

Minutes of  
**Iowa Yearly Meeting  
of Friends**  
(Conservative)

**2014**

Held at Scattergood Friends School,  
near West Branch, Iowa  
Seventh Month 22 – Seventh Month 27, 2014

Published 2014 by the Publication Committee of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative).

Set in 11 pt. Times New Roman using Microsoft Office Word 2010. 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.ymc.org>

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

137th Annual Session

Seventh Month 22 to Seventh Month 27, 2014

**FOURTH DAY – WEDNESDAY – 7/23/2014**

At the 137th annual session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) held at Scattergood Friends School, near West Branch, Iowa, from Seventh Month 22 to Seventh Month 27, 2014.

*When we discover the secret of being inwardly at worship while outwardly at work, we find that the soul's silence brings us to God and God to us. Silence takes us beyond the limits of consciousness and into the heart and mind and will of God.*

Brent Bill

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We are glad to have the presence of these visitors: Ann Hinkhouse, Health Coordinator for Scattergood Friends School, and Brent Bill, coordinator for the New Meetings Project of Friends General Conference and member of West Newton Monthly Meeting of Western Yearly Meeting.

We notice that many monthly meetings are unable to name members to fill yearly meeting committee appointments. We need to be mindful of what this might be telling us.

Similarly, the Representatives expressed a concern that there are only seven people to serve on our Nominating Committee. What does this mean?

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

Ames	A.M. Fink
Bear Creek	Burt Kisling, Eldon Morey
Decorah	Martha Davis
Des Moines Valley	Cindy Winchell, Mikel Johnson
Iowa City	Carole Winkleblack
Lincoln	Jean Eden, Dan Schlitt
Omaha	Carol Gilbert, Frank Griffith
Paullina	Jon Fisch, Mary Snyder
Penn Valley	Gary Marx
West Branch	George Bergus, Callie Marsh
Whittier	Ruth Hampton, Bob Yeats
Yahara	Karen Greenler

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

Ames	Deborah Fink, Ebby Luvaga
Bear Creek	Karen Morey, Bob Winchell
Decorah	Bill Deutsch
Des Moines Valley	Sherry Hutchison
Iowa City	John Andrews
Lincoln	Marge Schlitt
Omaha	Marshall Massey
Paullina	Mary Ellen Tjossem, Inez Schaechterle
Penn Valley	None appointed
West Branch	Larry Marsh
Whittier	Julie Davis, Mike Hammer, Alice Hampton
Yahara	None appointed

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There are 15 representatives and 6 caretakers present. Others may be attending later sessions or are assuming other duties at Yearly Meeting that are held during meeting for worship with attention to business.

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## REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTMENTS

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

Ames	None appointed
Bear Creek	Alberta Kisling
Decorah	None appointed
Des Moines Valley	Doris Jean Newlin
Iowa City	Ruth Dawson
Lincoln	Dan Schlitt
Omaha	Debbie Galusha
Paullina	Beth Wilson
Penn Valley	None appointed
West Branch	Judy Cottingham
Whittier	None appointed
Yahara	None appointed

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

Exercise Committee	Mikel Johnson, Eldon Morey, Steve Snyder
Epistle Committee	Martha Davis, Thomas Greenler, Ruth Hampton
Special Replies Committee	Ann Stromquist, Marshall Massey
Yearly Meeting Reporters	Ann Robinson, Alice Hampton, Neal Shaffer
Auditing Committee	Frank Griffith, Cindy Winchell

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Readers for this morning's business sessions are Jean Sandstrom and Mary Snyder.

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Midyear Meeting is a very blessed time for us to gather together. We enjoyed listening to the good reports of the Midyear Meeting and the Midyear Youth.



## MIDYEAR MEETING REPORT

Midyear Meeting was held at Bear Creek Meeting House on April 12-13. Penny Majors of Yahara Monthly Meeting led us in the theme "Our Faith, Our Practice." She used a game, "Quake," which she developed some ten years ago, to lead us to answer queries about our personal experiences of being Friends. And it worked. The response of Friends was overwhelmingly enthusiastic. She continued to elicit deep sharing of Friends in the pre-meeting session entitled "Dialogue with the Divine."

Erin Stites of Des Moines Valley Meeting led the children's program with the assistance of several Friends from Bear Creek and Des Moines Valley meetings. They did several activities which taught the interdependence between people, the earth, and the creatures of the earth.

As usual, the craft sale for the support of AFSC was a rousing success.

### MIDYEAR MEETING FINANCIAL REPORT

Contributions		\$3,288.50
Expenses		
Food	947.00	
Cook	500.00	
Committee	39.20	
Baby sitter	25.00	
Hotel	100.00	
Cleaning	110.00	
Hosting fee	<u>300.00</u>	
Total Expenses		<u>\$2,021.20</u>
Balance forwarded to IYMC		\$1,267.30

We thank Bear Creek Meeting for continuing to host the Midyear Meeting.

For the committee,  
A.M. Fink, clerk

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### MIDYEAR MEETING YOUTH PROGRAM REPORT

Our Midyear Junior Yearly Meeting brought together a solid group of children and adult volunteers. The young Friends, though few in

number, were a delight to have. David, Chris, Thea, Gillie, Nora & Huck (age range 4 to 11). Those working with the children and planning included Charlie Brown, Dorothy Lifka, Edith Munro, Erin Stites, Mikel Johnson, D.J. Newlin and Jean Sandstrom from Des Moines Valley and Jackie Leckband from Bear Creek.

Dorothy shared a book about a peaceful world and a quiet activity on community as well as yoga tag. To go along with Earth Day we had the children collect nature items for a sensory collage while on a quiet observation hike with Erin. Edith Munro offered a "Bee Smart" activity that emphasized our interdependence among bees, ourselves and the earth. The children got to play some fun structured outdoor activities such as "Chase The Dragon's Tail" and various tag games led by Erin and Dorothy that allowed for problem solving and fun. The kids also had some unstructured time to play, and the loft quickly became a place to play catch from and make forts. Many thanks for all who shared and offered ideas & assistance.

On behalf of the Midyear Youth Program,  
Jean Sandstrom

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We appreciate the report of Interim Meeting.

### **INTERIM MEETING MINUTES**

Fourth Month 12th, 2014  
Bear Creek Meeting House

Present: A.M. Fink (Ames), Megan McCormick (Yahara), Bill Deutsch (Decorah), Richard Johnson (Bear Creek), Karen Greenler (Yahara), Lorene Ludy (Lincoln), George Bergus (West Branch), Deb Dakin (Whittier), Alice Hampton (Whittier), Penny Majors (Yahara), Bob Winkleblack (Iowa City), Lynda Fife (Omaha), Burt Kisling (Bear Creek), Jim Kenney (Penn Valley), Ruth Hampton (Decorah), and Marge Schlitt (Lincoln)

Ruth Hampton expressed willingness to attend North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) on behalf of IYMC. If able, Alice Hampton is also willing to attend on our behalf. We are grateful for this.

We had an extended discussion regarding how we name people to represent us at Conservative yearly meetings. In order to facilitate getting information out about appointing representatives, the yearly meeting clerk will make every effort to get the information out in a timely fashion. The clerk will also add the named Interim Representatives to the list of those receiving Midyear Meeting instructions.

When finding people to attend these yearly meetings, we are reminded that the best recruiters are those who have gone to them in the past. We want to encourage those people to actively share their experiences and help find others who would benefit from attending. Going to other yearly meetings is an especially wonderful way to encourage our younger Friends to grow in faith.

We were reminded of some of the difficulties Young Friends might have in attending yearly meetings and other activities in the wider Quaker world. One is that we generally ask about this in the spring, which is before many know their summer plans. Another issue is that they might not be aware that there is financial assistance available to help them attend, if needed. We also need to make sure that everyone knows that we are glad to have representatives of all ages.

We agreed that it would be helpful if this encouragement happened on all levels: in the communications from the yearly meeting, in the monthly meetings themselves, and between individuals.

The clerk will send information to all the monthly meeting clerks and Interim members regarding the Ohio General Gathering of Conservative Friends to be held Sixth Month 20th - 22th, 2014 and the Ohio Yearly Meeting held Eighth Month 5th – 9th, 2014. The registration deadline for the Gathering of Conservative Friends is Sixth Month 6th, 2014.

Anyone interested in attending the General Gathering who needs financial assistance should contact the clerk about this. We look forward to hearing over the next few months from the monthly meetings the names of Friends interested in attending Ohio Yearly Meeting on behalf of IYMC Friends.

On behalf of Interim Meeting,  
Deborah Dakin, clerk  
Alice Hampton, assistant clerk

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We found hearing the American Friends Service Committee Corporation Report informative and inspirational. It is good to hear of so many of our yearly meeting Friends involved with its good work.

### **AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE CORPORATION REPORT**

The American Friends Service Committee is OUR organization.

Youth programs in Los Angeles and Saint Louis, immigration work in Denver and Des Moines, on the ground first hand reports from Palestine and Israel, youth involvement in alternatives to military

spending, work on ending human rights for corporations, prostheses manufacturing in Viet Nam, an office at the United Nations, aid work in Indonesia, Waging Peace workshops in Des Moines, and prisoner rights programs in Ann Arbor. These are some of the programs sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee. The AFSC has been faithful for nearly 100 years in expressing our Quaker testimonies of peace, simplicity, integrity, equality, community and care for the earth. These are the testimonies we try to live by and these are the principles that underlie all of the work of AFSC. The work is done by dedicated professionals and volunteers in the United States and around the world. It is supported by Friends and people of many faiths across the nation. It is amazing that a small group of quietly religious people could have such a wide influence on the world. It would be truly something to be proud of (if we were inclined toward pride).

Our AFSC suffered greatly during the world financial crisis of five years ago and is just now in the second year of relative financial normality. Despite a collective breath-holding at the end of each calendar year when most contributions come in, donations have improved by a small amount. We are now able to think modestly about expanding programs. The new organizational structure of four domestic regions is well on the way to being established and our new governing committee structure is firmly in place. We are extremely pleased to welcome Philadelphia public interest attorney, Phil Lord, as the new presiding clerk of the governing Corporation. Phil reminds us that AFSC is a contemporary “holy experiment” conducted “cheerfully over the earth” supporting peace with human dignity in more places and among more peoples than one Friend or one church or monthly meeting could ever do. At its best AFSC is a vehicle and conduit for mutual transformation and Continuing Revelation.

Another positive development is the new Friends Relations Office led by former IYMC Friend, Lucy Duncan. This office is setting about, in an organized manner, to strengthen ties with Friends around the country. The new “Meeting Liaison” program is making sure that two-way contact exists between AFSC and local monthly meetings. If you are interested in being a liaison for your meeting, give Lucy a call or speak to a member of the committee. She also has an inspiring blog “Acting in Faith” that can be accessed from [www.afsc.org/friends](http://www.afsc.org/friends). Another online resource is [www.starcafe.org](http://www.starcafe.org). Although a bit awkward to navigate, it contains vast resources about programs and governance, as well as providing a forum for ongoing discussions. We also enjoy reading the regional Midwest Report produced by Jon Krieg in Des Moines.

Great work continues to be done in our area by Ira Harritt

(peacebuilding) in Kansas City and Kathleen McQuillan (Israel-Palestine/peacebuilding), Jon Krieg (communications) and Jody Mashek/Sandra Sanchez (immigration) in Des Moines. When you meet up with these folks, please give them a pat on the back for a difficult job well done. Your committee is also active in other parts of the organization with Dan Schlitt as Board Program Committee member, Bob Yeats on the Midwest Executive Committee, and Andrea Jilovec as a Meeting Liaison.

Today's AFSC is not the same as the AFSC of your grandmother's or grandfather's day. It is OUR AFSC, continuing as it always has, doing work that expresses our values in the world at large.

Submitted by

Ann Stromquist, Andrea Jilovec, Dan Schlitt, and  
Bob Yeats, convener

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We listened to the epistles from North Carolina (Conservative) and Ohio Yearly Meetings. It was good to know of the joyful contribution of Alice and Ruth Hampton to the North Carolina gathering and the likening of the stiff benches we sit on to the stiffness and hardness of our own heart. We appreciate being reminded that it is not only what we do, but the spirit in which we do it, that is important. These epistles show witness to the value of intervisitation. We still hope we might have someone to travel to Ohio Yearly Meeting on our behalf this year.

Again we are reminded that we have many opportunities for service that go unfilled. We are mindful that we need to find a balance between having the work done by those people who do so many things and those people who we can bring forward to join in this work.

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

To Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Dear Friends,

*We know that in everything God works for good, with those  
who love him, who are called according to his purposes.*

Romans 8:28 (RSV)

We gathered at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina in Seventh Month 2014 for the 317th annual session of our yearly meeting. Our program theme was “Cultivating Spiritual Depth among Conservative Friends.” As we explored this theme together we were offered many opportunities both to open ourselves to deeper spiritual lives and to become more aware of our heritage as Conservative Friends. We enjoyed sharing our understandings of how we might deepen our spiritual lives as individuals and as a community. We celebrated many stories from our past. We recognized new initiatives are needed for us to meet the needs of our children. We highlighted the essential values that we share as Conservative Friends. But we not only shared our past, our hopes and our values, we found there were many moments where by our words, our manners, or simply our presence together we communicated our love and respect for one another as beloved children of our heavenly Father.

As we considered our identity as Conservative Friends in North Carolina Yearly Meeting, we were mindful of the other Conservative yearly meetings. Your yearly meeting was brought to our awareness more fully by your epistle to us and by the presence of Alice and Ruth Hampton here with us. This visit from Ruth and Alice has renewed the bonds between our yearly meetings. At the close of one of our business meetings, with time available, there was a sense group singing was in order. As our impromptu group singing began to falter, Alice and Ruth stepped forward to offer their leadership in singing and taught us a new song. Later, our evening speaker, Elizabeth Gates, began teaching us a song which was a prayer based on Psalm 46. Ruth and Alice also helped teach the song and led the whole meeting in singing it. We appreciate such inter-visitation between our yearly meetings, and value the living ties which continue to bring us closer together in the Spirit.

Your Friends in Christ,  
Nancy Craft, Clerk  
on behalf of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

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### **EPISTLE FROM OHIO YEARLY MEETING**

*There is one body and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.* Ephesians 4:4-7

Dear brothers and sisters of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative),

Blessings in the Lord in whom we are one.

We were blessed to hear your letter to us, sharing evidence of growth in the Lord. We were further blessed to have Dan Treadway with us. Dan is no stranger to Ohio Yearly Meeting and we are thankful that more Iowa Friends have been finding their way here in recent years.

We are glad also to have had here with us this year three Friends from North Carolina Yearly Meeting.

Beyond our one Lord, one faith and one baptism, there is a oneness in our shared history as Conservative Friends. And each of our yearly meetings has been given grace according to the measure of the grace of Christ. Our days together at Yearly Meeting are so precious. Some who were with us last year have left this earthly life. Yet they remain with us in memory, and as members of the cloud of witnesses.

This year vocal ministry has reminded us of the nearness of our Lord and our dependence upon him for the power to obey Him. We have been reminded of Jesus' great compassion as well as His healing, and compassion has been mentioned repeatedly in spoken messages as well as written correspondence.

As the week of our yearly meeting progresses and we interact, the love of God works within us and enlarges our love for one another. Gathering to sit on the stiff meeting house benches to seek unity among us we are shown that our spirits too are stiff with bias and areas of blindness, with need for trusting the great Creator and Savior. We are taught in these "teachable moments" that the very present Holy Spirit can disperse the darkness in us, showing us a way forward in His own time. He is not up in the heavens looking down on us wondering what will happen next. Our sense of urgency wants to push our own agenda, overriding our trust in the Wisdom from above. We praise the Lord for our heritage that has taught us to wait in the Power of Christ Jesus.

May the grace that we have each been given continue to be shared as the Lord continues to use us in the building of His church.

In the Light and Love of Our Lord,  
Seth B. Hinshaw, clerk  
Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends

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Hearing epistles from yearly meetings across the country and around the world reminds us that we belong to a family of Friends. We appreciate the gifts from these family members challenging us to grow alongside them in faith.

## **DOCUMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Northern Yearly Meeting Epistle for the 2013 Annual Session**

Spiritual hospitality was the theme of our gathering. We explored ways that monthly meetings and worship groups can reflect spiritual hospitality, recognizing how we create holy spaces for listening and challenging each other and the benefits of dispersion of authority and learning from new voices. Spiritual hospitality is our own personal statement about God in dismantling the barriers of the world. The notable welcoming of 25 new attenders at this gathering is a reflection of that spiritual hospitality that we strive to practice in our meetings and worship groups. Our exchange and inter-visitation relationship with our sister meeting in El Salvador continues to open our hearts to theological diversity and spiritual hospitality.

#### **Epistle from Bhopal Yearly Meeting, February 9, 2014**

Main theme of our Meeting was “IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS” (John 14:15). Many shared their thoughts. Following commands in our daily lives is very difficult, however, we can begin with the command which we can apply easily in our lives. And thus, if we follow, we become a letter of Christ. We also discussed practical ways of witnessing our faith by obeying commands of truthfulness, love, simplicity, equality and way of peaceful life.

#### **Epistle from the Young Adult Friends Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, July 2013**

We were called to trust in our stewards, to reach outside of our egos, and to claim our imperfections as we reached for our best selves. We confronted our fears in the face of God’s invitation to radical relationship. In certain instances, this invitation could require us momentarily, delicately to set down Quaker Process. We ask Friends to consider whether over-emphasizing Quaker Process clouds the senses and muddies our courage simply to love.

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



## **FIFTH DAY – THURSDAY – 7/24/2014**

We return to the business of the yearly meeting.

*This task is tikkun, restoration. Yours is a holy work on earth right now, they say, whatever that work is if you tie your love and desire to God. You do not deny or flee the world, but redeem it, all of it - just as it is.* Annie Dillard

Carole Winkleblack and Gary Marx have been appointed readers this morning.

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### **MINUTE OF THIRD AND FOURTH DAY ACTIVITIES**

For our evening presentation of Third Day, Cindy Winchell shared “It Takes a Meeting” created by Des Moines Valley Friends to help members gain skills in pastoral care. Friends from different monthly meetings met together to answer questions asking how we can help each other move from pain and hurtfulness to opening our hearts to transforming love.

On the afternoon of Fourth Day, Friends heard enlightening reports from both the Midwest Region of the American Friends Service Committee and the Friends Committee on National Legislation. Both impressed us with the wide-ranging impact for peace and justice that Friends have all over the world. Jim Cason of FCNL reminded us that Quakers have a “Committee” and not an “Organization” to do this work. He ended by challenging us to find ways to reach out and talk to people outside of our circle who don't agree with us.

Later that afternoon, Carrie Newcomer held a writing workshop called “Our Lives As Sacred Story” where Friends explored finding the holy that rests in the smallest areas of our everyday lives. Carrie also led our evening session with a concert of her songs and poetry that touched and inspired us to “never travel faster than our soul can keep up.” It was an evening of shared intimacy that left us filled with hope and recognition of the joy to be found all around us.

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We are blessed to have the presence of these visitors: Jane Orion Smith, Yonge Street Monthly Meeting, Canadian Yearly Meeting, Janet Ross, Yonge Street Monthly Meeting, Canadian Yearly Meeting, and Kate Warner from Valdosta, Georgia.

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This year there is no report offered from our Friends World Committee for Consultation Representatives. The FWCC is trying to do around the world what we are trying to do in our own communities. It is a wonderful organization.

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The Publications Committee does a lot of work on behalf of our yearly meeting. We approve the recommendation for sending two copies of the spiral-bound printed minutes to each monthly meeting and heard their request for all of us to help keep the yearly meeting directory information up to date. We will do our best to get accurate contact information sent in by Tenth Month 1st, 2014. We approve the report with gratitude.

### **PUBLICATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Without face-to-face meetings, this committee works throughout the year to produce our yearly meeting minutes, directory, and website. We appreciate the timely receipt of minutes and reports from our yearly meeting clerk. We appreciate, as well, timely responses to our requests for information and for corrections in directory listings of individual meetings.

Some statistics about the use of our yearly meeting website may be of interest to Friends. In June 2014, the website had 811 unique visitors and 1605 total visits. After the home page, the most viewed page was the Monthly Meeting page. Most of the visitors were from the United States, followed by Romania. Small numbers of visitors were from dozens of other countries.

This past year, 266 copies of the minutes/directory went to our monthly meetings, six copies to Scattergood Friends School, 42 were mailed to Quaker colleges and institutions, two to the State Historical Society of Iowa, and eight were mailed to individuals who live at a distance from their home meetings, for a total of 324. We printed 26 additional copies to have on hand for future use, making the total ordered from Goodfellow Printing, Inc. 350, the same number we ordered last year. We ordered two spiral-bound copies for each meeting (a total of 30) as an experiment. The cost of printing was \$7.42 per book for a total of \$2598. The printer indicated that the added cost of the 28 spiral-bound copies was “insignificant,” but would probably be more substantial if we ordered 350 spiral-bound copies. Our recommendation is that next year, as last year, we send two spiral-bound copies to each meeting for the convenience of those who use the book frequently, the

rest being the traditionally bound copies. We welcome the yearly meeting's guidance on this matter.

Other expenses incurred by the Publication Committee include: cost of mailing minutes to individual institutions and individuals = \$153.69, website domain name renewal = \$14.99, and web hosting fee = \$119.88. These costs, added to the \$2598 for printing, bring the total expenses of the Publication Committee this past year to \$2886.56. Our budget line was \$3200. Unless postage rates increase significantly, we should be able to work with a budget of \$3000 this coming year.

As recommended in our report last year, in consultation with the yearly meeting clerk, we reviewed the list of colleges and institutions to which we have traditionally sent our minutes and directory and determined that the list is appropriate.

We make a plea again this year to meeting clerks to determine the accuracy of their directory listings, insofar as possible, and to send changes to Steve Deatherage at [iymcdirectory@gmail.com](mailto:iymcdirectory@gmail.com) by October 1.

Our yearly meeting webminder, Ken Lawrence, is moving out of the area this summer. We thank him for his faithful service to our committee and to the yearly meeting.

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

For the committee,  
Ann Stromquist, clerk

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We are thankful for the Entertainment Committee putting in the hours to make our yearly meeting possible. Listening to the 2013 Entertainment Committee Report brought last year's meeting back. It was a great yearly meeting.

### **2013 ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Lincoln, Omaha, Paullina and Laughing Waters Meetings served on the committee to plan the program for the 2013 Session. We met by three conference calls during September, November and January as well as meeting at Midyear Meeting in person. In these meetings, we agreed on a theme, "Make a Joyful Noise," discerned possible Evening Collection speakers and a Bible study leader, and committed ourselves to different areas of responsibility for the session.

About 135 attended the Session on the beautiful campus of Scattergood Friends School. The evening programs included on Third Day a panel composed of Friends Jeff Kisling, Elizabeth O'Sullivan,

Michael Taylor and Dana Foster who shared ways they experience and express their joy; Sharon Goens, AFSC staff in Minneapolis talked on Fourth Day of our need to heal in order to bring healing to the world; Andy Juhl shared his sense of justice and joy in music on Fifth Day; Deborah Shaw, a recorded minister of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative), queried us on Sixth Day as to how our joy might be complete. Young Friends hosted our regular talent show on Seventh Day. Deborah Shaw shared again at pre-meeting on First Day. Deborah Fisch led early morning Bible study.

The committee planned three interest groups: Dan Schlitt shared on vocal ministry, Sharon Goens told of her work on healing justice, and Ruth Flower, staff person from FCNL, helped us understand how to keep vital and positive in lobbying for justice. We are grateful to all for their guidance and leadership as we experienced the joy of God’s love among us.

Evaluations indicated a basic satisfaction with the session. Specific suggestions for improvement will be passed on to Yahara for their use in planning for the 2014 Session. We are grateful to Scattergood Friends School for their gracious hospitality and delicious meals.

**2013 ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE INCOME & EXPENSE REPORT**

**Income**

Forwarded from 2012 committee	\$2,000.00
Contributions	11,610.00
Total receipts	<u>13,610.00</u>

**Expenses**

Scattergood Friends School	10,000.00
Program	1,107.60
Child Care	100.00
Forwarded to IYMC Trustees	402.40
Forwarded to 2014 Committee	2,000.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$13,610.00</u>

For the committee,  
Jean Eden

The clerk of the Archives Committee shared with us that any Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) monthly meetings outside of Iowa are welcome to have their records included in the Iowa State Historical Society should they wish to do so.

We listened to the Archives Report with gratitude. Hearing this report reminded us how deeply we desire our stories are not lost. We hold dear the stories we have from Friends now passed on, and we are always aware of how new stories are being created for us today.

It is good that committee is using new technology to gain different formats to use so that our stories continue to inspire us into the future.

We approve the Representatives continuing the budget of \$200 for this committee so long as it is sufficient for them to continue their good work.

The work of this committee speaks directly to the love we feel for what we have learned from each other, and for Friends who have gone before us who shared the joy of our faith.

### **ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Archives Committee met on Seventh Month 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 at Scattergood.

We heard from Margie Haworth about the work she has been doing to prepare the William Penn Room catalog for printing so a copy can be placed in the University of Iowa Library.

Jeff Kisling filled us in on the ongoing Quaker Stories Project which can be seen online at <http://storyweb.azurewebsites.net/>. This project is preserving Quaker history, much of it in the form of digital video. Because digital video is a new format and all things digital continue to change quickly, skill, attention, and effort will be required to ensure that it continues to be possible to view these videos in the decades and centuries ahead. We began exploring ways the Archives Committee can help ensure that this happens.

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

For the committee,  
Dan Treadway, clerk

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We appreciate the report, the work of the Special Needs Committee, and our new ramp.

### **SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Your Special Needs Committee has continued, in its small way, to make our meetings easily accessible to all Friends. The problems we have addressed include food allergies, hearing problems, mobility and stamina issues. Over the past few years we have arranged transport, eliminated fragrances, reduced allergens in the food, improved the hearing situation in meetings, and started the ball rolling on making campus bathrooms more comfortable and accessible.

This year we purchased an aluminum ramp for access to the stage area in the meeting house. It is portable and is suitable for use with wheelchairs and scooters. It has railings for those of us still on our feet who need a little support and guidance on our way up. As the fiscal year was closing, we were able to find our unit at a price that fell under our budget limit of \$750.00. We hope that you are finding it useful.

Future projects include improving wheelchair access to the cafeteria and girls dorm. We would also like to improve access to the Berquist House. A little ramp would do wonders for everyone's access to the platform under the tree in front of the Main Office. Adding a few more air conditioning units around the campus would make summertime meetings at Scattergood a more pleasant experience.

If anyone has suggestions or specific needs please contact a member of the committee and make your wishes known.

Special thanks to Scattergood and especially Catherine From and Mark Shanahan for their positive attitude and help with our projects.

For the Special Needs Committee

John Andrews, Sherry Hutchison, Harry Olmstead, and  
Bob Yeats, convener

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Listening to the reading of our queries and the selected responses drawn from across the yearly meeting reminds us how we are all members of an extended family. The queries work on us in different ways. They help us stay connected to values of our yearly meeting. We are grateful to be able to return to them again and again to hear them with new ears. They challenge us to work for equity. They challenge us to live our faith. We seek to hold each other and others outside our community in love and not in judgment. Let us be open to new queries as God reveals them to us.

## QUERIES AND SELECTED RESPONSES

### 1. MEETING FOR WORSHIP

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

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

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

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

**Selected Response:** Friends agreed that the best preparation for Meeting for Worship is twofold: a period of silence on the way to meeting or before, and a few minutes of fellowship on arriving at the meeting house. How we refer to what some may call God depends on our own histories and associations. We use gender as it is relevant and appropriate to us; most of us would not be uncomfortable with terms such as “Spirit,” “Mother/Father God,” or many others. It might make us more comfortable, expressing ourselves in worship, if we worried less about others’ connotations behind the terms we use and trusted more that they would accept our terms as being significant to us.

### 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:** The process of discernment for considering outreach presents us with several paths and opportunities. We are mindful of our smallness as we meet every First Day, but realize that our

spiritual community and belongingness extends beyond the physical boundaries of our Meeting for Worship. Several members are considered “Active Participating Members at a Distance.” Suggestions have risen up to further their involvement. Possibilities include holding in the Light individuals in the monthly meeting specifically on First Day worship, centering for worship at the same time, and contributing to the query process with personal responses. As we examine the use of different technologies to further the inclusion of distant members, we strive to balance the unique aspects of our Quaker worship, such as silence, worshipful waiting, and spoken leadings of the Spirit, with the changing landscape of culture and technological advancement.

### 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:** A period of silence is necessary to be able to hear what it is that God intends. Stopping to center helps to hold meeting in a spirit of love, understanding, and patient search for clarity and truth while we attend to business. Having personal relationships with others in meeting helps us to uphold that spirit of love. Our meetings for business have become simple and direct. The purpose of business meeting seems to be merely financial discussion and planning the next month, but perhaps also encouraging us to avoid extra work.

### 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:** We do things together and come together often – both in connection with meeting and outside of meeting. We call on each other for help. We trust each other. We disagree on many things –



theologically, politically, spiritually -- but it doesn't seem to separate us, at least those who continue coming. There is unequal division of labor in holding the meeting together. We are aware of it. Different people step up and step back in ways that ameliorate this, but the fact of inequality remains. It is unrealistic to expect perfect equality. As far as gender differences, there is nothing overt in what we do. Women weed the grounds; men wash dishes. But women have a certain presence and we approach them with certain feelings and expectations that are different from those of men. It is subtle but real.

## 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:** Considering ourselves a family of believers, we are aware that family members have many different viewpoints or practices for carrying out beliefs, though we remain supportive of each other and respectful of differences, even when disagreements may occur. Living in a college community means we have a fairly transient attendance at meetings for worship, though many short-time attenders do become active in all aspects of meeting. We find that the brochure describing our meeting is helpful for first-time or one-time worshippers. The website has also brought some contacts we might have missed. We still have a message on the answering machine to direct callers. One member remarked that it is meaningful that in our meeting we are not afraid to talk about difficult topics that some of our group face and seek to be aware of events that make for tough times so that we may share highs and lows with each other. The Earthcare group and the newly begun worship sharing provide opportunities to enlarge our understanding and appreciation for the wider Quaker community in our region. We find new strengths in our mutual tenets, though our practices vary.

## 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:** Parents always have concerns about how best to prepare our children to go forth into the future with faith, though we don't know what the future will bring as we look at our changing world, or, hopefully, to effect meaningful changes. We become concerned that the schools are teaching kids how to take tests, or how to look good on tests so the teachers' evaluations will be better! The Quaker attitude, traditionally, has always been that teaching students to pursue answers to pertinent questions is better than giving them answers. One parent/teacher mentioned that it is the children who are preparing us for whatever the future holds! And the electronic age sometimes takes over how we learn and how we use what we learn, especially in the connections we make locally and globally. Recent attention to bullying in the schools was mentioned, along with attempts in several areas to balance bad behavior by acts of kindness. Attention to adult education elicited several areas of exploration: a year of reviewing biographies of Quaker pioneers; Quaker roles in the education of Native Americans; attitudes and beliefs regarding death, afterlife, near-death experiences, etc. We agreed that there is always much yet to learn from our rich heritage.

## 7. HOME AND FAMILY

**Query:** *How can we make our homes places of love and hospitality?*

*What different expectations do we hold for women and men, boys and girls? How can we bring more equality into our relationships?*

*How do we develop and maintain lines of communication?*

*In what ways do we share our deepest experiences, struggles, concerns and beliefs with our children and others, yet encourage them to develop their potential as the Spirit leads them?*

*What place do we make in our daily lives for meditation, spiritual renewal and reading of inspiring literature, such as the Bible?*

*How does our meeting support families of all kinds?*

**Selected Response:** We noted the question recently in the news regarding the correlation between parental happiness and the presence of children. A concern was raised as to whether it is environmentally wise at this time to bring more than one child in each family. We considered who would be our family in a time of major crisis, who would we come to? We believe that social organizations can adjust and unrelated people can come together and support each other in times of need, despite the fact that our society is built on isolation and individualism. We thought about who we would protect from danger at such times. One family who chose to adopt children from another country recognized that this extended their sense of family internationally. In considering how we support various kinds of families, we thought immediately of our several elders living alone. One of our dear elders very recently died. We are aware of the importance of our being a supportive presence to those living alone and of the fact that in times of serious illness and death the immediate family plays the primary role. We are aware of the need that people have for community, that isolation is not healthy and we regret that our society uses isolation as punishment in prisons. Some questioned whether today's children might be more self-centered and we recognize that, as adults, we might be promoting such attitudes. We who are parents need to understand how our children are communicating with us, to be sensitive to that and to keep channels open. Silence may be their way to get their own space. Making a place in our lives for a spiritual practice can help us grow in sensitivity to each other and in happiness. Grandparents can bring wisdom and perspective to families. We noted that the ideal for families suggested by the Query is not the experience of family most of us had as we grew up.

## 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:** Friends are aware that gambling, smoking, drug use and the consumption of alcohol have a tremendous impact on our day-to-day lives. The harmful effects that these products have on many lives are well documented. We attempt to make wise choices in regard to the use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco products in our own lives and to help others avoid the problems that use of these items can cause. Appreciation was expressed for recent regulations that reduce smoking in public places. In some ways our lives can seem more complicated now than in previous times. We try, however, to conduct our lives in honest and simple ways by making efforts to keep unnecessary material possessions and activities from over-cluttering our lives. We believe that most Friends have recreational activities that promote and foster mental, physical and spiritual health. We hope the practice of these activities helps others make healthy choices as well. We try to act with fairness and integrity in our associations with others and are conscious to avoid language that is offensive and oppressive.

## 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 considered the advice on civic responsibility. We spoke to ways we feel we fail to live this advice, to the complexities of knowing what Truth is, and how that complexity makes it difficult for some to speak out in our communities. It is not sufficient to speak and act for social justice because we feel social pressure to do so. An external obligation is not the foundation for speaking truth to power. We must be led by the Holy Spirit from within. We try to make choices that, however small, come from within. One member is glad to be part of the Fulbright community. It is not an easy task to know what we believe or what we need to do. We are aware that to stay informed about the world can be a discouraging and daunting task, as we struggle to discern truth in the avalanche of information available today. One person recalled her teacher, Bob Berquist, who urged his students to stay informed. We considered the thinking of the writer, Margaret Wheatley, who has suggested that our society is lost in a world wilderness in which the usual ways of taking action are no longer working. She suggests the importance of discernment, of pausing to connect with the Spirit and listen to its voice. That Inward Teacher or Light can advise us, helping us find the path, speak truth to power, and to act with courage. We must begin always from the knowledge that there is that of God in all people. That can help us find the path through the wilderness.

## 10. ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

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

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

**Selected Response:** We deal with the desire to live sustainable, environmentally conscious lives in a culture that doesn't always make it easy or practical to do so. As middle class Americans, our use of energy is disproportionate. We need to use less energy and fewer resources to accomplish the tasks that we do, but we also need to recognize that we must do fewer tasks. We should be mindful of how we spend our money and the impact that can have. Friends Meeting can support us in our efforts, and individuals who live sustainably can inspire and encourage us by example. It is important to recognize and express our appreciation

for those who take positive steps. The large and growing number of humans on the planet reduces the impacts of our efforts to live in an environmentally responsible manner. Reducing family size can be as important as other lifestyle changes we undertake. We appreciate the use of the word “wellspring” in the Advice, reflecting both the internal and the external sources of our life.

## 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:** Perhaps there should be another query: "How are we perpetrators of inequality and exploitation?" Sometimes I think my privilege is a result of the choices I have made. But to feel that way denies the existence of God, God's working in my life, and of God's grace and love for all of us. Even if you do everything right in your life, have faith in God, and make the right choices, because of the system's inequities, you can still be in dire circumstances and find it nearly impossible to rise above the situation. I'm reminded of the words of Abraham Lincoln: "As I would not be a slave, neither would I be a master." In my lot in life, it's easy to be a master and you have to go out of your way in order not to be. Since society rigs the game to advantage the rich, it's important for us to work to "un-rig" the choice, and expose the negative of this system that favors a few. There must be opportunities for everyone, and we must work to make that happen. Charity can make us feel good, but can also help us ignore out responsibility to work for justice.

## 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:** In the face of so much anger, violence and war in the world in which we live, even in the community where we serve, there is often a feeling of “what can one person do that will make any difference?” It is tempting to simply despair and sink into hopelessness. Yet, we don’t give up; we continue to strive to educate ourselves and others as we try to understand what underlies such actions, as we seek a more peaceful path. We are aware that even Quaker families are not immune to sexual violence and we realize that we are not different from other families. We must not trust the peace testimony and the recorded history of alternative service or imprisonment rather than military conscription to shield us from the human traits of anger and resentment that surface in actions hurtful to others. Several personal experiences were shared in which we recognize unloving reactions in situations that are out of our control or past aggressions against us foment for years before being made known, or are harbored secretly in families or communities that fail to deal with wrongs that cause life-long emotional injury to children. Is it any wonder that our world leaders, then, decide to use violence to counter violence? Bringing these issues out, recognizing that it is OUR problem, is the first step. We feel that this Query, if taken seriously, should make such discussions possible in every monthly meeting. It can’t wait another generation! But we must not despair; we must still seek “that of God in every one” we meet.

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

**SIXTH DAY – FRIDAY – 7/25/2014**  
**MORNING SESSION**

We return to the business of the yearly meeting.

*Life's movement quickens  
When thoughts are not  
Held but Used –  
When love is not  
Veiled but Open –  
When life is not  
Used but Given.*

Rebecca Henderson

A.M. Fink, Debbie Galusha, and Karen Greenler are readers.

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**MINUTE OF FIFTH DAY ACTIVITIES**

There were a variety of things to do during Fifth Day afternoon: a walk through the Scattergood prairie, an interest group on safety practices for children, and another on the work of Citizens Climate Lobby as a resource to educate and lobby on climate change. Friends took up the invitation from our youth to gather up their “War Is Not The Answer” signs and join them in Iowa City at a rally pleading to end the violence in Gaza.

“Why Native Plants Matter to Birds, Pollinators, Our Soil, Our Water and People of Faith” was the title of Jim Kessler's evening collection. We learned about reconciliation ecology, where native prairie plantings empower both nature and people. His encouragement to practice hope by planting native species inspired Friends to end the collection by singing a setting of Isaiah 52:12 that Jim had quoted during his talk:

*For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the  
mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. (NRSV)*

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We are pleased to have Kathleen McQuillen, AFSC staff member from the Des Moines office, present.

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It is good to hear the articulate and beautifully written Scattergood reports. These reports reflect being written by a “whole person,” much in the same way that Scattergood School and Farm aims to educate the “whole student.” We appreciate the loving care, transparency and hope of these reports and Scattergood's continued efforts toward helping us create a sustainable future. It concerns us to hear of the elimination of staff without any lessening of the staff workload. This is a situation that cannot continue. We all have to help if Scattergood will be able to move beyond their present financial situation.

## **SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL ACADEMIC REPORT**

Today I want to share with Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) the philosophy underlying Scattergood’s academics. This philosophy is not mine, although I oversee the implementation of this philosophical core. Rather, what I share with you today is my understanding of the combined visions of the teaching staff and administration, following in the rich tradition that Scattergood has held for nearly 125 years.

At the most basic level Scattergood Friends School is a progressive, college preparatory school with a Quaker foundation. Defining what makes a Quaker school is a difficult endeavor. To cut to the root of this issue, Quaker education fundamentally focuses on moral and academic development<sup>1</sup> through study, work, sports and worship. However, because of our strength as a Quaker institution (particularly as it relates to morals), the faculty has called for us to be thinking more critically about our role as a progressive, college preparatory school. So what does this look like at Scattergood?

The core of progressive education in general, and specifically education at Scattergood, is that it attends to the whole individual, focuses on building motivation through an active learning environment, favors deep understanding of content and is student-centered. Encouraging students to formulate their own learning goals is at the core of this motivation. Simply put, any learner performs better at tasks they enjoy and value. It often surprises me that it has taken teachers countless generations of students to look for the scientific evidence that supports this simple truth. In an effective learning environment students are not the passive recipients of knowledge. Rather, they play a critical and

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<sup>1</sup> Friends Council on Education, *What is Friends Education?*  
[www.friendscouncil.org](http://www.friendscouncil.org)

active role in their education.

One question that could be coming to your minds at this point is, “but how is this college preparatory education?” Or stated another way, “it’s great to focus on student motivation but what about teaching all of the ‘stuff’ that students don’t like but ‘need to know’?” The answer to this important concern is the skilled teacher. Any topic can be fascinating or boring and we can never force someone to learn content that they don’t want to or is not meaningful. Skilled teachers are masters in helping students make these connections between content and interest, in grasping the big picture.

As we progress further into the 21st century, more educators challenge the assumption that there is a set universal body of knowledge that students need to know<sup>2</sup>. With incredibly easy access to information now provided through the internet, highly effective teachers no longer are the gatekeepers of knowledge. Rather, they are guides who help students think critically, understand complex information, and apply their knowledge to solve problems. These skilled teachers also help their students to become accomplished at expressing their ideas and conclusions in writing and speech.

This radical change in our ideas of how best to support learning has resulted in many scholarly publications but none as widely read as Tony Wagner’s, *Global Education Gap*. In his book, Wagner suggests that we look at the 21st century competencies that students need to be successful as adults and teach these skills. Skills such as flexibility, creativity, critical thinking and problem solving, effective oral and written communication, analysis of information, collaboration and entrepreneurship are becoming increasingly coveted as students that possess these are likely to succeed in college and be change agents in the world.

At the core of this argument is the assumption that colleges are not looking to cultivate good students into great ones. Rather, many schools are looking to attract students that are likely to excel outside of college and thus make their institution look more favorable. As a result, being college-ready is increasingly changing to being “real-world ready.”

Scattergood has focused on providing its students with the skills to become successful adults for nearly 125 years. The skills mentioned by Wagner are also some of the leading hallmarks of progressive education in that they favor deep analysis over rote memorization. Over the last year it has become increasingly apparent in admissions interviews that

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<sup>2</sup>See Grant Wiggins article, *The Futility of Trying to Teach Everything of Importance* (copies located in the back of the room).

this relevancy is what students and parents are missing in their local schools and is what attracts them to Scattergood.

While I have been focusing on Scattergood, your school, as a college preparatory school, in truth we are world preparatory. We take our students' desires to be change agents seriously. We strive to create a meaningful learning environment using the important and complex problems our world is facing. This is the essence of progressive education and where our educational philosophy meets our vision statement as a college preparatory school.

What we need now is to be incredibly aware of this progressive learning as an institution and cease to waver in any aspect with regard to this mission. We cannot replicate what many other schools are doing in terms of quantity of offerings and access to fancy marble-lined hallways, nor would we want to. However, we do need to be able to demonstrate why we are one of the most authentic and relevant educational institutions to which parents can send their child. This authenticity is at our core, and we should not compromise on this long tradition.

Louis Herbst,  
Academic Dean

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**SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL  
FARM REPORT**

*Silence is certainly essential, but by itself, it is not enough to constitute a Quaker Meeting. What goes on in the silence is far more important.*  
John Punshon

Over a decade ago, the Scattergood Farm began using cover crops to build soil fertility and increase production. These crops, frequently nitrogen-fixing legumes—but also various grasses and buckwheat—are now the cornerstone of our fertility program as well as our attempt to control weeds, suppress soil-borne diseases, attract beneficial insects, and prevent erosion. What started with a single purpose has evolved to include so much more.

One product of cover cropping that I mostly overlooked early on but now appreciate greatly is its capacity to improve soil by increasing organic matter. Though many soil scientists have remarked that organic matter is profoundly important yet largely misunderstood, it is generally credited with enhancing a soil medium in which plants can anchor themselves; their roots can respire and easily access nutrients, and water is held. This water-holding capacity of organic matter has been especially

important during the past month in which we have endured another flood cycle in our increasingly extreme weather patterns.

Clearly, people in this meeting house are no strangers to something essential though not well understood that has a profound impact in anchoring, nourishing and buffering against trauma: silence. Cover crops producing organic matter facilitating the miracle of growth is analogous to John Punshon's equation of silence producing stillness leading to encounters with God.

So what encounters occurred on the Scattergood Farm this past year?

Scattergood students continue to be the primary observers of life on the farm. Farm and Prairie Projects were offered in the spring and fall semesters, along with a Food Preservation class in the fall. Farm Science class made frequent visits throughout the school year and in the fall helped design a project to scale up our worm composting system, including test plots for studying the efficacy of the finished compost. This project received a Youth Educator grant from the United States Department of Agriculture's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program. The Soils May Term class also spent much time on the farm studying soil profiles with visitors from the Natural Resource Conservation Service and helping dig the pits for the worm composting project. Several Global Economy students tracked Scattergood soybeans from seed bag to final destination. All staff and students took part in the Farm Work Day during student orientation and most of the students on campus had some role in caring for the five bottle-fed lambs this spring. Senior Neal Shaffer designed and constructed a bicycle-powered root washer which will greatly ease the farmers' workload during the fall harvest, while two students worked full time on the farm during May Term.

In addition to our students encountering life on the farm, our community has enlarged to include numerous others. We gave farm tours to many people on campus for Scattergood Day, commencement weekend, and class reunions, in addition to those who came specifically to see the farm: the State of Iowa Farm to School Advisory Committee, a Regional Planning graduate class from the University of Iowa, two organic farmers from France traveling the U.S. as part of a State Department program, an Environmental Science class from Cornell College, the West Branch community preschool, an Iowa City care givers group, the West Liberty Rotary Club, the Superintendent of the West Liberty Public Schools, Taproot Nature Experience and Outdoor Adventures Summer Camp. We also hosted a Practical Farmers of Iowa field day and were the site of the premier of *A Map of My Kingdom*, a PFI commissioned play by Iowa Poet Laureate Mary Swander.

We presented at a Farmer Fair at an Iowa City elementary school, a soils class at Kirkwood Community College, the Faith and Climate Change Conference held at Scattergood, and the National Conference for Women in Sustainable Agriculture; and we have provided consultation to Manhattan Country Day School and Wilmington Friends School as they seek to further integrate agriculture into their students' lives. The Scattergood Farm has been featured in articles in the Iowa City Press-Citizen as well as The Radish, a regional magazine. We have welcomed biology students from Wartburg College to collect pollinator census data, hosted a group of students from Haverford College as they spent a week with us learning about Iowa-based food systems, supplied fall crops to West Branch and West Liberty public schools, provided a summertime Community Supported Agriculture program to Scattergood employees and have remained active in several organizations including Practical Farmers of Iowa; Local Foods Connection; Women, Food and Agriculture Network; and the Iowa Farmers Union.

Of course, these accomplishments are the result of the hard work of many. Though Dana Foster was on sabbatical much of the past year, she remained a guiding presence in the livestock program and, though she has returned to farm work on a limited basis, her stature on the farm (and elsewhere) continues to grow. Joey Giffen-Hunter stepped in for Dana until he had to step out and move to Minneapolis as he and his wife Sarah start the next chapter in their lives. Ben Bowman, class of 2002, is now an integral part of the farm team and has brought with him many talents that mesh well with farm needs. Of course, the Scattergood kitchen team—David Cohen, Matt Wiegand, Stephanie Sheikholeslami, Mark Shanahan, and Sophie Shanahan—transform our farm products into something delicious and inviting to teenagers. Louis Herbst has been instrumental in finding new ways to integrate the farm into the academic lives of our students. Ken Fawcett continues to admirably manage our conventional row crops and act as a general advisor on many things farm related. And special thanks to the Farm Subcommittee of the School Committee who have guided the farm through several years of transition and continue to generously support the farm in numerous ways.

Organic matter in soil, like silence in Quakerism, is essential and complex. In our farming system we must intentionally cultivate it. So we practice the discipline, embrace the mysteries, and bear witness— after a time—to the glorious creation. Soil, life and work are worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mark Quee, Farm Manager

## SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

Every day at Scattergood, students and staff actively demonstrate deep commitment to Quaker practices, love of learning, and living in community. Our work ethic is strong across the board, and deep passion for what we do as a staff and student body is readily apparent. The 2013-2014 school year brimmed with exciting possibilities, and the palpable energy felt last September continues today.

In a school of this size, every student has the opportunity to make a huge impact on the community. Soci '15 designed a learning center for our prairie and collected pallets and funding for a semi-permanent structure. Anya '17 bottle-fed three newborn lambs. Brais '15 traveled to John Hopkins to attend a six-week course in engineering. One student group traveled to Bolivia while the other hit the Appalachian Trail. This intellectually-capable and spirited student body was recognized by National Merit Scholarship, the Des Moines-based *Education Without Borders* non-profit, the Iowa City Chamber of Commerce, and Iowa's *Coda Day*. These organizations bestowed awards upon our school, individual students and a team of students.

An intense college application year ended with 100% of our seniors accepted to a four year college or university; numerous scholarships and grants were also awarded. We congratulate the Senior class: Sebastian Ashley, Annie Caldwell, Rosa Castro, Po Chiao Chen, Esther Keza, Rachel Lightstone, Emily Palmer, Alejandro Rubinstein-Nadeau, Charlotte Schiller, Neal Shaffer, Sawyer Smith, Sharon Uwanyuze, Anna Wilson, Sophie Wolf-Camplin, Can Xu.

Life is rewarding at Scattergood and many staff members stay for extended periods of time joyfully serving the community. Irving Treadway and Dana Foster returned to Scattergood for 2014-2015 after a year away, both beginning their 21st year of service. We bid Joey Giffen-Hunter (facilities and farm) and Sarah Giffen-Hunter (former college guidance counselor and registrar) farewell after 15 years. Nicole (former academic dean, girls' dorm sponsor and seminar teacher) and Steve Wolf-Camplin departed for their new home by the ocean in North Carolina. Rudiger Ruckmann (Director of Development) and family left Scattergood for their new home and work in Hawaii late March. Mark Edwards leaves us with fond memories of fire-breathing and other fantastical experiments for Racine, Wisconsin. Emma Condori-Mamani and her visa issues were unfortunately not resolved and we wish her the very best as she pursues a job on the East Coast with the Religious

Society of Friends. We hold our friends in the Light as they enter this new stage of life outside of Scattergood.

This past year, we enrolled 41 students. The low enrollment highlighted the trends of decades past, making it imperative for us to research and strategically address increasing enrollment as our #1 priority until we reach our full enrollment of 60 students. The administrative team took this task on early in the fall. During our January staff retreat, Academic Dean Louis Herbst led us in a reflective process researching enrollment using National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), Independent School Management (ISM), and Secondary School Admissions Test Board (SSAT). We asked the following questions:

- How can we optimize long-term enrollment goals?
- How will we address Scattergood's long-term financial aid, policies and procedures for sustainability and fiscal responsibility?
- How are we increasing awareness of Scattergood Friends School in communities who are in the market for our school? What are we promoting, and how are we doing?
- How is Scattergood's program already successful in meeting student and parent goals and what can we do better/differently/concentrate more on developing?

Our research concluded that the most important educational goals of parents and students who might enroll in Scattergood included the following: maintain and grow students' love of learning; provide a well-rounded college preparatory education; provide high quality teaching that fosters a love of learning; provide small class sizes; provide a program and support a school environment that fosters a strong sense of moral character; integrate and use appropriate technology. We also confirmed our assumption that students are the primary decision-makers about where they would attend high school. This suggested that our word-of-mouth references and marketing and outreach efforts could and need to be channeled more effectively towards our student-aged population.

So how do we invite future students and parents to Scattergood? Our first action is to identify our successes, identify the ingredients of these successes, and then tell our stories. Recounting these stories, reflecting on our program and continuing to make our school the best in what we offer is essential. We connected with prospective middle and high schools throughout the country including educational consultants and Friends schools in the East, independent schools in Missouri, Colorado and Iowa. We met Friends of Scattergood in Washington D.C., attended

Cultural Diversity Day and Pride Day at the University of Iowa, and manned tables and spoke with hundreds of people around the country. Greeting our neighboring West Liberty Rotary Club, West Branch and West Liberty school superintendents and the districts' Food Director have helped us strengthen our Iowa connections. Outreach at numerous festivals and conferences included the Creative Corridor, Seed Saver Exchange Conference and the Sustainability Conference in Dubuque. We also hosted a special showing at the Englert Theatre in Iowa City of *Miss Representation*, a documentary examining gender representation in America.

The beautiful thing is, we know who we are and what we do best. We know who we serve and how widely our successes are felt, throughout the generations. We need to deliver these messages! This is the work for all of us. Scattergood is celebrating faith in action every day and everywhere we go. It is an exciting time to focus our spirit-led lives. Parker Palmer believes that when “we the people” re-examine connections to beliefs and communities, it creates opportunities for us to heal our communities and beyond. This call was answered during 2013-2014 and resulted in many travels, works, dialogues and planning.

Events on campus helped us connect our Quaker values and practices with others, and allowed us to dig deeply. The farm hosted numerous tours and integrated *Taproot* and Practical Farmers of Iowa events throughout the year. We relished our work on campus with Midwest Regional Sustainability Conference participants in the fall. Our highlight for the fall was hosting the Climate Conference. Students participated in a series of school projects based upon the lectures of staff and Jose Aguto, Legislative Secretary for Sustainable Energy, and Rob Hogg, Iowa State Senator. We were honored to host 51 participants and additional speakers such as Susan Guy, Director of Iowa Interfaith Power and Light, David Osterberg, founding member and former director of the Iowa Policy Project, and Steve Shivers, Iowa Coordinator of Citizens Climate Lobby. Iowa Senator Bob Dvorsky was also in attendance for the morning activities. Students, staff and Scattergood Friends walked to Iowa City to promote a cleaner Earth and picked up a truckload of trash along the way, which we showcased on the Pedestrian Mall.

Several initiatives such as the School Committee challenge grant, Scattergood Art Camp, Scattergood rentals, and a newly-named scholarship called the Gwen Shupe Scholarship Fund were successfully piloted this year. In 2013-2014, we hired three superb administrative staff, including the afore-mentioned Academic Dean Louis Herbst, Assistant Head Thomas Weber and Admissions Director Alicia Streeter. Continually streamlining responsibilities and rightsizing staff to 21 full-



time employees for 2014-2015 is essential for ensuring that we cover our tuition losses of the year and invest in student programs, updating facilities and increasing outreach efforts necessary for admissions and development sustenance and growth. We ask the world of our staff, and they give it to us, but that has costs as well, and if we wish to better retain our staff and continue growing our program, we must align staffing, program and income in a sustainable manner.

This past fall, Scattergood joined Maharishi School and Rivermont Collegiate and successfully lobbied with Iowa's Board of Education to guarantee Scattergood's right to function and be recognized as an independent school accredited solely through Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS). We join these independent Iowa schools in fighting years of low enrollment, rising costs and an increasingly competitive market for independent schools.

These challenges have propelled these three schools to look at change as opportunity. On campus, we have spent the year intentionally crafting a program that fulfills the school's mission, concurrent with promoting and cultivating the school's values and principles. We conducted energy audits with our students and staff and explored sustainability. We completed a constituent-wide facilities survey to begin ascertaining the future capital needs of the physical campus so that we can prioritize our needs and resources over the next decade and more. We shifted program staffing to better right-size our staff as well as increased new administrative salaries for positions commensurate with other independent schools. We have a projected loss of \$80,000 for 2013-2014 this year due to a tuition income deficit of \$55,000, a ballooning workman's compensation insurance, payroll increases mentioned above and \$15,000 Annual Fund deficit. We will continue to financially struggle until we increase our enrollment by 10%. In the meantime, classroom spaces, administrative offices, the student lounge and the main lobby have or are undergoing renovation as a result of collective vision and sweat equity with the goal of increasing enrollment.

I am confident that we are strengthening every aspect of the program, and that with sound financial planning and funding, we will truly have a Scattergood for the next 125 years. The year 2015 heralds Scattergood's 125th anniversary and the 75th anniversary of Scattergood's refugee hostel. May we be strengthened through our commitment, hard work, and faith in this community and continue our good works.

In Peace,  
Christine Ashley, Head of School

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	2013-2014		2012-2011	
	Budget	YTD	% of Usage	Budget
	176,966	223,122	126.08%	210,818
	20,900	11,950	57.18%	15,900
	19,767	18,763	94.92%	18,171
	46,000	40,540	88.13%	39,500
	17,050	15,716	92.18%	17,050
	54,100	53,179	98.30%	54,100
	19,650	20,564	104.65%	26,880
	62,623	54,337	86.77%	54,890
	19,100	27,094	141.85%	18,600
	10,700	17,104	159.85%	11,200
	10,000	6,565	65.65%	10,000
	15,368	10,457	68.04%	15,368
	21,099	21,069	99.86%	23,199
	12,000	10,793	89.94%	11,500
	28,600	23,451	82.00%	28,100
	86,490	90,419	104.54%	86,209
	13,500		0.00%	
	<b>\$ 18,270</b>	<b>(\$ 80,966)</b>		<b>(\$ 7,993)</b>
Income		15,699		15
Other		27		6
Expense		6,673		9
		9,000		
		15,090		

We heard the Yearly Meeting Trustees Report.

## **TRUSTEES REPORT**

We appoint Barb Garlinghouse and Carole Winkleblack to the Scattergood School Foundation Trustees to serve a four-year term ending in 2018. The Foundation reports that they forwarded \$13,345 to Scattergood for capital improvements and operating expenses and \$82,477 to support scholarships. The Foundation has total assets of approximately 5.2 million dollars. That is an increase of about \$400,000 from last year's report.

As reported last year, the yearly meeting trustees completed a sale of the access road to the prairie and distributed the money as directed by the yearly meeting.

The meeting house has a new south roof and the porch has a new coat of paint. The painting was a work project of the Scattergood senior class. We thank them for a superior job and the creativity to find an old bucket of lavender paint for the front porch benches. Good work!

What we thought was a repair to the air conditioner required a new unit so we have overspent our budget. We request the usual amount from the yearly meeting with a reasonable expectation that we can pay off our debt in two years.

## TRUSTEES FINANCIAL REPORT

<b>Initial balance 7/1/2013</b>	\$1,830.97
From Iowa Yearly Meeting (C)	1,000.00
From IYMC Entertainment Committee	402.40
From interest free loans	1,700.00
From sale of land	11,336.60
Interest earned	1.45
Total Funds Available	<u>\$16,271.42</u>
<b>Disbursements</b>	
Brandt HVAC (meeting house AC)	\$2,066.50
Hernandez Construction (roof)	2,821.00
Scattergood Friends School (from land sale)	3,779.00
SFS Foundation (from land sale)	7,557.00
Total disbursements	<u>\$16,223.50</u>
Bank balance 6/30/14	\$47.92
Loan balance 6/30/14	1,700.00
<b>Funds available 6/30/14</b>	<b>(\$1,652.08)</b>

Submitted by A. M. Fink, clerk

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We heard the difficult Scattergood Friends School Committee Report. We ask the yearly meeting clerk to send a copy of this report, as well as all the other Scattergood reports we have heard this morning to each monthly meeting so that we may wrestle with the queries the School Committee has given us during the year ahead.

We look forward to having our relationship deepen as Scattergood School Committee members, alumni, and staff visit our monthly meetings in the year ahead, and as IYMC Friends visit the school as well.

The Scattergood staff assure us that they will continue to grapple with these issues alongside us, as our work is not yet done.

## SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

The School Committee is given the charge by the yearly meeting to govern Scattergood. This working committee is currently composed of twelve people from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), two representatives from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Friends United Meeting), one from Illinois Yearly Meeting, one from Northern Yearly Meeting, and one co-opted member. Its responsibilities include only three items: the employment of the Head of School, establishing policy, and maintaining fiduciary health of the school. All within the committee and within the yearly meeting are called to be ambassadors of the school, as we share its ownership and the responsibilities that lie therein.

The School Committee appreciates the dynamic and visionary energy that Christine brings as Head of School; and we encourage her to take her passion for the school into the wider community, which she continues to do in the West Branch community, the yearly meeting, other organizations in the broader Quaker world and other connections, and in international venues. This is a shift from when Heads of Scattergood stayed primarily on campus, but establishing these other relationships is crucial for fundraising and enrollment in this era.

Through dedicated work by past school committees, the policies that govern the school are thorough and healthy. Changes that are implemented are means to stay current with trends or to anticipate social and academic requirements to be faced by each new group of students. Our subcommittees are involved with staff to address these pending needs as a community of shared intent. We strive to keep Scattergood a vanguard of progressive college preparatory education and to find means to share and model Friends values that students will take with them to their adult lives.

Historically we have heard, or even lived, the stories of Scattergood being on the brink of financial doom. Is this part of our expected culture for the school?

The School Committee hired Christine with the expressed wish that she improve low salaries for staff and address failing facilities, both to be done within this historical struggling budget. The school's staff is an amazing group of dedicated and creative adults who believe in the power of education and empathy. Yet another part of the culture of the school sometimes shared has been that employment here has been seen as mission work or something comparable to the Peace Corps. This attitude may be applicable to some staff, but this is an era when many college graduates firstly are concerned they can get employment, and then ideally want to work in something they believe in but also be fairly paid

for their efforts, reasonable goals. Older staff are hoping to establish a means for retirement. Being able to provide competitive salaries would ensure a longer tenured staff that comes with more training and with intent to stay. This would only add to the stability of the school.

While a current goal of the School Committee is for a capital campaign, this does not protect the school from its failing facilities. Each year money is budgeted for capital improvements, but each year recently the Head of School is faced with unexpected expenses: a leaky roof, asbestos, dying boilers, water purification, flooding, sewage issues. Existing on a tight budget and having the facilities crumble around you only make the financial situation more dire. We do not have the resources available to recoup our financial stability if these problems continue. Add those issues to academic facilities and classroom resources that are out of date or absent, and the challenge becomes more evident. Do parents want to send their child to a school with those conditions?

In an era when families are reluctant to send their children away for schooling, Scattergood shares enrollment issues with other boarding schools as well. Another trend we've been told about is how this generation of adults will unlikely attain the financial security of our parents. Of the school's 1.3 million dollar budget, ideally about half will come from tuition. The yearly meeting contributes \$54,000, and almost one-fourth of the budget comes from other donations. A couple of issues arise from this distribution. If that much tuition must be collected, how do we maintain the historic and intentional low tuition cost, especially when enrollment has not been near capacity for some time? The practice of blind enrollment no longer works for the school, and applicants have been turned away because their families are not able to meet required minimum payments. Is the yearly meeting comfortable with this situation? We recognize that the yearly meeting is stretched to meet its contribution, and we appreciate the donation that is a bit over 4% of our budget. If the remainder is to come from outside contributions, but the upcoming generation will likely not be able to match their parents' abilities to make donations to non-profits, how will Scattergood survive? Because of the size of the budget, a \$1000 contribution, for example, to Scattergood is more significant than if the same amount is offered to a larger organization. We need more contributions.

You have heard the report on our budget deficit this year. In addition to that deficit, however, we have spent our \$75,000 line of credit this summer and do not see a way to pay it back with our already stretched budget for the current fiscal year. Our facilities issues and fears have been shared. Average salaries and housing conditions for staff



are shameful. Enrollment remains below capacity in spite of much professional and inventive effort. Our Head invests tirelessly to establish and nourish relationships that we hope result in a stronger and more diverse donor pool and student population.

The school the yearly meeting established through its commitment to its faith nearly 125 years ago to educate its youth remains a unique and outstanding opportunity for its youth, and dare I say its staff and its School Committee. The heart of the school, that is, its educational experiences and life style teachings remain abounding and sound, as evidenced by the remarkable schools and experiences our graduates move on to in their adult years. However, the school is not the same school of years past out of deference to cultural changes. Few Yearly Meeting families send their teens; few have generational ties to the school. Our monthly meeting demographics have changed and many attenders have not visited the school.

In order to anticipate and plan for the upcoming years, the School Committee would like the monthly meetings to discuss the following query:

*Historically, Scattergood Friends School has been a primary faith mission of the Yearly Meeting and the primary beneficiary of our budgeted funds. What relationship shall the Yearly Meeting have with the school in the future? What charge does the Yearly Meeting give to the School Committee for the school?*

Having used these queries to prepare, we ask the yearly meeting to schedule time to share the input from those monthly meeting discussions next year. The School Committee will use this guidance in making decisions about the school's future.

For the School Committee,  
Debbie Galusha, clerk

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We close our morning session to meet again this afternoon at 2:00 p.m.

**SIXTH DAY – FRIDAY – 7/25/2014**  
**AFTERNOON SESSION**

We resume the business of the yearly meeting.

Praying

*It doesn't have to be  
the blue iris, it could be  
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few  
small stones; just  
pay attention, then patch*

*a few words together and don't try  
to make them elaborate, this isn't  
a contest but the doorway*

*into thanks, and a silence in which  
another voice may speak.*

~Mary Oliver

Clifford Goltz and Alice Hampton have been appointed as readers this afternoon.

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We are pleased to have Bob Nechel, Managing Director of Friends for a NonViolent World and member of Twin Cities Friends Meeting, Northern Yearly Meeting, join us.

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We continue our quest to be active participants in the financial life of the yearly meeting. The clear financial narrative helped us to understand the report and elicited good clarifying questions. We appreciate the work of our treasurer and we thank the audit committee for their work.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

We have audited the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) treasurer's books for the 2013-2014 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.

Frank Griffith and Cindy Winchell

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## YEARLY MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT

Fiscal year ending June 30, 2014

	<b>Budgeted for</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<b>Contributions</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>
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	\$54,000.00	\$ 54,000.00
William Penn House	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$60,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 60,800.00</b>
<b>Delegate Expenses*</b>		
FCNL	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Friends Peace Teams	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
FWCC - General	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$ 700.00	\$ 150.00
Conservative Yearly Meeting Visitation	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 750.00
Young Friends Travel & Conference	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 150.00
<b>Total Delegate Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 5,700.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,050.00</b>
<b>Yearly Meeting Expenses</b>		
Archives Committee	\$ 200.00	\$ -
Clerk's and Other Adm. Expenses	\$ 400.00	\$ 175.65
Committee Expenses (Other)	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Conscientious Objector PSC subcommittee	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Junior Yearly Meeting	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 349.21
Peace & Social Concerns one-time Conference Expense	\$750.00	\$ 293.95
Young Adult Friends	\$ 300.00	\$ -
Young Friends	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,083.67
Special Needs Committee	\$ 750.00	\$ 719.99
Publication Committee:	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 2,886.56
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Entertainmnt Comm if receipts inadequate**	\$ 500.00	\$ -

Midyear Planning Committee if receipts inadequate**	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Contingency Fund	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -
Pendle Hill Scholarship Match	\$ 400.00	\$ -
Transfer to Reserve Fund	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
<b>Total YM Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 13,600.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,009.03</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$ 80,100.00</b>	<b>\$ 69,859.03</b>

\* Additional delegate expenses totaling \$2323.92 were incurred but not turned in for reimbursement. They were donated.

\*\*Yearly Meeting Entertainment Committee and Midyear Meeting Committee each has a separate budget, bank account and treasurer.

For Midyear Meeting Committee Report, see page 4.

For Entertainment Committee Report, see pages 14 & 15.

### Statement of Cash and Funds

<b>Total Cash Balance July 1, 2013</b>		<b>\$ 12,614.16</b>
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Monthly meeting apportionments	\$ 70,268.00	
Monthly meeting additional contributions	\$ 200.00	
Midyear Meeting excess receipts, donated to IYMC	\$ 1,267.30	
Other contributions, unrestricted	\$ 100.00	
Other contributions, designated for Publications	\$ 7.00	
Book table credit from FGC	\$ 335.91	
Book table cash donations	\$ 40.56	
Interest earned on credit union accounts	\$ 26.69	
Total Receipts		\$ 72,245.46
<b>Disbursements:</b>		
2013-2014 expenditures for budgeted items	\$ 69,859.03	
Payments from Reserve Fund	\$ -	
Less transfer into Reserve Fund	\$ (1,000.00)	
Total Disbursements		\$ 68,859.03
<b>Total Cash Balance June 30, 2014</b>		<b>\$ 16,000.59</b>
<b>Reserve Fund Balance June 30, 2014</b>		<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>
<b>Balance Available for FY14-15 Budgeting</b>		<b>\$ 15,000.59</b>

Submitted by Jean Sandstrom, treasurer

We listened to the Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee Report and again were reminded how valuable an experience it is to be able to go to Pendle Hill. We note that the money set aside in our budget for the Pendle Hill Scholarship will be matched by Pendle Hill for direct costs of taking a class. There are also other yearly meeting funds available to help with travel expenses, if needed. We hope all our monthly meetings use this information to help others find out how rich an experience is available to them.

### **PENDLE HILL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT**

Pendle Hill is a Quaker study, retreat and conference center in Wallingford, Pennsylvania. In order to assist people in our yearly meeting to participate in a weekend workshop or a brief sojourn at Pendle Hill, a scholarship fund has been established. Some of us who have had an opportunity to be at Pendle Hill feel we have benefited by it and encourage others to consider going. The website ([www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org)) will tell you what is being offered.

If you would like assistance in going to Pendle Hill, contact the yearly meeting clerk, Deborah Dakin, informing her of your interest and need for financial assistance. The clerk will inform the Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee; Pendle Hill will be informed by the committee of an approved request. Yearly Meeting funds will be matched by Pendle Hill funds to create the scholarship. An application to participate in a Pendle Hill program can be found on the Pendle Hill website.

No one requested use of the funds this year; the committee encourages people to consider making such a request in the coming year.

Jean Eden, Roy Hampton, Callie Marsh, Wilmer Tjossem

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We appreciate hearing of the peace work Friends are involved in around the world in the good report of Friends Peace Teams.

### **FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS REPORT**

This year Friends Peace Teams celebrated its 20th anniversary during a face-to-face called PeaceQuest held in Baltimore at Stony Run Meeting and Friends School June 20-22, 2014. Colleagues from Africa, Latin America, and Asia West Pacific were able to attend the gathering. Activities focused on personal, local and international peacemaking. I was unable to attend due to timing, but I will hear a report on the gathering during the next monthly call, which occurs during the same week as IYMC annual session. Word has already started to flow in, and I understand it was a successful event. I hope to attend next year. In lieu of a report on the annual gathering I offer the highlights below on activities

which the major programs under the care of FPT have been involved with over the past year. It is by no means a complete list:

**Africa (AGLI)**

The African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) continues to be heavily involved in peacebuilding initiatives in Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and the Congo, facilitating Alternates to Violence Project workshops and managing Healing and Rebuilding Our Community (HROC) programs throughout the continent. Programs often focus on women and youth or refugees who were displaced due to natural disasters or rebel occupations. During the past year, AGLI was heavily involved in violence prevention for the elections in Kenya, training 1200 citizen reporters and more than 500 election observers. On a local note, David Zarembka, AGLI coordinator, visited the Midwest on a speaking tour and I was able to facilitate a lecture that touched on many of the above activities at the University of Iowa.

**Latin America (PLA)**

Peacebuilding en las Américas (PLA) maintains operations in Colombia, Honduras, and El Salvador. Programs typically focus on women and youth and outreach to indigenous groups. Issues range from healing work for victims and sometime perpetrators of civil wars to the wrongful acquisition of land by mining companies. In Guatemala, the absence of the international volunteer coordinator (due to medical concerns) has resulted in a decrease of workshops, but efforts to develop more independent, local leadership have been increased.

**Asia West Pacific (AWP)**

This year FPT welcomed representatives from Australia and Aotearoa (New Zealand) Yearly Meetings, in whose countries Asia West Pacific has begun Alternatives to Violence Project-inspired work with First Nations leaders. AWP also coordinated with a new team working with Palestinians and Israelis who wished to incorporate AVP methods into their communities. AWP in Indonesia is making good progress, with programs that include AVP workshops, facilitating access to clean water, preschool care, and providing scholarships for preschool teachers from local universities. Finally, AWP returned this spring to Nepal and is working on a developing program there.

In sum, good work is ongoing throughout the world. I continue to participate in monthly representative calls, and am happy to continue to report what I learn to IYMC. Our support and representation is important and much appreciated by these ongoing programs.

Your representative,  
Flossie Cox

We approve sending the following letters presented to us by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee to their intended recipients. We also ask the Peace and Social Concerns Committee to consider adapting the letter to the governor of Iowa so it can be sent to other states in the yearly meeting.

### **PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS REPORT – PART I**

*We ask the yearly meeting clerk to mail a copy of this letter to our elected representatives in the U.S. Congress. We also encourage Friends to use any parts of this for letters to others, such as newspaper editors:*

Dear Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_,

As members of the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative), we continue to oppose the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF).

There are grave constitutional concerns about the AUMF, as it erodes the separation of powers and prevents adequate, effective checks and balances between the branches of U. S. government. The brief 60 words of the AUMF do not contain geographical or temporal limits, dangerously leaving open the door for this and future presidents to claim the authority to wage war against anyone at any time.

The Congressional Research Service report last year revealed that Presidents Bush and Obama publicly invoked the AUMF over 30 times, to justify military action in Djibouti, Georgia, Ethiopia, Yemen, and elsewhere.

It also poses significant threats to human rights, civil liberties, and the fulfillment of moral obligations. It has been used as part of the legal justification for indefinite detentions, acts of torture, mass surveillance, and an expansive drone war that has killed thousands of people far from any battlefield.

These policies harden extremist sentiments, diminish the rule of law, and weaken American security and integrity.

The President has at his disposal adequate means to counter violent extremism, and if he believes at any time he lacks necessary authority, he can petition Congress, which can debate and decide that question. This is infinitely preferable to living in a permanent state of war.

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

***Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) represents Quakers in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Minnesota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.***

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*We ask the Yearly Meeting clerk to mail a copy of this letter to our elected representatives in the U.S. Congress. We also encourage Friends to use any parts of this for letters to others, such as newspaper editors:*

Dear Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_:

As members of the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) we are deeply distressed by the unprecedented humanitarian crisis facing the United States today. The number of unaccompanied minors coming to the U.S. has soared to more than 52,000 since last October, primarily from the Central American countries of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

According to a United Nations report, these children are fleeing intense crime, violence and poverty in their home countries - to the point that 48% of the children they interviewed were personally affected by violence, and 58% would qualify for international protection. Between January and March, 90 children were murdered per month in Honduras, a country with a population smaller than New York City. If the much larger United States had that same child murder rate as Honduras, it would be equivalent to 3600 children dying every month.

We have a legal and moral obligation to protect vulnerable children. The U.S. should follow both its own and international law to make sure that each child is given a hearing and given asylum if necessary. The cost of accepting asylum seekers is high, but the human cost of deporting children back to danger is much higher. They should not be treated like criminals.

We must also deal with underlying causes. Honduran officials have asked for U.S. aid to Central America to reduce the violence that has fueled the surge of child migration, calling for a mini-Marshall Plan to attack broader underlying problems. We must take responsibility for the trade agreements, war on drugs, and training at the School of the Americas (Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation) that exploit, impoverish, and imperil people of Central America.

We urge Congress to not change the 2008 human trafficking law which guarantees these children certain legal protections, including the right to counsel, and we urge support for President Obama's request for \$3.7 billion in emergency funds to deal with the crisis.



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

***Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) represents Quakers in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Minnesota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.***

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*We ask the yearly meeting clerk to mail the following letter to Iowa Governor Terry Branstad:*

Dear Governor Branstad,

As members of the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative), we are deeply distressed by the unprecedented humanitarian crisis facing the United States today. The number of unaccompanied minors coming to the U.S. has soared to more than 52,000 since October, (2013), primarily from the Central American countries of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

What are the drivers of this migration? According to a United Nations report, these children are fleeing intense crime, violence and poverty in their home countries – to the point that 48% of the children they interviewed were personally affected by violence, and 58% would qualify for international protection. Between January and March, 90 children were murdered each month in Honduras, a country with a population much smaller than New York City. If the much larger United States had the same child murder rate as Honduras, it would be equivalent to 3, 600 children dying every month.

What should our response be? Years ago Governor Robert Ray extended a welcoming hand to refugees from the Vietnam War, many of whom resettled in our state. We ask you to continue Governor Ray's policy of welcome and compassion by offering a safe haven for these child refugees while they await hearing to determine whether they qualify for asylum.

As Quakers, we are mindful of the model of Biblical hospitality found in Matthew 25:35:

*“I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”*

We urge you to accept these children to Iowa.

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

***Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) represents Quakers in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Minnesota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.***

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We listened to the report of the Earthcare Subcommittee and felt gratitude for all they have done since their inception. The yearly meeting approved the minute that was included in the report. We also approved their request for the subcommittee to be laid down.

We recognize that as the subcommittee is being laid down, the work will go on in our Peace and Social Concerns Committee. We know earthcare is a major challenge facing all of us today and the work is in good hands.

**EARTHCARE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

In 2007, an Earthcare Subcommittee of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee was created to help address the Yearly Meeting's concerns about environmental issues. That committee helped the yearly meeting keep abreast of evolving knowledge about how our complex environmental systems work, the consequences of humanity's overuse of the Earth's resources, and struggles with how we are being led to live our own lives in harmony with the Earth. In retrospect, it is evident that in many situations convenience distracted us from remembering to walk gently over the Earth. We are now beginning to see the increasingly severe consequences of overburdening the Earth with pollutants and greenhouse gases. The Earth is also rapidly being depleted of the fossil fuel sources we currently depend upon for energy. Changing precipitation patterns are impacting crop production and local water supplies. In the Midwest especially, we are concerned about the impact of factory farms and their pollution of the water.

Our political systems have become ineffective for a number of reasons. Regulations that could have helped us address the evolving environmental problems did not come about as a result. Those who gained materially from exploitation of the Earth were able to do so by obscuring the truth by using misleading language, and we often failed to speak the truth to those lies. That is important because that continues in regard to many issues we face today.

We are grateful for the work of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, whose staff continues the patient work of speaking the truth, gradually making it possible for government representatives to begin addressing this by working with local constituents, as well as drawing many from the rest of the faith community into this work. We are also grateful that FCNL is working on our concern related to travel for

meetings we participate in.

Scattergood Friends School graciously helped us host a climate conference (Climate Change: Where Faith Leads Us) at the school last November with the help of FCNL and others. That same weekend the School helped us put our faith into action with an Earth Walk with students, staff, Friends and others, not only to raise awareness by walking with signs, but also to help the Earth by removing trash along the route.

We also appreciate the leadership of the school regarding switching to renewable energy sources. The challenge is that fossil fuel energy costs are a significant part of the budget and the carbon footprint of the school. Those costs will increase significantly as fossil fuel supplies continue to decrease, with the prospect of not being able to obtain any fossil fuel at all in the not too distant future. The diminished cost of solar panels, creative options for financing electricity from solar panels, and the example renewable energy represents to the students, the yearly meeting, and the wider community all mean this is the right thing to do if the up-front costs can be addressed. Electric costs will drop to nearly zero once the equipment is paid for. Monthly meetings are encouraged to consider their options in this regard.

Over the past several years the interactions among members of the Earthcare Subcommittee, which were primarily done via email, diminished to the point of only messages coming from the clerk. Many Friends continue the significant, ongoing Earthcare work they are led to do, often providing leadership in these areas that extends well beyond their local meetings. This year's Peace and Social Concerns reports to the yearly meeting almost universally indicate significant concern for environmental issues.

For all of these reasons, the Peace and Social Concerns Committee recommends that the Earthcare Subcommittee be laid down, and those concerns return to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, with thanks to the years of work by that committee and its members.

We ask that each monthly meeting continue to give mindful attention to environmental issues and, if so led, to write letters to elected officials and newspaper editors and to perform other actions.

Let us keep before us our responsibilities as stewards of God's creation.

We ask the yearly meeting to approve the following minute:

*Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) is grateful to Scattergood Friends School and Farm for recognizing the need for converting to renewable energy supplies, and strongly supports it in this endeavor.*

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

**SEVENTH DAY – SATURDAY – 7/26/2014  
MORNING SESSION**

*Well, normally I'm against big things. I think the world is going to be saved by millions of small things. Too many things can go wrong when they get big.*

Pete Seeger

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

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We are pleased to have Kevin Rutledge from Des Moines, Iowa join us.

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**MINUTE OF  
SIXTH DAY ACTIVITIES**

“If activism comes out of a leading of the Spirit, then that is the activism that can change the world.” That was the message of our Sixth Day evening collection, “The Spiritual Roots of Activism.”

Jim Cason from Friends Committee on National Legislation reaffirmed that Spirit-led work begins with centered silence, knowing ourselves, and being grounded in what our faith compels us to do. When we meet those we fear with the intent to listen instead of listing for them what we want them to do, it changes the relationship. Friends shared their own heartfelt stories, and we left inspired to “walk cheerfully over the earth.”

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It's nice to see such a big group for Junior Yearly Meeting. It sounds like it was a fun week - we would like to join you sometime. We think you are lucky to have some wonderful leaders. It gives us joy and energy to see all the fun you have together. Thank you for letting us know what your favorite activities were. This was a smashing report!

**EPISTLE FROM JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING**

Greetings from the children of Junior Yearly Meeting of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). We have come together at Scattergood Friends School and Farm.

We have worshiped with adult Friends and had Bible study. Also camping, kite flying, water games, yoga and candle making. We played capture the flag with older kids. Capture the flag is an awesome game you play outside. It requires both running and strategy.

On the first day together we took a field trip to West Branch to visit the presidential museum of Herbert Hoover, the thirty-first President of the United States. He was Quaker and showed Quaker testimonies through his work and his life. He started life in a simple two-room cottage with only one bedroom. In his time at West Branch, women and men sat on different sides of the meeting house. This was so women could have equality. He was a good president and showed the Quaker testimony of community.

Participating in Junior Yearly Meeting are Kieren Ashley-Shanahan, 10; Gillie Schmidt-Quee, 10; Callum Ashley-Shanahan, 10; Reader Warner, 6; David Rhoades, 10; Chris Gauder, 11; Mya Yamaki, 6; Eleanor Lindhorst, 10.

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Young Friends: Your epistle gives us hope. We appreciate this articulate report. Thank you for such good teaching on how to use the microphone. We are also very grateful to Kevin (Rutledge) and Bill (Deutsch) for being with you.

Your presence with us makes a difference. You are such a part of this yearly meeting and we want you to know just how much we love you and welcome you. You guys are awesome. Don't keep your Light under a basket. Share your experience widely now and when yearly meeting comes around next year.

Thank you so much, Young Friends.

### **EPISTLE FROM YOUNG FRIENDS**

Greetings to Friends everywhere,

This year at IYMC we had seven Young Friends in attendance. We spent our week getting to know each other, participating in activities, exploring our spirituality and having fun! We learned many things about Quakerism: its relationship to the world and its relationship to our own lives. We had two leaders; Bill Deutsch was our leader for the first two days and Kevin Rutledge took over for the rest of the week.

Every morning we attended meeting for worship. Afterward we talked about what we think about when we are in worship and what makes these experiences “Quaker.”

On Wednesday we participated in a workshop titled “Our Life as Sacred Story” led by singer, songwriter, and author, Carrie Newcomer. During the workshop we wrote stories from our childhood based on the

prompts: Middle School Hair, I've Kept it all these Years, and Acts of Kindness. Then we shared our stories with our neighbors. This was a great way to connect with the greater yearly meeting. Later that evening we attended a concert Carrie Newcomer gave.

We were invited to play Capture the Flag by the Friends of Junior Yearly Meeting. We played two games both of which were very amusing. Then we played volleyball. This proved to be an interesting game because our skill sets were quite varied.

We were lucky enough to be able to make pottery with the Scattergood pottery teacher, Shumpei. This was a blast! We made mugs, cups, and trays. Some of us used the potter's wheel while others of us worked with our hands and tools. We returned the next day to paint and glaze our creations.

On Friday we were hoping to take our annual canoe trip, but, after many hours of careful planning, it rained. So we went with plan B: bowling in Iowa City. There were lots of cheers, groans and penguin slides, which made for a really fun trip. Then we got some delicious ice cream.

Our service project this year was to tear down an old, unused shed. This was hard work, but we were glad to be able to help Scattergood School where we could. Some of us used drills to take off the plastic panels on the roof, while others cleared out the area and hauled away the detached roofing.

Although we arrived late, we went on a prairie walk that was both beautiful and educational. Jim Kessler taught us about native plant ecosystems. The only problem was the wild parsnip. We were told (too late!) that it causes a rash worse than poison ivy. Luckily we were able to wash it off in time before it really set in.

On Friday morning Jim Cason, a representative from Friends Committee on National Legislation, visited us. He asked us about our point of view on today's political and social issues and what our friends at school cared about. He encouraged us to make a difference in our communities and also told us about opportunities for young people through FCNL. We also talked to Jane Orion Smith, the general secretary for Canadian Friends Service Committee. She informed us of conscientious objection and ex-American soldiers taking refuge in Canada. Although this was a tough issue to talk about, we were glad to understand what is happening.

We all had a great year at IYMC and look forward to next year!

Love and Light,

Claire, Emily, Thomas, Kylie, Neal, Seb and Jake

The Nominating Committee does a tremendous amount of valuable work for us. As we once again realize, in order for us to have a functioning yearly meeting, all of us have to be a part of the nominating work.

We heard the suggestions of the Nominating Committee to our Representatives and will continue the discussion on how best to accomplish this work when we hear the Representatives Report in the afternoon session later today.

We note how Steve Deatherage's work with the Publications Committee has been a tremendous help for this committee as well, despite of the fact that he is unable to be here with us. We thank all of this committee for their good work.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

The yearly meeting clerk asked this committee to consider if we feel there are time constraints that prevent us from doing our tasks in a careful and thoughtful manner.

While our charge has been easier these last few years because more people come informed after discussions within monthly meetings on what committees people are called to serve, there remains some frustration in the search for an appropriate person for an appropriate task.

We informed Representatives that we think the yearly meeting will be better served if Nominating Committee was made a standing committee. We like the idea of one-year terms with a representative from each monthly meeting. This group could begin its work by conference call in the spring, perhaps even doing a bit of its work at Midyear Meeting. The clerk could be named each year. We offered names from six monthly meetings to begin the process if the yearly meeting agrees: Birdie Kisling – Bear Creek, Martha Davis – Decorah, DJ Newlin – Des Moines, Ruth Dawson – Iowa City, Debbie Galusha - Omaha, and Beth Wilson – Paullina.

We also let Representatives know that to us it seems logical to assume responsibility for finding readers, epistle and special replies writers, as well, since the Nominating Committee members would have a tap on people's interests and their availability on who will be attending Yearly Meeting.

In addition to the above items, we were to consider possible folks to attend Ohio Yearly Meeting but were not able to find anyone.

## Committees and Representatives to Other Quaker Bodies

2015	2016	2017
<b>Adult Young Friends</b>		
Nick Jacoby		
<b>Archives Committee</b>		
Daniel Treadway*	Jeff Cox	Lucy Hansen
Osa Bricker	Jeff Kisling	Tim Shipe
<b>Book Table Committee</b>		
Megan McCormick*	Liz Oppenheimer*	Mikel Johnson Sarah Andrews
<b>Document Committee</b>		
Laughing Waters Preparative Meeting		
<b>Entertainment Committee</b>		
Decorah	Paullina	Ames
Iowa City	Omaha	Des Moines Valley
West Branch	Lincoln	Penn Valley
Whittier	Laughing Waters	
<b>Interim Meeting</b> (appointed by monthly meetings)		
A.M. Fink	Ames Lorene Ludy	Lincoln Burt Kising
Richard Johnson	BC Bill Deutsch	Decorah Ginny Winsor
Alice Hampton	Whittier Deborah Fisch	Paullina Gordon Bivens
Ruth Dawson	Iowa City Cindy Winchell	DMV Mary Ellen Tjossem
George Bergus	WB Catherine Dorenbach	Li
Carol Gilbert	Omaha	
<b>Junior Yearly Meeting</b> (for Yearly Meeting)		
Deborah Fink	Jenny Schmidt	Sonja Sponheim
Elizabeth O'Sullivan	Jean Sandstrom	
Carol Gilbert*		
<b>Young Friends Planning Committee</b> (for Yearly Meeting)		
Ian Taylor	Karen Greenler Claire Sponheim	Bill Deutsch*



2015	2016	2017
<b>Junior Yearly Meeting/Young Friends (Midyear)</b>		
Mikel Johnson	Erin Stites	D.J. Newlin* Jean Sandstrom
<b>Midyear Meeting Planning Committee</b>		
Wanda Knight Winifred Standing Chris Kelly Ruth Dawson	A.M. Fink* Carol Spaulding-Kruse Burt Kisling	Jackie Leckband Osa Bricker
<b>Ministry and Counsel Committee</b> (appointed by monthly meetings)		
Jean Eden Chloe Wagner Deborah Fisch Rebecca Bergus Liz Oppenheimer	Ruth Dawson Ebby Luvaga Alice Hampton Lynda Fife Ann Robinson Penny Majors	Debbie Galusha Alberta Kisling Martha Davis Ann Stromquist Lorene Ludy* Liz Voss
<b>Peace and Social Concerns Committee</b>		
Sherry Hutchison* Jim Bruener Marian Soloman Quinn Dilkes Robert Yeats Patty Wengert Inez Schaechterle	Jeff Kisling* Judy Plank Winifred Standing Kathleen Hall Stan Sanders Andrea Jilovec Chris Kelly	Deborah Fink Carole Winkleblack Ann Stromquist Frank Griffith
<b>Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee</b>		
Wilmer Tjossem	Jean Eden* Callie Marsh	Cheryl Sutton Dorothy Rogers
<b>Publication Committee</b>		
Callie Marsh Ann Stromquist* Steve Deatherage	Margie Haworth Ginny Winsor	Gary Marx Warren Miller - website
<b>Religious Education Committee</b>		
Bill Deutsch*	Marshall Massey	Mary Snyder

2015	2016	2017
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**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.*

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

**Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees**

Gordon Bivens	Lowell Wilson	Robert Yeats
Richard Johnson	Daniel Treadway	Larry Marsh

**2018:** Barb Garlinghouse,\* Carole Winkleblack

**Special Needs Committee**

Sherry Hutchison	Harry Olmstead	Bob Yeats*
John Andrews		

**Yearly Meeting Trustees**

Sarah Winchell	Jim Cottingham	Faith Juhl A.M. Fink*
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**2018:** Jonathan Fisch

**IYMC Representatives to Friends Organizations**

2015	2016	2017
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**American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Corporation Members**

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

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

Kathleen Hall	Deborah Fink *	Rebecca Bergus
Patty Wengert	Andy Juhl	Carole Winkleblack

**Friends Peace Teams Advisory Board**

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

Ebby Luvaga	Mary Snyder	Chris Kelly
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**Iowa Peace Network**

Patty Wengert		
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2015	2016	2017
<b>Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee</b>		
Andrea Jilovec	Os Cresson*	Peter Clay
<b>William Penn House Consultative Committee</b>		
Alberta Kisling*	Jeff Kisling	

For the committee,  
Debbie Galusha, clerk

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We listened carefully to the report of our Ministry and Counsel Committee. We approved Deborah Fisch carrying a travel minute from our yearly meeting in her work. We appreciate the work of Ministry and Counsel and their care for us.

**MINISTRY AND COUNSEL REPORT**

We listened carefully to the State of the Meeting reports and noted the recurring challenges of small meetings with aging populations, over-committed members, meeting houses needing repair, and not enough money. At the same time some of our meetings experience the vitality of children, have welcomed new members and attenders, are using their meeting houses well, and have projects which bind together their members. There is hope and optimism. Meetings who have reported struggles in the past, now report stability or growth. Worship continues to be strong and restorative and keeps our meetings faithful. Ministry and Counsel Committee asks what are some things small meetings can do to thrive and how can we support each other.

We are concerned that several meetings admit to doing little or no formal business. We remind ourselves of the role of meetings for business, as well as worship, to discern and carry out the will of God. It is clear that our work of loving is strong. We believe that our organizational spiritual practices (meeting for business, considering queries) provide a container for listening to each other and the Divine. At the same time we do not want to be drained by empty forms.

We heard Yahara Meeting’s unity that they are no longer sustainable as a monthly meeting. We acknowledged that Yahara Friends Meeting is in the process of laying itself down and becoming a worship group. We appreciate the care of their discernment and are happy that individuals intend to stay connected to IYMC. We are grateful for the guidance

provided by our *Faith and Practice* in naming the role of our committee in this process, addressing the disposition of funds and property, the transfer of records, and membership.

We note that our meetings provide us support and nurture, often around life-changing events. We hunger for this deeper spiritual relationship, yet we often do not know how to ask for or receive it. How open are we to receiving prayers from one another? We are aware that we often do not share our real burdens with each other and that not knowing this can prevent intimacy. How can we let each other know, across the yearly meeting, when life-changing events happen? We are grateful for meeting newsletters, which share news within and among meetings.

In our meeting with the yearly meeting clerk we were reminded of the value of intervisitation. We continue to wrestle with the barriers. We listened to the leading of a friend to seek fellowship among all Friends. We provided a clearness committee for another individual.

We see the Quaker Story Project growing in the yearly meeting. We are grateful that it has a home in the Archives Committee. Carrie Newcomer's workshop helped us recognize and write some of our sacred stories. Please send what you wrote to [storyweb.azurewebsites.net](mailto:storyweb.azurewebsites.net).

We met with Deborah Fisch, member of Paullina Meeting, who travels in the ministry and works as Associate Secretary of Ministries for Friends General Conference. We received her endorsed travel minutes from the past year and heard her report to her anchor committee. In it she shared her "year of blessings:" being stricken with Guillain-Barré Syndrome, hospitalized for 40 days, and a lengthy recovery period. She is grateful for the many opportunities to go deep and learn even more about spiritual surrender, accepting Love, and living in the moment.

In her work she hears from individuals and meetings of a hunger for More. We notice this same hunger in IYMC. Deborah asks:

How do we help each other take the deep spirit of Love and the things we learn at annual and midyear sessions back to our own meetings? IYMC in session is a holy community, deeply blessed in spiritual grounding and listening for the still small voice of God. How do we extend this to all of our meetings? How do we share with each other more than twice a year? How do we find time for the More in our lives?

Through all of this, she has come to realize that Love still calls her to FGC and she looks forward to returning to full-time work. 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 to carry and to continue the anchor committee. We have appointed D.J. Newlin as an additional member to the anchor committee.

We returned the State of the Meeting Reports to the yearly meeting clerk with the recommendation that they be read during these annual sessions.

Lorene Ludy, clerk

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It is a very precious time as we read our State of the Meeting reports together. We appreciate the transparency of the reports and honor the trust that sharing news both joyous and painful implies. In their beginnings, Yahara modeled for us the very best of what Friends could be. As they go through the process of laying themselves down, Yahara is once again modeling for us actions that grow out of knowing who they are, and who they are not. This is their modeling of continuing to be faithful, as we know all the monthly meetings in the family of our yearly meetings model faithfulness for us as well.

Much of who we are as a yearly meeting is demonstrated by how we come together to do business. Hearing these State of the Meeting reports together also reminds us who we are. They bring to mind a favorite author whose seven-year old son once told her, “I think I've figured out life. Mostly good. A little bad.”

When we think of early Friends and how they worshipped, we realize that no matter what form our communal worship and practice takes, we can all be a part of the eternal love that overcomes the world.

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## **STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS**

### **Ames Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting**

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

These words of Isaac Pennington aptly describe Ames Friends Meeting. We are a meeting of earnest seekers – each different, each an integral part of the whole. We are trusting and skeptical, guarded and open, reverent and irreverent.

We have the strength and weakness of a small and struggling meeting. Because of the small number of persons in our circle, attendance for meeting for worship can drop to less than five. If one – or two – of those five happens to be a first-time attendee, they might wonder

what kind of an outfit they have walked into. Outreach is difficult and challenging, as is our connection to the yearly meeting.

Because the business of the meeting was devolving to an unacceptably small number of persons, we have abolished all committees and business meetings. Decisions are made by informal consensus. If someone steps up to do things like write a state of the meeting report, it gets written. If not, not. Some of our decision making is eased by the fact that money contributions are robust.

We have a beautiful meeting house. Thanks to gifted and industrious gardeners, our property is a work of art. People pitch in to clean and care for it. We make our space available for a number of other functions. These include services of the Ames Mennonite congregation, also a small group, which gathers in our meeting house on Sunday evenings.

We move forward on faith, not knowing what the future holds but secure in the knowledge that we are walking in the Light and being led by a powerful Spirit.

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### **Bear Creek Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting**

A special support for our meeting is the interaction with our distant members. There is a flurry of e-mails at Query time. We are together at Midyear Meeting and Yearly Meeting. There is sharing of resources, events, and concerns.

It was heartwarming to experience the widespread response from Iowa Yearly Meeting Quakers and friends when one of our families' home burned.

The serious illness of the spouse of one member, who has served the yearly meeting in many capacities, and also Quakers nationwide, has brought forth much concern, prayers, and visits. While we regret these difficult episodes it brings us closer together in the many ways we demonstrate our love for each other.

Once again the Standing family gathered at Bear Creek for their reunion. We are reminded of the many distant friends who still consider Bear Creek their home. The meeting house is part of the treasured history for the Standing family, not only for the Standing family, but for many families with family roots at Bear Creek.

We met at Clear Lake with members of Laughing Waters Friends Preparative Meeting for worship, a Godly Play and potluck meal. Several came to Midyear Meeting and Yearly Meeting. They plan to visit Bear Creek during Sixth Month for fellowship and discerning ways to deepen

our relationship. We treasure our time with them and hold them in the Light after the difficult year they have had.

Several of our members have health issues. We care for them and each other. Bear Creek is a blessed community.

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

After a year when Laughing Waters Friends Preparative Meeting came apart, this year has been spent gradually allowing ourselves to be newly gathered, with a new sense of corporate self emerging. We have begun the work we have discerned needs to be done to become fully functioning again.

In May 2013, we suspended worship for the summer, and at the same time left the church in Minneapolis where we had rented space for several years. It was a sad choice, but clearly indicated by our now reduced use of the space.

Our return to worship twice per month in the fall of 2013 was made in a “cocooned” environment, not open to the public. This was also a difficult choice, made after consultation with Bear Creek and IYMC, and in the context of a lot of sadness and anger within the remaining group. We were somewhat surprised at the ease with which this unorthodox practice was accepted, and by the graceful faith that was placed in our efforts to regroup and re-form ourselves.

Our gatherings for worship and meetings for business have been quiet and rich in the Spirit, and the Divine Presence moving among us has helped knit this new configuration of people together. Our welcome into each other’s homes has provided a sense of stability and “being of one another.” The children have appreciated getting to be together both for First Day School and simply for fun. We’ve had several all-generations outings: swimming, farm work on a member’s farm, and pastoral/social visits with Bear Creek Meeting.

Our small numbers, busy lives, and scattered geography have sometimes made even bimonthly gatherings challenging to maintain, and have slowed other organizational work we have undertaken in moving forward.

The grounding, care, and prayerful support that Bear Creek has offered us have been a deep comfort for us. Members came and visited with us, and were quietly, gently, simply there, holding us in the Light. It has deepened our sense of connection to Iowa Yearly Meeting

(Conservative) and given us an anchor and a balance point without which we might well not have continued into this year.

Our worship has become a time without urgency, of relief and patient gatheredness. This sense has helped sustain the work of rebuilding, which has often forced us to revisit painful experiences of the past.

The work of an ad hoc committee to formulate practices and rules around child safety has been a rich, sometimes difficult source of new understanding. The draft remains in progress, and we hope to be able to share it with other meetings soon. We've become aware that the theme of balancing hospitality to strangers—radical hospitality, as we've come to call it—with the need to protect vulnerable members of our community, is one that has a lot of resonance in the Friends community, and in the religious sphere in general.

One deeper issue in particular has emerged from this committee's work: how to encourage “being low” and listening for Divine guidance, and at the same time to support and nurture voices that tell us things we don't want to see or hear, or that come out of life experiences that we do not share and so may be inclined to dismiss. Members of the committee have found this conflict resonating with deeper cultural issues around gender and privilege.

While there is deep, difficult work to keep us busy for a long time, there are also immediate needs before we are prepared to re-open our meeting to the broader public. It's important to us to both have a committee structure in place to act as a buffer and sounding-board should future conflict in the meeting occur, and to have our formal safety practices in place. We see our path as not especially different from before: to be a community gathered in Divine love. Our challenge is to gather the tools we need to allow us to stay on that path, tools we are freshly and painfully aware that we need.

We are a different community than we were a year ago. As we pull ourselves up back towards a “fully operational” meeting, we are constantly reminded of how we depend on keeping our humility before the Presence we find among us, how our desire to do needs to be held up to the light of how we are being led. We have grown more settled into our new configuration, even as echoes of past pains sometimes return. We are hopeful and thankful, deeply aware of the Light in which Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and other Friends have held us.

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

The Decorah Friends Meeting completed a year of attending to Spirit and mutual care for each other and the community.

Each member and attender is part of the Ministry and Council Committee, and we regularly inquire about and support those who have illness or other concerns. We continue care of the meeting space, a house which supports our worship, houses an upstairs renter, includes edible landscaping, and most recently was offered as meeting space for a local recovery group.

Women of Decorah Friends are all welcome to attend a spiritual nurture group, which has met every other week for several years and is a source of nourishment and fellowship for those who participate.

Members of Decorah Friends demonstrate care for the community by participating in several peace and justice, environmental, and social service endeavors. We devoted one adult learning session to explore whether Decorah Friends have a calling in the community as a whole meeting, in addition to individual efforts. Two Friends will continue this discussion and share their thoughts with the rest.

At times, we have concern because of our small numbers. With many retired members, travel, illness, or other reasons sometimes cause low attendance at meetings. Yet Decorah Friends continue with a faithful center, and devotion to Monthly and Yearly Meeting.

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

We continue to welcome new Friends into our fellowship, experiencing modest growth and embracing the energy that accompanies the arrival of new members and attenders (especially those with children).

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

We enjoy a robust and well-attended series of Second Hour discussions on an array of topics, including our monthly Query discussions. Mid-week Worship, monthly singing, our yearly picnic, holiday dinners, talent shows and game nights offer additional

opportunities for us to connect with each other in community. Our Hospitality Committee has also thoughtfully 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.

After exploring options for a couple of years, we installed an assisted-listening system in our meeting house. This has proven a prudent investment, as it has brought significant improvements in the ability of several friends to participate in the life of our meeting.

We bid farewell to three of our members this year. In each instance, we took solace in our memories of these cherished Friends whose lives enriched us each individually and our community as a whole.

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.

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### **Iowa City Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting**

Demonstrating growing trust and strength as a spiritual community, our meetings for worship continue to be the center of our shared experiences. Having “Afterthoughts” at the end of worship, followed by time to share joys and sorrows, provides increased awareness of our personal lives. We find that reading one of the queries at the end of worship once a month, with responses recorded by a member, is a useful exercise which gives focus for discussion of the Query later by the Ministry and Counsel Committee.

There has been a noticeable increase in vocal ministry and in the frequency of visitors who sometimes return or seek guidance in their search for a spiritual home. Though we miss the regular presence and interaction of small children, we welcome them when they do attend, and are prepared to hold a class during the time of meeting for worship.

Four Quakers shared Spiritual Journeys this year. Through these testimonies, connections have been made within the community with an opening of ideas and renewed energy among our members and attenders, bringing new avenues of support for each other’s passions and concerns.

Highlights of the year include a wedding in September, a new member in November, hosting the Eastern Iowa Gathering in March, and the departure of one of our clerks, which was noted by a meeting for worship in the park (shared by a large flock of noisy, nesting barn swallows) one Sunday a few weeks before she left. We have also been blessed with a caring, careful, friendly, contributing caretaker which has

greatly relieved the stresses of the year prior. We ended the year by welcoming as members a family of four who have attended our meeting for nearly 20 years. It was a day of rejoicing by all.

Several of us were enriched by the study of *Ecclesiastes* last fall, along with members of the West Branch Meeting. We had hoped that the programmed meeting in West Branch would have members who would share this fellowship. During the winter we sought ways to extend Quaker fellowship to them as friends and as Friends. Happily, Scattergood faculty were also seeking ways to explore Quaker commonalities and they began a monthly Worship Sharing in the Hickory Grove Meeting House, inviting four groups: the West Branch Friends Church, the West Branch Friends Meeting (Conservative), the Iowa City Meeting, and the Scattergood community. The group has grown in number and interest, as we discover ways to explore our spiritual practices and Quaker roots. During the summer Worship Sharing will move around among our various meeting houses.

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

This year Lincoln Friends Meeting has grown in enthusiasm and participation. New people have started attending and old participants have returned. As a result we have created an outreach committee. It has been active in both outreach to the community and inreach to the meeting house and attenders. The way we use our space and the appearance of the space has made it an improved place to worship.

Because of age we have lost the participation in meetings for worship of two valued persons—one through death and the other because of health problems. We hold them in our hearts and miss them very much.

We have had some serious conversations about the finances of the meeting. Contributions frequently have not covered the ongoing expenses of the meeting. There have been a number of large expenses due to deferred maintenance—dead tree removal, interior and exterior painting.

Holding Alternatives to Violence workshops in the meeting house has added energy to the meeting. Several facilitators are members of the meeting. This brings people from the community to our building and is a part of our outreach.

One member has used the meeting house as a place to do her writing. Some of it has been related to events that occurred here.

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

We enjoy our weekly worship that is usually attended by about five to seven adults and one child. Meetings are peaceful and uplifting. While sharing during worship is not common, we often share deeply after worship about “how the Lord has dealt with us” during the week or during the worship hour. We have been enriched by visitors who have attended for a short time or while visiting relatives in town.

Having a new young couple prepare for marriage under our care has been an opportunity to revisit the meaning of marriage and our beliefs, which has been a good thing for us this year. The marriage clearness committee included all regular attenders and we enjoyed meeting together for potlucks and discussion with the couple.

We continue to do the query monthly. At the recommendation of some new attenders we started a Facebook page to help younger people find out about our existence. We provided some practical assistance to a member whose house had a major fire with severe loss, although we perhaps are not as involved in each other’s lives as we should be. We haven’t effectively learned to reach out to help each other in times of need or to turn to one another when we have needs. We are geographically spread across the metro area, which makes it difficult to participate in activities together, though we do communicate regularly by email, and our meeting place is centrally located.

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

Paullina Meeting continues to be energized by the presence of its younger attenders and their children. To better meet the spiritual needs of all, we moved the time for meeting for worship ahead half an hour to 10:00 a.m. On the fourth Sunday of the month after meeting for worship, we now have time for Sunday School for the children and a study/discussion time for the adults. The Sunday School hour is followed by our traditional fourth Sunday dinner. These changes have been met with wholehearted approval by all ages. The children look forward to Sunday School and the adults appreciate the time for discussion/socializing.

Another positive change is the moving of the time of our meeting for business. It now follows meeting for worship on the second Sunday of the month. There is a noticeable increase in attendance at Monthly

Meeting, and the meeting has fewer time constraints. The minutes of each Monthly Meeting go out by email to all members, including members who have moved away. This addition as well as having a list of members to email other information has helped with communication and brings the meeting closer to all. We also have a new website that has information about the meeting. Our website is [paullinafriendsmeeting.wordpress.com](http://paullinafriendsmeeting.wordpress.com) We also have a Facebook page.

As funds are available, we continue to repair and update our aging meeting house and Community Building. There are new windows in the meeting house as well as new gutters on the Community Building with repairs to the basement pending.

We appreciate the occasional attendance of people from the Sioux Falls Worship Group and any visitors who come through our door. Although our meetings for worship can be small, there is a feeling of renewed vitality and a desire for the spiritual growth of all attending.

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

A wise Friend said several years ago, that to live a life in the Light of the Eternal is to live a life of hope. Last year we did not write a state of the meeting report because we were wondering if it was time to lay down Sioux Falls Area Friends. This year we are blessed with the participation of three new attenders at our meetings for worship. We number three to six attenders on most First Days and occasionally have to cancel meetings for worship when we are out of town. However, we are sustained by our worship together and the fellowship we enjoy over meals in local restaurants following worship on most First Days.

In our times of worship and fellowship, we strive to know and love one another in that which is Eternal, and let our minds be guided up to God to receive wisdom for our daily living. As we wait together, we feel love filling the empty spaces in our lives and energizing us to live more faithfully.

This love is reflected in many ways through our attendance at worship, our care for friends, neighbors, colleagues at work, our families, and our work in the South Dakota State Penitentiary with the Alternatives to Violence Project.

We value our relationship with Paullina Friends Meeting and Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). We feel upheld by the care and love of our extended Friends community.

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

We've had a pretty steady year at Penn Valley, with no more than the usual drama. Membership is stable and our finances are, too, but we continue to face the challenges that confront many small urban meetings — a geographically dispersed membership that seems to be getting older, gathering every week in an old house that needs constant attention. But we balance our few disappointments with abundant blessings and continue to meet in joy.

Attendance at meetings for worship fluctuates, but we never fail to have enough for quality worship. We frequently attract visitors, and occasionally those people turn out to be regulars. We are a diverse group, which includes people who've walked many different paths in life, and we range in age from two to ninety-something. Remarkably, we seem to get along just fine with each other. One of our disappointments, however, comes from our losing touch with several cherished Friends who, for a variety of reasons, now find it difficult to come to meeting.

We have continued to reach out beyond our meeting and our city, and a couple of our members have traveled to Quaker gatherings across the country, to Friends General Conference meetings and to monthly meetings elsewhere. And several times old and dear Friends have returned to visit. In June, one of our households hosted a visiting Quaker from Florida while she completed a month-long internship in Kansas City.

The year also saw us continue to strengthen our ties to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), participating in the planning committee for this year's gathering and in financially supporting a sufferings fund for a family in need at Bear Creek. We also have supported the American Friends Service Committee by providing free space in the meeting house for the regional office.

The meeting house has a few aches and pains, which we continue to nurse, but on the whole it appears to be sound. We need to replace the porch lift, which makes our meeting accessible to those who cannot navigate the stairs, and we continue to seek outside funds for what will be a significant expenditure. Our furnaces and the garage continue to be a drain on our finances, but there is a light at the end of the furnace tunnel and we're tackling the garage's issues on a priority basis. We are heartened, though, that all of our walls remain vertical and that our roof continues to shed rain.

Our link to the Silver River Worship Group and the Possibility Alliance remains strong and continues to lift spirits. A few folks from meeting have visited their community in La Plata, Missouri, and Silver

River members have several times visited us. One of their visits came with an offer to help us work on the meeting house, so we scheduled a cleanup day and potluck to coincide with their visit. It was a productive, fun workday. Our association with them is stronger than ever.

One of the highlights of the year was our annual retreat, which this year was focused on Parker Palmer's principles on creating "Circles of Trust" and discovering the "Hidden Wholeness" within. The retreat was led by one of our members who attended the Leadership Academy at Palmer's Center for Courage and Renewal with the meeting's spiritual and financial support. This retreat, which attracted several old Friends who had been absent from our midst for too long, left most of us feeling enriched and energized. There were tools given each of us to take into the world.

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

Our meeting continues to be an important part of our lives. We come together each First Day morning in the quiet, gathering ourselves into that Oneness that is a mystery for us all. We find perhaps an intimacy deeper than our social day-to-day relationships might suggest. And that quiet, gathered body, strengthened and warmed, holds us tenderly as we go out into the world again.

We continue to face the reality of a smaller meeting than in the past, as we struggle to make our budget reflect our beliefs. We are not comfortable with our current inability to support the Quaker service organizations. We have listened carefully to one Friend who has clarity that we cannot re-carpet the meeting room and foyer floors for environmental and ethical reasons. We continue to consider this matter, and pray that we move forward within the Light.

We have had several families and individuals visit, but they have not chosen to continue to worship with us. We are looking at how our outreach might grow, but are aware that already a few Friends are taking a good deal of responsibility for meeting activities. We are grateful for the regular publication of our newsletter. First Day School needs some attention, but has continued whenever children are present.

We are glad that necessary maintenance of our building is continuing, thanks to generous bequests from members who have died over the last few years. We understand and appreciate the considerable work of our members of the Scattergood Friends School Committee. The

Earth Care Working Group continues its faithful work with both the meeting and the wider community. Our clerks serve us with care and good clerking skills. The Quaker Star Rose planted by Bob Berquist many years ago, with the good care of one of our members, continues to bloom, despite the bitter months of last winter.

We thank the Divine Spirit for its gifts, manifested both in individuals and in the body of the meeting.

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

Not much looks different at Whittier since this same time last year. Our recorder's report tells of no changes, and we are the same group of people meeting to worship on First Day whenever we are able.

Despite the fact they do not live nearby, a couple of Friends continue to contribute many hours to the large task of maintaining and renovating our meeting house, grounds and cemetery. Another Friend continues her ministry of checking in and caring for those in our community; giving rides to anyone who otherwise would be unable to join us for worship.

Whittier does very little business as a monthly meeting. In fact, there is little that Whittier does other than worship together. But that worship is what restores us, and in coming together we help each other return to the source of living water.

This has been an especially difficult year for many in our group. At times we have felt stretched, exhausted, and even afraid while trying to stay afloat. When our lives get too busy, or too overwhelming, Whittier seems to be our gateway back to peace and understanding. When we can't get together to worship due to family needs, we miss our spiritual family.

Whittier Monthly Meeting is not the building. Whittier Monthly Meeting is the people. We are grateful to have each other. And we are grateful for the wellspring of perfect love that casteth out fear.

*Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and lean on me: for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

Matthew 11:28-30 (KJV)

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

Our meeting has had regular involvement of about five people for the past several years, and we have wondered, each year, if we could get any smaller and continue. This winter we learned that two of our members are moving out of state. We struggled for months to adjust to this news. At our business meeting in late June, we united in our understanding that we have become too small to sustain a monthly meeting. It is difficult to hear, and difficult to say, but the Truth that abides with Yahara Friends is that we need to let go of our dear little meeting.

We began worshipping together in 2002, and Yahara became a monthly meeting of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) in 2009. In the past twelve years we changed our meeting location ten times, and at our highest participation, we had about twelve adults and four children in the meeting. Nonetheless, we have enjoyed a strong sense of community, and we have each felt welcomed and nurtured throughout our years together. Our meetings for worship have been some of the sweetest and deepest we have known. Our potluck and games nights, and our reading group, were staples of our meeting schedule which provided us regular spiritual enrichment. Through our meeting community we have known what it means to be beautifully and perfectly loved. We have felt safe and at home here, and we will miss it.

We know of nothing else in Madison that can take the place of Yahara Monthly Meeting, and even as we let go of the meeting, there is new interest in forming a Yahara Worship Group which would meet in people's homes. One Friend has offered to convene this group, and we give our joyous blessing to this new growth of the Spirit.

As our meeting begins this process of transition, we do so with a sense of gratitude for the time we have had together, for our close relationship with West Branch Meeting and the yearly meeting, and for the ties that will remain with us as we each take new paths to grow in the Spirit. We cannot see into the future, but we trust the knowledge that God's love sustains us through our losses as well as our joys, in our times of scarcity as well as our times of abundance. The Love that has been present with us from the beginning is yet with us now. We again commend our hearts and our lives to that Love, and trust that we will have occasions to meet again.

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

**SEVENTH DAY – SATURDAY – 7/26/2014**  
**AFTERNOON SESSION**

We resume the business of Yearly Meeting.

*Humility is the only lens through which great things can be seen--and once we have seen them, humility is the only posture possible.*

Parker J. Palmer

Ruth Dawson and Martha Davis have been appointed as readers this afternoon.

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It was very helpful to be given the clear and concise narrative explaining our practice and the changes in the budget and clarifying the intent for some of the line items. We hear the encouragement embedded in this budget to help all Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative Friends take part in the wider world of Friends' activities. Truly, our Representatives help “put our money where our mouths are.”

We also hear the report telling us that there are many other questions for us to consider that might make participating in our yearly meeting more accessible to more Friends. That encouragement is guidance for all of us to also think on these matters.

We are very grateful to the Representatives and our Treasurer for all they have done for us.

**REPRESENTATIVES REPORT**

The Representatives met this year during Yearly Meeting in the East Science Building. We enjoyed having a larger space to work in. We also appreciated knowing that air conditioning was available if needed. However, our mornings have been comparatively cool as we gathered to craft a proposed IYMC budget for the coming year and attend to our other business.

This year we spent considerable time discussing how the IYMC budget is presented. We have concerns that the format has not been as transparent to members of IYMC as we feel it needs to be. The budgets for important activities of the yearly meeting, such as the expenses of the yearly meeting gathering and the midyear gathering traditionally have not been integrated into the budget the Representatives have been asked to prepare. We do not want to change the budgeting process, but we are concerned that unless Friends know that this information is presented on

different pages in the yearly meeting minute book they could perceive that some of the finances of IYMC are being withheld. To address this problem, we will make annotations within our final budget report to inform the reader that the budgets of these other important Yearly Meeting activities are contained elsewhere in the minutes. We hope that Friends will find this change an improvement. We will listen carefully to the feedback of our IYMC members.

This year we are proposing a Yearly Meeting budget that is increased from last year. We maintain our contribution to Scattergood Friends School at \$54,000, the amount requested this year. We also recommend a one-time donation of \$2,000 to be used to refresh the paint on faded walls or the tiles on worn floors. We know this small amount will be multiplied many times over through sweat equity. We have increased the funds available to Junior Yearly Meeting to \$1,500. We are grateful for the important work JYM undertakes each year and we want to better support this activity. The youth touched by JYM are the future of our yearly meeting. We also want to increase our donation to the Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees from \$1,000 to \$2,000. The Trustees have had unexpected expenses this year and we appreciate the care with which they watch over IYMC. Additionally, we have increased by \$200 the funds for travel to each of the five organizations we have identified in the past. This year, we again recommend that \$1,000 be transferred from our general checking account balance into the dedicated reserve fund increasing the balance to \$2,000. Our total budgeted expenses will come to \$83,650.

Our apportionments this year will total \$69,868, which is \$400 less than last year. We have lost the apportionment of one monthly meeting but three other monthly meetings have increased their apportionments. This generosity is appreciated.

During our meetings this year we heard the concerns of some Representatives that our budgeted expenses and our anticipated receipts are not equal. This gap is the result of the long-observed tendency of IYMC actual expenditures to be lower than what we have budgeted. While IYMC has always paid out the total amount budgeted as contributions to other organizations, this has not been the case for delegate expenses or Yearly Meeting expenses. It is not our intention to balance our budget by discouraging Friends from using these funds. We are able to cover all of the expense we have budgeted. The funds are currently held within our bank account and are available for use. We remind Friends that they should make use of these budgeted funds.

While our committee has been successful in crafting a budget for this coming year we continue to feel strongly that this work is helped by the

Representatives coming to Yearly Meeting prepared to engage in this work. We thank the clerk for sending out her letter to the Representatives before we arrived this year, detailing the tasks we needed to accomplish by the end of this session of Yearly Meeting. These instructions were valuable and helped us do our work. We hope the clerk will continue this practice.

The clerk of IYMC also asked us whether there is too much work for the Representatives to carry out during the four days that we meet during Yearly Meeting. This is an important question and one that we were not able to give adequate attention due to the other pressing work. We also hoped to have the time to study alternate times or formats for Yearly Meeting because a number of us perceive that there are many individuals within our monthly meetings who find it difficult to come to Scattergood for an entire week to participate in Yearly Meeting. Again, we could not find the time for this task.

In closing, we express appreciation for the many hours of service generously donated to the yearly meeting by our clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, assistant treasurer, and statistical recorder. Their generosity keeps our yearly meeting vibrant. We recommend that the Friends named below be appointed to serve for the coming year. You will note that we have identified a new assistant clerk and a new assistant treasurer. We thank Penny Majors and Jim Kenney for their many years of excellent service to IYMC.

Clerk, Deborah Dakin  
Assistant Clerk, George Bergus  
Treasurer, Jean Sandstrom  
Assistant Treasurer, Rebecca Bergus  
Statistical Recorder, Tim Shipe

We recommend that our next annual session be held at Scattergood Friends School from Seventh Month 21, 2015, through Seventh Month 26, 2015.

Jean Eden has been asked to break meeting on First Day.

**IOWA YEARLY MEETING (CONSERVATIVE)  
BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015**

**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
Scattergood Facilities	\$ 2,000.00
William Penn House	<u>\$ 300.00</u>
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 62,800.00</b>

**Delegate Expenses**

Friends Committee on National Legislation	\$ 1,200.00
Friends Peace Teams	\$ 1,200.00
FWCC General	\$ 1,200.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$ 900.00
Conservative Yearly Meeting Visitation	\$ 1,200.00
<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)	\$ 300.00
Conscientious Objector PSC subcommittee	\$ 100.00
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	\$ 2,000.00
Junior Yearly Meeting	\$ 1,500.00
Young Adult Friends	\$ 300.00
Young Friends	\$ 1,500.00
Young Friends Travel and Conference	\$ 1,000.00
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship	\$ 500.00
Pendle Hill Scholarship Match	\$ 400.00

Publication Committee:	\$ 3,200.00
Special Needs Committee	\$ 750.00
Yearly Meeting Entertainment Committee, if receipts inadequate*	\$ 500.00
Midyear Planning Committee, if receipts Inadequate*	\$ 500.00
Contingency Fund	\$ 1,000.00
Transfer to Reserve Fund	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
<b>Total Yearly Meeting Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 15,150.00</b>

<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$ 83,650.00</b>
Cash balance available for budget	\$ 15,000.59
Monthly Meeting Apportionments	<u>\$ 69,868.00</u>
<b>Total anticipated funds for FY2014-2015</b>	<b>\$ 84,868.59</b>

**Starting Balance Reserve Fund** \$ 1,000.00

\*Yearly Meeting Entertainment Committee and Midyear Planning Committee each has a separate budget, bank account and treasurer.  
 For Entertainment Committee Report see pages 14 & 15.  
 For Midyear Planning Committee Report see page 4.

**MONTHLY MEETING APPORTIONMENTS**

<b>Name of meeting</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>%</b>
Ames	\$ 4,200.00	6.0
Bear Creek	\$ 5,500.00	7.9
Decorah	\$ 1,500.00	2.1
Des Moines Valley	\$ 14,500.00	20.8
Iowa City	\$ 5,500.00	7.9
Lincoln	\$ 7,200.00	10.3
Omaha	\$ 3,252.00	4.7
Paullina	\$ 8,500.00	12.2
Penn Valley	\$ 5,500.00	7.9
West Branch	\$ 11,216.00	16.1
Whittier	\$ 3,000.00	4.3
<b>Total Apportionments</b>	<b>\$ 69,868.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

On behalf of the Representatives,  
 George Bergus, clerk  
 Ruth Hampton, assistant clerk

We approved the yearly meeting clerk sending the letter regarding U.S. aid to Israel to all congressional representatives from the states and districts in which we have meetings and worship groups. We also approved the Peace and Social Concerns Report and thank them for their tireless and careful work on our behalf.

## PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS REPORT – PART II

*We ask the yearly meeting clerk to mail a copy of this letter to our elected representatives in the U.S. Congress. We also encourage Friends to use any parts of this for letters to others, such as newspaper editors:*

Dear Representative/ Senator \_\_\_\_\_,

The Israeli government, with U.S. aid, now has the most powerful military in the Middle East. In 2008 Israel attacked Gaza, with 1400 civilian casualties. In 2013 Israel attacked Lebanon, with 750 civilian casualties. Currently Israel is engaging in a massive military siege of Palestine, with over 800 civilian deaths so far. All three of these Israel assaults have involved devastating destruction of schools, hospitals, power plants, and other infrastructure.

Tragically, we the American taxpayers are paying for this human rights travesty. Israel receives 9.9 million U.S. dollars each day in military aid from us. This makes it our largest aid recipient in the world. While Americans are struggling to make ends meet and our government struggles to maintain our own infrastructure, we are subsidizing Israel to conduct activities in direct opposition to international law.

We ask that no more military aid be given to the Israeli government.

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

***Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) represents Quakers in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Minnesota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.***

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The Peace and Social Concerns reports from our monthly meetings reveal again how much work is being done on issues of peace and social justice and the environment. It is interesting to hear the variety of creative ways Friends translate their faith into action. One of the joys of

sharing this work is being shown by each other that seemingly ordinary acts of everyday life are true expressions of our work for peace. This is the motivation behind the concern that many Friends have expressed, which is to gather and share our stories both among ourselves and the wider community. We have recently developed this to the point that we now have a unique software system and database to collect, catalog and share these stories with the world via the Internet. Friends are strongly encouraged to add to this database of stories of faith and peace work. The archives committee is exploring how this can fit into the work of the yearly meeting. When Bear Creek Friends, where this software system began, learned of the need of tribal leaders in Kenya to find a way to address the problem of transmitting their tribal knowledge to their youth, the meeting approved offering them the use of this tool.

This committee has deep concerns for the damage that has been done to the earth. This led us to initiate a weekend climate conference in conjunction with FCNL environmental lobbyist Jose Aguto and Scattergood Friends School. As part of the event, the School organized an Earth Walk into Iowa City; a few Friends participated, but many more would have been welcome.

We are aware of the continuing problems of finding students and funds for Scattergood. We must work even harder to take this burden from the school, for it is our responsibility. The upcoming 125th anniversary of the school offers a unique opportunity for us to widen the participation and intensify our focus on doing this. To draw attention to how important we feel the work of Scattergood Friends School is to our peace and social concerns efforts, our committee has designated part of our budget to support the peace work of the school.

We have found the climate conference to be a good model to focus on a specific action. Thus, our focus this year is to work with the school on the AFSC poster project related to boycott movements. We are committed to do as much as possible to help Scattergood Friends School prepare for and present this event.

We asked the yearly meeting to approve letters to our U.S. Congressional delegations related to the unaccompanied children crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, expressing our deep concern for the children's treatment. We also wrote a similar letter urging Iowa Governor Branstad to welcome some of these children to Iowa. The yearly meeting asked us to send letters to the governors of the other states in IYMC. We do not feel knowledgeable enough to draft letters to states other than Iowa. We encourage the monthly meetings in these states to do this task.



Many Friends expressed significant distress at this situation and want to move beyond writing letters. There were discussions between the clerk of this committee and staff from AFSC and FCNL, the Head of Scattergood and the clerk of the school committee exploring the possibilities of hosting some of these children in the Scattergood School community. All are interested in doing what we can, but we must see how the political and legal situation evolves. Additionally, some meeting families are exploring the possibility of taking some of these children seeking refuge into their homes.

One evening during these annual sessions a number of committee members attended a vigil in downtown Iowa City related to the deaths of Palestinians during the present escalation in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We deplore the violence of the Israeli government and call for an end to all military aid to Israel.

We hear that most monthly meetings report they no longer have a separate Peace and Social Concerns Committee. The meeting as a whole serves that function.

We also had a lot of discussion related to the Earthcare Subcommittee. We explained the issues behind our decision to lay down that subcommittee in an earlier report. It is important to emphasize that the increased interest in environmental concerns was one of the main reasons for returning this work to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

We continue to delight in how the name Scattergood expresses what we try to do. We urge Friends to reflect on the importance of the school to us, and apply their faith and creativity to search for new ways we can make sure this fundamental work can continue and expand. Scattergood Friends School and Farm students, as well as members of this yearly meeting, which are often one and the same, are among those Robert F. Kennedy spoke of in South Africa in 1966:

“Each time a [person] stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, [it] sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

## 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<br>(split evenly among Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota) | \$ 150         |
| AFSC Midwest Region (for immigration issues)  | 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            |
| Scattergood Friends School & Farm (for peace studies)                                     | 150            |
| Total contributions   | <u>\$1,100</u> |

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

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We thank Tim Shipe for this report and for continuing to do this important work on our behalf.

We remember with fondness George and Bobby Welch. George always attracted any children in the meeting with welcoming love. Young Louisa Finley was a teacher for all of Des Moines Valley Friends. She and George had a very special relationship, and it was a pleasure to see how their eyes lit up when they saw each other.

Ann Smith was a very solid presence in Lincoln Monthly Meeting who gave many gifts. We miss her.

We remember Rebecca Henderson, longtime Friend of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). Rebecca was a mentor to so many people. She made whomever she was listening to feel like they were the only person in the world. Rebecca is now buried at Paullina, her first home.

We feel the spirit of these people we have loved so dearly in the room with us.

## RECORDER'S REPORT

### Deaths

|                   |                  |                    |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Ames              | David Metzler    | September 26, 2013 |
| Des Moines Valley | Barclay Kuhn     | August 28, 2013    |
|                   | David Enzauro    | December 2, 2013   |
|                   | David Bowles     | January 4, 2014    |
|                   | George Welch     | January 10, 2014   |
| Lincoln           | Ann Byars-Smith* | January 29, 2014   |

### Births - None

### Marriages under the Care of the Meetings

|           |   |                    |
|-----------|---|--------------------|
| Iowa City | Katie Winkleblack to<br>Zachary Cravens | September 21, 2013 |
|-----------|---|--------------------|

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

|             |  |  |
|-------------|--|--|
| West Branch | Ryan Howe (member) to<br>Lucy Zai (non-member) | April 19, 2014 (at<br>Bloomington,<br>Indiana in the<br>manner of Friends) |
|-------------|--|--|

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

|            |                               |  |
|------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Bear Creek | Elizabeth Anne<br>Oppenheimer | January 19, 2014 (certificate from<br>Twin Cities Friends Meeting) |
|            | Tracy Daby                    | December 8, 2014 (by request)                                      |
| Iowa City  | Kathy Dice                    | June 8, 2014 (certificate from<br>Kilpeck Friends Church)          |
|            | James Wahldice                | June 8, 2014 (by request)  |
|            | Theresa Wahldice              | June 8, 2014 (by request)  |
|            | Tom Wahl                      | June 8, 2014 (certificate from<br>Kilpeck Friends Church)          |

\*Attender, not 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      | 1      | 0  | 0                           | 0                       | 0                        | 19**             |              |
| Bear Creek        | 0      | 0      | 1  | 0                           | 0                       | 0                        | 78               |              |
| Decorah           | 0      | 0      | 0  | 0                           | 0                       | 0                        | 10               |              |
| Des Moines Valley | 0      | 4      | 0  | 0                           | 0                       | 0                        | 65               |              |
| Iowa City         | 0      | 0      | 2  | 1                           | 3                       | 4                        | 63               |              |
| Lincoln           | 0      | 0      | 0  | 1                           | 0                       | 0                        | 20               |              |
| Omaha             | 0      | 0      | 0  | 0                           | 0                       | 0                        | 12               |              |
| Paullina          | 0      | 0      | 0  | 0                           | 0                       | 0                        | 71               |              |
| Penn Valley       | 0      | 0      | 0  | 0                           | 0                       | 1                        | 69               |              |
| West Branch       | 0      | 0      | 0  | 0                           | 0                       | 0                        | 88               |              |
| Whittier          | 0      | 0      | 0  | 0                           | 0                       | 0                        | 38               |              |
| Yahara            | 0      | 0      | 0  | 0                           | 0                       | 0                        | 7                |              |
| <b>Totals</b>     | 0      | 5      | 3  | 2                           | 3                       | 5                        | 540              | (7)          |

\*\*Corrected number, previous minutes showed one too many members

\*YM Net Loss includes adjustment for Ames

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We are glad to have this good letter to send to all those who can't be here with us, and whom we miss.

### SPECIAL REPLIES REPORT LETTER TO ABSENT FRIENDS

Seventh Month 27, 2014

We missed you as we gathered in the blessed space of the Hickory Grove Meeting House at Scattergood Friends School and Farm for the 137th session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). We remember the times when you were here with us and hope that way will open for you to join us again.

The theme of our session this year was “Let Your Life Speak.” In our business sessions, our committee meetings, our conversations over meals in the dining room and sitting under the big oak tree, we shared our lives with one another. We strolled the Scattergood campus, marveling at the beauty and bounty of the season, the trees and flowers, the fields and prairie. In worship, we drank from the wellspring of our gathered silence.

We were inspired equally by an evening presentation on the importance and beauty of restoring native prairie and by morning Bible study discussions on the nature of the Kingdom of God. We rejoiced in the accomplishments of Scattergood School and Farm this past year and learned of the many challenges the school faces in the coming year.

We shared the joys and sorrows of our monthly meetings, many of which have become smaller over the years. We thought of Friends who have passed on and felt their spirits with us as we joyfully carried on the business of the yearly meeting. We delighted in the presence of the children among us. Evening collections challenged us to remain centered in the midst of our busy lives and inspired us not to “travel faster than our souls,” as Carrie Newcomer sang to us in an evening collection.

We hope that you are well, that you will be in touch with us, and that you will join us next year for our 138th session.

With love and peace,

Deborah Dakin, clerk

On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

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We listened to the beautiful letters our Epistle Committee prepared for us.

## **EPISTLE COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **EPISTLE TO FRIENDS EVERYWHERE**

Seventh Month 26, 2014

To Friends Everywhere:

*Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.*

James 3:13

Greetings from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) where Friends from nearly a dozen states in the United States and visiting Friends from Canada gathered on the campus of Scattergood Friends School for a week in late July to attend the 137th annual session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). “Let Your Life Speak” was our theme as we explored and celebrated the ways our lives spoke through song, story, service, stewardship of nature, spiritual practice and activism.

Our first evening we put our attention to pastoral care, sharing in small groups ways that we nurture each other within our monthly meetings. Some practices included inviting new visitors to a meal, supporting parents of young children, intervisitation of other monthly meetings, and listening without judgment or trying to solve.

Carrie Newcomer, a Friend from Bloomington, Indiana, assisted us in writing our sacred and simple stories, then in the evening ministered us with a concert of her own sacred stories through song, poetry and music. Each day at Yearly Meeting began with the tradition of early worship before breakfast followed by Bible study after breakfast. Friends enjoyed this special time of reflection and inquiry. Other programs included a walk in Scattergood’s prairie to learn more about native prairie plants and their importance in maintaining healthy ecosystems; a climate change presentation; reports from FCNL and AFSC offering their projects and concerns; a sharing of the spiritual roots of activism; then we ended each day with banjos, guitars and group singing. Committee meetings and meeting for worship with attention to business involved each of us in the practice of caring for our monthly and yearly meetings.

The Yearly Meeting’s Young Friends and Junior Yearly Meeting blessed us yet again this year with their presence. They attended Meeting for Worship every morning, and joined us for some of our programs. They also did many of their own activities including pottery, candle making, hosting a talent show, and having a meeting with attention to Capture the Flag. The energy and light that they bring to our Yearly Meeting is always a joy.

We deeply enjoyed time to share the ways we speak in this world with our lives, and are ever grateful for the continued guidance and inspiration of Friends past and present. Our annual session brings us into the fold of God’s love and helps us strengthen our relationship with the Divine through knowing and being with each other during this cherished time.

In warm Friendship,  
Deborah Dakin, clerk  
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Our yearly meeting will be held Seventh Month 21, to Seventh Month 26, 2015. We hope way opens for a visit!

---

## EPISTLE TO OHIO YEARLY MEETING

Seventh Month 26, 2014

To Friends in Ohio Yearly Meeting:

*Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.*

James 3:13

Greetings from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) where Friends from nearly a dozen states in the U.S. and visiting Friends from Canada gathered on the campus of Scattergood Friends School for a week in late July to attend the 137th annual session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). “Let Your Life Speak” was our theme as we explored and celebrated the ways our lives spoke through song, story, service, stewardship of nature, spiritual practice and activism.

We appreciate your gracious hospitality for Friend Dan Treadway at last year’s session. This visitation among our yearly meetings gives both insight into our historical and current practices we share, and inspiration from the unity of Spirit that is present during these gatherings.

We are sorry that way did not open for one of our Friends to attend the sessions you are now holding. We missed having someone from Ohio Yearly Meeting join our sessions this year. We hope that next year our beloved tradition of visiting each other's yearly meetings can be resumed. But whether or not someone from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) is sitting with you in the Stillwater Meeting House, please know our desire that we remain close as we continue our walk of faith together.

Our first evening we put our attention to pastoral care sharing in small groups ways that we nurture each other within our monthly meetings. Some practices included inviting new visitors to a meal, supporting parents of young children, intervisitation of other monthly meetings, and listening without judgment or trying to solve. Carrie Newcomer, a Friend from Bloomington, Indiana, assisted us in writing our sacred and simple stories, then in the evening ministered us with a concert of her own sacred stories through song, poetry and music. Each day at Yearly Meeting began with the tradition of early worship before breakfast followed by Bible study after breakfast. Friends enjoyed this

special time of reflection and inquiry. Other programs included a walk in Scattergood's prairie to learn more about native prairie plants and their importance in maintaining healthy ecosystems; a climate change presentation; reports from FCNL and AFSC offering their projects and concerns; a sharing of the spiritual roots of activism; then we ended each day with banjos, guitars and group singing. Committee meetings and meeting for worship with attention to business involved each of us in the practice of caring for our monthly and yearly meetings.

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In warm Friendship,  
Deborah Dakin, clerk  
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Our yearly meeting will be held Seventh Month 21, to Seventh Month 26, 2015. We hope way opens for a visit!

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

Seventh Month 26, 2014

To Friends in North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative):

*Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.*

James 3:13



Greetings from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) where Friends from nearly a dozen states in the US and visiting Friends from Canada gathered on the campus of Scattergood Friends School for a week in late July to attend the 137th annual session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). “Let Your Life Speak” was our theme as we explored and celebrated the ways our lives spoke through song, story, service, stewardship of nature, spiritual practice and activism.

We enjoyed hearing your epistle, and we appreciate your gracious hospitality for Friends Alice and Ruth Hampton during your annual session, holding them with care and nurturing this relationship between our yearly meetings. We are sorry that way did not open for a visit from one of your members this year to our yearly meeting. We miss your presence, and we hope someone will be able to join us next year.

Our first evening we put our attention to pastoral care sharing in small groups ways that we nurture each other within our monthly meetings. Some practices included inviting new visitors to a meal, supporting parents of young children, intervisitation of other monthly meetings, and listening without judgment or trying to solve. Carrie Newcomer, a Friend from Bloomington, Indiana, assisted us in writing our sacred and simple stories, then in the evening ministered us with a concert of her own sacred stories through song, poetry and music. Each day at Yearly Meeting began with the tradition of early worship before breakfast followed by Bible study after breakfast. Friends enjoyed this special time of reflection and inquiry. Other programs included a walk in Scattergood’s prairie to learn more about native prairie plants and their importance in maintaining healthy ecosystems; a climate change presentation; reports from FCNL and AFSC offering their projects and concerns; a sharing of the spiritual roots of activism; then we ended each day with banjos, guitars and group singing. Committee meetings and meeting for worship with attention to business involved each of us in the practice of caring for our monthly and yearly meetings.

The Yearly Meeting’s Young Friends and Junior Yearly Meeting blessed us yet again this year with their presence. They attended Meeting for Worship every morning, and joined us for some of our programs. They also did many of their own activities including pottery, candle making, hosting a talent show, and having a meeting with attention to Capture the Flag. The energy and light that they bring to our Yearly Meeting is always a joy.

We deeply enjoyed time to share the ways we speak in this world with our lives, and are ever grateful for the continued guidance and inspiration of Friends past and present. Our annual session brings us into the fold of God’s love and helps us strengthen our relationship with the

Divine through knowing and being with each other during this cherished time.

In warm Friendship,  
Deborah Dakin, clerk  
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Our yearly meeting will be held Seventh Month 21, to Seventh Month 26, 2015. We hope way opens for a visit!

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### CLOSING MINUTE

*He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake;*

*and after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.*

*When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"*

1 Kings 19:11-13, NRSV

The King James translation uses slightly different words to tell this tale:

*And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice.*

1 Kings 19:12 KJV

From before Jesus walked upon this earth, God has spoken to the faithful in the sound of sheer silence. God has spoken in a still small voice.

During our 137th annual session held on the campus of Scattergood Friends School and Farm, much has come to us and grown out of deep centered silence.

In the sheer silence, we felt joy of young and old gathered together in expectant waiting worship.

In the sheer silence came the focus for our committees to do their work.

In the silence, a still small voice sparked conviction that yes, we can seek, and yes, we can find, and yes, we can be part of the great work of creating the peaceable kingdom here on earth.

There was much laughter, much play, and much tender sharing during discussions both light and difficult this week. It makes us glad to know we choose to be together.

In her poem, “*The Summer Day*,” Mary Oliver writes,

*. . . I don't know exactly what a prayer is.  
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,  
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,  
which is what I have been doing all day.  
Tell me, what else should I have done?  
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  
Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
with your one wild and precious life?*

A week of noticing the sacredness in our daily lives, understanding how powerful changes can begin right in our own back yard, and how all good work grows out of the sheer silence holding the still small voice of God, we feel a renewed sense of things to do with our *wild and precious lives*.

“Walking cheerfully over the earth, answering that of God in everyone, (and) praying that we might be a blessing and making a witness of God in them to bless us. . .” seems ever so inviting an option.

We now conclude our 2014 annual session, planning to meet again, God willing, at Scattergood Friends School and Farm, near West Branch, Iowa, Seventh Month 21 to Seventh Month 26, 2015.

Deborah Dakin, clerk

Penny Majors, assistant clerk

## Reports received but not read in annual session

### EXERCISE OF THE SPIRIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Friends, during our yearly meeting the spirit of love has brought forth many messages of warning, faith, and hope. We invite you to hold each of those included here in silence to discern how they may speak to you.

Jesus began his ministry in Galilee saying: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news.” The kingdom of God is within and among us waiting to be recognized, received, and actualized through our obedience to God’s will. The slumbering Christ is within us ready to guide us in living the beloved community in the world.

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With wonder and awe, we hear the words and music in our souls.

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Carrie Newcomer led us in reflection on our day and on memories we hold dear. We realized that our ordinary lives are filled with sacred spaces and experiences. Be present! Celebrate the holy spaces in our lives!

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Friends, hold others in and outside of our community in love and not judgment. Avoid self-congratulation. Allow the Spirit of God to accompany us on our journey through this diverse and complex world.

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Our opening worship each morning is a time for coming home. It is a sacred space where Friends—from the youngest to the oldest—meet to worship together. There is a sacredness of being in a meeting of the whole, of being present to the noises of the young children. How do our children experience the beloved community if they don’t experience the gathered meeting for worship?

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Our hearts burst with joy for our delegates to North Carolina Yearly Meeting who stepped forward to lead singing and draw our yearly meetings closer together in the Spirit.

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May the rain that falls gently on each of us, on this meeting house and on the Scattergood campus wash away the cares of our daily lives and refresh us as we go about our business today. A reminder that the Spirit of God is always available to us if we turn and open our hearts to receive it each day.

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It almost doesn't seem right to be here with our family and friends in this wonderful place, to be so blessed, while all around we see the children on the border, the poor and hungry, and war and suffering in Palestine and elsewhere. It seems we can do so little, but we must be faithful and do what we can and pray . . . pray . . . pray.

-----

Native plants matter to our birds, pollinators, our soil, our water and people of faith. A Spirit- and hope-filled presentation by Jim Kessler, about native plants and pollinators, reminded us that God asks us to care for the Earth. "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and care for it." (Genesis 2:15) When we plant native plants on part of our property, we make a difference in caring for God's creation. Jim's graphic description of floral beauty and the sounds and songs of birds and insects refreshed our remembrance of Isaiah's words, "The mountains and hills shall break into cries of joy, and all the trees in the countryside will clap their hands." (Isaiah 55:12)

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Organic matter is to the soil as silence is to the meeting for worship; both nurture and are essential to growth.

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There was a sense of deep appreciation and gratitude for the articulate presentation, reflective content and spirit of the Scattergood academic and farm reports. The loving care, transparency, and hope expressed in the reports are a tribute to the school staff and their commitment to the faith and values that animate the Scattergood experience. We also learned that the staff and school operate in an environment of inadequate staffing and salaries, a physical plant in need of upgrading and repair, and an enrollment insufficient to support the school's programs.

Scattergood School has been the primary faith mission of the yearly meeting for many years. George Fox called us to "be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations wherever you come; that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone; whereby in them you may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you." Scattergood has been one of the main ways our yearly meeting has been a pattern and example. It has carried the gospel message into the world. Many graduates go on to model lives of simplicity, care for the Earth, peace, and integrity and so carry the blessed community into the larger world, too.

For these reasons it is painful to recognize our failure to adequately support Scattergood through enrollment of our children and our financial contributions. Perhaps the Spirit is “convicting” us (to use an old Quaker term) for our neglect to care for the staff who do so much to carry out our faith mission. Perhaps we have been “free riders” on the backs of their efforts. If we want Scattergood to be a sustainable Light to the world we need to consider how to meet financial obligations that may total several million dollars over the next few years.

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We have reflected on many “kingdom” passages in our Bible study this week. These passages seem to be an invitation to experience and become part of the beloved community here and now. In our Alternatives to Violence work in the prison we try to be open to the experience of the beloved community. We try to open a sacred space where we can meet, not as teacher or inmate, but as human beings all created by God. We explore tools to help us form this community among us—affirmation of the goodness in each person, listening, seeking common ground and win-win outcomes of conflict situations. Somehow it can be harder to create this space and use these tools in our efforts to effect political change. The kingdom passages invite us to try, and the Bible gives us many other tools as well. I Cor. 13:4-7 invites us to love one another and points the way: be patient, be kind, be generous, be slow to anger and quick to forgive, do not be envious or resentful, and do not keep score. We have much wisdom to guide us in efforts to open sacred space in our political work as well as other aspects of our lives.

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Again and again our hearts were joyfully warmed with the awareness we were in the Presence of Goodness and that Goodness was God.

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Faithfully offered,  
Exercise Committee  
Mikel Johnson  
Eldon Morey  
Stephen Snyder

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Religious Education Committee received reports from eight meetings. We have read them with interest. Of note is a common theme that several report – programming planned but no children, or children on occasion, or no children's programs. One meeting reported beginning a children's program which has not been needed for many years. Adult programs continue as in previous years. These reports will all be copied and shared with monthly meetings.

For the committee,  
Bill Deutsch

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**SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL AND RELATED ENTITIES  
FINANCIAL REPORT - AS OF JUNE 30, 2014**

|                                 | <b>School*</b>     | <b>Foundation</b>  |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                   |                    |                    |
| <b>Current Assets</b>           |                    |                    |
| Cash and cash equivalents       | \$32,549           | \$115,541          |
| Accounts Receivable             | \$21,128           |                    |
| Prepaid Expense                 | \$14,139           |                    |
| Farm Inventory                  | \$6,980            |                    |
| Accrued Interest and Dividends  | 4                  | \$8,293            |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>     | <b>\$74,796</b>    | <b>\$123,834</b>   |
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>             |                    |                    |
| Automobiles                     | \$124,522          |                    |
| Buildings                       | \$3,468,643        |                    |
| Equipment                       | \$384,563          |                    |
| Land                            | \$344,689          |                    |
| Breeding Stock                  | \$6,725            |                    |
| Accumulated Depreciation        | (\$2,250,677)      |                    |
| <b>Total Fixed Assets</b>       | <b>\$2,078,465</b> |                    |
| <b>Other Assets</b>             |                    |                    |
| Long Term Investments           | \$2,740            |                    |
| Everence Foundation             |                    | \$35,034           |
| Westwood Trust #1 Scholarship   |                    | \$2,323,931        |
| Westwood Trust #2 Capital Funds |                    | \$2,138,724        |
| Westwood Trust Special Capital  |                    | \$594,624          |
| Land: Pemberton Farm            |                    | \$85,150           |
| <b>Total Other Assets</b>       | <b>\$2,740</b>     | <b>\$5,177,463</b> |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>             | <b>\$2,156,001</b> | <b>\$5,301,297</b> |

\*School and farm accounts have been combined.



|                                       | School*                   | Foundation                |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>       |                           |                           |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>            |                           |                           |
| Accounts Payable                      | \$36,414                  |                           |
| Deferred Income                       | \$60,652                  |                           |
| Total Deposits                        | \$22,743                  |                           |
| Interest Payable                      | \$774                     |                           |
| Payroll Liabilities                   | \$18,080                  |                           |
| Line of Credit                        | \$45,112                  |                           |
| Notes Payable, Current                | \$9,903                   |                           |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b>      | <b>\$193,678</b>          |                           |
| <b>Long-Term Liabilities</b>          |                           |                           |
| Less Current Portion                  | (\$9,903)                 |                           |
| Notes Payable, Long Term              | \$147,381                 |                           |
| Notes Payable, Vehicle Loan           | \$16,527                  |                           |
| <b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>    | <u>\$154,005</u>          |                           |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>              | <b>\$347,683</b>          |                           |
| <b>Equity</b>                         |                           |                           |
| Opening Balance                       | \$2,003,904               | \$4,834,836               |
| Net Income (Loss)                     | (\$195,586)               | \$466,461                 |
| <b>Total Equity</b>                   | <u><b>\$1,808,318</b></u> | <u><b>\$5,301,297</b></u> |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b> | <u><b>\$2,156,001</b></u> | <u><b>\$5,301,297</b></u> |

\*School and farm accounts have been combined.

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**SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL FOUNDATION  
TRUSTEES REPORT**

The Scattergood Foundation is charged with the stewardship of the school's growing endowment, currently valued at approximately \$5.2 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 capital improvements and the operations 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.

During the past year, the Foundation distributed \$13,345 to support capital improvements and operating expenses at the school, as well as \$82,477.00 to support tuition scholarship. The Foundation has committed to new scholarship distributions for the 2014-15 academic year totaling \$89,650. Assets held by the Foundation as of June 30, 2014 are shown below.

**Assets Held by Scattergood Friends School Foundation  
as of 6/30/14**

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Everence   | \$35,034.46    |
| Westwood Trust #1<br>(scholarship)                             | \$2,328,171.12 |
| Westwood Trust #2<br>(capital funds)                           | \$2,141,949.85 |
| Westwood Trust Special<br>Capital                              | \$595,427.01   |
| Pemberton Farm<br>(adjusted to reflect<br>current land values) | \$200,000.00   |
| Hills Bank checking  | \$115,541.52   |

## FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT

Once in a while, the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) logs a stunning success. More often the work is subtle and long term.

Stunning. Last summer we were looking at what seemed like an imminent war with Syria over its apparent use of chemical weapons. FCNL pulled out all stops, put other important work on hold, and coordinated a massive lobbying effort to oppose war. Not only was war averted by an outpouring of opposition from outside of Washington, the government of Syria agreed to nonviolently surrender its chemical weapons to international authorities. FCNL, working in coalition with other organizations, stemmed the tide of war. We prevailed in a big, public way.

Subtle. Also last year, FCNL and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) worked together to craft the foreign policy document “Shared Security,” which called for “new tools that match peaceful means with peaceful ends.” This year, in a major foreign policy statement, President Barack Obama said, “We have to broaden our tools to include diplomacy and development.” It is small, but good, evidence of shifting course.

Clearly our messages radiate, including in the rarefied atmosphere of our nation’s capital. Clearly we have much more to do. Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) has been—and continues to be—active in many ways in carrying out the mission of FCNL.

Our yearly meeting had robust representation at the FCNL Annual Meeting in November and at Spring Lobby Weekend. Adult young Friends, together with old-timers, are wrapping their hearts around the work before us.

One of FCNL’s current efforts has been to foster leadership among adult young Friends. Spring Lobby Weekend, held in March, drew 182 young activists from around the country to lobby in Washington for the repeal of the Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF). This law passed three days after 9/11 and has served as the legal justification for over a decade of military action around the world. Simultaneous with the Washington lobbying, FCNL coordinated a field campaign to generate reinforcing messages from constituents at home.

Following Lobby Weekend, FCNL held a Consultation with Young Friends at Pendle Hill. Rather than focusing on the nuts and bolts of lobbying, the Consultation sought to open a larger conversation about spiritual direction. Young adults have come of age in a time of major spiritual, economic and professional challenges. They need a community

of mentors to help them align their values with their lives. We are building this community.

Other plans for deepening the involvement of young Friends and other young activists with FCNL include:

- Expanding the program for interns (now called program assistants) to a Young Fellows program, with greater involvement in the core work of FCNL and continuing connections with young Friends after their terms as Fellows.
- A possible eight-week summer intensive experience for 19–25 year olds, which would provide an in-depth orientation to FCNL’s issues and strategies and room to explore options for continued action, including campaign and organizing training.
- An Advocacy Corps of 19–30 year olds who will mobilize on issues in their own communities, build relationships with members of Congress, organize local events, and continue to work with FCNL’s programs.

Recently FCNL and AFSC in Iowa have collaborated on an effort to persuade Iowa’s congressmen to support the repeal of the Authorization for Use of Military Force. Support for repeal is steadily growing, but we still need the last few votes. We continue to educate Iowans on the significance of this action.

The November 2 Climate Conference held at Scattergood School was another joint effort of Iowans and FCNL. Jose Aguto, FCNL Legislative Secretary on Sustainable Energy and Environment, joined an impressive panel of Iowa climate activists to raise awareness and action on the impending calamity caused by ongoing climate disruption.

Friends from Iowa and all over the country collaborated on the 2013 revision of the FCNL Policy Statement. This document, which is revised roughly every ten years, forms the basis for all FCNL work. Perhaps the most pointed shift in this document from the previous one is its increased clarity on environmental concerns and the interweaving of environmental destruction as a root cause of violent conflict, economic inequality, and mass migration. The new document, “The World We Seek,” can be found at [fcnl.org/assets/policy/policy2013.pdf](http://fcnl.org/assets/policy/policy2013.pdf).

Changes in government policy rarely come as quickly as we would hope. Lives are lost every day. Social fabric unravels. Oceans rise. Windows of opportunity narrow. The human race hangs in the balance. We do not know the outcome, but it is clear that real change will not come easily or cheaply. Our country and our loved ones need our engagement as never before. Through FCNL, we live in possibility.

Deborah Fink, on behalf of the FCNL Representatives

**AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE  
MIDWEST REGION REPORT**

In Celebration of our Shared Witness for Peace and Justice

Greetings to all Friends in the Midwest

From Shannon Sullivan, Regional Director, AFSC Midwest Region

Summer 2014

In searching for the right metaphor to describe my first few months with American Field Service Committee (AFSC), I realize several don't fit very well. "Baptism" simply doesn't wash, and "trial by fire" suggests an arduous time of judgment that ignores how much fun it's been meeting Friends, volunteers, supporters and staff across AFSC's Midwest Region.

Instead, I'll go with "diving in head first" and offer my thanks to you, dear swimmers and lifeguards, for your kindness and generosity in helping me navigate the waters. In this annual sharing with yearly meetings across the Midwest, I'll introduce myself but focus most of our attention on how Friends throughout the region continue to work side-by-side with AFSC for peace and justice. As AFSC prepares for its 100th birthday, we are more grateful than ever for your support

So, who's the Newbie? I began with AFSC in December 2013 and want to acknowledge first the spirited contributions of my predecessors, Michael McConnell and Margaret Jackson. Margaret served the region admirably as interim director following Michael's death in April 2013; we're very pleased she's continuing in her service as Associate Regional Director.

Prior to AFSC, I was the founding Executive Director of the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, an organization that works to ensure K-12 schools across the state fully address issues of sexual orientation and gender identity. My work has spanned reproductive rights, racial justice, LGBTQ rights, and support for youth in schools.

I'm a lifelong resident of Chicago, growing up on the Northwest side and currently living on the Southside with my long-time partner and our two young children.

I'm new to Quakerism but have a deep respect for Quaker values and practice. If we don't meet in person this summer, I hope you'll be in touch via email, [SSullivan@afsc.org](mailto:SSullivan@afsc.org), or AFSC's Chicago phone, (312) 427-2533. (I often answer the office phone myself!)

## Some Examples of Work Alongside Friends

AFSC's Midwest work includes thirteen programs in nine offices. Most programs benefit greatly from collaboration with Friends, and here are a few examples.

In Minnesota, AFSC's Healing Justice Program partnered with Friends this spring to discuss racism via a monthly film series. Sharon Goens-Bradley, AFSC's Program Director, came to AFSC with considerable experience advocating for racial justice through storytelling. Lane Holden, a college intern, has written about the films and the ensuing discussions on our website at [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org):

*One of the first things a Friend said when our discussion began (after watching the film *Traces of the Trade*) was the utter dismay she feels when she thinks of our country being founded on slavery and genocide. This statement brought us all to question where we stand in society—what can we do?*

*Our country is as wealthy as it is today due to all of the unpaid labor that took place in the founding of our nation. We addressed reparative action and where we stand with this. Because the majority of the people in this discussion were white Americans, the unjust reality of white privilege was inevitably addressed. . . .*

Throughout our region and across the organization, AFSC is committed to undoing racism and confronting oppression. We stand with Friends everywhere in giving life to the testimony of equality.

A second example of AFSC's work with Friends comes from St. Louis, where Sandra Tamari, a Palestinian Friend, has led the local push for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against corporations which profit from the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestine. At the most recent AFSC Corporation meeting, Sandra paired with Jennifer Bing of AFSC's Middle East Program to talk about this work and encourage more Friends to get involved. More at [www.afsc.org/story/boycott-divestment-and-sanctions-explained](http://www.afsc.org/story/boycott-divestment-and-sanctions-explained).

As context for our support of this nonviolent effort, AFSC is currently showing "Boycott! The Art of Economic Activism," a traveling poster exhibition that highlights historical boycott movements from the 1950s to the present. Created by AFSC and the Center for the Study of Political Graphics, the exhibit features 59 posters from more than 20 boycotts.

Please visit [www.afsc.org/boycott](http://www.afsc.org/boycott) to see when the exhibit will be in your area, to bring the exhibition to your school or community, or to get more information, including the complete gallery guide. The exhibit has

already visited Earlham and Guilford Colleges; Wilmington College is on the schedule for 2015. Speaking of Earlham, I'm pleased to say that a group of students travelled from Richmond to Ann Arbor for a spring break's worth of study and action on criminal justice issues, led by AFSC's Michigan staff. As one student put it,

*“So many people in the prison system have so much potential and just need a second chance and people to believe in them, support and guide them. That kind of relationship building is really the alternative to mass incarceration.”*

In April, a video about sexual harassment from the Olney Friends School was a final selection in AFSC's annual “If I Had a Trillion Dollars Youth Film Festival” (more at [www.ihtd.org](http://www.ihtd.org)). The students make a compelling case for spending money on healing rather than harm. In connection with the festival, youth from around the country travelled to Washington, D.C. for leadership training, congressional visits and a transformative Tax Day demonstration on Farragut Square.

### **The Benefits of Friends**

Friends continue to play a key role in guiding AFSC's work at all levels – from area committees at the grassroots to the Board of Directors. In the Midwest Region, our 15-member Executive Committee meets over a long weekend each quarter – and more often by phone – to monitor, plan and evaluate our program work.

### **Staying in Touch**

I especially want to thank all Friends who are serving as AFSC/Friends Liaisons and encourage you to check out Lucy Duncan's work at [www.afsc.org/friends](http://www.afsc.org/friends). Here are some ideas to connect your congregation to the work of AFSC:

- Republish a post from the *Acting in Faith* newsletter
- Connect spirit to social witness using the *Testimonies Booklet* for your congregation's forum
- Create a new vision with your youth in the *If I Had a Trillion Dollars Youth Film Festival*
- Read *Shared Security* for Adult Religious Education and submit your response online
- Watch “Redemption of the Prosecutor” as a meeting and discuss faith and criminal justice
- Post an *Acting in Faith* article or blog on your congregation's social media outlet (Facebook, Twitter, website)

AFSC's Midwest Digest offers an email compendium of highlights from work across the region. To sign up for this occasional newsletter, please contact Jon Krieg at [JKrieg@afsc.org](mailto:JKrieg@afsc.org).

It's been a pleasure diving into AFSC. Thank you for the work you do and your support. Please keep in touch at [SSullivan@afsc.org](mailto:SSullivan@afsc.org) or (312) 427-2533.

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## WILLIAM PENN HOUSE REPORT

During two days in May, 1,200 people visited William Penn House, one of twelve homes featured on the Capital Home and Garden Tour. They repainted rooms, built a staircase so visitors could see the green roof with sedum growing on the Carriage House, and showed the rain garden.

Hospitality continues to be a critical service provided with annual occupancy at 70%. This is the 27th year the fourth grade class of Plymouth Meeting Friends School and 20 youth from Miramar have come. Guests of all ages come to lobby, study and tour.

Another important opportunity for outreach is the William Penn Quaker Workcamps program. Road trips included a week in New Orleans, a week in West Virginia, and two weeks on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Another source of service are the five community gardens where vegetables for disadvantaged neighbors are raised. Cole Beecher, Brandon Sickle, Doris Sanchez, Lucas Richie, and Anna Richie, recent graduates of Sidwell Friends School, have been helping with hospitality, maintaining community relationships, and developing and running workshops. William Penn House hosts diverse groups including "Free the Cuban 5," Peace Corp Training, Yoga, and Singing Babies. They plan seminars on human rights, peace and social justice issues, and agendas dealing with AIDS/HIV.

On Friday, September 27, 2013, a farewell celebration for Faith Kelly was held to thank her and to wish her well. She had worked at William Penn House for six years, beginning as an intern and moving on to many other responsibilities – starting a worship group, leading workshops, and covering many other areas as well.

In 2016, William Penn House will celebrate its 50th anniversary as a Quaker facility. Also, Byron Sanford will celebrate his 70th birthday. Many thanks, Byron, for your many years of service.

The Committee requests our annual donation of \$300.00

The Committee

Alberta Kisling, Jim Kenney, Jeff Kisling

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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.

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**DIRECTORY OF MONTHLY MEETINGS,  
PREPARATIVE MEETINGS, AND WORSHIP GROUPS**

**Ames Monthly Meeting**

Worship: 10:30 a.m. First Day

Pre-meeting: 9:30 a.m. First Sunday of Month, Query Consideration;  
Other Sundays, reading and discussions

Location: 121 S. Maple, Ames, Iowa

Contact: A.M. Fink, 222 South Russell, Ames, Iowa 50010,  
(515) 232-2763

Email address: [fink27@gmail.com](mailto:fink27@gmail.com)

Website: <http://amesfriendsmeeting.wordpress.com>

**Bear Creek Monthly Meeting**

(Schedule may vary occasionally – check email or phone number below.)

Pre-meeting: 10 a.m. First Day

Worship: 11 a.m. First Day

Business: 10 a.m. 3rd First Day, with potluck lunch following worship

Location: 18058 Bear Creek Road, rural Earlham. From I-80 Earlham  
exit #104, 1 mile north on “I” Ave. to Bear Creek Road, then East to  
2nd driveway.

Mail: c/o 19186 Bear Creek Road, Earlham, Iowa 50072

Clerk: Jackie Leckband, (515) 758-2232

Email address: [newharmony@earthlink.net](mailto:newharmony@earthlink.net)

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

**Decorah Monthly Meeting**

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

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

Business: Scheduled every six weeks

Location: 603 E. Water Street, Decorah, Iowa

Clerk: Martha Davis, 1478 Friends End Road, Decorah, IA 52101,  
(563) 382-3699

Email address: [davismartha67@gmail.com](mailto:davismartha67@gmail.com)

**Des Moines Valley Monthly Meeting**

Worship: 10 a.m. First Day

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

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

Clerk: Cindy Winchell, (515) 720-5516

Email address: [lucindawinchell@ymail.com](mailto:lucindawinchell@ymail.com)

### **Iowa City Monthly Meeting**

Worship: 10 a.m. First Day

Business: 2nd First Day following worship

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

Clerks: Harry Olmstead, (319) 338-2931, HarryO3@aol.com

Bob Winkleblack, (319) 648-5047, winkfam@windstream.net

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

### **Laughing Waters Preparative Meeting**

Under the care of Bear Creek Meeting

Worship and Business: We are in a transition. Check website for scheduling and location, often held on First Day afternoons in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area.

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

Phone: (612) 567-8406.

Clerk: Liz Oppenheimer, (612)-567-8406

Email address: [laughingwaters.friends@gmail.com](mailto:laughingwaters.friends@gmail.com)

### **Lincoln Monthly Meeting**

Worship: 10 a.m. First Day

Potluck: after worship and sharing on first First Day

Meeting for Business: following worship on third First Day

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

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

Email address: [jeanleden@gmail.com](mailto:jeanleden@gmail.com)

### **Omaha Monthly Meeting**

Worship: 10:00 a.m. First Day

Business: 11 a.m. 3rd First Day

Location: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 925 S. 84th, the Blue Room

Clerk: Debbie Galusha, 3000 Farnam St. #6L, Omaha NE 68131,  
(402) 553-2211

Email address: [drdgalusha@gmail.com](mailto:drdgalusha@gmail.com)

### **Paullina Monthly Meeting**

Worship: 10:00 a.m. First Day

Business: 11:00 a.m. 2nd First Day

First Day School: 11:00 a.m. on 4th First Day followed by potluck meal

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

Clerk: Doyle Wilson, 5550 400th Street, Primghar, Iowa 51245,  
(712) 757-3875

Assistant Clerk: Beth Wilson

Email address: bewilson@iowatelecom.net

Website: <http://paullinafriendsmeeting.wordpress.com/>

### **Penn Valley Monthly Meeting**

Worship: 10 a.m. First Day

Business: 1st First Day following worship

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

Clerk: Gary Marx, (913) 530-1623

Email address: garymarx@sbcglobal.net

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

### **Silver River Worship Group**

Under the care of Penn Valley Monthly Meeting

Singing: 10 a.m. First Day

Worship: 10:30 a.m. First Day

Location: 28408 Frontier Lane, La Plata, MO 63549

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

Contact: Victoria Albright, (713) 851-0613

Email address: albrightv@yahoo.com

### **Sioux Falls Area Worship Group**

Under the care of Paullina Monthly Meeting

Worship: 9:30 a.m. First Day (Small group, wise to call beforehand)

Location: Dow Rummel Village Conference Room, 1321 West

Dow Rummel, Sioux Falls, across West Avenue from the stadium

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

Email address: AnnaGieschen@gmail.com



**West Branch Monthly Meeting**

Worship: 10 a.m. First Day

Business: 2nd First Day following worship

Pre-meeting: 9:00 a.m. 3rd First Day

Location: 317 N. 6th Street, West Branch, Iowa

Mail: P.O. Box 582, West Branch, Iowa 52358

Clerk: James Cottingham, (319) 643-5949

Email address: cottinghamjj@gmail.com

**Whittier Monthly Meeting**

Worship: 10:30 a.m. First Day

Business: every two months at call of Clerk

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

Clerk: Deborah Dakin, (319) 895-8133 Contact: Andrea Jilovec,  
(319) 929-4622

Email address: debdakin@earthlink.net, or ajilovec@q.com

**Yahara Worship Group**

Worship: 12 noon on 2nd and 4th First Days

Convener: Meg McCormick, yahara@iymc.org.

Location: Plymouth Congregational Church of Christ,  
2401 Atwood Avenue, Madison, WI 53704

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

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

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**Scattergood Friends School and Farm**

Worship: Thursdays 1:45 p.m. while school is in session

Location: 1951 Delta Ave., West Branch, IA 52358

Phone: (319) 643-7600

Heads of School: Christine Ashley, Head of School: Development &  
Advancement, christine@scattergood.org

Thomas Weber, Head of School: Internal Operations,  
tweber@scattergood.org

Website: [www.scattergood.org](http://www.scattergood.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/scattergoodfriendsschool](http://www.facebook.com/scattergoodfriendsschool)