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For additional printed copies or for more information, contact:

Deborah Dakin, Clerk
Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative)
206 2nd Avenue N.W.
Mt. Vernon, IA 52314
(319) 895-8133
debdakin@gmail.com

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MINUTES OF IOWA YEARLY MEETING (CONSERVATIVE)

135th Annual Sessions

Seventh Month 31 to Eighth Month 5, 2012

FOURTH DAY – WEDNESDAY – 8/1/2012

At the 135th annual session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) held at Scattergood Friends School, near West Branch, Iowa from Seventh Month 31 to Eighth Month 5, 2012.

As the sap flows through the branches of the vine and vitalizes the whole organism so that it bursts into the beauty and glory of foliage and blossom and finally into fruit, so through the lives of men and women, inwardly receptive, the life of God flows, carrying vitality, awakening love, creating passion for goodness, kindling the fervor of consecration and producing that living body, that organism of the Spirit, that 'blessed community' which continues through the centuries the revelation of God as love and tenderness and eternal goodness... Rufus Jones

We are glad to have the presence of these visitors: Sandy Robson, Baltimore Yearly Meeting and Friends Committee on National Legislation; Sonja Sponheim, Laughing Waters Worship Group, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Patricia Morrison, Mountain View Meeting, Denver, Colorado; Jeff Swartzendruber of the Mennonite Foundation in Kalona, Iowa; Eldon Morey, Little Falls Worship Group, Minnesota; Karen Morey, Little Falls Worship Group, Minnesota; Rebecca Henderson, Santa Fe Meeting, Intermountain Yearly Meeting; Clifford Goltz, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Liz Oppenheimer, Laughing Waters Worship Group, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Victoria Albright, Live Oak Friends Meeting, Houston, Texas, attending Silver River Worship Group, La Plata, Missouri; David Wilcox, Live Oak Friends Meeting, Houston, Texas, attending Silver River Worship Group, La Plata, Missouri.

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

Ames	Dan Treadway
Bear Creek	Burt Kisling, Stan Sanders
Decorah	Martha Davis, Lynne Sootheran
Des Moines Valley	Andrea Holveck
Iowa City	Harry Olmstead, Carol Winkleblack
Lincoln	Lorene Ludy, Dan Schlitt
Omaha	Debbie Galusha, Carol Gilbert
Paullina	Mary Snyder
Penn Valley	Ginger Kenney
West Branch	George Bergus, Jim Cottingham
Whittier	Bob Yeats
Yahara	Ken Lawrence

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

Ames	Deb Fink
Bear Creek	Bob Winchell
Decorah	Bill Deutsch
Des Moines Valley	Sherry Hutchison
Iowa City	Dave Malone
Lincoln	Marge Schlitt
Omaha	Marshall Massey
Paullina	Steve Snyder, Mary Ellen Tjossem, alternate
Penn Valley	None appointed
West Branch	Larry Marsh
Whittier	None appointed
Yahara	None appointed

There are 15 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	Alberta Kisling
Decorah	Chris Kelly
Des Moines Valley	Patty Wengart
Iowa City	Ruth Dawson
Lincoln	Jean Eden
Omaha	Debbie Galusha
Paullina	Beth Wilson
Penn Valley	None appointed
West Branch	Judy Cottingham
Whittier	None appointed
Yahara	Meg McCormick

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 and are grateful for their work on our behalf:

Exercise Committee	Jean Eden, Kathy Hall, Stan Sanders
Epistle Committee	Steve Snyder, Elizabeth O'Sullivan, George Bergus
Special Replies Committee	Bill Deutsch, Callie Marsh, Carole Winkleblack
Yearly Meeting Reporters	Carol Gilbert, Inez Schacterle
Auditing Committee	Burt Kisling, Lynne Sootheran

Readers for this morning's business sessions are Jim Kenney and Mary Snyder.

We appreciated hearing the very complete Midyear Meeting Report. We were glad that the leftover \$713.00 was forwarded to the yearly meeting treasurer, as has been our practice in the past. We also appreciate the care that Bear Creek shows for all of us, manifested in many different ways, including the delicious food that all of us can eat.

MIDYEAR MEETING REPORT

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), met for Midyear Meeting at Bear Creek meeting house near Earlham, Iowa, Fourth Month, 22-23, 2012. Approximately 90 were in attendance from Iowa and neighboring states.

Our presenter and resource leader this year was Deborah Fisch, our immediate past IYMC clerk and member of Paullina Monthly Meeting.

Deborah spoke from silence on the theme IYMC – Who Are We Today and Where Are We Called? We approached the theme in three segments: Who We Are Today; Considering Our Future Together; and Putting Our Faith into Action.

Deborah shared that she has had the opportunity to travel among the different branches of Friends through her work with Friends General Conference. As a result she has learned more about what is precious about Iowa Conservative Friends. She pointed out that while we share more similarities than differences, there are differences and it is important for us to understand our own traditions and practices and the purposes behind them. Conservative Friends seek a balance between continuing revelation of the Spirit and the Bible with its teachings of Jesus. In our experience, these do not contradict each other. God continues to speak to us and the teachings of Jesus are a guide. While Conservative Friends hold dear the practices of early Friends, we no longer hold on to the letter of the law (a Quaker practice) if it no longer serves us by bringing us in closer relationship with the Divine and each other, keeps us from being alive and open to Love. We are called to live Love and to celebrate that Love in each other.

At Deborah's request, Friends shared what speaks to their hearts in their own monthly meetings and IYMC. Sharings included:

- Being with and worshipping with others with whom we share values.
- Living Love.
- A sense of unity that goes beyond words.
- A challenging and rich diversity of ministry and a sense of mutual support.
- A sense of safety and at the same time an expectation that God will challenge us.
- An expectation that we will be changed.
- A sense that if I do not attend (meeting), I will miss something.
- A quiet gentleness.
- Over time seeing how the Spirit is working in people's lives.
- A respect for the humanity of those with whom we disagree.

- Each person may speak.
- Knowing that community will be there; that community will help in times of need.
- We come together because of things we believe and we become a deeply trusting group.
- Support to have the courage we need to accept God's will for us; a sense of being carried by the prayers of others.

Deborah shared that many of us have heard that John Woolman shared with Friends who asked why he traveled to visit the Lenape people, that the first motion was Love. We are aware that the first motion is Love, not one's own love but God's Love, an unconditional Love that helps us each continue to become who we are called to be. This is the kind of Love we are invited to have for each other and for all creation. Deborah went on to share that there are two other motions that Woolman mentioned that are also important. The second motion is the willingness to listen to each other. . . . Listen to what we might learn of God from each other and not assume we are the only ones who know the Divine. The third motion is, if led, to be faithful to speak what God gives to us to share, . . . acting on what we learn both through the Listening and Speaking.

We remembered together the joy we felt in the yearly meeting business session when Yahara was accepted as a monthly meeting and one of our elders, Herbert Standing, left the meeting room to ring the Scattergood School bell in celebration. Remembering this time of joy was even more tender because we had learned just that morning that Herbert was critically ill in a nearby hospital.

Through our sharing we lifted up to each other our experience that Yearly Meeting is strengthened by not only focusing on building our own beloved community, but also by having a focus outside of its self. We understand Scattergood Friends School to be a primary outreach of our yearly meeting at this time.

Deep waiting for God and deep listening to each other are precious to IYMC. Our practice is to respect each other. Being present each year at Midyear Meeting nurtures us. We can be fearful of what God may ask us to do, so the comfort and support of those in our meetings are important in helping us discern carefully what we are hearing and respond faithfully to leadings. The humility that we find in our meetings, in tension with courage, is inspiring. As we share our stories, the Love that is among us will continue to be alive and to blossom. Who we are called to be? We feel gratitude for the help we receive in keeping our eyes on the spirit of the Living Christ. When we are faithful to the measure of Light we have been given for today, it is enough. Our

Advices and Queries help guide us toward the life we are seeking. Each of us is here because of a sense that being here brings us closer to what or who we are called to be.

Deborah stated that she believes our yearly meeting lost something when we stopped having the different monthly meetings host the annual session because hosting the session involved Friends in the yearly meeting's work who would not have traveled to another location for it. She invited us to consider what we can do to get more folks involved in annual sessions now that we meet at Scattergood. She invited us to think outside the box so we can keep what is precious when we by necessity have to change some practices.

Deborah shared that she loves the first day of annual session when she walks into the meeting house for the first time and others (of all ages) are also gathering into waiting worship. She described the joy of hearing some of the first ministry rise and be spoken and the anticipation in the room as Friends wait for the appointed member to stand and call Yearly Meeting into session with the words, "Perhaps if Friends are ready, it is time to turn our attention to the business of the yearly meeting. . ." And then the rush of the children from the meeting house to go to their own junior yearly meeting session, and the clerks take their places at the clerks' table for the first time. She shared that when she first became clerk she was given the advice that when we have a lot of business, it is time to slow down. All the practices and traditions of how we do our business are important because they help us settle down, listen to the Spirit, and be faithful. The structure "holds" us and we are grateful.

Deborah shared that she was once told that although Friends have no prescribed statement of belief that attenders and members are expected to embrace it is important for people considering membership to understand that what they love about the Religious Society of Friends is based on the teachings of Jesus and members must be willing to wrestle with that. IYMC does not feel that its way is the only way, but we do need to know who we are.

Deborah said that in her experience IYMC Friends were reticent to talk too much about what they believed, but rather responded, "Watch what we do and you'll learn what we believe." She found this to be true, but has been blessed to live among IYMC Friends many years now. Today people move around a lot more than in the past. She suggested we need to learn to tell the story of what brought and keeps us here. We need to practice the difficult task of putting our experiential faith into words. It's all about Love and the awkwardness of love; we find it hard to talk about Love. We want to be able to talk about what we are about, what we are living and experiencing. We feel our meetings are good, but there is

something missing. We need to go deeper in that which is eternal, deeper into God and the Christ within. We need to come to know each other wholly, in the holy. How can we share in words an experiential faith?

Daily, ordinary living does not seem very visionary, but we need to work the soil and tend the plants. We need meetings where we can ask for help when we need it. We need more young adult and young Friends participating in the business of Yearly Meeting. Committees need meaningful work to do or they should be laid down.

Our love for each other, grounded in God's love, is what it's all about. We want to be more fully known by each other. We feel called to find a way to let our light shine and to put our experience of God into words. We need to give each other the grace to make mistakes.

Deborah urged us to share our thoughts as to how we can help our meetings and Yearly Meeting help us move more into that beloved community. Friends shared:

- By telling our stories.
- By looking for informal 'opportunities' to be together and consider how the Spirit is faring with each other.
- By reaching out to those who are away at school (or elsewhere) and say to their local meeting: "This is our child; please take good care of him."
- By acknowledging with Love all those who pass from this life as members of our community family.
- By welcoming and celebrating newborns as new members of our family. (We were not speaking of membership in the Religious Society of Friends.)
- By being aware of those who are lonely and acting on that awareness.
- By loving and caring for ourselves as beloved children of God so that we are able to reach out in Love.
- By being aware of how we are receiving and responding to each other.
- By knowing there is nothing we can do that will change God's Love for us.
- By strengthening the meetings in new places we may move rather than grieving the loss of the one from which we came.
- By looking at some practices and structures we have to see what is of value, what has life.
- By looking at our committees to learn whether they are truly serving.
- By seeing what we do together that is fun.
- By looking for opportunities to gather regionally.

We recognize that we are one body and the various parts of our body have different functions. While we need to be willing to do what God asks of us, if that is not grounded in Love, it has no value. We need to be Love, to live into the joy of Love and to be faithful. We need to tell this story.

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

The annual AFSC white-elephant sale produced approximately \$400 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. God willing, we look forward to gathering again next year for Midyear Meeting.

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

The Midyear Meeting Youth Program Report gave us a sense of joy to hear it. The presence of children during our last meeting for worship made us complete. Our children are a part of who we are. We are grateful for the work and the faithfulness of that committee and Bear Creek Meeting. It means a great deal to all of us.

MIDYEAR MEETING YOUTH PROGRAM REPORT

Junior Yearly Meeting participants from Minnesota, Des Moines and Melbourne, Iowa gathered for Midyear Meeting at Bear Creek on Fourth Month 21-22, 2012. The group included a total of seven children ranging in age from 4 to 13, plus one infant in child care.

The program centered around the theme of Caring for God's Creation, acknowledging that Earth Day fell during MYM this year (4/22). Projects included making paper origami animals while talking about caring for God's creatures. Web-of-life activities helped us think about how we are all connected. The youth colored large cards of cheer for two older Friends who were not feeling well and invited everyone to write messages. There was time in the evening to work on creating an Earth Day banner.

On First Day the activity was to design small talking puppets and think about words and the effects they have on others, concluding with a

short puppet show created by the children. In preparation for meeting for worship, the children were inspired by a Quaker story to make Cheerios necklaces to wear. The necklaces were a “wearable snack” which provided a measure of quiet comfort during meeting. We were pleased that the children were all able to remain quietly in worship with the community for the duration!

The midyear meeting youth program was enriched by the participation of several volunteers from Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting. The Friendly adult participants each volunteered to share an activity during one session. This provided opportunity for them to attend some of the adult programs too. A visiting student teacher from Spain was hired to provide childcare for the youngest attender and assist with Junior Yearly Meeting activities.

Original plans were for a vanload of students from Scattergood to join us, but scheduling difficulties ended up preventing that. We welcome the visits of Scattergood students at future gatherings and hope that we can work closely with the school next year to pick a weekend that will work well for the students.

For the Midyear Youth Program Committee,
 Jean Sandstrom

MIDYEAR MEETING TREASURER’S REPORT

Contributions		\$2,756.00
Expenses		
Speaker	300.00	
Committee expenses	34.55	
Babysitter	65.00	
Food	810.20	
Supplies for JYM	33.25	
Cook	<u>500.00</u>	
Subtotal	1,743.00	<u>1,743.00</u>
Contributions less expenses		1,013.00
Hosting fee		<u>300.00</u>
Balance		\$713.00

Osa Bricker
 Midyear Meeting treasurer

We listened carefully to the Interim Meeting Report and are glad to hear of the work done on our behalf.

INTERIM MEETING REPORT

Interim Meeting Minutes
Fourth Month 21, 2012
Bear Creek Meeting House

Monthly Meeting representatives in attendance:

- Ames – AM Fink
- Bear Creek – Bertie Kisling, Richard Johnson
- Decorah – Kent Simmons
- Des Moines Valley – Kathy Day
- Iowa City – Ruth Dawson
- Lincoln – Jean Eden, Catherine Dorenbach
- Omaha – Carol Gilbert, Lynda Fife
- Paullina – Beth Wilson
- Penn Valley – Jean Ryberg, Ann Sophia Marshall
- West Branch – Larry Marsh
- Whittier – no representative
- Yahara – no representative

Carol Gilbert served as clerk for Alice Hampton. Catherine Dorenbach was called to serve as assistant clerk for this session.

Three corrections to minutes from 2011 annual sessions were approved: Don Laughlin was removed from the Quaker Earthcare Witness list and replaced by Ken Lawrence; Andrea Jilovec was removed from the Archives Committee list; and the asterisk denoting co-clerk was removed from Alberta Kisling's name in the Ministry and Counsel Committee list.

We are asked to appoint a representative to attend Ohio Yearly Meeting which takes place at Stillwater Meeting House 8/7/2012 - 8/14/2012 and North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) which takes place at Guilford College 7/11/2012 - 7/15/2012. The clerks will first ask Dan Treadway if he is willing to attend either yearly meeting, then ask Marshall Massey. Kent Simmons from Decorah Meeting is open to considering going to one of these if others are not so led.

Comments were offered from Interim Meeting about how its members are appointed. We reached agreement that the yearly meeting should appoint Interim Meeting members, but names may be suggested by the monthly meetings.

The clerk endorsed a traveling minute from a guest who is here as Deborah Fisch's companion in the traveling ministry: Jean-Marie

Prestwidge Barch, a member of Schuylkill Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

We approved endorsing the statement below by religious leaders in Iowa on global climate change written by Iowa Interfaith Power and Light, which was put forward by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. We also approved having the statement be submitted to the *Friends Journal*.

A Statement by Religious Leaders in Iowa
on Global Climate Change - April 2012

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges facing our world today, and as religious leaders representing diverse faith traditions we are called to re-affirm our commitment to be responsible stewards of Earth's resources and to act in love toward our neighbors both locally and globally.

Scientists, including those representing 28 Iowa colleges and universities who recently released a statement, have warned us that changes in global climate patterns are bringing more extreme weather events to Iowa, the United States, and our world. These events include droughts, extreme temperatures, floods, storm surges, and wildfires. These changes threaten our environment, our health and safety, our economy, our agriculture, and our security. They also raise fundamental questions of justice and fairness, as those who are least able to adapt to climate change and who contribute least to the problem are likely to suffer the worst consequences.

As people of faith, we are called to take responsible precautionary action to limit global climate change to the extent possible and to prepare now for the climate impacts that are unavoidable. There are many actions that can be taken by individuals, families, congregations, businesses, local communities, and the state to reduce the threat of global climate change, such as reducing energy use in our homes and vehicles and using renewable energy sources. We urge Iowans to take such actions.

The global nature of the problem, however, means that effective action requires leadership at the local, state, and national levels to form policies and strategies that address responsible energy use to ensure that we protect Earth and its most vulnerable populations from the significant threats posed by global climate change. We call upon people of faith to provide leadership on this issue and act in the interest of the common good.

Carol Gilbert, clerk for the day

Catherine Dorenbach, assistant clerk for the day

We accept both of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Interim Committee and thank them for their work to help clarify our processes and expedite our work.

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER INTERIM MEETING

The Ad Hoc Committee includes a former yearly meeting clerk, a former clerk of interim meeting, and a member of the Discipline Revision Committee.

The new *Faith and Practice* states:

. . . Interim Meeting serves in order to make possible official action of Yearly Meeting that is necessary between annual sessions. Yearly Meeting appoints ten Friends to this body each year, each for a term of three years. The committee should include representation from all monthly meetings. The committee meets during Midyear Meeting and may call a special meeting whenever such a request is made to its clerk by four or more of its members or by the yearly meeting clerk. Interim Meeting keeps minutes of all its proceedings and presents them annually to yearly meeting. All members are to be notified of called meetings. Attendance of at least ten members is required to transact business. If it is known that a member of Interim Meeting will not be able to attend a session, that member's monthly meeting may appoint a substitute. The Interim Meeting may draw on the treasury of yearly meeting such sums as may be necessary to conduct the business of yearly meeting.

It was the sense of Interim Meeting, and we concur, that the members of Interim Meeting be named by the yearly meeting. We see no reason to change the practice of monthly meetings bringing forth names to Nominating Committee.

The committee should include a minimum of one representative from each monthly meeting and a maximum of two. This will mean that currently there will be a maximum of eight members assigned each year on a three-year rotation with a quorum being fifty percent of its members in attendance. This number of representatives will change with the number of monthly meetings.

We prayerfully considered the yearly meeting practice of an interim meeting clerk presiding over the business of Interim Meeting. It is our experience that this practice no longer serves the yearly meeting. We recommend that the yearly meeting clerk preside over the business of Interim Meeting.

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

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE CORPORATION REPORT

During the first weekend in March 2012, your faithful AFSC Corporation representatives Dan Schlitt, Andrea Jilovec, and Bob Yeats made their way to beautiful Philadelphia for the annual corporation meeting. The snapshot that meeting attenders got of our beloved AFSC was that of an organization in transition.

After much seasoning a new structure for domestic programs has been created that merges the nine regions into four much larger regions. The new Midwest Region will be created by joining the old Central Region based in Des Moines and the old Great Lakes Region based in Chicago. Headquarters will be in Chicago. Colorado, formerly part of the Central Region, will become part of the Western Region, and Texas and Oklahoma will join the Southern Region. While the regional headquarters will no longer be in Des Moines, the office will remain open and established programs will go forward. Michael McConnell is the new Midwest Director and our beloved Sonia Tuma has gone on to become the leader of the Western Region based in San Francisco. Like the merger of two railroads, the restructuring will take time for all systems to be operating smoothly.

In addition to geographical rearrangement, structural revamping is also taking place. In an effort to streamline decision-making, the national board has many fewer members than it did a few years ago. After two years of study and seasoning about the role of the Corporation within the AFSC, things have been left pretty much as they were but with a request from the membership to better use the time and talents of the Corporation members. A new office of Friends Relations was created to help with communications with Friends and Friends Meetings. Former IYMC member Lucy Duncan has been hired to fill this position.

Regionally, we are resuming our presence in Minneapolis after an absence of more than 20 years with a restorative justice program in cooperation with local peacemakers. We are restarting the Saint Louis office with a youth peacemaking program in cooperation with local schools. The exhibit "Windows and Mirrors: Reflections on the War in Afghanistan" will open at the Coralville Public Library during the month of September and later will travel to Des Moines and Simpson College in Indianola. This is a powerful display of murals and drawings by artists and Afghan schoolchildren depicting their vision of our war in their country.

The finances are stable after the devastating 2007-2008 crash. Contributions are up somewhat and the organization is cautiously

reestablishing programs in St. Louis and Minneapolis. After cuts that were made to programs and staff in response to the financial crisis much energy has been expended to make the changes deemed necessary for moving the organization forward in an efficient and sustainable manner.

While this is not your grampa's AFSC, it is our largest and oldest public witness of the peace testimony in the world. We are doing work done by few others in our country. This is an important witness on Friends' part and is worthy of our efforts and support.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Yeats, convener

Yahara Friends have served as our Document Committee and have selected portions of epistles from other yearly meetings which will be read at this time.

SELECTIONS FROM EPISTLES FROM OTHER YEARLY MEETINGS

Epistle of the Children of 81st German Yearly Meeting October 2011

We performed a play. It was called "Gossip over Coffee." It was about Truth and Sincerity. One shouldn't criticize others behind their backs. If something really annoys us, it's good to say it openly without being hurtful. That isn't always easy. But if one doesn't say anything, it often makes everything worse. This is what the play was about.

It was fun.

New England Yearly Meeting August 2011

When we put our lives at the disposal of the divine life whose being is both truth and love, we are led toward healing the earth with heart, creativity, and humor. Solidarity, integrity, equality, and compassion are intrinsic to this endeavor.

New England Yearly Meeting Young Adult Friends Epistle August 2011

We also bear grateful witness to less public spiritual gifts. Every year many in our community are led to staff youth programs. Their voices may be absent in meeting for business, but their gifts of nurturing and education are deeply felt. Similarly, others among us are called to a quiet ministry of listening and sometimes simply of holy presence. It is our hope that these gifts, too, might continue to be nurtured in our community so that the wider Yearly Meeting may share in our blessings.

"Take, I pray thee, my blessing that is brought to thee; because God hath dealt graciously with me and because I have enough" (Genesis 33:11).

...

We accept the reality that the stability of the systems that sustain all life on earth is in jeopardy because of human activity through industrial society. Truth as understood through the scientific method has revealed that maintaining a recognizable civilization is not compatible with systematically increasing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. A growing scientific consensus suggests that carbon concentrations above approximately 350 parts per million pose catastrophic risk; human activity has already pushed this concentration above 390 parts per million. The sooner this trend is reversed, the more likely it is that our deepest hopes for peace, stable community, equality and justice may be realized. We know that we do not have the answers of how to do all this, but we trust our corporate understanding of the spirit to lead us. We know that we must forgive ourselves for our complicity in this destructive system. We know we must strengthen our ability to love and to build our community to rise to this challenge. We hear the call from the Climate Working Group to use our gifts in their diverse forms to take concrete action, live lives of integrity, and know that we cannot let this burden lie. We believe this is an inflection point on this journey, and that there is much work to do to ensure Friends move forward in concrete action in the coming months.

Intermountain Yearly Meeting June 2011

The theme of our gathering was "Nurturing the Next Generation of Quakers." Gretchen Baker-Smith joined us as our resource person and inspired us to be "walking billboards" for Quaker values to the young people in our lives. In her moving sharing out of the silence she reminded us that we are all junior-highers inside (adolescents), and that we all need wide spaces, good elders, time, and the grace of God to help us through this life. She encouraged us to share our lives and spiritual stories, including our failures, with younger Friends. She also encouraged us to own our pain and the wisdom it produces, as the truth is all we have. Our children need to see what it looks and feels like to be a Friend. We further explored our theme in a Meeting for Worship with a Concern for the Next Generation of Friends. Those under thirty-five years old were invited to respond to queries as older Friends listened. Speakers shared courageously what it means to them to be a Friend and how Quaker values and morals have been instilled in them. In response to the feeling that the older adults are "losing" young Friends as they go

off to college or other pursuits, many clearly stated that they may not be visible for a while, but are not lost. Many feel a great responsibility about their part in the next generation of Quakers and expressed a desire for a greater sense of community. We were reminded that we can all learn from those who are younger than we are. After many varied and touching comments, it was clear that we could have gone on listening and sharing for a much longer period of time. The queries from this worship are attached and we invite you to pose them to the young Friends in your midst. Queries posed, with persons under age 35 asked to share:

- What do we, the young Friends, want the older adult Friends of the Yearly Meeting to know, nurture, or let go of?
- What does your Quaker identity mean to you as a young Friend?
- How important is it to be affiliated with a particular monthly meeting or worship group?
- What do we, the young Friends, want or need from this Quaker community?
- What could the older adult Friends do to help young Friends maintain their Quaker connections as young Friends grow?
- Some adult Friends have expressed a concern that they are “losing us” as we, the young Friends, grow up and go off to the college and other pursuits. Do we think they’re “losing us”?

(See other selections on page 107 in “Reports received but not read.”)

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

FIFTH DAY – THURSDAY – 8/2/2012

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

The very least you can do in your life is to figure out what you hope for. And the most you can do is live inside that hope. Not admire it from a distance but live right in it, under its roof. What I want is so simple I almost can't say it: elementary kindness. Enough to eat, enough to go around.

Barbara Kingsolver

Andrea Holveck and Carole Winkleblack have been appointed readers this morning.

MINUTE OF THIRD AND FOURTH DAY ACTIVITIES

For our third day evening collection, Ebby Luvaga, member of Ames Monthly Meeting and Friends World Committee for Consultation representative from our yearly meeting, along with Steve and Mary Snyder, members of Sioux Falls worship group, told of their experiences at the FWCC World Conference in Kenya this past spring. They shared their encounters with the wide diversity of Friends' practices and how the gathering enriched their faith life by helping them embrace the differences and similarities of Friends around the world.

In the afternoon of Fourth Day, friends heard reports from Kathleen McQuillen of the Midwest Region AFSC office and Deborah Fink, IYMC representative to Friends Committee on National Legislation. The personal reporting to us from both of these organizations each year helps us maintain our work together.

Sandy Robson, FCNL staff member, led Fourth Day Evening Collection by encouraging us to not be afraid to “let our light shine” in living our faith. It is easy for outsiders who don't understand how Congress operates to get discouraged. In contrast, Sandy offered a number of ways for us to recognize the progress that does happen. She outlined practical steps for effective communication with our elected representatives and gave us tools to join with FCNL in safeguarding a space for that “still, small voice” on Capitol Hill.

We are blessed to have the presence of these visitors: Andrew Wright, North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Elizabeth O'Sullivan, Laughing Waters Worship Group, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

We heard the good report of Friends World Committee for Consultation. We gave special consideration to the special request made in the report for contributions to support a more diverse range of travelling ministers to FWCC gatherings. Our representatives have the important task of weighing how we use our financial resources and we know they will carefully consider this request. We also ask that they bring these issues back to the monthly meetings and other individual Friends so that we can all seek the best use of our finances together.

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

There was no annual meeting of the Friends World Committee for Consultation this year due to the focus on the World Conference which

was held Fourth Month 17-25 at Kabarak, Kenya. Ebby Luvaga of Ames Meeting, who was born in Kenya, was appointed to represent IYMC. The conference theme was “Salt and Light - Friends living the Kingdom of God in a Broken World.” Approximately 850 Friends from 51 meetings and churches all over the world explored the theme through worshipful prayer, singing, plenary sessions and small group discussions. It was a true testimony to the rich diversity of the Quaker community which spans many cultures, beliefs, languages, and styles of worship. Friends reflected on how they can be Salt and Light in the current world that is full of many challenges relating to wars, poverty and the environment. The broad diversity at the meeting illuminated some challenges and exposed the weakness within the greater Quaker family. The home groups – small groups to which participants were assigned – met daily with more time for discussion, worship sharing, and to get to know other Friends on a deep level and thresh some of the differences.

The theme “Salt and Light and a Broken World” led one Friend to lament that “the world is the way it is and we therefore need to accept it as it is and do our part to fix what we see is wrong.” He challenged Quakers to ask themselves the question, “How many Quakers from the broken world have we brought into our fold?” Out of this sentiment came the need to do something, leading to the theme for the coming year’s gatherings: “Let the Living Water Flow! Friends Serving God’s Purposes,” a direct reference to John 4:7-14, the text of the Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice, and to the sense that we are repeatedly called to act on our principles, not just talk about them. Yearly meetings or constituent local meetings are called upon to host one or a series of Living Water gatherings this coming year.

As with previous years, FWCC continues to struggle with a shortage of funds and would like to make a special request to IYMC (or constituent local meetings or individual Friends) to add a special contribution this year to support a more diverse range of traveling ministers to be part the Living Water gatherings. Next year’s annual meeting will be held Third Month 12-18, 2013 in Indiana and since this is much closer to home, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Friends are invited to attend.

Ebby Luvaga, for the FWCC representatives

We listened to the interesting Publication Committee report. We appreciate the work of this committee and once again are grateful for the longtime work of so many people who, along with this committee, made our revised *Faith and Practice: The Book of Discipline of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative)* possible.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Publication Committee's budget was roughly doubled this year to allow printing of a new edition of our Faith and Practice: The Book of Discipline of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) Religious Society of Friends. The Discipline Revision Committee incurred expenses in summer 2011 to photocopy drafts of Faith and Practice. In summer 2012, the index was compiled by a professional indexer, and Goodfellow Printing printed 500 copies of the 2011 edition of the Faith and Practice: The Book of Discipline of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Religious Society of Friends. All copies were collected from the printer by the Publication Committee and delivered to Scattergood Friends School for this yearly meeting session.

Goodfellow Printing of Iowa City printed 335 copies of the Minutes of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) 2011. Printing charges increased from last year: we took delivery of 15 more copies, and freight charges increased. Goodfellow Printing shipped boxes of the Minutes to distant monthly meetings and worship groups; the committee delivered copies to eastern Iowa monthly meetings. Because we confirmed that Goodfellow Printing cannot ship individual copies economically, the committee mailed copies to individuals and organizations, both domestic and international. Though the cost for this category of mailing was significantly reduced from last year, it is still higher than in prior years.

The website iymc.org has had no dramatic changes in the past year. Small improvements and updates are a continuous process. Suggestions from Friends are always welcome. The hosting fee was unchanged from last year.

In the directory, we continue to try to clarify those phone numbers and e mail addresses that belong to specific individuals and those that are shared by a household.

Total committee expenses for the year were \$5,610.48 which exceeds the committee's \$5,000 budget. Cost breakdown follows:

Publication Committee Expenses

	Average Cost Per Copy	Expense
Discipline:		
Printing a total of 500 copies	\$4.40	\$2,200.00
Draft photocopies, July 2011		238.83
Indexing		367.25
		<hr/>
Total charges, discipline		\$2,806.08
Minutes:		
Printing a total of 335 copies	\$7.01*	\$2,348.00
Freight to ship 204 copies to meetings	\$0.93*	189.00
47 individual copies: supplies + postage	\$3.19*	150.00
		<hr/>
Total charges, minutes		\$2,687.00
Website:		
Hosting fee from BlueHost		\$107.40
Domain name registration fee		10.00
		<hr/>
Total charges, website		\$117.40
		<hr/>
TOTAL committee expenditures		\$5,610.48

*Approximate

The committee will continue efforts to streamline and clarify the flow and handling of reports to the yearly meeting, from authorship through clerks and publication.

Margie Haworth, Steve Deatherage, Ken Lawrence
For the Publication Committee
Carol Gilbert
For the Discipline Revision Committee

We approved the report of the 2011 Entertainment Committee and are thankful for all the work that makes our yearly meeting sessions possible.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2011

Receipts

Received from 2010 committee	\$1,764.60
Contributions	10,222.07
Total receipts	<u>\$11,986.67</u>

Expenses

Scattergood Friends School	\$ 9,600.00
Program	514.80
Printing and Postage	112.49
Forwarded to 2012 Committee	1,759.38
Total Expenses	<u>\$11,986.67</u>

Remaining in Entertainment Committee account 0

For the committee,
A.M. Fink, clerk

We approved the Archives Committee Report. We often don't realize the amount of work and time that the committee does on our behalf. Our hearts are full remembering Herbert Standing, and in remembering him we are reminded how the work of this committee is invisible but very important.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

We wish to begin by acknowledging the long years of service given to this committee by Herbert Standing before his death this spring. He will be very much missed.

We welcome, a memoir by Rebecca Henderson recalling the life of Paullina Monthly Meeting in the 1950s.

Our agreement with the State Historical Society of Iowa for the deposit of our records in their Iowa City library expires at the end of 2013. We plan to work to renew this agreement for another five years.

We ask that the yearly meeting continue to budget \$200 for our use.

For the committee,
Dan Treadway, acting clerk

We enjoyed the Special Needs Report and appreciate the work of the committee.

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Special Needs Committee was formed to enable and enhance participation in Yearly Meeting and Scattergood Friends School of people of all physical abilities. We are happy to report that with the small annual budget from the yearly meeting we have been able to make some progress toward making this an accessible yearly meeting. This year the Special Needs Committee budget allowed Scattergood to purchase two more American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant toilets for the restrooms in the gym that are used by Friends during sessions in the meeting house. These are in addition to ADA toilets and handrails that Scattergood has already installed in the public restrooms in the Main Building.

Scattergood has been very helpful this year with managing the golf cart transportation system and providing more air conditioned space for relief from the summer's heat. The trustees have also funded the maintenance of the defibrillator in the Main. Experiments are also taking place, as well, to aid the sound environment in the dining room. Future projects include improvement to the ad hoc system of sound reinforcement for people with hearing difficulties and enhanced vertical movement in the Main. We would like to thank Christine Ashley, Joey Giffen-Hunter, and Mark Shanahan of Scattergood for their helpfulness and positive attitude toward our projects. We thank the yearly meeting for its interest and support in helping all of us participate more fully.

Bob Yeats, for the committee

Listening to the reading of our queries and selected responses called us into worship and rich sharing.

The adage, "Practice what you preach" should be turned around. It implies that you talk first and then practice. Our testimony of integrity calls us to preach on what we can practice. We do our queries as an honest inventory so we can learn how to preach what we practice. To answer the queries takes effort and vulnerability. We must encourage our meetings to continue to consider these queries with integrity and remember that we are all doing the best we can.

Two queries in particular bring forth this question. One asks us to be aware and understand others all over the world. Another query challenges us on how we treat the earth. There is no modern world travel that does not desecrate the earth. Are these two testimonies in conflict with each other?

Is there a mechanism to make our dreams a reality? It is good when Friends come together internationally but we need to think about the cost to the environment and discover other ways to build on our strengths. Our national organizations need to hear from us about concerns with finding ways for us to reduce our carbon footprint as much as possible.

We appreciate how our queries challenge us to practice our faith so that we may preach.

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 feel the presence of Quakers who have passed on as we worship together and read their words. During meeting for worship we are able to tune in to the spirit and in this way learn to hear the leadings we are given. This helps us shape our lives and find clarity for our purpose. We feel a sense of duty to our family members and the larger world to follow these leadings. Many times they involve change that is not easy for anyone involved. Meeting for worship helps us find the power in ourselves to do what needs to be done. All who attend meeting for worship regularly seem to integrate it into their daily lives. We can't help but be changed by the presence of the spirit. We are blessed when someone is moved to speak. Vocal ministry does contribute to the spiritual life of the meeting and gives us a chance to enlarge our discussions as it furthers our growth. Being faithful to our leadings to speak teaches us to express ourselves truthfully in other areas of life. Our meeting is strengthened by our gifts as long as we are faithful to what we've been given.

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: As we contemplate the condition of our meeting, we are mindful of the aspects that contribute to seekers feeling comfortable with us on their spiritual journey. We continue to search for ways to involve others to share with our physical and spiritual abundance. We question what it is about our testimonies and our implicit theology that might be a hindrance to acceptance within our community. We discussed how to overcome some of the myths that might abound about Quakers. Suggestions to expand our circle have included a movie night, a book club and an arts festival. These ideas come with a recognition of our limited numbers, energy and resources, but with a willingness to pursue these endeavors with a generous and accepting spirit.

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: We appreciate the advice which emphasizes the seriousness of Meeting for Business. We noted that the queries seem to be philosophical rather than practical. If there is philosophical unity will the practical fall into place? Our meetings for business can be unfocused, and we go off on tangents. We appreciate receiving an agenda in advance of the meeting so that we know what is our business for the meeting. More silence, especially holding the clerk in silence while minutes are being written, would be helpful. Silence is about going slow and working out how to deal with our lives. One of the purposes of

meeting for business is to create community. When we get off track it is out of hunger to relate to one another. We create community by finding unity together about the things which need to be done, our business.

We are respectful of differences of opinion. One Friend remembered an experience of having a strong disagreement with meeting: “The meeting handled it so liberally and patiently that I felt I could let go. I learned something about not pushing. People can be on different sides without being wrong. I felt the gift of being part of a community.” We find that people step up to do what needs doing; it happens organically. We are fortunate to have a clerk who is serious about her service.

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 question of harmony brought to mind a member who has not attended for a few years and whether the disharmony of that time contributed to the situation. As a meeting we feel we have become more harmonious in the past few years, and not by keeping our opinions to ourselves. We take more time to share about life events, books, conferences, our jobs – and about how these are shaping our spiritual lives. This sharing has increased our trust in each other, which in turn encourages more sharing. Though it is informal, the sharing really helps us deepen our relationships and examine our actions and opportunities from a spiritual point of view. Some of our best communication happens during after-worship discussions, especially when we did Bible study which offered chances to explore and voice our personal theologies. There are topics we don’t agree on and don’t discuss often, such as salvation, resurrection, reincarnation, gay rights, abortion, sex, and extra-terrestrial life. We feel that because we do trust one another, we can and should take more time to talk about these issues. After all, we come together to worship because we believe our corporate discernment of God is more reliable than individual efforts. We believe we help each other to increase the “measure of Light” that is given to us. The meeting is one of the legs of the stool of our understanding of God. If we are not asking the meeting to help us understand really difficult questions, then we are missing that leg and our stool will be wobbly at best.

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 try to be present to one another in order to create an atmosphere in which friends feel free to share personal needs. However, our heritage is to avoid being intrusive in others' lives and we often wait to be asked before responding in any way. This can lead others to feel their needs will not be addressed. Ministry and Counsel Committee often seems too formal a structure to provide the intimate connection that is needed. At the same time we often find it difficult to be open when we do have needs ourselves. Gathering casually in small groups often gives an opportunity to share in an easier, less formal atmosphere, e.g. working around the quilt, mowing lawn and doing other housekeeping chores together. Absentee members are contacted by the Ministry and Counsel Committee with a letter of greeting, usually about every two years, and sometimes we have received responses from these. Unfortunately we have lost addresses for some former members. Our attempts to let others know who and what we are and that we welcome all to join us have been rather casual. In spite of this, individuals continue to find us either through the internet or our listing in the local newspapers. There are currently only two very young children in the meeting. These two are definitely cherished and welcomed to the meeting whenever they are with us as are others who come occasionally.

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: With no dogma or creed, Quakers tend to naturally foster a sense of inquiry and attempt to resolve conflict in a loving manner. Listening is key. Children in the meeting are exposed to Bible study, study of other religious traditions, and Quaker education, although it is a challenge to plan for the small number, with irregular attendance. Friends appreciate the value of formal Quaker education and its impact beyond just Quaker families. Friends recognize the desire for adults to also engage in Quaker education.

Friends are aware that we continue to struggle with gender-based expectations and that we need to be vigilant in this respect. It is important to stay involved and play active roles in our schools, libraries, and other institutions in the community. We should seek to stay well informed about our communities. We prepare our children to live in a changing world primarily by our example.

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: Family roles of every generation are important. We believe that the roles we play as parents and members of all families follow the lead of our parents and those of the previous generation. Often the day-to-day necessities of earning a living and providing a safe and wholesome environment for our families are lessened or eased as we become older. This freedom from worry and responsibility is a blessing that allows the older generation to lead lives that exemplify the love of life and gratitude for the blessing we have been given. This valuable role shows hope to the next generation. Our homes are not only vitally important to our immediate family, but can also enable us to reach beyond our own family to meaningfully communicate with others. When

we invite people into our homes we interact on a more personal basis. These friendships are crucial to long term success within a community.

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: Part of the discussion mentioned how we can be mindful of Quaker values in our daily lives, using discretion in our choices of entertainment, topics of discussion with friends and family, finding escapes from routines that provide joy and beauty in our lives, rather than allowing distractions to personal spiritual growth. Balance seems to be important, though often not easy to maintain. Discussion of this query then turned to how we deal with addictions and mental illness and the ways families are affected. The stigmas that are still attached to sharing this information make it difficult to include in open discussion, but we are aware that we must seek ways to recognize this gap in our caring concerns and open ourselves to correcting it, both within our small groups, in the area-wide paucity of options for care, and in statewide reform of the system. Perhaps this will be a topic for further discussion later in the year.

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 sometimes feel so at odds with our government that we don't know how to begin. We can't understand why "they" talk and act as they do and we don't have confidence in what they tell us. Society seems to be set up so that hard work and integrity are not rewarded, and it is difficult to believe that our leaders are acting in faith even when they claim that they are religious. Our feelings of confusion and powerlessness, along with the disrespectful and unpleasant tone of the public discussion discourage us from participating at all. However, we believe that living in the Light requires that we speak and act with integrity, which means that instead of withdrawing from this bewildering world we must try to respond to it in Truth. We must try to act based on what is right whether or not we calculate that it will be effective. We feel we need to work harder to check our leadings and strengthen our actions through worship. Real communication seems more possible at the local level, where we can meet face-to-face and know elected officials over time. Part of acting right is remembering that politicians and bureaucrats are people, with both goodness and weakness. They invest a lot in understanding issues and developing relationships, which can make it hard for them to stay clear in their purpose. God may lead us to help them do that. We were reminded that we are also people, and while no one taking part in our discussion had sought public office, all work for government at some level. God might be leading us to bring our faith more clearly into our own work, perhaps by taking a stand even though confrontation can be unpleasant.

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: . . . If education about our interdependence were offered from the very beginning, we would grow up with more

sense of interconnection. One member put the experience of communion in a new light. When we eat – “this is my body, my blood” – we recognize that this food is connected to us. The food we eat is our body; the liquid we drink is our blood. This perspective opens the door for thinking about interconnection and looking beyond self-interest. . . .The connection between materialism, environment and spirituality makes one think of John Woolman’s observation about the true interconnectedness of everything, and how the growing materialism of the culture of his day was causing people to be cut off from the Spirit. This is the insight that underlay his fight against slavery. Material desires cut you off from the Spirit; this allows you to treat the environment or fellow beings as if they were not part of you. The challenge is how to extricate ourselves from this. . . .

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: Two facets of social and economic justice with which we contend are the societal/political and our own attitudes. Many of our problems are due to our economic system which is based on inequality. Whole groups can be led to disrespect and treat others inhumanely. Prisoners and the mentally ill population are particularly susceptible to this. Addressing the symptoms requires addressing the system. This is the basis for much of the activism in which Friends have engaged over the years. But we must take care not to put all the blame outside ourselves. We must look at how we treat each other. How can we get past our internalized disrespect and acknowledge the humanity in our neighbors on a daily basis? Differences can sometimes be viewed as “interesting” when viewed in Divine Light. Daily prayer and meditation are important in keeping this clarity. We deal with these issues in personal ways, pursuing our own social actions and supporting each

other. But what's next? What would we find if we asked, "What is God asking us to do, as a meeting?"

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: Some of our members are active in the Peace Center in Iowa City, which has an important presence in the area. One member had recently read Michael Klare's *Rising Powers, Shrinking Planet*. The world's dependence on petroleum has led to countries maneuvering militarily to obtain oil and gas. The world's remaining oil supply is in unfriendly, dangerous countries. His fear is that it may be a very traumatic world for the next 50 years. Another book mentioned was Eric Fromm's *The Art of Loving*. Care, respect and knowledge are important in relationships with others. Trying to address national and international problems seems overwhelming, but the idea of starting with oneself and then widening the circle into small spheres can have an impact in trying to effect non-violence and peace. We need to address things in our homes, within our families, and our communities. The art of loving needs to begin with our own inner peace. . . . We can't work for peace in our communities and the world if we don't have inner peace.

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

SIXTH DAY – FRIDAY – 8/3/2012
MORNING SESSION

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

We appreciated getting a good lesson on how to use the microphones in meeting, and resolved to be the best students we can.

We were made to enjoy music, to enjoy beautiful sunsets, to enjoy looking at the billows of the sea and to be thrilled with a rose that is bedecked with dew. . . . Human beings are actually created for the transcendent, for the sublime, for the beautiful, for the truthful . . . and all of us are given the task of trying to make this world a little more hospitable to these beautiful things.

Desmond Tutu

George Bergus and Sonja Sponheim have been appointed as readers this morning.

MINUTE OF FIFTH DAY ACTIVITIES

David Wilcox and Victoria Albright led an afternoon discussion with Friends about the Silver River Worship Group, under the care of Penn Valley Monthly Meeting, in La Plata, Missouri. The discussion included its spiritual history and its connection to the Possibility Alliance, an intentional community founded on the principals of spirituality, simplicity, nonviolence, service, and gratitude. This was the first opportunity for many in our yearly meeting to hear firsthand about our newest worship group. We look forward to growing together in the years ahead.

Patricia Morrison led both an afternoon workshop and our evening session titled “Letting Our Lives Speak.” She underlined how stories help people connect to one another. Stories that let others know of your fears and brokenness are particularly powerful. A good story helps you recognize yourself, and when that happens you see yourself in another human being. Patricia engaged Friends in a number of writing exercises designed to help Friends discover their own personal stories and share them with others.

The yearly meeting approved the request from our Nominating Committee to add the following sentences to the Ad Hoc Interim Committee Report. The report approved in our 4th day minutes will be amended to include the following:

The committee should include a minimum of one representative from each monthly meeting and a maximum of two. This will mean that currently there will be a maximum of eight members assigned each year on a three-year rotation with a quorum being fifty percent of its members in attendance. This number of representatives will change with the number of monthly meetings.

We heard the report of the yearly meeting trustees and appreciate their work in the oversight of our finances. We know that this is our yearly meeting, and we all are responsible in understanding where our money comes from to do the things we hope for our yearly meeting to do.

YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES REPORT

We appoint Lowell Wilson and Daniel Treadway to be Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees to serve a term ending in 2016.

The Foundation financial report is not available in its entirety. The income for the fiscal year was approximately \$92,000, while \$76,350 was transferred to the school. The endowment stands at approximately \$3.5 million.

The north roof of the meeting house was replaced this year. We hope to have the funds available for the south roof in three years. The interior of the meeting house is well cared for by the students and staff of the school. It has been two years since we refinished the floor and it still looks marvelous. Thank you students and staff.

Trustees Financial Report

Initial balance 7/1/2011	\$975.44
From Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)	1,800.00
Interest earned	1.05
Total Funds Available	<u>\$2,776.49</u>
 Disbursements	
Hernandez Construction	
Meeting house roof	2,480.00
AED Authority (Defibrillator training)	\$195.00
Total Disbursements	<u>\$2,675.00</u>
 Funds Available 6/30/2012	 <u>\$101.49</u>

Prepared by A.M. Fink, clerk

We heard the Scattergood School Committee Report and were glad to learn how to locate the School Committee information on our website. The reference to the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) re-accreditation is especially gratifying. We commend the school committee on their tireless work.

We so appreciate and enjoy the farm report and appreciate the humor in it. It is wonderful to see the farm get the recognition it deserves; it reminds us that it is the Scattergood Friends School and FARM. It can be overwhelming to consider the incredible bounty we heard of in the farm report – not only the variety of food but also the incredible variety of experiences they provide to the students and others.

We appreciated the accomplishments recorded in the Head of School Report and how well it made us see the entire operation. We feel the vibrancy of the school in these reports. It is wonderful to have the Head of School and the staff taking part in so much of the life of the yearly meeting – not only work, but also the fun things.

It is good to share with the School Committee in having such confidence in the Head of School. We thank the Scattergood Head, staff, and students, and those who work with them from the yearly meeting in making Scattergood what it is.

While there is a “drought out there,” there is a fertile oasis in this community. This feeling of gratitude among all of us is a blessing.

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

The School Committee has appreciated the continued strong leadership of Christine Ashley this year. Christine’s energy and commitment to the sustainability and development of the school resonates throughout the school community, for which we are extremely grateful. The School Committee has confidence in Christine’s interpreting and manifesting the vision of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) for the school and is thankful to have her in the Head position.

Tasks addressed this year by the School Committee include new drafts and refinements of the strategic plan and the long-range plan. This attention focused on several areas: a strong academic program, staff salaries, a healthy enrollment and income from tuition, financial viability, and an efficient Earth-friendly and Spirit-led approach to the community’s life style.

At the end of the normal seven-year cycle, the School has been reaccredited through Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS). ISACS provides commendations and recommendations

for the School Committee and the School to consider. In their final conclusion of their report the ISACS Visiting Team states the following:

Many of us on the Visiting Team commented that we had not seen a school with a mission so manifest in daily conversation and behavior. Scattergood's constituents have reason for profound optimism as long as the school maintains its commitment to openness and integrity.

People of the yearly meeting can find these comments and other School Committee documents on the yearly meeting's website at the School Committee link listed under the "Committee" tab. A login and a password are required and can be obtained through the School Committee clerk. Much thanks go to Steve Deatherage from Yahara Monthly Meeting who serves as our webster.

One of the challenges the School Committee has faced the past several years was a convoluted accounting system that now appears to have been rectified. We can report the completion of a successful audit this year that confirms our efforts in this area.

The school continues to be affected by the strain due to a lack of adequate funds that would cover needs faced by its farm and facilities, compensation and resources that could retain outstanding staff, and financial assistance needed to maintain a diverse student population. The plan for a capital campaign is being initiated to address some of these needs.

The School Committee appreciates the generous, creative, and varied means by which the yearly meeting and its individuals support its vibrant school that continues to be a living example of the school's mission and of our faith.

For the School Committee,
Debbie Galusha, clerk

SCATTERGOOD FARM REPORT

Dear Friends:

A confession: my interest in the various crops at the Scattergood Farm plummets when they are ready to be harvested. Though it is tempting to label this an aversion to maturity, I'll resist that and instead contend that I simply prefer to live in the realm of potentials.

A production year on the Scattergood Farm begins long before we taste the first tomato or break open the first watermelon. The process begins with careful note-taking during the prior seasons; imagining in winter as crop rotations are tweaked, planting schedules created and seed orders submitted; then finally in January, the first seeds are sown and the many acts of growing begin. I genuinely love these parts of farming:

considering, imagining, planning, and then sowing, nurturing, transplanting, and weeding. But when it comes time to harvest, I've already emotionally moved on: the harvest seems daunting and tedious while there are so many things yet to imagine and plant. Additionally, the period right before the harvest is frequently when the plants are most robust, the rows tidy and full, and we still live with the tension and wonder between what is and what will be.

The harvest is what was.

So what was the last year?

Many of the established student experiences continued on the farm, including Chicken and Egg, Compost and Recycling, and farm crews; Food Preservation, Farm and Livestock projects; the Food for Thought humanities class, the Biking/Farming Trip and the Farm Work Day, which has long been the capstone event after a week of student orientation. In addition to these activities, we added what we called the Squash-a-thon: a sunny afternoon spent hauling several thousands of squash, pumpkins, and watermelon out of the field in several long bucket-brigade lines. Also, working with Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI) and the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, we conducted several on-farm experiments in which students helped collect harvest data; started, sowed, and cultivated crops; and two students took part last November in an hour-long presentation given at the National Small Farm Trade Show and Conference in Columbia, Missouri.

While we continue to seek ways to increase the interactions that staff and students have on the farm, one way in which all Scattergood community members take part daily is in the dining room. Our primary cooks, Irving Treadway, Bob Gutwein, and Dana Foster, gladly featured the rich diversity of farm produce in the lunches and dinners they prepared. From asparagus to hot peppers, to cabbage, to parsnips, to tomatoes, watermelon, sweet potatoes, and okra, our students experienced daily what it means to eat locally, seasonally, and organically. While our meat consumption (primarily beef, pork, lamb, and turkey) has, for several years now, been nearly 100 percent Scattergood-raised, each year we try to overcome the challenges of winter to increase the percentage of vegetables that we produce for ourselves. In the 2011–2012 school year, nearly all of the vegetables served from August–December came from our farm, while from January until March we continued eating from our root cellar and high tunnel lettuce, Swiss chard, sweet potatoes, carrots, garlic, and beets until the spring peas, parsnips, and spinach opened the garden season anew. While there are seasonal limits to what we can produce in late winter, we

continue to seek ways to narrow the windows during which we are not eating directly from our farm.

We have not been alone in appreciating our land. In the past year the Scattergood Farm has welcomed guests from Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay as part of a US State Department–sponsored visit by agricultural specialists. Visitors from William Penn University included two students from Rwanda, as well as the president of the university. Last fall we welcomed nearly 100 guests who attended our PFI-sponsored Field Day, and well over 100 cyclists who took part in the inaugural Culinary Bike Ride during Iowa City’s Field to Family Festival. Throughout the year, we have welcomed visits by Taproot Nature Experience, Singles in Agriculture, a group of University of Iowa retirees, and the Iowa City/Coralville Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee. Both farmers and livestock have taken part in several Farmer Fairs at Iowa City elementary schools, as part of their Farm to School Program. The Scattergood Farm has also supplied produce to New Pioneer Cooperative in Iowa City and Coralville; Devotay restaurant in Iowa City; Relish in Grinnell; Reid’s Beans coffee shop in West Branch; and Farmer’s Table, a local pop-up restaurant featuring locally sourced meat and produce.

All of these accomplishments are due to the hard work and visioning of those who help on the Farm. Dana Foster, who continues to husband the livestock program and engage students on multiple levels of learning; Sam Taylor, who has returned to the farm for his fourth summer; Steve Hoffman, who cuts our hay and helps maintain our equipment; Ken Fawcett, who farms our conventional acres and is always available for advice and support; the Farm Subcommittee of the Scattergood School Committee who have assisted in many ways from technical advice to emotional support and financial planning; and Don Laughlin, who continues to find opportunities to experience the farm and to imagine new opportunities for the farm, and who works hard to help us achieve our goals. We give many thanks to all who have supported us during the past year.

At the Scattergood Farm, we have ample occasions to experience many growing opportunities and harvests. Some can fulfill quickly—like radishes or arugula—and be ready just several weeks after planting, while others take longer—like establishing an asparagus patch or planting fruit trees. While I sincerely love eating what we produce, I also so love imagining what we’ll grow, what programs we’ll develop, and how our landscape can be improved. During this Yearly Meeting, we have been at work razing an old shed to make room for a new facility for

washing and storing fruits and vegetables. This project has been conceptualized for over nine years and opens many possibilities for us; it is one harvest I shall savor.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Quee, Farm Manager

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

At Scattergood, we privilege love and sharing and connecting with one another just as much as information sharing and processing. It keeps us learning in relationship, which is how we first begin our learning journey. This concentration on love also helps us examine and speak to the condition of the other. Love gives us courage to seek truth, both *collectively* and individually. At Scattergood we actively call our attention to this phenomenon, and see our community as the foundation of our learning experience.

School Accreditation

Several monumental, nay, herculean tasks were completed this year. We are happy to write that we completed our extensive and intensive self-study report, part of a seven-year school accreditation cycle overseen by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS). This past spring we hosted a 12-party visiting team of school administrators from ISACS schools around the country who examined our self-study report and visited and interviewed staff, students, school committee members and parents. Finally, we received formal accreditation as well as written commendations and recommendations from the ISACS consortium. The commendations from the ISACS visiting team were heartening, especially in light of the fact that we have already or are currently addressing a number of the recommendations submitted.

The ISACS visiting team commends Scattergood Friends School for:

- 1. Adherence to the spirit of the Quaker faith.** *A deep, far-reaching and explicit ethos of inclusiveness, mutual respect, and grace permeates the mutual community.*
- 2. Effectiveness.** *Any school's mission is lived in the behavior of its students. From this view, Scattergood's mission is realized in the conduct of the children in its care.*
- 3. The tireless work of every staff member.** *Staff in every area of the campus, from classrooms to farm, work with passion and commitment.*
- 4. Loyalty.** *The school inspires loyalty and the desire for long-*

term relationships within its community to a high degree, as evidenced by the involvement of multigenerational alumni.

5. The kitchen program. *The Scattergood kitchen epitomizes the school's efficacy as a center for Quaker values. The kitchen is a focal point for everyone on campus; everyone participates in it and the food is delicious and nourishing.*

6. The Scattergood Farm. *The farm is an admirable operation in every way. The managers use best agricultural practices, the students and staff value it, the farm enhances the school's reputation, and it enriches the school in many ways.*

7. Diversity in many forms. *Many schools identify differences, but it takes a special place to set aside curricular time, staff training, and cultural space for self-examination and planning – with love, expansiveness, and generosity.*

8. Major strides in administrative offices. *The Business, Admissions, Development, and Head offices have been revamped in the last two years. These changes are for the better.*

Special thanks go to all of the staff and school committee members who worked so diligently in preparation for the ISACS work. We are especially grateful for the leadership of Nicole Wolf- Camplin and Sarah Harper-Smith during this process.

Spiritual and Community Life

The school year was lively and exciting with 52 students attending from many states and countries around the world. All twelve 2012 seniors graduated with diplomas in hand on June 3, 2012, and 100% of the students were accepted to a four-year college or university. The 2012 seniors plan to attend the following colleges: Earlham College, Haverford College, Occidental College, Iowa State University, Art Institute of Minnesota, Michigan State University, Northland College, and Warren Wilson College. We thank each and every student for helping us nurture a deeply caring environment where there is space set aside for learning, growing, and stretching the mind, body, and spirit.

This winter, Cheryl Sutton, Stan Sanders, and Annie Tucker led over 15 students and staff and two parents in an intensive 20-hour basic training for Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP). As a follow-up action, the participants led an all school AVP mini-workshop in February. We received a grant from Friends Committee on Education for the 2012-2013 school year so that we may continue our AVP training in a student-led Quaker youth retreat. Students are very excited to sponsor a wider Quaker youth gathering in their Scattergood home in 2013.

This spring, staff members attended five Quakerism classes led by Callie Marsh, and the class was very much appreciated. New admin-

istrators and other interested 12-month staff members new to Quakerism participated in a second class this July. We are grateful for Callie's work.

One would think that the campus would be quiet during the summer. Maintenance projects, mowers, art camp, leadership camp, new staff and trainings, an alumni reunion for the classes of 1965-1975, as well as admission visitors, all made for a lively and active summer at Scattergood.

Academics

The ISACS Visiting Team report was released. The major recommendation addressing our academic program stated that we need to continue creating a comprehensive, vertically and horizontally aligned curriculum. We welcome the insight of our peers so that we may further strengthen our programs. Additional topics being considered for staff-wide professional learning for the 2012-13 school year include peer observation/feedback systems.

We are excited to learn from our first experience of May Term classes and improve our second May Term in 2013. The three-week intensive, interdisciplinary and team-taught courses were highly successful both from student and staff perspectives. The professional development opportunity of teaching in tandem was very much appreciated. We will continue to work with our colleagues in Muscatine, Iowa, who have been lauded for their project-based learning curriculum, and remain committed to expanding our skills and tools. Muscatine High School (IA) received national recognition for their programming, and we are pleased to have established a working relationship with this institution. With the purchase of some additional resources and with time built into the staff meeting schedule, we anticipate that all teachers will continue to expand their knowledge and implementation of Project Based Learning (PBL) in a teamed environment.

Some juniors and seniors enjoyed the opportunity to stay on campus for our new May Term program. Others hiked a portion of the Appalachian Trail with Dave Reeve and Hans Niehus. Sam Taylor and former staff member Colleen Schmitt led a sizable group of excited students to Costa Rica. Monteverde Friends School was a fine place to work and play. Our 2012-2013 junior and senior trip offerings will include travel to Oaxaca, Mexico. Oaxaca is the home base of the Gunderson family, whose daughter Kathryn graduated in 2007. Hans Niehus and Dave Reeve worked together so well on last year's Appalachian Trail hiking trip that they are planning to undertake the 1300-mile bike trip together this year.

Perhaps the biggest improvement we have undertaken this summer has involved the final approval and upcoming integration of a new

database into our school infrastructure. For years we have lamented the fact that our administrative offices have operated as separate entities rather than integrated parts of the whole Scattergood campus. Thanks to staff input and our business manager Amanda Paul's research, the school has finalized a contract with a user-friendly database company. We hope that the database will help our admissions, enrollment, student information, grading, and reporting to become more streamlined, transparent, and accessible to our many constituents.

Personnel

We welcomed new administrative staff to campus on July 1st, and began office transitions with training from our former staff members. We thank our outgoing Dean of Students Shelley Hughes for her two years of compassionate work. We greet Cathy Chun in the newly-defined role as Assistant Head of School. We are confident that Cathy's years of experiences in student services and administration in higher education will be extremely pivotal in this position, and we already witness the positive ways she is impacting Scattergood.

Linda Bendorf (Admissions Director) and Cindy Oliverius (Administrative Assistant in the main office) trained with their individual predecessors before taking the lead in their new positions. We are grateful for the guidance of Margie Özemet and Beth Goodvin during this process. Margie has relocated to Indianapolis where her husband Gokhan works. Beth has retired and now lives in Iowa City, close to her children and grandchildren. We bid Alex Foster goodbye and wish him well in his continuing studies at the University of Iowa. The registrar position was relegated to the Academic Dean's office, and our Registrar, Sarah Giffen-Hunter, will no longer work in that capacity. Mother of 2012 senior Lake, Sarah will continue her Master's program in library sciences at The University of Iowa as a fulltime student. Her years of working as Registrar, college guidance counselor, advisor, and project teacher are treasured by staff, students, and parents, and we wish her all of the very best in her future studies and work. Bob Gutwein, former Dean of Students, Admissions Director, and most recently college guidance counselor and cook, accepted a position as International Student Advisor at the University of Iowa. Margie Figgins leaves campus for love and a new chapter in her life. We thank her for the many ways she touched our lives, and particularly recognize her nine years as the Director of Development with gratitude. Margie will continue to work with the Development staff from her new home outside of Washington, Iowa, and will visit her daughter, junior Rachael Lightstone, on campus.

We thank these staff members for their years of committed and heartfelt work at Scattergood.

Facilities

This year we made great inroads as we began the process of assessing and evaluating the physical structures on campus and looked at systems which support the physical structures. Our Facilities Manager, Mark Shanahan, coordinated comprehensive campus surveys and reports with the assistance of Margie Figgins, Gokhan Özemet, Larry Marsh, Allan Winder, and Lucy Hansen. Gokhan assessed the efficacy and workings of the main campus septic and sewer system, and Margie researched, documented, and presented the data gathered. The assessment and documentation of campus workings will help us immensely as we envision a long-term facilities plan and prepare for the next capital campaign and beyond.

We have added a Facilities Assistant to the staff roster for 2012-2013, and anticipate Joey Giffen-Hunter and Mark Shanahan's future work in facilities. Dave Reeve and Alex Foster also worked in facilities this summer, and dormitories received new coats of paint, doors were repaired or replaced, furnishings were sanded free of messages and repaired. Faculty apartments shifted and are ready for the new inhabitants. New ADA approved toilets were installed in the gym preceding the IYMC gathering; these were funded by the Special Needs Committee of the IYMC. More railings have been installed next to toilets as well.

In the science building we will soon see an eyewash station and chemical hood and vent. We are pricing out the costs for a public bathroom for the building, as we see that our current plumbing can support such a necessary renovation. This would also allow us to install an emergency shower and make excellent use of the former darkroom space. Every space on campus is important, and we are working hard to utilize and renovate spaces within our facilities budget as we do not have a sizeable capital budget.

Farm

The drought and plumbing issues have made this summer extremely challenging for the farm. Hoses and many man hours help irrigate the land and keep our livestock watered. Plumbing and water dilemmas this summer have been challenging, to say the very least, and we must attend to our plumbing issues in a timely fashion.

Mark Quee and Dana Foster presented at several conferences this year, often alongside students. Dana worked closely with the May Term Committee to include farm and prairie opportunities in the "Naturalist Training" course offering. Mike Severino will teach the new science offering "Agriculture and the Environment" this fall. The course will

include content from the former “Environmental Sciences” and utilize our farm as the living laboratory for the course.

We are moving ahead with the plan to demolish the red shed and grade the space in anticipation of a new vegetable processing facility. This facility will allow us to process and freeze more of our food production, thus enhancing the productivity and utilization of our farm assets. The pricing for such a facility is being finalized, and we have accepted initial designated donations of \$6,500.00. We look forward to presenting the plans for the facility by the October School Committee meeting.

Finances

We finished the fiscal year (pre-reconciliation) within two hundred dollars of our projection. We are stretched in many ways, but we are utilizing our resources carefully and with an eye for meeting our immediate and long-term needs, using the resources at our disposal. Thank you to the staff for spending the school’s resources with care and respect, and for looking at spaces and resources with the question, “What do we need, and what do we need to make room for?”

The development team surpassed the annual fund goal, and these funds helped many students and their families in terms of financial aid awards. We enjoyed an exciting past fiscal year of growing Scattergood’s concentric circles of friends, including our students, faculty and staff, and School Committee members. The focus of the new fiscal year for the Development Office will be based on five pillars: annual fund, grants, bequests, the beginnings of the capital campaign, and outreach. The structural integrity of these pillars will be maintained by an open-minded and focused development team.

Outreach

Our local and regional outreach efforts this year made for a tremendous increase in local inquiries, especially for 10th and 11th grade placements. We hosted four well-attended open houses on the main campus. Numerous groups toured the farm with Dana and Mark. We have a large 11th grade class, and our 10th grade class has grown to ten. Our 9th grade class is still quite limited in number, and we have been clear, in our process within the Admissions Committee, that we must continue to exert outreach efforts for 2nd semester entrance. Spreading the Scattergood news actively and creatively branding our message and unique offerings continue to be main goals of the Head, Development, and Admissions offices.

Visits off-campus included meetings with parents, school heads, and alumni in the Chicago area. A trip to the Bay area gave me the

opportunity to meet with more feeder schools, alumni, and potential friends of the school. It was a pleasure to receive gracious and generous hospitality from Trudy Chastain '58, Judy Bryer '55, Kale Williams '69, and Karen Morgan '74. The gathering held at the Redwood Meeting House was well-attended, and I enjoyed meeting our California Friends. It was very good to spend time at the ten-year-old San Francisco Friends School, which could be another feeder school for Scattergood.

William Penn University has a long history with Scattergood Friends School, and we have begun conversations about possible working partnership opportunities in the near future. President Dr. Ann Fields, Noel Stahle, (Vice President for Academic Affairs), and two students from Rwanda spent a full morning visiting Scattergood on May 25th. During that time we toured the farm and met with our Academic Dean. We looked at Scattergood as a possible venue for higher education in the summer and hosting college level courses here for William Penn students and staff as well as capable juniors and seniors. We will meet again to continue the planning for summer 2013.

Art camp was well attended for six weeks and our first venture with the summer leadership camp met with moderate success. We are clear as to what work needs to be done for next year, (e.g., massive publicity). We are looking forward to working in October to prepare for next summer's language immersion and leadership camps.

Thoughts from the Director

Our school and farm are dear to us and, as an explicitly Quaker school, we celebrate the fact that our faith is an ineradicable aspect of our identity. We are open to the struggles and conversations that help us meet the day-to-day challenges, as well as challenges in the near future, with integrity, optimism, and decisiveness.

As we prepare to launch an ambitious annual fund appeal and look forward to a 125th year celebration and capital campaign, the time is ripe for a constituent-wide visioning process that will take place over the course of the next year. This process will help guide the long range planning and necessary action steps. We envision current and former staff, students, parents, alumni, parents of alumni, current and former school committee members, and IYMC members contributing to building this coherent and comprehensive blueprint for the future. It is exciting to be part of Scattergood's mission, which has helped shape beautiful lives all of these years. We have work to do and lives to touch, now and in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Ashley, Head of School

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

**SIXTH DAY – FRIDAY – 8/3/2012
AFTERNOON SESSION**

We return to the business of the yearly meeting.

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

Kent Simmonds and Stan Sanders have been appointed as readers this afternoon.

The financial information prepared by Scattergood Friends School is an important part of our business. Christine Ashley and Amanda Paul offered a good opportunity for us to ask questions regarding the Scattergood budget and future projected expenses. It was very informative and we appreciate the opportunity to get this information firsthand. We note that a little over \$6,000 deficit is essentially a balanced budget. This speaks well of the school and the staff. Thank you.

**SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL
FINANCIAL REPORT
JULY 1, 2011 – MAY 3, 2012**

The figures in the following four tables are based on information available at the time of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) 2012 sessions. See final report, "Scattergood Friends School and Related Entities Financial Report," on page 109 in "Reports received but not read."

ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE

Income	
Scattergood Foundation	76,350.00
Application Fees	1,600.00
Annual Giving	274,181.81
Designated Capital	142.25
Westwood	8,104.65
Total Designated Capital	8,246.90
Designated Donation	
Financial Assistance	5,000.00
Other	9,994.64
Total Designated Donation	14,994.64
Farm	43,717.00
Gain/loss on Investments	
Interest Earnings	377.06
Iowa Yearly Meeting	50,000.00
Measey Foundation	109,197.00
Net Tuition	694,435.58
Other Operating Income	11,091.33
Reimbursable Income	
Rental Use	14,271.85
Total Income	1,298,463.17

(Continued)

ORDINARY INCOME/EXPENSE

Expense	
Total Curriculum	9,900.57
Total Activities	12,853.52
Total Development	12,997.57
Total Admissions	9,141.82
Total Communications	16,223.04
Total Contracted Services	36,899.56
Total Food Service	62,008.95
Total Insurance	51,305.23
Total Miscellaneous	20,152.34
Total OC Utilities	87,210.00
Total Payroll	669,159.92
Total Personnel Costs	182,625.74
Total Personnel Development	15,248.14
Total Professional Services	28,827.50
Total Promotion	
Reimbursable Expense	
Total Supplies	18,706.20
Total Technology	21,686.21
Total Vehicles/Equipment	21,492.78
Total Farm Expense	28,140.00
Total Expense	1,304,579.09
Net Ordinary Income	-6,115.92
Net Income	-6,115.92

(Continued)

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Designated Donations	17,641.35
Hills Checking Account	16,440.12
Office Cash	348.38
Savings Account: Hills Bank	12,895.89
Trip	<u>1,208.21</u>

Total Checking/Savings 48,533.95

Accounts Receivable

Accounts Receivable	<u>32,993.70</u>
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Total Accounts Receivable 32,993.70

Other Current Assets

Allowance for Bad Debt	-10,000.00
Prepaid Bills	<u>12,553.99</u>

Total Other Current Assets 2,553.99

Total Current Assets 84,081.64

Fixed Assets

Automobiles	91,519.35
Buildings	3,434,491.03
Equipment	538,160.08
Land	239,870.25
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-2,056,767.00</u>

Total Fixed Assets 2,247,273.71

Other Assets

Pledges Receivable	194,499.11
HJ Heinz Stock	<u>1,815.24</u>

Total Other Assets 196,314.35

TOTAL ASSETS 2,527,669.70

(Continued)

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable

Accounts Payable 32,386.50

Total Accounts Payable 32,386.50

Other Current Liabilities

Total Deposits 44,993.00

Due to Student Bank 100.00

Interest Payable 230.13

Payroll: FICA 150.75

Payroll: Medicare 154.00

Payroll: Supplemental (SWHIA) 42.06

Payroll Liabilities 8,890.20

Retirement Plan Liability 36,714.50

Notes Payable, Current 5,366.03

Total Other Current Liabilities 96,640.67

Deferred Income 29,100.00

Total Current Liabilities 158,127.17

Long-Term Liabilities

Less Current Portion -5,366.03

Notes Payable, Long Term 157,921.96

Total Long-Term Liabilities 152,555.93

Total Liabilities 310,683.10

Equity

Opening Balance 2,863,048.62

Retained Earnings -629,644.89

Net Income -16,417.13

Total Equity 2,216,986.60

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 2,527,669.70

We listened to the interesting Religious Education Committee Report.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT

Religious education reports from five monthly meetings were received by the committee. Callie Marsh's book about Iowa Yearly Meeting, *A Lively Faith*, was used as a resource for discussions in four of these Meetings. Friends' interests, as reflected in the materials that were read and discussed in adult discussion, included racial issues, advices and queries, the Bible, earthcare and the environment, current justice issues, Friends Journal, and more. In these reports, only one meeting mentioned offering a youth First Day program, and one report specifically mentioned that no children were attending.

We are appreciative for the use of Callie's book because of its relevance to Iowa Conservative Quakers, and encourage other meetings to use the book (as well as the newly printed Faith and Practice) in future discussions.

Since meetings might find benefit in the creativity and interests of other meetings' efforts, copies of the reports received will be sent (via e-mail or in hard copy) to each of the meetings.

Bill Deutsch, for the Religious Education Committee

We listened to the Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee Report. IYMC Friends who have sojourned at Pendle Hill in the past encourage Friends to use the Scholarship Fund. Not only are the classes wonderful, but to participate as a sojourner is very rejuvenating.

PENDLE HILL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The purpose of the Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee is to encourage people of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) to partake in either a sojourn or a weekend workshop at Pendle Hill, a Quaker study, retreat and conference center in suburban Philadelphia. The financial assistance offered jointly by a special fund at Pendle Hill and by our yearly meeting makes it possible for someone to enjoy such an opportunity. An experience at Pendle Hill promises to be spiritually nurturing and the returning participant can in turn nurture the monthly and yearly meeting.

Anyone in the yearly meeting who is interested, should write a letter to the yearly meeting clerk expressing interest in a Pendle Hill experience and requesting financial assistance. The yearly meeting clerk will refer the request to our committee which will consider it. Upon approval,

the committee will notify Pendle Hill that it has approved this person as a scholarship recipient. That person then will make arrangements with Pendle Hill for their sojourn or workshop.

The committee is once again disappointed that no one has requested the scholarship this year. We urge those in our yearly meeting to consider this opportunity either for yourself or for someone in your monthly meeting.

Jean Eden, Roy Hampton, and Wilmer Tjossem
Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee

We appreciate the good report from our representatives to the Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee.

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) is a network of Friends in North America that share a concern for the environmental crises and challenges facing the earth. The concerns are many and interrelated – food, water, resource depletion, biodiversity, population growth – to name a few. Overriding and impacting them all is human-caused climate change which is already affecting our lives in mostly negative ways. If not quickly and effectively addressed, it could threaten the very survival of human beings and many other species on earth.

QEW holds two meetings each year. This year the spring meeting was moved to June, preceding the Friends General Conference Gathering and nearby, so that those who wished to attend both events would only need to make one trip. Another meeting in October will be in Chicago and all interested Friends are welcome to attend. For the past two years our Continuing Council Committee has met by Skype in order to avoid the need for additional travel.

The QEW center at the FGC Gathering was well attended this year as usual. We sent representatives to the FWCC World Conference in Kenya and have a cooperative relationship with FCNL and the Quaker United Nations Office. Our website, www.quakerearthcare.org, is a valuable resource with improvements planned soon and our newsletter, “Be-friending Creation,” has regular informative and inspirational articles.

Sometimes we are challenged to know the best way to support Friends and each other in our concern for the earth. Our goal is to be of service to Friends from all different traditions. Care for the earth has both a spiritual dimension and a concrete physical dimension.

Ken Lawrence, for the representatives to Quaker Earthcare Witness

The yearly meeting agrees to endorse the FCNL petition (described in the following report). The yearly meeting clerk will send a letter about our endorsement to all the yearly meeting congressional representatives. The clerk will send a copy of this statement to all the monthly meetings as well, so that individuals may follow through with personal action. The clerk will also send a copy of the Earthcare Subcommittee report to all the monthly meeting clerks.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT – PART I

The IYMC Peace and Social Concerns Committee listened to the report of the Earthcare Subcommittee at our meeting on Fourth Day afternoon. The committee approves the report and forwards it at this time to Yearly Meeting for consideration.

Report of the Earthcare Subcommittee

Although we have tried to find ways to promote environmental concerns, such as supporting Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, engaging with the Occupy Movement, and protesting the Keystone XL Pipeline, it has become increasingly clear that traditional approaches to creating political change are not working well. Civil liberties are being eroded, making it more difficult to petition for change.

We have been trying to understand a system of irresponsible actions on the part of policy makers across the developed world related to the environment and our changing climate. It is painful to conclude that concern for each other and the environment has largely been replaced with protecting and promoting economic growth and profit without regard to the environmental consequences.

At the same time, this economic system is in trouble. Short-sighted actions have concentrated greater wealth and power in the hands of the few. Decisions favoring short term profit often result in loss of jobs and money for the rest of society, which in turn means the goods and services that once produced wealth, can no longer be afforded. This economic system will also be severely strained as fossil fuel supplies diminish, and energy costs increase dramatically. Anything that needs fossil fuel products or power in order to be manufactured will cost more. Increased transportation costs will be added to the cost of anything not produced locally. This should be somewhat mitigated to the extent that renewable energy sources are developed.

If we are to move toward a more just and sustainable economy, environment, and world, we must transition away from fossil fuel.

We also need to return to a mindset of conservation of resources, manufacturing only essential products which are designed to be very durable and easily maintained, to stop manipulating money and markets to create false wealth, and to remember we are all members of our community, responsible for each other's well-being. We must continue to work for more just distribution of natural resources and address our country's vastly disproportionate consumption. We continue to encourage Friends to use public ground transportation. Personal automobiles symbolize inequities in the distribution of resources and the human destruction of the environment.

Thus, work on environmental issues can rarely be limited to specific issues such as greenhouse gas emissions, but are more commonly interwoven in a complex mix of economic and political policies. Our economic model, based upon continually expanding production, consumption, and marketing, is destroying our environment. Friends testimonies related to simplicity are exactly what are needed now. Part of protecting our environment means working for more just and sensible economic policies. Environmental costs of business must be measured and addressed. A number of progressive companies are becoming transparent both about these costs and their response to them.

The growing Transition Network/Movement is perhaps the most promising widespread response to these crises that we are aware of. Begun in 2005 in Ireland by teacher Rob Hopkins, the idea was to see how local communities could change to meet the environmental and economic crises, and live in a world without fossil fuel. The main idea is to develop self-sufficient local communities, that locally provide most of the goods and services they need. Transition communities are not traditional intentional communities; people don't move to join a Transition Town. Instead, they change their current neighborhood, town, or city to become more of a participatory community.

There are several thousand transition network communities around the world now. The Possibility Alliance community seems to embody similar ideas and practices. This is what Scattergood Friends School teaches both academically and by experience and example.

Friends Committee on National Legislation is joining with other faith groups to rekindle the moral call to action on climate change. One of the keys to that effort is gathering support for House Resolution 672 which "calls upon representatives to acknowledge the grave dangers which climate change poses to our children, future generations, and our Earth, and to commit to actions that would

prevent and reduce these dangers. It is a non-binding statement that sets out a framework that will need to be followed up with detailed legislative prescriptions” (FCNL). We ask the Yearly Meeting to endorse this petition, which already has over 5,400 signatures:

“I acknowledge the myriad threats posed by human-caused climate change and call on the House of Representatives to take action. I commend Rep. Jim Moran's efforts to raise this before Congress and the public through this resolution. I will ask my representative to cosponsor House Resolution 672 and to use the resolution as a tool to identify the commitment of my member of Congress and other candidates for public office to meaningfully address the profound threats to our future posed by human-caused climate change.”

The theme of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) meeting this spring was based upon these ideas. The Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice was approved on April 24, 2012, at the Sixth World Conference of Friends, held at Kabarak University near Nakuru, Kenya. It is the culmination of the FWCC World Consultation on Global Change which was held in 2010 and 2011, during which Friends across the globe considered the following six queries related to global change. Perhaps some meetings will consider these queries when discussing our Yearly Meeting's queries related to the environment and/or peace and social justice.

Queries Related to Global Change

1. How has global change affected our communities and ourselves?

2. What actions have we taken in response to global change as experienced in our area, to express our responsibilities towards all creation? In what ways have my own activities or those of my community contributed to positive or adverse local and global change?

3. How do changes around us affect our relationship with God? How does my relationship with God affect my responses to the changes around us? What role does faith have in my life and in the life of my community? In what ways do I and my Friends church or meeting community bear witness to our Testimonies in our daily lives?

4. What stories and experiences from past times of catastrophic happenings such as major droughts perhaps from Scripture, perhaps the record of regional or local events, might inspire us to respond to the changes the world is facing today?

5. How can we bear witness to the abundance God offers us and testify to the world about ways in which justice, compassion, and peace may address significant disruption, stress, and tension?

6. How can we support one another in rekindling our love and respect for God's Creation in such a way that we are messengers of the transforming power of love and hope?

Jeff Kisling, Earthcare Subcommittee of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, approved by Peace and Social Concerns
8/1/2014

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT – PART I (CONTINUED)

We recognize that we are holding up high ideals for ourselves and others. For example, Friends living in rural areas may not have access to public transportation making it even more difficult for them to transition away from the use of fossil fuels. This is a good example of the subcommittee's assertion that work on environmental issues is not limited to specific issues, but rather is interwoven in a complex mix of economic and political policies. We ask ourselves what would God have us do? There is so much to do, and what we can do seems so little that it is easy to feel helpless and give up. But we recognize that we have never been invited to discern what we cannot do, but rather what we can. We are all doing many things to live in a way that lets us walk more gently on the Earth, but there is still more we can do. We invite Friends to continue to look for ways to cut back on energy consumption and continue to let God show us where we can do more. We support the two suggestions of the subcommittee as next steps for the Yearly Meeting:

1) The yearly meeting draws the attention of its meetings and worship groups to join with other faith groups and Friends Committee on National Legislation in rekindling the moral call to action on climate change by helping gather support for House Resolution 672 which "calls upon representatives to acknowledge the grave dangers which climate change poses to our children, future generations, and our Earth, and to commit to actions that would prevent and reduce these dangers." We join with the subcommittee in asking Yearly Meeting to endorse the petition and call to action by asking the yearly meeting clerk to invite IYMC meetings, worship groups and their members and attenders to endorse the petition and write to their US representatives asking that they cosponsor House Resolution 672.

2) We ask meetings and worship groups to use the six queries that were used at the recent FWCC Sixth World

Conference, listed in the subcommittee report, as they consider IYMC's own advices and queries on the environment and/or peace and social justice in the coming year.

(See Peace & Social Concerns Committee Report—Part II on page 61.)

We listened carefully to the epistles sent to us from North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and Ohio Yearly Meeting. We particularly appreciate hearing from these two meetings and hope to continue to nurture the relationship between us.

EPISTLE FROM OHIO YEARLY MEETING

To Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative):

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was [and is] the light of men.

John 1:1-4

When we are faithful, we Conservative Friends feel the same light that pervaded the disciples and the original founders of our society. We know that we have to be patient and listening. The Lord knows when we are ready to hear and when we are not. Therefore when we are in the Power, we can begin loving each other and knowing that we are one body that listens and obeys the Lord.

We appreciate the continued connection between our Yearly Meetings that has been expressed in past years through Ohio visitors to Iowa, and Iowa visitors to Ohio. We are sad that no Iowa visitors were able to join us this year, but we appreciated the Iowa Yearly Meeting Epistle, which was read during a business session. We recall fondly several Iowa visitors in recent years, and we welcome others to join us as way opens.

During our Yearly Meeting, we were favored with programs on "Perspectives on the Scriptures," presented by Young Adult Friends; "Be Zealous and Repent; I Stand at the Door and Knock," presented by Michael Hatfield; "Reaching Out with the Gospel," presented jointly by Arthur Berk and T.H.S. Wallace; "John Woolman for Today," presented by Michael Birkel; and daily sharing on "Transformative Reading of John's Gospel," led by Thomas Swain.

We deeply appreciated this advice and guidance as we considered the challenges before us. Not least among these is a proposal to revise all of our General Queries, and a proposed revision to our Book of Discipline

on the subject of Marriage (and by implication, human sexuality). We have not reached unity on these proposals, but we now have an even deeper appreciation of the need for the Power and Light of Our Lord in place of the perpetual drone and hubbub of the wider culture. We are led to engage in further searching and seeking on these subjects, listening to one another with care and without bias, but more importantly, listening for the voice of our Inner Guide.

Our Ministry and Oversight facilitated an informal discussion of “modesty.” Our Seventh General Query asks, “Do we observe simplicity in our manner of living, sincerity in speech, and modesty in apparel?” What does “modesty” and specifically “modesty in apparel” mean to us in the second decade of the twenty-first century? Discussion focused on the relationship between modesty of apparel and our Christian walk, and the ways in which we, as humans, relate to one another. The session provided much nourishment for discernment.

We were very pleased to meet the new Business Manager of the Walton Retirement Home, a ministry of our Yearly Meeting. Jamie Helmick and his family joined us for worship and a business session, and were welcomed warmly. Jamie will be part of a new management team with Mary Jo Moore, RN, the new Clinical Manager. The retiring Director, Nirmal Kaul, and his wife Diana, who has served as his assistant for much of his tenure, are retiring after 20 years, during which the Walton has grown and prospered in its ministry. Nirmal and Diana will remain in the community with us, and we wish them the very best in retirement!

The week concluded with our traditional open air picnic, greatly enhanced by the seasonally mild weather, and the presentations by Junior Yearly Meeting and Young Friends.

Our 2012 Yearly Meeting will be our two-hundredth session (and 2013 will mark our two-hundredth anniversary). In recognition of our common commitment to Jesus Christ, we encourage your Yearly Meeting to send a group of Friends to join us at our 2012 and 2013 annual sessions. Our desire is to know one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. As we know that we are members of the same body, though we are different parts, Christ is our head. Please come and worship with us, rest in the Spirit and let us recognize those things we share and those things where we have been called to different places.

We wish Friends in Iowa every blessing in the coming year.

In the name of Jesus Christ,
Seth Hinshaw, Clerk

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

To Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative):

The welcome presence of your member Dan Treadway among us during our sessions this year has reminded us of the many ties of family, friendship, and shared history that knit us together across the miles. We hope to send Andrew Wright to your sessions in return, continuing the inter-visitation that enriches both meetings.

Our time together this year, in business sessions, interest groups and evening sessions, has been focused on the practice of radical hospitality: How are we called and equipped to embody the invitation to everyone, friend and stranger alike, to join us in gospel fellowship? We perceive that everyone has a place at the table in the Kingdom of God. We need God's guidance to understand how, as individuals and meetings, we can act to make that place at the table a reality.

Our query responses and state of the society reports this year demonstrate local meetings that are doing the hard spiritual work that is the necessary basis for solid spiritual growth. Our reports indicate we're not always where we would like to be, but we are being honest about our condition and working with integrity to wrestle with our spiritual challenges and opportunities for service to the Kingdom.

Where our numbers are small, and often shrinking, Friends are doing good work to develop deep unity and to live faithfully. In those meetings which are large and growing even larger, Friends have been active in many ways to give newcomers a solid Quaker foundation, and to knit everyone into the faith community.

We give thanks for the ways in which God is palpably present and at work in each of our meetings, large or small, equipping and guiding each for that spiritual work which is appropriate for its condition and surroundings. Each of our meetings is receiving the spiritual food appropriate to its condition, and each is accepting the opportunities being presented it for developing spiritually and doing its part in bringing about the kingdom of God.

We differ in many ways, but are alike in our appreciation of and thankfulness for the reality that is at the center of meeting for worship, however we recognize and name it. Our task is to be fed by that reality and to help others be fed by it.

On behalf of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative),
Richard Miller, Clerk

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

SEVENTH DAY – SATURDAY – 8/4/2012
MORNING SESSION

We return to the business of the yearly meeting.

The world is too dangerous for anything but truth and too small for anything but love. William Sloane Coffin, Jr.

Neal Shaffer and Sebastian Ashley have been appointed as readers this morning.

There are no words to describe how much we love hearing from Junior Yearly Meeting. We appreciated the very interesting report and are glad you shared it with us. We also especially enjoyed the lemon bars you made for us. We deeply appreciate the Friends who worked with Junior Yearly Meeting. They did a lot of really cool things!

EPISTLE FROM JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING

Junior Yearly Meeting
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
8th Month 4, 2012

This year at Junior Yearly Meeting we have six kids. They are Morgan Cripps, Gillie Quee, Eric Horein , Chris Gauder, David Rhoades, Reader Laughlin Warren. The main adults are Jean Sandstrom, Deb Fink, and Carol Gilbert.

On Fourth Day we decided to take turns being clerk and set our agenda for the afternoon. We heard Bible verses and stories, including one about the Peaceable Kingdom and one about the Raccoon and the Eagle. After hearing a story about the God Seed, which is a seed that God puts in every baby that's born, we made people out of cardboard. The people's faces were photographs of ourselves that Jeff Kisling made for us.

We had several other guests who helped us. Dan Treadway took us for a story walk in the graveyard where we found the graves of people in the stories he told. Sandy Robson from FCNL taught us how the people in Washington, DC spend our money, and we talked about how we would divide the money pie. We made pie charts with pictures. Patricia Morrison, a singer and storyteller who visited from Mountain View Meeting, talked to us about stories and helped us tell our own stories. Gillie's mom, Jenny Schmidt, helped us make two giant trays of lemon

bars out of real lemons that we squeezed ourselves and eggs we cracked ourselves, with some help.

We hunted for apples in the orchard but didn't find any. Fortunately there were a few on the farm that Gillie's dad Mark Quee found for us. We used those, and peaches from the store, to make two delicious pies.

Every afternoon we played water games to keep cool. It was fun to fill balloons, throw water on each other, and play games like relays and tag with wet sponges. The water felt good, and if someone didn't want water thrown on them, we didn't do it. In the evenings, we played in the game room and watched a movie.

Friday night we camped at the Scattergood pond, roasted marshmallows, and visited the singing in the meeting house before we got in our tents and listened to stories until we fell asleep. On Saturday we went swimming at a public pool.

Love,
Junior Yearly Meeting
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

We listened to the Young Friends report and appreciate their good work. It is a joy to hear your enthusiasm, and we thank you. We are mindful that a successful program needs both good leadership and good participants. It is good to know things went well. We are blessed.

EPISTLE FROM YOUNG FRIENDS

8th Month 4, 2012

Dear Friends everywhere,

This year we experienced a shift in leadership within our young friends group. This changed the dynamic of our program, but was still very positive. We started off our week with community building activities including a photo scavenger hunt which Friends considered to be a fun and creative challenge that required teamwork and left us all sweaty at the end of it. Fortunately there was an ice cream reward for the participants.

Later that day we explored connections between body, spirit, and mind through Kundalini yoga. We also talked with the clerk of our yearly meeting, Deb Dakin. Our service project this week was to help disassemble a barn at Scattergood where our yearly meeting is held. We also made collages as well as going to a story telling and song writing workshop.

Friday was a day of adventure. We went on a canoe trip down the Cedar River, which was fun despite sunburns and occasional tipping. We followed the canoe trip with collection where we listened to a panel talk about what it means to be Quaker in their personal lives. Later, we had pizza and a movie night. Otherwise, our mornings included sitting in meeting for worship with the whole of our yearly meeting and our evenings, swimming in the Scattergood pond. Overall, this was a very positive week for Young Friends.

Young Friends of
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

We appreciate the reports of the yearly meeting auditors and our treasurers who keep our finances in order for us. It is good to hear that the projects from last year were made possible by our members. Our treasurer gave us a verbal overview, and we will have copies of that report made available before our next meeting this afternoon so people can read them. The Audit Committee Report is for the fiscal year just concluded. The yearly meeting fiscal year runs from Seventh Month 1 to Sixth Month 30.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

We have audited the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Treasurer's books for the 2011-2012 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 for these annual sessions.

Burt Kisling and Lynne Sootheran

We listened to the report representing some of the hard work of our Peace and Social Concerns Committee. The yearly meeting approved the clerk sending the letters included in the report to their intended recipients. We are glad to have the concerns and resources brought forth in the report to take back to our monthly meetings as we nurture these fruits of our faith. We thank the committee.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT—PART II

Peace and Social Concern Committee met Fourth to Sixth Days for about two hours each day. Nine members of the committee were present during the week and we were blessed with the attendance of 15 visitors.

Some committee members had conflicts because of service on more than one committee meeting at the same time.

Review of Monthly Meeting Reports

We listened carefully to the reports of our monthly meetings. All 12 meetings forwarded reports to Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative Peace and Social Concerns Committee. Whether as a standalone committee, a meeting of the whole, or individuals supported by the meeting, IYMC Friends are actively engaged in peace and social justice issues in their communities and the wider world.

All meetings either participated in or supported local “Occupy” groups. Several meetings are engaged in poverty and economic justice issues. For example, members of Decorah Friends Meeting have contributed their time to the local free medical clinic and food bank; members of Omaha Monthly Meeting work at the South Settlement House; Paullina Friends are active locally in supporting social needs through contributions to Food for Life, SOS, and the Northwest Iowa Crisis Center.

Not surprisingly our meetings are engaged in a wide variety of peace work. West Branch Friends helped coordinate a Peace Walk from Scattergood School 13 miles to the PEACE Iowa office in Iowa City. Both West Branch and Iowa City meetings are bringing AFSC’s exhibit, “Windows and Mirrors: Reflections on the War in Afghanistan,” to the Coralville Public Library 9/1-30/ 2012.

Bringing Quaker values to bear on work in our own communities also engages IYMC meetings. Bear Creek, Paullina, and Lincoln Friends Meetings and Sioux Falls Worship Group report that they support members who lead Alternative to Violence workshops in prisons and in the community at large. Concern for community members who have difficulty speaking for themselves – youngsters, prisoners, and people with mental illness and other health issues – resonates throughout the meeting reports. Ames Meeting cites the disproportionate share of tax money going to the federal budget instead of state and local governments that provide our educations and social services and infrastructure. A member of Ames Meeting submitted an essay to the *Ames Tribune* calling out this fact as an alternative to the meeting’s customary Tax Day witness. Yahara Friends Meeting continues to act on the conviction that much of our travel contributes to global warming; Yahara continued the “True Cost of Travel” program, resulting in donations to the Scattergood School sustainability program and increased awareness for those contributing. West Branch Friends have a very active Earthcare Working Group that helps the meeting address the plethora of environmental issues with which we are faced.

Des Moines Valley and other meetings expressed opposition to juveniles being sentenced to life without the possibility of parole, and were glad the U.S. Supreme Court declared this practice unconstitutional.

Concern for immigrants' rights was another topic frequently addressed in meeting reports. Members of Penn Valley Meeting were encouraged to view the DVD "AbUSed" concerned with the brutal Postville, Iowa raid by Immigration and Custom Enforcement. Iowa City Friends also viewed and discussed this film at the home of a member. Decorah Friends and their community are involved in the healing work still going on at Postville.

As well as working in coalition with community organizations, IYMC monthly meetings support and assist American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and Quaker Earthcare Witness in their important work. IYMC meetings participate in AFSC-led projects and send representatives to serve on AFSC committees. Many meetings participated in FCNL's legislative priority-setting for the 113th Congress and have used FCNL materials and website to lobby their members of Congress on a wide variety of issues of interest to Quakers.

Received Correspondence

The committee reviewed correspondence that was received by the yearly meeting clerk during the past year and forwarded to us for consideration. Among the letters of thanks and responses by elected officials to the letters we sent out last year, was an invitation from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Friends United Meeting) to join them in inviting new FCNL executive secretary, Diane Randall, to speak in Oskaloosa during the time she is in Iowa to speak at the William Penn University President's Convocation Ninth Month 18. Although we believe IYM (FUM) will already be well along in their planning, we have approved the P&SC clerk contacting them to see if there are ways we can be of support. We also realized that this is during the time that AFSC's "Windows and Mirrors: Reflections on the War in Afghanistan" will be at the Coralville Public Library, so there might be a possibility Diane and Oskaloosa Friends can visit it.

When Yearly Meeting approves sending a letter of concern or support for a bill before Congress, the clerk sends it to all senators and representatives in our member states. We note that this year we only received responses from Iowa senators and representatives. We wonder if this is because their staff sees Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative on the letterhead and sets the letter aside without seeing the note at the bottom that lists all the states in which we have active meetings or worship

groups. We suggest that this information go at the top right under the yearly meeting letterhead in future correspondence.

Concerns for Consideration by IYMC

This year meetings brought six specific concerns to P&SC Committee to consider forwarding to Yearly Meeting. These concerns were seasoned by monthly meetings before being forwarded to the P&SC Committee for consideration.

Letter calling for the end of drone use by the U.S. military

8/4/2012

Dear Barak Obama, President of the United States,

I am writing on behalf of the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Conservative, representing Quakers in Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Minnesota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

We deplore the use of drones for targeted assassinations. It is especially chilling to hear we are now using drones in an expanding number of countries around the world. A recent *New York Times* article detailed weekly meetings in your offices during which a "kill list" is created for people anywhere in the world who may act against the perceived interests of the U.S. We find this immoral, illegal, and contrary to the laws and values expressed in the US constitution and in the Geneva Conventions.

We are especially disappointed that you as a professed Christian and as one educated as a scholar of constitutional law would preside over such a chilling process. There is no provision in either our shared Christian tradition or in our form of government for one person to be accuser, judge, jury and executioner.

We deplore the program's disregard for the lives of the non-targeted people. These attacks are contrary to the perceived interest of the U.S., creating far more enemies than they destroy. Every attack disappoints friends and angers those who might become friends and turns them into enemies.

We are holding you in the Light as you continue in your difficult job and pray that you will find a way to end this cruel and barbaric program.

On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting – Conservative,
Deborah Dakin, clerk

Support of the Jewish Voice for Peace

8/4/2012

Dear Friends at Jewish Voice for Peace,

We stand with you in asking for corporate financial divestment by individuals and pension funds in the following American companies who

profit from the Israeli occupation of Gaza and the West Bank, specifically Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions, and Hewlett Packard.

The members of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) are increasingly troubled by the violent and repressive occupation of the Palestinian territories by the Israeli Defense Forces and the ensuing embargo that prevents the flow of humanitarian aid, restricts the travel of Palestinian and non-Israelis and shuts down all economic activity in Gaza where the average income is less than \$2 a day. This occupation, which keeps Palestinians trapped in what is essentially a large scale prison camp, is made largely possible by U.S. military aid to Israel. After much study and conversations with people who have visited or lived in the area we have concluded that action here in the U.S. is essential for peace in this area.

On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends – Conservative,
Deborah Dakin, clerk

Concern about budget cuts affecting mental health services

The P&SC Committee unites with concerns brought by Ames and Bear Creek Meetings that budget cuts by the state of Iowa necessitated by the current economic climate are resulting in the closing of some excellent mental health facilities in Iowa and severely limiting mental health services. We learned that this is true in the state of Minnesota as well, and we suspect it may be true in other states in which we have meetings and worship groups. We ask our meetings and their members and attenders to write letters to their state representatives, visit with their legislators in person, talk to their county board of supervisors, and in Iowa contact the National Association of Mentally Ill-Iowa office voicing our concern. The committee would be interested in learning of any actions taken by meetings and worship groups.

FCNL action around cuts in Pentagon spending

Friends Committee on National Legislation is asking meetings and individual Friends to contact their senators' local offices and write letters to the editor to help persuade Congress to maintain planned cuts in Pentagon spending. This is the first time that anyone at FCNL can remember legislation requiring a significant reduction in Pentagon spending has become law. In the summer of 2011, Congress approved and the President signed legislation, the Budget Control Act of 2011, which requires planned Pentagon spending to be reduced by about \$1 trillion over the next 10 years. There is some question whether Congress will let the cuts stand. There is already powerful pushback against the reductions. This committee asks the yearly meeting to endorse support for this action by asking members and attenders at these annual sessions

to be responsible for lifting this up when they return home. We also ask the yearly meeting clerk to include this in the fall letter from the clerk to our monthly meetings and worship groups as a reminder. FCNL says this action will be helpful through November.

9/11 Investigation

For over two years Des Moines Valley Friends have been researching the events of the 9/11 Twin Towers collapse and they are joining those calling for an independent scientific investigation with the goal of stopping the endless warfare being pursued ever since. We are in unity with Des Moines Valley Friends' concerns about the cost of war upon the world, in the loss of human life, destruction of the earth, inhumane holding of people at Guantanamo without representation, and the effects it has on the government's ability to provide other much needed things such as health care and education. We recognize Des Moines Valley Friends are under the weight of a concern that the government is not being honest concerning what really happened on 9/11, and that they, with others, seek a new unbiased scientific investigation on what happened. We continue to support them sharing their research and concerns with the monthly meetings and offering to give presentations so meetings and worship groups can consider what they have been learning. We ask Yearly Meeting P&SC members to come to the Peace & Social Concerns Committee Midyear Meeting prepared to share the discernment of their meetings if they have taken up Des Moines Valley on their offer. We are not prepared to ask Yearly Meeting to act on this until the time that our monthly meetings have an opportunity to become better informed and indicate their own discernment on this. We thank Des Moines Valley Friends for being willing to provide resources and interest groups to our meetings.

Each year it is a challenge to limit ourselves to only a few concerns when there are hundreds of causes and concerns calling out to us. This is one reason we have in recent years moved toward asking our monthly meetings to first discern calls to action before a committee member brings it to P&SC for consideration. Peace and social justice concerns remain a high priority of this yearly meeting and we remind ourselves that they are fruits of our faith not the roots. The more we live into the Kingdom ourselves, the more authority we will have when we speak. As one Friend said to the yearly meeting earlier this week, as Friends we need to preach what we practice. This implies that if we are to preach peace and justice concerns in the world, we must first practice them in our own lives and communities. So we ask ourselves, how must our own

lives change so that we can speak with integrity? Do we have the courage to invite God to hold us in the Light of this Love?

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Budget

The Peace & Social Concerns Committee budget of \$1,100 contained 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>

Deb Fisch,
On behalf of Peace and Social Concerns Committee

We heard the State of the Meeting Reports from our monthly meetings with great tenderness. Hearing these reports reminds us that our monthly meetings exist to lead people to God.

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS

**Ames Monthly Meeting
State of the Meeting**

Ames Monthly Meeting has experienced some growth in attendance at our worship services. Our worship is spiritually rich and is the centerpiece of our community. Spoken messages remain rare for most of

us. Our weekly potlucks after the worship are well attended and bring lively discussions of current activities of attendees, rarely of Quaker cares and concerns. Our more formal events are scheduled at pre-meeting times and are not well attended. We have adopted some of the ideas of Byron Sanford at Midyear Meeting to lead to simplifications of our committee structure. We appoint only committee clerks to set the agendas and act on these in an ad hoc manner. Query discussions are not well attended. Those of us who like this discipline find great worth in the exercise. Those who choose to not participate do not. Our meeting blesses the community around us through the spiritual lives and actions of members and attenders more than through corporate witness.

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

Recent events at our meeting; Midyear Meeting, funerals, and rummage sales, reinforce our awareness of our large and loving Quaker family. Although distant they are still a major source of encouragement and support. We are small in number, and growth and outreach have been a concern for quite some time. Our members are active in many worthy organizations and share and work together with others, but our worship group has not grown. Sharing with distant members through emails, our web page, and the absentee letter have resulted in more involvement by a few and we expect to do more of this.

We have gathered in a circle to discuss some of the questions sent out by the Ministry and Counsel Committee. Some have shared how they became a Quaker, regrets about some decisions, and persons who have influenced us most in our lives. We look forward to more sessions together and plan to type and share stories with other meetings. We hope they will do the same.

The recent death of one of our members has given us much to think about. A member of the funeral committee had asked us about our arrangements, Power of Attorney for medical decisions, and decisions we had made. It became clear that we needed to have directions and arrangements in writing. It's also important to have specific discussions with the person we name – especially concerning Power of Attorney for medical decisions. This is not something we want to do, but necessary if our final journey is not a burden to our meeting or our family.

Decorah Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

Decorah Friends Meeting has had a year of continued nurturing each other in spiritual and practical ways. Messages that arise in meeting for worship speak to the condition of those present, and are much

appreciated. Further reflections are often shared after worship; these spontaneous discussions are enlightening and add to our religious education.

Decorah Friends Meeting actively seeks further education for both adults and youth, with planned programming that occurs throughout the school year. Often members will share insights or readings from their private devotions with the whole group. Shared joys and sorrows connect us to each other's lives, as we support each other through both struggles and celebrations.

Focusing on Quaker practice, Decorah Friends held a discussion about how we interpret and use the concept and practice of ministry and counsel. A clearness committee was requested and held for one family in the meeting. Several women meet regularly in a spiritual nurture group.

Following worship each week, over potluck or lighter fare, we have another opportunity to maintain our close relationships. Shared work projects on the meeting house also provide time to be together.

Decorah Friends continue to support and be active in events beyond the meeting, both as individuals and together. Monetary contributions to Quaker organizations are a regular part of our budget. Several members are active in the new Northeast Iowa Peace and Justice Center, work at the Decorah food pantry, Decorah Free Clinic, and many other areas.

Although small in numbers, Decorah Friends Meeting is a strong and vibrant center for the spirituality of its members and attenders.

Des Moines Valley Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

This has been a year of ministering to others. Our hearts have been heavy with concern for several members of Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting who have had serious/terminal illness or lost family members. We find solace in the strength of those going through these difficult times. Our joy lies in precious memories and in the love they have given and contributions they have made during their lives. A Wednesday evening "meeting for healing" was begun for those who wanted to gather together to hold members in the Light.

We have had an influx of new attenders whom we welcome, and hope they will continue to worship with us. We search for ways to attract and keep young families with children. We value all who attend, from our youngest participants to our more seasoned elders. One way for new attenders to learn more about Friends is by participating in the query discussions. Attendance at these discussions has increased. We keep widening the circle of chairs to include all who stay. Our discussions are very meaningful reminders for our daily living.

We are led to expand our Sharing Fund. Sometimes Friends come up against difficult times and need monetary help for necessities. We feel this helps our meeting fulfill its purpose as stated in the Advices and Queries.

Our meetings with attention to business have been well attended. There is an ongoing tension in an effort to find a balance between our responsibilities as stewards of our meeting house and our attention to matters of the Spirit and the needs in society.

Meeting for worship is where we find our strength for the coming week. We may not be a vocal meeting, sometimes only one or two speak. Many have said that our shared worship helps to sustain them through the week ahead, giving them peace and renewed energy.

Iowa City Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

Iowa City Monthly Meeting may be on the verge of a Quaker revival. During the past several months, maybe more than a year, there have been repeated requests for more focus on the work that is needed to “be more Quakerly” in our conduct of meetings. Last fall we began by looking closely at the query on meeting for business during which we focused on the “how to’s” of waiting worship, giving space between messages, allowing the recording clerk time to record the unity of a decision, addressing the clerk when recognized, rather than the membership as a whole.

We continued our series on sharing spiritual journeys during the year and we have discovered many common experiences and have begun to feel a bit more comfortable in other situations within the meeting. We have enjoyed the hospitality of one member for two evenings in his home, aided a retiring member in clearness regarding plans to meet new challenges, a second clearness committee for an attender considering membership, and provided some physical assistance for another in moving his business. We also read and discussed most of the queries this year.

A newcomer to our meeting last year died in August. Her memorial service was held in our meeting house with her family and several members of her former meeting present. Her memorial funds to our meeting were used to assist in several local efforts toward peace and non-violence, partial tuition for a Scattergood student, and new song books, plus the tuning of the piano in the meeting house.

An envisioning committee is looking at ways to best use our resources, facilities, and talents to enrich and enhance the spiritual journeys of all who attend our meeting. The first step was an organized discussion on Quaker process at the end of May.

We are learning that there is a greater trust and love in the practice of Quaker process, but that we do all have to continue to work at it. It is our challenge for the coming year.

Lincoln Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

Lincoln Meeting encourages and supports those in our small and faithful fellowship. We continue be with each other as we face the end of life. Death has taken two from our beloved community. We miss our long-time member who passed away this spring. We are grateful that he was with us for worship and potluck on his last First Day, and cherish the memories of his presence. We are very conscious of life's preciousness and our love for each other.

Last year we optimistically reported that we hoped the parting of ways with our resident caretaker would be a win-win situation. Instead we experienced it as ugly and sad, draining and costly. We were overwhelmed by the responsibilities of building maintenance and are grateful for our current non-resident caretaker.

Now that the caretaker is no longer our primary concern we have time/energy to minister to other needs of the meeting. We have created a Facebook page which we hope will inform more people of our presence.

We continue to find what we need. We are vibrant and curious. We support the activities that individuals who worship with us are called to do without taking them on as the meeting's work. We agree with the Friend who stated: "I am getting a lot out of this [meeting]."

Omaha Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

At the end of last summer we accepted the invitation of an Episcopalian church to begin meeting and worshiping in one of its unused spaces. We enjoy the airiness that the room's large windows provide and welcome the relief we have by there being no rent due. Until the congregation becomes more accustomed to us, we continue to experience some disruptive talking and people entering the room.

On reviewing last year's State of the Meeting report, we find it still basically true. We are a bit smaller by number but believe we have grown in our communication skills with each other that then have deepened our spiritual richness. Meeting for worship is comfortable and familiar, and we treasure the opportunities that open with this corporate effort. Meeting God in a systematic and inward way is something cherished together as we settle to a still point and listen within each of us and among us. What little vocal ministry is shared enriches reflection later in our morning time together as well as during the week.

A midweek worship time has recently been initiated. This time is to not only worship but also to share ideas of what it means to be Quaker. Overall, we are investigating our differences more, a possibility that has arisen from the trust because of our years worshipping with each other. Reading Callie Marsh's book has stimulated discussion along these lines as well. Other goals we have set include trying to be on time for meeting and finding ways to be more welcoming to visitors.

The regular energy of our young people is missed but enjoyed when they join us Sunday mornings. Our lack of shared activities outside meeting might contribute to the ongoing deficit of younger people joining us. Being a small group of middle aged individuals for the most part, our personal interests are different enough that finding an activity in which we each are interested to engage is a challenge. Making an effort to support each other in our causes outside meeting is one way we can build community. We greatly enjoy the reinitiated monthly potlucks.

Paullina Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

We look back on the past year at Paullina Monthly Meeting with a sense of history. Current and distant meeting members gathered one morning following the memorial service for Owen Crosbie to share stories and memories of our meeting's history. The lively discussion was documented on a variety of media devices. We recognized that there were stories left untold by those vital members who have passed on. We hope to have more sharing sessions in the future.

Paullina Monthly Meeting and the Sioux Falls Area Worship Group continue visitations. We enjoy our monthly 4th First Day potluck after meeting for worship. Few attend our meetings for business. As our membership continues to decline, we especially appreciate the two small children in attendance.

The Queries, read before our business meetings, often inspire deep conversations about the life of the meeting.

We Quakers are often reluctant to verbalize our deep faith. We are more comfortable showing our faith through the way we live our lives. Jesus said, "Love one another; just as I loved you. . . . By this everyone shall know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another." Our worship strengthens our love with each other and out into the world.

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

At Meeting for Worship on July 22, five of us gathered to share our thoughts around the query, "How Truth is prospering among us." We shared some of our trepidations about claiming to know Truth with

a capital T. We are so accustomed to seeing truth neatly packaged and sold in our culture that we want to approach the query with some humility. Taking a partial truth and acting as if it is the whole truth may be a source of evil creating separation and divisiveness among us.

We sense that truth may not be the same as exactitude but rather is a process of revelation over time as we are faithful to waiting in the Light. As part of the beloved community we each bring our gifts and experience and do the best we can to love and care for one another. We realize that our day-to-day lives are measured by success in what we do. To be faithful and obedient is the measure of our meeting life.

During the past year we have considered the theme of the FWCC World Gathering of Friends in Kenya, “Being salt and light: Friends living the kingdom of God in a broken world.” We held the Biblical passages that guided the World Gathering during our meetings for worship and in groups practicing *lectio divina* in Madison, SD and Minneapolis. As we try to live our testimonies, we are amazed at the connections we make with others in our family, our work, and our community which includes Mennonites and the AVP community.

Although our worship group is small, we feel blessed by the spirit of love each brings to our times of worship together. The passage below from Leviticus reminds us to be mindful of welcoming the stranger both to our meeting community and in our lives outside meeting.

When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not wrong him. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as one of your citizens; you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I the Lord, am your God.

Leviticus 19:33-34

Tanakh (JPS)

(As quoted by Rabbi Craig Marantz
at Iowa Yearly Meeting)

Penn Valley Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

A year ago, we wrote “the direction of our meeting is unclear.” As we reflect on the State of the Meeting of Penn Valley Friends in 2012, in some ways, that statement still applies. We still have “issues.” The aging structure of the meeting house continues to challenge our patience, creativity, and stamina as we confront the need to replace, repair, and maintain it. Finances persist as a perennial trial as we work to meet our communal fiscal responsibilities and moral commitments. First Day school responds well to our two regular attenders, but is tested by sporadic attendance of younger attenders; and, there is a felt need for

wider representation among the teachers. Still, our members are so busy that it is difficult to schedule committee meetings or even to find members who feel they are able to undertake responsibilities associated with local committees or Iowa Year Meeting. Relatedly, challenged by the distance separating us from Silver River Worship Group, the meeting struggles to develop wider participation by our members in the care we have undertaken. Lastly, we reluctantly face the reality of identifying a new clerk for the meeting as Shane Rowse is stepping down at the end of the year.

Yet, despite these “issues,” our hearts and minds reflect a growing sense of optimism about where the meeting is and where it is headed. The year brought growth in both attendance and formal membership—and all the blessings (and challenges) that come with new faces and gifts. Slowly, a new communal tapestry is emerging, one that includes and honors the wisdom and gifts of longtime members while welcoming the energy and insights of newcomers.

The weaving of that tapestry is reflected in the response of our community to several major health issues among our members, in our active Facebook page, in the sharing of historical archives in the newsletter to build a sense of our roots, and in the challenging and well-developed programs focusing on everything from meditation strategies to social justice issues. The emerging tapestry is seen in our stimulating query discussions, in our monthly social nights, in the shared joy and hope in our association with the Silver River Worship Group, and in the recent exceptional spring retreat focusing on deepening the peace within. The strengthening of communal ties was especially evident in the recent wedding of Princess Massey and Neil Nelson. The sense of love and community among the members assembled for that celebration was deep and profound—and all who participated felt incredibly blessed.

The ultimate source of our communal weaving takes place as we come together each First Day. Our meeting for worship forms the center of golden threads that tie us to the Source and each other. Despite our challenges—as individuals and as a community—we come together in stillness and listen for Divine guidance; and, from that strong center, we step into the uncertainty of tomorrow with assurance.

West Branch Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

Concerns about the small size of our worship group led us to take action last winter. Mark Patton with help from George Bergus sent out a questionnaire for us to answer with our thoughts about the meeting. We held a discussion during January at the time of meeting for business which led to several ideas of ways to become more visible and lively.

As a result of that discussion, we have had three issues of a monthly newsletter; and a four-week Quakerism class was offered to Friends from Scattergood Friends School, the Iowa City, Whittier, both West Branch meetings, and the interpretive staff of the Hoover historical site. Both efforts have been well-received and have worked to improve the life of the meeting.

We are being more intentional in our efforts to participate in the life of Scattergood, in an effort to strengthen our bond with the school. There has also been a more active vocal ministry of late. We are encouraged, and we hope to continue our efforts.

Yet, we are also aware that this level of increased activity for the meeting means increased responsibilities for our members. Our challenge during the coming year is to find ways to share this work and to prevent any one member of the meeting from feeling over-burdened. We know that “many hands make light work.” Our goal is to strengthen the inner light and life of the meeting without any members feeling burned out in the process. We look forward to exploring this unique challenge during the coming seasons. Until then, we are ever grateful for a meeting that is rich with positive and meaningful activity.

Whittier Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

When we discuss the state of Whittier Monthly Meeting, two things come immediately to mind. This is both a strong meeting and a very small group.

We feel it is the quality of our worship that is our strength. We are committed to each other and to being a Quaker presence in Whittier and the Cedar Rapids area. First Day worship is the center of our week and we enjoy the process of quieting down in preparation for it.

Perhaps our small numbers help nurture the closeness we feel towards each other. This past year has brought loss and grief for us with the deaths of a much loved Whittier Friend who was a longtime mentor to us, as well as close family members for a number in our gathering. Our faith has given us tools to support each other during these times. This caring for each other has helped us to define who we are, and it is a precious gift we want to safeguard.

New attenders have enriched our gathering this past year. We celebrate that one of our longtime attenders was moved to become a member and join our meeting. It seems even when our numbers dwindle, new people arrive to take up the tasks at hand. Past Whittier Friends laid a strong foundation for us, and we continue to build upon their work.

We are aware of the challenges our small numbers present. While a few sit in meeting for worship each first day, the specific people

frequently change from week to week. It is sometimes difficult to maintain a presence as a religious body in the larger community, but we do so whenever possible. We have no children in our meeting and have not been successful at creating an environment for the few parents who have come to explore worship for their young children. We use e-mail to stay in touch and have found it a good tool to help us keep strong ties. We are considering a second worship time during the week to see what it might offer for us to grow in faith.

Our experience teaches us that it is not necessary to have a large group in order to be a gathered meeting. Within our meeting, we strive to help each other be grounded in the basics of our faith. A number of our members have found that being active in larger Quaker organizations opens them to a variety of ways of doing Quaker business.

We are blessed to have each other, and it is a blessing to come together as Whittier Monthly Meeting.

Yahara Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

This has been a calm and relatively uneventful year, and for that we are grateful. Even so, with little notice, we were asked last winter to move, due to construction plans, and we now meet at the Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center on the east side of Madison. This is an established Madison landmark with good access and parking. A recent attender joked that we could be re-named the Traveling Monthly Meeting given our nomadic nature over the past 10 years.

We continue to feel precariously small at times. We have seven regular members and attenders, and no children in attendance. If a single word could describe the spiritual state of our meeting this year, that word might be faithfulness. Each of us participates as fully as possible in business meetings, potlucks, reading groups, and weekly meetings for worship. This meeting is our family, and we are bound together by our commitment to each other's spiritual well-being. Vocal ministry is a rare treasure and the Holy Silence is our constant companion.

We yearn for ways to become more knitted into our new neighborhood so that we can be of greater service in the larger community. We hope that in our outreach we can welcome newcomers to our meeting who share our passion to seek solutions guided by Love in these trying times. The meeting was like a port in the storm this past year and a half as we navigated the political divisiveness in our state. Perhaps others in our community are also looking for a port. We expect the challenges in Wisconsin to continue, and it is good to remember that we are part of a larger faith community. It is good to remember, in times of scarcity, that

Love is an eternal, infinite resource. We are never alone. We can never truly be divided.

We listened to the report from our Ministry and Counsel Committee. We are delighted to welcome Laughing Waters into Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) on a formal basis: as a Preparative Meeting under the care of Bear Creek Monthly Meeting.

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE REPORT

We read the State of the Meeting reports and note common themes: small meetings; few to no children; dealing with aging and death of members. At the same time, our meetings are nurturing and grounding to those who attend. We found it refreshing to hear of the “Quaker revival” one meeting reported.

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting has been asked by Laughing Waters Worship Group to become a preparative meeting under the care of Bear Creek Meeting. Bear Creek Meeting reports with delight that agreement has been reached, and a care and counsel committee has been appointed. We welcome Laughing Waters into Iowa Yearly Meeting and look forward to the day they will become a monthly meeting.

The Ministry and Counsel Committee has made a commitment to intervisitation. Members reported on their visits in the past year and plans for future visits.

Last year the committee was asked to facilitate the sharing and preserving of elders’ stories. The out-going Ministry and Counsel Committee clerk sent a letter to monthly meetings asking them to identify people with stories to be recorded, and included a list of queries/questions to encourage sharing. We discussed how our meetings have followed up on this endeavor. We recognize that it is important to gather and share our stories as one person’s sharing can spark others’ memories. We wonder how to share the stories which are being collected, and whether someone is interested in structuring or compiling them. We welcome input from the Archives Committee, young adult Friends who voiced the concern of preserving our history, and any others who are led to contribute to or assist in this project. The questions which were sent to meetings will be posted on the IYMC website.

Yearly Meeting clerk Deborah Dakin met with us to share her experiences of the past year. She brought several concerns to our attention:

- Larger vibrant meetings may not see the value of being connected to the yearly meeting.
- How can we get to know each other in our day to day lives?

- How does yearly meeting care for worship groups and the monthly meetings which are caring for them?

We continue to support the clerk. Although she has a support committee, she feels the entire yearly meeting is her support committee.

Deborah Fisch shared her annual report with us. We want to share this excerpt:

. . .What I'm learning from traveling in the ministry among Friends:

This work gives me the opportunity to understand just how blessed I am to be planted here in IYMC and to share with IYMC Friends what I have been learning as I've traveled in the ministry. I learn from others. I learn from God. I learn from you all. Being given the opportunity to worship with Friends of the liberal and pastoral traditions helps me better understand just how blessed IYMC Friends are. I never forget that any ministry given through me is rooted and grounded in what I have learned from my meeting and IYMC Friends. Being given the opportunity to share what I'm learning also lets me give a bit back to this beloved community.

These are the important things I've observed to share with you:

- Being a Conservative Friend is a way of Being in the world. It is more than just practices and traditions in how we do business; it is a full time commitment. It is an expectation that each of us will continue to move toward being open to the Spirit in all things. We nurture the individual journey by weaving ourselves into a blessed community.
- If old traditions and practices no longer work in nurturing community we need to look at them and take them apart prayerfully as community. . . . Our Conservative practices point us toward the goal. They are not the goal. The goal is to build the blessed community of Love and find ways to carry that by example into the wider society.
- How we are in community with each other is changing. It is rare that Friends live in proximity to the meeting house and to each other. We travel further to be in community together. We are more involved in the wider society and that tends to mean the meeting has competition for our time and energies. We would benefit from finding ways to get folks from our monthly meetings and worship groups more involved with each other both within our meetings and among our IYMC family. We need to find ways to share our spiritual experiences with each other, our successes and the times miss the mark. We are hungry for More; to know each other at a deeper level.

Deborah suggested that Ministry and Counsel take the lead in this work. We accept that urging and agree that we want to spend more time together. We plan to meet in between yearly meeting sessions.

Deborah also reported on FGC programs and projects which may be of interest to IYMC meetings:

New Meetings Project – FGC plans to develop resources and programs designed to assist Friends and meetings seeking to start new worship groups and monthly meetings grounded in Quaker practices and an understanding of the faith base that supports our meetings on all levels. Deborah believes Friends in IYMC worship groups and newer meetings may have experience and ideas about what kinds of resources would be helpful to new meetings, and that the program could provide needed resources for our new worship groups and meetings parenting those worship groups.

Publications and Distribution – FGC has recognized both publications and bookstore as ministry. As they rethink what books and inventory to stock, and discern what to publish, they want to provide what is missing in resources for meetings and for individual Friends and seekers. If you are aware of resources that are not available but would be helpful to meetings, please let Deborah know. FGC wants to hear from meetings during this time of discernment and change.

Faith & Play – Slowly but surely this unique experiential method of sharing Bible and Quaker stories has been growing. FGC will be relying on volunteers with minimal staff support to continue this valuable project. Deborah strongly supports this project and thinks it could be a valuable option for meetings looking for children's and/or inter-generational curricula based on Quaker practice and experiential learning.

New Website – FGC has launched its new web page with plans to develop online courses and resources to assist meetings and individuals. They will also be able to assist meetings and worship groups by hosting web pages and helping meetings develop web pages for a reasonable fee. It may be some of our meetings and worship groups would benefit from this service.

Deborah ends: "I am always aware of the support of this precious yearly meeting as I travel among Friends. I don't take this beloved community for granted. Thank you for nurturing me and helping me stay faithful to the work to which I seem called to do among Friends."

Our committee unites in asking Yearly Meeting to continue to hold Deborah's work in our care by approving a travel minute for her to carry and to continue her anchor committee.

Lorene Ludy, clerk

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

SEVENTH DAY – SATURDAY – 8/4/2012
AFTERNOON SESSION

We resume the business of the Yearly Meeting.

*Soon we'll reach the silver river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.*

*Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.*

Robert Lowry

Ginger Kenney and Bob Yeats have been appointed as readers this afternoon.

MINUTE OF SIXTH DAY ACTIVITIES

Our yearly meeting Earthcare Subcommittee has been encouraging Friends to consider adopting some of the ideas of the Transition Network, including using local food, engaging the local community and local government in ways to live without fossil fuel. In the afternoon, Friends gathered to watch a DVD describing all that is involved with the Transition Network.

One panelist on our evening plenary “Letting Our Lives Speak” ended with, “It does help people tell their story when you ask the right questions.” IYMC members, Mary Mendenhall, Carol Spalding-Kruse, Martha Davis, and Sarah Mickle gave their very personal answers to the question of “What Does Living Quaker Mean to You?” Friends laughed (we learned valuable uses for the phrase, “That’s not very Quakerly”) and were also deeply moved. It was an evening of stories that yielded great riches, and inspired us to uncover many more of the remarkable experiences that surround us right here within our own yearly meeting.

We listened to the Recorder's Report with tenderness. It is a joy and a privilege to share our life on earth with Friends. We feel the presence at this gathering of our dear Friends who have passed on. We will remember the comforting words that one of our beloved left for us:

“The body goes.

The soul goes to God.

The Spirit will always be available to you.”

RECORDER’S REPORT

Deaths

Bear Creek	Raymond Moffitt	April 22, 2012
	Herbert Standing	May 2, 2012
Des Moines Valley	Marjorie Parris	April 30, 2012
	Scott Falb*	October 30, 2011
Iowa City	Lois Olson*	August 13, 2011
Lincoln	Harvey Loy Hinshaw	March 10, 2012
Paullina	Owen Crosbie	January 18, 2012
	Edward Towe	March 13, 2012
Whittier	Martha Hampton	June 13, 2012

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

Births

None

(Continued)

Marriages under the Care of the Meetings

None

New Members by Request or by Certificate of Transfer

Des Moines Valley	Ann Stillman	February 24, 2012 (certificate from Sarasota, Florida Friends Meeting)
Iowa City	Carole Winkleblack	July 10, 2011 (certificate from First Friends Church of Marshalltown)
	Sarah Martin and Ethan Nisewonder	March 11, 2012 (by request)
Penn Valley	Teddy Stultz	August 7, 2011
	Jean Ryberg	February 5, 2012
	Neil Nelson	March 4, 2012
	Shirley Scritchfield	April 1, 2012
Whittier	Kathleen J. Hall	May 13, 2012

Meeting	Births	Deaths	Certificates of Membership Received (Transfers In)	Memberships Transferred Out	New Memberships Granted	Memberships Discontinued	Total Membership	YM Net Gain
Ames	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	
Bear Creek	0	2	0	0	0	0	75	
Decorah	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	
Des Moines Valley	0	1	1	0	0	0	69	
Iowa City	0	0	1	0	2	0	61	
Lincoln	0	1	0	0	0	0	23	
Omaha	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	
Paullina	0	2	0	0	0	1	71	
Penn Valley	0	0	0	0	4	0	71	
West Branch	0	0	0	0	0	0	88	
Whittier	0	1	0	0	1	0	40	
Yahara	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	
Totals	0	7	2	0	7	1	548	1

The yearly meeting treasurer gave a brief explanation about the treasurer's report which is now available in hard copy. We thank both the treasurer and the assistant treasurer for their work on our behalf.

YEARLY MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT
Fiscal year ended June 30, 2012

	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
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 Earthcare Witness	200.00	200.00
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>\$56,800.00</u>	<u>\$56,800.00</u>
Delegate Expenses		
Friends Committee on National Legislation		1,000.00
Friends Peace Teams		1,000.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation, General		1,000.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation, Triennial (transferred to reserve fund)	700.00	700.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness		700.00
Total Delegate Expenses	<u>\$700.00</u>	<u>\$4,400.00</u>

	Actual	Budget
Yearly Meeting Expenses		
Archives Committee		200.00
Clerk's and Other Administrative Expenses	88.89	400.00
Committee Expenses (Other) - Visitation	269.44	500.00
Conscientious Objector PSC subcommittee		100.00
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	1,000.00	1,000.00
IYM Trustees – roof fund (one year item)	800.00	800.00
Junior Yearly Meeting		1,000.00
Youth Weekends		100.00
Young Adult Friends	100.00	300.00
Young Friends	1,039.95	1,500.00
Special Needs Committee – 2 ADA toilets for SFS	454.10	500.00
Publication Committee	5,610.48	5,000.00
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship–Friends Music Camp	500.00	500.00
YM Entertainment Committee if receipts inadequate		1,000.00
Midyear Planning Committee if receipts inadequate		1,000.00
Young Friends Travel & Conf.–FGC 2011 Gathering	200.00	1,000.00
Contingency Fund		1,000.00
Total Yearly Meeting Expenses	<u>\$10,062.86</u>	<u>\$15,900.00</u>
Grand Totals	<u><u>\$67,562.86</u></u>	<u><u>\$77,100.00</u></u>

Cash balance July 1, 2011

\$9,652.14

Receipts

Monthly meeting contributions \$64,016.00

Other contributions and receipts 6,026.95

Total Cash Received \$70,042.95

Disbursements

2011–2012 expenditures for budgeted items** \$67,292.86

Payments from FWCC Triennial Travel Fund 2,397.97

Less transfer into FWCC Triennial Travel Fund (700.00)

Total Cash Received \$68,990.83

Cash balance June 30, 2012

\$10,704.26

***\$270 of FY12 budgeted items were paid prior to 7/1/11 (Grand Total Actual expense for FY12 = \$67,562.86) due to credit union error in prior FY.*

Jim Kenney, treasurer

We appreciate the very clear Representatives Report, and thank all of them for their hard work this past week on our behalf.

REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

The representatives were able to develop a proposed budget for the coming year that we feel is satisfactory, but time limitations made it difficult to go beyond minor adjustments to the previous budget. Some issues came up which merit further consideration. We suggest that an open forum on the budget be scheduled at next year's annual sessions so that all could be involved in consideration of these issues. One thing to be considered is the budget for delegate expenses. For example, should we have one fund for all delegate expenses rather than individual line items for each organization? How much travel should we be funding? Our system of apportionments to monthly meetings is another area that could be revisited.

There is also a feeling that we as Representatives, along with all who participate in our annual sessions, should work to make all in our home meetings aware of the processes involved in how the yearly meeting functions. This would include, but would not be limited to, budget issues. Friends should also be aware of the process for requesting reimbursement from the yearly meeting. (This information is published annually in the yearly meeting minutes.) Everyone in our meetings should be aware of the information included in the clerk's letter sent to monthly meetings shortly after our annual sessions.

This year's proposed budget is \$4,250 less than the budget approved last year. The \$700 FWCC-Triennial line item has been removed and the total in the yearly meeting expenses category has been reduced by \$3,550. Last year the Publications Committee budget was increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000 to cover the cost of printing *Faith and Practice*. This year we return to the \$3,000 figure. Another reduction from last year is the absence of the one-time contribution of \$800 to the Trustees for the meeting house roof. The rarely used contingency fund line items for Midyear Meeting and the Yearly Meeting Entertainment Committee have each been reduced from \$1,000 to \$500. The Special Needs Committee budget has been increased to \$750, to be used mainly for a new sound system.

Several adjustments have been made in the contributions list, but the total budgeted for contributions remains unchanged. This includes reduction of the contribution to FWCC by \$300 and the contribution to Nebraskans for Peace by \$100. The contribution to Right Sharing of World Resources has been increased to \$400 and the contribution to

Quaker Earthcare Witness increased to \$300. A \$100 contribution to Iowa Peace Network has been added.

Since our budget includes several contingency items, and we have a sufficient cash balance, we recommend that \$65,000 of the \$72,850 total budget be raised by apportionment. We are grateful that some of our monthly meetings have offered to increase their contributions, enabling us to recommend modest increases in the apportionments assigned to those meetings.

We express appreciation for the service rendered to the yearly meeting by our clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, assistant treasurer, and statistical recorder. We recommend that the Friends named below be appointed to serve for the coming year.

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

We recommend that our next annual sessions be held at Scattergood Friends School from Seventh Month 30 to Eighth Month 4, 2013.

Sherry Hutchison has been asked to break meeting on First Day.

**Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
Budget for Fiscal 2012–2013**

Contributions	2013 Budget
American Friends Service Committee	\$ 1,000
Friends Committee on National Legislation	1,000
Friends General Conference	200
Friends World Committee for Consultation	700
Iowa Peace Network	100
Nebraskans for Peace	400
Friends Peace Teams	500
National Religious Committee Against Torture	100
Peace and Social Concerns Committee	1,100
Pendle Hill	500
Quaker Earthcare Witness	300
Quaker United Nations Office	200
Right Sharing of World Resources	400
Scattergood Friends School	50,000
William Penn House	300
Total Contributions	\$56,800
Delegate Expenses	
Friends Committee on National Legislation	\$1,000
Friends Peace Teams	1,000
Friends World Committee for Consultation, General	1,000
Quaker Earth Care Witness	700
Total Delegate Expenses	\$3,700

(Continued)

Yearly Meeting Expenses	2013 Budget
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
Junior Yearly Meeting	1,000
Youth Weekends	100
Young Adult Friends	300
Young Friends	1,500
Special Needs Committee	750
Publication Committee	3,000
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship	500
YM Entertainment Committee (if receipts inadequate)	500
Midyear Planning Committee (if receipts inadequate)	500
Young Friends Travel and Conferences	1,000
Contingency Fund	1,000
Total Yearly Meeting Expenses	\$12,350

Total Budget	\$72,850
Apportionments	65,000
Difference	(7,850)
Cash balance at end of FY12	10,704.26
Cash balance at end of FY13	2,854.26

Monthly Meeting Apportionments

Ames	\$4,000
Bear Creek	5,500
Decorah	968
Des Moines Valley	14,000
Iowa City	4,850
Lincoln	6,000
Omaha	3,178
Paullina	6,188
Penn Valley	5,300
West Branch	11,216
Whittier	2,800
Yahara	1,000
Total Apportionments	\$65,000

On behalf of the Representatives,
Jim Cottingham, clerk

We listened to the response we received from Norwegian Friends to the letter sent last year by our Special Replies Committee. We thank the Special Replies Committee for the very nice letter written on our behalf.

**SPECIAL REPLIES COMMITTEE
LETTER TO ABSENT FRIENDS**

Eighth Month 4, 2012

Dear Friends:

We are gathered together here on the Scattergood Friends School and Farm campus, in the Hickory Grove Meeting House, during a hot and dry summer week in Iowa, for the 135th session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). We remember many years that you were able to participate in the life of Yearly Meeting in session, and we have missed you.

The theme of Yearly Meeting had to do with telling our stories, and we heard many individual, organizational and Yearly Meeting accounts. Much of the "story" of Yearly Meeting in this session was about considering gains and losses, and how we are endeavoring to mend the world in the midst of these changes. Some of those losses were the deaths of beloved elders, yet we feel their presence in our joyful, busy, hot and spirited week.

We hope you will be able to join us again another year. In the meantime, please know that we've carried you in our thoughts this week. You are very dear to us.

With love and peace,
Deborah Dakin, clerk
on behalf of
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

We listened to the letters prepared by the Epistle Committee. We appreciate having such good letters to send to other yearly meetings on our behalf.

EPISTLE TO FRIENDS EVERYWHERE

Eighth Month 4, 2012

To All Friends Everywhere:

Greetings from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), where Friends from Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wisconsin met for worship, fellowship and play in a spirit of love and tenderness during our 135th annual session on the campus of our beloved Scattergood Friends School and Farm. Our theme, Old Stories and New

Connections, reminded us of our rich spiritual heritage as Conservative Friends. As we mourn the death of beloved elders of our community, and celebrate the gift of their lives among us, we feel a renewed call to faithful living, so that our lives, too, may be patterns and examples for the next generations. As part of this challenge, the report from Midyear Meeting and our morning Bible study invited us to open ourselves anew to the teaching of Jesus and the ways Scripture may still speak to Friends today.

Listening to the reading of our queries and selected responses called us into worship and rich sharing. The adage, “Practice what you preach” implies that you talk first and then practice, but we feel this should be reversed so the action comes before the preaching. Addressing our queries is a time of taking inventory of our practices to ensure we live with integrity so the witness of our testimonies will be authentic. We need to be tender with and support each other as we do our best, however imperfectly, to live our faith and practice with integrity.

As we listened through the many reports from our committees, we remembered Paul’s description of the church as the body of Christ. We are grateful for the gifts and work of all those who serve on our committees and for the care with which they hold our business and community. Each member brings his or her gifts to Christ’s work in healing the brokenness in the world. We especially appreciate the work of the staff at Scattergood Friends School and Farm for hosting our annual session, their commitment to Friends testimonies and their care for the students and one another. They are a precious witness in the world to our testimonies.

Evening programs on the work of FCNL, storytelling, a panel sharing stories of what “living Quaker” has meant to them, our talent show and evening singing filled us with hope, gave us insights for change and offered opportunities to sing and laugh together. During meals together, we relished lively conversation, moments of silent worship, and fresh food from Scattergood Farm. Some of us worked at the farm, tearing down an old shed to make way for produce washing and packing facilities.

Reports from our representative and attenders at the FWCC World Gathering of Friends in Kenya drew us into consideration of how we are called to be salt and light living the kingdom of God in a broken world. We were inspired by stories of the spirit led work of Friends in Kenya and elsewhere in teaching nonviolence, and healing and reconciling communities broken by violence and injustice.

We value these opportunities to better understand and connect with Friends from around our yearly meeting, the U.S., and the world, but we

are also aware that travel to such events causes harm to our earth. Protecting God's creation is a call that weighs on us, and we are grateful for the efforts of those who are heeding that call. We pray for guidance in finding creative ways to be faithful.

The presence and activities of our children, young Friends, and a baby trying to crawl under the meeting house benches brought smiles, new energy and hope for our future. We also welcomed members of Quaker bodies newly under our care: the Silver River Worship Group in La Plata, Missouri, and Laughing Waters Friends Preparative Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

It is with much joy that we return to our home meetings carrying new bound copies of our revised *Faith and Practice*. We also return with new stories of old friends and with a new commitment to live more fully into the measure of Light that has been given us.

In God's love,
Deborah Dakin, clerk
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

EPISTLE TO OHIO YEARLY MEETING

Eighth Month 4, 2012

To Friends in Ohio Yearly Meeting:

Greetings from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), where Friends from Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wisconsin met for worship, fellowship and play in a spirit of love and tenderness during our 135th annual session on the campus of our beloved Scattergood Friends School and Farm. As we listened prayerfully to your epistle, we felt a renewed connection to the Spirit of the Living Christ that connects and underpins our faith and action in the world. We are delighted to send Kent Simmons and Lynne Sootheran to sojourn with you as you begin your 200th annual session and commend them to your care. We look forward to welcoming a representative from your yearly meeting as way opens, and look forward to celebrating your bicentennial next year.

Our theme, Old Stories and New Connections, reminded us of our rich spiritual heritage as Conservative Friends. As we mourn the death of beloved elders of our community, and celebrate the gift of their lives among us, we feel a renewed call to faithful living, so that our lives, too, may be patterns and examples for the next generations. As part of this challenge, the report from Midyear Meeting and our morning Bible study

invited us to open ourselves anew to the teaching of Jesus and the ways Scripture may still speak to Friends today.

Listening to the reading of our queries and selected responses called us into worship and rich sharing. The adage, “Practice what you preach” implies that you talk first and then practice, but we feel this should be reversed so the action comes before the preaching. Addressing our queries is a time of taking inventory of our practices to ensure we live with integrity, so the witness of our testimonies will be authentic. We need to be tender with and support each other as we do our best, however imperfectly, to live our faith and practice with integrity.

As we listened through the many reports from our committees, we remembered Paul’s description of the church as the body of Christ. We are grateful for the gifts and work of all those who serve on our committees and for the care with which they hold our business and community. Each member brings his or her gifts to Christ’s work in healing the brokenness in the world. We especially appreciate the work of the staff at Scattergood Friends School and Farm for hosting our annual session, their commitment to Friends testimonies and their care for the students and one another. They are a precious witness in the world to our testimonies.

Evening programs on the work of FCNL, storytelling, a panel sharing stories of what “living Quaker” has meant to them, our talent show and evening singing filled us with hope, gave us insights for change and offered opportunities to sing and laugh together. During meals together, we relished lively conversation, moments of silent worship, and fresh food from Scattergood Farm. Some of us worked at the farm, tearing down an old shed to make way for produce washing and packing facilities.

Reports from our representative and attenders at the FWCC World Gathering of Friends in Kenya drew us into consideration of how we are called to be salt and light living the kingdom of God in a broken world. We were inspired by stories of the spirit led work of Friends in Kenya and elsewhere in teaching nonviolence, and healing and reconciling communities broken by violence and injustice.

We value these opportunities to better understand and connect with Friends from around our yearly meeting, the U.S. and the world, but we are also aware that travel to such events causes harm to our earth. Protecting God’s creation is a call that weighs on us, and we are grateful for the efforts of those who are heeding that call. We pray for guidance in finding creative ways to be faithful.

The presence and activities of our children, young Friends and a baby trying to crawl under the meeting house benches brought smiles,

new energy and hope for our future. We also welcomed members of Quaker bodies newly under our care: the Silver River Worship Group in La Plata, Missouri, and Laughing Waters Friends Preparative Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

It is with much joy that we return to our home meetings carrying new bound copies of our revised *Faith and Practice*. We also return with new stories of old friends and with a new commitment to live more fully into the measure of Light that has been given us.

In God's love,
Deborah Dakin, clerk
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

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

Eighth Month 4, 2012

To Friends in North Carolina Yearly Meeting:

Greetings from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), where Friends from Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wisconsin met for worship, fellowship and play in a spirit of love and tenderness during our 135th annual session on the campus of our beloved Scattergood Friends School and Farm. We appreciated your epistle and reflection on radical hospitality. We join with you in seeking to be a faith community where God's Spirit is alive among us, and where all who attend may find refreshment, and a place at the table in the beloved community. We were delighted to welcome your representative, Andrew Wright. We valued his presence and ministry, as well as Dan Treadway's informal reports on his recent visit at your annual session.

Our theme, Old Stories and New Connections, reminded us of our rich spiritual heritage as Conservative Friends. As we mourn the death of beloved elders of our community, and celebrate the gift of their lives among us, we feel a renewed call to faithful living, so that our lives, too, may be patterns and examples for the next generations. As part of this challenge, the report from Midyear Meeting and our morning Bible study invited us to open ourselves anew to the teaching of Jesus and the ways Scripture may still speak to Friends today.

Listening to the reading of our queries and selected responses called us into worship and rich sharing. The adage, "Practice what you preach" implies that you talk first and then practice, but we feel this should be reversed so the action comes before the preaching. Addressing our

queries is a time of taking inventory of our practices to ensure we live with integrity, so the witness of our testimonies will be authentic. We need to be tender with and support each other as we do our best, however imperfectly, to live our faith and practice with integrity.

As we listened through the many reports from our committees, we remembered Paul's description of the church as the body of Christ. We are grateful for the gifts and work of all those who serve on our committees and for the care with which they hold our business and community. Each member brings his or her gifts to Christ's work in healing the brokenness in the world. We especially appreciate the work of the staff at Scattergood Friends School and Farm for hosting our annual session, their commitment to Friends testimonies and their care for the students and one another. They are a precious witness in the world to our testimonies.

Evening programs on the work of FCNL, storytelling, a panel sharing stories of what "living Quaker" has meant to them, our talent show and evening singing filled us with hope, gave us insights for change and offered opportunities to sing and laugh together. During meals together, we relished lively conversation, moments of silent worship, and fresh food from Scattergood Farm. Some of us worked at the farm, tearing down an old shed to make way for produce washing and packing facilities.

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It is with much joy that we return to our home meetings carrying new bound copies of our revised *Faith and Practice*. We also return with new

stories of old friends and with a new commitment to live more fully into the measure of Light that has been given us.

In God’s love,
 Deborah Dakin, clerk
 Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

The Nominating Committee does very important work for our yearly meeting. We deeply appreciate all they do 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. Conveners of each committee are noted with an “*.”

Committees and Representatives to Other Quaker Bodies

2013	2014	2015
Adult Young Friends		
Sarah Mickle	Ian Taylor Karen Greenler	Michael Taylor* Nick Jacoby
Archives Committee		
Jeff Cox Inez Schaechterle	Lucy Hansen Tim Shipe	Daniel Treadway* Osa Bricker
Book Table Committee		
Liz Oppenheimer*	Beth Wilson	Megan McCormick
Document Committee		
Laughing Waters		
Entertainment Committee		
Paullina Omaha Lincoln Laughing Waters	Ames Des Moines Valley Penn Valley Yahara	Decorah Iowa City West Branch Whittier

2013	2014	2015
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Interim Meeting (appointed by monthly meetings)

Lorene Ludy	Lincoln	Burt Kisling	Bear Creek	A.M. Fink	Ames
Bill Deutsch	Decorah	Lynda Fife	Omaha	Richard Johnson	BC
Deborah Fisch	Paullina	Gordon Bivens	Ames	Alice Hampton	Whittier
Cindy Winchell	DMV	Mary Ellen Tjossem	Pa	Ruth Dawson	Iowa City
Megan McCormick	Yah	Jim Kelley	Penn Valley	George Bergus	WB
				Carol Gilbert	Omaha

Junior Yearly Meeting (for Yearly Meeting)

Carol Spalding-Kruse	Jenny Schmidt	Deborah Fink
Cheryl Sutton	Jean Sandstrom*	Elizabeth O'Sullivan
	Sonja Sponheim	Carol Gilbert

Young Friends Planning Committee (for Yearly Meeting)

Karen Greenler	Neal Shaffer	Ian Taylor
	Bill Deutsch*	Sebastian Ashley

2013	2014	2015
Junior Yearly Meeting/Young Friends (Midyear)		
Megan Knight Hana Norval	Jean Sandstrom* Jackie Leckband Sarah Mickle	Mikel Johnson Michael Taylor
Midyear Meeting Planning Committee		
Mikel Johnson Roy Hampton Lorene Ludy A.M. Fink* Burt Kisling	Betty Young Megan Knight Osa Bricker Jackie Leckband	Wanda Knight Winifred Standing Christine Kelley Ruth Dawson
Ministry and Counsel Committee (appointed by monthly meetings)		
Karoline Jarr Andrea Holveck Judy Plank Alice Hampton Penny Majors Marshall Massey Gordon Bivens	Carol Gilbert Alberta Kisling Dorothy Rogers Martha Davis Ann Stromquist Lorene Ludy*	Jean Eden Betty Young Chloe Wagner Deborah Fisch Rebecca Bergus Liz Oppenheimer
Peace and Social Concerns Committee		
Judy Plank Winifred Standing Jackie Leckband Rachel McNair Lori Nelson Kathleen Hall Stan Sanders	Claire Cumbie-Drake Echo Ray Ian Taylor Mark Patton Ann Stromquist Deborah Fink Carol Winkleblack	Sherry Hutchison* Jim Bruener Marian Solomon Quinn Dilkes Bob Yeats Patty Wengert Inez Schaechterle
Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee		
Jean Eden	Roy Hampton*	Wilmer Tjossem
Publication Committee		
Margie Haworth Ken Lawrence (webminder)	Lynda Fife Steve Deatherage	Callie Marsh Ann Stromquist*
Religious Education Committee		
Marshall Massey	Judy Cottingham	Bill Deutsch*

2013	2014	2015
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Scattergood Friends School Committee

Iowa YM (FUM), Illinois YM and Northern YM are also invited to name a representative to the committee. Terms start in August after Yearly Meeting and end after the July School Committee meeting.

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

Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees

Robert Yeats	Barb Garlinghouse	Gordon Bivens
Larry Marsh	Pam Avery	Richard Johnson

2016: Lowell Wilson, Daniel Treadway

Special Needs Committee

Harry Olmstead	Bob Yeats*	Sherry Hutchison
	Joey Giffen-Hunter	John Andrews

Trustees, Yearly Meeting

Beth Wilson	Jonathan Fisch	Sarah Mickle
A.M. Fink*		

2016 Jim Cottingham

IYMC Representatives to Friends Agencies

2013	2014	2015
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AFSC Corporation Members

Robert Yeats*	Andrea Jilovec	Ann Stromquist
Dan Schlitt		Rebecca Bergus, alt.

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

Deborah Fink	Jonathan Fisch	Kathleen Hall
Ian Taylor	Rebecca Bergus	Patty Wengert

Friends Peace Teams Advisory Board

not filled		
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Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

Penny Majors	Christine Kelly	Ebby Luvaga
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Iowa Peace Network

Patty Wengert		
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2013	2014	2015
Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee		
Ken Lawrence	Maureen Pauly-Hubbard	
William Penn House Consultative Committee		
Alberta Kisling*	Jim Kenney	Jeff Kisling

CLOSING MINUTE

When we gathered together this past week in our earliest meetings for worship, we heard ministry challenging us to not “practice what we preach,” but instead, to turn the adage around. We should not speak first, because our testimony of integrity requires that our words reflect our lives.

They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

How visionary and comforting are these words from Isaiah. But how can we experience that of which Isaiah speaks?

During our sessions, we explored the theme, “Old Stories and New Connections.” From our very first meeting for worship, through all our interest groups and plenaries, committee work and business sessions, and gathering together over food, song, and visiting with each other, we explored many different facets of just how important and profound human stories can be.

We heard from Friends who travelled to Kenya for the FWCC World Gathering. They told us how being in a group of Friends with deep differences between them can help us look at our own stories differently. We need a community of others in order to learn this.

We heard stories of people who have built intentional communities on the vision of creating a just and sustainable world. They are showing us different ways of living joyfully. It was inspiring to learn of what they are capable of doing. Others stories were about ways to live in “transition” or the ways of transforming the places where we already live. This, too, expands our sense of possibility. These communities are rewriting their stories together.

But sometimes it's easy to wonder: what about me, where I am, here and now? If even Moses needed God in a burning bush to point out he already was standing on holy ground, how can we remember to look beneath our own feet? When we feel overwhelmed with the weight of carrying our vision of a just and sustainable world, we can remember the stories we were told by Friends from FCNL, AFSC, and many others

who reminded us that real change happens in baby steps. And when we recognize some of those small victories along the way, they bring us back home to our stated belief, that everyone can draw on the Light, that everyone has access to that “still, small voice within.” It is by being and working with others that we learn patience and patient listening.

We had many chances this week to explore and practice uncovering our own stories. Finding these individual stories also involved community. We were told that when we have the courage to share our fears and our vulnerabilities, it helps us to see ourselves in another. As Sufi mystic Inayat Khan wrote, “God breaks our heart again and again and again until it stays open.” Sharing our brokenness gives us tools to encourage each other.

One evening plenary featured four Friends telling their life experiences in response to the statement, “This is what I do and I am a Quaker.” They told of their ongoing journey to discover what these words mean to them, and how asking the right questions can help someone tell their story.

The Quaker faith we share tells a most basic story. When we think it is only very special others who “shall mount up with wings like eagles, run and not be weary, walk and not faint,” we forget the story handed down by Friends telling us to return again and again to our practices, and return again and again to sit on the bench in expectant waiting. Many Friends these past days have shared their discovery that in doing this, we then begin to have our preaching reflect our practice. It is from our expectant waiting that our authentic selves will hear and know the same story told by Isaiah:

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40: 28-31

We now conclude our 2012 annual sessions, planning to meet again, God willing, at Scattergood Friends School and Farm, near West Branch, Iowa, Seventh Month 30 to Eighth Month 4, 2013.

Deborah Dakin, clerk

Penny Majors, assistant clerk

Reports received but not read in annual sessions

EXERCISE OF THE SPIRIT COMMITTEE REPORT

What is salvation? And what are we saved from? What about the time between being saved and death? The Bible tells us that we are to be the salt and light . . . Can we live in this world between salvation and death as one that has been saved? Can we live as part of a saved community?

There are many differences between evangelical Friends and un-programmed worship meetings, but this does not mean that one is right and the other wrong. There are many ways to worship, in the same way that there is no one right answer for most questions, although people often seek one.

Too often, we make decisions and take actions based on the false perception of division between “us” and “them.” If we recognize the light in everyone, and endeavor to connect with that of God in all people, there will be no more “them,” just “us.”

“They that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” -- Isaiah 40:31

I very much appreciate the report of our representatives to Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) experiences expressed that the conference delegates tended to not talk about differences among Quakers but kept such difficult discussions under the table. I look forward to our work at this year’s Yearly Meeting, that we not put our differences under the table, but that we talk about them as we listen to God’s Will.

May we experience the presence of God, may we hear the voice of God as we convene together this week.

As sap flows through the vine and revitalizes it, so the Spirit of God flows through us, creating in us the spirit of community. (paraphrased: Rufus Jones)

The World is the way it is, and we need to accept it and do what we can to fix it. -- [John 4: “Living Water”]

This yearly meeting helps people live out their faith.

(Singing) Softly and tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.

This morning's Bible Class was on the message of God to Israel to free the slaves (?) calling to those in prisons and dungeons. . . . We heard how our lover is softly and tenderly calling us home . . . how we are called to find unity across the divisions in our society with the same tenderness as we are called – perhaps we can find unity.

FCNL tries to be the still small voice on Capitol Hill. All perspectives (lights) are worth sharing. All add to the light in the room.

Queries are an inventory of what we do and we can only preach what we practice.

It is important to search ourselves with integrity.

Are our testimonies in conflict, our testimonies to care for the Earth and our testimony to travel in the ministry to visit with one another?

Let people into your brokenness.

When I was alone on one side of an issue, the meeting handled it so liberally. I learned that people can be on different sides without being wrong. I felt so loved and accepted.

When I entered this morning I was delighted to hear the voice of perhaps our youngest Friend!

We come together to worship because we believe our corporate understanding of God is more accurate than our individual understanding.

Love asks us to be ourselves. There is something bigger than our individual selves—community, . . .to be a child of the Light means to be more fully ourselves. . . .how do we find community through self and at the same time let go of self? How do we know something through ourselves that is not ourself?

In community we have different gifts.

In the days and weeks after Midyear Meeting we lost 4 of our members. . . . the purpose of community is to draw us closer to God. . . . I learned about the importance of being passionate about something . . . from Herbert Standing about what you believe, from Martha Hampton about joy in living, from Marjorie Paris about tenacity, from both Harvey Hinshaw and Martha Hampton that music can bring you closer to God. Only the part that played with us is gone--the body is gone, the spirit stayed with us.

Just after the Ministry and Counsel report was read, including the acceptance of Laughing Waters as a preparative meeting by Bear Creek, I thought, "Oh my goodness, we are engaged!" I remembered the number of times the Meeting affirmed love; that is all I need to remember.

This is the river, this is God's river, those who come into our lives are the river.

The body is done; the soul, well that goes to God; the Spirit will always be available to you all. Thank you, Lord, for blessing us with love.

In our house, in our spiritual body there are people with many gifts of spiritual ministry. George Fox's heart was opened and he could not contain it. He had to speak and people would gather to listen. God is gracious and has favored us with love and light. Who are we gathering and bringing into this love? Are we as faithful as the early Friends in sharing the gifts given us? Have we made room for people with gifts? I have been troubled by our community losing its precious people and taking in so few. God is so gracious.

Jesus said, When 2 or 3 are gathered in my name, I am there.

We recently saw the movie, The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, in which guests were promised luxury and found a broken down hotel. The manager responded to complaining guests, that "if it's not perfect it's just means it's not finished yet." If we have not achieved the kingdom of God on earth, it only means our work is not finished yet.

We are not finished yet. The Rabbi's story this morning about the man arriving in heaven and being asked why he wasn't more himself brings me to realize that it is a struggle to find one's true self. Culture, upbringing, expectations about oneself influence us. The light and love of community help me finish the job of becoming me.

I read that the desert fathers and mothers felt that sin was keeping others from being closer to God.

This morning I am aware of a beloved community that extends around the world. We are part of something rich and ancient and extraordinary. I have been reading a bit here and there in the Bible and listening; I've also been reading the Baghavad Gita with a friend. I am aware this morning of the beauty of all sacred texts, the commonality, the tap roots that we share. Maybe the world itself is the sacred scripture and I want to read and listen.

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am. Be still and know. Be still. Be.

This morning in Callie's presentation, we considered the tension between the individual and community. 'To thine own self be true,' speaks of integrity. It is easier to maintain integrity while being part of a supportive community.

During the week many have expressed concerns regarding their ability to listen, far more than those concerned about being heard.

Dear Lord, we know you are present with us now, we can feel your presence. Forgive us if we sometimes speak in meeting as if you are not. Please forgive us if we speak from ourselves, speak on our own. Please help us be a conduit. Forgive us, help us as we practice.

...to do the work that is given to me. The work is pretty humble. Most of the work of the world is common as mud. As individuals and communities our response must be, "yes, I will."

We are called to be disciples -- that makes for two different kinds of community -- the World's and Christ's. And there are two different kinds of goodness -- that which is approved and that which is penalized.

Community is a verb.

Words of the Spirit are non-sense to those not in the Spirit. Are our homes places of refreshment and nurture? Our meetings are our homes.

Exercise Committee, Jean Eden, Stan Sanders, Kathy Hall

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT

Living in the middle of the country, it is easy to imagine Washington as a world unconnected to us, with Washington insiders making policy that descends on us like the weather – beyond our meager power to control. Speak the word “Washington” and we almost feel the juice draining out of our fingers and toes. Maybe that’s how the big power brokers want us to feel. Yet we must resist.

Giving up on Washington equals giving up on our world, our future. And Quakers have bravely confronted massive obstacles for centuries. For 68 years, American Quakers have had FCNL, a principled and effective presence in Washington, to lead us through the bureaucratic maze and magnify our efforts to shape policies that impinge on us and everyone.

Changing the huge and entrenched systems of power controlled by Congress is a slow and frustrating undertaking. Even changes that must be made immediately aren’t. Change happens when small efforts pursued faithfully accumulate to create major tipping points.

Our FCNL policy experts and lobbyists can help to guide and direct individual and meeting efforts toward goals that are both strategic and possible. Because of our national-local axis, we in middle America can put pressure on our representatives in Washington precisely when it will be most helpful to effect policy. Rather than spinning our wheels and crying in the wind, we are working with people who know Washington.

FCNL works on a broad range of issues, with much of the crucial effort occurring quietly, behind the headlines. The website fcnl.org provides detail on policies, current priorities, and recent successes, as well as a wealth of background information and documents. Two yearly events – the spring lobby weekend and the November annual meeting – draw Quakers from across the country to assist in lobbying and policy making.

One of the ominous American developments is the increasing concentration of wealth and power, accompanied by a steep decline in the middle class. FCNL’s “Our Nation’s Checkbook” program addresses this through analysis of how the federal budget and tax policy have been channeling resources. FCNL analysts tell us that key budget and tax decisions will likely be made in the lame duck congressional session, after the November elections and before January 1, 2013.

Because these votes will be extremely crucial, FCNL is holding a Quaker Public Policy Institute and Lobby Day November 15-16 in connection with the annual meeting. This is an opportunity for all of us

to let our lives speak. Go to fcnl.org/lobbyday for all you need to know to be part of the solution.

Another surge of FCNL work is a renewed run at ameliorating climate change. Jose Aguto, recently hired FCNL Secretary for Sustainable Energy and Environment, comes with an impressive background in native peoples and natural resources.

Two FCNL staff members who have recently been present at our yearly meeting sessions will be leaving the organization. Arthur Meyer Boyd, Associate Executive Secretary for Administration and Finance, will be retiring at the end of this year. Bridget Moix, Senior Legislative Secretary for Foreign Policy, has recently left to begin a PhD program in conflict resolution at George Mason University.

As usual, most of the past year's program assistants (formerly called interns) will be moving on and a new group will be starting in August. Typically recent college graduates, these young persons gain valuable Washington experience as they delve into the work of FCNL. Many of them will carry their FCNL resumes to further work in Washington and elsewhere, continuing to further the mission of the organization.

Deborah Fink

WILLIAM PENN HOUSE REPORT

In discussing outreach, William Penn House Executive Director, Byron Sanford, wrote about how outreach was often used to increase attendance or solicit funds – more about the organization than about people you were trying to reach. “We grew to define outreach where we opened ourselves and our services to our community: to Fragers [hardware store], to Capitol Hill grocery, to the neighborhood non-profits with whom we could work together to seek to make our corner of the world a better place. We would work with Capitol Hill Village and Peabody School, with Groundwork Anacostia and with the Southeast White House. We are enriched not because we bring more people to William Penn House but because we take more people from William Penn House to our community. Through outreach we become what we seek to be and that is engaged neighbors who work together for the common good.”

Byron and his staff continue to improve the facilities at William Penn House. The latest project is the greening of the coach house. New footings and beams have been put in place to reinforce the walls so the roof can hold the extra weight of the vegetative roof.

The new roof has been installed. Come the cooler weather of the fall, the growth medium and the vegetation will be added.

Kat Smith writes in the Penn notes about the William Penn House share in Community Supported Agriculture. They receive a monthly CSA box of food. Kat says, “Advocates of CSA highlight the closer relationship between producers and consumers as well as the environmental and health benefits of buying local.”

The Washington Quaker work camps have grown and expanded. There are three being held this summer. One was held in June in West Virginia doing home maintenance and renovation in a poor community. A second one in July was held in Washington DC providing support to often neglected DC residents and taking part in a folk festival. Coming in August is a two week work camp in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. Mike Gray who led the Intermountain Yearly Meeting/AFSC joint initiative is now a member of the staff and will continue his important ministries through William Penn House.

Brad Ogilvie has been working with “The Mosaic Initiative” to promote HIV-tests to give good information and help decrease the stigma and fear. It presents an opportunity to help stop the spread of HIV.

During this election year Byron challenges us to help our communities to come together. “We all have our passions, our causes and our concerns. Collectively, our responsibilities are to the whole community. At William Penn House our commitment is to continue to try and be an incubator for living out our responsibilities by listening, caring, and doing – being bridge builders. 2012 promises to be a great year to put practice to the faith.”

The committee requests a \$300.00 donation to support this important Quaker facility.

For the Committee, Alberta Kisling and Jim Kenney

SELECTIONS FROM EPISTLES

Britain Yearly Meeting, August 2011

We can no longer ignore the fact that our planet is finite. We have not only inherited the earth from our ancestors: we have borrowed it from our children and from their children.

We see the connection between changing the way we live and growing in the Spirit. What is God calling us as Quakers to be and to do? Early Quakers were seen as radical religious extremists, living beyond the ordinary in their simplicity and their direct engagement with the divine. Are we, on the other hand, sliding into ordinariness? Can we reconnect with our roots, to live a religious life and proclaim a message the world needs to hear?

With joy, our Yearly Meeting has made a commitment to becoming a low carbon sustainable community. The time to act is now. We need to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide we produce. We are called to challenge the values of consumer capitalism. Between us we have already made changes with which we are comfortable: now is the time to make uncomfortable changes. Yet through transformative action we have much to gain: a simpler life can be a richer life.

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, July 2011

Friends participated in many workshops, discussion groups, and community-centered projects throughout our time together. We heard stories of monthly meeting's experiences of deepening and strengthening their meetings through Meeting Enrichment Services. Displays of Friends' actions in the world showed our present and unmistakable commitment to service and action. Heard within the workshops and Friendly discussions was a yearning for a shift in our thinking – a shift that will lift the burden of waiting for the future, replacing it with the joy of living powerfully now. There is life in our Yearly Meeting, and we know there is a different way that we are being called to live. We have not yet found that way. We approved moving forward with a long-term discernment and planning process to help us discover what we are called to be and do.

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL AND RELATED ENTITIES
FINANCIAL REPORT
AS OF JUNE 30, 2012

	School	Farm	Foundation
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
Designated Donations	17,641.35		
Hills Checking Account	16,220.12	23,690.23	24,010.04
Office Cash	348.38		
Savings Account	12,895.89		88,608.64
Trip	1,208.21		
Total Checking/Savings	<u>48,313.95</u>	23,690.23	112,618.68
Accounts Receivable			
Accounts Receivable	<u>32,993.70</u>		
Total Accounts Receivable	32,993.70		
Other Current Assets			
Allowance for Bad Debt	-10,000.00		
Payroll Asset			
Prepaid Expense	12,553.99	5,435.26	
Farm Inventory		13,050.00	
Accrued Interest and Dividends			6,016.84
Total Other Current Assets	<u>2,553.99</u>	18,485.26	6,016.84
Total Current Assets	83,861.64	42,175.49	118,635.52
Fixed Assets			
Automobiles	91,519.35	11,808.43	
Buildings	3,356,965.03	67,057.09	
Equipment	355,276.46	21,102.68	
Land	239,561.25	105,128.44	
Breeding stock		6,724.88	
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-1,923,567.00</u>	<u>-79,096.00</u>	
Total Fixed Assets	2,119,755.09	132,725.52	
Other Assets			
Pledges Receivable	97,243.47		
HJ Heinz Stock	2,283.96		
Loan to Scattergood Friends School			
Mennonite Foundation			27,249.56

Westwood Trust #1 Scholarship			1,443,148.14
Westwood Trust #2 Capital Funds			1,711,058.83
Land: Pemberton Farm			85,150.00
Total Other Assets	99,527.43	0.00	3,266,606.53
TOTAL ASSETS	2,303,144.16	174,901.01	3,385,242.05
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	32,841.18	751.83	
Total Accounts Payable	32,841.18	751.83	
Other Current Liabilities			
Deferred Income	29,100.00		
Total Deposits	44,993.00		
Due to Farm	139.99		
Due to Student Bank	100.00		
Interest Payable	567.87		
Payroll: FICA	150.75		
Payroll: Supplemental	460.00		
Payroll Liabilities	8,626.26		
Retirement Plan Liability			
Notes Payable, Current	5,130.35		
Due to/from School		-139.99	
Total Other Current Liabilities	89,268.22	-139.99	0.00
Total Current Liabilities	122,109.40	611.84	0.00
Long-Term Liabilities			
Less Current Portion	-5,130.35		
Notes Payable, Long Term	157,921.96		
Total Long-Term Liabilities	152,791.61		
Total Liabilities	274,901.01	611.84	0.00
Equity			
Opening Balance	2,266,268.61	190,637.08	3,452,697.74
Retained Earnings		-6,867.73	
Net Income	-238,025.46	-9,480.18	-67,455.69
Total Equity	2,028,243.15	174,289.17	3,385,242.05
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	2,303,144.16	174,901.01	3,385,242.05

AUDIT OF SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL & RELATED ENTITIES

From the audit report of Scattergood Friends School & Related Entities as of June 30, 2011, conducted by Blair, Thomsen & Co., P.C., Certified Public Accountants:

“In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Scattergood Friends School and its related entities as of June 30, 2011 and the changes in their net assets and their cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.”

Anyone wishing to discuss or read the audit report, please contact either Debbie Galusha or Christine Ashley.

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 Friends School. During the past year, the Foundation distributed \$76,350.00 to support tuition scholarship and \$16,209 in support of capital improvements and operations. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012:

New donations to endowment		1,429.00
Other income		17,900.21
Pemberton Farm	16,883.21	
Billboard lease	950.00	
Miscellaneous income	67.00	
Total interest & dividends		63,260.39
Hills Bank	142.37	
BC Ziegler (account now closed)	271.44	
Everence (Mennonite)	920.57	
Westwood #1	29,648.69	
Westwood #2	32,277.32	

Total Investment Fees		31,761.73
Hills Bank	0	
BC Ziegler (account now closed)	2.00	
Everence (Mennonite)	403.73	
Westwood #1	14,674.00	
Westwood #2	16,682.00	
Other Expenses		4,555.51
Pemberton Farm	4,155.51	
IRS user fee	400.00	
Total Transfers to School		92,559.00
Scholarship support	76,350.00	
Capital improvement	16,209.00	

Growth of Foundation

Change as of fiscal year ending:	6/30/2011	6/30/2012	+/-
Investments and Earnings	3,452,697.74	3,385,242.05	(67,455.69)
BC Ziegler (acct closed)	48,394.51	0	(48,394.51)
Everence (Mennonite)	28,288.58	27,249.56	(1,039.02)
Westwood Trust #1 (scholarship)	1,532,948.90	1,443,148.14	(89,800.76)
Westwood Trust #2 (capital/operations)	1,716,181.83	1,711,058.83	(5,123.00)
Pemberton Farm (24.68 acres)	85,150.00	85,150.00	0
Hills Bank savings	11,129.82	88,608.64	77,478.82
Hills Bank checking	23,271.84	24,010.04	738.20
Other current assets	7,332.26	6,016.84	(1,315.42)

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	2,100.00	1,435,370.76	—	3,003,620.76
2011–2012	1,429.00	1,436,799.76	—	3,005,049.76

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-come basis.

Unbudgeted requests: All requests for financial assistance not in the fiscal year budget should be submitted to the yearly meeting clerk. 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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Seventh Day – Saturday – 8/4/2012 Morning Session 59
Seventh Day – Saturday – 8/4/2012 Afternoon Session 80
Closing Minute 99

Guidelines for Request for Reimbursement from IYMC 113

**DIRECTORY OF MONTHLY MEETINGS
AND WORSHIP GROUPS**
(as of 12/12/12)

Ames Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10:30 a.m. First Day

Business: Monthly at 9:30 a.m.

Location: 121 S. Maple, Ames, Iowa

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

Bear Creek Monthly Meeting

Business: 10 a.m. 3rd First day

Pre-Meeting: 10 a.m. other First Days

Worship: 11 a.m. First Day

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 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: Lucinda “Cindy” Winchell, (515) 720-5516

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)

Co-Clerks: Harry Olmstead, (319) 338-2931, and Jessica Pannell,
(319) 338-7147

Website: <http://www.iowacityfriends.org/>

Laughing Waters Preparative Meeting

Under the care of Bear Creek Meeting

Worship: 4:30 p.m. First Day

Business: 4:00 p.m. every other month. Check website for scheduling.

Location: Bethany Lutheran Church, 2511 Franklin Ave. E, Minneapolis, MN 55406

Website: <http://www.laughingwatersfriends.org/>

Email: laughingwaters.friends@gmail.com

Telephone: (612) 516-5340 to leave a voice message

Lincoln Monthly Meeting

Worship: 10 a.m. First Day

Potluck: after worship and sharing on first First Day

Meeting for Business: following worship on third 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: 10 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

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

Business: 1st First Day following worship

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

Clerk: Shane Rowse, (816) 241-5821

Website: <http://www.kcquakers.org/>

Scattergood Friends School and Farm

These times apply while school is in session. Please contact the school (319-643-7600 or mainoffice@scattergood.org) to confirm times or schedule visits/appointments.

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

Worship: 1:45 p.m. Thursday

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.

Head of School: Christine Ashley

Website: <http://www.scattergood.org/>

Silver River Worship Group

Under the care of Penn Valley Friends Meeting

Singing: 10 a.m. First Day

Worship: 10:30 a.m. First Day

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

Under the care of Paullina Monthly Meeting

(Small group, wise to call beforehand)

Worship: 9:30 a.m. First Day

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

Pre-meeting: 9:00 a.m. third First Day

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: following worship every other month

Location: 953 Jenifer Street, Madison, Wisconsin,
(Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center)

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

Clerk: Ken Lawrence, (608) 242-9029

Website: <http://www.yaharafriends.org/>
