

Published 2013 by the Publication Committee of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative).

Set in 11 pt. Times New Roman using Microsoft Office Word 2003. Lucida Sans is used for Index to Members; Arial is used for Index and Table of Contents, and headings. Printed and bound using acid-free, recycled paper by Goodfellow Press, Iowa City, Iowa.

Available in PDF format at: <http://www.iymc.org>

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

**TABLE OF CONTENTS TO THE
MINUTES OF IOWA YEARLY MEETING (CONSERVATIVE)**

NOTE: Topical index is found at the end of the Minutes.

Fourth Day – Wednesday – 7/31/2013	1
Monthly Meeting Appointments of Representatives to Yearly Meeting	2
Monthly Meeting Appointments of Caretakers to Yearly Meeting	2
Representatives Appointments	3
Midyear Meeting Report	4
Midyear Meeting Financial Report	4
Midyear Meeting Youth Program Committee Report	5
Interim Meeting Minutes	6
American Friends Service Committee Corporation Report	7
Quaker Earthcare Witness Report	8
Epistle from North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)	10
Epistle from Ohio Yearly Meeting	12
Report from the Documents Committee	13
Epistle from Intermountain Yearly Meeting 2013	13
Epistle from the Children’s Program of Ohio Valley YM 2012	14
Fifth Day – Thursday – 8/1/2013	14
Minute of Third and Fourth Day Activities	14
Friends World Committee for Consultation Representatives Report	15
Publication Committee Report	16
2012 Entertainment Committee Report	18
2011 Entertainment Committee Report	19
Archives Committee Report	20
Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee Report	20
Special Needs Committee Report	21
Queries and Selected Responses	22
1. MEETING FOR WORSHIP	22
2. OUTREACH	23
3. MEETING FOR BUSINESS	24
4. HARMONY WITHIN THE MEETING	25
5. MUTUAL CARE	25
6. EDUCATION	26
7. HOME AND FAMILY	27
8. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY	27
9. CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY	28
10. ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY	29
11. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE	29
12. PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE	30

Sixth Day – Friday – 8/2/2013 Morning Session	32
Minute of Fifth Day Activities	32
Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report – Part I.....	33
Yearly Meeting Trustees Report	34
Trustees Financial Report.....	34
Scattergood Friends School Committee Report	35
Scattergood Friends School Head of School Report	36
Scattergood Friends School Farm Report	41
Scattergood Friends School Financial Report (Budget Comparison)	44
Seventh Day – Saturday – 8/3/2013 Morning Session	46
Minute of Sixth Day Activities	46
Epistle from Junior Yearly Meeting	47
Epistle from Young Friends	48
Audit Committee Report	50
Yearly Meeting Treasurer’s Report.....	50
Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report – Part II.....	52
Peace and Social Concerns Committee Budget	55
Ministry and Counsel Committee Report	56
State of the Meeting Reports	58
Ames Monthly Meeting	58
Bear Creek Monthly Meeting	59
Laughing Waters Friends Preparative Meeting	59
Laughing Waters Children’s Epistle – July 2013	62
Decorah Monthly Meeting	63
Des Moines Valley Monthly Meeting	64
Iowa City Monthly Meeting.....	65
Lincoln Monthly Meeting	66
Omaha Monthly Meeting.....	67
Paullina Monthly Meeting.....	67
Penn Valley Monthly Meeting	68
West Branch Monthly Meeting	69
Whittier Monthly Meeting	70
Yahara Monthly Meeting	71
Seventh Day – Saturday – 8/4/2012 Afternoon Session	72
Recorder’s Report	73
Representatives Report	74
IYMC Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014	76
Monthly Meeting Apportionments	78
Special Replies Committee	78
Letter to Absent Friends.....	78
Epistle Committee Report	79
Epistle to Friends Everywhere	79
Epistle to North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative).....	81
Epistle to Ohio Yearly Meeting	82

Nominating Committee Report..... 84

Exercise of the Spirit Committee Report 87

Closing Minute..... 88

Ministry & Counsel Reply to Children of Laughing Waters Prep. Mtg 90

Reports received but not read in annual session 92

Religious Education Committee 92

Scattergood Friends School and Related Entities Financial Report 93

Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees Report 95

Friends Committee on National Legislation Report 97

American Friends Service Committee Midwest Region Report..... 99

William Penn House Report 103

Environmental Statement of Concern (Addendum to P&SC Report) ... 105

Summary of Legislative Replies to letters sent from IYMC..... 109

Guidelines for Request for Reimbursement from IYMC 111

Directory of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) 113

 Ames..... 113

 Bear Creek..... 115

 Decorah 120

 Des Moines Valley 121

 Iowa City 126

 Laughing Waters Friends Preparative Meeting 130

 Lincoln..... 131

 Omaha 133

 Paullina 134

 Penn Valley..... 139

 Silver River Worship Group 144

 Sioux Falls Area Worship Group 145

 West Branch 146

 Whittier..... 152

 Yahara 155

Index of Members' and Attenders' Meetings 156

Index of Members and Attenders by First Name 167

Topical Index..... 174

Directory of Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups 177

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

136th Annual Session

Seventh Month 30 to Eighth Month 4, 2013

FOURTH DAY – WEDNESDAY – 7/31/2013

At the 136th annual session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) held at Scattergood Friends School, near West Branch, Iowa, from Seventh Month 30 to Eighth Month 4, 2013.

I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.

Rabindranath Tagore

We are glad to have the presence of these visitors: Anne-Marie Zilliacus, Ottawa Monthly Meeting, Canadian Yearly Meeting, and Sue Starr, Vancouver Monthly Meeting, Canadian Yearly Meeting, both carrying a letter of introduction from Canadian Yearly Meeting; Janice Domanik, Lake Forest Monthly Meeting, Illinois Yearly Meeting and traveling on behalf of the Yearly Meeting Visitors Program Committee of Friends General Conference; Deborah Shaw, carrying a travel minute from Friendship Friends Meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative); Ruth Flower, Aldelphi Monthly Meeting and traveling as a visitor from Friends Committee on National Legislation; David Eley, Ohio Yearly Meeting.

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

Ames	Dan Treadway
Bear Creek	Burt Kisling, Stan Sanders
Decorah	Martha Davis, Chris Kelly
Des Moines Valley	Andrea Holveck
Iowa City	Carole Winkleblack
Lincoln	Jean Eden, Dan Schlitt
Omaha	Debbie Galusha, Carol Gilbert
Paullina	Inez Schaechterle, Mary Snyder
Penn Valley	Gary Marx
West Branch	George Bergus, Callie Marsh
Whittier	Andrea Jilovec, Bob Yeats
Yahara	Ken Lawrence

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

Ames	Ebby Luvaga
Bear Creek	Eldon Morey, Karen Morey, Bob Winchell
Decorah	Bill Deutsch
Des Moines Valley	Sherry Hutchison
Iowa City	John Andrews
Lincoln	Marge Schlitt
Omaha	Frank Griffith
Paullina	Steve Snyder, Andy Juhl
Penn Valley	None appointed
West Branch	Larry Marsh
Whittier	Julie Davis, Mike Hammer
Yahara	Karen Greenler

There are 13 representatives and 10 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	Martha Davis
Des Moines Valley	Jean Sandstrom
Iowa City	Ruth Dawson
Lincoln	Jean Eden
Omaha	Debbie Galusha and Carol Gilbert
Paullina	Beth Wilson
Penn Valley	None appointed
West Branch	Rüdiger Rückman
Whittier	Bob Yeats
Yahara	None appointed

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

Exercise Committee	Mary Snyder, Inez Schaechterle, Karen Morey, Thomas Greenler
Epistle Committee	Bill Deutsch, Lorene Ludy, Beth Wilson
Special Replies Committee	Martha Davis, Stan Sanders
Yearly Meeting Reporters	Dan Schlitt, Carole Winkleblack
Auditing Committee	Debbie Galusha, Larry Marsh

Readers for this morning's business sessions are Inez Schaechterle and Stan Sanders.

We listened to the Midyear Meeting Report. We appreciate the report and the work of the committee. Bear Creek Meeting is a good place for our gathering. The facilities are welcoming, but even more so is the love they show us each year. We are thankful for their gift to us.

MIDYEAR MEETING REPORT

Midyear Meeting was held at Bear Creek Meeting House on April 20 and 21. Douglas Bennett, president emeritus of Earlham College, was our resource person. The theme was "The Bible in Our Midst." Douglas spoke of two views of the inspiration of the Bible: one as the extraordinary inspiration of the individual author; the other as the writing down of the inspiration shared by a community of believers. Early Friends mostly claimed that the inspiration of the authors of the Bible was available in the same depth to each generation. In other sessions, we explored what the Bible says about Sin and Love. The Ten Commandments are an example of the first, and the great commandment in Matthew is an example of the latter. Douglas provided attenders with note cards to respond to their views of the discussion topics at end of the first two sessions. He was able to report a wide range of responses that express the diversity in our yearly meeting. Attenders found the weekend inspiring. The young people also explored these topics and invited some of the adults to come and speak to them about their experiences as young people. Friends enjoyed the fellowship and the rummage sale for the benefit of the American Friends Service Committee.

MIDYEAR MEETING FINANCIAL REPORT

Contributions		\$3,438.75
Expenses		
Food	921.63	
Speaker	884.07	
Committee expenses	35.18	
Cook	500.00	
Motel expense	50.00	
Hosting fee	<u>300.00</u>	
Total Expenses		<u>2,690.88</u>
Balance forwarded to IYMC		\$747.87

For the committee,
A.M. Fink, clerk

We enjoyed the good report of the Midyear Youth Committee. We appreciate the love and creativity that went into creating a "pint-sized" experience for our youth of the same program the adults were having.

MIDYEAR MEETING YOUTH PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Junior Yearly Meeting participants from Minnesota, Des Moines and Omaha gathered for Midyear Meeting at Bear Creek on Fourth Month 20-21, 2013. The group included a total of nine children ranging in age from 4 - 11, plus an infant and a toddler in child care. Among this good-sized group were some first-time visitors, so our activities began with some cooperative games and stories to help the youth get acquainted.

The program followed the lead of the adults' program on the Bible and included several activities related to the Bible. People brought in a wide variety of Bibles for the children to look at, and some Friends shared stories about the Bible in their lives. Since the major message of the Bible is about Love, we read verses about love, and the children made posters around some of those verses and hung the posters in the cottage for the weekend. During breaks between activities, a large basket of costumes inspired some creative play-acting.

In the evening the kids read the 23rd Psalm and talked about God's care for us. They decorated flower pots and planted seedlings in the pots as a way of reflecting God's care by caring for a piece of creation. They also had a grand time playing games outside in the beautiful weather!

On First Day morning we began with a talk and a story about what people are really doing in the silence of worship, and how children can enjoy and be a part of the worship experience. Next came a Godly Play story on the Ten Commandments. "Godly Play" is a format for storytelling using small figures and props, almost like acting out a tiny play, followed by time for discussion/reflection. And again this year, some of the children made Cheerios necklaces to wear in worship to provide themselves a quiet snack if they felt hungry or distracted. The children were in worship for a good portion of the hour and did really well!

We were fortunate to have many talented volunteers for Junior Yearly Meeting this year from Ames, Des Moines Valley, Bear Creek, Laughing Waters and Omaha.

For the Midyear Youth Program Committee,
Jean Sandstrom

We listened to our Interim Meeting report. We appreciate the work of the Representatives who carried out this work on our behalf.

INTERIM MEETING MINUTES

Fourth Month 20th, 2013
Bear Creek Meeting House

Present: Deborah Fisch, Alice Hampton, A.M. Fink, Burt Kisling, Jean Eden, Jim Kenney, Eldon Morey, Penny Majors, Ruth Dawson, Bill Deutsch, Andrea Jilovec, Carol Gilbert, assistant clerk, Deborah Dakin, clerk

Dan Treadway expressed willingness to attend Ohio Yearly Meeting on behalf of IYMC. Andrea Jilovec expressed willingness to attend North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) on our behalf as she is able. The meeting approved these names.

At our 2012 annual session, Sherry Hutchison was approved as clerk of our Peace and Social Concerns Committee. She requested a co-clerk to share the responsibilities with her. Jeff Kisling has been acting as co-clerk, and the meeting approved naming him as co-clerk of P&SC. We are grateful for Jeff's willingness to serve in this way.

We had an extended discussion about how to prepare for the upcoming open forum on the budget to be held at our next annual session. One of the budget items the Representatives asked us to consider was that of delegate expenses. We thought it would be helpful to look at our history of how we have used these funds. The clerk will ask the yearly meeting treasurer if she would be willing to prepare a short overview of how we have budgeted and used these funds in the past.

The yearly meeting clerk will share some of the thoughts that arose in our discussion in a letter to be sent prior to our annual session. Each of us will also help our monthly meetings prepare ourselves and our monthly meeting representatives for these discussions.

We recognize that any talk of budgets, apportionments, money, or financial matters is fundamentally a discussion about our investments of faith.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee requested the yearly meeting clerk send the following letter to all Congressional members for our yearly meeting. We approved the letter with changes and the clerk will send it out.

On Behalf of Interim Meeting,
Deborah Dakin, clerk

Dear _____(legislator):

Migration is a fact of human history, and our families have been migrating here for a variety of reasons. We support humane immigration reform. As initial steps, this should include an expedited path to citizenship for undocumented residents and family reunification. We oppose detention for non-violent immigrants and militarization of the border.

Immigration is a complicated and important issue. We applaud Congress for dealing with this after many years of inaction. We are hopeful that you will see fit to support fair and compassionate treatment for our friends and neighbors.

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

We appreciated the interesting report from our AFSC representatives. It was good to know that "grandma's AFSC" continues to function, and it is encouraging for us to hear of their continued work for peace.

**AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE
CORPORATION REPORT**

The March 2013 Corporation Meeting found your representatives, Ann Stromquist, Dan Schlitt, Andrea Jilovec and Bob Yeats in Philadelphia hearing reports about an organization in financial recovery and in organizational transition. The Corporation meeting reflected this in a number of ways.

Firstly, the activities at the Corporation meeting are more user-friendly. A greater effort has been made to engage, inform and involve members in decision-making processes, and especially in aiding the organization in its relationship with the wider Friends world. The new Friends Relations Office has made efforts to inform the Quaker community about the AFSC and its work. The recruiting of meeting liaisons has also been an effort to strengthen relationships that have sometimes been allowed to slip.

Another organizational transition that is reaching its adolescent stage is the re-forming of the domestic programs into four large geographical regions. This is symmetrical with the four international regions. Offices were moved, new directors put in place, committees realigned and merged. Committees to facilitate the relationships between committees were put in place. While work continued through this transitional period, we now feel poised to do our work with greater efficacy and efficiency.

Much exciting work is being done and was reported on. Sessions were held on immigration reform, Israel Palestine divestment, military spending, prison reform and youth programs. An exciting new collaboration with Friends Committee on National Legislation has produced “*Shared Security, Re-imagining U.S. Foreign Policy,*” a document that challenges Friends and others to lead the way in changing the way our nation relates to the rest of the world. Our "military first, last and always" policies have not only been incredibly expensive, but they simply have not worked.

The financial reports represented the 3rd year of recovery since the world-wide financial debacle that caused so much harm to the AFSC, as well as to the rest of the world. AFSC was forced to downsize greatly since 2008 in order to bring expenses in line with reduced income. Since then expenses have become stable. Fiscal Year 2012 saw a large increase in investment income and an increase in grants and bequests combined with only a slight decrease in contributions, allowing the AFSC financial picture to stabilize.

The AFSC family was saddened by the death of Midwest Region Director Michael McConnell. Michael was the creative power behind the very visible and successful “Eyes Wide Open” and “Windows and Mirrors” exhibits that attempted to show the real human costs of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Although very ill with cancer, Michael cheerfully accepted leadership of the new Midwest Region and oversaw the transition with humor and wisdom. We'll miss you Michael.

AFSC is an organization that is ready for the challenges in its work of making our testimonies and beliefs visible in the world for all to see and enjoy. While it's not your grandma's AFSC, today's organization is strategically poised to bring its good work to a world sorely in need of healing.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Yeats, convener

The thoughtful report of our representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness challenged us with deep probing queries to take home to our meetings. It will be valuable for us to labor with them in the coming year.

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS REPORT

A number of changes at QEW this year include the retirement of our long time publications coordinator, Louis Cox, and the hiring of

Katherine Murray to take his place. Our general secretary, Ann Mitchell, has resigned, and Shelley Tanenbaum will be taking over that position. We are grateful for the good work of those who are stepping down and look forward to the new ideas and enthusiasm of their replacements.

2013 has seen the introduction of a new and improved website, still at www.quakerearthcare.org which includes a business site for facilitating the conducting of business. Also new is a bimonthly newsletter, "QEW Resources for Earthcare Action," to complement "Befriending Creation," our existing bimonthly journal.

The QEW mini-grant program is growing, offering \$350 matching grants to Quaker meetings and other organizations to help them complete earth-friendly projects. An area of increasing involvement for QEW is building good, cooperative relationships with QUNO (Quaker United Nations Office) and increasing our presence and witness at the United Nations.

The following are some queries we recently submitted to the UN's Post 2015 Consultations:

We begin by asking ourselves:

Do our lives speak? Do our own actions accord with our principles of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, and Equality? Can there be peace without justice, or community without sustainability, or sustainability without simplicity?

Do we respect that of God in everything that lives? Do we recognize the utter dependence of human society on the intricate web of life in this sacred place, our Earth? Can we search out the seeds of war and destruction in ourselves and in our way of life? Can we teach our children right relationship, to live in harmony with each other and all living beings in the earth, waters and sky of our Creator?

Do we live in that life and power which takes away the occasion for all war? Can we love our neighbor as ourselves, aid the widow and orphan, comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable, appeal to consciences and bind the wounds?

Are we actively reducing our ecological footprints? Do we promote earth's healing, not just for our use, but for future generations and the survival of other species? Do we dispose of waste in regenerative ways? Do we avoid spending and investing money in ways that result in others doing things to the world that we would not do ourselves? Are we aware how

our use of energy connects us directly to the greenhouse effect and to world food supplies? Are we aware how our bank interest rates link us to the debt burdens of the poor? Are we willing to consume less ourselves in order to promote rightful sharing of the world's limited resources?

Our world faces some big challenges today, including climate change, related extreme weather events, growing shortages of food and water, population growth, economic and political disruptions. It is often difficult for us to know how to respond to these challenges as individuals, and it is also difficult for organizations such as QEW to know how to respond. We trust that with God's help we will all move forward with grace, whatever the future may hold.

Submitted by Ken Lawrence

It is good to take time to remember the bonds we share with Conservative Friends by listening to their epistles to us. It is inspiring to hear from our "older Friends" in this way. We are reminded that we are still young in faith, and the connections between us nurture us.

We rejoice to learn of the healing that the Ohio gathering embodied last year. It reminds us that God who reconciled Joseph and his brothers still works for reconciliation today.

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

To Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative):

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love . . .
Ephesians 4:1-3

We have appreciated the presence of your representative, Andrea Jilovec, at our 316th session, held this year on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Maintaining the special connection between our yearly meetings in this way fosters continuing recognition of the shared testimony of the immediacy of the presence of Christ, and the ability to experience unity of the Spirit. It is joyful to hear of the addition of new communities to membership in your yearly meeting.

Our theme for our gathering this year has been “Maintaining the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace.” What we have shared with each other and what our speakers have shared has been a sense that the bond of peace arises from Christ leading us into compassion and love for all our brothers and sisters. Throughout our sessions we have listened deeply to each other as the state of each monthly meeting body was shared, and as our different query responses were revealed. Our responses to the violence in the world, and to how to maintain a witness to the life and power that takes away occasion of all war, reflected that the unity of Spirit and the bond of peace are present throughout our different experiences while also transcending them.

We have challenged each other to make sure that our practices as a yearly meeting reflect our interest in welcoming Friends of any income level to serve as our representatives. We discerned that we need to ensure that those representatives had all necessary resources available to them without being put in a position where they need to ask for financial resources publicly. This call to compassion included a potentially rich new practice of preparing and supporting those representatives with a dedicated committee.

We are pleased to continue our exchange of listening ears and hearts by sending Deborah Shaw and Andrew Wright as our representatives to your annual session. We leave our gathering refreshed, renewed and reminded of our place in the body of the church. We send our loving greetings and our joy to share the faith, testimony and witness to Christ’s transforming power in this world.

On behalf of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative),
Richard B. Miller, clerk

EPISTLE FROM OHIO YEARLY MEETING

Finally brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and, if there be any praise, think on these things.

Philippians 4:8

To Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting

Greetings to Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As the Friends of Ohio Yearly Meeting gather to labor together in the Lord's work and to share the joys of our fellowship, we rejoice in our dear Friends from Iowa Yearly Meeting.

We are grateful for the presence of Friends Lynne Sootheran and Kent Simmonds from Iowa Yearly Meeting. Their faithful attendance at meetings for worship and business and participation in discussions and presentations has enriched our two hundredth yearly meeting. We were also blessed with visitors from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting, Evangelical Friends Church Eastern Region, and both Baltimore and Philadelphia Yearly Meetings as well as others.

To celebrate this anniversary, we have held business meeting at Mount Pleasant Meeting House (for the first time since 1877), and listened to fascinating stories of our history. It was here that an infamous conflict between Friends occurred in the middle of the nineteenth century. Sadly, it is conflicts and schisms that are frequently recalled when the topic of Friends' history comes up.

It was refreshing, therefore, that we heard not only mention of the stories about the conflicts, but we learned of the Friends who made positive differences in the lives of Friends and Native Americans of the area. Each of these stories carries a nugget of wisdom that can provide us with guidance for today as we continue to seek and serve the Lord.

The Epistle from Baltimore Yearly Meeting was read by Elizabeth (Betsy) Meyer, clerk of Baltimore YM. Two members of Evangelical Friends Church Eastern Region joined us as well. Scott Rose, the Pastor of Mount Pleasant Friends Church next door to the old meetinghouse, and the Western Area Superintendent Wayne Evans remarked about our shared history, and presented OYM with gifts to commemorate the occasion.

The newly published book, the "Historic Atlas of Ohio Yearly Meeting," written by Seth Hinshaw, was released this week. It provides geographic and historical information about Ohio Yearly Meeting's beginnings.

Among the choices for opportunities to grow together in understanding were the morning program “Different Threads in Friends’ Moral Fabric and our Unity in Christ” led by Isabel Penraeth, “Responding to the Word of God in our midst: As Early Friends and in this day and age” with Arthur Berk, and “Following Jesus in the 21st Century” led by the Ohio Yearly Meeting Young Adult Friends.

Part of the business matters held at Mount Pleasant this year was establishing the new Rockingham Quarterly Meeting, consisting of Chattanooga, Rockingham and Keystone Fellowship Monthly Meetings. This is the first time in over a hundred years that OYM has had a new Quarter

Our Ministry and Oversight Committee explored the meaning of leadership, and considered how we all can help develop leadership in our yearly meeting.

As you know, Iowa Yearly Meeting shares some of our history, and it is a blessing that Friends from both our Yearly Meetings continue to support one another as we grow in God’s grace.

On behalf of Ohio Yearly Meeting,
Seth Hinshaw, clerk

We were challenged by the selections our Document Committee, Laughing Waters, made for us. The simplicity of the children's epistle pretty well covered everything.

REPORT FROM THE DOCUMENTS COMMITTEE

Epistle from Intermountain Yearly Meeting 2013

Many of us were deeply moved by workshops led by the Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee of Boulder Meeting, offered as an educational effort in advance of a minute to be brought next annual sessions supporting repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery and endorsing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Steve Chase, an author, teacher, activist and traveling minister, gave our keynote address titled “From Empire to Beloved Community: The Prophetic Call towards Radical Faithfulness”... Steve spoke passionately to the importance of courageous faithful action, encouraging us to be honest about the ways we miss the mark on “loving God and loving what God loves” - which certainly includes all of creation. He used the example of historical Quakers who were unable to unify behind abolishing slavery for one hundred years - until they followed a

“sensitive few” who understood the issue from the beginning. Steve challenged us to ask what moral issues, especially in the care of one another and our earth, might need our attention. He called us to become the “sensitive many” of our time. He asked us to recognize our privilege and give up the luxury of choosing not to know.

**Epistle from the Children’s Program of
Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting 2012**

[Our] hopes for the future are that nobody would be poor and unloved, everyone would have a home and food, that people would treat each other and animals with care and respect.

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

FIFTH DAY – THURSDAY – 8/1/2013

We return to the business of the yearly meeting.

*But your solitude will be a support and a home for you, even
in the midst of very unfamiliar circumstances, and from it you
will find all your paths.* Rainer Maria Rilke

Rebecca Bergus and Mary Snyder have been appointed readers this morning.

MINUTE OF THIRD AND FOURTH DAY ACTIVITIES

Jeff Kisling, Dana Foster, Michael Taylor and Elizabeth O'Sullivan explored the topic of "Expressing Our Joy" for our Evening Collection on Third Day. One panelist told how just experiencing joy never seems to be enough, and unless she shares it with someone else, it's not complete. Others seemed to know this feeling as well, as they were moved to share their own stories of what brought them joy.

The afternoon of Fourth Day gave Friends the opportunity to hear about the work of the Friends Committee on National Legislation and the American Friends Service Committee in our area. We were introduced to a joint project of these two organizations called "Shared Security" that hopes to help change the way we think and talk about the United States and how it relates to the world.

Sharon Goens, Program Director for the Healing Justice Program in

Minneapolis, offered two presentations for us. In the afternoon, we learned how using Restorative Justice as an alternative to punishment can help strengthen communities. Her evening program asked us to consider the dark side of "Being Good" and ponder what happens when we become attached to an identity that can limit and prevent us from being able to live into our true selves.

We are blessed to have the presence of these visitors: David Shiner and Nancy Wallace from Lake Forest Monthly Meeting, Illinois Yearly Meeting.

We listened to the good report for Friends World Committee for Consultation. The upcoming 2014 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage offers a tremendous opportunity for our Young Friends. We will be promoting this event in our own meetings with the hope we will be able to have someone from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) attend.

It is encouraging to hear of the Quaker United Nations Office being named as an effective influence in keeping arms reduction on the United Nations agenda.

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

FWCC Section of the Americas met in March 2013 at Waycross Conference Center in Morgantown, Indiana. Forty-five yearly meetings from fourteen countries were represented. Penny Majors attended from our yearly meeting. The meeting included business meetings as well as experiential opportunities to interact across cultures and across faith traditions within Quakerism. The entire meeting was bilingual with interpretation.

There is much to look forward to in the next few years. The date of the upcoming Quaker Youth Pilgrimage is now set for July 22 through August 21, 2014. Quaker youth who will be age 16 to 18 at that time are encouraged to apply to attend this pilgrimage which will be held, for the first time, entirely within an evangelical yearly meeting in Bolivia and Peru. The deadline for application is December 1, 2013. Adults wishing to attend as leaders need to apply by November 15th.

In the past, FWCC has held annual meetings in March. For 2014 there will be four consultation meetings in the following locations and times: February 21-23 in San Ignacio, El Salvador; March 14-16 in Sacramento, CA; March 28-30 in La Paz, Bolivia; and April 11-13 in

High Point, North Carolina. The theme of “Let the Living Waters Flow” will continue. In addition, the meetings will be tailored to local themes such as environmental concerns, intra-Quaker dialogue, conflict resolution, and service projects. There will be an all-section meeting in 2015 and an International Representatives Meeting (formerly Triennial) in Arequipa, Peru in 2016.

Of special note to FWCC this year is that QUNO (Quaker United Nations Office) was recently named “one of the 100 most influential global actors in armed violence reduction” for their consistency in putting the issue on the U.N. agenda. This recognition comes from Action on Armed Violence, a group working to reduce armed conflicts in the world since its formation in 1992.

For the yearly meeting representatives to FWCC,
Penny Majors

The Publication Committee does a tremendous amount of work for us and we continue to benefit from their labors all through the year. The clarity in their report was particularly helpful and helped us understand how their budgeted money is spent. The meeting approved having the clerk and the Publications Committee review the list of who is mailed single copies of minutes. We are grateful that the committee maintains our website, and look forward to learning what it can teach us about our presence in the wider world.

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee would like to thank the IYMC clerk for delivering committee reports and minutes to us in a timely way. The clerk of the Publication Committee had a steep learning curve and would like to thank Margie Haworth, former clerk, for patiently sharing her substantial skills and experience. The committee members worked well together, though at a distance from one another, to produce our yearly meeting minutes, directory, and website.

Because several meetings increased the number of copies they requested, we ordered 350 to be printed by Goodfellow Printing, Inc. (Compared to 300 copies ordered and 335 printed last year.) In addition, Goodfellow printed 30 “extra” copies for which they did not charge us. The price per copy was \$7.32, compared to \$7.01 last year. Goodfellow shipped 206 copies to 11 meetings, and we hand-delivered 75 copies to eastern Iowa meetings (Iowa City, West Branch, and Whittier). In addition, we mailed individual copies to 22 Quaker institutions and

organizations, 18 of which included copies of *Faith & Practice*, and 10 copies to IYMC Friends living at a distance from their home meetings.

The list of Quaker institutions and individuals to whom copies were sent has not been examined for several years. We recommend that the committee, in consultation with the IYMC clerk, peruse this list and determine whether these institutions and individuals wish to continue receiving copies of the minutes.

Even after several prompts, we had difficulty getting some meetings to send us changes to the contact information of their members and attenders, contributing to the delay in production of the minutes and directory. The directory is an essential part of the book and Friends rely on its accuracy. We make a plea to meeting clerks to determine the accuracy of their listings, insofar as possible, and to send changes to Steve Deatherage at iymcdirectory@gmail.com by October 1.

The IYMC website (www.iymc.org) averages about 1,000 visitors per month. In the future we will try to track where visitors are from. (A recent check indicated visitors from 17 different countries.) The website is updated by our webminder, Ken Lawrence, who has added a monthly meeting newsletter page to which two meetings now contribute. We invite other monthly meetings to submit their newsletters. Programs and registration information for events such as Midyear and Yearly Meeting Sessions are posted as soon as they are available. We encourage monthly meeting and IYMC committee clerks to submit items of interest to Ken at ken@blueflax.org for posting on the website.

The committee's budget was \$3,000. We overspent by \$22.60. If we had not mailed copies of *Faith and Practice* and had not sent individual copies of the minutes to as many institutions and distant Friends, we feel certain that we could have stayed within our budget. Goodfellow Printing has estimated that the cost for printing 350 books this year and mailing them to IYMC meetings and worship groups will be within 3% to 5% of last year's cost; i.e., \$2,896 to \$2,952. Adding the expenses of mailing individual copies and of maintaining the website, the estimated total cost for our 2013 minutes and directory is between \$3,188 and \$3,244. Thus, we request a budget this year of \$3,200.

We welcome your suggestions for improvement of the minutes, directory, or website.

Steve Deatherage	Margie Haworth	Callie Marsh
Lynda Fife	Ken Lawrence	Ann Stromquist, clerk

We listened to the report detailing the expenses of the Entertainment Committee for the 2012 annual sessions.

2012 ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

“Old Stories and New Connections” was the theme of 2012 Iowa Yearly Meeting annual session, planned and hosted by Decorah, Iowa City, West Branch and Whittier Monthly Meetings. This theme was inspired by a young Friend’s request several years ago that the stories of Yearly Meeting not be lost. The collections included stories shared by both younger and elder members of YM speaking to how they live their lives “Quaker,” to stories from the FWCC triennial, on how we begin to tell our own stories, and stories on how FCNL is making a difference in Washington.

Receipts exceeded expenses, allowing the committee to forward \$2000 to next year’s planning committee, and \$753.13 to the IYMC trustees.

Receipts

Received from 2011 committee	\$1,759.38
Contributions	10,804.25
Total receipts	<u>12,563.63</u>

Expenses

Scattergood Friends School	9,500.00
Program	200.00
Miscellaneous food purchases	110.50
Printing and postage	0.00
Forwarded to 2013 Committee	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$11,810.50</u>

Forwarded to IYMC Trustees \$753.13

For the committee,
Bill Deutsch

The narrative for the 2011 Entertainment Committee as read during last year’s annual session was left out by mistake in our last printed minute book. We enjoy the narrative parts of the reports. They help us to remember our gatherings and to guide us as we plan for our next ones. For the historical record, here is the complete 2011 Entertainment Committee Report, as it was meant to be included in the printed minutes of our 2012 annual session.

2011 ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Entertainment Committee consisted of Friends from Yahara, Penn Valley, Des Moines Valley and Ames Meetings. The theme for the session was "Our Quaker Testimonies." This theme was addressed in Bible Study, the evening programs and the youth programs. Most of the work of addressing the theme was accomplished by members of our Yearly Meeting. Bridget Moix of FCNL made two presentations. The Thursday evening program of four older Friends telling stories of their youth struck a special chord among the young Friends. Ministry and Counsel will follow up this opportunity.

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

Hearing the report of the Archives Committee led us to have a discussion about where the historical records for our meetings that are outside of the state of Iowa should be kept. We will continue to think about this and appreciate the Archives Committee for helping us decide the best way to preserve our history.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

The agreement between Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and the State Historical Society of Iowa for housing of our historical records in the manuscript room at their library in Iowa City has been extended for another five years, through the end of calendar year 2018. Under this

agreement, historical records of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and its monthly meetings are made available to the public, but ownership remains with us. If your meeting would like to add some of its records to this collection, please contact the clerk of Archives Committee.

Lucy Hansen told us of her recent work in adding twenty-five years (1980 - 2004) of Scattergood School Committee minutes to the previously established collection of Scattergood records, also at the library of the State Historical Society.

Some years ago, Joan Tucker produced a catalog of the books in the William Penn Room here on the Scattergood campus, which was distributed on CD to those who expressed interest. We agreed to have a copy of this catalog printed, bound, and donated to the University of Iowa Library.

We ask that our budget allocation of \$200 be continued for the coming year.

For the committee,
Dan Treadway, clerk

We listened to the report of the Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee. It was good to learn of the opportunity for deepening our spiritual growth that this scholarship offers.

PENDLE HILL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Pendle Hill is a Quaker study, retreat, and conference center in Wallingford, Pennsylvania. A number of us in Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) have been spiritually enriched in spending time at Pendle Hill. A fund was established there several years ago to provide funds that would make it possible for yearly meeting members to go for a brief sojourn or weekend workshop. At this time there are four yearly meetings which have contributed to this fund and can request use of them. A recent check indicates that \$1900 remain there.

Those of us who have experienced being at Pendle Hill encourage yearly meeting members who have not yet had that opportunity to take advantage of these funds while they exist. The yearly meeting will provide matching funds for a scholarship recipient.

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 clerk will refer this request to the Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee which will consider it. Upon approval, the committee will notify Bridget Casterline at Pendle

Hill that this person has been approved for an IYMC scholarship. The scholarship recipient can find an application to participate in a Pendle Hill experience on the Pendle Hill web site.

The Friend requesting funds needs to be aware that the intention of this scholarship is spiritual renewal. Our hope is that the Friends who experience this strengthening of their spiritual lives will return and bring fresh spiritual energy to their monthly and yearly meeting.

The committee regrets that no one requested use of the funds during the past year. Our hope is that someone will make use of them in the coming year.

Jean Eden, Roy Hampton, Wilmer Tjossen

The good report of the Special Needs Committee helped us realize how much we appreciate the work of the committee and what a difference a good speaker system makes.

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE REPORT

The past year has been a busy one for your Special Needs Committee. Our continuing efforts to make our yearly and midyear meetings more rewarding for a wide range of people took a leap forward this year when Representatives budgeted \$750 to upgrade the sound system. With this we were able to update our 1978 amplifier and to replace our microphones.

We purchased a Sampson portable sound system from a company that agreed to throw in speaker stands for free. A pair of wireless microphones was added to the setup. All this is compatible with the wireless headphones and wired microphones that we had been using for sound reinforcement. Our midyear meeting test and tune-up was mostly successful and now that some repairs have been made to address the problems that became evident, we should be good to go for Yearly Meeting.

While we have made life a little easier for both the hearing challenged and for folks with normal hearing, we have not completely solved the hearing problems for those with severe hearing problems. Technical Wizard John Andrews has found a way around the headphones' transmitters sudden shutting down during silences. This should eliminate the sudden rush of loud static that accompanies a shutdown. Despite the time and funds put into this solution, please remember that none of it will work unless everyone uses the provided microphone. In order to take advantage of the sound system and allow

EVERYONE to hear, you must use the mics.

In the future, as budgets permit, problems of access to the stage, the outdoor platform under the tree, and to the cafeteria need to be addressed. We have made a start toward making our meetings available to all, but we have a long way to go toward doing the best that we can.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Yeats, convener

We listened carefully to our queries and the selected responses. They both inspire and challenge us. Our testimonies deepen the bonds between us. We are mindful that we are growing into making community responses instead of individual responses to our queries. It was lifted up that to deepen the connection between us is to deepen our connection to God. We want to live faithfully.

Indeed, how different might our lives be, if we were to rush in and be the first to say, "I seek forgiveness and offer reconciliation.....?"

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: There is a spirit within the meeting that seems to provide an important connection for all of us – a sense of missing something important if we don't attend. One person who is not in the community any longer shared that he could stay in the Spirit on his own because of the grounding he had received growing up in the meeting. We all sense that our lives are integrated in the Spirit often in unconscious, subtle ways. Most of us don't really think about gender in relation to our spiritual lives. Many of us grew up with male gender terms being used to refer to God, but are now comfortable using different terms. There is a feeling that God is the same no matter how we describe our experiences and the key is to be sensitive to others' beliefs and comfort. . . . We have

heard criticism of this meeting that we seem to be spiritual, but not verbal. In studying the history of the meeting this seems to have been a deliberate decision by the founders of the meeting because of their experiences with the many splits that occurred among Friends in the past and also because of persecution in Norway for not conforming with the state church teachings. Vocal ministry is welcomed when it is shared, but we are sometimes aware of a deep spiritual connection even without a spoken message.

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: Several of our members have made visits to Laughing Waters. Their members have also visited our meeting. Two members who spend three winter months in Alabama are regular attendees of the Fairhope Meeting. One of our distant members was invited to speak to an adult Sunday school in a large Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis about faith and action and art. He had a lot of material related to this from the lives and actions of Iowa Friends and from his photography. . . . Another distant Friend described how he was witness to an accident and able to encourage a frightened woman to call police. She wrote him a thank you and he told her he felt it was no coincidence that he witnessed the accident but that "he had been stationed there precisely for the purpose of being a witness to assist her." Our meeting is very much a part of our community. We have rummage sales, bake sales, ice cream socials, the ministerial alliance has met here; last summer we had an art festival, and a sewing group has met here monthly for 100 years. Recently the daughter of a retired Quaker minister chose to have her wedding here. Midyear Meeting is a valuable outreach event for our meeting and yearly meeting. The programs are spiritually nurturing and often attract new attenders. . . . We are grateful for several

distant members participating in the Query discussion. It has increased our sense of community.

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 conduct our business meetings as an integral part of our worship. We appreciate the process of finding the sense of the meeting. We appreciate the pauses, the moments of silence that deepen our worship during business meetings. Good clerking skills are a great aid in that process. We are aware that conducting business within meeting for worship, allowing silence, helps us listen to each other in ways that we can't during a discussion or conversation. We recognize that alone, as individuals, we do not hold the truth. We appreciate the collective wisdom, understanding that we are not acting alone, but guided by the Spirit. We note how important it is for us all to speak to the issues, doing so from the spiritual base, which is a core belief of Friends. This is no small task. We are reminded that it is important not to hide our wisdom under a bushel, but to let it be visible in the world. Our elders, many of whom are no longer with us, have taught us, quietly and by example, a certain level of discipline in meetings for worship with attention to business. We are grateful for their gentle teachings.

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 smallness of the meeting has probably reduced the amount of disharmony within the meeting. We have less conflict. We know each other well. We respect each other. We have

been able to deal with changes as they arise, and not let them become an issue. The times when we have had discord, we have at least found some common ground. By listening to each other, we have learned from it. The smallness can also lead to stress related to the simple chores of running the meeting. One Friend had earlier talked about the financial burden of being in the yearly meeting. This is a challenge area for us. We need to be creative in order to resist the temptation to get rid of responsibilities. It comes right up to who we are – our identity is that we are part of IYMC. We want to keep that identity.

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 are a welcoming meeting. We have some sporadic attenders, which is okay. We are accepting of whatever people offer to meeting without generating expectations of something over and above. We do have a core group that holds the meeting together, but it isn't rigidly defined or exclusive. Not very many people come to business meetings or query discussions. We changed the time to accommodate people, but after changing the time we have less involvement. We differ in our willingness to ask for help. Part of belonging to the meeting is being willing to communicate about troubling issues. We welcome all new visitors by e-mail or snail mail, if they leave contact information. We have recently updated our meeting email list, so that everyone is notified about midweek meetings and other events. We plan to set up a web page, and to update the photos of meeting people at the entrance of the meeting room. There is an energetic connection among us during meeting for worship. Our weekly simple potlucks after worship are an important opportunity to visit. Even without children in our meeting, we have children in our lives and we bring the gifts of the meeting to them. . . .

6. EDUCATION

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

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

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

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

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

Selected Response: . . . We have experienced the fostering of a spirit of inquiry, and a loving and understanding attitude toward life in our yearly meeting. A number of us are involved in climate change work and we recognize that, as in peace work, people change when they see people around them changing. We need to change ourselves and to talk about good practices and attitudes so that these become the norm. We agree that we need to encourage curiosity. This is of primary importance and educational systems that are highly standardized can stamp it out. We want to encourage continuous learning, not just learning to get a degree. The fast pace of formal education does not work for all. Different genders, races and cultures learn differently and our system is basically geared toward white males. Younger people often make better use of digital learning than older ones. . . . We need to recognize the spiritual and emotional dimensions of learning, that learning is not just intellectual. Much real learning is experiential. To effectively foster a spirit of inquiry, excitement or passion is needed. In a class, a discussion may be without life unless someone has that excitement, and takes a risk in putting him or herself out there, offering something of themselves to the discussion. . . . Students learn by connecting emotionally with a teacher and observing that teacher's interest or passion for the material...

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: One of us was reminded of Joshua and how he described his loyalties, “As for me, in my house my heart is with the Lord.” The home is a place to be who we are, with the spirit, among our individual family members and among our extended family. Love and understanding need to start at home. Life within this family is a journey that relies on trust, respect, acceptance and joyful sharing of all things. . . . It takes a great effort to build family relationships. We must devote time, which is often in short supply, to build trusting relationships where spiritual renewal can thrive. . . .

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: This is one we work on all the time. The simplicity testimony is difficult for all of us. Meeting does provide a support group that keeps us focused on ways to simplify our lives, especially through the contacts of the Earthcare group. It seems we sometimes try to live the way we think we are supposed to, rather than focus on how life needs to be lived through us, so all things take their rightful place. The queries help us focus. Use of new technologies seems to result in people not being “present” with each other. Concern about secret organizations relates to the issue of keeping names of members of the meeting out of electronic distributions. Quakers historically were open about their identity. Those of us who feel offended by language used in films and advertisements on television tend to say nothing and the use of objectionable language is so pervasive now that it is very difficult to avoid their use. . . . The principle of integrity requires that we be careful to say what we mean, clearly. On the more positive side, new developments in cyberspace provide opportunities for Friends to connect

more readily, and can include people who are distant from monthly meetings. . . .

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 find ways to assert our beliefs in our daily lives and homes, particularly in the realms of health and ecological living. . . . We are often struck with how economic powers, which wield strong influences on the formation of the laws of the State, oppose our religious convictions, such as with the peace testimony. . . . Living with the conflicts between ideas based from our faith, and those our State expects us to accept, can cause fear about who is really in power, what is Truth, and what and who can be trusted. Thoughts like these paralyze our actions, and we recognize the need to keep an intentional faith and hold dear our supportive community. . . .

10. ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

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

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

Selected Response: . . . Our meeting has several members who remain active in ecology activism, who write to state and national legislators with concerns and observations, weighing in on the side of our responsibility to . . . our environment. FCNL directs petitions to our representatives and has gathered questions about environmental

viewpoints for candidates. We talked of the debate about climate change and the direct role that human actions have in changing the balance of our atmosphere and how powerful the corporations have become with influence of money and lobbyists. Drought is a big problem but remains ignored politically. We wonder how we can counter the attitude about “American exceptionalism?” Can we influence trade and express our values about the right sharing of resources? We acknowledge that our personal sacrifices and changes in habits have small consequence but we practice them out of conscience anyway. Discernment will help us identify action avenues. We seek divine guidance to encourage us in living with reverence for God’s creation. “Love mercy, act justly, and walk humbly with thy God.” Micah 6:8

11. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Query: *How are we beneficiaries of inequity and exploitation? How are we victims of inequity and exploitation? In what ways can we address these problems?*

What can we do to improve the conditions in our correctional institutions and to address the mental and social problems of those confined there?

How can we improve our understanding of those who are driven to violence by subjection to racial, economic or political injustice? In what ways do we oppose prejudice and injustice based on gender, sexual orientation, class, race, age, and physical, mental and emotional conditions? How would individuals benefit from a society that values everyone? How would society benefit?

Selected Response: It’s easy for us to name the ways in which we’re beneficiaries of exploitation; it’s harder to do something about it, no matter how earnest our intentions. We benefit from the cheap products that are manufactured under unregulated conditions, and often we can’t see beyond the convenient price. We often eat animals that are raised under cruel conditions and, again, appreciate first of all their cheapness. . . . As our awareness increases, we attempt to think about the impact of our buying practices. . . . Even those of us who struggle financially have found it possible to live simply and prioritize, choosing responsible food before unnecessary consumer items. It can take courage to resist our culture’s emphasis on buying, but this awareness enriches us spiritually and helps us avoid the spiritual dullness that comes with unconscious spending. It takes a village to keep people out of prison. . . . We can advocate for programs that work to improve prisons. The East Hill Singers is a local effort to involve male inmates in a remarkable community outreach singing group. AVP (The Alternatives

to Violence Program) is a Quaker-based effort that is extremely effective. Nutrition programs have been shown to help inmates reduce violent behavior, and Alcoholics Anonymous and various Native American alcoholism programs can help the large number of addicts in the prison system.

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: For many of us, the living into the testimony of peace and nonviolence is the most difficult part of Quakerism. . . . How are we to figure out the things that cause war and then go stop them? That seems to require much meddling of us; perhaps we must do more meddling than we are doing. When the Occupy Movement was going strong as a form of peaceful protest, it seemed intimidating, and that caused some of us to begin to wonder just what is peace: When does even a passive show of force become a violent statement used to intimidate others? . . . When George Fox wrote his epistle in which he counsels us “seek to live in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars,” he was responding to the civil war in England at the time. Are our times so different? . . . Actions such as going to the School of the Americas and getting arrested; joining peace marches; and signing petitions seem to miss the point somehow, and we are unsure what’s missing in our collective effort to be nonviolent. With regard to family, some of us reflected on what it has meant to parent or to be parented with intimidation. . . . How do we find ways to respond and react to children peacefully, especially when our impulse is to express to our children anger and impatience? Separation from God may readily lead us to separation from one another, and when we lose the connection

to that of God in one another, we may fall into great despair, pain, and hurt—a spiritual condition that may in turn lead to war and violence. In our current situation as a worship community, we struggle with how Friends among us have been treated. At times our actions and words have felt like an attack on one another. . . . As a result, some Friends have stopped attending and we miss their presence. Do we hurt so much because we have loved one another so much? We need one another to help us consider how we have acted correctly or incorrectly, to help us be faithful and understand the way forward. We feel great tenderness and love toward one another, even as we recognize that as individuals, we respond to pain, fear, and conflict in different ways—some by staying away from worship; others by stepping more fully forward into participating in the life of the meeting. Where is the place and how do we carve out the time to ask one another tenderly, “How were you faithful? What have been the fruits of the Spirit as we walk this walk as best we can?” How might our country, our world, be different if instead of rushing to war and defending ourselves, we rushed to be the first to say “I seek forgiveness and offer reconciliation. . . .?”

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

**SIXTH DAY – FRIDAY – 8/2/2013
MORNING SESSION**

We return to the business of the yearly meeting.

*Our Savior is our true Mother in whom we are endlessly
born and out of whom we shall never come.*

Julian of Norwich

Dan Treadway and Kathy Hall have been appointed as readers this morning.

MINUTE OF FIFTH DAY ACTIVITIES

In addition to the ongoing committee work that characterizes our annual session, IYMC Friends offered a number of interest groups on Fifth Day afternoon including vocal ministry and a movie on climate change.

Ruth Flower facilitated a discussion about keeping faith during the long haul of working for justice. She works as a lobbyist for the Friends Committee on National Legislation, and shared how Parker Palmer's "Healing the Heart of Democracy" helped her to think about ways to speak up without denying opponents their humanity.

Paullina Friend Andy Juhl accompanied himself on guitar and harmonica as he performed his own songs for our evening session "Sounding Our Joy."

We are pleased to have these visitors present: Andrew Wright, Durham Meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative); and Clifford Goltz, Minneapolis Meeting, Northern Yearly Meeting.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT – PART I

At the request of our Peace and Social Concerns Committee, the yearly meeting approved the clerk sending the following letter on our behalf to President Obama:

Dear President Obama,

I write on behalf of the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) of the Religious Society of Friends, representing Quakers in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Minnesota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

One of the many reasons members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) work so hard for peace is that we recognize the terrible burdens war puts on those responsible for military operations. We pray for you and recognize the burden this places on you and our military. It is easy to see why you would try to find any way you could to reduce the risks to those in our armed forces. The use of weaponized, unmanned drones to try to do that has been a recent development.

Our religious faith clearly, strongly leads us to believe that the use of armed drones cannot be justified on either moral or practical grounds. Some of the problems with the use of unmanned drones to kill suspected terrorists are:

- Civilians are killed in drone attacks.
- These attacks occur in sovereign nations with which we are not at war, violating international law.
- When we think of the possibility of such attacks occurring in the United States, we immediately understand the visceral fear and anger that would cause, and understand how drone attacks radicalize a people against the United States and increase animosity toward our country.

As your inspired leadership often reminds us, we are a better people than this. This is not who we are.

In The Light of God's Love,
Deborah Dakin, clerk
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

We appreciate the work of the Yearly Meeting Trustees on our behalf. The allocation for Scattergood of funds from the pending land sale demonstrates wisdom and care for the school.

YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES REPORT

We appoint Larry Marsh and Robert Yeats to the Scattergood School Foundation Trustees for a term ending in 2017. Jonathan Fisch will act as treasurer of the Yearly Meeting Trustees.

The Trustees have executed the agreement with the Iowa Historical Society for placement of the yearly meeting documents as described in the Archives Report.

We will be replacing the south roof of the meeting house in the near future to prevent leakage.

The Scattergood Foundation had a good year, adding nearly one million dollars to the portfolio. They were able to support the school this year with \$75,250 for scholarships and \$22,455 for capital/operation. The intent is to provide \$82,477 for scholarships for the coming school year. The fully audited report will be available for inclusion in the minute book in the fall. (See pages 95-97 in Reports received but not read.)

The Trustees are negotiating the sale of the prairie access lane to a local farmer. This is about 1.2 acres and is expected to raise over \$10,000. We recommend that 2/3 of the net sale amount be contributed to the Foundation and 1/3 to the capital/operation budget of the school. In doing these negotiations certain legal documents are missing. It is possible that they are held by some past trustee and would urge the older monthly meetings to examine documents that they hold which may include some involving the school.

Trustees Financial Report

Initial balance 7/1/2012	\$101.50
From Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)	1,000.00
From IYM(C) Entertainment	727.88
Interest earned	1.59
Total Funds Available	<u>\$1,830.97</u>

Disbursements

No disbursements in fiscal year

Funds Available 7/1/2013	<u>\$1,830.97</u>
---------------------------------	-------------------

Submitted by A.M. Fink

We heard the Scattergood reports with gratitude and marveled how they reflect our theme for the week, "joy." We are glad to have so many Scattergood staff present; words don't express how deep our appreciation is for their dedicated, often invisible, work.

It is good to know Dana Foster will be enjoying a sabbatical from teaching next year, and we hope that we remain connected to beloved member Irving Treadway as he moves on to the next chapter in his life.

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

The School Committee is pleased with the work and vision of Head of School Christine Ashley and with her similarly talented and energetic staff. We hold deep appreciation for the efforts it takes to create harmony with so many intelligent and visionary people, each with their intense beliefs in and about the school and its mission. As practicing Friends, we realize the challenge that is presented when such creative individuals work steadfastly to translate the vision of the School Committee to meet the daily functioning of the school.

We affirm the restructuring that occurred this past year by the addition of the Assistant Head of School. Private schools across the country continue to struggle for maintenance and improvements in their programs. Having an Assistant Head on campus will allow Christine to work on outreach, sharing the incredible opportunities that lie in this Midwest gem, and hopefully broadening our base for students and for donors.

Because of the continual struggle for funds, the facilities are always a bit behind where they should be. We are thankful for the amazing work done with what the funds allow. We are nearly balancing our budget each year now but it's at the cost of infrastructure. While minimal increases of staff salaries are provided each year, the base at which staff enters employment with us makes it difficult for highly qualified and dedicated staff to stay when families grow or student loan debt needs to be paid. With these costly needs facing us, tuition has also increased though we make the effort at keeping it reasonable in order to maintain a diverse student body. The increased tuition and the commendable efforts of fundraising by the school are two of the three legs maintaining fiscal health of the school. The third leg is the contribution of the yearly meeting. Staff housing, classrooms, and student housing all suffer from deteriorating conditions that are normal over time. The water system has provided struggles this year, and we dread the overdue date of the boilers and septic system quitting on us.

Organized attention has been given to the vision of the school through discussion with varied constituents and by varied means, one of which happened Thursday at Yearly Meeting. There is awareness that to sustain Scattergood's ability to shine in this age of rapid communication and broadening worlds of our students, vanguard efforts in our program and its presentation are mandatory. The capital campaign discussed in last year's report is nearly ready to begin, its focus likely being on investment in the physical plant that will contribute to the realization of this developing vision. Besides the thoughtful stewardship of a conscientious staff carefully utilizing the school's resources, many yearly meeting members give generously of their time and expertise beyond the structure of committees. For this we are grateful.

For the committee,
Debbie Galusha, clerk

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

When we are together, more becomes possible. When we are together, joy is available.

Margaret Wheatley, *The Gift of the Servant Leader*

This year, Scattergood was invited to cosponsor the *Windows and Mirrors* exhibit along with Veterans for Peace and AFSC. Students decided to link the Scattergood Peace Walk to the exhibit, and students, staff and two children walked to Iowa City's pedestrian mall to hold a Flash Mob Art Exhibition. Students silently held up enlarged drawings by Afghan children impacted by war and Charlotte ('14) acted as docent. She spoke to those who stopped to inquire about our purpose in opposing the war activities in Afghanistan. It was brave work to stand in the flurry of people moving and weaving to the particular rhythm the "Ped Mall" takes on in the midst of a home Hawkeye game. We remembered that we must work and learn in concert with one another and our world neighbors so we may establish a present and future of hope and optimism. We walked away recognizing that the seeds of violence, despair and hate exist in all of us, just as the seeds of understanding, love, joy and forgiveness exist. We returned to campus wanting to dream and act in ways that help create a world that grows loving and safe environments. We continue to speak of the need for us as individuals to take action and agree that everyone must participate in this work.

Spiritual and Community Life

Scattergood shares its principles and practices intentionally with the wider world, and we start with our local community. Last year we initiated a staff Quakerism class under the leadership of West Branch Friends Meeting and beloved Callie Marsh. We will continue inviting new staff members as well as returning staff members to attend this course during the fall months. We thank the Friends Council in Education for supporting Scattergood's initial Quaker youth retreat this year. Scattering the Light was student-organized and attracted twelve student participants; this annual event is scheduled for the spring of 2014. This year's Friends General Conference hosted many Scattergood students, parents and staff members; 2013 graduates Liadh Reilly and Caleb Smith served as clerks for the Young Friends at the conference.

Academics

We look forward to the continuing expansion of student-centered and inquiry-based academic offerings this year. Our newest academic courses link the prairie and farm and include Agriculture and the Environment and Prairie Management. This year, seniors will enjoy a new capstone course entitled Global Economics.

Our second year of May Term classes was exciting, and students and staff truly enjoyed the three-week intensive, interdisciplinary and team-taught courses. Class choices included: Down the River/to Build, Landscapes of Eastern Iowa, Meat: Multiple Perspectives, Oaxaca Art: Appreciation of Form and Challenge Facing Ethnic Artists, Restaurant Tycoon, and Simple Machines. Teachers continued to expand their knowledge and implementation of Project Based Learning (PBL), and the professional development opportunity of teaching in tandem was very much appreciated.

While some juniors and seniors enjoyed the opportunity to stay on campus for our May Term program, most left campus. Three juniors biked over 1300 miles with Hans Niehus, who has now successfully led this trip fifteen times. A sizable group of excited students travelled to Oaxaca, Mexico, where they lived with host families, worked with a local women's cooperative, and reconnected with alumni. Our 2013-2014 junior and senior trip offerings will include travel to Bolivia with our new Spanish teacher and Bolivian native, Emma Condori-Mamani and Sam Taylor. Hans Niehus and Dave Reeve worked together so well on our first Appalachian Trail hiking trip in 2012 that they are planning a second trip for 2014.

The seniors graduated with diplomas in hand on June 3, 2013, and 100% of the students were accepted to a four year college or university. Seniors were accepted to colleges all over the country: Baker College, Berea College, Bethel College, Buena Vista University, Coe College, Colorado Mountain College, Earlham College, Guilford College, Hamline University, Hampshire College, Ithaca College, Iowa State University, Kansas State University, Lake Superior University, Lawrence University, Occidental College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rollins College, Temple University, and the Universities of Denver, Illinois, Iowa, Miami, Minnesota at Mankato, Northern Iowa, and San Francisco. 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.

Personnel

As a community, we appreciate the connectedness of our lives with the land, our inner selves, and each other. It is so hard to put in to words how deeply touched we are by the people who grace our lives at Scattergood. We thank these staff members for their years of committed and heartfelt work at Scattergood.

We thank Spanish teaching team Stewart James and his wife Izaskun for a year of lively Spanish classes; Emma Condori-Mamani, our new Spanish teacher, recently graduated from Earlham School of Religion with a Masters in Divinity, and taught Spanish at Oakwood Friends. Linda Bendorf has taken a position with the University of Iowa and leaves our Admissions office in the capable hands of Alicia Streeter, former Business Manager of the Iowa City Chamber of Commerce. Cathy Chun graced us for a year in the new Assistant Head of School role, but could not return due to life circumstances. Thomas Weber, our new Assistant Head of School, is a former head of school and middle school principal, and comes to us from Bainbridge Island, Washington. Dana Foster will take a much deserved sabbatical for the 2013-2014 school year. Nicole Wolf-Camplin will remain on staff as girls' dorm sponsor and yoga teacher; we are grateful for her years of tireless and visionary work and vision as Scattergood's Academic Dean. We are excited to greet Louis Herbst, Scattergood's new Academic Dean, who comes to us from United Friends School and Richmond Friends Meeting. Irving Treadway, former student and celebrant of twenty years as a Scattergood staff member, has taken a life leap and moved back to Ohio and then onwards. Irving has been a beloved friend to two decades of staff and students and his imprint in the boys' dorm life and kitchen will

be felt for years to come. Matt Wiegand joins the Scattergood staff as a new dorm sponsor and brings professional Thai cooking experience to Scattergood's dining hall.

Facilities

The challenges of years past are being met with resolve. Our driveway has been repaired, chipped and sealed after a long eight years. Modest capital monies and designated donations over the last two years have resulted in two major works at the farm. Last year's drought and plumbing issues highlighted the plumbing and water issues at the Farm and water lines now connect the greenhouses out to pasture areas. The vegetable packing facility will soon be completed and furnished. A public bathroom is being built in the science building. Our main well on campus received a new pump last year; this year we are in the midst of investigating what our next steps are in terms of long term health of the well. 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 an adequate capital budget.

Finances

We finished the fiscal year within several hundred dollars of our projection. We are stretched in many ways, but we utilize resources carefully and with an eye for meeting our immediate and long-term needs. We have concurred that a minimum annual capital budget of \$65,000.00 is necessary for the continuing upkeep and maintenance of the campus; for the 2013-2014 school year we will be able to allocate about 50% of those necessary funds to a capital budget. We must develop the ongoing funding necessary to meet the annual upkeep and maintenance needs of our school and farm. Thank you to the staff for spending the school's resources with care and respect.

The Development Team substantially increased the annual fund goal for 2012-2013, 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. We thank Don Laughlin for allowing us to tell his Scattergood story as part of our introduction of the Friends for Life bequest program.

Outreach

We hosted well-attended open houses on and off the main campus last year. Numerous groups enjoyed touring the farm with Dana Foster and Mark Quee, and hearing our farmers speak passionately about the work they do at various conferences throughout the Midwest. There are multiple events planned for the next few months that center around our school's mission as a Quaker institution and link us with other likeminded institutions. Deborah Fisch has offered to lead a clerking workshop here at Scattergood for Scattergood and IYMC community members. This fall, we will host attendees from the Midwest Environmental Education Conference and will offer a tour and lunch with our student community. November 2, 2013, FCNL plans to host a Climate Conference here at the school; speakers will include Jose Aguto, FCNL's Environment and Energy Coordinator. November 3, 2013, we will Walk for Peace with the Earth and invite you to participate in a segment or the whole 14.5 mile walk.

Thoughts from the Head of School

The staff took time to grill by the pond over the summer's many beautiful evenings and it has been wonderful to be able to work, play, and share with one another. Art, Spanish Language and Culture, and Girl Empowerment Camps were successfully held at Scattergood this summer, and the laughter and elementary/middle school energy in the circle was truly joyful to behold. The School Farm sponsored a staff-only CSA program this summer, and we enjoyed what seemed like endless kale, zucchini, and plentiful greens this summer.

We are open to the struggles and conversations that help us meet the day-to-day and future challenges. Our students may live within the cornfields of the Midwest, but our school and community connects to the world. Our meals remind us that food is precious, harvested and then cooked right here within our 126 acres. Our studies and work on crew connect us to one another and remind us that we are humble members of something much larger than any individual. Nothing can be taken for granted and we are grateful. It is a privilege to be part of Scattergood's mission.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Ashley, Head of School

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL FARM REPORT

Dear Friends:

Earlier this spring I was skyped into a first grade classroom at the Penn Charter School in Philadelphia which was using the ingredients of tacos to explore and learn about the world. I was to explain tomato production and was introduced as the manager of an “inquiry-based farm” in Iowa. This phrase, “an inquiry-based farm,” which I am quite sure I was hearing for the first time, has stuck with me since.

Inquiry-based learning has long been a facet of progressive education, rising in and out of fashion as do seemingly all educational ideas. But inquiry-based farming? A quick definition search yields this for inquiry: “a seeking or request for truth, information or knowledge.” I’ll shorten this to its most active and profound: A seeking for truth. Ours is a farm based on Truth-seeking (and why not just capitalize that T?).

What truths do we seek on the Scattergood Farm? How to work with the soil to produce, yet not deplete. How to raise livestock humanely and consistent with their biology. How to live well, together, outdoors and working. How to share with others: food, stories and desires. How to receive gracefully and thankfully the many gifts of God and land. How to get teenagers to appreciate rutabagas.

These sought-after truths simply rephrase the Farm mission, which was reconsidered and recommitted to by the School Committee this year: *Nurturing mind, body, community, and soil, the Farm provides learning opportunities while sustainably producing food for Scattergood Friends School and the wider community.*

Here is what our seeking wrought last year.

Students again experienced the Farm in many varied ways. We continued with Livestock Husbandry, Prairie, and Farm Projects in the spring and fall, as well as a Food Preservation Project in the fall and an Independent Landscaping Project in the spring. Year-round crews included Farm and Composting/Recycling, which added vermicomposting this year. Many classes spent parts of May Term on the Farm, including Meat, Iowa Landscapes, Restaurant Tycoon and Simple Machines. Advanced Biology designed the summer lettuce trial (which you are benefiting from at meals) and another experiment which will be implemented this fall, while Farm Science class helped harvest data and tubers in the sweet potato patch. All students joined in a Farm Work Day which allowed us an opportunity to work, sweat, eat and worship together as a capstone to Orientation Week. This year three seniors completed the Sustainable Agriculture Concentration program and each will be missed after four years of valued productivity on the farm.

However, the greatest student interaction with the farm continued to be in the dining room, where Scattergood cooks found ways to creatively serve thousands of pounds of sweet potatoes and rutabagas in addition to the great abundance of so many other things grown on the farm, including, yet again, nearly all of the meat consumed by the school.

Farm outreach also involved students, who presented at Farm-to-School Farmer Fairs in Iowa City, spoke on a panel at an Iowa Food Systems conference, attended the Prairie Festival in Kansas, gave tours to visitors from Grinnell College, West Liberty public schools, Scattergood Open Houses and shared good will and hard work on the annual biking/farming trip during Trips Week. In addition, farmers presented at the Iowa Organic Conference, the Practical Farmers of Iowa Cooperators Meeting, the West Branch Healthy Living Expo, and hosted an elementary school from Michigan, Taproot Nature Experience, Soilmates, a Scattergood class reunion, and remained active with organizations like Local Foods Connection, Field to Family, and the Women, Food and Agriculture Network.

Many people have helped make all of this happen. Dana Foster, in her 20th year at Scattergood, again managed the livestock program and encouraged students to find creative ways to be on the Farm. This coming school year Dana is taking a sabbatical and will train Joey Giffen-Hunter (who is no stranger to the Scattergood Farm) in her many duties. Christa Hanson worked as a student-intern and set the bar very high for all future Farm interns. Working with us this summer is Ilana Warner, whose hardworking nature and sense of responsibility have allowed both Dana and Mark to take some much-needed time off. Steve Hoffman of West Branch continues to cut our hay and fix our machines, while Ken Fawcett again ably managed our row-crop production through the many weather challenges of the past year. Mark Shanahan is shepherding the construction of the Farm's new packing shed which will allow us to better wash, pack and store fruits and vegetables. And David Cohen stepped skillfully into the Scattergood kitchen and deftly found ways to hide rutabagas in many meals.

Finally, Irving Treadway, who is leaving after 20 years as a Scattergood staff member, was the guiding force in the kitchen who made a reality of the idea of maximizing farm-raised meat and produce. As kitchen manager Irving refused to purchase other meat, but instead modeled joyfully how to cure hams, make pepperoni and sausage, prepare gyro meat, and roast beef so sandwiches could be made for trips. Irving delighted in the challenge of using Farm produce, and not just the easy things like sweet corn, lettuce and carrots. Irving wanted a glut of eggplant or okra or rutabagas so he could push his creativity and broaden

student palates. Each year Irving made gallons of hot sauce, pickles and pepper relish. We cannot thank him enough for his efforts in not only preparing great food, but in creating Scattergood's food ethic. Irving will be profoundly missed.

So what truths can we seek in loss and abundance? In learning and doing and reflecting? In hard work and resting? In individual and community sustenance?

Our inquiry is active and it is on-going. It may be prompted by a room full of six-year-olds, or the absence of a friend, or the taste of the season's first Sun Gold tomato. However, we will continue seeking Truth, but expect only to catch glimpses, and then to be surprised.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Quee, Farm Manager

It was good to read the numbers and hear the explanation of the Scattergood Financial Report (Budget Comparison). We are grateful for all of Amanda Paul's work to make these numbers understandable for us. One thing that has become clear is how Scattergood operates on a shoestring, and gets more out of that shoestring than others might ever think humanly possible.

Our individual contributions to Scattergood are our expression of our love for and the commitment we feel to the school. In this way we are part of the community that is working to raise the funds that make a Scattergood education possible.

(See tables on the next two pages.)

**SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL
BUDGET COMPARISON**

	2012-2013			2011-2012		
	Budget	YTD	% of Usage	Budget	YTD	% of Usage
INCOME	\$1,272,144	\$1,244,670	97.84%	\$1,195,610	\$1,293,188	108.16%
Contributions	532,144	532,418	100.05%	484,460	524,723	108.31%
Annual Giving	300,000	293,458	97.82%	240,000	274,182	114.24%
Designated Donation	10,000	4,900	49.00%	15,500	14,995	96.74%
Lili Smith Memorial Equipment				10,000	500	5.00%
Farm	1,000			500		0.00%
Scholarship		50		1,500	600	
Financial Assistance	2,000	2,850	142.50%	3,000	5,000	166.67%
Reunion				500		
Other	7,000	2,000			8,895	
Iowa Yearly Meeting	50,000	50,000	100.00%	50,000	50,000	100.00%
Measey Foundation	100,144	108,810	108.65%	102,960	109,197	106.06%
SFS Foundation	72,000	75,250	104.51%	76,000	76,350	100.46%
Designated Capital Income		15,728			8,247	
Sustainability					142	
West Wood		6,728			8,105	
Designated Capital, Other		9,000				
Operating Revenue	740,000	712,252	96.25%	689,000	726,060	105.38%
Application Fees	2,000	2,861	143.05%	2,000	1,566	78.30%
Fees & Charges	1,000	3,626	362.60%	1,000	1,965	196.50%
Interest Earnings	1,000	327	32.70%	1,000	846	84.60%
Net Tuition	680,000	656,468	96.54%	665,000	694,436	104.43%
Other Operating	2,000	10,164	508.20%	2,000	12,976	648.80%

(See Scattergood Friends School and Related Entities Financial Report on pages 93 and 94 in Reports received but not read.)

	2012-2013			2011-2012		
	Budget	YTD	% of Usage	Budget	YTD	% of Usage
Rental Use	18,000	12,698	70.54%	18,000	14,272	79.29%
Farm	18,000	8,495	47.19%			
Row Crop	18,000	17,614	97.86%			
EXPENSES	\$1,280,137	\$1,252,047	97.81%	\$1,231,017	\$1,329,630	108.01%
Payroll	593,332	613,545	103.41%	555,809	622,467	111.99%
Payroll Expenses	45,320	52,247	115.28%	42,519	46,693	109.82%
Personnel Costs	210,818	176,015	83.49%	190,054	197,874	104.11%
Activities	15,900	10,782	67.81%	16,100	12,994	80.71%
Communications	18,171	18,966	104.38%	16,786	16,223	96.65%
Contracted Services	39,500	49,509	125.34%	43,000	37,118	86.32%
Curriculum	17,050	16,437	96.40%	17,050	9,901	58.07%
Food Service	54,100	59,596	110.16%	61,600	62,009	100.66%
Farm	26,880	13,834	51.47%			
Insurance	54,890	54,202	98.75%	51,300	51,305	100.01%
Miscellaneous	18,600	20,857	112.13%	15,900	20,692	130.14%
Professional Services	11,200	15,572	139.04%	20,500	28,828	140.62%
Admissions	10,000	9,763	97.63%	19,600	9,142	46.64%
Development	15,368	9,839	64.02%			
Supplies	23,199	23,592	101.69%	22,699	18,868	83.12%
Technology	11,500	10,474	91.08%	23,500	21,686	92.28%
Vehicles/Equipment	28,100	21,222	75.52%	22,700	21,547	94.92%
Utility Costs	86,209	75,595	87.69%	90,515	87,210	96.35%
Farm Income				22,150	42,402	191.43%
Farm Expenses				21,385	51,882	242.61%
Farm Net Income/Loss	—	—		765	(9,480)	
NET INCOME/LOSS	(\$ 7,993)	(\$ 7,377)		(\$ 8,473)	(\$ 36,445)	

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

SEVENTH DAY – SATURDAY – 8/3/2013
MORNING SESSION

We return to the business of the yearly meeting.

Hello, sun in my face. Hello you who made the morning and spread it over the fields. . . Watch, now, how I start the day in happiness, in kindness.
Mary Oliver

Thomas Greenler and Jake Edwards have been appointed as readers this morning.

**MINUTE OF
SIXTH DAY ACTIVITIES**

Friends gathered in the afternoon of the Sixth Day with worship that led into an open forum on our yearly meeting budget. This was not a decision-making meeting but rather an opportunity for the Representatives to get feedback from IYMC members to help them craft a budget that reflects our priorities. We went through our budget piece by piece. We looked at our expenses by examining who we make contributions to and what that tells us about our priorities. We gave thought towards finding the best way to financially support our appointed delegates to other Friends agencies. We were educated about our expenses and discussed our monthly meeting apportionments. We talked about the need to help our members understand the relationship between the yearly meeting business and its relationship to where they worship on First Day.

In order to aid victims of serious flooding in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and immigrant workers arrested in a major ICE sweep in Postville, Iowa, we spent down our reserve fund a few years ago. We discussed whether we wanted to start rebuilding another one. One Friend pointed out two views regarding this: one reminding us that scripture encourages us "consider the lilies of the field. . . ." and the other view accepting the fact that disasters such as floods and egregious human rights violations happen not on a schedule, and if we want to be able to respond, we need to have resources available at the time in order to do so. The inevitable tension of holding these two truths in tandem was likened to the tuning of an instrument string: if it is too slack it won't hold a pitch, and if it is too tight, it will break.

"That Your Joy May Be Complete" was the title of our evening collection. Using the 15th chapter of John, verses 7-17, as a framework,

Deborah Shaw worshiped with us, shared personal stories of her own faith, and offered vocal ministry through song. She led us through worship sharing, offered us queries so we could help each other abide in the love that is offered to us: "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete" (John 15:11).

We enjoyed the delightful presentation of the excellent and thoughtful Junior Yearly Meeting report. Thank you for giving us so much joy, and thanks also to your leaders who have been with you this week. Once again Junior Yearly Meeting has taught us how a yearly meeting can go. We appreciate their patient teaching.

It has been lifted up for us the possibility of finding ways for the youth of IYMC and North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) to stay in communication with each other through the year, and someday even visit one another.

EPISTLE FROM JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING

At Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) this year we had 13 people age 5-13. We had Bible study and discussed Psalms 8:5-9 and what it means to have "dominion" over the other living things on the earth. Then we read Matthew 5:1-11 and thought about the meek and why the meek would inherit the earth. Also in Matthew 5:14-16 we read about lighting our lamp and making our light shine.

On Thursday, when we were discussing the meek inheriting the earth, a crop duster flew right over our building. This was both exciting and disturbing. The crop duster did not seem "meek."

We went to Suzan Erem's farm, where she is helping the land recover from bad treatment. She is taking care of the earth by letting prairie grass grow back where it used to live naturally. The grass has roots that are 20 feet under the ground and keep the earth from washing away into the Cedar River. We picked mulberries and blackberries. Suzan is being gentle and meek with the earth.

We helped Don Laughlin make a dragon kite. Tomorrow we are going to try to fly it if there is wind.

We did pottery with Shumpei Yamaki, the Scattergood pottery teacher. We got to try hand-building and throwing pots on the wheel.

We shelled and cooked black beans from a garden.

We gathered apples, cut, boiled and milled them into applesauce for the yearly meeting folks to eat on Saturday morning for breakfast. We took the apple cores and bad apples to the baby pigs at the farm.

We played capture the flag with Young Friends.

We attended meeting for worship with the adults each morning. The first day, we tried to notice things outside us, like an ant, a crack in the ceiling, and the speed of the fan. The next day we tried to notice things inside us. We noticed a very calm feeling, feeling good and almost warm, feeling love, and having expanding thoughts. We noticed that if you forget to notice what’s going on inside, you might not notice feelings, especially small ones. Bigger feelings like sadness are easier to notice.

On Friday night we had a picnic, played tag and watched a movie and had microwaved s'mores and pizza since it was raining outside.

We made up a skit about Grimm’s Fairy Tales that we will perform on Saturday night.

Peace in motion,
Josh, Emily, Vivian, Eric, Morgan, Kieren, Callum, Gillie, Mia,
David, Simon, Evelyn, Chris

The creativity and humor of the Young Friends report was a wonderful example of transforming power. It was wonderful to watch through the week how our Young Friends took care of our younger Friends in their play during the week. We really appreciate their thoughtfulness.

We realize the amount of work Michael Taylor did in helping Young Friends hold their gathering this week. We are also grateful for the added assistance of Nick Jacoby, Ian Taylor and Naomi Taylor.

It is hard to talk about our deeper feelings, but we hope you, Young Friends, know how precious you are to us.

EPISTLE FROM YOUNG FRIENDS

Saturday, August 3, 2013

Dear Friends Everywhere,

The Young Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative (IYMC) would like to tell you the story of our good Friend, F/friendly Fred the Fly:

Fred was born on the Scattergood Friends School Farm at the beginning of the 136th annual session of IYMC. That same day, he happened upon what some humans would call, “High School Young Friends.” He found them to be F/friendly and decided to follow them around for the rest of the week’s activities.

Fred buzzed behind the nine Young Friends in attendance and joined them for introductions, but unfortunately he couldn’t talk. He followed the youth outside for a game of Ultimate Frisbee. He flitted after the

Young Friends to the Scattergood pond for an afternoon swim. He sat in on talks about music and spirituality with Deborah Dakin (clerk of IYMC), Deborah Shaw (visitor from North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative), and Bill Deutsch (Rockin' Accordion Player). He took part in a capture the flag game with the younger Friends of Junior Yearly Meeting. He was the first to reach the flag, but he couldn't move it. So, he decided to tag people, but that didn't seem to do much either.

One morning, he tried to tell the Young Friends that Meeting for Worship was earlier than it had been before, but they were busy playing cards, and he watched his Friends walk in on Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. He joined the teens on the Scattergood Farm for a service project and flew around encouragingly while they tore down an old greenhouse. He participated in the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshop in which the Young Friends learned and practiced ways to communicate nonviolently. He attended an evening concert by singer/songwriter Andy Juhl.

He was disappointed that the group could not go on their annual canoe trip due to some untimely thunderstorm warnings; instead, he got to watch the teens go bowling after a delicious ice cream outing. He had a refreshing swim at a swimming pool with the Young Friends, but would have preferred it to be less chlorinated. He helped the Young Friends write an epistle, for which the Young Friends were very thankful. Overall, he experienced a week full of Spirit, Blessings, and Spicy Uno with the IYMC Young Friends.

In Love,

Thomas, Claire, Neal, Emily, Sebastian, Jake, Kylie, Trixie, Jonah, and (of course) F/friendly Fred the Fly. IYMC Young Friends 2013

We are grateful for our auditors checking our accounts. We are thankful for the good job our treasurer has done on our behalf. We are also grateful for having this report given in such clear and understandable language. It helps all of us share the responsibility of helping our yearly meeting to make it possible for us to live out our faith. The yearly meeting fiscal year runs from Seventh Month 1st to Sixth Month 30th.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

We have audited the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) treasurer's books for the 2012-2013 fiscal year and find them to be in good order. We appreciate the work of the treasurer, Jean Sandstrom, in keeping the

accounts of the yearly meeting and preparing a report for this annual session.

Larry Marsh and Debbie Galusha

YEARLY MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT

Fiscal year ended June 30, 2013

Contributions	Actual	2012-13 Budget
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	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
Iowa Peace Network	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Nebraskans for Peace	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
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	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Quaker United Nations Office	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Right Sharing of World Resources	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Scattergood Friends School	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
William Penn House	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Total Contributions	\$ 56,800.00	\$ 56,800.00
Delegate Expenses		
FCNL	\$ 999.99	\$ 1,000.00
Friends Peace Teams	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
FWCC - General	\$ 426.82	\$ 1,000.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$ 200.00	\$ 700.00
Total Delegate Expenses	\$ 1,626.81	\$ 3,700.00
Yearly Meeting Expenses		
Archives Committee	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Clerk's and Other Adm. Expenses	\$ 84.17	\$ 400.00
Committee Expenses (Other)	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Conscientious Objector PSC subcommittee	\$ -	\$ 100.00
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Junior Yearly Meeting	\$ 46.19	\$ 1,000.00
Youth Weekends	\$ -	\$ 100.00

Young Adult Friends	\$ -	\$ 300.00
Young Friends	\$ 721.30	\$ 1,500.00
Special Needs Committee	\$ 699.94	\$ 750.00
Publication Committee:	\$ 3,023.20	\$ 3,000.00
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
YM Ent. Committee if receipts inadequate	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Midyear Planning Com. if receipts inadequate	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Young Friends Travel & Conf.	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
Contingency Fund	\$ 574.60	\$ 1,000.00
Total YM Expenses	\$ 6,649.40	\$ 12,350.00
Total Budget	\$ 65,076.21	\$ 72,850.00

Statement of Cash and Funds

Cash balance July 1, 2012		\$10,704.26
Receipts		
Monthly meeting contributions	\$65,066.00	
Other contributions	\$1,870.12	
Interest earned on credit union accounts	\$49.99	
Total Receipts		\$66,986.11
Disbursements		
2012–13 expenditures for budgeted items		\$65,076.21
Cash balance June 30, 2013		\$12,614.16

As recommended last year, all reserve funds were eliminated and rolled into the regular budget line items.

Jean Sandstrom, treasurer

We listened to the report of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and approved the letter, written on our behalf, to Iowa Governor Branstad regarding rail transportation. We are grateful that the committee continues to work so diligently on earthcare issues for us. We discussed in detail ways the document regarding CO2 emissions, that the committee prepared and made available for us, could help us better understand this important issue. It was decided this background material be included in our printed minutes in Reports received but not read. (See pages 105-108.)

The yearly meeting approved the following minute:

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) opposes the practices of both tar sands extraction and hydraulic fracturing.

By saying we affirm this statement, we accept responsibility of finding ways to use this minute and seek ways to live so that our own lives are in accordance.

We are grateful for all the work the Peace and Social Concerns Committee does for us. They care for our spiritual life and help our endeavor to live our faith.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT – PART II

Review of Monthly Meeting Reports

It is wonderful to hear of all the work of our monthly meetings and members. This has been an active and spirit-led year of work on peace and social concerns. Living simply, biking, walking, limiting the use of cars and air conditioning, recycling, gardening, composting, and practicing yoga and healing touch witness to leadings of peace and social justice. Raising children with a love of peace and nature is part of building peace and social justice.

Several meetings noted they did not have a separate Peace and Social Concerns Committee, but the meeting as a whole served that function. Some expressed they are a small and dwindling group, with limited resources, and that demands for attention and money are great. Not every monthly meeting submitted a peace and social concerns committee report to the yearly meeting. This has occurred on occasion in the past, leading us to wonder if there may be other ways we can support each other in this work throughout the year. We decided to reinstitute the practice of submitting monthly summaries of peace, social justice and environmental care work and events to the committee clerk, which will be collated and distributed to all the monthly meetings each month.

Monthly meetings are all involved in many local and state peace and justice organizations, and often also cooperate with local churches. Meetings continue to support and be actively involved in Quaker organizations such as Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), and William Penn House. Several Friends meetings continue their long term involvement with the Alternatives to Violence Project. Two projects with a long history of involvement have come to an end. The local mental health organization Bear Creek meeting has been closely involved with has closed due to lack of funding. And Yahara meeting is no longer operating the True Cost of Travel Program.

9/11 Investigation

Unity was not achieved around the call for a new investigation of the events related to the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States. At last year's annual sessions, each monthly meeting was asked to return to their meeting to find whether or not unity could be reached regarding this issue. A discussion at the Peace and Social Concerns Committee meeting at Midyear Meeting this spring found that none of the monthly meetings had found unity regarding this.

Environmental Concerns

Environmental concerns are receiving increasing attention in our meetings. The Earthcare subcommittee of this committee has labored over the past several months to create a detailed description of the history of fossil fuel use and the economic impact of that, and an explanation of the science of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and the consequences of increasing CO₂ emissions. That document will be included in the printed minutes in Reports received but not read. (See pages 105-108.) The intention is for this document to serve as an educational resource for those who want to learn more about environmental issues.

Tar sands/fracking minute

The processes involved in tar sands extraction of oil, and hydraulic fracturing (fracking) of rock for oil and natural gas are each extremely destructive of the environment. Chemicals used in the fracking process have polluted nearby water supplies. Burning the oil and natural gas from these processes would add even more CO₂ to the atmosphere, additional arguments against these practices.

Therefore, we ask the yearly meeting to approve the following minute: **Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) opposes the practices of both tar sands extraction and hydraulic fracturing.**

Climate Change Lobby Training Day

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee will offer, and Scattergood Friends School will host, a lobby training day with a focus on climate disruption. November 2, 2013, is the date that works best for the School. Jose Aguto, FCNL's environmental lobbyist, has agreed to both help lead the conference and to come earlier in the week to meet with Scattergood students and staff. The plan is to also incorporate a Peace for the Earth Walk from the School into Iowa City the following day, Sunday, 11/3. A committee consisting of Carole Winkleblack and Deb Fink (co-clerks), Kathy Hall, Don Laughlin, Sherry Hutchison, and Rebecca Bergus will plan the event in conjunction with the School.

Several members of this committee met with Scattergood Development Director Rüdiger Rückmann during this annual session to discuss this. Committee members plan to approach organizations that might be interested in co-sponsoring the event, mainly financially.

Letter Regarding Passenger Train Service

We ask the clerk to send the following letter to Iowa Governor Branstad, asking that he provide the state funds needed to extend passenger train service from Iowa City to Chicago as part of the pending Federal plan. Federal funds have already been approved. The letter explains how this helps us to address our desire to reduce the use of personal automobiles.

Dear Governor Branstad:

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) supports extending passenger train service from Iowa City to Chicago as part of the pending Federal plan.

Citizens of the state of Iowa live almost entirely without the benefits of intercity public transportation. In order for Iowa to take its place in the modern world, it must be able to provide an alternative to increasingly expensive air and automobile transportation for its citizens and its businesses.

We support this expanded transportation option for the following reasons:

1. Travel by train is much more environmentally friendly than automobile or air travel. Diesel locomotives are very efficient and are in the process of meeting new tier 4 environmental standards. The future possibility of electrification also exists.

2. Train travel is by law accessible to people with most disabilities.

3. Local service provides convenient and comfortable entry to the national Amtrak system, allowing more people in Iowa's most populous corridor to easily access this low carbon footprint method of travel. Future expansion to Des Moines and Omaha would be feasible.

4. Upgrades to Iowa Interstate will allow shipment of Iowa goods to the national rail transportation system reducing our dependence on trucks, which are much less efficient.

This is a rare opportunity to upgrade travel in Iowa at a minimal cost while helping to reduce future dependency on fossil fuels. This is an opportunity that we need to take.

In the Light of God's Love,
Deborah Dakin, clerk,
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Thoughts from Ruth Flower, FCNL

Ruth Flower, our visitor from FCNL this year, told us one of the most effective ways to get our message to our legislators is by writing letters to the editors of local newspapers, specifically mentioning the names of the legislators for that locale. The FCNL website has a tool to help write such letters on a number of topics.

Ruth also discussed the new joint venture from FCNL and AFSC called Shared Security. This effort is designed to create a Quaker vision of what we would like our foreign policy to be. Friends are encouraged to read and discuss the document, which can be found at <http://SharedSecurity.org>.

Letters Received from Legislators

We have compiled a summary of the many letters the yearly meeting has received in response to letters we sent to our legislators from last year's annual session. (See pages 109-111 in Reports received but not read.)



We mourn the passing of Mary Mendenhall, who consistently encouraged us to witness against the ongoing militarization of our youth. Her loving example continues to encourage us to carry on working steadily for peace as a lifelong endeavor.

We try to walk faithfully with patience and dedication to seeking spiritual guidance. Patience and faith are needed as peace in the world and living in harmony with the environment sometimes both seem far from our reach. But working for peace is not separate from our worship, giving us the strength, direction and love needed for this work.



Peace and Social Concerns Committee Budget

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee budget is \$1,100. These are the requested disbursements for the upcoming year.

Alternatives to Violence Project (split evenly among Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota)	\$ 150
AFSC Midwest Region (for immigration reform)	50
Frontera de Cristo (designated to Migrant Resource Center)	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
Climate Conference this fall at Scattergood	150
Total contributions	\$1,100

On behalf of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee,
 Jeff Kisling and Sherry Hutchison, co-clerks

The report of experiences in our State of the Meeting Reports expresses the range of experiences in life. We listened tenderly to these reports, and were humbled by being entrusted with these deepest sharings. We will continue to hold each other in our prayers.

We are thankful to our Ministry and Counsel Committee for taking on the precious work of caring for the yearly meeting. It is an act of love. In joy and in sorrow, it is clear that faithfulness abides.

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Ministry and Counsel is experiencing the shifts of change. As we learn together how we do our work, we have needed to spend more time together. We met for a retreat following Midyear Meeting. We began our yearly meeting work together on Third Day afternoon (before the start of Yearly Meeting) with worship, review of our agenda for the week, and naming additional concerns. We listened tenderly as we each shared our spiritual/religious lives. We met together daily Fourth through Seventh Days, with an additional meeting on Sixth Day. And we feel the limitations of time! It takes time to build community and trust. As a standing committee of the yearly meeting we are looking at

how we do our work throughout the year. We continue to look for ways we might meet together, promote visitation among our meetings, work on the Quaker Story Project, and strengthen the ties between monthly meetings and the yearly meeting.

IYMC Clerk Deborah Dakin met with us and expressed her desire that Ministry and Counsel support the yearly meeting in caring

- for our preparative meetings and worship groups
- for those doing the work of the yearly meeting
- for all of us (not just those identified with “special needs”)

We can learn how to care from those we are caring for. We are teachable.

As we heard the State of the Meeting reports we took care to listen for what response is asked of us. We hear the joy and pain. We hold our meetings in prayer and will be responding to each of them.

We heard a longing for community, and also see the many ways that community is happening. Though many of our meetings are small, we recognize that it is not about numbers, rather “when two or three are gathered.” So many of us are walking strongly in the world, and are grounded and nurtured by our meetings. Many of us are challenged by caring for aging members and aging buildings, others by conflict within meeting. Love and faithfulness abound. We were touched and challenged by the reports and return them to be read in Yearly Meeting sessions.

We received an epistle from the children and youth of Laughing Waters Preparative Meeting and have prepared a reply. We may share this with you this afternoon. (See M & C reply on pages 90-91.)

We met with Deborah Fisch and the anchor committee appointed to support her in her travel in the ministry and work with Friends General Conference. She carries the witness of Conservative Friends and provides us contact with a wider community of Friends. We are fortunate that she brings home observations and learnings for us. The Ministry and Counsel Committee looks forward to seasoning what she has offered:

- Our longing for community is reflected in many meetings across the country. We are not alone in our journey of being in faith community in a world that promotes and values individualism. We can learn from and support each other.
- Our concern about size of meetings is not unique. She reminds us that “the true concern is not the size of our meetings, but focusing on the spiritual health of the people who are attending. And though it is good that our small meetings are finding that they indeed are able to provide nurture and spiritual growth

opportunities, it is also important not to become complacent and too comfortable. . . . We want our meetings to feed us, but we are also called by Christ to share the good news we find here with others and find ways to help feed those who hunger (probably both physically and spiritually).”

- She reminded us of the importance of encouraging participation in annual session and reviving the ministry of intervisitation.

We are blessed to support her ministry and we unite in asking Yearly Meeting to continue to hold Deborah’s work in our care by approving a travel minute for her and the continuation of her anchor committee.

We are more than worthy causes, caring for each other, and keeping our meeting houses going. We are part of something bigger: the yearly meeting, the community of Friends, the body of Christ.

Lorene Ludy, clerk

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS

Ames Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

Ames Monthly Meeting has sustained 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 and concerns of attendees. Our more formal events such as Query discussions are scheduled at pre-meeting times and continue to be not well attended. Some of us struggle to make our Quaker experiences more than the Sunday morning two hours. We are not able to find projects which involve the majority of our members and attenders. Advanced age of a good portion of our membership plays a role in this. Nevertheless, individuals continue to do volunteer work in local social work places as well as Quaker organizations. We make our meeting house available to a few other groups so we feel that our upkeep of the house and grounds is a service to the community.



Bear Creek Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

Some First Days there are only four or five attenders at Bear Creek. Do we feel frightened and discouraged about our future? No. Why not? For many reasons. We feel the presence and energy of our annual gathering at Midyear Meeting. We feel the guidance and Spirit of our ancestors who worshiped in this sacred place. We are supported and regularly contacted by distant members who answer the Queries and attend Midyear and Yearly Meetings. We feel especially thankful our environment has been protected and blessed with a member buying adjoining land and a relative buying the vacant house beside us. The few of us here walk strongly together in the Quaker way. Our members work for peace and justice through Alternatives to Violence Project, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, American Friends Service Committee, Mental Health Alliance, Scattergood Friends School, Hospice, Heifer International, Bear Creek Monthly Meeting, Midyear and Yearly Meetings, plus much community involvement. We are building a loving connection with our preparative meeting, Laughing Waters. We receive support and encouragement from each other, other Quakers, and most of all we trust our future to the Heavenly Father. He will show us the way and care for us.



Laughing Waters Friends Preparative Meeting under the care of Bear Creek Meeting

I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, hears my words, and acts on them. That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built. But the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the river burst against it, immediately it fell, and great was the ruin of that house.

Luke 6:47-49, NRSV

Following a number of years of discernment, in Eleventh Month 2011, Laughing Waters Friends Worship Group found the way clear to affiliate with Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) as a preparative meeting under the care of Bear Creek Meeting. For much of last year, six young couples and families, and three or four additional Friends often

joined in worship where the Living Presence was frequently felt among us. In our First Day School, our experienced Godly Play storyteller shared with young Friends Bible stories and "wondering" questions, as well as the ministry of seeing, valuing, and unconditionally loving the young Friends for who they are. The children, too, grew in the Spirit and grew into a beloved, treasured community of their own.

Through our worship, First Day School, fellowship, and intergenerational worship, some might say we had become family.

Worshipping together for ten years, we had built our spiritual home on the urban prairie of Minneapolis near the river. We had dug deeply and we had laid the foundation of our preparative meeting on what we thought was rock. Yet when a flood of concern arose last fall, our emotions and disunity became a turbulent river, bursting upon our house and revealing sand and crumbled cement in our foundation, dead wood among the timbers.

Laughing Waters Friends has struggled to find unity in how to respond to events that have been raised and inadequately addressed for the past two to three years, particularly involving adult-youth interactions. For much of this past year, we had been unable to unite on whether implementing new practices was a rightly ordered step. When we did find clearness to do so, it was only after most of the meeting had chosen to absent themselves from it. The young Friends community suffers as a result of our ongoing splintering and fragmenting.

Many "wondering" questions arise among us:

We wonder how we are to come together to determine what are appropriate limits and behaviors in such an intimate covenant community when there are highly divergent views about what justifies a concern and what practices might be warranted to address it.

We wonder if the only way to grow into a deep and broad discipline of Love is by going through trial. Does it have to be so hard, and so painful, for so many, for so long?

We wonder if our adherence to honoring that of God in everyone is given such weight that we unknowingly disconnect from the discipline of seeking the corporate experience and guidance of God's abiding love for us. We wonder: Shouldn't we be able to hold one another accountable for inappropriate behavior while still treating one another respectfully? Shouldn't we be able to address our human failings while also staying connected to the Divine Source that both rejoices and weeps with us?

We wonder how to love that of God in each other when we feel deep hurt and betrayal, and when we are frustrated and mad with each other and the meeting.

We wonder: if most of our foundation is indeed built upon rock, can we seek out the gaps in the foundation and mend them? Can we assess where the dead wood is among the timbers, remove it, and replace it with Living Wood, alive with the Spirit?

We wonder what it means for our future, now that Laughing Waters Friends has come under the weight of this concern--taking up the work of creating, experimenting with, and implementing practices that would make explicit expectations for appropriate and inappropriate interactions within our community.

We move forward, yet we are brought low; we feel broken:

How **do** we address the safety of our youngest community members? How **does** Laughing Waters hold all its members accountable and in love? How **do** we say "I'm sorry" to the Friends who are still hurting?

Can we be humble enough to get to know more of each other's concerns more deeply, becoming more plain-spoken as well as more intentionally receptive to what is shared? Can we be humble enough to share the messy experience of disagreeing, even vehemently, while still listening to God for a way forward?

Can we be humble enough to encourage one another to renew the exercise and discipline of seeing and speaking to that of God in each other, as well as to restore the practice of seeking God's guidance and opening to God's grace in the companionship of experienced Friends? Can we be humble enough to acknowledge the broken trust and actively work to repair it?

We don't really know how to do this hard work.

Indeed, earlier this year we have received visitors from the yearly meeting during our troubled times. For such fellowship and spiritual companionship, we are thankful and humbled by your faithfulness in us to find our way.

We are immersed in a conflict that has torn our meeting apart. We know the shape of Laughing Waters will be different from what it has been; we cannot know what shape we will take. If the Friends remaining are willing to hang in there long enough, and if we have the mental, spiritual, and emotional capacity to do so, we will grow closer to one another and to God in each other. We wonder if we have the discipline as a meeting to do this. We wonder how to cultivate what we lack. We seek to hold a space open for those Friends who have left us and those who may join us.

We cherish our experiences over the years of covered meetings for worship; of a felt-sense of God's presence among us; the ability to be transformed corporately and individually in unexpected ways.

Psalm 130

A song of ascents.

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, ADONAI;

2 God, hear my voice!

*Let your ears be attentive
to my voice, my cries for mercy!*

*3 If you kept track of our sins, ADONAI,
who could stand before you?*

*4 But with you is forgiveness,
and for this we revere you.*

*5 So I wait for you, ADONAI--
my soul waits,
and in your word I place my trust.*

*6 My soul longs for you, ADONAI,
more than sentinels long for the dawn,
more than sentinels long for the dawn.*

*7 Israel, put your hope in ADONAI,
for with ADONAI is abundant love
and the fullness of deliverance.*

*8 God will deliver Israel
from all its failings.*

The Inclusive Bible; YHWH is replaced with ADONAI

~~~~~

*Laughing Waters Friends Preparative Meeting  
Children's Epistle – July 2013*

This year started with our usual Godly Play each week. In December, we got to have a movie party while the adults had a meeting. They met for so long, we watched two full movies. We usually don't even finish the first.

After that, the adults were disagreeing so much that some people stopped coming to Laughing Waters and we didn't get to see each other very much. It was terrible and unfair because we couldn't do anything about it. We didn't get to see our friends and it was stressful [to be going through a difficult time AND to be going through it without being able to be with each other.]

In April, we met at Chris and Claire's house for the Godly Play story "Exile and Return." We felt it applied to us in different ways. [Some people felt like the Babylonian soldiers had come and hauled them off into exile; others felt like they woke up one day to find out that soldiers had come to take their friends away.] We felt like being able to get

together at Chris's house was like the Jews returning to rebuild Jerusalem. Things look pretty bad but there's new hope for the rebel cause.



### **Decorah Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting**

Our small Meeting has changed little over the past year. No new members have been added and one attendee has moved on.

Throughout the school year both adult learning and youth education have continued to be active. At the present time only one family has children under the age of 18. This has made youth education more challenging. We have had a number of intergenerational gatherings which have been very worthwhile to the meeting as whole.

In adult education all manner of subjects dealing with spiritual and everyday concerns have been addressed. With many social concerns facing us, there has been no lack of topics.

Much discussion has been about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered (GLBT) issues. We have become better informed on the topic and more spiritually in tune with these good people through our adult education.

A new Peace and Justice Center has been established in Decorah, and Friends have been active in the programs and films presented there. Among the social concerns have been local food policy, human trafficking, and the environment. A relatively new concern has been frac-sand mining. Many have been active through letters, programs and local meetings.

Our budget allocates a given amount each month for a cause we deem worthwhile. In addition to this an equal amount passes through for other causes like the Peace and Justice Center.

Partly because of our small size, our knowledge and concern for one another remains very important. This has resulted in increasing focus on members and their concerns and problems in all areas of their daily living.

It has been five years since the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raid at the AgriProcessors plant in nearby Postville when 380 undocumented people were arrested. Several members remain actively involved as the community moves past this event.

We remain small in number, but through active participation in Friends activities, and organizations outside the meeting, we hope and believe we are contributing to a better community. Whatever our

connection with one another: be it silent service, adult discussions and/or mingling after meeting, all lead to and expand our spiritual growth.



## **Des Moines Valley Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting**

We have had a year of challenges as we strive to meet our members' diverse needs and concerns. These concerns include loss of employment, the care of elderly family members, hearing loss, chronic illness and cancer. We care for each other by providing emotional support, comfort and encouragement. In addition, we have arranged for volunteers to transport two of our members to First Day Meeting for Worship. We have a committee exploring sound system options for our meeting house. And, we maintain a sharing fund to provide financial support as needed.

In an urban setting, it is sometimes difficult to build community. Our Hospitality Committee has organized special events and activities to help us learn more about each other and have fun. We have enjoyed our yearly picnic, holiday dinners, talent shows, and several game nights. The committee has also reached out to our young people who are away at college or Scattergood by sending them "care packages" to let them know we are with them in spirit.

We enjoy celebrating our faith through singing. Every third First Day, an hour before worship, some of our youngest and eldest members join together in song.

We celebrate increased attendance at our second hour Query discussion and Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business. We have felt a need for more Quaker-focused adult religious education and book discussion groups are forming to address this need.

Our mid-week Meeting for Worship has a small group of regular attenders who meet for silent worship, with a time for sharing joys and concerns. Mid-week Meeting has added to the overall spiritual life of our meeting.

We celebrate our youth who attend meeting regularly. We endeavor to provide spiritual enrichment and offer a safe and friendly environment as they discover their faith. We involve our youth as much as possible in the overall life of the meeting, including participation on committees.

Our growth this year includes several new young adults and families with young children who attend regularly and bring new ideas and vitality. We are trying to reach out to involve them more in our meeting.

We are thankful for the blessings of our meeting – as a place to commune with the Holy Spirit and practice community and service in the midst of our individual and corporate challenges.



## Iowa City Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

After many months of discussion in small groups and with the meeting as a whole, the results of the Envisioning Committee showed that one of the primary concerns of our meeting continues to be the care and teaching of our youngest. The space has been refurbished; the numbers remain small, and the attendance sporadic, so that a full program is always problematic. We're feeling much love as we try to understand the challenges of our teens and are frequently amazed at their insights and personal growth as they mature and begin to assume responsibilities within the larger meeting.

We're also delighted to welcome a new baby this spring. On the first First Day that she came to meeting, we had the full complement of children and most of their parents present, and declared it Family Appreciation Day – a joyful occasion indeed. There was joy again when, on the last day of the yearly meeting, a long-time attender was welcomed as member. Sadly, we have said good-bye to another member and a clerk of meeting, but we cheer them both in their happy future lives.

The envisioning sessions pointed out the lack of diversity in our meeting, though ways to improve mainly focused on making ourselves more visible in the wider Iowa City community. To act on that suggestion Peace and Social Concerns Committee has spearheaded a community project that provides assistance to immigrant adults who wish to improve English language skills. It is proving to be a very rewarding and ongoing experience for several of our meeting.

The envisioning summary revealed that we are growing in strength as a spiritual community; that we are basically happy with our current space and location; that we foresee continuing difficulty in meeting the needs of families with children; and that we will continue to need a caretaker living in the house, though we do not enjoy the role of "landlord." This year our caretaker was not able to fully live up to the agreement. This caused several discussions around our efforts to assist a person who needed help in gaining independence while battling health issues and instability with a teen daughter. Sadly, we have not renewed the agreement and are now seeking a replacement.

Sharing of Spiritual Journeys continues to be a way of knowing each other better; the fall series on Quaker Living, though not well attended, proved worthwhile for those who participated. We are blessed with the service of members on Friends Committee on National Legislation

boards, the Scattergood Friends School Committee and some subcommittees, the Human Rights Commission, and in other volunteer opportunities. We were again hosted by one member for a holiday potluck at his home for sharing traditions and carol singing.

Though we still have work to do, our meetings for business have been much improved using the pattern of Yearly Meeting sessions and we all appreciate the work our clerks have put into making each meeting more spiritual. Discussion of the queries often came in the waiting silence following the reading at end of Meeting for Worship and sometimes the messages were not recorded, but queries are becoming an expected part of reflection on why we are Quakers.



### **Lincoln Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting**

Our meeting continues to nurture us. We are bound together through our shared worship. Our meetings for worship are frequently without vocal ministry. We appreciate messages, and sometimes wish they were more frequent. We also appreciate the quiet contemplative time and the deeper silence which we share.

Meeting grounds us, as individuals and community. It gives us something to hold onto when the events of life overwhelm us. It is where we can offer our gifts and practice loving. We are accepted, this motley crew of eccentrics and introverts, even when we make mistakes or disagree.

We are aware of and grateful for our connection to our Quaker tradition. We appreciate integrity which insists on congruence between means and ends. We are able to practice and teach nonviolence. Our meetings for business are a training ground for the nuances of Quaker process.

We continue to experience losses as we are an aging community. This year we were blessed with the presence of several college students. Even though many of them have moved on, we are encouraged that they found us. We are grateful that those seeking a connection to something deeper have shared their journey with us.

We cleaned out our First Day school room and had a child visit. We look forward to attracting more families.



## **Omaha Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting**

We no longer feel just small, but are barely viable with sometimes only one or two people attending meeting, not from lack of faith but from other obligations that pull us away.

When the discussion of the life of our meeting has arisen, we acknowledge we don't want to lay the meeting down since our shared worshipping community is important to us. We recognize, however, that if we don't make a big change, the meeting will just die out as we age or move away. Even knowing this, our tendency is to keep things as they are since most of our needs are met. We help each other touch base in how God is working in our lives.

We continue to not do much together outside meeting for worship because of our busy lives but enjoy those few times of potluck or shared outreach. Creating a discipline of reading, talking, and/or praying during the week would likely help us develop our faith individually and as a group. When the group is so small, establishing a sustaining community that binds us and gives us purpose outside Sunday mornings is difficult.



## **Paullina Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting**

Mapleside Meeting House and community building look bright and glowing with a fresh coat of paint and the purchase of new meeting house windows. Thanks to the many meeting members for their donation of equipment and the time and effort they put into scraping and preparing the buildings for Dennis Mott to paint. He came from a distance to do the actual painting work.

Although our meeting continues to be small, averaging about a dozen in attendance each meeting for worship, we are encouraged that attracting new attenders is possible. Recently we have had two or three younger repeat attenders at our meetings for worship. Small children are now also in regular attendance. We all enjoy the lively fellowship of our monthly fourth First Day potlucks and the occasional visit of people from the Sioux Falls Worship Group.

May our meeting continue to grow in strength and love toward one another as we live our faith in our lives and go out into the world.



## **Penn Valley Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting**

The challenges that the meeting anticipated last year have become reality. We are transitioning to a new clerk, and we continue to manage the persistent issues that face any small urban meeting — membership, finances and the upkeep of an aging meeting house. Facing these challenges has not been painless, but as we deal with these issues collectively, we sense a new energy emerging in the meeting.

The transition of clerk was eased considerably when former clerk Shane Rowse agreed to serve this year as recording clerk, so his thoughtful guidance and insight has not been lost.

Three longtime attenders requested formal membership this year. A family of four that had moved from the area long ago requested that their membership be transferred, so our numbers have remained steady. Attendance at meeting for worship varies, and we have had many visitors. Some longtime members seem to be drifting away, and that is a concern. New faces, however, are showing up regularly. Our finances are stable. We meet our obligations to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), and we pay our bills.

While membership is relatively stable, we are an aging population. And we are scattered across the metropolitan area of Kansas City, giving rise to the challenge of maintaining a sense of community beyond First Day. The youthful faces that have shown up at meeting, however, are a joy, particularly those who have requested membership.

Our First Day School has faced its abundant and persistent problems, but several dedicated members have expended tremendous new energies in that direction. There seems to be good energy here, while the number of young attendees varies.

A lot of positive energy also has been generated in our library. The committee has culled many old and outdated books and narrowed the focus and purpose of the library. The collections of old newsletters and meeting records have been sorted and have been stored at the Missouri historical archives at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

The meeting house itself is in constant need of repair, but it also has been a touchstone for us as a community. We have gathered for spring cleanups and other workdays as they arise. The problems associated with a house this old keep us on our toes, but they also keep us working together. This year we have installed a new furnace in the upstairs, we added a rail to the stairs that lead up there, we have cleaned and refinished the wooden back porch. We remain vigilant on other large-ticket items.



We continue to be challenged to reach across Missouri to the Silver River Worship Group, which is under our care. We have had a few rewarding exchanges with Friends there, and while we serve as their guides to possibly becoming a full meeting, we are in turn inspired and enriched by every contact. Sometimes it is unclear who is mentoring whom. In June, four members of Silver River attended our annual retreat and presented an inspiring program.

The retreat was billed as a reunion and homecoming, and it gave us an opportunity to re-examine our roots and celebrate our history with stories from some of our long-time members and by sharing our own individual Quaker histories. It was a time for renewal and enrichment, and it dovetailed beautifully with the program provided by the people from Silver River and their Possibility Alliance.

Just as the retreat helped strengthen our relationship with Silver River, it also tightened our bonds with IYMC. Deb Dakin, clerk of the yearly meeting, and her husband, Bob Yeats, attended. At times we at Penn Valley feel far removed from the goings-on in Iowa. Deb and Bob's participation in the retreat and interest in our meeting was warmly appreciated.

Another form of outreach occurred this spring when we accepted the invitation to a cookout from the Willow Creek Friends Church in Kansas City. While our differences are many, we focused attention on our similarities. The interaction was as informative as it was pleasant. Further contact, and a reciprocal invitation, is planned.

As we move forward into the new year and continue to wrestle with our challenges, we feel optimistic, that our core has been strengthened, and that we will grow in numbers and, more importantly, in the spirit.



### **West Branch Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting**

Our meeting has enjoyed a year of continued seeking and working together. We are a small group, but have a steady attendance at worship of about 12-15 members. Our worship is blessed with a living and breathing quiet of considerable depth. We are clear in our understanding that the worship of the gathered body is greater than that of individuals in the same room. We experience the movement of the Spirit among us. Vocal ministry is not uncommon, but is not always part of our worship.

We have gathered for occasional work days and dinner get-togethers, and a lively evening of roller derby, all of which bring us closer together. We look forward to more of these occasions. We have appreciated

finding ways to work with Scattergood Friends School, and continue to look for ways to express our commitment to the school.

The Religious Education Committee has organized pre-meeting events that have added to our increased sense of knowing each other. Two members have shared their personal spiritual stories. We have shared some reading together, some by Howard Thurman, others from Callie Marsh's book, *A Lively Faith*. We look forward to Rüdiger Rückmann sharing his thinking on Ecclesiastes in the fall.

We joyfully took the marriage of Kate Warner and Martha Laughlin under our care in December 2012. It was an honor for all involved. We also welcome our new member, Rüdiger Rückmann.

We look forward to the coming year's journey as we continue to build on our relationships with each other and with God.



### **Whittier Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting**

*For where two or three are gathered together in my name,  
there am I in the midst of them.*

Matthew 18:20, KJV

This verse was a favorite of a long time member, and she quoted it frequently. Each year, when time came to discuss our State of the Meeting in preparation for this report, she would say, "I think the quality of worship is good," or "I think we settle into silence well," or "We care for each other." When others brought up the subject of how small our little group was, she would invariably respond with this verse from Matthew, and bring us back to the point that it wasn't the number of people at worship that mattered, but our faithful attendance to the Spirit.

This year, more than one member has spoken of the feelings of love and support when sorrows and difficulties were shared with the meeting: "Knowing that you and your family are being held in the Light is a great source of strength."

The number of people for worship at Whittier on First Day remains small. Our attenders from last year have continued to be a faithful presence when joining us for worship. They greatly enrich our meeting, share vocal ministry as given, push us to deepen our faith and understanding of the Bible, help us keep the meeting house available for worship on First Days, and even helped to prepare the house last fall for the memorial service of a beloved member they never had a chance to know.

When the longtime member quoted in the first paragraph fell gravely ill and was hospitalized this past winter, we knew we might face the loss of two of our most cherished members within less than a year. This loss wasn't a matter of our small attendance being smaller, but the loss of our elders who patiently and lovingly guided us along the path as Friends. We felt so "young and inexperienced" next to them. But like the loaves and fishes that somehow were stretched big enough to feed the multitude, we were surprised to discover our small, inexperienced group was somehow also stretched "big enough." Big enough to accommodate two simultaneous meetings for worship on First Day; one in the meeting house and the other at the hospital and later the rehabilitation center during this Friend's illness. These meetings were meaningful and memorable, reminding us that wherever we gather, God is with us. When this member fell ill again and died peacefully Sixth Month this year, our small inexperienced group somehow found it was stretched "big enough" to be present with the family through her final days and after to help prepare the service, burial and the reception.

For a number of years, it wasn't uncommon for some to express thoughts that "Whittier meeting is just too small to be viable. It exists because of a few extraordinary people. When those few are gone, the meeting will cease to be." Those extraordinary people have passed on, as will the rest of us when our time comes. But we are discovering that the Living Spirit is everlasting, forever available to those who come seeking, no matter how great or small in number we may be.

*For where two or three are gathered together in my name,  
there am I in the midst of them.*

Matthew 18:20, KJV



### **Yahara Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting**

Our small meeting grew smaller this past year and we are now around a half dozen regular attenders and members. When we are all present, it is a blessing. We have periodic visitors to our meeting, but rarely does anyone attend more than one time. Visitors are probably a little uncomfortable joining a meeting for worship with only two or three people present. Outreach is a central concern, which requires us to be mindful of who we are and what we have to offer. We are an adult-focused meeting at this point. We have maintained our location at a neighborhood center on the east side of Madison with a reduction in rent, and we hope to maintain this relationship indefinitely. Our meeting is

spiritually as strong as ever, and our meetings for worship are deep and centered. Our reading group provides regular spiritual inspiration and nurture. We now hold business meetings every other month and we are moved to act on issues related to the environment and global warming as a high priority. We also continue to abide by our minute, written in 2011, not to knowingly welcome people into our midst who have committed child sexual abuse, and in so doing, we cultivate a welcoming faith community for those who have been harmed by such abuse. Our hearts are full with the knowledge that God's Love is always with us. Our meeting probably cannot get any smaller and survive as a monthly meeting, but while Love endures, we will continue to meet and worship together. There is no place else any of us would rather be.

---

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.

*And the world cannot be discovered by a journey of miles, no matter how long, but only by a spiritual journey, a journey of one inch, very arduous and humbling and joyful, by which we arrive at the ground at our own feet, and learn to be at home.*

Wendell Berry

Eldon Morey and Gary Marx have been appointed as readers this afternoon.

---

We listened with tenderness to the Recorder's Report. We will continue to reap the joy of having known Mary Mendenhall. Mary was a teacher and mentor to many of us. We miss her with all our hearts. Her love will continue to live through us.

Thank you, Jenny Lang, for your work with your husband Al in setting up Camp Woodbrooke. So many have benefitted from your gifts.

We have been blessed by knowing these Friends during their time on earth.

## RECORDER'S REPORT

### Deaths

|             |                          |               |
|-------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| West Branch | Jenny Schneider Lang**   | June 19, 2012 |
| Whittier    | Arthur Williams          | July 3, 2012  |
|             | Mary Caroline Mendenhall | June 22, 2013 |

### Births

|                   |                                                                       |                |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Des Moines Valley | Tenoch Mia Escobar-Howard*<br>(to Brynne Howard and Jonathan Escobar) | March 28, 2013 |
| Iowa City         | Ellen Medbh Pannell (to Jessica and Jude Pannell)                     | March 28, 2013 |

### Marriages under the Care of the Meetings

|             |                                |                  |
|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Penn Valley | Neil Nelson to Princess Massey | July 21, 2012    |
| West Branch | Martha Laughlin to Kate Warner | December 8, 2012 |

### Reported Marriages not under the Care of the Meetings

|                   |                                           |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Des Moines Valley | David James Holveck to Nicole Renee Meyer | June 18, 2013     |
| West Branch       | Sierra Soleil to Tina Yin                 | November 16, 2012 |
|                   | Margie Figgins to Jay Roth                | October 7, 2012   |

### New Members by Request or by Certificate of Transfer

|             |                    |                                                                |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bear Creek  | Eldon LeRoy Morey  | September 16, 2012 (certificate from Brainerd Friends Meeting) |
|             | Karen Leah Morey   | September 16, 2012 (certificate from Brainerd Friends Meeting) |
| Iowa City   | Robert Winkleblack | June 30, 2013 (by request)                                     |
| Lincoln     | Bruce Bundy        | August 9, 2012 (by request)                                    |
| Penn Valley | Amanda Hildebrand  | July 1, 2012 (by request)                                      |
|             | Janelle Jones      | August 5, 2012 (by request)                                    |
|             | David Buck         | February 3, 2013 (by request)                                  |
| West Branch | Rüdiger Rückmann   | January 13, 2013 (by request)                                  |

\*Attender, not included in statistical section.

\*\* Death not reported previously, included in statistical section.

| Meeting           | Births | Deaths | Certificates of Membership Received (Transfers In) | Memberships Transferred Out | New Memberships Granted | Memberships Discontinued | Total Membership | YM Net Loss |
|-------------------|--------|--------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Ames              | 0      | 0      | 0                                                  | 0                           | 0                       | 0                        | 21               |             |
| Bear Creek        | 0      | 0      | 2                                                  | 0                           | 0                       | 0                        | 77               |             |
| Decorah           | 0      | 0      | 0                                                  | 0                           | 0                       | 0                        | 10               |             |
| Des Moines Valley | 0      | 0      | 0                                                  | 0                           | 0                       | 0                        | 69               |             |
| Iowa City         | 1      | 0      | 0                                                  | 0                           | 1                       | 0                        | 63               |             |
| Lincoln           | 0      | 0      | 0                                                  | 0                           | 1                       | 3                        | 21               |             |
| Omaha             | 0      | 0      | 0                                                  | 0                           | 0                       | 0                        | 12               |             |
| Paullina          | 0      | 0      | 0                                                  | 0                           | 0                       | 0                        | 71               |             |
| Penn Valley       | 0      | 0      | 0                                                  | 4                           | 3                       | 0                        | 70               |             |
| West Branch       | 0      | 1      | 0                                                  | 0                           | 1                       | 0                        | 88               |             |
| Whittier          | 0      | 2      | 0                                                  | 0                           | 0                       | 0                        | 38               |             |
| Yahara            | 0      | 0      | 0                                                  | 0                           | 0                       | 0                        | 7                |             |
| <b>Totals</b>     | 1      | 3      | 2                                                  | 4                           | 6                       | 3                        | 547              | (_1_)       |

We listened to the 2013 Representatives Report. They did a lot of work. We appreciate their suggestions to help increase the monthly meetings' participation in the budget process, carving out the money to support those organizations doing work we support, and helping our members be part of the process. It is especially nice to know the monthly meetings have come forward to generously increase our budget through their donations. We also appreciate the work they have done to help make the job easier for next year's representatives. Thank you.

### REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

The Representatives have a proposed budget for the coming year. The task was not easy and we benefited from two separate processes. The first was the letter from the yearly meeting clerk, delivered to the monthly meetings in Sixth Month, about the anticipated challenge facing

the Representatives. We were asked to “prayerfully consider if your apportionment is an accurate reflection of what your monthly meeting can contribute.” The second was an open forum of IYMC members during Yearly Meeting so that we could better understand the leanings and priorities of the members of our community.

At the start of our week some of us expected that the Representatives would be engaging in painful discussions about activities the yearly meeting could no longer support due to lack of resources. It was clear to all the Representatives that there was no fat to trim from our budget because over the years Yearly Meeting had trimmed away every fleck of fat. It was also clear to us that all the programs we supported financially were important to the life of the yearly meeting. However, what emerged was different from what some of us had anticipated. The generosity of our monthly meetings allows us to propose an expansion of the activities the yearly meeting supports while still allowing us to establish our proposed budget.

We are proposing a yearly meeting budget that is \$7,250 more than the budget approved last year. This is only possible because our monthly meetings have increased their collective apportionments by over \$5,000. Our proposed budget allows us to increase the funding of the Publication Committee by \$200 and to provide \$750 in support of the FCNL Climate Conference at Scattergood as requested by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. Additionally, we allocate \$1,000 to help IYMC members to travel to Ohio Yearly Meeting and North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). Our yearly meeting has encouraged this visitation in the past but has never allocated funds to support these trips. During the open forum members spoke on the need to have a reserve fund. To begin to meet this need we recommend that \$1,000 be transferred from our general checking account balance into a dedicated reserve fund. We have also accommodated an increase in the funds we provide to Scattergood Friends School by \$4,000 to \$54,000 to update its infrastructure.

We might not have been successful in the face of this challenge if we had not come to Yearly Meeting prepared to engage in this work. We encourage the yearly meeting clerk to communicate directly with next year’s Representatives at least a month before they gather at Scattergood. Representatives need to be knowledgeable about how their monthly meetings feel about budget priorities, apportionments, and other concerns. We also recommend that the yearly meeting enhance its communication with all the members of the monthly meetings. Perhaps the yearly meeting clerk could send copies of the fall letter to the individuals who served as Representatives as well as to the monthly

meeting clerks. This might result in wider dissemination of the information within monthly meetings and as a result more of our members will have an understanding of the budget and how their monthly meeting apportionments are used. Both of these actions should help our yearly meeting representatives in the coming years.

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 session be held at Scattergood Friends School from Seventh Month 22 to Seventh Month 27, 2014.

Dan Treadway has been asked to break meeting on First Day.

**IOWA YEARLY MEETING (CONSERVATIVE)  
BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014**

**Contributions**

|                                             |                     |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| American Friends Service Committee          | \$ 1,000.00         |
| Friends Committee on National Legislation   | \$ 1,000.00         |
| Friends General Conference                  | \$ 200.00           |
| Friends World Committee for Consultation    | \$ 700.00           |
| Iowa Peace Network                          | \$ 100.00           |
| Nebraskans for Peace                        | \$ 400.00           |
| Friends Peace Teams                         | \$ 500.00           |
| National Religious Campaign Against Torture | \$ 100.00           |
| Pendle Hill                                 | \$ 500.00           |
| Peace and Social Concerns Committee         | \$ 1,100.00         |
| Quaker Earthcare Witness                    | \$ 300.00           |
| Quaker United Nations Office                | \$ 200.00           |
| Right Sharing of World Resources            | \$ 400.00           |
| Scattergood Friends School                  | \$ 54,000.00        |
| William Penn House                          | <u>\$ 300.00</u>    |
| <b>Total Contributions</b>                  | <b>\$ 60,800.00</b> |

**Delegate Expenses**



|                                                       |                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Friends Committee on National Legislation             | \$ 1,000.00        |
| Friends Peace Teams                                   | \$ 1,000.00        |
| Friends World Committee for Consultation -<br>General | \$ 1,000.00        |
| Quaker Earthcare Witness                              | \$ 700.00          |
| Conservative Yearly Meeting Visitation                | \$ 1,000.00        |
| Young Friends Travel & Conference                     | <u>\$ 1,000.00</u> |
| <b>Total Delegate Expenses</b>                        | <b>\$ 5,700.00</b> |

**Yearly Meeting Expenses**

|                                                                   |                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Archives Committee                                                | \$ 200.00           |
| Clerk's and Other Administrative Expenses                         | \$ 400.00           |
| Committee Expenses (Other)                                        | \$ 500.00           |
| Conscientious Objector PSC subcommittee                           | \$ 100.00           |
| Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees                                      | \$ 1,000.00         |
| Junior Yearly Meeting                                             | \$ 1,000.00         |
| Peace & Social Concerns one-time conference<br>expense            | \$ 750.00           |
| Young Adult Friends                                               | \$ 300.00           |
| Young Friends                                                     | \$ 1,500.00         |
| Special Needs Committee                                           | \$ 750.00           |
| Publication Committee:                                            | \$ 3,200.00         |
| Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship                                     | \$ 500.00           |
| Yearly Meeting Entertainment Committee, if<br>receipts inadequate | \$ 500.00           |
| Midyear Planning Committee, if receipts<br>inadequate             | \$ 500.00           |
| Contingency Fund                                                  | \$ 1,000.00         |
| Pendle Hill Scholarship Match                                     | \$ 400.00           |
| Transfer to Reserve Fund                                          | <u>\$ 1,000.00</u>  |
| <b>Total Yearly Meeting Expenses</b>                              | <b>\$ 13,600.00</b> |

|                                                                                              |                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Total Budget</b>                                                                          | <b>\$ 80,100.00</b> |
| Apportionments                                                                               | <u>\$ 70,268.00</u> |
| Difference                                                                                   | \$ (9,832.00)       |
| Cash balance in YM account at end of FY13                                                    | \$ 12,614.16        |
| Cash balance at end of FY14<br>(if all budget line items are spent and no other<br>receipts) | <b>\$ 2,782.16</b>  |

## MONTHLY MEETING APPORTIONMENTS

| <b>Name of meeting</b>      | <b>Amount</b>       | <b>%</b>   |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Ames                        | \$ 4,200.00         | 6.0        |
| Bear Creek                  | \$ 5,500.00         | 7.8        |
| Decorah                     | \$ 1,500.00         | 2.1        |
| Des Moines Valley           | \$ 14,500.00        | 20.6       |
| Iowa City                   | \$ 5,300.00         | 7.5        |
| Lincoln                     | \$ 7,200.00         | 10.2       |
| Omaha                       | \$ 3,252.00         | 4.6        |
| Paullina                    | \$ 8,500.00         | 12.1       |
| Penn Valley                 | \$ 5,300.00         | 7.5        |
| West Branch                 | \$ 11,216.00        | 16.0       |
| Whittier                    | \$ 2,800.00         | 4.0        |
| Yahara                      | \$ 1,000.00         | 1.4        |
| <b>Total Apportionments</b> | <b>\$ 70,268.00</b> | <b>100</b> |

On behalf of the Representatives,  
George Bergus, clerk

---

It is good to have the lovely letter the Special Replies Committee wrote for us to send to Friends unable to join us. We thank them.

### SPECIAL REPLIES COMMITTEE

#### LETTER TO ABSENT FRIENDS

Eighth Month 4, 2013

Dear Friend:

Friends gathered together on the campus of Scattergood Friends School and Farm, in the Hickory Grove Meeting House, during a beautiful and unusually cool summer week. We remember years that you were able to participate in the life of Yearly Meeting in session, and we continue to miss your presence.

The theme of the 136<sup>th</sup> session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) was Make a Joyful Noise. This theme was touched upon by each of our evening collections and panels. We were blessed with many guests from other Yearly Meetings from around the US and from Canada. All Friends were enriched by the sharing of the many ways that

joy is lifted up and observed in our lives in spite of the challenges and labors of this World.

We experienced the loss of beloved elders, yet we continue to feel their loving presence in our joyful, busy, and spirit-filled week. We were heartened to hear of births and additional new members to several of our Monthly Meetings. We are reminded of the continuing flow of God's loving presence at our gatherings.

We hope way will open for you to join us again at our annual sessions. Please know that we've carried you in our thoughts and prayers this week, dearest Friend.

With love and peace,

Deborah Dakin, clerk

On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

---

We are mindful of the value of our relationships with other yearly meetings. This year we are especially grateful for our relationships with the other two Conservative (Ohio and North Carolina Conservative) yearly meetings. We will look for opportunities to further deepen the ties between us, and are glad that we have these epistles to help us do so.

Thank you to our Epistle Committee for preparing epistles to send to Friends everywhere, as well as those sent to Ohio Yearly Meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) on our behalf.

## **EPISTLE COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **EPISTLE TO FRIENDS EVERYWHERE**

Eighth Month 4, 2013

To Friends Everywhere:

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing.*

Psalm 100:1-2, KJV

Friends from nearly a dozen states representing more than 20 monthly meetings in the US and Canada, gathered for a week in late July and early August to consider the theme "Make a Joyful Noise." Amidst lush green cornfields surrounding the campus of Scattergood Friends School, we met to seek God's will in attending to the business of the Yearly Meeting. We continued in this joyful practice, which we have observed previously for 135 years.

Our first evening gathering titled “Expressing our joy” featured a panel of Friends who shared elements of their lives that bring them joy. These joy experiences included awareness of connection with nature, of the joy of parenting, of the satisfaction of doing work that enhances children’s lives, and of the joy of a new found relationship with Jesus. One panel member noted that when she experiences authentic joy, she really needs to share it somehow. In the discussion that followed, and in many experiences of the week, we came to understand that the seeds of joy are intertwined with gratitude, awe, beauty, wonder and connection.

There were many opportunities for Friends to connect and share their joy throughout the week. Programs and interests ranged broadly from sessions that included how to build a library in Kenya, to how to remain faithful, to how to support and encourage vocal ministry, to how to do something about environmental justice concerns. A folk concert by a Young Friend gave a different voice to the issues of our various concerns. Most days began with quiet worship and bible study and concluded with group singing. Much of the joy of Iowa Yearly Meeting in session is in shared effort as we labor with each other, and as we are served and serve one another. Much joy is experienced in small circles and quiet conversations. One Friend described the spiritual refreshment and change that she experiences as a weeklong embrace; another stated that our joy comes from the “Source.” This was affirmed in the presentation by visiting Friend Deborah Shaw, who spoke to the passage from John 15:11, that our joy is complete in our reciprocal relationship with the Spirit.

As a Yearly Meeting, we are especially grateful for the presence, energy and vitality of a larger group of junior yearly meeting youth and young friends than have been able to participate in past years. Once again their management of and participation in the talent show closed our week with great joyfulness.

Through the week, we were graced with much joyful noise, much joyful quiet, and serving each other with gladness. And we go forth to do the same.

Deborah Dakin, clerk  
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

---

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

Eighth Month 4, 2013

To Friends in North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative):

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the  
Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing.*  
Psalm 100:1-2, KJV

Friends from nearly a dozen states representing more than 20 monthly meetings in the US and Canada, gathered for a week in late July and early August to consider the theme “Make a Joyful Noise”. Amidst lush green cornfields surrounding the campus of Scattergood Friends School, we met to seek God’s will in attending to the business of the Yearly Meeting. We continued in this joyful practice, which we have observed previously for 135 years.

We are delighted to have Deborah Shaw and Andrew Wright with us. Deborah has been well-used and generous with her gifts. We appreciate our growing relationship with Andrew.

Our first evening gathering titled “Expressing our joy” featured a panel of Friends who shared elements of their lives that bring them joy. These joy experiences included awareness of connection with nature, of the joy of parenting, of the satisfaction of doing work that enhances children’s lives, and of the joy of a new found relationship with Jesus. One panel member noted that when she experiences authentic joy, she really needs to share it somehow. In the discussion that followed, and in many experiences of the week, we came to understand that the seeds of joy are intertwined with gratitude, awe, beauty, wonder and connection.

There were many opportunities for Friends to connect and share their joy throughout the week. Programs and interests ranged broadly from sessions that included how to build a library in Kenya, to how to remain faithful, to how to support and encourage vocal ministry, to how to do something about environmental justice concerns. A folk concert by a Young Friend gave a different voice to the issues of our various concerns. Most days began with quiet worship and bible study and concluded with group singing. Much of the joy of Iowa Yearly Meeting in session is in shared effort as we labor with each other, and as we are served and serve one another. Much joy is experienced in small circles and quiet conversations. One Friend described the spiritual refreshment and change that she experiences as a weeklong embrace; another stated that our joy comes from the “Source.” This was affirmed in the

presentation by visiting Friend Deborah Shaw, who spoke to the passage from John 15:11, that our joy is complete in our reciprocal relationship with the Spirit.

As a Yearly Meeting, we are especially grateful for the presence, energy and vitality of a larger group of junior yearly meeting youth and young friends than have been able to participate in past years. Once again their management of and participation in the talent show closed our week with great joyfulness.

Through the week, we were graced with much joyful noise, much joyful quiet, and serving each other with gladness. And we go forth to do the same.

Deborah Dakin, clerk  
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

---

## EPISTLE TO OHIO YEARLY MEETING

Eighth Month 4, 2013

To Friends in Ohio Yearly Meeting:

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing.*

Psalm 100:1-2, KJV

Friends from nearly a dozen states representing more than 20 monthly meetings in the US and Canada, gathered for a week in late July and early August to consider the theme “Make a Joyful Noise”. Amidst lush green cornfields surrounding the campus of Scattergood Friends School, we met to seek God’s will in attending to the business of the Yearly Meeting. We continued in this joyful practice, which we have observed previously for 135 years.

We rejoice to hear of your Gathering last year and the reconnection with your historical roots. We appreciate our shared history. We appreciate our shared present, and the gift of David Eley’s presence among us.

Our first evening gathering titled “Expressing our joy” featured a panel of Friends who shared elements of their lives that bring them joy. These joy experiences included awareness of connection with nature, of the joy of parenting, of the satisfaction of doing work that enhances children’s lives, and of the joy of a new found relationship with Jesus. One panel member noted that when she experiences authentic joy, she

really needs to share it somehow. In the discussion that followed, and in many experiences of the week, we came to understand that the seeds of joy are intertwined with gratitude, awe, beauty, wonder and connection.

There were many opportunities for Friends to connect and share their joy throughout the week. Programs and interests ranged broadly from sessions that included how to build a library in Kenya, to how to remain faithful, to how to support and encourage vocal ministry, to how to do something about environmental justice concerns. A folk concert by a Young Friend gave a different voice to the issues of our various concerns. Most days began with quiet worship and bible study and concluded with group singing. Much of the joy of Iowa Yearly Meeting in session is in shared effort as we labor with each other, and as we are served and serve one another. Much joy is experienced in small circles and quiet conversations. One Friend described the spiritual refreshment and change that she experiences as a weeklong embrace; another stated that our joy comes from the “Source.” This was affirmed in the presentation by visiting Friend Deborah Shaw, who spoke to the passage from John 15:11, that our joy is complete in our reciprocal relationship with the Spirit.

As a Yearly Meeting, we are especially grateful for the presence, energy and vitality of a larger group of junior yearly meeting youth and young friends than have been able to participate in past years. Once again their management of and participation in the talent show closed our week with great joyfulness.

Through the week, we were graced with much joyful noise, much joyful quiet, and serving each other with gladness. And we go forth to do the same.

Deborah Dakin, clerk  
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

---

We listened to the Nominating Committee Report. The Nominating Committee does a very important job matching people's gifts with ways for them to serve. We appreciate their thoughtful work on our behalf.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

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

### Committees and Representatives to Other Quaker Bodies

| 2014                                                   | 2015                         | 2016                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Adult Young Friends</b>                             |                              |                             |
| Ian Taylor                                             | Michael Taylor               | Sarah Mickle                |
| Karen Greenler                                         | Nick Jacoby                  |                             |
| <b>Archives Committee</b>                              |                              |                             |
| Lucy Hansen                                            | Daniel Treadway*             | Jeff Cox                    |
| Tim Shipe                                              | Osa Bricker                  |                             |
| <b>Book Table Committee</b>                            |                              |                             |
| Beth Wilson                                            | Megan McCormick*             | Liz Oppenheimer*            |
| <b>Document Committee</b>                              |                              |                             |
| Laughing Waters<br>Friends Preparative<br>Meeting      |                              |                             |
| <b>Entertainment Committee</b>                         |                              |                             |
| Ames                                                   | Decorah                      | Paullina                    |
| Des Moines Valley                                      | Iowa City                    | Omaha                       |
| Penn Valley                                            | West Branch                  | Lincoln                     |
| Yahara                                                 | Whittier                     | Laughing Waters             |
| <b>Interim Meeting (appointed by monthly meetings)</b> |                              |                             |
| Burt Kisling    Bear Creek                             | A.M. Fink            Ames    | Lorene Ludy        Lincoln  |
| Lynda Fife        Omaha                                | Richard Johnson    BC        | Bill Deutsch        Decorah |
| Gordon Bivens    Ames                                  | Alice Hampton      Whittier  | Deborah Fisch      Paullina |
| Mary Ellen Tjossem PI                                  | Ruth Dawson        Iowa City | Cindy Winchell     DM       |
| Jim Kenney       Penn Valley                           | George Bergus        WB      | Megan McCormick   Ya        |
|                                                        | Carol Gilbert        Omaha   | Catherine Dorenbach Li      |
| <b>Junior Yearly Meeting (for Yearly Meeting)</b>      |                              |                             |
| Jenny Schmidt                                          | Deborah Fink                 | Carol Spalding-Kruse        |
| Jean Sandstrom*                                        | Elizabeth O'Sullivan         |                             |
| Sonja Sponheim                                         | Carol Gilbert                |                             |



| 2014                                                                                                                 | 2015                                                                                                                     | 2016                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Young Friends Planning Committee</b> (for Yearly Meeting)                                                         |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                       |
| Neal Shaffer<br>Bill Deutsch*                                                                                        | Ian Taylor<br>Sebastian Ashley                                                                                           | Karen Greenler                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Junior Yearly Meeting/Young Friends</b> (Midyear)                                                                 |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                       |
| Jean Sandstrom*<br>Jackie Leckband<br>Sarah Mickle                                                                   | Mikel Johnson<br>Michael Taylor                                                                                          | Erin Stites                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Midyear Meeting Planning Committee</b>                                                                            |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                       |
| Betty Young<br>Megan Knight<br>Osa Bricker<br>Jackie Leckband                                                        | Wanda Knight<br>Winifred Standing<br>Chris Kelly<br>Ruth Dawson                                                          | A.M. Fink*<br>Burt Kisling                                                                                                            |
| <b>Ministry and Counsel Committee</b> (appointed by monthly meetings)                                                |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                       |
| Carol Gilbert<br>Alberta Kisling<br>Dorothy Rogers<br>Martha Davis<br>Ann Stromquist<br>Lorene Ludy*                 | Jean Eden<br>Chloe Wagner<br>Deborah Fisch<br>Rebecca Bergus<br>Liz Oppenheimer                                          | Ruth Dawson<br>Ebby Luvaga<br>Alice Hampton<br>Penny Majors<br>Ann Robinson<br>Lynda Fife                                             |
| <b>Peace and Social Concerns Committee</b>                                                                           |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                       |
| Claire Cumbie-Drake<br>Echo Ray<br>Ian Taylor<br>Mark Patton<br>Ann Stromquist<br>Deborah Fink<br>Carole Winkleblack | Sherry Hutchison*<br>Jim Bruener<br>Marian Soloman<br>Quinn Dilkes<br>Robert Yeats<br>Patty Wengert<br>Inez Schaechterle | Jeff Kisling*<br>Judy Plank<br>Winifred Standing<br>Kathleen Hall<br>Stan Sanders<br>Andrea Jilovec<br>Chris Kelly<br>Jackie Leckband |
| <b>Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee</b>                                                                             |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                       |
| Roy Hampton                                                                                                          | Wilmer Tjossem                                                                                                           | Jean Eden*<br>Callie Marsh                                                                                                            |
| <b>Publication Committee</b>                                                                                         |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                       |
| Steve Deatherage                                                                                                     | Callie Marsh<br>Ann Stromquist*                                                                                          | Margie Haworth<br>Ken Lawrence<br>(webminder)                                                                                         |
| <b>Religious Education Committee</b>                                                                                 |                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                       |
| Judy Cottingham                                                                                                      | Bill Deutsch*                                                                                                            | Marshall Massey                                                                                                                       |

| 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|------|------|------|
|------|------|------|

**Scattergood Friends School Committee**

Iowa Yearly Meeting (FUM), Illinois Yearly Meeting, and Northern Yearly Meeting 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.*

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

**Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees**

|                    |                 |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Barb Garlinghouse* | Gordon Bivens   | Lowell Wilson   |
| Pam Avery          | Richard Johnson | Daniel Treadway |

**2017:** Robert Yeats, Larry Marsh

**Special Needs Committee**

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

**Yearly Meeting Trustees**

|                |              |                |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Jonathan Fisch | Sarah Mickle | Jim Cottingham |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|

**2017:** Faith Juhl, A.M. Fink\*

IYMC Representatives to Friends Organization Eighth Month 4, 2013

| 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|------|------|------|
|------|------|------|

**American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Corporation Members**

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

**Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)**

|                 |               |              |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Jonathan Fisch* | Kathleen Hall | Deborah Fink |
| Rebecca Bergus  | Patty Wengert | Andy Juhl    |

**Friends Peace Teams Advisory Board**

|                       |  |  |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| Eleanor (Flossie) Cox |  |  |
|-----------------------|--|--|

**Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)**

|             |             |              |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Chris Kelly | Ebby Luvaga | Penny Majors |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|

**Iowa Peace Network**

|               |  |  |
|---------------|--|--|
| Patty Wengert |  |  |
|---------------|--|--|

**Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee**

Ken Lawrence

Andrea Jilovec

**William Penn House Consultative Committee**

Alberta Kisling\*

Jim Kenney

Jeff Kisling

---

It takes a very generous spirit to be willing to break from your own worship in order to record messages as they are given to us so that others may know them and we can remember them. It is not easy, but that is the gift to us from this committee. Thank you.

**EXERCISE OF THE SPIRIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

*Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.*

Psalm 100:1-5, KJV

A great diversity of souls here, seeking unity and to know God. I hope we can honor the diversity of ways we can follow our leadings and still have one worship through the whole week.

-----

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ (2 Corinthians 4-6). From this scripture Quakers came to an understanding of Christianity. Christ is in every single one of us as Quakers who emphasize this, which leads to joy, and life and light in our hearts gives joy. That, for me, is a source of great joy that we came to know experientially.

-----

An added source of joy is the eternal nature of what we have been given.

-----

"Before Abraham was, I am. . . ." "I am the vine and you are the branches. . . ." The spirit continues to be with us and we shall bear witness because we have been with him from the beginning. I take great joy in that.

-----

We are so loved, there is so much love, sometimes we don't know what to do with it – we might explode. I don't really know what my message is. Love is there – we don't have to earn it. We do the work we do because we love. Put on the yoke of love.

-----

(singing) "Love is little, Love is low. Love makes us grow. Love will make my spirit grow. Grow in peace. Grow in Light. Love will do the thing that's right."

-----

Howard Thurman said, "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

-----

Faithfully offered, Exercise Committee  
Mary Snyder, Inez Schaechterle, Karen Morey, Thomas Greenler

---

### CLOSING MINUTE

This week we met for our 136th annual session. Being a religious body with no paid clergy or administrative staff, the goal is to get all of our business for the year taken care of in the space of four short days, while basking in the delight of seeing Friends we know and love and delighting in the beginnings of new Friendships. It always seems an improbable task that somehow improbably gets done. The weather was cool and pleasant, and made the moments working and resting together even more wondrous.

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

Romans 12:4-8, NRSV

The worship felt settled and deep and a message arose for us during our first worship. It told us that we are a diverse group in the true sense of the word, and during this week we would worship in diverse ways: some in committees, some in the kitchen, some caring for children just as the children would worship by caring for us. It is worship when we feel burdened by heavy labors, and it is worship when our burdens are lifted and placed upon the yoke that is easy. Worship is a treasure.

"Make a Joyful Noise" was our theme, and the week was dedicated to looking at joy from a number of different angles. A panel of Friends shared their personal experiences of joy:

Joy is found in dedicated and fruitful work. Joy comes in when we notice the miracle that surrounds us in the natural world. There is joy in spiritual awakening and a joy that lies beyond doing or seeing. It is a physical feeling causing our body to resonate in the wonder of life on earth and the people we love.

We were reminded that in order to speak of our joy, so we must dwell in the place where that joy resides.

Joy is a treasure.

But is joy so simple that all we have to do is just say the word and it is ours? Is it a matter of simply believing the correct things? Does it signify membership in the right group, or come from simply being "right?" If we don't know it, is that a problem to solve? Is it a feeling that disappears in the presence of pain or discomfort?

God spoke through the prophet Isaiah, "I form light and darkness, I make weal and create woe" (Isaiah 45:7). Parker Palmer notes "this is a statement Christians seldom take seriously, preferring to blame the Devil for all the darkness and woe."

Contemplating "darkness and woe" deepened our explorations of joy, and our guests helped us to look at joy in more nuanced ways. While we can feel joy in doing good work, and enjoy "being good," it is all too easy for that feeling of goodness to slide into self-righteousness.

We can get trapped into trying to earn our joy, and find ourselves operating not from joy, but out of habit, or from exhaustion, or fear. We were reminded this week that love is not earned. God's love is a gift for us that sometimes we simply don't see.

Our frantic efforts to protect our hearts can be the very thing that prevents them from being whole. In order to heal, our hearts must first be broken. When our hearts are broken open, then we can let love in.

As the week progressed, the words love and community appeared more and more frequently. One voice gently reminded us that it is also possible to proclaim our joy and not notice how our words can separate us from those who use different language to speak of the same thing.

Instead of bringing us together, words can sometimes isolate and cut us off from "answering that of God in everyone."

We were careful with each other as we began this exploration of how we are called to build a community that treasures each other and offers our hearts a safe resting place, a community that helps us find and dwell in that place where joy resides.

*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, RSV

We now conclude our 2013 annual session, planning to meet again, God willing, at Scattergood Friends School and Farm, near West Branch, Iowa, Seventh Month 22 to Seventh Month 27, 2014.

Deborah Dakin, clerk

Penny Majors, assistant clerk

---

**REPLY TO CHILDREN OF LAUGHING WATERS  
FRIENDS PREPARATIVE MEETING**

Below is the reply written by our Ministry and Counsel Committee and sent to the children of Laughing Waters. It was in response to their epistle included in our State of the Meeting Reports read during our Eighth Month 3 morning session but not minuted. (See Laughing Waters Friends Preparative Meeting Children's Epistle on page 62.)

*They brought children for him to touch. The disciples rebuked them, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant, and said to them, 'Let the children come to me; do not try to stop them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.' And he put his arms round them, laid his hands upon them, and blessed them.*

Mark 10:13-16, New English Bible

August 3, 2013

Dear Children and Youth of Laughing Waters Preparative Friends Meeting,

Thank you for your epistle to Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative. Your letter is important, so it was given to the Ministry and Counsel Committee. This committee has the job of watching out for the spiritual care of the yearly meeting. The committee meets during our annual meeting and is made up of members from all of the monthly meetings. Your letter was read aloud to this committee, so about 12 people listened to it and labored with it. It was later read to our yearly meeting business session, along with this letter to you. We would like to respond and we hope you will let us know if our letter is helpful.

We love you. We are sad that you were separated from each other for so many months and that there was nothing you could do about that. The story of Exile and Return seemed to express a lot of what you were feeling. We do not know what will happen in Laughing Waters now, but we share your hope that there will be a happy ending.

Love requires that we have practices and boundaries to keep children and youth safe in our meetings. These practices work when they are rooted and grounded in our faith. Your letter reminds us that it is important for us to communicate our faith clearly so that everyone can understand our practices. We know that parents also have boundaries and practices to keep children safe in families. Safety is an important job for parents and for meetings. We want you to know that we think your parents are doing the right thing to watch over you for good.

This week we learned that sometimes it helps to put our cares at the feet of Jesus, especially if they feel too big for us to carry alone. When we do this, we can sometimes feel the loving arms of God holding us. Know that we are here for you. Your letter has been a gift to us. We can easily see that of God in each of you, and we thank you for taking the time to write to us.

In Friendship,

Lorene Ludy, clerk  
for members of Ministry and Counsel  
Iowa Yearly Meeting, Conservative

Deborah Dakin, clerk  
Iowa Yearly Meeting, Conservative

## **Reports received but not read in annual session**

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The Religious Education Committee received reports from five monthly meetings. The list of topics that were shared in both adult and youth programs appear to reflect the interests, values, opportunities and unique experiences of each meeting. We are again making copies of the reports available to monthly meetings who might find inspiration or resources for planning First Day programs in the coming year.

In addition, we suggest that in the future, the reports might also reflect on what was gained, what worked and what didn't. A common greeting among early Friends was, "What is thy teaching for us this day?" Answering this sort of question as part of the report to Yearly Meeting may be useful to both the monthly meeting and yearly meeting.

Bill Deutsch  
For the committee

---



**SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL AND RELATED ENTITIES  
FINANCIAL REPORT - AS OF JUNE 30, 2013**

|                                 | School                | Farm                | Foundation            |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                   |                       |                     |                       |
| <b>Current Assets</b>           |                       |                     |                       |
| Checking/Savings                |                       |                     |                       |
| Designated Donations            | \$17,332.71           |                     |                       |
| Hills Checking Account          | 12,781.78             |                     | \$79,141.33           |
| Office Cash                     | 348.38                |                     |                       |
| Savings Account                 | 30,473.89             |                     |                       |
| Trip                            | 5,155.14              |                     |                       |
| Total Checking/Savings          | \$66,091.90           | 00.0                | \$79,141.33           |
| Accounts Receivable             |                       |                     |                       |
| Accounts Receivable             | \$27,150.00           |                     |                       |
| Allowance for Bad Debt          | -7,800.00             |                     |                       |
| Total Accounts Receivable       | \$19,350.00           |                     |                       |
| Other Current Assets            |                       |                     |                       |
| Prepaid Expense                 | \$28,144.00           | \$1,818.00          |                       |
| Farm Inventory                  |                       | 6,325.00            |                       |
| Due from School                 |                       | 17,198.00           |                       |
| Accrued Interest and Dividends  |                       |                     | \$6,376.97            |
| Total Other Current Assets      | \$39,694.00           | \$25,341.00         | \$6,376.97            |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>     | <b>\$125,135.90</b>   | <b>\$25,341.00</b>  | <b>\$85,518.30</b>    |
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>             |                       |                     |                       |
| Automobiles                     | \$112,714.00          | \$11,808.43         |                       |
| Buildings                       | 3,356,965.03          | 85,970.00           |                       |
| Equipment                       | 359,360.00            | 21,102.68           |                       |
| Land                            | 239,561.25            | 105,128.44          |                       |
| Breeding stock                  |                       | 8,025.00            |                       |
| Accumulated Depreciation        | -2,040,853.00         | -83,085.00          |                       |
| <b>Total Fixed Assets</b>       | <b>\$2,027,747.28</b> | <b>\$148,949.55</b> |                       |
| <b>Other Assets</b>             |                       |                     |                       |
| HJ Heinz Stock                  | \$2,995.00            |                     |                       |
| Mennonite Foundation            |                       |                     | \$30,313.48           |
| Westwood Trust #1 Scholarship   |                       |                     | 2,177,145.68          |
| Westwood Trust #2 Capital Funds |                       |                     | 1,916,393.83          |
| Westwood Trust Special Capital  |                       |                     | 540,315.00            |
| Land: Pemberton Farm            |                       |                     | 85,150.00             |
| <b>Total Other Assets</b>       | <b>\$2,995.00</b>     | <b>\$0.00</b>       | <b>\$4,749,317.99</b> |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>             | <b>\$2,155,878.18</b> | <b>\$174,290.55</b> | <b>\$4,834,836.29</b> |

|                                       | School                       | Farm                       | Foundation                   |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>       |                              |                            |                              |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                    |                              |                            |                              |
| Current Liabilities                   |                              |                            |                              |
| Accounts Payable                      | \$18,092.00                  | \$1,860.42                 |                              |
| Total Accounts Payable                | <u>\$18,092.00</u>           | <u>\$1,860.42</u>          |                              |
| Other Current Liabilities             |                              |                            |                              |
| Deferred Income                       | \$69,736.00                  |                            |                              |
| Total Deposits                        | 24,443.00                    |                            |                              |
| Due to Farm                           | 17,197.54                    |                            |                              |
| Interest Payable                      | 595.05                       |                            |                              |
| Payroll Liabilities                   | 9,434.25                     |                            |                              |
| Notes Payable, Current                | 9,426.94                     |                            |                              |
| Total Other Current Liabilities       | <u>\$130,832.78</u>          | <u>\$0.00</u>              | <u>\$0.00</u>                |
| Total Current Liabilities             | <u>\$148,924.78</u>          | <u>\$1,860.42</u>          | <u>\$0.00</u>                |
| Long-Term Liabilities                 |                              |                            |                              |
| Notes Payable, Long Term              | \$152,791.61                 |                            |                              |
| Notes Payable, Vehicle Loan           | 20,563.67                    |                            |                              |
| Less Current Portion                  | <u>-9,426.94</u>             |                            |                              |
| Total Long-Term Liabilities           | <u>\$163,928.34</u>          |                            |                              |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>              | <b>\$312,853.12</b>          | <b>\$1,860.42</b>          | <b>\$0.00</b>                |
| <b>Equity</b>                         |                              |                            |                              |
| Opening Balance                       | \$2,029,337.14               | \$174,289.17               | \$3,385,242.05               |
| Net Income                            | <u>-197,862.08</u>           | <u>-1,859.04</u>           | <u>1,449,594.24</u>          |
| <b>Total Equity</b>                   | <b><u>\$1,831,475.06</u></b> | <b><u>\$172,430.13</u></b> | <b><u>\$4,834,836.29</u></b> |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b> | <b><u>\$2,144,328.18</u></b> | <b><u>\$174,290.55</u></b> | <b><u>\$4,834,836.29</u></b> |

**SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL FOUNDATION  
TRUSTEES REPORT**

The Scattergood Foundation is charged with the stewardship of the school's growing endowment, currently valued at approximately \$4.8 million. Through a diversified portfolio of socially responsible investments, primarily stocks, bonds, and farmland, the Foundation makes annual distributions to support the school's mission. At present, approximately half of the assets support the capital-improvements budget of the school, with the remaining half supporting scholarships to deserving students. Funds are invested with a balanced approach to capital preservation and moderate growth. Of special note, during the past fiscal year the Foundation received an anonymous donation of one million dollars.

|                                                 |                 |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Total Funds Received</b>                     | \$1,102,529.10  |
| Pemberton Farm income                           | 26,443.76       |
| Billboard lease income                          | 950.00          |
| Miscellaneous income                            | 254.00          |
| Hills Bank interest                             | 724.98          |
| Westwood #1 interest and dividends              | 34,211.24       |
| Westwood #2 interest and dividends              | 32,188.33       |
| Westwood Special Capital                        | 4,811.47        |
| Everence interest & dividends                   | 643.32          |
| New donations                                   | 1,002,302.00    |
| <br><b>Total Investment Fees</b>                | <br>\$40,236.95 |
| Investment fees for Westwood #1                 | 18,603.00       |
| Investment fees for Westwood #2                 | 17,818.00       |
| Investment fees for Westwood Special<br>Capital | 3,381.00        |
| Investment fees for Everence                    | 434.95          |
| <br><b>Other Expenses</b>                       |                 |
| Pemberton Farm                                  | \$2,057.55      |
| <br><b>Total Transfers to School</b>            |                 |
| Capital, operating, and scholarship             | \$97,705.00     |

## Growth of Foundation

| Change as of<br>fiscal year ending:                            | 6/30/2012      | 6/30/2013      | +/-            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Investments and Earnings</b>                                | \$3,385,242.05 | \$4,834,836.29 | \$1,449,594.24 |
| Everence (Mennonite)                                           | 27,249.56      | 30,313.48      | 3,063.92       |
| Westwood Trust #1<br>(scholarship)                             | 1,443,148.14   | 2,177,145.68   | 733,977.54     |
| Westwood Trust #2<br>(capital funds)                           | 1,711,058.83   | 1,916,393.83   | 205,335.00     |
| Westwood Trust Special<br>Capital                              | 0              | 540,315.00     | 540,315.00     |
| Pemberton Farm<br>(adjusted to reflect<br>current land values) | 85,150.00      | 200,000.00     | 114,850.00     |
| Hills Bank savings<br>(account closed)                         | 88,608.64      | 0              | (88,608.64)    |
| Hills Bank checking                                            | 24,010.04      | 79,141.33      | 55,131.29      |
| Other current assets<br>(accrued interest and<br>dividends)    | 6,016.84       | 6,376.97       | 360.13         |

## Historic Dollar Value of Contributions to the Endowment

|           | Additions to<br>scholarship<br>endowment | Cumulative<br>scholarship<br>endowment | Additions to<br>capital/ops<br>endowment | Total<br>Contributions<br>to Foundation |
|-----------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 2000–2001 | —                                        | 834,846.00                             | —                                        | 834,846.00                              |
| 2001–2002 | 5,727.50                                 | 840,573.50                             | —                                        | 840,573.50                              |
| 2002–2003 | 155,125.10                               | 995,698.60                             | —                                        | 995,698.60                              |
| 2003–2004 | 98,210.51                                | 1,093,909.11                           | —                                        | 1,093,909.11                            |
| 2004–2005 | 64,232.49                                | 1,158,141.60                           | —                                        | 1,158,141.60                            |
| 2005–2006 | 17,383.50                                | 1,175,525.10                           | —                                        | 1,175,525.10                            |
| 2006–2007 | 147,836.95                               | 1,323,362.05                           | 1,568,250.00                             | 2,891,612.05                            |
| 2007–2008 | 66,135.18                                | 1,389,497.23                           | —                                        | 2,957,747.23                            |
| 2008–2009 | 41,883.53                                | 1,431,380.76                           | —                                        | 2,999,630.76                            |
| 2009–2010 | 1,890.00                                 | 1,433,270.76                           | —                                        | 3,001,520.76                            |
| 2010–2011 | 1,800.00                                 | 1,435,370.76                           | —                                        | 3,003,620.76                            |
| 2011–2012 | 1,429.00                                 | 1,436,799.76                           | —                                        | 3,005,049.76                            |
| 2012–2013 | 502,302.00                               | 1,939,101.76                           | 500,000.00                               | 4,007,351.76                            |

---

## FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT

Despair is a luxury that we cannot afford. As this report is written – July, 2013 – Congress reaches new lows of dysfunction. While many of us would rather turn away than engage, the disconcerting truth is that our survival is at play.

The good news is that there are solid measures that would put us on track to sorting through the quagmire. There are ways through the labyrinth and what we do matters. With the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), we have a guide. Equally significant, the success and effectiveness of FCNL depends on you and me.

And we have successes – not huge headliners, but incremental steps forward. A recent example:

In June, after years of work, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the McGovern-Jones Amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill stating that it is the sense of the U.S.

Congress that the war in Afghanistan should be over by the end of 2014. While FCNL would like to see more in terms of a humane transition plan rather than just bailing out of a bad war, this is a start.

The Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee cut the funding for the B61 nuclear bomb refurbishment by 30%, budgeting \$369 million for the program instead of the Administration's request of \$537 million.

Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle and in both houses are strongly questioning the President's statement that he would send weapons to arm Syrian rebels. In the Defense Authorization Bill, there is language once again saying that nothing in the bill authorizes the use of military force against Syria or Iran.

FCNL has been working faithfully on addressing the looming climate disruption that threatens human – and all – life on earth. Step one is to get Congress to declare that climate disruption is real, mostly caused by humans, and something to be addressed. This in itself is a struggle; such an acknowledgement by Congress would be a significant inroad.

We are hoping to hold a Climate Action Lobbying Training at Scattergood on Saturday, November 2. Jose Aguto, FCNL Legislative Secretary for Sustainable Energy and Environment, will be leading it. Students, Friends, and the public will have a chance to be participants in this vital undertaking.

FCNL's Policy Committee is revising its Policy Document, which will serve as the basis of its work over the next ten years. New issues and dilemmas are constantly arising, as are new perspectives on old issues and dilemmas. Members of the FCNL General Committee have been responding to the initial draft of the Revised Policy Document, which will get further rewriting for presentation and approval at the Annual Meeting in November. Finding unity among Quakers of all stripes from across America is an amazing process.

In a major step forward, FCNL and AFSC have worked together toward defining a new grounding for U.S. Foreign Policy. A working group has drafted a statement which you are invited to weigh in on. Called "Shared Security," the statement is in part an answer to the question, "If war is not the answer, what is?" It builds on FCNL programs around Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict as well as AFSC actions in various sites around the world. Significantly, it incorporates the reality that environmental issues are peace issues. "Huge military budgets and a global military presence have become

detriments, not assets, to our security,” says “Shared Security.” In an interdependent world, American security depends not on domination, but on facing problems cooperatively with the rest of humanity -- shared security. To read the draft and participate in refining it, go to [www.sharedsecurity.org](http://www.sharedsecurity.org).

Through FCNL, passing on a livable world to our beloved posterity becomes a possibility. How can we not step up?

For the FCNL representatives,  
Deborah Fink

---

**AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE  
MIDWEST REGION REPORT**

*Jon Krieg, Midwest Region Communications Specialist  
July 2013*

Warm greetings to all IYMC Friends from AFSC’s Midwest Region. May you enjoy and be inspired by this annual gathering of such good folks. Thank you for inviting AFSC to be with you. I know you’ll enjoy meeting Sharon Goens, who directs AFSC’s new Healing Justice Program in the Twin Cities.

It’s been an eventful year for AFSC at large and the Midwest Region in particular – a year full of substantial work for peace and justice. Along the way, we’ve experienced an abundance of joys, sorrows and change.

In June 2012, AFSC completed the reorganization of its U.S. regions, reducing them from nine to four. AFSC’s Des Moines office, which had served as the regional headquarters for the (North) Central Region since 1948, is now part of the Midwest Region, based in Chicago. Sonia Tuma, who directed the Central Region for seven years, has moved back home to Los Angeles and is regional director of the West Region.

In April 2013, we were greatly saddened by the passing of Michael McConnell, who served as regional director of the Great Lakes and then Midwest Region for over 20 years. Michael was the force behind a number of creative projects, including the Eyes Wide Open boots display and the Windows and Mirrors mural exhibit. He was also a big believer in the need to nurture the next generation of peace and justice advocates. In his honor, we invite you to consider a contribution to the Michael McConnell Youth Internship Fund. More at [www.afsc.org/michael](http://www.afsc.org/michael).

One great example of youth and other Friends’ involvement with AFSC’s work came last September when West Branch and Iowa City Friends joined with Scattergood to co-sponsor AFSC’s “Windows and Mirrors: Reflections on the War on Afghanistan.” Scattergood students

organized and participated in a peace march and art mob, walking from West Branch to Iowa City. Scattergood School co-sponsored an exhibit at a local library and was part of a group that organized programs and events connected to the exhibit. Young Friends fill internships throughout AFSC; we urge people to contact local offices for more information.

Margaret Jackson is currently Interim Regional Director for the Midwest Region. A search committee is in the process of finding a regional director. The regional reorganization did not change the composition of the region's program staff.

### ***From West to East across the Midwest***

Let's head west to east and take a quick look at AFSC's program in the new Midwest Region. If you'd like to receive monthly highlights of Midwest work, please contact me at JKrieg@afsc.org. All of our work is well represented at [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org).

#### *Iowa*

In Iowa, organizing for immigration reform has united AFSC, several Friends, and over 20 allied organizations in a coalition effort to persuade Congress to adopt a "new path," which is the title of AFSC's updated position paper on immigration. We've been particularly blessed by the energy and enthusiasm of several young immigrants, known as Dreamers, who benefitted from President Obama's announcement of Deferred Action last year. These Dreamers have helped turn out 300 people for a recent march and rally in Des Moines and another 200 for an interfaith service.

The immigration legal services component of AFSC Iowa's Immigrants Voice Program continues to help hundreds of immigrants and refugees each year from dozens of countries. The program has conducted large legal clinics with volunteers to assist the Deferred Action applicants and, more recently, those Salvadorans applying for a renewal of their Temporary Protected Status in the U.S. There's no more moving sight than that of a family reunited after years of separation.

Iowa's Peace Building Program continues to focus much of its energy on seeking a just resolution for the conflict in Palestine-Israel. Aided by a college intern from Palestine, the program worked this spring with a new group on Drake's campus to host a rabbi active with Jewish Voice for Peace. AFSC Iowa has joined other AFSC offices in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, encouraging divestment from firms which profit from the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land.



### *Twin Cities*

The new Healing Justice Program in the Twin Cities is off to a strong start. This past April, AFSC staff helped coordinate a reconvening of restorative and healing justice advocates from throughout the Twin Cities area for a discussion of how to focus this work. AFSC's role, in part, is to bring together these advocates and promote the use of healing justice rather than punishment as a response to harm. The program has greatly benefitted from the support of local Friends, including the Minnesota state public defender.

### *Kansas City*

AFSC's work in Kansas City blossomed this past year with the enthusiastic participation of three young peace interns. The interns coordinated a training for youth advocacy, a spoken word project, and the local organizing of AFSC's If I Had a Trillion Dollars youth film festival. The latter featured several films by area youth groups shown on a large screen in January. One of the groups was a finalist in the festival and traveled to Washington, DC in April to join other youth from around the nation in promoting a saner federal budget.

### *St. Louis*

In St. Louis, another relatively new program took AFSC's message of peace into three high schools which serve at-risk youth. Modeled after other "civic engagement" programs in Los Angeles and elsewhere, the students discussed new ways to resolve conflict and how they can organize themselves to improve their communities. The program is now considering ways to help students learn all aspects of running a small business. As the saying goes, "Nothing stops a bullet like a job."

### *Chicago*

Chicago is not only the administrative hub of the new Midwest Region – it's also the driving force for much of AFSC's innovative program work across the country. Chicago staff co-direct AFSC's Wage Peace Campaign, which seeks to reprioritize federal budget priorities away from the Pentagon and toward human needs. In addition, Chicago staff work nationally and locally for Middle East Peace; one focus has been encouraging the investment firm of TIAA-CREF to divest from companies which profit from the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

More locally, AFSC supports a Chicago effort to organize taxi drivers in order to win a fare increase and to end lease overcharges. Hailing from around the world, taxi drivers in Chicago often have to work 16-hour days just to survive.

The other local AFSC work in Chicago supports youth in largely Latino and African American high schools as they produce and sell mosaics and t-shirts. Money from these sales supports other entrepreneurial efforts while providing some college assistance for immigrant youth who don't otherwise qualify for financial assistance.

#### *Indiana*

AFSC's peace building work in Indiana is closely related to the peace work in Chicago. Indiana staff coordinate the national If I Had a Trillion Dollars youth film festival, which continues to grow in participation each year. More information at [www.ihtd.org](http://www.ihtd.org). A video about the festival recently won a People's Choice Award. AFSC in Indiana also works with groups such as Veterans for Peace to exhibit the local portions of AFSC's Eyes Wide Open exhibit.

#### *Ann Arbor, Michigan*

In Ann Arbor, Michigan, AFSC's Criminal Justice Program is abuzz with the energy of nearly a dozen interns who work on improving the living conditions of the 43,000 prisoners within the Michigan Department of Corrections. Interns answer over 3000 inquiries each year from prisoners and track those concerns in order to advocate with the DOC for change. In addition, AFSC travel to prisons throughout the state to conduct parole readiness workshops for those prisoners soon to face the parole board.

#### *Dayton, Ohio*

You can almost smell the fair-trade coffee roasting in Dayton, Ohio, thanks to a co-op being organized among African refugees by AFSC staff. The co-op is a fine example of the Welcome Dayton Plan, an award-winning effort by the City of Dayton to encourage economic growth by building on the strengths of Dayton's immigrants and refugees. AFSC played a vital role in the adoption of the plan, which was recently recognized by the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

#### *Northeast Ohio*

The easternmost office of the Midwest Region is in Northeast Ohio, where staff address the root causes of economic and political injustice while offering a positive alternative. AFSC directs the Ohio Move to Amend effort, working with cities throughout the state to proclaim that corporations aren't people and money isn't speech. AFSC also educates the public on the need to change federal monetary policy, which currently gives an inordinate and undemocratic amount of power to private banks. The Akron Time Bank, coordinated by AFSC, provides a healthy example of how our economic relationships could work; members trade services based on the "currency" of one hour.

## ***Lifting up a vision of “Shared Security”***

That concludes the Midwest, but why stop there? At the national level, AFSC has teamed up with FCNL to produce a paper and discussion guide promoting the concept of shared security, a Quaker vision for foreign policy. See [www.sharedsecurity.org](http://www.sharedsecurity.org) for downloads and more information. The publication lifts up four core principles:

1. Peaceful ends through peaceful means
2. The planetary imperative
3. Global cooperation and the rule of law
4. Restorative approaches to heal a broken world

Ruth Flower of FCNL will share more about Shared Security during your gathering. It’s exciting to see AFSC, FCNL and Friends Meetings working closely together to envision and create a new world.

Thank you once again for your interest in and support of AFSC. Whether you’ve served on the Board, the Corporation, a regional or local committee, or your monthly meeting’s peace and social concerns committee, please know how valuable your role is in promoting peace and justice in our world.

Again, if you’d like to receive monthly highlights of the work of the Midwest Region, please contact me at [JKrieg@afsc.org](mailto:JKrieg@afsc.org). All of our work, including lots of photos and videos, is well represented at [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org).

---

## **WILLIAM PENN HOUSE REPORT**

The spring issue of “Penn Notes” is all about workcamps. Brad Ogilvie says he often hears people talk about how their workcamp experience changed their lives. For some it introduced them to Quakerism and deepened their faith. “Workcamps are opportunities to bring the testimonies of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship to the world allowing for continuing revelation.”

Byron Sandford, Executive Director of William Penn House, tells us “We have found that when we repeat how often we have done things, we limit ourselves. Each of our meetings, each of our communities is unique and one size does not fit all. For service to be sustainable, we need to reduce the excuses of why this will not work and grow our program on what does work.”

Brad recently received the Martin Luther King “Beloved Community Model” in which he describes a community that practices nonviolence, is radically inclusive, and strives to model the change we want to see as opposed to central power and control by “experts” in the activist model. Brad says “Our objective is always that workcamps and all of

our work at William Penn House be examples of this Beloved Community, where we are all equals, practicing what we preach.”

Faith Kelly continues to provide a grounded and faith-based approach to our signature ministry: Hospitality. Without the income from our guests and others who use our facility, none of our programs could survive. Faith helps to control the cost of overhead, trains interns and volunteers, and provides wonderful outreach to the broader Quaker world. William Penn House has hosted over 6500 guests this year.

Brian Rodgers recently asked for help to turn a neglected lot in DC into a community vegetable garden, recreation space and rain garden. Some of the work has started and the project needs physical labor. William Penn will be reaching out to their network, including Quaker meetings and schools, to be a part of the work.

Mike Gray, from Western Quaker Workcamps, was recently awarded the Peaceable Kingdom Award for his continuing ministry to native and indigenous people. If you know people who are doing quiet peacemaking work, let Brad know as this will be an annual award.

William Penn House continues to nurture future leaders through their Intern Program. Interns experience the workcamps, learn about service in DC, the importance of relationships in doing service, and how things are connected.

The Peace Garden, the front yard with native plants and vegetables; the Rain Garden, the backyard converted into a rain garden; and the Green Roof, a vegetated roof on the Carriage House; all these have reduced the property’s run off an estimated 80%, reduced their urban heat load, and increased a viable habitat for birds. No residential staff member has an automobile and the rest of staff commutes to work by bus or bike.

Byron Sandford says, “The fact is that at William Penn House, we are focused on one thing: RELATIONSHIPS. The more we can have true, genuine, honest, respectful, and living relationships, the stronger the fabric of our global community, and the more we can work together for a higher cause—global, sustainable peace. Relationships are what bind us together, carry us through good and bad times and are ultimately vital to the peaceful resolution to all the injustices we seek to overcome.”

The fiscal year has been a challenge. After ten years of growth the income of William Penn House is down and they have had to rely on reserves for important programs. It is especially important that Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) continue their donation of \$300.00

The Committee,

Alberta Kisling, Jim Kenney, Jeff Kisling

## ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT OF CONCERN

### Addendum to Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report

[It was agreed in business session that this statement was too long to be read and discussed and that instead it could be used as a resource and as background material to the minute proposed by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and approved by the yearly meeting on Seventh Day.]

*Every good that we can do, every good that we can imagine doing, will be for naught if we do not address climate change.*

Van Jones, *Rebuild the Dream*, February 2013

We, members of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), are dismayed at the damage that has been done, and continues to be done, to our environment.

The widespread availability of refined fossil fuels began to revolutionize societies worldwide early in the last century. Progress came to be defined as the development and use of a vast array of products and devices to make work and living tasks easier or to do things that weren't possible before. Initially the industrial revolution resulted in widespread employment, but eventually human labor was largely replaced with work done by machines, which were either directly powered by gasoline or indirectly by electricity which was usually produced by fossil fuel.

One huge effect of this was the migration from the farm to the city. Very inexpensive gasoline and the availability of personal automobiles led to urban development that assumed people would travel some distance from their homes to get to work, school, grocery stores and other businesses. That requires the use of significantly greater volumes of fossil fuel for daily life and a sprawling infrastructure of highway, water, waste, and electrical systems, and emergency and other services.

A culture evolved that changed priorities to material consumption and convenience. Business profits from that became the key drivers of economic and political policies. This move to cities tended to disconnect people's close relationship with nature, and environmental consequences of these changes were purposely minimized. Businesses did not want protecting the environment to impact profits, so subsidies (tax incentives, price controls, favorable trade regulations, etc.) were employed to hide the true costs of energy and water production. Environmental concerns were not the priority when they conflicted with profits. We didn't have ways to understand, quantitate, and price environmental damage.

There are three major problems we are now facing as a result of this:

**1. We are passing the point of peak oil production.**

Supplies of this nonrenewable resource are dwindling and it will be much harder to extract the fossil fuel supplies that are left (such as tar sands). Energy return on energy investment (EROEI, or EROI) is an important concept, being the ratio of the amount of usable acquired energy divided by the energy expended to produce that energy. Hydroelectric power has an EROEI of 100. In the early days of easy oil extraction, oil's EROEI was about 100, but has been falling steadily, and was 19 by 2006. Tar sands' is 3, making it hard to justify extracting it.

**2. Our economic system is dependent on continual growth.** We are reaching limits to available resources to sustain that growth. Much of industry has replaced human and animal labor with fossil fuels and is not prepared for rapidly increasing costs and decreasing supplies of energy and water. Widespread unemployment is the root of many social problems and injustices today. Through tax laws and business regulations, this economic system is facilitating greater inequities in the distribution of wealth.

**3. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are increasing.** Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), primarily from burning fossil fuel, and methane (from animal digestive gases and released from thawing frozen deposits) trap heat in the atmosphere. That is what has kept earth air temperatures moderate. But rapidly increasing atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations are increasing the atmospheric temperature. The consequences include melting ice caps, which results in less sunlight reflected off the ice and more heat absorbed by the earth's surface, rising ocean water levels from the melting ice, and release of methane deposits that had been frozen, further increasing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. These changes also affect ocean currents and are thought to be contributing to changing weather patterns. Warmer air holds more water. Less water returned to the earth as rain and changing precipitation patterns are contributing to desertification of some areas of the earth.

The two major ways CO<sub>2</sub> is removed from the atmosphere (known as carbon sinks) are by:

1. Photosynthesis of plants: Chlorophyll combines CO<sub>2</sub> from the air with water to produce sugar and oxygen. Destruction of forests decreases this carbon sink, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> removal (as well as decreasing oxygen production).

2. Absorption into the ocean: CO<sub>2</sub> combines with water to form carbonic acid. Increasing atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> leads to

increased CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed into the ocean, resulting in abnormal acidification of the ocean, which damages coral reefs and other marine life.

Unfortunately the rate at which carbon sinks remove CO<sub>2</sub> is significantly slower than the rate at which CO<sub>2</sub> is being added. It is estimated that it takes about 100 years to remove CO<sub>2</sub> after it has been added to the atmosphere. The over 14 TONS of CO<sub>2</sub> dumped into the atmosphere by the U.S. alone in a 24 hour period will remain there for nearly 100 years, unless ways are found to increase CO<sub>2</sub> extraction. For example, some progress is being made in developing artificial photosynthesis, but the impact this could have on CO<sub>2</sub> removal is not yet known.

Public education is required so that informed personal decisions and economic policies can be made. Protecting and restoring our environment must become the primary goal of political and economic policies. Addressing greenhouse gas emissions and preserving our water and food supplies must become our overriding principles. As a case in point, it is crucial that the Keystone pipeline to transport tar sands oil from Canada to the U.S. Gulf Coast not be built. CO<sub>2</sub> from burning tar sands oil must not be added to the atmosphere, and the very high risk of contamination of the Ogallala aquifer, the primary water supply for many of the Great Plains states, cannot be justified. The construction of the Keystone pipeline has become the defining issue for our future direction. Ecocide refers to the destructive impact of humans upon the environment, leading to human extinction. Many believe we must immediately stop greenhouse gas emissions if we are to have any chance of avoiding ecocide. Construction of the Keystone pipeline will both signal that environmental concerns will continue to be systematically denied and likely assure that ecocide will occur. Some Friends are engaging with others in acts of civil disobedience to try to stop construction of the Keystone pipeline and raise awareness of the consequences of building it. This is seen as an opportunity to make others aware of the climate catastrophe that continued fossil fuel extraction and use represents.

Similarly, hydraulic fracturing (fracking) for buried natural gas inserts toxic chemicals into the earth that are polluting drinking water supplies.

Proposed minute:

**Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) opposes the practices of both tar sands extraction and hydraulic fracturing.**

Conservation (reducing use and recycling) is one of the most efficient and readily available ways to conserve energy and other resources.

Simple supply and demand will inevitably result in rapid and dramatic increases in the cost of fossil fuel products and water. Because so many sectors of the present economy rely on cheap energy and water, severe stress, and possibly even collapse of this system, will occur. Widespread travel will significantly decrease as result of both the scarcity and cost of fossil fuels. Transoceanic transport of food and other goods will cease. Changing weather patterns, droughts, desertification, pollution, and increased energy costs will increase the cost of water, since a great deal of energy is needed for water distribution. Distribution of goods, especially food, will be severely impacted. Social unrest will result.

In broad terms, a cultural shift is required to reverse what led to this point. The recent cultural shift toward secular materialism does not reflect Friends' values. In addition, we are faced with the moral travesty of consuming nonrenewable resources and the additional environmental damage done in the process, knowing at least some of the catastrophic effects this will have on future generations. Since this cultural and economic model is not sustainable, as it fails, we have an opportunity to help move toward a more nearly equal and socially just society. We should examine our own lives, and how our lifestyle could be changed.

Two minutes have been approved by the yearly meeting (2008, 2012) that address these issues. As they state, one of our goals is to reduce the use of or get rid of personal automobiles. It is obviously significantly more efficient to share public transportation vehicles, more and more of which use alternatives to fossil fuels. Each time we think of travel, we should consider alternatives to using a car, such as walking, bicycling, or using public transportation. Bicycles in particular can easily cover significant distances without great effort and are at the same time good exercise, as well as being enjoyable to ride. Adult tricycles are available for those who need the extra stability. Various devices can be used to help carry things like groceries. Pedal-powered trolleys can be found in more and more cities. We can encourage shared bicycle systems in our communities and the development of bicycle paths through city streets. Friends meetings should encourage bicycling, including providing bicycle racks and perhaps offering help with bicycle maintenance. This can be a visible witness.

Jeff Kisling and Sherry Hutchison, co-clerks  
Peace and Social Concerns Committee



## SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE REPLIES TO LETTERS SENT FROM IYMC SINCE OUR 2012 SESSION

### *Regarding Climate Change:*

**Tom Latham**, Congressman from **Iowa**, September, 2012. He referenced H. Res. 672, which *“expresses the sense of the U.S. House of Representatives that the energy, environmental and foreign policies of the United States should reflect appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to climate change, as documented by credible scientific finds and as evidenced by the extreme weather events of recent years.”* He understands the importance we place on this matter and that he will keep our thoughts in mind...

**Bruce Braley**, Congressman from **Iowa**, October, 2012. He referenced H. Res. 672 and acknowledged that climate change is happening and that human activities are primary causes. His response: *“the bottom line is that we need to act now to address our nation’s energy problems, create jobs, and build resilience in poor and vulnerable communities.”* He said he will keep our views in mind...

**Steve King**, Congressman from **Iowa**, October, 2012. He states *“that it hardly seems wise or prudent to enact legislations like “Cap and Tax.”* When it comes to climate change, King claims alarmists, like former Vice President Al Gore, *“are willfully ignoring scientific evidence.”* He dispels data from computer modeling past and present, that have predicted change, and doubts whether climate is impacted by human activity, citing the following: *“CO<sub>2</sub>, considered by some to be the main greenhouse gas driver of so-called climate change, makes up only 1/20 of one percent of our atmosphere, and the CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by humans represents less than ten percent of that already miniscule number.”*

### *Regarding US Military Presence in Afghanistan:*

**Tom Harkin**, Senator from **Iowa**, April, 2012. He didn’t think the President was doing enough to draw down troops in Afghanistan. He said that he believed that the military had accomplished what it had set out to do in Afghanistan, and that it was time to step back from the war, bring the troops home and have forces shift from a combat to a training mission mode. *“We must stop thinking of our efforts as an endless “War on Terror” and instead focus on more targeted and effective missions in which the bulk of the work is accomplished by our intelligence services, through collaboration with our allies, and by law enforcement throughout the world.”*

*Regarding Efforts for Peace in the Middle East:*

**Charles Grassley**, Senator from **Iowa**, December, 2012. He cited that both former President Bush and President Obama emphasized the establishment of a Palestinian state, formed next to a secure Israel, as important U.S. Policy. However, he didn't see how Israel could be expected to negotiate peace with a coalition (Palestinian Authority and Hamas) that *"includes members that are committed to the destruction of Israel and refuse to recognize the state of Israel's right to exist."* He believed the U.S. must play an active role in facilitating negotiations for peace, and encouraged the President to stand with Israel by opposing any unilateral move to declare a Palestinian state outside of a negotiated peace agreement.

*Regarding Immigration Reform:*

**Kevin Yoder**, Congressman from **Kansas**, May, 2013. He supports *"common sense reform of our immigration process and enforcing our current laws."* He co-sponsored two bills requiring individuals to provide social security numbers if they claim the additional child tax credit.

**Tom Latham**, Congressman from **Iowa**, May, 2013. He supports legal immigration. He admits *"the American system of immigration is broken."* *"The stark reality is that years of neglect and misguided enforcement of our immigration laws have created a deeply flawed system for which there is no easy fix. It must take an effort by both parties to drop the bickering and grandstanding and work together to achieve a commonsense plan to fix the issue of immigration. That's the Iowa way."*

**Tammy Baldwin**, Senator from **Wisconsin**, July, 2013. She reports that she hears *"from people across Wisconsin that our current immigration system is broken."* She agrees. From her perspective, *"immigration is part of our American Story,"* and *"too many Wisconsin families have been torn apart by our outdated immigration laws."* She is aware that dairy farmers rely on immigrant workers and that they (farmers) need a stable secure workforce. Additionally, children of these workers should not be punished, but should be allowed to contribute to their communities by attending college, serving in the military or starting a career.

**Tom Harkin**, Senator from **Iowa**, July, 2013. He believes that the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act (S. 744), while imperfect, addresses core issues at the heart of immigration reform, and provides a *"tough but fair path to citizenship"* by placing rigorous checks on immigrants to gain legal status:

requirements to learn English, maintain a certain income level, pass thorough background checks, and pay fines, fees and penalties.

**Steve King**, Congressman from **Iowa**, July, 2013. In his opinion of the 844-page bill, Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act (S. 744) he stated that it is full of gimmicks, misdirections, and empty promises including a *“toothless promise of future border security that lacks any serious assurances that it will actually happen.”* He complains that the bill creates *“aggressive and outrageous amnesty and instantly legalizes almost all illegal aliens currently in the country,”* while it gives too much discretion to the Administration and Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, who in his opinion, is *“unwilling to enforce our current immigration law.”* He does not believe that *“we can solve the problem of (12-20 million) illegal aliens living in the US today, by rewarding law breakers with the object of their crime –citizenship.* His answer is to secure the borders, make E-Verify permanent, and *“cut off the citizenship, job and welfare magnets that entice people to come illegally.”*

---

The following guidelines did not arise from the yearly meeting session 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 funds except for those expenses related to Yearly Meeting sessions and Midyear Meeting sessions. Yearly Meeting expenses should be submitted to the treasurer of the Entertainment Committee. Midyear Meeting expenses should be submitted to the treasurer of Bear Creek Monthly Meeting.

**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 Junior Yearly Meeting. They should submit the receipt for those supplies to the Junior Yearly Meeting Committee clerk who will then forward them as approved to the yearly meeting treasurer.

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

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

**Unbudgeted requests:** All requests for financial assistance not in the fiscal year budget should be submitted to the yearly meeting clerk. If there is an urgent request, the Interim Committee, which conducts the business of the yearly meeting between sessions, may be called to meet.

---