

Minutes of

Iowa Yearly Meeting
of Friends

(Conservative)

2011

Held at Scattergood Friends School,
near West Branch, Iowa
Seventh Month 26 – Seventh Month 31, 2011

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**MINUTES OF IOWA YEARLY MEETING
(CONSERVATIVE)**

134th Annual Sessions

Seventh Month 26 to Seventh Month 31, 2011

FOURTH DAY – WEDNESDAY – 7/27/2011

At the 134th annual session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) held at Scattergood Friends School, near West Branch, Iowa from Seventh Month 26 to Seventh Month 31, 2011.

Let us then try what love will do, for if people did once see we love them we should soon find they would not harm us. Force may subdue, but love gains.

—William Penn

We are glad to welcome these visitors: David Eley of Austin, Texas, and a member of Keystone Fellowship, Pennsylvania, Ohio Yearly Meeting; Jay Robinson, Palmerston North Monthly Meeting, New Zealand Yearly Meeting; Lynn Chakoian, Kickapoo Valley Friends Meeting, Wisconsin, Northern Yearly Meeting; Jon Krieg, AFSC Central Regional office, Des Moines, Iowa; Jeff Swartzendruber of Mennonite Foundation in Kalona, Iowa; Doug Hamilton, Fairfield, Iowa.

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

Ames	Betty Young
Bear Creek	Burt Kisling, Herbert Standing
Decorah	Emma Deutsch, Martha Davis
Des Moines Valley	Jean Sandstrom
Iowa City	Karoline Jarr, Ruth Dawson
Lincoln	Dan Schlitt, Jean Eden
Omaha	Debbie Galusha, Carol Gilbert, Marshall Massey
Paullina	Jonathan Fisch, Mary Snyder
Penn Valley	Jim Kenney
West Branch	Rebecca Bergus, Callie Marsh
Whittier	Robert Yeats
Yahara	Karen Greenler

MONTHLY MEETING APPOINTMENTS OF CARETAKERS TO YEARLY MEETING

Ames	Ebby Luvaga
Bear Creek	Jeff Kisling, Bob Winchell
Decorah	Bill Deutsch
Des Moines Valley	Sherry Hutchison
Iowa City	none appointed
Lincoln	Marge Schlitt
Omaha	Curtis Bryant
Paullina	Mary Ellen Tjossem
Penn Valley	Neil Nelson
West Branch	Larry Marsh, Don Laughlin
Whittier	None appointed
Yahara	Meg McCormick

There are 14 representatives and 6 caretakers present. Others may be attending later sessions or are assuming other duties at Yearly Meeting that are held during meeting for worship with attention to business.

REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTMENTS

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

Ames	A.M. Fink
Bear Creek	Stan Sanders
Decorah	Lynne Sootheran
Des Moines Valley	Sarah Mickle
Iowa City	Ruth Dawson
Lincoln	Michael Taylor
Omaha	Michael Taylor
Paullina	Beth Wilson
Penn Valley	Ginger Kenney
West Branch	Judy Cottingham
Whittier	Bob Yeats
Yahara	Penny Majors

The Exercise, Epistle, and Special Replies Committees, Yearly Meeting Reporters, and Auditing Committee are appointed by Representatives. We approved the following appointments suggested by Representatives to serve during the week:

Exercise Committee	Deborah Fisch, Jean Eden, Ginger Kenney
Epistle Committee	Bill Deutsch, Penny Majors, Steve Snyder
Special Replies Committee	Callie Marsh, Stan Sanders, Emma Deutsch
Yearly Meeting Reporters	Jean Sandstrom, Karoline Jarr
Auditing Committee	Rebecca Bergus, Karen Greenler

The yearly meeting approved the dates of 7/31 to 8/5/2012 for the 135th annual sessions.

Readers for this morning’s business sessions are Debbie Galusha and Karen Greenler.

We listened to the Midyear Meeting Committee Report, the Midyear Meeting Treasurer’s Report, and the Midyear Meeting Youth Program Report, and the Bear Creek Cottage Project Report. Bear Creek is a small meeting and they do a lot of work through the year to make Midyear Meeting possible, make us feel welcome, and give us the opportunity for such a rich experience. We are very thankful for this. We heard Byron Sandford’s words, that our “youth are our future,” and were glad to hear our Midyear Meeting Youth Committee Report as a chapter in our growth in this direction.

MIDYEAR MEETING REPORT

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), met for Midyear Meeting at Bear Creek meeting house near Earlham, Iowa, Fourth month, 2–3, 2011. Approximately 100 were in attendance from Iowa and neighboring states.

Our presenter and resource leader this year was guest Byron Sandford, Executive Director of the William Penn House, in Washington D.C., where he has served since First month, 2001. In his opening remarks of the first session, Byron explained how he realized that he was a Quaker in 1974 in El Paso, Texas. He followed this Quaker path from

El Paso to Austin to Hill Country Friends and now William Penn House and the Friends Meeting of Washington. He has 30-plus years experience serving Quakers through many volunteer positions with South Central Yearly Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, and Friends General Conference. “Through William Penn House, I have found harmony of career, beliefs and avocation. I have the best of jobs, working with the next generation of Quaker leaders.”

Byron Sandford focused first on the topic, “Quaker Youth: The Future of Quakerism or Yesterday’s News.” Speaking on “Quaker Youth,” Byron noted how the Quaker numbers are dwindling in size, and how it is our youth that will determine the viability of our Meetings.

He began by having all under 30 years of age stand. Because we were blessed with the presence of a contingent group of students from Scattergood, we had over two dozen rise. “This is what it’s all about,” he noted, “These are our future leaders. Here is our future.”

Byron urged us to ask our younger membership to serve our community and that we give them meaningful work. “We will be challenged—but we must fund their service.” Our youth, he noted will bring new ideas, “but to be a big tent of beliefs we must broaden our acceptance.” He asked, how do we value our youth? How do we engage them if we don’t ask them? On their lack of experience, Byron noted, “we only become Quakers by being Quakers. We have only a little light, we don’t want it to go out.”

In the second session, Byron spoke on “Radical Hospitality,” relating his experience as he raised his own children, of welcoming his son and daughter’s young friends into his home. He told of learning what it meant to be inviting and inclusive intra-generationally.

In the third session, morning of First Day, Byron rose from the silence to speak on, “What it is to be Quaker.” He spoke on the comparative theology, the many truths found in all faiths, “the common ground we have among faiths.” He drew this in the perspective of humanity now facing ecological crises and pandemic disaster. Touching again on radical hospitality, Byron pointed to the practice of St. Benedict—to accept all people into your house as if they were Christ. He concluded that “to seek that of God in others, we must shed the view that there is only one truth.”

Many expressions of gratitude were offered for Byron’s presentation and leadings. It was a deeply enriching gathering of Friends in friendship and grace.

The annual AFC white-elephant sale produced approximately \$600 in donations. Thanks to all who contributed and purchased items for this good cause.

The Midyear Planning Committee thanked Bear Creek Monthly Meeting for again hosting a warm and cordial gathering. Gratitude was expressed to all who contributed in time, effort, and consideration to make this gathering successful.

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

MIDYEAR MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT

Contributions		\$2,829.00
Expenses	(\$2,203.52)	
Hosting fee	(300.00)	
Total Expenses		(\$2,503.52)
To Scattergood School		
Student Travel expense		\$ 325.48

Osa Bricker
Midyear Meeting treasurer

MIDYEAR MEETING YOUTH PROGRAM REPORT

The spring days brought warm sunshine. The weather was wonderful for Midyear Meeting held at Bear Creek Meeting, on Fourth Month 2nd and 3rd.

The theme selected by speaker Byron Sandford, centered on Quaker youth and the future of Quakerism. Several from Junior Yearly Meeting and Young Friends were able to attend. Twelve students and staff from Scattergood school also joined in the gathering. The young participants were invited to participate in the weekend activities, attending the program with the adults, small group discussions, worship and outdoor activities.

On Saturday afternoon there was time for an Alternative to Violence workshop on conflict resolution. Students and adults expressed interest in additional workshops during the year. The Scattergood students and staff stayed overnight in the cottage at Bear Creek.

The first warm days of spring were great for volleyball and Frisbee games on the lawn. It was warm enough to hike the prairie and wade in the river at a nearby park.

Appreciation was expressed for the youth who attended and shared their views and enthusiasm at the gathering. Speaker Byron Sandford

encouraged Friends to include our youth in the life of the meeting from a young age. The topic of the weekend was encouraging for all ages.

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Leckband, Junior Yearly Meeting
Megan Knight, Young Friends facilitator

BEAR CREEK COTTAGE PROJECT REPORT

The Bear Creek cottage project was nearly complete by Midyear Meeting this year. The installation of a stairway and railing in the loft made additional space for hospitality. We welcomed twelve Scattergood students and 2 staff who stayed overnight in the cottage during Midyear Meeting.

We are encouraged that this project is now finished, and has been used for worship, committee meetings, youth activities, and hospitality. We have learned much during the discernment process. Replacing the old schoolhouse was a step of faith and hope for the future.

Friends at Bear Creek would like to express appreciation for the support of Iowa Yearly Meeting and individuals with this project. We invite you to visit if your travels bring you to this area.

In the Light,
Bear Creek Friends Meeting

We listened to the report of the Interim Meeting. We are glad that our work continues through the year in between sessions. The clerk will make sure that all the monthly meetings of our yearly meeting receive a copy of the approved letter and minute regarding the urgent need to reduce CO₂ emissions.

INTERIM MEETING MINUTES

The meeting began with silence. The clerk reflected on the richness of our tradition of conducting business in the manner of worship. Minutes of last year's Interim Meeting were read.

We approved for 2012 Alice Hampton continuing to serve as clerk and Carol Gilbert continuing to serve as assistant clerk.

If way opens, Sarah Winchell Mickle has agreed to be an Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) visitor, along with her husband, to Ohio Yearly Meeting Eighth Month, 9-14, 2011. Meg McCormick would be honored to visit North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) in 2011

on behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). Travelers who need funds in order to attend should seek permission from the yearly meeting clerk ahead of time to see if they can use the clerk's contingency fund.

To encourage participation of Friends in intermeeting visitations, before next year's Interim Meeting, the interim meeting clerk will send out an advance communication requesting participants interested in visiting other Yearly Meeting gatherings to put forth their names for consideration by Interim Meeting.

Two copies of a draft of Faith and Practice, the Book of Discipline of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) were distributed to representatives from each monthly meeting. Monthly meetings are instructed to review this document and carefully discern as a group whether any changes are necessary. Monthly meetings should look for substantive changes, and describe the reason for their concern and why the change is necessary, noting editorial problems when found. Spelling and grammar errors will be fixed. Monthly meetings are asked to return their comments to the Discipline Revision Committee by June 1. This draft is the result of many years of labor on the part of the committee.

We approved the suggestion brought forward by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee to send the following letter to the elected representatives of our monthly meetings as follows:

Members of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) (or monthly meetings of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)) are gravely concerned by the refusal of the U.S. Congress to address climate change. We very much appreciate the efforts of the Environmental Protection Agency to fulfill their responsibility, as enforced by a recent Supreme Court decision, to reduce carbon dioxide emissions as one important way to help mitigate the damage being done to the environment. During the Interim Meeting of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) held 4/2/2011, at Bear Creek Meeting near Earlham, Iowa, the meeting approved the following minute to record: While many members of Congress are concerned about the costs that would be incurred to reduce CO₂ emissions, that entirely misses the point, which is the catastrophic effects of the resultant increase in temperature from the greenhouse gas effect that will continue to occur if this is not addressed. If the planet is uninhabitable, economics will be meaningless. The efforts of the EPA should not only be supported, but significantly more must be done immediately to dramatically reduce CO₂ emissions.

Alice Hampton, clerk

Catherine Dorenbach, assistant clerk in Carol Gilbert's absence

We listened to the interesting AFSC Corporation report from our yearly meeting's representatives.

**AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE
CORPORATION REPORT**

The American Friends Service Committee met this year for the first time in March. Philadelphia was surprisingly beautiful in the early Spring sunshine, a good omen for the hard work ahead. The Service Committee had for the last two years been dealing with the fallout from the world financial crisis and was now preparing to go forward with new leadership and new strategies. A new financial plan was being put into place and proposals were on the table for streamlining the organizational structure. The Corporation agreed to reduce the size of the Board by about one-half to 25 members. This will be done by attrition over a number of years so that no one will lose their present seat. Many discussions were held about the size and role of the Corporation but any decisions were put off until the next meeting. I think it is safe to say that most members of the Corporation feel strongly that some change is needed but agreement on a direction that serves both the needs of the AFSC and the wider Friends community has yet to be discerned. Other changes that are in the works include changing the regional maps that divide the work within the U.S. These changes will not include any office closings but will attempt to simplify AFSC's national geography. In our Central Region, new or renewed offices are slated for Saint Louis and Minneapolis.

Much exciting work has taken place this year. Beth Spence of AFSC's West Virginia Economic Justice Program was the lead writer of a report commissioned by the West Virginia Governor that did a much needed thorough investigation into the causes of the Upper Big Branch Coal Mine Explosion that caused the deaths of 29 workers. It has been carefully read by mine safety and Labor Leaders around the world. A project entitled Windows and Mirrors chronicles artists' responses to the human tragedy of the 10-year-old war in Afghanistan. The Chicago Opening was well reviewed in the New York Times and a video version is available on the AFSC website. Monthly "Live Meetings" are now being held discussing different aspects of our work and are later posted on You Tube. This is an easy way to keep track of the various important work that we do.

As the financial picture continues to improve, the AFSC is ready to continue its work with improved organization and that can expand to meet new challenges that arise for the AFSC, the Friends community's most visible presence in the world.

For the committee,
Bob Yeats, convener

We listened attentively to the epistle from Ohio Yearly Meeting. Their epistle helped us to appreciate the connection between our yearly meetings, and showed us the potential for even deeper ties.

We have not yet received the epistle from North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). We will read it if it arrives later in the week, if there is time. In any case, it will be printed in the minute book.

**EPISTLE FROM
OHIO YEARLY MEETING**

8-16-10

To Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Dear Friends,

Verily, verily I say unto you, he that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

John 5:24

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in whose light we have gathered near Barnesville, Ohio for our one hundred ninety-eighth annual session.

During our Yearly Meeting from Eighth Month 09 through Eighth Month 15, 2010, we have appreciated presentations and programs that guide us to deeper contemplation of Scripture, Growing in Silence, and Holiness in our spiritual lives. We are painfully aware of the military conflicts and the economic woes that beset the world, and we welcome these opportunities to turn aside from the headlines and consider matters of greater import. We deeply appreciated the program on “Gems in Scripture,” focusing on Jeremiah, Paul’s Epistles, and Revelation. In “Growing in Silence,” a lifelong OYM Friend shared his spiritual path and his faith. “Holiness Today and its Part in Enriching Our Spiritual Lives,” was presented by a recorded minister from the faculty of Earlham School of Religion, and stimulated much thoughtful and prayerful discussion.

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 greater understanding of our Quaker faith and practice of unprogrammed worship.

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

We are laboring with the possibility of revising some of our General Queries, and ask that you hold us in prayer as this process continues.

We are glad to have had an Iowa Friend, Marshall Massey, with us this week, and a North Carolina Friend, Nancy Craft, as well. We look forward to future sessions when we again experience the strengthening presence of Friends from both of our sister Conservative Yearly Meetings.

In the light and Love of our Lord,
Seth B. Hinshaw, Clerk

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

Seventh Month 17, 2010

Greetings to Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative from North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative, meeting at Guilford College in the middle of Seventh Month.

We are enjoying new routines on campus, as we meet in different buildings and stay in a different dormitory from those in which we have met over several decades in the past. We have endured the usual sultry weather of the height of summer in North Carolina.

Early in the first business session we heard with interest and pleasure your epistle to us, and we continue to appreciate the communication and the sharing between our two yearly meetings. We regret that no one from Iowa was able to join us at our sessions. We noted the addition of Yahara Monthly Meeting to your membership and understand the promise of adding new members who can share both some of the work and the spiritual journey which you are taking.

We have been enriched by many visitors from several meetings in nearby states, as well as those from the west coast of the United States, Alaska, Great Britain, and Kenya. They have enriched our worship, led our bible study, and joined in our afternoon conversations.

During our time together, we have focused our evening sessions on “Spirituality and the Arts” as we considered the changing views of Friends toward the arts over the last three centuries and shared personal stories of five of the artists in our midst of how spirituality and the arts have been expressed in their lives.

We have considered how the yearly meeting and its members support one another and others. We embraced the importance of sending delegates from our yearly meeting to the 2012 World Conference of the Friends World Committee for Consultation in Kenya but realized that we must find ways to support these delegates financially. At the same time the body of ministers, elders, and overseers spent considerable time discerning in what manner we can nurture Friends from outside the current boundaries of our yearly meeting region. We are thankful for the care and guidance our leaders of the youth program have given to the children and teens under their care. We have noted with satisfaction the eagerness the youth have shown to come to yearly meeting each summer and to spend time together.

We send our prayers to you in Christian fellowship for peace in the world and compassion toward those who are suffering and are in need.

Yours in Divine Love
Richard Miller, clerk

In listening to the excerpts from the many epistles we received from around the world, we are blessed by the good reminders of who we are and who we want to grow into. We enjoyed hearing such a lovely selection, and thank Yahara Friends for the loving care in which they attend to this for us.

We are deeply concerned for the suffering of our Friends in Norway. The meeting asks the special replies committee to send a message of hope and condolence on our behalf so they know that we are holding them in the Light.

SELECTIONS FROM EPISTLES FROM OTHER YEARLY MEETINGS

South Central Yearly Meeting

“... In her keynote, Nadine (Hoover) challenged us to go deeper with the spirit and to know each other in that which is eternal. She asked us to consider what we really need, getting rid of the stuff that gets in the way. She gave us kindling, sparks and fuel, opening us to a life of being Quakers all the time, not just on First Day. We learned that we must continue to be attuned when spirit says, ‘not now, go rest’, and when

spirit says ‘way is open.’ Many found themselves ready to go back and accept their home meeting where it is, and look anew for spirit there. We are grateful for the new relationships we are taking away and the reminder that God is always with us. . . .”

Yearly Meeting of Aotearoa/New Zealand

“There was an impassioned call for Friends to engage in the discussion about the need for a constitutional review that is currently taking place in Aotearoa/New Zealand. Proposals are to be presented to Yearly Meeting in 2012.

“The present structure of government concentrates power in the hands of a small political elite influenced by lobbyists and overseas interests. This process ignores the promise of equal power that is embodied in the 1840 Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi.

“. . . Aspects of participation in the Asia West Pacific Section of the FWCC were recounted by our four Friends at the gathering in Manila, the Philippines in April 2011. They gave us a glimpse of the wider Quaker world. We look forward to supporting our member Patricia Macgregor as she takes over the position of Section Clerk, and support all our Friends attending the World Conference in Kenya in 2012.

“. . . Friends exchanged impassioned views on ways to reduce or offset the environmental cost of travel on behalf of YM. This discussion broadened to how we can reduce our carbon footprint individually and collectively. We acknowledge the imperative of moving to renewable sources of energy and changing lifestyles. The task is to find ways to do this without imposing moral ‘guilt trips’ on individuals.”

New England Yearly Meeting

“We are challenged to break free from fear and old habits, from the arrogance and materialism of our culture. Our patient, forgiving, ever-present Guide will show us the way.

“Though we may stumble, though our hearts be distracted by our own notions, though at times our trust fails and our strength falters, the Holy One never abandons us, but still and always works among us with light, joy, and mysterious power, waiting for us to turn and embrace our Shepherd.”

Ireland Yearly Meeting

“Our outreach is not measured by increased numbers but by increased dialogue and communication but we cannot expect to go unchallenged; indeed we must not only face the challenges, but invite

them. Outreach requires us to listen, as well as to speak and help can come from unexpected quarters but we must be open to receive it.

“We are called to be Friends, showing the mark of Christ as we go about our daily lives. Although it has become common practice in recent years to refer to ourselves as ‘Quakers’, this has limited potential in terms of outreach. There is a familiarity with the term and the listener may presume understanding and inquire no further. The use of the word ‘Friend’ however, requires us to give an explanation of who we are.

“We were uplifted by the description of Sweden Yearly Meeting, which manages to engage in a wide range of activities despite the fact that they have only 100 members. There are many examples of small groups or individuals making a difference in the world. As Friends we believe that God has given us all the resources we need, and if we use these gifts we can do all that is required and more.”

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

“We the K-1 grade ‘Fox’ group of the Children’s Sessions gathered together from Wed., July 28 through Sun., August 1, 2010. We spent time learning how to be prophets by centering, searching for the truth, having courage, finding God and asking big questions (like, ‘Where is God?’ and ‘Can I have a dog?’). We learned that God can be found in the smallest bugs, and although we are small, each of us has the courage to speak Truth. The Fox Friends would encourage Friends of PYM to be open to the voice of God, no matter how scary it may seem, how little you are, or how big. God’s message is to you.”

German Yearly Meeting

“We heard the call:

“Seek first

Wait in the silence

Endure the emptiness

In the emptiness there is also space for the cry born of deepest need

The emptiness is our treasure.

Trust, for the Kingdom of God is here, in this world.”

Intermountain Yearly Meeting

“Kara Newell, member of Reedwood Friends Church in Portland and former General Secretary of both Friends United Meeting and AFSC, spoke with us about Quaker Service in the 21st Century. In her address she asked us to consider several questions. Is service different in the 21st

Century? Are the tools different? Are we as a Meeting called to engage in service? What are the gifts and challenges of giving and what are the gifts and challenges of receiving? Should we concentrate on giving service locally or abroad? Do we temper our leadings to do service by being responsive to the voices of those that we seek to serve? She stressed the need to take time to discern what we are called to do, to listen patiently with spirit and heart. Having discerned what our service should be, we should share the decision with a spiritual friend who can be honest and pray with us, and then to live into the decision through action. The motivation for service must always be love. Kara challenged us to pray daily for a person we find ‘difficult’, in order to ‘live love’ as well as to speak it. As John Woolman reminds us, ‘Love is the first motion.’”

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association

“We are blessed with a vibrant youth program from our active, inquisitive Junior Yearly Meeting to the continuing growth of Young Adult Friends in active service to Friends and the wider world. The gift that pulls these two points together is our Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) program. Our delight continues at the growth of these young people as they experience their spiritual journeys into Quakerism and deepening their identity as Friends.

“Even though early Friends felt that dancing and music were distractions from following the Spirit, our Hibbard Thatcher memorial dance and talent show brings all generations together in play and laughter that enlightens our spirits.

“The meeting for remembrance reminds us not only of our shared losses but celebrates these Friends as a way to keep our history alive.”

Baltimore Yearly Meeting

“This year Baltimore Yearly Meeting gathered for its Annual Session to consider the theme ‘Leadings for Today: Lessons from History.’ Our stated goal was to explore racism. But this is a theme more broadly applicable in our work as a yearly meeting. Queries posted on the BYM website asked:

“What do those Friends who have gone before have to teach us still, in a world where divisions persist? How can we learn from both their successes and their shortcomings? How do we hold one another accountable for our behavior and strive to evoke and recognize that of God in everyone we meet? Woolman was led to challenge the enslaving of others. What is Spirit calling us to do?”

“Racism is an old burden, and one we should never forget we carry. But we bear other burdens as Friends, as a Yearly Meeting, and as a society. We were challenged this year to consider our own prejudices and actions as a Yearly Meeting in a variety of ways.”

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

FIFTH DAY – THURSDAY – 7/28/2011

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

We do distinguish betwixt . . . saving heart-knowledge and soaring airy head-knowledge. The last, we confess, may be by divers ways obtained; but the first, by no other way than the inward immediate manifestation and revelation of God’s Spirit, shining in and upon the heart, enlightening and opening the understanding.

—Robert Barclay

Mary Snyder and Bob Yeats have been appointed readers this morning.

MINUTE OF THIRD AND FOURTH DAY ACTIVITIES

Mary and Stephen Snyder shared their experience of “Living Quaker Testimonies in Mexico City” for our Evening Collection on Third Day. We learned how community for people of all ages and backgrounds at the Casa de los Amigos takes many forms, including creating a safe space, listening into healing, sharing stories, meals, and even dancing.

In the afternoon of Fourth Day, Friends gathered to listen to reports from Rebekah DeWild, IYMC representative to the Iowa Peace Network, Jonathan Fisch, IYMC representative to the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and Jon Krieg from the AFSC Central Region office.

Later in the afternoon, a listening session of the ad hoc Discipline Revision Committee offered a final opportunity for Friends to discuss their concerns and the wording of the revised Faith and Practice of the yearly meeting discipline. We labored together over five different sections of the document being brought before the body for approval later this week.

At the Evening Collection for Fourth Day, Callie Marsh spoke of testimonies, and how that word can be used to mean “witness to Truth”. She encouraged us faithfully to pray to be true to whatever small bit of Light that we are given, and to challenge our faith to live our testimonies. To live our testimonies is to live God’s love.

We are blessed to have the presence of these visitors: Bridget Moix of FCNL and Santiago Fernandez Moix, both of Washington Friends, Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

We listened to the interesting Friends World Committee for Consultation report. In view of the fast approaching October 2011 deadline to register for the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, it is imperative that we move quickly to identify any 16- to 18-year olds who are interested in attending. The yearly meeting has funds to support this. Penny Majors from yearly meeting representative to FWCC will speak to Young Friends about this opportunity during this week, and all of us will identify and encourage those Young Friends we know that might not be here. This information will also be included in the clerk's letter that goes out to all of our monthly meetings immediately following yearly meeting.

Ebby Luvaga, our delegate to the Sixth World Conference in Kenya goes with our love. We look forward to hearing her report next year.

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Iowa Yearly Meeting representatives to the FWCC Section of the Americas were not able to attend the annual meeting this past March in Philadelphia. We are hopeful that someone will be able to attend in 2012.

News from FWCC revolves around a few important events. Robin Mohr from San Francisco Monthly Meeting of Pacific Yearly Meeting started her tenure as the new Executive Secretary for the Section of the Americas on June 16. She brings to the position extensive experience in organizational fundraising and has lived in Colombia and Mexico. She graduated from Georgetown University with a degree in Foreign Service with a concentration in Regional Studies in Latin America, and she speaks fluent Spanish.

As many of you know, the Sixth World Conference of Friends will be held at Kabarak University in Nakuru, Kenya in April, 2012. Our own Ebby Luvaga will represent our yearly meeting. The theme of the conference is: "Being Salt and Light: Friends Living the Kingdom of God in a Broken World". FWCC is making a concerted effort to make the conference affordable to Friends from around the world and has set up a "sliding scale" fee schedule. In addition, Friends are asked to contribute individually and through monthly and yearly meetings to raise \$56,000 in travel funds to support Friends from around the world who might not otherwise be able to attend.

Also in 2012, the biennial Quaker Youth Pilgrimage will be held July 12 to August 13 in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, for Quaker youth who are 16 to 18 years old. The cost for the pilgrimage is \$3,600 and the deadline for application is October 21, 2011. Yearly meeting youth are encouraged to explore this opportunity.

For the committee,
Penny Majors

We listened to the report from the Publication Committee. We appreciate all the good work they do on our behalf.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Publication Committee became larger and was restructured over the past year, leading to new and revised products—and a few growing pains along the way. We thank the outgoing clerk for his years of comprehensive service and for his guidance during the past year.

Highlights during the previous year include:

- The minute book has a slightly revised appearance and contains additional and revised indexes.
- The directory section includes additional content.
- The website is redesigned and resides at a new address.
- Committee processes are more thoroughly documented to reflect wider distribution of responsibilities.

Three hundred twenty copies of the *Minutes* were printed by Goodfellow Printing of Iowa City. Printing charges were the same as last year (though we took delivery of twenty more copies), but freight charges increased. Cost breakdowns are as follows.

Product/Service	Average Cost Per Copy	Total
Printing a total of 320 copies	\$6.80	\$2,175.00
Freight to ship 176 copies to meetings	\$0.78	138.00
Print shop charges		<u>\$2,313.00</u>
55 individual copies: supplies + postage	\$4.65	<u>255.57*</u>
Total charges		<u>\$2,568.57</u>

*Increase from last year due to shipping method

Goodfellow Printing shipped boxes of *Minutes* to distant monthly meetings. The committee delivered copies to eastern Iowa meetings and mailed copies to individuals and organizations, both domestic and overseas. The cost for this category of mailing was considerably higher than reported last year due to shipping method. The committee will inquire whether Goodfellow can begin shipping individual copies also and at a reasonable cost.

The directory now includes email addresses and phone numbers connected to individuals and not just households, as well as cross references to connect people living in the same household who have different last names. A more compact layout allowed the additional content to require no more pages than last year.

QuakerNet, the yearly meeting's website, was revised for use during this year while more comprehensive redesigning was undertaken. We hope that the new site is user friendly while maintaining access to a wide range of useful information. The web address is now "www.iymc.org" to more clearly identify its source and content. The old QuakerNet address redirects users to the new address. Hosting fees from BlueHost were \$107.40, which is unchanged from last year.

Total committee expenses for the year were \$2,657.73.

The committee is undertaking efforts to streamline and clarify the flow and handling of reports to the yearly meeting, from authorship through clerks and publication. We are describing the process during yearly meeting sessions this year and hope to incorporate its elements as appropriate throughout the coming year.

For the committee,
Margie Haworth, Steve Deatherage, Ken Lawrence

We listened to the 2010 Entertainment Committee Report. It reminded us how much our annual sessions nourish us, and we understand the need to support it with our financial contributions being collected in the dining hall during the week.

We discussed how to make our planning system as efficient as can be. In order to share work, there must be agreement between all the monthly meetings as to how we are going to do this.

A.M. Fink will update the instruction and information files that are passed among the meetings. This information will also be posted on our web page.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2010

The monthly meetings of Lincoln, Omaha and Paullina hosted the 2010 Iowa Yearly Meeting annual session. The theme for the session was "Tapping Into God's Love." A panel of yearly meeting members shared their experiences of Friends General Conference Gatherings, familiarizing us with that organization which will hold its 2011 Gathering in Iowa. Ken and Katherine Jacobsen of Delavan, Wisconsin and members of Ohio Yearly Meeting shared their experience of worship with a body prayer expressing "release, receive, and offer the Life and Light of Love." Ken and Maia Tapp, of Janesville, Wisconsin, Beloit Monthly Meeting, through photography and poetry expressed the "Prayer of the World," an environmental concern expressed through art. Zachary Moon, of Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting now living in Atlanta, told the biblical story of Samuel and Eli. Callie Marsh of West Branch Meeting led the morning Bible study.

The Entertainment Committee for 2010 suggests trying a new way of hosting yearly meeting. An ongoing committee might care for all the necessary details and the rotating groups of monthly meetings, the Entertainment Committee, might plan the evening programs and Bible study.

Receipts

Received from 2009 committee	\$ 2,000
Contributions	10,124
Total receipts	<u>\$12,124.00</u>

Expenses

Scattergood Friends School	\$ 9,600
Child Care	400
Travel	282.89
Total Expenses	<u>\$10,282.89</u>

Remaining in Entertainment Committee account \$1,841.11

For the committee,
Jean Eden

We listened to the report of the Special Needs Committee. We appreciate the ongoing work of the committee and the school. It was good to see the progress that has been made. We thank the committee for helping us grow.

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE REPORT

A lot of thought and effort has gone into making Scattergood and Iowa Yearly Meeting more accessible over the past three summers. These efforts have focused on a number of different issues and there has been progress made on most issues but not all. We will continue to work on all of these issues with the hope of raising the awareness of everyone at yearly meeting so that these become concerns of the group as a whole which are addressed by every individual whenever an opportunity presents itself.

Improvement in the sound system in the Meeting House has been a concern for many years and a lot of work has gone into assuring that every individual in attendance can hear the proceedings. Of course this requires the cooperation of all in attendance because those speaking must be willing to wait until they have a microphone in hand. There has been marked improvement over the years in Friends cooperating with this system. We thank you for helping us grow together.

Access to buildings on campus such as the dining hall and dorms have required some creativity as there are some buildings that are more accessible than others. Because of this, access to appropriate housing and bathing facilities is more difficult than it should be for those with mobility issues.

Renting a golf cart has been a reasonable solution for many for getting to the dining hall by way of the back entrance. It was noted last year that some Friends had difficulty getting into the golf cart so this year there is a step stool to assist with this concern.

Getting to that back entrance by electric scooter is also a reasonable option in good weather. Although getting there via wheelchair is possible for some individuals under the best conditions, it is not easy. It can be particularly difficult getting back up the hill. This depends greatly on the particular wheelchair and the physical capabilities of the person in question. We look forward to the day Scattergood has an elevator that would make the dining hall truly accessible.

There are also aspects of the buildings and grounds that need to be addressed in regard to access. For instance there is a need for a ramp for accessing the stage in the Meeting House. Without access to the stage there are individuals who will be unable to serve as readers, unable to participate in the talent show, unable to serve as clerk. Without a ramp to

the deck under the tree in front of Main many opportunities for socialization are missed.

We've also been working on accessibility of the bathroom off the dining room. It now has a grab bar and a new toilet with a raised seat. Thank you Scattergood, this is real progress.

Getting around the dining hall is one of the most difficult of the access issues. It is a small space serving a great many people so it is vitally important that everyone be looking out for one another in that environment. Whether it is getting food for someone or something as simple as noticing that someone is having difficulty carrying their tray and offering to carry it for them, help is greatly appreciated. We have tried having folks sign up to be in charge of looking after these sorts of things but it is really everyone's responsibility.

The Special Needs Committee really appreciates the support and encouragement members of Yearly Meeting and the Scattergood staff has given us in addressing these issues. It is clear that Scattergood truly wants to make the school accessible not only for the benefit of IYM but also for the benefit of their staff and students.

The more we pursue this accessibility issue the more concerns we see, but it all eventually comes down to basic consideration for one another which is really the responsibility of us all.

Echo (Linda Ray), clerk

We listened carefully and prayerfully to selected monthly meeting responses to the yearly meeting queries chosen by the assistant clerk. We were reminded that the opportunity to hear the responses to the queries gives us insight into the spiritual life of our monthly meetings. We appreciate the work of the assistant clerk in making these selections for us.

QUERIES AND SELECTED RESPONSES

1. MEETING FOR WORSHIP

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

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

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

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

Selected Response: We all try to prepare for worship with quiet activities or stillness, even when our family lives don't always make it easy. Drinking coffee and reading the paper can be part of our preparation. We can also consider First Day a traditional Sabbath by taking care of practical chores ahead, so we're not distracted by everyday duties.

We thought that Quakers no longer needed to grapple with the gender of the divine, but in fact it is an old issue that is so deep in traditional religion that it continues to haunt us. For many of us the proliferation of good writing on feminist spirituality that flourished in the 80's was an essential step; as we found biblical and other references to the feminine side of God, we could break away from the patriarchal view. Now in places like our meeting chances abound for us to hear new metaphors from each other. We are skeptical of putting God into any box, but since "God" cannot be described in words, metaphors are necessary and may be mistaken for boxes. We may interpret these through our own lenses; for example, the idea of God as parent may seem repressive to one person but to another it may be a softer term than God as judge. We can have fun with common metaphors for the divine, looking at them in new ways.

For a surprising number of us, doing routine chores with a background of religious or other music can become a kind of worship. Short moments of meditation before a hectic activity or before meals are effective as well. Others aspire to longer periods of meditation.

We carry with us from meeting for worship a piece of the divine that we may have experienced there. As a native American said to John Woolman, whose words he did not understand, "I love to feel the place where words come from." Our actions or words, "right speech" to the Buddhists, when they come from the place of silence we have experienced in worship, speak of our values. We are bringing into our daily lives the heightened awareness that we have experienced together.

2. OUTREACH

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

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

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

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

Selected Response: Our immediate response to what we do to share the message of Friends in the larger community is “not enough.” Then we considered some of the ways we reach out to the community.

We recently co-sponsored a book discussion on *What's Right With Islam Is What's Right With America* at the public library. Every April 15, we make a Tax Day witness at the downtown post office. As with our concern about navigating around Ames safely on foot and bicycle throughout the year, we voice our concerns to elected officials and in the newspaper. We contribute money to a number of local organizations, including the Emergency Residence Project, the Assault Care Center, and Good Neighbor. Nationally, we support AFSC and FCNL.

It is easier to share the fruits of our faith rather than the roots. Sometimes speaking the truth offends people, but it is still important to speak our truth, even as we know what seems true for us is not what seems true for everyone. It helps if we can find some point of agreement and build on that.

No, we are probably not welcoming to people of all creeds. People with some belief systems would probably not be comfortable in our midst. Quakers can get into trouble trying to be accepting of everything. We can be wishy-washy, indirect and false. Someone with beliefs opposite to Quaker testimonies may still be a good person, even though they might not be happy in meeting. Not everyone is willing to worship with us.

It is possible to love people without agreeing with them.

We may be too literate for people who do not read. What if all our books were destroyed? Would our actions speak our faith? Does the faith we live mirror the words we write about ourselves?

It is a gift of the spirit to see God in everyone. We can always pray for people—anyone and everyone.

3. MEETING FOR BUSINESS

Query: *How can we hold our meeting 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: Because we are a small meeting, we don't seem to suffer under the pressure of time. We are able to spend time following meeting for worship and before meeting for business as a social time and then following meeting for business, we again have a time to relate to one another without feeling frustrated by differences of opinion. We strive to attend meeting for business with the same openness we approach meeting for worship. Part of our responsibility lies in just attending the meeting for business.

Discerning clerks are a great help in bringing out the sense of the meeting and the individual feelings. This discernment helps the process of making decisions and the smooth running of the meeting from being so laborious. It is the duty of clerks to bring forth issues and encouraging discussion on what we should do about them. Sometimes problems don't come to the surface until they are a significant problem.

Do we have problems? Do topics come up that cause division? Of course, and it is always easy to find wedge issues. Topics on which we have not easily found consensus include where we are meeting, abortion, homosexual and transgender issues. A sense of respect for each individual's views is demonstrated in the meeting by the fact that we don't actively avoid wedge topics. When someone differs from the rest, often an offer to stand aside is put forward. Individuals should respect the fact that they are getting out of the way of the group and continue to respect the individual and their differing ideas or leanings, while acknowledging their willingness to set aside their wants.

In a couple of weeks we are planning to discuss where we are going as a meeting. Everyone has a piece of the truth and they are not all necessarily the same. Our piece leads our individual actions toward the whole. We need to use each person's strengths as we slip into our roles. We tend to act as a family or a small rural meeting rather than a meeting in a size more typical to a larger metropolitan area.

In Yearly Meeting for Business it is often harder to attain these concepts, as it is a much bigger meeting.

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 need for individual time with each other is important to the “harmony” of a meeting. Car pooling is not only good for the environment, but to achieve the one-on-one time for talking and listening.

There was a discussion of late arrivals at Meetings for Worship, which are common, and disruptive to some people. We could ask late-comers to enter through the kitchen door and then enter quietly and enter as a group, say 10–15 minutes into the meeting. We suggest that this be an item for discussion at meeting for business.

5. MUTUAL CARE

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

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

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

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

Selected Response: We have a core group of regular attenders who know each other well and often share each other’s concerns, burdens, and joys. We are not sure we do well at following up with visitors and occasional attenders, perhaps feeling that some visitors want to be anonymous.

Even for visitors who do not want to bare their souls it might be important that we share more with them, especially about what goes on in the silence. Our sharing time at the end of the worship hour is a good opportunity for this, and reading the book *Listening Spirituality* is helping us to be more conscious of our spiritual practices, and perhaps more able to share. We are reminded that we can be led to a “teaching ministry” which can be helpful to members and visitors alike. For some of us, expressing the spiritual life in words is very important, and for others worship is a distinctly non-verbal activity.

We keep ourselves busy and don’t always leave space in our lives to follow God’s leadings, including the basic one: to love each other.

6. EDUCATION

Query: *How can we most effectively foster a spirit of inquiry and a loving and understanding attitude toward life?*

What effort are we making to become better acquainted with the Bible, the teachings of Jesus, our Judeo-Christian heritage, the history and principles of Friends, and the contributions of other religions and philosophies to our spiritual heritage?

In what ways can we encourage an educational process that is consistent with the values Friends cherish? How do gender based expectations affect the goals we set and the way we learn?

Do we take an active and supportive interest in schools, libraries and other educational resources in our communities and elsewhere?

How do we prepare ourselves and our children to play active roles in a changing world?

Selected Response: We see evidence in our younger people that both a spirit of inquiry and a loving and understanding attitude toward life have been nurtured. In lives of service to family and community and in continuing commitment to Quakerism we see this playing out and we celebrate. Probably the best way we can nurture these qualities is to model them in our own lives.

In Omaha Meeting many are directly involved in education as teachers and in Lincoln Meeting a number are retired teachers and a few facilitate AVP. Two in Lincoln Meeting are on the Scattergood School Committee, so in some ways can affect education. However, others of us have concerns about the direction public education is taking in the country, and, not being directly involved, do not see how we can do anything to redirect it. We see public education as fostering competition and compliance rather than inquiry and caring. We are concerned that we in the U. S. are so self centered about our country that we cannot see ourselves as we truly are, continuing to believe that we are leaders in science, medicine, and ethical behavior, when in fact we are not. It was noted that in Lincoln we do have a good school board which needs support as it challenges the direction the nation is taking.

We know that we are not preparing ourselves for a changing world when we complain about how things are not as they were in the old days. It seems that in the present time there is too much information and not enough reflection. We ask ourselves, what would it mean for me to prepare myself for an active role in a changing world?

While we recognize that education in many ways, helps us know how to live better lives, there may be too much reliance in our culture on formal education and degrees of various kinds. We need to respect different kinds of education—that learned by the people who went before

us and that gained in reading or personal experience. We need to approach a new situation with a sense of both what can I teach or share and what can I learn? We can often learn from those without formal education. We need one another and we need to listen carefully to those who have something to say. We could learn much from our own library.

How do we foster a spirit of loving inquiry? The Mandan people would put things where people would see them. Some put themselves and their children where they can see things of interest. A guest once told our meeting that the way to get students involved in inquiry is through a trusting relationship with a teacher; a trusting relationship is the starting point. We have to make opportunities available and not insist that we know the answers. We continue to learn throughout our lives. Of utmost importance, we agree, is to be our best selves.

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: Although we usually think of a family as a group of people living together, we are reminded that in many ways our meeting is much like a family. We are struck by the second paragraph of the Advice, being aware that this description can also apply to our meeting community: “A family, whatever its composition, is a unique and sometimes fragile bonding of people. At its best, it is concerned with the welfare of the whole and each of its constituents.” Many in our meeting have their actual biological families living far away, yet still we care about their well being as much as family members whom we see every day.

One member expressed appreciation that in her Scattergood family there are scheduled times for silence and meditation. The expectation is that everyone in the school community participates, and this provides a needed incentive and structure for moments of quiet that could easily be crowded out by a busy schedule.

This sentiment was echoed by another member, who described a daily routine including scheduled times for silence and for communica-

tion. Meals can be an important time of sharing as well. Sometimes it is helpful to set aside a regular hour to discuss issues that arise and need mutual consideration.

In a family system, division of daily chores is essential, and family members usually find themselves playing particular roles of behavior and responsibility. As long as we are sensitive to individual needs and skills when choosing these roles, we feel that roles need not be eliminated and can be healthy and useful.

Keeping open lines of communication and giving conscious attention to the needs of the family as a whole and its individual members helps promote health and happiness in the family system. We know how easy it is to let these lines of communication close, that it takes effort and commitment to keep communication flowing. Yet it is worth the effort, for once closed, lines of communication are hard to re-open, and issues left unattended can result in future feelings of guilt and remorse.

On the lighter side, a sense of humor can be an important addition to family life. Having fun together, enjoying special meals and going out to movies or other entertainment can be a vital component to a healthy family.

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: A number of us feel that our lives are too cluttered with things and with activities. We recognize simplicity as a worthwhile goal but find it is a challenge to achieve. Perhaps some of our attachment to “things” comes from a lack of trust that our needs will be met. What constitutes clutter may be different for each of us at different times of our lives. As our physical circumstances change, our needs can also change. Experience and trust can be good partners. Sometimes tending to something one cares about can be misinterpreted as clutter.

Limiting the amount of space devoted to a particular type of “thing” can be useful in reducing clutter. A small but carefully selected amount of something can sometimes say more about someone than a large collection. Perhaps in our Reading Group we could explore this subject further.

A daily spiritual practice could be helpful, but is not always easy to maintain.

9. CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

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

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

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

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

Selected Response: We recognize the efforts of groups that represent similar values such as FCNL, AFSC, AVP, Iowa Peace Network, and Citizens for Community Improvement, and a local crisis intervention and advocacy center. We can encourage those who advocate for fairness and justice.

Friends feel it is important to share our concerns with those who are involved in making decisions about policy. We must carefully consider how to best speak truth to power, to not unduly offend our governmental representatives, yet to make clear to them if we have deep concerns about their positions on issues. As individuals we try to stay aware of local and global issues and be involved as we are called by the Spirit. We seek to be mindful of the Divine spirit within everyone.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

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

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

Selected Response: We discussed the various recycling programs available in our area and also shared the small ways we are trying to be good stewards of the earth. We also discussed the tradeoffs of buying locally grown food that may mean a trip to a town that is farther removed than buying from our local food market. It is discouraging to feel that in spite of our concern for the environment, nothing we do seems to make much of a difference.

The comment was made that we as a nation need to shift our thinking that growth is the answer to our economic problems and shift to a more sustainable pattern of living. We are also aware that population growth is at the core of many of our problems.

We recognize it is a balancing act between what we do practically and staying true to our spiritual concerns. We are aware of the violence that is prevalent in our relationships with the rest of creation, but aside from being conscious of changing our own patterns of living as best we can, our efforts seem minimal. We do try to nurture and respect life around us.

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: It is obvious to most of us that we are both beneficiaries and victims of our current economic and governmental systems. Ways we can address this situation directly are less clear.

Three members are involved with the Alternatives to Violence Program in South Dakota and Iowa. In listening to their examples of their interactions with those in the prison facilities we are kept current on the results coming from this program. It is inspiring to hear of these examples of the life of the Spirit awakening in people who are

incarcerated. Through their sharing plus those of educators in today's school systems we have been given a glimpse into what drives people to violence. We are thankful that there are programs like AVP that directly address the prevailing violence which seems inherent in our society today.

We try to speak out against prejudice against minority groups, but do not feel very effective when one comes across blatant statements. For example, how does one respond while visiting with an eighty-five-year-old neighbor with only an eighth-grade education who casually uses the "n" word when talking about our President. Turning such a statement into a question back to the person is good advice but difficult to follow in such instances.

We feel our support for Scattergood Friends School and the social awareness and concern it fosters in its students is one indirect way we help make our society into one that values everyone for who they are.

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: Discussion started with viewing nonviolence as avoidance of conflict. There may be a stereotype of Friends avoiding conflict as a form of nonviolence. The group acknowledged that conflict has the ability to bring people together. But how do we turn conflict of ideas into a positive thing?

A question was raised "How do you progress to dealing with conflict without a 'winner/loser' outcome?" It was pointed out that not all discussions of conflicting opinions or ideas need to be an engagement. If you differ, you can simply comment, "I see things differently" and let it go at that. It was pointed out that there are currently forums for training in civility and dealing with conflict available to us. Example: several had

heard Jim Leach speak this past Friday regarding civility. This is the first of a series of trainings in Des Moines as part of the Character Counts.

The discussion did identify a desire to avoid fueling anger with opposing conflicting thoughts and the complication when egos become involved. However, acknowledging difference without challenge can be done. Peace and harmony can be attained even with conflicting stands when the fact that there will be differences can be accepted.

Words can cause violence when misunderstood or said carelessly without intent to harm. This can be a daily practice to use words carefully so as not to cause violence.

It was pointed out that our meeting does not look for areas of conflict. As silence is a part of the meeting process, there may be a feeling that we respond to conflict with silence. Is that good? We also discussed silence vs. honesty. When is it better to respond to a conflicting statement voiced by someone with silence? Are we being honest with that person? Discussion included timing and coming back to a statement you do not agree with at a time when the environment may be better for discussion by both parties. It was also noted that healing is not the same as fixing. Healing comes from within and we all have the ability to heal.

It was felt that our culture may be conditioning us to violence by viewing violent television or films, by the use of machines of war in our national pageantry/celebration (military aircraft flyovers, for example), etc.

The power of “language of reconciliation” was also noted as a tremendous tool to defuse violence, as in South Africa.

We can look at our consumption habits and ways that we can project our belief in nonviolence. As George Fox said, “(We) seek to live in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars.”

It was also noted that as human beings we are capable of many emotions and actions. In some areas, it is believed that the human being is “hard wired” to do things to survive, from revenge to nurturing. The complete human being knows when it is necessary to be aggressive and when to be passive. It is the appropriateness of the action at the given time that is important.

The group acknowledged that Quakers can seem to be invisible, perhaps due to some of our tenets not to evangelize our beliefs. Early Quakers were not so much that way. The early Quakers acted on their beliefs and were persecuted for it often with jail or death. Times have changed. We tend to work to get our message out quietly.

Summary: “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.”

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

SIXTH DAY – FRIDAY – 7/29/2011
MORNING SESSION

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

Isaiah 58:11

Rebecca Bergus and Bill Deutsch have been appointed as readers this morning.

MINUTE OF
FIFTH DAY ACTIVITIES

Friends attended many committees. In the afternoon, interest groups were offered on a variety of subjects including: The Transition Movement, How Lobbying Makes a Difference, and Friends House in Moscow.

In the evening, Birdie Kisling, Beth Wilson, Don Laughlin, and Herbert Standing shared their experiences about what it meant to live a testimony of Quaker community in during the 1930s and 40s. Their stories gave a glimpse into how the conscientious objectors movement affected not only the men who refused to serve, but the women who took over their jobs and responsibilities while the men were in jail.

Friends expressed deep concern that the deeply moving stories that elderly Friends shared the previous evening would be lost to the coming generation of Friends. We hear this concern and resonate with it. We refer it to the ministry and council and archives committees, for now, and will discuss it tomorrow.

We welcome these visitors: Sara Smith, Concord Friends Meeting, Canterbury, New Hampshire, New England Yearly Meeting; Mike Conover, 57th St. Meeting of Friends, Chicago, Illinois, Illinois Yearly Meeting; Pat Mickiewicz, Portland, Oregon; Amanda Paul on Scattergood staff.

We heard the Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees Report. We appreciate their continued work on the behalf of the yearly meeting.

YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES REPORT

The Yearly Meeting Trustees appoint Gordon Bivens and Richard Johnson to the Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees.

Trustees Financial Report

Initial balance 7/1/2010	\$2,227.12
From Iowa Yearly Meeting	1,000.00
Interest earned	<u>2.72</u>
Total Funds Available	\$3,229.84
Disbursements	
AED Authority (Scattergood defibrillator)	\$2,255.10
Total Disbursements	<u>\$2,255.10</u>
Funds Available 6/30/2011	<u>\$974.74</u>

In the coming year we anticipate paying a maintenance contract of \$195 for the defibrillator and a new roof for the north side of the meeting house. The trustees' main concern is the upkeep of the meeting house. We find that we do not have the funds available for the new roof. Perhaps the above expense for the defibrillator could have come from special needs or some other line item in the yearly meeting budget and not from our modest budget. We ask the yearly meeting to grant us a no-interest loan of \$800, which will allow us to do the roofing project.

The attached Foundation report shows that the endowment is about \$3.5 million. The school received \$75,000. Assets increased by about \$300,000. The lack of new donations to the endowment remains a concern.

Prepared by A.M. Fink, clerk

We listened with love and attention to the moving Head of School, Farm, and Financial Reports from Scattergood. We heard of growth in many forms. This includes practical things like hiring new staff, raising funds to improve the facilities and learning resources, and enabling outside enrichment opportunities for both staff and students, as well as many other things. Scattergood continues to sustain students both while

they are in school and as they move into the world. We are grateful for a farm report that both started and continued from a deeply spiritual place.

Hearing these reports brought us great joy. Friends asked clarifying questions, and expressed gratitude for the comprehensiveness of the reports. We especially appreciate their transparency, and by including both the joys and struggles, giving us a rounded picture of the whole. Just as George Fox encouraged us to do, Scattergood is an inspiration to walk cheerfully over the earth, with respect for the earth. Parents deeply value the incredible love and support that the staff provides for the students. There are no words large enough to express the meeting's gratitude to the staff of Scattergood. Thank you.

**SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL
HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT**

*True godliness does not turn people out of the world,
but enables them to live better in it,
and excites their endeavors to mend it;
not hide their candle under a bushel,
but to set it upon a table in a candlestick.*

—William Penn, 1682

Over the course of the past year, I have perseverated with one overriding question. “What makes Scattergood an exemplary, one-of-a-kind school?”

After my first year, I know that as a community, we are engaged, self-reflective, intent on reaching for excellence, and committed to helping make a better world. In terms of our curriculum, we aim to educate both inside and outside of the classroom so that students exercise creative thinking and problem-solving skills, exhibit good listening and communication skills, and can collaborate with many different people who may not think in the same ways. And in terms of Scattergood's spirit—this elusive characterization that embraces character and Quaker principles, values and morality—we hope that the Scattergood community strives to embody this spirit so that we become more human and humane, wise and humble, connected and connecting, enthusiastic and open to life's continuing revelations.

What a community. It is time for us to throw a wider net so that more people can connect and reconnect with this beautiful school, this incredible mission, this worthwhile endeavor. We have work to do in order to establish a stronger fiscal foundation, but I see no reason to be daunted. All of us, parents, students, staff, alumni, school committee members, yearly meeting members, are in this together and with such a

loving, firm, and inspired community looking towards building a Scattergood for our future generations, we can and will, do whatever we need to do in order to secure her future.

Spiritual and Community Life

Rain, a surprise snowfall, cold and lightning storms did not dampen our experiences of Senior Week! The mood on campus was great throughout the week, despite the fact that the weather did not always agree with us. Still, seniors and three seniors' parents created fabulous meals, constructed beautiful benches, planted a new peace tree, created a contemplative space outside of the art building and renovated the student lounge in a matter of 5 days. With logistical help from staff still on campus, the seniors pulled off a most impressive feat, spending all \$1,200.00 of their senior store proceeds and beautifying the campus in very real ways. The end result was gratitude and admiration from students and staff, and a sophomore class inspired to continue the store functions and already begin preparing for their senior week.

The freshmen, sophomores, and juniors plus stalwart staff embarked on fabulous trips together, in spite of the weather. Students went on week-long tours hiking or canoeing in the Missouri wilderness and waterways, biking to several farms in the nearby regions, working at Tiller's or deciphering clues which led them throughout the parks and valleys of the nearby area, (ending at Friends' Cabin). Wet, soggy, hungry, and muddy, the students returned to campus, proud of their accomplishments in the wilderness. This outdoor component of our program seems essential for community-building, confidence and competence-building, increased self-awareness, and appreciation for both nature and hot showers. May term saw our juniors and seniors travel to Honduras or embark on a 1,300 mile bike ride; everyone returned with accounts of life-changing events and we celebrate our ability to send our students out in to the world, confident they can navigate safely and creatively.

Our student handbook is being revised and we are happy to announce that our Dean of Students Shelley Hughes attended training in New York to become a facilitator for the Help Increase the Peace Program (HIPP) which was born from the Anti Violence Project (AVP). She is planning conflict resolution programming in conjunction with Bob Gutwein, now our new College Guidance Counselor and Seminar teacher. This is very exciting, and will be even more so as we take a group of students to the Friends School in Detroit and our students conduct training for those seventh and eighth graders.

Personnel

This hiring season has been very busy. We had many wonderful applicants for every position, and it was apparent to us that the recent economic situation has shaken up many educational trees. In our work towards making our salaries more competitive, we have raised salaries by 5.5% this year, and continue to make contributions to TIAA CREF at 7.5%. Our medical benefits are generous, with 100% coverage offered to employees.

In terms of professional development, Amanda Paul, Bob Gutwein, Sam Taylor and Catherine From attended various ISACS workshops for business managers, admission officers and teachers in Chicago. Dana Foster traveled to Rwanda as part of a grant conducted by USAID. She and Mark Quee also attended PFI events this spring. I found the year-long New Heads Institute (ISACS) and the Vision to Action Leadership Institute (led by Geery Howe, West Branch Friends Meeting) both marvelous learning opportunities for me to expand my knowledge and skills in terms of finances, leadership, and organizational structures. Both institutes were gifts to the school and illustrated to me how beloved and worthy of an investment Scattergood is to many. We continue to look towards expanding our student population and our annual giving, reaching out to our old friends and possible new friends to Scattergood.

Staff turnover in independent schools is cyclical, and this year, several of our younger staff members are leaving Scattergood. We say our farewells and “thank you’s” to the following former staff members: John Morman, Chris Spinler, Lucy McCormick, Sarah Harper-Smith, Steve Nordlund, Joe Kohlhass, Rachel Howard, Colleen Schmitt, and Matt Brown. While we say goodbye to our former staff, we look forwards to greeting the following new staff members: Alex Foster, Carrie Ann Bowen, Jane Edwards, Mark Edwards, Kevin McCrea, Margaret Özemet, Rebekah Devino, Rüdiger Ruckmann and Stephanie Sheikholeslami. Our staff have lived as far away as in Germany, Turkey, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, North Carolina, Georgia, DC, and Pittsburgh. We have a published author and professional musician, a marathon runner, pilot and equestrian as well as youth leaders, technology and curriculum coordinators amongst this group and we are thrilled.

The required information for renewing our accreditation with the State of Iowa has been mailed and emailed to the Department of Education.

We will be hosting a visiting team from ISACS this March. Our audit and self study work will undergo a last editing this fall and our main goal will be to prepare for the visit.

Admissions and Enrollment

We ended the year with an enrollment of 55 students. More prospective families visited recently and attended our popular Open House. We hope to reach our goal of enrolling strong Scattergood students with a total number in the lower fifties, the same as last year. All students invited have chosen to return, next year. This 2011–2012 school year, we are enrolling more boys than girls and have freed up the dorm sponsor room so that we have space for two more boys. It is of concern that several girls who were accepted to school have chosen not to attend. We must pay special attention to this particular phenomenon this year.

Outreach through traditional media and social media are important, and this hinges on our work towards further identifying and promoting our school “brand” and message. Consistent messaging plus making local and regional connections to counselors, education consultants and educators are the first steps. Visiting fairs and parents, alumni and friends hosting informational teas around the country may be future steps. Continuing to think about how to attract day students for future enrollment, and bolstering our tuition revenues without overstretching our housing needs are important movements in our future enrollment.

Finances

We ended the 2010–2011 fiscal years with our belt buckles tightened. Amanda Paul, our business manager, has been incredibly helpful in our preparation for the review level audit that we will be starting early August. We paid off our two lines of credit and have not delved in to the lines of credit this spring. Our loan payments are being paid on principle and interest.

While we do not anticipate a surplus for next year, we are being fiscally responsible. We raised the minimum contribution a family must make towards their child’s tuition. We also added an international student fee of \$1,800 per student to cover personnel costs and resources directly needed to serve our ELL population. Our enrollment, combined with higher fuel and overall operating costs and a need to bolster more scholarship funds from the Measey Fund will take its toll but as we are adding more tuition income to our budget this year, we see some light as well.

Development

This year I visited West Branch Friends Meeting, West Branch Friends Church, Iowa City, Whittier, Des Moines, Yahara, Omaha, Indianola, William Penn University, and met with friends in Paullina. I

am sorry that I could not make it to Lincoln, Decorah, Bear Creek, Ames or Kansas City; I will make extra efforts to get there as soon as possible! Fourteen students attended Midyear Meeting in April at Bear Creek Meeting, along with Margie Figgins and Shelley Hughes. It was serendipitous that the focus of the weekend was youth and that the Scattergood youth made such a marked impression with their strong presence, enthusiasm, and involvement in the program. Five students attended the Quake That Rocked the Midwest January 14–17, at the Evanston Meeting House in Chicago.

I continue to meet monthly with the West Branch City manager, *West Branch Times* editor, Herbert Hoover Library director and associate directors, National Park Supervisor, as well as our outgoing school superintendent. More and more West Branch residents are expressing a positive sense of Scattergood and desire to connect and this is constructive as we prepare to share resources and spread the good word of our institutions for us all. Farm staff are selling Scattergood farm produce at the West Liberty Farmer's Market this spring and summer, and on August 6, we will host a large tour of Iowa City Chamber constituents at our farm. Scattergood Farm will be one of three stops for the AgBusiness Committee, and we are honored to have been chosen as a site. A summer-long Fiber Arts Camp was housed in our new Art building, and brought young people and their parents to campus for a total of 5 weeks.

Our first Open House was a big success insofar that alumni, school committee members, recent graduates, a senator, two businesses from Iowa City and prospective families all gathered together. In spring, I had planned to be hitting the road and travelling, and yet the heavy hiring needs overtook that need. I firmly believe that our newly invigorated development team of Rüdiger Ruckmann, Margie Figgins, and Amanda Paul, will help us prepare for the much needed Capital Campaign that lies around the corner. I know that I must contribute 20%–40% of my time in this area as well, and I am excited to work with our excellent Development Subcommittee.

Facilities

Of course our day-to-day needs of basic upkeep to the campus continue. Ten AmeriCorps workers joined our community on May 5–June 25 and were scheduled to work on the farm and to install fences, renovate livestock facilities, and help in the overall upkeep of the farm, help renovate the boys' lounge and main instruction buildings so they are up to code. Steve Wolf-Camplin worked with two trained sawyers and cleared out downed trees on the farm, main campus and prairie, and two corps members joined Mark Shanahan install concrete in two garage

bays. This work was funded in part by the revenue raised from the AmeriCorps grant as well as a grant by EQUIP.

Our biggest job, however, remains as we prepare to identify and carve out a long-term facility plan, articulated as follows:

1. Review,
2. Renew, and
3. upgrade our facilities, so that we can sustainably, efficiently and effectively continue to serve the needs of our student and staff community.

While we know that the comprehensive identification of deficiencies and strengths in our existing buildings and systems (architectural, structural, energy, electrical, safety, environmentally healthy, accessibility, etc) is the first step we must take in preparation to form a long-term facility plan, Margie Figgins will work in the development office as well as survey big infrastructural demands and frailties of our campus. This will behoove us as we project capital budgetary needs for the next few years and formulate a long-term facilities plan.

Don Laughlin and Allan Winder continue to research and develop big picture plans for a wind turbine on campus, off-setting high utility costs and creating a more sustainable lifestyle on campus. We have received a handful of grants to implement sustainability projects that now put us on the map as a school committed to sustainability. Please see our rain garden and rain barrels, both on our farm and main campus.

Technology

Next year, Student Health Records will be digitized to protect privacy, increase direct communication between health care providers and parents, and streamline accounting.

We are reconfiguring existing laptops and have problem-solved areas of sporadic and poor connectivity. New zoning and hardwiring through the second floor boys' dorm have now been completed. We also plan to add two desktops to each dorm lounge as a backup system to our laptops, and are rezoning our access points on campus so that the wireless connections will be improved. We have more work to do in terms of upgrading access points and working on the servers, but we have a well-thought-out plan that has been developing since last summer. We purchased 15 new laptops (which replace ancient and decrepit laptops) and plan to dedicate these as senior laptops. Our technology coordinator is learning Drupal so that he can help us maintain our website. We will be investing more this year into the overall website framework and plan to complete that process by the fall.

Farm

The farm continues to provide delectable and healthy food to the school. The farm provided numerous pumpkins that we carved for Halloween and we decorated campus with a wide variety of farm gourds for our Scattergood Days Weekend. The root cellar was full, and we saw the incredible variety of ways spaghetti squash could be incorporated in to many a meal. We were continually impressed by the variety of foodstuffs provided to us by the farm and our Scattergood Farm-to-Table program is thriving. Farm manager Mark Quee and assistant farm manager Dana Foster are still helping us with the query “Should we place more of our people resources and energy on education, and what about production for our own consumption versus income generation? What is the balance?”

Thoughts from the Head of School

As we help prepare our students for a changing world, we can take comfort in the fact that the learning journey does not stop at the graduation ceremony, but in fact begins right then and there. We push our students out in to the world with the message “You’re ok. Now go learn.” Almost echoing William Penn’s words from 330 years earlier, we relish the fact that Scattergood continues to sustain students and teachers with love, respect, and concern. It is with excitement that we see our seniors walk at graduation this spring, knowing that they are confidently entering the world, ready to shine.

I am grateful for the love, good will and dedication of the staff, students, parents, alumni and school committee. I continue to be amazed by the depth of wisdom, concern and gratitude people have for Scattergood. Overall, I feel really good about next year. I am reminded by our increases in fuel expenses and our dependence on vehicles that we must look towards becoming more sustainable and less dependant on our utility and service vendors. I hope that our wind turbine visioning continues, and our thoughts of sustainability move closer to reality.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Ashley, Head of School

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL FARM REPORT

Dear Friends:

In many Christian liturgical calendars the periods occurring between the big events of Easter and Christmas (both in the spring and in the summer) are known as “Ordinary Time.” These are not periods of rest in which one recovers from the previous, nor prepares for the next extraordinary occasion, but are instead, periods of grounding and reflection, in which depth and strength are nurtured in one’s daily experience of religious life.

As manager of the Scattergood Farm, I have been contemplating the need for some Ordinary Time in my professional life. After numerous dramatic changes in the Head of School, the reworking of the Farm’s financial relationship to the school, and what could best be described as a minor spiritual crisis in redefining the Farm’s mission after ending our Community Supported Agriculture program, I have felt the desire to let things settle a bit, to experience with less distraction the daily rhythms of farming, and to appreciate our accomplishments as we continue to offer meaningful educational opportunities for our students, produce high-quality food for all who come to Scattergood, and share our stories with the wider community.

In the past year we have maintained the traditional ways students are involved on the farm—Farm Projects and Crews, Animal Husbandry and Food Preservation Projects, Chicken and Egg Crew, Farm Work Day, Food for Thought Humanities Class—and added several new opportunities. Students are now more involved on the weekends with Farm and Egg Crews, and we successfully brought the Farm into the Biology curriculum when students designed an experiment comparing the fertility maintenance of green and brown manures. This experiment was awarded a SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) grant to cover start-up costs and some equipment purchases, and will be presented at the Small Farm Trade Show and Conference this fall. The Farm has also been the site of several Practical Farmers of Iowa experiments including using soybeans as a weed suppressing cover crop in asparagus, converting pastures to gardens and the efficacy of lifting sweet potato vines to encourage larger tuber size. Various projects, crews and classes have been involved in these experiments as we prepared, sited and planted, and students will again be involved in the fall when much of the data collection will occur. Though these interactions are laudable, the most significant student contact with the Farm continues to be in the dining room.

In spite of a challenging growing season in 2010, the Farm was able to supply most of the vegetables consumed at Scattergood from the time students returned in August until they left again for winter break in December. We harvested more storage crops than ever before and ate plenty of squash, garlic, turnips, radishes, beets and onions through much of the winter. A mild fall and late start to winter allowed us to harvest salad and cooking greens out of the garden well into December. We continued to freeze a wide variety of crops, but remain legally prevented from canning the abundance from the gardens. The biggest challenge that we continue to face in supplying vegetables for the school is trying to produce food from January through March. With increased experience and some infrastructure upgrades in our large hoop house, we hope to increase productivity during the coldest and darkest parts of the year.

For several years now nearly all of the meat protein consumed at Scattergood has come from our livestock program, and in 2010 we again harvested ample amounts of beef, pork, lamb, and turkey. Our freezers are full and we seek soon to certify for off-farm sales to others. In addition to our meat production, we also estimate that approximately one third of the eggs consumed have been laid by our flock of chickens. Unfortunately, record high commodity grain prices have made difficult the economics of small-scale livestock production and we are currently de-emphasizing corn dependent livestock in favor of grass-based animals. Because of this we are reducing the size of our laying flock and have eliminated our Berkshire hogs.

The current dominance of corn in Iowa has made the Scattergood Farm an even more popular destination for those seeking alternatives in agriculture. During the past year we welcomed a group sponsored by the US State Department which included agricultural leaders from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Kazakhstan, and Sri Lanka. We also hosted guests from the Cedar County Farm Bureau Women's Group, representatives of Earth Source Gardens in Iowa City and reporters from the New Pioneer Coop Catalyst newsletter. Attendees of the recent Friends General Conference Gathering in Grinnell came to harvest fresh vegetables for the co-op meal plan, and we continue to nurture our relationship with Taproot Nature Experience, a local student enrichment program, which visits us each Friday and has for two years tapped our maple trees and co-sponsored a springtime maple syrup festival.

In addition to inviting people to see our farm, we have also taken our message out into the community: we are a vendor at the West Liberty Farmers Market, continue to have several important contracts at New Pioneer Coop in Iowa City and Coralville, gave a presentation for a Farm to School program at an Iowa City elementary school, took part in a

round table discussion for HBO on the next federal Farm Bill, led a Practical Farmers of Iowa webinar on cover cropping systems in vegetable production, talked on Iowa Public Radio about the relationship between time spent outdoors and academic achievement, and spoke at the recent FGC Gathering. Scattergood also led a weeklong student trip of bicycling to Iowa vegetable farms and doing service work, and Dana visited Uganda as part of a USAID program assisting women farmers there. In addition to these activities, we remain very involved in several organizations including Practical Farmers of Iowa, The Women Food and Agriculture Network, Local Foods Connection, and Field to Family.

Thank you's are due to many, for making all of this happen. Dana Foster continues to be a vital part of many of the core goals of the Farm: overseeing the livestock, connecting with the Scattergood kitchen and the outside community, and orchestrating so many of the student interactions with the Farm. Sam Taylor is now in his third summer helping us after the students leave. Caleb Smith and Sebastian Ashley have been valuable interns this summer. Steve Hoffman of West Branch is an important part of our farm team, helping with machinery and hay-making. Ken Fawcett continues to be a consultant on many aspects of our operation and takes on all the responsibility of our row-crop production. Christine Ashley is our biggest cheerleader and can't wait to get up on the tractor. And this year especially, the Farm Subcommittee of the School Committee has taken on many important tasks including work on shepherding a grant through the Rural Development Administration, securing a new tractor more appropriate to our scale of farming, and consulting on a variety of philosophical, budgetary and mechanical questions. Many thanks to all.

There is likely no audience better than IYMC to understand the importance of quiet time to sit with one's faith, doubt and desire, in all aspects of our lives: spiritual, emotional and professional. The Scattergood Farm has been blessed with many things extraordinary; hopefully now we can enter into a time of the profound and nurturing ordinary.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Quee,
Scattergood Farm Manager
On behalf of the Farm Subcommittee of the School
Committee

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

SIXTH DAY – FRIDAY – 7/29/2011
AFTERNOON SESSION

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

We seem to think we will find unity by going upward toward the generalizations and abstraction that we can agree on. But that does not work. It robs us of our own traditions and our own stories. It flattens our rich variety and dulls everything out. But if each of us will go down into the depths of our own story, of our own well, as far as we are able, we will find the unity we seek in the living water that feeds all of the wells.

—Parker Palmer, quoting a Friend speaking in worship

Lynn Chakoian and Martha Davis have been appointed as readers this afternoon.

We approved the *Faith and Practice: The Book of Discipline of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) Religious Society of Friends*, with the understanding that the table of contents and the index are still to be published.

While we know that in some cases there are no words large enough to express our feelings, we not only approved this document but, also approved it with *gratitude*.

We agreed to appoint an ad hoc committee including a former clerk, a former or current interim clerk and a member of the Discipline Revision Committee to work out the details on how the members of the Interim Meeting functions. This ad hoc committee will report their recommendations to us at our next annual session.

In the meantime, the yearly meeting clerk will remind all of the monthly meetings of their responsibilities to appoint 2 members to the Interim Meeting in both the clerk's letter sent out in 9th month, and the clerk's yearly meeting instruction letter sent out in the spring.

DISCIPLINE REVISION COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee met four times this year. Members of the committee who have attended recent meetings are Gordon Bivens (Ames) Herbert Standing (Bear Creek), Sherry Hutchison (Des Moines Valley), Marge Schlitt (Lincoln), Jean Eden (Lincoln), Dan Schlitt (Lincoln), Carol Gilbert (Omaha), and Jonathan Fisch (Paullina).

At 1996 yearly meeting sessions, each monthly meeting was asked to appoint a person to serve on a Discipline Revision Committee. There

were concerns that sections on membership, quarterly meetings, and new meetings were out of date, and newcomers wanted more clearness about our principles and Christianity. The first Discipline Revision Report was made to Interim Meeting and included a warning that “this would take considerably more time than was originally envisioned to have it done by Yearly Meeting 1997.” At the request of the committee, Interim Meeting clarified the mission, minuting “our objective should not be to change the yearly meeting by changing the Discipline. The Discipline should not contain a list of things we believe, or instructions for every meeting function, but should outline our principles and practices.”

The appointed members at that time were Gordon Bivens from Ames, Herbert Standing from Bear Creek, Martha Davis from Decorah, Pam Blackburn from Des Moines Valley, Perry Howell from Iowa City, Marcelline and Harvey Hinshaw from Lincoln, Beth Wilson from Paullina, Genia Simmons from Penn Valley, Ed Clopton from West Branch, and James Bromwell from Whittier. Olive Wilson from Paullina was convener for the first year. Others who have met with or assisted the committee between the first report and this one include Steve Tatum from Iowa City, Maria Lemon from Lincoln, Marc Robinson and Cathy Gardner from Penn Valley, Jeff Kisling of Bear Creek, Jeff Cox from Iowa City, Dan Treadway and A.M. Fink from Ames, Marshall Massey from Omaha, Lorene Ludy from Lincoln, and Deborah Fisch from Des Moines. It has meant more than we can express to have worked so closely together for so long, and we’re very grateful for all the help from so many wise and faithful people over the years.

A draft of the proposed discipline was shared with monthly meetings online, by email, and with two paper copies each, at Midyear Meeting time. Meetings reviewed and brought suggested changes to the committee which met in Sixth month to consider those suggestions and make further edits. That draft was published online and by email on Seventh month 24th.

An open meeting was held Seventh month 27th during yearly meeting sessions to hear and resolve problems. In addition to a few minor corrections, five suggested revisions that had been printed and photocopied in advance were fully discussed and resolved to the general satisfaction of those present. Copies of those revisions as well as the original 7/24/2011 draft are available for review.

The Discipline Revision Committee is now asking the yearly meeting to approve this document, titled *FAITH AND PRACTICE: The Book of Discipline of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) Religious Society of Friends*. We realize that it is not perfect, but we believe it is

good, represents the yearly meeting, and will be useful. We don't mind leaving something for the next revision committee to do!

A problem outside the scope of our authority came to light as we worked on the paragraph on interim meeting. The current practice of the yearly meeting seems inconsistent with regard to how members of this committee are selected. There may also be ways to improve the way the interim meeting functions. We recommend that the yearly meeting evaluate and make clear its practices, changing them if needed.

For the committee,
Carol Gilbert, clerk

We heard the good report of the Religious Education Committee.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT

The Religious Education Committee received reports from seven monthly meetings of IYMC. The committee noted several commonalities in these reports. There are fewer children's First Day programs being offered, as there are fewer youth participating in our meetings. Several meetings' youth programs were engaged in service projects to raise funds for groups that included Heifer Project and Kiva microfinance. A spirit of inquiry was evident in all of the programming for both adults and children. The programming included use of resources as varied as Pendle Hill pamphlets, *Friends Journal* articles, Friends' experiences, and writings and thoughts of several religious traditions. None of the meetings mentioned Bible study as a source of inspiration or reflection, though this does not mean that it does not occur.

Because many of our meetings include numbers of "newcomers", the committee encourages Friends to continue to engage in study of "Quaker basics" and history using online materials like the "Jewels of Quakerism" and hardcopy materials that are about Quaker history, practice, and belief. We also encourage the use of monthly meeting newsletters as a means of inspiring and informing others; we learn from each other vicariously when we become aware of concerns that come before meeting for business and when we make use of each other to become educated and to be inspired.

Since we find the ideas in these reports to be inspiring and helpful, we are again sharing copies of all the reports with each of the monthly meetings as they are planning their educational programs.

On behalf of the committee,
Bill Deutsch

We listened to the Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee Report. We appreciate the opportunities for our personal religious education that this report encourages us to take advantage of.

PENDLE HILL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee's purpose is to encourage people in Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) to sojourn at Pendle Hill or to take a workshop there. The financial assistance offered jointly by a special fund at Pendle Hill and by our yearly meeting can make it possible for someone of any age to have an experience that otherwise might not be possible for this person. It offers the possibility of a spiritually nurturing experience for an individual and through the individual to his or her monthly and yearly meeting.

Anyone in the yearly meeting who is interested in spending a week sojourning at Pendle Hill or taking a workshop there may request this financial assistance through a letter to the yearly meeting clerk, who will refer the request to this committee. The committee considers the request and upon approval the committee informs the Pendle Hill registrar. The person may then make the arrangement with Pendle Hill for the sojourn or workshop,

The committee is disappointed that no one made a request for use of the funds this year and we encourage those in the yearly meeting to consider doing this next year.

Jean Eden, Roy Hampton, Wilmer Tjossem

We approved laying down the Ad Hoc Committee on IYMC Outreach for the 2011 FGC Gathering. We were also glad to hear letters from Young Friends who were able to either take part in the Gathering or attend a Quaker summer camp with the financial and loving support that the yearly meeting provided.

REPORT BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON IYMC OUTREACH FOR THE 2011 FGC GATHERING

The Ad Hoc Committee on IYMC Outreach for the 2011 FGC Gathering did not meet this past year. The projects in last year's report came to successful fruition at the 2011 FGC Gathering held in Grinnell, Iowa. No one came forward to pursue the two possible projects (an IYMC photo display and an introductory workshop on "waiting worship") that were proposed.

Many IYMC Friends attended the Gathering and our presence was noticed.

We request that the Ad Hoc Committee be laid down.

Lorene Ludy, clerk

The Earthcare Subcommittee Report challenged us to continue to ask ourselves, “How do we live our lives with integrity?” We are grateful for their continued witness to this large and sometimes overwhelming issue, and grateful for the steps they have offered to help us live more intentionally and responsibly on earth.

We ask, “How can Iowa Yearly Meeting move from individual action to corporate action in caring for the earth?”

REPORT OF THE EARTHCARE SUBCOMMITTEE OF PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Events on the Earth make it pretty clear that we humans are not doing a very good job of caring for our only home. Glaciers and polar ice are melting much faster than predicted just a few years ago. Higher temperatures mean that the atmosphere can hold more moisture, which increases the likelihood of weather extremes such as floods and drought. We need to reduce the level of CO₂ in the atmosphere in order to minimize the impacts of climate change, but instead it continues to go up faster than ever. How should Quakers respond to this situation? How should Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) respond to this situation?

The Earthcare Subcommittee of Peace and Social Concerns doesn't have the answers to these questions. We share information about some of the problems we see. We share information about steps some Friends and others are taking to address the problems. We are inspired by some things we see, yet we often feel that we are not doing enough. We put together a newsletter in the spring that we hope some found useful. We are pleased that Bear Creek and Yahara Meetings both approved minutes about climate change, which are now posted on the FCNL website.

We continue to attempt to discern the best way to function as a subcommittee. Our current unstructured configuration gives flexibility but can make taking action and making decisions challenging.

Ken Lawrence, clerk

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

SEVENTH DAY – SATURDAY – 7/30/2011
MORNING SESSION

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

The true fruit and sacrament of the gathered meeting is love, rather than illumination.

—Patricia Loring

Chelsea Deutsch and Neal Shaffer have been appointed as readers this morning.

We are pleased to welcome Matt Mickle from Des Moines.

MINUTE OF SIXTH DAY ACTIVITIES

Friends gathered in the evening to hear Bridget Moix speak about “Living Our Faith in Times of Doubt”. As someone well acquainted at “tilting at windmills” (most recently in leading the FCNL program “Working for the Prevention of Deadly Conflict”), Bridget not only encouraged us with her sharing stories of the good and varied peace work that she and many others from all over the world are doing, she also demonstrated how the wellspring to continue comes from being firmly grounded in the Spirit. From this comes hope born from knowing that peace work IS creating the Kingdom of God here on earth.

Friends were moved by her talk to share their own stories. It was an evening where people openly shared not only their successes, but also their very real fears and discouragement. It was a frank and honest evening where we held each other with tenderness.

The Junior Yearly Meeting stood courageously while their good report was read. We very much enjoyed hearing it and getting a chance to know them a little bit when they introduced themselves. We look forward to getting to know them more and more in the years ahead. Our thanks go to their loving leaders.

EPISTLE FROM JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING

Dear Friends:

We are a small group this year, with four most of the time and three others participating part of the time. But we’ve done a lot. We have made little wooden boats, played the Yoga Garden Game. During The Yoga Garden Game we learned different yoga poses. The music visitor, Bill, brought his banjo and played different songs. We went to the Scattergood

Farm, there were lots of animals and hay bales to jump on. We learned these testimonies: equality, peace, stewardship, integrity, community and simplicity. Integrity means let your life speak. Your outer self reflects your inner self. Stewardship means protecting and caring for the earth. At Scattergood we eat a lot of food that is grown in the garden here. It has been hot here this summer. Only one place here has air conditioning, so we stayed cool by swimming in the pond and sitting in front of fans. We had a lot of fun at Scattergood, especially swimming in the pond. When we were at the pond we tried out the wooden boats that we made. On our camping trip we found a toad and cricket and made s'mores.

In Friendship,
Junior Yearly Meeting of
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

In listening to the report of Young Friends, it sounded as though they almost had as good a time as older Friends have this week. We realize it takes a tremendous amount of energy and love to help a whole group of Young Friends have a good time. Our deepest thanks go to the leaders who made this happen. We always look forward to the reports of Jr. Yearly Meeting and Young Friends, and are never disappointed. They bring joy to our solemn occasions.

EPISTLE FROM YOUNG FRIENDS

To Friends everywhere:

First of all we feel that we have to point out that Dae did indeed visit the shingle that she placed on the roof of the greenhouse during our service project last year as we indicated in our previous epistle that she would. Thank you.

For our service project this year, we spent an afternoon on the Scattergood farm picking pears and moving a beast of a water barrel we named Mufasa. Ansel and Denali picked 3 crates of pears between them, and dropped many pears on Thomas's head, who was napping under the trees.

On our way back to the main campus, we picked vegetables for our Friday night activity.

Speaking of which, we made pizza and had a cupcake decorating competition. Chelsea was the grand champion. But in the end we were all winners. Dae wants to make sure that's clear. She worked really hard on her cupcake presentation. Sarah and Matt Mickle helped us make the pizzas. They are expert chefs. The pizzas were absolutely delicious.

Scrumptious. We would like to sincerely thank them for their effort and generosity.

We resumed our canoe activity this year. There were many hilarious moments. Half the canoers took a little time to swim and float downstream, leaving their canoes on a sandbank. They underestimated the energy it would take to swim back upstream to retrieve them and the remaining canoers had to split up, take a canoe each, and rescue the floaters. Chelsea and Maya accidentally canoed over a tiny log. It was a “you had to be there” moment.

One morning we participated in a very cool mini-workshop with Alternatives to Violence Project Facilitators. It was eye opening to hear how they interact with prisoners. They showed us some of the activities they do. For example, we played a tossing game emphasizing teamwork led by Mama Marge.

Yeah!

We came away with ideas for future activities that we’re pretty excited about.

We were all moved by the stories Friends told from the 1940s during Thursday’s evening panel. We didn’t know that Quakers were prisoners during World War II. We learned a lot about C.O. status and what families had to go through during those times, not just those in prison. We also learned that what happens at Scattergood stays at Scattergood. Thanks, Birdie.

Yeah!

Overall it was an amazing week full of memories and laughs. We welcome new Young Friends and hope that those who are graduating will continue to spend time with the program during future gatherings. Thank you to all, and to all a good night.

Yeah!

Young Friends of
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

We deeply appreciated hearing the report of Adult Young Friends. Their valuing of the stories of Friends is a treasure. We thank the Young Adult Friends for guiding the whole yearly meeting to seriously make the effort to record these stories for all of us.

EPISTLE FROM ADULT YOUNG FRIENDS

Dear Adult Young Friends from around the world:

It is with great joy that we share our experiences at IYMC this year. For most of the week, the young adults were occupied with various tasks. Our Friends participated in various committees throughout the week and regularly attended meeting for business. While we found that we did not have much time to share with other young adults, we enjoyed some very meaningful conversations with one another. We greatly enjoyed the presence of two young couples in our group and felt enriched by their love. In looking to the future, our group feels that it is important to also look to the past. We feel that our generation should take the time and the care to record the oral history of the meeting as told by the elders. We do not want the hardships and love faced by the previous generations of our meeting to go unrecorded for future generations of IYMC members. Some of the young adults are also very interested in visiting other yearly meetings to see how the young adults at other meetings work and some of you may see us at your own yearly gatherings throughout the next year.

With love and light,
Adult Young Friends of
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

We appreciate the work of the auditors and the treasurer for their rightly conducted business.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

We have examined the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) treasurer's books for the 2010–2011 fiscal year, and find them to be in good order. We appreciate the work of the treasurer, Jim Kenney, in keeping the accounts of the yearly meeting and preparing a report these annual sessions.

Rebecca Bergus and Karen Greenler

YEARLY MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT

Fiscal year ended June 30, 2011

	Actual	Budget
Contributions		
American Friends Service Committee	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Friends Committee on National Legislation	1,000.00	1,000.00
Friends General Conference	200.00	200.00
Iowa Peace Network	1,000.00	1,000.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation	1,000.00	1,000.00
Nebraskans for Peace	500.00	500.00
Friends Peace Teams	500.00	500.00
NRCAT	100.00	100.00
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	50,000.00	50,000.00
William Penn House	300.00	300.00
Total Contributions	<u>\$57,600.00</u>	<u>\$57,600.00</u>
Delegate Expenses		
Friends Committee on National Legislation		1,300.00
Friends Peace Teams		1,300.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation, General		1,300.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation, Triennial (transferred to reserve fund)	700.00	700.00
Quaker Earth Care Witness	294.00	700.00
Total Delegate Expenses	<u>\$994.00</u>	<u>\$5,300.00</u>

	Actual	Budget
Yearly Meeting Expenses		
Archives Committee		200.00
Clerk's and Other Administrative Expenses		400.00
Committee Expenses (Other)	\$146.23	500.00
Conscientious Objector PSC subcommittee		100.00
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	1,000.00	1,000.00
Junior Yearly Meeting	675.53	1,500.00
Youth Weekends		500.00
Young Adult Friends		100.00
Young Friends	1,341.00	1,700.00
Special Needs Committee		500.00
Publication Committee	2,675.97	\$3,000.00
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship	500.00	500.00
YM Entertainment Committee if receipts inadequate		1,000.00
Midyear Planning Committee if receipts inadequate		1,000.00
Contingency Fund	631.54	1,000.00
Young Friends Travel & Conference (to reserve fund)	<u>1,000.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total Yearly Meeting Expenses	<u>\$7,970.27</u>	<u>\$14,000.00</u>
Grant Totals	\$66,564.27	\$76,900.00

Jim Kenney, treasurer

We listened to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee report. We approved sending the two letters in the report to their designated recipients on behalf of the yearly meeting. We also know that we can use these letters to follow up on these issues in our meetings and as individuals. We appreciate this report, the diligent work of the committee, and the ongoing work of IYMC Friends that this report represents

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT – PART I

The yearly meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committee met at Midyear Meeting and during annual sessions this past year. We opened and closed our sessions in worship, seeking to listen to the whisper of the Spirit as heard through each other and the sharing of reports from our monthly meetings and representatives to various organizations.

During our meeting time at Midyear Meeting we united in asking Interim Meeting to approve sending a letter to our senators and representatives concerning the refusal of the U.S. Congress to address climate

change. Interim Meeting approved the request and the letter is being sent out by the yearly meeting clerk.

This week we continued work on a letter to members of the congressional foreign aid committees first proposed by Des Moines Valley Friends at Midyear Meeting. We received reports from members who are active in Alternatives to Violence work, from the Earthcare Subcommittee, from our representatives to the Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee, and from Iowa City Friends concerning the letter IYMC sent to a mental health care hospital in 2009. We read letters of appreciation from six organizations that we supported with financial donations this past year. We were pleased to receive reports from all our monthly meetings, sharing the work they have been doing around peace and social justice work in the past year. They are summarized at the conclusion of this report. We note that some of our meetings do not have a Peace and Social Concerns Committee, but rather act as a whole in supporting the work of their members and attenders and in discerning corporate leadings. We appreciate that those meetings also sent us reports.

Report on the Alternatives to Violence Project Work (AVP)

We heard a report on behalf of yearly meeting volunteers with the AVP Program. The Alternatives to Violence Program was begun by Quakers in 1975 at the request of inmates at Green Haven Prison in New York. The program is based on Quaker peace testimony, consensus, seeking that of God in all, reaching for the goodness in ourselves and others, and expecting the best is possible. AVP is now active in over 40 states and internationally in over 30 countries on six continents offering conflict resolution workshops in prisons and communities around the world. We learned that statistical evidence suggests that the program changes lives both in and out of prisons, decreasing recidivism among inmates by at least half among those that attend the Basic and at least one Advanced Workshop. Work is now being done to take the program into communities and schools, as well as the prisons. Several IYMC members in Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota are trained facilitators, and we learned there is a need for more volunteers. We were told that a presentation was made to high school youth at Midyear Meeting that has resulted in plans for a workshop at Scattergood in the coming year. Yearly meeting volunteers are also open to giving workshops for our meetings and their communities. We hope our meetings take them up on this generous offer. If interested in more information contact Stan Sanders in Iowa, Marge Schlitt in Nebraska, or Steve Snyder in South Dakota. Friends in other states should contact any of these Friends for more information. We greatly appreciate the faithful work of these Friends and hope way will open for

us to learn more about AVP as a yearly meeting community, either in future annual sessions or at Midyear Meeting.

Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee (QEW)

We learned that the budget of QEW, like other Quaker organizations, is being affected by the economic situation. We plan to post this report on the IYMC web page and forward it to our monthly meetings with the hope they will consider whether they might contribute to the organization. We were pleased that the yearly meeting representatives asked us to consider letting them move the donation to this organization into the regular budget of the yearly meeting instead of keeping it in the Committee's budget. Our hope is the yearly meeting will be able to designate more than the \$100 we have been able to give up to this point.

Earthcare Subcommittee of IYMC

We heard the report of the Earthcare Subcommittee which was already forwarded to IYMC and will be in the 2011 *Minutes*. We appreciate the care with which this subcommittee has done its work, providing us with a spring newsletter so we can stay informed on things we can be doing to better care for the Earth, and helping keep us accountable to doing the things we have minuted as a yearly meeting that we would do. In past years, at the suggestion of the subcommittee and Peace and Social Concerns Committee the yearly meeting has minuted our desire to move toward a time when we are no longer using petrol dependent cars and that we would encourage each other as meetings and individuals to be intentional in doing things to live into this witness. We reminded meetings that we said we would share with each other things we have done to walk more gently on the Earth. Some meetings included this in their annual reports. This week we also invited Friends to write on a poster sheet what they have done as individuals. We realize there is always more that we can do and that what we are doing may seem like very little. But it is our experience that in sharing with each other what we are doing, we begin living up to the measure of Light we are given, and trust ways will continue to open for us to do more. We get ideas from each other and lovingly hold each other accountable through sharing. The following are examples of things we have done. We encourage Friends to continue to share with each other and this committee in the next year.

Monthly Meetings

Bear Creek Meeting approved a minute expressing concern about the failure of US Congress to address climate change. The Interim Meeting

approved forwarding this concern to other meetings. This minute, as well as a similar one passed by Yahara Meeting are on the FCNL website.

Decorah and Yahara Meetings both participated on 10/10/10 with other groups across the country called by 350.org to rally for environmental responsibility.

Des Moines Valley meeting house has geo thermal heating and cooling. They held a discussion about what are supply, demands, and dilemmas which included a mention of the fact that Iowa is one of the worse sources of contamination causing the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

Iowa City Meeting's Earthcare Group meets with West Branch Friends Meeting and West Branch Friends Church groups. They organized three meetings with light suppers and inclusion of discussions on environmental issues.

Penn Valley Meeting's Earthcare Subcommittee made a list of what members do to help the environment and printed them in their newsletter each month. Several participated in an Earth fair demonstrating sustainable crafts and Earth friendly activities.

Yahara Meeting has communicated with Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light. They also learned about green burial and continued their "true cost of travel" program collecting donations to offset the negative impact of travel. The funds were sent to the Scattergood Sustainability Program.

Rural meetings find that using cars is mandatory and cancels out their ability to reduce their carbon footprint. Purchases made for the meetings are made with consideration of the working conditions, environmental health, and sustainability.

Omaha and a number of other meetings mentioned that individuals are encouraged to reduce carbon footprint in personal lives.

Ways Friends have been doing this include:

- At least two families have installed geo thermal heating and cooling in their homes.
- Some Friends are choosing to continue to use very old cars instead of buying new cars that require a large amount of energy to manufacture and transport.
- Some Friends are carpooling to meeting and at other times, including to yearly meeting annual sessions.
- Many Friends are planting larger gardens, decreasing the need to use mowers, while at the same time providing a way to have locally grown food that doesn't require the use of energy for transport.
- Several meetings have planted community gardens that members can participate in growing, harvesting, and eating, thus also

cutting down on the amount of lawn that needs to be mowed. One meeting waters their garden with water from a rain barrel collected from one of its meeting buildings. They even use recycled hose donated by a member of the meeting to get the water to the garden.

- At least some Friends have joined together to plant gardens and are now harvesting, canning and freezing food together. (We see this as a triple bonus. We have tastier food, it prevents the need to haul food from great distances, and when we do it together we deepen our faith community.)
- Some Friends have purchased reel mowers so they aren't using or are only occasionally using power mowers; two Friends have electric mowers; some Friends have decided to mow less often.
- Two Friends have sold vehicles so they are now a one car family, using mass transit or moped when possible.
- One Friend has put an electric motor on his bicycle so he can ride to work and not use his car so often.
- One Friend reports giving up the use of a car for one week and only eating locally grown produce.
- Many Friends are using energy efficient light bulbs.
- Friends report using low flush toilets or agreeing to not flush every time—"If its yellow let it mellow . . ."
- Some Friends have increased insulation in their homes and around windows and some have installed new efficient windows.
- One meeting did an energy efficiency audit and used a grant to replace the furnace.
- Some Friends are beginning to explore sharing things like pickup trucks, lawn mowers and other implements that are not used on a regular basis.
- Some are intentionally driving slower to use less gasoline.
- Another Friend has changed jobs so that there is less driving involved.
- Yet others are turning off lights, unplugging computers, stereos, modems etc at night . . . no lights in the dark.

We hope this gives Friends some ideas for the next year and that we have more ideas to share with each other next time we meet in community.

Update from Iowa City Meeting Concerning the Children's Psychiatric In-patient Unit of the University of Iowa Hospital

Two years ago the yearly meeting at the request of Iowa City Friends, approved sending a letter with a concern about children and

adolescents being housed together in the Children's Psychiatric In-Patient Unit of the University of Iowa Hospital. We learned the letter stirred discussion and the meeting did receive a response from the hospital explaining why, in their opinion, things were satisfactory. We understand that psychiatric care in general continues to suffer for many reasons, including lack of funding. We were told that Iowa City Friends are planning a series of presentations on this concern and may have follow-up for us to consider in the future.

Concern about Resurgence of JROTC and ROTC on High School and College Campuses

The following was sent to us by Whittier Friends.

A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.

—The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Whittier Monthly Meeting has a concern about the renewed presence of ROTC in both high schools and colleges across the country. In many instances, the schools that have recently reinstated it have done so not because of an interest in military indoctrination but because of the financial remuneration that comes from having ROTC on campus. Education is terribly underfunded in this country, and schools are in the situation of taking opportunities to get money in any way they can. This is just one symptom of the spiritual death Martin Luther King Jr. warned us that results from misplaced priorities.

We are concerned that ROTC results in the further training of our children to think in a military way. Our country as whole already suffers from approaching life in such a singular fashion. Our current military mindset prevents our best energies, intelligence, and resources from developing a society which values education, a good and healthy environment to live in, and access to the necessary supports for fruitful living. This is not the Kingdom of God that Jesus calls us to establish.

Military might equals devotion to earthly power. We are mindful that it was only a small group of Quakers who saw our country as serving the master of wealth instead of God in the move to establish a peacetime draft. These Friends decided to teach others of the dangers of this mindset. Their continued dedication led to the conviction of other Friends, then spread to a wider audience, and eventually led to the end of peacetime military conscription.

Historically, any major change that Quakers have helped our country achieve has always grown out of the vision of a few Friends.

The yearly meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committee unites with the Whittier concern about our continued national expenditure on military defense instead of socially uplifting programs and the increasing presence of JROTC and ROTC on high school and college campuses. We ask our monthly meetings to consider sharing this concern with their local ministerial association and churches. We also ask meetings to educate themselves about recruitment being done by military in their own area schools. We realize one reason the military is so successful is it provides or purports to provide opportunities for education and other needs that are not being provided to students elsewhere. We hope meetings will consider what they might do in counter recruitment efforts. A number of years ago resource packets to help meetings counsel Friends of draft age were prepared for our monthly meetings. We are looking into updating those packets in the next year.

For Consideration by the Yearly Meeting for Action

This year we have two things for Yearly Meeting to consider for approval. The first is a letter proposed by Des Moines Valley Friends at Midyear Meeting and edited by Friends for consideration this week. The second came to us from Whittier Friends.

Proposed Letter to the Members of the Congressional Foreign Aid Committees

We ask the following letter be sent to all the members of Congress sitting on the Congressional Foreign Aid Committees on behalf of our yearly meeting:

7/30/2011

Dear [individual name of member of Senate Foreign Relations Committee or House Foreign Affairs Committee]:

There are many causes for our current difficult immigration situation. One cause is the U.S. Foreign Aid Policy. We urge you to work with the Bread for the World statement that unauthorized migration pressures from rural Mexico are a result of U.S. failure to address rural poverty in our foreign assistance program. It states that foreign aid to Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean is targeted almost exclusively to the regions' police and military organizations.

The struggle against drug cartels is important, but the flight of Mexican farmers to escape their desperate situation, which has been the root cause of illegal immigration over the years, also needs to be a consideration in our foreign aid. Thought must be given to how best to get aid to those who need it most, and in a form that would be efficient and most helpful. Government corruption in some countries in need of aid leaves a poor record of getting the aid to where it is needed. Partnership with small NGOs working to alleviate poverty may be more effective. Investment in endeavors such as education, health care, sustainable agriculture, and local community development organizations fostering hope for a better future may do as much, or more, to limit the drug cartel as the violence of military action. Wouldn't a rural farmer rather have other options that help him stay with his family rather than to attempt a dangerous border crossing, knowing that he might never see his family again?

Please include this problem of immigration pressures when you prepare the next foreign aid request.

DREAM Act

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee received the following proposed letter from Whittier Friends and we unite with the letter asking the yearly meeting to consider sending it to congressional representatives of our members and attenders. The DREAM Act was first introduced in the Senate in Eighth Month 2001 and most recently on Fifth Month 11, 2011. It was pioneered by Orrin Hatch and Richard Durbin as bi-partisan legislation and is currently supported by both FCNL and AFSC. We unite with Whittier Friends in hoping this can be an incentive for monthly meetings and individuals to likewise contact Congress if they are so moved. The following are specific requirements necessary to qualify for the current version of the DREAM Act.

- Must have entered the United States before the age of 16 (i.e., 15 and younger)
- Must have been present in the United States for at least five (5) consecutive years prior to enactment of the bill
- Must have graduated from a United States high school, or have obtained a GED, or have been accepted into an institution of higher education (i.e., college/university)
- Must be between the ages of 12 and 35 at the time of application
- Must have good moral character

Proposed Letter on the DREAM Act for the Members of the US Senate and Congress

7/31/2011

Dear [individual member of the Senate or House of Representatives]:

We favor comprehensive immigration reform efforts. The DREAM Act is one path to legalization for people living within the borders of the United States and we believe it is an important step in the right direction. We therefore support the “DREAM Act” legislation that is being reintroduced to the United States Senate this summer. This law creates a path to legal status for young people brought here as children, who have graduated from high school and have been accepted into college or the military. While we don’t support this as a recruiting tool for the military, we feel that there is enough good in the law to warrant our support.

This legislation addresses immigrant children who are already culturally Americans but not presently eligible for legal status. Every day they are in danger of being whisked out of their homes and sent to a country where they have no connections and few tools for survival.

The benefits to our society in educating these young people and bringing them into the above ground economy are great. When we can openly welcome those already living among us who call our county home, we are able to share in the fruits of all their gifts. One benefit from passing the DREAM Act is that these young people would become citizen taxpayers our graying country needs for its economic survival. This is a fair way to treat our neighbors who find themselves in a situation that is not of their making. It is also a great benefit for all of us to tap this human resource and help them achieve their full potential.

We have been mindful as we have undertaken our work this week that our theme has been “Our Testimonies.” We understand that our testimonies are the fruits of our faith, and to be healthy and nurturing to the soul, they must be rooted and grounded in the Radical Love of God. Our hope is that our lives testify to others of the Truth we have come to know through fellowship in faith community and Listening to the Still Small Voice of God.

We note that four of the yearly meeting’s 12 advices and queries directly have to do with concerns under the care of this committee: #9 Civic Responsibility, #10 Environmental Responsibility, #11 Social and Economic Justice and #12 Peace and Nonviolence. They are all inter-

twined with each other. The queries ask, “How do we share our convictions with others? How do we maintain our integrity . . . ? What are we doing about our disproportionate use of the world’s resources? How are we beneficiaries of inequity and exploitation? 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 faithfully maintain our testimony against preparation for and participation in war?”

In all of these we can answer yes and no in the same breath. We have begun, but there is still much work to do. Let us encourage each other in Love, so that we can state with confidence that we are indeed Friends.

What does it profit my sisters and brothers if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works,” Show me your faith without your works and I will show you my faith by my works.

James 2:1–18

We renew our intention to seek and listen and act, loving and encouraging each other to risk taking first one step and then another as we joyfully and gently walk on this Good Earth, letting our lives testify to the Love of God we have found in each other.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Budget

The Peace and Social Concerns budget of \$1,100 included no carry-over from the previous year. These are the requested disbursements for the upcoming year:

Alternatives to Violence Project (to be split evenly between Iowa and Nebraska programs)	\$ 100
AFSC Central Region (for Immigrant Voice Program)	50
No More Deaths	95
Friends Peace Teams (for Peacemaking en las Americas)	100
Iowans Against the Death Penalty	35
Nebraskans Against the Death Penalty	35
Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty	35
Friends for a Nonviolent World	150
Monteverde Friends School	50
Ramallah Friends School	100
National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund	50
Casa de los Amigos	100
QUIT (Quaker Initiative to End Torture)	100
Catherine McAuley Center	100
Total contributions	<u>\$1,100</u>

Summary of activities of monthly meetings will be published with other reports not read in session.

We appreciate the good report and the work of the Ministry and Counsel Committee. It gives all us much to think about. We are grateful for all the work done by Alberta Kisling in clerking this committee. We are glad that some members of the Possibility Alliance of LaPlata, Mo., have expressed a desire to become a worship group under the care of Penn Valley Monthly Meeting. The yearly meeting clerk will write a letter to them welcoming them on our behalf.

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Iowa Yearly Meeting clerk Deborah Dakin met with Ministry and Counsel. She requested a clerk support group be appointed. Jean Eden, Deborah Fisch, Judy Plank and Carol Gilbert have agreed to serve in this capacity. Carol Gilbert will be convener.

Deborah challenged us to discuss ways we can help people who feel they are Quaker but don't come to meeting or monthly meeting. We search for ways we can provide a "safe environment" where people don't feel judged, where they can say what they feel without fear, and where they can be helped to find ways to deepen their connection with people in the wider Quaker world. Maybe starting a worship group in a classroom or a workplace, or changing the times of day of worship would make it possible for them to attend. Ministry and Counsel accepts this challenge and we are making plans for in-depth thought and discussion. We begin this process by having members of the Ministry and Counsel Committee visit various meetings, worship groups, and gatherings. We hope to work with the local groups to extend invitations to people living in the area who don't regularly come and possibly have a program of interest.

State of the Meeting reports were read with many meetings sharing their problems with great honesty. Several meetings spoke of financial problems, of aging members and their diminished involvement, of small meetings reducing and restructuring their committees, and meeting responsibilities falling on a few.

On the positive side, meetings valued their sharing time after meeting, their cooperative gardens; one meeting has done a public library presentation, another held an open house and started a Quaker reading group. One meeting has been burdened with the best way to deal with a sex offender who wanted to attend and how this conflicted with the care of survivors of abuse in the meeting. The same meeting has extended large amounts of energy on a troubling political situation.

We hold our meetings in the Light as they seek clearness in discerning answers for difficult situations. We appreciate the honesty of our meetings in addressing these problems.

Ginger and Jim Kenney visited the "Possibility Alliance" in La Plata, Missouri, an intentional community. Several from the community have visited Penn Valley Meeting and this group of around 15 regular attendees wishes to become a worship group under the care of Penn Valley. Penn Valley welcomes them and has agreed to work with them to proceed with this request.

In regard to the request for Ministry and Counsel Committee to facilitate recording elders' stories that we want to preserve, we suggest having each monthly meeting identify people with stories to be recorded, either in writing or in audio or video that may be placed on the yearly meeting's website.

There are many stories, not just from elders. Also there are questions that help in bringing forth important memories. We will compile some and have them available.

Deborah Fisch shared her annual report with us on Fifth Day. She served as staff representative on the search committee for the next General Secretary of FGC. Barry Crossno was chosen for this position.

Lucy Duncan, Associate Secretary for Communications and Publications accepted a new position with AFSC. No one will be hired to take her place and her work will be shared by two different people as well as a consultant hired for a seven month communication project.

This is the third year in a row of making major budget cuts to programs that have been closely pruned the last two years.

The reorganization of seven committees into one major committee was approved by the Central Committee. Some of the hardest adjustments have been around the need to use conference calls instead of face to face meetings.

Deborah spoke at a FGC workshop led by Jeff Cox. In response to concern about the size of our meetings she said, "It is a mistake to dwell too much on the size of the meeting, instead of considering the spiritual health and vitality of the meeting. Huge things can be done by small, tight meetings and worship groups that are really under the weight of the Spirit in their meetings and in their lives."

Several other concerns Deborah spoke to were:

- Examining our priorities and recommitting to our meetings and finding time and ways to nurture each other.
- Looking for ways to look "outside the box" to address dispersed memberships and ways to deepen opportunities for fellowship, work, worship, and spiritual relationships with distant Friends.
- *More intervisitation.* More Friends will want to attend our annual sessions if we can find ways to deepen our relationships at other times also.
- *Learning how to deal with conflicts.* We seem to use conflict avoidance instead of using spiritual discernment to know how to proceed.
- *Verbalizing our faith.* We are not a "believe anything you want" religion. We need practice in figuring out a way to share this "pearl of great price" with others.
- Giving our young people responsibilities in our meetings, listening to them, and making sure they feel valued and loved.

- *Quality of our meetings.* Perhaps discussions of news, politics, family needs and worries could be shared “around the quilt, around meals, during pre meeting or at work days—things our heart yearns to know and share but are they whispers of the Divine to be spoken as messages for meeting for worship?”

She ends “This year I have sought to simply be more open to God’s Love and sharing it with others. I seek to be fully present to Love in each moment. I seek to continue to invite God to bring my head and my heart together so I am ever mindful of God in each breath.”

Our committee is united in asking IYMC to send a minute of travel with Deborah Fisch with our love and support.

Lorene Ludy has been appointed as clerk of Ministry and Counsel.

Alberta Kisling, clerk

We listened carefully and reverently to the State of the Meeting Reports. It is humbling to realize the amount of trust that such deep spiritual sharing requires of us. When we can share with each other like this, we are connected on a deeper level. Hearing these reports is a sacred time during our sessions, and it brings all of us together as one yearly meeting. We are thankful for each other.

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS

Ministry and Counsel has read the State of the Meeting Reports and heard many common themes: the importance of spiritual community; joy and vitality brought by new or returning Friends; outreach in peace and social justice issues; usefulness of the queries; appreciation of families and children; concern about declining numbers, energy and resources; the paucity of vocal ministry.

Ames Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

Our meeting is small. Both strengths and vulnerabilities arise from this reality.

The centerpiece of Ames Friends is our unprogrammed meeting for worship, when we gather in expectant waiting and faithfulness for the proddings of the Spirit. We draw on each other, trusting in our shared experience. Spoken messages are few and precious. Meeting for worship supports, enlightens, and strengthens our individual and group lives.

Following meeting for worship, we share a simple potluck lunch. This is a time for getting to know each other in simplicity and depth. We

talk about food, families, pain, work, challenges, joys, and fears. This time of fellowship is integral to our meeting community.

Other aspects of monthly meeting readily fall by the wayside. Sometimes we skip answering queries and holding business meetings. Social concerns are a matter of what individuals bring to the meeting. Interest and participation in wider Friends bodies is limited and secondary. We lack deep roots and solid connections with Friends traditions.

We strive to build on our strengths and to answer the needs of our attenders. We try not to burden each other with “shoulds.” We are moving toward simplifying our slate of officers and streamlining our business. We ask for the support and indulgence of the yearly meeting as we move forward in faith and hope. We welcome yearly meeting visitors.

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

Our spirits rejoice as we work together. We won't forget a recent day working to help a member clean up his acreage. One person mobilized us as we followed his buzzing chain saw and gathered wood and brush to burn. A precious time of effort and sharing. Our work ethic comes into play again when we prepare for Midyear Meeting. Our spiritual life is energized as we welcome Midyear friends to our meeting house. Their messages and fellowship nourish us and enlarge our horizons.

When Leonore Goodenow was planning to build the main building at Scattergood the architect told her there should be an object to draw the eyes up when you enter a building to give a positive uplifting feeling. When we walk into the Quaker Cottage and look up at the skylight and the loft, our spirits soar!! It draws us. People say, “I could live here.” It has been a focus of our meeting for years and what a joy it is finally finished! The Scattergood class slept there during Midyear Meeting. It adds a different dimension to our meeting and we are seeking guidance as its future unfolds.

Our two members involved in the Alternatives To Violence program continue their important work and we are touched by compassion and concern as they share their experiences with us. They will have 18 participants in their next workshop in Fort Dodge. They described their work for the Scattergood students at Midyear Meeting and the students were very interested.

A wedding was held this November at Bear Creek. As with any major family event, it was a time of worship, joy, and appreciation of the ties that bind us together.

Reading together the proposed discipline revision has reinforced our knowledge of the structure of our meetings. We have a renewed sense of why we do certain things and appreciation for our rich heritage. We are grateful to the committee for their years of service in preparing this valuable and necessary document.

We treasure our meeting house. We are spiritually uplifted as we enter. We feel the presence of those who have worshiped here. We center down in an atmosphere of love and thanksgiving. “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.” (Psalms 100:4-5)

Decorah Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

This past year found Decorah Friends reaching for a deeper understanding of Quaker fundamentals for both youth and adults. We have given renewed attention to the Queries, and have listened attentively to the “Jewels of Quakerism” series from Pendle Hill, as well as participating in a spring retreat on prayer. These activities have helped us deepen our understanding and appreciation of our Quaker roots.

Meetings for Business are well attended and begin and end with a centering silence, with an intention to be respectful of Quaker process. Meeting for worship offers the opportunity for people to reconnect with the Divine. Spoken ministry is meaningful and spirit-led. Often, after worship, those gathering are invited to share thoughts they had, but did not vocalize during worship. Shared joys and sorrows also help us stay connected to events in each other’s lives. The strong fellowship of Decorah Friends continues through potlucks, informal gatherings after worship, shared work days, and a women’s spiritual nurture group.

Decorah Friends Meeting continues to be small in numbers, and not everyone can be in attendance every week. Still we have many shared values that are acted upon individually and as a group. We have made many “green” improvements to the meeting space, and individuals actively pursue good environmental practices.

Owning and caring for the meeting house requires time, money, and effort of many members. While it provides a home for worship, we continue to struggle with the demands of owning and maintaining a physical structure.

We have an ongoing concern for those in need of assistance, offering financial support to a student in Africa, and caring friendship and support to an immigrant family affected by the ICE raid in Postville in 2008. The

youth recently raised money from a pancake breakfast and donated the proceeds to agricultural workers through the Kiva organization.

Decorah Friends are well connected to the Decorah community through the Decorah Faith Coalition and the new Northeast Iowa Peace and Justice Center. We participate in the Driftless Gathering every year, as well as exchanging visits with other monthly meetings in our region. Those attending midyear and yearly meeting appreciate the fellowship and deepened spirituality of Iowa Yearly Meeting.

Des Moines Valley Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

We are delighted to be able to again report that Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting continues to enjoy strong attendance and involvement by people of disparate ages and from a variety of backgrounds. We acknowledge that the Spirit moves through us in different ways and we seek to embrace those differences for the enrichments they offer. For many in the meeting, this regular communion with people who hold some differing views and, at the same time, seek the Light by our side, is a special joy.

We have a small but committed group of Friends who coordinate meaningful education programs, discussions, and other activities for our First Day school for younger Friends. Our Quaker Teens group is small and the attendance of each teen is erratic. We have attempted to accommodate this fact by planning short-term projects, including a variety of community service activities.

We continue to attract new attenders, to whom we strive to be welcoming without being overwhelming.

Concerns and issues of aging have been very present this past year, both for individuals within our meeting and by us as a community. Several members have lost parents or have seen them move into new life stages that require increased levels for support/assistance. In the cases of two particular long-time members, the meeting as a whole is especially engaged in helping to meet their physical, spiritual and emotional needs.

We held a clearness committee for a member struggling with a professional quandary and the committee stands ready to provide additional support as she moves to new chapters in her employment story.

We also began productive dialogue with the yearly meeting clerk about our relationship with Yearly Meeting and with the wider Quaker world in general.

We appreciate being able to come together as a spiritual community, finding strength, wisdom, and meaning—sometimes from surprising sources. Each of us is nurtured through collective worship, by the

process of conducting Meeting business together, and by the many opportunities we have to provide comfort, assistance, support and Friendship to each other—both inside the meeting house and in the wider community.

Iowa City Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

Iowa City has had an active year as a meeting. We welcomed a new member who was already participating in many areas since coming to us last year from California. In addition, several young adults are now leading important aspects of our programs and helping us widen our perspective on the use of our meeting house and care of members and attenders. One member has invited us into his home for potluck meals and facilitated opportunity for us to get to know each other better.

Ministry and Counsel invited three senior members to share their spiritual journeys at well received informal “after meeting” sessions during the late winter/early spring. We have also been involved in care and concern for members who are ill or unable to attend and are working to improve ways of introducing newcomers to meeting for worship and Quakerism using conversation, articles, Pendle Hill pamphlets and discussions.

We mourn the loss of one of our long-time members; every week we find ways that we still appreciate her loving presence and attention to the care of the meeting.

The bathroom of the meeting house was remodeled to make it accessible to individuals with disabilities. A special fund-raising campaign provided the funds for the project.

Five people from Iowa City had an enriching experience at Midyear Meeting.

Last fall our meeting offered a public information session at the Iowa City Public Library to present some Quaker testimonies and introduce the Iowa City meeting in the hope of attracting new faces to our meeting. This may be repeated.

We continue to be active in the Consultation of Religious Communities, supporting the various social action projects of this group, including contributing to the annual used book sale for Shelter House. We also continue to make regular contributions to PEACE Iowa.

A Buddhist group has been using the meeting house regularly for meetings and meditation. We are preparing guidelines for the use of this space. Two youth groups from other faiths visited First Day school this year and prompted interesting exchange in learning about Quaker values.

Lincoln Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

Lincoln Meeting continues to offer support and nurture to our small and faithful fellowship. We have been resilient in responding to the changes this year has brought:

Changes to the meeting house. We approved and completed the renovation of our front room and entry which includes a ramp. This makes getting into the meeting house much easier for our members who are aging and experiencing reduced mobility. We survived with grace and good humor the decision-making process and the chaos of construction, and appreciate the results. We have struggled with our relationship with our resident caretaker, who is no longer able to meet our needs, and are relieved that we have come to a mutual agreement to part ways, in what we hope is a win-win situation.

Deaths. Our member who was in hospice care last year passed away this spring. Other deaths this year were the son of a member, who grew up in the meeting, and both parents of another member. We are tender with each other in the face of these losses, and as we witness the diminishments of our aging group.

New faces. We are blessed when people find their way to us. A new attender has rapidly become an integral part of the meeting. Another college student began attending. She shared that because she is shy, coming to meeting was initially difficult for her. In her first vocal ministry, she shared about an earlier experience in worship when she was given the message: you are not alone, you are safe, you are loved. We are humbled by this manifestation of the power of the Spirit in our meeting.

Omaha Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

Omaha Friends meeting continues to be a very small community that wrestles with making available a spiritual home to the people in Omaha who need Quakerism.

We have a core group of regular attenders who know each other well and often share each other's concerns, burdens, and joys. We are not sure we do well at following up with visitors and occasional attenders, feeling perhaps that some visitors want to be anonymous.

Even for visitors who do not want to bare their souls it might be important that we share more with them, especially about what goes on in the silence. Our sharing time at the end of the worship hour is a good opportunity for this, and reading the book *Listening Spirituality* is helping us to be more conscious of our spiritual practices, and perhaps more

able to share. We are reminded that we can be led to a “teaching ministry” which can be helpful to members and visitors alike. For some of us, expressing the spiritual life in words is very important, and for others worship is a distinctly non-verbal activity.

We struggle with whether having a physical home (owning a meeting house) would improve our ability to reach out and grow, or whether it would distract us and make us focus too much on the building itself and financial issues.

We keep ourselves busy and don’t always leave space in our lives to follow God’s leadings, including the basic one: to love each other.

Paullina Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

Although few in numbers, regular Paullina Monthly Meeting attendees find their week incomplete without the quiet respite of meeting for worship in our busy lives. It provides a meaningful space to open our hearts and draw us closer to the Light.

Little has changed in the life of the meeting this past year. Spring finds us worshiping back in the meeting house after a winter of meeting in the community building. The community building is still used for the Thursday quilting group.

Meeting for worship forms a base from which meeting members go out into the community and world and are active in community and social concerns such as Peacelinks, AVP, and various other organizations and concerns.

We begin each business meeting with a discussion of a query. Unfortunately we have only a few faithful who regularly attend to the business of the meeting.

Monthly potlucks are well attended with much appreciated socializing of members who live at a distance from each other. We warmly welcome those from the Sioux Falls worship group when they are able to be with us. And we also deeply appreciate the young family with a small child in attendance. What a wonderful sound.

*Sioux Falls Area Worship Group
under the care of Paullina Monthly Meeting*

As we reflect on how Truth prospers among us we are mindful that Truth for us is not a static creed or set of beliefs but a process of continuing revelation of the spirit of love among us. Our diversity enriches our seeking together and continues to draw us deeper into spiritual community. Worship has often been a time of saying good-bye to clocks

ticking as we meet together in that silence which is eternal, seeking to know one another beyond what can be put into words.

We are grateful for the faithfulness of friends attending our small worship group—especially that of Alan Knutson. Alan’s death earlier this year has drawn us all closer together. We are grateful for his life with us.

Our worship group also supports a noon meeting for worship in Madison, South Dakota, where an ecumenical group follows the discipline of *lectio divina* (divine reading). As we share how scripture and the writings of early Friends speak to us today we find ourselves drawn into spiritual community and deeper friendships.

Remembering John Woolman’s calling to visit the Indians, we humbly carry our spirit of love and light into the larger community, through our work and volunteer activities, seeking to understand and learn from the life and spirit in others.

Penn Valley Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

As we prepare the 2011 State of the Meeting Report for Penn Valley meeting we find ourselves torn between focusing, on one hand, upon the struggles and challenges that we face, and on the other, upon the strength and growth that we have experienced.

In the front of our minds are the struggles and challenges. Many individuals in the meeting are facing difficult personal circumstances this year, seemingly in greater proportion than in years past. Not surprisingly, these center mostly around issues of health and employment, and the demands that they place on those who face them dilute their ability to give of their time and energy to the meeting.

Often it feels as if, in so many ways, we are spread too thin. Finding individuals who can accept committee responsibilities is sometimes not possible and we have found it necessary to merge some committees to reduce the number of committee posts that must be filled. Our ability to fulfill our commitment to send representatives to the midyearly and yearly meetings is inadequate at best. We find ourselves facing an ongoing litany of maintenance concerns around the meeting house. Financial contributions to the meeting often lag behind expenses; and similarly, the ability of members and attenders to give time to meeting responsibilities often cannot meet the needs that we see. Personal differences sometimes seem ongoing and irresolvable.

At times it feels as if responsibility for the meeting has become diffuse, as if the sense of the meeting is uncertain, as if we find ourselves struggling to find our center. On some level it is as if we have never fully

recovered from the loss of Reva Griffith six years ago; as if there is a void that has not been filled that we are more and more aware of.

When we consider all of this, we must accept the conclusion that the direction of our meeting is unclear. And yet. . . .

And yet, in the midst of meeting for worship, we look around the meeting house and realize that we are growing, and changing, and gaining strength in new ways. We have been blessed with the return of some members who were long absent, and with the addition of new members and attenders. Among these new attenders are several children, and we welcome the need to give them our time and attention that their presence presents. While the makeup of the meeting is changing, it remains a community of people who all believe deeply in the things that they do and in the difference that they can make in the broader world. And so, when we go looking for our center we find it in the meeting for worship.

Amidst all of the struggles and challenges that we face as individuals and as a whole, in the meeting for worship we seem to find strength and unity. So often it seems as if we are unable to come together as a group to set and accomplish common outward goals, but as we turn inward as a community we find a common source of strength that supports the outward work that we do as individuals.

And so while our community sometimes seems overwhelmed and anemic on the surface, we see that our meeting is in fact vital and growing. That it is a strong center from which its members derive strength, support and assurance.

West Branch Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

The West Branch meeting gathers faithfully for worship each week. We continue to be concerned that we are a small and aging group, and that without an existing group of younger folks, it is difficult to attract young families with children. Our efforts to gather our few families with children on the fourth Sunday of each month for First Day school has had mixed results. We are grateful especially for Rebecca Bergus' creative efforts in bringing fun projects for the children to work on.

Our worship is often centered and deep, a gift for which we are grateful. Offerings of vocal ministry are appreciated, although we might benefit from a broader base of participation in vocal ministry. Worship sharing continues to be a good way for us to answer the queries; members share thoughtfully from their hearts. The cooperative gardening project and the work of the Earth Care Group are fruits of the Spirit's movement among us.

Fellowship is important, as we enjoy each other's company for our potluck meal after monthly meeting. Eastern Iowa Friends Gatherings also provide us with good opportunities to visit with Friends from Whittier and Iowa City Meetings. We also are glad that we can occasionally share activities and fellowship with the members of the Friends Meeting (FUM) on Downey Street.

Whittier Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

It appears that Whittier Monthly Meeting is in a period of transition. The numbers of people attending our meeting for worship each week is small. No one who participates in the life of the meeting lives in Whittier. Whittier has about eight active members, including some who have moved far away. There is also a small group of about five attenders who are interested in our faith and worship with us as often as they are able. A few others think of themselves as part of our meeting, but do not sit with us on First Day because their own families wish for them to join them in worship elsewhere.

The result is that we commonly have three to five gather at Whittier meeting for worship, but who it is can vary each time. Work, serious illness, financial cost, or family care obligations are some of the reasons for small attendance numbers.

The feeling of worship when we meet is good; it nurtures and challenges our spiritual life.

But what has also become apparent is, that while our small group of people is unable to meet together as a whole on a regular basis, the ties between us are deep and strong. It has been remarkable to discover how important we are to each other, and that Whittier meeting serves as the ground for our spiritual growth. This past year brought an unusual amount of very difficult challenges to a number of our group. As a result, what started as a simple e-mail list to keep people informed about upcoming events has blossomed into a forum of shared vulnerability, intimacy and a faith discussion between us. We all love each other.

We are in the process of discovering where we are being led. We are asking ourselves in a worshipful manner; "What is our purpose? Are we fulfilling that purpose?"

It is too soon to know what will evolve, but we have had a number of conversations discussing how we might create new ways for us to worship together more frequently. A few of the ideas we have discussed include holding additional meetings for worship closer to where our members live, inviting the local Whittier community in for an "open house" event, and starting a Quaker reading group.

One of our dearest “non-member members” in our e-mail group has offered to develop a Whittier web page that might help us connect with each other as well as make our presence known to the wider world. As he wrote in one of our group e-mail discussions:

“. . . As I read the various emails and comments . . . , I realized that we are all connected but not always physically, so I thought of making a Whittier site. I think there are a lot of “closet Quakers”, folks who are really longing for something but can’t find it. Though nothing captures Whittier like the sound of motorcycles and roosters, the smell of moldy wood and dust . . . all the same, there are people like us who long for the connection but can’t pull it off, physically.”

We seek to worship and deepen our faith together. We ask ourselves how we can adapt our longstanding organization framework and meeting schedule to better meet the needs of those who currently make up our meeting. It is exciting to be able to explore these questions together. The blessing has been to realize how much we all share the desire to deepen our faith as a community. We are companions for each other on this journey, and we are grateful for that gift.

“Whether we are part of a large meeting, a small meeting, or a worship group . . . , we are engaged in the continual process of creating a living community based on love. That is Quaker faith and practice in a nutshell.”

These words of Marty Walton speak to our dream. While we can’t know what the next stage looks like, we want to take care to make sure that our worship remains sincere, so that however we grow is in line with God’s will.

Yahara Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

Yahara Meeting carries on, although we have faced several serious issues this year. Last fall we realized that our financial stability was dwindling as our expenses outran our income. Rent is expensive everywhere in Madison, but we would like to remain in our current location if we can. We negotiated for a decrease in rent, and have had some increase in income this spring, but we will soon have to revisit the issue of our financial sustainability.

During the winter and spring our meeting was committed to addressing our state’s political crisis brought on by actions of our new governor to end collective bargaining for most public employees and to slash funding for programs benefiting our most vulnerable citizens and our public schools. Individuals in our meeting spent countless hours at protests, working on the State Supreme Court election and regional recall

elections, and writing letters to legislators. Our meeting wrote a letter to the governor and our legislators regarding the proposed budget bills. The budget has now been passed with many provisions we find disturbing. The situation weighs heavily on our spirits and it requires ongoing attention.

We were stretched this winter when we dealt with the issue of someone wanting to attend our meeting who had sexually abused a child in the past. For several months this became the predominant concern of our meeting. The process was messy and it challenged all of us. As we lifted up this concern we came to realize that many of the people who formed our meeting had been personally harmed by child sexual abuse as victims or family members. We quickly realized that our desire to minister to that of God in the new attender conflicted with our wish to minister to survivors by maintaining a safe worship space.

The situation was often distressing. Our decision to ask the attender not to worship with us was difficult. We deeply appreciate that he respected our process and our decision which was primarily a choice to continue ministering to survivors and family members already worshipping with us. We are aware of several survivors and family members who have left meetings in the past over this issue. We doubted if our meeting could survive this prospect.

We wrote a minute on this issue which was approved in March. Since that time we have fielded many questions from Friends about our process and reasoning. We are grateful for the prayers and concerns expressed by Friends from outside our meeting during this process. We hope that Friends will appreciate how difficult it has been to seek clarity and God's grace with this issue.

Our meeting has been humbled by facing our financial instability, our state's political crisis and the decision we made not to welcome someone into our community. We are tired. Still, we have found strength in our vulnerability, courage through our doubts, and renewed faith in the transforming power of God's Love through regular worship and prayer. We have grown closer to one another, and we have renewed appreciation for the gifts each person brings to the meeting.

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

SEVENTH DAY – SATURDAY – 7/30/2011
AFTERNOON SESSION

We resume the business of the Yearly Meeting.

From this time forward I make you hear new things, hidden things that you have not known.

Isaiah 48:6

Ian Taylor and Emma Deutsch have been appointed as readers this afternoon.

We listened with great love to the report of the yearly meeting recorder. It is a tribute to our Friends who have passed that we miss them so much. Their lives mattered in a deep way.

RECORDER REPORT

Deaths

Bear Creek	Elias Stakland	October 4, 2010
Iowa City	Elsie Kuhn	December 21, 2010
Lincoln	Margaret McGinnis	March 24, 2011
Paullina	Alan Reynolds Knutson	December 30, 2010
Penn Valley*	Alan Carey	December 8, 2004
	Herman Pitter	March 5, 2008
	Fred Batson	February 15, 2005

*Deaths not previously reported but included in this year's statistics

Births

None

Marriages under the Care of the Meetings

Bear Creek	Robert Carroll Winchell to Thelma Clare Volger Rush	November 27, 2010
Des Moines Valley	Susan Myers to Charlie Brown	August 21, 2010
West Branch	Amanda Patton to Steve Karanikolas	July 17, 2010

New Members by Request or by Certificate of Transfer

Iowa City	Virginia Major Thomas	April 10, 2011(certificate from Redwood Forest)
Lincoln	Ahda Ellis	(released in error in 2002/2003; membership reinstated on request in 2010/2011)
	Lorene Ludy	May 15, 2011 (certificate from Yahara)

Meeting	Births	Deaths	Certificates of Mem- bership Received (Transfers In)	Members Transferred Out	New Memberships Granted	Memberships Discontinued	Total Membership	YM Net Loss
Ames	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	
Bear Creek	0	1	0	0	0	0	77	
Decorah	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	
Des Moines Valley	0	0	0	0	0	2	69	
Iowa City	0	1	1	0	0	0	58	
Lincoln	0	1	1	0	0	0	24	
Omaha	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	
Paullina	0	1	0	0	0	0	74	
Penn Valley	0	3	0	0	0	0	67	
West Branch	0	0	0	0	0	0	88	
Whittier	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	
Yahara	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	
Totals	0	7	2	1	0	2	547	(8)

We have heard the Representatives report, which includes the yearly meeting budget for the following year. At present our expenses outrun our monthly meeting assessments by approximately \$14,000. The decision is to make our contributions according to how much of the \$14,000 we are able to develop, the first disbursements being \$50,000 to Scattergood, and \$900 to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. From there, the contributions will be made in 50% increments. We are hoping that the

\$14,000 gap will be filled by monthly meeting and individual Friends' contributions. We are moving forward in faith as way opens.

We appreciate how difficult it has been to create this budget. We appreciate the tireless work of the Representatives.

We appreciate the many years of faithful service by our assistant clerk, Deborah Fink.

REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

The Representative Committee carried out the duties set forth in their portion of the "committees appointed by monthly meetings" in the Yearly Meeting section of the new faith and practice (adopted 7/29/2011), naming people to serve on the various committees listed that meet during yearly meeting sessions.

In addition we offer the following names for these respective offices:

Clerk	Deborah Dakin
Assistant Clerk	Penny Majors
Treasurer	Jim Kenney
Assistant Treasurer	Jean Sandstrom
Statistical Recorder	Tim Shipe

The yearly meeting clerk has recommended that the various youth related items in the budget be combined in some way to accommodate the reality that as our youth mature the money appropriate for each age group changes. The Representatives recommend a "youth support task force" be formed to find the most creative way to relate to these challenges.

We offer the following proposed budget for yearly meeting approval. We have been able to have about a \$17,000 spread between our budget for the fiscal year and anticipated income because not all items are spent and we had created a cash reserve in unspent amounts in our three reserve funds. We recommend that the two youth related reserve funds be eliminated, keeping only the Triennial/Global Gathering Travel Fund. Having utilized our cash reserves in past years, this year we are able to only have a spread of about \$7,000 between our budget for the fiscal year and anticipated income. The proposed budget and monthly meeting apportionments reflect these changes. We were not able to increase monthly meeting apportionments sufficiently to close the gap between income and expenses and have needed to make most contributions to other organizations contingent on our collective ability to raise an additional \$4,000 to have a responsibly funded budget.

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
Budget for Fiscal 2011–2012
(Budget figures have been corrected)

Contributions (Contingent on Meeting and individual contributions)	
American Friends Service Committee	\$ 1,000
Friends Committee on National Legislation	1,000
Friends General Conference	200
Friends World Committee for Consultation	1,000
Nebraskans for Peace	500
Friends Peace Teams	500
National Religious Committee Against Torture	100
Pendle Hill	500
Quaker Earthcare Witness	200
Quaker United Nations Office	200
Right Sharing of World Resources	200
William Penn House	300
Total Contingent Contributions	\$5,700
 Contributions (Firm)	
Peace and Social Concerns Committee	1,100
(\$200 in designated contributions)	
Scattergood Friends School	50,000
Total Contributions	\$56,800
 Delegate Expenses	
FCNL	\$1,000
Friends Peace Teams	1,000
FWCC, General	1,000
FWCC, Triennial/Global gathering	700
Quaker Earth Care Witness	700
Total Delegate Expenses	\$4,400

Yearly Meeting Expenses

Archives Committee	\$ 200
Clerk's and other administrative expenses	400
Committee expenses (other)	500
Conscientious Objector PSC subcommittee	100
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	1,000
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees: 1 year roof fund	800
Junior Yearly Meeting	1,000
IYMC Youth Weekends	100
Young Adult Friends	300
Young Friends	1,500
Special Needs Committee	500
Publication Committee	5,000
Quaker youth camp scholarship	500
YM Entertainment Committee (if receipts inadequate)	1,000
Midyear Planning Committee (if receipts inadequate)	1,000
Contingency Fund	1,000
Young Friends Travel and Conference	1,000
Total Yearly Meeting Expenses	<u>\$15,900</u>
Grand Total	<u>\$77,100</u>

Monthly Meeting Apportionments

	Percent	Dollar Amount
Ames	5.98	\$ 3,812
Bear Creek	8.63	5,500
Decorah	1.52	968
Des Moines Valley	21.28	13,560
Iowa City	7.14	4,548
Lincoln	9.40	5,988
Omaha	4.92	3,136
Paullina	9.71	6,188
Penn Valley	7.85	5,000
West Branch	17.60	11,216
Whittier	4.39	2,800
Yahara	1.57	1,000
Total Apportionments	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>\$63,716</u>

Jim Kenney and Dan Schlitt, co-clerks

We are thankful for the work the members of the Special Replies Committee are doing on behalf of this meeting. We are confident that the letter they write for us will be fine.

We are grateful to the Epistle Committee for the beautiful letters to send out on our behalf.

EPISTLE TO FRIENDS EVERYWHERE

7/30/2011

There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are varieties of service, but the same Lord. There are varieties of activity, but in all of them and in everyone the same God is active.

1 Corinthians 12:4–6

To Friends Everywhere:

Greetings from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), where Friends from monthly meetings and worship groups in Iowa, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota and South Dakota are gathered for our 134th annual session on the beautiful campus of Scattergood Friends School. We meet for our daily sessions of worship with attention to business in the Hickory Grove meeting house which is now the school meeting house.

As we listened to the epistles from other yearly meetings around the world we were reminded that in our loneliness and emptiness we hear the deep cry of our need to meet together and know one another in that which is eternal. We are grateful for our connection to this wider community of Friends and for your epistles which enrich our life together.

Our theme for this Yearly Meeting was “Our Quaker Testimonies.” In daily Bible study we explored the biblical roots of our testimonies noting that the Ten Commandments were God’s testimony to his chosen people. We followed the threads of biblical testimonies through the history of our yearly meeting. Two Friends shared about living the testimonies at La Casa de los Amigos in Mexico City where Friends, volunteers, and guests are drawn into deeper community through a ministry of hospitality and presence, and the practice of *lectio divina*. Another Friend led us to reflect on our testimonies as a witness to Truth and God’s Love. Integrity requires that we let the Light into the dark corners of our lives so we can see honestly and clearly the measure of Light we have, and as we are faithful, our gifts become part of the Beloved Community. Several Friends shared their rich experiences of growing up in this yearly

meeting in the 1930's and 40's. We learned about life in the rural meeting communities and how the experiences of studying at Scattergood School, and living the testimony against war, drew Friends into the larger world. We noted that the weight, responsibilities, and consequences of the witness against war were carried by both the conscientious objectors and their meeting communities. Bridget Moix of FCNL reminded us that Friends have a history of living our testimonies in times of doubt. Through patient waiting, trust in God, and acting from our faith we give others courage, and together we can change our troubled world. Our junior yearly meeting and young Friends groups shared with us their full week of service, swimming, camping, and canoeing. We enjoyed the presence of these youth and we hope we provide them spiritual refreshment.

During our business sessions we delighted in approving the revision to our book of discipline after more than 15 years of committee work. We affirmed, with John Woolman that "There is a Principle which is pure, placed in the human Mind, which in different Places and Ages hath had different Names; it is, however, pure and proceeds from God. It is deep, and inward, confined to no Forms of Religion, nor excluded from any, where the Heart stands in perfect Sincerity. In whomsoever this takes Root and grows, of what Nation so ever, they become Brethren."

While our older monthly meetings are restructuring to accommodate a declining membership, new groups of Friends are looking for ways to affiliate with us, and young adult Friends have assumed greater responsibilities during these sessions. We care about the vitality and spiritual health of our meetings. We understand that community is the fruit of living our testimonies through our daily, small faithful acts of love.

May the love and joy of God's Spirit bless you in the coming year.

EPISTLE TO OHIO YEARLY MEETING

There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are varieties of service, but the same Lord. There are varieties of activity, but in all of them and in everyone the same God is active.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

To Friends in Ohio Yearly Meeting:

Gathered on the campus of Scattergood Friends School for our 134th annual Yearly Meeting session, we were grateful to share the epistle from your 2010 Yearly Meeting. We are likewise grateful that Marshall Massey,

from our Yearly Meeting, was able to attend your session and for David Eley's faithful presence at ours.

As we listened to the epistles from other yearly meetings around the world we were reminded that in our loneliness and emptiness we hear the deep cry of our need to meet together and know one another in that which is eternal. We are grateful for our connection to this wider community of Friends and for your epistles which enrich our life together.

Our theme for this Yearly Meeting was "Our Quaker Testimonies." In daily Bible study we explored the biblical roots of our testimonies noting that the Ten Commandments were God's testimony to his chosen people. We followed the threads of biblical testimonies through the history of our yearly meeting. Two Friends shared about living the testimonies at La Casa de los Amigos in Mexico City where Friends, volunteers, and guests are drawn into deeper community through a ministry of hospitality and presence, and the practice of *lectio divina*. Another Friend led us to reflect on our testimonies as a witness to Truth and God's Love. Integrity requires that we let the Light into the dark corners of our lives so we can see honestly and clearly the measure of Light we have, and as we are faithful, our gifts become part of the Beloved Community. Several Friends shared their rich experiences of growing up in this yearly meeting in the 1930's and 40's. We learned about life in the rural meeting communities and how the experiences of studying at Scattergood School, and living the testimony against war, drew Friends into the larger world. We noted that the weight, responsibilities, and consequences of the witness against war were carried by both conscientious objectors and their meeting communities. Bridget Moix of FCNL reminded us that Friends have a history of living our testimonies in times of doubt. Through patient waiting, trust in God, and acting from our faith we give others courage, and together we can change our troubled world. Our junior yearly meeting and young Friends groups shared with us their full week of service, swimming, camping, and canoeing. We enjoyed the presence of these youth and we hope we provide them spiritual refreshment.

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While our older monthly meetings are restructuring to accommodate a declining membership, new groups of Friends are looking for ways to

affiliate with us, and young adult Friends have assumed greater responsibilities during these sessions. We care about the vitality and spiritual health of our meetings. We understand that community is the fruit of living our testimonies through our daily, small faithful acts of love.

We hope that the Spirit may continue to prosper among you, and that the Spirit is an active and abiding presence in your session which will convene soon in 2011.

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

There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are varieties of service, but the same Lord. There are varieties of activity, but in all of them and in everyone the same God is active.

1 Corinthians 12:4–6

To Friends in North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative):

As we gathered on the campus of the Scattergood Friends School for the 134th Yearly Meeting in session, we have been joined by the song of the cicadas, the hum of the nearby interstate, the Truth of God’s love among us and the warmth and humidity of an Iowa summer. Megan McCormick, a member of our Yearly Meeting who arrived at our session directly from her attendance at your Yearly Meeting, felt quite welcomed and at home in your fellowship. Thank you for your care for her.

As we listened to the epistles from other yearly meetings around the world we were reminded that in our loneliness and emptiness we hear the deep cry of our need to meet together and know one another in that which is eternal. We are grateful for our connection to this wider community of Friends and for your epistles which enrich our life together.

Our theme for this Yearly Meeting was “Our Quaker Testimonies.” In daily Bible study we explored the biblical roots of our testimonies noting that the Ten Commandments were God’s testimony to his chosen people. We followed the threads of biblical testimonies through the history of our yearly meeting. Two Friends shared about living the testimonies at La Casa de los Amigos in Mexico City where Friends, volunteers, and guests are drawn into deeper community through a ministry of hospitality and presence, and the practice of *lectio divina*. Another Friend led us to reflect on our testimonies as a witness to Truth and God’s Love. Integrity requires that we let the Light into the dark corners of our lives so we can see honestly and clearly the measure of Light we

have, and as we are faithful, our gifts become part of the Beloved Community. Several Friends shared their rich experiences of growing up in this yearly meeting in the 1930's and 40's. We learned about life in the rural meeting communities and how the experiences of studying at Scattergood School, and living the testimony against war, drew Friends into the larger world. We noted that the weight, responsibilities, and consequences of the witness against war were carried by both the conscientious objectors and their meeting communities. Bridget Moix of FCNL reminded us that Friends have a history of living our testimonies in times of doubt. Through patient waiting, trust in God, and acting from our faith we give others courage, and together we can change our troubled world. Our junior yearly meeting and young Friends groups shared with us their full week of service, swimming, camping, and canoeing. We enjoyed the presence of these youth and we hope we provide them spiritual refreshment.

During our business sessions we delighted in approving the revision to our book of discipline after more than 15 years of committee work. We affirmed, with John Woolman that "There is a Principle which is pure, placed in the human Mind, which in different Places and Ages hath had different Names; it is, however, pure and proceeds from God. It is deep, and inward, confined to no Forms of Religion, nor excluded from any, where the Heart stands in perfect Sincerity. In whomsoever this takes Root and grows, of what Nation so ever, they become Brethren."

While our older monthly meetings are restructuring to accommodate a declining membership, new groups of Friends are looking for ways to affiliate with us, and young adult Friends have assumed greater responsibilities during these sessions. We care about the vitality and spiritual health of our meetings. We understand that community is the fruit of living our testimonies through our daily, small faithful acts of love.

We value the historic and present connections between our Yearly Meetings. We hope that through inter-visitation, and other forms of exchange that may present themselves, that these connections may continue to strengthen and prosper.

We approved the report of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee does some of the most strenuous and important work on behalf of the yearly meeting. We appreciate their faithful service on our behalf.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Current committee members are listed beneath each committee name. Unless otherwise noted, a person’s term concludes at the close of yearly meeting session in the year listed in the column heading above that name.

Committees and Representatives to Other Quaker Bodies

2012	2013	2014
Adult Young Friends		
Michael Taylor*	Sarah Mickle	Ian Taylor
Nick Jacoby*		Karen Greenler
Archives Committee		
Daniel Treadway	Jeff Cox	Andrea Jilovec
Herbert Standing*	Inez Schaechterle	Tim Shipe
Book Table Committee		
Martha Davis	Liz Oppenheimer	Beth Wilson
Document Committee		
Yahara Monthly Meeting		
Entertainment Committee		
Decorah	Lincoln	Ames
Iowa City	Omaha	Des Moines Valley
West Branch	Paullina	Penn Valley
Whittier		Yahara

2012	2013	2014
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Interim Meeting (appointed by monthly meetings)

A.M. Fink	Ames	Lorene Ludy	Yahara
Gordon Bivens	Ames	Bill Deutsch	Decorah
Dixie Collins	Whittier	Lois Tjossem	Paullina
Alice Hampton	Whittier	Deborah Fisch	Paullina
Kathy Day	DM Valley	Cindy Winchell	DM Valley
Richard Johnson	BearCr	Megan McCormick	Yahara
Ruth Dawson	Iowa City		
George Bergus	W. Br.		

Junior Yearly Meeting (for Yearly Meeting)

Carol Gilbert*	Carol Spaulding-Kruse	Jennie Schmidt
Elizabeth O’Sullivan	Cheryl Sutton	Jean Sandstrom

Young Friends Planning Committee (for Yearly Meeting)

Jules Galusha*	Karen Greenler	Neal Shaffer
Scott Greenler	Flossie Cox	Bill Deutsch

Junior Yearly Meeting/Young Friends (Midyear)

Mikel Johnson	Megan Knight	Jean Sandstrom*
Michael Taylor	Hana Norval	Jackie Leckband
Jules Galusha		Sarah Mickle

Midyear Meeting Planning Committee

Christina Kieltyka	Mikel Johnson	Betty Young
Wanda Knight	Stan Sanders*	Megan Knight
Winifred Standing	Roy Hampton	Osa Bricker
Marion Love	Lorene Ludy	Jackie Leckband
Christine Kelly	A.M. Fink	
Ruth Dawson		

Ministry and Counsel Committee (appointed by monthly meetings)

Christina Kieltyka	Karoline Jarr	Carol Gilbert
Catherine Dorenbach	Andrea Holveck	Alberta Kisling*
Chloe Wagner	Judy Plank	Dorothy Rogers
Gordon Bivens	Martha Hampton	Doyle Wilson
Rebecca Bergus	Penny Majors	Dixie Collins
Megan Knight	Marshall Massey	Martha Davis
		Ann Stromquist
		Lorene Ludy*

2012	2013	2014
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Peace and Social Concerns Committee

Sherry Hutchison*	Judy Plank	Claire Cumbie-Drake
Jim Cottingham	Winifred Standing	Echo Ray
Jim Bruner	Jackie Leckband	Herbert Standing
Deborah Fisch*	Rachel MacNair	Ian Taylor
Marian Solomon	Lori Nelson	Mark Patton
Quinn Dilkes		Ann Stromquist
Emma Deutsch		Deborah Fink
Bob Yeats		Carol Winkleback

Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee

Wilmer Tjossem	Jean Eden	Roy Hampton*
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Publication Committee

Callie Marsh	Margie Haworth*	Lynda Fife
Ruth Dawson	Ken Lawrence (Web master)	Steve Deatherage

Religious Education Committee

Bill Deutsch	Marshall Massey	Judy Cottingham*
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Scattergood Friends School Committee

Illinois YM and Northern YM are also invited to name a representative to the committee. **Terms end after July School Committee meeting.**

Debbie Galusha*	Doyle Wilson	Rebecca Bergus
Ruth Dawson	Claire Cumbie-Drake	George Bergus
Callie Marsh	Robert Winchell	Dan Schlitt
Lorene Ludy	Russ Leckband	Karen Greenler

Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees

Lowell Wilson	Robert Yeats	Barb Garlinghouse
Cheryl Sutton	Larry Marsh	Pam Avery

2015: Gordon Bivens, Richard Johnson

Special Needs Committee

Echo Ray*	Harry Olmstead	Bob Yeats
Sherry Hutchison		Joey Giffen-Hunter

Trustees, Yearly Meeting

Jim Cottingham	Beth Wilson A.M. Fink*	Jonathan Fisch
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2015: Sarah Mickle

IYMC Representatives to Friends Agencies

2012	2013	2014
AFSC Corporation Members		
Lori Nelson	Robert Yeats*	Andrea Jilovec
Ann Stromquist, alt.	Dan Schlitt	
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)		
Alberta Kisling	Deborah Fink	Jonathan Fisch*
Curtis Bryant	Ian Taylor	Rebecca Bergus
Friends Peace Teams Advisory Board		
not filled		
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)		
Ebby Luvaga	Penny Majors	Christine Kelly
Iowa Peace Network		
not filled		
Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee		
Os Cressin	Don Laughlin	
William Penn House Consultative Committee		
Alberta Kisling*	Jim Kenney	

CLOSING MINUTE

In our sleep, pain which cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart until, in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God.

—Aeschylus

As we gathered together this past week, we learned how Quaker Testimonies have always born twin fruits of sorrow and joy, despair and hope.

Our plenary sessions and committee meetings reminded us that when we live our testimonies, we must plant trees with the knowledge that we will never eat their fruit. A photo exhibit with pictures of ourselves in younger days and also of Friends no longer living, reminded us that we now eat fruit from trees planted by those who did the same for thing for us.

Many Friends planted and continued to nurture Scattergood trees, so that this year the reports from the school were both hopeful in looking

toward the future and deeply spiritual in their grounding. Our newest Scattergood staff never had the pleasure to know the Friends we remember so dearly, but they are harvesting their fruits, and continue to plant trees for people yet to come.

This is what it means to “Be patterns, examples in all countries, places, islands, nations wherever you come. . . .”

Because of Friends’ steadfast labor over the past 15 years, we now have the fruit of our Revised Faith and Practice: The Discipline of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), which will serve us now, but also serve those yet to come, as they seek guidance in this faith that nourishes us so deeply.

Sometimes we struggle in order to not succumb to fear and despair. Hearing stories this week of Friends who went to jail in order to live a testimony of peace, gave us heart and inspired us. At the same time, it almost seemed impossible to believe when our plenary speaker encouraged us to trust that same Spirit will also lead us to speak truth, even though our voice might shake. And yet, over and over again throughout this week, new stories emerged of small stands of courage right in our midst, right here, right now. Courage to live mindfully without any assurance that it makes the slightest difference. Courage to struggle tenderly to care for each other in our monthly meetings, when circumstances seem insurmountable. Courage to stand up and say something uncomfortable in our committee meetings and also on the floor in public presentations. But Friends continue to do this as they witness to the small part of the Light that each of us are given. Friends do this, because this is what love is.

Friends among us today still walk so that their “carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them . . .”

How wonderful to realize that it isn’t us individually who need to change the world.

Sometimes we get overwhelmed living in a time of meanness, greed, violence and war. It seems incredible that we despoil the very planet that sustains us. But then we heard about the joy that comes from a testimony of community. That joyful community happens not only among the poor in Mexico City, but is happening here and now in our own yearly meeting. That love enables us to love each other, even through our differences. People are listening each other into healing, and somehow, somehow seeking the strength to find the courage in their monthly meetings to hear each other, even when the stories seemed almost too personal and painful to bear.

“By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us to give light to those who sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” Luke 1:78–79

From being together this week, we know that Friends are still moved to witness to the testimonies. It’s happening on street corners, with our families and neighbors, in our monthly meetings, and right here in the nitty gritty dirty work of caring for IYMC.

There is a Celtic prayer that asks that God “Be in the interruptions and the setbacks/ Be in the eye of the person who is difficult/ Be in the eye of the person who is a delight.” We need each other, and we need each other in all our stupid silly messy, imperfect ways. Our sessions reminded us of this again and again. And as our stupid, silly, messy, imperfect selves continue to strive to be faithful each day, we come to harvest fruit planted by Friends before us; and a life “whereby in them you may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you.”

The many forums in which we discussed community during our times together, showed us that we don’t have to do any of this alone. We CAN’T do any of this alone. We’ve gotten frustrated and sometimes hurt or angry with each other. We’ve also held each other up, in ways both big and small. The psalms remind us that, “we did not make ourselves,” and also that, it is not us, but “God who will renew the earth.” Right now we are learning the difficulty of that reality. Those times when we simply can’t see how we will heal the earth relying on our own human resources, then we are forced in our very bones to look beyond ourselves. That is why one of our speakers assured us that it is only from our doubts that true hope can arise.

This is the same hope that Friends living before us knew. It was what enabled them to plant all those trees for us. We are planting our own trees now.

“... then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone; whereby in them you may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you.” (George Fox)

We now conclude our 2011 annual sessions, planning to meet again, God willing, at Scattergood Friends School near West Branch, Iowa, 7th month 31st, to 8th month 5th, 2012.

Deborah Dakin, clerk

Deborah Fink, assistant clerk

Reports received but not read in annual sessions

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Archive Committee continues to be generally inactive.

Our agreement with the State Historical Society of Iowa for the deposit of records continues to the ending of calendar year 2013, so no action toward the continuing of this agreement is needed at the present time.

Matilda Hansen has recently published a book, *The Legacy They Gave to Us*, the first volume of a trilogy she expects to publish concerning Norwegian Friends as they lived in Norway and as they moved to Iowa where they established Norwegian Quaker Communities, including the Stavanger community near Le Grand and the substantial contingent of Norwegian Friends of the Paullina Friends Meeting in O'Brien County.

Marshall Massey has written another lengthy historical work: *Iowa Conservative Quaker Tradition*.

The Archives Committee asks for the continuing of the \$200 amount allocated in the budget for the coming year to cover costs pertaining to archives as they may arise or to advance certain historical research authorized by the yearly meeting.

Herbert Standing, clerk

EXERCISE COMMITTEE REPORT

Yearly Meeting shares a heritage with Norwegian Yearly Meeting. This particular year it might be appropriate to send a letter of consolation and caring [in light of recent mass murder of young people there].

We are reminded of the biblical injunction "let your yea be yea and nay be nay." As Friends we need to remember if we agree to do something we follow through and do it. As committee clerks it is frustrating when Friends agree to take on a task and then don't follow through. Let us be responsible to each other in our work and our testimony of integrity.

There is a song with which most of us are familiar, the George Fox song: "There's a Light that was shining when the world began. . . ." Is it Christian? Is Fox Christian? Yes! Two verses of scripture support this. John 1: "For God commanded the Light to shine out of darkness. . . . That

was the true Light which lighteth every man. . . .” And in II Corinthians 4:6 “For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

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We come to Yearly Meeting to slow down. There are always more things to do than we can do here, but I hesitate to say that we are “busy.” I hope we are practicing slowing down.

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I have a concern as a young Friend that when stories have been told at yearly meeting sessions, they are not being recorded and we might lose those stories for young Friends and we might lose this important part of our history. What can we do in the future to save the history of our own yearly meeting?

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I so appreciated a farm report that started from a spiritual place. Words could never express adequately the appreciation we have for the Scattergood staff and all we can say is “thank you.”

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The love the staff (of Scattergood Friends School) showers on the students and the love they each employ for their tasks is spiritual and enlivening.

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How often we hear minutes that refer to us listening. How often during the year we set aside time to listen to the still small voice of God to us and through others. How often when I settle in to listen, the question is, “What would Love require of us?” Love requires us to listen to each other and to the Divine. It takes time and it takes surrendering our own desires. Maybe this is what we are hungry for; this is what the world is hungry for.

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Song: “Guide my feet while we run this race, Guide our feet while we run this race, Cause we don’t want to run this race in vain.”

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We are seeking how we are led to act. So each of us, before we speak, must ask ourselves whether this message is coming from the Spirit.

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Business sessions are well attended, in part because we are refreshed by the cool air conditioning. Coming to annual sessions does the same thing to my spirit; it refreshes and renews me; it is like coming in out of the heat and humidity. I’m already starting to miss Friends even though

I haven't left yet. But, while it is true that being here sustains me it also exhausts me. Both are true and for both I am grateful.

We're talking about the testimonies this week. The taproot testimony is the possibility that I can know the will of God. We have examples of the lives of such people as George Fox, James Naylor, Elizabeth Fry, and John Woolman. For most of us it is not to do the larger things such as they have done. Godliness is in the details of life. If we listen, learn and act upon those details that play out in our everyday lives, we are being faithful to that taproot testimony.

Babies are proof that God is not disappointed in us. (Tagore) We have enjoyed that proof this week. I pray that my faith will be deep and strong enough for the youth of our meeting to stand on my shoulders so that their shoulders and strength will be strong enough for Santiago's (infant) generation to stand on.

Jesus asked us to love one another as he has loved us. I remember when I first was sitting in Bear Creek meeting and being profoundly moved when people sharing in pre-meeting were honest and alive. People I did not know were more real and profound than anyone I knew. That made it easy to identify a community I wanted to be a part of. This was the first time I knew that community could be all this. We love one another and are able to see each other. This is what we long for.

When the young Friends took their canoe trip, some left the canoes on the sand and swam downstream. Coming back against the current was not easy. Life is like that. When we say 'yes' to God or the inner teacher we have guidance to take us upstream.

In John 15, we are commanded to love one another as we have been loved. I am the vine; you are the branches. You are my friends if you do whatsoever I command you. You also shall bear witness because you have been with me from the beginning. It is in eternal life that we are called to live. It is in each of us. It is as we bear witness that the kingdom manifests. You also shall bear witness because you have been with me from the beginning.

There is a Naylor passage which has come to me. "There is a Spirit which I feel that delights to do no evil, nor to revenge any wrong, but delights to endure all things, in hope to enjoy its own in the end. . . . As it bears no evil in itself, so it conceives none in thought to any other. . . . I have fellowship therein with them who lived in dens and desolate

places of the earth. . . .” We know there is darkness in our world. . . . There is much fear and suffering. . . . We know there is Light and Life in among the rocks and hard places. . . . We can rejoice in that which is good and in that love which is eternal . . . we are held in that grace and power.

**AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE
CENTRAL REGION REPORT**

Warm greetings from AFSC’s Central Regional Office. It’s a pleasure to visit with you once again about the good work of Friends and AFSC’s ongoing programs for peace and justice.

Some say change is the only constant, and that’s certainly been true at AFSC. Last autumn, Shan Cretin was appointed as AFSC’s new General Secretary. Shan is committed to seeing that an even higher percentage of our donors’ gifts support AFSC’s program work for peace and justice. As a part of that, we’re examining our administrative structures and costs to be sure they are in line with program needs. While that may mean the number and shape of AFSC’s regions will change in the coming year, our commitment to putting Quaker values in action at home and around the world won’t change.

Please join me for a quick look at some of AFSC’s work in the Central Region over the past year. As always, I invite your feedback and thank you for your continued support. Please stay in touch via our website www.afsc.org, Facebook, e-mail STuma@afsc.org or phone (515) 274-4851, ext. 12.

Building Peace

There’s no point trying to gloss over the many challenges peacemakers face in our world today. As policymakers continue to target human needs for budget cuts, military spending seems to enjoy a “sacred cow” status.

Fortunately, positive change is possible. Consider the people of Egypt, who threw off the shackles of dictatorship through a courageous commitment to nonviolence. Closer to home, thanks to pressure from constituents, Congress voted to ban ground troops from entering Libya and came very close to voting for an accelerated withdrawal from Afghanistan.

At AFSC, we’re organizing today to make lasting, fundamental change possible tomorrow. In particular, our work with young people confirms that our hopes for peace are as timely as they are timeless.

This spring in Iowa, a multi-generational group of AFSC volunteers created an event promoting the arts through peacemaking. The inspiration for the evening of diverse music, poetry and art came from a dynamic young person who says he “sees the desire for peace everywhere.”

Also in Iowa, three young people are working with AFSC to promote peace. One, a Palestinian American woman, is helping to organize a two-day fall conference on engaging the faith community in promoting peace with justice in Palestine and Israel. The lineup of speakers and workshops is impressive.

Two others—a young woman from Kenya and a young man originally from northern Iraq—are researching the various costs of war to our local communities.

I’m excited to say they’re teaming up with mental health providers with offices in Friends House to address the growing problem of post-traumatic stress disorder and veteran suicides.

Change is also in the air in Kansas City, where youth interns are making a big impact on AFSC Kansas City’s work for peace, organizing events on college campuses and in the community. AFSC Peace fellows set up our Eyes Wide Open display at Truman State University in Kirksville and at Park University outside Kansas City.

The award-winning peace club at Park University was organized by Matt Burton, an AFSC Peace Fellow, who writes this about Eyes Wide Open: “We had many people come up to us to share their personal thanks and stories about their loved ones. We had current and past individuals who served in the military thank us for showing the public the true cost of war.”

AFSC is the hub of peace and justice work in Kansas City, and F/friends there deserve high marks for imaginatively portraying the costs of war versus the value of peace. In April, AFSC unveiled a 30-foot banner showing how the U.S. military budget dwarfs spending on human needs. Even President Eisenhower came back to warn about the military-industrial complex.

Upon the eighth anniversary of the Iraq war, AFSC staff and volunteers received national attention when they issued a “report card” on the U.S. role in the Iraq War. While the war got an F, it’s clear that AFSC Kansas City deserves an A.

Kansas Citians are currently organizing a showing of AFSC’s “Windows and Mirrors” exhibit, scheduled for this fall.

Working for Healing Justice

Positive change came to Illinois this spring when the governor and legislature agreed to abolish the death penalty. AFSC staff and volunteers

in neighboring St. Louis earlier had organized a public showing of and panel discussion about a powerful documentary entitled “No Tomorrow.” The film and speakers addressed the societal and institutional violence too many young people face everyday.

Panelists included Sheila Suderwalla, a social worker nationally known for her work with teens in foster care; Rex Friend, an immigration attorney; Dennis Fleming, an author and murder victim’s family member; and criminology professors David Curry and Norman White. Suderwalla and Friend have extensive AFSC volunteer and committee service experience.

AFSC is currently in the process of re-envisioning our program work in St. Louis. In May, the Central Regional Executive Committee hosted a discussion for Friends and community members at the meeting house in St. Louis to listen to needs and ideas around future work.

I’m quite pleased to share the good news that AFSC is planning a return to the Twin Cities. We’re looking forward to reconnecting with Friends there and complementing the great work of Friends for a Non-Violent World. You’ll hear more about this in coming months as plans for AFSC work in the Twin Cities become more developed.

Educating and Advocating for Immigrant Rights

Some things have changed and others haven’t in the struggle for immigrant rights. Although Congress has resisted our calls to pass comprehensive immigration reform, we’re continuing to do the groundwork necessary to create a just future for everyone. In Colorado, AFSC especially focuses on strengthening allies’ work in pursuit of immigrant rights.

One example came this spring, when AFSC staff in Colorado were invited to a bilingual middle school in Boulder to show some of their digital stories created by immigrants and provide background information on immigration. The school had confronted racist threats to students recently, and the invitation to AFSC was part of a parent and administrative effort to raise consciousness about immigration issues.

Gabriela Flora of AFSC encouraged the planners to include Boulder VOICE, a local immigrant youth group in the event. The result was a powerful evening, starting with a potluck, where five of the AFSC ally and immigrant digital stories were viewed. Three Latino parents shared their experiences coming to the US, the challenges they face, and their hopes and dreams.

As one of the organizers wrote to Gabriela afterwards, “People were deeply moved by the experience. Thank you so much for sharing your

insights and experience, and for encouraging all of us to react with love to those around us.”

Immigrant rights work in Iowa flows from the same Quaker commitment to love those around us. AFSC’s immigration legal services program continues to provide affordable help each year to over 1,000 people from over 50 countries. Each of those people has a compelling story, and we were blessed this spring to have two college interns intent on recording some of these stories (available online at www.afsc.org/iowa). One of the interns also helped us ramp up our presence in the world of social media.

Immigrant organizing and education work complement our legal services efforts. AFSC staff work hard to ensure that immigrants know their rights even as deportations hit record levels. For those people who face deportation, AFSC has created a booklet in English and Spanish to help families cope.

Sonia Tuma, Regional Director

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT

FCNL continues to be a strong effective witness for peace and social justice with a skilled staff of lobbyists and a committed grassroots network.

Some of the accomplishments this year are:

1. Ratification of START (STrategic Arms Reduction Treaty) signed by the U.S. and Russia to reduce nuclear weapons and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.
2. Passage of Senate S. Con. Res 71, which calls on the U.S. government to prevent Genocides and mass atrocities.
3. *War Is Not The Answer*. More than 160 members voted against sustaining the Afghanistan war; there is a growing bipartisan support.
4. *Our Nation’s Checkbook*. This campaign continues with a groundswell of public support to cut the military budget and set new federal budget priorities.
5. *Cobell Settlement for Native Americans*. FCNL has worked for years with other groups and finally hundreds of thousands of Native Americans will receive money the federal government owes them for use of their land.
6. *Global warming: The CLEAR Act (S. 2877), Carbon Limits and Energy for America’s Renewal*. FCNL lobbyists are working for reintroduction of this act.

FCNL provides the tools for tens of thousands of people to lobby Congress. More than 17,000 people contacted officials through their website in 2010 and more than 156,000 communications were sent to elected officials.

Our new Executive Secretary, Diane Randall, is a long-time member of Hartford Monthly Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting. She was surprised to discover many Washington D.C. advocacy groups do not have a regular presence on the Hill—FCNL staff are there every day. She regularly hears thanks from national religious and peace groups for FCNL consistent presence and substantial witness. FCNL is known and respected by congressional staff and other policy makers in Washington D.C. In May she was on a trip to the Middle East. She held a “report back” conference call in June after she returned to present comments about the trip and answered caller’s questions. She also met with several groups in Iowa in July and we had the opportunity to become better acquainted.

For 67 years FCNL policy and legislative priorities have been guided by meetings, churches, and worship groups across the country. Our strength lies in our active grassroots participation and effective, dedicated leadership. We had a sad, tender, at times humorous farewell session for Joe Volk at Annual Meeting. In gratitude for his many years of service we dedicate ourselves to continuing to build and support the vital, healthy organization he has passed to us. FCNL is grateful for each individual’s support and support of Iowa Yearly Meeting.

Alberta Kisling

Following is the Annual Report of Iowa Peace Network (IPN). As Iowa Yearly Meeting’s appointee to the IPN Joint Oversight Committee (JOC) I have tried to represent the interests of our yearly meeting. I feel it is equally important for me to report back to IYMC as a representative of IPN.

I would like to share my concerns about IPN’s continued ability, or lack thereof, to do the peacemaking work it was created to do. In a time when many stronger non-profit organizations are struggling with funding it is very difficult for a small organization such as IPN to work effectively. IPN continues to operate on a very minimal budget with a part-time coordinator who basically maintains the bare essentials of keeping the organization going. IPN has had trouble retaining staff for a number of years, leading to poor continuity of the work of the organization.

Beyond the financial and staffing concerns, there has been attrition among the appointees to the JOC and a lack of direction for pro-

gramming in general. Many ideas are discussed but little action is taken. It is my opinion that IPN would benefit from strong leadership and management and some serious, realistic consideration of their mission and how they can be most useful as a peacemaking network in today's world.

I want to emphasize that this is solely my opinion and not seemingly one that is shared by other members of the JOC. However, I feel that I must be honest with the yearly meeting and testify to my personal experience as your representative. I would be remiss to keep quiet and allow the yearly meeting to merely assume the status quo. I ask only that you take this into consideration as you read the following report.

Rebekah DeWild

IOWA PEACE NETWORK REPORT

We greatly appreciate your continued support of IPN this year, where our focus remains on education and networking among various communities for peace across the state. We wish to empower and encourage one another toward making a continued peace witness together in this day and age, by educating and encouraging all to join in and get involved with events for peace taking place.

IPN had tables at two holiday fairs this past holiday season. IPN also hosted its annual open house along with an Alternative Gift Faire in November, where IPN received generous donations. Russ Leckband also donated pottery again for sale to benefit IPN. Other groups present at the Alternative Gift Faire included American Friends Service Committee, SERRV International, Guatemala Crafts, quilts from Stover Church and artist Jane Robinette.

Peace event calendars were sent approximately twice a month last fall and winter. IPN also helped with initial coordination for Ivester Church of the Brethren, rural Grundy Center and St. Mary's Catholic Church, Eldora, to host Jeffrey Weiss, of Catholic Peace Ministry, to speak on U.S. involvement in Afghanistan. IPN coordinated a speaking engagement for Weiss in Marshalltown, also.

IPN had info tables at two district events for the Church of the Brethren last fall. IPN was a cosponsor of the Des Moines Ecumenical Committee for Peace interfaith service December 28, attended by JOC member Myrna Frantz, and the Palm Sunday Procession for Peace, April 17. Several Iowa Peace Network supporters walked together and attended the service for the event.

JOC member Darrell Mitchell has planned and coordinated a Nonviolence and Peace Literature Study in Marshalltown. He also plans a study to occur in Ames this coming fall.

Many thanks go to JOC member, Myrna Frantz, for the many hours she has given to IPN in order to keep IPN going last fall and winter! We appreciate all she did. JOC member Christine Sheller started as coordinator at the end of March. She will work approximately 5 hours a week, but will work more during newsletter time.

A new issue of "The Dovetail" is in process.

We continue to need funding to pay staff for more hours in order to publish newsletters, attend events, and meet with members regarding their interests in peace. A full time volunteer through Brethren Volunteer Service, for example, would cost approx. \$12,000.

We hope that you will remain dedicated to your witness for peace by supporting this ecumenical movement for peace in Iowa, in existence now for over 30 years. We thank you for your continued support. If you have any requests for programs or IPN presence at your events, please do not hesitate to contact us at iowapeacenetwork@gmail.com, or (515) 255-7114.

Christine Sheller, Coordinator, M.Div. and Licensed Minister
and Joint Oversight Committee of Iowa Peace Network

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

A massive heat wave in Russia, drought followed by flooding in a large swath of Australia, flooding in Pakistan, drought in a large area of the southern and southwestern US, drought and famine in the Horn of Africa, flooding in Colombia: these are a few of the extreme weather indicators over the past year that demonstrate that the Earth's climate has changed. QEW considers how Quakers might respond to these changes. A particular interest is the role of our growth-based economic system in fostering negative environmental impacts.

A big change for QEW this year was the retirement of the long time General Secretary, Ruah Swennerfelt, and the hiring of her replacement, Anne Mitchell, of Toronto. Staff is adjusting to dividing work between Toronto and the office in Vermont.

Some QEW programs include the popular Mini-Grants with ten or more grants of \$250 expected to be made in 2011 to Quaker meetings and churches for ecological programs. The QEW center at the FGC Gathering is another popular outreach. We had a presence at the Climate

Change Summit in Cancun, Mexico, last December, along with Friends from other parts of the world. Our bimonthly publication, “Befriending Creation”, continues to be a valuable resource.

The work of QEW is more important and relevant than ever, but donations are down. Financial support is much needed and appreciated. The annual meeting this fall in Chicago will focus on the complex topic of food. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Ken Lawrence, Jeff Kisling

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL AND RELATED ENTITIES
FINANCIAL REPORT
AS OF JUNE 30, 2011

	School	Farm	Foundation
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
Designated Donations	5,599.28		
Hills Checking Account	62,763.57	3,292.40	23,271.84
Office Cash	348.38		
Savings Account: Hills Bank	44,062.94		11,129.82
Trip	1,403.89		
Total Checking/Savings	114,178.06	3,292.40	34,401.66
Accounts Receivable			
Accounts Receivable	26,533.23		
Total Accounts Receivable	26,533.23		
Other Current Assets			
Allowance for Bad Debt	-10,000.00		
Payroll Asset	-400.00		
Prepaid Expense		3,583.11	
Farm Inventory		14,368.00	
Accrued Interest and Dividends			7,332.26
Total Other Current Assets	-10,400.00	17,951.11	7,332.26
Total Current Assets	130,311.29	21,243.51	41,733.92
Fixed Assets			
Automobiles	91,519.35	11,808.43	
Buildings	3,434,491.03	126,639.09	
Equipment	538,160.08	55,872.68	
Land	239,870.25	109,810.44	
Breeding stock		8,824.88	
Accumulated Depreciation	-2,056,767.00	-156,310.00	
Total Fixed Assets	2,247,273.71	156,645.52	
Other Assets			
Pledges Receivable	194,499.11		
HJ Heinz Stock	1,815.24		
Loan to Scattergood Friends School		8,000.00	
BC Ziegler			48,394.51
Mennonite Foundation			28,288.58

Westwood Trust #1 Scholarship			1,532,948.90
Westwood Trust #2 Capital Funds			1,716,181.83
Land: Pemberton Farm			85,150.00
Total Other Assets	196,314.35	8,000.00	3,410,963.82
TOTAL ASSETS	2,573,899.35	185,889.03	3,452,697.74
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable			
Accounts Payable	1,085.42	2,058.68	
Total Accounts Payable	1,085.42	2,058.68	
Other Current Liabilities			
Deferred Income	56,304.00		
Total Deposits	40,850.00		
Due to Farm	8,000.00		
Due to Student Bank	100.00		
Interest Payable	0.00		
Payroll: FICA	-0.05		
Payroll: Supplemental	250.00		
Payroll Liabilities	1,015.00		
Retirement Plan Liability	36,714.50		
Notes Payable, Current	5,366.03		
Due to/from School		61.00	50,000.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	148,599.48	61.00	50,000.00
Total Current Liabilities	149,684.90	2,119.68	50,000.00
Long-Term Liabilities			
Less Current Portion	-5,366.03		
Notes Payable, Long Term	163,287.99		
Total Long-Term Liabilities	157,921.96		
Total Liabilities	307,606.86	2,119.68	50,000.00
Equity			
Opening Balance	2,895,913.50	128,061.50	3,120,860.51
Retained Earnings	-430,974.54	62,575.58	
Net Income	-198,646.47	-6,867.73	281,837.23
Total Equity	2,266,292.49	183,769.35	3,402,697.74
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2,573,899.35	185,889.03	3,452,697.74

**SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL FOUNDATION
TRUSTEES REPORT**

The foundation continues to carry out its mission of stewardship of the funds entrusted to its care for the use of Scattergood School. During the past year, the foundation distributed \$75,000 to support tuition scholarship, \$25,000 of which had been advanced to the school in the closing months of the previous (2009–2010) academic year. The foundation has committed to new scholarship distributions for the 2011–2012 academic year totaling \$76,350.00 spread over two payments in September 2011 and February 2012.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011:

Total Funds Received	\$86,313.44
Pemberton Farm income	17,974.04
Billboard lease income	950.00
Miscellaneous income	100.00
BC Ziegler interest and dividends	1,775.71
Hills Bank interest	112.07
Westwood #1 interest and dividends	30,968.36
Westwood #2 interest and dividends	31,996.23
Everence interest & dividends	637.03
New donations	1,800.00
Total Investment Fees	\$31,275.32
Investment fees for Westwood #1	14,490.98
Investment fees for Westwood #2	16,357.76
Investment fees for Ziegler	35.00
Investment fees for Everence	391.58
Other Expenses	
Pemberton Farm	\$5,956.95
Total Transfers to School	
Capital, operating, and scholarship	\$139,989.98

Growth of Foundation

Change as of fiscal year ending:	6/30/2010	6/30/2011	+/-
Investments and Earnings	\$3,091,087.59	\$3,445,365.48	\$354,277.89
BC Ziegler	47,570.84	48,394.51	823.67
Everence	22,646.80	28,288.58	5,641.78
Westwood Trust #1 (scholarship)	1,338,771.46	1,532,948.90	194,177.44
Westwood Trust #2 (capital funds)	1,539,816.50	1,716,181.83	176,365.33
Pemberton Farm (24.68 acres)	85,150.00	85,150.00	0
Hills Bank savings	57,131.99	11,129.82	(46,002.17)
Hills Bank checking	0	23,271.84	23,271.84

Historic Dollar Value of Contributions to the Endowment

	Additions to scholarship endowment	Cumulative scholarship endowment	Additions to capital/ops endowment	Total Contributions to Foundation
2000–2001	—	834,846.00	—	834,846.00
2001–2002	5,727.50	840,573.50	—	840,573.50
2002–2003	155,125.10	995,698.60	—	995,698.60
2003–2004	98,210.51	1,093,909.11	—	1,093,909.11
2004–2005	64,232.49	1,158,141.60	—	1,158,141.60
2005–2006	17,383.50	1,175,525.10	—	1,175,525.10
2006–2007	147,836.95	1,323,362.05	1,568,250.00	2,891,612.05
2007–2008	66,135.18	1,389,497.23	—	2,957,747.23
2008–2009	41,883.53	1,431,380.76	—	2,999,630.76
2009–2010	1,890.00	1,433,270.76	—	3,001,520.76
2010–2011	1,800.00	1,435,370.76	—	3,003,620.76

SPECIAL REPLIES

Norway Yearly Meeting Society of Friends
Unni H. Sørsveen, Clerk
Grønland 12
0188 Oslo, Norway

Please know that we hold you in the Light.

As we gather during our 134th annual session of the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), we are mindful of the weight of recent news from your homeland. We want you to know we stand with you as you seek leading and understanding. These violent events affirm the importance of our ministry as a peace church. We send our deepest condolences and hold you in our hearts.

We honor the direct, rich heritage that links our young yearly meeting with Norway Yearly Meeting. Many of our founding families brought birthright Quaker faith of their Norwegian parents as they sought new homes here on the fertile plains of North America. We remain connected in Spirit with you.

May the Light soon refill your fair lands with hope and the grace of peace.

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

LETTER TO ABSENT FRIENDS

30 July 2011

Dear Friends:

Greetings from Friends at the 134th session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). We remember many special times we have had with you. Though many Friends have gathered at Scattergood Friends School this week for Yearly Meeting, we continue to hear your voices from a distance, and we miss you. Many have worked to plant the garden we tend, and we remember your part of that work in the bountiful times we spend together now.

The Scattergood Friends School reports filled us with gratitude and appreciation for the head of the school and her staff. We loved the stories of all the varied and exciting happenings at the school. We were also delighted to hear how central the farm is to the spirit and daily rhythms of staff and students. It was a good report.

For collection one evening, Birdie Kisling and Beth Wilson shared their memories of the Quaker communities when they were growing up, and Don Laughlin and Herbert Standing shared their experiences of being imprisoned for their refusal to register for a peacetime draft after World War II. We listened eagerly, soaking up those old stories of the community.

At another evening collection, Bridget Moix of the Friends Committee on National Legislation renewed our spirits with a good dose of encouragement. She is undaunted by the scale of what must be done to make this a more peaceful world. She asked us to not be defeated by our doubts, but to take heart in our small successes. Her optimism and hope encouraged us, energizing us to continue to witness for what we know is right.

The yearly meeting sessions next year will be from July 31–August 5, 2012. We hope you can be with us then. Know that we hold you tenderly in our hearts and prayers. Peace be with you all.

Deborah Dakin, clerk
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT – PART II

Summary of Activities of Monthly Meetings

Several monthly meetings act on peace and social concerns as “committees of the whole,” with a coordinator for the purpose.

Members of several meetings participate in the Alternatives to Violence Program, conducting workshops, and training prisoners to conduct them, in state prisons. Lincoln meeting’s focus on prisoner support work has led them to channel funds to the Native American Club at a state prison, contribute to a typewriter fund for men on death row, pay part of the tuition for an inmate to take a class in criminal justice, purchase a DVD on nonviolence for a prison library, and approve the use of the meeting house for prison visitation and for an AVP weekend workshop.

Some meetings were involved with immigration issues, inviting speakers, showing documentaries, writing letters to government officials, and working with members of undocumented families to prevent deportations. They learned that more people are being deported now by officials knocking on doors than during the large raids, and that without a relative here, an applicant can’t come to the U.S. legally at all.

Two meetings were active in their concern for religious freedom and tolerance, especially toward Muslims. One meeting raised funds for a hospital in Gaza.

Two meetings mentioned raising funds for the homeless. One of them works with the county interfaith council, as an act of faith, to stock a homeless shelter with necessities. Two reported being active in starting local peace organizations.

Only one meeting reported action in opposition to the war in Afghanistan.

Whittier meeting expressed a concern about Junior ROTC in high schools, and ROTC in colleges across the country, resulting from educational institutions' need for federal funds which might accompany those programs—a symptom of the spiritual death Martin Luther King, Jr., warned us about, and asked whether there is a will in the yearly meeting to reignite this work as one way to end the military indoctrination that pervades our culture.

Projects of four meetings deserve mention: Paullina Friends take turns writing articles for a column in the Northwest Iowa Review. Decorah Friends reminded those making purchases for the meeting to consider the working conditions, environmental health, and sustainability of the products. Penn Valley has been developing a relationship with the neighborhood association. Yahara Friends wrote a statement on the Wisconsin budget situation and sent it to the media and to governmental representatives.

Common to monthly meetings was support of the AFSC, FCNL and other peace and justice organizations, financially and/or by active participation.

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

GUIDELINES FOR REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT 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 Publication Committee can send the bill for printing of the yearly meeting minutes directly to the yearly meeting treasurer.

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

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

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

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

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DIRECTORY OF MONTHLY MEETINGS AND WORSHIP GROUPS

Ames Monthly Meeting

Query consideration: 9:30 a.m. first First Day of the month

Business: 9:30 a.m., 2nd First Day of the month

Pre-meeting: Reading and discussion, 9:30 a.m. other First Days

Worship: 10:30 a.m. First Day

Potluck: Simple potluck each First Day following worship

Location: 121 S. Maple, Ames, Iowa

Telephone: (515) 232-4610

Clerk: Betty Young, 1121 Harding Ave., Ames, Iowa 50010,
(515) 292-3801

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting

Business: 10 a.m. 3rd First Day of the month

Pre-meeting: Discussion 10 a.m. other First Days

Worship: 11 a.m. First Day

Potluck: Noon, 3rd First Day of the month

Location: approximately 3 miles north of Earlham, Iowa

Clerk: Jackie Leckband, 19186 Bear Creek Road, Earlham, Iowa 50072,
(515) 758-2232

Website: www.bearcreekfriends.org

Decorah Monthly Meeting

Pre-meeting: 9:30 a.m. First Day, except in summer

Worship: 10:30 a.m. (9:30 a.m. in summer) First Day

Business: Scheduled every six weeks

Location: 603 E. Water Street, Decorah, Iowa

Clerk: Kent C. Simmonds, 714 Ridge Road, Decorah, IA 52101,
(563) 382-8607

Des Moines Valley Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10 a.m. First Day

Business: 11:30 a.m. 2nd First Day

Location: 4211 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, (515) 274-4717
(answering machine)

Clerk: Claire Cumbie-Drake

Iowa City Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10 a.m. First Day

Business: 2nd First Day following worship

Location: 311 N. Linn Street, Iowa City, Iowa, (319) 351-2234
(answering machine)

Clerks: Karoline Jarr, Tim Shipe, and Jessica Pannell

Website: www.iowacityfriends.org

Lincoln Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10 a.m. First Day

Potluck: After worship and sharing on 1st First Day

Business: Following worship on 3rd First Day

Location: 3319 S. 46th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, (402) 488-4178

Clerk: Jean Eden, 5905 Wolff Lane, Lincoln, NE 68521, (402) 476-4948

Omaha Monthly Meeting

Worship: 9:45 a.m. First Day

Business: 11 a.m. 3rd First Day

Location: Please call (402) 553-2211, (402) 391-4765

Clerk: Debbie Galusha, (402) 553-2211

Paullina Monthly Meeting

First Day School: 9:30 a.m.

Worship: 10:30 a.m. First Day

Business: 9:30 a.m. 2nd First Day

Potluck and discussion follow worship on 4th First Day

Location: on U.S. 59, 3 miles east and 1.25 miles north of Paullina, or
5.5 miles south of Primghar, Iowa

Clerk: Doyle Wilson, 5541 A 400th Street, Primghar, Iowa 51245,
(712) 757-3875

Assistant Clerk: Beth Wilson

Penn Valley Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10 a.m. First Day

Fellowship: 11 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

After Meeting Program: 11:30 a.m.–12:30 a.m., with Business Meeting on
the first First Day

Location: 4405 Gillham Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64110,
(816) 931-5256, fax (AFSC office) (816) 561-5033

Clerk: Shane Rowse, (816) 241-5821

Website: www.kcquakers.org

Scattergood Friends School

These times apply while school is in session.

Collection: 8:10 a.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

Worship: 3:45 p.m. Tuesday

Community Meeting: Friday, 3:10 p.m.

Location: 1951 Delta Avenue, West Branch, Iowa 52358, 2 miles east and a
half mile south of West Branch, Iowa. Please contact the school to
confirm, at (319) 643-7600 or mainoffice@scattergood.org.

Head of School: Christine Ashley

Website: www.scattergood.org

Silver River Worship Group

Worship: 10:30 a.m. First Day

Business: Under the care of Penn Valley Friends Meeting

Location: 28408 Frontier Lane, La Plata, MO 63549

Contact: Ethan Hughes, 28408 Frontier Lane, La Plata, MO 63549,
(660) 332-4094

Sioux Falls Area Worship Group

Worship: 9 a.m. First Day

Business: Under the care of Paullina Monthly Meeting

Location: Dow Rummel Village Conference Room, 1321 West Dow
Rummel, Sioux Falls, across Lake Street from the stadium

Contact: Anna Gieschen, 1101 South West Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57105,
(605) 376-8863

West Branch Monthly Meeting

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

Whittier Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10:30 a.m. First Day

Business: every two months at call of Clerk

Location: 3200 Whittier Road, Springville, Iowa 52336, 3 miles east of
Highway 13 on County Home Road

Clerk: Deborah Dakin, (319) 895-8133,
or call Mary Mendenhall, (319) 393-6069

Yahara Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10:30 a.m. First Day

Business: 11:15 a.m. 1st First Day

Location: 953 Jenifer Street, Madison, Wisconsin (Wil-Mar Neighborhood
Center; use Brearly Street entrance)

Mail: Yahara Friends Meeting, PO Box 14332, Madison, WI 53708-0332

Clerk: Ken Lawrence, (608) 242-9029

Website: www.yaharafriends.org
