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Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative Minutes of
131st Annual Sessions
Seventh Month 29 to Eighth Month 3, 2008

FOURTH DAY – WEDNESDAY – 7/30/08

At the 131st annual session of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative held at Scattergood Friends School, near West Branch, Iowa from Seventh Month 29 to Eighth Month 3, 2008.

We were notified that Deborah Fink, assistant clerk of the Yearly Meeting, will not be able to be at these annual sessions. Friends approve Dan Treadway serving as assistant clerk.

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men (and women) will dream dreams, and your young men (and women) shall see visions. Joel 2:28

We are glad to have the presence of these visitors: Micah Bales, who carries a minute of travel from Heartland Friends Meeting, Wichita, KS, Great Plains Yearly Meeting; Nancy Irving of Olympia Monthly Meeting, North Pacific Yearly Meeting and General Secretary of Friends World Committee for Consultation World Office; David Ely of Austin, Texas and member of Keystone Fellowship of Ohio Yearly Meeting; Susan Lees of Fayetteville Friends Meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative; Theoneste Bizimana of Rwanda Yearly Meeting traveling with the African Great Lakes Initiative; Rebecca Henderson of Santa Fe Monthly Meeting, Intermountain Yearly Meeting; Matilda Hansen who carries a travel minute from Wyoming Friends Monthly Meeting; Liz Oppenheimer and Elizabeth O’Sullivan who carry a letter of introduction from Laughing Waters Worship Group in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Jeff Swartzentruber of the Mennonite Foundation in Kalona, Iowa; Ruth Millage of Columbia Monthly Meeting, Illinois Yearly Meeting; Elizabeth Bullock-Rest, Fayetteville Monthly Meeting, South Central Yearly Meeting; Amy McAdams, North Seattle Friends Church, North West Yearly Meeting, currently attending Twin Cities Monthly Meeting, Northern Yearly Meeting; and Susan Schoen, Fayetteville Monthly Meeting, South Central Yearly Meeting.

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

MONTHLY MEETING APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO YEARLY MEETING

Ames	Dan Treadway
Bear Creek	Burt Kisling and Stan Sanders
Decorah	Martha Davis
Des Moines Valley	Carol Spaulding Kruse, David Drake and Jim Dietz-Kilen
Iowa City	Jeff Cox and Elsie Kuhn
Lincoln	Earl Barnawell and Dan Schlitt
Omaha	Debbie Galusha
Paullina	Jonathan Fisch and Beth Wilson
Penn Valley	Jim Kenney
West Branch	Judy Cottingham and Jean Eden
Whittier	Robert Yeats and Roy Hampton

MONTHLY MEETING APPOINTMENTS OF CARETAKERS TO YEARLY MEETING

Ames	Marian Solomon
Bear Creek	Marion Love
Decorah	Bill Deutsch
Des Moines Valley	Sherry Hutchison
Iowa City	none appointed
Lincoln	Marge Schlitt
Omaha	Marshall Massey
Paullina	Betty Lower
Penn Valley	Larry Hearndon
West Branch	Larry Marsh, Callie Marsh, and Rebecca Bergus
Whittier	none appointed

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

Ames	AM Fink
Bear Creek	Cheryl Sutton
Decorah	none appointed
Des Moines Valley	Mikel Johnson
Iowa City	Ruth Dawson

Lincoln	none appointed
Omaha	Debbie Galusha
Paullina	Owen Crosbie
Penn Valley	none appointed
West Branch	Marcia Shaffer
Whittier	Martha Hampton

REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS

The Exercise, Epistle and Special Replies 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 – Echo Ray and Mary Snyder

Epistle Committee – Jeff Cox, Bill Deutsch, Lorene Ludy, Judy Plank

Special Replies – Olive Wilson, Stan Sanders

Yearly Meeting Reporters – Bob Yeats and Stan Sanders

Auditing Committee – Dan Schlitt and Jim Kenney

Readers for this morning’s business sessions are David Drake and Jim Kenney

We heard the full and interesting report of Midyear Meeting Committee and the Midyear Meeting Treasurer’s Report. We thank the committee and treasurer for their work.

REPORT OF THE MIDYEAR MEETING AND MIDYEAR MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Midyear Meeting was held Fourth Month 12 and 13, 2008, at Bear Creek Meetinghouse, Earlham, Iowa. Approximately 95 attended from monthly meetings around Iowa and neighboring states.

Our resource leader this year was Callie Marsh, a member of West Branch Monthly Meeting. Callie had recently completed and defended her thesis for a Master of Arts degree in theology with an emphasis on Quaker studies at Earlham School of Religion, in Richmond, Indiana. She wrote her thesis on Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), exploring how we are a Conservative meeting.

Callie’s theme for Midyear Meeting was “Stand Still in the Light: How the Light Can Do Its Work Within Us.” During the first session,

Callie spoke of her experiences in deciding on her interests and choosing Earlham School of Religion just as ESR offered their new long-distance study program. Her studies included history of the early Religious Society of Friends movement. She related how Quakerism was brought to Iowa and established in several communities, the early struggles, and people involved.

For the second session, Callie asked every audience participant to select one of nine possible queries as he or she felt led. She had the audience break into small groups based on their selection to discuss the nine thought provoking, and for some, Spirit searching queries.

The First Day, third session, Callie spoke to us of current Quaker theology. She noted that we have held on to 17th Century terminology. We seek understanding as we critically reflect and think about the parameters of our faith, both corporately and individually. Our sharing of our journeys allows us to better understand our faith.

Callie shared how her experience and explorations with the scholarly and spiritual material changed her life—as she called it, “a baptism of the Spirit—an experience of Light that made visible all the dark corners.” There are times when suffering is part of one’s relationship with God...and the Light does its work. The Spirit turns one within.

Callie quoted George Fox, who, after his long ordeal and imprisonment in Domsdale Dungeon, reminded his Friends, “...to walk cheerfully over the earth.” Ordeals of the Spirit give shape to our ministry and service. Callie concluded the session with these words: “Be still, listen, God is still with us. And I thank God.”

The White Elephant Sale held in the northwest corner of the meetinghouse benefits the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). This year’s sale brought in approximately \$813. Thanks to all who donated goods for resale and those who generously participated.

The new building at Bear Creek served much better than the tent we had to use last year. We look forward to the building’s completion.

The Midyear Meeting Planning Committee wishes to acknowledge the hard work and extra effort that so many individuals gave so generously to make the gathering a warm and uplifting event. We again thank the Bear Creek Monthly Meeting for their continuing hospitality and the work that goes into registration, accommodation, and housekeeping for 100 plus. Thanks also to Sarah Jane Winchell and her kitchen crew, and all who helped to plan, prepare, and serve the food.

Thank you one and all.

Megan Knight and Stan Sanders

Co-clerks, Midyear Meeting Planning Committee

MIDYEAR MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT

Contributions:	\$3,642.55	\$3,642.55
Expenses:		
Food	906.98	
Cook	400.00	
Committee Expense	39.92	
Babysitters	124.00	
<hr/>		
Total Expense	\$1,470.90	\$1,470.90
Contributions less expenses		\$2,171.65
Less hosting fee		(300.00)
To New Building Fund		\$1,871.65

Osa Bricker
Midyear Meeting Treasurer

We received the interesting Midyear Meeting Youth Committee Report. Friends reflected that there are always things that happen at gatherings that cannot be shared in written words. We are grateful for all the opportunities given our youth during Midyear sessions.

MIDYEAR YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT 2008

On the first morning of Midyear Meeting, all were greeted by an inch of fresh snow at Bear Creek! Junior Yearly Meeting and Young Friends met together for several activities. Rob Knuth was invited to speak as a youth resource person. He shared stories from his life, and encouraged the young people to make positive choices when faced with difficult challenges. Later in the day, Callie Marsh met with the youth and led a discussion about Quakerism. Callie was also facilitating the adult sessions for the weekend, and the time spent with the youth was helpful in weaving the topic together for all ages.

A relaxation session was held in the afternoon with a guided visualization of trees standing in the light and bending with the wind, as people do. This was followed by an activity of creating trees from clay.

Several worked on plans for a Young Friends history project to interview Friends in Iowa Yearly Meeting. This didn't take place because of logistics, but it could be a meaningful project to consider in the future.

For First Day reflection, Young Friends created collages about their interests and values. They decided to hang them on the wall during lunch. Then they gathered to attend meeting for worship.

The youth camp out was not held due to the chilly weather and snow. This was the first year to utilize the new building at Bear Creek, and it worked well as a gathering place for Junior Yearly Meeting and Young Friends. The continued support of youth activities is appreciated, as it enriches the programs each year.

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

We listened carefully to the report by Bear Creek Meeting on the continuing construction of the building replacing the old schoolhouse at Bear Creek. We accept the report.

BEAR CREEK MONTHLY MEETING NEW BUILDING (SCHOOL HOUSE) REPORT

The plans for the new building came through a lot of discussion and discernment, settling on a design similar to the old school house. The building is 18 feet by 24 feet but has the addition of a usable loft over about half of the floor.

Nick Knight generously led the framing and roofing with his construction crew breaking ground in mid-Seventh Month of last year. The building was completely enclosed and the roof was finished before this year's Midyear Meeting.

We are continuing work on the interior, which will include a heating system, insulation, electric wiring, sheet rock, paint, trim, lights, and so forth. Expenses have been controlled, but we may plan further fund raising as we move toward completion.

When complete, the structure will include passive-solar and "green" design elements. Skylights let in additional sunlight and warmth on the south-facing roof and solar-heated water will warm the concrete floor. We are hoping to add low voltage alternative energy components to the design as well.

We are very pleased that we could use the building for activities during Midyear Meeting and look forward to ways that the little building can be used generating new opportunities for service and outreach.

We heard the minutes of Interim Meeting forwarded to us by Interim Meeting clerk, Alice Hampton. We accept the minutes with corrections to the addendum.

INTERIM MEETING MINUTES

Fourth Month 12, 2008

Interim Meeting opened after a time of worship with representatives from nine meetings present and several other members and attenders.

Junior Yearly Meeting 2008. Penny Majors, convener of Junior Yearly Meeting, has asked for health reasons to be relieved of that duty for this coming summer. Interim Meeting asked the JYM Committee to consider who might be asked to serve as convener and has given the blessing of Interim Meeting to hire staff as they see fit. Deborah Fisch offered to serve as a resource to the Committee in locating staff. (The Yearly Meeting budget already included money for this that has not been used in recent years.)

Nominating Committee. We received a report from the clerk of the Nominating Committee that they have not been able to fill the vacancy that will exist when Russ Leckband steps down as Iowa Peace Network representative so he can serve on the Scattergood School Committee. The Interim Committee clerk will write a note to clerks of the monthly meetings in Iowa asking that they pass this request on to their nominating committee representative when that person is chosen.

Wider Fellowship of Conservative Friends. Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) received an invitation from Ohio Yearly Meeting to attend a meeting of the Wider Fellowship of Conservative Friends to be held Sixth Month 20-22, 2008, at Stillwater Meetinghouse in Barnesville, Ohio. We encourage Friends to attend and to let the clerk of Yearly Meeting know if they do attend. The assistant clerk of Interim Meeting will write to the clerks of the two meetings not present to share this invitation with them.

Possible publication of Friends' research. Callie Marsh of West Branch Monthly Meeting has written a thesis on Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and some Friends have asked her whether it will be published. She invited Friends to take this possibility to Interim Meeting for further discernment. There is an option to self-publish, but ideally Friends were in agreement that they would want it published and distributed by a publication company. At least one book has been published by Friends General Conference with or under the care of another yearly meeting which had input on editing. Interim Meeting considered whether they would like to invite Callie to pursue the option

of proposing a joint publication of the thesis with IYMC and a publisher. We approved Iowa Yearly Meeting helping Callie Marsh to get her thesis published and distributed as widely as possible while assuring the integrity of the work as a whole.

Interim Meeting approved forming a committee, which would write a letter to Friends General Conference with such a proposition, and would work with Callie and FGC to oversee the process. The following names were approved: Jean Eden, Deborah Fink, Mark Tomer, and Gordon Bivens if he accepts. Jean agreed to convene the first meeting. We also approved that this committee could add members if it feel they are needed.

[Addendum – Appendage to the minutes: Since the approval of the minutes Callie Marsh has received further clearness and requests that Friends be careful to not move too quickly.]

Appointment of visitors to other Conservative Yearly Meetings. Cheryl Sutton and Stan Sanders were nominated and agreed to attend the North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) annual sessions (Seventh Month 9-13) if way opens for them. No appointments were made for visitors to Ohio Yearly Meeting and this information will be forwarded to Nominating Committee. Way may still open for Friends to be appointed since Ohio Yearly Meeting annual sessions are in Eighth Month.

Meeting concluded with a time of silent worship.
Alice Hampton, clerk
Carol Gilbert, assistant clerk

We considered the very interesting American Friends Service Committee report prepared by the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) representatives to the corporation. We accept the report.

AFSC CORPORATION REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

The Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) corporation representatives to the American Friends Service Committee, Dan Schlitt, Ann Stromquist, Bob Yeats and Rebekah DeWild, arrived in Philadelphia for the Festive 90th Anniversary of the AFSC held November 1-3, 2007.

Sessions began each morning with worship sharing. It was a meaningful and profound experience to seek the leadings of the Spirit with a diverse group of people from the various yearly meetings.

This year the AFSC supported work in 25 countries around the world, as well advocating for peace and justice here in our own land.

One highlight is the continuing dialog with the religious and political leaders of Iran. We hope that mutual understanding will lessen the possibility of a cynical and disastrous conflict in that ancient land.

Major public efforts in the U.S. highlighted the terrible price of the continuing occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan. The Wage Peace “Cost of War” displays emphasize the loss to our communities of the \$720 million spent each day in Iraq. Giant banners were created that emphasized better uses for this money, for example, a new school or children's health care.

Closer to home, the Committee has advocated for the workers and families caught up in the ICE raids in Postville, Iowa. The AFSC has also joined a large number of religious groups and individuals supporting an amicus brief that will go before the Iowa Supreme Court on behalf of six same-sex couples. We support the right of all couples to the benefits of civil marriage regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

The public address was given this year by Joan Countryman, Germantown Friends School graduate and teacher, who became the founding head of the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy in South Africa.

Screenings of the new video “Spirited Engagement” were held. This video is an introduction to the work and history of AFSC aimed primarily at non-Quakers and new contributors. AFSC has begun a \$200 million campaign. It is impressive to note that by January 2008, 81% of both goals of raising \$30 million, as well as identifying 357 new bequests were realized.

Clerk Paul Lacey has announced that he will be resigning as of November 2009. His calm and practiced clerking will be sorely missed. A search for a new clerk is ongoing.

The celebration at the Constitution Center came to a conclusion with a rousing performance by the activist musical group Sweet Honey in the Rock. We returned to our hotels inspired and uplifted.

Although some of the Corporation representatives were disappointed by the shortage of educational content at this year's meeting, it was refreshing to see the AFSC put its best foot forward both in celebration of the 90th anniversary and to attract wider support in the community as a whole.

We listened with loving tenderness to the epistles from Ohio Yearly Meeting and North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Conservative. We appreciate hearing from our sister Conservative meetings. We love

hearing the words describing how the Spirit is faring with them. We are reminded that we are an extended family of faith.

NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING CONSERVATIVE EPISTLE

Seventh Month 13, 2008

To our brothers and sisters in Christ in Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative,

Greetings from the 311th annual session of Conservative Friends in North Carolina. The ties between our yearly meetings were strengthened by the presence of Cheryl Sutton and Stan Sanders. We have felt nurtured by springs of Living Water, as we considered the theme “Coming Home to Creation” on the lovely Guilford campus in Seventh Month. From our morning Bible studies to the plenary by Carl Magruder we have been reminded of the heavy imbalance in our relationship to creation.

We struggle to listen to, and to obey, the Lord’s call—as individuals and in our meetings. We are reminded of the witness of our daily lives and the need to examine our choices for any harm we may be causing.

We know we are not alone in this struggle. We are encouraged by the bonds that tie our two yearly meetings together, both historically and in the present. We also know Christ is with us and as the Psalm says, “For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.” Psalms 36:9

We pray God’s love will enfold Iowa Friends and may we all be found faithful to the call we hear. May we all heed the words of the apostle when he says in II Thessalonians 3:5, “And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patient waiting for Christ.”

In His tender love,

Sidney Lee Kitchens,

Clerk, North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

OHIO YEARLY MEETING EPISTLE

8/18/2007

To Friends in Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative

Dear Friends,

Jesus saith unto her: ‘Said not I to thee, that, if thou wouldst believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?’

Once again, Ohio Yearly Meeting Friends are gathered for our annual sessions amid the beautiful hills of southeastern Ohio. We are

glad to be joined by visitors from other Yearly Meetings and by some who want to learn what concerns and motivates Conservative Friends. All are welcome, and we are strengthened by their friendship and their sharing with us. It is a special blessing to have Roy and Martha Hampton from your yearly meeting among these visitors.

Our yearly meeting continues to be small in numbers. We are sensing a growing desire to make our business sessions more significant as a part of our worship and service to God.

In this age of technical advances, we are unable to be isolated from what is happening around us. We are glad for the reminders to be in the world but not of the world. Some of our young people are showing that living in a tradition is not enough and are pressing to know the truth and reality of a relationship with the Lord. We might credit some of this desire as an outgrowth from the Christian Education Camp held in Sixth Month each year. And we do know that by example, with trust and prayer, the Lord does work in our midst. His is the power and His is the glory.

We have been enjoying evening programs of ministry and information. Some who have shared with us have been members of Ohio Yearly Meeting and others are from distant places.

Some of our adult members have been working all week with Junior Yearly Meeting Young Friends. They crown the week's endeavors with a presentation on Seventh Day evening. We always count on this time as a special blessing.

Our newest monthly meeting in Stillwater Quarter, Keystone Fellowship Monthly Meeting, is located in the eastern Pennsylvania area. They hosted a spiritually rich Conservative Friends Worship Gathering in Sixth Month. It should be noted that the Wider Fellowship of Conservative Friends plans for another Gathering at Stillwater in Sixth Month of 2008.

In Christ's love,
Seth B Hinshaw, clerk

We listened carefully to selections of epistles received by the Yearly Meeting from other yearly meetings around the world. The clerk thanked Decorah Friends for making the selections for the Yearly Meeting, especially since she mistakenly sent the epistles to them instead of Yahara Preparative Meeting. We noted that we heard excerpts from Ireland Yearly Meeting with different ears after having heard a report from Mark Patton who attended FWCC Triennial there this past year.

IRELAND YEARLY MEETING

“...Over the course of four days, 27–30 March, 2008, we have heard accounts of Friends’ work in Ireland. Through our ecumenical involvement in the Irish Interchurch Committee, progress is being made with our concern about the portrayal of violent death as entertainment on television. Representatives of Quaker House Belfast have told us that although a period of political stability has begun, we have to recognise that there is a fear that Northern Irish society is more deeply divided than before; therefore the cross-community work of Friends is now more important than ever. On a wider perspective, two Friends gave a presentation on “Caring for Creation: what canst thou do?” It is hoped to raise the consciousness of Irish Friends about sustainability and the natural environment.

Since our last epistle, we have experienced the visit of about 300 Quakers from 41 countries worldwide to the FWCC Triennial, which was held in Dublin in August. There were many voices but all were willing to share in silent worship. Many of the Kenyan Friends we met there have in the meantime been severely affected by the unrest in their country and we hold them especially in our prayers. Hearing some of these things in the comfort of our own Yearly Meeting, we are all too aware of the challenges that confront our world. For too long we have been part of a culture based on achievement and performance rather than on personal worth. But somehow through it all, we can identify an answer in the message of Jesus which offers simply unconditional love and the security to accept forgiveness. We still realise that, like the woman of Samaria, we can go again to the well and receive the water of eternal life.

‘But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength: they shall mount up with wings as eagles: they shall run and not be weary: and they shall walk and not faint’ Isaiah 40:31.

Signed, on behalf of Ireland Yearly Meeting
Alan C. Pim, clerk.

MONTEVERDE MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

“As we settle down in worship on a Sunday morning, it is warming to know that Friends world-wide are doing the same. Though our surroundings may be different, our seeking and centering are mutual as is our desire for peace within and without. In this tropical cloud forest, we arrive at our meeting room from up or down the mountain on foot or by car, young and old, visitors and residents. The young ones experience the

sounds of the wind and of bird calls; the sight of trees all around and butterflies flitting in and out; the feel of vapory mist drifting by and sometimes even entering the open doors. We are in nature, and it enters into our meditations and messages with lessons to share... How do we change an environment, and how does it change us? Questions of how cultures change each other were made real as our Monteverde Friends School 11th and 12th graders spent five days living among indigenous people in neighbouring Panama. We were brought back to the culture of this place, Monteverde Friends, as we learned from our meeting elders, from Quaker faith testimonies, from the life of Jesus, and from our service in the broader community—our four central themes for young Friends this year...”

NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING

“During our Fall Sessions those present approved a minute that we ask you to consider as an act of faith, humbly seeking with courage to be God's instruments of peace: *We call on Friends within New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends and everywhere—whoever is able—to designate times for worship with an urgent concern to act for peace. In an environment of increasing threats against Iran and the possibility of national emergency being declared over perceived or contrived international crises, we call on Friends to speak out now. We will not be silenced as we work for peace. May we seek divine guidance that leads toward action, working whenever possible with other communities of faith. Let us endeavor to foster relationships with the people of all nations, including those opposed by our own governments. May we rise above our doubts and fears through God's love and care...*”

EPISTLE OF GERMAN YEARLY MEETING

“...We gathered under the theme of “Peace Work and Spirituality”. In a meeting for worship at the beginning, we experienced the truth of the eighth of our Advices and Queries: “Worship is our response to an awareness of God. We can worship alone, but when we join with others in expectant waiting we may discover a deeper sense of God's presence. We seek a gathered stillness in our meetings for worship so that all may feel the power of God's love drawing us together and leading us.” While in the past, peace work and spirituality had often seemed to occupy opposite poles in the life of our Yearly Meeting, an awareness of their being interwoven and complementary formed the main strand of our gathering this year...”

SWEDEN YEARLY MEETING

“The Yearly Meeting theme has been both vital and given rise to many reflections about what shapes us as individuals and as a faith community, the importance of being able to choose one’s own identity, the injustices we identify and grapple with, as well as how we can help each other to try to deal with them through peaceful dialogue. We affirm the importance of people finding their own identity and taking their rightful place in the world. In our Quaker tradition we first and foremost regard each other as people...”

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

FIFTH DAY – THURSDAY – 7/31/08

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

A Friends meeting is intended to be so much more than a loose association of individuals on separate and private spiritual journeys. Friends are called to be a faith community, seeking to know each other in that which is Eternal as we journey together. Ideally, we acknowledge that our primary relationship is to God and to that of God in each other. We let go of the idea that we have only private lives and hold ourselves accountable to the authority of the Spirit in the life of the meeting. We grow in a sense of responsibility for each other and become part of a gathered community. Margery Mears Larrabee, 2007

Martha Davis and Stan Sanders have been appointed readers for the day.

Collection presenters for the evening of Third Day were Nancy Irving and Mark Patton. Nancy is visiting us as General Secretary of the Friends World Committee for Consultation World Office. She shared about the history of FWCC and some of the many projects it undertakes on behalf of all Friends around the world. Mark, a member of West Branch Monthly Meeting and an Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) representative to the FWCC Triennial in Ireland last fall, shared his experiences of visiting Ireland and a flavor of what it was like to attend an FWCC Triennial. After Collection, Friends gathered for fellowship and singing. We were saddened to learn of the death of long-time

member of West Branch Meeting, Norval Tucker, who passed away early in the morning of Third Day.

During the afternoon of Fourth Day, Friends had the opportunity to hear presentations by Renee Espeland, coordinator of Iowa Peace Network; Sonia Tuma, director of the Central Region of the American Friends Service Committee; and Jim and Ginger Kenney, Midwest Field Representatives for Friends Committee on National Legislation. There were also interest groups on the Discipline revision, Earthcare Subcommittee of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, and what is happening in Postville, Iowa since the raid by immigration officials earlier this year.

In evening Collection Theoneste Biziman, director of *Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities* in Rwanda, told us of his reconciliation work in the Great Lakes area of Africa. We were moved to hear how he helps both victims and perpetrators of war and genocide learn how to begin to live together again. It was inspiring to be reminded that even though we all carry the seeds for hatred and destruction, we also hold the capacity for great love and healing. Theoneste reminded us that we are all “wounded healers” and helped us renew our faith in the possibilities for peacemaking in all circumstances.

We are happy to welcome Bruce Birchard, member of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and General Secretary of Friends General Conference.

We listened to the report of the FWCC representatives prepared by Martha Davis. We appreciate the report.

FWCC REPORT

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

Friends from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) continue to be active in many aspects of the work of FWCC. Martha Davis continues on the FWCC Section of the Americas Executive Committee and is a member of the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage Committee that selected leaders and pilgrims for the pilgrimage being held in Ireland and Scotland Seventh and Eighth Month, 2008. She also has had the opportunity to clerk a special committee addressing the restructuring concerns for

FWCC Section of the Americas (SOA). Mark Patton served as the representative from IYMC to the FWCC Triennial held in Dublin, Ireland in Eighth Month 2007.

The FWCC Section of the Americas fund raising campaign was very successful. This will allow FWCC SOA to continue and expand its programs to bring Friends from the Americas into full knowledge of each others' gifts.

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 many commonalities of Friends.

For the Committee,
Martha Davis

We listened carefully to the report of the Publications Committee. Our minute book and web page are not only useful for us, but also serve as a wonderful outreach resource. We cannot begin to express enough gratitude to the Committee and particularly its clerk for the continued service to the Yearly Meeting.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Thanks to the Yearly Meeting clerk, Deborah Fisch, getting the first draft of the Minutes to us promptly, and the proofreading by committee members Margery Haworth, Debbie Galusha, and Nancy Ewald, the Minutes were delivered, electronically, to Goodfellow Printing, Inc., Iowa City, Iowa, on October 31, 2007. Unfortunately, again, it took over a month for the Minutes to be printed. The previous year Bob Goodfellow promised to have the Minutes printed within fifteen working days after receiving them. If not, he would give us a twenty five (25) percent discount on the print job. Bob did contact me to ask if December 1st would be acceptable, and I agreed. However, the Minutes were not actually finished and shipped until mid December. When the bill arrived, I reminded him of the promise of a 25 % discount, and he readily agreed to that, so our final cost was reduced from \$2,475.00 to \$1,856.25. I subsequently asked for a quote from another printer and was surprised to learn it would be nearly twice as much as Goodfellow Printing charges us. Again, this year, Goodfellow also shipped the Minutes to the monthly meetings for us. We recommend continuing our relationship with Goodfellow Printing because of their pricing, and because they do a very good job printing the Minutes (eventually).

Regarding the member directory, I apologize for errors that occurred this year. In the past, the process to extract the directory listings from the Microsoft SQL Server database required an XML Web Service, which was running on a computer in my office. It appears that in the process of moving the SQL database from my home computer to the office computer, some corrupt records, or a mix up in versions of the database resulted in some addresses not being correct. To avoid this situation in the future, I wrote new software that does not require the XML Web Service, so the entire process can now be done on my home computer. The other advantage is this application can be used to generate the membership directory when someone else takes over that responsibility.

Budgeted	\$2,700.00
Expenses	
Goodfellow Printing	\$1,856.25
Web Hosting	95.40
Mailing	135.09
Total	\$2,086.74

Note: Goodfellow Printing cost represents a 25% discount from regular price of \$2,475.00).

We are sorry to learn Nancy Ewald is moving to Oregon, and will no longer be able to serve on the committee. Her work on a style guide for publications, especially, is appreciated.

The committee continues its responsibility for the website (www.quakernet.org). In order to make it easier for visitors to find which monthly meeting is nearest them, a map of the Midwest, showing the locations of all the monthly meetings, was created. A link is provided to an interactive map that can give users driving directions, as well as a satellite image of the area.

The cost of mailing individual copies of the Minutes increased significantly this year. If a similar increase in mailing and printing costs occurs next year, our expenses may be slightly higher than the \$2,700 that has been budgeted the past several years.

Jeff Kisling, clerk

We received the report of the Archives Committee. We will look for old minute books when we return to our homes. Friends are asked to bring extra minute books to Midyear Meeting. Meetings are also invited to send an inventory of their minute book collections to the clerk of the Archive Committee, Dan Treadway.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

Archives Committee met yesterday after lunch, and discussed two items.

First, our current agreement with the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI), by which they house our records in their Iowa City library, expires at the end of this year. SHSI has agreed to a five-year extension, and that paperwork is in the hands of the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) (IYMC) trustees for their signatures.

Second, the committee has been in touch with a number of libraries whose collections include printed copies of the IYMC annual minutes. These include the SHSI libraries in Iowa City and Des Moines, our collection in the William Penn Room here on the Scattergood campus, the Ames Monthly Meeting library, and Guilford and Earlham Colleges. For all but three years from 1877 to 1986, at least one of these collections is missing a copy. Since 1986, about half the years are missing from at least one collection. Based on this information, the committee asks that anyone who is downsizing their possessions consider giving copies of old IYMC minutes to us. We will find them good homes.

We ask that our annual budget allowance of \$200 be continued.

For the committee,

Dan Treadway, clerk

We turned our attention to selections of monthly meeting responses to the Advice and Queries selected by the Yearly Meeting Assistant Clerk.

We find many of the responses to be interesting, thoughtful, and challenging. The advices and queries are a cornerstone of our Quaker values. We are grateful for them. This year we are struck by how many of them focus on helping us examine conflict in our lives, our meetings, and the world. We understand that conflict can be a tool for helping us expand our understandings and our presence in the world if we face them openly and with love for ourselves and each other.

Our responses to the Queries are an examination and record of the continuing revelation of how we understand and respond to God's callings. They are a chance for us to answer the question, "Do we preach what we practice?" We are reminded that if we examine deeply and truthfully the advices and queries, some of our answers should probably be "no."

QUERIES AND SELECTED RESPONSES

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: We all look forward to meeting for worship. It is an “uncluttered” time when we can start to unclutter our lives.

We find that walking or biking to Meeting helps us to prepare for worship. We often think of our poster, “Be still and cool in your own mind and spirit from your own thoughts, and then you will feel the principle of God” by George Fox, 1658.

We are glad for a diversity of people in our group. Diversity helps in decision-making—people from different backgrounds may see things from a different perspective, so someone in the group will be able to solve a problem from their own experience.

We generally have the appropriate amount of vocal messages. When someone brings a message which doesn’t appeal to us personally, we realize it may be just right for someone else, and we don’t let it disturb our meditation.

After meeting, we try to mention to the person who spoke that we appreciate their message. We wondered whether we should adopt the system (used in some Friends Meetings) of going around the circle after Worship with everyone giving their name and any afterthoughts or announcements they have. This way, everyone feels included in the group.

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: Our discussion reveals that our activities and involvement with other groups such as the recent Quaker Women's retreat, the Iowa Peace Network, a Good Grief group, and the Catholic Worker community are meaningful avenues to help us build awareness of our beloved community and shared experience.

As we pursue our wider activities, we are mindful to ask whether the daily witness of our lives truly reflects our core testimonies.

Our new small building has created curiosity in our community and seems to be an opportunity to witness and acquaint others to our interests and concerns about green technology for the challenges we face as a culture.

We strive to be a light to those seeking refuge from a variety of concerns facing us in these times such as economic oppression, energy, militarism and war. Our gift as Quakers is the recognition that we probably do not have all of the answers, but we are willing to bring forth the questions.

3. MEETING FOR BUSINESS

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

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

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

Selected response: Meeting for business is going well overall; it no longer feels rushed and yet it is often getting done earlier. Committees

are doing more work and being trusted in their work, which may be contributing to this change.

We recognize, however, that we still have growth to do. For example, we sometimes make small issues into bigger ones. And we need to work on being more patient and work at finding loving ways to express our frustrations. Because people process information differently, such as some who see the small pieces of a situation and others who see the larger picture, this sometimes contributes to conflict. Or sometimes people are appreciating the social interaction meeting for business can provide while others want to follow an agenda, whether an official or personal one, which can cause tension.

While our infrastructure is much like a larger meeting, we wonder if we could simplify the process we practice. Can we do some things as a body rather than a committee, or maybe appoint an ad hoc committee rather than trying to maintain a standing committee? Our pool for committee membership is small, yet most people are on at least one committee. We wonder if those appointed are appropriate for the positions they fill, and we know we need to work on that level of truthfulness individually and in our nominating process, as well. Do we pay attention to the Spirit when called to the tasks we do? Sometimes we may get confused, wondering if the Divine is inspiring us to fill a task we are asked to do or rather providing us a moment to practice knowing ourselves better and saying no. When someone has a minority opinion on the subject, the person often steps aside, and perhaps the issue reappears another month. Time also provides a time to change our minds, to become convinced. We hope we are listening and processing each person's input, recognizing that sometimes it takes a while for this to completely occur.

There is a general lack of commitment to the Meeting beyond attending Sundays, though this is not often different than other church bodies. Committee work relies on a commitment by each member, however. Are we asking more of ourselves in our committee obligations and structure than what we can reasonably attend to? Our care for each other and for the Meeting needs to be from the Spirit and not through social engineering of a committee. Is our work and worship Spirit led?

Business meeting is to help us test our leadings with each other.

Coming to Meeting in the spirit of Love will decrease the impact of strains on working with each other. Having the intention to be in this spirit with understanding and patience will guide us through difficult times. Good social relationships among us can provide richer ground by which to complete our Meeting agenda.

4. HARMONY WITHIN THE MEETING

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

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

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

Selected response: It was observed that making our relationships deeper depends more on the quality of time we spend with one another rather than the amount of time.

Currently we don't seem to have issues in the meeting that cause tension between differing ideas or opinions. Maintaining relationships with those outside our group requires more effort. We were reminded that we need to view another's point of view as an opportunity to learn something about ourselves.

We understand that Friends as a whole are not free of divisions and conflicts among individuals and different theological branches. We find ourselves guilty of some of the same narrow-mindedness we criticize in others. Most strive to allow others to follow their own paths just as we wish to follow ours, but it is good to be reminded by this query of the ideal.

The phrase in the query "cultivate a forgiving spirit" made one person uneasy as it seems to imply that all that is required is to understand the basis of a conflict rather than dealing with it directly. Again, we are reminded that recognizing that the other may have a portion of the Truth, as do we, can lead to finding a resolution for all. The phrase "give conflict up to God" seems to be an important one to remember in dealing with all disagreements.

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: It is the culture of Friends to be boldly independent. It can be demeaning to older Friends when they do not know how to reach out for help in time of need.

There is a sense, shared by all present, that we don't always do a good job of communicating our personal need for help to others.

Sometimes difficulty in communicating our personal needs is literally due to external communication barriers coming from not being able to hear each other when speaking in meeting. Some time was spent in discussing whether a microphone might be useful if available in meeting for worship and business meeting times. Several friends noted appreciation for having the queries read aloud in meeting for worship and felt that this helps overcome some hearing problems.

One member asked how any of us seek group or one-on-one help.

Another highlighted personal experience of learning the importance of being able to ask others for help, finding that she had been enriched by a "clearness" process where she found the group members to be loving, without a lot of defined rules and barriers. The member shared many times before feeling the need to be "stoic" when wrestling with personal decision. She was surprised at realizing that she had missed some valuable insight and support by trying "to be stoic" and not sharing problems and getting helpful feedback.

A question came forward from the group: Are single people more likely to be "stoic" due to worrying about whether they might be projecting a sense of "weakness"? This was addressed by another, who reminded all present of the Buddhist teaching of "the importance of generosity." Do we prevent others from being generous? We are taught to "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Does this teaching not imply compassion for oneself? Not recognizing personal needs could be seen as not being compassionate.

It is the sense of those present that we encourage both men and women to share care giving.

We make a good effort, through Friendly Eights, the Meeting Circle, Ministry and Oversight et al., to draw members of all ages into the fellowship of the meeting. A question was raised again about addressing ability to hear the messages in meeting. We were reminded that being attentive to the energy under the messages in meeting is important. Hearing spiritually depends a lot on being physically, spiritually present while having the necessary accommodations for hearing.

Concern was raised that we still do not have a good handle on how to care for youth and children beyond preschool age in the second hour. A seasoned birthright friend regaled those present with a personal memory

of being a young person and getting “tickled and giggly” in meeting and being known as a “bench shaker.”

One Friend responded that children contribute entertainment to the meeting. It was roundly affirmed that the children are a very important part of the meeting.

A concern was raised that neither the adults nor the children all know each other’s names. It was decided that the meeting would move to develop nametags to address this issue.

The Ministry and Oversight Committee periodically writes letters to those that are at a distance from meeting. The Friendly Line is greatly valued for its communication channels to members and attenders who are in other places and unable to attend regularly.

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: Improved communication among members of the meeting and parents involved in First Day School has increased awareness and involvement in planning for First Day School. The new calendar is helpful. Parents encourage the rest of the meeting to be more aware of what they are doing in First Day School and what we can do to support these activities; for example, awareness of the use of Styrofoam and writing letters to kids in Iran, a project of the Peace Center. Parents struggle against commercialism in raising their children. Parents involved in First Day School have developed excellent programs that encourage inquiring minds and thinking on both sides of an issue. The “Earth Day Birthday,” where children give those with a birthday from among the things the giver owns, encourages better use of possessions and recycling.

Ministry and Counsel has developed programs to encourage learning among adults in the meeting; for example, on Quakerism and

homelessness; and we are planning one on the environment this spring. The meeting has continued the *Getting to Know You* series which has been successful. We continue to support Scattergood School financially through our yearly meeting apportionment and also through service of members on school committees.

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 feel led to support families and individuals in our meeting in every way we can. Each of us is connected—one with the community of Friends

Our meeting feels like a safe place for young people to learn to speak up and be assertive. It is not always allowed or accepted in the wider world. There is much pressure on kids to be popular and fit in. Here they can be individuals and be liked and accepted for who they are?

Children learn from the modeling of adults. Our lives speak. Sharing life's experiences, struggles, and concerns with our children allows them to see a larger picture of the possibilities in life and helps them develop inner resources. One thing we can do for our younger members is to teach about healthy relationships, which can help prevent violence. Adults should let kids know if they are willing to listen. However, the young person may not always be willing to share. That should be respected. Families and our faith community can't do it all. Sometimes professional help is needed. Not all families are nurturing. Some are in denial about problems and even violence. Intimate interactions within a family teach children what is acceptable, even if it is dysfunctional.

Some homes feel like holy ground, where daily centering in the spirit takes place. These practices become apparent in the home. The connection with spirit is communicated by actions and words.

Our sharing of joys and concerns and visiting while drinking coffee each week after worship are very much appreciated as a way to connect

with each other and strengthen our bonds. Any opportunity to join together is an opportunity to nurture our community of Friends.

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: We read and pondered Query 11 on social and economic justice. A member shared his experiences of visiting a young person in prison, and now in a halfway house, and how he sees for himself that the claims of the government about training, social services, and mental health care within the penal system are simply not true. He has seen no evidence of any efforts in these directions. When the political candidates espouse change, as they all are doing, it is not clear whom the change is for, nor whether we might be called on to make sacrifices. The anti-immigration political agenda flies in the face of Jesus' teaching in Matthew 25:35-36.

Often we are privileged through accidents of birth and upbringing over which we have no control. We recognize that we find it difficult to empathize with people whose lives are so unlike our own. We know that living with people who are different from us helps us understand their reality better. Likewise, we believe we need to exercise our imagination to take in the realities of others' lives. We are aware that the benefits for the participants in work camps is enormous in opening us to how others in the world may live, and are also cautious that we cannot expect the underprivileged to carry the burden of educating the privileged. The work camp movement was a powerful tool for us, but may be a more limited tool for those whom it has been meant to help.

We are reminded that many people may hate Americans because we do not even know why others hate us. At times, we have difficulty understanding how our behavior affects others. One couple that has traveled to the east by bus commented that they were almost the only

white people on the bus at times. Bus travel is a strong indication of classism in our country.

We hope that our belief in that of the Divine existing within all people makes it easier for us to understand another's perspective. Yet we ourselves have not yet been able to agree to marry a gay or lesbian couple. We need to look at ourselves, ask ourselves if we treat everyone equally, before we point fingers at others.

We recognize that it is confusing to be American and to be taught that equality is for all, when at the same time our society expends much energy in perpetuating systematic inequity. Awareness of this discrepancy, and how we are all implicitly living within it, is important to free ourselves to be able to make choices guided by Jesus' words, rather than by society's expectations. We also remind ourselves that the purpose of the queries is to help us live in ways that take us closer to God. A little guilt can motivate us to change, but it is not helpful to respond by spinning our wheels in the depths of guilt. The latter does not promote either thinking or action. We are all right and we can do better.

9. CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

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

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

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

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

Selected response: We are aware of the deep conflict for many of us as we struggle with the dilemma of paying taxes that support programs that benefit our lives as well as others lives and the large portion that goes for military and to support the death penalty. The issue is very troubling and remains unresolved.

This election year has provided a more open forum for discussing political views. Although we sometimes disagree with another person's views, we try to express our own with love, but are not sure we always do so successfully. So often, political views are expressed with vehemence and surety that one's own are the only correct views, it is

difficult not to respond in kind. We are often alarmed at the measures individuals are willing to take in order to feel secure from imagined threats. The loss of personal liberty in the last few years in the name of national security is of great concern.

As we face the changing economic situation in our nation, we are aware of the real dilemma the country faces as a diminishing world power. While we often individually feel powerless to make any kind of significant changes in our government policies, we try to support organizations that address the many complicated issues we are concerned about. Although concrete results may not be what we quite anticipated, we are reminded that our efforts may bring unexpected benefits.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

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

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

Selected response: We are encouraged that concern for environmental issues has become more widespread in the society at large. Yet we are troubled that the attempts to address these concerns do not question or attempt to alter the disproportionate use of resources, both as residents of this country and as human beings on the planet.

We are challenged by the advice to give thought and effort to replenishing what we receive from the earth, knowing how short we fall. As one Friend asked, "How can I possibly give back what I receive when what I receive is my very life?"

What we give back is profound gratitude for the earth and the joy we experience when we live in harmony with creation. We recognize that a strong emotional connection to the earth is necessary and we work to nurture this in ourselves and others. We hope to mobilize with gratitude rather than guilt.

We seek to live simply and be good stewards of the earth's resources. We go out of our way to grow and prepare our food. We are content with smaller houses and older cars. We recognize that living responsibly does not have to be difficult; it is in fact fun and satisfying.

We look for ways to communicate this to others.

We struggle with our dependence on cars. We find it hard to imagine the earth restored unless people stop driving cars. Yet we are unable to do so ourselves, and we ask ourselves, “If Quakers can’t stop driving, who can?” We hold this concern as we calculate our carbon footprint, and make choices to reduce it. Even small changes, such as driving at or below the speed limit, can make a difference in ways we cannot know.

We seek to remain open to the leading of the spirit as we grow in our awareness of our interconnectedness.

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 are certainly aware of the benefits we derive from our society’s exploitation of natural and human resources. We know that problems of pollution and the various problems with immigration are related to the overuse of our resources. We are part of the problem. Most of us live in houses that are too big and thus use too much gas to heat, for example.

We know that we should be doing something about the prison problem in Iowa. One of our members participates in Alternatives to Violence. We need to work with our legislature. They want to build more prisons when we think that it would be more appropriate to imprison fewer people, especially those with minor drug offenses and bad check writing. Rehabilitation programs are more socially uplifting as well as cost effective.

We participate in a host of events in Ames that address social injustice. Our support of Scattergood is a means to foster understanding of these issues. We think that Scattergood School does a lot for both its students and staff in seeing and understanding injustice issues.

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: One of the basic foundations for peacemaking is the recognition of the witness of Truth and goodness in every heart and the acknowledgement of this witness in seeking reconciliation with those with whom we have differences.

We are challenged by the overwhelming forces that create and maintain conflict. If we are open to the leadings of clear thought and the path of Light, we can develop faithful, effective and compassionate alternatives to violence.

Often, the events of the moment lead to feelings of frustration and a call for some to express these motivations in some form of non-violent direct action or civil disobedience. We affirm this path for those who are led, but acknowledge that, as we seek direction in our response to war and violence, the journey for many begins with allowing our Spirits to seek a more loving and holy attitude toward conflict and those whom it effects.

We prayerfully considered a recommendation from the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Peace and Social Concerns Committee to become a participating member of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. The Yearly Meeting approves the recommendation of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. We ask the Representatives to consider an annual donation and the Nominating Committee to bring forward a name of a representative to the Council.

We realize it is important for us to join other religious organizations in the country in this work. We know we are accountable for the actions of our government. Our voices need to be raised.

Peace and Social Concerns recommendation

Torture is a Moral Issue: A Statement of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture.

Torture violates the basic dignity of the human person that all religions hold dear. It degrades everyone involved – policy makers, perpetrators and victims. It contradicts our nation's most cherished ideals. Any policies that permit torture and inhumane treatment are shocking and morally intolerable.

Nothing less is at stake in the torture abuse crisis than the soul of our nation. What does it dignify if torture is condemned in word but allowed in deed? Let America abolish torture now – without exceptions.

Above is the statement of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT), an ecumenical group dedicated to publicizing and abolishing the use of torture by this country. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee of IYM(C) finds the statement in accord with Iowa Yearly Meeting's stated beliefs, and are impressed with the materials and programs NRCAT provides to help all of us as we strive to shine a light on this issue for our fellow citizens.

Religious organizations can apply for membership in NRCAT. Endorsing Members are religious organizations who endorse the Statement of Conscience and agree to consider using and promoting NRCAT programs. In addition to fulfilling the three requirements above, Participating Members name a representative to the Participating Members' Council, and make an annual financial contribution to NRCAT (it can be modest).

We ask the Yearly Meeting to consider joining the National Religious Campaign Against Torture as a Participating Member. We agree that “nothing less is at stake in the torture abuse crisis than the soul of our nation.” The published statement and goals of this group are completely in line with our yearly meeting's minute on torture, our past support for the Quaker Initiative Against Torture, and in accordance with our long stated goals in this area.

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

SIXTH DAY – FRIDAY – 8/01/08

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

“. . . [W]hat would happen if a stranger came into a Friends meeting and had no knowledge of the core beliefs of Friends other than by what could be observed? What would the person conclude Quakerism is? . . . Our Peace Testimony is not a priceless vase to be kept protected on a high shelf lest it become chipped or scratched. It has authenticity only when it is taken down, used, and tested.” Arlene Kelly, 2008

Liz Oppenheimer and Emma Deutsch have been appointed as readers this morning.

On Fifth Day afternoon Friends had the opportunity to attend many interest groups. The evening collection was a concert by Friend John McCutcheon of Atlanta, Georgia. His music both entertained and ministered to us.

We listened to the report of the Yearly Meeting Trustees prepared by clerk AM Fink. We appreciate the report.

YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES REPORT

We appoint Jim Dietz-Kilen and Lowell Wilson to the Scattergood Friends School Foundation with terms ending in 2012. We appoint Barbara Garlinghouse to that Foundation with term ending in 2010, replacing Ginny Winsor.

We have signed the agreement with the State Historical Society for the archiving of the Yearly Meeting documents as recommended by the Archives Committee.

The Scattergood Friends School Foundation Report is appended. It shows that the endowment decreased by about \$91,000 this year but included in this deficit are two contributions to the school, one of \$66,463 to the scholarship fund and \$56,491 to the capital fund. The current book value of the endowment is \$3,359,569. The trustees are disappointed to note that almost no new endowment money was raised. It seems to us that fund raising efforts should emphasize that endowment

money is the quickest way to increase funds available to the school in the long run.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Checking account from First National Bank of Primghar

Initial balance 7/1/07	\$3,081.54
From IYM treasurer	1,000.00
From Entertainment Committee	275.62
Interest Earned	<u>12.91</u>
Funds available 7/1/08	\$4,370.07

No disbursements this year.

submitted by A. M. Fink, clerk

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, 2008

Total funds received	\$127,998
B.C. Zeigler interest and dividends	2,351
Checking account interest	110
Land income	6,162
Westwood #1 interest and dividends	47,210
Westwood #2 interest and dividends	61,011
Mennonite Foundation interest and dividends	784
Other donations	753
Other income—Westwood #1 class action	374
CD interest	\$2,463
 Total expenses and transfers	 \$122,954
Support to School scholarship fund	66,463
Support to School capital fund — Westwood #2	56,491

Expenses		\$33,135
Accounting Services – paid by school		
Investments fees and bank charges		\$33,135
Excess of funds received less expenses		(\$28,091)
Less: Realized and unrealized loss on investments		(63,083)
Deficit after gas (loss) adjustment		(\$91,174)

Growth of Foundation

Change as of Fiscal Year Ending	6/30/07	6/30/08	+/-
Investments and Earnings	\$3,450,738	\$3,359,567	(\$91,171)
B. C. Zeigler	39,988	43,218	3,230
Westwood Trust #1	1,507,973	1,510,993	3,020
Westwood Trust #2	1,706,554	1,666,193	(40,361)
Cash in checking accounts	1,012	49,657	48,645
Accrued income	18,830	11,437	(7,393)
Interest free loan	(5,000)	(5,000)	0
Payable – School	(31,494)	(33,232)	(1,738)
Land – 24.68 acres	85,150	85,150	0
CDs	39,000	0	(39,000)
Mennonite Foundation	30,123	31,151	1,028
Bridge pledges receivable	\$58,602	\$0	(\$58,602)

BOOK VALUE OF THE ENDOWMENT AS OF 6/30/08:

2000-01	\$834,846
2001-02	840,574
2002-03	995,699
2003-04	1,093,909
2004-05	1,158,142
2005-06	1,175,526
2006-07	3,356,172
2007-08	\$3,359,569

We listened carefully to the well-written and amazing Scattergood School Committee Report prepared by Jan Luchini, Head of the School, and the Scattergood Farm Report prepared by Mark Quee, Farm Manager. We look forward to these reports every year. We value the nurturing of young people happening here. It is one of the major ways Iowa Yearly Meeting (C) provides witness in the world. We are aware of

the loving, hard work of staff and School Committee that make this all possible. We are reminded to keep changes being considered by the Department of Education in our awareness as they will affect the School. We appreciate the beautiful new signs on campus and the work of the School to become a more sustainable community. It is a witness to us all. We are pleased that all graduates have been accepted into accredited colleges. We understand all this work to be a labor of Love. We are grateful.

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL REPORT

This was another wonderful year at Scattergood. We concluded the year with a beautiful commencement ceremony on June 1, 2008. Eighteen seniors graduated and have since scattered in search of new experiences. They included Angelis Shropshire, Chang Woo Hong, Lionel Musoni, Christopher HarrKuhn, Shamra Williams-Hussein, Eric Tjossem, Taylor Friese, Joel O'Brien, Lindsey Holderness, Liam Landoll, Pyong Landoll, Emma Carson, Miriam Medina, Stacy Roth, Sally Risk, Trina Van Mell, Syndi Love, and Paul Gilliam. All graduates have been accepted into accredited colleges and universities. Our post-graduate student from Mexico, Miriam Medina, has returned to Mexico to study nursing. Angelis Shropshire has been accepted to several four year colleges and plans to attend Kirkwood Community College for two years before transferring to Cornell College. Chaz Hong will be attending the Illinois Institute of Technology to study architecture. Liam Landoll will also be attending the Illinois Institute of Technology. Lionel Musoni has been accepted at Earlham College and Augustana College but has not decided which he will attend to study business and foreign languages. Emma Carson will attend the University of Iowa this fall. Chris HarrKuhn will be heading off to Warren Wilson College in the fall to explore a number of interests, including Peace and Global Studies, Photography, Outdoor Leadership and Political Science. Eric Tjossem has also been accepted to several liberal arts colleges and has yet to choose where he will study in the realm of humanities, though he has additional interests in politics and computer science. Shamra Williams-Hussein is taking a semester off to help her family move back to Texas, and plans to attend Houston University and eventually Cairo University in Egypt, where she plans to study Egyptology and Biology. Paul Gilliam will be finishing credits over the summer but has been accepted to the University of Northern Iowa. Taylor Friese will defer for one year to work on a farm making yarn, and following that she will be attending Cornell College. Lindsey Holderness will attend community

college for two years before going on to study Criminology at William Penn and has additional interests in zoology and wildlife conservation. Stacy Roth will head straight to Earlham College this fall and plans to study linguistics or religion. Pyong Landoll will also be attending Earlham this fall. Joel O'Brien will take some time off before choosing where he will attend college. Sally Risk has been accepted to the University of the Redlands and the University of the Pacific but will be taking some time off to visit Sweden. Trina Van Mell will be attending Clark University. Syndi Love will be in Florida working on an Americorps job for one year, then returning to go to college in Iowa and study nursing. Congratulations and best wishes to each of these 2008 Scattergood graduates.

Congratulations also to rising seniors Meghan Maynard, who was named the Bob and Sara Berquist Scholar, and Oscar Erwin, who was honored as the Fine Arts Scholar.

Several staff members have left Scattergood and will not return next year. They include Amanda Edwards, Dan Carter, Dana Smith, Elenoir Wilder Tack, Heidi and Andy Casto, Rachel Howard, Lorraine Gaynor, Nan Fawcett, Rachel Butler, and S. Sutterfield Winn. 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 2008-09 school year include: Jan Luchini, Bob Gutwein, Chris Spinler, Dana Foster, Glenn Singer, Hans Niehus, Irving Treadway, Joey and Sarah Giffen-Hunter, John Morman, Margie Figgins, Mark Quee, Michal Lynch, Riley Lark, Sam Taylor, and Steve Nordlund.

Staff members new to Scattergood for the upcoming school year include Nicole and Steve Wolf-Camplin, Courtney McDermott, Steve and Prudence Tippins, Sarah Harper-Smith, Brian Massey, Jacque Albrecht, Colleen Schmitt, and Kate (Lucy) McCormick.

We began the 2007-08 school year with 54 students and ended the year with 49 young adults who learned what it means to live in community. Tuition for the 2007-08 school year was \$22,000 for full boarding, \$20,500 for five-day boarding and \$13,000 for day students. The School Committee chose to increase tuition for the upcoming 2008-2009 school year, which will be \$22,750 for full boarding, \$21,250 for five-day boarding and \$13,950 for day students. The total net revenue for tuition was \$579,762 for an average cost to parents per student of \$10,939. Financial Aid totaling \$562,588 went to students, with \$281,281 of that being funded with donations from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), the Scattergood Friends School Endowment, and the Measey Fund. The remaining \$281,307 was unfunded. Annual Giving

and other donations totaled \$334,426. We are extremely grateful to the many donors, 552, who supported the school this past year. Overall, we finished the budget (excluding depreciation) with a surplus of \$90,354, which is more than we had hoped. Thank you to our staff, who spend the school's resources responsibly.

This year we continued working on the Fire Marshal's list of upgrades, which included many new interior one-hour rated doors and frames. These doors are also now on a magnetic system so that they automatically close if the fire alarm is activated. New emergency lighting was installed in the girls dorm lounge, and changes to the upper level exits of the Instruction Building were made to bring these areas up to the Fire Marshal's code.

Several staff housing units received upgrades to improve living situations, including the Berquist House main level apartment that needed a hallway to separate the two bedroom's entrances. The Duplex received a new roof and work has begun on renovating the bathrooms and the West Duplex kitchen. The campus side of the sound wall received a coat of paint. New sandblasted cedar signs were installed to identify buildings and help visitors find their way around campus. Another note worthy accomplishment that is not visible is that this past fall we made the final payment on the quad-plex construction loan. It was our only outstanding loan.

This year's large senior class tackled several projects this spring during Senior Week. Due to a long and intense winter, there were a number of places on campus that required some serious attention. The senior class worked hard to clean up campus by picking up fallen limbs and performing various outdoor beautification projects, as well as cleaning out the fishpond, cleaning and reestablishing the crescent herb garden, and pulling willows at the pond. Their hard work paid off as the spring unfolded and campus bloomed. Many thanks to the seniors for their time and energy spent giving back to Scattergood.

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 Weekend 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 welcomed 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 many activities and workshops that occurred on campus and kept all of us busy, including classes on various crafts, herbalism, massage therapy, and managing a small business, while several staff members led a group of students in a cross-country ski trip in northern Minnesota. We are grateful for all parent and community assistance with this year's successful intersession. This year's seventh block trips included our school-sponsored East coast trip, a West coast trip, the bike trip, and a number of independent trips. The East Coast trip, led by Rachel Howard and Irving Treadway, explored Washington D.C., New York City, and Philadelphia among other spots on the coast, and engaged in a number of service opportunities. The West Coast trip traveled to California and Oregon where they learned about sustainability issues and worked on a sustainable farm. 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. 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. Rita Golden-Gelman, Sandra Winn, Rey Caranza, Carolyn Treadway and Paul Wagner, Heather Bouwman, Ellen Ekman and Mary Cloudsparks all made valuable contributions to campus during their Friends-in-residence stays. Mark McCusker and Nora Marcos (of Habeas Corpus) continued to bring their dance, singing and performance expertise to our curriculum. Our usual wide-ranging February Intersession offerings were enhanced by a repeat performance of alumni and parent Mark Helm's class on Judo, a polymer clay class with parent Rachel Grossman, and a business class with Laura Rierson from the local West Branch coffeehouse, Reid's Beans. This past year was greatly enriched by the contributions of each one of these individuals, and we are grateful. In addition, we would like to thank the many families of local students who hosted students in their homes over breaks—we appreciate their generous hospitality and know that the students they host appreciate it, too. Those families that hosted students this year include Sylvia and Patrick Sanford, Kamal Hammouda and Laura Fendt, James Erwin, Annette Maynard, Loren Santow and Julie Chesterton, Brenda Roth, Mark and Sandi Tomer, Steven and Linda Kellner-Miller, Maribel Gonzalez, Callie and Larry Marsh, Kristin and Ernest Batson, Diana and Tom Stamborski, and Leigh and Carl Estabrook.

We are now in our sixth year of the seven-year ISACS (Independent School Association of the Central States) accreditation cycle. We were required to produce a Progress Report that detailed our efforts over the past year and a half on their recommendations. We have received ISACS' response that our report was accepted and that our accreditation status remains in good standing. The Latta Harris accounting firm is in the process of completing a review level audit of the School, Farm and Foundation's books. Preliminary results from this audit will be presented at Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative), and the results will be published in the Yearly Meeting minutes.

Our interactions with the Department of Education regarding accreditation requirements took up a large part of the fall for the Head of School this year. On August 28, 2007, the state's Director of Education, Judy Jeffery, and several of her advisors, met with the heads of the eight specially accredited schools and our lawyers. We had several follow up meetings, without the state representatives, to develop our group and individual plans of action to prevent the loss of our "specially accredited" status. These actions were enough to persuade Director Jeffery to drop her proposed changes to the bill that governs "specially accredited schools". The Department of Education has set this idea aside for now, but it is one that we should expect to resurface sometime in the future.

This past year, we continued to work toward our goal of becoming a more ecologically sustainable community. A few of the major breakthroughs toward our goal have been: A plan, with one new vehicle already purchased, to replace all of our current gasoline vehicles with diesel so that bio-diesel and blends can be used as much as temperatures permit. We have collected the data from the anemometers on campus and have determined that we do indeed produce the wind speeds needed to produce electricity for the school with the right wind turbine. The new root cellar we installed this summer has extended our ability to enjoy a variety of squash and root vegetables grown at the farm. Meg McCormick led volunteers Larry Marsh, Don Laughlin and Roger Laughlin and many staff and students in conducting a blower door test on the Boys Dorm. We were able to tighten the building's envelope considerably using the data from this very informative test. We all learned quite a bit that weekend about air infiltration. We are grateful for Meg's expertise in this area and we look forward to putting this process to task for the other buildings on campus. We made some good progress on our goal and have some great plans in place. These efforts will be ongoing for years to come as we work to become a more sustainable community.

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 many different 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 became organized this year with the student clerks taking on larger roles in the organization of the agenda. This pre-meeting organization and posted agenda allowed for a community prepared for great discussions with all continuing to have a voice in the community and in our lives here at Scattergood. We have spent community meetings, meetings for worship, and time with each other, which have given us incredible opportunities for developing our ideas about community, sustainability, and how we can become a working community for change. Fun activities occurring this year included our Pirates vs. Zombies themed Faculty Follies, our fun and colorful prom with an 80's theme, Class Olympics, Sophomore Breakfast, Freshmen Dinner, Dance Alarms, fall camping weekend, 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
Head of School

SCATTERGOOD FARM REPORT

Every June as the days stretch and summer settles in, my family looks forward to what we like to call “magic firefly time.” After the sun sets and the skies darken, thousands of fireflies rise from the tall grass around the quadplex and remind us that we are in a verdant season; that flashes of hope and the assurance of a future abide in insects reproducing, seeds germinating, plants regenerating, and livestock gently grazing and nursing. This year, the desire for any signs of hope was especially strong. Though the farm was perpetually soggy, most of it was never flooded; and minor erosion, lost crops and abundant weed growth pales when compared to flooded homes, lost jobs and damaged lives. Though every year on a farm presents the contrasts of death and life, frustration and celebration, despair and optimism, 2008 in particular has forced us to look back appreciatively and look ahead cautiously—humbled and awed, but ever hopeful.

During the past year, the Farm played a significant part in the daily lives of many students. Everyone participated in a Farm Work Day during student orientation, which provided much community bonding over weeds, manure and meeting for worship. Biology and Advanced Biology classes burned and studied the prairie, checked for parasitic cysts in sheep scat, studied a color sex-link in our sheep herd and learned about incubation periods for various types of poultry. Students daily collected and processed eggs on Chicken Crew, helped with livestock chores on Farm Crew, and witnessed a transformative miracle on Recycling and Compost Crew. Project offerings included: Food Preservation—which roasted, froze and dried much of the abundance we experienced last fall; Prairie Restoration—which also burned the prairie, cut autumn olive bushes and transplanted oak saplings around the prairie pond; Poultry Project—which cared for the multitude of young chicks (layers, broilers, turkeys and guinea fowl) that we receive each spring; and Farm Project—which among other things harvested so many beans, eggplant and tomatoes in the fall, and then planted many of these same things this spring.

Where the Scattergood community experiences the Farm most, however, is in the dining room. In 2007, the Farm produced for the kitchen over 400 dozen eggs, 3600 pounds of fresh organic fruits and vegetables, one steer, five hogs, seven lambs, five turkeys and fifty broilers. 2007 was a watershed year in which we realized roughly how much meat the school uses and achieved herd sizes able to produce that much on the Farm. We also produced for two outside markets: our 35 member CSA, which received 22 weeks of boxes full of farm fruits and vegetables, and New Pioneer Coop in Iowa City, which purchased many cases of cilantro, cabbage and heirloom tomatoes. In addition to the productivity on the Farm is the Prairie, which recently surpassed 100 species appropriate for an Iowa prairie, and continues to mature after its recent replanting.

Outreach continues to be the third major focus of the Farm as we seek to build relationships with a variety of local and sustainable agriculture organizations. In 2007, the Farm was involved with the Johnson County Local Food Alliance, 1000 Friends of Iowa, Practical Farmers of Iowa, Iowa City's Field to Family Festival, and the charity, Local Foods Connection, which purchases CSA shares for poor families in Iowa City and provides the Farm a steady supply of volunteers. The Farm welcomed a Scattergood class reunion for a volunteer workday and remains a common destination for prospective faculty, students and their families. The Farm was also featured in an Associated Press article about

prep schools and gardens, and was included in a story about the wet spring for the Daily Iowan TV.

None of this would be possible without the assistance of so many people. After three years working on the farm, restoring the prairie, managing the livestock, rebuilding fences and growing cucurbits, Dan Carter has moved on to graduate school at Kansas State University. His absence will be profoundly felt until his replacement, Dana Foster, arrives in August. Dana has been a big help on the Farm for fifteen years and must again be acknowledged this year for her work in the kitchen and her willingness to lead the Food Preservation and Poultry Projects. John Morman and Irving Treadway also deserve thanks for their willingness to prepare amazing meals with Farm meat and produce. Wren Almitra is once again helping in the gardens and with the livestock, as is Scattergood junior, Christian Kayashema. Bob Winchell and Doyle Wilson of the Farm Subcommittee donate much time and expertise in keeping the Farm on track; and Steve Hoffman, a CSA subscriber from West Branch, continues to cut our hay and help keep the machinery in working order. Dan Wilson has provided valuable consultation this past year, as has Ken Fawcett, who also keeps our conventional cropland productive and looking good for the neighbors.

Just as the fireflies cannot help but assume the species' future, we at the farm also look hopefully ahead. New personnel means new possibilities and already we are looking at ways to formalize the Farm in the academic curriculum, add new buildings to meet our current and future needs, increase student involvement in all aspects of farm life, more fully integrate the livestock into the gardens (and the lawns), and reintroduce sows for pasture farrowing. Mostly we anticipate sharing many more magical times on the Scattergood Farm.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Farm Subcommittee of the School Committee by

Mark Quee, Farm Manager.

**SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL
AND RELATED ENTITIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
JUNE 30, 2008**

Related Entities		Farm	Foundation	Consolidating Entries	Consolidated Totals
School ASSETS					
Current Assets					
Cash and cash equivalents					
Cash in bank	\$129,349	19,875	\$ 49,657	-\$	198,881
Petty cash	800	-	-	-	800
Cash & cash equivalents - Westwood Trust & BC Ziegler	35,148	-	229,017	-	264,165
Total cash and cash equivalents	165,297	19,875	278,674	-	463,846
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$10,000					
accounts of \$10,000	22,863	2,115	-	(2,115)	22,863
Receivable - Scattergood Friends School Foundation	33,231	-	-	(33,231)	-
Accrued Interest & Dividends	-	-	11,437	-	11,437
Farm inventories	-	7,380	-	-	7,380
Prepaid expenses	-	904	-	-	904
Contributions receivable	40,000	-	-	-	40,000
Investments - marketable securities	442,046	-	-	-	442,046
Total Current Assets	703,437	30,274	290,111	(35,346)	988,476
Property and Equipment					
Land and land improvement	239,870	109,810	-	-	349,680
Buildings and improvement	3,217,393	107,670	-	-	3,325,063
Vehicles	142,107	11,808	-	-	153,915
Equipment	546,730	47,873	-	-	594,603
Breeding stock	-	9,652	-	-	9,652
Less: accumulated depreciation	(1,745,004)	(144,508)	-	-	(1,889,512)
Total Property & Equipment	2,401,096	142,305	-	-	2,543,401

Other Assets

Long-term investments - marketable securities	-	-	3,022,539	-	3,022,539
Long-term investments - land	-	-	85,150	-	85,150
Interest in net assets of Scattergood Friends School Foundation	3,359,569	-	-	(3,359,569)	-
Total Other Assets	3,359,569	-	3,107,689	(3,359,569)	3,107,689
TOTAL ASSETS	6,464,102	\$ 172,579\$	\$ 3,397,800	(3,394,915)\$	6,639,566\$

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:

Accounts payable	\$ 34,954	\$ -	\$ -	(2,115)\$	32,839\$
Payable - Scattergood Friends School	-	-	33,231	(33,231)	-
Student deposits	25,164	-	-	-	25,164
Deferred income	-	7,402	-	-	7,402
Retirement contribution payable	36,943	-	-	-	36,943
Loans payable	18,000	-	5,000	-	23,000
Total Current Liabilities	115,061	7,402	38,231	(35,346)	125,348
TOTAL LIABILITIES	115,061	7,402	38,231	(35,346)	125,348

Net Assets:

Unrestricted	2,920,465	165,177	-	-	3,085,642
Temporarily restricted	403,538	-	334,531	(334,531)	403,538
Permanently restricted	3,025,038	-	3,025,038	(3,025,038)	3,025,038
TOTAL NETS ASSETS	6,349,041	165,177	3,359,569	(3,359,569)	6,514,218
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	6,464,102\$	172,579\$	\$ 3,397,800	(3,394,915)\$	6,639,566\$

Related Entities				Consolidating	Consolidated
	School	Farm	Foundation	Entries	Totals
Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets					
Revenues, Gains, and Other Support					
Tuition - gross	\$ 1,131,350	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,131,350
Less: Scholarship allowance	(551,588)	-	-	-	(551,588)
Tuition support - Measey Foundation	181,817	-	-	-	181,817
Tuition and tuition support - net	761,579	-	-	-	761,579
Contributions and other support - Schedule 1	235,915	525	-	(122,954)	113,486
Fees and charges	13,095	-	-	-	13,095
Other operating income	20,043	-	-	-	20,043
Farm income - Schedule 3	-	42,266	-	-	42,266
Investment return:					
Interest and dividends	17,281	-	-	-	17,281
Net realized and unrealized losses on investments	(19,981)	-	-	-	(19,981)
Investment fees	(6,352)	-	-	-	(6,352)
	1,021,580		42,791	(122,954)	941,417
Net assets released from restrictions - Note 10	196,081		122,954	-	319,035
Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	1,217,661	42,791	122,954	(122,954)	1,260,452
Expenses:					
Payroll	485,521	-	-	-	485,521
Personnel costs	153,902	-	-	-	153,902
Personnel development	8,122	-	-	-	8,122
Professional services	17,023	-	-	-	17,023
Contracted services	27,103	-	-	-	27,103
Insurance	64,846	-	-	-	64,846

Occupancy costs	72,474	-	-	-	72,474
Supplies	58,815	-	-	-	58,815
Food service	66,145	-	-	-	66,145
Vehicles and equipment	23,013	-	-	-	23,013
Communications	13,919	-	-	-	13,919
Promotion	119,520	-	-	-	119,520
Technology	36,725	-	-	-	36,725
Other expenses	23,675	-	-	-	23,675
Bad debts	3,556	-	-	-	3,556
Depreciation	127,810	3,917	-	-	131,727
Farm expenses - Schedule 3	-	36,700	-	-	36,700
Grants to Scattergood Friends School	-	-	122,954	(122,954)	-
Total Expenses	1,302,169	40,617	122,954	(122,954)	1,342,786
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	(84,508)	2,174	-	-	(82,334)
Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets					
Investment return:					
Net rental income	-	-	6,162	-	6,162
Interest and dividends	-	-	113,928	-	113,928
Net realized and unrealized losses on investments	-	-	(30,330)	-	(30,330)
Investment fees	-	-	(33,134)	-	(33,134)
Contributions and other support - Schedule 1	389	-	-	-	389
Change in interest in Scattergood Friends School Foundation	(66,328)	-	-	66,328	-
	(65,939)	-	56,626	66,328	57,015
Net assets released from restrictions - Note 10	(196,081)	-	(122,954)	-	(319,035)
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	(262,020)	-	(66,328)	66,328	(262,020)
Changes in					

**Permanently
Restricted Net
Assets**

Net realized and unrealized losses on investments	-	-	(32,379)		(32,379)
Change in interest in Scattergood Friends School Foundation Contributions	(24,846)			24,846	
Change in Permanently Restricted Net Assets	(24,846)	-	(24,846)	24,846	(24,846)
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	(371,374)	2,174	(91,174)	91,174	(369,200)
Net Assets, beginning of year	6,720,415	163,003	3,450,743	(3,450,743)	6,883,418
Net Assets, end of year	\$ 6,349,041	\$ 165,177	\$3,359,569	\$ (3,359,569)	\$ 6,514,218

We received a preliminary report of the Yearly Meeting Representatives. We approve the preparation of a short press release for distribution in the local newspapers of members and attenders. We agree there is a need to seek ways to recognize and nurture spiritual gifts of all Friends, as well as those who might have gifts of clerking so they can step into that service to the meeting. As a faith community called together to discern God's will as we consider the business before us, we recognize the need to be intentional in helping ourselves and those new to the body, to understand good practices. We approve the report.

PRELIMINARY REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

It has been the task of the reports to prepare an article for the *Friends Journal* detailing the activities of the IYMC annual sessions. As we feel the IYMC has a message suitable for wider distribution, we ask permission to prepare a short article in press release format suitable for general press distribution, especially in the neighborhoods of our monthly meetings. This could also include photos.

Regarding clerking, the Representatives ask that the message from our clerk be read.

Message from the Yearly Meeting clerk to the Representatives:

7/30/2008

Dear Representatives of IYMC,

This is the 10th summer that I have served as clerk of this beloved yearly meeting. It is a priceless gift given to me by IYMC to be able to serve in this way.

Last year when asked if I would be willing to serve as clerk for another year, I was also asked to give Representatives a year's notice when I am feeling the need to be released. I am not feeling the need to be released as far as my own energies go, but I am also not wanting to outrun or overstay a call to service. My understanding is that our practice is that representatives discern anew each year whether it is in the best interest of the Yearly Meeting to ask any of the officers of the Yearly Meeting to continue for another year. I know that each year I spend a lot of time in thought and prayer and often in consultation with others to discern if I should agree to continue if asked. At this 10 year

mark of service my thoughts have also been drawn to consider the nurturing of the gifts of others in our yearly meeting. Are there members who might benefit from being given the same wonderful opportunity to serve IYMC that you have so generously given me? Are there Friends that could be ready to step into this service if we were intentional about giving them the opportunity to get some training in clerking?

I am willing to serve as clerk of IYMC for another year, if asked, but it seems that perhaps in the next year or two or three there may be some others to whom we might extend this wonderful opportunity of service.

*With much love and appreciation,
Deborah*

The Representatives appreciate Deborah Fisch's wisdom in recognizing the importance of nurturing future clerks. We share this concern and hold the intention to seek ways to prepare future clerks, as well as to prepare the body of the meeting in supporting these clerks. In exploring ways to do this, we recognize the importance of active participation in monthly meetings as well as in Yearly Meeting committees. We encourage anyone so led to attend the workshop Deborah Fisch and Bill Deutsch will facilitate at Pendle Hill 2/6/2009-2/8/2009. There is a Yearly Meeting fund to help with expenses. We also support having a Midyear Meeting focus on good business practice.

We listened to the report of the 2007 Entertainment Committee. We accept the report with appreciation.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The monthly meetings of Paullina, Lincoln, and Omaha were the hosts for the 2007 Yearly Meeting annual sessions. The theme for the sessions was "Sustaining Ourselves", and touched on the sustainability in the areas of international relationships, personal living, energy, and spiritual lives. Our First Day worship program was on sustaining compassion. These discussions were led by Friends from our yearly meeting and by guests who blessed us with their presence.

Our expenses were met by many donations so that a small amount could be forwarded to the Yearly Meeting trustees and \$2,000.00 to the 2008 Entertainment Committee.

Income and Expense Report

Receipts

Received from 2006 Committee	\$2,002.62
Contributions	<u>9,974.47</u>
Total receipts	\$11,977.09

Expenses

Scattergood Friends School	\$8,750.00
Childcare	393.25
Program	300.00
Printing, postage, and supplies	258.22
To Yearly Meeting trustees	<u>275.62</u>
Total expenses	\$9,977.09

Forwarded to the 2008 Committee \$2,000.00

On behalf of the Committee,
Debbie Galusha

We listened to the report of the Youth Retreat Committee. We appreciate the report and the activities provided by the Committee.

YOUTH RETREAT COMMITTEE REPORT

There were two youth retreats this year. The first was held at Backbone State Park where the retreat attendees stayed in a cabin, hiked and explored, and considered the question of climbing the hills of growing up. The other retreat was our fourth annual visit to Scattergood where a handful of boys were hosted by the school's staff and students, and learned more regarding the history of Scattergood.

The Yearly Meeting has fewer youth that are within the age of the retreat program. This change may call for modifications of the program.

Submitted by Debbie Galusha on behalf of the committee

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

SIXTH DAY—AFTERNOON SESSION

We resume the business of Yearly Meeting.

“Let us not forget that the Most High hath his way in the deep, in clouds, and in thick darkness— that it is his voice which cries to the city and to the country, and oh, that these loud and awakening cries may have a proper effect upon us. ... For though things as to the outward may for a short time afford a pleasing prospect, yet while a selfish spirit that is not subject to the cross of Christ continues to spread and prevail, there can be no long continuance in outward peace and tranquility.”

—Letter from Yearly Meeting held at Philadelphia, for Philadelphia, for Pennsylvania and New Jersey, from the 22nd day of the ninth month to the 28th of the same 1759. To the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings of Friends Belonging to the Said Yearly Meeting

Kathy Weber and Karin McAdams have been appointed as readers this afternoon.

We turned our attention to the two concerns lifted up by Whittier Monthly Meeting by worshipping together to seek leadings of the Divine in how we might be called to respond.

Flooding in Cedar Rapids and other areas in Iowa – Several ideas of possible action were lifted up. We ask the Yearly Meeting clerk to work with Whittier Friends in sending ideas of how we as individuals and monthly meetings and worship groups speak to the needs of our neighbors suffering from recent flooding. The Meetings asks the clerk to be in touch with Friends United Meeting in Iowa to see if there are ways we can join them in work they may be doing and share that information with monthly meeting clerks of IYMC. We ask Yearly Meeting Representatives to consider what financial contribution we might give as a Yearly Meeting to the organizations suggested by Whittier, and invite Friends to contribute as individuals, as well. It might be that we will learn of some intergenerational service project members of the Yearly Meeting can be invited to join. Although the flooding happened over a relatively short amount of time, recovery will be a long process and we understand we may only be beginning to understand what God may be inviting us to do.

We know we are relatively few and this is a bigger problem than we alone can address, but we are not being asked to address this alone. We

can add what we have to what others are giving. Drop by drop we fill the bucket with the waters of Love.

Considering the concern about the immigration raid at Postville, Iowa, and the conditions in which laborers work and live; unlike the crisis from the flooding, the crisis in Postville is human made. We see a need to consider both material needs of the movement and to speak out against the oppression that creates it.

We minute our moral outrage at the treatment of immigrants in the raids at Postville and by the action of our government there and around this country. We ask monthly meetings, worship groups and individuals to be in contact with their State legislators by writing and in person, to ask that fair labor laws be enacted to protect all workers in Iowa, including immigrants. We ask Nominating Committee to bring forward names of Friends to serve on an ad hoc committee patterned after Friends Peace Teams to stay informed about what is happening in Postville, and alert Yearly Meeting Friends to what actions might need to be taken by us. We suggest that Representatives consider budgeting \$5,000 to be divided between the flood relief and Postville needs. We ask Bill Deutsch and Whittier Friends to be available to consult with Representatives on this. We can only do what is given to us to do, but we do need to do what is given to us.

Concerns of Whittier Monthly Meeting

This year Whittier Monthly Meeting is most deeply moved to share our concerns about events happening nearby in Iowa with Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). We ask that you will join us in responding to these problems.

1. The state of Iowa experienced historic flooding in June, 2008. While many throughout the state were affected, our attention has been drawn to the city of Cedar Rapids. This is not because it is the city closest to Whittier, but because it incurred the most damage. It will take years for the people to recover. The complete governing infrastructure of the city was displaced. People lost their homes, as well as their jobs. Many of the families flooded out of their homes were also those who have the fewest resources to begin rebuilding. Similarly, local organizations that worked with the poor, homeless, and most marginalized were also flooded. People in these neighborhoods have lost local schools which helped served as the center of their communities. Many vulnerable parents who are recipients of government aid are afraid they will be unable to take care of their children. The buildings of over

200 non-profits were flooded, as well as the complete governing infrastructure of the city. The main branch of the Cedar Rapids Public Library, as well as all of the arts organizations and museums, were affected.

We ask that Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) discern ways to help financially support the ongoing rebuilding of Cedar Rapids. Waypoint and the Catherine McAuley Center are good organizations offering a wide range of social services for the most deeply affected. The Cedar Rapids Public Library does not qualify for FEMA because a library is not considered a “necessary service” and is actively needing all financial help it can get just to relocate to temporary housing. The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation has ways to earmark funds to help small business recovery as well as non-profits.

2. The immigration raid of May 2008, in Postville, Iowa brought to light the terrible treatment and conditions that the workers endured while doing their jobs there, as well as the trauma resulting from the raid itself. Concerns have been raised across this nation about our new political strategy of large- scale raids and “show trial” incarcerations of people who don't even understand the charges being brought against them. Likewise, our attention has been drawn to similar unfair conditions endured by day laborers brought in to help clean up from the floods in our local cities. Many of these workers are currently living in their cars, or living under bridges in the city. They are frequently hired under misleading conditions regarding their hours and pay, not given proper health protections, and have been cheated out of money without access to address these wrongdoings.

We call on everyone to insist our Congressional representatives reform our immigration laws. We call on our government “of the people, by the people and for the people” start enforcing labor laws that ensure the safety and fair treatment of all workers. At this point in time, the state of Iowa has almost no legal protections ensuring fair and just labor practice for those over sixteen years of age. We call on the state of Iowa to create and enforce good labor laws.

Unfortunately, the treatment of Postville and flood relief workers is not limited to these two areas. It is the story of contract labor in the United States today. But the fact that these particular events have thrust Iowa onto the national stage presents us with an opportunity. As members of the Religious Society of Friends, we are called to join other working to rectify this situation. These events beg each of us to find ways to challenge the predominant wisdom that insists that value is measured only by weighing short term financial costs, without ever

factoring in human or environmental cost. Our heritage as Quakers calls for us to live in simplicity- and we ask for continued self-examination to eliminate the suffering of others necessitated by our comfortable lifestyle.

Friends of Whittier Monthly Meeting request these things of Iowa Yearly Meeting:

We ask for your prayerful help and discernment as we seek right actions to take.

We ask that Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) financially support those who are actively working to alleviate the sufferings incurred by situations described above.

We ask that Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) join us as we individually seek ways to live in such manner that does not cause the undue suffering of those who labor for us.

We ask that Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) contact in writing and in person, their national, state and local representatives, insisting that our immigration system and laws be reformed. We ask that Friends also contact these same representatives asking they create legislation that addresses labor and safety issues, and put into place the structures to ensure enforcement.

We ask all the members of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) to help us respond to the sufferings that happen in our own backyard. In 1793, John Woolman lovingly warned of the true cost to all of us when one group lives at the unfair expense of another. We are inspired by his example, and look to find ways that we may also walk in the Light that illuminates right living.

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

SEVENTH DAY–SATURDAY– 8/02/08– 9:30 A.M

We return to the business of Yearly Meeting.

“The natural mind is active about the things of this life, and in this natural activity business is proposed and a will in us to go forward in it. And as long as this natural will remains unsubjected, so long there remains an obstruction against the clearness of divine light operating in us; but when we love God with all our heart and with all our strength, then in this love we love our neighbors as ourselves, and a tenderness of

heart is felt toward all people, even such who as to outward circumstances may be to us as the Jews were to the Samaritans.”

John Woolman, *Journal*, 28th Day, 5th Month, 1772

Meg McCormick and Elizabeth O’Sullivan have been appointed as readers this morning.

Bruce Birchard, member of Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and General Secretary of Friends General Conference shared warmly and lovingly of personal experiences in his life that have helped him learn that only Love can cast out fear. Fear is one of the tools people use to control each other and it can, if we let it, prevent us from living the way we are being called to live. He challenged us to reclaim the peace testimony through personal conviction of the Spirit of God in our hearts, reminding us that how we choose to live our lives and the actions we take testify to what we believe.

We listened carefully to the delightful epistle prepared by Junior Yearly Meeting Friends. We deeply appreciate the loving care with which their leaders give of themselves. We enjoyed hearing all the details of their many activities including about the timeline they created on the campus lawn. Their epistle reminds us of the joys of youth. Though the number of Junior Yearly Meeting Friends is smaller this year, their presence on campus is important, and we have learned from what they have shared with us. No matter our age, we are all a vital part of this blessed community.

JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING EPISTLE

8/2/2008

Dear Friends Everywhere,

The Junior Yearly Meeting group of Iowa Yearly Meeting, Conservative has been doing many fun activities this year! We are six kids and two adults, with other adults helping out during the week. We are from ages seven to eleven years old. On Wednesday, we had a lot of fun with water balloons, and we had a business meeting about deciding how we wanted to play with water balloons. We discovered poison ivy near the JYM building. On Wednesday afternoon, we made a big timeline, 1000 feet long, all the way across the Scattergood campus.

We have been talking about our ancestors. We made family trees and talked to our parents about our grandparents, aunts, uncles and other family members. Our family members who lived 100 years ago lived much differently than we do. We made bread by hand and dipped candles in wax. This is different than what we do at home. We were making bread the way our ancestors made bread and apple pie. You can make light by a candle. We also worked to find our Inner Light. We cranked an ice cream maker to make some very rich ice cream.

We all went to a concert by John McCutcheon. He threw a baseball to one of us and autographed it. He talked to some of us. We listened to a story about the girl who wanted to squish the ant, and the ant started talking to her. The ant argued that she shouldn't step on him. Her friends played a game where they stepped on ants, because they ate their picnic food. The ant asked the girl, "If you were me and I were you, what would you want me to do?"

On Friday night, we camped out at the Scattergood farm. We jumped on hay bales, chased chickens and cut wood with a handsaw. We ate hotdogs and waited until we saw three stars to make our 'smores. We have made many great friendships and are hoping to see each other again next year.

In Friendship,
Iowa Yearly Meeting, Conservative
Junior Yearly Meeting Friends

We heard the good and complete reports of the auditors and of the Yearly Meeting Treasurer for fiscal year 2007/2008. We appreciate the work of the auditors and the Yearly Meeting Treasurer. We approve the report.

AUDITORS' REPORT

We have examined the Iowa Yearly Meeting, Conservative Treasurer's records for the period Seventh Month 1, 2007, to Sixth Month 30, 2008. We find them complete and 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 has given to maintaining the financial records over the time he has served the Yearly Meeting as treasurer.

Dan Schlitt and Jim Kenney

TREASURER'S REPORT

The budget report incorporates the changes recommended by the Iowa Yearly Meeting, Conservative Representatives, which were adopted at Iowa Yearly Meeting, Conservative.

The balance sheet shows the reserve account activity. The balance in all reserve accounts is \$4,966.99. Our closing bank account is \$26,645.77 and subtracting the reserve accounts leaves a General Fund balance of \$21,678.78 for Fiscal Year 2008-09.

My compliments to all monthly meetings on their apportionment activity. Most are sending funds in quarterly and even monthly. My compliments also to the Iowa Yearly Meet, Conservative committee clerks for reporting expenses for reimbursement in a timely manner. This makes the job simpler for the treasurer.

Sincerely,

Burt Kisling, treasurer

**Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
Treasurer's Report
Year Ended June 30, 2008**

Statement of Cash and Funds

Cash balance July 1, 2007		\$25,796.18
RECEIPTS		
Monthly Meeting's	\$54,000.00	
Apportionments		
Yearly Meeting Library Profit	\$38.07	
Dividends & Interest Earned	\$235.70	
Cedar Falls Quaker Worship	\$100.00	
Group-donation		
IYM Youth Weekends -	\$255.00	
Reimbursement		
Recovery old Checks #1358 & #1438	\$200.00	
Total Receipts	\$54,828.77	
Total Cash Available		\$80,624.95
DISBURSMENTS		
Budget 2007-2008 Expenditures	\$54,004.14	
Young Friends Travel & Conference Expensed	\$1,253.40	
IYM Youth Weekends Expensed	\$495.14	
Bank Charges	\$26.50	
FWCC Triennial	\$0.00	
Total Expenditures 2007-08	\$55,779.18	
Less amount Transferred to FWC. Travel Fund	-\$500.00	
Less amount Transferred to IYM Youth Weekends	-\$300.00	
Less amount Transferred to Young Friends	-\$1,000.00	
Total Disbursements	\$53,979.18	<u>\$53,979.18</u>
CASH balance June 30, 2008		\$26,645.77

GENERAL FUND

General Fund balance available for Year 2008-09 \$21,678.78

IYM RESERVE FUNDS

FWCC Triennial Travel Fund \$1915.55
Balance July 1, 2007
Added this year \$500.00
Expensed this year \$0.00
Balance June30, 2008 \$2,415.55

IYM Youth Weekends (4th-9th grade -Balance July 1, 2007 \$1,021.41
Added this Year \$555.00
Expensed this year \$495.14
Balance June 30, 2008 \$1,081.27

Young Friends Travel & Conference Balance July 1, 2008 \$1,723.57
Added this year \$1,000.00
Expensed this year 1,253.40
Balance June 30, 2008 \$1,470.17

Total Reserve Fund June 30,2008 \$4,966.99

TOTAL FUNDS JUNE 30 2008 \$26,645.77

EDCO Community Credit Union, Des Moines

Savings Account \$19,739.28

Draft (Check) Account \$6,906.49

TOTAL CASH June 30, 2008 \$26,645.77

We listened carefully and with appreciation to the Yearly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report. We approve the suggested minutes. We appreciate the faithful work of the Earthcare Subcommittee of Peace and Social Concerns Committee in the preparation of the first minute and note the helpfulness of both minutes.

We approve sending both letters with suggested changes and ask the clerk to do so on our behalf. We appreciate the ongoing work of this committee.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT

“For as in one body we have many members, and not all members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver in generosity; the leader in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.” Letter of Paul to the Romans, 12:4-8

As each us strive to develop our individual gifts to be “as one body in Christ,” there are many places and ways to direct them. Our committee offers the following concerns that have been brought forth to us. The following minutes are not only a public statement of our convictions, but can serve as a springboard for discussion and actions by individuals and monthly meetings.

Minute #1

The following minute is a statement of concern and suggestion for action about a set of issues that are affecting us now and will increasingly affect all of us in the future. Friends are encouraged to prayerfully consider how they will each respond as individuals, families, and meetings.

Proposed Minute

Humanity is no longer in a right relationship with God's creation. Because of our numbers and the way many of us live, we are using resources and impacting the environment in ways that cannot be sustained, the primary example being our dependence upon fossil fuels. Society's consciousness of this has recently been heightened by rapidly increasing oil prices. People are becoming aware that the way of living that we have become accustomed to cannot continue. If we don't make changes voluntarily, they will be forced upon us.

There has been an unspoken assumption that it is acceptable for developed countries to use a disproportionate amount of resources compared to underdeveloped countries. As oil supplies dwindle and prices soar, there is a growing potential for conflict to arise worldwide over remaining oil supplies. Vast resources are required, not only to

produce personal automobiles, but for the infrastructure to support them, including highway systems, parking, car washes, supply stores, repair shops, auto insurance, licenses, sales lots, highway patrol, and gas stations. Exhaust from all types of vehicles contributes to greenhouse gases and global warming.

Our communities are built on the assumption that we all have the means to travel great distances to get food, go to school, work, and meeting. This has an enormous impact on oil supplies.

Friends could help provide leadership by redesigning our communities and lifestyles in such a way that we can forego automobiles. Improved systems of inter- and intra-city mass transportation will be one key to this. There are organizations working to expand and improve rail passenger transportation. Creating more bicycle trails and encouraging the use of bicycles is important.

The challenge of giving up automobiles is much greater in rural than urban areas, but the factors at work are the same. If those who do have alternatives to personal automobiles would use them, it would help those who need more time and resources to develop their own alternatives.

The ease and relatively low cost of long distance travel by air has led to a sense that rapid travel over long distances is normal and acceptable. This has made the air travel industry a major contributor to global climate change. Friends are encouraged to avoid air travel and to work to reduce the need for long distance travel. We need to explore ways to do business remotely. This is a new area that will require trial and error to see what does and does not work for us.

Our eating habits also should be considered. It is estimated that the food for an average American meal travels 1,500 miles from the farm to the consumer. Studies have shown that the livestock industry contributes more to greenhouse gas emissions than transportation does. We need to eat locally grown food whenever possible. Community garden plots, community-supported agriculture, and re-learning how to preserve foods will help, as will reducing meat consumption.

Friends are encouraged to work with the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and their local, state, and national representatives to help pass environmentally responsible legislation, including government support for improved mass transportation, and blocking construction of new coal and nuclear fission power plants. We have seen the unintended side effects of legislation promoting the increased use of ethanol.

We encourage Friends to be examples as we explore creative ways to promote renewable energy, reduce energy consumption, recycle, and facilitate the use of local foods and products. There is an urgent need to curb oil consumption and greenhouse gas emissions dramatically, right

now. Until some of these physical and social changes occur, it may be difficult for some Friends to give up their cars. Doing so as soon as possible is our goal, and could be a catalyst for change of the magnitude needed to reduce the current rate of environmental damage.

Minute #2

We ask the Yearly Meeting to endorse the following minute:

“Any voice that calls us back to the mount of human sacrifice, in whatever form it takes in its myriad disguises, is not God’s. It is time for us, ... to come down to the place of promise, where we can see that no moral value attaches to sacrificing any human life for any cause, with the possible exception of one’s own.” Bruce Chilton

The messages we receive from our political leaders and the media on a daily basis are that “the war in Iraq is succeeding,” “the surge is working,” “we are finishing the job,” “fewer Americans are dying.” The goal is described as “the withdrawal of American troops from Iraq as the Iraq government is capable of defending itself.”

Our own peace testimony belies the assumptions that this definition of success is based on. Peace cannot ever be achieved through violent means. We cry out for a response that reframes the relationship between the United States and Iraq. We recognize that “the war” is in reality an occupation and call for a *complete* withdrawal of all US troops and private contractors. Likewise, we call for a reversal in the policy of establishing permanent bases in Iraq.

In Afghanistan, we decry the call for “redeployment of American troops” and instead support civilian and non-governmental organizations that are working for peaceful solutions to the violence by addressing the underlying social and economic problems of the Afghan people.

Our current administration proclaims that “all options are on the table” in relation to Iran and its nuclear capability. Based on the belligerent language spoken by our government, many people fear that the United States is poised to attack Iran, or support an Israeli attack on Iran, in the next few months. An attack on Iran would be disastrous not only to our own country, but for the entire Middle East and worldwide stability. Even the threat of such action hinders any peace process. Based on our belief that that there is that of God in everyone, we insist that our government end any consideration of attacking Iran as well as any support of an Israeli attack on Iran. Further, we call on our government instead to vigorously pursue diplomatic negotiations with Iran so that our brothers and sisters there can live without fear.

We urge monthly meetings and individuals to make use of this minute in their peacemaking activities. It is imperative that we all work to change the dialog that speaks only of military options in response to the world's problems.

We ask the following letters to be sent on behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and suggest they can also be used as models for similar letters sent by individuals and monthly meetings:.

Letter #1: Peace and Social Concerns Committee of the IYMC requests the following letter be sent to Iowa senators Harkin and Grassley with a copy to Chet Culver, governor and Tom Miller, Attorney General, addressing the unfair treatment and dangerous conditions without adequate health protections the day laborers involved in flood cleanup must endure.

Dear _____:

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) met near West Branch, Iowa, July 29 to August 3, 2008; we Quakers from Iowa have been examining social justice issues. Several members from the Cedar Rapids area have called our attention to the unsafe and unfair labor practices being used by subcontractors hired by the city of Cedar Rapids, as well as others throughout the area who provide the day labor for flood cleanup. This has also been covered in the media, including the *Cedar Rapids Gazette*.

We ask that issues of accountability of subcontractors in disaster situations be investigated through Senate hearings, or by the Government Accounting Office. As Iowans, we believe in the fair treatment and safe working conditions for all who work in our state, including those with and without immigration documentation papers. Prohibition of unfair labor practices is necessary to alleviate the suffering of those who work for us, and as well ensures the well being and safety of everyone.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

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

(The sending of this letter was approved in session on 8/2/2008)

Letter #2: Peace and Social Concerns Committee of the IYMC requests the following letter be sent on our behalf to all Congressional Representatives of the Yearly Meeting, asking that they sign on as co-sponsors of HR 1078, the call for a Global Marshall Plan to demonstrate the commitment of the United States to international peace and prosperity.

Dear _____:

We, the members of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends, Conservative (Quaker) approve of the idea of the Global Marshall Plan, which we believe will provide the basis for approaching our friends and foes in a positive manner by building them up rather than destroying this Earth in war and bombing.

We ask that you consider co-sponsoring HR 1078 as introduced, so our government can go ahead with helping the world rather than destroying it.

Thank you for always looking for ways to strengthen our ties to all the people of this earth.

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

Peace and Social Concerns offers the above minutes and letters as peacemaking tools for all of us. We request that individual monthly meetings and members of the IYM(C) prayerfully consider adding their own voice to any of the above issues as they are moved, so that a chorus might form to help convince our fellow citizens and elected representatives of the need for their attention and action.

Peace and Social Concerns Budget

Peace and Social concerns offers the following budget as our response to the concerns brought before us during the IYM(C) 2008 annual sessions. We ask that monthly meetings and individuals learn about and consider how they might also contribute or support the following organizations doing God's work listed below.

Our budget of \$1,100 included no carry over 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 (Immigrant Voices, Central Region)	50
Frontera de Cristo (for Agua Prieta Migrant Center)	50
Friends Peace Teams	
(Peace building en las Americas)	100
Iowans Against the Death Penalty	35
Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty	35
Missourians to Abolish the Death Penalty	35
AFSC (Peace Education Project, Central Region)	50
Monteverde Friends School	50

Ramallah Friends School	100
National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund	50
New Covenant Peace Center	45
Quaker Earthcare Witness	100
National Religious Campaign Against Torture	100
St. Bridget's Hispanic Ministry	100
Catherine McAuley Center	100
Total	\$1,100

“For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.” James 2:26

These words lay a foundation for us as faithful members of the Religious Society of Friends as we continue to visit in prisons, serving our soup suppers, helping in medical clinics, and teaching in the schools. There is no shortage of “the least of these” that ask for our care, our help, our friendship, our presence. The need around us is great, and the opportunities are plentiful to meet our neighbors as we seek a living faith.

We received an illuminating report from the Earth Care Subcommittee of the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Peace and Social Concerns Committee. We appreciate the work of this new subcommittee.

EARTHCARE SUBCOMMITTEE

At 2007 Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) sessions, it seemed clear to a number of us that there was a lot of concern, interest, and expertise in our yearly meeting about the environmental and sustainability issues facing the planet. In order to maintain and keep focused attention on these concerns, the decision was made to establish a subcommittee of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

As the subcommittee was new, we were able to develop from scratch the procedures by which we would work and do business. A list serve was established to facilitate communication by email. A clerk was chosen. A mission statement was agreed upon, which will follow this report. Our business has been conducted entirely by email. While we recognized that a face-to-face meeting could be useful, we also wanted to demonstrate that we could conduct business without traveling and incurring its environmental impacts. We conducted a "virtual" worship

sharing by email, which was successful although only a few of us were able to participate.

We established a "wiki", a password protected website on which to share information and post our plans and actions. Some of that information was then posted on *QuakerNet*, the Yearly Meeting website, after it was seasoned and approved for general release. We also prepared a minute, which has been substantially revised over several months and will be taken to Yearly Meeting.

Our numbers are small and we all lead busy lives. We could wish for more participation from more Friends, but we have faith that our concerns are shared by many others, and with the Spirit's assistance some good will be accomplished.

Ken Lawrence, clerk

Earthcare Mission Statement

The purpose of the Earthcare Subcommittee of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) is to provide a focus for Friends' desire to discern a spiritual approach to preserving the bounty of God's creation, and promote the just and equal distribution of resources we all need for our daily lives, work, and recreation.

The Committee will be a resource of materials for individual Friends and their Meetings with emphasis on sharing the work and ideas that have already been developed by Friends. The Committee might also serve as the Yearly Meeting's contact with other organizations dealing with environmental issues.

As Quaker process clarifies either concerns or responses to issues, these will be shared with Friends, Meetings and, perhaps the Yearly Meeting, as seems appropriate.

We heard the report of Ministry and Counsel. We are excited to be exploring the possibility of having Laughing Waters Worship Group join us. We appreciate the work of the Anchor Committee and the work of Deborah Fisch. (Minute proposed by the assistant clerk)

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL REPORT

Deborah Fisch and her anchor committee met with Ministry and Counsel Committee to report on her activities. Her travels among Friends of all persuasions allow her to listen and learn. Her work is of extraordinary value to us as Friends speak about their search for Truth.

She finds we at Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) have many of the same concerns.

Deborah says, “My sense is that when we come together in annual session, there are enough elders present to hold the collective wisdom and help our yearly meeting take its business up with intentional faithfulness. Does this carry through to the monthly meetings? Are our members and attenders familiar with our history, the *Discipline* and all that is a part of that? IYMC is so blessed in so many ways. Let us be intentional about continuing to grow in that blessed love and Community. There is so much work for us to do and not time to waste.”

We pray God’s love surround her, keep her safe, and give her strength for her journey.

A clearness committee has been appointed to work with the Laughing Waters Worship Group in Minneapolis, MN as they begin the process to consider affiliating with IYMC.

In response to several questions from monthly meetings to improve attendance at Yearly Meeting, Ministry and Counsel will appoint two people to meet with new people attending Yearly Meeting on Wednesday mornings at 8:30. If more newcomers come later, it will be continued each morning.

Alberta Kisling, clerk

We listened carefully and with tenderness of heart to the State of the Meeting Reports submitted by our monthly meetings and the preparative meeting. The writing of the State of the Meeting Reports and the listening to them as a body both challenge and encourage us. They help us to be bound together in loving and caring for each other. They allow us to get a sense of the health and spiritual vitality of the Yearly Meeting. We treasure this time together.

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS

Reading the State of the Meeting Reports is a valuable and precious time. Many meetings are dealing with issues of health, finances, environmental responsibility, and ways to be a strong and nurturing community. Several meetings mentioned their appreciation for the queries as a tool to examine their spiritual life and search for Light for the way.

AMES

For the Ames Meeting, this has been a year of joys and sharing, but also struggles that have provided trials of faith in our commitment to caring and nurturing for one another. The Meeting remains like a small family, and ministry in our worship is consistent. The meetinghouse continues to provide a place of peace, spiritual sharing and comfort. We are grateful for this gift and have opened doors to other groups such as the Bahai and the Faith Club to share in the joy of this blessed space.

We continue to experience spiritual growth individually and as a community in many different ways. Rarely does a First Day go by without the way of Jesus or some other Biblical reference being expressed. Queries provide ongoing opportunities to examine ourselves and deepen our recognition of the unique gifts that each individual can offer. In our discussions on queries, some of us were able to reflect on our individual spirituality and what we are called individually and as a community to do in response to local and global concerns. The queries on mutual care and harmony in the meeting helped some of us discover a deep hunger for the Meeting to be a religious community. We stay connected with each other over a shared simple meal at the conclusion of our weekly meetings, at monthly frugals, and during our workdays. This gives some of us a chance to visit and share our joys and tribulations. Others in the Meeting do not share this vision of the spiritual life, being more individualistic in their desires.

Our faith and commitment to nurturing for one another was burdened by the sudden resignation of our clerk, but we survived through the good offices of the assistant clerk. We also continue to struggle with the ability to attract and meet the needs of our young friends. Our meeting has, however, been blessed and enlivened by three new high school students. We treasure them, even as we know that they will soon be living their lives elsewhere.

Our meetings for business are sparsely attended, leaving much of the work of the Meeting to a few dedicated members. We, therefore, ask that you hold us in the Light of the Spirit as we seek for healing, individually and collectively.

BEAR CREEK

“Wonder is the basis for worship.” Thomas Carlyle

Although we are small in numbers, our meeting is large in spirit and we are often amazed by what we do accomplish. The natural intimacy of our small weekly group is balanced by occasional large gatherings such as, Midyear Meeting, a family reunion, and the presidential caucus. The recent wedding of two of our members was a special time as we celebrated their love for each other. We wonder how we have enough energy to embrace and sustain these endeavors and the possibilities that are inherent with an active future. We seek to remain faithful to openings and leadings that remind us of the abundance of the Creative Spirit.

Having fewer numbers requires participation by all of us. We search for balance and seek the proper use of our resources. A recent gift is both an opportunity and a challenge. We are mindful that this abundance has been created with diminished natural resources. Our challenge is to seek a responsible and creative path for these funds that is environmentally sustainable, yet faithful to the needs of our meeting. We wonder what John Woolman would do.

The new Bear Creek cottage building has enjoyed remarkable progress, yet remains unfinished. We wonder what awaits this small light on the prairie. Perhaps there will be committee meetings or worship groups attending, listening for the Spirit to guide them; perhaps there will be community events, art classes, quilt gatherings, music, movies or political forums; perhaps there will children laughing and singing. Maybe we will decide on a name. There are so many possibilities. It is a gift allowing us to dream and plan.

The Standing reunion was held recently. Many spoke of how much the gathering at Bear Creek means to them. As our families leave, we feel sad, but when they return for weddings, funerals and various events, they are drawn back into the fold – the chords of love and fellowship draw them back to us. A quote from Charles Standing, who died in 1936, describes how much he loved the “little flock.” He said, “Go back to your hospitals and your schools, your jobs and humble tasks; pick up again the broom or plow, but remember this—always, wherever you are, whomsoever you are with, remember this—‘little children, love one another.’”

Our meetinghouse draws us into silence and worship. The spiritual presence of those no longer with us, the beauty of our quiet, rural location, and gathering together with each other leads us gently into the Light of the Spirit.

DES MOINES VALLEY

Des Moines Valley Meeting has shown growth in attendance this year. We have attracted new, young adult attenders who have enriched our meeting. There are new youth attenders as well. With this, we have seen resurgence in our First Day School program.

Our monthly query discussions are well attended with thoughtful participation. Some of us have self-directed queries about additional money that seems to be needed now with the repair and updating of our building. Are we spending more on building maintenance than meeting human needs?

We try to share our Quaker faith and practice with new attenders who may not be familiar with the Society of Friends. A second hour discussion was held on vocal ministry, helping us to better understand and improve this part of our worship. A second hour discussion on membership informed attenders about the meaning of membership and the process of becoming a member. “Quakerism 101” will be offered during the summer months on First Day mornings before meeting for worship.

We serve as the “family” of one of our older, longtime members and have been confronting the issues of the elderly: their care in care centers, their struggles to remain independent, assistance from organizations for personal care and therapy. What is our role? How can we help to support, accommodate and improve the lives of our older F/friends?

Occasionally, friends leave our meeting for one reason or another. It is hard to know when to persist in trying to change their minds and when to send them with our blessings.

We were saddened by the death of a longtime member who had moved to another state to be with family members. We felt blessed that the family chose to return to Des Moines Valley for a beautiful memorial service for him.

A clearness committee was called to meet with a young friend who has grown up in our meeting and wishes to be married under the care of the Meeting. We look forward to helping with plans and taking this young couple under our care.

Des Moines Valley Meeting is one of the planners for Yearly Meeting this year. We are hoping to encourage more members and attenders to join us at Scattergood for this event. Sometimes we have felt a disconnect with attenders at Yearly Meeting, and we are hoping to do our part to change that.

DECORAH

“Our life is love, and peace and tenderness, and bearing one with another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another and helping one another up with a tender hand.”

--Isaac Pennington

This year for Decorah Friends has been like many other years, with much good and some bad. We continue to gather weekly for quiet worship, often followed by a simple meal or shared food. We have regular learning times for adults, teens and younger children, we continue caring for the meetinghouse, but perhaps a major focus this year has been in learning how to care for one another.

The special recognition of this need emerged during a Decorah Friends retreat weekend, held in the fall of 2007. At that time, several of our small groups were dealing with terminal illnesses of their parents. In the year that followed, four of our meeting attenders experienced the death of parents; another family continues to struggle with a life threatening mental illness. Though we are a largely hale and hearty group, we likewise have experienced some acute health issues ourselves. Our care for each other involves calls, cards, visits, flowers, food, and being held in thoughts and prayers. One Friend who experienced heart difficulties commented: “I know that I was receiving your prayers—I never felt afraid!”

Caring for each other has had broader, but still personal implications, as individuals and the Meeting have attempted to respond to the suffering caused by the May 12th immigration raid in the neighboring community of Postville. Decorah Friends Meeting has taken on a personal support relationship with Rosa, a Guatemalan woman and her two young children. Rosa and her husband were arrested in the raid, and he is being held in a federal prison in Louisiana until he is deported in October. Rosa is unable to leave Postville until her husband is released, and she struggles with this new reality of living in Postville. As a group, we have provided financial assistance with rent and food; and individually have played with her children, have listened to her story, and are sometimes just present with her. We do not know what the future holds for sure for Rosa and her family, but we have been gifted to accompany her a little bit on this part of her life journey.

Many of our group are individually committed to living environmentally sustainable lives, and we are considering what this means for us as a group. We have participated in discussion and

education sessions with other congregations on “Greening of the Church,” participated in Quaker Earthcare Witness, and are implementing practices that we know to be less destructive of the Earth. We have replaced our aging boiler with a high efficiency one, have replaced all of our light bulbs with compact fluorescents, and have even experimented with an electric mower for keeping the grass clipped. We continue to discern where these efforts can take us.

There have been times in the past year when we have felt more scattered than gathered. We are a small group, and Friends “going about” have included travels for extended periods for work, for being present with dying family members, for travel related to Friends volunteer work, and for joyful family events that have included births and adoptions. We understand the needs and responsibilities of our members, but we feel these absences, and look forward to their returns.

A small group of participants in a spiritual nurture program continues to meet for sharing and worship time. Some of our other regular observances that bring us together include our annual re-telling of the Christmas story, a valentine making party, and a series of observance and activities at the time known as Easter: natural dying of eggs, a sunrise worship time on a hillside, and an egg hunt and special brunch.

At times, we feel small and unsure of our path; at times we are excited in our endeavors to mend the world. Decorah Friends will continue to gather to discern what God calls us to do and to be in the world.

IOWA CITY

Although our meetings for worship are quiet and there is very little vocal ministry, we find the worship and fellowship provide inspiration and guidance for our daily lives. We read one query at the end of Meeting once a month. These readings prompt discussion and provide continuing guidance. On other First Days of the month we continue to close Meeting with a few minutes for “After Thoughts.” A discussion with the Meeting as a whole confirmed that the After Thoughts are helpful and that they should be continued. We appreciate hearing from people at the end of Meeting and we feel the After Thoughts result in more people making contributions to the Meeting as a whole.

We have presentations once a month which we have moved to the time right after Meeting followed by a pot luck. Some of these deepen our fellowship when members share experiences and interests with us. For example, the son of one of our members made a presentation on his experience in Rwanda last summer. A member discussed her work with

women's health issues at the VA. Some of the presentations have been made by guests such as one on the Alternatives to Violence Project in eastern Iowa. Some incidents of homeless people seeking shelter on our porch brought the issue of homelessness to our attention this year. We held two discussions on homelessness, one of which included a presentation by the director of our local homeless shelter. We are considering ways the Meeting can assist individuals who are homeless as well as ways we can work to solve this problem at a local community level and at state and national levels.

We enjoy getting to know each other better over coffee sessions and once-a-month potlucks following meeting for worship. This year we enjoyed fellowship with Friends from Whittier, West Branch, and Scattergood at the Eastern Iowa Gathering of Friends which we hosted in September. One of our members made a presentation about the local Peace Center in Iowa City.

The number of children attending our meeting has increased; they participate in meeting for the first 15 minutes and then go to First Day School. We have struggled this year with providing regular programs for First Day School since we are a small meeting and the same children do not attend every First Day. The responsibility of planning programs and informing parents has at times fallen on the shoulders of only one or two parents. First Day School is important to the whole meeting and reports from the children after meeting are much appreciated. In November Ministry and Counsel held a meeting with parents of children in the meeting to discuss ways the meeting could support First Day School. In addition, we continue to discuss how we can improve the space available for First Day School.

Ministry and Counsel has agreed to oversee the wedding of one of our members. A Clearness Committee has been set up for the couple.

Several Light Group meetings were held at the meetinghouse during the year and everyone was invited to attend. Five of our members have been active in our Light Group.

One of our members has loaned a piano to the Meeting; it is now in the meetinghouse. We look forward to gathering for singing and music at the meetinghouse.

OMAHA

This year, Omaha Friends Meeting engaged in much self-examination. Our nominating committee heard Friends asking, “Why do we have committees when they don’t do anything?” This led us to hold two discussions on “What do we expect of Quakerism and how do we get it?” We followed up on these discussions with committee work, ultimately leading to a workshop led by a guest facilitator from the Earlham School of Religion, titled “Vitality in Small Meetings.” There we shared with one another, reassessed ourselves, and worked on plans for the future.

We have a strong community of and for our children, but we lack a sufficient age range to provide community for our visitors’ children. We appreciate and care for our children. Our First Day School is dynamic. The youths’ unique insight and style enriches our query sharing. We strive, with our children’s help, to make our meeting more convivial.

Our members and attenders have broad experience among Friends. We also bring resources from religious experiences beyond Quakerism. We have quality discussions.

We are moved by the tremendous amount of work individuals are putting into inter-faith collaboration, and into religious-environmental, transportation, and political issues. We consciously manifest our Quaker ideals in our jobs. Several of us are involved in Yearly Meeting and national Friends organizations.

Though many of us treasure the worship experience and are attracted to the form of worship here, we continue to seek ways to improve the quality of our worship.

We are concerned about our lack of growth and retention, and have surveyed ourselves, and also asked some former attenders, in order to understand the reasons. Some have told us they felt a lack of love here. Others say they attend out of a sense of duty, not gladness. We know that the busy lives of young and old prevent us from doing much as a meeting outside of our two hours of discussion and worship on First Day. We see, too, that some of us attend regularly on Meeting for Business First Day who do not attend regularly on other First Days. We struggle with questions such as: Is the Meeting the priority it should be in our lives? If the Meeting is doing nothing, what is there to be committed to?

We have begun to think we need to give each other's leadings more intentional and outward support, empowering each other. We are also thinking that buying or building a meetinghouse might help.

PAULLINA

As we consider this report once again, we are aware of how changes occur each year, but also how much stays the same. Our numbers remain relatively unchanged from a year ago with one family no longer attending and another joining us. We continue to have a core group of faithful attenders with strong historical attachment to the meeting that gives our meeting its particular character and strength. Each year we are blessed with a few new attenders who join us for various lengths of time bringing enrichment to our small group.

As we age, health issues become a greater concern for many of us, but we feel the strong bonds of love and concern that the meeting community provides each time support is needed.

Our meeting for worship continues to be an important focus for us as we try to remain faithful to the testimonies and practices of Friends. We also continue to find much merit in answering one query a month in business meeting and are often surprised at how the same questions can spark new insights for us. While meetings for business are less formal than in the past, we feel they address the business needs of the meeting effectively and lovingly. There is usually good representation of the active membership at meetings for business.

Adult Sunday School continues to provide spiritual enrichment for the ones who attend. Although the number has been small, the discussions often seem to enrich the meeting for worship that follows. Those who attend Mid-Year and Yearly Meeting sessions find them stimulating and enriching which in turn enriches the spiritual life of the meeting. We miss having children and young Friends attending our meetings with regularity, but always enjoy their presence when they do com. We have sometimes arranged for multi-generational Sunday School sessions together when we know in advance that there will be children in attendance.

PENN VALLEY

As we look back on the year that has passed at Penn Valley Monthly Meeting, we reflect on the changes, challenges and growth that the Meeting has experienced.

As a small community, we are always acutely aware of the changes that come when personal needs and responsibilities make it necessary for a member or attender to move away or become less active in the Meeting. While we now face some of these changes, we have also welcomed two new members and several new regular attenders to Penn Valley Meeting in the past year. With these individuals have come new energy and a strong sense that our community is living and growing.

With the new calendar year, many committee and Meeting responsibilities shifted hands. This has brought new, and sometimes unexpected, energy to focus in many areas, and has given us an awareness and appreciation of the talents and resources contained within our community.

The benefit of such new energy has been especially noticeable in the area of house upkeep. Over the past few years, we have experienced a growing sense of concern over various deferred maintenance items around the meetinghouse; this year we have found that sense of concern being answered with action.

Likewise, we have experienced a gathering interest in making the meetinghouse as ecologically friendly as possible. Efforts in this regard provide both a sense that we can make real changes for a better environment and a context for the members of our community to exchange ideas about how to make these sorts of changes in our own homes.

The Meeting has struggled, a little, financially this year, and fulfilling our obligations while also investing in repairs to the meetinghouse has been a cause for concern and substantial discussion.

Many of our efforts this year reflect growing desires felt in the Meeting to both build our meeting community, and to reach out from our meeting to the community at large. We have sought opportunities to build bridges amongst ourselves and with people of other faiths. In a context of tight finances, we have been reminded in many ways of the value of what we have. In particular, the opportunity to donate the use of the upper floor of our meetinghouse to the New Sanctuary Movement as a temporary home for an immigrant family temporarily without housing brought to light how much we have and how little it costs to help people in need.

Penn Valley Meeting is comprised of a group of individuals that, while small, is still quite diverse. In the course of apprehending some controversial issues this year, our diversity has sometimes made finding consensus challenging. Yet through this, we have been shown that we are a cohesive community and that our differences provide a ground for thoughtful consideration of broad concerns.

As we find ourselves seeking to reach out from our community, we have also begun to sense that there are more people in the broader community seeking us out. It seems like we've had more visitors to Meeting this year. Perhaps this is a just a fluke, or a result of casual curiosity about Quakers. But, perhaps it is a reflection of a wider social need calling people to a re-evaluation of faith. It is our hope that those who seek us out will find fertile ground for spiritual growth.

WEST BRANCH

Our spiritual condition is perhaps not significantly different from other years. We continue to search for ways to live closer to God's will, rather than our own. We are grateful to be part of this small and quiet community we call our meeting for worship. We sometimes wonder if we have too many meetings without vocal ministry. Yet for some the quiet is rich, renewing our hearts and souls. When we are favored with vocal ministry, we are grateful to those who feel moved by the Spirit to share their experience.

Our life choices in the face of the needs of our planet are daunting. We know we must change how we live, and also recognize the danger of paralyzing guilt that leads neither to good thinking nor to good work. We try not to be discouraged, but to find ways we can make differences. We are grateful to those who nudge us in these directions from time to time. Concerned about the use of energy to transport much of our food from long distances, we are gladdened by the group of us who plan to grow sweet corn, harvesting and preserving it communally. We appreciate the efforts of one family to plant that sweet corn.

We are grateful for the young families who attend the meeting, as the children bring us life and pleasure. We wish there were more of them. We miss some members who have not been with us in recent months, and are richer for the gift of those of us who come week after week to join in our quiet worship as we await the movement of the Spirit among us. We sometimes think we should be offering more meeting activities for both children and adults, but have not found openings in those directions.

We know God's tenderness among us, even as we are aware of how much more we have to do, and become, in the days ahead. Several times throughout the year, we have commented on the need for courage in our living. So it is, that we ask God's help in bringing us to that clarity of heart that can bring us courage to live more rightly-ordered lives. The final words of a recent query response perhaps sum up our spiritual condition today. "We are all right. We can do better."

WHITTIER

Whittier Meetinghouse is not filled to overflowing with bodies on any given Sunday morning. Yet we continue to find our cup runneth over, goodness and mercy surrounds us, and our blessings fill the space as we worship together.

Our love for each other sustains us. Bob Lam and Laurence Smith are no longer able to join us when we gather for worship. We are grateful for their years of faithful service to our meeting and we feel their spirit always present beside us on these benches.

This past winter brought us some harsh weather. For the first time in years, road conditions made it impossible for any one of us to make it to Meeting for Worship on more than one occasion. We worshiped apart from each other in our own homes during meeting time, and felt unity even as we were unable to share our usual space.

This past year has brought us to the stage where we have no regular attender of our meeting who also lives in the community of Whittier. Every one of us must commute to worship here. Some have physical limitations that make it difficult to attend meeting for worship. Others have circumstances that prevent them from easily attending. Through it all, we keep in touch, laugh together and remain close. Perhaps worship at Whittier grows all the more precious because our difficulties cause each of us to renew our commitment every time we come here. We encourage each other. We share our joys and sorrows. We help each other. Indeed, whether immediately apparent to the naked eye or not, we realize that all of us are broken in some way. This is what it is to be human, and this is what we share with each other. It is in coming together in seeking the Spirit we are made whole.

As in the natural ebb and flow of the tide, our little group is also replenished. We welcomed a new member this past year. We have new attenders that bring fresh ideas, perspective and a generosity of spirit. We feel blessed by every one who joins us and that itself is a wonderful gift!

Our beautiful meetinghouse offers a sanctuary to center down and wait in the Light. Whether few or many, we pray that all who find their way through these doors are renewed and strengthened in their journey.

YAHARA PREPARATIVE FRIENDS MEETING

“For where two or three meet in my name, I am there among them.”

Matthew 18:20

Without a clear sense of where we were going, we decided last September to leave Eagle School, our place of worship for almost three years. Leaving Eagle School was difficult, but we did it well, at the right time, and with the Spirit moving through us. There was high energy, and the move increased both our uncertainty and our intimacy. We had hard conversations and stuck together through them all. We have been meeting in peoples’ homes for most of the past year.

Visitors to our meeting continue to lift up to us that our regular activities are wonderful expressions of a spiritually healthy meeting. Our business meetings are well attended. Potluck and Games Night, query worship sharing, and our Sunday evening reading group all bring the Meeting additional ballast and joy.

Several of us have experienced difficult health problems this year. We wonder how we might create a space where we can better share our troubles, so that the Meeting can be more supportive. We care about each other a lot, and we want people to experience the love of the Meeting during difficult times.

Through all of the changes this year, we have learned how to be more real with each other and with our selves. The Meeting seems to be moving into a new level of maturity, and we look forward to the new challenges and joys this will bring. We cherish the continued support of our care committee and West Branch Meeting.

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

SEVENTH DAY–SATURDAY–8/02/08–AFTERNOON SESSION

We return to the business of Yearly Meeting.

“Let your lives preach, let your light shine that your works may be seen.”
George Fox, Epistle 200

Jules Galusha and Amy McAdams have been appointed as readers this afternoon.

We enjoyed listening to the Young Friends’ Epistle. We are so appreciative for the supervision that Joseph Kieltyka has given our young people over the last decade. We also appreciate the gift of service given by his assistant, Flossie Cox. We give them both our thanks.

EPISTLE OF YOUNG FRIENDS

8/02/2008

Epistle to Young Friends Everywhere,

Dear Friends,

We are writing you from the far land of Near West Branch, Iowa.

On the first couple of days of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), we did some fun things. We played handball, capture the flag, keep away, and we jumped in the pond that is on Scattergood Friends School’s campus. We also did some service for the School by spending the morning picking garlic from the School’s farm and herding sheep. We went to an African Great Lakes Initiative panel where a Rwandan Friend spoke about the situation in Rwanda and taught us an African song about peace. Moving testimonies that people from Rwanda wrote after participating in a workshop of his were especially memorable. We attended a concert by John McCutcheon, a Quaker musician. It was very enjoyable, especially his performance using a hammer dulcimer.

By Friday morning, a few more Young Friends had arrived, bringing our total number to 16. We had a canoe trip planned, and an hour-long drive to get there. About half an hour into the trip, a prank call from one of the vans had our leader Joseph convinced that we had left one of our Young Friends, Lake, back at the School. We also discovered a two-month-old burrito in the back of the van, the source of an interesting smell. Our four-hour canoe trip on the Wapsipinicon River was a lot of

fun. We made a stop at a place where we could jump off a bridge into the river. Most of the youth made the jump, except for Danielle, who stood at the edge of the bridge for half an hour before climbing back down. We had planned to do worship sharing, but Michael's diabetes acted up, so we headed back. On the way back, Danielle fell out of the "Awesome Possum" canoe that Flossie and Chelsea were also in.

After getting back to Scattergood, we played 'wink' with only a few minor injuries. We also played ultimate Frisbee and Ghandi/Bush, a card game. That night we watched "The Great Debaters", an inspiring movie about a debate team from a Black college in Texas during the 1930s. Then we watched "Be Kind Rewind," ate pizza, and some of us stayed up playing games until 6:30 a.m. One game we played was a newly invented game in which you rotate around the ping-pong table while bouncing a tennis ball around to multiple players. There was only one team and the goal is to keep the game going for as long as you can. Points are not good, you can either play where you get a point when the tennis ball completely stops on the ground, or when it stops bouncing and rolls instead.

Saturday morning, most of us had gotten at least a little sunburned from the canoe trip and those of us who had pulled an all nighter tried desperately to stay awake during worship.

After ten years serving as a leader, knighted Sir Joseph Kieltyka, is graduating from our IYMC Young Friends and will be working with the main body of the Meeting next year. Flossie Cox, who has been a coordinator the past couple of years, will be taking over the position as imperial consort to the teens next summer. Sir Joseph has enjoyed his position and feels honored to have served the Young Friends for a decade. He is going to miss our close-knit group and we will miss his sense of humor and dedication to making Young Friends fun and educational.

Hope everyone has a good year, and we hope to hear from you soon.
In Friendship,
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Young Friends

We received the report of the Yearly Meeting Recorder, Tim Shipe. We ask the Yearly Meeting Recorder to begin including in the annual report the names of new members as they join our meeting. We thank the Yearly Meeting Recorder for his service.

We paused for a time of worship to hold in memory Friends of the Yearly Meeting who have passed away in the last year.

RECORDER'S REPORT

DEATHS

Des Moines Valley Richard Gerstenberger
March 25, 2008

Whittier May Moore Evans
January 23, 2008

BIRTHS

Iowa City Tobiah Haravon Collins
(to Leah Haravon Collins and Steve Collins)
October 3, 2007

West Branch Reader Laughlin Warner
(to Martha Laughlin and Kate Warner)
February 23, 2008

MARRIAGES UNDER THE CARE OF THE MEETINGS

Bear Creek Cheryl Sutton to Stan Sander
September 1, 2007

MEETING	BIRTHS	DEATHS	CERTIFICATES OF MEMBERSHIP RECEIVED (TRANSFERS IN)	MEMBERSHIPS TRANSFERRED OUT	NEW MEMBERSHIPS GRANTED	MEMBERSHIPS DISCONTINUED	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP
Ames	0	0	0	0	0	0	33
Bear Creek	0	0	1	0	1	1	78
Decorah	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Des Moines Valley	0	1	1	2	0	2	72
Iowa City	1	0	0	0	0	0	59*
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Omaha	0	0	0	0	1	0	12
Paullina	0	0	0	0	4	0	74
Penn Valley	0	0	0	0	2	0	68
West Branch	1	0	0	0	1	0	101
Whittier	0	1	0	0	1	0	43
TOTALS	2	2	2	2	10	3	574

* Number adjusted for one member who had been erroneously reported as discontinued in the 1980s

We listened carefully to the report of the Yearly Meeting Representatives and received the proposed budget for fiscal year 2008/2009. We approve the budget and report as corrected and amended, including a \$2,000 one time contribution to St. Bridgette’s in Postville, Iowa, and \$2,500 one time contribution to the flood relief efforts in Cedar Rapids. We thank the representatives for their efforts on our behalf.

REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

The Representatives suggest the following names to serve the Yearly Meeting in the coming year:

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

The apportionments remain the same. The dates for annual sessions next year: Seventh Month 28 to Eighth Month 2, 2009.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009

Contributions

American Friends Service Committee	\$1,000
AFSC Native American	125
Friends Committee on National Legislation	1,000
Friends General Conference	200
Iowa Peace Network	4,000
Friends World Committee for Consultation	1,500
Nebraskans for Peace	500
Friends Peace Teams	500
National Religious Campaign Against Torture	200
Pendle Hill	500
Peace and Social Concerns Committee	1,100
Quaker United Nations Office	200
Right Sharing of World Resources	200
Scattergood Friends School	35,000
William Penn House	300
Total Contributions	\$46,325

Delegate Expenses

Friends Committee on National Legislation	1,300
Friends Peace Teams	1,300
FWCC, General	1,300
FWCC, Triennial	700
Quaker Earthcare Witness	700
NRCAT	700
Total Delegate Expenses	\$6,000

Yearly Meeting Expenses

Archives Committee	\$200
Clerk's and other administrative expenses	400
Committee Expenses (Other)	500
Conscientious Objector PSC subcommittee	100
IYM Youth Weekends (4th-9th grade)	300
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	1,000
Junior Yearly Meeting	2,000
Young Friends	1,500
Special Needs Committee	500
Publication Committee	3,000
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship	500
YM Entertainment Committee if receipts inadequate	2,000
Midyear Planning Committee if receipts inadequate	1,000
Contingency Fund	1,000
Young Friends Travel and Conference	1,000
Ad hoc Postville Committee	100
Total YM Expenses	\$15,100
Total Budget	\$67,425

(Special one-time contributions: \$2,500 for flood relief in Cedar Rapids and \$2,500 for immigrant relief in Postville from available funds.)

We listened to the letters prepared by the Special Replies Committee to be sent to Friends who could not be with us at annual sessions. We appreciate the wonderful detail in the letter to absent Friends and approve it as amended. We also approve the special note to Joan Tucker.

SPECIAL REPLIES

Dear Friends,

You were missed by our gathering for the 131st annual session of the Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative, which was held at Scattergood Friends School, Seventh Month 29 through Eighth Month 3, 2008. It was a loving and Spirit-filled week as we met under the theme of "Follow the Light." We feel tested and strengthened by the matters and messages that have come before us.

As we gathered on Third Day, we were saddened by the news of the sudden passing of Norval Tucker, who had died that morning in Iowa City, Iowa. Norval was a long-time Friend of IYMC, and is sorely missed. Members of his family joined us in worship with-remembrance

of Norval on Seventh Day morning. A memorial service in his honor was held on the afternoon of First Day after our closing session.

There was much music in this session with the special inclusion of Friend, John McCutcheon, who entertained and moved us with his thought-provoking music and lyrics. And of course, we filled our late evenings with our voices joined in song.

Mark Patton and visitor Nancy Irving, General Secretary of the World Office of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), gave a wonderful report on the meeting in Ireland earlier this year. Mark filled in details with historical and geographical notes of the Triennial gathering of over 300 Friends from around the World.

Visiting Friend Theoneste Bizimana from Rwanda Yearly Meeting gave a remarkable first-hand account of how healing workshops apply Quaker mediation practices in the Great Lakes Region of Africa. These workshops are able to reconcile many victims and perpetrators of the violence and atrocities that have taken place there. This was Theoneste's first visit to America. We were pleased that he was able to stay for the full IYMC session.

Bruce Birchard, the General Secretary of the Friends General Conference (FGC) spoke on fear and love and the Quaker Peace Testimony from his personal experience and how he views the applications within our faith. His talk gave several examples of how we model and view God as we try to understand this force in our lives.

Whittier Monthly Meeting brought two important concerns to the face of the Meeting for our consideration. They brought our attention to the victims and struggle of the aftermath of the tremendous flooding through Cedar Rapids and along the Cedar River this summer. They note how the flood has destroyed much of the community's infrastructure and a majority of the non-profit agencies, who would otherwise be able to respond to this unusual catastrophe, leaving the victims without needed resources. In business meeting we recognized the enormity of the problem and how limited our response and resources are against a difficulty of this magnitude. We look for ways to contribute and to join our effort with others in a wider and more meaningful response.

The second matter Whittier Meeting brought before us is: how our yearly meeting might respond to the government raids against the immigrants in Postville, Iowa. We are outraged by the invasive and inhuman manner, to which these people have been treated, as the agenda of political forces and posturing is played out against the lives of many innocent people, disrupting families, and traumatizing children. Our meeting has set forth an ad hoc committee to create an active presence to

assist where needed and channel communications with our yearly meeting.

A panel discussion by members of the Peace and Social Concerns subcommittee on Earthcare presented many ideas on how we can personally decrease our “carbon footprint” on the planet. We are prompted to continue working with our elected officials and community leaders to respond to this global crisis.

Nancy Irving, a member of North Pacific Yearly Meeting, currently living in London, England, lead Bible Study this year with the theme, “Finding the Light.” As always, references to scripture and the gospels are woven throughout our business meetings and personal visitations with one another.

Junior Yearly Meeting Friends engaged with many creative projects learning to make food from scratch ingredients and making candles. They made apple pie, baked bread, and churned homemade ice cream. These wonderful young people also enjoyed visiting the farm and “jumping around on hay bales,” and discussions about their ancestors, the past and future, while drawing images of families, food, and clean water.

Young Friends enjoyed a very active time together as, among other activities, they canoed on the Wapsipinicon River, played Wink, Ultimate Frisbee, and “Epic Chicken Fights.” They reported enjoying each other’s company during this annual opportunity to visit, as they say, “during hang-out time.” Young Friends also played capture-the-flag with the Junior Friends as all of our youth scampered in laughter and fun across the Scattergood lawn.

We feel blessed by the sense that your spirit was again with us as we gathered here. The dates for next year’s gathering will be Seventh Month 28 through Eighth Month 2, 2009, and of course, as God wills, we hope to see you there.

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

Dear Joan,

We do not find words enough to express our sense of loss at the passing of your beloved Norval.

May Grace grant you and your loving family strength and understanding of God’s infinite wisdom and light.

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

We listened carefully to the good epistles to: Friends everywhere, Ohio Yearly Meeting, and North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Conservative. We appreciate the careful attention that went into the writing of these epistles.

EPISTLE TO FRIENDS EVERYWHERE

8/2/2008

To Friends Everywhere,

Greetings from the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative), meeting on the campus of Scattergood Friends School in our 131st annual session (2008). In our daily meetings for worship followed by attention to business, we listened reverently and patiently as reports are read aloud of people who are attempting to follow the leadings of the Spirit, the responses to our advices and queries, the state of the meeting reports of monthly meetings, the annual reports from Scattergood School and the Scattergood Farm, and the reports from our broader work such as American Friends Service Committee, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and the Friends World Committee for Consultation. As we heard these reports, we discerned the many ways in which people are called to live out the theme of this year's session, "Follow the Light."

Scattergood School is a sanctuary of peace and tranquility, but it sits between the Iowa and Cedar Rivers. We were especially mindful this year of our proximity to the human suffering caused by the flooding of those rivers and the trauma of those who have lost homes and businesses, and suffer from the destruction of public and philanthropic institutions, especially in Cedar Rapids. We were also mindful of the needless suffering inflicted on the immigrant community in nearby Postville by the federal police forces who have incarcerated hundreds of wage-earners and left hundreds more of their dependents in desperate poverty.

At our 2007 yearly meeting, we had leadings to examine our lives, following the example of John Woolman, to see if our personal practices and patterns of consumption contribute to the exploitation of labor and the disproportionate use of the earth's limited resources. We struggled again this year to discern the leadings of the Spirit in the face of natural and human catastrophes, remembering the words of Jesus, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matthew 25:40). How do we address suffering on our doorstep as well as suffering in communities far away? We heard a powerful presentation from Theoneste Bizimana from Rwanda Yearly Meeting, the coordinator of HROC (Healing and Rebuilding Our

Communities.) In the midst of our own crises, we have much to learn about the healing and rebuilding of communities, whether they be in Postville, Cedar Rapids, or our home communities and meetings.

EPISTLE TO NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING CONSERVATIVE

8/02/2008

To Friends of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Greetings from the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative), meeting on the campus of Scattergood Friends School in our 131st annual session. In our daily meetings for worship followed by attention to business, we listened reverently and patiently as reports were read aloud of people who are attempting to follow the leadings of the Spirit, and to do Gods work in the world. We heard with special attention the epistle from North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). One Friend spoke, "We are reminded that we are an extended family of faith." We are gladdened to hear reports from your yearly meeting from our members Cheryl Sutton and Stan Sanders, and we welcome the presence at our yearly meeting of Susan Lees, a member of Fayetteville Monthly Meeting.

Scattergood School is a sanctuary of peace and tranquility, but it sits between the Iowa and Cedar Rivers. We were especially mindful this year of our proximity to the human suffering caused by the flooding of those rivers, and the trauma of those who have lost homes and businesses, and suffer from the destruction of public and philanthropic institutions, especially in Cedar Rapids. We were also mindful of the needless suffering inflicted on the immigrant community in nearby Postville by the federal police forces who have incarcerated hundreds of wage-earners and left hundreds more of their dependents in desperate poverty.

We struggle to discern the leadings of the Spirit in the face of natural and human catastrophes, remembering the words of Jesus, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matthew 25:40). How do we address suffering on our doorstep, as well as suffering in communities far away? We heard a powerful presentation from Theoneste Bizimana from Rwanda Yearly Meeting, the coordinator of HROC (Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities). In the midst of our own crises, we have much to learn about the healing and rebuilding of communities, whether

they be in Postville, Cedar Rapids, or our home communities and meetings.

EPISTLE TO OHIO YEARLY MEETING

Dear Friends of Ohio Yearly Meeting,

Greetings from the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative), meeting on the campus of Scattergood Friends School in our 131st annual session. In our daily meetings for worship followed by attention to business, we listened reverently and patiently as reports were read aloud of people who are attempting to follow the leadings of the Spirit, and to do God's work in the world. We listened with special attention to the epistle from Ohio Yearly Meeting. One Friend spoke, "We are reminded that we are an extended family of faith." We are grateful for the presence at your 2007 yearly meeting sessions of Roy and Martha Hampton, and we also welcome to our meeting David Eley, a member of your newest monthly meeting, the Keystone Fellowship.

We share your awareness that we are unable to be isolated from what is happening around us. Scattergood School is a sanctuary of peace and tranquility, but it sits between the Iowa and Cedar Rivers. We are especially mindful this year of our proximity to the human suffering caused by the flooding of those rivers, and the trauma of those who have lost homes and businesses, and suffer from the destruction of public and philanthropic institutions, especially in Cedar Rapids. We are also mindful of the needless suffering inflicted on the immigrant community in nearby Postville by the federal police forces who have incarcerated hundreds of wage-earners and left hundreds more of their dependents in desperate poverty.

We struggle to discern the leadings of the Spirit in the face of natural and human catastrophes, remembering the words of Jesus, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matthew 25:40). How do we address suffering on our doorstep, as well as suffering in communities far away? We heard a powerful presentation from Theoneste Bizimana from Rwanda Yearly Meeting, the coordinator of HROC (Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities). In the midst of our own crises, we have much to learn about the healing and rebuilding of communities, whether they be in Postville, Cedar Rapids, or our home communities and meetings.

We received the report of the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee. We appreciate the faithful work of this committee and the care with which they consider nominations. We approve the nominations.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Not that many years ago, the work of Nominating Committee involved quickly generating a list of possible names for committee appointments, and sometimes the list was not from the Spirit but out of a sense of urgency and responsibility to fill a slot. Yearly Meeting attenders recognized those committee members from the notebooks in hand and the quick conversations, those signs maybe being encouragement for some of us to become scarce, exiting quickly.

Thankfully, the task of Nominating Committee has been simplified with the prepared input from monthly meetings. It seems positions are carefully considered and appropriately filled. This contributes to strong committees. It also results in some committees not having even distribution of membership through the years, as when people are led to join a committee that doesn't necessarily follow the regular structure. Recognizing our interests and gifts at the individual and monthly meeting level serves to strengthen Yearly Meeting, and the Nominating Committee appreciates this valuable insight for its work.

For the committee,
Debbie Galusha

Archives Committee

2009	2010	2011
Herbert Standing	Owen Crosbie	Mikel Johnson
Daniel Treadway*	Wilmer Tjossem	Tim Shipe

Document Committee

2009
Yahara Preparative Meeting

Entertainment Committee

2009	2010	2011
Decorah	Paullina	Ames
Whittier	Omaha	DSM Valley
West Branch	Lincoln Penn Valley	
Iowa City		

YM Young Friends Planning Committee

2009	2010	2011
Jules Galusha	Joel Fagan	Rebecca Guss
Connor Cunningham	Flossie Cox	Debbie Galusha*

Jr. YM (for Yearly Meeting)

2009	2010	2011
Carol Gilbert*	Nick Conningham	Danielle Black Eyes
Penny Majors*		Jean Sandstrom

Interim Meeting

2009	2010	2011
Sandi Tomer	Marilyn Mantel-Guss	Carol Gilbert *ass't
Alice Hampton*	Bill Deutsch	Larry Marsh
Kathy Day	Lois Tjossem	Cheryl Sutton
Richard Johnson	Deborah Fisch	Ebby Luvaga
Dixie Collins	Elsie Kuhn	Marge Schlitt
Owen Crosbie	Cindy Winchell	Catherine Dorenbach
Karen Greenler	Lorene Ludy	Martha Davis
		Gordon Bivens

Book Table Committee

2009	2010	2011
Mary K. Stillwell	Jean Eden	Beth Wilson
Martha Davis*		

Midyear Planning Committee

2009	2010	2011
Christine KIELTYKA	Lois Tjossem	Sarah Winchell
Wanda Knight	Stan Sanders*	Betty Young
Winifred Standing	Roy Hampton	Megan Knight
Marion Love	AM Fink	Osa Brcker
Christine Kelly		Jackie Leckband
Ruth Dawson		

Jr. YM/Young Friends (Midyear)

2009	2010	2011
Mikel Johnson	Meagan Knight	Cindy Winchell
Nathan Tomer	Dennis Kirkwood	Jackie Leckband*
Adrienne Tomer		Patty Wingert*
	Hana Norval	Anna Weigel

Ministry and Counsel Committee (Appointed by monthly meetings)

2009	2010	2011
Christine Kieltyka	Marshall Massey	Carol Gilbert
Catherine Dorenbach	Ruth Dawson	Alberta Kisling *
Karin McAdams	Mikel Johnson	Dorothy Rogers
Louis Laughlin	Beth Wilson	Doyle Wilson
Gordon Bivens	Martha Hampton	Dixie Collins
	Meagan Knight	Martha Davis
	Jane Cadwallader-Howe	Marge Schlitt
		Ann Stromquist

Publications Committee

2009	2010	2011
David Duer	Margie Haworth	Jeff Kisling *
	Debbie Galusha	Ruth Dawson

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

2009	2010	2011
Sherry Hutchison*	Judy Plank	Cindy Winchell
Jim Cottingham	Winifred Standing	Echo Ray
Jim Bruner	Jackie Leckband	Herbert Standing
Deborah Dakin*	Rachel McNair	Ian Taylor
George Bergus	Lori Nelson	Mark Patton
Marian Solomon	Jesse Leckband	Ann Stromquist
	Emma Deutsch	Ken Lawrence
	Bob Yeats	

Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee

2009	2010	2011
Wilmer Tjossem	Jean Eden	Roy Hampton*

Religious Education Committee

2009	2010	2011
Bill Deutsch	Marshall Massey	Judy Cottingham

Youth Retreat Committee

2009	2010	2011
Penny Majors*	Daniel Treadway	Karen Greenler*
Jules Galusha	Nora Dietz-Kilen	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 2009 meeting

Debbie Galusha* Bob Yeats Callie Marsh Charity Munoz

Terms ending after Sept 2010 meeting

Doyle Wilson Daniel Treadway Robert Winchell Russ Leckband

Term ending after Sept 2011 meeting

Frank Griffith Andrea Holveck George Bergus Dan Schlitt

Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees

This committee is appointed by Yearly Meeting Trustees

2009	2010	2011	2012
Susan Murty	George Welch	Gordon Bivens	Lowell Wilson
Judy Cottingham*	Barb Garlinghouse	Richard Johnson	Jim Dietz- Kilen

Special Needs Committee

2009	2010	2011
Marilyn Mantel-Guss	Michael Taylor	Joey Giffen-Hunter
Echo Ray*	Sherry Hutchison	Deborah Dakin

Yearly Meeting Trustees

2009	2010	2011	2012
Beth Wilson	Jonathan Fisch	Roy Hampton	Jim Cottingham
AM Fink*			

Friends Agencies Representatives of IYMC

AFSC Corporation Members

2009	2010	2011
Lori Nelson	Robert Yeats*	Rebekah DeWild
Ann Stromquist, alt	Dan Schlitt	

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

2009	2010	2011
Burt Kisling	Deborah Fink	Jonathan Fisch*
Nathan Tomer	Debbie Galusha	Rebecca Bergus

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

2009	2010	2011
Ginger Kenney	Martha Davis*	Cindy Winchell
	Stan Sanders	

Iowa Peace Network

Claire Cumbie Drake

Rebekah DeWild

William Penn House Consultative Committee

Jim Kenney

Alberta Kisling*

Friends Peace Teams Advisory Board

Jim Bruner

Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee

Ken Lawrence

NRCAT

Jean Eden

Ad Hoc Committee on Immigration

Jim Kenney

Bill Deutsch

Deborah Dakin

Bob Yeats*

Judy Plank

Ecumenical Peace Conference in Philadelphia

Deborah Dakin

**Committee to Explore Affiliation with Laughing Waters
Worship Group**

Martha Hampton

Roy Hampton

Callie Marsh

Jonathan Fisch

CLOSING MINUTE

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a lamp stand and it gives light to all who are in the house.” Matt. 5:14-16

Once again, we have come to the campus of Scattergood Friends School to tend to the business of our precious yearly meeting, and this year, to explore together how we might be more faithful in following the Light.

We have laughed and cried together as collection presenters used song and sharing of their own experiences to help us begin to imagine how we might find the courage to follow the Light and let the Light within us shine a little brighter as individuals, meetings and as a yearly

meeting. We have been reminded that it is God's Love that helps us cast out fear, fills our hearts with compassion and forgiveness, and shows us how we can put Love into action by following the Light.

In the afternoon, interest groups gave us opportunities to share experiences we've had in the last year, as well as lift up concerns laid on our hearts, so we could explore together how we might be called to respond to friends and neighbors, near and far, suffering from both human made and natural disaster. This year we have been particularly aware of the sufferings of victims of flooding in the Midwest and of the immigrants in Postville, Iowa, who are suffering unimaginably because of poor labor laws, immigration raids and the whole structure of oppression that allows this to happen.

Representatives from wider Quaker organizations shared with us the work they are doing on our behalf and invited us to join with them in those various ministries. Reports from Scattergood Friends School reminded us of how the staff and School Committee carefully tend the flames of the students here, so they are empowered to go into the world loving and compassionate, as well as well-educated young adults.

In conversations around meal tables, under the tree in front of the Main, around the quilt, and in small groups, in the laughter and joy brought to us by the children in our midst, in the singing together and sharing of ourselves on talent night, and as we worshipped together remembering beloved members of our community who have passed away – we deepened and strengthened our beloved community and encouraged each other to seek to be faithful to God's call in our lives.

Having completed the business of the Yearly Meeting, we now begin to turn our thoughts toward returning to our homes, knowing that we have been a bit changed by the Spirit during our time together. We have reminded each other that we do not want to become discouraged by the challenges we face as we try to "live in, but not of the world." With the help of God, we have grown in our love for each. We have discerned together steps we can begin taking to follow the Light more faithfully by responding to our brothers and sisters in need with love and by finding ways to simplify our own lives so that we live in right relationship with God's creation. They may seem like small steps, as we consider all that there is to be done, but we have come to understand that each step is vitally important because each takes us further in the journey of Love. We have also been reminded that we are not asked to make the journey alone. We are gathered in a community of faith graced by Divine Love that weaves itself through parts of seven states, and then around the whole world. Think of the witness we can make in the world if we are faithful!

We now conclude our 2008 annual sessions, planning to meet again, God willing, at Scattergood Friends School near West Branch, Iowa Seventh Month 28 to Eighth Month 2, 2009.

Deborah Fisch, clerk

Dan Treadway, acting assistant clerk

The following reports were not read in sessions but were accepted by the Yearly Meeting to be published in the 2008 Minutes.

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

“We are called to live in right relationship with all Creation, recognizing that the entire world is interconnected and is a manifestation of God”
—from the QEW Vision and Witness statement

Over the past year, issues related to the environment and sustainability have become increasingly visible and entered more into many people’s consciousness. In the United States alone we’ve seen higher oil and gas prices, drought and water shortages in much of the southeast and southwest, major storms with record rainfalls and flooding right here in the Midwest, and virtual consensus on the present and future reality of human-caused climate change and the need to take dramatic action to address it. These and other concerns have become hard to ignore.

Quaker Earthcare Witness continues its work to provide material and spiritual support for Friends concerned about our relationship with the Earth and to share the truth that our aspirations for peace and justice depend upon restoring the Earth's ecological integrity. One action approved last fall was a minute addressing the many problems with increasing the use of nuclear energy to generate electricity as some are now suggesting. The bimonthly publication *Befriending Creation* always has a number of thought provoking and informative articles.

I had the privilege of attending the meeting of the QEW steering committee in April. A major concern at that meeting was considering ways in which we might increase the witness of the organization by raising additional funds and increasing our membership. QEW makes a payment to Native Energy following each national meeting to offset the global warming impact of travel to and from the meeting. Each year the fall meeting has speakers and seminars of interest to the general public. This year the meeting will be held October 9-13 in Hampton, Georgia,

near Atlanta. Among the scheduled speakers is Marshall Massey of Omaha Monthly Meeting. Friends are encouraged to consider attending.

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS REPORT

The ongoing work of Friends Peace Teams (FPT) brings reconciliation and hope to portions of the globe that continue to be engulfed in conflicts, wars and suffering the aftermath of genocide. The African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI), the oldest working group of FPT quickly expanded its Kenyan programs in response to the violence that followed their recent presidential election. David Zarembka, AGLI coordinator, moved to Kenya from St. Louis only a few months before the upheaval. He served as an election observer there, and continues to keep us well informed by his frequent in-depth reports. In response to the violence that followed the election, AGLI put into place a number of activities. They conducted listening meetings in communities to facilitate reconciliation. AGLI members personally accompany displaced people and assisted with resettling them back in their home communities. They have conducted hundreds of Alternatives to Violence (AVP) workshops. Although overshadowed by the Kenyan events, the important peacemaking work continues in Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and the Congo. It is just as needed there, even though those countries do not currently hold the headlines in the news.

One of the most exciting developments in FPT these past few years has been the exchange of peace-building techniques between our partners. This is an expression of our desire to build a truly international organization. Laura Shipler Chico accompanied Rwandan Friends to Burma to share their experiences. Alba Luz Arrieta, coordinator of PAV Colombia, traveled to Burundi and Rwanda to learn firsthand from the Africans. There are plans for American II Peace Team worker, Sarah Mandolang, to continue on to Africa after working in Indonesia this summer, in hopes of further exchange between those two programs. Unfortunately, the most recent plans of having Rwandan Theoneste Bizimana join Colombian workers as part of his American speaking tour fell through because of the difficulties in securing a double entry visa. We will continue to foster interchange between all our programs.

There has been exciting growth in the Peacebuilding en las Americas (PLA) working group this past year. PLA continues to develop in a number of Latin American countries including Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Colombia. As of this writing, Val Liveoak and Cecelia Yokum are conducting workshops and strengthening ties with partner

organizations in the area.

Our newest working group, the Indonesia Initiative (II) has integrated quickly into the FPT family. Nadine Hoover capably guides the various components of their work.

Kathy Wright, administrative assistant at the St. Louis office does the work that keeps all aspects of FPT functioning. Funding for the important work of the office is often neglected and overshadowed by the obvious and compelling work of the individual initiatives. We are actively seeking support for it.

I attended the March 2008 meeting of FPT in Portland, Oregon. In order to hold down travel costs and related expenses, FPT is cutting back to one face-to-face meeting next year. This is scheduled to take place in California, March 2009.

I wish to thank Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) for the opportunity to be your representative to the advisory board of FPT these past three years. As of the 2008 Yearly Meeting, I am stepping down as FPT representative. This is most important and exciting work. I hope that whoever takes my place knows that I am available to assist a new advisory board representative in any way possible.

Iowa Yearly Meeting has been generous in support of Friends Peace Teams. Their publications continue to be a source of not only information, but inspiration. The work shines a beacon of hope in the areas of sorest need. Friends Peace Teams continues to accomplish a great deal at relatively low cost. I encourage us to continue our support as much as we are able.

Please do not hesitate talking to me about questions and concerns you might share with me regarding Friends Peace Teams.

Thank you,

Judy Plank,

IYMC representative to Friends Peace Teams Advisory Board

WILLIAM PENN HOUSE REPORT

The occupancy rate at William Penn House continues to rise. A group from Western University came and spent time with people with HIV and with people who work with those with HIV and those who advocate for HIV. Other groups came in March for a variety of reasons: Wilmington (Ohio) College to learn about Israeli/Palestinian Relations; Chrysalis (New Mexico) High School to learn about civic responsibility, history/ and politics; Norwood Friends School (Maryland) for Washington Quaker work camps; St. Thomas College (Minnesota)

Vision Group to participate in direct service and advocacy; Friends Community School (Maryland) to participate in community service; Oakwood Friends School (New York) to help with home renovations; and Sidwell Friends (Washington, D.C.) in on-going community service in DC, as well as the spring break New Orleans Trip.

In May, Rutgers University School of Social Work, the NYW School of Social Work, and Mount Madonna School were several of the groups who came. In addition to these groups, 19 participated in a three-day “Appreciative Inquiry” workshop.

Sixteen riders and 15 volunteers came together Saturday, April 29th, for the second “Pedaling for Peace.” Funds were raised for Quaker work camps. Plans are underway for next year’s ride.

Eco-Living at the Folklife Festival work camp was held June 29th thru July 6th. They partnered with the Anacostia Watershed Society to remove invasive plants from the watershed and volunteered with the Folklife Festival in providing recycling services.

William Penn House now has a partnership with “Bike the Sites” to provide affordable bike rentals.

Sunday, July first, France Pruitt, a member of Bethesda Friends Meeting discussed her book “Faith and Courage in a Time of Trouble.” Monthly potlucks continue to be held with area Friends.

William Penn House is using low impact cleaning formulas for safe, cost-effective cleaners and disinfectants. Go Green!! They acquired a new and better database, which continues to improve their outreach, marketing, and fundraising. There are continued structural improvements the major one being a new boiler and water heater. In addition to comfortable and affordable lodging, William Penn House has easy access to major sites in Washington DC and is close to the metro.

For up to date information see web site at www.williampennhouse.org. For additional information e-mail Brad at brad@williampennhouse.org

The Committee requests a \$300.00 donation for support of this important Quaker facility.

Alberta Kisling
Jim Kenney

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

We find that our monthly meetings have invested considerable amounts of energy this past year in religious discussions, First Day School programs and programs with youth, demonstrating once again that religious education is very important to them. The variety of topics

and issues they have addressed is impressive, ranging from world religious thought and theology to environmental topics, political concerns and exploration of Quakerism.

Some noteworthy commonalities among the religious education programs includes a reticence about teaching religious beliefs, logistical difficulties arising from the small numbers of children involved in meetings' First Day School programs, and members' absences due to weather, travel, and other conflicts.

Several meetings use intergenerational programs both to educate their youth and to build connections between youth and adults, strengthening the social fabric of the meeting. We believe this to be a useful approach. It seems clear that we educate at least as much by how and what we do, as by what we say.

There are many creative and useful ideas contained within the monthly meeting reports, and for that reason, we are choosing to send copies of all the reports received to all of our Monthly Meetings and worship groups, so that they may benefit from the approaches and programs used by others.

Reviewing these reports, our committee felt a concern for an emphasis on Quaker education, perhaps even specifically on education about Conservative Friends. In a time when we are a very mobile people geographically and spiritually, regular consideration of Quaker history, practices, beliefs and values will be of benefit both to newcomers and to our established members.

Bill Deutsch,

On behalf of the YM Religious Education Committee

REPORT FROM IOWA PEACE NETWORK COORDINATOR

“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. But recall those earlier days when, after you had been enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to abuse and persecution, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion for those who were in prison, and you cheerfully accepted the plundering of your possessions, knowing that you yourselves possessed something better and more lasting. Do not, therefore, abandon that confidence of yours; it brings a great reward.”
Heb. 10:31–35.

Sisters and Brothers, with fear that attempts to fall into the hands of the living God and with a lack, but not abandonment of, confidence, this report or “sketch of our activity” is humbly submitted for your scrutiny.

Iowa Peace Network began the year participating in the Feast of the Holy Innocents retreat in Omaha, Nebraska, at STRATCOM (Strategic Command at Offit Air Force Base). This is a place where we are complicit as modern-day Herods. We go to meditate on the ways that we must go in a new direction (repent) and attempt to expose plans that are executed from this place which result in persecution, abuse and the deaths of so many innocents of this world.

We are involved with counter recruitment activities in high schools, yet missed the mark in this last academic year. With the change in staff here at IPN (Fran is charting new territory and I am now the half-time coordinator), our presence was sorely lacking at North High School, a situation that will be improved upon in this upcoming year. A presence was made at the post office on tax day to offer information regarding where our tax dollars really go [MILITARY: 54% and \$1,449 billion for fiscal year 2009.]

On January 11th, we joined with a group called Witness Against Torture (www.witnesstorture.org) and in conjunction with Amnesty International, Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), Torture Abolition Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC), and others marched to the Supreme Court to bring witness to the detention of those at Guantánamo being held without charge or trial. Eighty-five people were arrested either on the steps or inside the Supreme Court of the United States. We returned for the trial in May (I was arrested and did not go to trial but returned in a support capacity.) Ellen Davidson states that “On May 29, Washington, D.C., Superior Court Judge Wendell Gardner found me and 33 codefendants guilty of ‘parading, standing, or moving in a procession or assemblage in the Supreme Court Building’ and displaying a ‘device designed or adapted to bring into public notice a party, organization, or movement.’” For most of us, the ‘crime’ consisted of either kneeling on the Supreme Court steps in orange jumpsuits and black hoods or kneeling inside in orange t-shirts that said ‘Shut Down Guantánamo.’ [The Supreme Court grounds are a “no free speech zone” and the “inside” defendants were literally convicted by arrest photos showing them in orange shirts.] The media attention was good and the recent newsletter from the Center for Constitutional Rights ends with this, “Guantánamo protestors convicted in Washington, DC: 34 anti-torture activists were convicted in Washington, DC on Thursday, May 29, 2008. The activists were arrested during a protest at the Supreme Court on January 11, 2008, the sixth anniversary of the arrival of the first

detainees at Guantánamo Bay. The activists are representing themselves under the names of real Guantánamo detainees. Some refused to speak, while others presented statements seeking to bring the stories of Guantánamo detainees inside U.S. courtrooms. The activists' protest is designed to draw attention to the denial of detainees' rights and demand the closure of the prison at Guantánamo. <http://ccrjustice.org/learn-more/reports/guantanamo-newsletter>.” Iowa Peace Network is available to put on a 12-15 minute play that raises awareness about the issues in Guantánamo. This is really quite good and lends itself to either street theater or indoor presentation. It was performed several times over the 4th of July weekend. Please email or call the office to utilize this resource! Call 515-255-7114, e-mail us at iowapeacenetw@icloud.com or write us 4211 Grand Ave. Des Moines, IA 50312.

The Penalty Sharing Community needs members. We have helped numerous people with fines this year! I know that you know how important it is to continue actively, directly, civilly resisting injustice. There is an increase in the criminalization of dissent, which is always expensive (including financially). We have new brochures for both IPN and the Penalty Sharing Community—grab some and pass them out and pass them on. Our new business cards promote the Tent Adoption program that distributes donations of tents and camp gear to those living outdoors in the elements—search your garage and basements for gear that could be passed on! The Dovetail quarterly newsletter is undergoing changes. We are going to try a few issues on newsprint to allow us to expand the content and scope. Have you signed up to receive it? If so, do you read it? If not, why? Your feedback in this area is greatly desired.

The Thursday weekly vigil at Nolan Plaza in Des Moines is unfortunately still in existence. We tell ourselves (when it's raining or below zero or we have perspired to the point of stench) that just as it is illogical to quit nailing boards together because the house is not yet built, it is illogical to quit making a visible peace presence just because we don't have it... yet. Please join in this meditation from 11:30–1:00.

Pastors for Peace, the Cuban peace caravan, was here and spoke to a small, but lovely audience about the horrible conditions that the U.S. blockade has caused and the wonderful opportunities that the Cuban medical schools have for foreign students. If you missed it you also missed six rhubarb custard pies. You are cordially invited next year. First Amendment Day at ISU was fabulous and they gave awards to the Students Beyond War kids who risked arrest in Sen. Grassley's office. The SBW kids also organized a die-in and participated in a Drake University rally. The Hiroshima and Nagasaki Never Forget/Never

Again vigil will be at the Japanese Bell state Capitol Grounds Friday August 8th, at 7:30, bring flowers and a chair. The United Nations International Day of Peace, Peace Fair will take place next to the Farmer's Market in Downtown Des Moines on the Court Ave. Bridge on September 20th in the morning. Come and eat local food, support organic farms, discover fair trade items, access grass fed, fairly raised meat, fellowship, network—all these things make peace!

We have a new website! Please visit it. It is hoped that it will provide great information compiled in one easy location.

I will join with Witness Against War 2008: from Chicago to St. Paul, sponsored by Voices for Creative Nonviolence (www.vcnv.org) which will include for me a direct action at Fort McCoy Wisconsin. WAW is walking to the Republican National Convention. I will walk seven days.

IPN is fully reliant on your generous support and we are staunchly devoted to a "Good News" stewardship of it. We are grateful.

Renee Espeland, IPN Coordinator www.iowapeacenet.org

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF AFSC CENTRAL REGIONAL PROGRAM WORK

At the national level, AFSC continues the process of focusing our program work and restructuring our staff in order to ensure the greatest impact from our efforts. Recently, I've helped lead a team of AFSC staff plan for future work in the Middle East. I would be pleased to discuss these and other efforts with you!

Peacebuilding

Whether you call it "counter-recruitment" or "truth in recruiting," AFSC's efforts to reach young people about positive alternatives to the military provide crucial information to young people throughout our region. Iowa's Peace Education Program also provides information on nonviolent alternatives to war, engaging hundreds of young people and their parents at schools, libraries, conferences and places of worship. As one high schooler told an AFSC staffer, "Whenever I see you here at school, it totally makes my day!"

AFSC Iowa's Middle East Peace Education Committee (MEPEC) sponsored and organized a book and speaking tour with Marda Dunskey, author of *Pens & Swords: How the American Mainstream Media Report the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. Dunskey spoke at a public forum, classes at Drake University and with several media outlets. In Colorado, AFSC's counter-recruitment figures tell part of the story: in the last three months,

staff presented to 370 people, of whom 85% were people of color and 75% were under the age of 25. But, the human connections tell more. After tabling at a career fair at local detention center, an AFSC staffer was approached by a military recruiter who agreed with our information and wished us luck. At a separate event, another youth noted the hypocrisy of deporting some undocumented immigrants while recruiting others to fight in Iraq.

AFSC's national campaign to highlight the "Cost of War" featured several tall banners and pamphlets illustrating the human needs our country could address by redirecting funds currently spent on the Iraq War. Several of our local offices joined in this endeavor.

In Kansas City, AFSC staff are constantly thinking of new ways to convey our message of peace to the public while motivating peace activists to keep up the struggle. For the latest Tax Day event at the main post office, staff and 25 volunteers created strings of million dollar bills hung on ropes—720 such bills in all, representing the cost of one day of the Iraq War. AFSC's sales of free-trade Palestinian olive oil and soap continue to grow. Contact Jeffrey Weiss (JWeiss@afsc.org) in our Iowa Office for more information.

Human Migration and Mobility

You've probably heard about the recent immigration raid against nearly 400 workers at the Agriprocessors plant in Postville, Iowa. AFSC's Iowa Immigrants Voice Project helped organize and direct the response to the raid; for details, please see the latest Iowa newsletter. The Austin office participated in what has become a traditional immigrant rights march on May 1, organized by the Austin Immigrant Rights Coalition. The main themes draw on demanding full respect, dignity and equality for all immigrants and their families, as well as to protest against ICE getting into Travis County Jail. Around 500 people participated in the march.

Excitement is building in Colorado as a DVD curriculum on immigration, geared towards religious communities, nears completion. AFSC staff have been busy putting the final touches on the project, which will include a discussion guide and handouts. AFSC has been working in conjunction with the Colorado Council of Churches on the curriculum, which may be expanded for national use.

More good news comes from Colorado, where AFSC-supported immigrant rights groups defeated 13 of 15 anti-immigrant proposals before the Colorado Legislature. AFSC has helped build a substantial network of activists who are energetic and eager to transform the debate about immigration.

Economic Justice, Healing Justice and Other Issues

AFSC continues to build support for a moratorium on the death penalty in states such as Missouri, where nearly 300 resolutions of support have been signed by organizations and businesses. Our St. Louis Office is nearing the completion of a large “listening project” within the African American community regarding the death penalty—a total of 150 surveys will be conducted—and we continue to organize against police brutality and for local control of police departments. In June, Mike Farrell, who played “B. J. Hunnicutt” on the popular TV series *M*A*S*H*, spoke at a fundraiser for the St. Louis Chapter of Missourians to Abolish the Death Penalty (AFSC is a key member of that coalition). Farrell signed copies of his book, with all proceeds benefitting the death penalty resistance effort in Missouri. Farrell’s powerful speech is available at www.afsc.org/stlouis. Also in St. Louis, AFSC staff have continued the campaign to pass the Jubilee Act, which would provide real debt relief for several impoverished nations; Senator Clare McKaskill is now a cosponsor. Our “Live Over Debt” workshops help participants connect the dots between injustice at home and globally. A young woman from Webster University credits the workshop as a reason for her interest in Africa; she recently performed in a play highlighting the situation in Darfur.

In May, Richard Iron Cloud, AFSC Program Director on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, traveled to Omaha to meet with Dr. Dou dou Diene, the UN Rapporteur on Racism. Richard provided evidence of racism against Native Americans within the South Dakota prison system, including a documentary Richard produced regarding the case of one Lakota man serving life in prison.

A group of 10 people from New Hampshire joined a May delegation to the Mexican/ U.S. border as part of AFSC’s Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera (Austin So Close to the Border) program. The visit included the Maquiladora Dignity & Justice in Piedras Negras on the way to Ciudad Acuña, where they spent most of the time. AFSC’s sister organization, the Border Committee of Women Workers, or CFO, provided a busy and diverse agenda.

Giving thanks and looking ahead

Thanks go to our staff, volunteers, donors, Executive Committee members and Board members for the dedication of their time and energy. Our thanks also go to you for the support Friends have given AFSC for over nine decades. We quite literally wouldn’t be here without you! Please be in touch if you have any questions or comments. Again, my e-mail is STuma@afsc.org, and our Web address is www.afsc.org. On the

Central Region’s homepage, you’ll find an occasional update of Friends Work for peace and justice throughout the region.

Sonia Tuma, Regional Director

[The following Trustees report was omitted in the 2007 Yearly Meeting Minutes and is included here for historical recording only.]

YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES REPORT

We appoint Gordon Bivens and Doyle Wilson to the Scattergood School Foundation Trustees with terms to expire in 2011. We remove Alberta Kisling from the Foundation.

We have done some initial investigations on accessibility of the School. We mainly looked at the issue of elevators in the Main. We are talking about a million-dollar project. Issues that need to be explored are the loss of dorm rooms and collateral loss of students and income, as well as on going maintenance costs, insurance, etc. Someone would have to do a large fund raising campaign. A preliminary full-scale costly professional study is probably a good idea if the Yearly Meeting would like to pursue this accessibility issue.

Financial Report

Checking Account: First National Bank of Primghar

Initial Balance 7/1/06	\$1772.58
From Yearly Meeting	1000.00
From Entertainment Committee	519.63
Interest	<u>9.82</u>
Total Funds Available	\$3302.03

Disbursements

Laughlin Design (meetinghouse railing)	\$150.00
A.M. Fink (for supplies at Lowe’s)	<u>70.49</u>
Total	\$220.49

Total Funds Available 6/30/2007 **\$3,081.54**

The Scattergood School Foundation Trustees report to the Yearly Meeting Trustees. Their report (attached in 2007 Minutes) is attached. It shows that the Endowment increased by about \$2,000,000 to about three and one half million dollars. The Foundation disbursed about \$92,000 to the School.

Respectfully submitted,
A.M. Fink, clerk

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

GUIDELINES FOR REQUESTING REIMBURSEMENTS FROM IOWA YEARLY MEETING (CONSERVATIVE)

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

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

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

Members of the Yearly Meeting who are **official representatives to a wider Quaker organization** on behalf of the yearly meeting, such as AFSC, FWCC, or FCNL, can submit travel expenses with receipts and/or documentation directly to the Yearly Meeting treasurer. Funds are disbursed on a first-come basis. Representatives are asked to visit with their co-representatives to get an idea of who expects to be traveling and what kind of assistance they might need from the travel funds. Traditionally, these funds are underused and we urge Friends to seek reimbursement if needed.

Friends seeking to use **unassigned budgeted funds**, such as the scholarship money available for Quaker Youth Camp, are asked to submit requests to the Yearly Meeting clerk for approval before April 1. 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-come basis.

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

DIRECTORY OF MONTHLY MEETINGS

Note: First day is Sunday

Ames

Worship 10 a.m. First Day; **Business** 2nd First Day following worship;
Location 121 S. Maple, Ames, Iowa; **Clerk** Betty Young, 1121 Harding Ave., Ames, Iowa 50010, (515) 239-5659

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** Marlene Ahouse, 1775 Silver Creek Road, Waukon, IA 52172, 563-568-3041

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; **Clerk** Elsie Kuhn, elsie-kuhn@uiowa.edu

Lincoln

Worship 10:30 a.m. First Day; **Business** 3rd First Day, beginning at 9:00 a.m.; **Location** 3319 5. 46th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, (402) 488-4178; **Clerk** Earl (Barney) Barnawell, 3400 "J" Street, Lincoln, NE, 68510, (402) 476-2179, bbarnawell@aol.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; **Clerk** Debbie Galusha, (402) 553-2211, agulusa@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** Shane Rowse, (816) 241-5821, rowse@earthlink.net

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, second First day following worship; **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 551 W. Main St., #214, Madison, Wisconsin; **Clerk** Ken Lawrence, (608) 242-9029

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