members in early April. Several corrected lists were returned prior to the yearly meeting annual sessions which was appreciated as it made it possible to begin to work on this coming year's directory much sooner than usual.

The QuakerNet website came into being in an informal way in 1998, first suggested during one of the Scattergood Friends School Committee's periodic long-range planning endeavors, as a possible means to improve communication between the school and the Yearly Meeting. At that time the school director offered to pay the web hosting fees. Since then, development director at the school, Margie Figgins, has been very helpful in arranging payment for both the web hosting fees and the domain name registration fees (for the domain quakernet.org). This past year we received notice that our web hosting company was going out of business. BlueHost, which hosts over 160,000 domains, was selected as the new host for QuakerNet. The 5,000 some files that make up our website were transferred to the new site in December. The Scattergood Friends School Committee website was also moved to the new web host. The web address remains www.quakernet.org (that is the domain name we have registered and paid for). This seemed a good time to have the Publication Committee take over the web hosting fees, so \$95.40 for this year (at BlueHost) was paid from our budget.

In visiting other yearly meeting websites, it was noticed that some display some type of site authorization (example attached). The Committee wonders if our website should be similarly authorized and, if so, whether that should be posted on the site.

The committee is grateful that over the years there has been increasing use of the website and hopes this trend continues. This does

involve a fair amount of work in converting the information from email messages or word processing documents into hypertext markup language (HTML) pages and then transferring them to the web server. The committee is quite willing to continue to do this, but realizes there are some individuals who know how to do this and we would be pleased to receive HTML pages when possible. That would likely result in more nicely formatted pages since our efforts are usually hurried. Updates to the website usually occur three to four times per week. A workshop is scheduled during this year's annual sessions to teach those who are interested how to create web pages.

Friends' presence on the Internet continues to grow. The Digital Quaker Collection is an Earlham School of Religion project that makes over 500 Quaker works from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries available online. KidsQuake is a Quaker youth outreach project of the Southern Quarter of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and there is a site that contains young Friends' writings from the second annual Quake that Rocked the Midwest that was developed by Breeze (Luetke-Stahlman) Richardson on the *Friends Journal* site. There are links to these sites on QuakerNet.

2005 - 2006 Budget	\$2,700.00
Printing 310 copies of 2005 Minutes	2,235.00
Shipping and supplies	161.69
Web Hosting fees (Blue Host)	95.40
Total	\$2492.09
Balance	\$207.91

After eleven years on the Publication Committee, Ed Clopton will be leaving it this year. The committee is very grateful not only for the length but also the quality of Ed's service.

For the committee,
 Jeff Kisling, clerk

We heard the report of the 2005 Yearly Meeting Entertainment Committee. We appreciate the report and the work it represents.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The monthly meetings of Ames, Des Moines Valley, and Penn Valley were the hosts of the 2005 Yearly Meeting. The Yearly Meeting received encouragement under the theme "Renewing our Faith and Practice." Outside speakers included Mary Lord of AFSC and Byron Sanford of William Penn House. Summaries of their contributions as well as those of Callie Marsh, Sarah Winchell, and Rebekah DeWild of our own yearly meeting are given in the 2005 Minute book. Friends were again generous in their contributions and we were able to forward some funds to the Yearly Meeting Trustees.

Income and Expense Report

Receipts

Received from 2004 Committee	\$ 2,000.00
Interest (through 8/15/05)	3.77
Contributions	<u>9,745.85</u>
Total receipts	\$11,749.62

Expenses

Scattergood Friends School	\$8,500.00
Child Care	400.00
Supplies	117.16
Printing & Postage	67.19
To Yearly Meeting Trustees	<u>665.27</u>
Total expenses	\$9,749.62

Forwarded to 2006 Committee: \$2,000.00

For the Entertainment Committee, A. M. Fink

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

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

Thanks to Larry Yerkes for his careful work in repairing two books from the collection in the William Penn Room. Part of Larry's work was

donated. We plan to continue to have tattered books in this collection repaired, as our budget allows.

We encourage monthly meetings to review page 43 of our 1974 *Discipline*, to keep complete and accurate records, and to provide for the care of records, old and new. We encourage meetings to consider adding older records (or copies thereof) to the collection of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) records in the manuscript collection at the State Historical Society Library in Iowa City. Records in this collection have archival storage and are available for public viewing when the manuscript section of the library is open, but Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) retains ownership.

We ask that our budget allocation of \$200 be continued this year.

On behalf of the committee,
Dan Treadway, convener

We listened carefully to the Special Needs Committee report. A deep concern about accessibility of all buildings at Scattergood, including to the dining hall in the main building, was raised. We appreciate the research that has been done by Scattergood staff, but we realize that it is the responsibility of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) as owner of Scattergood Friends School to address this. We ask the Trustees and School Committee to come under the weight of this concern and continue researching options, requirements, and costs of installing an elevator in the main building, as well as other accessibility problems that may be on campus. We realize that in order to bring the change about we will have to commit to helping raise funds of several tens of thousands of dollars or more. Having a workable plan is a first step.

We ask the Special Needs Committee to post information on accessible spaces on campus and how they (the committee) can be contacted during sessions, should a need arise, so their good work can be made available to those in attendance.

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE REPORT

The report of the Special Needs Committee includes information we hope might be helpful to Friends attending Yearly Meeting and Midyear Meeting.

Efforts are made to list food ingredients when possible at Yearly Meeting. The setup of a buffet serving line offers a variety of food options. At Midyear Meeting, a vegetarian dish is offered, and Friends with special food needs are welcome to bring additional food. A microwave and cooler are set aside in an area near the kitchen.

At Scattergood campus, a list of accessible spaces, including restrooms, is now available. Beginning research is being collected by staff on the feasibility of an elevator in the main building at Scattergood.

With new research about fragrance and chemical sensitivities, awareness is increasing about low impact products and building materials. The school recently switched to cleaning supplies from the Green Seal product list after a staff member attended a workshop on low impact products and suppliers. There is now a helpful reference about green building products compiled by the Canadian government. Supplies of fragrance free soap and deodorants are available for use at Yearly Meeting under the care of the committee. New products tested for Midyear Meeting include a non-toxic paint, and non-toxic bleach for dishwashing.

The personal sound systems are available during worship and business sessions, and cordless microphones are in use for announcements at meals.

Friends are encouraged to share information or concerns with the committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Special Needs Committee

RESPONSES TO ADVICES AND QUERIES

We listened carefully and with interest to the yearly meeting queries and selected monthly meeting responses as prepared by the yearly meeting assistant clerk. We are inspired by many of the responses and continue to find value in hearing selected responses at annual sessions.

1. MEETING FOR WORSHIP

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

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

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

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

Selected Response: Preparations for meeting for worship are relaxing, clearing the mind, and giving thanks, which lessens worries. One Friend finds praying for blessings helps. Another likes doing some Bible study before Meeting. Some find that arriving at Meeting early helps their preparation.

Meeting for worship is an intensification of what happens in daily life, the bringing to the foreground of what is normally in the background. Some experience an expectation that happens in old meetinghouses. Others prefer to let thoughts flow freely but without attachment.

Our meeting does not refer directly to the divine that often. Referring to Christ or God is fairly rare. Language can get in the way when trying to communicate about the divine. Some react negatively to various terms often used to describe or point to the divine. The words of language are symbols, which point to something higher. Many Friends come from other church backgrounds whose beliefs form a background for meeting.

It is important how we live outside of meeting. How effectively can we take worship outside of meeting into daily life? There seems to be a tension between belief systems and new revelations of truth.

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 do encourage intervisitation with other meetings and Friends groups, but have not found a satisfactory way of following through. We greatly appreciate the visitors we have had who have shared with us—the Quaker Youth Weekend and others—but few from our meeting have found or made time for a similar visit to other meetings.

A brochure explaining Quaker beliefs and practices and our monthly meeting in particular continues to be used in Welcome Wagon packets, and we have recently updated the information in it. We appreciate a recent gift of a new all-weather sign for the roadside from one of our members. We still host an occasional quilt show and luncheon that give us the opportunity to share in detail with groups who attend.

Sharing our beliefs with others often poses problems of explaining what we believe in terms others understand. In today's political climate with so much acrimony and bias couched in religious terms, it is difficult to reach out to those with whom we disagree. We search for ways of emphasizing the idea that moral values begin within the home and family rather than in the public domain. We are reminded that finding a way to declare our "truth" in a non-threatening way is important. We recognize the importance of asking others "how" and "why" they believe rather than challenging their beliefs. This means we have to be quiet ourselves and listen carefully to what they are saying. As in so many areas, listening carefully seems to be key to real communication.

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: Meeting for Business does not *begin* with worship as recommended in the Advice; it *is* worship. Sometimes we descend into mere conversation, but we are drawn back into a state of worship by pauses for reflection after serious things are said by joining in

silence as the clerk composes each minute, and by considering each minute before proceeding to the next matter on the agenda. Occasional and appropriate emergence of humor in our sessions helps us maintain our humility, lest we take ourselves too seriously. The worshipful nature of attending to business is difficult to explain to persons new to Friends, but it is an important part of the manner of Friends.

Individuals in the meeting feel strongly, and sometimes speak passionately, about particular issues. We seek to be aware of the sense of the meeting, speaking our piece and then holding our peace rather than unduly pressing personal agendas if our personal concerns are not shared by the meeting at large. We need to communicate more effectively that although the meeting as a whole may not take up individual concerns, we accept that differences exist among us, and we support individuals in their own work on concerns important to them. We are reminded that the role of the individual in a Friends meeting for business is not to strike out on one's own, but an opportunity to share one's insights, toward clarifying and completing the group's understanding of Truth.

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: The second paragraph of the Advice states that "We endeavor to practice humility, attempting to understand positions of others and being aware of the possibility that we may be mistaken." Being aware that we may be mistaken is probably the most difficult task among people.

We found it interesting that the query asks us to name topics that we avoid. Right away we named one of those topics and got distracted from the harmony theme as it was briefly discussed.

In our group we seem to have unanimity of feeling on politics, so we don't often discuss it. In some groups of people, certain topics aren't worth discussing when each side knows the other side will not change its view.

We looked at how we have dealt with conflict historically. There have been several issues over the past years that have been difficult, among them qualifications for clerk, support of same-sex relationships, and membership of prisoners.

We need to be aware that there are lots of gray areas, not just black and white. As we get closer and closer to an issue, we tend to see more and more of the other side. Having a high regard for each other helps us to deal with problems more easily.

How do we deal with irrational behavior? What we might consider irrational can be very rational in someone else's mind. Quakers believe that controversy and conflict can be mediated by discussion and understanding. To obtain resolution, this must go in two directions: give and take. What if neither one understands the other? It is very difficult.

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: The meeting feels that in general we do provide for the mutual care of children, absent or inactive members, and newcomers, and that over time we will continue to share our inner lives with openness in order to bring us closer together with the goal of creating true heartfelt connections and mutual care among all members.

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: Education continues throughout life. People here are always investigating some topic. We share things we read. This encourages others to keep growing.

Some worry that our children don't get the biblical background they did. We have a small number of children and struggle with the challenge of exposing them to the love of God.

Other churches can go to a religious bookstore and pick up a packet for the semester. There are Quaker curricula about various subjects, and for different lengths of time.

One told of having rejected Sunday school because of dogma. Teachings of Jesus on loving kindness, connected to experiences each week, could be discussed and could stimulate curiosity.

Two of our members attended divinity school, where students get involved in studies about Jesus. One of them said that answering queries helps his spiritual development.

A member who transferred from another meeting said people there shared their spiritual journeys. We've had new people do that, but then they want to hear ours. We used to take turns doing that with the children.

Doing this kind of sharing was suggested. We do some of it as a by-product of discussing sections of the Faith and Practice revisions.

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: Working, playing and worshiping together bond our families and communities. The patterns of these activities create moments that instill values, often when we are unaware of them. These events are important to our growth and development. When we value doing nothing, taking walks, watching birds, and enjoying nature we create spaces to nurture.

While there have been changes to the roles of men and women, many women still feel the final responsibility of the home. Even with all the labor-saving appliances and husbands more willing to help, many

women come home from a job outside the home and do the household chores of cooking and childcare. Men who have lived on their own are more self-reliant.

Computers and cell phones seem to discourage personal communication. Parents can encourage communication by limiting computer, TV, and phone time, and by using opportunities while riding in the car, doing chores, etc., to respectfully listen and engage in conversation. It is important to share deeply held values and feelings, writings, journals and family stories.

Some young people seem to be in conflict. On the one hand, there is an attitude of entitlement; of dropping out if they don't like what is happening. But on the other side, there is fear. They are afraid to challenge authority—teacher or boss—for fear of not getting the grades they need or fear of losing their jobs.

We welcome others and are interested in them and their beliefs. We are happy to see how the New Horizons Center has enhanced the family feeling for those who attend. We feel a strong sense of family in our meeting. We know we can depend on each other.

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: Several folks spoke of the need to simplify physical aspects of living by removing clutter that no longer has meaning from their homes. Sometimes we wait until renting out our homes or moving out before we let go of things no longer essential to our lives. Giving these items to others who are in real need, we believe, is a form of personal responsibility.

One member spoke of her recent stay in Mexico as a time of learning how to slow down in a culture that moves at a slower pace than we do in

the U.S. She felt that she had to re-shift gears to the faster pace of the U.S. upon returning to this country.

Sometimes we fill our minds with unproductive thoughts and worry, a non-tangible form of clutter. This prevents us from being fully present in each moment. Someone expressed the idea that meeting can be a touchstone, a place where we share support for each other, where we share ideas, where we can set life-affirming priorities, and where we can become more centered in our lives.

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 feel numerous conflicts between the laws or at least actions of the state and our religious convictions. Primarily this has to do with the conduct of war, and we all continue to try to make ourselves clear on this point. We try to influence the government through non-registration, voting (although it is rare to find a non-war candidate to vote for), choosing our purchases, lobbying and writing letters to the editor.

We are distressed when we see people advocating peace angrily. We try to share our convictions with others in ways that make them more receptive. Asking questions can be more effective than confrontation. Speaking from our own experience and trusting that we will be heard sometimes works when we least expect it.

We have power in teaching and in management. Handling that power responsibly requires us to listen, to ask others to help us understand them, and by honestly acknowledging the ways in which we do not have control of a situation.

Often we feel powerless when we are writing letters to elected officials who do not seem to be paying attention. Sometimes they too are powerless, being subject to their peers and constituents. The issues on

which they have the strongest convictions may not even come to their attention.

In sum, we felt that being responsible citizens and people of faith is not easy. We intend to strive to communicate with others, even those with whom we disagree or over whom we have power, with respect and out of our own experience. We must have faith in our convictions and our own way of expressing them, even when the outcome is not clear.

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: Our meeting cares deeply about environmental responsibility. One member recently attended the steering committee of Quaker Earthcare Witness in Chicago. Someone there spoke to the need for Quakers to consider whether there is something we can no longer do because we care about the earth. In the past, Quakers decided to no longer purchase things produced by slave labor. Regarding the environment, our efforts are almost entirely personal. We are vegetarian, or we don't dye our hair. We need a public symbol that expresses the level of our concern. What is it we can no longer do? If we no longer drove cars, we would be moved toward closer community. How long can we continue to drive cars?

In Genesis we learn that God created the plants and animals and it was good. Then God created humans and that was also good. We save the earth because we are equal to it in its goodness.

What is our responsibility? We believe it is not to improve our individual lives but to bear a public witness for our concern.

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: The meeting expresses some discouragement and much concern about our role as individuals and as a nation in contributing to the inequity among nations in the areas of social and economic justice. It is easy to be lost in a swirl of that discouragement, which we acknowledged is driven both by the complexity of the crisis and by our worry and fear. We noted that we tend to think about the “haves” and “have-nots” in our discussion, which leads us to a discussion of material goods rather than gifts of the spirit. Is the growth of spiritual gifts hindered by our material goods? Is our joy limited by them?

While recognizing that simple solutions are not efficacious, we determined, in an effort to lift our gloom, to be cognizant of all small steps we take to lighten our environmental footprint on the planet, and to note them down to post on the bulletin board or gather in a box on the table in the lobby. Mark Patton will collect these and report to us.

12. PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE

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

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

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

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

Selected Response: Peace has not only a global, but also local and home life meanings. These are tied together seamlessly.

As a meeting, we have an annual Tax Day protest. We have supported one of our members in documenting himself as a conscientious objector. We participated in an annual community peace march. We support Iowa Peace Network and local peace groups. We have signs in our yard supporting peace.

Reconciliation is a real need in our community. The meeting has seen some people leave, but those who are here are committed to working together and working through differences with an attitude of love.

We need to question our pride and be aware of it. When we speak, we need to be aware of how we are received and how we are heard, in order to promote peace in our homes, meeting, and our community. When we listen, we often need to look past the words to hear the person and understand that person’s situation and feelings. We all make mistakes, both in speaking and listening, and need to keep this in mind as we communicate.

The leaders (such as Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr.) who promoted peace have had compassion for victims and perpetrators of violence. How do we keep from being desensitized to news of war and news of violent crime in our communities? We are not sure.

Mediation is becoming an alternative to judicial solutions to conflict. We encourage, support, and participate in this. Being open about our position is critical to resolving conflict. As a nation we are not doing this in Iraq. Being committed to gaining an understanding of someone else’s position is equally important.

We are dissatisfied with our ability to oppose war, which would require us to quit our jobs, turn off our furnaces, sell our cars, and refuse to pay war taxes, were we fully committed.

We received the report on William Penn House and approve the report.

WILLIAM PENN HOUSE REPORT

The merger of Washington Quaker Workcamps into the corporate structure of William Penn House has expanded the programs for young people, increased the number of groups staying at the House, and helped add a new staff member to develop and coordinate programs offered.

The “Teachers for Peace” seminar was held in October and attended by Friends from all four traditions in addition to teachers who were not Friends.

Improvements to the House continue; much of the work is done by staff. The Cory Conference Room has new lighting, electrical wiring, tin ceiling repairs, and repainted walls.

William Penn House continues its close relationship with Friends Committee on National Legislation. They co-sponsor FCNL Young

Adult Lobby Weekend and provide hospitality for committee members and young adults attending FCNL's annual sessions. They are jointly developing programs for youth with the American Friends Service Committee. They continue to host a monthly potluck with Friends from five monthly meetings.

William Penn House continues a strong internship program. The interns provide organizational support for the Emerson Congressional Fellows who come to Washington twice a year for training to help reduce hunger in America, and for the University of Washington-Bothell students to attend a week-long seminar on the relationship of government, non-government organizations, and foreign embassies. The interns receive room, board, health insurance and a stipend.

Staff is actively involved with Friends General Conference, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Friends Meeting of Washington, and numerous monthly meeting and yearly meeting sessions.

William Penn House much appreciates donations and support from monthly meetings, yearly meetings, and individuals.

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

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

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

SIXTH DAY – FRIDAY – 7/28/06

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

“For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.” Galatians 5: 13-15

Dan Treadway and Keyena McKensie have been appointed as readers this morning.

Fifth Day afternoon was filled with many opportunities for Friends. The following interest groups were offered: U.S.–Mexican Border Update by Judy Plank; a tour of the Laughlin's new energy efficient home; a Quaker Earthcare Witness intergenerational activity led by Ruah Swennerfelt; an AFSC discussion on Middle East issues led by Sonia Tuma; Conscientious Objection and Alternative Service that included presentations by Elton Davis and an update by Mark Patton. There was also a discussion on the two chapters of the Discipline which are scheduled to be proposed on Sixth Day by the Revision Committee. Mathilda Navias offered a concert on her mountain dulcimer after supper.

Evening collection was a panel of former and current Scattergood students, staff, and school committee members of several generations. School director Jan Luchini introduced the panel members Birdie Kisling, Beth Wilson, Nan Fawcett, Larry Marsh, Dan Treadway, Margie Figgins, Erin Lane, and Stephanie Lantz. They each shared a bit about their own experiences at Scattergood. Friends of all generations described it as a time of academic and spiritual development when friends were made for life and when they learned to live in community. They then took turns answering questions from those gathered. Memories brought both tears and laughter. After Collection Friends lingered in informal small groups continuing to reminisce and tell stories of their own days at Scattergood, working on School Committee, and as parents of Scattergood students. It was a blessed time.

We listened carefully to the Yearly Meeting Trustees report that includes a summary of the Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees Report, which is also printed in the Minute Book.

We reaffirm the desire of the yearly meeting for Scattergood Friends School to become accessible to all. We want to take on this concern prayerfully and with intentional action. We understand that we need to be able to provide guidelines to the Trustees and Scattergood Friends School Committee and become engaged in helping this vision go forward. We can begin to make some changes as the way opens, trusting that as our vision becomes more clear way will continue to open.

YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES REPORT

We appointed George Welch and Ginny Winsor to the Scattergood School Foundation Trustees, with their terms to expire in 2010.

Improvements for this fiscal year include the hand rail and the curtains to reduce glare during the yearly meeting business sessions. The costs of these do not appear in our financial report for this year but will be included next year.

With respect to the minute about accessibility, the Trustees are aware that we do not make policy but carry out the wishes of the yearly meeting. The first step is for the yearly meeting, with the School Committee, to decide whether it is in the mission of the school for the entire school to be accessible. It may be that we can improve the main building for yearly meeting sessions even if the entire school is not made accessible. This is a very long range project and we need to know the long range objectives.

Financial Report

Checking account: First National Bank of Primghar

Initial balance July 1, 2005	\$103.77
From the yearly meeting	1000.00
From the Entertainment Committee	665.06
Interest	<u>3.75</u>
Funds Available June 30, 2006	\$1772.58

The Scattergood Foundation Trustees report to the Yearly Meeting Trustees is attached. It shows that the foundation received donations of about \$64,000, gave Scattergood about \$57,000 and the endowment increased by about \$107,000 to \$1,352,609, an increase of about 8 %.

Respectfully submitted,
A. M. Fink

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL FOUNDATION TRUSTEES REPORT

The Foundation continues 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, 2006**

Total Income	\$67,313
Donations	17,384
B.C. Zeigler Interest & Dividends	2,938
Checking Account Interest	160
Land rent	5,317
Westwood Interest & Dividends	41,514
Total Expenses and Transfers	\$70,874
Support to Scattergood School	58,269
Checking Account distribution	58,269
Westwood Trust Contribution	
Accrued Payable Expenses	12,605
Accounting Services—paid by school	
Investment Fees and Bank Charges	12,605
Excess (Deficit) of Revenue over Expenses	\$(3,561)
Less: Realized and Unrealized Losses on Investments	\$(98,203)
Deficit after Gain (Loss) Adjustment	\$94,642

Growth of Foundation

Change as of Fiscal Year Ending:	6/30/05	6/30/06	+/-
Investments & Earnings	\$1,352,609	\$1,447,251	\$94,642
B.C. Zeigler	56,755	36,619	(20,136)
Westwood Trust	1,200,789	1,323,787	122,998
Cash in Checking Accounts	1,717	30,415	28,698
Accrued Income	3,198	5,414	2,216
Interest Free Loan	(5,000)	(5,000)	
Payable—School	(29,134)	(29,134)	
Land—24.68 Acres	85,150	85,150	
US Bank CD	10,000	0	(10,000)

Book Value of the Endowment:

As of 6/30/06:	\$834,846
2001-02	840,574
2002-03	995,699
2003-04	1,093,909
2004-05	1,158,142
2005-06	1,175,526

We listened carefully to the informative and well prepared Scattergood Friends School Report prepared by director Jan Luchini and the Scattergood Friends School Farm Report prepared by farm manager Mark Quee. We are encouraged by the outreach and work done by staff, students and volunteers at the school and farm. The school continues to be the yearly meeting's major outreach to the world, and we are grateful for the work and faithful service given by Scattergood staff in making this possible.

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL REPORT

This was another wonderful year at Scattergood. We concluded the year with a beautiful commencement ceremony on May 28, 2006. Thirteen seniors graduated and have since scattered in search of new experiences. They included Beth Zwerling, Yang Li, Itzamara Gonzalez, Russell Chamberlain, Laura Yeats, Elizabeth Rapf, Alex Chandler-Minner, Claire Emery-Wootton, Olivia Hunter, Angel Mills, Michael Sutherland, Stephanie Lantz, and Paola Peña. All graduates have been accepted into accredited colleges and universities. Our two post-graduate students from Mexico, Itzamara Gonzalez and Paola Peña, have returned to Mexico to attend college this fall. Yang Li, a four-year senior from China, plans to study business at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. Beth Zwerling will attend Lawrence University in Wisconsin to study ceramics and Chinese. Russell Chamberlain will study drama and writing at the University of North Carolina, and Laura Yeats will attend the University of Northern Iowa, pursuing psychology, social work, and drama. Elizabeth Rapf was accepted at the College of Santa Fe, where she will study film and religion after a one-year deferment. Claire Emery-Wootton is also considering a semester's deferment before entering Knox College to study theater and creative writing. Olivia Hunter plans to travel and study art independently for a year. She was accepted at Brooks College, Brown College and London School of Fashion and will pursue her interest in fashion design and photography. Angel Mills plans to attend Portland State University to study film, art, and psychology. Michael Sutherland will study electronic music and video at the University of Iowa. Steph Lantz will attend Indian Hills Community College for two years before transferring to the University of Iowa to pursue social work. Congratulations and best wishes to each of these 2006 Scattergood graduates.

Congratulations also to rising seniors Tory Smith, who was named the Bob and Sara Berquist Scholar, and Satoshi Ishihara, who was honored as the Fine Arts Scholar.

Several staff members have left Scattergood and will not return next year. Carrie Marsh, Adam Kurth, Meisha Goodhue, Jamie Michener, and Erin Lane (who returned second semester as assistant to the director) are leaving us to pursue graduate school full-time. Lorry Perry graduated with her master's from the University of Iowa and will be teaching full time at a boarding school on the east coast. Shannon Pingenot plans to stay in education. We want to thank each of them for their numerous contributions to the school, and wish them the best as their future plans unfold.

Staff members returning for the 2006-07 school year include Beth Bliss, Dan Carter, Dana Foster, Dana Smith, Emily McLain, Hans Niehus, Irving Treadway, Jan Luchini, Jennifer Warnecke, Joey Giffen-Hunter, John Mormon, Margie Figgins, Mark Quee, Michal Lynch, Nan Fawcett, Rachel Thomson, Riley Lark, Sam Taylor, and Sarah Giffen-Hunter.

Staff members new to Scattergood for the upcoming school year include Steve Nordlund and Lorraine Gaynor, who will be married in early September, Rachel Butler, Rachel Howard, Beth Gastineau, and Jane Cadwallader-Howe. Michael Gustafson will be helping out with facilities part-time.

We began the 2005-06 school year with 49 students and ended the year with 50 young adults who learned what it means to live in community. The School Committee approved not increasing the tuition for the 2005-06 school 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 \$533,285 for an average cost to parents per student of \$10,773. Financial Aid totaling \$395,715 went to students, with \$205,269 of that being funded with donations from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), the Scattergood Friends School Endowment, and the Measey Fund. The remaining \$190,506 was unfunded. Annual giving and other donations totaled \$351,263. We are extremely grateful to the many donors who supported the school this past year. Overall, we finished the budget (excluding depreciation) with a net gain of \$9,417. This amount represents a small gain over my projected \$8,000 surplus. This net gain is due to the staff who continues to spend the school's resources responsibly. The School Committee approved an increase in tuition for the 2006-07 school year. Maximum tuition will now be \$22,000 for full boarding, \$20,500 for five-day boarding and \$13,000 for day students.

We are currently at 98% of our Bridging the Gap campaign goal. The Bridging the Gap campaign has allowed us to make a significant number of improvements to the campus and facilities in the past year. The flat section of the roof of the main building has finally been resurfaced. The new tapered foam underlayment is a substantial improvement. Harger Acoustics has replaced drop ceilings in the gym hallway, laundry room, and locker rooms, director's office, main office, social room, library hallway and lobby. Several staff apartments have received needed upgrades. Important electrical wiring upgrades are completed, with a new breaker box installed. This represents a significant safety improvement. A major project this last year was the main building addition, including a substantial new storage area by the kitchen, staff apartment on the first floor, and the new girls' dorm lounge on the second floor. The girls' dorm also has new carpet in the hallway. To be fair, this summer all of the rooms in the boys' dorm were repainted. In addition, the art building was given a fresh coat of paint and new roof. Improvements are not just being made to buildings but their contents as well. This spring the academic office and science teachers got together to purchase new equipment for the science labs. This year's senior class tackled several projects this spring during Senior Week. They worked on renovating the music room to improve the acoustics, cleaned and painted several of the art building classrooms and planted trees, berry bushes, and flowers around campus and the farm. They also did demolition on and started renovating the entryway, bathrooms and student laundry rooms in the gym. This project turned out to be too ambitious to bring to completion during Senior Week, but several student summer workers have continued to make progress, and it will be completed this summer.

Each year Scattergood students and staff take numerous trips that serve to strengthen our curriculum as well as increase our sense of awareness of the world and the role we all play in it. The all-school fall camping weekend was held at F.W. Kent Park, where we enjoyed playing cards, hiking, kayaking, tossing Frisbees, and perhaps best of all, engaging in a drumming and story telling circle our last night there. Seven students and two staff attended the annual Quaker Youth Leadership Conference, hosted by Sandy Springs Friends School in Maryland. All came away enriched from having had the opportunity to connect with students and staff from other Friends schools. Scattergood's annual 'Snow Day' was a welcomed break in the middle of the winter months. Some students and staff went downhill skiing at a local resort, while others took the opportunity to enjoy a day of reading, relaxation and hot chocolate on campus. February Intersession included

a cross-country ski trip to the Minnesota Boundary Waters area, and a service trip to Su Casa, a women and children's shelter in Chicago. In addition, many activities and workshops occurred on campus and kept all of us busy. This year's seventh-block trips went to the East and Gulf coasts to explore historical sites while performing service work along the way. The Gulf Coast trip, led by Beth Bliss and Carrie Marsh, visited civil rights landmarks while helping victims of hurricane Katrina. The East Coast trip, led by Adam Kurth and Michal Lynch, visited many museums, camped in state parks and performed service work in several cities. Hans Niehus once again successfully led a group of bikers back to campus from Mississippi. They returned with tanned arms, bulky legs and a huge sense of accomplishment. All three groups traveled many miles, and gathered lasting memories and life-changing experiences along the way.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following Friends-in-residence or visitors to the school this year. Dr. Robert Kirby talked to us early in the year about the War on Drugs. Anne Heaton performed her music for the community, and Mark McCusker and Nora Marcos had us on our feet learning salsa dancing. Carolyn Treadway, Ochen Kylan, and Leslie Ball all made valuable contributions to campus during their Friends-in-residence stays. Eva Brummell from Planned Parenthood led workshops with our students. Kamal Hammouda and Laura Fendt, Scattergood parents (of Café Phoenix, Grinnell, IA), provided a traditional Muslim evening feast for the community during the holiday of Eid Alfitr. Steve McNabb talked with us about his travels to Indonesia and the tsunami. Love Dogs came to play music for us, and Mike and Amy Finders brought their musical expertise to the community through working with a choir made up of Scattergood staff and students. Josh Rahiem, class of 02, offered a yoga class for several blocks to add to the variety of our PE classes. Our usual wide-ranging February Intersession offerings were enhanced by a repeat performance of Mark Helm's (Scattergood class of 1975) class on Judo, jewelry-making with parent Marilyn Sutherland, a dance class with parent Ellis Stroud, and a genetics workshop led by Dylan Tack. This past year was greatly enriched by the contributions of each one of these individuals, and we are grateful.

We are in our fourth year of the seven-year ISACS (Independent School Association of the Central States) accreditation cycle. During the 2004-05 school year, we produced a lengthy and thorough self-study report which analyzed and explained all of the facets of the school and farm last year, as well as hosted an ISACS visiting team last February. This year, we received the report of accommodations and

recommendations from the visiting team. It was a valuable experience for the faculty to reflect on this report. All recommendations were carefully evaluated and many were turned into goals and projects for various departments. As another component to this year's accreditation cycle, the long range plan was updated and now serves as a great working document for the faculty and the School Committee.

As always, community building is a big part of our mission, and this proved to be another rewarding year. We came together in August from disparate places across the country and globe, and over the course of the past year we melded into a community where trust, caring, and mutual respect were the norm. Together in community meeting, we tackled such issues as the revised TV policy, and the electronic music/headphone use policy. These meetings were key in demonstrating that we all have a voice in the community and in our lives here at Scattergood. Parents got their say, too, when we held informational gatherings and small-group discussions after the parent-staff tea during Scattergood Day. This year, parents chose from topic groups such as parent volunteer opportunities and a possible parent chat section on the website. These discussions generated many wonderful ideas that we are now looking forward to putting into practice in the coming years. Fun activities occurring this year included Faculty Follies—when a time machine teleported us back to the fifties, prom with a masquerade ball theme, class olympics (sophomores and juniors tied for first place) and the all-school spring picnic.

Life at Scattergood continues with all of its usual complexity, simplicity, challenge, and beauty. I would like to acknowledge and thank Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) for its 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 STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
JUNE 30, 2006

	School	Farm	Foundation	Consolidating Entries	Consolidated Totals
ASSETS					
Current Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents					
Cash in bank	\$206,187	\$9,863	\$30,415	-\$	246,465\$
Petty cash	600	-	-	-	600
Cash & cash equivalents - Westwood Trust & BC Ziegler	145,908	-	62,170	-	208,078
Total cash and cash equivalents	352,695	9,863	92,585	-	455,143
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$10,000	26,956	-	-	-	26,956
Receivable - Scattergood Foundation	29,134	-	-	(29,134)	-
Accrued interest and dividends	-	-	5,414	-	5,414
Farm inventories	-	4,340	-	-	4,340
Prepaid Expenses	47,546	-	-	-	47,546
Pledges Receivable - Bridge the Gap	239,891	-	-	-	239,891
Total Current Assets	696,222	14,203	97,999	(29,134)	779,290
Property and Equipment					
Land and land improvements	214,147	109,810	-	-	323,957
Buildings and improvements	2,893,742	106,720	-	-	3,000,462
Vehicles	135,113	11,808	-	-	146,921
Equipment	554,102	47,873	-	-	601,975
Breeding stock	-	9,252	-	-	9,252
Less: accumulated depreciation	(1,531,647)	(133,281)	-	-	(1,664,928)
Total Property & Equipment	2,265,457	152,182	-	-	2,417,639
Other Assets					

Pledges Receivable - Bridge the Gap (net of discount of \$12,534)	88,716	-	-	-	88,716
Long-term investments - land	-	-	85,150	-	85,150
Long-term investments - marketable securities	2,191,967	-	1,298,236	-	3,490,203
Interest in net assets of Scattergood Friends School Foundation	1,447,251	-	-	(1,447,251)	-
Total Other Assets	3,727,934	-	1,383,386	(1,447,251)	3,664,069
TOTAL ASSETS	\$6,689,613	\$166,385	\$1,481,385	\$ (1,476,385)	\$6,860,998
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS					
Current Liabilities:					
Accounts payable	\$ 16,356	-	-	-	\$16,356
Payable - Scattergood Friends School	-	-	29,134	(29,134)	-
Student deposits	21,676	-	-	-	21,676
Deferred income	1,000	3,343	-	-	4,343
Retirement contribution payable	32,230	-	-	-	32,230
Loans payable (interest-free)	18,000	-	5,000	-	23,000
Current portion of long-term debt	14,155	-	-	-	14,155
Total Current Liabilities	103,417	3,343	34,134	(29,134)	111,760
Long-Term Debt:					
Notes payable	65,647	-	-	-	65,647
Less: Current portion of long- term debt	(14,155)	-	-	-	(14,155)
Total Long-Term Debt	51,492	-	-	-	51,492
TOTAL LIABILITIES	154,909	3,343	34,134	(29,134)	163,252
Net Assets:					
Unrestricted	3,027,112	163,042	-	-	3,190,154
Temporarily	802,850	-	271,725	(271,725)	802,850

restricted					
Permanently restricted	2,704,742	-	1,175,526	(1,175,526)	2,704,742
TOTAL NETS ASSETS	6,534,704	163,042	1,447,251	(1,447,251)	6,697,746
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS					
	\$ 6,689,613	\$166,385	\$1,481,385	\$ (1,476,385)	\$6,860,998

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL
AND RELATED ENTITIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006

	Related Entities			Consolidating	Consolidated
	School	Farm	Foundation	Entries	Totals
Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets					
Revenues, Gains, and Other Support					
Tuition - gross	\$ 953,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 953,000
Less: Scholarship allowance	(419,715)	-	-	-	(419,715)
Tuition support - Measey Foundation	115,440	-	-	-	115,440
Tuition and tuition support - net	648,725	-	-	-	648,725
Contributions and other support - Schedule 1	172,248	-	-	(58,269)	113,979
Fees and charges	12,481	-	-	-	12,481
Other operating income	4,785	-	-	-	4,785
Farm income - Schedule 3	-	29,784	-	-	29,784
Investment Return:					
Interest and dividends	23,590	-	-	-	23,590
Net realized and unrealized gains on investments	164,777	-	-	-	164,777
Investment fees	(9,323)	-	-	-	(9,323)
	1,017,283	29,784	-	(58,269)	988,798
Net assets released from restrictions - Note 10	727,062	-	58,269	-	785,331
Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	1,744,345	29,784	58,269	(58,269)	1,774,129
Expenses:					
Payroll	434,681	-	-	-	434,681
Personnel costs	115,353	-	-	-	115,353
Personnel	5,968	-	-	-	5,968

development					
Professional services	8,055	-	-	-	8,055
Contracted services	32,593	-	-	-	32,593
Insurance	75,270	-	-	-	75,270
Occupancy costs	75,734	-	-	-	75,734
Supplies	47,382	-	-	-	47,382
Food service	50,601	-	-	-	50,601
Vehicles and equipment	27,794	-	-	-	27,794
Communications	14,452	-	-	-	14,452
Promotion	99,271	-	-	-	99,271
Technology	48,993	-	-	-	48,993
Other expenses	20,884	-	-	-	20,884
Bad debts	35,754	-	-	-	35,754
Depreciation (excluding laptops)	119,036	6,522	-	-	125,558
Farm expenses - Schedule 3	-	32,991	-	-	32,991
Grants to related parties	-	-	58,269	(58,269)	-
Total Expenses	1,211,821	39,513	58,269	(58,269)	1,251,334
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	532,524	(9,729)	-	-	522,795

Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

Investment income:

Rent Income	-	-	5,317	-	5,317
Interest and dividends	14,380	-	44,612	-	58,992
Net realized and unrealized gains on investments	-	-	98,203	-	98,203
Less: Investment fees	(8,069)	-	(12,605)	-	(20,674)
Contributions and other support - Schedule 1	42,633	-	-	-	42,633
Change in interest in Scattergood Friends School Foundation	77,258	-	-	(77,258)	-
	126,202	-	135,527	(77,258)	184,471
Net assets released from restrictions - Note 10	(727,062)	-	(58,269)	-	(785,331)
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	(600,860)	-	77,258	(77,258)	(600,860)

Changes in Permanently Restricted Net Assets

Contributions	1,500,000	-	17,384	-	1,517,384
Net realized capital gains	29,216	-	-	-	29,216
Change in interest in Scattergood Friends School Foundation	17,384	-	-	(17,384)	-
Change in Permanently Restricted Net Assets	1,546,600	-	17,384	(17,384)	1,546,600

INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	1,478,264	(9,729)	94,642	(94,642)	1,468,535
Net Assets, beginning of year	5,056,440	172,771	1,352,609	(1,352,609)	5,229,211
Net Assets, end of year	6,534,704	163,042	1,447,251	(1,447,251)	6,697,746
	\$	\$	\$		

See accompanying notes and accountant's review report.

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL AND RELATED ENTITIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2006

	School	Farm	Related Entities Foundation	Consolidating Entries	Consolidated Totals
Cash Flows From Operating Activities					
Increase (decrease) in net assets	1,478,264	\$ (9,729)	\$ 94,642	\$ (94,642)	1,468,535
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash used by operating activities:					
Depreciation - laptops	34,033	-	-	-	34,033
Depreciation - all other assets	119,036	6,522	-	-	125,558
Net realized and unrealized gains on investments	(193,993)	-	(98,203)	-	(292,196)
Increase in interest in Scattergood Foundation	(94,642)	-	-	94,642	-
Contributions restricted for long-term purposes (Increase) decrease in:	(1,500,000)	-	(17,384)	-	(1,517,384)
Accounts receivable	(10,874)	-	-	-	(10,874)
Accrued interest and dividends	-	-	(2,216)	-	(2,216)
Farm inventories	-	1,325	-	-	1,325
Investment in growing crops	-	2,836	-	-	2,836
Prepaid expenses	(3,895)	-	-	-	(3,895)
Pledge Receivable	249,432	-	-	-	249,432
Increase (decrease) in:					
Accounts payable	(12,332)	(516)	29,134	-	16,286
Interest payable	(1,150)	-	-	-	(1,150)
Student deposits	2,944	-	-	-	2,944

Retirement contribution payable	32,230	-	-	-	32,230
Deferred income	(26,188)	(1,874)	-	-	(28,062)
Net cash flows from operating activities	72,865	(1,436)	5,973	-	77,402
Cash Flows From Investing Activities:					
Investment in land and land improvements	(258)	(284)	-	-	(542)
Investment in buildings and improvements	(431,548)	-	-	-	(431,548)
Investment in equipment	(27,299)	(400)	-	-	(27,699)
Investment in breeding stock	-	(400)	-	-	(400)
Proceeds from sales of investments	1,438,302	-	457,205	-	1,895,507
Purchase of investments	(2,508,436)	-	(462,173)	-	(2,970,609)
Net cash flows from investing activities	(1,529,239)	(1,084)	(4,968)	-	(1,535,291)
Cash Flows From Financing Activities:					
Repayment of long-term debt	(44,311)	-	-	-	(44,311)
Proceeds from contributions restricted for:					
Investment in permanent endowment	1,500,000	-	17,384	-	1,517,384
Net cash flows from financing activities	1,455,689	-	17,384	-	1,473,073
Increase (Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(685)	(2,520)	18,389	-	15,184
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	353,380	12,383	74,196	-	439,959
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$352,695	\$9,863	\$92,585	-	\$455,143
Supplemental Data:					
Interest paid during the year	\$7,787				\$7,787

SCATTERGOOD FARM REPORT

Dear Friends:

Periodically in my relationship with my wife, Jennie, she has turned to me, unprovoked, and said, “Swallow, and notice that it doesn’t hurt: your throat doesn’t ache and you are not sick. Acknowledge and appreciate your wellness.” The reminder to notice when things are going well is an important one, since it is too easy to notice or remember the broken and achy.

Much of this season on the farm I have noticed daily that we have had little need to irrigate, that plants are growing strong and producing well, that our livestock are healthy and have good forage, that students seek out opportunities to experience the farm, that our cooks continue to be excited by the challenges of working with fresh vegetables and meats, that the people who work on the farm work hard and enjoy it, that visitors appreciate what we do and value what we offer. I remind myself and encourage us all to acknowledge and appreciate the blessings of abundance and hard work.

In all seasons, both challenging and productive, the Farm focuses on education opportunities for our students, producing food for our tables, and providing outreach to community.

Students have weeded rows, witnessed births, cared for young birds, processed produce, reseeded parts of the prairie, put in new fencing, gleaned fields, written grants, tested sheep feces for parasitic cysts and so much more. They are involved in the life of the farm through biology and advanced biology classes, farm project and farm crew, chicken and egg crew, poultry project and food preservation project. We have also introduced a Sustainable Agriculture Concentration which will allow students to focus some of their academic requirements more directly on the farm, in order to receive a depth of understanding as well as accolades on their school transcripts.

We finished last year providing over 1000 pounds of organic produce to the school (down from previous years due to the drought), in addition to 400 pounds sold to New Pioneer Coop and 22 weeks of vegetables supplied to 34 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) subscribers. The chickens laid over 700 dozen eggs for school with an additional 120 dozen sold to CSA subscribers. We also slaughtered two steers, two lambs, five feeder pigs, six turkeys, and 35 hens that were all used in the Scattergood kitchen throughout the year. The coming year will easily surpass 2005 in vegetable production, as well as show an increase in meat—chickens, lamb, and beef.

Many groups continue to visit and volunteer on the farm. Through the CSA, the farm works closely with the Iowa City charity, Local Foods Connection, which supplies fresh, local food to poor families, and supplies farms with occasional volunteer work crews. Members of the University of Iowa football team and women's basketball team helped transplant onions and broccoli, while more recently 36 teenagers enrolled in the Iowa Governor's Institute for the Gifted and Talented came to the farm to help harvest garlic. Family campers, Young Friends, parents of prospective students, and many others have also made the trek to the farm to pull a few weeds and learn more about how the farm is a vibrant part of life at Scattergood.

So, even in a good year, the work is not easy and requires the commitment of many individuals. Dan Carter deserves much praise for his work with the livestock and gardens, as well as his work in the biology classroom. His knowledge and passion for prairie has helped the school secure four different grants for re-restoring our 25 acres of prairie. Already, innovative educational features are in place and as the prairie matures, only increased opportunities for education and outreach lie ahead. All of the staff at Scattergood, as well as the members of the School Committee, frequently voice their appreciation and support of the farm, with special thanks going to Bob Winchell of the School Committee, who serves on the Farm Subcommittee, and the staff members at Scattergood who cook with the farm's food in the kitchen or find themselves on the farm during crew time and projects. Additionally, Ken Fawcett continues to be a valued consultant for so many things related to the farm. This summer Adam Hammouda, Lionel Musoni, and Flossie Cox have contributed much sweat and energy to the gardens and our new fences. Thank you all.

Take note of the parts that are working and do not ache. Smile. Give thanks.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Farm Subcommittee by
Mark Quee, Farm Manager

We were happy to receive the report of the Discipline Revision Committee including the proposed sections for us to consider. Reading again about our yearly meeting history gives us pause and we are grateful to the faithfulness of early Friends. We approve the history section.

We ask the committee to labor with the first Bible passage in the "Faith and Testimonies" section for a gender-neutral translation. We also ask the committee to develop a section on community to be added to the

"Faith and Testimonies" section and brought for approval to next year's annual session. Community is important and dearly held by this yearly meeting. We approve the section, "Faith and Testimonies", with these changes.

These sections will be copied and sent to the monthly meetings and worship groups as well as placed on the Web.

We have become aware that some meetings are now without copies of the 1974 Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Discipline. The clerk will contact monthly meetings to ask them to check to see if the meetings and their members might have any extra copies. The clerk will redistribute those copies to the monthly meetings.

The Discipline Revision Committee has been laboring faithfully for many years on our behalf and we are thankful for this service. We look forward to receiving more sections for consideration next year.

DISCIPLINE REVISION COMMITTEE REPORT

Work on a revised *Faith and Practice: the Book of Discipline of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)* has progressed during the past year. Members of the committee are Gordon Bivens (Ames), Herbert Standing (Bear Creek), Sherry Hutchison (Des Moines Valley), Jeff Cox (Iowa City), Marge Schlitt (Lincoln), Jonathan Fisch (Paullina), Marc Robinson (Penn Valley), Carol Gilbert (Omaha), Ed Clopton (West Branch), and Jim Bromwell (Whittier). We do not currently have a representative from Decorah.

The proposed history section was reviewed during last yearly meeting at an interest group meeting. The committee has rewritten it and it is now ready for Yearly Meeting approval. The next section, "Faith and Testimonies", has been discussed by the meetings, rewritten in light of their comments, and is now ready for Yearly Meeting approval.

The "Living Our Faith" section has been written and is being reviewed by meetings and revised by the committee. Sections on monthly meeting and yearly meeting organization have been largely rewritten and some of these have also been reviewed by meetings. Work will continue on these two sections and on the appendix. We expect to have most of the rest of the *Faith and Practice* ready for Yearly Meeting approval by 2007 sessions.

The committee welcomes input from all interested Friends. We especially welcome help from members of meetings and worship groups that don't have active representatives to the committee.

We heard the Religious Education Committee report and approve the report. A question was raised concerning the place of the Youth Retreat Program under the care of the Religious Education Committee. This relationship has fallen through the cracks for a number of possible reasons. We ask that the retreat leaders engage in discussion with the Religious Education and Ministry and Counsel Committees about how this program can best be served, and bring a recommendation in a report to the yearly meeting. We appreciate the work of the retreat leaders and are happy they seek to be accountable to the yearly meeting.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT

We received religious education reports from most of the meetings that provide education programs for youth and adults. A sampling of topics considered in adult discussion includes consideration of Quaker history practice and action, the meaning of Quaker membership, an exploration of forgiveness, a study of the *Book of Revelation*, of intelligent design, and of Gnostic beliefs.

Most of the children's religious education programs covered Bible stories, Friends history, the Divine in our lives, and what it means to be Quaker. Several meetings have regular intergenerational education programs to bring youth and adults together for thinking, talking and playing.

The Laughing Waters Worship Group has raised some queries relating to First Day school. We encourage Friends to share with them their experience; these queries are included here for Friends' consideration:

1. How does having First Day school affect the spiritual life of a small monthly meeting or worship group?
2. What time is your First Day school (in relation to the time for meeting for worship)?
3. How did you discern to have First Day school? Do you still have any relevant queries that could be shared?
4. What curricula and/or activities do you do with children?
(note: responses to Laughing Waters email: ianeliz@bitstream.net)

Judy Cottingham and Bill Deutsch,
for the Religious Education Committee

We listened to a report from Bear Creek Meeting concerning the status of their schoolhouse project. We appreciate hearing of their plans.

BEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING SCHOOLHOUSE REPORT

Last fall the little schoolhouse at Bear Creek that had stood for many years was removed because of the termite damage. This was a concern because termites were also found in a corner of the meetinghouse. We held a visioning meeting, which opened us to consider a range of possibilities for replacing the schoolhouse.

The increasing cost of materials has lengthened the discernment process. There are plans to hold a meeting for clearness and picnic in the yard soon. Bear Creek Friends appreciate the support and encouragement of the yearly meeting in this process. We look forward to providing a building that can be used by youth and committee of the yearly meeting. The current schoolhouse fund is \$11,520. Fundraising continues with contributions from the Standing reunion, a food booth at RAGBRAI, and a rummage sale in the fall.

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

SEVENTH DAY – SATURDAY – 7/29/06 SEVENTH DAY A.M.

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

“Take heed of printing anything more than ye are required of the Lord God. Nor none stop writing or speaking when ye are moved with the Spirit of the Lord God.” George Fox, 1655, 1656

We are pleased to have the presence of these visitors: Jim Bruener and Clifford Goltz of Minneapolis Friends Meeting, Northern Yearly Meeting.

On the afternoon of Sixth Day, Friends had opportunities to attend the following interest groups: QuakerNet, the website designed and maintained for Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) by Jeff Kisling; Waysmeet/Woodbrooke by Al and Jenny Lang; a second offering of “Outreach without Proselytizing” by Mathilda Navias, and Starting First Day Schools, facilitated by Liz Oppenheimer. Mathilda offered a dulcimer concert after supper.

Collection was presented by Ruah Swennerfelt, general secretary of Quaker Earthcare Witness. Her topic was “Local Actions Can Bring Hope for the Health of the Planet.” She shared stories of various Friends and communities that have taken steps to hold themselves accountable for the right use of resources in their own homes, meetings, and neighborhoods and gave examples of things we might consider doing ourselves. She reminded us that the concern for the earth is spiritual. Her presentation was followed by a time when she spoke to questions raised by those in attendance. We are mindful that many of the things we can do to walk gently on the earth are made possible because in general, we are a people of privilege and wealth. The collection was followed by folk dancing in the gym led by Mark and Sandra Helpsmeet, members of Northern Yearly Meeting and Friendly Folk Dancers.

During the week Friends have had daily opportunities to engage Scripture through the eyes of early Friends with leader Callie Marsh. There has been early morning worship and late night singing. On the evening of Seventh Day Junior Yearly Meeting plans to host a talent and family sharing night. Pre-meeting on First Day morning will be led by Arthur Meyer Boyd.

Jules Galusha and Will Stillwell–Edler have been appointed as readers this morning.

We listened with joy to the report/epistle of Junior Yearly Meeting Friends. We were told that twenty JYM and Young Friends got up at about 5:00 a.m. to help at the food booth in West Branch, raising funds for various causes as RAGBRAI bicycle riders by the many thousands went through town. We are blessed to have these young Friends worshipping with us each day, working with us at meals, and inspiring us with their energy. We especially thank Bill Deutsch and Penny Majors for their continued JYM leadership. We enjoyed the sculptures of possible Noah’s Ark animals made and displayed by JYM on the clerk’s table.

JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING EPISTLE

Seventh Month 29, 2006

To Junior Yearly Meeting Friends Everywhere:

We have had a great time here in Junior Yearly Meeting. We met at Scattergood Friends School in Iowa. Although we meet in Iowa, many of

us are from different states like Wisconsin, Nebraska, Kansas, and of course Iowa.

These are some of the things we did here. We carved stone into animals, went swimming, camping, and played outside. When we got breaks we played pool, ping pong, foosball, squid (it’s like the game octopus), ghost in the graveyard, white wolf, capture the flag, and a lot more.

We talked about miracles and we asked the adults what they thought about miracles, do they believe in miracles, and have they experienced a miracle. One person said that a miracle “is something good that can’t be explained.” Another person said that a miracle in her life was “the birth of my daughter.”

Also we talked about Noah’s ark and we discussed what animals were in it. That’s why we made the stone animals.

From being quiet to loud, games to talking about miracles, we all had fun with each other including time with the Young Friends.

Let God be with us all.

From all of us,

Peace

Danielle Black Eyes, clerk

Chelsea Deutsch, assistant clerk

Jr. Yearly Meeting of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

We enjoyed the report/epistle of IYMC Young Friends. We are encouraged by the activities and interests of Young Friends. There were thirteen young friends in attendance this year. We appreciate the attention and thoughtful way Joseph Kieltyka approaches his work as leader for Young Friends. We also appreciate the works, fellowship and presence of young friends in our worship and at Yearly Meeting in general. They give us hope.

YOUNG FRIENDS EPISTLE

7/29/06

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Young Friends. We met this year during 7/25/06-7/30/06 in West Branch, Iowa, Scattergood Friends School. We started off Tuesday night by watching a presentation of two fellow Young Friends that went to the World Gathering of Young Friends in Lancaster, England. Wednesday morning

we gathered together after MFW (meeting for worship) to learn about Quakerism 101, which was led by Christie Kieltyka. Following lunch we did a workshop hosted by AVP (Alternative to Violence Project). It was led by Standing Stan, Courageous Cheryl and Mama Marge. We had fun while learning about our individual views on violence and non-violence on different issues. AVP had us all hot and bothered, so we took a dip in the lukewarm, murky waters of Scattergood pond. All of us saw that there was a need to take a shower afterwards because of the fact that we all looked like we were dipped in soy sauce. We went to the evening collection that night titled, "Facilitating Hope," and there we learned about what the Peace Teams are doing. Many teens were captivated and intensely interested by the topic.

The next morning (Thursday) we all went to MFW which was followed by a worship sharing session that was done by the Young Friends. We all went around the circle telling of our individual beliefs and concerns. It was a close and meaningful experience in which we all appreciated each other's views and ability to share. Afterwards Standing Stan taught the group Tai Chi, which is a martial arts activity that helps with balance. Rain started soon after lunch, and we took advantage of it by going outside and sharing a moment of Silence. After the rain spell we did an intergenerational activity led by Ruah, the traveling Friend from Vermont. One of the activities that was done involved a web of string which symbolizes the interconnectedness of life. The other activity was a blind walk that helped to enhance our other senses. After that, Don Laughlin invited us to see his new super energy-efficient house that he is having built in Iowa City. The night was finalized by a movie and some pizza. Two movies were picked out by the group: 1) An education film on Amazonian snakes; 2) A historical study on Olde English fairy tales. **Anaconda and Hoodwinked**

Friday morning started off after MFW with more Quakerism 101, where we learned about and discussed the "Inner Light." This was followed by more Tai Chi and some meditation. That afternoon we started our epistle and we later played games with JYM (Junior Yearly Meeting). After dinner we went to Collection titled, "Local Actions Can Bring Hope to the Health of Our Planet." The Friends Folk Dancers taught us many dances which had us sweaty by the end of the night. It was a BLAST! To cool off we had a late night swim in the Scattergood pond. We all had a slumber party in the lounge to ensure that we would all be up by 5:30 a.m. This is so we would be up to serve breakfast to the bicyclers on RAGBRAI (*Register's* Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa). The breakfast was our service project that would benefit Habitat

for Humanity. At the slumber party we played cards, made a fort, and ended up staying up later than we thought.

Our service project was a lot of fun and didn't feel like work. All the people on bicycles reminded us all of what our evening collection the night before had taught us. We were inspired by all of the people not using fossil fuels. Afterwards we went to MFW as always, but we did stay for meeting for business to read our epistle. After lunch we held our annual swim and ice cream party with JYM at a nearby pool. In the evening we did the Community Sharing (talent show).

Sunday we went to MFW, had lunch, and said our sad goodbyes with hopes of seeing each other next year.

Peace,
Young Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

We listened carefully to the detailed report of Peace and Social Concerns. We approve the request to name at least two delegates to attend a second Quaker Initiative to End Torture conference if held, and ask Representatives to consider how much we can give in support of travel to those delegates.

We approve the appointment of a delegate from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) to the Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee and ask Representatives to consider what the Yearly Meeting might be able to offer in helping with expenses. We ask Nominating Committee to bring forward a name in their report.

We approve the letters proposed by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and are particularly moved by the loving and clear response to Richard Sours, president of William Penn University.

We considered the minute on immigration/migration. Friends are not in unity to approve this minute. We ask Peace and Social Concerns to continue to labor with the concerns of migration, immigration, and immigration rights, and help us continue to become more educated around these issues.

We listened carefully to the Declaration of Peace. While we are not in unity to sign this declaration as a yearly meeting, we are in unity that we feel called to give what spiritual and practical support we can to members of our monthly meetings who, following appropriate discernment with their monthly meetings, are led to participate in the declaration.

We appreciate the work done by Peace and Social Concerns Committee on our behalf.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT

“We seek a world free of war and the threat of war.
We seek a society with equity and justice for all.
We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled.
We seek an earth restored. . . .”

These words from Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), so familiar to us, speak clearly the guideposts for the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. These are difficult times, and there is much work for all. Throughout the Yearly Meeting, members from each and every monthly meeting continue to work on a broad range of issues, both local and global, whose root causes of suffering are deeply intertwined. As members of IYMC, we are led in different ways to do many things. We work to educate ourselves and others. We vigil, write letters, protest. We support our beliefs with donations of time, effort and money. We work to counter the continued escalation of our country's propagation of war and our looming ecological crisis. We help the disenfranchised; working with prisoners, immigrants, the poor, the homeless, and those who are left to rebuild their lives after the unspeakable traumas of war or natural disasters such as a hurricane or tsunami. Some are called to aid our youth with conscientious objection and counter recruitment programs. Others help those affected by racism, or exploited for cheap, underpaid human labor, both within and outside this country. We take a stand against the scapegoating of immigrants and homosexuals. We care for those who need medical and mental health care, and accompany the dying.

Time prevents us from writing about all of them. We ask you to continue sharing your peace work with us, that we may find ways to support you in your efforts.

In addition to being a conduit of information throughout the Yearly Meeting, we have made a concerted effort to find ways to remain focused and true to our stated concerns of years past. This means resisting the temptation to abandon the “old for the new”, moving from one current headline issue to another, dropping one cause and moving on to the new crisis that beckons. It is hard to resist this aspect of human nature, but we have worked to do this in a number of ways. One is regular e-mail communication throughout the yearly meeting, keeping us informed about each other's actions, and current information related to our concerns. We also have used the Yearly Meeting web page,

www.quakernet.org, as another resource for effective action. We continue seeking ways to remain true to our stated concerns.

As we come together this year for our annual gathering, our hearts are with our Friend Marshall Massey as he journeys from Omaha, Nebraska, to Baltimore Yearly Meeting to be a plenary speaker. He seeks to listen to Friends along the way regarding our deep concerns regarding the healing of our precious earth. We are holding Marshall in the Light. We are grateful for his work. We join him in his concern and look forward to hearing about what he has learned.

During Yearly Meeting 2006, our committee listened to various reports and held discussions about a number of things. We examined the results from minutes, letters, and actions from last year's meeting, and explored ways to make our work effective in the many venues we operate in. We have been visited by experienced peace workers, Arthur Meyer Boyd (FCNL), Ruah Swennerfelt (Quaker Earthcare Witness-QEW), and Sonia Tuma (AFSC), to offer us guidance and encouragement. We have learned a great deal from each of them in a very short amount of time. We listened to the report from the IYMC representative to Friends Peace Teams. We listened to report of the IYMC representative to the Advisory Board of Friends Peace Teams with great gladness. We hope our meeting continues to deepen our relationship with this growing organization and support their work in any way we can.

The work of this past year as well as our experience of our 2006 Yearly Meeting has led the committee to make the following recommendations:

1. After listening to the report of the three IYMC delegates to this year's Quaker Initiative to End Torture conference at Guilford College, and being thoroughly convinced of the great need, we have written a letter to John Calvi supporting the move to hold another conference this next year. If this conference is held, we have asked the representatives to approve sending at least two more delegates from IYMC, and financially supporting their travel.

2. Protecting God's Earth and its fullness of life is of fundamental concern to the Religious Society of Friends. In recognition of this concern, IYMC Peace and Social Concerns Committee recommends that IYMC strengthen its relationship with Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW).

QEW is a spiritually-centered movement of Quakers and like-minded people seeking ways to integrate concern for the environment with Friends' long-standing testimonies for simplicity, integrity, peace and equality. QEW invites all North American Yearly Meetings to

appoint up to two representatives to its policy-making body, the Steering Committee.

Our committee recommends appointing a delegate from IYMC to the QEW Steering Committee. We also recommend help with delegate expenses.

3. We ask the clerk to send the following (4) letters on our behalf:

Letter 1 This letter thanks the Cedar Rapids Gazette, for running a national ad that mirrors our IYMC minute affirming our support for same sex unions.

The Gazette
500 3rd Av. S.E.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 52401
(editorial@gazettecommunications.com)

To the Editor:

As members of the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends, Conservative (Quaker), we commend you for accepting the ad in the Gazette of July 25 from the Arcus Foundation, entitled “Marriage Matters.” It promotes understanding of those who may be different from us. It is heartening to find such a thoughtful ad.

We believe that every human being is precious in the sight of God, that each has a Divine Spirit within. We believe this is true, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, political activities, or sexual orientation. The recent push to create an amendment to the constitution to decree that marriage is only between a man and a woman has diverted energy and resources from much more urgent and vital needs to find non-violent solutions to real problems in our world.

Sincerely and on the behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative)

Letter 2 Last year, IYMC approved sending a letter of concern to Richard Sours, president of Wm. Penn University, regarding military recruiting on campus. We ask that this response be sent to his reply:

Richard E. Sours
Office of the President
William Penn University
201 Trueblood Ave.
Oskaloosa, IA 52577

Dear President Sours:

Thank you for your reply to our letter of concern that was sent to you from our 2005 yearly meeting. Please forgive the delay in writing back to you. We have undertaken this correspondence as a matter of the business of the Yearly Meeting 2006. We deeply appreciate your reading of our letter, and the care you gave in responding to us.

We were led to write you about military recruiting on the campus of William Penn University for more than one reason. One issue seems to center around the words, “heavy military recruiting”. Indeed, if confined to a single career fair, it is conceivable that a person could say “this does not constitute heavy recruiting.” However, to the young individual coming into contact with those recruiters on a career day, under the auspices and endorsement of the college, it can very well feel on a personal level that they have been “recruited heavily”. Part of our leading to write you was in response to an individual on your campus who brought their experience before us as “heavy recruiting.”

Most importantly, we write you out of love and in honor of our shared Quaker heritage. We all recognize the problems the government of our country is having balancing the shortfall of military recruiting goals with the increasing reliance on military force in dealing with the world. As Quakers, we understand how deeply misguided our current foreign policy is. We are called to work for a different and better path for our country. We ask you to consider the possibility that having a military recruitment booth offered alongside all the other job booths implies that all options are equal opportunities for William Penn graduates. It implies tacit approval from the college.

Today, “heavy military recruiting” is more than a matter of numbers. Because of the difficulties our government is having in finding young people to fight in our ever-increasing wars, it is well documented how recruitment frequently includes strategies of offering false incentives, and manipulation of some of the weakest and most vulnerable young members of our society. It is for this reason that the American Friends Service Committee has published the enclosed brochure and developed extensive counter-recruiting programs. We are glad that you have offered to make information about alternatives to military service readily available to your students, especially at your career fair.

William Penn University has offered a peace studies program in the past. In these times, the need for such a program is greater than ever. If way opens, perhaps William Penn will take the lead in the academic world in being one of the few colleges in offering this program again. The times we live in beg for the wisdom of the way of life that is our Quaker heritage.

It was wonderful to meet you at our 2004 Yearly Meeting. We hope there will be more opportunities for us to come together in the future. There is much that can be gained by our working together. May we continue good and Friendly dialogue as we both search to follow the inner Light that illuminates all of us.

On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting, (Conservative)

Letter 3 We encourage individual members and monthly meetings to also send their own copies of letters 3 and 4 below to their elected Congressional representatives as they are moved:

In support of Langley Hill Friends, and in honor of departed Friend Tom Fox, we ask the following letter be sent to all of the U.S. senators and representatives of the Yearly Meeting on our behalf:

Dear Representative/Senator _____:

The Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) is called to help continue the work of our fellow Quaker, Tom Fox, who was killed in Iraq in March 2006. At the time of his capture, Tom was working to help Iraqi families learn of the whereabouts and well-being of loved ones detained by the Iraq government or U.S./Coalition forces. We urge you to use your influence to insist that the current U.S./Coalition forces regularly publish the names and locations of all detainees in their custody and to inform those in detention of the charges against them. We also urge you to use your influence to insist that the International Committee of the Red Cross/Red Crescent be allowed to visit all prisoners in Coalition detention sites.

In a statement of conviction Tom wrote in October 2004, "We reject violence to punish anyone who harms us. We ask for equal justice in the arrest and trial of anyone, soldier or civilian, who commits an act of violence, and we ask that there be no retaliation on their relatives or property. We forgive those who consider us their enemies. Therefore, any penalty should be in the spirit of restorative justice, rather than in the form of violent retribution."

Those who loved Tom and worked closely with him have committed themselves to continuing his work. We join them in standing in the Light of Tom Fox's strong witness to the power of love and the courage of nonviolence. That light reveals the way out of fear, grief and wars.

Our faith commands us, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so unto them: for this is the law and the prophets." (Mathew 7:12) It is wrong that families of people detained by us without charge do not know of the whereabouts or wellbeing of their loved ones. We urge you to help relieve the unnecessary suffering of those Iraqi families who have missing loved ones in our custody.

One of the foundations of American democracy is a fair judicial system. It is a tragic day when we can no longer assume that the U.S. follows the rule of law. For the safety of not only Iraqis, but also our own soldiers, it is imperative that current U.S./Coalition practices be changed to guarantee fair treatment of all people on both sides of the conflict. Anything less is not the behavior of a democratic nation, and only sows the seeds for future unrest and violence.

Sincerely,
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Letter 4
Dear Representative:

The Religious Society of Friends has for the 350 years of its existence been one of the Historic Peace Churches. We oppose participation in war, and many of our young men have applied for conscientious objector status and alternative service during times of war.

About half of the money we pay in federal income taxes finances wars and weapons. Some find that fact such a violation of their conscience that they keep their income below the taxable level. Others accept the consequences of refusing to pay the military portion of their federal income tax. There needs to be a proactive avenue for conscientious objection to taxes that support war.

H.R. 2631, the Religious Freedom Tax Fund bill, would enable members of Historic Peace Churches and others of like mind to pay 100% of our taxes into a fund that would be used only for non-military spending.

We ask you to support good American citizens of conscience by voting for H.R. 2631.

On behalf of the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative),

We hope the following statement might help change the discussion currently happening throughout our country. As Quakers, this speaks not only to our Testimony of Equality, but to our deeper call to “love one another.”

There once was a frame of reference in this country that said, “Slavery is a reality. The best we can do is hope to regulate it and work for the just treatment of slaves.”

John Woolman stepped out of that frame of reference and said, “Slavery is wrong.”

His vision was to end slavery.

Today there is a frame of reference in this country that says, “Illegal immigration is a reality. The best we can do is regulate immigration.” We step out of that frame of reference to say, “All are worthy of a decent life.” Our vision is the recognition of migration as a human right.

Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) urges other yearly meetings to join us in this vision. We open ourselves to discuss God’s way of achieving that goal.

We ask the Yearly Meeting to endorse the following minute and that it be referenced in our general epistle to other yearly meetings, with a copy of the minute attached.

The Declaration of Peace, a nationwide interfaith, nonviolent campaign launched in May 2006, has been endorsed by over 30 religious and secular organizations, including AFSC. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee asks the Yearly Meeting to join in endorsing the Declaration of Peace, and approving the following minute:

Basic to Quaker belief is the faith that the same Light we recognize in our own hearts illuminates the souls of all other people. This belief leads us to seek nonviolent means of resolving conflicts at all levels—interpersonally, within communities, among nations—and to work for justice as a basis for lasting peace.

We find ourselves bound in many ways as citizens of the United States to policies of our government which are abhorrent to us and in violation of our most deeply held beliefs. Our efforts to encourage our government to establish policies that will lead to peace and justice here and around the world have not been adequate to bring about the change which is so urgently needed. The destructive forces unleashed in our

world threaten the future of all people and the planet itself.

Throughout our history, Quakers have at various times found ourselves called to suffer for beliefs which have placed us in opposition to our government. Based on this history of courageous witness, we challenge Friends to now consider participating in nonviolent civil disobedience. We must clarify both to ourselves and to our government that we put our trust and faith in a higher Authority, in the ocean of Light that extends over and surrounds the ocean of darkness.

Specifically, we encourage all Meetings as well as individual Friends to consider signing the following Declaration of Peace Pledge, including, as conscience leads us, heeding the call to participate in nonviolent civil disobedience the week of Sept. 21–8, 2006. We challenge all Friends to step beyond what is easy or comfortable and to move to the next level of risk, whatever that may mean for each individual.

Declaration of Peace

I join with the majority of U.S. citizens, the people of Iraq, and people around the world in calling for a comprehensive end to the U.S. war in Iraq. I solemnly pledge to 1) Call on the Bush administration and Congress to immediately withdraw all U.S. troops from Iraq, with no future redeployments; 2) Urge my congressional representatives to adopt a “bring the troops home now” position, and to establish a concrete, comprehensive withdrawal plan no later than September 21, 2006, International Peace Day, just days before Congress adjourns; 3) Participate in marches, rallies, demonstrations and other peaceful strategies to establish this plan; and 4) Engage in nonviolent civil disobedience, as conscience leads me, if this plan for a comprehensive withdrawal is not established and activated no later than September 21, 2006. (www.declarationofpeace.org)

Our hope is that a group of Quakers will come forth from Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) to participate together in nonviolent civil disobedience in the context of this nationwide effort to end the occupation, witnessing as Quakers to the transforming power of the Light. Such a group of Quakers will also need support from our community. This support would come from Friends who can pledge to some of the commitments listed above but who will not be risking arrest. That support would include forming committees to be present during the witness, holding personal items, bonding the person out of jail if desired

and providing transportation for them when released, accompanying that person to court, communicating needs and advocacy during any expected or unexpected time in jail. Support is a crucial and challenging role which uplifts the people who risk arrest and communicates the meaning of the witness to the general public.

As part of our support for the Declaration of Peace, our committee has decided to set aside \$100 of our budget to be held as a contingency fund for expenses incurred by any IYMC member engaged in civil disobedience.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE BUDGET

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

Alternatives to Violence Project	\$100.00
AFSC (earmarked for Immigrant Voices)	\$50.00
No More Deaths (Agua Prieta Migrant Center)	\$50.00
Friends Peace Teams	\$100.00
Iowans Against the Death Penalty	\$35.00
Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty	\$35.00
Western Missouri Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty	\$35.00
IYM P&SC subcommittee for Conscientious Objection/Counter	
Recruitment Training	\$100.00
Monteverde Friends School	\$50.00
Ramallah Friends School	\$50.00
National Peace Tax Fund	\$100.00
New Covenant Peace Center	\$95.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$100.00
2nd Quaker Initiative on Torture Conference	\$100.00
Declaration of Peace contingency fund	\$100.00

As Quakers, each of us is called to care for those in need. Our committee strives to be a supportive foundation for IYMC members as they follow their leadings. This is an expression of our faith, and not the result of an assigned task or written agenda. Peacemaking is sometimes hard; demanding of attention and energy. But peacemaking is also joyful, and through it we are given the gift of fellowship, amongst ourselves and with the larger community. We thank you for helping us to deepen and express our faith in this way.

On behalf of the IYM (C) Peace and Social Concerns Committee,
Deborah Dakin, clerk

We listened with tender hearts to the report of the Yearly Meeting recorder. We paused to hold in our hearts the loving memories of members of the Yearly Meeting who have passed away in the last year. We also remembered Mary Autenrieth, Margaret Hoge, Elizabeth Watson, Barbara Greenler and Tom Fox, whose lives have also touched ours deeply over the years. We appreciate the work done by Tim Shipe in serving as the Yearly Meeting recorder.

RECORDER'S REPORT

DEATHS

Ames	Richard Squires*	August 13, 2005
Des Moines Valley	Eleanor Hoover	May 17, 2006
Omaha	Dick Richards	October 24, 2005
Paullina	George Tjossem	August 11, 2005
	Ernest Wilson	December 23, 2005

BIRTHS

Bear Creek	Ruby Rosalie Simoneau**	March 11, 2006
	(to Damian and Maleika (Knight) Simoneau)	
Iowa City	Astrid Sophia Allen	May 18, 2006
	(to Missy and Rich Allen)	
West Branch	Charles Van Engelen Papak	Nov. 23, 2005
	(to Paul Papak and Krista Van Engelen)	

MARRIAGES UNDER THE CARE OF THE MEETINGS

Des Moines Valley	Dorothy Lifka to Mike Martin	December 26, 2005
West Branch	Ed Clopton to Bethany Ward	Sept. 24, 2005

**One of the first members of Ames Monthly Meeting, he had transferred to Fort Myers, Florida Meeting in 2005/06, and is therefore not counted in the statistical section*

***Attender; not counted in statistical section*

Meetings	Births	Deaths	Certificates Of Membership Received	Memberships Transferred Out	New Members	Membership Discontinued	Total
Ames	0	0	0	0	0	0	32
Bear Creek	0	0	0	0	2	0	75
Decorah	0	0	0	0	0	1	9
Des Moines Valley	0	1	0	1	2	0	78*
Iowa City	1	0	0	0	4	0	57
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Omaha	0	1	0	0	0	0	13
Paullina	0	2	0	0	0	0	73
Penn Valley	0	0	0	1	0	0	66
West Branch	1	0	3	0	0	0	104
Whittier	0	0	0	0	0	0	43
Totals	2	4	3	2	9	1	574

**Des Moines Recorder believes this number is correct, although there is a one-person discrepancy from last year's figure*

We heard the report of Ministry and Counsel Committee, including the Youth Retreat Committee report. We value the work of the Youth Retreat Committee in furthering the cohesion and future of the Yearly Meeting. There is a closely connected group of young people moving

through the stage in which they are able and willing to participate in the retreats. We wish families with younger children to be aware of the support and loving welcome extended to them by our Yearly Meeting. Young people are our cherished present as well as our future. Following the recommendation of Ministry and Counsel, we will hence forth consider the Youth Retreat Committee to be self-standing and not a subcommittee of Religious Education.

We approve the recommendation of the appointment of Jean Eden and Lorene Ludy as representatives to Ohio Yearly Meeting annuals sessions.

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL REPORT

Ministry and Counsel Committee met regularly during Yearly Meeting. States of the Meeting reports were read. We heard a common theme of spiritual searching, challenges of growth and outreach, and appreciation for the closeness and caring of meeting members for each other. As with the queries, writing the State of the Meeting report requires us to step back and examine the path we are on.

Roy and Martha Hampton, Bill Deutsch, Martha Davis, and Macela Dominguez visited the Laughing Waters Worship Group in October, 2005. They held a discussion with several queries about the worship groups' relationship with other Friends groups. Laughing Waters Friends continue to pursue and stay open to opportunities of spiritual fellowship with Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative.

We recognize a strong concern for nurturing the spiritual health and connections of our youth to IYMC. We recommend that the Youth Retreat Committee be granted status as a full committee and that the nominating committee suggest names for further members. This committee will submit a yearly report of their activities and plans and will create a questionnaire as an evaluative tool to be sent to all monthly meetings.

Deborah Fisch and her anchor committee shared with us her activities as Friends General Conference coordinator of the Traveling Ministries Program. This begins her ninth year. Her anchor committee reports she continues to grow in her ministry and administrative skills. Our yearly meeting benefits from her experiences as she enlarges our interaction with many people and groups, introduces and procures Quaker leaders for our yearly meeting interest sessions, and helps us to see more clearly what is required of us. Quoting from her report, "I am coming to understand experientially that good works without faith and love are empty and that faith and love without good works cannot exist.

They all tie together and can't be separated. This is what I am learning these days as I live in Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative, travel among Friends and work with others traveling among Friends. . . If we seek to be whole, if we seek to be faithful, if we truly believe that we can and must make a difference in the world, then we must begin where we are, with all the little everyday, mundane tasks that make up our days. We must be present to Love, witness Love, live Love with all those we encounter—ourselves, our families, our meeting Friends, the folks at the grocery store, our political leaders, the mail man, the motorist that cuts us off, the person down the block that drives us crazy, even those who would hurt us, discredit us, want ill for us, kill us. We must live into Love with each step and each breath. We must Love not with our own, but with the Love of Christ within each of us, intentional in turning and returning to that Love when we know we have stepped away from it.”

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

Several members of Ministry and Counsel Committee met with Jean Eden and Lorene Ludy. We are pleased that they feel a calling to attend Ohio Yearly Meeting and we wholeheartedly recommend that they be appointed as representatives of IYMC.

Alberta Kisling, clerk

YOUTH RETREAT COMMITTEE REPORT

Since the inception of the youth retreat program three years ago, retreats have been held at several Monthly Meetings. Many of the retreats have involved outdoor exploration and discovery. The first retreat was at Omaha with over twenty youth of grades 4 through 9 attending. The highlighted event of that retreat was sleeping over at the Omaha zoo. After that we camped and hiked near Bear Creek Meeting, though we ended up sleeping on the meeting house's covered porch watching a glorious thunderstorm and picking up wet collapsed tents the next day. In Decorah we visited sites of sustainable living practices and substituted horseback riding for our planned canoe trip since Decorah had gotten seventeen inches of rain a few days prior to our arrival. In that following winter we enjoyed the brisk weather at West Branch with sledding and skating. We met twice at Scattergood where our theme has

centered on building community. We also went twice to Paullina where the cycle of life was discussed and experienced in the youth's participating in the planting and then the harvesting of crops, and in the visiting of two different approaches to pork production. A longer retreat was hosted the following winter by Yahara where a large gym provided the site of several hours of improvised games when the cold drove the kids inside. The youth committed themselves facing that arctic blast for a long period of silence while holding their constructed signs encouraging peace in front of the capitol building in Madison. We met two different summers for a day each at Adventure Land. Planned retreats at Ames and Des Moines were cancelled. The participation at the AFSC work camp at Pine Ridge last summer did not happen, and it is unclear at this time whether the retreat next week at Penn Valley will occur. The age requirement has been lowered to include a couple youth under fourth grade.

The adults on the youth retreat committee select a theme for the retreat and arrange activities to incorporate the theme. Monthly meetings are asked to provide a place to sleep, transportation at their location if needed, and a potluck after Meeting for Worship. They also have assisted in identifying resources in their communities that complement our theme for the weekend. When parents seek hospitality, monthly meetings have opened their doors. Scattergood retreats are different in that its staff coordinates most of the activities to familiarize our youth with the school. Many of those activities involve pairing a Scattergood student with each of the Yearly Meeting youth.

Our last year's retreats have had as few as six youth, and usually have had around eight. Usually the retreats begin on Saturday morning and end after potluck meals following Meeting for Worship at the host monthly meeting.

At the start of the program, there was a substantial group of middle school aged youth who have mostly gone into high school, and thus are out of the intended age of the retreats. With the increase of age, these youth have an increase of interests and responsibilities outside of Yearly Meeting.

Yearly Meeting now has a smaller group of youth within the age range originally designed for the retreats, and those are primarily more of the intermediate years of elementary school.

Yearly Meeting is encouraged to ask its youth for feedback regarding the retreats. It appears, from the coordinators' points-of-view, that important bonds and growth have occurred amongst the youth because of their Yearly Meeting connection, of which the retreats are one aspect. We are blessed with insightful and caring young people who appear to

love each other and accept each other unconditionally. They seem to appreciate their times together.

The retreat committee asks monthly meetings to discuss what the hopes are for our yearly meeting youth and how we plan to achieve this vision. What do the youth see as their needs and what do the adults see are the needs of our youth? How can these be met? We are concerned about the dwindling attendance and seeming lack of prioritizing for the retreats by families. The questions need to be asked if there is a different format that would improve attendance, and are there needs other than retreats or in addition to retreats that Yearly Meeting needs to consider? An interest in family retreats and in additional times for Yearly Meeting to gather has been heard repeatedly, though those ideas are outside the concept of the youth retreat program. As the population of our youth changes, the committee needs to stay current on an annual basis in order to provide a quality program to that year's youth. Evaluation forms will be sent to monthly meetings, and Cheryl Sutton will collect those replies and summarize the input to assist the committee in its work. In anticipation of some restructuring of the retreat program, the committee asks for permission to add members during the year.

It is a joy and privilege to work with our youth and wish everyone could be so fortunate to be closely associated with the growth of their spiritual community. Take a moment to look at the youth today as they leave the meetinghouse and you will see our future. What we see is an incredible aura of love. We hope this love remains part of Yearly Meeting and that the youth are walking toward building it and not away from us forever.

For the committee,
Debbie Galusha, convener

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

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

“Meeting became a school for faithfulness, a way of directing my attention away from myself towards God, so it would be possible to look for the person God wanted me to be, and unto which I had to grow. . . . I

came to understand why it is impossible to be a Quaker without a meeting.” John Punshon

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

We are truly blessed to have Horace Autenrieth of Salem, Oregon Friends Meeting, Pacific Yearly Meeting and former member of Paullina Monthly Meeting, here with us today. (clerk's note: Horace had been in a fairly serious car accident on his way yesterday's session.)

We received the reports of the Yearly Meeting auditors and Yearly Meeting treasurer. We appreciate the care Burt Kisling gives in keeping the financial records of the Yearly Meeting and the clean presentation of the report he presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The monthly meetings apportionments were again sent in a timely manner this year which is appreciated. This allows expenses to be paid as they are due throughout the year.

A new reserve account added this year is the Young Friends Travel and Conference account for approved young F/friends' use during the current and future years. This account includes the carry over \$354.67 balance of funds from last year's account used to send two young F/friends to the World Gathering of Young Friends held in England. This year \$1,000.00 was added to the budget for this account. \$476.00 was spent this year to send a young F/friend to the FWCC Conference on Torture, leaving \$878.67 to carry over to next year.

Sincerely,
Burt Kisling, IYM treasurer

**Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
Treasurer's Report
Year Ended June 30, 2006
Budget for Fiscal 2005-06**

Contributions	Budget	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	3,500.00	3,500.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation	1,500.00	1,500.00
Nebraskans for Peace	250.00	250.00
Friends Peace Teams	100.00	100.00
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	33,000.00	33,000.00
Will Penn House	<u>300.00</u>	<u>300.00</u>
Total Contributions	\$41,875.00	\$41,875.00
Delegate Expenses		
American Friends Service Committee	\$500.00	\$0.00
Friends Committee on National Legislation	600.00	496.56
FWCC General	1,000.00	994.00
FWCC Triennial	500.00	500.00
Friends Peace Teams	<u>600.00</u>	<u>158.90</u>
Total Delegate Expenses	\$3,200.00	\$2,149.46
Yearly Meeting Expenses		
Archives Committee	\$200.00	\$79.65
Clerk's and Other Adm. Expenses	400.00	131.08
Committee Expenses (Other)	500.00	0.00
Conscientious Objector PSC subcommittee	100.00	0.00
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	1,000.00	1,000.00
Junior Yearly Meeting	2,000.00	177.02
Young Friends	1,500.00	1,132.08
IYM Youth Weekends (4th-9th grade)	800.00	800.00
Special Needs Committee	500.00	0.00
Publication Committee	2,700.00	2,492.09
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship	300.00	200.00

YM Entertainment Committee-if receipts inadequate	2,000.00	0.00
Midyear Planning Committee-if receipts inadequate	1,000.00	0.00
Contingency Fund	1,000.00	575.00
Young Friends Travel & Conference	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total YM Expenses	\$15,000.00	\$7,586.92
Total Budget	\$60,075.00	\$51,611.38

**Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
Treasurer's Report
Year Ended June 30, 2006
Statement of Cash and Funds**

Cash balance July 1, 2005		\$24,147.98
Receipts		
Monthly Meeting's Apportionments	\$50,000.00	
Interest Earned	139.31	
Putney Friends \$75 and Maureen		
Connolly Turk \$50 donations	125.00	
IYM Youth Weekends Reimbursement	745.00	
Book sale 2005 yearly meeting	\$211.14	
Total Receipts		\$51,220.45
Total Cash Available		\$75,368.43

Disbursements		
Budget 2005-2006 Expenditures		
Young Friends Travel & Conference Expensed	\$476.00	
IYM Youth Weekends Expensed	975.01	
Bank Charges	37.93	
Total Expenditures 05-06	53,100.32	
Less amount Transferred to FWCC Travel Fund	-500.00	
Less amount Transferred to Youth	-800.00	

Weekends		
Less amount Transferred to Young Friends	-1,000.00	
Total Disbursements		\$50,800.32
CASH balance June 30, 2006		\$24,568.11

GENERAL FUND

General Fund balance available for Year 2006-07		\$20,729.08
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IYM RESERVE FUNDS

FWCC Triennial Travel		
Balance July 1, 2005	\$1,684.10	
Added this year	500.00	
Balance June 30, 2006	2,184.10	
IYM Youth Weekends		
Balance July 1, 2005	206.27	
Added this Year	800.00	
Balance June 30, 2006	776.26	
Young Friends Travel & Conference Balance July 1, 2005		
	354.67	
Added this year	1,000.00	
Balance June 30, 2006	\$878.67	
Total Reserve Fund June 30, 2006		\$3,839.03
TOTAL FUNDS JUNE 30, 2006		\$24,568.11
EDCO Community Credit Union, Des Moines		
Savings Account	\$22,706.94	
Draft (Check) Account	\$1,861.17	
TOTAL CASH June 30, 2006		\$24,568.11

We listened with appreciation to the Yearly Meeting Representatives' report. We encourage Friends to use the travel funds, especially the funds for youth camp and youth activities.

REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

There was a strong sense of the Representatives that Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative should be moving toward full funding of delegate expenses for those Friends the Yearly Meeting appoints to Friends organizations and conferences. The Representatives believe financial considerations should be removed both during the appointment process and as a barrier to attendance.

We are recommending that the delegate expense line item for each organization to which IYMC appoints more than one delegate be increased to \$1,000, with the exception of the AFSC line, which we propose to be eliminated and the current \$500 added to the AFSC contribution line. This is because AFSC pays for travel and meeting expenses for all of the corporation board members rather than asking board members to pay and then seek reimbursement from AFSC or their individual monthly or yearly meetings. If it is the intention of IYMC to pay the expenses of our AFSC delegates, we can do it as a donation to AFSC.

The Representatives realize that in most cases the proposed increase in delegate expense line items do not cover all expenses for all delegates. Our desire to fully fund delegate expenses is tempered by a concern from monthly meetings that we not increase the apportionment by large amounts without advance warning to aid in their budget processes.

We recommend the delegate expense line items continue to be increased on an annual basis until all financial barriers for our delegates to attend their appointed meetings have been removed.

The proposed increase in contributions and delegate expenses represent an increase of \$2,900 from last year for a total budget of \$62,975.

We are suggesting an increase of \$4,000 to be raised by apportionment for a total of \$54,000. The percentage apportioned to each monthly meeting remains unchanged from last year.

We wish to express appreciation for the work of the clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, assistant treasurer, and statistical reporter for the past year. The following names are suggested for the coming year.

Clerk, Deborah Fisch
 Assistant Clerk, Deborah Fink
 Treasurer, Burt Kisling
 Assistant Treasurer, Jim Kenney
 Statistical Recorder, Tim Shipe.

We recommend that Iowa Yearly Conservative convene at Scattergood Friends School Seventh Month 24th to 29th, 2007.

To break meeting on First Day Meeting we suggest Martha Davis.

PROPOSED BUDGET 2006-2007

Contributions

American Friends Service Committee	\$1,000
AFSC Native American Programs	125
Friends Committee on National Legislation	1000
Friends General Conference	100
Iowa Peace Network	3600
Friends World Committee for Consultation	1500
Nebraskans for Peace	250
Friends Peace Teams	500
Peace & Social Concerns Committee	1100
Quaker United Nations Office	200
Right Sharing of World Resources	200
Scattergood Friends School	3,3000
William Penn House	300
Total Contributions	\$42,875

Delegate Expenses

Friends Committee on National Legislation	1,000
FWCC – General	1,000
FWCC – Triennial	500
Friends Peace Teams	1,000
Quaker Earthcare Witness	600
Quaker Initiative to End Torture (one time)	1,000
Total Delegate Expenses	\$5,100

Yearly Meeting Expenses

Archives Committee	200
Clerk and other administrative expense	400

Committee expenses	500
Conscientious Objector PSC subcommittee	100
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	1,000
Junior Yearly Meeting	2,000
Young Friends General Conference	1,500
IYM Youth Weekends (4 th -9 th grade)	800
Special Needs Committee	500
Publication Committee	2,700
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship	300
Young Friends Travel & Conference	1,000
Yearly Meeting Entertainment Committee (if receipts inadequate)	2,000
Midyear Planning Committee (if receipts inadequate)	1,000
Contingency Fund	1,000

Total Yearly Meeting Expenses \$15,000

Total Budgeted Expenditures \$62,975

Income

To be raised by apportionment	\$54,000
From other income sources and General Fund	8,975
Total Budgeted Income	\$62,975

Monthly Meeting Apportionments

	Percent	Dollar amount
Ames	6.5	\$3,510
Bear Creek	9	4,860
Decorah	1	540
Des Moines Valley	20	10,800
Iowa City	7.5	4,050
Lincoln	6	3,240
Omaha	4	2,160
Paullina	11.5	6,210
Penn Valley	8.5	4,590
West Branch	20.75	10,935
Whittier	5.75	3,105
Totals	100%	\$54,000

We heard the nicely written letter prepared by Special Replies Committee to be sent to Friends who are normally in attendance at annual sessions, but were unable to be present at these sessions.

SPECIAL REPLIES

July 29, 2006

Dear Friends,

The 129th session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) has been held this week, July 26th through July 30th, at Scattergood Friends School, near West Branch, Iowa. We missed your presence and participation.

Our focus this year has been, "Caring for Creation: How Are We Called?" For evening collection on Third Day we heard from two young Friends, Rebekah DeWild and Emma Deutsch, who had attended the FWCC World Gathering of Young Friends in Lancaster, England. Fourth Day evening we listened with deep appreciation while Anna Sandidge described her leading to work with Friends Peace Teams in Burundi. Friends enjoyed hearing a multi-generational panel share their experiences at Scattergood Friends School the next evening. Then on Sixth Day evening Ruah Swennerfelt encouraged us to take local actions to bring healing to the planet.

Afternoon activities included interest groups related to the Middle East conflict, outreach, border issues, conscientious objection, and Waysmeet Quaker Center. We also had presentations by staff from Friends Committee on National Legislation, American Friends Service Committee and Iowa Peace Network about their work for peace and justice. We enjoyed two intergenerational activities-one on Alternatives to Violence Project work and one on Quaker Earthcare Witness.

The children enjoyed Junior Yearly Meeting activities in the mornings, afternoons and evenings. Young Friends activities included discussion of their deep concerns about environmental issues.

We appreciated the well ordered conduct of the business sessions. It was a great pleasure once again to experience worship in the presence of so many seasoned Friends. These Friends add an irreplaceable spiritual depth to our sessions.

We value our ongoing spiritual connection with you.
On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative,
Deborah Fisch, clerk

We heard the epistles prepared by the Epistle Committee to be sent to Ohio Yearly Meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative and to Friends Everywhere. All are good letters and we appreciate the work of the committee.

EPISTLE TO NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING (CONSERVATIVE)

7/29/2006

Dear Friends in North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative),

"In the abundance of God's glory may God, through God's Spirit, enable you to grow firm in power with regard to your inner self, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planed in love and built on love, with all God's holy people you will have the strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth, so that knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond knowledge, you may be filled with the utter fullness of God." Ephesians 3:16-19

We are glad that our members Deborah Fisch and Callie Marsh were able to attend your recent sessions. They brought your loving greetings to us and shared about their time with you. Visitation among our meetings is precious and strengthens our ties. We have so much in common, both our heritage as Conservative meetings and in the faith that sustains us. We may sometimes feel most comfortable using different terminology in referring to that Spirit which is our Guide. The reality of that Guide's availability to each and every one of us is the same.

Our meeting for worship with attention to business approved two sections for our revised *Faith and Practice the Discipline of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative*. In a section on Faith and Testimonies, it says, "Most fundamentally, Friends perceive 'that of God' in all persons. This living presence, experienced variously as the Inner Light, the Holy Spirit, the Inward Christ, and the Divine Center, enables a person to enter into intimate communion with God, without intermediaries. We are led, inspired, enlightened, or chastened as we come into the Light in prayer. God is love, and each of us has a spring of that love within us to draw upon for strength, wisdom, and compassion."

We join you in the desire for us all to be faithful in witness for God's love everywhere.

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

EPISTLE TO OHIO YEARLY MEETING

7/29/2006

Dear Friends of Ohio Yearly Meeting,

“In the abundance of God’s glory my God, through God’s Spirit, enable you to grow firm in power with regard to your inner self, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planed in love and built on love, with all God’s holy people you will have the strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth, so that knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond knowledge, you may be filled with the utter fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:16-19

We appreciate the letters of interest and concern that we received from your yearly meeting. The theme for your 2005 gathering, “The Witness of Conservative Friends” was much the same as our midyear meeting in the spring. No doubt it was as meaningful for you as it was for us. Our own Deborah Fisch was the resource person.

We treasure the presence of your members, Joey and Sarah Giffin-Hunter on our Scattergood staff. They contribute to the number of Spirit led adults who are role models for the students.

We know that we have much in common, both in our heritage as Conservative yearly meetings and in our faith that we can communicate directly with God. That Spirit which we may call by different names is available to each of us. It is our Guide as we seek to do God’s will here on earth.

Our meeting for worship with attention to business approved two sections for our revised *Faith and Practice the Book of Discipline of Iowa Yearly Meeting, Conservative*. In a section on Faith and Testimonies, it says, “Most fundamentally, Friends perceive that of God in all persons. This living presence, experienced variously as the Inner Light, the Holy Spirit, the Inward Christ, and the Divine Center, enables a person to enter into intimate communion with God without intermediaries. We are led, inspired, enlightened, or chastened as we come into the Light in prayer. God is love, and each of us has a spring of that love within us to draw upon for strength, wisdom, and compassion.

We will be holding you in the Light as you gather for your annual sessions in the coming month. May God’s love and guidance cover your deliberations and worship at Stillwater Meetinghouse.

On Behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friend Conservatives,

Deborah Fisch, clerk
3400 Kingman Blvd
Des Moines, IA 50311
deborahsfisch@earthlink.net

LETTER TO FRIENDS EVERYWHERE

7/29/2006

To Friends Everywhere,

A message shared at the first session of the 2006 Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative reminded us that we were gathered for a spiritual feast. As we have joined together during the week, we have partaken of that feast. We feel inspired and renewed as we return to our home communities to be more diligent to follow our leadings as we seek to Love the Lord our God with all our hearts and minds and to love our neighbors as we do ourselves.

We are meeting on the campus of our Scattergood Friends School. It is part of our outreach and support of youth as they grow to become Spirit-led adults. We are pleased with the spiritual and educational directions in which the school is being led.

The theme of these annual sessions is “Caring for Creation: How are We Called?” Our care of the earth is a factor in many of the issues we face. We have been blessed with visitors from near and far who have widened our visions as we struggle to Speak Truth to Power. Our government must be turned from relying only on military actions in trying to bring peace to troubled areas of the world, especially in the Middle East. As our country squanders its resources on militarism, the genuine needs of our citizens and those in other countries are sorely neglected.

We have been privileged to have speakers and friends who helped educate us about successful programs of organizations to which our yearly meeting donates. We continue to work on the revision of our Book of Discipline. We realize that there is real treasure in the process as well as the final draft. It requires us to discuss and explain our spirituality in ways we sometimes neglect.

Daily Bible study used the book entitled *Engaging Scripture: Reading the Bible with Early Friends* by Michael L. Birkel. In describing reading meditatively, he says, “Early Friends invite us to read. . . . the Bible as they did. try to listen as (we) would in Quaker meeting for worship. The Bible becomes a meetinghouse. In unprogrammed

Quaker worship, and in programmed services during the time dedicated to open worship, the community inwardly gathers together in an expectant silence. Friends have experienced that God will inspire words to meet the needs of the gathered worshippers. . . . (We) listen to the words of scripture as though they were spoken in worship. Receiving them as (we) would vocal ministry, since they originate from the same divine source. Just as in meeting for worship, not all the words may be edifying for all people at all times. The point is to listen to find what is meaningful for you at this time.”

We are encouraged by the epistles which we have received from you and from others all around the world. You have inspired us and reminded us that the influence of the Religious Society of Friends is thriving not only in the United States, but also in other cultures and many countries.

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

We listened carefully to the Nominating Committee report. The clerk will send out descriptions of the standing committees with the spring clerk’s letter to help Nominating Committee members in their work. We appreciate the work of Nominating Committee.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Eight monthly meetings sent representatives this year to the Nominating Committee. When monthly meetings record their individuals’ interests for Yearly Meeting committee work before our annual session, the committee’s work goes smoothly and quicker. Many of us remember the time when this was not done and our annual session free times were spent trying to find willing bodies to fill slots rather than being filled by the thoughtful consideration we sense is now given to most people assuming committee membership. Next spring when the Yearly Meeting clerk sends out the instructions for Yearly Meeting, it could further assist this monthly meeting discernment process if the description of the standing committees is included. The committee has been mindful in its nominations and has not filled emptied positions if names did not occur as appropriate assignments. Many of our lives seem stretched by our commitments, and the committee recognizes the attending love and voice of our faith that are being exhibited by our committee work.

Committee Appointments approved

* indicates convener

Archives Committee

2007	2008	2009
Owen Crosbie	Tim Shipe	Herbert Standing
Wilmer Tjossem	Mikel Johnson	Daniel Treadway*

Document Committee

2007
Decorah Monthly Meeting

Entertainment Committee

Contact person: Debbie Galusha		
2007	2008	2009
Paullina	Ames	Decorah
Omaha*	Des MoinesValley	Whittier
Lincoln	Penn Valley	West Branch
		Iowa City

Yearly Meeting Young Friends Planning Committee

2007	2008	2009
Joseph Kieltyka	Rebecca Guss	Jules Galusha
Joel Fagan*	Debbie Galusha*	
Evelyn Tomer		

Jr. Yearly Meeting (for Yearly Meeting)

2007	2008	2009
Bill Deutsch*	Scott Greenler	Carol Gilbert
Ed Clopton	Danielle Black Eyes	Penny Majors*
Connor Cunningham	Kay Meyer	Lake Giffen-Hunter

Interim Meeting

2007	2008	2009
Marilyn Mantel-Guss	Ebby Luvaga	Lynne Howard
Bill Deutsch	Larry Marsh	Sandi Tomer
Lois Tjossem	Cheryl Sutton*	Alice Hampton
Betty Lower	Carol Gilbert, asst.*	Kathy Day
Susan Murty	Martha Davis	Richard Johnson
Deslonde Lamb	Jeff Kisling	Dixie Collins
Lorene Ludy	Marge Schlitt	Owen Crosbie
	Catherine Dorenbach	Karen Greenler

Library Committee

2007	2008	2009
Wanda Knight	Olive Wilson	Mary K. Stillwell
Joan Tjossem	Marc Robinson	Martha Davis*
Megan McCormick	Jane Cadwallader-Howe	

Midyear Planning Committee

2007	2008	2009
Lois Tjossem	Betty Young	Christine KIELTYKA
Teri Groover	Alberta Kisling	Wanda Knight
Roy Hampton	Megan Knight*	Winifred Standing
AM Fink	Osa Bricker	Marion Love
Nancy Plagman	Jackie Leckband	Christine Kelly
	Lea Gadzikowski	Ruth Dawson

Jr. Yearly Meeting/Young Friends (Midyear)

2007	2008	2009
Megan Knight	Jackie Leckband*	Carol Spaulding-Kruse
John Winchell	Debbie Galusha*	Nathan Tomer
	Cindy Winchell	Adrian Tomer
	Jules Galusha	

Ministry & Counsel Committee (Appointed by monthly meetings)

2007	2008	2009
Lynda Fife	Alberta Kisling*	Christine KIELTYKA
Elsie Kuhn	Martha Davis	Mary K. Stillwell
Andrea Holveck	Dorothy Rogers	Karin McAdams
Beth Wilson	Doyle Wilson	Nancy Ewald
Martha Hampton	Dixie Collins	
Megan Knight	Gordon Bivens	
Jane Cadwallader Howe		

Publication Committee

2007	2008	2009
Margie Haworth	Jeff Kisling*	David Duer
		Nancy Ewald

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

2007	2008	2009
Judy Plank	Wendy Vasquez	Sherry Hutchison*
Winifred Standing	Herbert Standing	Jim Cottingham
Jackie Leckband	Ian Taylor	Jim Bruner
Rachel McNair	Susan Clymer	Deborah Dakin*
Bryenne Howard	Bob Yeats	Margaret Brumm
Lori Nelson	Ken Lawrence	Marian Solomon
Jesse Leckband		Emma Deutsch

Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee

2007	2008	2009
Ginny Winsor*	Roy Hampton	Wilmer Tjossem

Religious Education Committee

2007	2008	2009
Marshall Massey	Judy Cottingham*	Bill Deutsch

Youth Retreat Committee

2007	2008	2009
Daniel Treadway	Cheryl Sutton	Debbie Galusha*
	Karen Greenler	Jules Galusha
		Emily Fagan

Scattergood Friends School Committee

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

2007	2008	2009
Quinn Dilkes	Kirk Bragg	Debbie Galusha
Daniel Treadway	Mary K. Stillwell	Bob Yeats
Jeff Cox	Dan Schlitt	Callie Marsh
Robert Winchell	Lorene Ludy	Mark Tomer

Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees

This committee is appointed by Yearly Meeting Trustees

2007	2008	2009	2010
Gordon Bivens	Alberta Kisling	Susan Murty	George Welch
Doyle Wilson	Mark Patton	Judy Cottingham*	Ginny Winsor

Special Needs Committee

2007	2008	2009
Jackie Leckband	Joey Giffen-Hunter	Marilyn Mantel-Guss*
Sherry Hutchison	Deborah Dakin	Echo Ray

Yearly Meeting Trustees

2007	2008	2009	2010
Roy Hampton	Jim Cottingham	Beth Wilson	Jon Fisch
	AM Fink*		

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

2007	2008	2009
Robert Yeats*	Rebekah DeWild	Lori Nelson
Dan Schlitt		

Friends Committee on National Legislation

2007	2008	2009
Gordon Bivens	Jonathan Fisch*	Burt Kisling
Debbie Galusha	Alberta Kisling	Nathan Tomer
	Deborah Fink, alt.	

Friends World Committee for Consultation

2007	2008	2009
Martha Davis*	Marion Love	Mark Patton
Ginny Winsor		Sarah Winchell

Iowa Peace Network

Claire Cumbie-Drake (appointed at Interim Committee)
Russ Leckband

William Penn House Consultative Committee

Jim Kenney Alberta Kisling* Richard Baltaro, alt

Friends Peace Teams Advisory Board

Judy Plank

Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee

Ken Lawrence

We listened carefully and with open hearts to the Spirit-filled State of the Meeting reports. We find them to be an uplifting conclusion to the business meeting.

An important exercise for each meeting is preparing the State of the Meeting reports. It is with anticipation and appreciation the Ministry and Counsel Committee has read the reports. We hear a common theme of spiritual searching, challenges of growth and outreach, and appreciation for the closeness and caring of meeting members for each other.

On behalf of Ministry and Counsel,
Alberta Kisling, clerk

**STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS
OF MONTHLY MEETINGS****Ames**

Life offers challenges and joys, and our connections through the Meeting strengthen us in our efforts to walk in the Light through this world. We are a small meeting and feel strongly connected with one another. Yet, we question our comfort as a small group, especially as we struggle to maintain our committees, most particularly First Day School. We search for opportunities to reach out to fellow seekers in our community who are both known and unknown to us. As we stay in touch

with those who have moved from our meeting, we trust that God defines the connections of our lives and is moving in the world through each of us. We hold in the Light those who have moved from our midst, and all those who seek their own rightful path.

Our queries continue to offer opportunities for sharing and understanding of one another. They also help us better understand that our local interactions can form rivulets affecting the world's larger tides of justice and oppression. We have initiated a biweekly Bible study group that we open to our community, seeking to bridge Scripture and daily experience. Our meetinghouse continues to be a place of peace and centering. This year we added a stone patio with memorial plantings around it, which adds to the welcome of the building and garden.

Trials and sadness are a part of life. Illness, separations, and death are realities that we have coped with in the past year. We mourn the passing of Dick Squires, who graced our meeting with his steady presence for many years. Ebby Luvaga's mother, Esther, also passed from this world, and we recall with joy several of her visits from Kenya in recent years. We seek to enable the construction of a school library in Ebby's home village, honoring her parents and their devotion to education. Betty Young's daughter Angie is recuperating from a head injury due to an accident, and as we hold her in the Light we ponder the impact a seemingly small decision can have on our lives. We pray for healing of the body and the spirit for those in our own families, and for the many in the world who are in need of the healing that the Light can offer.

We celebrate the joys of life as well. The children in our meeting are developing into young adults, and they are finding their own strength and confidence as individuals. We rejoice in their growth. One of our young people this year has informed the government that he is a conscientious objector to war. Another has been accepted to Scattergood Friends School and we are hopeful that she will be able to attend. We are joyful in the growth of our youth, and are mindful that youth is not a prerequisite for experiences of growth!

We pray that our nation will become a force for peace in the world. We are thankful for our meeting and the spiritual centeredness that it offers us in the midst of a world in turmoil. We pray for the Spirit to move in the world, and ask for the strength to walk in the world by the Light of the Spirit.

Bear Creek

Down came the old schoolhouse and in its place is a lovely, light filled, tree shaded spot for what? That question was the subject of several

recent visioning sessions. This is a watershed time of examining ourselves, our meeting and our hopes and dreams for our future. It is exciting and invigorating, but also challenging as we are impacted by the reality of our responsibility to be true to our heritage and proceed with a clear discernment of God's plan for our meeting.

The recent Standing Family Reunion held at Bear Creek reminds us of the strong family ties many scattered people feel for our meeting. Stories of school days in the old schoolhouse, a choral reading "The Little Englishman," a talent show, family stories and memorials of recent deaths filled the meetinghouse with a vibrant sense of the history of our ancestors and the spirit of love that is with us even when our families depart for distant places.

Answering the Queries remains an important process for our meeting. Recently we discussed feeling overwhelmed by all the needs that vie for our attention. We have limited energy and resources and must make choices. We wonder if we have left important tasks undone.

Several members journeyed to Washington, Iowa, to attend the funeral of Margaret Choate Hoge, in April. She was a lively addition to our meeting for many years. We will remember her enthusiasm for meeting and talking with people, traveling, quilting, and appreciating Herbert's flowers.

Our meeting is small. We feel comforted and cared for as we work and worship together. Our meetinghouse is a blessing for which we are forever grateful. We are surrounded by a Spirit that centers us and guides us as we search for a deeper, more committed Spiritual Life.

Decorah

Members and attenders of Decorah Friends meeting continue to grow on our spiritual journeys. The structure of First Day morning, with adult discussion preceding meeting for worship, helps create an atmosphere where spiritual topics are already our focus as worship begins. Most often there is no spoken message during worship. However, as we close meeting for worship, it is our tradition, as part of introductions and announcements, to hear messages that almost materialized in worship. This is a special part of our shared time. People who don't necessarily feel that they were given a message to share are still willing to offer thoughts and personal messages that were with them during worship.

Business meetings are very well attended, with many individuals caring for the various aspects of Meeting life, including owning our meetinghouse, caring for spiritual nurture, and being mindful of how we relate to the larger world. We have rearranged our schedule so that we do not have both First Day school/adult discussion and meeting with

attention to business on the same day. Most members and attenders choose to come to both, but the previous schedule which often lasted until mid-afternoon was burdensome to those who had family commitments and other busy schedules.

Singing and intergenerational First Day activities have happened less often this year. Singing together has been a rich part of our tradition, and as we write this we are reminded that we would like to do it more often. Intergenerational First Day was a regularly scheduled event until we rearranged our schedule for business meetings. At the present time it occurs when someone puts forward a request or plan, which has been only once since December.

One of the strengths of Decorah Friends Meeting is that we feel very connected to each other, partly because of sharing weekly meals, yet free to travel our own paths. We do not have a lot of Meeting activities or committee meetings, but the individuals of our meeting are active in the community and with family activities. We appreciate the times when we are physically together, but we also feel a part of each other even when separated.

A recent clearness committee of the whole, for responding to a letter of application for membership, gave all who participated an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of membership. Seeds were planted during adult discussions on membership and on clearness committees, and readings were shared from Faith and Practice at business meeting. Each person seemed to come to the clearness meeting with thoughts about their own relationship to meeting and the meaning of members

We are planning a retreat for the fall, which will give us a weekend opportunity to focus on the ways spirit moves in our lives.

Des Moines Valley

As we gathered to write the State of the Meeting Report for Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting, we agreed that attempting to translate into words what others are feeling spiritually is a very difficult task. One member compared it to love—difficult to describe. We are not all at the same place in our spiritual journeys. There is an ebb and flow. We sometimes feel stronger in our faith than at other times. Thomas Kelly reminds us that if we are faithful, the “richness” will return.

Why do we keep coming back to meeting for worship? We come for nourishment, to become refreshed, inspired. We come to join with kindred souls who share the same core beliefs of responding to others with love, not hate, demonstrating equality in the treatment of others and a concern for peace and justice. Members in our meeting are responsible and trustworthy. We come to be with this community on Sunday

morning to gain spiritual strength. As an urban meeting, we cherish this time together, for often this is our only time of seeing one another during the week. What happens in meeting for worship guides us through the rest of the week and helps us to follow the teachings of Jesus.

We would like to encourage more vocal ministry. It is common for two or three members or attenders to speak each week. We feel we could benefit from the messages of more of our friends. We are thankful for new attenders in our midst and for two new members. They enrich our meeting with their presence. Some of our new attenders participated in Midyear Meeting in order to learn more about the Quaker faith.

We continue to struggle with the religious education of our children. What do we teach? How can we have continuity with sporadic attendance? How do we bridge the age gap? Two clearness meetings were held with some direction coming from our second gathering. This continues to be a challenge for us.

At a meeting for business, we struggled with whether to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act. As a result of our labor, we became more informed and unified, agreeing to proceed.

We feel that our meeting needs to provide more opportunities where we can talk with others about our spirituality. Second hour discussions may be one way. But small groups might be more conducive to sharing. We will attempt to provide a setting this year where we can be more comfortable sharing our spirituality with each other.

Iowa City

We are reminded that our best guide in making decisions in our meeting and in our daily lives is the Spirit that lives within each of us.

The focus for Ministry and Council this year has been on building community through tapping into the rich resources within our meeting. The hour following monthly potlucks has been devoted to presentations of special interest to our attenders. We have been deeply enriched by contributions of those who have willingly shared their experiences with us.

These have included a slide show from a volunteer working in Chiapas, Mexico, among the Zapatistas; a report from two members attending a workshop at Pendle Hill; a presentation by a member who traveled to Mexico doing research on palliative care; two separate presentations by speakers from Kenya, who are attending the University of Iowa, relating their experiences to our meeting’s Kenya project; a slide presentation by an artist in our meeting of paintings by prisoners expressing their deepest feelings after being incarcerated; a talk by

members of a family, who practice “sustainable agricultural” methods on their farm. They spoke of how the environment affects the web of life. Another artist from the Center for the Book at the University presented a fascinating slide show on his work in the area of papermaking. An attender introduced us to particle physics through film. One attender brought her concern regarding a breakdown in our judicial system which inadequately addresses the issue of child abuse.

A clearness committee was formed for one of our members who had a leading to help support the education of children orphaned by AIDS in a Kenyan school. She learned of this need from a Nairobi Friend whom she met while attending a Pendle Hill workshop. Some money was sent by our meeting to Kenya, and we continue communicating with the Kenyan school through photo exchange and e-mails. We have invited other monthly meetings to join in this project.

This year, we have welcomed to our meeting new members and attenders, two new babies, and returning members and attenders. We are encouraged by the increasing number of parents and children who are participating in our active First Day School. The increasing numbers have brought with them “growing pains” and planning challenges as we seek to meet the needs of a wide range of ages. We are working toward making the meetinghouse space more usable for First Day School, and safer and more accessible to children and adults.

We continue to find the “after thoughts” sessions following meetings for worship to be helpful. For a period of time, we were reading one query before meeting for worship every week as a way to expose everyone to the Quaker values that we cherish. After trying this for awhile, we became aware that, for some people, reading the queries before meeting for worship can distract from the “waiting form of worship” which a Friends meeting is intended to provide, so a decision was made to read one query each month at the end of meeting for worship.

On April 30, we enjoyed fellowship with Friends from Whittier, West Branch, and Scattergood when the Iowa City Meeting hosted the Eastern Iowa Gathering of Friends. Following meeting for worship, we listened to a student from Kenya, who is attending The University of Iowa, speak on education in Kenya.

Lincoln

This has been a strong year for the Lincoln Meeting in many respects. We have several new people attending, and some attenders who are coming more frequently. There is an increased interest and even enthusiasm for Midyear and Yearly Meeting gatherings. Several of our

young people have made choices for their future which identify them with Friends, and one has decided to pursue her high school education at Scattergood.

We have had some success in drawing our children, younger ones, and those looking to adulthood, into activities together with their parents. For several weeks we worked on a Life Stories project. We got a glimpse into one another’s lives through writing, drawing, and sharing our stories.

Our older members are experiencing the problems inevitable to aging. We have tried to give practical support, not always with success. It is not easy to take or to give help. Individual warmth is the greatest gift. Some of us experience stress from time to time, but we try to work through it gently. We need to think with our hearts.

Overall we are an activist and involved group at a time when the world and our community badly need us. We enjoy coming together in worship each week for spiritual renewal and companionship.

Omaha

Since last Yearly Meeting, Omaha Friends Meeting has changed meeting places, worshiping now in the home of a member. We have also become incorporated, with the goal of eventual purchase of a building.

We value our contact with the Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting at gatherings and through committee work. We also enjoyed meeting with Nebraska Friends from Central City, Kearney, and Lincoln, near Omaha in October where Bill Deutsch of Decorah led us in a discussion about meeting for business.

Discussions of drafts sections of the new discipline have been enjoyable opportunities to explore our beliefs and practices. We also are experimenting with trying to deepen our query discussions. Our natural tendency seems to be to critique society, and discuss what should be done. Sometimes these discussions are fruitful in the sense that we think of actions we can take, and sometimes we have taken action as a result of a query discussion. However, an outward focus seems to diminish opportunities for the practice of corporate discernment of how God might be working in our lives and in the life of our meeting. Reminding ourselves of this purpose, speaking from our own experience, and not attempting to answer all the questions of a query have helped us to deepen our query discussions. The children, now teens, have recently started writing their own separate query responses.

Last fall one member came to the Meeting with a request for help in discerning whether he had a leading to walk from Omaha to Harrisonburg, Virginia, in order to deliver a talk at Baltimore Yearly

Meeting. We spent several weeks meeting together, not only trying to help this Friend discern his leading, but also trying to work out for ourselves how to do this discernment and what it meant. At times this was difficult. Though the Meeting would not have been in unity to undertake this project itself, it was clear to us that it was a leading for our member, and that we wanted to help our member be faithful. We still struggle a bit with understanding our role, but having this question laid before us was a valuable gift to the meeting.

Our meetings for worship are sweet, though often wordless. Our meetings for business are sometimes marred by pressures of time.

Paullina

The meeting for worship continues to be a viable and important component of Paullina Monthly Meeting, nourished and supported by a core group of faithful attendees. Long association with one another provides us with a sense of connectedness and familiarity that supports our daily lives and activities as well as the spiritual life. We treasure those who travel from a distance to join us for meeting for worship and often for our Fourth Sunday potluck meals together as they also enrich the life of the meeting. The strong sense of being a beloved community has helped us through another year of both joys and personal trials. We miss those who have moved on in their lives and are no longer able to be with us, but we are also aware of the many gifts they have left us. As we answer a query together each month we are aware of the guidance these provide us as we face the global and local issues of our time. During one of these discussions, we were made aware of the strength and guidance historical Quaker experience and testimonies provide us in dealing with issues we face today.

Adult Sunday school continues to be an important opportunity for strengthening the spiritual life of the meeting. We have found the writings of Marcus Borg especially helpful in seeing both the Bible and Christianity in a fresh light. We enjoyed sharing the basics of our Quaker faith with three people who joined us one morning for the Sunday school hours. It challenged us to explain our beliefs and practices in terms that were clear and concise.

We are aware of the danger of being so comfortable with one another that we become complacent about providing a welcoming, open atmosphere for others. As we endeavor to let our lives speak to the concerns and needs of society, we seek to avoid such complacency.

Penn Valley

This year Penn Valley Friends have given thought to what it means to be a small, diverse urban meeting, and often we have concluded that doing things differently can be for the better.

For example, those who attended Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative last year came away realizing that instead of trying to revive our faltering Peace and Social Concerns Committee, we might take a new approach. After a thoughtful discussion, helped by the presence of a visiting Friend from another small meeting, we decided to change the composition of the committee to include the entire meeting. To make sure that this did not mean that nothing was accomplished, we chose a coordinator to facilitate the sharing of individuals' special concerns. As a result, we have made progress in knowing more about the seemingly small actions that each of us takes to carry out our leadings and in helping each person feel more supported by the meeting.

Perhaps one thing leads to another. We realized once again that we like each other and would like to spend more time together. A retreat, which featured time for Friends to share their leadings and activities, several game nights, in which we could see each other in a whole new way, and a work/clean-up day gave us a chance to visit and to deepen our connections. They also made it possible to relate to the children in ways that are different from our First Day interactions and thus created some new appreciation across the generational divide. The number of children has continued to grow with the birth of baby Violet, and plans are coming along for providing more specific Quaker education for the older ones.

It seems as if a lot of people have visited, and of course many have not stayed. Some have, however, and some relatively new people are drawing toward the center of the Meeting. There is a perpetual division between new and old, but we continue to be creative in finding ways to bring people together.

Our Bible study group has added depth to the meeting. The Quakerly approach to the Bible that is used seems to keep the group's appeal wide, and several relatively new people have found this a good way to dip a toe into the pond of meeting culture. It is a pleasure to see them emerge smiling and enthusiastic.

We at Penn Valley Meeting don't agree with each other all the time and learning to disagree in a productive way is a goal that many of us are striving for. In those moments when we have realized that we don't have to resolve our differences by logic or persuasion but can put those differences out for the Holy Spirit, we have realized that our meeting can be a place where radical change takes place.

West Branch

Individuals gather weekly in the quiet of the West Branch Friends Meetinghouse to worship together. This is a wonder and a mystery. Despite a tendency that seems to wander among us to doubt ourselves or the experience, we are drawn back repeatedly to this spiritual community. In our often hectic lives we find solace in the silence and shared values. We are nourished and refreshed by our hour together in silent worship.

We are fed by both the silence and the vocal ministry in Meeting for Worship. We vary in our personal sense of where the balance lies between the two, but we share an understanding that each is critical to the spiritual life of the Meeting. We prepare for Meeting in different ways. Some prepare by simplifying their morning routines, avoiding distracting activities and coming to Meeting in plenty of time to avoid the need to rush. Others find the silence itself is the preparation. Individuals value the discipline and practice of coming weekly though it may be only occasionally that something truly profound seems to happen. Many experience Meeting as a preparation for the week ahead. The experience of worshiping among others with shared values and a shared commitment to seeking renews us. We emerge from the experience more prepared as we return to our daily lives in a troubled world. We are grateful that as a group we come together in a simple space for a simple purpose without the distraction of rituals, programs, or a named leader.

While it is difficult to know what the gauge of our spiritual health should be, it seems we are well. We find spiritual enrichment through our work with the Yahara Preparative Meeting, our pre-meeting discussions and our query discussions. The presence of young ones among us is a joy and we treasure our elders. We are grateful for the depth of commitment within the Meeting that sustains us in vulnerable times and we appreciate the mutual care among us as individuals that transcends the need to agree. The Meeting for Worship is truly our center. We are seeking together and, though imperfect, in our humble human community we sometimes discover a depth of spiritual experience that is gratifying and nourishing.

Yahara (Preparative)

It has been a year of stability and challenge for our young meeting. Attendance at meeting for business, potluck and games night, and our adult religious education group is steady. Following meeting for worship we share lingering thoughts from worship, as well as happenings in our

daily lives. We are becoming more important in each others' lives. Our meeting continues to feel the need to find a space which meets our need for comfortable worship and kid-friendliness.

Business meeting has been challenging more often than we would like. We recently formed several standing committees, and are hopeful that the work done in committees will shorten the length of our business meetings, bring a greater sense of unity, and give newcomers more reason to stay with us. This year we worked diligently and persistently and united with a minute opposing the proposed Wisconsin constitutional amendment which would ban gay marriage and civil unions.

Our sense of connection with the yearly meeting was heightened in December when we hosted a youth retreat. Young people created large, inspiring posters and we stood on a street corner at the Capitol in Madison in a silent vigil opposing the war in Iraq. Those who would look for hope in the world need only to spend time with our youth to find it.

We treasure the visits we have had from people in the yearly meeting; including Dan Treadway and Jan Luchini. We appreciate the continued nurture we receive from our West Branch care committee. Their visit to us on a snowy December day strengthened our sense of ourselves as a maturing meeting. Spiritually we see ourselves like a pasque flower, small, low to the ground, and easy to miss. As with the pasque flower, however, what happens here is quite lovely.

Whittier

At one time, the intersection where our meeting house stands was known as "Quaker Corners". There are stories of the yard filled with buggies and cars, and a meeting house filled to bursting with worshipers of all ages. Today, attendees at meetings for worship are small in number, and we are continually led to ask how to best serve our role as the Quaker meeting in this rural area. Even though we have not lost any members this past year, with the passing of time it has become more and more of a challenge for many of our members to physically attend meeting. As anywhere else, a large percentage of us struggle with health, distance, job, or family problems. But unlike days past, many of us do not live in the local community. As a result, the number of people able to make it regularly to Sunday meeting for worship has gotten smaller. At the same time, the fact that we are small in number means we take care of all Meeting business as a committee of the whole. Each of us is called to participate equally in every aspect of the life of the Meeting and this helps to break down separations between our worship and business.

We have sought different ways to meet our spiritual needs in this transitional time. During the hospitalization of one member and travel to

a family funeral for others, we shared Silence together over the worship period, reaffirming that we are joined together in seeking the Light, if not by immediate space. We have added a period for spiritual reflection and sharing immediately after each meeting for worship. We also now have fellowship time with coffee and different topics of conversation, to help us continue to grow closer. It has been very special to hear the stories about different chapters of the faith journey of those we sit with each Sunday, and it has helped each of us to weekly refresh our own spiritual journey. This, along with our monthly potlucks, continues to renew our joy in each others' presence.

For the first time in many years, most of us were unable to attend Midyear Meeting. This was felt as a great loss for many of us. As a result we used our time after worship to listen together to recordings of the presentation, "What Makes Us Conservative Friends". We not only learned a lot from hearing the talks, but it helped us to remain connected and feel a part of the greater yearly meeting.

To the human eye, a tree can appear lifeless during the dormant winter months before renewing growth come spring. To an outside observer, Whittier Monthly Meeting might well appear to be in a similar dormant phase. What has not changed in the least is our worship. Our meetings for worship remain an oasis for each of us to center down amidst the stresses that we bear in our lives. We pray to not become complacent but to remain mindful of how we are called. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20) We have inherited a meeting that has been home for those seeking the Light for over 120 years. We strive to be good stewards during our own time worshipping at Whittier Monthly Meeting.

CLOSING MINUTE

During our annual sessions we have been given opportunity upon opportunity to be reminded and understand from a deeper place of Spirit, that we have been entrusted with the blessed community called IYMC; that IYMC is a part of a blessed community of the Religious Society of Friends, and that the Religious Society of Friends is a part of the blessed community called Earth. All of our business, our work and play entwines and holds us in this Truth and helps us grow into wholeness.

Reading of the epistles from our sister Conservative yearly meetings and other yearly meetings around the world during our first business session showed us that many of the concerns and challenges of other

yearly meetings are shared by us. We are reminded that we are all brothers and sisters seeking to be faithful to the Light of God's love.

Invitations by Representatives, Nominating Committee and Entertainment Committee to use our various gifts by serving on committees and on crews in the kitchen, have given us opportunities to work side by side during annual sessions and get to know each other in that which is eternal.

Presentations and reports by staff of Quaker organizations, visiting Friends, and our own representatives to various Quaker bodies have both encouraged and inspired us.

The approved revisions of two sections of *Faith and Practice: The Book of Discipline of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative* have called our attention to the faithfulness of early Friends and reminded us that it was love of the Divine that rooted and grounded those Friends and continues to root and ground us today, giving us also the strength as a community of faith to stand strong as the oak in these times.

Scattergood School reports and the Evening Collection featuring a multigenerational panel of former and current Scattergood students and staff have reminded us how important the school is to the Yearly Meeting. The Yearly Meeting might own and help spiritually and financially support the School, but it is just as true that the School nurtures and supports the Yearly Meeting. It seems fitting that the long-held concern that the School become accessible to all has been taken up by the Yearly Meeting with renewed energy and a commitment that it will join the Scattergood School Committee and Trustees in helping to realize this vision and seeking way open for changes to begin.

We are learning from each other of things we can change in our own lives so we can "walk more gently on the earth" and live "in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars." We have reminded ourselves that as a people we are, by the world's standards, generally privileged and wealthy, and that we must remember that many of the things we can do to live in right relationship with the earth are possible because of those privileges. We begin where we are to be faithful to our own leadings.

We have also been blessed with opportunities to reminisce, sing, and dance together. Through all of these things, in worshipping and working together, young and old, we continue to grow into a blessed community. We give each other the desire and the courage to take the risk of acting on our faith in the world. In reflecting on the past several days we begin to see how interconnected all these things are. The complexity of the design in the tapestry of life that God continues to weave and continues to invite us to participate in creating is breath taking.

Many of us were asked by members of Jr. Yearly Meeting if we believe that miracles still happen. Perhaps this time together is all the evidence we need to answer with a resounding yes! Love was the first miracle and it continues to unfold before us each day.

Once again we have reached the time to close our annual sessions and begin to return to our homes, meetings, and communities. We leave encouraged and with full hearts. We leave once again with the understanding that we are called to put that which we are learning as individuals and as a faith community into action in our own lives, in our meetings, and in the world. We understand that this is only possible with God's help, but it *is* possible with God's help.

We now conclude our 2006 annual sessions, planning to meet again, God willing, at Scattergood Friends School near West Branch, Iowa, Seventh Month 24 to 29, 2007.

Deborah Fisch, clerk

Deborah Fink, assistant clerk

The following were not read in Yearly Meeting in session but are included in our minutes.

Exercise Committee records the exercise of the Spirit upon the Yearly Meeting while in session. The following reflect messages given during times of worship during annual sessions:

EXERCISE COMMITTEE REPORT

Fourth Day

Dear Lord, We are gathered together for a spiritual feast. We pray that in the days ahead our meat and drink might be to know your will and to do it. And do it well.

This past evening we heard from two of our younger members who recently attended a conference in the north of England and visited historic Quaker places such as Pendle Hill and Firbank Fell. We are reminded of the words of Francis Howgill who described the outpouring of the Spirit in the early days of the Society of Friends: "The Kingdom of Heaven did gather us, and catch us all, as in a net and his heavenly power at one time drew many hundreds to land, that we came to know a

place to stand in and what to wait in." May we in our own time be gathered in that Spirit of Truth, standing with those who suffer from war and disease, melted down in compassion and caring for all who seek a better way. May we be gathered in truth, light and love. May we be gathered in a way which brings renewal, recovery and peace.

I look forward to getting together and the familiarity which I feel when I arrive, wrapping itself around me like a soft, warm blanket. I belong to family, embraced by Spirit in light and love. The world hungers for this. There's a longing to know God, to know love, to have what we share. There is a hunger to have that peace, that sense of knowing one is loved. As we do the work we are called to do this week, let us prepare our hearts to carry it out. This work is preparation for what we are called to do in the world.

This is my 20th yearly meeting—it doesn't seem possible, but it is wonderful for me. Beloved faces from 20 years ago are no longer here. Beloved faces not here 20 years ago are now here. The acceptance, nurturing, joy, and love that come from this group has never changed.

Sounds of the new life among us witnessing renewal.

Fifth Day

Last evening we heard about the work of the Friends Peace Teams and the Christian Peacemakers Team that they sometimes work with. Today I received the following email from Maxine, a member of a Christian Peacemaking Team in Iraq. Maxine is the twin sister of one of our members.

Dear friends—

I'm now in Sulimaniya, in the Kurdish region of Iraq in the northern part of the country. It is safe and quiet here. The team came here originally to determine if we could use this as a route to working in the central and southern part of Iraq again, as it was difficult for us to get visas there after the kidnapping. However, with the deterioration in the situation there, we determined with our friends and advisors that it is simply not our place to be there right now.

It was hard to hear that. What people were saying in essence is that the violence is so bad that we couldn't be of help right now.

Granted, it is more complicated than just our skills couldn't be used there. A lot of it has to do with the fact the country is basically in civil war and no one feels safe right now, and most would leave if they could. They can't in good conscience advise us to come back and work when they themselves see the only viable option as fleeing. For most it's not an option. To leave, you need money, or connections, or both. And where to go? Many countries are refusing to accept Iraqis because of the fear, the fear that they might bring the terrorism with them.

Iraqis are feeling like the lost, forgotten or rejected souls of the world.

One of our translators from Baghdad was here to see us in Sulamaniya. He told of the "smell of death" in Baghdad right now and that people joke that they shouldn't greet each other with the normal greetings, but rather with the Arabic version of "God rest your soul" because they feel doomed to die. It's so hard to hear that, and to know that my government had a major role in the situation Iraq finds itself in now.

So what should I, and we as a team, be doing?

It's hard to discern our work as we see that much of the violence in Iraq is spiraling far beyond what we had ever imagined. We are earnestly trying now to find the work God has for us to do for the Iraqis, and trying to be open to the leadings of the Spirit. It's taking a lot of effort on our part to remain open, to not get discouraged, and to keep ourselves pliable and receptive to the sometimes unexpected ways the Spirit moves.

It's evolving, slowly, slowly, and we are trying our best to keep our eyes, ears and hearts open.

We've made good friends here in Sulamaniya, and even were able to spend a day or two taking in some of the beautiful sights here so it hasn't been all work and no play. It is good for us, to be reminded that life still has to have fun, and joy, and beauty even when facing such overwhelming trouble and sadness. It all comes together as a package in life.

In peace and hopeful waiting—
Maxine

I would ask F/friends to hold Maxine and the northern Iraq team in the Light this weekend and beyond.

Sixth Day

As it happened, I was the first one who came to this room this morning and I awaited as, one by one, you came, and the term "gathering of Friends" took on a new meaning for me.

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus performs a healing. As he does it, what he says to the one being healed is, "Be open." I find myself praying that being gathered we might now be opened.

I've been putting my thoughts in the right order, how I am remembering last night and today to make a cohesive whole. I listened this morning to the Scattergood School reports, hearing the information, statistics, and about the people. This is the structure of the school, what is happening today. Last night's panel provided the essence: the true meaning of Scattergood and its effect on our lives and the Meeting.

Seventh Day Morning

I find myself feeling grateful for this well of faith that we come to each year to drink of the inspiration that will carry me until we meet again. I am so grateful.

I often feel that God speaks to me through the words of songs. Today the song that's singing is: "Be not afraid. I go before you always. Come follow me and I will give you peace."

Seventh Day Afternoon

There's something sad about leaving Yearly Meeting and this important time together. There's also joy from the love and inspiration of the week. Arthur Meyer Boyd reminded us of the perception of Friends of that of God in every human being and how that approach is different from other groups. It opens doors. Being confrontational and angry closes doors. We've had people come because of our peace testimony and, when miracles don't happen, they move on. They

comment on Quaker's longevity on peace issues. Several times we've heard reference to being small in relation to the problems. It reminds me of the children's verse: "Little drops of water, little grains of sand, form the mighty ocean and the pleasant land."

God is a circle, the center of which is everywhere. May we be ever mindful that the circle and the center contain Muslims, Hindus, Jews, and Buddhists, all of God's creation. May we be aware of all that is in that circle. May we leave Yearly Meeting with the commitment each in our own way to take away the occasion for war.

Seeking to be faithful to God feels like that game we played before the talent show last night. God isn't going to take you by the elbow and lead you to your goal. But God's got your ankle the whole time and will whisper in your ear: "colder, colder, colder; warmer, warmer, you've got it!"

It was said that, when George Fox was on his deathbed, those gathered there heard him say: "I am clear. I am fully clear." Yesterday in our business meeting we were unable to reach clarity concerning two statements pertaining to Iraq and to immigration. But we cannot lay down these concerns; the burden of the world's suffering still rests upon us. We are still called to work for a cessation of the military struggle in Iraq and the Middle East. We have the great concern laid upon us to work for counter-recruitment, that the young people of our land be prevented from being drawn into this conflict. We still are conscious of the Latin Americans dying of thirst in our deserts in their attempt to find economic and political freedom in our land. We are conscious of those already among us who are being threatened with deportation to death in the countries from which they have attempted to escape. We cannot stand idly by. The burden still rests upon us, but we yet have hope. We may not see resolutions of these problems but we must struggle on. Perhaps we can say in our final days "I am clear, I am fully clear" and the burden will be fully lifted from us.

Early Friends spoke of a gathered people. If we come together only because the Meeting affirms our own lives, then we are only gathered individuals. My hope is that our Meetings are beginning to form the bonds of true community—not based on those affirmations—based on actively, lovingly, humbly, gently, and devotedly seeing the truth together. If we can do that then we truly are a gathered people.

Many years ago I was given a meditation which I use: "From the center of all love I stand and from that center I go forward to love and serve." This is a wonderful center. Thank you.

These days together as a gathered community we are fed by the Holy Spirit. We gather to the call of an invitation and the words of a Psalm: Be still and know that I am God.

Earlier in the same Psalm is a verse which says "there is a river whose streams make glad the city of God." For many years I've not been able to hear those words without knowing that we are the streams. In the revelations of John there is another reference to a river, on either side of which is the tree of life which bears 12 fruits and the leaves of which are for the healing of the nations. I can no longer hear those words without knowing we are the leaves.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT

Most meetings continue to add new titles and publications to their collections. They have varying amounts of use.

West Branch has made some decisions about periodical holdings and displays, and have been doing some sorting and discarding of those not being used. The new books added to their collection have been greatly appreciated by Callie Marsh—a student at Earlham School of Religion.

Ames Meeting continues work on cataloging their library. Current progress can be viewed at the Ames Friends Meeting page at Quakernet.org.

Bear Creek reports a history of the area has been written by Herbert Standing. This has been compiled into a booklet which is a valuable addition to their library. Penn Valley says that, as with every other year, one of their members has published – this time, a posthumous book of poems by Reva Griffith. Reva is beloved not only of Penn Valley, but of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), and many other circles as well.

Yahara Meeting has approved the purchase of new software which should improve organization and ease of use when the transition is complete.

Martha Davis, clerk
Library Committee

The 2005 State of the Meeting Report of Iowa City Monthly Meeting was inadvertently omitted from the 2005 printed IYMC minutes, though they were read in the face of the meeting and are included in the original minutes stored at the Iowa State Historical Society in Iowa City. We apologize for the mistake and thank Iowa City Friends for bringing it to our attention. The following is the 2005 Iowa City State of the Meeting report.

IOWA CITY MEETING STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT 2005

This has been a year of growth for our meeting. There have been a number of new faces, seven new members, new leadership and fervent seeking together pathways for living more simply. Stewardship became a theme of study. Spiritual vitality is evident in our meetings for worship in increased vocal ministry.

During the month of May, the clerk initiated a time for feelings and ideas to be expressed at end-of-meeting "Afterthoughts". This will be continued on a regular basis. Even over coffee most Sundays there has been continuing discussion of spiritual topics with an ongoing query-type dialogue that is difficult to record (as answers to queries), but uplifting to the participants, leaving a good overall attitude of caring and support for each other in our individual seeking.

Advice from a query is read at each Meeting for Worship along with part of the query. Although there is no direct discussion, there are often "messages" that arise from this reading.

The First Day School sometimes followed the current month's query and often produced charming suggestions for all to consider. We continue to have a short children's report at the end of Meeting for Worship which often provides new insight into basic Quaker teachings.

There continues to be a Light Group that meets about once a month.

Two of our members spent a week at Pendle Hill this spring and came back renewed, stirred to more effective service, and appreciative of the many resources of our meeting community. Another was Yearly Meeting representative to the AFSC Corporation meeting.

Several of our members have spent part of this year abroad, some in volunteer service, others in educational pursuits. We hold them in the Light and welcome their return.

Iowa City Meeting hosted Eastern Iowa Gathering in May with good attendance. Deb Dakin (Whittier Meeting) presented the program on the African Great Lakes Initiative, which is a major project of Friends Peace Teams.

Reports given on the afternoon of Fourth Day

IOWA PEACE NETWORK

Presented by co-coordinator Elton Davis

Greetings,

Iowa Peace Network has undergone some substantial changes in staff this past year due to family health issues with the former coordinator of IPN, Paul Knapp.

Fran Fuller and Elton Davis assumed the roles of co-coordinators in May.

IPN is currently seeking a broader engagement in the state, given the fact that two persons are filling this role, and one person can be freed up to travel the state, exploring peace initiatives occurring outside of central Iowa.

For the past year, IPN has been very much involved in military counter-recruitment of young adults, providing staff and resources to high school students who wish to "opt-out" of contact with military recruiters. The most recent initiative in July of this year, involved IPN providing a list of all public school superintendents in the state, with addresses for same, to a broader coalition of central Iowa peace groups known as The Iowa Peace Task Force. Elton Davis comes to IPN with a substantial working knowledge of this group, and is one of the founders.

Fran Fuller comes to IPN with a substantial background in office management and skills derived from years of service at the Des Moines Catholic worker.

Current and past programming IPN is engaged in as follows: Iowa Peace Task Force planning sessions; Gaza and Lebanon invasion response planning sessions; Hiroshima/Nagasaki observance planning sessions; weekly anti-war vigils at the Military Entrance Processing Station and Nollen Plaza in Des Moines; meetings with Code Pink representatives; assisting with a soup supper recognition of National CO Day; Mother's Day rally at the state capitol; attendance at national Christian Anarchists Conference, Champaign, IL; attendance at Hiroshima/Nagasaki vigils, Offutt Air force Base, Omaha, NE.

As always, changing events in the world shift our programming functions to seek engagement as `perceived injustices present themselves.

Both Fran Fuller and Elton Davis have a strong history of speaking Truth to power when the Spirit is perceived as calling them to public witness.

Given the current world situation, it is likely that one or both may feel called to engage in public non-violent direct action in the near future as a part of their personal witness for peace.

Thank you for your time and continued support of the mission of Iowa Peace Network.

Peace, Salaam, Shalom,
Fran Fuller and Elton Davis, IPN co-coordinators

AFSC CENTRAL REGION REPORT

Presented by Sonia Tumas, director and Ann Naffier of the Immigration Program

Sonia Tuma's presentation about AFSC's work in the Central Region:

The Central Region has 6 offices and 1 program working without a formal office in a region that includes 11 states; Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota and Colorado. Our offices are located in Des Moines, Kansas city, St Louis, Austin, Denver and on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota. We also support the Joint Service Project which is a partnership between the AFSC and Intermountain Yearly Meeting. I want to give you a brief overview about the work we do in the Central region, and then Ann will talk about her work in Des Moines.

In Iowa, our staff work on Immigration issues (more later from Ann Naffier), and on Peacebuilding, including anti-war and counter-recruitment efforts. In Kansas City, we run a racial justice program that works mostly with young people and a peace program that focuses on anti-war work and is especially interested in the impact of USA Patriot Act on our civil liberties. On Pine Ridge our staff person is working with young people to find alternatives to military service, a challenging and new piece of work for us that challenges the notion that military service is the only way to prove one's bravery. In St Louis we are doing public education work about the impact of US policy in places like

Columbia, Iraq and in several places in Africa. We are also starting work with family members of those on death row.

In Austin, we are working with School of the Americas Watch and also working to highlight and address the impact of trade policy for workers in Texas and the border areas inside Mexico. In Colorado we are working to stop the passing of a virulently anti-immigrant ballot initiative, actively working to oppose the war and working with young people on counter-recruitment efforts that include training and educating young people themselves to work against military recruitment in their schools.

And finally, the Joint Service Projects has work camp sessions during the summer on Pine Ridge and during the fall and winter in Northern Mexico.

Thanks to Iowa Yearly Meeting and to many individual members of Monthly Meetings who support the work of the Service Committee by volunteering their time and offering financial support.

Ann Naffier's, presentation about Immigration and AFSC's Central Region immigration work:

AFSC's unofficial "motto" about our immigration work is that "No Human Being Is Illegal". The current U.S. immigration law is very narrow, and only allows a few ways for immigration to come to the United States legally. The main ways are to coming through one's family members who are already here (parents, spouse, or children), through employment (but only usually available to a very few professional level immigrants), and as refugees or asylees. The large majority of immigrants come through their family connections. If an immigrant, in Mexico for instance, does not have a close family member, and is not one of the few highly educated people who can get an employment visa, then there is no way for her to come to the United States legally. It is not a matter of waiting patiently for a legal visa – there simply is no visa available for such a person. We also need to realize that immigration is a global phenomenon that is caused both by push factors (war and economic instability in the sending countries) and the pull factors of better jobs and living situation in the U.S. Immigration is not a "problem" that can be resolved by Congress simply passing a law calling for legalization, or trying to close the borders. We must address the underlying causes of immigration in order to solve the problem.

AFSC Central Region has three offices that work on immigration issues. In the Des Moines office, we work to empower immigrants to fully participate in the decision-making processes that affect them in our community. As a part of that goal, we also provide legal immigration counseling and paperwork assistance, which we found was a huge and unmet need within the immigrant community in Central Iowa. In Denver, AFSC is working hard to prevent the passage of extremely harsh anti-immigrant state level legislation. In Austin, AFSC concentrates on the economic instability and injustice, particularly along the Mexican-U.S. border.

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

GUIDELINES FOR REQUESTING REIMBURSEMENTS FROM IOWA YEARLY MEETING (CONSERVATIVE)

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

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

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

Members of the Yearly Meeting who are **official representatives to a wider Quaker organization** on behalf of the yearly meeting, such as AFSC, FWCC, or FCNL, can submit travel expenses with receipts and/or documentation directly to the Yearly Meeting treasurer. Funds are disbursed on a first-come basis. Representatives are asked to visit with their co-representatives to get an idea of who expects to be traveling and

what kind of assistance they might need from the travel funds. Traditionally, these funds are underused and we urge Friends to seek reimbursement if needed.

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

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

DIRECTORY OF MONTHLY MEETINGS

Note: First day is Sunday

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; **Clerk** Sheryl Scheffert,
scheffert@oneota.net, **assistant clerk:** Martha Davis,
davismar@luther.edu

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, Iowa 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, (319) 351-2234; **Co-**
clerks Elsie Kuhn, elsie-kuhn@uiowa.edu, Jeff Cox,
jeffcox@inavia.net

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, Nebraska 68502, (402) 475-2277,
cdorenbach@neb.rr.com

Omaha

Worship 9:45 a.m. First Day; **Business** 3rd First Day, 11 a.m.; **Location**
Please call (402) 391-4765 or one of the clerk's numbers; **Clerks** Marily
Mantel Guss (402) 491-0349, **Assistant clerk:** Debbie Galusha, (402)
553-2211, agulusha@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** Karen 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** 2nd First Day following worship;
Location 317 N. 6th Street, West Branch, Iowa, **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;

Location Fitchburg, Wisconsin; **Clerk** Jean Eden, (608) 251-3375

INDEX

7/26/06	3
7/27/06	17
7/28/06	35
7/29/06	54
7/29/06 AFTERNOON SESSIONS	73
AFSC CENTRAL REGION REPORT	111
AFSC CORPORATION REPORT	9
ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT	22
BEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING SCHOOLHOUSE REPORT	54
CARETAKERS	4
CLOSING MINUTE	101
DIRECTORY OF MONTHLY MEETINGS	115
DISCIPLINE REVISION COMMITTEE REPORT	52
ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT	22
EPISTLES	
Britain Yearly Meeting	14
from North Carolina Yearly Meeting (C)	11
from Ohio Yearly Meeting.....	12
Japan Yearly Meeting	15
Monteverde Friends Meeting	15
New England Yearly Meeting.....	13
Northern Yearly Meeting	15
Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association	13
to North Carolina Yearly Meeting (C).....	82
to Ohio Yearly Meeting	83
West Branch Friends Church	13
EXERCISE COMMITTEE REPORT	103
FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION REPRESENTATIVE REPORT	18
INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES	7
IOWA CITY MEETING STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT 2005	109
IOWA PEACE NETWORK	110
JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING EPISTLE	55
LETTER TO FRIENDS EVERYWHERE	84
LIBRARY COMMITTEE REPORT	108
MIDYEAR MEETING REPORT	5
MIDYEAR MEETING YOUTH ACTIVITIES	6
MINISTRY AND COUNSEL REPORT	70

NOMINATING COMMITTEE	4
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT	85
PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE BUDGET	67
PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT	59
PROPOSED BUDGET	79
PUBLICATION COMMITTEE REPORT	20
RECORDER'S REPORT	68
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT	53
REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT	78
RESPONSES TO ADVICES AND QUERIES	
Civic Responsibility	31
Education	28
Environmental Responsibility	32
Harmony within the Meeting	27
Home and Family	29
Meeting for Business	26
Meeting for Worship	25
Mutual Care	28
Outreach	25
Peace and Nonviolence	33
Personal Responsibility	30
Social and Economic Justice	32
SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL	
Director's Report	39
Farm Report	50
Financial Report.....	44
Foundation Trustees Report	37
SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE REPORT	24
SPECIAL REPLIES	81
STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS	90
Ames	90
Bear Creek	91
Decorah	92
Des Moines Valley.....	93
Iowa City.....	94
Lincoln	95
Omaha	96
Paullina	97
Penn Valley	98
West Branch.....	99
Whitties	100
Yahara (Preparative)	99

TREASURER'S REPORT	74
WILLIAM PENN HOUSE REPORT	34
YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES REPORT	37
YOUNG FRIENDS EPISTLE	56
YOUTH RETREAT COMMITTEE REPORT	71