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Minutes of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative
 130th Annual Sessions
 Seventh Month 24 – 29, 2007

FOURTH DAY – WEDNESDAY – 7/25/07

At the 130th annual session of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative held at Scattergood Friends School, near West Branch, Iowa from Seventh Month 24 to 29, 2007.

“That which the people called Quakers lay down, as a main fundamental in religion, is this, ‘That God, through Christ, has placed a principle in every man and woman to inform them of their duty, and to enable them to do it; and that those that live up to this principle, are the people of God; and those that live in disobedience to it, are not God’s people, whatever name they may bear, or profession they may make of religion.’ This is their ancient, first and standing testimony; with this they began, and this they bore, and do bear to the world.”

William Penn, *Primitive Christianity Revived*, 1696

We are glad to have the presence of these visitors: Liz Oppenheimer, Twin Cities Friends Meeting, Northern Yearly Meeting and Laughing Waters Worship Group, unaffiliated; Kristi Estes, Memphis Monthly Meeting of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association, for which she serves as clerk; Jay Robinson, Golden Bay Worship Group, Christchurch Monthly Meeting, Aotearoa, New Zealand Yearly Meeting; Donn Kesselheim, representative of Quaker Earthcare Witness and Chelsea Kesselheim, both of Wyoming Friends Meeting; Lois and Anthony Edgerton of Middleton Monthly Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting; Julia Peratoga, Milwaukee Monthly Meeting, Illinois Yearly Meeting, sojourning at West Richmond Friends in Richmond, IN; Sonia Tuma, Regional Director of Central Region of American Friends Service Committee in Des Moines, IA; Jeff Swartzentruber of Kalona, IA and the Mennonite Foundation; David Ely, Austin TX, Keystone Fellowship Monthly Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting.

There are sixteen representatives and ten caretakers present. Others may be attending later sessions.

MONTHLY MEETING APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO YEARLY MEETING

Ames	Daniel Treadway
Bear Creek	Stan Sanders and Jackie Leckband
Decorah	Martha Davis
Des Moines Valley	Cindy Winchell and Sarah Winchell
Iowa City	Jeff Cox and Elsie Kuhn
Lincoln	Dan Schlitt and Barney Barnawell
Omaha	Marshall Massey and Debbie Galusha
Paullina	Jonathan Fisch and Judy Plank
Penn Valley	Karin McAdams and Larry Herndon
West Branch	Callie Marsh and Jean Eden
Whittier	Bob Yeats and Roy Hampton

MONTHLY MEETING APPOINTMENTS OF CARETAKERS TO YEARLY MEETING

Ames	Ebby Luvaga
Bear Creek	Cheryl Sutton and Herbert Standing
Decorah	none appointed
Des Moines Valley	Sherry Hutchison
Iowa City	none appointed
Lincoln	Marge Schlitt
Omaha	Carol Gilbert
Paullina	Paul Plank, Mary Ellen Tjossem, and Doyle Wilson
Penn Valley	Larry Herndon
West Branch	Geery Howe and Larry Marsh
Whittier	Deborah Dakin as able

Representatives approved the names of the monthly meeting appointments submitted by the monthly meetings for **Nominating Committee**.

Ames	A.M. Fink
Bear Creek	Marion Love
Decorah	none appointed
Des Moines Valley	Andrea Holveck
Iowa City	Ruth Dawson
Lincoln	Marge Schlitt

Omaha	Carol Gilbert
Paullina	Beth Wilson
Penn Valley	none
West Branch	Nancy Ewald
Whittier	Martha Hampton

REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS

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

Exercise Committee	Callie Marsh, Jeff Kisling, Liz Oppenheimer, and Echo Ray
Epistle Committee	Olive Wilson, Martha Hampton, and Jeff Cox
Special Replies	Jean Eden and Lorene Ludy
Yearly Meeting Reporters	Bob Yeats and Debbie Galusha
Auditing Committee	Dan Schlitt and Lorene Ludy

Readers for this morning’s business sessions are Stan Sanders and Sarah Winchell.

We listened to the reports of Midyear Meeting and Midyear treasurer, as well as a report from Bear Creek Meeting on current plans for replacing the school that had to be taken down due to termite damage. We appreciate the good reports. We are happy to learn the foundation for the “school house” is under construction. We thank Bear Creek Friends for providing a welcoming space for Midyear Meeting year after year.

MIDYEAR MEETING REPORT

Midyear Meeting was held at the Bear Creek Meetinghouse on April 14-15, 2007.

Approximately 130 people attended during the weekend. Our resource leader this year was Paul Buckley, a member of North Meadow Circle of Friends in Indianapolis, Indiana, who writes and teaches about Quakerism, and leads workshops and retreats. His theme was “Be Not

Afraid”. During the first session, he spoke about the culture of fear in which we live, and about how Friends can work to resist its influences. On Saturday evening, attendees broke into small groups for an activity called “Illuminating Our Fears”: we were each given a brown paper bag on which we wrote some of our own fears and shared them with our groups; then we put votive candles in the bags, turning them into luminaries. During the final session on “I Will Fear No Evil,” on Sunday morning, Paul shared some of his own fears and personal experiences. It was an enriching and enlightening weekend.

The White Elephant Sale to benefit the American Friends Service Committee’s (AFSC) Iowa and Kansas City programs was again held at the north end of the meetinghouse. This year’s sale brought in approximately \$836.

Once again, the organization and hospitality provided by members of Bear Creek Meeting were very much appreciated. It was a joy to share and worship together over the weekend in a spirit of love and fellowship.

MIDYEAR MEETING TREASURER’S REPORT

Contributions:	\$3,887.65	\$3,887.65
Expenses:		
Food	\$865.88	
Cook	400.00	
Committee Expenses	32.10	
Speaker Honorarium	300.00	
Speaker transportation	238.19	
Speaker expense	<u>40.00</u>	
Total Expenses	\$1,876.17	<u>\$1,876.17</u>
Contributions less Expenses		\$2,011.48
Less Hosting fee	\$300.00	<u>- 300.00</u>
		\$1,711.48
To “schoolhouse fund”		\$1,711.48

SCHOOLHOUSE REPORT- BEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING 2007

Bear Creek Meeting has been blessed with encouragement and support in the discernment process of replacing the old schoolhouse building. The ideas brought forth suggest a structure that honors our deeply held spiritual traditions and provides a space for future needs.

We have labored about the purpose of this building, as there are currently few children in the meeting. Through this process, we have been called to examine our beliefs and leadings. We are considering plans that could provide space for youth activities, committee meetings, hospitality, and possibly with a space to grow food and collect passive solar energy. We are conscious of constructing a building that has a low impact on the environment and draws us closer as a community in the process.

We appreciate the support of the Yearly Meeting on this project. With our central location, it is our hope that this may continue to be a place for yearly meeting committees and Midyear Meeting to gather. The contribution of funds remaining after Midyear Meeting in 2007 was \$1711, which will be a great help with the schoolhouse project.

With appreciation,
Bear Creek Friends Meeting

We listened carefully to the Interim Meeting Report. We are glad the Interim Meeting is in place to do this kind of work for us between annual sessions.

INTERIM MEETING

Fourth Month 14, 2007

Meeting opened with a time of silent worship.

Megan Knight was approved to serve as co-clerk for Interim Meeting this year.

We approve Alice Hampton to serve as Interim Meeting clerk and Carol Gilbert as co-clerk for 2007-2008.

At her request, Marion Love was released from attending FWCC Triennial in Ireland in August. The other representatives, Sarah Winchell and Martha Davis, are unable to attend in her place; therefore,

the funds available in the Yearly Meeting budget for travel to FWCC Triennial will be used as needed for the travel of Mark Patton.

We ask the Yearly Meeting clerk to send emails to Monthly Meetings and Scattergood Friends School with information about the opportunity to volunteer with SCYM. They need folks to come down and help build bunk beds for their Hurricane Katrina project. We also approved this request for volunteers being posted on QuakerNet.

We approved Roy and Martha Hampton attending Ohio Yearly Meeting as visitors on behalf of IYMC in 2007.

We approved Marshall Massey as our appointed traveler to North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) if he is available.

We appointed Callie Marsh and Sarah Winchell to serve as representatives to this spring's Quaker Initiative to End Torture (QUIT) conference. We ask the Yearly Meeting clerk to facilitate the request to the treasurer to release available funds for Sarah's travel. We also ask the clerk to inform Monthly Meetings that Peace and Social Concerns Committee has an interest in having others attend the conference and that there may be funds available to Friends appointed by their monthly meetings for such travel.

Meeting concluded with a time of silent worship.
Cheryl Sutton, clerk, and Megan Knight, assistant clerk

We heard the good report on the AFSC Corporation annual meeting prepared by Robert Yeats on behalf of the IYMC representatives to the AFSC Corporation.

AFSC REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

In early November 2006, your faithful AFSC representatives, Dan Schlitt, Lori Nelson, and Bob Yeats journeyed to Philadelphia, by planes, trains and automobiles, for the annual Corporation Meeting of the American Friends Service Committee. Directly after our opening introductions and silent worship, we were greeted with news right out of the headlines. President Amadinejad of Iran, preceding his UN visit, had expressed interest in meeting with representatives of the American faith community. Through the offices of the Mennonite Central Committee, the AFSC, QUNO, and FCNL, a meeting was arranged to coincide with his visit. Mary Ellen McNish, General Secretary of AFSC, and Paul Lacey, presiding clerk of AFSC, were among the AFSC representatives

that were to meet and discuss differences between our peoples and governments. The meeting was originally planned with a wide variety of religious groups participating, however, many dropped out at the last minute. The Mennonite and Quaker groups held a wide-ranging discussion of issues between our countries. The sessions ended with a surprise invitation from the President to meetings in Tehran, which took place in February 2007.

The resulting trip became the subject of a PBS NOW program. The meetings were an example of how conflict can be resolved peacefully with mutual understanding and respect.

The treasurer's report informed us that the general financial outlook for the AFSC is good. While worries about inflation, health care costs and changing demographics among donors cause concern for the future, donations were slightly higher than in 2005. Program and management expenses remained stable. A new program of evaluations by external monitors was approved in order to realize the organizational goal of simplicity.

A whirlwind of workshops followed, with sessions on immigration, Iraq, militarization of youth, globalization, and the reconstruction work on the Gulf Coast. Regional meetings were held so that members from the various AFSC regions could meet and talk with staffers and fellow representatives from their general geographic area.

The final public session was a talk by the "Dean of White House Journalists", Helen Thomas. Her combination of anecdotes and trenchant commentary kept the capacity audience in the Arch Street Meetinghouse enthralled and amused.

The meetings made us realize what a valuable resource the AFSC is for Friends and for the world.

We are thankful to the AFSC for providing the public voice and presence of our small and sometimes quiet faith to a world that is sorely in need.

Prepared by Robert Yeats

We listened attentively to the epistles from Ohio Yearly Meeting (OYM) and North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative), and a minute against torture approved by NCYMC. We appreciate the loving ties of faith that we share as Conservative Friends. We are happy to have three visitors from OYM this year. We were also glad to hear of the loving reception of IYMC appointed visitors to OYM annual sessions as

indicated by their epistles and endorsements of travel minutes. We appreciate the thoughtful minute against torture prepared by NCYMC and shared with us. We also appreciate the report from Jean Eden and Lorene Ludy of their experiences of the Spirit at OYM 2006.

EPISTLE FROM OHIO YEARLY MEETING

From Ohio Yearly Meeting in session from 8-15 to 8-20, 2006
To the Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

"These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heave, and said, 'Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son that thy Son may glorify thee, as thou has given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.'" John 17:1-3

Dear Friends,

As fellow laborers in the fields ripe for the harvest, Ohio Yearly Meeting Friends send greetings and prayers that the bonds of Christian love continue to provide strength and encouragement to all of us. The presence of Friends Jean Eden and Lorene Ludy has been a blessing to us. Thank you for supporting us through this visit.

Ohio Yearly Meeting is in a period of preparation, continuing to align itself with a movement of the Spirit of God that has been drawing us toward change. As we visit together, we encourage each other to be awake to the moving of the Spirit, and ready to serve the Lord.

Hospitality, scripture reading, prayer, and other long-standing practices remain in our lives. There is also a sharpened focus among us to change the ways we do some things. We are alert for new leadings from the Lord. We are proceeding expectantly, knowing the Lord will show us what we need to do each step of the way.

Through the Ohio Yearly Meeting website and other outreach, we are blessed. We have experienced an increase of interest from people around the world. Some want to know more about Friends. Some come closer, with meaningful correspondence and visitation that has led to affiliate memberships.

There are other blessings, as well. Caln Allowed Meeting has become Keystone Fellowship, a monthly meeting with Stillwater Quarter. The Walton Home ministers to its elderly residents with Christ's guidance and strength. This year Stillwater Meeting, with help from our

Committee for Renewal and Encouragement, hosted the Friends World Committee for Consultation's Lower Great Lakes Region gathering. The program, entitled "From Whence Cometh Our Joy," was appreciated by all attending, and gave opportunity for visiting and better understanding of each other's lives and faith.

Christian Education Camp, Junior Yearly Meeting, and Young Friends have supported our younger members in their growth in the Lord. We have seen the Spirit acting through a number of these younger members and are grateful to the Lord for this growth.

May the Lord continue to bless you and lead you in His way.

In Christ's Love,

Seth B. Hinshaw, clerk

Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends

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 continues.

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 NCYMC,

Sidney Lee Kitchens, clerk

Minute from NCYMC

Statement Against Torture by NCYMC

Approved 7/14/2007

Rising from the concern expressed by participants at the Fall 2006 gathering of the Southeast Region of the Friends World Committee – Section of the Americas

We, the North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) of the Religious Society of Friends, condemn the use of torture, whether to further the objectives of war, to prevent terrorism, or for any other purpose. Torture by any means, whether direct or by proxy, is immoral. Torture demeans the humanity of the tortured, the torturer, and those who have knowledge of it. It denies the sanctity of Life.

The United States government has sought to redefine torture to make its practice and the evidence gained thereby to be admissible in courts. The United States government has utilized extraordinary rendition; has compromised the integrity of United States constitution, due process, and habeas corpus; and has sought to compromise international agreements through its modification of the Geneva Convention.

We seek to bring about an end to torture by all governments and all people through our support of the work of the Quaker Initiative to End Torture (QUIT), and by direct appeal to our elected representatives. We ask the leaders in the executive, congressional, and judicial branches of our government to follow existing laws and treaties which ban torture and to work for stronger measures. We ask also that the secretive "extraordinary rendition" program of the Central Intelligence Agency be stopped. As stated by William Penn (1683), we remind our leaders that action by our government and individuals should be based on the proposition that "A good end cannot sanctify evil means; nor must we ever do evil that good may come of it."

We pray that the transforming power of the Divine will bring the redemption and release of the tortured, the torturer, and those who promulgate and defend policies of torture and the use of torture. We are all called to live into the Light and to reach out to that of God in all whom we meet.

[This statement was prepared by Debbie Parker, member of Durham Friends Meeting and participant in the QUIT Conferences in June 2006 and June 2007 in Greensboro, North Carolina, with the assistance of Nancy Craft and Ray Treadway. Several changes were suggested by those present during discussions at the Representative Body Meeting on Fourth Month 28, 2007. This “Minute against Torture” was adopted at the plenary session of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative on July 14, 2007.]

Report from IYMC visitors to Ohio Yearly Meeting 2006

The people of Ohio Yearly Meeting received us kindly. We did our best to “go in love, to listen well, and to be faithful.” Our minute and the epistle from Iowa both were read at meeting for business. Two Friends present offered kind remarks in response. At a meal following those readings, one younger Friend questioned why an epistle from Iowa to Ohio Yearly Meeting would use all those different names, such as “Inner Light.” (I don’t remember other names noted.) This took me by surprise and I said I thought all referred to the same Presence. He seemed somewhat perturbed; I wonder whether he took Inner Light to mean human goodness rather than God’s presence.

We enjoyed brief visits with the Giffins, Fran Taber and her new husband, Martha Hampton’s sister and her husband, Susan Smith (former clerk) and her husband, and several others. We found clerk, Seth Hinshaw, to be a kind and gentle young man. We attended Bible reading, worship sharing, prayer, business meeting, evening programs and found all good and interesting. We experienced Ohio Yearly Meeting Friends freely articulating their Christ centeredness in contrast with Iowa Yearly Meeting Friends, but the same sense of love we found in both. In a way, the articulation opened understanding for us positively, but occasionally there seemed to be hints of rigidity. One woman asked if we were related and I responded that we were partners. No more was said by anyone about our relationship. It was an interesting and positive experience, and we are grateful that way opened for us to represent Iowa at Ohio Yearly Meeting.

-- Jean Eden and Lorene Ludy

We listened with tender hearts to selections of epistles from several yearly meetings as selected for us by Decorah Monthly Meeting, who served as the Document Committee this year. We appreciate hearing of the labors, yearnings, joys, and concerns of other Friends and the movement of the Spirit around the world. We are grateful for the advice from the World Gathering of Adult Young Friends spoken of by one yearly meeting, “Forgive....forgive....forgive.” These are difficult times in many ways, and we note the love and care with which these epistles were written. We hold all Friends in the Light of God’s Love as we seek to live faithfully in the world.

Illinois Yearly Meeting

“...We at Illinois Yearly Meeting find ourselves once again in the midst of transition and transformation. We are examining what no longer serves us as yearly meeting, what we seek to preserve, and what God asks us to do to prepare for our future. Visiting our historic yearly meetinghouse is, in many ways, like going back in time 132 years. There has been no modern encroachment on the farmlands surrounding our site. A long agrarian tradition still shapes our yearly meeting’s legal and financial structures, much as farmers once stored their savings in cookie jars. Yet Illinois Yearly Meeting must function effectively in modern times. Our visions – for establishing a Peace House on the Prairie, for growing our ministry, and for nurturing our youth – are calling us to discover a more flexible organizational structure.

So, we now find ourselves living the exquisite tension of transformation. How is God carrying us through this metamorphosis? What is Love asking of us? God seems to be expecting leaps of faith as we relinquish our old methods and make room for the new. We are grieving our losses even as we embrace our future. God is challenging us to deepen our faith community by tenderly witnessing each other’s pain and joy. Indeed, we have witnessed many instances where deep caring was offered, committee to committee, Friend to Friend, heart to heart, spirit to spirit...”

Baltimore Yearly Meeting

“Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends gathered for its 335th annual session from 7/31/2006 to 8/6/2006 on the

green, but hot, campus of James Madison University in Harrisonburgh, Virginia. Our beloved Friend Tom Fox, a Christian Peacemaker Team member, was kidnapped in Iraq on Eleventh Month 26, 2005, then shot and killed on Third Month 9, 2006. Our grief, especially our campers' and Young Friends' grief, is profound. A moving memorial meeting, an evening panel of heartfelt sharing and other activities, helped us understand that Tom's ministry and death are a witness to the whole world and a legacy for the future. Our Young Friends and Young Adult Friends hone Tom's memory by moving forward in Tom's playful spirit and humor....

We continue to labor with whether we can financially support Friends United Meeting while its personnel policy effectively discriminates against gays, lesbians and others. Though our connection to FUM and its work is important to us, can we, in good conscience, fund a policy we find hurtful and wrong? This challenge has taken us out of the comfort zone into the place of spiritual growth through continued intervisitations with other FUM Friends and continued seeking for discernment. Our intervisitations have built bonds of affection, and we welcome invitations for future visits.

The presence of many visitors enriched our session. Marshall Massey, of Omaha Monthly Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), who carries a deep concern for a common environmental testimony among Friends, walked much of the way to our session from Nebraska. In the Carey Memorial Lecture, Marshall called on Friends to approach environmental concerns in the same way that the earliest Friends changed the world by keeping under the dictates of God and by speaking to the spiritual condition of others. There is no need for despair. We should dream big dreams, and pursue them as a community..."

Malika Worship Group – Kenya

"Greetings from Maliki Silent Worship Group to Quaker Meetings, their families and friends worldwide.....Here in Kenya, the current rising numbers of robbery and murder is disturbing. We are also worried about indecent assault and harassment of women and young girls, which is becoming rampant in the country. In our society, we had never experienced such inhuman and brutal behavior.

We pray that God may restore sanity and probity in the lives of our people.

This past year we have been busy putting up our new meetinghouse at Wabukhonyi Village. We feel so grateful for the contributions accorded

to us towards this project by individual friends and Friends' meetings in Ohio and Iowa....."

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

4/8/2007

"...Friends reminded themselves that we are all part of the clerking process, and should attend with a "clerking frame of mind."... Throughout our several days together, we continued discernment we began two years ago on our right relationship with Friends United Meeting (FUM)...Friends felt the need to remain in membership in order to be a witness to the truth that Quakerism is inclusive and therefore Friends should remain present, continue laboring and see what love will do. The need to lay down our membership was solidly grounded in the need not to be part of an organization that practices exclusion and in the need to be released from laboring with this concern...We are called to acknowledge the ongoing oppression, prejudice, exclusion and violence these brothers and sisters are subject to in our culture, our country, our world and our Religious Society...We felt the Spirit moving among us, and eventually, the following minute emerged:

07YBM15 SEYM is in unity in declaring that our Yearly Meeting has entered a period of transformation with regard to our membership in Friends United Meeting. We acknowledge great pain and struggle within our body and, as we have heard, among other members of F.U.M. as well, over this process and we strive to hold each other in love and Light as we labor.

We will work as a Yearly Meeting toward reaching unity with regard to laying down our present relationship, and toward creating new relationships as opportunities arise and as spirit leads.

To allow this process to occur, SEYM will suspend formal membership in F.U.M. for two years. During this time, our yearly meeting will make no financial contributions to F.U.M.

Instead, the funds that would have gone to F.U.M. will go to support F.U.M.-related activities or outreach at the discretion or suggestion of SEYM. We will offer both financial and spiritual support to representatives to F.U.M. as our members come forward to carry out those duties. If at the end of the two-year period our membership is not in unity to renew the relationship, SEYM will permanently lay down our membership in F.U.M. We seek to maintain a loving relationship with Friends United Meeting. We also look for opportunities to communicate with members of F.U.M. about our concerns....."

“...Dutch Quakers were gathered at Woodbrookershuis in Barchem from May 11 to 13, 2007. The theme was: Finding the Prophetic voice for our time. Are our deeds enough, or do we need words as well?... We were confronted with the following questions: What does the witness of a prophet mean to you? How do I respond to a prophetic witness?...”

Japan Yearly Meeting

11/12/2006

“...The Nitobe Memorial Lecture for this year following the annual session was given by a noted social worker, Kyoko Matsuoka, who in her youth participated in the Friends International Work Camp sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee not long after the end of the war. She said the roots or the “seeds” of her life-long commitment to work for children had been the experience of co-working and communion with Quakers throughout the camp.....”

New England Yearly Meeting

“New England Yearly Meeting of Friends gathered for its 346th Annual Sessions from August 5 to 10, 2006, in Smithfield, RI, under the theme *Holy Obedience, from Worship to Witness*.....Our obedience to God requires surrender of our individual wills and preferences, as well as intense listening to God and to one another.....This discipline comes into specific focus in our long-term work of rewriting our *Faith and Practice*. We pray to yield our individual perspectives, to be led to precious words that can pull us to a place where we can stand together beyond words.....We grieve how war tarnishes the soul of our nation, the maker of war, though most of the violence is elsewhere. We pray to God, the Compassionate, the Merciful, to renew us in that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars, to restore us and our society to our rightful mind.....Young adults who attended the 2005 World Gathering of Young Friends presented us with rich new advices, including “Have joyful worship. Do not always be somber.”, “Love boldly, share deeply.”, and “Forgive and forgive and forgive.”... We feel divided among many diverse theological understandings and we struggle with issues of race, sexual orientation, and social class... Across such differences we seek to speak truth with integrity and gentleness, and to listen with open, grateful hearts to words that may seem wounding, critical, or alienating. We know that what binds us together as one family

is stronger than what divides us. Through speaking and listening we seek to love, to forgive, and to grow toward deeper unity.

Obedience is not simple. Our spiritual work is to listen and learn and love with undefended openness, to find together how to love deeply enough to hear challenges and hard truths and to obey the divine will. Then, grounded in this community of shared obedience, may we go out into the world ready to undertake the wide variety of work to which God calls us.....”

German and Austrian Friends Yearly Meetings

10/15/2006

“...Our theme was Quakerism in the 20th Century Germany. The Carey Lecture, given by Gisela Faust, gave us a vivid impression of the history of her family and of Quakerism in general from the 1920’s on. She helped us to recognize the courage steadfastness, devotion and sacrifice displayed by many people in troubled times.

Gisela’s personal motto, which was also the title of her lecture, “Take upon you what God lays at your door,” inspired us to meet with open hearts the challenges which life holds out to us...”

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

7/25-30/2006

“...Niyonu Spann, Dean of Pendle Hill, and her singing group, Tribe I, challenged us from the moment we began our opening session, under a great white tent, on a sticky summer evening. Powerful images, both sung and spoken, reminded us that we make our journeys step by step. That many parts make the whole creation; which was expressed in the lyric: “*Many stones can form an arch; singly none, singly none.*” We do not make a journey, nor form an arch, without giving over to God. Only by giving over to God can we dig deep into our roots; to seek and speak a 360-degree truth, to look at the whole we have been and the whole we are called to be... There is a yearning that all in our faith community come to experience the enveloping love of God in all we do together. We have once again been strongly reminded of the call to a greater relationship to our roots, which are the basis for a more radical Quakerism in which Love and Peace radiate out into the world. We have not only been called to be a gathered people, but to gather people to us.

Friends seek a deep waiting worship. In his talk about the gathered Meeting, speaker Tom Gates encouraged us to lead lives of worship; to

come to Meeting prepared to serve rather than expecting the worship to serve our own spiritual needs. We should ask: *"How can I become the kind of Friend my Meeting needs me to be?"* ...Sadly, in the past year our interim meetings for discernment have been extremely difficult and painful. The process of Quaker decision-making is challenging even for the most experienced Friends. Boundaries have been questioned and tested. But a process of healing has begun, and it is hoped that as we move forward, we will all hold each other and ourselves in the Light, toward a renewed obedience to the Spirit. We are ever cautioned to season our words with love and forbearance. Most of all we must always be learning the important spiritual discipline of listening to and trusting that of God in one another..."

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

FIFTH DAY – THURSDAY – 7/26/2007

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

“While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ... As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’” Luke 24: 15-16, 28-32

Jonathan Fisch and Karin McAdams have been appointed readers this morning.

Collection on the evening of Third Day was a presentation by Ebby Luvaga of Ames Monthly Meeting. Ebby shared about the life work of her parents and family at her home in Kenya and about the plans for the

Esther and Isaac Luvaga Memorial Library that will be built in the village of Maliki. On behalf of the Memorial Committee, she invited individuals to help in making vision of Harmabee a reality.

The afternoon of Fourth Day, Friends had the opportunity to hear presentations by Sonia Tumas, Director of the Central Region of American Friends Service Committee; Jeffery Weiss, Peace Education Director of the Iowa Program for the AFSC Central Region; Jackie Leckband speaking for Iowa Peace Network; Ned Stowe, Legislative Secretary for Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington, D.C. and Callie Marsh and Sarah Winchell, IYMC representatives to the second Quaker Initiative to End Torture held at Greensboro early this year. There were also several interest groups for Friends to attend.

Collection on the evening of Fourth Day was a panel of Friends who spoke on the topic, “Sustainable Living, Here and Now.” Jonathan Fisch moderated and Friends Perry-O and David Sliwa, Don Laughlin, and Joey Giffen-Hunter shared their own experiences of sustainable living practices they are doing in their homes and at Scattergood Friends School.

We are blessed to have the presence of these visitors: Maria Bradley, Sandy Springs Monthly Meeting in Baltimore, MD and the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Intervisitation Committee; Ned Stowe, Sandy Springs Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting and staff representative from Friends Committee for National Legislation.

We listened carefully to a minute prepared for consideration by the Yearly Meeting by our representatives to the Second Quaker Initiative to End Torture Conference held in Greensboro, NC. We appreciate the faithful work of our representatives in attending these sessions, sharing with us some of what they have learned and offering us this minute to prayerfully consider. We approve this minute as amended, and ask the Yearly Meeting clerk to send copies to QUIT planners, FWCC, FCNL, the representatives and senators in Congress who serve our meetings, the President of the USA, and with our yearly meeting epistles to other meetings.

MINUTE OPPOSING TORTURE FROM IOWA YEARLY MEETING CONSERVATIVE

“When we confront evil with its own means, those means mark our own character, both personal and national.”

Oxford Friends Meeting Minute (Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting) 2005

As Quakers, we seek to live in the power and love of God. We believe that all people can be guided by this love and power. We know that if we intentionally harm another we will separate ourselves from the one we harm and from God. Therefore, we are grieved and shamed by the knowledge that our country is sanctioning and practicing torture. In many places around the world, we torture in the name of national security. At home, we use some of these forms of torture in our prisons in the name of public safety. Torture is never acceptable. Torture violates the souls of both the one torturing and the one being tortured. We call on our country to stop torture now.

Specifically, we urge the judicial, executive, and legislative branches of our government to abide by the existing laws and treaties, including the true meaning of the word ‘torture.’ We pray for the healing of both the tortured and the torturers.

We heard the report prepared by Martha Davis on behalf of the IYMC representatives to FWCC. We appreciate the report.

FWCC REPRESENTATIVES’ REPORT

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) continues its work of facilitating contact and dialog among all branches of Friends worldwide.

Friends from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) continue to be very active in many aspects of the work of FWCC. Marion Love continues her work with the Development Committee and Mark Patton serves on the committee working on procedures for conscientious objectors. Sarah Winchell attended the second annual QUIT conference on torture held in Greensboro, NC. Martha Davis continues on the FWCC (SOA) Executive Committee, and is working with Friends to select leaders and pilgrims for the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage being held in Ireland and Scotland in August 2008.

The FWCC Triennial is being held in Dublin, Ireland in August 2007. Mark Patton will serve as the representative from IYMC. Our other selected representative, Marion Love, has had to withdraw from this event.

The FWCC Section of the Americas fundraising campaign continues to be very successful. The final figure of \$3 million will allow FWCC (SOA) to continue and expand its programs to bring Friends from the Americas into full knowledge of each others’ gifts.

The 2007 FWCC (SOA) Annual Meeting was held at Moses Brown School in Providence, RI. To be in a setting with such a rich Quaker history was truly humbling and inspiring! A program of daily small worship groups helped to bring new and old attenders into a dialog on the theme from II Corinthians 9, verses 6–12, was centered on stewardship and giving. *“God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work”* (2 Corinthians 9:8) and *“The rendering of the ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God”* (2 Corinthians 9:12)

Programs on militarism, Convergent Friends, and an evening presentation by Dr. Bernard Lafayette brought additional richness to our time spent together.

FWCC (SOA) and the representatives from IYMC continue to have a concern to involve more Friends in the Midwest region in opportunities for gathering and discussion about the few differences, and the many commonalities, of Friends.

For the committee,
Martha Davis, clerk

We appreciated the report of the Yearly Meeting Publications Committee. We value having the Minutes in both hard copy and on the Web. We were reminded that younger Friends are often very knowledgeable about computers and the Web, and the Yearly Meeting might make good use of their gifts by seeking their input and/or participation on this committee.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

As always, the Publication Committee appreciated how quickly the Yearly Meeting clerk was able to get the initial, complete draft of the Minutes to us. We also appreciated Nancy Ewald for agreeing to join us,

although a miscommunication meant her appointment to the Committee came as a surprise to her. She and Margery Haworth quickly returned their proofread copies, and the Minutes were delivered to the printer before the end of November. Unfortunately, although we made sure the printer, Goodfellow Printing, Iowa City, did receive the Minutes, we weren't aware that a number of printing jobs had guaranteed delivery dates. This resulted in our Minutes not being finished until late January. Always aware of the desire of the Yearly Meeting to receive the Minutes as quickly as possible, we addressed this with Bob Goodfellow. His response was, "I guarantee we'll have it done no more than fifteen working days from when it arrives [referring to future submissions of the Minutes]. If we don't, we'll offer a discount of a least 25%. It's important to me that we not drag this out again just because you're kind enough not to pressure us." This is the first year we arranged for the monthly meetings' copies to be shipped directly from the printer. A PDF version of the Minutes, minus the member directory, was again posted on the QuakerNet website. This was available at the time the Minutes were sent to the printer at the end of November.

Nancy took the initiative to prepare a style sheet, which Margery also reviewed, in an attempt to provide more consistent editing of the Minutes. She also sent a copy of the style sheet to *Friends Journal* for their input, and received a nice reply from senior editor Robert Dockhorn.

This year we all reviewed the printed copies of the Minutes to evaluate how they turned out and discuss possible changes for the future. We have standardized the placement of a Table of Contents at the beginning, listing topics in chronological order, and an alphabetical index at the end of the Minutes. There haven't been as many changes to the website (www.quakernet.org) this year. We continue to encourage monthly meetings or groups such as Young Friends to create their own material to be included on QuakerNet.

We have long had an interest in making the website more useful to those wanting to learn more about our yearly meeting. This year we wrote a possible short introduction to Conservative Friends' beliefs and practices and have asked Ministry and Counsel for their advice. If a final form can be agreed upon, the plan is to post that on the website.

While visiting Fairhope Meeting (Alabama) this spring, I met Tommie Gipson, web master of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)'s website. We had a long discussion about Quakers and websites. He also maintains an unofficial website related to Conservative Friends (www.conservativequakers.com), a link to which is

on our website. He recently wrote, "looking at the stats for the website I find DOZENS of referrals from Iowa Yearly Meeting. We very much appreciate the link!"

Budget	Disbursed
Printing (Minutes) 310 copies @ \$7.50 each	\$2324.00
Mailing individual copies	85.86
Blue Host web hosting	95.40
Total	\$2505.26

For the committee,
Jeff Kisling, clerk

We received the report of the 2006 Entertainment Committee and are happy to approve the report. It is hard to imagine where we would be without the work of this committee.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The monthly meetings of Decorah, Iowa City, West Branch and Whittier, along with Yahara Preparative Meeting, were the hosts for the 2006 Yearly Meeting annual sessions. A committee of Friends from Whittier and Yahara organized the program, "Caring for Creation: How Are We Called?" Evening collections and interest groups around this theme included guest speakers and a number of Friends from our own yearly meeting.

A modest increase in the amount paid to Scattergood and travel expenses for several of our invited resource persons caused expenses to be about \$1,000 higher than in 2005, but generous contributions from those in attendance enabled us to cover our expenses and forward some funds to the Yearly Meeting Trustees.

Income and Expenses Report

Receipts	
Received from 2005 Committee	\$2,000.00
Interest (through 12/31/06)	5.68
<u>Contributions</u>	<u>10,581.50</u>
Total receipts	\$12,587.18

Expenses

Scattergood Friends School	\$8,750.00
Child Care	400.00
Program	811.21
Printing and Postage	92.52
Bank service charges	11.20
<u>To Yearly Meeting Trustees</u>	<u>519.63</u>
Total Expenses	\$10,584.56

Forwarded to the 2007 Entertainment Committee \$2,002.62

On behalf of the committee,
Jim Cottingham

We heard the Archives Committee Report and are happy to learn of plans to rebind a valuable older book recently received by one of our monthly meetings. We value the work of the Committee and approve the report as amended.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

Activity has been relatively light for the Archives Committee this year. A few books have been added to the collection in the William Penn Room at Scattergood.

Our current agreement with the State Historical Society of Iowa, which provides for them to house records of IYMC in their library in Iowa City, runs through the end of 2008. By the time of Yearly Meeting next year, we hope to have arrangements made to extend that agreement for another five years.

We ask that the Committee be allowed a budget of \$200 for the next year.

For the Committee,
Dan Treadway

We received a report of the Yearly Meeting Special Needs Committee. The report is a good description of some of our needs. As

members of our community age, we are more aware of some of the barriers that still exist on campus.

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE

Last year, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) expressed a deep concern about the accessibility of all the buildings on the Scattergood campus. We appreciate the work that has been done so far by Scattergood in making the campus accessible. We are glad to see that the outside sidewalk to the dining room has been completed and the marked improvement in the sound system at meetings. We commend the progress that has been made so far. However, at this point, a mobility impaired student, staff member or teacher would still be unable to be a permanent part of the Scattergood community. We are anxious to hear the further plans for installing an elevator, electric doors, updating the bathrooms and all the other things that will modernize and open our precious community to the wider world. We realize this is a major undertaking, but we have full confidence that this is an expression of the shared Quaker values of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and Scattergood School.

We encourage the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) to take an active interest and do whatever steps necessary to ensure that the Scattergood campus becomes a thoroughly accessible campus to all.

We listened with interest to a report from the IYMC representative to the Friends Peace Team Advisory Board. We also learned that an IYMC member's son is currently in Rwanda with the African Great Lakes Initiative of Friends Peace Team. We appreciate the report.

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS

I thank our yearly meeting for the opportunity to represent IYMC on the Advisory Board of Friends Peace Teams this past year. Friends Peace Teams can be likened to a flower. The administration of FPT is the center of the flower, and the various expanding worldwide projects FPT administers are the petals that touch each other and extend from that vital center.

The largest and oldest project of FPT, The African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI), continues to build upon its very successful programs.

The Africans have adapted Alternatives to Violence (AVP) techniques in Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, and Kenya to help many people find ways to live peacefully in the aftermath of war. The groundbreaking Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) program, a unique creation of the Africans, is expanding its work in troubled communities struggling to rebuild after conflict. The Africans are leading the way and have much to teach all of us about building peace no matter how challenging the circumstances.

After many years of careful groundwork, our Latin American/Caribbean programs have begun to take root. We have sponsored Peace Team work in El Salvador and Guatemala this past year. Most exciting is the news that Colombia, the site of the longest running civil war in the Western Hemisphere, is now home to a solid Friends Peace Team program. In a country where people live under daily threats from both right wing paramilitaries and left wing guerrillas, there is real hunger for an end to the violence. In fact, while Iowa Yearly Meeting is in session, two of our Peace Team workers will be returning home from leading AVP training sessions in Colombia.

Another wonderful project this past year was when members of FPT accompanied PAV-Colombia coordinator, Alba Luz Arrieta, to Burundi to learn about the peace work done by the Africans. The interchange was great encouragement for both the fledgling Colombian program, as well as the Burundians. Both sides were heartened to learn they were not alone in their courageous peace work. This work in Latin America is in the beginning stages; and at this time, we are focusing on building the financial support it needs. We want to make sure we can follow through with what we have cultivated.

An additional "petal" was added to our FPT flower this past spring as well. The Conscience Studio, under the care of Alfred Friends Meeting to do peace work in Indonesia, realized they had outgrown the capabilities of a single monthly meeting's sponsorship. After sitting in and observing a number of Friends Peace Teams board meetings, they requested we undertake a discernment process to see if their work should come under the care of FPT. After a while it became clear to all that the work in Indonesia mirrored the work being done in Africa and Latin America; and we were glad to welcome an Indonesian working group to our expanding organization.

Along with the successes and expansion of Friends Peace Teams this past year, we were saddened with the resignation of Anna Sandidge as FPT coordinator. Kathy Wright was hired as administrative assistant to staff our St. Louis office. Her knowledge of business and computers has

been an asset in helping take care of the administrative duties of FPT.

As a member of the Latin America/Caribbean Working Group, I take notes for our monthly phone conferences. Being a participant in the Quaker process used by FPT has been a personal growth experience for me. I have been amazed at the manner which the FPT members labor together to assist in the birth of making new peace in the world. The support that IYMC has given to Friends Peace Teams these past two years has been well-used. I encourage Iowa Yearly Meeting to continue their support of this good work in every way possible. Likewise, please do not hesitate to talk to me about any concerns, questions or ideas that you have that you would like me to share with Friends Peace Teams.

Thank You,

Judy Plank

IYMC representative to the Friends Peace Teams Advisory Board

We received the report from Wm. Penn House Consultative Committee. We appreciate hearing of the work being done and approve the report.

WILLIAM PENN HOUSE REPORT

William Penn House (in Washington, D.C.) continues to be a very special blessing to Quakers. It is a warm and inviting home away from home providing many important activities as well as hospitality. It's location close to the Metro, FCNL, and the Capital makes it a priceless asset.

The Washington Quaker Work Camps, led by Andrei Israel, grew from five work camps in 2002 to 41 in 2006. He led a work camp to New Orleans and two to West Virginia. Working with other D.C. non-profits, young people have helped the elderly remain in their homes, improved parks and worked in area soup suppers. Andrei Israel will be leaving. Felix Unoguri will continue development of the workshop program as the new coordinator. The intern program continues to be a rewarding activity. Interns in the past year include Natasha Alamanor, who is teaching English as a second language, Eric Hansen who is teaching at a community Friends school, Janaki Spickard- Keeler who is manager of a health food store, and Holly Hardin who is teaching public middle school in North Carolina.

Bernadette Odymiec is in charge of the "Teachers of Peace" seminars attended by teachers from each of the Quaker traditions, as well as

teachers from other private and public schools. Working with American Friends Service Committee and Friends Committee on National Legislation, Bernadette has revitalized the Quaker Youth Seminar.

A new program, “Testimonies of Our Times” will combine some of the work of the workshops and seminar programs to provide service, learn causes of problems, develop lobbying skills, and conduct visits with members of Congress.

In addition to painting of the first, second, and third floor bedrooms, staff (Patricia Newkirk, Khaim Mboup and Byron Sanford) have updated the Cory Room and downstairs conference room with paint, wiring, and carpeting. Patricia has made the front yard a place of beauty and peace. There is a peace pole with messages of peace in eight languages. Plans are underway for a new high efficiency heating and water system and conversion of windows to reduce heat loss.

Behind some impressive numbers –75 groups hosted, 41 work camps, with 453 students, 60% occupancy, increasing wages and salaries of all employees, joining with twenty Quaker organizations to form Friends Mutual Insurance Group to provide affordable health insurance to employees—is an energetic staff led by Byron Sandford. We are fortunate to have his visionary and compassionate leadership.

The Committee suggests a \$300.00 donation from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). We also encourage individual contributions to the very expensive heating system.

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

We listened carefully to the reading of the Queries from the Yearly Meeting Discipline and the monthly meeting responses to them as selected by the assistant clerk. These answers remind us why we as Friends have queries instead of creeds that try to say exactly what we believe. We continue to find value in the queries, answering them as meeting communities, and hearing each others’ responses. All the responses by our monthly meetings are in the library for perusal during these annual sessions.

RESPONSES TO ADVICES AND QUERIES

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: As we endeavor to gain clarity with the concept of the Divine, we realize that our choice of words and definitions inevitably become limited and inadequate. Our silence and expectant waiting reflect an awareness of these mysteries and keep us humble in our search for the Truth.

We acknowledge that gender language can influence perceptions and disquiet the search for a meaningful relationship with historic spiritual sources, such as the Bible. We seek to create an environment that nurtures the many paths that that we are seeking.

Although vocal ministry is the most noticeable form of Ministry in our meeting for worship, we also recognize and celebrate that other ministries exist beyond the vocal worship. As we discuss the concepts of recorded ministers and traveling ministry, we are mindful of our expectations in silence and careful to be aware of prepared agendas as we settle into Meeting for Worship. The ministry of the Meeting should be “in the life.” It should speak to the heart-felt needs of those in the Meeting.

2. OUTREACH

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

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

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

How do we make the presence of our meeting known to the larger community? Do we invite others to share in our meetings for worship?

and other meeting activities? Do we welcome everyone and appreciate the gifts that differences such as race, creed, economic status, disability, age, gender or sexual orientation may bring to us?

Selected response: There are several ways in which we are able to share who we are with the local community. Through the Area Religious Council, we have opportunities to host ecumenical services occasionally, which bring others from the community to the meetinghouse. The Council is putting a brochure together to introduce newcomers to the churches and meetings in the area.

However, the fact remains that it is not easy to articulate Friend's beliefs. We're fairly comfortable with attempting to live our faith. We're clear that we need to share our convictions and to make the testimonies part of our daily lives and practice. But we are less clear about expressing our faith in words.

We are uneasy about the meanings our words can carry, and how they may be received. We shy away from the idea of proselytizing. We are aware of the potential for implied arrogance in attempts to convert others, and sharing our faith in overt ways comes closer to that than is comfortable. We see examples of people using religion as an excuse to hurt others. We are concerned that some may be reluctant to speak in Meeting, not knowing how the message will be received. Some of us may be reluctant to teach First Day School, as we're aware of all that we don't know. Yet when we leave out the words, sometimes we leave out an important part of teaching or sharing with each other, and with our young.

We reflected on our receptivity to the outreach of others. We sometimes find ourselves surprised and touched by the common ground we share with others who walk different paths. People from a great diversity of faith traditions hold the common values of compassion, concern for others, and generosity. We share a common humanity, and in that, we are able to find one another. We are aware that truth has many facets, and we want to remain open to the many ways that the grace of God is present in our lives. Perhaps the heart of Quakerism has to do with valuing and honoring the divinity in every human soul, and then attempting to live from that reality.

We considered the way that Jesus taught his disciples. They had their own feelings and responses to the radical departure from the current norms that His teaching represented. But from that teaching came wonderful examples of how we can live. We need to realize that rich and rewarding results can come from a similar dialogue among ourselves, as well as in the wider world.

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: Might there be a more accurate term than Meeting for Business? If we truly succeed in continuing Meeting for Worship as we conduct Meeting for Business, then the word business, may not express what is really occurring as we search together for truth. In a spirit-led Meeting for Business, differing personal opinions and conflict should become "beside the point."

In some meetings there is a qualitative difference between the worship and business sessions. During business there may not be enough time or silence to allow for thoughtful responses. We appreciate our clerk's gentle guidance, unhurried manner, and his gift for summarizing,

A Business Meeting works because individuals have fulfilled their responsibilities through personal leadings and on committees. It is important that each person be "present", alert to the business at hand.

An old, long established meeting needs to be particularly aware that new and young attenders need to have opportunities to experience the practices (dare we say rituals?) of the group. Our Meeting is small, and we do fairly well at balancing older, younger, and new folks for committee appointments.

We are grateful for a Peace and Social Concerns Committee that has kept us informed about important social and political issues. This has led to more active responses in our meeting and among individuals. Individuals and families that are active in groups and projects, not necessarily Quaker, but compatible with Friends' values, also contribute to the liveliness of our Meeting and Meetings for Business.

Meeting for Business doesn't seek majority rule. We remember always that consensus lies at the heart of Quaker decisions. There is some fuzziness in our understanding of this term. It can mean harmony with God and among us, although there may not be full agreement. Sense of the meeting and reaching unity are two other terms frequently used to describe a decision reached in Meeting for Business.

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: Learning about people’s backgrounds and perspectives is important. Some are hesitant to speak in Meeting. We need to encourage the expression of differences, which help us to understand each other, rather than avoid topics where we have differences. Being honest is best done with understanding of others.

Shying away from conflict is a common tendency. Among Quakers there is more flexibility than in other churches, leading to some ambiguity-which is challenging but helpful. The query is helpful in reminding us to look for that of God in those who disagree with us.

The Meeting seems to be open to difference of opinions and to agree when more time is needed to reach consensus.

The “Getting to Know You” series and the “After Thoughts” have deepened relationships. After meeting, snacks have encouraged interaction.

One of our members is working on a list of members and attenders with photos. It will be posted so that it will be easy to refer to. This will help us learn names of newcomers and help them learn names of regular attenders.

It is good to be reminded to open to the Light within when we find it difficult to understand and be in harmony with others and to be forgiving of ourselves.

5. MUTUAL CARE

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

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

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

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

Selected Response: We hope that sending our newsletter to all members and attenders, including folks who moved away years ago but want to keep the connection, helps us all to keep in touch.

We like to go around the circle after Meeting for Worship to share our names, announcements, joys, and concerns. It helps us to get to know each other better and build our community.

We wish that more of our attenders would come to our pre-meeting discussions, but many of them are active in the Meeting in other ways.

We wonder if we are giving enough care to those who are actively giving care to other family members. Sometimes we forget to care for those who are supporting everyone else. We find it easier to give help to others than to ask for help ourselves when we need it. We know that most people want to be independent and do things by themselves even if it takes a lot longer.

We question whether we agree with the “doctor knows best” attitude. We sometimes have a “second opinion” all on our own and want to direct our treatment and future independently of the ideas of medical professionals of family. We don’t agree with the belief that God gives us what we need and deserve, or that everything that happens is God’s will.

When someone needs help, we can be more effective if we work together.

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: As we consider what our children and grandchildren are doing in their lives as adults, it appears they are ahead of those of us who are older in being active in important issues that affect the world we live in. Perhaps this shows that we did prepare them well

as children of the Meeting. We continue our support for them as best we can, even though many no longer attend Meeting.

Learning more about the Bible and our Judeo-Christian heritage is mainly left up to individuals to pursue as they choose. Those of us who attend adult Sunday School discussion hour have found the books of Marcus Borg helpful in expanding our view of the Bible and our religious heritage. Some of us also use various other sources for continuing spiritual growth and guidance. Many of us have found that asking questions is still an effective way to continue to be educated on issues. We actively support our local libraries and also our schools, as well as Scattergood Friends School. Although few of us have children in school anymore, we try to be involved in ways that we are able. Some of us take advantage of adult education courses in the graphic arts, others read a variety of materials and information sources, one is a volunteer in the local elementary school, and two are full time teachers in the public schools. We also recognize that remaining active in the affairs of our local communities is a form of education in itself.

As we consider how gender-based expectations affect Quaker goals for education and career choices, we have become aware that in the past subconsciously many of us did have different gender expectations for our own children, especially regarding careers. In a rural area, employment for girls and women was limited by the conventions of the society we lived in. Summer employment especially was more limited and much lower paying for girls. The strenuous physicality of farm work placed some of these limitations that have since been eliminated or eased with increased mechanization. Now we see changes in this attitude in general as more women move into former "male only" occupations such as the construction trades, truck driving, etc.

7. HOME AND FAMILY

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

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

How do we develop and maintain lines of communication?

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

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

How does our meeting support families of all kinds?

Selected response: We are aware that we still carry outdated expectations for gender roles at times, in spite of our best intentions. Attitudes are usually developed in childhood and are sometimes difficult to change, but we try with varying degrees of success.

One important way of maintaining lines of communication within families, we have found, is by admitting when we are mistaken in a situation. Children especially seem to respond to such admissions and hopefully learn by our example rather than always seeking to blame others for their mistakes. This same openness is also helpful in marriages.

We have expanded our definition of what constitutes a family over the years to include all types of units, and we seek to be supportive of all. We are aware, however, that there still seems to be a subtle stigma against single parents in the general society, depending on the community. We are thankful that prejudice against divorced parents seems to be less obvious and onerous than in the past.

As we considered the changes in communication techniques that are now available in this electronic age and how these affect our children and grandchildren's quality of life and development, we are struck by the complexity of keeping things in balance, especially in dealing with the life of the Spirit. Teaching by example has always been more effective than mere words, but sharing our own experiences and beliefs is also important. Conservative Friends have historically hesitated to provide much formal spiritual guidance through set forms, so that individuals may develop their own understandings of the Divine Light. This hasn't always been helpful in providing a basis for such development, however, as sometimes children have just been left confused and unsure of the roots of our faith. We are reminded that each generation has gifts of wisdom and knowledge that need to be shared.

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: From inner leading we recognize activities that energize the spiritual center, bring us peace and light, discerning these from others that detract and negatively impact our inner calm.

We are challenged by the struggles that arrive with our personal commitments and constant activities. We talked about ways to simplify our lives by being more selective in how we choose to spend our time.

We should examine what constitutes an addictive behavior or substance. Technology, food, and activities can chronically separate our attention from the “sacred center.” This requires us to remember what is important on our journey. We must sort out what is meaningful to our lives and work to create situations that lighten our physical demands and decrease our active engagement.

We are mindful of how our personal decisions impact the environment and the energy demands in the world around us. We must be responsible stewards of energy and the other world resources. This requires that we remain at the same time generous and protective of the goods with which are our entrusted.

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: This brought up registration for the draft. The point was brought up that many individuals at eighteen are too young to make the decision of whether to register or not. Our culture asks our youth too young. Many make a deliberate choice simply to blow off the government, in other words not to make a choice. As a meeting, we have to be conscious of how we handle this time in our young members’ lives.

Voting is not the only way we take responsibility for our community, state and nation. In many ways, we assume responsibility every day in little ways...for instance, buying vegetarian, purchasing from small stores, and refusing to buy products from certain companies. These are well thought out decisions that can affect our community even more than voting.

When asserting civic responsibility, our higher responsibility is to our society if the government is messing up. Laws are supposed to be just. Civic responsibility is a check and balance on the system of government.

It is easy to respond to a difference of opinion with a lack of love. Therefore, it would be valuable with strangers, even if only in mind, to try to have a sense of common ground. Though many of us speak harshly about current politics, if we had the ability to speak to George Bush, if we could look him in the eye, our words would be loving. We don’t cross the barrier and speak to those who are not of like mind often enough. One member spoke of how in a work situation, it made him feel alone if he was the only one with a certain mindset. However, over time he discovered how he could speak his mind and still get along and truly like his fellow workers. Sometimes an “I” message worked, i.e., “This is not a cause I would be willing to sacrifice my life for...or the lives of my children”. This story engendered a lively discussion, full of pithy comments. “Reaching the heart is what changes a person.” “I am not trying to convince a person on the spot. I am trying to be one of a hundred to convince a person over time.” “Even if you disagree, paying enough attention to know what will affect a person is a form of love.”

Mostly we asked questions: Is integrity at risk if you are in a position of power? How do we discern what we need in order to be healthy inside? Isn’t one of the points of pacifism to not acquiesce to violence (unjust power) being acted upon us? Quakers do not seem to be a group of people who tend to seek power. We tend to take pleasure in community; we are professionals, middle class, small business owners.

We spoke of methods of prayer...long walks talking to God, quiet meditation, journaling...and how, over time, these methods can become a wonderful life practice and leave us more open to divine leadings.

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: The conversation was lively, indicating participant interest and involvement in these issues. The group indicated awareness that the United States consumes a vast proportion of the world's resources, that our economy is based on consumption, and that the issue is complicated. There are indications that we, as a nation, are becoming more aware of our environmental responsibilities and challenges on an international scale. Such indications include the focus of the most recent *Time* magazine and Al Gore's campaign to educate the population on global warming. There continues to be a major segment of our population which is "keeping their heads in the sand" about this issue. The issue can be overwhelming. How can one individual be effective in making a change in such an overwhelming task? The extreme sides of this issue can be off-putting, with the issue such an emotional one it makes some avoid it altogether.

Discussion included water usage and irrigation specifically, fuels and transportation limitations in this country, and the ways we can impact these by limiting our use of water and energy/fossil fuels with efficiency and alternative methods which will reach the same goals. The group displayed an obvious awareness of conservation/environmental issues and ways we as individuals can conserve in our daily lives, along with a genuine interest in conserving. Attitude is important. Also, we have choices that can impact the environment relating to where we spend our money. We can build "green." We can select foods that are grown in environmentally sensitive ways (Whole Foods is an illustration). There are numerous ways to spend in an environmentally responsible way while also supporting our consumption-based economy.

Members of the group shared stories of the uniqueness of the environment, such as the simple ways birds enhance our lives, the complexities of their (bird) world, and the reminder that we are all a part of nature, just like the birds, so human activities could/should be considered as a part of nature.

Some talked about using an item until it is worn out before replacing with a new/newer item. Not all energy solutions are without controversy, such as fluorescent lights which are energy efficient but research has indicated their detrimental effect on autistic individuals, as

well as disposal of their mercury content. Not many solutions are without side effects to take into consideration when making choices.

It was noted that in the last eight years several initiatives that were making a difference in an environmentally responsibility way have been stopped/dropped by our government. Family planning is at the core of over-population issues and the health care issue is directly related.

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting can look with pride to our most recent project of replacing a worn-out heating and cooling system with a geothermal system. Although the cost of the initial installation is greater, the impact on our environment is substantially improved and long-term cost of operation will be reduced. We are indeed putting our money where our stated values are. We have joined the national Friends as exemplified by the new FCNL office building in Washington, D.C., a green building. Our actions are matching our words and we hope to share these actions with a broader community to inspire more movement in this direction of environmental responsibility.

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: We find many ways in which we struggle with fairness and exploitation in our own lives. It is encouraging to see examples of those around us finding ways to try to be fair, in spite of systems that seem to encourage competition and promote injustice. For example, retail sales promote "cutthroat" competition, yet most sellers tend to work cooperatively, and to value being honest with customers.

It is a sense of fairness that prompts many of us to avoid buying things at stores if we know the low prices are partly due to exploitation of employees, suppliers, and the environment. However, economic issues are complicated. For instance, the jobs corporations provide might

be so badly needed that Friends should consider other means of pressuring the corporations.

Those of us who work as teachers have opportunities to see the power of finding and valuing the different kinds of gifts students have. This is a way of answering that of God in each person.

We do benefit from socioeconomic advantages; many of us came from middle-class families and received good educations, for instance. We all benefit, whether we like it or not, from having a “military arm” that protects us and our economy. It was noted that socioeconomic advantages are helpful toward some goals, but we need to examine whether those are our goals or not. Some of us find it difficult to reach out and get to know people from different cultures and backgrounds on our own. We need some structured way to do this. Reading books by and about people we don’t meet in our everyday lives can help us to understand them.

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: Conflict is a natural part of human life. However, we do not accept that violence must also be a part of human life. Democracy was conceived as a way to settle conflict without violence. More open and honest discussions about our conflicts may be a way to prevent violence. Is the avoidance of conflict a problem that can lead to more anger and violence in our lives? Approaching conflict and situations that may give rise to conflict is a process of discernment. We must both open ourselves and listen to others as they open themselves, and be careful to balance our speaking and our listening. Our culture today is all about being busy and staying busy, but we fear this has led to a loss of civility in daily interactions. Slowing down as an alternative to

being driven by agenda opens pathways that allow us to face conflict and defuse it.

Voting peace is important. Local issues can be divisive, and have been lately here in Ames around development issues. The Christian community has also become sharply divided around differing approaches to issues of morality and justice. Unfortunately, communication about these conflicts has become part of the problem when it is focused on rallying cries and slogans. Being certain in rightness rather than being certain we must listen is part of the problem. Being fearful of openness and fearful of change is part of the problem. We fear for what happens to democracy when our society’s commitment to communication withers.

We do not always know how to respond to others we encounter in daily life who are victims of society’s ills. Unfortunately, we encounter individuals with unhealthy habits that compound their misfortune, and supporting them without enabling their unhealthy ways can seem to require knowledge of professional counseling methods. So several of us support organizations like Habitat for Humanity, Doctors Without Borders, and Amnesty International as a way to respond positively in support of those who are hurt by poverty, war, and injustice. We also specifically considered which organizations approach peace and nonviolence issues in a manner most consistent with our understanding of these issues. We affirm the Friends Committee on National Legislation and the stabilizing presence they are maintaining in Washington. Their commitment to open communication with those with whom we have disagreements is inspiring and shows a constructive approach to conflict and politics.

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

SIXTH DAY – FRIDAY – 7/27/07

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

“Divine love imposes no rigorous or unreasonable commands, but graciously points out the spirit of brotherhood and way to happiness, in the attaining to which it is necessary that we go forth out of all that is selfish.

John Woolman, *A Plea for the Poor*

Dan Treadway and Martha Davis have been appointed as readers this morning.

On the afternoon of Fifth Day, Friends had the opportunity to share questions and concerns about the revisions to the IYMC Discipline being proposed in the report of the Discipline Revision Committee. As a part of the Yearly Meeting's request of the Peace & Social Concerns Committee for information about immigration concerns, they invited Sandra Sanchez from the AFSC Central Region office in Des Moines to share about immigration work they are doing and concerns and hopes they have around immigration legislation. There were other interest groups and opportunities for fellowship during the afternoon as well.

At Collection on the evening of Fifth Day, Friend Marshall Massey of Omaha Monthly Meeting spoke on "An Accounting of a Journey to Virginia." Last summer Marshall was a plenary speaker at Baltimore Yearly Meeting. As he sought clarity on the message he was to give, he received what he believed to be a strong leading to walk from Omaha to the Baltimore Yearly Meeting in Harrisonburg, Virginia. He asked for clearness around the leading with his monthly meeting, who after laboring with him, issued him a minute of travel that was later endorsed by the Interim Meeting of IYMC. The journey was not easy and did not go as planned, but was filled with lessons. During the plenary Marshall sought to share how the Lord had dealt with him during and since the journey, and also what he was given to share with Baltimore Friends and with IYMC. He called us to seek to discern together how God is calling us to witness in the world by the example of how we live as faith community, not just as individuals.

We are pleased to have the following visitors. Diane Bostick of Green Country Friends Meeting of Tulsa, Oklahoma, of South Central Yearly Meeting; Ian Rhodes of Laughing Waters Worship Group (unaffiliated), Minneapolis, MN who carried a minute of travel for himself and Liz Oppenheimer; Heidi Casto of Scattergood Friends School; Steven Pettinga of Scattergood Friends School; Cathy White of Madison Monthly Meeting, Northern Yearly Meeting; Bob Gutwein of Scattergood Friends School; Glenn Singer of Scattergood Friends School and member of Frederick Monthly Meeting in Baltimore Yearly Meeting; Sara Sutterfield Wynn of Scattergood Friends School.

We received a report of the Religious Education Committee. It is good to hear the report.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

We received religious education reports from more than half of the monthly meetings.

There is not a uniform approach to religious education within our monthly meetings, either topically or structurally. Of the meetings submitting reports, four have religious education programming for youth. A great deal of creativity and diversity exists within these programs. These programs have included activities and approaches that include Dr. Seuss for First Day, to having speakers on the Civil Rights Movement, to planting seeds, to journaling and to writing Kenyan pen pals, to participating in intergenerational programs and projects, and to an exploration of "this I Believe," inspired by the National Public Radio Series. Some of the activities described by meetings, such as Easter egg dyeing and valentine making, while not strictly part of the First Day program, are an important way of building meeting community and bringing adults and youth together.

The Adult First Day programs often make use of meeting members as resource people sharing and facilitating on programs of their choosing and interest. Meetings indicated that the following resources were among those used in their programs: *the Bible*, *Where the Wind Blows*, *Encounter with Silence*, *The Power of the Lord is Over All*, *The Pastoral Letters of George Fox*, *The Quakers in America*, *Light to Live By*, *Let Your Words be Few*, various *Friends Journal* articles, and writings by Kurt Vonnegut.

We heard the very interesting Yearly Meeting Trustees Report, which included a summary of the Scattergood Foundation Trustees Report, included after the Trustees Report in the minutes. We appreciate that they are considering ways to make the School facilities more accessible.

**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, 2007

Total Funds Received	<u>\$1,842,367</u>		
Donations from Bridge the Gap Campaign	147,837		
B.C. Zeigler Interest & Dividends	2,513		
Checking Account Interest	623		
Land Income	11,035		
Westwood #1 Interest & Dividends	42,998		
Endowment Gift for Capital Funds – Westwood #2	1,568,250		
Westwood #2 Interest & Dividends	69,003		
Mennonite Foundation Interest & Dividends	108		
 Total Expenses and Transfers	 <u>\$91,921</u>		
Support to school scholarship fund	62,988		
Support to school capital fund – Westwood #2	28,933		
Expenses	<u>\$30,643</u>		
Accounting Services – paid by school			
Investments Fees and Bank Charges	30,643		
 Excess of Funds Received Less Expenses	 <u>\$1,719,803</u>		
Less: Realized & Unrealized Losses on Investments	283,299		
Deficit After Gain (Loss) Adjustment	2,003,102		
 Growth of Foundation			Change
as of Fiscal Year Ending	6/30/06	6/30/07	+/-
Investments and Earnings	\$1,447,251	\$3,450,738	\$2,003,487
B. C. Zeigler	36,619	39,988	3,369
Westwood Trust #1	1,323,787	1,507,973	184,186
Westwood Trust #2		1,706,554	1,706,554
Cash in Checking Accounts	30,415	1,012	(29,403)
Accrued Income	5,414	18,830	13,416
Interest Free Loan	(5,000)	(5,000)	0
Payable – School	(29,134)	(31,494)	(2,360)
Land – 24.68 Acres	85,150	85,150	0

CDs	0	39,000	39,000
Mennonite Foundation		30,123	30,123
Bridge Pledges Receivable		\$58,602	\$58,602

BOOK VALUE OF THE ENDOWMENT AS OF 6/30/07:

2000–2001	\$834,846
2001–2002	840,574
2002–2003	995,699
2003–2004	1,093,909
2004–2005	1,158,142
2005–2006	1,175,526
2006–2007	\$3,356,172

We listened with interest to the reports of the Scattergood Friends School Committee prepared by clerk, Lucy Hansen; the School Report prepared by Jan Luchini, director of the school; and the Scattergood Farm Prairie Report written by Mark Quee, farm manager. We find them inspiring. It is a joy for us to hear about all the things that are going on at the School. We appreciate the love and care and sense of humor with which the reports are prepared, and with which the staff and School Committee do their good work on our behalf. We hold concern along with the School Committee and staff about the reinterpretation of State of Iowa special accreditation requirements. We ask the School director and School Committee clerk to work with the Yearly Meeting clerk to notify monthly meetings and members if a letter writing campaign or something else would be of help. We will be holding them prayerfully during this time.

SCATTERGOOD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Greetings Friends,

At the July 21, 2007, meeting of the Scattergood Friends School Committee, there was discussion concerning the allocation to Scattergood Friends School from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). It was decided to ask for \$33,000, the same amount as was given the last two years. The minute reads:

We request \$33,000 from the Yearly Meeting for its support of the school, not seeing a need for an increase this year.

On behalf of the School Committee,
Lucy Hansen, clerk

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL REPORT

This was another wonderful year at Scattergood. We concluded the year with a beautiful commencement ceremony on June 3, 2007. Eleven seniors graduated and have since scattered in search of new experiences. They included Satoshi Ishihara, Adam Hammouda, Gabe Milliette-Bell, Adriana Bautista, Taylor Sanford, Lizzie Hunter, Kathryn Gunderson, Kat Korsmo, Graham Pratt, Tory Smith, and Morgana Ximenes. All graduates have been accepted into accredited colleges and universities. Our post-graduate student from Mexico, Adriana Bautista, has returned to Mexico to attend college at the Universidad Autonoma de San Luis Potosi to study international relations this fall. Satoshi Ishihara, a four-year Scattergood student from Japan, plans to study illustration at the Rocky Mountain School of Art and Design after a year of deferment. Adam Hammouda will begin his studies at Kalamazoo College in Michigan this fall, where he plans to enter the engineering program and eventually specialize in biomedical engineering. Gabe Milliette-Bell was accepted at the University of Northern Iowa and plans to take a semester off to travel before pursuing some of his interests in the performing arts, film, science, and culinary arts. Taylor Sanford will be attending Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina, in the fall to study either outdoor education or forestry. Lizzie Hunter will attend Sonoma State University in California to pursue a variety of interests, including an avid love of photography and painting that she first explored here at Scattergood. Kathryn Gunderson will finish some requirements at Scattergood in the fall and then plans to take a semester off to learn Spanish in Mexico, after which she is interested in studying criminal justice. Kat Korsmo plans to attend Cornell College in Mt. Vernon to double major in English and art. Graham Pratt has been accepted at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina, where he will pursue interests in history, music and the outdoors. Tory Smith will attend Earlham College in Indiana in the fall, and Morgana Ximenes was accepted at Coe College in Cedar Rapids and plans to study either international relations or political science back home in Brazil.

Congratulations and best wishes to each of these 2007 Scattergood graduates.

Congratulations also to rising seniors Stacy Roth, who was named the Bob and Sara Berquist Scholar, and Pyong Landoll who was honored as the Fine Arts Scholar.

Several staff members have left Scattergood and will not return next year. They include Beth Bliss, Beth Gastineau, Gus Gustavson, Loren Wehmeyer, Jane Cadwallader Howe, Jennifer Warnecke, Emily McLain and intern Bryan Jones. 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 2007–08 school year include: Dan Carter, Dana Foster, Dana Smith, Hans Niehus, Irving Treadway, Jan Luchini, Joey Giffen-Hunter, John Morman, Lorraine Gaynor, Margie Figgins, Mark Quee, Michael Lynch, Nan Fawcett, Elenoir Wilder-Tack (formerly Rachel Thompson), Riley Lark, Rachel Howard, Rachel Butler, Steve Nordlund, Sam Taylor, Sarah Giffen-Hunter, and Sara Sutterfield Winn (Sutter). Staff members new to Scattergood for the upcoming school year include Heidi Casto, Bob Gutwein, Amanda Edwards, Glenn Singer, and Chris Spinler. Stephen Pettinga will assist with facilities on a part-time basis.

We began the 2006–07 school year with 48 students and ended the year with 49 young adults who learned what it means to live in community. The School Committee approved an increase in tuition for the 2006–07 school year, which was \$22,000 for full boarding, \$20,500 for five-day boarding and \$13,000 for day students. The School Committee chose not to increase tuition for the 2007–2008 school year. The total net revenue for tuition was \$537,485 for an average cost to parents per student of \$11,082. Financial Aid totaling \$489,965 went to students, with \$241,038 of that being funded with donations from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), the Scattergood Friends School Endowment, and the Measey Fund. The remaining \$248,927 was unfunded. Annual giving and other donations totaled \$359,385. We are extremely grateful to the many donors who supported the school this past year. Overall, we finished the budget (excluding depreciation) with a surplus of \$21,383, which is more than we had hoped for. Thank you to our staff who spend the school's resources responsibly.

This year, the *Bridging the Gap* campaign concluded with great success. With just a handful of phonathon and campaign pledges still out, we have exceeded our two million dollar goal by nearly \$80,000. The Scattergood School Committee has determined to allocate the additional funds to the endowment, thus providing additional scholarship support

for the future. We are so grateful to the 726 donors who have made our goal a reality. This year, improvements to the campus focused on safety and security issues, as well as attracting and retaining students and faculty. We made many improvements to buildings, staff housing units, the dorms, and classroom spaces. We also made improvements to our infrastructure, particularly fire alarms, wiring, and water system upgrades. The largest project was the three-story addition to the Main Building, which added a lounge for the girl's dorm, another staff-housing unit, and expanded food storage for the kitchen and farm. The Bridging the Gap campaign contributed \$750,000 towards these projects. Some of the additional monies raised during the Bridging the Gap campaign were used to set up two new endowment accounts. Scattergood now has a fund in two separate community foundations: the Community Foundation of the Great River Bend (located in Bettendorf, Iowa, and includes Cedar County as an affiliate) and the Community Foundation of Johnson County (located in Iowa City). These endowment funds will give back to Scattergood a percentage of earnings, in perpetuity, much like our own Scattergood Friends School Foundation. The rationale for creating these two new accounts include reaching out to new constituents and potentially widening our donor base, investment and involvement with our local communities, as well as to offer additional tax benefits to our Iowan donors. Under the Endow Iowa program, Iowa taxpayers who contribute to a community foundation are eligible for an additional 20% tax credit, above and beyond the standard tax deductions for all charitable donations.

The Scattergood Friends School Committee looked very closely at this issue before proceeding with opening these accounts. Topics of concern included eliminating involvement with gambling revenues (the community foundations channel state-collected monies from casinos and distribute them through grants to local organizations), the possibility of diverting attention away from our own foundation, and the desire for socially responsible investments. Both the School and the School Committee feel that this level of involvement with these two community foundations is in line with Friends' values.

This year's senior class tackled several projects this spring during Senior Week, including planting 100 arborvitae and 50 red twig dogwoods in front of the sound wall, weeding and planting the flower beds in the circle, and creating a more inviting environment around the pond area by adding a fire ring, a tent pad area, and pulling out the willow trees that damage the dam. The students were justifiably proud of

their hard work. We truly look forward to seeing their legacies to the school enjoyed by all in the coming years.

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 again at F.W. Kent Park, where we enjoyed beautiful weather, kayaking, playing games, drumming, and generally enjoying our time together as a community. Scattergood Day was fun and rewarding as usual, as alumni, staff, and students enjoyed performances by our drum circle, choir, and theatre groups. Scattergood's annual 'Snow Day' was a welcome break in the middle of the winter months. About half of the student body went to Chestnut Hill, Illinois, to go downhill skiing and snowboarding, while the rest stayed on campus to relax and enjoy a quiet day. February Intersession included several off-campus activities including rock climbing at the University of Iowa and spelunking at the Maquoketa caves. In addition, many activities and workshops occurred on campus and kept all of us busy. This year's seventh-block trips included our school-sponsored Costa Rica trip, Bike trip, a hiking group along the Appalachian Trail, and a number of independent trips. The Costa Rica trip, led by Steve Nordlund and Lorraine Gaynor, visited a number of beautiful Costa Rica areas and assisted with various projects in local villages. The Appalachian Trail group was visited with unpleasant weather but hiked through some gorgeous country. 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. One bike trip student had to stop biking a week early due to knee pain and was car pooled back to campus by a member of his family. Other students completed projects in various locations, volunteering in a variety of ways. All groups and individuals 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. Wren Almitra, Nan Bowles, and Sammy Still all made valuable contributions to campus during their Friends-in-Residence stays. The Iowa Arts Council, Mike & Amy Finders, Mark McCusker and Nora Marcos (of Habeas Corpus), and Tom Nordlund brought their dance, singing and performance expertise to our curriculum as well as to our Saturday night activity programming. Our usual wide-ranging February intersession offerings were enhanced by a repeat performance of alumni and parent Mark Helm's classes on Judo, music appreciation and humor, a weaving class with Jean Nordlund, a

class on food, culture, and religion with parent Kamal Hammouda, a dance class with parent Ellis Stroud, and rock-climbing with parent Jay Roth. This past year was greatly enriched by the contributions of each one of these individuals, and we are grateful.

We are now in our fifth year of the seven-year ISACS (Independent School Association of the Central States) accreditation cycle. We are this week in the process of completing a full audit of the school, conducted by Latta Harris. Preliminary results from this audit will be presented at Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative), and the final results will be published in the IYM minutes. We have also been the recipient of two grants from Grant Wood Area Educational Agency towards the completion of our updated crisis management plan.

Recently we have been notified concerning issues with our accreditation with the State of Iowa. The State has chosen to reinterpret the requirements for our special accreditation status. This is a serious issue for the school. Currently we are researching the history of specially accredited schools and why they are now reinterpreting these forty-year-old requirements. We will keep the trustees of the IYMC and our monthly meetings informed as to our progress and our needs for your support with this pending issue.

Sustainability has been our focus this year. Four of our staff, Joey Giffen-Hunter, Michal Lynch, Dana Smith, and Elenoir Wilder-Tack (formerly Rachel Thompson) attended the NAIS Conference in Denver, Colorado, in March. The theme of the conference was sustainability. They returned with fantastic energy and great ideas that have led, and will continue to lead, to positive changes for the school as we look towards a greener future at Scattergood. On campus, we have transitioned to cleaning solutions for use on crews that have been green stamp approved, and we now proudly purchase only 100% recycled paper. In November, with the help of the University of Iowa and friends of the School, we raised a one hundred foot tower with two anemometers attached, on loan to us from Cornell College, to begin gathering wind data to hopefully support the eventual purchase of a wind turbine on campus. This focus will need to continue for many years as we strive to become better stewards of the land and its resources, but we are excited about these new developments in our classrooms and on our campus, and we look forward to a greener Scattergood every year.

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. Community meetings continue to be critical in demonstrating that we all have a voice in the community and in our lives here at Scattergood. Every moment we have spent in Community Meeting, Meeting for Worship, and time spent with each other either working or playing has given us incredible opportunities for continuing conversations about community, sustainability, and how we can move forward to become a working community for change. For example, in addition to the efforts our staff have made towards thinking about sustainability as a school, the community as a whole has done much towards thinking about sustainability this year as well. We began building our awareness of sustainability issues in school with focus groups during student orientation, and we have continued these conversations throughout the year by doing the research necessary to begin making informed decisions about our campus facilities as well as how to introduce more learning opportunities regarding sustainability into our curriculum. 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 our state-fair-themed Faculty Follies, our beautifully decorated prom with an Asian theme, Class Olympics, 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 their generous and continued spiritual and financial support of the school collectively and individually.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Luchini, Director

FARM AND PRAIRIE REPORT

Dear Friends:

In 1972, Niles Eldredge and Stephen Jay Gould posited the theory of punctuated equilibrium in which long periods of evolutionary rest are interrupted by brief, intense periods of change. In 2007 in Eastern Iowa, long dry spells have been interrupted by occasional, yet substantial torrents of rain. At the Scattergood Farm and Prairie, an extended period of intense change (new pastures, new livestock programs, new garden plans and markets, new fences, the prairie replanted) is now being punctuated by a period of relative calm. We are refining programs instead of creating new ones; mending fences rather than putting in new ones; culling breeding stock, not purchasing new animals; expanding

existing markets instead of seeking new ones. We have worked hard over the past five years and have earned a bit of a respite.

However, we are experiencing an extremely *active* calm period in which we remain very busy enriching students' academic and communal experiences with the farm and prairie; growing food for the school, the CSA, and New Pioneer Coop; and seeking ways to reach out to the wider community.

Students have again been an integral part of the farm and prairie experience. They have planted and weeded rows of vegetables, picked strawberries, assisted with difficult lambing, bottle fed lambs, replaced the hoop-house plastic, burned the prairie, planted trees, painted buildings, cleared mulberry trees and lots of brush, designed prairie seed mixes, fixed fences, pruned fruit trees, shoveled manure, incubated eggs, cared for young poultry, collected eggs, collected insects and goldenrod galls, processed mountains of basil and bushels of peppers, harvested tomatoes and beans, and so many other things.

Students are involved in the life of the farm and prairie through Biology, Advanced Biology and Environmental Science classes, Farm Project and Farm Crew, Chicken & Egg Crew, Poultry Project, and Food Preservation Project. We finished last year providing over 3,700 pounds of organic produce to the School (including salad greens well into December) in addition to 1,300 pounds sold to New Pioneer Coop, and 22 weeks of vegetables supplied to 35 CSA subscribers. The laying hens laid over 420 dozen eggs for the school with an additional 100 dozen sold to CSA subscribers. We also slaughtered two steers, two ewes, five lambs, five feeder pigs, and 67 hens that were all used in the Scattergood kitchen throughout the year. 2007 is proving to be a productive year in the gardens, and though we will harvest only one steer this fall, we will see an increase in lamb and pork production to offset this.

The farm continues to be a valuable promotional tool for Scattergood. In 2006, we hosted a large community event, complete with roasted lamb and root vegetables, in association with Iowa City's annual Field to Family Festival. We have welcomed groups of volunteers through the regional charity Local Foods Connection, and continue to be periodically mentioned in New Pioneer Coop's newsletter (this month's issue features Scattergood garlic on the cover). We have also formed relationships with sympathetic organizations including the Johnson County Local Food Alliance, Echollective Farm, and 1000 Friends of Iowa.

Over the past year, much has happened on Scattergood Prairie. Last summer the north half of the prairie, which was largely dominated by

non-native brome and reed-canary grass was sprayed with herbicide and the dead vegetation was burned off. In November, the area was drill-seeded with a relatively diverse mix of native species designed by Advanced Biology students, and already a number of new natives are visible this year.

The burn plots in the long-term burn/no burn experiment were burned for the first time and dozens of species not before present on the Scattergood Prairie are now evident in this two-year old seeding, including white indigo, prairie phlox, and purple prairie clover.

Lastly, students in Advanced Biology received a \$500 grant to incorporate more plant-species diversity on the south side of the prairie dominated by cool-season grass. Work on this will begin this fall.

Hard work is never interrupted enough for giving and receiving thanks, but much appreciation goes out to Dan Carter, who keeps the livestock program running smoothly and so readily shares his passion for all things prairie-related with the students. Dana Foster is a marvel for somehow taking delight in grinding bushels of basil and roasting pecks of peppers, in addition to cleaning the dirty bedding out of the chicken coops. The cooks at Scattergood also deserve many thanks for their willingness to take the extra time to find uses for rutabagas and chard as well as lettuce, tomatoes, and sweet corn (liver and kidneys, however...). Stephen Hoffman has been so valuable at repairing machinery around the farm and is helping us harvest higher-quality hay. Beth Bliss, Wren Almitra, and Stephen Pettinga have relieved some of the pressure of a seemingly never-ending workload. Bob Winchell continues to be a strong advocate for the farm and prairie on the School Committee, and Ken Fawcett is always a great help with our conventional acres as well as general consulting. Thanks go out to our grant funders: Friends Council on Education and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Many thanks also go to all who donated to Scattergood's Bridging the Gap Campaign, which paid for some much-needed electrical upgrades around the farm. Species will evolve. It will rain again. We will continue to grow.

Steady on.

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

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL
AND RELATED ENTITIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
JUNE 30, 2007

	School	Related Entities		Consolidating	Consolidated
		Farm	Foundation	Entries	Totals
ASSETS					
Current Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents					
Cash in bank & CDs	\$131,590	\$ 17,836	\$ 40,012	\$ -	\$ 189,438
Petty cash	800	-	-	-	800
Cash & cash equivalents - Westwood Trust & BC Ziegler	11,439	-	191,666	-	203,105
Total cash and cash equivalents	143,829	17,836	231,678	-	393,343
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$10,000	21,786	-	-	-	21,786
Receivable - Scattergood Friends School Foundation	31,494	-	-	(31,494)	-
Receivable - Scattergood Friends School	-	-	58,602	(58,602)	-
Accrued interest and dividends	-	-	18,830	-	18,830
Farm inventories	-	6,655	-	-	6,655
Prepaid expenses	81,973	1,849	-	-	83,822
Contributions receivable	139,666	-	-	-	139,666
Total Current Assets	418,748	26,340	309,110	(90,096)	664,102
Property and Equipment					
Land and land improvements	229,038	109,810	-	-	338,848
Buildings and improvements	3,069,146	106,720	-	-	3,175,866
Vehicles	135,113	11,808	-	-	146,921
Equipment	535,215	47,873	-	-	583,088
Breeding stock	-	9,252	-	-	9,252
Less: accumulated depreciation	(1,616,800)	(140,592)	-	-	(1,757,392)
Total Property & Equipment	2,351,712	144,871	-	-	2,496,583
Other Assets					
Long-term investments - land	-	-	85,150	-	85,150
Long-term investments - marketable securities	687,530	-	3,092,977	-	3,780,507
Interest in net assets of Scattergood Friends School Foundation	3,450,743	-	-	(3,450,743)	-
Total Other Assets	4,138,273	-	3,178,127	(3,450,743)	3,865,657
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 6,908,733	\$ 171,211	\$3,487,237	\$ (3,540,839)	\$ 7,026,342
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS					
Current Liabilities:					
Accounts payable	\$ 17,475	\$ 3,532	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,007
Payable - Scattergood Friends School Foundation	58,602	-	-	(58,602)	-
Payable - Scattergood Friends School	-	-	31,494	(31,494)	-
Student deposits	25,475	-	-	-	25,475
Deferred income	275	4,676	-	-	4,951
Retirement contribution payable	35,472	-	-	-	35,472
Loans payable (interest-free)	18,000	-	5,000	-	23,000
Current portion of long-term debt	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Total Current Liabilities	165,299	8,208	36,494	(90,096)	119,905
Long-Term Debt:					
Notes payable	33,019	-	-	-	33,019
Less: Current portion of long-term debt	(10,000)	-	-	-	(10,000)
Total Long-Term Debt	23,019	-	-	-	23,019
TOTAL LIABILITIES	188,318	8,208	36,494	(90,096)	142,924
Net Assets:					
Unrestricted	3,004,974	163,003	-	-	3,167,977
Temporarily restricted	665,557	-	400,859	(400,859)	665,557
Permanently restricted	3,049,884	-	3,049,884	(3,049,884)	3,049,884
TOTAL NETS ASSETS	6,720,415	163,003	3,450,743	(3,450,743)	6,883,418
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 6,908,733	\$ 171,211	\$3,487,237	\$ (3,540,839)	\$ 7,026,342

See accompanying notes
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SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL
AND RELATED ENTITIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007

	School	Related Entities		Consolidating	Consolidated
		Farm	Foundation	Entries	Totals
Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets					
Revenues, Gains, and Other Support					
Tuition - gross	\$ 1,027,450	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,027,450
Less: Scholarship allowance	(489,965)	-	-	-	(489,965)
Tuition support - Measey Foundation	145,050	-	-	-	145,050
Tuition and tuition support - net	682,535	-	-	-	682,535
Contributions and other support - Schedule 1	243,079	-	-	(91,921)	151,158
Fees and charges	8,279	-	-	-	8,279
Other operating income	33,713	-	-	-	33,713
Farm income - Schedule 3	-	31,199	-	-	31,199
Investment Return:					
Interest and dividends	19,980	-	-	-	19,980
Net realized and unrealized gains on investments	130,163	-	-	-	130,163
Investment fees	(7,632)	-	-	-	(7,632)
Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	1,110,117	31,199	-	(91,921)	1,049,395
Transfer of contributions to Foundation	(147,837)	-	-	-	(147,837)
Net assets released from restrictions - Note 10	310,023	-	91,921	-	401,944
Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	1,272,303	31,199	91,921	55,916	1,451,339
Expenses:					
Payroll	450,247	-	-	-	450,247
Personnel costs	141,231	-	-	-	141,231
Personnel development	6,012	-	-	-	6,012
Professional services	8,939	-	-	-	8,939
Contracted services	27,353	-	-	-	27,353
Insurance	83,561	-	-	-	83,561
Occupancy costs	69,189	-	-	-	69,189
Supplies	55,094	-	-	-	55,094
Food service	55,068	-	-	-	55,068
Vehicles and equipment	24,842	-	-	-	24,842
Communications	13,621	-	-	-	13,621
Promotion	114,540	-	-	-	114,540
Technology	38,920	-	-	-	38,920
Other expenses	17,171	-	-	-	17,171
Bad debts	27,480	-	-	-	27,480
Depreciation	124,961	7,311	-	-	132,272
Farm expenses - Schedule 3	-	23,927	-	-	23,927
Grants to Scattergood Friends School	-	-	91,921	(91,921)	-
Total Expenses	1,258,229	31,238	91,921	(91,921)	1,289,467
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	14,074	(39)	-	147,837	161,872
Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets					
Investment income:					
Net rental income	-	-	11,036	-	11,036
Interest and dividends	-	-	115,634	-	115,634
Net realized and unrealized gains on investments	-	-	122,206	-	122,206
Less: Investment fees	-	-	(30,643)	-	(30,643)
Contributions and other support - Schedule 1	46,418	-	-	-	46,418
Change in interest in Scattergood Friends School Foundation	129,132	-	-	(129,132)	-
Transfer of investments from School	(2,820)	-	2,820	-	-
Net assets released from restrictions - Note 10	172,730	-	221,053	(129,132)	264,651
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	(310,023)	-	(91,921)	-	(401,944)
Changes in Permanently Restricted Net Assets					
Net realized and unrealized gains on investments					
Change in interest in Scattergood Friends School Foundation	1,874,360	-	161,093	(1,874,360)	-
Transfer of investments from School	(1,565,430)	-	1,565,430	-	-
Transfer of contributions from School	-	-	147,837	(147,837)	-
Change in Permanently Restricted Net Assets	308,930	-	1,874,360	(2,022,197)	161,093
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS					
	185,711	(39)	2,003,492	(2,003,492)	185,672
Net Assets, beginning of year	6,534,704	163,042	1,447,251	(1,447,251)	6,697,746
Net Assets, end of year	\$ 6,720,415	\$ 163,003	\$ 3,450,743	\$ (3,450,743)	\$ 6,883,418

See accompanying notes
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SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL
AND RELATED ENTITIES

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007

	School	Related Entities		Consolidating Entries	Consolidated Totals
		Farm	Foundation		
Cash Flows From Operating Activities					
Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$ 185,711	\$ (39)	\$ 2,003,492	\$ (2,003,492)	\$ 185,672
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash flows from operating activities:					
Depreciation - laptops	33,850	-	-	-	33,850
Depreciation - all other assets	124,961	7,311	-	-	132,272
Net realized and unrealized gains on investments	(130,163)	-	(283,299)	-	(413,462)
Change in interest in net assets of Foundation	(2,003,492)	-	-	2,003,492	-
Transfer of investments to Foundation (other than cash equiv.	1,495,702	-	(1,495,702)	-	-
(Increase) decrease in:					
Accounts receivable	5,171	-	(58,602)	-	(53,431)
Receivable - Scattergood Foundation	(2,360)	-	-	-	(2,360)
Accrued interest and dividends	-	-	(13,416)	-	(13,416)
Farm inventories	-	(2,315)	-	-	(2,315)
Prepaid expenses	(34,427)	(1,849)	-	-	(36,276)
Contributions receivable	188,941	-	-	-	188,941
Increase (decrease) in:					
Accounts payable	1,119	3,532	2,360	-	7,011
Payable - Scattergood Foundation	58,602	-	-	-	58,602
Student deposits	3,799	-	-	-	3,799
Deferred income	(725)	1,333	-	-	608
Retirement contribution payable	3,242	-	-	-	3,242
Net cash flows from operating activities	(70,069)	7,973	154,833	-	92,737
Cash Flows From Investing Activities:					
Investment in land and land improvements	(14,891)	-	-	-	(14,891)
Investment in buildings and improvements	(175,404)	-	-	-	(175,404)
Investment in equipment	(54,771)	-	-	-	(54,771)
Proceeds from sales of investments	464,362	-	1,790,603	-	2,254,965
Purchase of investments	(325,465)	-	(1,806,343)	-	(2,131,808)
Net cash flows from investing activities	(106,169)	-	(15,740)	-	(121,909)
Cash Flows From Financing Activities:					
Principal payments on notes payable	(32,628)	-	-	-	(32,628)
Net cash flows from financing activities	(32,628)	-	-	-	(32,628)
Increase (Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(208,866)	7,973	139,093	-	(61,800)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	352,695	9,863	92,585	-	455,143
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 143,829	\$ 17,836	\$ 231,678	\$ -	\$ 393,343
Supplemental Data:					
Interest paid during the year	\$ 4,926	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,926
Noncash investing and financing activities:					
Unrealized gains on investments	\$ 33,832	\$ 88,976	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 122,808
Transfr of investments from School to Foundation	(1,568,250)	-	1,568,250	-	-

See accompanying notes
- 4 -

We considered carefully the report of the Discipline Revision Committee. We approve the revision of the Living Our Faith section with the understanding that the subsection on Economic Justice will be brought to us for consideration of approval next year.

The work of the Discipline Revision Committee is considerably lightened when monthly meetings prayerfully reflect on revision drafts and return their comments to the Committee in a timely manner.

This newly approved section will be available on the Yearly Meeting Web page and we ask the Discipline Revision Committee clerk to provide hard copies to each monthly meeting and the Yearly Meeting clerk.

We are thankful for the profound work of this committee. We are moved as we see where Love is taking us.

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 who have attended recent meetings are Gordon Bivens (Ames), Herbert Standing (Bear Creek), Sherry Hutchison (Des Moines Valley), Marge Schlitt (Lincoln), Jonathan Fisch (Paullina), Carol Gilbert (Omaha), Ed Clopton (West Branch). We are in touch by e-mail with Jeff Cox (Iowa City), Jim Bromwell (Whittier), Marc Robinson (Penn Valley), and Jean Eden (Yahara Preparative), and have received comments from most meetings on most sections. We do not currently have a representative or receive comments from Decorah.

The History and Faith & Testimonies sections were approved last year by the Yearly Meeting.

This year we have revised the Living Our Faith section (based on pages 58-75 in the 1974 Discipline) in light of comments received from meetings on our original drafts. We are now submitting this section for Yearly Meeting approval.

The last part of the *Faith and Practice* includes sections on monthly meeting and yearly meeting organization and the appendices. These have been largely rewritten and portions including substantive changes have been reviewed by meetings. A few more sections involving more than editorial changes will be sent out to meetings this year for comments. Revisions involving simple editing will be shared with monthly meetings, but without asking for formal responses, though we

welcome assistance from anyone who is interested. We expect to have the rest of the *Faith and Practice* ready for Yearly Meeting approval by the 2008 sessions.

Carol Gilbert
For the committee

We received the reports of the Audit Committee and the Yearly Meeting Treasurer's Report. We appreciate the service of the auditors and the Yearly Meeting Treasurer.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

We have examined the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Treasurer's records for the period of Seventh Month 1, 2006, to Sixth Month 30, 2007, and find them to be in good order. We believe the Treasurer's Report accurately represents the financial position of the Yearly Meeting. We appreciate the care and attention that Burt Kisling gives to maintaining the Yearly Meeting's financial records.

Lorene Ludy and Dan Schlitt

TREASURER'S REPORT

Thanks to the monthly meetings that took the time to send at least part of their apportionment early. Our expenses are due throughout the year and not at year-end so this is a big help.

It would be good for committee clerks to review the memo from the Yearly Meeting clerk on the reporting of committee expenses. The treasurer would ask that the expenses be reported as soon as possible and that expense checks be cashed quickly.

The balance sheet shows the reserve account activity. The balance of all reserve accounts is \$4,660.53. Our bank account is \$25,796.18 and reported reserves leave the general fund balance available for fiscal year 2007-2008 of \$21,135.65.

Sincerely, Burt Kisling, treasurer

Treasurer's Report

Year Ended June 30, 2007

Statement of Cash and Funds

Cash balance July 1, 2006 **\$24,568 11**

Receipts

Monthly Meetings Apportionments	\$54,000.00	
Interest Earned	\$184.06	
Donation for IYM Minute Book—Maurin Turke	\$25.00	
YM Youth Weekends—Reimbursement	\$181.00	
Recovery of Midyear Meeting Funds Advance	\$238.19	
Total Receipts	\$54,628 25	\$54,628 25
Total Cash Available		\$79,196.36

Disbursements

Budget 2006-2007 Expenditures	\$53,983 49	
Young Friends Travel & Conference Expensed	\$155.10	
IYM Youth Weekends Expensed	\$554.85	
Midyear Meeting Funds Advance Check #1443	\$238.19	
FWCC Triennial	\$768.55	
Total Expenditures 2006-2007	\$55,700.18	
Less amount Transferred to FWCC Travel Fund	\$500 00	
Less amount Transferred to IYM Youth Weekends	\$800.00	
Less amount Transferred to Young Friends	\$1,000.00	
Total Disbursements	\$53,400.18	\$53,400.18

Cash balance June 30, 2007 **\$25,796.18**

General Fund			
Balance available for Year 2007-08			\$21,135.65
IYMC Reserve Funds			
F.W.C.C. Triennial Travel Fund			
Balance 1 July 2006	\$2,184.10		
Added this year	\$500.00		
Expensed this year	\$758.55		
Balance 30 June 2007	\$1,915.55		\$1,915.55
IYMC Youth Weekends (4th - 9th grade)			
Bal. July 1 2007	\$776.26		
Added this Year	\$800.00		
Expensed this year	\$554.85		
Balance 30 June 2007	\$1,021.41		\$1,021.41
Young Friends Travel & Conference			
Balance July 1, 2006	\$878.67		
Added this year	\$1,000.00		
Expensed this year	\$155.10		
Balance June 30, 2007	\$1,723.57		\$1,723.57
Total Reserve Fund June 30, 2007	\$4,660.53		
Total Funds June 30, 2007			
EDCO Community Credit Union, Des Moines			
Savings Account		\$21,217.00	
Draft (Check) Account		\$4,579.18	
Total Cash June 30, 2007		\$25,796.18	
Contributions	Budgeted	Spent	Balance
July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007			
AFSC Native American Programs	\$125.00	\$125.00	\$0.00
AFSC	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
FCNL	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Friends General Conference	100.00	100.00	0.00
Friends Peace Teams	500.00	500.00	0.00
FWCC	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
Iowa Peace Network	3,600.00	3,600.00	0.00
Nebraskans for Peace	250.00	250.00	0.00

	Budgeted	Spent	Balance
Peace and Social Concerns Committee	1,100.00	1,100.00	0.00
Quaker United Nations Office	200.00	200.00	0.00
Right Sharing of World Resources	200.00	200.00	0.00
Scattergood Friends School	33,000.00	33,000.00	0.00
William Penn House	300.00	300.00	0.00
Total Contributions	\$42,875.00	\$42,875.00	\$0.00
Delegate Expenses			
FCNL	\$1,000.00	\$498.22	\$501.78
Friends Peace Teams	1,000.00	752.31	247.69
FWCC General	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
FWCC Triennial	500.00	500.00	0.00
Quaker Earth Care	600.00	290.00	310.00
Quaker Initiative to End Torture	1,000.00	655.60	344.40
Total Delegate Expenses	\$5,100.00	\$3,696.13	\$1,403.87
Yearly Meeting Expenses			
Archives Committee	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Clerk and Other Adm. Expenses	400.00	198.56	201.44
Committee Expenses (other)	500.00	0.00	500.00
Conscientious Objector Subcommittee	100.00	0.00	\$100.00
Contingency Fund	1,000.00	199.10	800.90
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
IYM Youth Weekends (4th-9th grade)	800.00	800.00	0.00
Junior Yearly Meeting	2,000.00	282.96	1,717.04
Midyear Planning Committee	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
(if funds inadequate)			
Publication Committee	2,700.00	2,505.26	194.74
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship	300.00	100.00	200.00
Special Needs Committee	500.00	0.00	500.00
YM Entertainment Committee	2,000.00	54.10	1,945.90
(if receipts inadequate)			
Young Friends	1,500.00	1,272.38	227.62
Young Friends Travel & Conference	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Total Yearly Meeting Expenses	\$15,000.00	\$7,412.36	\$7,587.64
Total Budget	\$62,975.00	\$53,983.49	\$8,991.51

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

SEVENTH DAY – SATURDAY – 7/28/07
Seventh Day A.M.

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

[God] alone is able to strengthen us to dig deep, to remove all which lies between us and the safe foundation, and so direct us in our outward employments that pure universal love may shine forth in our proceedings.

John Woolman, *Journal*, 13th day, 5th month, 1772

Jules Galusha and Nick Jacoby have been appointed as readers this morning.

On Sixth Day evening, Ned Stowe from the Friends Committee on National Legislation spoke about the relationship between energy and the environment. He began by asking, “What would love have us do for the creation, for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren? What would love have us do for the forest creatures who are beginning to feel the effects of climate change?” He then asked us how we had changed our energy use as individuals because of our growing concern and awareness of global climate change. He then asked what we were doing at the community level. At the national level, he suggested a carbon tax as a way to reduce fossil fuel consumption. He told us that in order to slow the effects of climate change we need to reduce energy consumption by 80% from 1990 levels.

We appreciate the work that Ned is doing at FCNL to protect the environment.

We listened with love to the report/epistle of the Junior Yearly Meeting. We know that the promptings of the Spirit are available to each of us and we need to pay attention. Our Junior Yearly Meeting Friends have witnessed to us in their faithfulness to acting on the prompting of the Spirit they heard this week. We are moved. We will include their

epistle to Friends everywhere with the Yearly Meeting epistles. We thank the leaders of this group for their faithful service.

JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING EPISTLE

Ha-ram-bee! That means “let’s pull together” in Swahili. We pulled together and helped build a library in Kenya by raising more than \$123 by making and selling homemade cards. The library is a memorial to Esther and Isaac Luvaga. They were the parents of Ebby and grandparents of Faisal Luvaga, who are Friends in Ames Meeting.

We are from Wisconsin, Nebraska, and Iowa. There were 13 of us. We went swimming. We wish we had a big cargo net like the one we heard about in Australia’s Junior Yearly Meeting epistle. We made animation movies on Quaker life, ideas, and beliefs. We played wink, capture the flag, ultimate Frisbee, and extreme “Duck, Duck, Goose”, and went camping.

In Friendship,

Junior Yearly Meeting of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative

P.S. You can contribute to the Library fund. Contact Ames Monthly Meeting, 121 South Maple Ave, Ames, IA 50010 USA.

We heard the wonderful report/epistle prepared by Young Friends. It is a delight to observe all the positive energy and the way Young Friends are putting it to use. It is refreshing to hear the quality of the epistle writing of Young Friends and it inspires us in our own work. The love they share for each other is very moving. We appreciate the faithfulness in which the adult leaders have guided Young Friends and thank them for their service.

YOUNG FRIENDS EPISTLE

To Friends Everywhere,

We did a lot of different things this year at Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). We arrived. We got lots of free books from the Scattergood Library. Young Friends took down part of the old kiln as a service project to Scattergood. We took an awesome canoe trip. We jumped off bridges. We played ultimate Frisbee with Junior Yearly Meeting. We made plaster masks. We swam at the Scattergood pond (at

night!). We swam at the Fawcetts' Pond. We attended a panel on sustainability. We watched "Big Eden." We ate pizza. We had worship sharing. We formed a business meeting. We attended a Yearly Meeting business meeting. We also attended a seminar called "Teaching about Torture." We hosted game night. We did Yoga. We chose to elaborate on the descriptions of a few of our activities.

Young Friends drove to a launch spot on the Wapsipinicon River to begin our canoe trip. The weather was perfect, though a bit sunny. Sunscreen was applied and washed off repeatedly as we swam in the river. As a result, we all became sun burned. Young Friends invited Young Adult Friends to participate. It was a good experience for Young Friends and the Young Adults to share the canoes. After arriving at our lunch spot, we realized we had not brought a knife to spread peanut butter and jelly to make sandwiches for lunch. We bit carrots in half and used the flat edge to spread the peanut butter and jelly. After lunch, we decided to jump off the old Paris Bridge. Jules led the charge. We practiced our spirituality by taking the leap of faith into the river. We did test depth beforehand. While some were jumping off the bridge, others participated in an epic chicken fight. No one was hurt, including chickens. Chelsea jumped out of her canoe, and almost tipped over the canoe with Emma still in it, to save the sunscreen. After lunch we still had an hour and a half of paddling to go down the river. We witnessed a turtle and quite a few Great Blue herons. Young Friends are considering trying to make the canoe trip a yearly event. Joseph (Young Friends adult leader) has put forth the idea of worship sharing on next year's canoe trip.

Friends were in general agreement on their approval and enjoyment of the movie Joseph picked out, "Big Eden." The movie was the story of a gay man who moved back to his hometown in Montana after having lived in New York City. The film showed his struggle in coming out to the town, and the lack of prejudice that ensued (contrary to the common belief that people in small towns don't accept differences.) Things we liked about the movie included the cinematography, the way in which Henry (the main character) was received home, the funny old widow who played matchmaker, and the lack of typical gender roles. We feel the film addressed many different types of prejudices.

We would like to thank Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) for the pizza and soda provided during our movie night. We have enjoyed the great food here at Scattergood, which was made with a lot of fresh produce from the Scattergood farm.

We were happy to contribute our voices more to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), which included forming our own business meeting. We also were glad to welcome back our old coordinator, Joseph, as well as having our new coordinator, Flossie, who was a wonderful addition. We raised our spirituality, awareness, and love for each other. Fruit Salad!

Young Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

We heard the report of the Youth Retreat Committee. We ask each monthly meeting to help the Committee find someone to serve as a liaison to help promote retreats and who will help find ways to get youth from their meetings to retreats. This is one of our most important committees, as it helps extend an invitation to the youth of Yearly Meeting to become involved in Yearly Meeting and learn with us, and be Friends.

YOUTH RETREAT COMMITTEE

Two retreats were held this year. In the fall, we visited Ames where we hiked at Ledges State Park, visited a Halloween haunted house and maze at night, and did a work project of fall tidying at the Ames Meeting House's yard. In February we returned to Scattergood for the third time to continue our fellowship. An ice storm prevented several from attending, but fun was had by those who shared the activities planned at the school. Our largest group was seven youth.

This spring, nearly 250 evaluations were sent to individuals and monthly meetings as an attempt to discern the Yearly Meetings attitudes about our youth programs. Fifteen responses were received. While those fifteen responses were positive towards the retreat program and offered some good ideas of how to help the program grow, the retreat committee is still unclear about the commitment of Yearly Meeting to the intentional guiding of our youth and to retreat opportunities.

Generally, the feedback the committee receives from participating youth is a clamoring for more opportunities and for longer periods than one night. The retreats this next year will be open for any youth who are comfortable being gone overnight from home, can handle late nights, are able to focus longer periods of time, can follow directions well, and want to contribute to Quaker youth fellowship. This is an attempt to welcome youth outside our yearly meeting who may want to attend.

The committee intends to find a liaison in each monthly meeting who will promote the retreats to youth under its care, and who will make a commitment of helping find ways to get those youth to the retreat. Cost, transportation, parent work obligations, and parent hospitality at the host site should not be reasons youth don't attend. We want to expand the committee to include a more diverse age range and geographical dispersal of the adult supervisors.

This year we have earmarked three periods for the youth retreats: October 26–28, three nights during the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, and Memorial Day weekend. We ask that you reserve these days for your meeting's youth.

For the committee,
Debbie Galusha

We listened carefully to the report of the Yearly Meeting Peace & Social Concerns Committee. We approve the minute against the war in Iraq as amended, realizing that it is difficult to speak to all the reasons we must withdraw troops from Iraq, but we must speak as best we can. We ask the Yearly Meeting clerk to send the minute to Congress people of our members and the president of the United States.

We approve the minute on immigration, realizing it speaks to the measure of Light we have at this time. We hope to continue to grow in living the vision.

We are moved by the work of the Committee in this past year and at these annual sessions. We appreciate they use words from the Bible and early Friends to inspire us.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT

“Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come; that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them. Then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one; whereby in them ye may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you. Then to the Lord God you will be a sweet savour and a blessing.” George Fox

As Friends, we strive to create God's Kingdom on Earth and to be faithful to our Quaker Testimonies. The above words of George Fox guide us as we endeavor to live our faith. We have become more and more painfully aware that a way of life that covets mindless growth and

is centered around unlimited consumption also threatens our existence if allowed to continue unabated. It causes suffering for others. It causes suffering for ourselves.

Members throughout the Yearly Meeting continue to do much good work in many areas of peace and social concerns. After careful discernment during this past year, we are led to bring the following three areas of concern before the yearly meeting for special consideration.

1. *“This is my commandment, that ye love one another as I have loved you.”* (John 15:12)

The occupation of Iraq is a violation of our religious faith and our hopes for all humanity. Each and every one of us, as an expression of our faith, must do whatever we can to bring an end to all acts of war and destruction done in our name.

We ask the Yearly Meeting to endorse the following minute:

In the midst of the calls of many causes for our attention, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) holds as a matter of primary concern the ending of the occupation of Iraq and the withdrawal of United States troops as promptly as possible. While we are most anxious that the killing and maiming of U.S. troops and the people of Iraq should cease, we are also concerned about trauma to the friends and family of those who serve on all sides of the conflict. We are also aware that the continuation of this conflict is a great drain on the internal resources of our country, and also brings desolation to the cities of Iraq. Rather than bringing peace, our use of military might threatens to grow and further spread violence and destruction across the borders and to more people and lands. Uncontrolled military spending deprives the poor and needy of our county of material and medical care. Each and every one of us, as an expression of our faith, must do whatever we can to bring an end to all acts of war and destruction done in our name.

2. *“...Which commandment is the first of all?...You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.”* Mark 12:28–30

Humans are but one animal species within all of God's creation. Love of God is to love God's creation. We are called to live in a way that does not exploit our home, the Earth. We are mindful that if our continued

way of life results in the destruction of our environment, all else will cease to be of any importance. There are too many costs for the inexpensive fuel that allows us to live in comfort and the freedom to travel with ease. There are too many costs for wasteful ways in which we live. The price is too high to just continue on the way we are. We seek an earth restored.

The interest group that met during this session of Yearly Meeting to discuss Earthcare Witness and concerns about the environment had a strong feeling that a committee of the Yearly Meeting focused solely on Earth care issues would be of value. The Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Peace and Social Concerns Committee has formed an Earthcare Subcommittee to explore this concern and to teach us how to address this issue with all the attention it needs.

We offer the following suggestions as a small beginning for each of us to discover ways to live more responsibly:

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) is composed of meetings whose members have to drive cars because of inadequate or non-existent public transportation. Each of us contributes to climate change. Each of us needs to be mindful in our use of private automobiles. We recommend the following practices:

- Use public transportation where possible.
- Walk or ride a bicycle.
- Carpool whenever possible.
- Keep cars well maintained. Check regularly that the tires are properly inflated.
- Drive at or below the speed limit. Look ahead to anticipate stops to avoid hard braking. Accelerate slowly. This can significantly improve gas mileage.
- Be mindful that there may be some occasions where telephone or e-mail could substitute for face-to-face gatherings.

Another potential way to address global climate change is carbon offsetting. There are arguments against it; it can be seen as a way to soothe our consciences without changing our own personal behavior. A regional example of a carbon offsetting organization is Native Energy, which has representatives from nine tribes in North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska. It provides carbon-offsetting services by disbursing funds for projects such as building electricity-generating wind turbines on Native American lands and methane projects on family farms. These projects will reduce the need to burn fossil fuels to generate electricity and will save on energy bills.

We hope Friends will consider keeping track of miles driven, and making an appropriate contribution to a monthly meeting carbon-offsetting fund, or directly to Native Energy. The suggested payment would be 12 cents per gallon of gas burned. For a car that averages 24 miles per gallon, that would be ½ cent per mile. More information on how these figures are arrived at and how the money is used can be found on the Native Energy website (www.nativeenergy.com). Native Energy's address is: 823 Ferry Rd., P.O. Box 539, Charlotte, VT 05445.

3. *“The second is this, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.”* Mark 12:31

Who is my neighbor? This was one of the many queries used by our monthly meetings this past year to aid discussion and learn about immigration. The inexpensive food and clothing we eat and wear, the many items and activities that we enjoy each day come at too great a cost to people invisible to many in American society. The same system that allows us to live in abundance and comfort necessitates others be deprived of the ability to care adequately for themselves and their loved ones. We are grieved by these inequities.

The legal and political systems that form the foundation of our country must guarantee fairness and equality for all. Our work calls us to bear witness and advocate when those who have no voice are treated unjustly. This has increasingly come to be the immigrant in our country.

We seek to change the discussion currently happening throughout our country regarding immigrants and immigration. As Friends, this speaks not only to our Testimony of Equality, but to our deeper call to “love one another.”

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.

Minute:

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 the end of slavery. Today there is a frame of reference 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.”

A discussion of immigration must include a tremendous range of topics. We recognize that our way of life forces the involuntary migration of people from their homelands. Our vision is that life in the United States of America not depend upon the exploiting of others' labor for our own comfort. Our vision is that we insist our country treat all people, both in and outside of its borders, with fairness and justice. Our vision is that our country develops trade policies that do not cause the suffering of other people.

The effect of our country's economic, foreign and military policies on people all over the world are not contained by our borders. It is our vision these policies come to reflect a national will to always consider what constitutes the greater good of all.

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

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 (split evenly between the IA and NE programs)	\$100
AFSC (earmarked Immigrant Voices, Central Region)	\$50
No More Deaths (earmarked Agua Prieta Migrant Center)	\$50
Friends Peace Teams (earmarked Latin America/Caribbean work)	\$100
Iowans Against the Death Penalty	\$35
Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty	\$35
Missourians to Abolish the Death Penalty	\$35
Conscientious Objection/Counter Recruitment training	\$100
Monteverde Friends School	\$50
Ramallah Friends School	\$50
National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund	\$100
New Covenant Peace Center	\$95
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$100
Quaker Initiative to Abolish Torture	\$100
Contingency Fund for legal fees incurred from engaging in civil disobedience against military occupation of Iraq	<u>\$100</u>
Total	\$1,100

“Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come; that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them. Then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one; whereby in them ye may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you. Then to the Lord God you will be a sweet savour and a blessing.” George Fox

This past year, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Friends have tried to do our best to carry on the vision given to us by George Fox. We aimed to be “patterns and examples” in our homes, our meeting houses, in soup kitchens, in the offices of our elected representatives, on picket lines, and in jail cells. Together we worked to make our “carriage and life preach” a better world “among all sorts of people”.

Let us continue to encourage each other in the upcoming year to find ways “to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone”, in hopes to be a “sweet savor and a blessing”.

We listened carefully to the report of the Yearly Meeting Recorder. We are aware that we continue to decline in numbers. We were counseled that we need to be more intentional in nurturing our young people. We are called to the walk so that others might, by seeing our actions, find their way to join IYMC in the walk if called to be Friends. We approve the report as amended with thanks to the Yearly Meeting Recorder.

RECORDER'S REPORT

Deaths

Iowa City	Stephen S. Fox	May 31, 2007
Paullina	Dorothy ("Dot") (Livezey) Mott Cora Florence (Test) Towe Rachel Workman	August 13, 2006 May 17, 2007 September 17, 2006*
West Branch	Floyd Fawcett Lucien Zamorski	November 4, 2006 July 10, 2001

Births

Iowa City	Graham Conrad Bradshaw (to Anna and Shannon Bradshaw)	March 20, 2007
	Miles David Middaugh (to Gabriel A. Middaugh)	November 14, 2006

MARRIAGES UNDER THE CARE OF THE MEETINGS

Iowa City	Mindy Theisman to Daniel Bray	August 28, 2006
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*Long-time attender at Whittier, member Paullina Meeting

Meetings	Births	Deaths	Certificates of Membership Received	Memberships Transferred Out	New Memberships Granted	Memberships Discontinued	Total Membership
Ames	0	0	0	0	1	0	33
Bear Creek	0	0	1	0	1	0	77
Decorah	0	0	0	0	1	0	10
Des Moines Valley	0	0	1	1	3	5	76
Iowa City	2	1	0	3	2	0	57
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Omaha	0	0	0	2	0	0	11
Paullina	0	3	0	0	0	0	70**
Penn Valley	0	0	0	1	1	0	66
West Branch	0	2***	0	0	0	3	99
Whittier	0	0	0	0	0	0	43
Total	2	5***	2	7	9	8	566

** Number adjusted for several attenders who had previously been erroneously counted as members

***Including 2001 death of Lucien Zamorski, not previously reported

Midyear Meeting will be held at Bear Creek Meeting near Earlham, Iowa on 4/12–13, 2008. Callie Marsh has accepted an invitation to be the presenter for the weekend.

We close the morning session to reconvene at 2:00 P.M.

SEVENTH DAY AFTERNOON

We resume the business of the Yearly Meeting.

[T]o be faithful to the Lord and content with his will concerning me is a most necessary and useful lesson for me to be learning, looking less at the effects of my labour than at the pure motion and reality of the concern as it arises from heavenly love.

John Woolman, *Journal*, 30th day, 5th month, 1757

Karen Greenler and Michael Steffers have been appointed as readers this afternoon.

The Yearly Meeting heard the very good report of the Ministry & Counsel Committee. It is very much appreciated in its entirety. We approve the proposed changes in our yearly meeting schedule. Our preference is to hold the Friday afternoon session open to business, not to schedule interest groups at this time. And to be open to the leadings of the Spirit, should we be graced with an open afternoon. We appreciate the work, which our clerk, Deborah Fisch, does outside of Iowa Yearly Meeting, Conservative. (This minute recorded by the assistant clerk.)

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE

We read an e-mail from Barb Luetke, former member of Penn Valley Meeting, asking for prayers for her daughter Marcy, who is doing volunteer work building an AIDS clinic in Burundi, Africa.

We heard a report from the Young Adult Friends Conference on “Building a Sustainable Community.” Over 100 young adult Friends from 20 different yearly meetings met February 16–18, 2007, in

Burlington, New Jersey. Many Friends felt energized by the faith and love they felt during the weekend and returned to their own communities with hope for the future.

Eighty Friends gathered at Stillwater Meeting, June 2007, for Quakercamp. Their epistle tells of discussions of differences, but also being open to languages and religious structures they were not familiar or comfortable with. Another Quakercamp will be held at Stillwater Meetinghouse, June 23, 2008.

Lois Edgerton, Ohio Yearly Meeting, sister of Martha Hampton, visited our meeting on Friday.

A concern was brought to our committee about the need for more time to handle the increase in business needing the Yearly Meeting’s attention. Ministry and Council Committee recommends that business meeting start at 9:30 each day and two hours be reserved on Friday from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to be used at the discretion of the clerk.

Due to the changing demographics of the Yearly Meeting members, we propose beginning a discussion to facilitate attendance at Yearly Meeting and help new attenders to feel welcome. Ministry and Council members will initiate discussions in their meetings with the hope we can learn from each meeting what would be most helpful to them. These suggestions could be brought to an interest group at Yearly Meeting 2008.

Ministry and Council met with Deborah Fisch and her anchor committee.

Following is the report of the anchor committee:

The committee has been privileged to interact with Deborah as she has grown further into her nurturing work with FGC and as she made the decision to take on the added responsibilities of Associate Secretary. Her careful discernment about accepting her new role was inspiring. The committee misses the calm clerking presence and wise counsel of Callie Marsh as she moves into a new phase of her life. We have enjoyed reviewing Deborah’s endorsed travel minutes (those will be shared with the Ministry and Counsel clerk later, since they are not at Yearly Meeting) which reflect the inspiration and growth in the Spirit that others have drawn from her visits. We recommend Ministry and Counsel provide her with a travel minute for visits in the coming year. Members of the committee are willing to continue as Deborah’s anchor committee in the coming year, if the Ministry and Counsel Committee wishes that.

Gordon Bivens, for the committee

As mentioned in the Anchor Committee report, Deborah has new responsibilities as an Associate Secretary for FGC, and continues with the Traveling Ministry Program. We are enriched by her continued development as a minister and her new duties in administration. She describes clearly in the following excerpts from her report, practices we at Iowa Yearly Meeting often take for granted:

“...We don’t recognize the Pearl of Great Price that has been entrusted to us and is in our own hands. There are reasons we wait in worship until a weighty Friends calls us to business on the first day of our annual sessions. There are reasons we require written reports and have readers read them and don’t hand them out in advance materials like some other yearly meetings do. There are reasons we shake hands at the close of worship and why we don’t shake hands at annual sessions until the close of the last meeting for worship with attention to business. There are reasons we record in the face of the meeting and that the clerk, not a recording clerk, does the recording. There are reasons we record the “exercise” of the meeting. There are reasons we ask our monthly meetings to read the same advices and answer the same 12 queries each year, and read them in annual session. There are reasons we value teachings of Jesus, the Bible, and other people of faith. There are reasons we are called to worship and live in faith community. Are we talking about them with each other? Are we sharing them with our children? If the only reason we do these things is because they have always been our practice, then we fail in our call to preserve the tradition of early Friends. Their practice was to not put value in empty traditions that no longer served to bring them closer to God, but to be faithful to those that did bring them closer to the Divine. My experience at IYMC is that we still do these things because, like those before us, we find they help us move toward a unity of Spirit with God, Christ, and each other. They still serve us well, but we don’t always understand why. And there is a real danger that we will unintentionally let go of very important practices because they take time and we don’t have a lot of extra time, so we take short cuts, and slowly, often without notice, lose a practice. Then, sometimes after a few years pass, wonder why things feel differently and why we are struggling to find a sense of the Spirit... The gift that Conservative Friends still carry for the Religious Society of Friends and the world is that God has not required that we walk alone. The Spirit is always with us and it is in our meeting communities, when we are faithful to the leadings of the Spirit, that we grow in our understanding Truth and find ways to put faith into action. We create a loving place for each to grow into the person we were created to be. We

provide each other courage to, as a meeting, witness to the world in Love...

“I am thankful to be rooted in Iowa Yearly Meeting, Conservative. I find Christ in every F/friend, worship group, meeting, and yearly meeting I visit, but it is at home that I find the anchor I need to be faithful to the Work. The deep and intertwining roots of IYMC Friends are definitely spiritual if not magical. They nurture me and help me stay grounded even as they allow me to pick up and travel far from home.”

Alberta Kisling, clerk

We listened carefully to the State of the Meeting Reports prepared by our monthly and preparative meetings. We look forward to hearing these reports each year. They are challenging and inspiring, and they help us to know each other better. We are truck that so many of us share common concerns. We hear how the Spirit is at work in our meetings and witness how we come together as IYMC. This is a treasured time during our annual sessions.

THE STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS

The preparation of the State of the Meeting Reports is an important exercise as each meeting examines its spiritual condition. The reports are precious snapshots of meetings working to meet challenges of outreach, size limitations, nurturing, deaths of dearly beloved members, care and education of the children, Quaker process in decision making, and searching for God’s will for our meetings. The meetings are doing a better job of leaving the reports of events to the Peace & Social Concerns Committee and avoiding the use of names.

Alberta Kisling

Ministry and Counsel

AMES MONTHLY MEETING

As a small meeting, we continue to feel strongly connected to one another and deeply value the support we are able to offer each other. Yet, most of us have had crises or struggles to cope with in the past year, and our ability to nurture the life of the meeting itself has been affected by this. Meeting for worship continues to be a time of centering ourselves in the Light. Vocal ministry often continues to point out the movement of the Spirit among us. Frugal potlucks also continue to help us maintain our sense of community. But, we have held relatively few queries, and our attention to the meetinghouse and its grounds has slipped a bit this year. Our meetings for worship with attention to business have often been held under pressures of time. Bad weather, travel, illness, multiple commitments, and other events in our individual lives and families have contributed to the rise of these issues. We continue to trust that God defines the connections of our lives and is moving in the world through each of us. We hold in the Light all those who seek their own rightful path.

We continue to seek clearness on connections between the meeting and our community. We have searched for opportunities to reach out, but growth of our meeting remains a challenge.

Trials and sadness are a part of life. We pray for healing and recovery from these things, and for peace and reconciliation among families, communities, and nations. We celebrate the joys of life as well. New beginnings and milestones are among the fruits of the Spirit.

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 its Light.

BEAR CREEK MEETING

To work together to make a major decision in replacing the old school house has been to watch and try to understand Quaker process. It is not easy. When there is confusion and anxiety, we know we are not on the path to clear discernment. We have learned to listen to each other more intently and to realize that while each of us has our own ideas sometimes there is a better one. We have learned to be patient, to wait, to have trust that we will be guided by the Spirit that nurtures us.

The meeting felt a leading to consider outreach, and a new committee was appointed to help us examine this concern. We have been led by our new Outreach Committee clerk in her desire for more outreach. She organized an energetic group from other meetings to come

and help us prepare for Midyear Meeting. We have been studying the Pendle Hill Pamphlet, "Turnaround," on outreach by Benjamin Lloyd. Many of us feel uncomfortable with evangelism. We think we are welcoming to visitors and newcomers but are uncomfortable with going "outside." We continue to struggle with this concern. How do we draw others to us? Most of the people who come to our meetinghouse for events already have a church home. What should we be doing now that isn't being done?

Work of our meeting and the Yearly Meeting is done by too small a group of people. We are trying to do a better job of explaining what needs to be done and including newer, willing attenders on committees and various activities. We are encouraged by their interest and trust.

Another new member has brought new talent and experience to our meeting. A marriage committee is helping two Friends plan a fall wedding. These celebrations of love and joy give opportunity for us to appreciate each other and the Spirit that is present with us as we join with the happy couple.

We celebrated an attender's graduation from Simpson College with a picnic at Spring Brook Park.

DECORAH FRIENDS MEETING

Decorah Friends returned this year to the tradition of an annual retreat. During our twenty-four hours together we considered our spiritual conditions as individuals and as a meeting. During worship sharing we heard what aspects of meeting life are nurturing, and what personal needs are not being fulfilled. Our year together was shaped by the time we shared in retreat.

Considerable time was spent last fall seeking the most appropriate way to provide Friendly education for our children and youth. As a result, our youngest children have consistent care and instruction, our youth have interaction with six different adults using an established curriculum, and each adult involved misses only one or two adult education sessions each semester. These changes have had a positive effect on both the adults and the youth.

Exploring issues of marriage, including same-gender marriage, allowed us to listen deeply to each other. We have not yet approved a minute. We currently hold this statement in the Light, still awaiting clearness. "While it is true that not all Decorah Friends are comfortable with calling same gender unions marriage, we are in agreement that all loving committed relationships are of a spiritual nature and should therefore be celebrated and supported within our meeting."

Again this year we have shared many of the traditions which have become dear to us: a meal together each First Day, September through May, and special gatherings on the days known as New Year's Eve and Easter. We have hosted special speakers focusing on a variety of social concerns, and we are actively considering how to reduce our carbon footprint.

Our challenges generally relate to people being away. We are a small meeting. We rejoice with F/friends as they are gone for reasons of family, business, and pleasure. We feel connected with each other through those journeys. We also feel their absence when they are gone. It is a rare and joyful occasion when we are all at worship together. It has been our intention during the past year to establish a Ministry and Oversight Committee that meets regularly. It is largely because of our varied schedules that this has not yet happened.

As we discussed spiritual disciplines during our fall retreat, it became clear that thankfulness is a common, sincere practice here. We are thankful for the lives that have been laid before us. We are thankful for friends and family and for people we have no way of knowing. We are thankful for the opportunity to worship in the manner of Friends. And we are thankful to those who take time to read these words, to consider with us our spiritual condition. God's blessing on us all.

DES MOINES VALLEY MEETING

We seek God's leading along many individual and collective pathways. Our meeting is enriched, both in worship and business, by the perspectives and insights gained through these diverse spiritual journeys.

We are thankful for new attenders. We realize that we must do a better job of sharing our Quaker principles, testimonies, process, and heritage, for many come from other denominations. We are encouraged by an increase in attendance at our second hour query discussions where we explore Quakerism as a living faith. These advices instruct and help to guide us in our search for spiritual fulfillment.

We held a three-part series on worship with attention to business and committee responsibilities. These efforts help to keep us mindful of Quaker process.

We have a new geo-thermal furnace, which was installed this spring. After research, discussion, and soul searching, we listened to that Still Small Voice which encouraged us to be good stewards of the earth. The initial cost of the furnace is quite high, but we have faith that all will do their part to help with this financial responsibility.

We continue to seek the best ways to meet the needs of our youth. A second-hour discussion was devoted to this topic. We are working to provide more for the children. Young adults who are members of our meeting but living elsewhere were sent letters, asking if they still wanted to be members. We are pleased that many who had grown up in the meeting want to retain ties.

We continue to build community within the meeting through social activities, with the publication of our monthly "Friendly Line," and by helping those in need. We also provide support and encouragement for those who participate in protests and civil disobedience.

IOWA CITY MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

We feel we have a healthy and growing meeting. We read one query at the end of meeting once a month. These readings prompt thoughts and discussion and provide continuing guidance. We have continued to close meeting with a few minutes for "after thoughts." This has been helpful and results in more people making contributions to the meeting as a whole.

In fall 2006 the Ministry and Counsel Committee distributed a survey concerning activities and preferred scheduling. The results were helpful for planning events and activities involving the whole meeting. We have continued the "getting to know you" series once a month after potluck. This has been much appreciated, and has helped us to get to know more about the lives, interests, and concerns of our members and attenders. Interest in Light Groups resulted in reforming one Light Group which has met once. Others interested are planning another Light Group. We held an adult discussion series after meeting concerning Quaker worship. We shared readings on the subject and individuals reported about their own experiences of worship and ways we prepare for meeting and how we become centered in meeting. These discussions were helpful for long-term members as well as new members and attenders.

A clearness committee met with two F/friends concerning their marriage; the meeting oversaw their wedding in August 2006 in Dubuque, Iowa. Another clearness committee met the son of a long time member, concerning his plan to serve on a Peace Making Team for the African Great Lakes Initiative in Rwanda. He is currently serving on the Team in summer 2007.

Attendance by children has increased; they participate in meeting for the first fifteen minutes and then go to First-day school. We all benefit from excellent programming for First-day school and the reports from the children after meeting are much appreciated. As a result there is

more interaction among adults and children and interesting perspectives on Quaker history and principles.

Members of the meeting participated in Eastern Iowa Gathering at West Branch and Whittier and Midyear Meeting at Bear Creek.

LINCOLN FRIENDS MEETING

The Lincoln Friends Meeting marked 60 years as a meeting this year. We passed the event quietly, reviewing scrapbooks and photos of our history in Lincoln.

Our meeting is a mixture of young and old. We try very hard to engage our young people in Quakerism, and thoroughly enjoy spending time with them. We highly regard and care about our older members. We appreciate their continuing contributions, share their joys, and learn from their wisdom about embracing life at every stage.

Last fall we sent one of our young students off to Scattergood Friends School. The excitement of new surroundings gradually faded to increasing concerns and anxiety. The family felt problems were not being addressed adequately, and finally the student withdrew from the school in November. A clearness committee was formed and met with the disillusioned and angry family, whose faith and trust in Quaker institutions was severely shaken. This committee listened, without defensiveness, and with warm concern and care, which helped the family work through what had happened and started them on the road to healing. It has been a difficult experience for the family and their relationship with our meeting and the yearly meeting.

We continue to provide opportunities to enhance our understanding of Quakerism through pre-meeting discussions of books and queries. We also enjoy time strengthening our community through activities and shared meals. We look forward to our gathered worship each week, to be still in the silence and renew our spirit.

OMAHA STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT

Our meeting has been a place of landmark life changes this past year—especially where the young Friends are concerned. We are small; we have only a dozen members. Yet two of our children were married this past year, and another graduated from high school. And the one who graduated also found it necessary to meet with a clearness committee to lay the groundwork for claiming conscientious-objector status if the draft should be reinstated. It was the first time any of us could remember that we needed to convene such a committee.

The maturing of our children has meant other changes as well. Much of our time in meeting for business has been spent thinking through the rules we now need to set for them in First-day school, as they advance through their teen years and question and challenge the structure we gave them in the past. Recognizing their growing maturity, we moved to include them in our monthly query-answering process; they countered with a proposal that they write and answer their own queries, and we accepted that proposal. We have greatly enjoyed their queries and responses, and have sometimes felt quite challenged by them.

We adults are meanwhile experiencing life changes of our own. In the wake of our discussions, inspired by a member's walk across the country, of environmental issues and our own responsibilities toward the environment, we have felt led to explore the possibility of some sort of cooperative, group living arrangement. We are fortunate to be so close and settled a community that such a thing could actually work well for us!

We have also discovered new limitations, though. Our unexpected inability to fulfill the commitment we had made to the Omaha charitable annual Paint-a-Thon, has led us to ask searching questions regarding how we can discern what is right for us to take on in the future. While we have received an invitation from AFSC to co-sponsor an appearance of its "Eyes Wide Open" exhibit in our city, it has been clear that none of us has enough free time to give at this point to justify taking on such a commitment.

And yet, even though our numbers have not grown and our limitations are made painfully clear, we find we've been drawing a larger number of visitors than in years past. And we've felt strong enough in our spiritual practice to institute midweek meetings for worship on Wednesday nights at the home of one of our members. Those who have been participating in these meetings report that it has been "a really nice time in the middle of each week to take stock of our lives and get centered."

We've felt blessed by visits from FCNL regional representatives Jim and Ginger Kenney and FCNL's executive secretary Joe Volk. Two of us were able to accompany Joe for a part of his lobbying while he was here. We have also continued to do some intervisitation of our own, with one of our members attending this year's session of Great Plains Yearly Meeting (FUM).

Our meetings for business show, we feel, some evidence of growth both in discernment and in self-discipline. Our meetings for worship continue to feel richly blessed.

PAULLINA MONTHLY MEETING

With the addition of an attender and her two daughters at our meeting, we have initiated a multigenerational First Day School on the fourth Sunday of each month, taking turns leading the activities. This has provided an opportunity to share in a different way than we've done in the past. The adult class continues to meet and discuss various materials on the other Sundays of the month.

We appreciate the two families from Sioux Falls who often join us for business meeting and also our fourth-Sunday potlucks. Having their participation in our discussions of the queries each month has enriched us as have the contributions of other new attenders.

We are encouraged that we seem to attract a few new people each year who seek an alternate form of worship and support for their social concerns. Although they are sometimes with us for a short time because of jobs or family obligations, they enrich us with their fresh ideas and contributions to the life of the meeting.

As our numbers have decreased, we have found taking care of the business of the meeting as a committee of the whole more effective than having individual committees as in the past. Our query discussions each month continue to nourish and strengthen our ties to one another as well as our spiritual lives. The adult Sunday school continues to be an important time of renewal and sharing for those who attend. This in turn, enriches the meeting for worship that follows. There seems to be an atmosphere of affection and trust for one another that we treasure and try to nourish. We recognize that our meeting will probably never be as large and active as it was in the past, but it remains a vital and important part of our lives.

PENN VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING

When asked to brainstorm the mood and spirit of our meeting, the first word used by the Ministry and Council Committee was "fun." This seemed like a rare word to appear in our reports, so we explored it. Lively seems more accurate.

The meeting has become younger. While gray hair is still in evidence, the number of children and children's parents grows, and more regular attenders and visitors are in a middle age range. There's nothing about youth that's inherently funny, but there does seem to be a lot of laughter around the meeting house.

We have activities that encourage good humor, spurred on by an enthusiastic social committee. We like being outside and doing things together.

At times, we may have more youth than wisdom. While sometimes someone bravely sits in Reva Griffith's place, we still have a spiritual space, once hers, that is unfilled. No one else in our meeting shares her deep roots in Iowa Yearly Meeting. Like many urban meetings, we have to work at remembering our history and traditions. Perhaps we can make more effort not only to go to Yearly Meeting but also to invite Friends to come and share their knowledge and Light with us. The fact that some sixteen Penn Valley Friends attended Midyear Meeting encourages us to make this happen.

The meeting is not without Spirit. Sometimes we are astonished by the depth of our silence or our vocal ministry. We have been blessed by the leadings of a Friend who has led an active Spiritual Formation group; now in addition, she has organized a Circle of Light, an email-based group that intentionally holds in the Light anyone who lets us know that they would appreciate this loving attention.

We sometimes are caught complaining that we have too little activism. However, a lot of individuals put spirit and effort into concerns that are intensely meaningful to them, and this year's focus has been on finding ways to support and encourage these efforts. Working jointly, we have found that making the meeting house more sustainable is a goal that meshes with the growing environmental concerns that we all share. There is growing interest in immigration issues and the new sanctuary movement. And furthermore, this year's annual retreat topic, the Public Listening Project, gave wide scope for a new kind of activism, as we learned practical skills for listening respectfully to people with whom we may, sometimes strongly, disagree.

At times, we look around and perceive our meeting as active, growing, and thriving. Then suddenly we worry that it is losing energy. Perhaps the best approach is to encourage Friends to come and to remain active, all the while recognizing that ups and downs are a natural part of our meeting's life.

WEST BRANCH MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

We gather weekly in the quiet of the West Branch Friends meetinghouse to worship together as Friends, seeking solace and serenity, insight and purpose. We continue to be nourished and uplifted in silent and reflective worship.

The meeting for worship remains the center of our time together. Through our silent reflection and vocal ministry, we grow in our understanding of God's presence in all people, wherever they reside. Meeting for worship draws us outward toward a corporate experience of God, even as we reflect on our personal spiritual journeys. We don't know where we will be led, but we trust God to guide us.

We explore our faith and seek spiritual guidance through our pre-meeting and query discussions. We seek to understand our role as peacemakers in a violent world. Life can be both simple and complicated, unfair and just, loving and angry. Together we endeavor to find clearness on how to bind up the wounds of those suffering around us. Our shared meals and other times together help us to know and understand that of God in each of us.

The sounds of babies and toddlers and the presence of young Friends at Meeting encourage and hearten us. They remind us of our responsibility as a community to prepare them for a future in an uncertain world. Several new attenders contribute greatly to the vitality of the meeting.

We drew together on the occasions of two deaths in the Meeting community this year: the passing of an elderly member, and the untimely death of the young-adult daughter of a couple in the meeting. We seek to accept the suffering and strain that come with the death of those close to us. We give thanks for the time we had with them and are blessed to have memories to remind us of what love is.

We try to rely upon the Holy Spirit to guide us. We receive comfort and support from each other as we seek to recognize our limitations and to realize our potential.

WHITTIER MONTHLY MEETING

It is sometimes difficult to assess the "state" of Whittier Meeting. Our numbers at meeting for worship are very small. As time passes, it becomes increasingly difficult for many of our most cherished members to participate in the meeting because of the infirmities of age. While this past year there have been no *official* changes to our membership, we must note the death of Rachel Workman. Rachel kept her formal membership in Paullina Monthly Meeting, but she was an active part of our meeting for many years. She was a strong influence and teacher for a number of us. She is greatly missed.

Our smallness concerns and sometimes can even discourage some of us. We wonder what this means about the state of our practice or what it portends for our future. Few of us live in the immediate geographic area

of the meetinghouse. Those of us who are physically able to attend to meeting business have work schedules and personal circumstances that make regular attendance difficult. In essence, we are commuters challenging ourselves to create community away from our homes.

At the same time, we also know that numbers don't completely reflect our meeting. While there has been no change or increase in membership, we do have an increase in the number of regular attenders and people helping to take care of and participate in the life of the meeting. It is especially joyous for us to have a baby at our meetings, and his vocal "testimonies" give us new encouragement in possibilities for hope and renewal. New attenders have joined with us after meeting for worship on Sundays to read John Woolman's *A Plea for the Poor*. Reading Woolman has been a meaningful experience for many of us. Sometimes we struggle to understand the language, and it is helpful and encouraging for us to work through it together. At the same time, we have found it to speak profoundly and eloquently to us as we seek guidance in living our Quaker faith.

On a recent Sunday, one of our attenders was moved to write some musings about his experience sitting in worship at Whittier. Below are a few excerpts from his writing:

... On a typical Sunday the few of us who gather there may talk for awhile outside the meetinghouse, but once inside the silence we meet to explore together is allowed to overtake us. We are bound together by our common conviction that listening for God is our calling, that no person, through study or status has the right to predict what we might hear, and that once convinced of our calling we are morally bound to follow where it leads.

... But silence is as elusive as conviction. And this Sunday, as is true of most, the world outside the meetinghouse is not silent."

After describing the struggle of trying to listen through the various loud outside noises that come through the open doors of our meetinghouse on a warm Sunday morning, he continues:

... So what comes of this time of imperfect silence listening intently for the sound of God? What might all of this mean?

First, I heard God's children young and old, in shrill tones, deep rumbles, and personal silence, going about their business of being His children. I learned, by listening through the silence we shared that silence, simplicity, even "Happiness," that most ephemeral of all states we spend our lives trampling one another to find, is inside us. And that if we wait for the world to provide it to us, happiness, like silence, will never come."

We may be few in number, but everyone is a vital part of the life of our meeting. Whittier Monthly Meeting is a spiritual home for us. The silence is deep, and the sharing is meaningful. We cannot know the future, and our faith compels us to not worry but continue with our best with what we are given. We seek the spirit of Christ, and pray our Quaker worship will give rest to those who are heavy laden. But perhaps we can be forgiven in hoping this past year that we see the slightest hint of growth, not unlike small green shoots in spring, newly visible if not yet in full bloom.

YAHARA FRIENDS PREPARATIVE MEETING

It has been a year of struggle for Yahara Friends. It is easy to think of many dimensions of this struggle but, at base, we have not yet found a suitable worship space. We miss the presence of several Friends who have dropped off in attendance because of the space problems. As a meeting we are united in a commitment to find a space which is welcoming, worshipful, and allows us to grow. Many Friends have committed considerable time and energy to the effort, and it continues.

Another image of our year emerges when we step back from our struggles. Many people have faith in our meeting and it is expressed in many ways. More than one Friend travels one to two hours to attend meeting on a regular basis. Their faithfulness is one expression of the love that draws us together. Our faith has sustained us this year as two dear F/friends moved out of state, one traveled out of the country, two were Friends in Residence at Pendle Hill for three months, one youth began to attend Madison Meeting First-day school and a family took a break from Meeting, leaving one child in First-day school. Our care committee from West Branch visited twice this year and listened carefully as we discerned our path as a meeting. We wonder if we might attract more newcomers if we were an established monthly meeting. Visitors continue to find reason to seek out Yahara Friends. We ask ourselves "How can we put our concern for our meeting into the Light?" Ecclesiastes reminds us as we seek: "A faithful friend is a sure shelter; whoever finds one has found a rare treasure."

We heard the report of the Yearly Meeting Representatives and the proposed budget, and we approved the report and budget with thanks to the Representatives.

REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

The representatives recommend several changes to the budget. We propose an increase in our contribution to Iowa Peace Network from \$3600 to \$4000, an increase in the contribution to Nebraskans for Peace from \$250 to \$500, and the addition of a contribution to Pendle Hill of \$500.

We are following the recommendation from the 2006 Yearly Meeting that we continue to increase the delegate expense line items in the budget with the goal of removing all financial barriers for our delegates to attend their appointed meetings. To that end, we propose increasing most of our delegate expense lines items by \$100 each, totaling a \$500 increase to the budget.

Under yearly meeting expenses we recommend reducing the IYM youth weekend line to \$300. This amount more accurately reflects its current need. This amount will be carried over in the IYM youth weekend fund.

The Young Friends travel and conference line also carries over with the hope that we will have funds available for our youth when opportunities arise. We recommend that the yearly meeting clerk use the contingency fund for this purpose should the need arise, and consult the IYM Youth Weekend Committee if it is necessary to discern how funds should be shared among young Friends wishing to attend Quaker events.

The proposed increase in contributions and delegate expenses represent an increase of \$1150 from last year for a total budget of \$64,125.

We are suggesting no change in the amount to be raised by apportionment for a total of \$54,000. The percentage apportioned to each monthly meeting also 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 29th to Eighth Month 3rd, 2008.

To break meeting on First-day meeting we suggest Olive Wilson.

PROPOSED BUDGET 2007-2008

Contributions

American Friends Service Committee	\$1,000
AFSC Native American Programs	125
Friends Committee on National Legislation	1,000
Friends General Conference	100
Iowa Peace Network	4,000
Friends World Committee for Consultation	1,500
Nebraskans for Peace	500
Friends Peace Teams	500
Peace and Social Concerns Committee	1,100
Quaker United Nations Office	200
Right Sharing of World Resources	200
Scattergood Friends School	33,000
William Penn House	300
<u>Pendle Hill</u>	<u>500</u>

Total Contributions **\$44,025**

Delegate Expenses

Friends Committee on National Legislation	\$1,100
FWCC – General	1,100
FWCC – Triennial	500
Friends Peace Teams	1,100
Quaker Earthcare Witness	700
<u>Quaker Initiative to End Torture (one time)</u>	<u>1,100</u>

Total Delegate Expenses **\$5,600**

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	1,500
IYM Youth Weekends (4th -9th grade)	300
Special Needs Committee	500
Publication Committee	2,700
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship	300
Young Friends Travel and 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	\$14,500
Total Budgeted Expenditures	\$64,125
Income	
To be raised by apportionment	\$54,000
From other income sources and general fund	\$10,125
Total Budgeted Income	\$64,125

MONTHLY MEETING APPORTIONMENTS

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	20.25	10,935
Whittier	5.75	3,105
Totals	100%	\$54,000

We listened to the letter to Friends who usually attend, but were unable to attend these sessions, which was prepared by the Special Replies Committee. We approve the clerk sending the letter on our behalf.

SPECIAL REPLIES LETTER

7/ 28/2007

Dear Friends,

We missed you as we gathered at the 130th annual session of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative held Seventh Month 24 through 29, 2007, at Scattergood Friends School. It is a glorious week in Iowa with moderate temperatures and sunny days. Our focus is sustainable living; many of our interest groups and most of our evening speakers are addressing this issue.

One evening, Ebby Luvaga of Ames Friends Meeting shared pictures of Friends in Kenya and talked of starting a library in her home village of Maliki. At evening collection on Fourth Day, a full meetinghouse heard several Friends tell of their personal experiences in living sustainably. Fifth Day, Omaha Friend, Marshall Massey shared reflections and learnings during his walk from Omaha to Harrisonburg, Virginia, to address Baltimore Yearly Meeting. And, on Sixth Day, Ned Stowe, Legislative Secretary for FCNL and a member of Sandy Springs Monthly Meeting (Baltimore Yearly Meeting), told of FCNL's environmental work and the development of renewable energy sources. He shared the query: "What would love have us do, for the creation, for our grandchildren and great grandchildren? What would love have us do, for the forest creatures who are just beginning to feel the effects of climate change?"

Afternoon interest groups provided interesting presentations. Don Kesselheim, member of the Steering Committee of Quaker Earthcare Witness and our own IYMC delegate to that organization, spoke on concern for the environment and sustainable living. Representatives from Iowa Yearly Meeting to the Quaker Conference to End Torture gave a disturbing report on our government's use of torture. Sandra Sanchez of AFSC talked passionately about immigration concerns. Jay Robinson, a visitor, showed the film, "Breath of Peace," about the peace movement in New Zealand.

Our meeting for business prayerfully considered the following proposed minutes: 1) opposing our government's use of torture 2) calling for withdrawal of our troops from Iraq, and 3) expressing our deep concern about migration. Spirit guided us through a process to clarity on these issues. Careful consideration also led to acceptance of a significant portion of a revised Discipline.

Our Young Friends and Junior Yearly Meeting were lively groups. They enjoyed swimming, canoeing, and camping. As a service project, Young Friends tore down an old kiln for Scattergood Friends School.

Junior Yearly Meeting sold handmade greeting cards to raise money for the library in Kenya.

We feel blessed by a sense that your spirit is with us as we are gathered here.

On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative
Deborah Fisch, clerk

We listened carefully to the good epistles prepared by the Epistle Committee to Ohio Yearly Meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Conservative, and to Friends everywhere. We approve the letters and ask the clerk to send them out on our behalf.

Letter to Ohio Yearly Meeting
7-28-2007

Greetings from the 130th annual session of Friends in Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). We are blessed to be meeting on Scattergood Friends School campus in the midst of a beautiful rural Iowa countryside. The lush green fields which surround us make us aware of the many riches which we are so fortunate to be able to enjoy. This feeling of richness also makes us more aware of those who are not so fortunate—those who do not live in a safe or peaceful place; who do not have enough to eat to sustain life; who are overcome because they lack adequate health care. We are all striving to be guided by that Inner Light of Christ to bring harmony and compassion amongst us, to be caring and helpful to one another, and to live our belief that “there is that of God” in every person.

Our theme for this session has been "sustaining ourselves" and many of our interest groups, speakers, and activities were directed in that area of concern. Over the past years we have been working on the revision of our book of Faith and Practice. This year we approved revision of the section entitled “Living our Faith,” which states that “Friends are called to make wise and efficient use of the world's resources, mindful that actions taken to meet our present needs and wants affect the quality of life on earth. All humans share a responsibility to consider the impact of our decisions on future generations of all forms of life.”

We read the epistle from your yearly meeting with interest and appreciation. The exchange of epistles and interchange of members help us to strengthen and continue the ties with our own brothers and sisters in

Ohio Yearly Meeting. We treasure the presence this year of Lois and Tony Edgerton who have been with us this week, and we are happy that our members Jean Eden and Lorene Ludy were able to be with you last year. We are pleased to learn that Friend David Ely, a regular attender of both of our yearly meetings, has recently become a member of Ohio Yearly meeting.

Let us continue to build on our common practices of faith as we explore together what it means to be a Conservative Friend. We pray for continued guidance, strength, and joy as we prepare for and practice being God's Hands on earth for another year.

In Friendship and on behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
Deborah Fisch, clerk.

Letter to North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
7-28-2007

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We read the epistle from your yearly meeting with interest and appreciation. The exchange of epistles and interchange of members help us to strengthen and continue the ties with our own brothers and sisters in

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). We are pleased that Marshall Massey of our Omaha Monthly Meeting was able to be present at your yearly meeting this summer.

Let us continue to build on our common practices of faith as we explore together what it means to be a Conservative Friend. We pray for continued guidance, strength, and joy as we prepare for and practice being God's Hands on earth for another year.

In Friendship and on behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
Deborah Fisch, clerk.

Letter to Friends Everywhere

7/28/2007

Greetings from 2007 Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative), meeting in our 130th annual session. We have read epistles from Friends around the world, and we are impressed by the commonality of our spiritual concerns and of our lives. We are all striving to be guided by that Inner Light of Christ to bring harmony and compassion amongst us, to be caring and helpful to one another, and to *live* our belief that "there is that of God" in every person.

We are privileged to worship and to do business on the lovely campus of our Scattergood Friends School near West Branch, with three groups of young Friends of various ages who contribute to the vitality of our meeting and give us hope for the future of Friends. We are blessed by having visitors from as far away as New Zealand and Kenya, from Washington D. C. and Ohio, from Texas and Wyoming.

Scattergood Friends School and the yearly meeting have had leadings during the past year to examine our personal and institutional practices in relationship to earthcare, sustainability, and the consequences of our disproportionate use of resources. The roar of the constant traffic from Interstate 80, which adjoins the campus, reminds us of the pace of life in today's mobile and mechanized world. We seek amidst the noise to "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalms 46:10).

We are saddened by many of the actions of our U.S. government, especially the open endorsement of torture as an instrument of the never-ending "war on terror," and are actively struggling to be heard by those in decision-making positions. We, as you, seek to follow the leadings that can guide and strengthen us to follow the example and teachings of Jesus as we strive to turn from militarism to diplomacy, from fear to constructive love.

Sometimes we are questioned about the reasons for our continued exchange of these traditional epistles. As we listen to them read, we annually feel strengthened and supported by them, and the knowledge that others face the same struggles and challenges. Though we lack a creed to instruct us as to what we are to believe, we find that the reading aloud of queries and advices, as well as the epistles, leads us to consider how we live our faith.

We pray for continued guidance, strength, and joy as we prepare for and practice being God's Hands on earth for another year.

In Friendship and on behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
Deborah Fisch, clerk.

We received the report of the Nominating Committee and the nominations for committee service brought to Yearly Meeting for consideration and approval. We approve the suggestions made in their report and the names brought forward for service. We thank the Nominating Committee and those willing to serve on committees for the Yearly Meeting.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

After talking with the clerk of the Library Committee, the Nominating Committee recommends some changes to the Library Committee structure and name. The duties of that committee have been centered on the yearly meeting book sale and consideration of monthly meeting library activities. The Library Committee clerk feels that a standing committee of three could easily take care of these duties. The suggestion was made that the monthly meeting library reports might be included in the Religious Education Committee report. In light of these suggestions, the Nominating Committee recommends that the title of Library Committee be changed to Yearly Meeting Book Sale Committee to better reflect their role and that the number of members be allowed to diminish by attrition to the desired number of three.

Russ Leckband has agreed to serve on the Scattergood Friends School committee, but very much wants to be replaced as representative to the Iowa Peace Network. The Nominating Committee was unable to find a replacement for the Iowa Peace Network position at this time, but we urge Friends to continue to consider who might fill that position and suggest names for Interim Meeting to consider at Midyear Meeting. Russ is willing to serve in both positions until that time.

The Junior Yearly Meeting Activities Committee feels it is not necessary to have more than eight people to handle the responsibilities. At his request, therefore, Bill Deutsch was not replaced.

The Nominating Committee found its task greatly aided when monthly meetings appointees contacted members of their own meetings whose terms were up for consideration before coming to yearly meeting sessions. It is additionally helpful to contact all other committee members as to willingness to continue to serve. If Friends have an interest in a particular committee, we encourage them to contact their Nominating Committee representative regarding that interest.

For the committee,
Beth Wilson, clerk

Nominating Committee Slate of Current Committees
(* denotes convenor)

Archives Committee

2008	2009	2010
Tim Shipe	Herbert Standing	Owen Crosbie
Mikel Johnson	Daniel Treadway*	Wilmer Tjossem

Document Committee

2008
Yahara Preparative Meeting

Entertainment Committee

2008	2009	2010
Ames	Decorah	Paullina
Des Moines Valley	Whittier	Omaha
Penn Valley	West Branch	Lincoln
	Iowa City	

YM Young Friends Planning Committee

2008	2009	2010
Rebecca Guss	Jules Galusha	Joel Fagan
Debbie Galusha*	Connor Cunningham	Flossie Cox
Joseph Kieltyka		

Jr. YM (for Yearly Meeting)

2008	2009	2010
Scott Greenler	Carol Gilbert*	
Danielle Black Eyes	Penny Majors*	Ed Clopton
Kay Meyer	Lake Giffen-Hunter	Nick Cunningham

Interim Meeting

2008	2009	2010
Ebby Luvaga	Lynne Howard	Marilyn Mantel-Guss
Larry Marsh	Sandi Tomer	Bill Deutsch
Cheryl Sutton	Alice Hampton*	Lois Tjossem
Carol Gilbert, asst.*	Kathy Day	Deborah Fisch
Martha Davis	Richard Johnson	Elsie Kuhn
Jeff Kisling	Dixie Collins	Cindy Winchell
Marge Schlit	Owen Crosbie	Lorene Ludy
Catherine Dorenbach	Karen Greenler	

Book Table Committee

2008	2009	2010
Olive Wilson	Mary K. Stillwell	Jean Eden
Jane Cadwallader-Howe	Martha Davis*	
Marc Robinson		

Midyear Planning Committee

2008	2009	2010
Betty Young	Christine Kieltyka	Lois Tjossem
Alberta Kisling	Wanda Knight	Stan Sanders*
Megan Knight*	Winifred Standing	Roy Hampton
Osa Bricker	Marion Love	AM Fink
Jackie Leckband	Christine Kelly	Jim Dietz-Kilen
Sarah Winchell	Ruth Dawson	

Jr. YM/Young Friends (Midyear)

2008	2009	2010
Jackie Leckband *	Carol Spaulding-Kruse	Meagan Knight
Debbie Galusha *	Nathan Tomer	Dennis Kirkwood
Cindy Winchell	Adrienne Tomer	Patty Wingert*
Jules Galusha		

Ministry and Counsel Committee**(appointed by monthly meetings)**

2008	2009	2010
Alberta Kisling*	Christine Kieltyka	Lynda Fife
Martha Davis	Mary K. Stillwell	Ruth Dawson
Dorothy Rogers	Karin McAdams	Mikel Johnson
Doyle Wilson	Nancy Ewald	Beth Wilson
Dixie Collins		Martha Hampton
Gordon Bivens		Meagan Knight
		Jane Cadwallader-Howe

Publications Committee

2008	2009	2010
Jeff Kisling *	David Duer	Margie Haworth
	Nancy Ewald	Debbie Galusha

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

2008	2009	2010
Wendy Vasquez	Sherry Hutchison*	Judy Plank
Herbert Standing	Jim Cottingham	Winifred Standing
Ian Taylor	Jim Bruner	Jackie Leckband
Susan Clymer	Deborah Dakin*	Rachel McNair
Bob Yeats	George Bergus	Lori Nelson
Ken Lawrence	Marian Solomon	Jesse Leckband
	Emma Deutsch	

Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee

2008	2009	2010
Roy Hampton	Wilmer Tjossem	Ginny Winsor*

Religious Education Committee

2008	2009	2010
Judy Cottingham*	Bill Deutsch	Marshall Massey

Youth Retreat Committee

2008	2009	2010
Cheryl Suttton	Debbie Galusha*	Daniel Treadway
Karen Greenler	Jules Galusha	Nora Dietz-Klen
	Emily Fagan	Flossie Cox

Scattergood Friends School Committee

Illinois YM and Northern YM are also invited to name a representative to the committee.

Terms ending after Sept 2008 meeting

Kirk Bragg	George Bergus	Dan Schlitt	Lorene Ludy
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Terms ending after Sept 2009 meeting

Debbie Galusha*	Bob Yeats	Callie Marsh	Mark Tomer
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Terms ending after Sept 2010 meeting

Doyle Wilson	Daniel Treadway	Robert Winchell	Russ Leckband
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Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees

This committee is appointed by Yearly Meeting Trustees

2008	2009	2010	2011
Mark Patton	Susan Murty	George Welch	Gordon Bivens
	Judy Cottingham*	Ginny Winsor	Doyle Wilson

Special Needs Committee

2008	2009	2010
Joey Giffen-Hunter	Marilyn Mantel-Guss*	Michael Taylor
Deborah Dakin	Echo Ray	Sherry Hutchison

Yearly Meeting Trustees

2008	2009	2010	2011
Jim Cottingham	Beth Wilson	Jonathan Fisch	Roy Hampton
	AM Fink*		

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

2008	2009	2010
Rebekah DeWild	Lori Nelson	Robert Yeats*
	Ann Stromquist, alt	Dan Schlitt

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

2008	2009	2010
Jonathan Fisch*	Burt Kisling	Deborah Fink
Alberta Kisling	Nathan Tomer	Debbie Galusha
	Rebecca Bergus, alt	

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

2008	2009	2010
Marion Love	Mark Patton	Martha Davis*
	Sarah Winchell	

Iowa Peace Network

Claire Cumbie Drake	Russ Leckband
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William Penn House Consultative Committee

Jim Kenney	Alberta Kisling*
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Friends Peace Teams Advisory Board

Judy Plank

Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee

Ken Lawrence

We were glad to receive the report of the IYMC representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness and appreciate his service as our representative.

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) is an active organization serving Friends from throughout the United States and Canada with a concern for the environment of the earth and all the inhabitants that share it. Its bimonthly publication *Befriending Creation* is a valuable resource as is its recently revised website, www.quakerearthcare.org. Publications include numerous pamphlets, as well as two highly recommended books: *Earthcare for Friends* and *Earthcare for Children*, both of which contain numerous informative lessons and activities for study groups or gatherings of adults or youth. *Earthcare for Children* was updated and reprinted this year and would be an excellent resource for first day classes. QEW has been working with Friends Committee on National Legislation in developing its program on energy and the environment.

I was privileged to attend the Spring 2007 meeting of the steering committee of QEW in Chicago as a member. Representatives of around sixteen different yearly meetings in North America were in attendance. In addition to the work of committees and the business of the organization, it was inspirational to learn more about the earthcare related interests and activities being undertaken by Friends from around the continent. There are urgent threats facing our planet today and many dedicated people are working hard to educate others about them and examine ways to address them. Concern for the Earth is a spiritual concern that integrates with the Quaker testimonies of simplicity, integrity, peace, and equality.

There is a great deal of environmental awareness, expertise, and motivation within our yearly meeting. Several of the monthly meetings within IYMC have designated QEW contact persons. The rest are encouraged to consider doing so. This is a way we can share ideas and activities among ourselves.

Ken Lawrence, IYMC representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness

CLOSING MINUTE

Come unto me all ye who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is Light. Matt.11:28-30

We came to the campus of Scattergood Friends School, away from the busyness of our lives in the world, to tend to the business of our beloved yearly meeting and to explore together how we can sustain ourselves and the earth. In many ways, we have been attending a school of the Spirit during our time together.

Collection speakers have given us examples of how the faithfulness of one or two Friends can make the impossible possible when yoked with others in family, meeting, or community. Interest groups have allowed us to hear from each other about work the Spirit has led us to take up during the last year and examine tenderly our own responsibility in adding to the fragile condition of the earth and its people. Yearly meeting representatives to various Quaker organizations have inspired us by sharing about the faithful work being done by their groups. Committees have challenged us to educate ourselves and hold ourselves accountable to the Spirit of Love, and have given us good ideas about how to begin doing that. In Bible study, we wrestled together to understand how various challenging passages can speak to us today. Stories and conversations shared on the deck in front of the Main and over meals have helped us to grow in love toward each other. Service opportunities around meals have also provided times to get to know each other. Our daily worship, when the whole community comes together, young and old, has helped ground us in the Spirit and has benefited our work together during each day. Singing, dancing, playing games together and sharing our talents with each other have all helped bring us closer together in faith community and have helped us get to know each other in that which is eternal. It has been a blessed time.

Having completed the business of the yearly meeting, we begin to turn our attention to returning to our homes and the world. We will return a bit changed by what we have learned, and with ideas that we can put into practice, as individuals and as meetings, to help us in the walk of Love. We are learning that we are not alone in the journey. We have been provided easy, perfectly fitting yokes with God and with each other, that allow us to do more than we could alone and help sustain us in the work. We leave here with a better understanding of the importance of

the witness we can make as a community of faith. When taken up together the burden of the work we are called to do becomes Light, the Light of God's love, and we are better able to share it joyfully and intentionally with each other, our families, and as a witness to the world.

We now conclude our 2007 annual sessions, planning to meet again, God willing, at Scattergood Friends School near West Branch, Iowa, Seventh Month 29th to Eighth Month 3rd, 2008.

Deborah Fisch, clerk

Deborah Fink, assistant clerk

The following reports were not given during business sessions but are included in the Minutes.

EXERCISE COMMITTEE REPORT

Fourth Day

“As we are assembled from our various meetings and homes across the region, may we be gathered and sustained in that everlasting Mercy that will not let us go. As the sheep who are scattered are brought home and are kept, cherished, and sustained, may it be the same as we labor in our various fields of endeavor:

*“The bruised reed he will not break
But strengthen and sustain.”*

“May we be thankful for that which brought us here together in that Grace which is eternal.”

Fifth Day

“The clerk received an email this morning from New York Yearly Meeting which also is in session. A young adult Friend was seriously injured by falling rock. Perhaps we could hold the young Friend and that young Friend's community in the Light this morning as we worship together.”

“I believe the quote is from John, “Blessed are those who believeth in me and have never seen me.”

“The words of a simple Shaker tune are with me this morning:

Love is little, love is low,
Love will make my spirit grow.
Grow in peace, grow in light,
Love will do the thing that’s right.

As we move through this week let us remember that love is our ever present, abiding, and constant touchstone, and “love will do the thing that’s right.”

Seventh Day

“The first time I walked into this meetinghouse, I could feel the power, energy, and love, and I thought: “*What nurtures that? Where does it come from?*”

Since then, I realize it’s this gathering that sustains and reenergizes the building—with your love, compassion, and commitment each year. And I feel that it lingers on into the school year, and I thank you for that gift.”

“Several events have come together in my thoughts this morning. A client I work with, who is chronically mentally ill and has alcoholism but was able to hold a part-time job, has recently been diagnosed with cancer and does not have long.

He has few social connections and, in fact, his service providers are his primary contacts. I’ve realized what a blessing and treasure it is to be greeted, welcomed, and offered hospitality here, and to look for the places to extend that welcome to others.

Last night I went on the Cosmic Walk. Once we got past 100-million years, I realized we have such a short time here. Last night, I visited the cemetery and visited with dear F/friends who were there. And I realized that the best thing we can do with our short time here is to offer that *heart-hospitality* to one another.”

[After a report from Junior Yearly Meeting]

“From an early age, I made a commitment to a religious life, to see everything as reflecting God... I strongly believe that the promptings of the Spirit can be from any of us in the room—every child, every teenager.

I understand that the work of raising money for the Luvaga Library was an idea from one of the children: Do we need more evidence that the promptings of the Spirit are available to everybody?”

First Day

“Often when I pray, I say, ‘Please, Divine One, let me reside in your heart. Show me your ways, O Lord, so that you might be able to lead me in the paths you want me to go.’ And, I’ve known intellectually, I have known there’s another piece, and it’s come on very strongly for me today. The other piece is that I am *already* there. I am *already* in that Divine heart. I am *already* able to hear and listen and feel that heartbeat.

The yearning that I have—that is the intellectual part. The yearning to open – in that opening I am going to feel that Love flow through me. I’m going to see it in the eyes of others and in their interactions. And I am going to live into it. I am going to be IN the Path. I AM in the Path.”

“Historians tell us that several centuries ago, people were unhappy with the answers they were getting from the Church of England. And there was a group called the Seekers, really from which our Society of Friends was built from the beginning.

When Michael Luick Thrans was doing a doctoral study about refugees about our Scattergood Friends Hostel here, his instructor told him, ‘It’s much more important to ask the right questions than the specific answer you may get. Be sure to phrase the question right.’

May we continue to ask questions, be guided by the Inner Spirit, which we may call God or Christ Within, but to be sure and continue to ask questions.”

“I want to express my thanks to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee for the support of military families. I take it personally. My son is going on his tour to Iraq very soon. His wife and two very small girls will be on their own.

I cannot begin to say what it is like to be the mother of a soldier. I know there are thousands of American and Iraqi families involved with the Iraqi war. This family is the one I am charged with to care for. And, I ask you hold Neil and Robin and Charlotte and Sidney Grace in the Light. I thank the meeting for reminding me about the Love and the Light that will not let us fall.”

“When I spoke with Gordon [Bivens] this morning about what he would talk about [in pre-meeting], my mind kept coming back to the words that were spoken at the very beginning of the yearly meeting: *“Forgive and forgive and forgive.”* That’s one of the habits of the people around here, that we’re very compassionate. We all make mistakes and when we forget to do part of our job or say things we didn’t mean to say—there are mistakes all around. But, here we’re in the habit of forgiving every time, and I think it just lightens the load for everyone when we do that.”

“We are called to offer comfort and have compassion for all who struggle and suffer loss. We are called to be faithful to the truth wherever it may lead us: prison or dungeon or errant nations of this earth.

We are called to be faithful to that love which will not let us go. It will keep us and sustain us and bind us together in the peace which passes understanding; that we might know that joy which is eternal, and we might know fellowship with even the least among us, even those who are most despised; that we might walk in Truth in this, our day.”

“There is a song that we learned at Pendle Hill that has come to me quite strongly just now:

*Watch what you say
Never cease to pray
Do what’s right day by day
Hold to her hand
She will understand
You’ll be ready when you’re called.”*

“Friends, I came to the Religious Society of Friends rather late in life, and I’m struck with the fact that being a Quaker is very hard work. The Friends’ testimonies are all difficult. They are not as easy as they may appear to be. Perhaps the most difficult one of all is the testimony of simplicity. It is how do we lead simple lives? And what do we lead them for?

The purpose of the simple life is often misunderstood. It is not understood very well. It is not only to save the world, but to save ourselves:

To save ourselves from living lives dedicated to the accumulation of wealth.

To save ourselves from living lives dedicated to consumer goods for our own gratification or for display.

To save ourselves from living lives dedicated to accumulating power over other people.

To save ourselves from dedicating our lives to building up the prestige of the institutions we work in

Those are very difficult. But it’s only when we do that that we can devote ourselves to the two great commandments which are:

To love God and to love our neighbors.”

On behalf of the committee,
Echo Ray and Liz Oppenheimer

REPORT ON THE AFSC IOWA PROGRAM

Dear Friends:

I have every confidence that you know how very busy this last year has been for those of us who work for a world of peace with justice. I know you know—because you are a part of that work!

In Iowa our foci, as it has been for the last several years, is advancing and protecting the rights of migrating peoples; and building a movement to stop the US war in Iraq and change US policy in the Middle East.

Immigrant Voice Project

There was a serious hope this year that comprehensive immigration reform legislation could be passed. That hope energized the immigrant and allied communities. The Iowa office was critical to the efforts to educate the Iowa populace about the reality of migration—forces driving emigration and drawing immigration, and the meaning and importance of comprehensive immigration reform (CIR). The primary message is that true CIR would support keeping families together, provide a path to residency and citizenship, and protect the labor and human rights of immigrants. Recent raids in meatpacking plants, sometimes leaving children without familial caretakers and leaving workers uncertain about their paychecks, highlight the need for an immigration overhaul.

Working collaboratively, immigrants and allies held rallies (including a 48-hour outside vigil), organized a letter writing ladder, submitted petitions (1066 signers), facilitated a postcard campaign, and organized meetings with Congressional offices.

Additional activities included:

- United for the Dignity and Safety of Immigrants (UDSI) worked with immigrants to inform them of their rights as migrating people, and their rights as workers. The Immigrants' Voice Program director, Sandra Sanchez, presents monthly *Know your rights* workshops and supports the emergence of new Latino/a leadership through UDSI.
- Sandra hosted a weekly radio program to provide essential information for immigrants attempting to build community in a new country.
- Iowa Allies for Immigration Reform (I-AIR) is an offshoot of the AFSC Iowa Program Committee and networked with allies to stand in solidarity with immigrant sisters and brothers in calling for comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

Legal Immigration Documentation Services

Operating from the understanding that the rights of migrating people cannot be assured without appropriate legal status, the Iowa office provides low cost, professional services to approximately 1200 immigrants each year. Ann Naffier, Immigration Services director, is accredited by the U.S. Bureau of Immigration Appeals to provide documentation services. This service fills an important gap in the immigration services provided by the U.S. Customs and Immigration Services.

Peace Building

Iraq

The Iowa office works collaboratively with many groups to give visibility to the continuing death and destruction. Public witnesses have been held at Congressional offices in observance of the 3000th US war death, on the occasion of the Declaration of Peace—and the 4th anniversary of the US war. AFSC facilitated the Not One More Death—Not One More Dollar petition drive, brought Noah Merrill, who spent months with Iraqi refugees in Jordan, to Iowa to tell a piece of the refugee story, and has recently kicked off the *Cost of War* campaign. This campaign is intended to give visibility to the financial cost of war to US communities. Ten foot flags tell the story: *One day of the Iraq War costs \$720 million*. One day of war is equal to 34,904 four year university scholarships (95,364 Headstart slots). We'd love to visit your community!

Iran

With U.S. war ships off the coast of Iran, the Iowa office coordinated a speaking and media tour with Joseph Gerson, AFSC director of programs for the New England Region, to talk about the tensions between the U.S. and Iran; and the role of U.S. nuclear weapons policy in those tensions.

Israel-Palestine

Responding to energy from the Iowa area program committee, and the important role that the Israel-Palestine conflict plays in U.S. Middle East policy, the Iowa office has offered several public forums to give visibility to the impact of occupation on the Palestinian people. Speakers include Dr. James Zogby, Arab-American Institute; Anna Baltzer, author—“Witness in Palestine;” Rachel Corrie's parents.

In support of the Palestinian farmers, our office coordinates an olive oil campaign and has sold nearly 800 bottles. Proceeds go to support the farmers, youth programs in Palestine, and our own Palestinian rights work.

Building a “culture of peace”

The **Iowa Peace Task Force**, facilitated by our office, works with local high schools to provide students with accurate information about military recruitment. Volunteers staff information tables at high schools and community events.

Peace Fair—For the second consecutive year AFSC is facilitating the planning of a community peace fair in observance of the International Day of Peace, proclaimed by the UN as September 21. Music, art, games—all with the theme of peace—are celebrated throughout the day.

Thank you for partnering with us in this work.

Kathleen McQuillen, Iowa Program Coordinator

kmcquillen@afsc.org

515-274-4851, ext: 22

IOWA PEACE NETWORK REPORT

Iowa Peace Network staff consists of one half-time position that is shared by two people. In February, one of these people resigned and a new person was hired in May. Renee Espeland and I each work at least ten hours per week. However, our lives are our work so the line often blurs between the two. Both Renee and I try to be peacemakers every day and not just while at our job with IPN.

There is never a lack of projects to work on. One of our most important projects is peace tabling at Des Moines high schools over the lunch hour. Since the military has frequent and easy access to students, we feel we need to present the peace alternative and information to help young people make better decisions. We work with a local group called Iowa Peace Task Force on this project.

In addition to the peace tabling, our other project with IPTF is making sure schools are in compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act, which includes the opt out form that schools are required to offer to students. Two letters have been written to more than 350 school superintendents in Iowa informing them of the requirements of the act and asking how they are complying. We also have volunteers present at Des Moines high schools at registration to hand out and explain the opt out forms.

Be sure and check out our new and improved website: www.iowapeacenet.org. It's a work in progress, but much improved already. We have a couple of new projects. One is the expansion of the Penalty Sharing Community to include fines and court costs incurred by those doing nonviolent direct action and/or civil

disobedience against the war. We also have developed a postcard announcing our tent adoption program. We are looking for folks to donate their no longer used tents, bikes, and camping gear. We will pick them up and give them new homes with homeless folks in Des Moines. We also have a couple of new products in the IPN Peace Resource Center: fair trade olive oil from Palestine and reusable fair-wage shopping bags.

Our goal is to broaden our projects to include issues besides war and military. These include environmental issues, food issues (such as sustainability, eating local, organic, etc.), racism, etc. We plan for our new and improved website to be a clearing house of websites to go to learn more on these subjects.

We participate and sponsor many events including

- ◆ Iowa Peace Task Force
- ◆ Two anti-war/pro-peace vigils each week
- ◆ Weekly Bible study
- ◆ School of the Americas vigil—Fort Benning, GA
- ◆ Shut Down Guantánamo
- ◆ Iraq project
- ◆ Occupation project (representatives' offices)
- ◆ Interfaith prayer services
- ◆ Bus trips to DC—Iraq War fourth anniversary & Shut Down Guantánamo
- ◆ Iowans Against the Death Penalty
- ◆ GI Rights Hotline workshop
- ◆ Notre Dame ROTC witness
- ◆ Palm Sunday procession
- ◆ National Day of Climate Action
- ◆ Tax Day witness at post office
- ◆ Hungry for Justice – Close the SOA three-day fast and witness at Federal building
- ◆ International Day of Peace Fair
- ◆ Voices from Darfur presentation
- ◆ Empire and the Bomb presentation
- ◆ Mission Botched! Protest Rally at Federal building
- ◆ Stop the war concert
- ◆ Immigration rallies at Camp Dodge and Federal building
- ◆ Ecumenical lobby day and moral witness for children
- ◆ Rally to oppose escalation of Iraq war
- ◆ Pastors for Peace Cuba Caravan hosted July 7

- ◆ Volunteered with No More Deaths group doing immigrant work on Mexico-Arizona border
- ◆ AIDS Walk

Fran Fuller, Co-coordinator

[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

Ames

Worship 10 a.m. First Day; **Business** 2nd First Day following worship;
Location 121 S. Maple, Ames, Iowa; **Clerk** Mark Tomer, 1529 Meadowlane Ave, Ames, Iowa 50010, (515) 232-1735

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** Bill Howard, 665 42nd Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50312, (515) 987-8200, boch@dwx.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; **Co-clerks** Debbie Galusha, (402) 553-2211, agulusha@cox.net and Carol Gilbert, carolqq@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

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