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MINUTES OF IOWA YEARLY MEETING (CONSERVATIVE)

132nd Annual Sessions

Seventh Month 28 to Eighth Month 2, 2009

FOURTH DAY – WEDNESDAY – 7/29/2009

At the 132nd annual session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) held at Scattergood Friends School, near West Branch, Iowa, from Seventh Month 28 to Eighth Month 2, 2009.

“Why should I wish to see God better than this day? I see something of God each hour of the 24, and each moment then, in the faces of men and women I see God, and in my own face in the glass, I find letters from God dropt in the street, and every one is sign’d by God’s name, and I leave them where they are for I know that wheresoe’er I go, others will punctually come for ever and ever” Walt Whitman, *Song of Myself*

We are glad to have the presence of these visitors with us at these sessions: Debbie Humphries of Hartford Monthly Meeting, Hartford, CT, New England Yearly Meeting, who carries a minute of travel; Peter Crysedale, sojourning at Allensdeck Monthly Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting, member of Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting, Pacific Yearly Meeting; Jay Robinson, who carries a letter of introduction from Palmerston North Monthly Meeting of Aotearora/New Zealand Yearly Meeting; Jean Smith, traveling under the care of East Africa Yearly Meeting, Kuwesa Project of the Rural Service Program in Kaimosi, Kenya; Laura Dungan of University Friends Meeting, Wichita, Kansas, Great Plains Yearly Meeting; Aaron Fowler of Heartland Monthly Meeting, Wichita, Kansas, Great Plains Yearly Meeting; Jeff Swartzendruber of the Mennonite Foundation in Kalona, Iowa; Rachel Pie of Columbia, Missouri; Elizabeth Bullock-Rest, Fayetteville Monthly Meeting, Fayetteville, Arkansas, South Central Yearly Meeting; TC Raj of West Des Moines, Iowa.

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

**MONTHLY MEETING APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO
YEARLY MEETING**

Ames	Dan Treadway, Betty Young
Bear Creek	Stan Sanders, Burt Kisling
Decorah	Martha Davis
Des Moines Valley	Carol Spaulding-Kruse, Jean Sandstrom, and Pat Dickinson, jointly serving
Iowa City	Elsie Kuhn, Jeff Cox
Lincoln	Dan Schlitt
Omaha	Carol Gilbert, Frank Fife
Paullina	Beth Wilson, Jonathan Fisch
Penn Valley	Larry Herndon, Kathy Herndon
West Branch	Jim Cottingham, Jean Eden
Whittier	Roy Hampton, Bob Yeats

**MONTHLY MEETING APPOINTMENTS OF CARETAKERS TO YEARLY
MEETING**

Ames	Deborah Fink, Marion Soloman
Bear Creek	Herbert Standing, Jeff Kisling
Decorah	Bill Deutsch
Des Moines Valley	Sherry Hutchison
Iowa City	none appointed
Lincoln	Marge Schlitt
Omaha	Marshall Massey
Paullina	Inez Schaechterle
Penn Valley	Chloe Wagner, Jim Kenney
West Branch	Larry Marsh
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	Michael Taylor
Paullina	Judy Plank
Penn Valley	Ginger Kenney
West Branch	Callie Marsh
Whittier	Martha Hampton

REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTMENTS

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

Exercise Committee	Stan Sanders, Cheryl Sutton
Epistle Committee	Jean Sandstrom, Inez Schaechterlee, Roy Hampton
Special Replies	Kathy Herndon, Birdie Kisling, Herbert Standing
Yearly Meeting Reporters	Dan Schlitt, Carol Gilbert
Auditing Committee	Jonathan Fisch, Frank Griffith

Readers for this morning's business sessions are Stan Sanders and Larry Herndon.

We listened carefully to the reports of the Midyear Meeting Committee, Midyear Meeting Treasurer, and the Midyear Meeting Youth Committee. We appreciate the very complete reports.

MIDYEAR MEETING REPORT

The 2009 Midyear Meeting of Iowa Yearly Meeting, Conservative was held the Fourth Month 25 and 26, 2009 at Bear Creek Meetinghouse near Earlham, Iowa. Approximately 70 were in attendance from Iowa and neighboring states.

Our presenter and resource leader this year was invited guest Susan Corson-Finnerty, noted editor of *Friends Journal*. Susan lives in Elkins Park, near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with her husband, Adam. She has four grown children.

Susan has been involved in religious journalism for nineteen years, fourteen of them with *Friends Journal*. She noted, “This began as a calling and became a ministry. My work among Friends has included service with Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Director of Development for Princeton Friends School, and I served with my husband, Adam, as co-director of Powell House, New York Yearly Meeting’s retreat and conference center in rural upstate New York.”

Susan’s theme for our midyear gathering was a quotation taken from an article by David Morse in the January 2009 issue of *Friends Journal*, “When does a leading become a calling, and a calling a ministry?” In the first session, Susan offered a reflection of her own experience regarding leadings. She examined three outcomes: ‘Way opening, Way not opening, and Way closing.’ Participant sharing was invited in the latter portion of the session.

The evening session focused on discernment, how our leadings support and guide our choices and actions, sometimes with greater focus and energy. She referred to personal experience of “deep calling to deep—we sense there is something different about this,” that we are frequently moved more strongly when life is “in extremis.” Susan divided the audience into groups of four or five to share our experiences of leadings from God with one another: How did you know you were being led? How was the experience different? What did you do? How did God work with you? Many of us expressed that this intimate sharing opened a sense of closer connection within the Meeting.

The closing session on First Day was devoted to “When does a calling become a ministry?” Again speaking from personal experience, Susan noted how responses to callings often become acts of love, which are perhaps never more needed than now. “Ministry and service can take us out of our comfort zones, generating feelings of being fully used.”

Many expressions of gratitude were offered for Susan's presentation and personal sharing. It was a deeply enriching gathering of Friends in friendship and God's grace.

The annual AFSC benefit white-elephant sale brought in over \$477.00. Thanks to all who donated goods for resale and those who generously participated.

The new "little cottage" at Bear Creek is nearly complete. The inside is painted and trimmed and is a comfortably inviting space. Thanks to all who helped with the funding and construction of this regained facility, so helpful for Midyear activities.

The Midyear Planning Committee thanked Bear Creek Monthly Meeting for their continuing hospitality, and also all who participated in hosting our midyear gathering. A special 'Thank You' to Debbie Galusha and Rebekah DeWild for their wonderful generosity, volunteering their time and work to prepare the meals for the Midyear gathering.

On behalf of the Midyear Planning Committee,
Stan Sanders, Clerk

MIDYEAR MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT

Contributions		\$2,930.23
Expenses	(1,655.84)	
Hosting fee	(300.00)	(1,955.84)
To new building fund		\$974.39

Osa Bricker
Midyear Meeting Treasurer

MIDYEAR MEETING YOUTH PROGRAM REPORT

A small group of young people gathered at Midyear Meeting. Committee members, Patty Wengert and Mikel Johnson added new ideas to the program. Dennis Kirkwood led a creative map-making activity that involved enthusiastic youth from pre-school through high school. The caretakers hired for preschool age assisted with this community-building activity too.

The youth participation at MYM was smaller than in previous years. This may be due to some of the youth graduating from Young Friends. In the past, a mailing with Midyear Youth programs was sent to each meeting, and this may be something to focus on again. One Young

Friend who attended, mentioned that he heard about Midyear Meeting on Facebook.

We are grateful for the work of Debbie Galusha, who retired from the committee this year. Her dedication to nurturing youth in Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) has been meaningful to many young people and families. For others that may feel led to work with youth and encourage them, volunteers and new ideas are always welcome. You are invited to share in the wonder and joy.

On behalf of the committee,
Jackie Leckband

We heard the minutes of the Interim Meeting of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). We appreciated the excellent letter sent on our behalf concerning immigration reform. It was clear and to the point. We are grateful to have the Friends General Conference Gathering in Iowa in 2011 and know it will undoubtedly provide us with many opportunities for service. We value the work of the Interim Meeting representatives

INTERIM MEETING MINUTES

Fourth Month 25, 2009

Interim Meeting opened after a time of worship; representatives from nine meetings were present.

We have been asked by the Friends General Conference Planning Committee for an invitation to have the 2011 Gathering be held in Iowa, at Grinnell College. We approve sending the Planning Committee an official invitation and will ask the Interim clerk to see that a letter is submitted to FGC. We understand this does not incur expense or hosting responsibilities for IYMC.

We agreed to ask Cathy Gardner to be Yearly Meeting representative to North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative to be held Seventh Month 8-12. Debbie Galusha has agreed to be YM representative to Ohio Yearly Meeting, to be held Eighth Month 3-8.

Alice Hampton has agreed to be clerk of Interim Meeting for another year; Carol Gilbert has agreed to continue as assistant clerk.

We are not convinced of the need to act on the concern of a Friend regarding William Penn Colonial Style Lager.

We approved sending a letter on behalf of IYMC to elected officials, regarding immigration reform, attached. The letter came to us from Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

Meeting concluded with a time of silent worship.
Alice Hampton, Clerk
Bill Deutsch, Acting Assistant Clerk

Dear (Senator/Representative/President) ,

The Iowa Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Conservative) has prayerfully considered the results of the raid last May on the Agri-processors plant in Postville, Iowa. This action and the policies it represents were an affront to our faith and to the principles upon which our country was founded. The humanitarian disaster created by these raids is ongoing and has been left primarily to local volunteers and church people who are not equipped to deal with a man-made disaster of this magnitude.

We ask that workplace raids stop. We ask that you support Comprehensive Immigration Law Reform.

We listened carefully to the report on the American Friends Service Committee Annual Corporation meeting prepared by the IYMC representatives. It is a clear report and we tenderly hold the hard news it carries concerning the financial challenges being faced by AFSC. We appreciate the report.

AFSC CORPORATION REPORT

As your faithful representatives gathered in Philadelphia for the 2008 corporation meeting, most of the room at the annual corporation meeting was elated with November's national election results. It seemed that many dreams were finally being realized. Little did we know just how low the financial vultures were circling. As the meetings went on, we all began to realize how precarious a position that the Service Committee had been left in by the banking and financial schemes of the past few years. Encouraging reports were given on our work that would continue despite this economic downturn. The service committee had taken careful precautions to shelter the committee from the expected economic cycles that are a normal aspect of financial life. Reserve funds were set aside for use in leaner times. Wise financial people pleaded that we should be able to get over this period with minimal cutting of programs. Little did most of us realize how interdependent every aspect of the Service Committee's work was with the health of our economy as a whole. As the year has progressed since our November meeting, many of our resources have evaporated. Even the reserve "emergency" fund took

serious losses preventing it from fulfilling its helpful function. Contributing foundations lost money to financial scammers such as Bernie Madoff and so weren't able to make their usual contributions. Bequests were steady in number but were greatly reduced in value as their investments were hit hard. Potential donors with financial instability of their own have reduced donations. Our most educated guessers predict that this rough financial period could last as long as two years. Many changes are taking place to weather the financial storms and improve the efficiency of the organization. Proposals are circulating to reduce the size of the board, change the corporation meeting schedule and work with other organizations to increase our efficiency and reduce our carbon footprint.

Performers from the Marian Anderson Historical Society Scholars program gave an inspiring recital of Classical Music and Spirituals, all of which were associated with the great singer during her lifetime. Blanche Burton Lyles, founder of the Society introduced the performers along with historical information about Marian Anderson and her famous concert at the Lincoln Memorial 70 years ago.

PBS reporter Ray Suarez delivered the talk for the annual public session, substituting for ailing Gwen Ifill. He is the author of a new book titled *The Holy Vote* that discusses the increasing influence of religion in U.S. politics. Suarez discussed the many problems facing our new president and us as a people, giving special attention to our relationship between politics and the military and our inability to have a reasonable debate on a new, much needed immigration policy.

Despite the many obstacles facing us in the near term, the AFSC will continue, as has it has with your support, to be the most visible extension of our faith, working in the world. Please hold our staff and board members in the Light as they make the difficult decisions that will allow us to go forward. When meeting with folks who you think are sympathetic to our goals, please let them know about the AFSC's work. When, in your travels, you meet up with an AFSC staff person or board member, take them to lunch. These are the folks, who when faced with complicated and difficult decisions, must remember to make them lovingly.

We heard the epistles sent to us by Friends in Ohio Yearly Meeting and North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative. It is good to hear these letters. We appreciate the connection with the other Conservative yearly meetings and we cherish the things we share with them.

EPISTLE FROM OHIO YEARLY MEETING

8/16/2008

To Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Dear Friends:

“And behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, ““Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” He said unto him, ‘What is written in the law? How readest thou?’ And he answering said, ‘Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.’ And he said unto him, ‘Thou has answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.” Luke 10:25-28.

As we gathered for the 196th Ohio Yearly Meeting in the beautifully wooded, rolling hills of southeastern Ohio, we again took thought for our Friends in Iowa Yearly Meeting. As we have followed the media coverage of the tragic flood damage and other crises besetting Iowa, we have held you up in prayer, in the hope that none of you have suffered, but offering the circumstances up to Our Lord and asking that He make His will and plan as clear to us all as He may deem possible.

During our yearly meeting from Eighth Month 11 through Eighth Month 17, 2008, we have appreciated presentations and programs, which guide us to deeper contemplating of simplicity, charity, and peace. We are saddened by the state of the world and the human suffering which is to be found so widely, in so many regions of the world, and we welcome these presentations and programs which invite us to consider the possibilities for relieving suffering through our actions or our support of programs organized by Friends and others.

We were glad to be joined by visitors and Friends from other yearly meetings, and those seeking for a deeper understanding of Conservative Friends and our abiding relationship with Our Lord. We welcome all visitors and rejoice in the leadings which brought them among us.

The Wider Fellowship of Conservative Friends Committee organized a Gathering in Sixth Month, which was attended by Friends from many parts of the country and beyond, including visiting Friends from locations as distant as Finland. We rejoiced with these Friends, too often isolated and remote from meetings, as they enjoyed Christian fellowship and spiritual refreshment during the Gathering in Barnesville. We were likewise encouraged by the presence of so many hearts, tender toward the leadings of the Holy Spirit.

Junior Yearly Meeting has been conducted concurrently with Yearly Meeting, with some adult Friends devoting their time to programs for younger Friends during meetings for worship with a concern for

business. Their presentation on Seventh Day evening is always a time of special blessing for us all.

Christian Education Camp, held in Sixth Month each year, was again well attended by young people seeking knowledge of the truth and reality of a personal relationship with Jesus, and great understanding of our Quaker faith and our practice of unprogrammed worship.

Our numbers remain modest, but stable, and we contend with the pressures of the world to change and “modernize” our practices and elements of our Book of Discipline. If we measure our success by the world’s yardstick, we may be tempted to equate success with sheer numbers and growth. Yet if we held fast to Our Savior’s advice to us, we recall the parable of the single lost sheep and the ninety-and-nine sheep which were not in peril, and we cherish His assurance that wherever two or more are gathered in His Name, there is He in the midst.

“For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, ‘I will dwell in them and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate’ saith the Lord, ‘and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters,’ saith the Lord Almighty.”

In Christ’s love,

Seth B. Hinshaw, Clerk

EPISTLE FROM NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING, CONSERVATIVE

Seventh Month 2009

Dear Friends in Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative,

We are grateful for this opportunity to send you, our brothers and sisters in Christ, loving greetings. We delight in thinking of you gathering for your annual sessions at Scattergood Friends School amidst the fields of green corn, prairie flowers, and open skies.

We send our warm greetings from the campus of the University of North Carolina in Wilmington where we are graced by the scent of long-leaf pines and warm ocean breezes.

We have experienced the common ties that bind us together coming alive as your epistle to us was read during our sessions and we very much appreciated the presence of your member Cathy Gardner among us.

Our annual sessions opened with worship under the care of our ministers, elders, and overseers, followed by responses to queries

specific to that body. It was a time of an emerging sense of deep tenderness, honest wrestling with difficult issues, a clear sense of God's Love and sharing of burdens.

The tenderness of listening and gathering carried through into later sessions when we were gifted with responses to the general queries from our Faith and Practice from each monthly meeting. We find the discipline of responding to queries served to both give us a sense of the health and well being of the Yearly Meeting body and a sense of the workings of the Holy Spirit among us.

During this time where, to all outward appearances, Quakers are losing members, we have been blessed by a request from the Davidson Monthly Meeting in Davidson, North Carolina, to join our yearly meeting. This request was joyfully approved.

We are reminded of the importance of being patterns in the world as we witness to Quaker faith and practice with our children. They have blessed our annual gathering with their joyful noises, and radiating Love. We find they help us connect to one another and the Divine through play and celebration of our time together.

Throughout the sessions, we find ourselves hearing a renewed call to awareness of the depth of spiritual direction that Quakers offer the world.

In Divine Love,

Sidney Lee Kitchens, Clerk

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

We listened attentively to portions of several of the epistles from yearly meetings around the world, selected by Friends of Yahara Preparative Meeting for our consideration. Hearing these epistles, helps give us a sense of companionship and connection with other Friends. We are grateful for the epistles from the meetings who shared struggles and divisions within their own yearly meetings and with affiliated bodies, and their willingness to labor with those concerns with love and share them with us.

OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING

“...The different strains of our theme were pulled together by Jens Braun of New York Yearly Meeting as he drew from his experiences working in Costa Rica and the Gaza Strip and from his later leading to participate in an intentional community in New York. While working to walk lightly on the earth, he realized that sustainability is not enough. We want much more than the stasis implied by that word, as we delve

more deeply into the values that sustain us and allow those values to guide us in our efforts to dwell in harmony. He challenged us to break away from the societal architecture that shapes our situations and step into a world where wealth consists of well-being and wholeness rather than tradable goods... Our time together in these sessions has been rich and full. We have challenged ourselves to delve deeply. We have explored our commitment to walk lightly. We have searched for ways to dwell in harmony. We take away from this place the sense of renewal necessary to continue the process and we share with all Friends everywhere the desire for God's loving presence in our lives."

CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA YEARLY MEETING

"...In line with our theme, the Richard Gush lecture by Dudizile Mtshazo was not only inspirational but also prophetic. We were told lies about each other and ourselves, and she had discovered with great pain how she had been complicit in propping up an evil system by conforming and complying. However, the challenges she faced in the journey through those dark days paint a picture of a courageous and determined woman who, through her resilience, managed to improve her condition and that of others. She owes her spiritual growth to many southern African friends, and has in turn nurtured many more through her prayer and insightful ministry. As Quakers today, in a world of violence and injustice, our task remains the same as it was for early Quakers: to be so moved by the Light within us as "to let our lives speak" in the cause of peace. We can all look for and find reconciliation by being truthful and mindful to the Light. Do what God does, and what God instructs us to do: "Love one another as I have loved you..."

We have been reminded during C&SAYM that there are differing views on the subject of same sex relationships. Friends at C&SAYM understand the difficulties that some African Friends may have with such relationships. We affirm those Friends' desire to live by values that reflect the truth. Antagonism to same-sex relationship may derive from the prejudices of those who colonized and evangelized us. It may also derive from our own cultures. It may be fostered by a reading of Scripture that appears to confirm this antagonism. In the past, Friends have condoned slavery and colonialism, but in the spirit of love and truth we have overcome these errors. So now, we seek, in the same spirit, to affirm and respect each other's sexual orientation..."

GREAT PLAINS YEARLY MEETING

“...As we explored the history of our yearly meeting in this, our 100th year, there was a mixture of nostalgia and gratitude for those Friends who worked so diligently and faithfully in the past to keep our hopes and dreams and searchings alive and well. We have been grateful for the labor of Ron Mattson of Central City Monthly Meeting in reminding us of our unique history and heritage as a yearly meeting, as well as our deep roots in the Quaker and Christian tradition. How awesome to consider this glorious past! And how important to consider our own place in this present day, in the midst of a still beautiful world, but a world beset by challenges the likes of which it has never seen before. We considered our unique historical circumstance in a spirit of joy and grateful fellowship. During our time together, we had ever in front of us the challenge of the present moment, and what God is calling us to in this new century for Friends on the Great Plains. We feel a sense of urgency, a sense of God’s call to reach out to a world in pain. At the same time, we are aware of our own inability to do anything under our own power, dependant as we are on the power of the Holy Spirit not only to show us a way forward, but to prepare and empower us as individuals and as fellowships to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. This year, Friends at Great Plains Yearly Meeting have felt moved to deepen our commitment to participation in the wider Religious Society of Friends. At the same time, we seek to be more intentional in tending our own fragile fellowship, reaching out to one another and building each other up. We desire to be with one another, to see each other face to face as we seek to live in the Kingdom here on the Great Plains...”

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

“...In the opening plenary talk, our Friend Betsy Meyer continued us on our journey with an exploration of John 15:12-17. In these verses, Jesus calls us to be his friends rather than his servants and challenges us to love one another not just with human affection, but with Divine Love—the piercing, consuming, awesome Love that God has for us. Betsy challenged us to consider how we are called to lay down our lives not only in the actual, physical sense, but also in other ways such as putting aside our own prejudices, agendas, and our need to be right. She reminded us that God is always teaching new lessons of love. “We may think we understand love and then we meet a person or a situation that challenges us. God is patient with us. God helps us let go of the parts of

us that stand in the way of love, calling us to radical person or a situation that challenges us. God is patient with us. God helps us let go of the parts of us that stand in the way of love, calling us to radical humility.” She left us speechless ... concerns with FUM even though we still lack clarity as to where God leads us next. We recommitted ourselves to our relationship with FUM in patient witness to our experience of God’s all-inclusive love. We are clear that we have made progress, and we carry a sense of expectation and faith that our patient waiting on Divine revelation will be rewarded. Even as God is patient with our folly, we must be patient with waiting for Way to open, for all is made clear in God’s time. “Though now we look into a mirror darkly, then we shall see face to face.” We must reach for perfection even while realizing we may never be perfect. To this end, we continue to hold all Friends in the Light and ask you to do the same. The many lessons of love this week have not fallen on deaf ears. We must continue to strive towards Divine Love, to love patiently, to love without boundaries, to love our enemies and let them inspire us. This, then, is the challenge in our theme: “Let Us Then Try what Love will do...”

NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING

“...Presentations by Friends working with AVP in Columbia, Ache, and Bolivia, the work of FUM in Kenya, and the Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) workshops in Burundi and Rwanda humbled us with their powerful witness.

Many of us are challenged and pained by Friends United Meeting personnel policy, homophobic remarks made at FUM board meeting in Kakamega, Kenya, and the affirmation of the Richmond Declaration as the faith basis of FUM. We are seeking clarity about how to be in association with the rest of FUM. We are clear that, for now, we are called to rest in the lack of clarity, though it pains us deeply to do so. We are reminded that what we seek to be about is love, peace, integrity, and seeing the Divine in others... A NYYM Minute on Torture was put forth and approved. The Minute articulated our witness to Friends everywhere and to the wider world, calling on all to be guided by the Spirit into respect for all humanity...”

ILLINOIS YEARLY MEETING

“...Speaker Florence Ntakaruitmana gave us hope through her message about the Hutus and Tutsis in Burundi finding reconciliation through the Friends’ African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) called Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC). Through three-day workshops in rural communities, she and others teach victims and perpetrators to name and understand the effects of trauma they are suffering as a result of the killings in their country. They then learn the skills of compassionate listening to those who have anger and pain. Finally, Hutus and Tutsis participate in trust-building exercises with each other. Many people have been transformed and have found peace through this ministry of reconciliation....Our message to you is that speaking truth in love is something we must do over and over in different words and through different deeds of reconciliation, again and again, renewed and refreshed by the Spirit and each other in the ministry of reconciliation. This work of reconciliation is difficult because we have to go through anger and feelings of hurt and fear. But, through truth, compassionate listening, forgiveness and inner work of the Spirit, people, families and communities can find reconciliation and peace. In this world torn by war, our ministry of reconciliation is needed more than ever. We commend you all to the healing work of Love.”

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

FIFTH DAY – THURSDAY – 7/30/2009

9:30 a.m. Meeting for Worship

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

“What really is this relation between silence and speech in a meeting for worship? A casual observer of a Quaker meeting will see a collection of people being quiet together, with the occasional offering of some ministry. But what is not seen is the inward struggle, the returning of attention to Stillness, to Breath, to Word, or to the spaces between words, and to the effort to discern leadings, resistances, fears, and motivations.” Daniel O. Snyder, 2008.

Dan Schlitt and Jonathan Fisch have been appointed readers this morning.

MINUTE OF THIRD AND FOURTH DAY ACTIVITIES

Collection on the evening of Third Day was given by Wendy Vasquez of Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting and Bill Deutsch of Decorah Friends Meeting on the theme of “Humanizing a Border.” They shared stories that have been shared with them or that they had experienced themselves while working to support undocumented immigrants who have come to the U.S. over the Mexican Border. Their hope is to help humanize the border.

On Fourth Day afternoon Kathleen McQuillen, director of the Iowa Program for the Central Region Office of the American Friends Service Committee shared about the work that has been done by them in the past year. Sonia Tuma, AFSC Central Region Director, reported that AFSC will have to cut its budget by 50% because of the U.S. economic crisis. In the Central Region all offices will reduce staff and/or programs. The Pine Ridge Project in South Dakota will close and the office in Austin, TX will be shut down over the next year. AFSC is hoping to build a strong volunteer force to assist them in the work they are called to do.

Jonathan Fisch, one of the IYMC representatives to Friends Committee for National Legislation shared about the work being done by that organization on our behalf. They also are experiencing the need for some major program cuts because of the economy. They will drop from a staff of 40 to 24. Both organizations are seeking to keep vital programs and services going without over burdening staff and hope to be able to rebuild as the economy improves in years to come. We learned that Joe Volk has announced he will retire as Executive Secretary of FCNL in 2011. We were asked to hold the staff and volunteers for these organizations in the Light, as it is a tender time for them.

An interest group on work being done in the Kuwesa Project of the Rural Service Program in Kaimosi, Kenya to assist women who are HIV positive or have family members who have AIDS was presented by visitor S. Jean Smith.

Debbie Humphries of Hartford Friends Meeting in New England Yearly Meeting and Peter Crysedale of Strawberry Creek Meeting in Pacific Yearly Meeting gave evening Collection on the theme “Deepening Meeting for Worship.” They each spoke from the Silence, encouraging us to practice listening beyond where there are words by

delving deeply into the Deep where we have the opportunity to encounter God.

We are blessed to have the presence of these visitors: David Schoen of Fayetteville, Arkansas Monthly Meeting, South Central Yearly Meeting; Susan Schoen of Fayetteville, Arkansas, SCYM; Elizabeth O’Sullivan who carries a letter of introduction from Laughing Waters Worship Group in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

We heard the well-written report on the Friends World Committee for Consultation. We approve the report.

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION REPORT

Friends from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) continue to participate actively in Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), as the worldwide organization continues the work of facilitating contact and dialogue among all branches of Friends.

The annual meeting of the FWCC Section of the Americas was held in the third month near Portland, Oregon. Nearly two hundred Friends were in attendance at the four-day conference from North, Central, and South America and many countries around the world. Ginger Kenney and Stan Sanders represented IYMC.

Funding continues to be a challenge, particularly with the worldwide economic crisis that we face. Many supporting Friends have experienced financial losses, and many of the organization’s larger donors will not be able to contribute in the coming year. FWCC’s trust funds also have been diminished by the economic shifts.

Taking this as an opportunity, FWCC governance has re-established a leaner and clearer structure to meet core purposes of generating contact and dialogue between Friends across cultural and linguistic differences. Staff has been diminished to meet this more direct and important purpose of the organization. Margaret Fraser, Executive Secretary, gave us a question for this coming year: “How do we live and work in this new economy? How can we say ‘not now’ or ‘no’ to work and worthwhile projects and make room for the unexpected opportunity?”

Reports noted that Friends are growing in number in many countries of the world. Our greatest growth in the Western Hemisphere is in Central and South America. Several gatherings in the Section of the

Americas are scheduled over the coming year to expand contact between North and South American Friends. An upcoming conference of Peace Churches in Latin America will bring together representatives of Church of the Brethren, Mennonites, and Society of Friends.

Martha Davis continues to be active with the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage Committee. Stan Sanders has been named clerk of the Northern High Plains Regional Meeting of FWCC, which has been inactive for many years. As God wills, in the coming year we will explore opportunities of gathering all branches of Friends here in our region to reflect on the few differences and many commonalities we have as Friends.

For the committee,
Stan Sanders

We listened to the report of the Publication Committee and note that we have been asked to be timely in getting updated monthly meeting directories to the Publication clerk so printing of the Minutes is not delayed. This committee does much unseen work in preparing minutes and updating the Yearly Meeting webpage and their work helps us make Iowa Friends visible to the world. We appreciate the work done by all those serving with this committee.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The work of this committee has been evolving over recent years. Thanks to committees and others submitting their reports electronically, and the clerk's prompt delivery of the complete first draft of the Minutes, work on the body of the Minutes themselves is much easier. Microsoft Word features continue to improve, facilitating maintaining the Index and Table of Contents, and spelling and grammar checking. Even so, the work of proofreaders Margie Haworth, Debbie Galusha and Ruth Dawson continue to provide great benefit.

On the other hand, the expansion of the Publication responsibilities to the Internet via the QuakerNet website provides opportunities throughout the year for committee work. Several monthly meetings publish copies of their business meeting Minutes on the web. We welcome and encourage other committees to take advantage of QuakerNet whenever appropriate for their work.

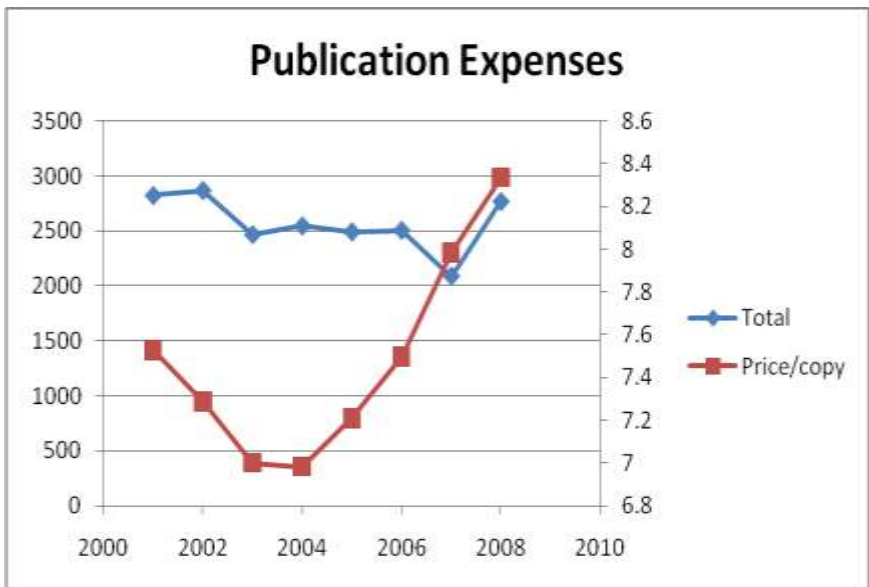
Website statistics reveal around 8500 pages viewed per month by 2500 visitors. Surprisingly, while the United States led with the most pages viewed (4300), the Russian Federation, with 2300 page views is

significantly greater than rest of the countries in the top five, Canada, Romania, and China, who each view around 300 pages per month.

One of the goals of the committee is to deliver the Minutes as early as possible. This year the process was delayed by nearly two months because updated member directories were not received in a timely manner from several monthly meetings. These updates are due at the time of the Yearly Meeting annual sessions. I don't know if it is in answer to our prayers, or perhaps just to our written appeals, but we are grateful to have already received the updated membership lists from five monthly meetings so far this year. It should be noted that several monthly meetings consistently deliver their lists in a timely manner.

The increase in the committee's budget from \$2700 to \$3000 last year was appreciated, as total costs came to \$2770.03. The cost per copy of printing the Minutes has increased from \$7.00 in 2004 to \$8.33 this past year. In an attempt to anticipate costs, expenses since 2001 were plotted on the graph below. If there are no significant changes to recent trends, it looks like our expenses should fall within \$3000 this coming year.

	Expenses
Goodfellow Printing of 310 copies of the Minutes (\$8.33/copy)	\$2,584.00
BlueHost Web hosting of QuakerNet.org	107.40
Mailing	<u>78.63</u>
Total	\$2,770.03



We appreciate the work of Debbie Galusha, who has asked to leave the committee in light of her responsibilities as clerk of the Scattergood Friends School Committee.

For the committee,
Jeff Kisling, Clerk

We received the good report of the 2008 Entertainment Committee. We appreciate the work done by this committee on our behalf.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The monthly meetings of Ames, Penn Valley and Des Moines Valley were the hosts for the 2008 Yearly Meeting annual sessions. The theme for the sessions was "Follow the Light". Mark Patton, West Branch Meeting, reported on his experiences in Ireland as a representative to FWCC. David Drake, Des Moines Valley Meeting, told of his travels to Israel, West Bank and Iran. Guest speakers from outside Iowa Yearly Meeting included Bruce Birchard, General Secretary of Friends General Conference; Theoneste Bizimana, coordinator of Healing and Rebuilding our Communities in Rwanda; and Nancy Irving, General Secretary of FWCC. John McCutcheon, Quaker songwriter and musician, held a workshop and concert. Expenses for the concert were paid by donations over and above the regular Yearly Meeting offerings.

INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT

Receipts

Received from 2007 Committee	\$2,000.00
Contributions (general)	9,861.00
Special Contributions for Program	3,545.00
Total receipts	\$15,406.00

Expenses

Scattergood Friends School	\$8,750.00
Child Care	585.00
Program	3,876.53
Printing, Postage and Supplies	85.22
Bank Service Charge	12.72
Forwarded to 2009 Committee	2,000.00
Total expenses	\$15,309.47

We listened to the report of the Archives Committee. We were also asked to check our meetings for copies of the Conservative Newspaper, *The Western Friend*, published from about 1870 to 1900, that are missing from the Yearly Meeting Wm. Penn Room. The work of the Archive Committee to make sure there are records of our minutes and history is important to us and future Friends. We approve the report as amended.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Archives Committee met last evening with three members present.

We can report that our agreement with the State Historical Society of Iowa has been extended for another five-year term, ending at the end of the calendar year 2013. A copy of this agreement is attached.

We can also report that the project we began last year to help fill gaps in the collections of this yearly meeting's published minutes in several libraries has been moving forward. Primarily from a collection of old minute books at the Bear Creek Meetinghouse, we were able to add 113 volumes to five libraries. Sixty of these went to George Fox University in Oregon; their collection has never included any of our minutes before. The rest went to libraries mentioned in last year's report. None of these libraries yet has a complete collection, and we would like to continue to work with them as copies become available, so we repeat our appeal of last year: if you are thinking of discarding a collection of minute books, please contact this committee's convener. Chances are good we can find homes for them.

We also discussed making the records of this yearly meeting more widely available by microfilming them. This is a project we think should be done, but we know that it would require a substantial amount of labor to prepare the records. The Special Collection Coordinator at the State Historical Society tells us that our records fill seventeen feet of shelf space, and she suggested that the cost of filming this much material might be in the \$3000 to \$5000 range. We feel this project should include some records stored in other places as well, so we should expect the expense to be greater. It seems likely that if one or more competent volunteers can be found to do the preparation, a more detailed plan could be formed, and fund raising could begin. None of those present at our meeting expects to be able to prepare this much material within the next

few years. If there is someone who feels a calling to take this work on, the convener would be glad to hear from him/her/them. The convener would also be glad to hear from monthly meetings who would like their records to be included in such a project.

We ask for a continuation of the \$200 budget.

For the committee,

Dan Treadway, Convener

AGREEMENT BETWEEN
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
And
IOWA YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS (CONSERVATIVE)

*CONCERNING PRESERVATION OF THE RECORDS OF THE YEARLY MEETINGS AND SUCH
QUARTERLY, MONTHLY AND SUBORDINATE MEETINGS AS MAY BE ENTRUSTED TO THE YEARLY
MEETING.*

The State Historical Society of Iowa agrees to continue to accept these records on a deposit basis, legal title remaining with the Yearly Meeting and subordinate meetings, for a period of five years ending December 31, 2013. Although it does not conform to the Society's established policy of permanent acquisition of materials, the Society is willing to enter into this agreement because of its interest in the preservation of these records in a safe repository.

The staff of the State Historical Society of Iowa will prepare finding aids for the material that is deposited. A receipt will be provided for all materials that are deposited. The Yearly Meeting will encourage subordinate meetings to deposit records at the State Historical Society of Iowa.

If the Yearly Meetings decides to remove the records to a repository such as Scattergood School during or at the end of the five years covered by this agreement, the Yearly Meeting must provide the Society with a microfilm copy of the records so the Society's finding aids will continue to be of use. Prior to withdrawing the records, the Yearly Meeting must provide one year's written notice to the State Historical Society of Iowa. At the end of the five-year period, the two parties will enter into negotiations for the preparation of an agreement extending the period of deposit, or to arrange for the removal of the records.

Records to be deposited will include but not be limited to: Minutes, First Day School Records, Treasurers' Record Books, Membership Records, Birth and Marriage Records. Duplicate materials will be returned to the originating meeting.

TRUSTEES OF THE YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

Roy Hampton
Roy Hampton

Gordon Hendrickson
Gordon Hendrickson, Administrator

James P. Cottingham
Jim Cottingham

Mary Bennett
Mary Bennett, Special Collections Coordinator

A.M. Fisch
A.M. Fisch

Beth Wilson
Beth Wilson

Jonathan Fisch
Jonathan Fisch

We listened carefully to the report of the Special Needs Committee. We note that many of the improvements mentioned in the report have been talked about by the community in the past and we are grateful to see many of them in place this year. It is a good beginning. We approve the report.

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE REPORT

A number of people, some officially on the Special Needs Committee and some not, are putting a lot of effort into making Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) more accessible this summer. Concerns raised following last summers gathering included the following:

1. Meeting the nutrition needs of those attending who have diabetes or who have an allergy to gluten (wheat)
2. Accessibility of the restroom nearest the dining hall
3. Accessibility of the dining hall including getting to it and getting food
4. Clearing up sound system issues and being sure sound system is ready to go for meeting for worship as well as for business meeting
5. Accessibility of the stage in the meeting room both for readers and for talent show
6. How to let folks know about the accommodations that are available

There has been much brainstorming of ideas in regard to all of these concerns and Deborah Dakin and Bob Yeats had a very productive meeting at Scattergood with Ginny Winsor (Interim Director), Joey Giffen-Hunter and SteveWolf-Camplin to consider all of these concerns. The following suggestions have been made and hopefully some may be implemented in time for the annual sessions.

1. Fewer carbohydrate-laden meals and some carbohydrates that are not wheat based
2. A grab bar and an ADA compliant toilet in the bathroom by the dining hall
3. A golf cart to take folks to and from the back entrance to the dining hall
4. Flags available to individuals to take to their table and use to summon assistance
5. Workers assigned to be PAs (personal assistants) for individuals who have special needs such those with mobility issues, parents with young children, or individuals involved in meetings during lunch

6. Work on clearing up sound system issues prior to Yearly Meeting and have someone assigned to be sure the system is on and working prior to all meetings for worship, business meetings and other events held in the meetinghouse.
7. Stairs or a ramp and grab bar to allow access to the platform in the meetinghouse for readers, presenters, and participants in the variety show
8. A handout available at registration that clarifies accommodations available at Yearly Meeting such as the location of accessible showers, location and ways of accessing back entrance to the dining hall, how to get assistance at meals, where to locate earphones and how to make use of the sound system, etc.

Please let members of the Special Needs Committee know if there are other accommodations that are needed to make your stay more successful at future gatherings. The Committee requests a continuation of their \$500 budget.

On behalf of the committee,
Echo (Linda J. Ray), Clerk
Special Need Committee

We were deeply moved by the selected responses of monthly meetings to the Advice and Queries. We are pleased that many of our responses reflect we are doing a better job of using the Advice and Queries as an Opportunity to examine how we are living into begin covenant communities. They can also help us determine things we may want to change and to be more faithful in walking in the Light. The practice of asking all monthly meetings to consider the same advices and queries through the year is also of benefit and they help bind us one to another as a yearly meeting. We are clear the work we are doing as monthly meetings is important to us and our wider communities. We are reminded not to hide the Light under a bushel. We have both seeds to plant and ground to till. Some of our responses were painfully honest and we appreciate this willingness to share. Although the selected answers reflect a response of an individual meeting we could hear the Truth of our own meeting experiences in them. We hope to continue to grow into reclaiming this precious practice. We appreciate the work of the assistant clerk in selecting responses to be read.

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 seek to walk in the mystic way to find unity with the Eternal and with one another. Our meetings for worship are held in expectant waiting for the leadings of the Holy Spirit. We experience a familiar sense of spiritual presence in our meeting house and a spiritual bond among those present and with our members away.

For many of us worship is seeking to be fully aware of God. We recognize that for each of us, individually, meeting for worship reflects our personal journey, which can include praise, gratitude, and “connection” with the Holy Spirit.

Preparing for worship is a growing process that may begin in the evening of seventh day.

We seek to simplify our lives and thoughts so we come to know the workings of the Holy Spirit within our heart and are better able to hear what it is that God would have us know.

We seek to remove the things that are distraction to our presence with God, to “remove that which is not of God.”

Vocal ministry occasionally adds to the experience but seems to have another purpose of connection to the wider community, of minds and hearts in purposeful waiting. We need to recognize spiritual gifts. It seems that we sometimes hide our candle beneath a bushel.

We ponder how worship is useful in our daily lives? The mysteries of life create questions. Answers can be received during meditative silence.

We are frequently challenged to express our experience of silent worship to others, so we seek descriptions and queries that help us share our understanding of the worship process.

2. OUTREACH

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

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

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

How do we make the presence of our meeting known to the larger community? Do we invite others to share in our meetings for worship and other meeting activities? Do we welcome everyone and appreciate the gifts that differences such as race, creed, economic status, disability, age, gender or sexual orientation may bring to us?

Selected response: We need to do more intervisitation. Being at another meeting can remind us of what we need to do, give us new ideas, and help us to appreciate our own meeting. Midyear Meeting and Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) are encouraging, as they are great opportunities (to be with Friends).

Sharing our thoughts about Quakerism with others is often easy, as many people are curious about Quakerism. Because we feel genuine and unashamed about our beliefs and because these beliefs are very compatible with other faiths, we can share our beliefs with others easily. Many people today are hungry for the spiritual but are put off by the doctrines that they see in many religions. Our inclusiveness and simplicity are an opening to others. Often it is most important for us to be ready to listen. The diversity we find in our Meeting creates a space for us to interface with people from other backgrounds. Our belief that there is that of God in everyone helps us to listen to each person.

We need to listen attentively and respond honestly, without aggression. Finding common ground creates openings to reach out to those with whom we disagree.

By trying to live by the Quaker testimonies we make our presence known, if quietly.

Our way of worship is designed to encourage inclusiveness. We often find that we do have trouble with socioeconomic and educational class differences.

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 has become short, sweet, and routine, with no controversy or need for much discussion often. No active committees set this stage. The last large controversy we addressed resulted in losing a few attendees.

4. HARMONY WITHIN THE MEETING

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

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

When in conflict with others, do we cultivate a forgiving spirit?

*Do we look to that of God in ourselves and seek to address that of
God in those with whom we disagree?*

Selected response: The discussion began with silence.

Learning to respect each other's opinions is a long step towards harmony. We do not always have to think the same way on an issue.

We feel that men and women share equally in the work of our meeting. Jobs are undertaken irrespective of gender.

A member stopped attending during the last year. Disagreement had occurred because of her daughter's experience at Scattergood School. Some of us have kept in touch with the family and hopefully this break will mend.

Appreciation of an opponent is very different from an automatic kindness.

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: In opening the discussion of this query, we considered whether our meeting is a community or merely a collection of

good individuals who gather weekly for worship. In reflecting on this question, we concluded that we are a community with substance, which continues in the face of loss of members through death or members moving away. In maintaining this community, we noted the interesting contrast we encounter every First Day. As Friends, we are a community, which practices silent worship. But, it is the sharing time after meeting that also keeps us connected and helps us form community. This time after meeting for worship is valuable and needs to be supported and nurtured.

Although we acknowledge the importance of sharing, we often find it difficult to share pain or ask for help from other meeting members. Sharing joy comes more easily and seems more natural. While sharing pain is challenging, it is through this sharing that members of the meeting come to help one another. Being able to help other members in times of need allows our community to strengthen and brings a sense of balance to our spiritual lives.

We have appreciated the help that members of our meeting community have provided to others who have had difficulty joining us in silent worship because of transportation problems. This has allowed long standing members of our community to continue to join us on First Day. In addition to helping each other as individuals, the community of a meeting is also a source of strength, which allows a meeting to work through and deal with difficult problems. While the small size of many meetings means that all are needed to step forward to help solve meeting problems, the small size also contributes to the willingness of members to support one another as we work together to solve problems.

Reflecting on the phrase in the query focusing on the importance that gender not be a limitation in providing help and support to others, we acknowledged that our culture offers contrasting stereotypes for men and women. It is often suggested that men should be independent, stoic, and should not need help. As a result, men may have more difficulty asking for help or providing help to other members of our community. In addition to gender differences, we considered the complexity of all social groups. Within a group, we often find smaller circles of people who are more connected to each other and more informed about each other. Others remain less well connected, either by deliberate choice or by circumstance, and find it difficult to participate in giving and receiving care.

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: One member mentioned the book *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin concerning building schools for girls in Afghanistan. We are considering having a discussion of this book for our meeting. Everyone has the divine spark, but ignorance is an underlying problem. Extremist groups impose beliefs and contribute to a lot of violence in our world.

Because of our location in a university town, we assume members are committed to education and life long learning. The First Day School Education Committee is working to integrate the meeting with the children's education program.

Recently there have been fewer activities for adult education. A program on basics of Quaker beliefs, traditions, and history needs to be provided again. It has been two or more years since we provided it. Presentations on potluck days have covered a variety of topics related to our values. A potluck presentation on history of the Iowa City Meeting would be a good idea. We plan to ask one of our members if she would be willing to plan that one, maybe in the fall to inform new attenders when school starts again.

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: Friends noted the importance of committing time to be together. Listening to each other, enjoying each other's company and encouraging each individual to grow in the Light are most important. In one Friend's experience, family life was rarely tranquil. It was important to accept that there will be disagreements and frictions between those who know each other well. Learning to be respectful and respond lovingly to those with whom we disagree, truly begins at home.

After first congratulating ourselves on our gender neutrality, Friends came to agree that we do maintain deep cultural gender expectations. We are pleased to note that young Friends seem more at ease with nontraditional male/female roles than we were at their age.

Truly listening to each other is key to effective communication. Storytelling is a simple, effective way to communicate our joys and struggles. We all have favorite family stories which speak to who we are and illustrate complex life lessons.

We have many opportunities in our community for meditation and social action, which allow us to put our principles to work. Taking the time to center, to listen to our hearts and the Divine inform our lives and our opinions. Taking action, engaging the world, enlightening society with our own small piece of the Light, deepens our understanding and experience.

8. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Query: *How do we center our lives in the awareness of God the Spirit, so that all things may take their rightful places?*

How do we structure our individual lives in order to keep them uncluttered with things and activities? How does Meeting help us examine our personal lives for simplicity?

Do we choose recreational activities which foster mental, physical and spiritual health?

How are our lives affected by tobacco, alcohol and drug use? What can we do to deal with problems resulting from their use? What can we do to recognize and deal with unhealthy ways we treat ourselves?

How do we ensure that we act with fairness and integrity?

Are we sensitive to our own use of language which may be offensive or oppressive to others?

Selected response: The Advice and the Query give a daunting picture of an austere life which seems too much for us to live up to. We need to find a balance between the negative and positive responses to the query. We know that the testimony of simplicity sometimes can be a distraction when we interact with our neighbors. We find that the Meeting does help us to focus on the issues of the query. Our lives are

too cluttered, with material things certainly, but more importantly in our use of time. We recognize that speaking only the truth is a privilege that some may not enjoy. We do keep to the testimony of integrity by not saluting the flag, or standing for the national anthem.

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: Because we sometimes cannot support the actions of our government, we make a strong effort to work for issues we can support in our nation, state, and community. The recent pervasive atmosphere of violence, fear, and misrepresentation is destructive to learning to work together for solutions to our many urgent problems. The seemingly everlasting election process is cause for much alienation and distrust. We feel we work hard to support good candidates and we often contact and thank our elected congressional representatives when we approve their work. We also contact them when we don't.

We are greatly concerned about the overcrowding and unjust sentences in our prisons. Several of our members work for the Alternatives to Violence program in the prisons. We support several Quaker organizations working for a just and fair society, so that many who are powerless and ill-treated will not resort to violence and hopelessness.

One of our members is concerned about plans in the Dexter Community to put up a statue and commemorate a violent period in their history when the Barrows Gang hid out near there. He had the courage to speak out, but felt his views were not accepted.

While it is important to share our convictions, listening carefully to others is key to resolving conflicts. Others might have a better way.

We all have different talents and different gifts to work for a better community, nation, and world. If we are tender hearted, loving and

sincerely seeking Divine Guidance the right path will be more clearly laid out before us.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

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

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

Selected response: Our meeting is very concerned about our responsibility to our environment. We want to support the life around us that is also so much a part of ourselves.

Our monthly reading group has been studying “Environmental Economics” with essays by John Woolman, Kenneth Boulding, Marshall Massey and others. Frequently awareness can make a difference in the choices we make to live responsibly. At our open house one member gave a tour to share knowledge about the “green building” that now houses our meeting. Making choices to improve energy efficiency is important and we should weigh the cost of efficiency against how much we value our planet.

It is important for us to take responsibility for the choices we make. We recognize that by decreasing our use of fossil fuels we can live more simply and in harmony with creation. Our meeting has endorsed the Earth Charter, implemented a True Cost of Travel program, and done many other things with regard to environmental issues. Still we recognize that it is hard to be as responsible as we need to be, and continue to be a part of the greater society. It seems that the only way to be responsible about our use of energy would be to renounce use of fossil fuels and live apart from society.

It is hard to find answers for the deep questions that we feel we must answer, and sometimes awareness and information come to us in paradoxical ways. For example, the television often has excellent programs on environmental issues. Even as we meet here in a brick building which sits on a concrete parking lot, we can hear birds singing and notice the tracking of the sun across the sky. Perhaps Malvina Reynolds’ song, about the inevitability of grass growing up through sidewalks, can give us a measure of hope: God Bless the Grass!

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 aware of how we benefit by simply living in this country compared to other places in the world. It seems that anything that brings comfort and ease to our living experiences seems to come at the expense of someone else. We share a feeling of being locked into some of the exploitive systems just because of where we live, e.g. no public transportation readily available and lack of services in our immediate area. Many of us try to support groups that are intimately involved in addressing some of the social problems of the world and the environment.

We are also aware that our current economic climate has produced many instances of heartache because of foreclosures and rising unemployment. As difficult as these situations are for those directly effected, these difficulties have produced some innovative programs ideas and solutions that may bring about more significant changes which is encouraging.

Our concerns for the conditions in our prisons today such as treating mental illness as a crime, mandatory sentences for non-violent crimes, etc. are hard to address on an individual basis. Some of us provide support to various organizations such as Alternatives to Violence Program that are working to change the system. Some also maintain contact with friends and family members who are incarcerated. Being living examples of the belief that all individuals have value is all some of us can do.

The complications that drive people to violence are impossible for most of us to comprehend and to address in any meaningful way. We are reminded that “we are not called to be successful, but to be faithful.”

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: We try to keep informed on important issues through various sources, especially beyond mainstream media presentations. However, we can never be certain that the information we gather provides the complete picture. Cultural differences color our own personal view of national and world affairs.

Addressing domestic violence in a direct way is not easy. We support the local Women's and Children's shelter with contributions both on a personal level and through Sewing Bee funds. Having information available about local services and providing it when we sense a need is also important, but is not something we have done very effectively. It is especially difficult to accept that there may be violent situations within our own families that need to be addressed. Those who have tried to approach a situation often feel ineffective and helpless.

At one time in the wider local community, addressing peace issues was identified as just a Quaker issue, but that is no longer true. In some instances, being identified as belonging to a peace organization brings resentment. We try to respond to such situations with tact and sensitiveness. Unfortunately we also can resort to similar stereotyping and attitudes of "us versus them" especially with those who share our concerns. We try to support peace and justice organizations with our donations although that often feels like an easy response when more direct action is needed. We were reminded by one person that just being involved with our local communities and families contributes to addressing larger issues.

Many commented that it seems easier to talk about gender issues now than in the past. However that does not necessarily mean these issues have been addressed effectively. We recognize that basically little has changed in society's attitude as a whole.

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

SIXTH DAY – FRIDAY – 7/31/2009

9:30 a.m. Meeting for Worship

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

“All Friends everywhere, this I charge you, which is the word of the Lord God unto you all, Live in peace, in Christ, the way of peace, and therein seek the peace of all men (and women), and no one’s hurt. . . . it is love that overcomes and not hatred with hatred, nor strife with strife. Therefore, live all in the peaceable life, doing good to all men (and women) and seeking the good and welfare of all.” George Fox, Letter to Friends Everywhere, 1659

Dan Treadway and Bill Deutsch have been appointed as readers this morning.

MINUTE FOR FIFTH DAY ACTIVITIES

Peter Crysdale and Debbie Humphries led a Fifth Day afternoon exploration of experiences and opportunities for awareness of the Spirit that may occur both during meeting and throughout our daily lives.

Deborah Fisch of Paullina Meeting facilitated a sharing session around healing when individuals and/or our meetings have experienced hurts or times when we have had difficulty finding satisfactory resolution around a particular concern or action. Friends shared with each other ideas about how to listen from a deep place of love and with a willingness to hear the Truth in each others’ words and be changed. We acknowledged that fear of hurting others or being hurt by others often results in our avoiding conflict when it arises resulting in the conflict becoming even more hurtful. We recognized that in the short time we had, we could do little more than begin the conversation.

For Evening Collection, Marshall Massey of Omaha Monthly Meeting helped us consider the theme, “The soil, the seed, and the sunlight.” He used some of the teachings of Jesus and the words of early

Friends such as Isaac Pennington, George Fox, Robert Barclay and others to help us examine the soil, the seed and the sunlight and consider what that means to us today and how our lives might be informed and transformed by them.

We are glad to have the presence of Clifford Goltz from St. Paul, Minnesota at our sessions.

We listened carefully to the Yearly Meeting Trustees Report. It is good to receive the report from the Trustees.

YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES REPORT

We appoint Robert Yeats and Larry Marsh to the Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees. The 1989 Minutes of the Yearly Meeting in establishing the Foundation indicate that it was desirable to “hold the endowment funds in separation from operating funds, preventing commingling of accounts.” The Yearly Meeting Trustees have interpreted this to mean that no member of the Foundation Trustees can have a direct connection with Scattergood Friends School either by virtue of being on the staff or on the Scattergood Committee.

Because the audit has not been completed and because of the turnover of staff, we cannot provide a financial statement for the School Foundation at this time. Because of the economy it appears that no transfer of funds from the endowment can be made at this time.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Checking account First National Bank of Primghar	
Initial balance 7/1/2008	\$4,370.07
From Iowa Yearly Meeting	1,000.00
From Entertainment Committee	96.53
Interest Earned	<u>8.63</u>
Funds Available 6/30/2009	\$5,475.23
No disbursements this year.	
Submitted by A.M. Fink, Clerk	

We listened to the reports prepared by the Scattergood Friends School Committee, the Scattergood Interim Head of School, and the

Scattergood Farm Manager. We are amazed and gladdened by all the work being done at the School and Farm. We were intrigued by work being done and projects being explore to help us reduce our energy consumption at the School. They are giving leadership as others in Yearly Meeting come under the weight of this concern. They model how we can make simple decisions in our daily lives even as we discern how to take up other more extensive ventures. We can't thank the staff enough for the loving and faithful work they do with our children and the children o f others who attend here. Scattergood Friends School remains a major outreach to the world. Staff help make it possible.

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

A search committee for a permanent head will hold its first meeting once staff and students have returned to campus. The committee includes four current School Committee members: Debbie Galusha, (School Committee clerk), Lucy Hansen, Sylvia Sanford, and Bob Yeats; two staff members : Riley Lark and Dana Foster; two students: Claire P and Johnny Song; and two Yearly Meeting members who are not associated with the school at this time, possibly Shane Rouse and Carol Spaulding-Kruse, if their schedules allow participation.

The School Committee's most basic understanding is that Scattergood is a Quaker institution and that it is a school. Therefore, it is essential the Head be both a Quaker and an educator, with vital interest in both realms.

The School Committee has determined that the School is ready for someone who brings innovation, creativity, expansion, and new frontiers to the challenges and opportunities the School faces. We are looking for a Head who is personable and comfortable with the public. The person needs to be a confident leader who has a vision that can be communicated to the School and its community.

We ask Iowa Yearly Meeting, Conservative to assist us in outreach to identify potential candidates. Networking has proven to be the most effective means to finding a leader. With the hope of the new Head being a person rich with Quaker tradition and practice, your contacts will be most useful.

For the Committee,
Debbie Galusha, Clerk

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL REPORT

Another year has come and gone here at Scattergood. As I look at the various historical accounts about Scattergood, I have found a sense of family and community in everything I have read and this year seems to have been no exception.

Twelve seniors left us this spring after Commencement on May 31, 2009. Jonathan Cumbie-Drake is attending Fort Lewis College in Colorado this fall. Oscar Erwin will be attending Manchester College in Indiana, while Luke Faith-Rosley will be attending North Park University in Chicago. Rasheed Hammouda is interested in finding an internship or work with Americorps and Yesna Han is looking forward to attending Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa. Laurie Helm will be attending a community college this fall at home and is planning to transfer to Cornell College the next year. Satin Kile has Kirkwood Community College in her future. Ben Lawson-Duck is going to a massage school. Eli Santow is headed to Earlam College in Richmond Indiana this fall, while Anwar Yasin will be attending Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo, Iowa. Jon David Stroud is busy taking courses to complete his Scattergood graduation requirements and attending Kirkwood Community College. Megan Maynard will be attending Cornell College in Iowa. They will all carry with them the best wishes of the Scattergood family of staff and fellow students as they make their way into new stages of their lives.

Congratulations to rising seniors Claire Palmarini for her selection as the Bob and Sara Berquist Scholar and Sue Grossman who was honored as the Fine Arts Scholar. Each student has received a \$500 scholarship toward her tuition.

We are bidding farewell to several staff members who have left to attend graduate school at the end of this past year. Courtney McDermott, Brian Massey, Molly Gallentine, and Prudence Tippins are all looking to expand their horizons educationally. Steve (Cass) Tippins is returning to his first love—the classroom. Nic Wynia worked as an artist in residence teaching photography, then stayed on to help with facilities work.

With sadness, Scattergood Friends School has said farewell to Head of School, Jan Luchini. During her long tenure in various positions, she has contributed much to the advancement of students and staff here at Scattergood. She leaves behind a strong staff and determined students, filled with Quaker traditions and quests for knowledge. We wish her well.

Helping to fill the holes left behind with these departures are two past staff members: Rachel Howard, who will teach US History, Freshman Seminar, Service Learning and be on the girl's dorm staff; and Rachel Butler who will be teaching ELL (English Language Learners,

formerly known as ESL) and serving as the Development Assistant. Jennifer Hobbs is industriously working as our Main Office Manager and Assistant to Interim Head, Ginny Winsor. Ginny joins us after many years devoted to work in various non-profit arenas, mostly focused on the arts, theatre in particular. After a brief sojourn in Florida and an even briefer one in California, Ginny is happy to return to her Midwestern roots. Most of her adult life was spent in Omaha after graduating from Hastings College in Hastings, Nebraska.

We began the 2008-09 school year with 42 students and finished with 44. The school committee approved an increase in tuition for the 2008-09 year, raising the rates to \$22,750 for full boarding students, \$21,250 for 5-day boarding students, and \$13,950 for day students. For the 2009-10 year, the school committee has approved increasing the tuition by 3%, but at the same time, rolling in some costs that have previously been billed to the individual families. These include most local transportation costs, school supplies excepting replacement of lost or damaged laptops and textbooks, class fees excepting specific individual equipment, and various community events. Tuition costs are \$23,650 for full boarding students, \$22,250 for 5-day boarding, and \$14,500 for day students. To date we have no day students registered.

During the year, Scattergood experienced water-caused problems. The boys' dorm had well tank issues, requiring replacement of a failed pressure switch. This required the addition of a second hydro-pneumatic pressure tank to that system. Working with Steve Wolf-Camplin, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources identified some additional areas of concern, including the boys' dorm well tanks and the main well tanks. If this work must be, or can be done, repairs to internal fixtures and devices can be undertaken while the systems are shut down. Water also has affected the driveway leading to the quadplex requiring installation of a culvert and grading. The drive behind the boys' dorm and science building also needs work; when heavy rain comes down the sloped drive, it floods the stairwell of the science building.

Shortly after the beginning of the fall term, the old chicken coop is having asbestos removed prior to demolition of the building. Other asbestos issues remain on the campus that will need to be addressed as buildings are updated or demolished in the future.

Generally, the structures on Scattergood's campus have had a long and useful life. Many are beginning to show their age and great care is being taken to insure the safety of all concerned who use or live in the buildings during the year. Plans are being made to handle escalating repair costs and anticipate future needs. IYM and the school's extended community will be asked to support those changes.

The Senior class work project, overseen by Michal Lynch with help from Riley Lark, Joey Giffen-Hunter and Steve Wolf-Camplin, refinished the deck on the circle, finished the raft for the pond, planted over 200 trees as an energy wind break, and installed power strips to save energy.

The Freshman Dinner had a Purim theme. Purim is a Jewish spring holiday that commemorates the saving from extinction of the ancient Persian Jewish community. Diners were required to dress up for traditional Jewish/Middle Eastern fare. The Sophomore breakfast had a chocolate theme, serving cocoa, chocolate chip pancakes, chocolate dipped fruit, and other choices from those major food groups. The All School camping trip was again held at F. W. Kent State Park, with all campers returning reporting having had a grand time. The Prom theme was “Casino Royale.”

On Scattergood Day, October 25, the alumni and parents failed to win the soccer game, but regained their due respect at Frisbee according to the staff in attendance. During the day, parents met with various staff members, and a performance of *Dilemmas at Dinner* presented by new and returning students was directed by Michal Lynch. On Snow Day, some chose to stay “home” and others went downhill skiing or snowboarding at Chestnut Hill IL. For Faculty Follies, featuring Hans Niehus as the Mad Hatter and Steve Nordland as the White Rabbit, the students were led down the “rabbit hole,” a long tunnel created by staff leading from the back of the theatre all the way to the dining room, requiring negotiation on one’s knees.

The Inter-session Classes ran the gamut from Entrepreneurship to Dadaism, from a Tea Ceremony to Indoor Soccer, from Graphic Novels and French Pastry to Documentary Film Making. Also included were Judo, Blues Guitar, Improv, Computer Animation, Drum Circle, Polymer Clay, and Free Form Quilting and Felting.

The week-long spring trip destinations included: Tillers International in Kalamazoo MI led by Nicole Wolf-Camplin and Sarah Giffin-Hunter; backpacking in Missouri led by Irving Treadway and Molly Gallentine; canoeing in Missouri led by Sarah Harper-Smith and Dave Reeve; mountain biking in Viroqua WI led by Prudence Tippins and Colleen Schmitt with some assistance from Steve Tippins; and biking and farming in Iowa led by Lucy McCormick and Hans Niehus.

The 2009-10 school year marks the first year in the seven-year ISACS (Independent School Association of the Central States) accreditation cycle. Our report on the last cycle was accepted and Scattergood’s accreditation remains in good standing. This year we will be preparing for the self-study.

The Latta Harris Accounting firm is working with the Interim Head to properly close out the year and complete a review level audit of the School, Farm and Foundation's books and the results will be published in the Yearly Meeting Minutes.

Work continued this year with the Iowa Department of Education (DOE) to preserve Scattergood's "specially accredited" status. Our report, submitted before the July 15 deadline was accepted; and so, for the time being, it appears our status remains for the 2008-09 year. (The DOE considers the preceding year for its approval.) However, all members of the School Committee and IYM should remain vigilant and pro-active to preserve the legislation that has established this unique status. Legal action continues to threaten this option. Because of our ISACS accreditation, Scattergood would still be considered to be in good standing.

David Abazs conducted an energy audit and presented the findings. This included a proposal for \$1.4 million financing for geothermal heat of the Main Building, photovoltaics at the farm to provide the electricity for that system, and a wind turbine to power the school. Two small grants were awarded to the school to help cover costs of a class on sustainability issues, and some of our students attended GreenSchools conference.

This past year we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the first refugees arriving at the Scattergood Hostel. Michael Luick-Thrams, TRACES and the Cedar Count Historical Society Museum (CCHSM) coordinated a weekend of events including a reunion of hostel guests, staff and their children. The events of the weekend included a reception at Scattergood, the opening of TRACES museum exhibit at the CCHSM in Tipton IA (its new home), speakers and a film.

Many people visited our campus during the year in various capacities and many people contributed financially and with their time, talents, and hospitality to the Scattergood Community. We depend on all these friends to heighten our visibility and expand our resources to make Scattergood the best possible educational experience for all concerned.

In closing, I humbly thank the School Committee for providing me with this opportunity to spend a year at Scattergood. I am grateful for the support shown to the school and me and continue to wake each morning looking ahead to the day's experiences and joys being a part of the Scattergood community.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Winsor
Interim Head of School

SCATTERGOOD FARM REPORT

Dear Friends:

On the Scattergood Farm annuals are grown in great numbers throughout the gardens and eaten abundantly in the Scattergood dining room, while perennials are carefully nurtured and allowed the time they require to establish deep roots to supply forage for our livestock and fruit for our stomachs. Biennials, though, we manipulate and mostly treat as annuals, to supply food as carrots, beets or parsley; or we exploit their delayed reproduction and eradicate them as tender florets when they appear as unpleasant wild parsnip or deadly poisonous hemlock. But now, as Scattergood seeks new leadership for our existing vision, we should appreciate the prolonged journey of establishment, vernalization (a combination of rest and stress), and ultimate fulfillment modeled in the narrow family of plants known as biennial.

However, looking back is as important as peeking ahead. During the past year the Farm increased its role in the daily lives of many staff and students. All community members participated in a Farm Work Day at the end of student orientation, which again helped us establish the roots needed to grow the rest of the year. An impromptu workday was held in the spring, when many community members helped pull the plastic on the new greenhouse.

The Environmental Science class studied forage preferences in livestock, breeding trends in sheep, erosion prevention through various ways of covering the soil, daily egg production in chickens, water requirements in different plant types, and preservation qualities in asparagus. A Humanities class studying sustainability considered how the food choices they make not only impact their own bodies and health, but planetary survivability as well. Senior Week saw several opportunities to process lambs and calves, sort sheep and assist with the rotational grazing. Starting this fall, a new Humanities class will be offered, balancing reading, writing and farming.

Several crews, including Chicken/Egg, Recycling/Compost and Farm Crews again required students to take part in the daily maintenance of some aspect of the farm, while Project offerings, including Food Preservation, Farm and Poultry, and Prairie Maintenance, allowed students to gain a greater breadth of experience in life on the farm and prairie. Community Service Project also got in on the Farm action by creating promotional materials for Local Foods Connection—an Iowa City charity assisting low-income families gain access to local, organic food.

Students assisted with the Farm's outreach activities by leading a workshop at the Real Foods Conference in Fairfield, Iowa; promoting Scattergood at the Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference in La Crosse, Wisconsin; and helping extensively with the Farm visit of 100 Iowa City kindergarten students and 30 preschoolers from West Branch.

Clearly, outreach remains a major focus of the Farm and we are becoming increasingly sought-after as an example of sustainable, alternative, food-based agriculture. Two publications featured the Farm and our goals and choices: *The Gazette* newspaper of Cedar Rapids, IA and *The Practical Farmer*—the newsletter of Practical Farmers of Iowa. The latter organization continues to provide us with community and information (as well as an incoming 9th grader), and we are delighted to host a PFI Field Day in September 2009. Other organizations that we have been involved with include Johnson County Local Food Alliance and the Iowa Network of Community Agriculture. In the past year Scattergood farmers presented at two area churches, a local foods conference at Prairiewoods Retreat Center, Iowa City's Field to Family Festival, and consulted with a St. Louis organization hoping to increase local access to healthy fruits and vegetables.

The Farm has also welcomed many visitors, including students and teachers from Kirkwood Community College and the University of Iowa; farmers from Moldova in the former Soviet Bloc; a New York husband/wife writer/photographer team working on a book on local food; and a group of climate change activists from around the world, including the countries of Peru, Samoa, Australia, Jamaica, Mozambique and Malaysia. Farm tours are also frequently offered to prospective student and staff families, and existing Scattergood families during Scattergood Day and Commencement weekends.

The story they find so compelling is this: in 2008 the Farm supplied to the school over 1000 dozen eggs, the beef from two steers and one cow, twelve lambs, six hogs, a dozen turkeys and 70 broilers, while our gardens and orchards produced over 4100 pounds of organic fruits and vegetables for the school. In addition to supplying nearly all of the animal protein and a significant portion of the fruits and vegetables (a percentage we hope to greatly increase with the recent additions of the root cellar and large greenhouse at the farm), we also provided over 35 families in Iowa City and West Branch with 22 weeks of vegetables through our CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program and sold several thousand pounds of cabbage, tomatoes and cilantro to New Pioneer Co-op in Iowa City.

Many people help make all of this possible. Dana Foster has now officially joined the full-time farming team and has been instrumental in

carrying out the livestock program vision (including figuring out how to breed two Berkshire sows given to the Farm), while Sam Taylor and Rasheed Hammouda have been invaluable in helping with the daily work this summer. Ken Fawcett has again been an important resource for all things related to farming, and Steve Hoffman (a University of Iowa engineer who really just wants to farm) should be officially recognized as a member of the Farm team with his diligence in cutting hay and fixing machinery. The members of the Farm Subcommittee of the School Committee have been important advocates for the farm and continue to offer vital oversight. Finally, the revitalization of the Scattergood Farm has coincided with the directorship of Jan Luchini and she deserves infinite thanks for her understanding, support and faith in the Farm vision.

As Scattergood continues in this time of transition, it is important that we honor the process we are undertaking, neither hurrying it along to completion nor prolonging it indefinitely. In due course, we will flourish.

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

Mark Quee, Farm Manager

We heard the report on the William Penn House. We appreciate the report and the work of William Penn House. We approve the report.

WILLIAM PENN HOUSE REPORT

Byron Sandford's description of a recent week at William Penn House gives us a glimpse of the varied and important work at William Penn House. "During the past week, we hosted the 4th grade class from Plymouth Meeting Friends School whose teacher Will Starr, has brought his classes annually for 21 years. The day that they left, the House hosted two groups of women, many retired, who were lobbying Congress to control nuclear technology. The day these ladies checked out, they were replaced by 8th graders from Thornton Friends School who were engaged with Washington Quaker Work Camps on issues of hunger and homelessness. Sharing the House with Thornton youth were a group of developmentally challenged people and their sponsors from England who were completing a six weeks tour of the U.S."

Washington Quaker Work Camps offer service opportunities in New Orleans, the hamlets of West Virginia and the inner city of Washington DC. Work campers serve the elderly, feed the homeless, work in parks, and study and improve the environment.

Area Quakers and other activists attend Monthly Potluck and Dialogue series. William Penn House prepares seminars on human rights, lobbying, and greening existing buildings. They address issues related to peace, social justice, global warming, the environment, gender, and HIV/AIDS.

Location is one of the great assets of William Penn House – near Capitol Office Buildings, Supreme Court, Library of Congress, Folger Shakespeare Theater and the Metro Station at Union Station.

However, a greater asset is the dedicated staff. They come with a great variety of experience, training and a strong desire to serve and learn. Byron Sandford, Director, continues with a vision and purpose to upgrade programs and restore the house; and does it with a balanced budget. This year improvements include a new energy efficient furnace, new plumbing fixtures, ceiling fans, fluorescent lighting, and landscaping. We are missing the warm and friendly presence of Patricia Newkirk who moved to Seattle to enjoy her first grandchild.

For additional information see web site

www.williampennhouse.org.

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

Submitted by
Alberta Kisling
Jim Kenney

We listened to the interesting report on Friends Peace Teams prepared by the Yearly Meeting representative. We are glad to hear it and are grateful for the work of the Friends Peace Team project.

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS REPORT

The work of Friends Peace Teams is carried out by its three initiatives, with the support of its central office in St. Louis. The three initiatives are the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI), the Latin America Initiative, and the Indonesian Initiative. All are located in areas of the globe that have long histories of violence and strife, and seek to counter them through Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshops and Healing and Rebuilding our Communities (HROC) workshops. AVP teaches that each individual has an inborn force for peace and shows how a person can act on it. HROC offers healing from the traumas of conflict.

AGLI offered workshops to over 10,000 people in Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, addressing inter-tribal rivalries as well as post-election violence primarily in Kenya.

The Latin America Initiative operates under the leadership of Val Live Oak. Val now lives in Central America for six months of the year to better foster the work of Friends Peace teams there. She is continually traveling among northern Colombia, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua.

The Indonesian Initiative, in addition to offering workshops, has introduced rocket stoves to the indigenous people of the rain forest. These stoves are vastly more efficient than open pit burning, the previous norm, thus allowing the natives to live in the rainforest without destroying it.

IYMC will be glad to hear that one of our collection speakers from 2008, Theoneste Bizamana, has been accepted into a Masters program in social work in Nairobi, Kenya. (There are no graduate programs in Rwanda.) A very generous donor has agreed to cover Theoneste's tuition, and Friends Peace Teams is currently accepting donations toward his living (and other) expenses.

The board of Friends Peace Teams conducts most of its business via tele-conference, but comes together once a year for a face-to-face meeting, held this year in Santa Monica, CA. I was privileged to attend it this year and I can't praise it enough. Being able to actually see someone, who was previously a disembodied voice, was a revelation. We also got to see and hear Kenyans give reports on their involvement in AGLI's programs. It was through direct interactions with other board members that I actually came to feel a part of the board and discovered how I could make a contribution to their work.

In closing, I would like to mention that members of Iowa City, Des Moines, West Branch, and Whittier Monthly Meetings helped host two speaking tours featuring FPT personnel, Getry Agizah and Val Liveoak. Their hard work and dedication are greatly valued.

Jim Bruner, IYMC representative

We heard a very interesting report about the National Religious Campaign Against Torture summit. It is an illuminating report of deplorable actions, but we are grateful to receive it.

NRCAT REPORT

The National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) held a National Summit on Torture in Atlanta on September 11-12, 2008.

The conference was successful in drawing people from diverse backgrounds, religions and locations. Attendees were told of strong sentiment in the area surrounding Atlanta questioning the motives of the summit, and of the widely-held local stance that torture was a necessary tool to help save American lives, in the wake of the 9/11 attacks on our soil. Much groundwork was laid by conference organizers to mitigate this preconception in the community, prior to the event.

The conference provided a forum to share understandings of the many reported instances of real and potential consequences of torture said to have been supported by and/or committed in the Middle East and beyond, as an outgrowth of the latest American incursion into Iraq and the involvement of our forces in Afghanistan. Photographs, reports and first hand testimonies were presented, including those by former/retired high ranking military officials and individuals close to the efforts of attempting to defend detainees' rights in tribunals and other legal proceedings.

It was reassuring to see a retired admiral and a retired general stand strong with complete opposition to torture, both stating that we must never compromise our standards. They confirmed that torture is not an effective means of gathering credible information, and, that even if it were marginally productive, it should never be considered. They went on to say that we must be a clear model of a powerful country rejecting such abuse and leading by example, and that we must help create a standard of treatment for all detainees of war, including the potential capture and detaining of our own men and women by opposing forces in future conflicts.

Several times during the conference, during open mike questions and comments, a proponent of uncovering and eliminating instances of torture in the U.S. prison system spoke to remind attendees not to overlook similar problems in our own prisons. His comments were cut short, to provide others a chance to speak, but it was an important point for everyone to be aware of the need for vigilance, and action, wherever torture and abusive treatment may occur.

As the meeting reconvened on the second morning, the group was lifted from the oppressive weight of the previous day to discuss possible actions to help resolve the current issue, and to move forward as a proactive force. Presenters asked attendees to spread the word of the need to inundate our members of Congress with requests to endorse a

Declaration to Ban Torture, and to urge President-Elect Obama to issue an Executive Order, upon taking office, to initiate a ban on torture.

For much of 2009, NRCAT has undertaken an effort calling for an independent, non-partisan commission to investigate torture and cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment of detainees, sanctioned by the Executive Branch of our government since September 11, 2001. It is hoped that such a commission could be authorized and begin its work prior to the end of this year.

NRCAT has recently focused, because of the perceived scope and urgency, on investigation of torture allegations against our own forces and government. It must be observed that a long-term view of the investigation and prevention of torture should consider the broader spectrum of institutionalized torture and abuse, including, but certainly not limited to, the plight of those in our jails and prisons, who often have no advocate willing to step forward to help them. NRCAT has a grizzly task, which must be incredibly difficult at times, but their on-going work is vital to the protection of the rights, health and safety, and sometimes even the survival of those unable to prevent deplorable intrusions into their lives.

Cathy Gardner

For the NRCAT Representatives

We listened to the Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee Report. We are glad the scholarship was available. It allowed one our members to spend a few days at Pendle Hill this year.

PENDLE HILL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee met by telephone once during the past year and agreed to grant the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Sojourner Scholarship at Pendle Hill to Callie Marsh. There also had been a request in the fall, but it was withdrawn.

The Sojourner Fund has multiple donors including North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Conservative, Southeastern Yearly Meeting, and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Pendle Hill has decided that because Pendle Hill funds were used to match the original donations and because the sojourning costs have outrun the income generated by the donated funds, that the scholarship not be held over if not used in a given year.

The sojourner fund was established at Pendle Hill through direct contributions from individuals and Friends meetings and matching funds from Pendle Hill sources. The purpose is to enable a person selected by

the yearly meeting to sojourn at Pendle Hill for up to one week during each year. The following procedures apply:

- ◆ *The individual interested in sojourning at Pendle Hill contacts their yearly meeting clerk indicating that interest.

- ◆ The clerk refers the request to the Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee for their discernment.

- ◆ The committee notifies the Pendle Hill registrar that the person is eligible to receive the sojourner scholarship.

- ◆ The individual contacts the Pendle Hill registrar to make a reservation.

- ◆ Following the sojourn, the individual reports back to the yearly meeting clerk so the clerk knows the scholarship has been used.

The intention is that the individual experience Pendle Hill, not use Pendle Hill as a place to stay while doing other things in the area. Two individuals could use the scholarship for half a week and supplement with their own funds. Or one individual could use it toward participating in a Pendle Hill program

Wilmer Tjossem, Roy Hampton, Jean Eden

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

SIXTH DAY – FRIDAY – 7/31/2009 2:00 P.M. WORSHIP

We return to the business of Yearly Meeting.

“ [The early Friends] made the discovery that silence is one of the best preparations for communion [with God] and for the reception of inspiration and guidance. Silence itself, of course, has no magic. It may be just sheer emptiness, absence of words or noise or music. It may be an occasion for slumber, or it may be a dead form. But it may be an intensified pause, a vitalized hush, a creative quiet, an actual moment of mutual and reciprocal correspondence with God. The actual meeting of man (and woman) with God and God with man (and woman) is the very crown and culmination of what we can do with our human life here on earth.” Rufus M. Jones, 1937

Inez Schaechterlee and Carol Spaulding Kruse have been appointed as readers this afternoon.

We listened to the report prepared by the Postville Ad Hoc Committee. We are glad the Yearly Meeting was able to contribute to that cause. We appreciate the work of the committee and those members of the Yearly Meeting who were able to do work in Postville.

REPORT OF THE POSTVILLE AD HOC COMMITTEE

The Postville Ad Hoc Committee/Ad Hoc Committee on Immigration is grateful for the Yearly Meeting disbursement to help address the needs of people suffering as a result of an immigration raid in Postville in May of 2008. This gift enabled Hispanic Ministries in Postville to pay for rent and utilities, medical expenses, and buy food and school supplies for families with no possible way of earning income, and with no possibility of leaving the country. It is notable that in addition to the Yearly Meeting disbursement, many individual gifts increased the financial donation from the Yearly Meeting to almost \$5,000.

The Committee did not meet in any formal way, but kept loosely connected by sharing information on immigration issues via the internet. If representatives allocate funds for Postville community needs for this fiscal year, they will be used for similar purposes.

For the committee,
Bill Deutsch

We listened to the report from West Branch Friends forwarded to the Yearly Meeting by the IYMC Ministry and Counsel Committee recommending that Yahara Preparative Meeting in Madison, WI become a monthly meeting of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative. We are grateful to West Branch Friends who have given faithful guidance through the years, helping Yahara Friends grow into a monthly meeting status. It is with great joy that we approve this recommendation and welcome Yahara Friends to this mutual commitment with Iowa Yearly Meeting, Conservative. Let us ring the bells and celebrate the birth of a new monthly meeting!

RECOMMENDATION FROM MINISTRY AND COUNSEL CONCERNING YAHARA PREPARATIVE MEETING

It is with great joy that we received a recommendation from West Branch Friends, that IYMC welcome Yahara Friends Preparative

Meeting as a monthly meeting of the Yearly Meeting and we forward that recommendation on to the Yearly Meeting happily adding our own endorsement to that recommendation.

Seventh Month 12, 2009

To Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends:

In 2003, Yahara Friends Meeting became a preparative meeting under the care of our meeting. Before we formally agreed to enter this relationship in 6th Month 2003, there were some months of informal discussion, and a committee of West Branch Friends met with Yahara Friends and prepared a thorough and thoughtful report, which made us feel clear as we began the relationship between our meetings.

When Yahara Meeting became a preparative meeting under our care, we appointed a Care Committee charged with offering support to Yahara Friends and maintaining close communication between Yahara and West Branch. This committee has served continuously, at various times including Lois Laughlin, Helen M. Fawcett, Nancy Ewald, Ann and Shel Stromquist, and Callie and Larry Marsh. The Care Committee has been the key to maintaining the close connection we have always felt between West Branch and Yahara Meetings. The regular visits by the Care Committee to Yahara have served to keep us in close contact, as well as visits by Yahara Friends to West Branch. In addition, we have regularly exchanged monthly business meeting minutes and query answers.

Yahara Friends have been active participants in our Yearly Meeting over the past several years, and have been involved in hosting responsibilities. Some who hold membership in West Branch Meeting have been appointed to serve as Representatives or members of the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee. In 2006 Yahara Friends took a leadership role in planning the program for the Yearly Meeting annual sessions. Currently Yahara Preparative Meeting serves as the Yearly Meeting Document Committee.

Yahara Meeting has in many ways been functioning like a monthly meeting for years. They have regular monthly meetings for business with appointed clerks, active committees, and a meeting treasurer. They regularly answer queries and prepare the same annual reports expected of the monthly meetings of our yearly meeting. They have thoughtfully considered and responded to the questions posed by the Yearly Meeting Discipline for a group considering becoming a monthly meeting.

Recently a clearness committee, including Friends other than those who have long served on the Care Committee, was appointed by West Branch to work with Yahara Friends as they consider the step of becoming a monthly meeting. Three of the four members of this

clearness committee were recently able to travel to Madison to share worship, potluck and discussion with Friends of Yahara meeting. This very satisfying meeting strengthened our feeling that Yahara is ready to become a monthly meeting.

In Third Month, 2009 we received a letter from Yahara Friends stating their intent to take this next step. We quote from this letter:

“...We feel ready to take a step away from West Branch, our parent meeting, knowing that we never really leave our parents, and they never leave us. We are nervous about taking on the responsibilities of a monthly meeting, but the time has come when monthly meeting status might best express how Truth is flourishing among us. We sincerely hope to stay close to God’s will for us, and we trust that our Friends in West Branch will give us guidance that we not run ahead of the Spirit. In Friendship, and with Divine assistance, we ask for monthly meeting consideration.”

Throughout the years of our association with Yahara Friends we have been impressed with and moved by the depth and vitality of this small meeting. We feel that our relationship with Yahara Meeting has been mutually beneficial, and hope to maintain our close ties with Yahara Friends. At this time, we strongly recommend that Yahara Preparative Meeting be recognized as a monthly meeting within Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

On behalf of West Branch Monthly Meeting,
Jim Cottingham, Clerk

We listened carefully to an epistle of concern brought to IYMC Peace and Social Concerns Committee by Iowa City Monthly Meeting. We approve the letter being sent by the Yearly Meeting clerk as amended. We appreciate the clarity of the letter, and will send it with some modifications in its tenor as requested by the Yearly Meeting.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE EARLY REPORT PART I

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee recommends the following letter, endorsed by the Iowa City Meeting. The Yearly Meeting supports the Iowa City Meeting in whatever action they may take to follow up on this matter. This may eventually include formation of a task force to recommend further action.

Iowa Yearly Meeting, Conservative

1080 45th Street Des Moines, IA 50311

dsfquaker@gmail.com ~ www.quakernet.org

Jean Robillard

Vice President for Medical Affairs

University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

Iowa City IA 52240

Dear Jean Robillard:

We are writing to voice our concern regarding the inpatient psychiatric unit for minors at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. Specifically, we are alarmed that young children are being housed with often much larger, potentially violent and/or sexually inappropriate adolescents. This appears to be a situation where young children are at risk in a place where they are supposedly safe and having their mental health issues adequately addressed. *We therefore urge that serious attention be given to the pressing need at UIHC for a child psychiatric unit that is separate from an adolescent psychiatric unit.*

Having children and adolescents housed in the same psychiatric unit leaves both staff and patients vulnerable to a number of serious consequences. We worry about the safety of children and staff. We wonder too about the liability and disclosure issues when parents admit their young children to a unit that is also housing adolescents who may behave in violent or sexually inappropriate ways. And, we are aware that children and adolescents, since they are at different developmental levels, have different needs relating to their mental and emotional health.

We are aware that the very few remaining acute care psychiatric units for children in the state of Iowa house children and adolescents together. But, UIHC can certainly be expected to do better. We trust that you understand, as we do, that the state tertiary center with the highest of reputations—one of the few hospitals in Iowa which still provides psychiatric care for minors—needs to provide a child psychiatric unit that is separate from an adolescent psychiatric unit. This must be a priority even in these times of economic crisis.

No group in society is in greater need of advocacy than children, and particularly mentally and emotionally impaired children. These children obviously cannot advocate for themselves. Historically they have therefore, repeatedly been relegated to a place of low priority in our society, a situation disastrous for the children but also ultimately for society as a whole. We write with the hope that the University of Iowa

Hospitals and Clinics will give the issue of adequate and safe mental health care for both children and adolescents the high priority it deserves.

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

Deborah Fisch, Clerk

Copies to:

Iowa Board of Regents
11260 Aurora Avenue
Urbandale IA 50322-7917

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Iowa
Attn: Margaret Stout
5911 Meredith Drive
East Des Moines IA 50322-1903

Iowa Foundation for Medical Care
1776 West Lakes Parkway
West Des Moines IA 50266

Clark Kauffman
ckauffman@dmreg.com

We received a statement from Britain Yearly Meeting, forwarded to the Yearly Meeting by the Peace and Social Committee, on a Quaker Response to the Crisis of Climate Change. We approve endorsing and sending this and the introductory statement by Peace and Social Concerns Committee to Barak Obama, President of the United States and legislators serving our monthly meetings. We will publish it on the website. We ask our Peace and Social Concerns Committee to write a letter reflecting our own concerns around the crisis of climate change that could be approved for sending to area newspapers at some future time.

**PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE EARLY REPORT
PART II**

Global climate change is having and will continue to have a significant effect on all of our lives. Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) endorses the statement on “A Quaker Response to the Crisis of Climate Change” published by Britain Yearly Meeting in June 2009. We stress the need for an equitable and far reaching agreement in the December 2009 conference in Copenhagen and encourage our representatives to work to that end. Friends are urged to give serious thought to our own individual and joint activities that may contribute to the problem. We share the Britain Yearly Meeting belief that “Our faith in common humanity gives hope: love, rather than fear, can still lead us through this crisis.”

BRITAIN YEARLY MEETING STATEMENT

A Quaker Response to the Crisis of Climate Change

The crisis of global climate change represents a supreme test of humanity's collective wisdom and courage. Our immoderate use of the Earth's resources violates the entire biosphere, threatening the lives of millions of people and the habitats of thousands of species. Many of the poorest people are already suffering a changed climate; they are asking us all to act.

How has humanity produced this crisis? Our faith response is that prevailing social values have obscured what it means to live authentically on this Earth. In rich European countries we consume more than we need within an economic system that divides us as a society; in much that we do, we cause harm to the planet and each other without enriching our lives.

The Earth is God's work and not ours to do with as we please. We recall Gandhi's saying, often quoted by Quakers: “Live simply that others may simply live”. As a Quaker community, we do try to live what we believe, guided by the values of simplicity, truth, equality and peace. Too often, we fall short of honoring them. Climate change is challenging us to ask anew what our faith leads us to do.

As individuals and as a community, we are now making the difficult decisions and plans necessary to limit our ecological impact to a sustainable level. With encouragement from one another, we are progressively reducing our reliance on non-renewable resources while stepping up our campaign for wider social change. As a small religious

society, we take heart in belonging to a community of faith groups and others working towards the same goals in a hopeful spirit.

We gladly take up our responsibility and call for unprecedented international cooperation to enable the large cuts in global emissions which are required. This will be a difficult road to travel but we are prepared to support decision-makers in taking the radical steps necessary. We appreciate progress made and uphold decision-makers as they navigate conflicting priorities, yet we challenge them to hold faith with the goal and not bend to short-term expediency.

An inequitable global agreement on climate change could lead to forced migrations and serious conflict. Any agreement must put the world's poorest first; it falls to richer countries to bear the greater burden of responsibility for change. The goal is achievable but priorities will need to change: currently, the majority of states commit more resources to warfare than to tackling climate change.

Where we see crisis, we also see opportunity to remake society as a communion of people living sustainably as part of the natural world. By leading the simpler lives of a low-carbon society, we draw nearer to the abundance of peace, freedom and true community. Our faith in common humanity gives hope; love, rather than fear, can still lead us through this crisis.

We listened to the report of the Religious Education Committee. We appreciate the report.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Religious Education committee has received and read submitted reports from monthly meetings of IYMC. We find that there is a kind of fervor in our commitment to religious education and teaching both for adults and children, at the monthly meeting level that speaks well for the future of our yearly meeting.

There is a broad range of material used as resource material for discussions and for classes, reflecting, no doubt, both the interests of participants and the experience of class and discussion leaders at each meeting. It is notable that the reports reflected (we think) an increased emphasis on Quaker studies, practice and history over reports of previous years.

One of the common themes in the reports was the small number of children in classes groupings, which creates challenges in providing instruction and activities. However, these reports reflect many creative

ways in which meetings are accepting this challenge. In the hope that local religious education committees will benefit from the ideas and creativity of others, we will again make copies of the reports we received, and distribute them for inspirational use among our monthly meetings.

IYMC Religious Education Committee

Judy Cottingham, Bill Deutsch, Marshall Massey

We heard the report of the Earth Care Subcommittee of Peace and Social Concerns Committee. We recognize the increasingly important work this committee is helping us consider and we appreciate their work. We were reminded that last year the subcommittee asked us to look for ways to reduce the use of our cars, with the goal of eliminating a need for them in the future. We were urged to continue in this endeavor. We accept the report as amended.

EARTH CARE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Creation is under a lot of stress. Human induced climate change, loss of habitat and species, drought and water shortages, overpopulation, food shortages. These factors and more contribute to wars, hunger, economic disruption, pressures for migration, and other issues of interest to Friends.

Many IYMC Friends, both individuals and monthly meetings are concerned about these issues and are taking steps to address them. The Earthcare Subcommittee has discussed some of these concerns, but has not found clarity on how best to share and act on that concern within the Yearly Meeting. Most of us lead busy lives and are involved in a variety of activities. It is hard to fit another into the schedule, especially when its purpose may not be entirely clear. Communication is also a challenge. The logistics and the environmental impact of face to face meetings leads us to try to do our business electronically, but we have yet to find a mechanism to do so that works well for us. Some items that we thought might be of wider interest have been posted on Quakernet.

Some particular concerns that we have looked at are the environmental impact of the food we eat, a possible connection between large scale livestock farming and disease (such as H1N1 flu), and concerns about the climate bill currently under consideration by Congress.

The Earth faces important and urgent challenges. We remain committed to working together in the Yearly Meeting to do what we can to address these challenges.

We listened to the report of the IYMC representative to the Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee. We are glad to hear of the work of this group.

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVE TO QUAKER EARTH-CARE WITNESS

“Quaker Earthcare Witness is a network of North American Friends dedicated to addressing the ecological and social crises of the world from a spiritual perspective, emphasizing Quaker process and testimonies. While QEW supports reforms in laws, technology, education, and institutions, its primary calling is the transformation of humans’ attitudes, values, identity, and worldview that underlie much of the environmental destruction and social inequity going on in the world today.”

—from the draft statement to the US delegation to the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.

Over the past year, it has become more clear than ever that human activities based on an assumption of constant growth – in economic activity, in population, in impact on the natural environment – cannot be sustained indefinitely. The impacts of this growth are no longer just a threat for the future, but a present reality. The recent economic downturn, wars, shortages of food, water, and other resources, availability of energy supplies, loss of natural habitat, global warming, growing refugee problems with related issues of immigration – all these are related to the ever growing human footprint on the planet.

Despite some difficulties in discerning how best to witness and share our concerns with Friends and others, QEW continues to be active in many areas. Here are a few :

- A committee works with FCNL in determining its environmental priorities.
- A QEW representative to the UN meets regularly with other NGO’s, sharing information and ideas.
- An exciting update to the QEW website is soon to be released.
- Publication of well-regarded books and pamphlets continues, with regular revisions and updates.

- A presence at Friends General Conference Gathering and at many yearly meetings around North America.
- Our bi-monthly magazine, “Befriending Creation”, with many inspiring and useful articles.
- A mini-grant program to provide financial assistance to Friends meetings and organizations to accomplish environmental friendly projects.

An issue currently being considered by the Steering Committee is how to reduce the environmental impact of long distance travel to national meetings while maintaining the ability to conduct business in an effective and Quakerly manner. One possibility that is being discussed to address the problem is to reduce from two to one the national meetings of the Steering Committee and to have the one meeting scheduled just prior to and near the location of the FGC Gathering, so that those who attend both can do so in one trip. Additional business would be conducted by conference call and teleconference. There might also be smaller regional gatherings.

Like many other organizations, QEW struggles to accomplish a lot with very limited funds. Participation is always welcomed, as well as material support.

Ken Lawrence

We received a report with joy from the 2010 Midyear Meeting Planning Committee.

MIDYEAR MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Committee is very pleased to announce that Bill Deutsch has agreed to be our 2010 Midyear Meeting speaker and presenter. God willing, Iowa Yearly Meeting Midyear Meeting will be held at Bear Creek Monthly Meeting near Earlham, Iowa Third Month 27-28, 2010. We hope you mark your calendars and plan on attending this joyful, Spirit filled weekend.

Details and registration information are expected to be forth coming the First Month of 2010.

For the Committee,
Stan Sanders, Clerk

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

SEVENTH DAY 8/02/2008

9:30 a.m. Meeting for Worship moving into Meeting for Business

We return to the business of Yearly Meeting.

“There is a love which stands in nature; and a parent beholding his child in misery, has a feeling of the affliction, but in Divine Love, the heart is enlarged toward (hu)mankind universally, and prepared to sympathize with strangers, though in the lowest stations of life.” John Woolman 1772, “On the Slave Trade”

Jules Galusha and Aaron Pardee have been appointed as readers this morning.

ACTIVITIES FOR SIXTH DAY

On the afternoon of Sixth Day there were interest groups offered on “What’s New in Home Energy” by Meg McCormick and a video on “The Power of Community,” shared by Ken Lawrence, both of Yahara Monthly Meeting.

For Evening Collection a panel presented on “Planting Seeds of Hope, Justice, and Peace.” Beth Wilson of Paullina Meeting shared about the history and work of Northwest Iowa Peace Links in which she and other Friends of the meeting participate. Kathleen Plunkett Block of Menomonie Meeting of Northern Yearly Meeting told about her life in rural Wisconsin and the work she does growing her own seed for sale and teaching others how to grow their own food. She said we can better understand lessons in the Bible if we have plowed, planted, pruned and harvested ourselves. Ginger and Jim Kenney of Penn Valley Meeting spoke about being invited by FCNL to be scatterers of seeds of peace by traveling and sharing with many different meetings for the last seven years. Mark Quee of Scattergood Friends School talked about creating a fertile environment for the students, not only through classes, but also through work crews, kitchen work and dorm life. He sees them learn to slow down, to appreciate the value of work and to enjoy life while they grow into their own personal identities.

This year each night the meetinghouse has been filled with music created by Friends of all ages making a joyful noise into the night, well past Quaker midnight.

We listened with joy to the delightful epistle/report prepared and presented by Junior Yearly Meeting Friends. There were twelve children participating this year. It has been refreshing to witness the energy of these younger Friends this week. We appreciate the gifts that leaders Penny Majors and Carol Gilbert bring to their work with this group.

EPISTLE FROM JR. YEARLY MEETING

Dear Junior Yearly Meeting Friends Everywhere,

Hello! This is Iowa Yearly Meeting's Junior Yearly Meeting; we are at Scattergood Friend's School near West Branch, Iowa, and our topic is "Making Peace with the Food we Eat". Our age group is 5-13. We have done a lot of fun things this week like swimming with the Young Friends (high school and college age) at Scattergood pond, Fawcett pond, and Tipton public pool, where we had ice cream. We've done a lot of food activities including making Claydough (edible Playdoh), shucking 200 ears of Scattergood-grown corn for dinner, and making apples into fruit leather. We talked about the Bible in terms of food, like the story of how Jesus fed 5000 people with only a little bread and fish, but had leftovers that were more than the original amount of food. We also talked about a few other stories from the Bible. We played some games with the Young Friends like Mao, Wink, Capture the Flag, Kung Fu, Pool, Air Hockey, Foosball, and Ping-Pong. We learned many things about agriculture from Scattergood farm manager Mark Quee, from Kathleen Plunkett-Black who threshed rye for us that she grew, and from visiting the Scattergood Farm. We also had a campout and ate S'mores. We also did fun activities like playing with a parachute, making card houses, and doing a scavenger hunt. We went to meeting for worship every morning for about half an hour with adult friends. Finally, on Saturday night we had a great talent show with a lot of different acts.

This week, we learned a lot about, Food, Friends, and Farming. We can't wait till next year!

In Friendship,

Emily Rhodes, David Rhodes, Vivian Crowal, Thomas Greenler, Alejandro Rubinstein-Nadeau, Jonah Kruse, Elise and Bobby, Darby Ahouse, Oonagh Ahouse and Gillie Rose Quee

We heard a playful epistle and a report from Young Friends. We ask the Yearly Meeting Entertainment Committee to work with Young Friends leaders to accommodate the request for a separate dorm space for the group. We ask the dorm sponsors to take on the work of collecting permission forms and medical release forms for participants. We want to be sure not to lose family time and time as a whole community so we ask Young Friends leaders to be intentional in considering this as they plan activities. Perhaps the Young Friends could spend more time with us in business meetings. We benefit from their presence when they join us. We ask the monthly meetings serving on Entertainment Committee to consider appointment of a Young Friend to the committee.

EPISTLE FROM YOUNG FRIENDS

We are Young Friends and for our epistle, we decided to move around a circle, each saying one sentence describing our experiences during yearly meeting:

We started out our week with an ice-breaking name game, ultimate Frisbee, and Apples to Apples.

We welcomed fellow teens from Northern Yearly Meeting.

We were happy to see our numbers increase and the program flourish.

We had a bonfire and we sang songs and it was baller.

I was disappointed that the canoe trip had to be shortened this year, and we didn't get to jump off the bridge as we have in previous years; also, we heard stories about canoe safety, custom engraved flasks, and river deaths from the eccentric park ranger.

Do you guys want to plagiarize stuff from this other epistle?

Thursday marked a new style of JYM Meeting by dividing up our monstrous group of thirty-eight people: some preferred to go to business meeting, while others preferred to exercise their brains and bodies by making self-portrait-like structures.

Alright time to refocus and somebody needs to give a new sentence.

Alongside uhhh, physical activities or ultimate Frisbee or whatever, we played card games like Mao and Egyptian Rat Screw.

Should we put one of the bad jokes in there?

Uhhhhhh, uhhhhh, I have to go pick up pizza, and uhhh, we had a great discussion about the testimonies.

What did the duck say to the cow?

Quack!

Do the muffin one then.

Two muffins were in the oven, one muffin said to the other, "Holy smokes, it's hot in here!", the other said, "Oh my gosh! A talking muffing!"

Say something about Ping-pong.

Ping-pong.

We played a game of capture the flag with JYM.

We had a lot of fun yelling "Smurf" at people.

We had a very intense conversation about Harry Potter at Fawcett's Pond.

Failure to have nice enough day.

Sit down Aaron.

I'm the Hippopotamus, my epistles are bottomless.

How do you guys want to wrap this up?

Don't worry about it.

YOUNG FRIENDS

In the spirit of deepening our community of young adults we request IYMC to consider providing a sleeping space for the Young Friends program during the 2010 session of Iowa Yearly Meeting, (Conservative). Providing a high school dorm is a common arrangement in other yearly meetings and Quaker gatherings. We understand that dorm sponsors would be required in this situation.

Due to our group size we envision a few dorm rooms being set aside for our use in the boy's dorm, or one large room where we can use sleeping bags, such as the girls dorm lounge.

We would be willing to set quiet hours and sleeping hours. We invite concerns and questions from the Yearly Meeting as you consider this request.

Respectfully,

Flossie Cox and Debbie Galusha

We received a proposal from adult young Friends this week. We whole-heartedly approve this proposal. We ask the Nominating Committee appoint a committee to undertake the planning and formation of this program. We encourage our adult young Friends to participate in wider gatherings of Friends when possible. We recognize that they are, in fact, responsible adult participants in the Yearly Meeting, and this is a measure that supports their transition to Yearly Meeting leadership.

PROPOSAL FROM COLLEGE-AGED YOUNG FRIENDS

We as college-aged young Friends propose to the meeting the formation of an Adult Young Friends Program. This group would be open to eighteen to thirty-year old young adults. We have felt the need to form a group for the purpose of exploring and deepening our faith and community as young adults. We feel this is a space in Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) that needs to be filled. While Young Friends offers many good opportunities, the activities are obviously geared towards a younger age group. Also, after witnessing many Friends who were in our current age group not attend sessions for many summers, we want to form a group to facilitate the transition from Young Friend to full meeting member. We hope to further develop this concept with the greater community of IYMC in order to increase our involvement with said community and examine our faith in a more focused manner.

We appreciated hearing the Audit Committee report and the Treasurer's report for the fiscal year from 7/1/08 to 6/30/09. We thank the Treasurer for the work done throughout the year and the Audit Committee.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

We have examined the Iowa Yearly Meeting Treasurer's books for the 2008-2009 fiscal year, and find them to be in good order. We appreciate the work of Treasurer Jim Kenny in keeping the accounts of the Yearly Meeting and preparing a report for these annual sessions.

Jonathan Fisch
Frank Griffith

**Treasurer's Report
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
Financial Report for Fiscal 2008-09**

	Amount	Budget
Contributions		
American Friends Service Committee	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
AFSC Native American Programs	125.00	125.00
Friends Committee on National Legislation	1,000.00	1,000.00
Friends General Conference	200.00	200.00
Iowa Peace Network	4,000.00	4,000.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation	1,500.00	1,500.00
Nebraskans for Peace	500.00	500.00
Friends Peace Teams	500.00	500.00
NRCAT	200.00	200.00
Pendle Hill	500.00	500.00
Peace and Social Concerns Committee	1,100.00	1,100.00
Quaker United Nations Office	200.00	200.00
Right Sharing of World Resources	200.00	200.00
Scattergood Friends School	35,000.00	35,000.00
Will Penn House	300.00	300.00
Postville Fund (one time contribution)	2,500.00	2,500.00
Cedar Rapids Flood Fund (one time contribution)	2,500.00	2,500.00
Total Contributions	\$51,325.00	51,325.00
Delegate Expenses		
FCNL	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00
Friends Peace Teams	537.20	1,300.00
FWCC - General	1,300.00	1,300.00
FWCC- Triennial	700.00	700.00
Quaker Earth Care	284.00	700.00
NRCAT		<u>700.00</u>
Total Delegate Expenses	\$4,121.20	\$6,000.00
Yearly Meeting Expenses		
Archives Committee		\$200.00
Clerk's and Other Administrative Expenses	39.49	400.00
Committee Expenses (Other)		500.00
Conscientious Objector PSC		100.00

subcommittee.		
IYM Youth Weekends (4th-9th grade)	300.00	300.00
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	1,000.00	1,000.00
Junior Yearly Meeting	543.04	2,000.00
Young Friends	1,331.38	1,500.00
Special Needs Committee		500.00
Publication Committee	2,896.59	3,000.00
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship		500.00
Yearly Meeting Entertainment Committee if receipts inadequate		2,000.00
Midyear Planning Committee if receipts inadequate		1,000.00
Contingency Fund	489.49	1,000.00
Young Friends Travel & Conference	1,000.00	1,000.00
Postville Committee (ad hoc)		100.00
Total YM Expenses	<u>\$7,599.99</u>	<u>\$15,100.00</u>
 Grand Totals	 \$63,046.19	 \$72,425.00

We received the Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report. We approve the report.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

“May we look upon our Treasure and the furniture of our houses and the garments in which we array ourselves, and try whether the seeds of war have any nourishment in these possessions or not.” John Woolman

Friends continue to seek ways to live our faith without increasing the suffering of others. The committee has prepared documents, which we hope address several currently urgent problems. The summary of monthly meeting reports will be sent with the monthly e-mail communication from the committee clerk, and will be printed with the Reports Not Read at Yearly Meeting in the minute book.

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is expected to be submitted to the United States Senate for ratification next spring. The committee would like the Yearly Meeting to approve the following letter to be sent to the senators of the states within the Yearly Meeting.

Dear Senator _____

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) is expected to come before the Senate for ratification in the spring of 2010. The Iowa Yearly

Meeting (Conservative) of the Religious Society of Friends appreciates the seriousness with which you address security concerns, and we hope this will lead you to vote in favor of ratification when it comes before you.

We believe this is an essential security issue and we offer the following for your consideration:

Because the CTBT bans all nuclear weapons test explosions, this treaty would seriously impede the ability of nuclear countries to perfect new and more deadly bombs.

Technical advances in verification have improved dramatically over the last decade.

148 countries have ratified the treaty. Nine more countries are needed to ratify including the US, India, and Pakistan.

Experts in the field generally believe that once the US ratifies, India and Pakistan will follow our lead.

Once the treaty goes into effect an International Monitoring System will be established, providing a process for on-site inspection if a nuclear incident is suspected.

The US has not tested since 1996. It is in our national security interests to ensure other nations are not testing.

As the pre-eminent world power, the US needs to show moral leadership in stopping the spread of nuclear weapons.

There is bipartisan support for ratification as indicated by the calls for ratification by Sen. Sam Nunn, and former Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and George Shultz, as well as numerous Democrats including President Obama.

The words of IAEA Director General Mohammed ElBaradei (August 2005) express the sentiments of the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative):

We should remain humbled by what we have learned from the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We cannot allow 60 years to soften our memories of how devastating such weapons are.

Senator, please hold these words in your heart as you consider your vote on the ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting, (Conservative)

Peace and Social Concerns Budget

Alternatives to Violence Project (split evenly between the Iowa and Nebraska programs)	\$100
AFSC (Immigrant Voices, Central Region)	50
Frontera de Cristo (for Agua Prieta Migrant Center)	95
Friends Peace Teams (Peace building en las Americas)	100
Iowans Against the Death Penalty	35
Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty	35
Missourians for Alternatives to 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
Quaker Earthcare Witness	100
National Religious Campaign Against Torture	100
St. Bridget's Hispanic Ministry	100
<u>Catherine McAuley Center</u>	<u>100</u>
Total	\$1,100

We listened carefully to the report of the Yearly Meeting Recorder. While there is joy in hearing of new membership and weddings, we are mindful of the large number of deaths of beloved Friends that have been reported this year. We paused for a time of memorial to reflect on and appreciate Friends who have passed away. They shared many gifts of Spirit with us and they will be missed. Our memories of them still nudge us from time to time to be faithful. Love doesn't die.

YEARLY MEETING RECORDER REPORT

DEATHS

Iowa City	Selma Connor	5/ 29/2009
Lincoln	Marcelline Hinshaw	6/ 24/ 2009
West Branch	Norval Tucker	7/29/ 2008
	Lois Laughlin	11/ 1/ 2008
	Esther Jensen	11/ 7/ 2008
	Rachel (Betty) Kinworthy	2/ 3/ 2009
Whittier	Wayne Hampton	10/ 14/ 2008
	Laurence Smith	4/ 6/ 2009
	Bob Lam	
	(attender, not reflected in statistics)	

BIRTHS

None

MARRIAGES UNDER THE CARE OF THE MEETINGS

Des Moines Valley	Sarah Jane Winchell to Matthew Mickle\ (held at Bear Creek)	9/21/ 2008
Iowa City	Kristen Marttila Gast to Charles Edward Lenz	1/10/ 2009
Penn Valley	Larry Herndon to Kathy Weber	5 /31/2009

NEW MEMBERS BY REQUEST OR BY CERTIFICATE OF TRANSFER

Paullina	Kathryn Masaryk	(request)
	Jane Nickleson	(request)
Penn Valley	Larry Herndon	4/ 2009 (request)

West Branch

Rebecca Bergus

12/ 14/ 2008
(certificate)

Lorene Ludy

8/ 10/2008
(certificate)

Tim Shipe

Yearly Meeting Recorder

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	4	29
Bear Creek	0	0	0	0	0	0	78
Decorah	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Des Moines Valley	0	0	0	1	0	0	71
Iowa City	0	1	0	0	0	0	58
Lincoln	0	1	0	0	0	0	23
Omaha	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Paullina	0	0	0	0	2	0	76
Penn Valley	0	0	0	0	1	0	69
West Branch	0	4	2	0	0	0	99
Whittier	0	2	0	0	0	0	42*
TOTALS	0	8	2	1	3	4	567

* Number adjusted by one after examination of monthly meeting records

We listened to the letter prepared by the Special Replies Committee to send to absent members. We are grateful for the letter and the work of the committee.

SPECIAL REPLIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Seventh Month 31, 2009

Dear _____,

As we gather here at Scattergood for our annual worship with attention to the business of the Yearly Meeting, we are missing your presence here with us. We remember your active and consistent support of the work of the Yearly Meeting.

Reading the State of the Meeting reports we have learned with great sadness the loss of several of our active members. The love we have for each other and the love of our Heavenly Father supports us and comforts us.

We have heard reports about immigration problems relating to Postville, Iowa, and Humanizing the Borders of the United States with Mexico and Canada. We also have reports of the work at flood-ravaged Cedar Rapids. Some estimate it will be nine years before it is complete; there is much to be done in both areas.

Our precious Quaker organizations FCNL, AFSC, and FWCC all report major impact on resources because of the downturn of the economy. We hold them in the Light—their work is valuable—our faith made visible.

Reading the queries not only gives us a picture of the meetings seeking to be faithful to the Spirit, but also gives us opportunity to vision for the future.

We would close with a passage of the epistle of the Elders and faithful Brethren of Philadelphia, writing in the spring of 1683 to their F/friends 3,000 miles across the ocean:

*“Oh, remember us, for we cannot forget you:
Many waters cannot quench our love,
Nor distance wear out the deep remembrance
Of you in the heavenly Truth:
We pray God preserve you in faithfulness,
That, discharging your places and stewardships,
You may be honoured and crowned
With the reward of them that endure to the end.
And though the Lord has been pleased
To remove us far away from you,*

*As to the other end of the earth,
Yet are we present with you,
Your exercises are ours:
Our hearts are dissolved
In the remembrance of you,
Dear brethren and sisters in this heavenly love.
And the Lord of heaven and earth
Who is the father of our family,
Keep us in His love and power,
And unite, comfort and build us all,
More and more,
To His eternal praise, and our rejoicing.*

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

We heard the well-written and informative epistles prepared for us to send to Friends Everywhere, Ohio Yearly Meeting and North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Conservative. We value the work of this Epistle Committee.

EPISTLES TO FRIENDS EVERYWHERE

08/01/2009

To Friends Everywhere,

Greetings from the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), gathering for our 132nd annual session on the campus of Scattergood Friends School. In our daily meetings for worship followed by meeting for business, we have listened with love and reverence to reports of Friends who are following the leadings of the Spirit as well as they may. We have heard the responses of our member meetings to our advices and queries and have listened to reports of the monthly meetings, the annual reports from Scattergood School and Scattergood farm, and reports and concerns of our partners in the wider world: American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and Quaker Earthcare Witness.

Our theme this year, Quaker Seeds, was inspired by the parable of the sower from Matthew chapter 13. In morning Bible study and evening collections, we have wrestled with and celebrated this seemingly simple, yet surprisingly complex, message. Our own Marshall Massey of Omaha Meeting, IYMC, spoke on the metaphors of the seed (God's Word), the

soil (each of us), and the sunlight (the light that illumines our moral landscape) as described by early Friends. Debbie Humphries, of New England Yearly Meeting, and Peter Crysedale, of Pacific Yearly Meeting, spoke of ways of deepening the experience of meeting for worship. On Sixth Day evening, several Friends led a discussion on planting seed of hope, justice, and peace.

A continued concern is for the plight of undocumented immigrants. On Third Day evening, two Friends brought us stories and pictures of life on both sides of the Border Fence, lending human faces to the oft-dehumanizing data and rhetoric of politicians and the nightly news. We are also much concerned with the poor living conditions and systemic injustices worldwide that force many to immigrate, often under dangerous, even deadly conditions, and trap others in cycles of desperation. On Fourth Day, Jean Smith shared her work with Kenyan women who are victims of HIV/AIDS themselves and who have lost husbands and, often, children to the disease. Jean brought the skillful handiwork of these women and many Friends made purchases, enabling the women to continue and expand their efforts.

The written responses to the advices and queries submitted by the individual monthly meetings provide specific examples of the life and vitality of spirit within our meetings. The many different ways in which individuals and meetings have responded to the needs and challenges within their communities inspires us to be more faithful within our own lives. We treasure these opportunities to share where we are on our spiritual paths.

On Sixth Day, we welcomed into full monthly meeting status the Yahara Friends Preparative Meeting of Madison, WI, complete with ringing of the school bell. The joy of this event has infused our entire session.

The increased presence of Young Friends this year heartens us. They are responsible for our annual talent show on Seventh Day evening, which is a welcome highlight at the end of our busy week. Simply seeing our youth playing and working in the peaceful setting of Scattergood School gives us hope.

EPISTLE TO OHIO YEARLY MEETING

08/01/2009

Dear Friends of Ohio Yearly Meeting,

Greetings from the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), gathering for our 132nd annual session on the campus of Scattergood Friends

School. In our daily meetings for worship followed by meeting for business, we have listened with love and reverence to reports of Friends who are following the leadings of the Spirit as well as they may. We have heard the responses of our member meetings to our advices and queries and have listened to reports of the monthly meetings, the annual reports from Scattergood School and Scattergood farm, and reports and concerns of our partners in the wider world: American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and Quaker Earthcare Witness. We listened with special attention to the epistle from Ohio Yearly Meeting. Hearing your warm greetings gives us comfort and reminds us of our connection to the wider Conservative community.

Our theme this year, Quaker Seeds, was inspired by the parable of the sower from Matthew chapter 13. In morning Bible study and evening collections, we have wrestled with and celebrated this seemingly simple, yet surprisingly complex, message. Our own Marshall Massey of Omaha Meeting, IYMC, spoke on the metaphors of the seed (God's Word), the soil (each of us), and the sunlight (the light that illumines our moral landscape) as described by early Friends. Debbie Humphries, of New England Yearly Meeting, and Peter Crysedale, of Pacific Yearly Meeting, spoke of ways of deepening the experience of meeting for worship. On Sixth Day evening, several Friends led a discussion on planting seed of hope, justice, and peace.

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The written responses to the advices and queries submitted by the individual monthly meetings provide specific examples of the life and vitality of spirit within our meetings. The many different ways in which individuals and meetings have responded to the needs and challenges within their communities inspires us to be more faithful within our own lives. We treasure these opportunities to share where we are on our spiritual paths.

The increased presence of Young Friends this year heartens us. They are responsible for our annual talent show on Seventh Day evening, which is a welcome highlight at the end of our busy week. Simply seeing our youth playing and working in the peaceful setting of Scattergood School gives us hope.

EPISTLE TO NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING CONSERVATIVE

08/01/2009

Dear Friends of North Carolina Meeting,

Greetings from the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), gathering for our 132nd annual session on the campus of Scattergood Friends School. In our daily meetings for worship followed by meeting for business, we have listened with love and reverence to reports of Friends who are following the leadings of the Spirit as well as they may. We have heard the responses of our member meetings to our advices and queries and have listened to reports of the monthly meetings, the annual reports from Scattergood School and Scattergood farm, and reports and concerns of our partners in the wider world: American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and Quaker Earthcare Witness. We listened with special attention to the epistle from North Carolina Yearly Meeting. Hearing your warm greetings gives us comfort and reminds us of our connection to the wider Conservative community. We are also pleased that Cathy Gardner could represent us at your annual sessions.

Our theme this year, Quaker Seeds, was inspired by the parable of the sower from Matthew chapter 13. In morning Bible study and evening collections, we have wrestled with and celebrated this seemingly simple, yet surprisingly complex, message. Our own Marshall Massey of Omaha Meeting, IYMC, spoke on the metaphors of the seed (God's Word), the soil (each of us), and the sunlight (the light that illumines our moral landscape) as described by early Friends. Debbie Humphries, of New England Yearly Meeting, and Peter Crysedale, of Pacific Yearly Meeting, spoke of ways of deepening the experience of meeting for worship. On Sixth Day evening, several Friends led a discussion on planting seed of hope, justice, and peace.

A continued concern is for the plight of undocumented immigrants. On Third Day evening, two Friends brought us stories and pictures of life on both sides of the Border Fence, lending human faces to the oft-dehumanizing data and rhetoric of politicians and the nightly news. We are also much concerned with the poor living conditions and systemic

injustices worldwide that force many to immigrate, often under dangerous, even deadly conditions, and trap others in cycles of desperation. On Fourth Day, Jean Smith shared her work with Kenyan women who are victims of HIV/AIDS themselves and who have lost husbands and, often, children to the disease. Jean brought the skillful handiwork of these women and many Friends made purchases, enabling the women to continue and expand their efforts.

The written responses to the advices and queries submitted by the individual monthly meetings provide specific examples of the life and vitality of spirit within our meetings. The many different ways in which individuals and meetings have responded to the needs and challenges within their communities inspires us to be more faithful within our own lives. We treasure these opportunities to share where we are on our spiritual paths.

The increased presence of Young Friends this year heartens us. They are responsible for our annual talent show on Seventh Day evening, which is a welcome highlight at the end of our busy week. Simply seeing our youth playing and working in the peaceful setting of Scattergood School gives us hope.

**IYMC OUTREACH FOR 2011 FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE
GATHERING**

We were invited to consider opportunities for outreach that the FGC Gathering being in Grinnell, Iowa in the summer of 2011 will provide IYMC. We ask Nominating Committee to appoint an ad hoc committee to make some proposals for us to consider next year. One possibility is to propose a workshop led by the Yearly Meeting around Conservative Friends' practices. We would also like this ad hoc committee to share about FGC and the Gathering with IYMC Friends next year.

We close the morning session to reconvene at 2:00

AFTERNOON SESSION

We resume the business of Yearly Meeting

“Love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God . . . Rid yourselves, therefore of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation – if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.” I Peter 1:22–2:3.

Martha Davis and Lorene Ludy have been appointed as readers this afternoon.

We heard the Ministry and Counsel Committee Report which is acceptable. The travel minute should be extended. We appreciate the work that Deborah Fisch does in the world and as a public Friend. Minuted by the assistant clerk

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL REPORT

We began our sessions with the following prayer from W.E. Orchard, “Oh God, who hast sent us to school in this strange life of ours and hast set us tasks which test all our courage, trust and fidelity; may we not spend our days complaining at circumstance or fretting at discipline, but give ourselves to learn of life and to profit by every experience.”

Our hearts were touched as we read the State of the Meeting reports. Several meetings have lost deeply loved members. The love we have for each other comforts us and supports us as we go forward without them.

We look forward each year to the report of Deborah Fisch and her work as Friends General Conference Associate Secretary for Programs and Traveling Ministry. She reported that FGC is being impacted by the economic downturn the same as other organizations, but is managing responsibly. In this past year, Deborah has received some invitations to travel in the ministry. She shared about two of the visits with us. Last fall she was invited to attend and speak at the concluding session of the *School of the Spirit*; she and Bill Deutsch facilitated a clerking workshop at Pendle Hill this spring. They have been asked to do it again next year. Deborah shared in her report, “.....We (Friends in the US and Canada) are beginning to see that the radical love of Christ isn’t about making

everyone comfortable. Sometimes we must be willing to be uncomfortable for change to happen... We are beginning to wrestle together with the Spirit in our discomfort so we can make changes in our own lives and meetings, even as we seek to create space for the possibility for change in the world. It is hard work, but it is blessed work.” We recommend that Deborah continue to carry a minute of travel from the Yearly Meeting.

Newcomers have been meeting with several members each evening. They were given a handout “Helpful things to know about practices at Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) in session,” prepared by Deborah Fisch, which they have found very useful. We will use it again next year.

We have spent some time talking about the Queries and how the meetings use them. During meeting for worship, it was suggested we might do more with thinking not only what we do, but also doing more with visionary future thinking.

For the committee,
Alberta Kisling

We listened carefully to the reading of the State of the Meeting reports prepared by our meetings. It is always good to hear the various reports of the meetings within the Yearly Meeting. Listening to the State of the Meeting Reports has been likened to receiving annual Christmas cards and letters. They help us stay in touch and know each other over time. A traditional query, “How is Truth prospering with thee, or in this case, with the monthly meeting,” helps us address the state of our monthly meetings. As we listened to the reports this year we hear the answer, “It’s the people—the community building—that counts.

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS

Our hearts were touched as we read the state of the meeting reports. Meetings have lost deeply loved members. The love we have for each other comforts and supports us as we go forward without them.

Ministry and Counsel

AMES

Ames Friends have been nourished by the addition of eight new attenders. They have brought with them concerns and lives that encourage us all to do better. We have advanced our concerns for the

environment. The vocal ministry continues to be of the right frequency and faithfulness. Because we are small, it allows us to be acutely aware of each other's concerns and joys. The meeting space carries with it the blessings of other groups that meet here, the Bahais, the Faith Club and Yoga classes. Attendees remark on the richness of the silence. *The Journal of George Fox* is being read in the hour before meeting for worship. Business meetings have been sparsely attended. The answers to the queries are discussed on a monthly basis after the meeting for worship. Each First Day, activities are followed by a simple shared lunch. Aside from these times, educational experiences have been infrequent. Some of us are nourished by attendance at Yearly Meeting functions.

BEAR CREEK

Each member has great value. If one member is upset or hurt, we are all distressed. We are learning by painful experience to listen more carefully to each other and try not to rigidly cling to our own position. We are doing better in remembering our love for each other as we search for the path we should tread.

Our meeting is enriched as two of our members share their experiences working in the prisons. We cannot imagine the sadness, fear and pain those who are incarcerated suffer each day. This is a difficult calling they undertake on a regular basis and our meeting supports and is grateful for their important service.

When we gather for meeting in our meetinghouse we are surrounded with a sense of history and the presence of those who worshiped here. When we worship in the new Quaker Cottage, it is different. We are in a circle closer to fields and trees with light streaming in the skylights. It is a joy to experience our worship together in a new and different way.

Our clerk read the following quote from a 1965 Pendle Hill Pamphlet #140 *A Joint and Visible Fellowship* by Beatrice Saxton Snell in a recent meeting and it spoke very clearly to our condition. "We are all part of the great family of God, and we cannot fully be ourselves without the help of other people. Jesus spoke of himself as the vine and of us as the branches, and God as the vine grower. Each branch is small and may look insignificant, but each is part of the vine and is essential to the whole and has a meaning as part of the whole. The larger life surrounds and explains and glorifies all our small and individual parts... As the Meeting goes on, we may all be lifted together above our ordinary lives into a wonderful sense of unity and peace. Our small separate lives, that before seemed like small boats, drifting along sluggishly or carried into

the backwaters....and isolated there, are swept into the main current of God's purpose. We know that we have a place in His great purpose.”

DECORAH

Decorah Friends Meeting has had a year of quiet, sustained caring. A steady presence of Spirit has led us to care for family, the community, and the earth.

Messages in meeting for worship have spoken to the condition of the Meeting. Members' individual spiritual practices enrich our worship time together. Differences of opinion have been handled by respectful listening to each and a desire to hear Truth.

We share joys and sorrows after Meeting for Worship; there are often requests to hold someone in the Light. Illnesses and accidents of members and their families provided opportunities to minister to each other.

We welcomed the Laughing Waters Worship Group for a weekend of fellowship and discernment, as they explore possibilities of joining a yearly meeting. This brought memories of Decorah Friends experience of this over 20 years ago.

Decorah Friends expressed caring for social justice by supporting families affected by the raid in Postville, and continued involvement in immigration reform. We care for the environment by improving the energy efficiency of the meetinghouse. Our youth have had a strong year of religious education, and have completed a series of service projects. Adults have explored topics that enrich us in spirit and practice.

A challenge for our meeting is that we are few in number, and we miss Friends when they travel. Times when everyone is present are joyfully appreciated.

DES MOINES VALLEY

The number of people attending Des Moines Valley Meeting remains numerically equal to the previous year but the “who” in the numerical attendance slots has been impacted by birth, death, physical infirmity, job loss resulting in moves away from the community, and visitors who become new attenders drawn to us through general and/or particular knowledge about the Society of Friends.

Our monthly query discussions continue to be well attended with thoughtful participation. We continue to discern a right balance in the expenditure of Meeting resources (human and monetary) to meet structural and human needs. Three Second-Hour discussions on

stewardship explored the connected, but sometimes competing, concerns for monetary support of human needs versus spending for structural upkeep.

Eight pre-meeting “Quakerism 101” discussions were held this year. Attended by new, as well as long time members/attendees, opportunities developed for increased sharing and questioning on historical and contemporary questions of faith and practice.

This year found many members/attenders facing job changes, in some cases requiring long periods of job seeking and relocation. A long-time meeting Member returned to Des Moines for employment, due to the economic downturn, only to have her employment end soon after moving. To secure other employment, she was forced to return to the previous city. Three individuals returned to postsecondary education to obtain advanced degrees. Two made geographical changes in order to maintain employment. Still others within the Meeting wrestle with employment-related issues as they age.

The Meeting mourned the passing of two long-time members of the Meeting now living in other parts of the country. Two other Meeting attendees experienced family loss through death, one losing a mother and the other a brother.

Weddings were popular this year. In the early fall, the Meeting participated in the marriage of a young couple under the care of the Meeting. The young Friend grew up in the Meeting and great joy was experienced as members of the Meeting helped with the serving of the wedding meal. A long-time attendee of Meeting married in October.

Health challenges related to aging continue to impact the quality of worship experience in Meeting for those who experience hearing loss. We continue to investigate solutions for this reality. The challenges of aging and the “ability to/wish to” live on one’s own has touched the lives of several members/attenders. Grappling with these issues as a meeting has broadened our purview on the concerns embedded in the oft-uttered term, “The Health Care Crisis.” We continue to hold these concerns in the Light.

Building on the experience of the power of the Spirit as found in music, the Meeting has instituted a time of hymn singing before the third First Day. The addition has attracted many to arrive early in order to participate.

This year the Meeting exercised great effort to make available a focused religious education experience for youth of all ages with a special focus on pre-teen and teen youth. A Quakerism 101 experience was implement for the teen youth and has stimulated their involvement in business meeting and committee service. Additionally, the Youth

Camp Fund has been revived to support a Quaker youth camping experience.

IOWA CITY MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS

The presence of children in our meeting is greatly appreciated. We are working toward providing space that will be more inviting for the children. We appreciate reports from First Day School at the end of each meeting for worship. The whole meeting is taking steps to become more involved with the First Day School.

The number of active new attenders and members keeps our meeting full of life. A group of students has been attending meeting and also having social gatherings outside of meeting. Their attendance contributes to the Meeting as a whole.

Members of our meeting are participating in the Earth Care Working Group along with members of the West Branch Meeting and the West Branch Church. The collaboration among the three groups is satisfying. The Earth Care Working Group made a presentation at Eastern Iowa Gathering which was held April 5 at our meetinghouse. Regular presentations on potluck meeting days cover a range of interesting topics and give us insight into the interests of members and attenders of our meeting.

We continue to have ongoing discussion about how to manage latecomers to meeting.

A piano loaned to us by a member of the Meeting was used for the Christmas program and we plan to use it more in the future.

Work on the meetinghouse this year has included weatherization, new windows, and painting to make the basement more inviting.

LINCOLN

The Lincoln Meeting continues faithfully to gather for worship and friendship. Our group of young and old varies from week to week, but the core strength is always there. Silent worship is soothing and refreshing; vocal sharing enriching.

Business meeting is regularly attended by a few, but greater participation is encouraged. We are pleased that some of our newer attenders are comfortable stepping in and volunteering their time. Their fresh ideas are welcome.

We now have a few families with young children who add much liveliness to the group, particularly at our monthly potluck meal. One of our older girls has been given the responsibility of providing care for the

younger ones during worship and this is working out well. Our older members continue to experience challenges to health and mobility, but still contribute actively to the practical and enrichment work of the meeting, add to the quality of the meeting for worship, and even assume organizational responsibility.

In our pre-meeting sessions we have enjoyed topics ranging from book reviews to Quaker history to immigrant literacy. There have been some spirited discussions.

We are always seeking, and learning, and experiencing together.

OMAHA

Omaha Friends meet every Sunday for Worship and discussion. We began meeting this year outdoors at a park and then moved into a member's home. Attendance averages four or five worshipers with two teenage members often joining.

Worship is calmly uplifting but with few messages over the last year. Our expectations of the Meeting have changed, and we are more at ease in our approach to who we are and what we can do. Second hour alternates between query discussion, educational study, and meeting for business. Social times with potluck breakfast or lunch occurred several times. The social times have enriched the relationships within the Meeting.

Concern over the small size and declining attendance since last year has been raised. Three regular attendees have ceased in joining us during this year. Attendees are older and the Meeting has had few visitors.

PAULLINA

As we consider the past year since our last report to the Yearly Meeting, we find little changed from our previous report. Again, we have lost one faithful couple when they moved away for an improved job opportunity. We value the gifts they left us as we seek to achieve our goal of being a loving and supportive community for all who join us. We have been approached informally about possibly hosting Iowa Yearly Meeting once again in 2010 and have discussed what that might entail in organization and facility repair. We remember fondly the past times when the sessions were here and recognize that our rural setting has something to offer that even the pleasant accommodations at Scattergood does not have.

We are hesitant, however, because of our smaller numbers and less convenient locations for activities that usually take place at Yearly

Meeting. As we discussed the possibilities at business meeting and amongst ourselves, we are both intrigued and challenged to possibly make this happen. This past winter, we could not use our lovely, old meetinghouse for worship when the furnaces finally succumbed to age. While worshipping together in the more intimate setting of the community building was convenient and warm, we miss the sense of history and dedication that seems to enfold us in the meetinghouse. We are seeking a replacement heating system and hope to have it in place by next winter.

Answering the queries together once a month in business meeting, working on maintenance projects for our facilities, visiting together following meeting for worship all seem to add cohesion and strength to the life and spirit within the meeting. Some of our members drive some distance to join us at least one or two times a month, often on our fourth Sunday potluck dinners together and for business meeting. We value each one's contribution whenever they are able to join us. Those of us who are able to attend meeting each Sunday are strengthened in our own faith journeys by their dedication.

PENN VALLEY

As we discussed the Meeting's year, two words that came to mind were *lively* and *stable*. However, perhaps just because we're Quakers, describing ourselves in such positive terms made us a little nervous.

We are feeling lively because things are going on; we are finding some ways to express our inward leadings in an outward way. Tiring of some eight years of indecision about our peace pole, a group of stalwart men gathered and put the pole, which already had some messages incised on it, firmly in the ground. Now others are well on their way to finding plaques in 16 languages to put on it. (Note: a peace pole customarily has the words "may peace prevail on Earth" in different languages.) Similarly, we have found other excuses to gather together in small groups, leading us to believe that we really do like each other.

The fact that four marriages have either happened or are planned may be simple coincidence, or it may also be a sign of comfort with the Meeting. The reality and the planning are certainly sources of joy.

Many of us feel quite sure that there are potential Quakers in our community; they just don't know about us, or perhaps about Quakerism, yet. Thus, we have spent retreat time and more deciding on a plan of outreach that will, like Quaker Quest, be confined strictly to sharing information with the community. This wish to share seems to come less

from a need to grow than from a real desire to reach others who might really appreciate the worship and principles that we cherish.

We worry at times about our reluctance to face conflict in our meeting; we often choose to ignore differences that sometimes make us tense with each other. Many of us would like to address our differences more openly but are perhaps stopped by a worry that we don't know how to do it lovingly but at the same time directly.

Always with us is the feeling that we could be doing more. Our newly minted Earthcare Committee did encourage big meeting participation in the spring Earthwalk, and they are delighted at the excitement that was generated about gleaning harvested fields and donating the findings to a food bank. But, they want to do more to make the building energy efficient. The Library Committee wants to move faster on reorganizing, but it isn't being done. Our meeting has the typical urban problem of too many other commitments and too much distance, which we haven't solved, and we may not. And, of course there is never enough money.

Nonetheless, it seems safe to say that Penn Valley is approaching the next year with optimism and maybe even a little enthusiasm.

WEST BRANCH

We draw together in our meetinghouse each week, through the seasons of the year and our lives. We are grateful that we find our way to a gathered worship, which is more than a group of quiet individuals. We find a connection. It is not unusual that our ministry speaks directly to those gathered. Those who may not offer vocal ministry listen and are moved by ministry others offer.

At times, in conversation after meeting, the ministry continues as someone unwittingly speaks directly to another's condition. In these moments we remind ourselves of the need to be worshipful beyond our first day meeting for worship. As we work on the jobs associated with a living meeting, we can be worshipful. We seek to bring our worship to all activities of our daily lives so as to be guided by the Light, not habit. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

In query discussion, we consider the meaning of the word "worship." We note that when used as a verb, worship implies action. We wonder if worship is an attending, a listening with expectancy for something beyond or bigger than us. The word "worship" is also used to describe a state of being, a state of awe and reverence. We find no shortage of mysteries in the world around us to inspire that awe and reverence. We

see an unchanging cycle of life and death over millions of years that inspires our worship.

We explore our understandings and seek clarity through our monthly pre-meeting gatherings and query discussions. These are times of sharing and helping one another in spiritual guidance. It is in these settings that we comprehend that our weekly gathering in worship supports who we are when we go out into the world. We do not want to leave our worship in the meetinghouse.

Our relationship with Yahara Preparative Meeting this year has continued to enrich us, through intervisitation and the sharing of one another's minutes of business meetings and query responses. Our meeting's Care Committee and Clearness Committee met with Yahara Friends several times this past year as they worshipfully considered the rightness of becoming a monthly meeting. It is with joy that we have all watched them grow toward their decision to request monthly meeting status within the Yearly Meeting.

This has been a year of loss for our meeting. Four long-standing members: Rachel Kinworthy, Norval Tucker, Esther Jensen, and Lois Laughlin, and long-time attender Marie Stumpff – passed on. We work to come to terms with these great losses and the absence, which is clearly present when we gather. We have also seen our first-day school program become more sporadic due to fewer young people at meeting. Our losses, balanced with the presence of new members and attenders at our gatherings for worship, remind us of the seasons of life. We are comforted knowing that West Branch Monthly Meeting is alive and how it enriches us.

WHITTIER

Preparing our state of the meeting report for our Friends of IYMC each year offers the opportunity to explore with each other how well our meeting helps us listen to the Inner Voice and seek the Light in our lives. This year we affirmed some simple but important truths that keep each of us connected to Whittier Monthly Meeting. We care deeply for each other. We enjoy worshipping together. We enjoy helping each other deepen our experience of God's presence.

Bob Lam and Laurence Smith blessed our meeting with their steady presence for many years. Holding both of their funerals this past spring in our meetinghouse marked a sad milestone for us. It also underscored that neither Bob nor Laurence are far away from our hearts as their gifts of wisdom come back to us each time we sit on the Whittier benches.

The deaths of Bob and Laurence marked the passing of the last active members living in our meetinghouse neighborhood. We have now come to a time where everyone connected to our meeting must travel a distance to participate. We are spread out from each other, and our lives do not intersect in other venues. It is Whittier Monthly Meeting that joins us together. We are looking to deepen our community in the midst of our disparate schedules and scattered whereabouts. We also are exploring ways to make our meeting and the meeting house itself conducive to all who join us for worship, whether it be on a regular basis or more infrequently.

Friends from Yahara Worship Group recently asked us for feedback regarding our experience as a small meeting. This caused many of us to reflect on the blessings that specifically come from being a small, intimate group. While we want to guard against complacency, we also know our spiritual health is not solely gauged by the number of people who join us each week. It is more important to ask ourselves if we successfully nourish and support any and all who come to Whittier to worship in the manner of Conservative Friends. Everyone is important, no matter how few or many we may be. One attender with small children who lives quite a distance away wrote the following response to this query, *“In regards to the size of Whittier, even though I am terribly lax in attendance, one of my favorite things about Whittier is that it IS small. I am not comfortable participating in large groups and my faith is so intensely personal to me that the thought of worshiping in a large group is enough to send me running the other way. I just can’t explain it—it is almost like when you’re trying to find a particular radio station and as you’re trying to get it tuned just right, you keep picking up all these other station’ signals. When my husband and I attended a moderately sized church, I could never make that intimate connection and mostly just went through the motions, observed people, and it felt much like a class in college. It gave food for thought, but did not renew and did not feel true to me, even though the pastor was someone I like and respected, and many seemed to get a lot out of it.*

For me, my personal journey to God is akin to traveling through the woods alone, finding my way on the paths left by the wild things. No great hurry, lots of introspection, enjoying the scenery. Attending meeting, when I do attend, is like chancing upon a warm, brightly lit cottage, filled with f/Friends generously extending support and sustenance within every smile and greeting. It is a nourishing change break in my travel, and whenever I visit, I appreciate it, and am grateful for the community it offers. It seems to me that many people just hop on a religious superhighway to fill the void and perhaps that is a better way,

but it is not my way and it never will be. Simply put, I would not hold the Whittier Meeting so dear if it were large.”

This person speaks our mind. Those of us living in this area who find our religious home among Friends feel blessed to be part of Whittier Monthly Meeting.

YAHARA PREPARATIVE FRIENDS MEETING

For most of 2008, our meeting was held in the homes of our members and attenders. Whatever stability and growth we experienced in 2008 is largely due to the generosity of these friends who opened their doors and welcomed us in. As fall approached, we put a concerted effort into finding a more permanent meeting space. We also said goodbye to two founding members of our group, one of them, our clerk. The two children in the Meeting also moved on, one to join a vibrant First Day School group at Madison Meeting. They both continue to join in our potluck and games nights. Last September, an attender of our meeting died after a year’s struggle with cancer. Members of our meeting and Madison Meeting formed a support committee which met with him weekly for much of that time.

We are now renting space from Midwest Environmental Advocates in a “green” renovated commercial building near downtown Madison. Our spirit seemed to come alive with this move to a new space. Two new regular attenders joined us. In February, we met in a called meeting for business with members of our care committee to discern our readiness to become a monthly meeting. Then in March, we sent a letter to West Branch Meeting requesting monthly meeting consideration. We met several times in the next few months to learn more about the Yearly Meeting and the changes we would encounter. Also in March, we hosted a well-attended open house, and enjoyed the pleasure of sharing our meeting with others.

There have been times in this past year that we feared that the Meeting might not survive. We have had to face and understand what it is that sustains us. The depth and quiet of our meeting sustains us. The Yearly Meeting’s Conservative practices and nurture sustains us. Our meeting is uncluttered and small, and our regular events keep us returning to one another. We are now enjoying a sense of spiritual richness, depth and playfulness. Our care committee from West Branch Meeting has met with us through many of our spiritual challenges and joys. It is doubtful that we could have established the stability we now have, had we not had their constant, faithful attention to our spiritual development as a preparative meeting. We are deeply grateful.

We listened to the report of the Yearly Meeting Representatives. It was suggested that we change the apportionment request to monthly meetings by adjusting them so that they are all divisible by four and are all whole dollar amounts. The percentage amount will be calculated based on the new whole dollar amounts. We ask Jonathan Fisch to work with the Treasurer to make those minor adjustments. We approve the report including the proposed budget for fiscal year 2010 with much gratitude for the work of the representatives and Treasurer and for the increased funds for Scattergood Friends School. Changes are reflected in this amended report.

REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Representatives suggest the following Friends to continue 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

In addition, we suggest the appointment of a Clerk Nominating Committee, drawn from the Yearly Meeting as a whole, to do discernment around naming a clerk to be appointed at the 2010 Yearly Meeting sessions. This Committee would submit a name to the Representatives of 2010. We suggest the following Friends to serve in this way:

Bill Deutsch
Jonathan Fisch
Beth Wilson
Gordon Bivens
Carol Gilbert

The dates for annual sessions next year are: Seventh Month 27 – Eighth Month 1, 2010.

The most significant changes in the budget include an increase of \$5,000 for Scattergood Friends School, a decrease of \$3,000 to Iowa Peace Network, a decrease of \$1,000 to the reserve fund for the Yearly Meeting Entertainment Committee, and the elimination of the delegate expense of \$700 for the National Religious Campaign Against Torture. We also took out the transfer to reserves of \$300 for IYM Youth

Weekends, \$125 for Native American Programs and \$100 for the Postville ad hoc Committee. Contributions to the Postville Fund and the Cedar Rapids Flood Fund will continue for another year. Four of our monthly meetings generously offered to increase their contributions allowing us to increase the total to be raised by apportionment to \$57,000. We have budgeted more than we are raising by apportionment; if fully spent, this would draw down on our reserves.

MONTHLY MEETING APPORTIONMENTS:

Meeting	Percentage*	Amount
Ames	6.2	\$3,512.00
Bear Creek	9.1	5,200.00
Decorah	1.0	568.00
Des Moines Valley	21.0	11,976.00
Iowa City	7.1	4,048.00
Lincoln	7.0	3,988.00
Omaha	3.8	2,136.00
Paullina	10.9	6,188.00
Penn Valley	8.8	5,000.00
West Branch	18.8	10,716.00
Whittier	5.4	3,100.00
<u>Yahara</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>568.00</u>
Total	100%	\$57,000.00

*The percentages have been rounded to one decimal place for publication purposes.

IYMC BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

**Iowa Yearly Meeting
(Conservative)**

Budget for Fiscal 2009-10

	2009	2010
Contributions	Budget	Changes
	Budget	Budget
American Friends Service Committee	\$1,000	\$1,000

AFSC Native American Programs	125	-125	0
Friends Committee on National Legislation	1,000		1,000
Friends General Conference	200		200
Iowa Peace Network	4,000	-3,000	1,000
Friends World Committee for Consultation	1,500		1,500
Nebraskans for Peace	500		500
Friends Peace Teams	500		500
NCAT	200		200
Pendle Hill	500		500
Peace and Social Concerns Committee	1,100		1,100
Quaker United Nations Office	200		200
Right Sharing of World Resources	200		200
Scattergood Friends School	35,000	5,000	40,000
William Penn House	300		300
Postville Fund (one time contribution)	2,500		2,500
Cedar Rapids Flood Fund (one time contribution)	2,500		2,500
Total Contributions	\$51,325	\$1,875	\$53,200

Delegate Expenses

Friends Committee on National Legislation	\$1,300		\$1,300
Friends Peace Teams	1,300		1,300

FWCC - General	1,300		1,300
FWCC– Triennial	700		700
Quaker Earth Care	700		700
National Religious Campaign Against Torture	700	–700	0.00
Total Delegate Expenses	\$6,000	\$–700	\$5,300

Yearly Meeting Expenses

Archives Committee	\$200		\$200
Clerk's and Other Adm. Expenses	400		400
Committee Expenses (Other)	500		500
Conscientious Objector PSC subcommittee	100		100
IYM Youth Weekends (4th- 9th grade)	0		0
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	1,000		1,000
Junior Yearly Meeting	2,000		2,000
Young Friends	1,500		1,500
Special Needs Committee	500		500
Publication Committee	3,000		3,000
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship	500		500
YM Entertainment Committee if receipts inadequate		–1,000	1,000
Midyear Planning Committee if receipts inadequate			1,000

Contingency Fund	1,000		1,000
Young Friends Travel & Conference	1,000		\$1,000
Postville Committee (ad hoc)	100.00	-\$100	\$0
Total YM Expenses	\$15,100	\$-1,400	\$13,700
Grand Totals	\$72,425	\$-225	\$72,200

The Yearly Meeting clerk referred to Representatives a concern about the way forward for the Discipline Revision Committee. The Representatives discussed ways to support this committee in completing its work, and some met with the committee for further discernment and planning. All six currently active members are willing to continue to serve. The representatives feel that by distributing the remaining tasks more realistically and with the assistance of four volunteers (Dan Schlitt, Stan Sanders, Lorene Ludy and Jean Eden) from the Yearly Meeting, the new Discipline (or Faith and Practice) will be ready for Yearly Meeting approval by next Yearly Meeting session.

The Representatives are concerned that IYMC may not be meeting the needs of younger and working people who are not able to participate in our sessions. We encourage monthly meetings to give thought to what the Yearly Meeting might do to meet those needs.

For the Representatives,
 Jean Eden, Clerk

We listened to the report of the Nominating Committee. We considered the question posed to the meeting concerning the Young People’s Retreat Committee. Our discernment is to lay down this committee until the need arises again, freeing those Friends on the committee to serve elsewhere. Although we lay the committee down for now, we want to be mindful that when younger Friends reach the sufficient age and number to hold retreats, we may be naming this committee again.

We suggest the committee files be saved in a place where they are not lost for future committee use. These files will be kept at Scattergood. Concerning the reserve fund for use by this committee, we will leave \$500 in the Youth Weekend Fund and transfer the remaining amount to the Yearly Meeting Contingency Fund.

We express our gratitude to those who had the vision to begin this program and helped make it happen. Special gratitude is lifted up to Debbie Galusha for suggesting the project to the Yearly Meeting. Our current strong Young Friends Program and soon to be Adult Young Friends program testify to their work.

We approve nominations brought forward for service on the Yearly Meeting committees and as Yearly Meeting representatives to other Quaker bodies.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The work of the Nominating Committee was greatly enhanced by the careful preparation of the appointees in advance of Yearly Meeting sessions. We were particularly pleased that one monthly meeting appointed a young Friend to this committee. We hope that his appointment and his enthusiastic work with the committee sets a precedent that is taken up by other monthly meetings.

The Nominating Committee needs guidance with respect to the Young People's Retreat Committee. It is unlikely that it will have duties this year for lack of clientele. Perhaps in the near future there will be sufficient numbers of young people that retreats become viable. So the question is: do we lay down the committee and at an appropriate time reconstitute it, or do we keep a non-functioning committee in place?

For the committee,
A.M. Fink, convener

COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER QUAKER BODIES

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

2010

Owen Crosbie
Wilmer Tjossem

2011

Mikel Johnson
Tim Shipe

2012

Daniel Treadway
Herbert Standing *

DOCUMENT COMMITTEE

2010

Yahara Monthly Meeting

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

2010

Paullina
Omaha
Lincoln

2011

Ames
Des Moines Valley
Penn Valley
Yahara

2012

Decorah
Whittier
West Branch
Iowa City

YEARLY MEETING YOUNG FRIENDS PLANNING COMMITTEE

(THIS SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST ONE OLDER ADULT)

2010

Joel Fagan
Flossie Cox

2011

Sarah Mickle
Debbie Galusha*

2012

Jules Galusha
Connor Cunningham

JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING (FOR YEARLY MEETING)

2010

Nick Cunningham
Cheryl Sutton

2011

Danielle Black Eyes
Jean Sandstrom

2012

Carol Gilbert*
Elizabeth O'Sullivan

INTERIM MEETING (APPOINTED BY MONTHLY MEETINGS)

2010

Marilyn Mantel-Guss
Bill Deutsch
Lois Tjossem
Deborah Fisch
Elise Kuhn
Cindy Winchell
Lorene Ludy

2011

Carol Gilbert**
Larry Marsh
Cheryl Sutton
Ebby Luvaga
Marge Schlitt
Catherine Dorenbach
Martha Davis
Gordon Bivens

2012

A.M. Fink
Alice Hampton
Kathy Day
Richard Johnson
Dixie Collins
Owen Crosbie
George Bergus
Megan McCormick

BOOK TABLE COMMITTEE

2010	2011	2012
Jean Eden	Beth Wilson	Martha Davis*

MIDYEAR PLANNING COMMITTEE

2010	2011	2012
Lois Tjossem	Ruth Dawson	Christina Kieltyka
Stan Sanders*	Betty Young	Wanda Knight
Roy Hampton	Megan Knight	Winifred Standing
AM Fink	Osa Bricker	Marion Love
	Jackie Leckband	Christine Kelley

JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING/YOUNG FRIENDS (MIDYEAR)

2010	2011	2012
Meagan Knight	Cindy Winchell	Mikel Johnson
Dennis Kirkwood	Jackie Leckband*	Michael Taylor
Hana Norval	Patty Wingert*	Jules Galusha
	Anna Weigel	

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE (APPOINTED BY MONTHLY MEETINGS)

2010	2011	2012
Marshall Massey	Carol Gilbert	Christina Kieltyka
Ruth Dawson	Alberta Kisling*	Catherine Dorenbach
Mikel Johnson	Dorothy Rogers	Chloe Wagner
Beth Wilson	Doyle Wilson	Gordon Bivens
Martha Hampton	Dixie Collins	Rebecca Bergus
Megan Knight	Martha Davis	
Jane Cadwallader-Howe	Marge Schlitt	
		Ann Stromquist

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

2010	2011	2012
Margie Haworth	Jeff Kisling*	Callie Marsh
		Ruth Dawson

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

2010

Judy Plank
Winifred Standing
Jackie Leckband
Rachel McNair
Lori Nelson
Bob Yeats
Jesse Leckband
Emma Deutsch

2011

Cindy Winchell
Echo Ray
Herbert Standing
Ian Taylor
Ken Lawrence
Marian Solomon
Ann Stromquist

2012

Sherry Hutchison*
Jim Cottingham
Jim Bruner
Deborah Dakin*
Mark Patton
Quinn Dilkes

PENDLE HILL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

2010

Jean Eden

2011

Roy Hampton*

2012

Wilmer Tjossem

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

2010

Marshall Massey

2011

Judy Cottingham

2012

Bill Deutsch

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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

Terms ending after September 2010 meeting

Doyle Wilson Daniel Treadway Robert Winchell Russ Leckband

Term ending after September 2011 meeting

Frank Griffith Andrea Jilovec George Bergus Dan Schlitt

Term ending after September 2012 meeting

Debbie Galusha* Ruth Dawson Callie Marsh Lorene Ludy

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

This committee is appointed by Yearly Meeting Trustees

2010

George Welch
Barb Garlinghouse

2011

Gordon Bivens
Richard Johnson

2012

Lowell Wilson
Jim Dietz-Kilen

2013

Robert Yeats
Larry Marsh

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE

2010	2011	2012
Michael Taylor	Joey Giffen-Hunter	Echo Ray*
Sherry Hutchison	Deborah Dakin	

YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES

2010	2011	2012	2013
Jonathan Fisch	Roy Hampton	Jim Cottingham	Beth Wilson
	A.M. Fink*		

FRIENDS AGENCIES REPRESENTATIVES OF IYMC

AFSC CORPORATION MEMBERS

2010	2011	2012
Robert Yeats*	Rebekah DeWild	Lori Nelson
Dan Schlitt		Ann Stromquist, alt.

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (FCNL)

2010	2011	2012
Deborah Fink	Jonathan Fisch*	Alberta Kisling
Debbie Galusha	Rebecca Bergus	Nathan Tomer

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (FWCC)

2010	2011	2012
Martha Davis*	Cindy Winchell	Ebby Luvaga
Stan Sanders		

IOWA PEACE NETWORK

Claire Cumbie Drake	Rebekah DeWild
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WILLIAM PENN HOUSE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Jim Kenny	Alberta Kisling*
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FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS ADVISORY BOARD

Jim Bruner

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS STEERING COMMITTEE

Jeff Kisling

ADULT YOUNG FRIENDS

Ian Taylor
Karen Greenler

Michael Taylor*
Nick Jacoby*

Jules Galusha

OUTREACH TO FRIENDS GENERAL CCONFERENCE GATHERING

Lorene Ludy*
Megan McCormick

Joey Giffen-Hunter
Nick Jacoby

Marshall Massey

CLOSING MINUTE

“...Sink down to the Seed which God sows in the heart; and let that grow in thee, and breathe in thee, and act in thee and thou shalt find by sweet experience that the Lord knows that and loves and owns that...”

Isaac Pennington

As we arrived on the grounds of Scattergood Friends School, we looked forward to worshipping and having fellowship with old F/friends and new, to taking up the business of the Yearly Meeting, and to exploring together the “Quaker Seeds” first sown in the hearts of our spiritual foremothers and fathers and now finding roots in our own. We anticipated opportunities to work together and play together, laugh and cry. We have not been disappointed.

Collection presenters shared stories of work they have been doing to help prepare the soil and sow seeds of Love, that challenged and inspired us and give us hope. They invited us to delve into the Deep with each other and to explore the teachings of Jesus and the writings of early Friends concerning the importance of the Seed, the soil, and the Light.

Afternoon interest groups provided opportunities for us to share with each other things we are doing in response to nudges of the Spirit in our own lives, and to learn from each other as we seek to be more faithful in addressing conflict and pain within our own meetings. Morning Bible study gave us opportunity to consider how the parables Jesus told about preparing the soil and sowing seeds challenge and inform us.

We missed the presence of dear Friends who could not be with us. We were especially saddened that some Friends could not be with us this year due to serious health concerns. We grieved together at the large number of Friends who have passed away since last we gathered.

However, we were also blessed with many, many things to celebrate. The work of the Special Needs Committee made it possible for more of us to have easy access to the facilities on campus. The faithful work of the School Committee and the Scattergood Friends School staff

continues to make our school be a place where students can receive a good education and learn to value working together while they grow into their own identities.

Our meetings for worship for business were blessed and often deep. We listened to the simple and honest responses to the advices and queries and our state of the meeting reports, appreciated work reported by our committees and representatives to Quaker organizations, and discerned together other business of the Yearly Meeting. We were grateful for the large number of younger Friends among us, their presence during our times of worship and their willingness to help in a variety of volunteer opportunities during the week. We celebrated joyfully as we accepted Yahara Preparative Meeting as a monthly meeting of IYMC, and delighted when a Friend was moved to go ring the School's bell to mark the birth of a new monthly meeting. Truly, it was a celebration of love.

Now our time together draws to a close. Having completed the business of the Yearly Meeting, we now begin to turn our thoughts toward returning to our homes. We remind ourselves that we will continue to have opportunities to prepare the soil of our hearts to receive the Seed. It is not always easy or comfortable work, but we know it is good. As a Friend of old said, "Truly we have been made tender by Christ's love." Let us seek to witness to it in our lives.

We now conclude our 2009 annual sessions, planning to meet again, God willing, at Scattergood Friends School near West Branch, Iowa Seventh Month 27 to Eighth Month, 1, 2010.

Deborah Fisch, Clerk

Deborah Fink, Assistant Clerk

Reports not read in business session but included in our minute book.

EXERCISE COMMITTEE

The following are the words spoken in ministry at IYMC, the exercise of the Spirit, captured as closely as possible and recorded here for both historical relevance and the deeper understanding of our gathering.

Robert Barclay wrote about remembering how his father was whipped through the streets of Dublin for his (Quaker) faith and practice.

—So we come again with faith and hope that we might be raised up in goodness, that we may be guided in which way to go.

Deep in the inward Spirit, there is a door covered with vines—and it was told long ago, that if you cut through the vines and open the door, you find your God self.

In 1880, the composer Delibes composed the opera *Lakmé*, in which there is an aria called the “Bell Song,” which has a high note, an F above the treble clef, so high that very few voices are able to sing it. A trumpet now plays that note, as no voice can reach it. What is that high F we don’t hear? Who is that inward teacher, by whose word we learn our inward calling?

Maybe it’s not a single voice that we seek for that high note. In music, there is the triad—where no one sings the top note—but there is an overtone made by three voices in harmony...

They say a puppy taken too early from its mother will whine and whimper through the night—but that a clock put under its pillow will comfort the puppy, resembling the familiar beat of its mother’s heart. We hear that they’ve replaced one of the fans in the meetinghouse and may soon replace the other. I hope it isn’t replaced too soon—I find it so comforting, like a throbbing heart beat.

Great joy has been given to us, cast among us like seeds, wild and growing among us, love, love cast in wasteful abandon, more possibilities than will ever grow into great trees, so often created, so often scattered—not all will grow into something grand—but they are there. Their wholeness is within us—it is whipping up in our mouths, in our hearts, at this time and at other times, too. In all places the wholeness of God is with us, holds us, even when it is hard to hold it. We can’t see everything. We have only a window. The Spirit moves, not only in our hearts, in our backs and down our spines, in everything and our every movement, everyday. Our separation is only a view from a window but this wholeness is ours and God’s all the time. Seeds—be uprooted and go!

—Jesus said that with faith the size of a mustard seed, anything is possible—and it is. “If you have faith no bigger than a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, move from here to there! And it will move.” Sometimes in our brokenness, we have only a little faith and a little love. There is no reason to feel inadequate about this because it only takes a little bit of love—but it’s all we need.

Jesus was trying to prepare his disciples for his death. There is a wholeness that holds both of these two things, so take courage.

“Perfect love casts out all fears.” I say that to myself often. I find a sense of deep rootedness here. There is a power in that—like olive trees that can bear good fruit for ages and ages. I’m so grateful for the gift of God—so rooted here—because it can bring great fruit into the world.

We have a job: being hopeful, bringing good fruit into the world. However, we don’t do it by ourselves. We do it as part of a community—like all of the plants and fungi and their relationships underground—a community feeding one another. It makes it easier to bring good fruit when we remember to do it from within community. So, we can avoid pride in bringing forth our fruits. Often time we pray for God’s help, doing the work, shining light into our work, and into our weeding, so we may grow and produce good fruit of the Spirit.

I’m here today, in this meetinghouse, in this moment because of the seed planted in me some 30 years ago—planted in worship. I had a dream: A professor arrives in my classroom. “Sit down and meditate,” he instructed. I did as I was accustomed at that time. “You’re doing it all wrong,” he said, “you need to focus, all, everything in you.” I tried to do as instructed and at that moment an explosion! Everything ceased to exist. I ceased to exist. There was a bright light, brighter than a welding arc, the brightest light I’ve ever seen, and a bliss and peace that I can’t describe. A disturbance arose and a thought—“You can return when you have been purified!” The dream faded and I awoke sitting in my bed, my wife beside me, and I realized what started as a dream had started to become real...

This week, contemplating the sun, the seed, and the soil—and the action between them—if you take away any one of them, the others can do little. You, me, and God—together we can do much—take away one of these and the power of the other two is greatly diminished.

Sometimes it feels to me that I spend time during the year anticipating being here at IYMC once again... Worshiping with you sustains me through the year and gives me spiritual strength to work in the world. Seeds have been planted in my heart that are only beginning to sprout, and I imagine others will lie dormant until I am better able to prepare the soil to receive them.

On Tuesday morning, early, I leave for another committee meeting. I wonder how I can sit in another committee meeting with all of this in my heart. I hear God laughing at me. If I try to hold it as I sit here, I think I

will burst. I can think of it as “*Another* committee meeting,” or it can be “*another* committee meeting and opportunity to love!” It can be another opportunity to open to the movement of God.

If we can take this with us to our meetings and out into the world and open ourselves to the Spirit, that would be way cool!

I was thinking of the theme of our week—and I think of those who have come before us and the seeds they have sown to get us where we are today. We want to save many seeds and nurture some. Like seeds, we are really striving to see the Light through this Truth and through hard times. I feel blessed to be part of this community and this discernment and I thank you all.

We are called to be a peculiar people—to be transformed—to think on the fruits of the Spirit which include love, joy, kindness, and to encourage these, to water and fertilize them—not to pay too much attention to the weed that sprouts within us—perhaps just enough to pluck it out.

I have felt so nurtured this week. I feel much of what I’ll be working on this coming week—how to find work and live in the competitive world we live in. Here I’ve been accepted and encouraged to grow into who I might become.

I became Chloe when a friend died, that was sixteen years ago. Chloe means young green shoots, young green grass. I’ve been thinking of myself as a young green spirit.

As we go back to our busy lives, it’s hard to find time for one another. I’ve been thinking of how I’m growing from “me in me” to “thee in me.” We have busy lives, it shouldn’t be a burden to be a part of our meeting. I’m thinking maybe we should be helping each other carry our burdens. This is just a little seed I’m carrying—I’m not yet sure how it will take shape.

Two disciples were walking the road. A stranger appeared among them disclosing deep things. It was only when they sat down at a meal and he broke bread did they recognize that it was Jesus. We have the same problem with the Inward Spirit. It is there in us. Let us give thanks.

Lord, it is a little scary to talk to you this morning. I feel You very powerfully. I see You walking around here. You are trying to move us in some direction. We’re not sure what direction You want us to go. You’ve

been here in us all week. Everywhere we walk, we feel your help, the kind of help we need—the help of opening up.

We don't need to ask You to work on us, because You already are. We just need to become aware of it. It feels very impertinent to ask so publicly, but something in my heart says we want to ask together.

As some of you may know, this year my parents were remarried. This is the happiest I've been in a long time. It has reminded me of what "family" means. At the end of this week, to me, we all feel like family.

I had a joyful thought this morning. As someone who sees the dirt in my life—I realize that dirt is soil!

(Sings "The Garden Song," with some of the meeting joining in: "Inch by inch, row by row, gonna make this garden grow.")

As we prepare to leave this place to return to our own meetings, may we come to testify to that eternal spirit of life, to be sustained and kept, to bring hope and consolation to those who are sick or physically weak. May we stand and know that love that is eternal will keep and guide us on our way.

Faithfully offered,
Cheryl Sutton
Stan Sanders

FCNL REPORT

How is FCNL doing in the present economic downturn? To quote Joe Volk, Executive Secretary of FCNL, "We are doing well because our committees govern well and because we're managed well. We have cut our budget from 4.6 million with almost 40 full-time staff to 2.6 million with 24 staff. We're suffering the loss of valued colleagues. However, we preserved our legislative programs." Loyal donors have contributed slightly above last year's level but investment income has not returned.

Remarkable opportunities have opened in the new Congress and Obama administration. As a result of FCNL's Hill lobby efforts, the House Armed Services Committee agreed to include a reference in Fiscal Year 2010 military authorization bill which requires the United States to withdraw all armed forces from Iraq no later than December 31, 2011. Also there are to be no permanent bases in Iraq.

FCNL's spring lobby day brought fifty activists to Washington to support direct engagement with Iran and against new sanctions against Iran.

FCNL continued to urge representatives to cosponsor House Resolution 130, which expresses support for the Middle East peace mission of special envoy George Mitchell. Fifty church leaders and Joe Volk signed a letter urging the administration to "exhibit no tolerance for Israeli settlement activities."

FCNL's Campaign to Ban Cluster Bombs will end June 30th and will be taken over by Handicap International.

Seven thousand people signed a petition to support President Obama's goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

Immigration work included support of H.R. 2709 Reuniting Families Act; and Breaking Bread and Barriers: Communities for Reform. Also neighbor to neighbor lobby visits.

FCNL has developed a web page featuring comments on health care reform. They have also lobbied for Rebuild and Renew American Now proposing health care reform financed with progressive tax revenues and savings within the health care system.

The American Clean Energy and Security Act was greatly weakened as deals were struck with coal and oil interests and FCNL did not support it.

The most visited website page was the petition to ban nuclear weapons. Approximately 76,432 visited the FCNL website first quarter and 73,172 second quarter generated 39,036 messages to Congress.

The free Washington newsletter was published ten times a year. Now, due to cost cutting, it will be published six times a year and designed in-house.

Annual Meeting will be held November 12 through November 15 at the Washington Plaza Hotel with the theme "New Era, New Openings."

Iowa Yearly Meeting has consistently supported FCNL with active committee members and financial donations from individuals and the meetings—all greatly appreciated.

REPORT ON CEDAR RAPIDS FLOOD RECOVERY

At the 2008 IYMC annual sessions, Friends approved sending \$2,500 to assist in the recovery work being done after the heavy flooding in the Cedar Rapids, Iowa area. Whittier Friends, familiar with the work being done, were asked to choose an organization supporting some of those most heavily affected by the flood to receive the donation. Friends

chose Partnership for Safe Families. Before making a final decision, Deborah Dakin and Bob Yeats asked to visit with a representative of the group. When they handed a check for \$2,500 to the director, she was moved to tears. The organization has been working with families that were “flood affected,” meaning that they were directly impacted by destroyed or damaged homes, displacement from jobs due to workplace closings, financial loss due to housing and supporting displaced families, loss of needed services, and loss of transportation.

In a letter of appreciation, the current director of Partnership for Safe Families, Dave Loy shared the following, “...The floods and tornadoes that ravaged the state of Iowa in 2008 caused \$1.1 billion in damage to public facilities. Based solely on financial public assistance estimates, that makes Iowa the fifth largest state disaster in U.S. history behind Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana, the 9/11 Terrorist Attack, Hurricane Katrina in Mississippi, and Hurricane Wilma in Florida.

The Cedar River Flood of 2008 damaged 310 public facilities in Cedar Rapids, including the central police station, central fire station, city hall, public library, historic theater and public works building. City officials estimate that it will take \$500 million to repair and rebuild all of these facilities. Linn County, home to Cedar Rapids, lost its jail, courthouse, administrative offices and other public facilities to the flood, causing more than \$60 million in damage. While we have been working to help families that were directly affected, there are an equal number of families that are greatly struggling to recover by being indirectly affected. We have seen a rise in families requesting help with utilities food, clothing, etc. ...The need is greater than our funds and so we are working to partner with organizations like the Jaycees and churches to help meet this need. ...Please express our sincere thanks to your Quaker Society for the help we received last year. ...Please also convey to everyone that Cedar Rapids is not out of the woods yet: we have just started this process and it will continue for many years. I meet with people almost daily that are still struggling with our disaster.”

SUMMARY OF MONTHLY MEETING PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS REPORTS

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs,

what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. (James 2:14-18)

The concerns identified by IMY(C) Friends these past years continue to call for unflagging faith led works on the local, state, national and international stage. Even though our members are spread out geographically in different states, when we come together we discover that we have been tilling many of the same fields, seeking to live faithfully both individually and corporately.

A number of our smaller monthly meetings do not have a separate peace and social concerns committee, but instead work to address social concerns as a "committee of the whole" for the entire meeting. Even though this is often a response to the small number of members in these meetings, there are advantages with this approach. Just as in larger meetings, one or two people take responsibility for bringing different issues to the meetings' attention, but with smaller numbers, *all* members of the monthly meeting share in the good work equally.

Every meeting has individual members and attenders who actively raise funds for local and international programs reflecting their personal peace and social concerns. Monthly meetings do this as a group as well. They donate to both larger Quaker organizations (FWCC, FCNL, AFSC, FPT) and different non-Quaker groups (i.e. the World Health Organization, UNICEF, Sierra Club) in support of the peacework. This past year, a number of meetings helped raise money to aid those who suffered from the Israeli military attacks on Gaza as well as speaking out publicly to draw attention to the ongoing humanitarian crisis there.

Monthly meetings work with the local groups that help the most vulnerable in their communities: those who live in poverty, those who are homeless or victims of violence, those afflicted with mental illness, those exploited by unfair labor policies. Some also reached a little beyond their immediate neighborhood to help for those still suffering in Postville, Iowa from the immigration raid of May, 2008 in Postville, Iowa. Others travelled across the state to assist with the ongoing flood clean up and rebuilding efforts in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

IYM(C) meetings helped sponsor a number of educational events. By hosting different speakers this past year, Friends learned about peacework in Colombia and different Central America countries, Mexico, Iran, Afghanistan, Kenya, and occupied Palestine. In addition, some of our own members travelled to make a peace witness in other countries including Iran and Mexico.

The degradation of our planet continues to be a major concern. This is a critical time, and our future demands we not turn away in fear. In response, many meetings have formed their own earthcare committees,

both within the meeting and in conjunction with like-minded others in their community in seeking ways to change the destructive path caused by our current way of life.

As Friends, we seek to represent our tradition of peace and nonviolence to the wider world. One meeting helps to run the area Peace Center that houses a peace library and holds a wide variety of programs. Others continue their longtime commitment to prison work, and Alternatives to Violence training. One meeting witnessed against our country's use of torture by hanging a banner stating "Torture is Wrong" from their meeting house. Another collaborated with the local Friends Church in hosting a table distributing materials on "nonviolent ways to serve one's country" at an area festival. They hope to work with the US Park Service in the coming year to educate the general public about the heritage and enduring world view of Friends.

As we seek discernment for our steps in the year ahead, other Friends offer guidance along the way. It is good to remember George Fox's paraphrase of James 1:19-21: *"Dispatch business quickly, and keep out of long debates and heats...be swift to hear, and slow to speak, and let it be in the grace which seasons all words."* More recently, good Friends in Paullina remind us that, *"Pondering the last four yearly meeting queries ("Civic Responsibility" "Environmental Responsibility" Social and Economic Justice" and "Peace and Nonviolence") are a help and means for all to discern both their individual and collective responsibilities to care for our earth and ALL its people."*

May we continue our work with joy.

For the Peace and Social Concerns Committee,
Deborah Dakin, clerk

The audit of Scattergood Friends School finances was not available at the time of the publication of the Minutes. Please contact the school for this information

AFSC CENTRAL REGION REPORT

Warm greetings to Friends throughout the Midwest from the American Friends Service Committee! It's my pleasure to see you again and share about AFSC's ongoing work in the Central Region. There's no doubt change is in the air across our nation and around the world. Our goal at AFSC is to put Quaker values in practice — "to see what love can

do”— in an effort to transform our world away from violence and oppression and towards peace and justice. Please stay in touch via our Website at www.afsc.org, via e-mail at STuma@afsc.org or phone 515-274-4851, ext. 12.

Building Peace

AFSC continues to mobilize public opinion in support of an end to U.S. military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan. To date over 5,000 U.S. soldiers have died in these wars, with Iraqi and Afghani casualties in the hundreds of thousands. Our “Countdown to Withdrawal” campaign is holding President Obama to his campaign promise to remove U.S. troops from Iraq.

Visit <http://www.countdowntowithdrawal.org/> for more details.

New resources are also available for showing AFSC’s powerful Eyes Wide Open exhibit on college campuses.

Please see <http://www.afsc.org/eyes/> for more information.

One of AFSC’s great strengths over the years has been our ability to take on seemingly impossible challenges by patiently working with specific people and groups. This past spring, AFSC’s Kansas City Office hosted a “Breaking Bread” dinner in support of Iraqi refugees and Iraqi war veterans who are working against the war. Over 230 people filled a church basement to enjoy delicious Iraqi food and share in the hope for new beginnings.

AFSC staff and volunteers throughout the region are working hard to build alliances and express our hopes for peace in new and creative ways. In Des Moines, a group called Students Beyond War meets weekly at AFSC to plan actions, including a trip to Washington DC for a national peace rally.

One young woman took special advantage of her internship with AFSC Iowa. Jade Howser has a brother who has served in Iraq. Through AFSC, she became active with Military Families Speak Out and, at a March vigil marking the sixth anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, she served as the main media spokesperson. Jade also developed a program entitled *The War Within: Understanding the Effects of Military Combat*. This witness and public forum will debut during Veterans Day observances in November.

AFSC continues to provide peaceful career information to students facing the frequent onslaught of military recruiters. Our Youth and Militarism Program in Colorado produced a local version of the popular AFSC publication entitled “It’s Your Life.” According Jessi Quizar, who directs this program, “While traveling all over the city to the various high schools, it became apparent how desperately needed these books are....

Getting them to the students will hopefully begin to offset the recruiters' presence in the schools.”

Educating and Advocating for Free Trade, Immigrant Rights

At AFSC, we believe that educating our society about controversial issues such as immigration is one key to finding just and sustainable solutions. Our Austin office invites you to join a small delegation to the U.S.-Mexico border to learn about the issues workers face in factories located there (please see <http://www.afsc.org/austin> for details).

Through a new interfaith outreach effort, AFSC is bringing together a diverse coalition of faith-based activists to push for immigrant rights. Both in Austin and Denver, AFSC is ringing a bell of alarm about the increased use of detention centers which unfairly imprison immigrants and separate families.

Envisioning Justice that Heals

When Faheemah Thabit of AFSC-St. Louis works against Missouri's death penalty, she speaks from experience: Her father, stepfather, and brother were all killed.

Faheemah currently represents the AFSC's St. Louis office as a coalition member of Missourians to Abolish the Death Penalty, where she serves on the statewide board and in the St. Louis chapter. “AFSC recently has begun to play a direct role in assisting the chapter in developing an outreach plan to communities of color, particularly the African American community,” she says. “Now, the death penalty is not something that folks in the African American community even talk about. It's not a topic that really comes up unless you end up with a family member on death row.”

Faheemah has been key in developing and sharing AFSC's African American Death Penalty Listening Project with the community and with local abolition groups. She also helps organize vigils, implement grassroots strategies, and mobilize the community and supporters.

On the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, Richard Iron Cloud of AFSC is also promoting a healthier sense of justice. Richard has been working with others to secure the release of Timothy Caffrey, a Lakota man who has served 27 years in prison. For details, please visit <http://www.afsc.org/pineridge>.

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

email is STuma@afsc.org, and our Web address is www.afsc.org. On our regional and area office Web sites, please look for more updates on our work and for ways to get involved.

Sonia Tuma

Accidently omitted from the printed 2008 IYMC Yearly Meetings

STATE OF THE MEETING DES MOINES VALLEY FRIENDS

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.

[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) 292-3801, bettyannyoung@yahoo.com

Bear Creek

Worship 11 a.m. First Day; Pre-Meeting 10 a.m. First Day; **Business** 3rd First day, 10 a.m.; **Location** approximately 3 miles north of Earlham, Iowa; **Clerk** Jackie Leckband, 19186 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, Iowa 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; **Clerk** Debbie Galusha, (402) 553-2211, agulusha@cox.net

Paullina

Worship 10:30 a.m. First Day; **Business** 2nd First Day, 9:30 a.m.

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

Penn Valley

Worship 10 a.m. First Day; **Business** 1st First Day following worship;

Location 4405 Gillham Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64110, (816) 931-5256, FAX (AFSC office) (816) 561-5033; **Clerk** 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** Ginny Winsor, 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 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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