

Minutes of
Iowa Yearly Meeting
of Friends
(Conservative)

2015

Held at Scattergood Friends School,
near West Branch, Iowa
Seventh Month 21 to Seventh Month 26, 2015
138th Annual Sessions

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**MINUTES OF IOWA YEARLY MEETING
(CONSERVATIVE)**
138th Annual Sessions
Seventh Month 21 to Seventh Month 26, 2015

FOURTH DAY – WEDNESDAY – 7/22/15

At the 138th annual session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) held at Scattergood Friends School, near West Branch, Iowa from Seventh Month 21 to Seventh Month 26, 2015

The love of God again makes us free, for it draws us to set a low value on those things wherein we are subject to others – our wealth, our position, our reputation, and our life – and to set a high value on those things which no man can take from us – our integrity, our righteousness, our love for all men, and our communion with God.

Kenneth Boulding 1945

We are glad to have the presence of these visitors: Hannah Evans from Washington DC, staff member for Friends Committee on National Legislation, Brant Rosen, Director of the Midwest Region of the American Friends Service Committee, David Eley, Keystone Fellowship of Ohio Yearly Meeting, John Krieg, AFSC Des Moines staff member, and Kevin Rutledge, AFSC Des Moines staff member.

We were asked to hold Janice Dominik of Friends General Conference, who is unable to attend our sessions as planned, in the Light. We pray that she be able to feel the arms of God holding her at this time.

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

Ames	Dan Treadway
Bear Creek	Burt Kisling, Jackie Leckband
Decorah	Martha Davis, George Hagen
Des Moines Valley	Cindy Winchell
Iowa City	Sarah Andrews, Carole Winkleblack
Lincoln	Jean Eden, Dan Schlitt
Omaha	Carol Gilbert, Frank Griffith
Paullina	Doyle Wilson
Penn Valley	Neil Nelson, Princess Nelson
West Branch	Rebecca Bergus, Jim Cottingham
Whittier	Ruth Hampton, Bob Yeats

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

Ames	Deborah Fink
Bear Creek	Bob Winchell
Decorah	Bill Deutsch
Des Moines Valley	Sherry Hutchison
Iowa City	John Andrews
Lincoln	Marge Schlitt
Omaha	Marshall Massey
Paullina	Mary Snyder
Penn Valley	Chloe Wagner, Neil Nelson
West Branch	Larry Marsh
Whittier	Alice Hampton

There are 13 representatives and 6 caretakers present. Others may be attending later sessions or are assuming other duties at Yearly Meeting that are held during meeting for worship with attention to business.

REPRESENTATIVES APPOINTMENTS

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

Ames	A.M. Fink
Bear Creek	Albert Kisling
Decorah	None appointed
Des Moines Valley	None appointed
Iowa City	Carole Winkleblack
Lincoln	Dan Schlitt
Omaha	None appointed
Paullina	None appointed
Penn Valley	None appointed
West Branch	Judy Cottingham
Whittier	None appointed

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

Exercise Committee	Mary Snyder, Dan Treadway, Carole Winkleblack
Epistle Committee	Gordon Bivens, Karen Greenler, Cindy Winchell
Special Replies Committee	Carol Gilbert, Ruth Hampton
Yearly Meeting Reporters	Marshall Massey, Sherry Hutchison, Jeff Kisling
Auditing Committee	Dan Schlitt, Carol Gilbert

Readers for this morning's business sessions are Betsy Baertlein and Jean Sandstrom.

We listened to the Midyear Meeting Reports. The Children's Report made us smile and reminded us of the adage, "If you want to make God laugh, make a plan."

We appreciate these reports and they are especially meaningful for people to hear who were unable to attend. We heard the request for more people to help put on this much loved event for our yearly meeting. While we were glad that Friends who put together this meeting for us rose to the challenge, we also hope that others will step forward either to help with the meeting in the future, or to help find others to help.

Midyear Meeting is one of the highlights of the year for Bear Creek Meeting, as well as for those of us who travel to attend.

MIDYEAR MEETING REPORT

Midyear Meeting was held April 18-19 at Bear Creek Meetinghouse. Eric Moon of Berkeley Friends Meeting led us in a discussion titled "Quaker Ink: From Broadides to Blogs." He challenged us to continue as the cambium of the world. (The cambium is the term biologists give to that very small layer just under the bark of a tree which is the living part of the tree.) Through writings of Friends of the last 350 years, we see how Friends lived the word. In the First Day session he showed us that the testimonies we give are those that we exhibit in our everyday lives. They go beyond those categorized under the SPICES acronym. The Quaker presence is needed in a world where we speak with our lives as well as our words.

As usual, the sale of donated materials for the benefit of AFSC was successful.

We thank all who made this a joyful weekend: Bear Creek Meeting; John Andrews and Robert Yeats, who did the sound; Christine Ashley provided the projector; and all Friends who attended and contributed.

MIDYEAR MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT

Contributions		\$3607.00
Expenses		
DCCB rent	210.00	
Food	870.39	
Speaker	503.20	
Committee expenses	37.93	
Cook	500.00	
Motel for speaker	61.00	
Hosting fee	300.00	
Total Expenses		\$2482.48
Balance forwarded to		
Yearly Meeting		\$1124.48
For the committee,		
A.M. Fink		

MIDYEAR MEETING YOUTH PROGRAM REPORT

Junior Yearly Meeting participants from Des Moines, West Branch and Omaha gathered for Midyear Meeting at Bear Creek on Fourth Month 18-19, 2015. Eight children, ranging in age from 2 to 11, attended some portion of Midyear Meeting, though never all at once! Most of the time we had a group of 3 to 5 children. Our program this year had many last-minute changes in who was attending and who was teaching, including one teacher with car troubles on the way who was unable to make it. The rain caused some programming changes as well. There was only one activity that went somewhat as planned, which involved planting seeds and discussing what the plants would need to grow and thrive, with further discussion on other people and things we love, and how we care for them and nurture their growth. The children had a great time being together, and enjoyed being in the welcoming space of the little schoolhouse.

Several students from Scattergood also attended Midyear Meeting, but they participated primarily in meals and worship, while enjoying some much-needed bonding time together, away from the responsibilities of the Scattergood campus.

Our JYM committee was small this year and would have benefitted from the participation of a few more people.

For the JYM committee, Jean Sandstrom

We listened to the Interim Meeting Minutes and we will use the questions raised during our discussions this week. The Scattergood questions are especially important and remind us how we dearly love the school. We will have opportunities to further discuss this on 6th Day evening.

INTERIM MEETING MINUTES

Fourth Month 18th, 2015
Bear Creek Meeting House

Present:

Deborah Dakin of Whittier meeting, Clerk,
Carol Gilbert of Omaha meeting, assistant clerk,
AM Fink, Dan Treadway, of Ames
Richard Johnson, Burt Kisling, Eldon Morey of Bear Creek
Bill Deutsch of Decorah
Gregory Jones of Des Moines
Ruth Dawson of Iowa City
Lorene Ludy and Jean Eden of Lincoln
Lynda Fife of Omaha
Doyle Wilson of Paullina
George Bergus of West Branch
Alice Hampton of Whittier

When possible, we send people to the other two conservative yearly meetings. This year Ohio Yearly Meeting will be held 8/4-8/8/15, and North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) will be held 7/15-7/19/15. Bob and Sarah Winchell have offered to travel to one or both, and we agreed to ask them to go to Ohio if possible, since no one from our yearly meeting was able to go there last year. The yearly meeting clerk will continue to send out notes to the monthly meetings, asking them to continue trying to find people to attend. We noted that the yearly meeting doesn't pay all expenses, but if names are brought forward of people who would like to go but lack the financial means, we approve the clerk using appropriate budgeted funds to provide additional financial assistance if necessary.

Some present indicated that reminders to monthly meetings regarding travel opportunities such as these are welcome and helpful. Others say people in their meetings are not interested in the wider Quaker world, but they are working on encouraging them. Others who have visited these other yearly meetings described the experiences as "amazing", "like meeting a cousin," saying that they are introduced at the business session, and then participate in good conversations.

The clerk encouraged Interim Committee representatives to make other inter-visitation and Quaker travel opportunities known in their monthly meetings. There are funds available for this, both from our yearly meeting and from other sources. One example is the fund that Baltimore Yearly Meeting has set aside to help people visit their gathering.

The Archives committee informed us that the Governor of Iowa has proposed budget cuts to the State Historical Society which houses our Yearly Meeting minutes at its Iowa City Branch. They plan to reduce hours of operation, and propose digitizing all holdings as a way to save money. The committee is concerned about the impact of these cuts on the preservation of and access to our records. Interim Meeting requests that the clerk sign, on behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), a petition written by Tyler Priest, historian at the University of Iowa, requesting that the budget not be cut to the State Historical Society of Libraries and Archives.

The Archives committee informs us that, if the budget is cut, it will be possible for us to retrieve the original records. The clerk of the Archives Committee made extra copies of information about this and the petition for Iowa Governor Branstad available for us to learn more about this matter.

The clerk reminded Interim Meeting that, at our 2014 annual sessions, the Scattergood School Committee asked monthly meetings to consider our mission regarding the school over this year using queries included in their report. The report was sent to all the monthly meetings in the fall and included in our published minutes. Additional packets with the relevant school reports and queries are available during midyear meeting for people to take back to their monthly meetings.

The clerk asked how meetings are doing in working on this, and whether they need help with this. In response, there was a heartfelt discussion about how to look at our relationship to Scattergood. It was suggested that monthly meetings share written summaries or minutes of their discussions before yearly meeting. There was a suggestion that Interim Meeting representatives remind monthly meetings to focus specifically on the queries. We were reminded that the Yearly Meeting owns Scattergood, and that it is difficult to have this discussion when some members don't have a connection to the school at all, while others have a deep and long-standing commitment.

The underlying question the school committee has given us is: "What is our relationship with the school?" Once we have answered the question "Is Scattergood our primary mission?" or "Are we called to have a school?" we can decide what to do about that.

The representative from Paullina shared that their discussion had helped them to discern that regardless of the future path, Scattergood has NOT been a failure. It has nurtured many wonderful, successful, and self-assured graduates over the years. However, it no longer serves us as it once did, by educating the children of our monthly meetings. As the school's budget has increased, the meetings have shrunk, and now most of our children attend public schools. We need to consider whether it is truly our mission to educate other people's children, or whether we should use our resources to support local public schools, or for some other purpose. We pondered the school's role in IYMC's history and whether it was a catalyst that helped bring IYM into being.

We ended by noting that it would be helpful to ask ourselves what Scattergood "is". Is it a piece of land with some buildings? Is it the staff? Does it have to be a college preparatory high school? Is it a way to convey Quaker values throughout the world? If so, could it also be a preschool, a hostel, a cooperative farm, etc.?

We encourage meetings to continue to grapple with the Scattergood queries so that we may come prepared for our annual sessions.

For Interim Meeting,
Deborah Dakin and Carol Gilbert

The good American Friends Service Committee Corporation Report was quite detailed. The report reminded us that the work of AFSC has direct influence on our area, such as in the "bird dogging" campaign.

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE CORPORATION REPORT

In early March 2015 a heavy snowstorm was working its way up the East Coast toward Philadelphia PA leaving school cancellations and airport shutdowns in its wake. Your intrepid band of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) representatives Andrea Jilovec, Dan Schlitt, and Bob Yeats, arrived early and were all in place and set to attend the Thursday evening activities of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Corporation when we received messages that the meetings were called off. Philadelphia was pretty much shut down. However, Friday meetings went on as scheduled, with representatives and presenters finding their way to the Friends Center despite a crippled transportation system.

AFSC appears to be in pretty good shape. Recovery from the "Great Recession" is just about complete. Income is slowly increasing. Gifts are down a bit but that is more than made up by increased bequests. While

there is a long-range problem with this trend, it is good to see the overall financial picture improving.

A new planning and evaluation structure is being put in place to streamline planning and evaluation tasks. A new board committee has been added for a middle level of governance on budget and policy matters from the perspective of the programs. Other governance changes in the works include possible changes in the number of representatives from yearly meetings appointed to the Corporation. Sizes of meetings will be based on FGC statistics rather than the historical standards in use for many years. This may well affect the number of representatives that we can send to Corporation meetings.

In addition to ongoing programs, a new Shared Security program has been brought forward by the Quaker UN Office working jointly with FCNL. This is a very carefully researched and written document that outlines a national security plan that would be more effective and much less expensive than what is in place today.

AFSC continues their good work with many programs that address a wide variety of issues. This includes a sustained attempt to raise awareness of the need for new thinking on human migration as well as the need for comprehensive immigration reform in the U.S. Our laws have created a situation where goods capital and jobs can and do flow freely across borders but human beings are expected to remain where they were born regardless of exploitation, poverty and violence.

Work on structural racism is being tackled by the AFSC both externally and internally. Interns have been added to our Midwest programs working with youth in Saint Louis and Minneapolis. Freedom Schools have been started at programs in Seattle, Saint Louis and Minneapolis. Work is continuing to address the racial and legal policies that have led to our nation having the highest rates of incarceration in the world. Projects on sentencing and prison reform as well as militarized policing have received renewed attention in the past year.

Work is continuing especially on campuses, in supporting the Boycott, Divest, Sanctions (BDS) movement against corporations that profit from Israel's occupation of Palestine. Continuing projects include anti-militarization programs such as the "If I Had a Trillion Dollars" film competition in which youth can envision the possibilities that could be opened up by reduced military spending.

An active Presidential Candidate "Bird-dogging Campaign" is up and running in Iowa and New Hampshire to make sure that questions are asked that will inform voters about the positions of candidates on issues of concern.

In the Midwest Region, we welcome Brant Rosen as our new regional director. Brant is well known to AFSC people in Chicago for

his fine work with Jewish Voice for Peace. Many Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Friends are involved in the governance work of the AFSC organization. Victoria Albright is Co-Clerk of the Midwest Executive Committee (MWEC). Bob Yeats is a Corporation Representative and MWEC member. Andrea Jilovec is a Corporation Representative and Monthly Meeting Liaison and Dan Schlitt is a Corporation Representative and member of the Board Program Committee.

In the last couple of years ASFC has made a major effort to connect more closely with Friends everywhere. The Friends Relations Office has increased in size and scope. Regular stories of activities are sent to the Friends Relations e-mail list. Technology has been harnessed to produce real time presentations with people who do the real work of the organization. Often these are produced in an interactive form, such as “Google Hangout”, where we can interact directly with the presenters. This is a fascinating way to keep up with AFSC activities around the world from the comfort of our living rooms. Meeting liaison positions are still available. Because the American Friends Service Committee is our active voice in the secular world it is important that Friends be involved in determining the direction and in ongoing governance of the organization. Get on the email list, participate in the programs, and fill out an interest form to help AFSC find new members for the committees and panels. Be part of the organization. Your Grandma would be proud!

Submitted by the AFSC Corporation Committee

Bob Yeats convenor, Andrea Jilovec, Dan Schlitt, Ann Stromquist

We heard the epistles from Ohio Yearly Meeting and North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative. Some of the queries raised in the Ohio epistle are close to questions we are asking ourselves at this time. When our members are able to visit either Ohio or North Carolina, the sense of connection between our yearly meetings is palpable. We encourage anyone who feels even the slightest movement to attend, to follow through so they can have this rich experience.

EPISTLE FROM OHIO YEARLY MEETING

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Iowa Yearly Meeting,

“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth increasingly beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross despising the shame and is seated at the right hand throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1,2

We send you loving greetings in the name of our loving Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, in whose name Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends have gathered in Eighth Month 5th - 10th for our yearly meeting in Barnesville, Ohio. Recognizing our historical ties, we pray that you, as we, would continue in faithfulness to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is in Him, our Hope of Glory, that we find meaning and purpose for our lives both individually and corporately as Friends.

Our gathering together in service to our dear Lord has been filled with times of Christ-centered, expectant, waiting worship; prayer; Bible reading; attention to the business of the yearly meeting and sweet with one another. Under the guidance and in the power of the Holy Spirit Friends were prompted to consider,

- How do we, as a body, equip ourselves to meet the needs of the current and future generations?
- How can we protect our children from harm (particularly predators) who might seek to gain access to our children?
- Do we have a loving ministry to our young adults that provides them with opportunities to question and mature as they grow in faith in our Lord?
- How faithfully are we expressing our love to our children daily?
- How do we both protect those around us who are vulnerable and in addition always keep our eyes open to God's redemptive healing love and forgiveness?

Darkness and enmity against God surround us. Nevertheless dear Friends in the face of such evil we are called to be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. (Ephesians 6:10)

One of our missions as a yearly meeting is to provide through our Walton Retirement Home here in Barnesville, Ohio, a loving and safe retirement place for seniors. The care provided there is excellent, indicated by a satisfaction score of the residents that is, we have been told, higher than any other retirement facility in the surrounding four counties. We give thanks to God for His work through the care-givers of the

Walton Retirement Home, and that God has given us this opportunity to provide this service as a ministry to seniors.

We were graced with sessions entitled “Hidden in Plain Sight: Slavery and the Slaves' Spirituals” by dear Friend, Kim Palmer. The evening session and four morning sessions spoke to us of the deep travail slaves underwent through the horrific institution of slavery in our country from 1619 to 1865. Even though slaves were in physical bondage, many found hope in Christ for spiritual redemption and worldly liberation. We discovered that there was a double message in their songs: the obvious spiritual message of their relationship with God, but also the hidden message of the slaves' hoped for physical deliverance from bondage.

We explored through thoughtful reflection and small group discussion why we, as a religious body still exist. Various questions were addressed, such as

- What is our calling as a people of God?
- Why are we (still) a body today?
- Do we know why we are here?
- What are we here for?
- What is the Lord asking of us, that is, Ohio Yearly Meeting?

We, as Ohio Yearly Meeting, continue to wrestle with providing a faithful witness to current and, God willing, future generations. We pray that we might each grow and mature in Christ, and that this growth and maturity might result in not just a continuing, but increasing witness for Christ in the future.

Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we call us all to be bold for Christ, and to stand in faithful witness to Him. (Ephesians 6:13) It is our desire that when we stand before Him, we will hear Him say the words, “Well done, good and faithful servants.”

On behalf of Ohio Yearly Meeting.

Seth Hinshaw, clerk

EPISTLE FROM NORTH CAROLINA YEARLY MEETING (CONSERVATIVE)

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
P.O. Box 4591
Greensboro, NC 27404
Email: ncymc.clerks@gmail.com
www.ncymc.org

Seventh Month 18, 2015

To our dear Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting,

“ ‘And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.’ When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.” Acts 4:29-31

We are gathered on the campus of the University of North Carolina – Wilmington for our 318th annual session, Seventh Month 15-19, 2015.

Our theme this year is “Living Into Our Gifts” and we are humbly aware of the gifts of the Spirit that have nourished and fed our yearly meeting throughout the years. We felt you present in the unity of spirit spoken of in 1 Peter 3:8-11, with which clerk Nancy Craft opened our gathering: “...have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind.” In our daily Bible study we were reminded that prayer is the cornerstone of our deepening our relationship with God so that we might be more aware of His will for us.

As always the sharing of our query responses and the State of the Society reports gave us a richer sense of connection with one another. Friends spoke of a deepening of their worship, creating fertile ground for the exercise of the gifts of the Spirit present in each community. Through the reports we heard that the Spirit is moving in our meetings and is tending particularly to what’s needed in each community.

Our yearly meeting is two years into the process of revising our Book of Discipline. This process is helping us to both articulate our current practice as well as discern what we hold dear and wish to preserve about our conservative traditions. Exploring the Faith and Practice of our yearly meeting is reaping fruit within our monthly meetings through prayerful discussion on our theology and ways of being together.

Visiting Friend Kathryn Damiano was invited to lead us in the exploration of living into our gifts. On Fifth and Sixth Day evenings Kathryn shared personal experiences of how she and others have been faithful in exercising God given spiritual gifts. As Kathryn spoke of the distinctives of the spiritual life of Conservative Friends, we were delighted to hear several stories of her opportunities with Bill and Fran Taber and how they taught her through word and example. Her deeply grounded and grounding presence invited us into sharing our own experiences and into an exploration of what speaks to our condition as a yearly meeting. She encouraged us to consider how to nurture our culture of listening and to be faithful to God in everyday life. As Friends shared in this discussion they named spiritual gifts that had been experienced in the monthly meetings and at yearly meeting. Trust and risk were recognized as integral parts of being in community – that the power of the Lord was about God’s grace in allowing us to be open and vulnerable with one another.

We very much enjoyed having Alice and Ruth Hampton visit with us last year. We are also sad that way did not open for some of us to visit with you as you gathered at Scattergood. We welcome continued visitation between our yearly meetings and pray that it might be in accordance with Divine Will that one or more of you would join us next year when we will meet at Guilford College, Seventh Month 13-17, 2016.

On behalf of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
Nancy Craft, clerk

The letter from the New Association of Friends, the Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting mark both Quaker history being made, but also Quaker history being repeated, as some of this new growth is the result of splits between Friends. But over and over, in all of the epistles we listened to this morning, we hear the same question: What is Spirit calling us to do? These epistles challenge us to look at ourselves and see how we are led, and in doing so we find ourselves in fellowship with Friends all over the world.

DOCUMENT COMMITTEE REPORT
(prepared by Bear Creek Friends)

North Pacific Yearly Meeting, Annual Session 2014

To Friends everywhere;

...We put effort into making sure our business was Spirit-led by pausing frequently for worship. The high-school age and young adult friends led a plenary session in which they demonstrated comfort with a measured pace of speaking and silence when responding to the query: What is the Spirit asking us to do?

Some spoke of treasuring their community and feeling safe to speak about their faith. Others shared concerns about the health and future of the Yearly meeting. They invited older Friends to join them in deep conversation. Many of us were inspired by FCNL's example of how the Spirit leads people to action. Rather than feeling helpless in the world, we are called to find our voice as part of our witness....

...We have struggled the last few years in engaging all of the monthly meetings, preparative meetings, and worship groups in the business of the Yearly Meeting. Some of these meetings have reported being overwhelmed by the amount of input requested from Yearly Meeting.

...However, at a recent gathering of the committee that coordinates the work of Yearly Meeting, there was an unexpected rise in energy. We made a change in structure that invites participation rather than requiring it, hoping that more voices will be heard. At the same time, all of us are exploring ways to keep connections open.

...At the heart of our annual session is our worship... we come together to remember that we are a part of something greater than ourselves.

...What is love asking of us today?

2015 Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting
Epistle from the First Annual Session

Third Month, Fourteenth Day 2015

Greetings to Friends Everywhere,

...First to be approved were The Vision Statement and Core Elements, intended to clarify the guiding principles of the new yearly meeting. The last sentence of the Vision Statement reads, "Our primary goals are to nurture monthly meetings and worship groups by supporting spiritual growth and to witness to our collective truth in the wider

world.” The Core Elements include inward experience of the spirit leading us to loving ways; Quaker practices of discernment, continuing revelation and outward expression of truth in our lives; inclusiveness and welcoming a diversity of individuals and families into our meetings; strengthening our monthly meetings and worship groups; holding to a simple and sufficient structure in the yearly meeting; and demonstrating transparency and openness in all of our actions.

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) Ireland Yearly Meeting April 2015

“The earliest Quakers called themselves ‘Friends of the Truth...’ and now we are challenged to faithfully seek the Truth...”

We come away from our Yearly meeting ready to meet the challenge of learning to see God’s creation in everyone and everything, and to nurture all of God’s creation in whatever ways we feel called-through giving, action and prayer.”

Epistle from FWCC Europe & Middle East Section Annual Meeting, Held at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, Birmingham, 4 – 7 June 2015

To Friends everywhere, Loving Greetings - *Srdečné pozdravy, kærlige hilsener, Hartelijke groeten, Lämpimin terveisin, salutations affectueuses, Liebe Grüße, Szeretettel köseöntzük, Calorosi saluti, Hjertelig hilsen, Serdecznie pozdrawiamy, сердечный приветие, saludos cariñosos, kära hälsningar, Beannacht Dé oraibh, salut amics, salamu za upendo*

Ben Pink Dandelion’s keynote address reminded us that Quakerism is inherently collective as well as diverse. He challenged us to be ready to speak out our personal awareness of the divine but also open to listen from our hearts to those whose religious experience, however differently expressed, might emerge from the same deep place. We were struck by his suggestion that the Amish query – does this action build community? – can be an excellent way of testing discernment about things great and small.

The New Association of Friends New Castle, Indiana USA

Epistle to Friends everywhere

‘What canst thou say?’ This was the question that George Fox put to the people in the parish church near Swarthmoor Hall in 1652. It is the question about the work of the Spirit among us that we in the New

Association of Friends have tried to answer in a gathering on August 23, 2014 in Muncie, Indiana.

In our discussions of our lives as Friends over the past two years, four themes emerged:

First, drawing inspiration from our rich heritage.

We all share a deep sense of the importance of our testimonies and worship and an appreciation of the power of silence. Many of us are engaged in discussions and study of how best to carry out these testimonies in the contemporary world.

Second, intentionality.....Third, change... ..Finally, hope.

Epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting 2015

“Quaker Meetings grounded in worship and loving tenderness can work together to transform our own lives and respond to injustice, poverty and the need for sustainability locally, nationally and internationally.”

... 'Live up to the Light thou hast and more will be granted thee' -
(British Yearly Meeting Quaker Faith and Practice 26.04).

The Friends of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting 7/30-8/3/2014.

...In plenary sessions, workshops, small groups, interest groups, and other activities all of us were given the difficult question: how can our light make a difference in a broken world? As our sacred time together progressed, we experienced not despair but a powerful sense of hope that we can make a difference. In living up to our light together, we are empowered to change the world.

...The light given each of us is like a screen made up of many pixels that alone do not look like anything, but taken together form a beautiful picture. From our individual gifts we have a role to play, however small, that is our part of the whole. We were given encouragement, tools, and opportunities to put our gifts and testimonies into practice.

...We were reminded that we are not alone in this enterprise. Others join with us to bring growth in each one of us, much as plants grow toward the light. An awareness of the problems of our world could not be avoided but seeds were planted that can only bear fruit if we care for ourselves, our families, our meetings, and the communities where we live, breathe, and have our being.

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

FIFTH DAY – THURSDAY – 7/23/2015

We return to the business of the yearly meeting.

I view meeting for worship as a precious opportunity to become very present to the oneness of all humans, of all existence. I come there to rest in the peace available when I share space and time with people who are not busy talking and doing, and who are collectively consciously, aiming to lift our hearts and minds as high as they'll go. Robin Alpern, 2006

Bob Winchell and Penny Majors have been appointed readers this morning.

MINUTE OF THIRD AND FOURTH DAY ACTIVITIES

On Third Day, Jim Kessler returned as our evening speaker. Last year, he gave an overview on how native prairie plantings were a public witness to hope. This year, we learned how Grinnell Friends Church used a grant from Quaker Earthcare Witness to create an urban pollinator (butterfly) garden.

The second half of his talk, “The Green Yard Makeover” helped us learn how to create a garden. Green gardening is an act of faith. Jim shared the joy he feels from having asked, “Lord, What should I do?”, and then following his leading.

On Fourth Day, we heard about the programs from two organizations Iowa Friends have long supported: the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC).

In the afternoon, FCNL Program Assistant Hannah Evans reported on a variety of their programs for grassroots organizing, including one on how economic injustice relates to climate change. Midwest Region Director Brant Rosen, shared how AFSC programs that work in small communities are especially effective because they are part of a worldwide vision. We were gladdened to hear how two Friends with deep roots in our yearly meeting now work for these organizations. Scott Greenler is a member of the FCNL Advocacy Core. Kevin Rutledge, now on the Des Moines staff of AFSC, came in and invited us to get involved with his work teaching people how to “bird dog” political candidates.

Later on, both Brant and Hannah offered very personal presentations on how their faith led them to, and is directly expressed in, the work they

do. Brant offered an interest group on the shared roots between Jewish faith and the Quaker testimonies that led to honest and tender exchanges between the participants. As our evening presenter, Hannah engaged us deeply as she shared how lobbying can be a spiritual discipline. There is a “challenge zone” that is found between the comfort and panic zones, and if we bravely move into it, we can discover a sweet spot. It takes a leap of faith, but that leap lands us in a community, one encircled in the Light.

We heard the interesting report of our Representatives to the Friends World Committee for Consultation.

FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

The Friends World Committee for Consultation encourages fellowship among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends/Friends Church. Answering God’s call to universal love, FWCC brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications, and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world.

As representatives of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), we chose not to attend the annual meeting of the Section of the Americas in March. Instead, we made our contributions through writing, research, and prayer.

We hope that someone from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) will feel a spiritual nudge to attend the next World Plenary Meeting (formerly the Triennial/International Representatives Meeting). This will be held in Peru from January 19-27 at the Royal Inca Hotel in Pisac near Cusco. The theme is Living the Transformation: Creation is waiting...

We are in unity with programmatic changes approved in Mexico. For example, a new working group is discerning how FWCC can best offer spiritual leadership opportunities to encourage young Friends and emergent leadership in the tradition of the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage.

Faith & Play, a marvelously creative and experiential basic curriculum has been introduced to Spanish speaking Friends as Jugar llenos de fe. This is part of a new stress on education.

We feel that The Kabarak Call for Peace and Ecojustice continues to call us to act on our principles, not just talk about them.

Most of all, we look forward to the new Traveling Ministry Corps. FWCC has exciting plans to gather, equip, and coordinate a network of traveling ministers recommended by their yearly meetings to share their unique gifts and ministries in ways that build up our local faith com-

munities. FWCC envisions pairs of Friends from across the Americas visiting hundreds of local meetings and churches. We look forward to engaging Friends to learn from one another through prayer, pastoral counseling and encouragement, religious education or peace, justice and environmental concerns.

From the spiritual preparation letter before the Mexico meeting:

“The new strategic plan gives us an opportunity to capture the spirit of the Valiant Sixty and strategically position FWCC as part of a dynamic movement of God’s Spirit. For this to occur, we need to be prayerfully ready and spiritually prepared.”

Mary Snyder, Ebby Luvaga, Chris Kelly
FWCC Representatives

The Publication Committee does a lot of work on our behalf and we are grateful for all they do. We especially note the work of the clerk, Ann Stromquist.

Hearing the Publication report led to a wide ranging discussion and raised a number of questions regarding our printed minutes. One topic was the benefits and drawbacks of making our Directory password protected and available online, or published separately. The simple questions regarding access and privacy are not so simple after all. We ask the Publications Committee to look in to the matters raised, and bring back information for the body to consider when they are ready

PUBLICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

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.

This past year, 227 copies of the minutes/directory went to our 15 monthly meetings and worship groups, compared to 266 last year. We gave 7 copies to Scattergood Friends School, mailed 33 to Quaker colleges and institutions and 5 to individuals who live at a distance from their home meetings, and gave 2 to the State Historical Society of Iowa, for a total of 274. We printed 26 additional copies to have on hand for future use, making the total ordered from Goodfellow Printing, Inc. 300, 50 fewer than we ordered last year. We ordered 2 spiral-bound copies for each meeting (a total of 30) as an experiment. The cost of printing was \$8.19 per book, compared to \$7.42 last year, for a total of \$2,457, plus

freight costs of \$218, for a total of \$2,675 paid to Goodfellow Printing Co., Inc.

We received some feedback about the spiral-bound copies, with most people, especially those who use the book frequently, indicating that they appreciated having a book that remains open while they are using it. We continue to be guided on this issue by the yearly meeting.

Other expenses incurred by the Publications Committee include: cost of mailing minutes to Quaker colleges and institutions and individuals = \$142.60, cost of mailing envelopes = \$16.21, website domain name renewal for one year = \$14.99, and web hosting fee for one year = \$119.88. These costs, added to the \$2,675 for printing, bring the total expenses of the Publications Committee this past year to \$2,968.68. Our budget line was \$3,200. Unless postage rates increase significantly, we should be able to work with a budget of \$3,000 this coming year.

Interestingly, 3 Quaker institutions to which we have traditionally mailed our minute/directory book requested that we no longer send them paper copies: Quaker Information Center at the Earlham School of Religion, which has become a virtual information center; Pendle Hill Library; and George Fox University.

Each year we review the list of Quaker colleges and institutions to which we send our book and make adjustments as appropriate. If anyone in the yearly meeting would like to see the list, please contact Ann Stromquist at annstromquist@gmail.com.

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 by October 1.

We continue to work on improving the yearly meeting website: www.iymc.org and look forward to trying out new ideas that make it more user-friendly.

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

For the committee,
Ann Stromquist, clerk

The 2014 Entertainment Committee made our yearly meeting happen. Hearing their report brought back fond memories of last year's sessions, and we thank them for their work.

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2014

Yahara, Des Moines, Ames, and Penn Valley meetings were the hosts for the 2014 annual sessions, and representatives of those meetings met several times by conference call. The theme was “Let Your Life Speak.”

On Tuesday night, Des Moines Meeting facilitated a discussion of Pastoral Care within our meetings, allowing us to investigate the ways we take care of each other. Carrie Newcomer, nationally known Quaker folksinger and songwriter, led us in a workshop looking at our lives as sacred stories, and then graced the meetinghouse with a concert on Wednesday. On Thursday, many took a guided walk on Scattergood’s mature, restored prairie with Jim Kessler, from Grinnell Friends Church. That evening he spoke on “Why Native Plants Matter to Birds, Pollinators, Our Soil, Our Water and People of Faith.”

Jim Cason, of FCNL, discussed the spiritual roots of activism on Friday night. He also shared, in small groups, about the work of FCNL, including the organization’s efforts to increase the participation of young people. The High School Young Friends hosted Quaker Charades and a talent show on Saturday.

Janet Ross, of Toronto Meeting, lead Pre-Meeting on Sunday and A.M. Fink led us in Bible study

Receipts

Received from 2013 committee	\$2,000.00
Contributions	10,502.00
Special Contributions for Program	3,410.00
Total receipts	<u>\$15,912.00</u>

Expenses

Scattergood Friends School	\$10,000.00
Program	3,237.98
Child Care	630.00
Bank Fee	<u>4.28</u>
Forwarded to IYM Trustees	39.74
Forwarded to 2015 Committee	2,000.00
Total	<u>\$15,912.00</u>

For the committee,
Jim Cottingham and Ruth Dawson

The Archives Committee Report brought us up to date on the current status of the state funding for the Historical Society that houses our records. There still needs to be a concerted effort from concerned citizens to keep the pressure on the governor of Iowa to prevent his proposed funding cuts from coming to pass. The clerk of the Archives Committee has information for anyone who wants to continue to help lobby on this matter. It was a good report and we hope that the prediction of a positive outcome will come true. We thank the committee for keeping us informed on this issue.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REPORT

Archives Committee met at Scattergood on 7-22-2015.

During the past year, we added Iowa Yearly Meeting clerk's original minutes from 1968, 1969, and 2009 to our collection housed at the State Historical Society of Iowa (SHSI) Library in Iowa City.

SHSI's staffing levels have been declining for years, and library hours were reduced earlier this year due to budget reallocations within the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. This caused concern among Iowa YM Friends as to SHSI's long-term status. An SHSI archivist stated this week that she felt the SHSI would outlast the current political administration and has better days ahead. She said the messages in support of SHSI to the Department of Cultural Affairs management and to the legislature and governor had been helpful and she hoped they would continue.

For the committee,
Dan Treadway, clerk

SPECIAL NEEDS COMMITTEE REPORT

The purpose of the Special Needs Committee is to make our meetings accessible to every person who is interested in attending, regardless of any issues. Past projects have included a new sound system, a portable ramp for the stage, improved bathrooms, and an FM hearing assistance device with headphones. This year's project is a new hearing system called an induction loop that allows hearing aid users to receive sound directly from the sound system to their hearing aids. This uses a setting originally found on telephones known as a t-coil that is now being included on modern hearing aid. This should truly enhance the meeting experience for people with hearing loss if their hearing aids have this capability. Des Moines Valley Friends installed an induction loop system in their meetinghouse and they were very helpful in sharing their experiences with us. The committee would like to thank John Andrews and

the folks at Wide Oval Company whose technical expertise allowed us to create a state of the art system for a fraction of its normal cost.

In this year, the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we have made some progress but still have a long way to go to make meetings at Scattergood truly accessible. Projects still needed are a way to make the dining room wheelchair accessible, perhaps with a smooth path to the back door. A small ramp to the platform under the tree would give people in wheelchairs access to gatherings and conversations between Friends, as well as let them enjoy the shaded coolness on hot summer days. In the long run, an elevator is needed in the main building at Scattergood. This would open that building up for easy use by students, parents, and guests with permanent or temporary mobility issues.

The committee would like to thank the yearly meeting for supporting these projects.

On behalf of the Special Needs Committee,
Bob Yeats. Convener
John Andrews, Harry Olmstead, Sherry Hutchison

WILLIAM PENN HOUSE REPORT

William Penn House has been of real service to members of Iowa Yearly Meeting. It is inexpensive and close to the Friends Committee on National Legislation building where many of us go for committee meetings and to Capitol Hill where we lobby our representatives.

A serious problem has recently arisen. "The City of Washington has challenged our real estate exemption. They propose that only part of our exemption applies. As it stands now that would be a tax bill of approximately \$18,000 annually. Due to an interview I had on the local NBC television station, an attorney who is a tax expert contacted me about representing us pro bono. So far nothing has happened either positive or negative. She has filed the necessary paper work challenging the city's position. She has developed an extensive file from Friends from throughout the country of how this would adversely affect them, and we wait," writes William Penn House Director Byron Sandford in a recent report.

We are asked to write letters of support for William Penn House. Byron also asks us to promote William Penn House as a wonderful place to stay, since they are no longer using the Internet to attract business.

(Byron Sandford report continued: In Seth Godin's "Purple Cow: How to Make your Business Remarkable,") "Now an update of the things

that are going well. Pine Ridge Indian Reservation: Building on Mike Grays legacy we continue to lead Quakers in our annual workcamp to South Dakota. The group will leave this Wednesday for Pine Ridge, where they work on housing and other issues of sustainability and community. We have two other annual trips, one is to West Virginia where we work on housing among the hard pressed folks of Appalachia and our ongoing program of work in New Orleans. With the workcamps having this national presence, we renamed it this year to William Penn Quaker Workcamps. The name is changed but the mission remains the same. Our local programs include the Garden Project where we have built about 50 individual garden plots at the homes of DC residents and we also have several community garden plots that we share the produce throughout the neighborhoods. Both of these efforts have increased our connectedness with the communities of which we are engaged. In addition we hold workcamps in the neighborhoods where we work with “aging in place” organizations of helping the elderly to remain in their own homes through our services of gardening, minor repairs, insulation and light bulb exchange.”

Byron Sandford will be retiring in October, 2016. He says, “Working here with Friends from all Quaker traditions has been a gift and a joy.” He has been a gift and a joy for us.

The committee requests we give our annual donation of \$300 and encourage Friends to make individual donations.

For the Committee,
Alberta Kisling and Jeff Kisling

QUERIES AND SELECTED RESPONSES

1. MEETING FOR WORSHIP

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

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

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

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

Selected Response: We all feel we really need to approach Meeting for Worship peacefully with a sense of anticipation for the blessed silence and preparing our hearts and minds to listen for God's leadings.

Our silence is not like the absolute vacuum of outer space, but is actually filled with natural sounds and those bleeding into our worship space. Meditation is not the same, but can be helpful in reaching our prayerful state.

Some of us listen to NPR discussion on the way to meeting and that can get us into thoughtful contemplation that can lead to the prayerful listening. Others find it helpful to listen to classical music before meeting.

Our meeting does not have much vocal ministry during Meeting for Worship and we wish there were more sharing. Perhaps we are doing too much self-censoring and feeling that our words are not important. However, when someone does share it is amazing how often those words come back to us at later times and other situations. Perhaps we could consider going back to having Meeting for Discussion before Meeting for Worship to get our minds 'charged up'. Also, there seems to be more sharing when there are more attending.

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: Individual involvement with different community groups, announcements in local newspapers, our newly created web page, and the internet through quakernet.org are our main efforts for outreach that we currently use. We realize there are opportunities we are missing because we haven't been deliberate about inviting others to join us for special events. David Zarembka's visit was a highlight of last year and the suggestion was made that we try to do more of this type of event.

We are often identified in the larger community by our social concerns and activities, and we discussed the benefit that would be gained by contacting other groups in the wider area who share our concerns. Sharing the spiritual base for our social concerns does not come easily for some of us even though we feel that this is often an important part of why we try to address certain issues. We seem to feel more comfortable letting our lives speak to the important issues of the environment, peace and social justice.

Intervisitation with other Friends groups is left up to individuals when they have opportunities even though we know we all benefit by these experiences.

3. MEETING FOR BUSINESS

Query: *How can we hold our meeting for business in the spirit of love, understanding and patient search for unity without becoming frustrated by differences of opinion or the pressures of time?*

How do we respond when no one else in the meeting seems to hold the views that we do on an issue? How do we respond to a dissenting minority?

How do we share responsibilities among Friends in our meeting? How do we serve our meetings?

Selected Response: We strive – and sometimes struggle – to carry the spirit of worship into our business meetings. It feels like a mouthful to say, but there is a good reason why our business sessions are called “Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business”. We are called to remember that we should always consult the Spirit, especially as we consider courses of action and the business of our meeting.

We considered the question of how to respond when someone accepts a role but then doesn't fulfill the duties responsibly. How do we support and encourage without nagging? How are we helpful but not pushy? We observed that the more action-oriented people may find it more difficult to patiently search for unity.

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: 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 within ourselves and seek to address that of God in those with whom we disagree?

In a Saturday afternoon session, we made a serious effort to use a worship sharing format as described by Patricia Loring in considering this query. No notes were taken until the end of our time together when each of us was asked what we are taking away.

We shared a sense that long needed healing was begun during the time of considering this query together. We have recognized our need to be vulnerable in the presence of each other (and of God). Through sharing those parts of our lives in which we feel vulnerable, we become closer and more understanding of each other. We have experienced the importance of being able to speak and to know that we are heard and acknowledged.

We believe that working together on some activity that meets a need in our community would bring us closer to each other. Perhaps we can seek such work. We are grateful for this time together during which we experienced the beginning of healing and a new level of closeness.

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: Through the life of the Meeting, we have all been touched with grace and tenderness by the many considerations of mutual care.

We are mindful of the health and welfare of all in our small and tender worship community, and strive to include distant members in our affairs through our “long distance query” participation and other meaningful correspondence.

We are challenged by the diminished participation of younger Friends and seek ways to invite and include this vital aspect of our

meeting community. One member commented that we sometimes tend to minimize the concerns or feelings of the children. Our dominant culture conditions us to pay more attention to adults than to children. Also, we seem to be socialized to give more weight and affirmation to the words and knowledge of men and boys than to the wisdom and experience of women and girls.

While Quaker ideals teach us to resist certain cultural expectations and roles, instead, living into God's Wholeness and Love as a community, we can still fall short, all the while striving to care for one another.

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: In both secular and religious education we should be open to different points of view and opinions, recognizing there is no one right answer to most questions. Being open to questioning, and being exposed to different cultures and ideas are key to education. Young friends are incorporating Bible stories into First Day School once per month. Friends have sometimes been hesitant to teach the Bible, perhaps as a reaction to others who share a strict literal interpretation of the Bible. Providing the historical context of Bible stories is key to understanding the intent of the message. Friends' approach to the Bible can be summed up as: "Preach the gospel always. Use words as necessary."

Gender bias in education has improved over the years, yet women around the world continue to experience discrimination. Friends see limitations to our current education system in the US, and that teachers are discouraged.

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: There seems to be no different expectations for men and women in general in our meeting. We have tried to encourage each of our children to pursue their own path. We do see that only sons have returned to family farming operations in our own children, however, and this may be personal preference or just different expectations at the time they were growing up in the community. We do see more women being actively involved in farming in the community at large now, however, and understand that mechanization has made this more possible than in the past. Families are the major testing ground for communicating skills and we can be very theoretical about this. However, when there are difficulties within the family it is very hard to put these ideals into practice. Some spoke of the effectiveness of using silence or “time-out” when feelings are running high. This gives those involved time to consider issues quietly and that often brings some type of resolution. Expressing forgiveness goes along with this technique, but is often difficult to say with honesty.

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: After noting others' lack of personal responsibility, we were reminded that the only one whose personal responsibility we have control over is our own. We right now are not modeling personal responsibility and serenity, and not allowing spaces for reflection. One way that we can take personal responsibility would be in our willingness to be uncomfortable in some action we take: to refuse to go along with popular opinion as the people did who protested the PNC Bank's investments in mountain top mining. We need to be willing to take risks and speak up against injustice. To be responsible we need to speak when we witness unconscious use of offensive or oppressive language and sometimes we fail to do this. One of us had a powerful personal awakening long ago and learned that speech intended to be supportive, might actually be dis-empowering for someone else. Waiting for others to complete their thoughts rather than jumping in to complete a sentence is a way that we respect others. To be listened to and to know you are listened to is important.

We need to model the behavior that we believe is a good way to live: it is the way to be most effective. We cannot force others. Meeting may be able to help us live lives of simplicity through our silent worship, through reflecting together and through modeling lives of simplicity. We can also be nurtured through our own reading and talking with others who have similar values.

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: Sometimes we become politically active when a particular issue is at stake and we become angry at the current trends or lack of action by government officials. We many then be spurred to

become “a part of the solution” with hope for changes at the grassroots level. We learn that not all efforts are rewarded at the polls, but feel enough local support to try to do more. One person asked “is civil disobedience inconsequential?” citing recent Supreme Court decisions.

Trying not to just be angry: in our complex world with much corruption, “who can we trust”? We know that violence does not stop wrong-doing, only exacerbates it. It is surprising to learn that people who believe as I do may not be “good people” in their actions, while others who believe differently many join in the causes for justice and peace. Perhaps our motivation should be to do right rather than to effect change: one must feel compassion for all others and care of the environment in order to sustain any effort. Our daily lives reflect our attitudes and relationships with civil authority and carry on into interactions with the rest of the world. Simple deeds, exchanges, and purchases demonstrate how we really, personally, care for our immediate environs. Be a good neighbor! You may find yourself interested in organizations you know little about.

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: Perhaps listening to the Spirit and listening to the earth is the key to healing our relationship with the earth.

It is important to be aware of the proportion of the environmental resources we use. Being able to see these resources as “property of the common” might help us live in a way that is more sustainable.

When living in a human-made world, it is easy to lose our awareness of nature. Rising from synthetic sheets and putting on synthetic clothing, and going in a car to work all day in a human-made building, it is easy to lose appreciation of nature. Appreciation is fundamental, and when we can go outside and be in nature, we can remember and experience the beauty of God's world.

Unreasonable exploitation is a good place to start to examine our relationships. Humans can be exploited for easy energy such as in the mining of coal or tar sands extraction. It was a blessing to be raised on a

farm, with parents who took seriously the stewardship of the land. The ability to experience with all my senses the natural world around me has stayed with me throughout adulthood. Many times it is easy to feel helpless about what to do, and very difficult to find my public voice in order to talk about things like poisoning our aquifer and the oceans.

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: Friends talked about the New Jim Crow that has placed more people of color in prisons than ever before. *Friends Journal* has had articles about this problem and the corresponding issue of White Privilege. White Privilege is a difficult issue for many Friends to discuss as our community, our meetings, and the Society of Friends is largely white folks.

Anger against whites and white males that Friends have experienced can prevent needed empathy and dialog among F(f)riends. Many whites have advantages – education, employment, etc. What can/should we do about this? Being aware of history doesn't have to make us angry or feel guilty: it can make us more understanding of the psychological traumas that may affect their behavior today.

Can we live our lives so “we do no harm”? Exploitation for financial gain has affected many justice issues including food – the “get big or get out” trend. The idea of cheap food has allowed people in the U.S. to spend a smaller % of our income on food than in the 1950's. This injustice has created and continues to support a movement towards realistic food production. Many of us support the Coop movement. What would be the best way to help groups that have not assimilated? FCNL says one of Friends' goals is “to help everyone achieve their potential”.

12. PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE

Query: *What are we doing to educate ourselves and others about the causes of conflict in our own lives, our families and our meetings? Do we provide refuge and assistance, including advocacy, for spouses, children, or elderly persons who are victims of violence or neglect?*

Do we recognize that we can be perpetrators as well as victims of violence? How do we deal with this? How can we support one another so that healing may take place?

What are we doing to understand the causes of war and violence and to work toward peaceful settlement of differences locally, nationally, and internationally? How do we support institutions and organizations that promote peace?

Do we faithfully maintain our testimony against preparation for and participation in war?

Selected Response: We recognize that while our commitment to peace and non-violence calls us to be kind, kindness is sometimes not enough to address hate and aggression. While these are often blamed on religious and ethnic differences, it is important to note that it is not the differences that are the issue, but rather the behaviors of exclusion and lack of acceptance for those differences.

Another view is to remember that humans are social creatures by nature and we seek each other out, forming groups by shared similarities. What we seek is the “beloved community” of all beings, but falling short of that, we fall into looking at the world in terms of “us” and “them”. We cannot completely understand the nature of the “beloved community”, but we know that it calls us to journey beyond the human, beyond “us” and “them” until the “us” means all of us.

We also note the importance of making our views known by writing to newspapers and publishing opinion pieces. An example would be a recently published letter in the Cedar Rapids Gazette supporting the negotiations with Iraq rather than continuing on a war footing.

Additionally, we realize the importance of being mindful in what we do. Our emotions, both positive and negative, cycle -- much as breathing does between inhaling and exhaling. When we remain mindful of our condition, be it optimism-happiness-faith or doubt-confusion-fear, we can better respond in peaceful ways. We think of the example of the mindful way in which forgiveness was expressed after the shootings at the Emanuel AME Church and how it worked to diffuse the cycle of violence.

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

SIXTH DAY – FRIDAY – 7/24/15
MORNING SESSION

We return to the business of the yearly meeting.

Changing the hardened heart is not achieved by military force or by buying people. It is not achieved by intellectually persuading people; it is achieved by touching them as humans through treating them as valuable. It is achieved particularly by sacrifice on behalf of others, as exemplified in the life and work of Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi, Desmond Tutu.

George Ellis, 2004

Dan Treadway and Lucy Marsh have been appointed readers for this morning.

MINUTE OF
FIFTH DAY ACTIVITIES

Along with the ongoing committee work, there was a full menu of interesting options for Friends to choose from on 5th day afternoon. Hannah Evans offered an interest group discussion about the renewed United States government policy of holding mothers and children who come here in search of asylum in family detention centers. Friends learned about “bed quotas” and the FCNL resources available to help in the campaign to end this policy of the Department of Homeland Security.

Trish Bruxvoort-Colligan, accompanied by her husband Richard, led us through a workshop of songs and sharing. We reflected on our blessings as we shared with each other the people and events that shaped us.

Brant Rosen taught us about the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement. Over 140 Palestinian civil organizations around the world have asked people to join together to hold Israel accountable for its unjust treatment of Palestinians. Friends learned how the power of nonviolent resistance has been used historically and how it is being used today to create effective change.

We are so enriched by all our guests, not only in their offerings but having them join us at meals, under the trees, and throughout the day on campus.

Trish and Rich Bruxvoort-Colligan offered a rich evening of music. Accompanying themselves on guitar, keyboard and banjo, Friends were invited to join in singing old favorites, on songs written by Trish, and a

setting of psalm 72 called “Blessing” by Rich. “May this one be like rain falling on the mown fields; showering the earth.”

It was a lovely way to end a very full day.

We are pleased to have these visitors present: Kathleen McQuillen, AFSC staff from the Des Moines office, Julia Hinshaw Ryberg, member of Sweden Yearly Meeting. Julia was born into Paullina Monthly Meeting and held her membership there until into her 40's.

:

Each year we look forward to all the Scattergood School and Farm reports and this year they filled us with joy and inspiration. Hearing about the creative and imaginative integration of the farm, the arts, and academics into a seamless education experience for all paints a vision for us of what true education can be.

We were moved by the e-mail to Alicia Streeter from a prospective student from Afghanistan with a dream to get enough financial assistance to come to this school. He wrote Alicia that when he received his acceptance to Scattergood, he was so glad that “he kissed the message.”

A few nights ago, Hannah Evans told us of joy that comes from moving out of our comfort zone into the “challenge zone”. When looking at Scattergood's financial report, one Friend realized that her contributions had kept her firmly in the “comfort zone”. She invited all of us to join her in stepping into the “challenge zone” so we might share the sweet spot of joy that Hannah spoke of.

Scattergood School and Farm does important work in our world and is making a difference not only for its students, but also for those in this body who heard these reports this morning.

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL AND FARM ACADEMIC REPORT

For the last two years, I have been asking myself what it means for Scattergood Friends School to be a Quaker, college preparatory farm and school in Iowa. What does that look like in the classroom? As I have shared this question with faculty, students, alumni, and members of our wider community, several pieces have become clear, and have shaped the direction of our academic programs. More specifically, I have heard about the significance of Intersession and May Term in providing a progressive and interdisciplinary educational environment, the desire to more fully incorporate the farm into the academic life of our students, and the importance of providing a strong college preparatory education.

At their core, Intersession and May Term offerings provide us with the ability to suspend our academic schedule and delve deeply into large questions. These courses are critical in preparing our students to go into the world as practitioners of the disciplines they study. The students and their teachers find these experiences to be invaluable. When May Term was initially envisioned, it was seen as an opportunity to try a teaching and learning style that was intriguing to staff and students in a time period that was manageable and safe. I am pleased to report that over the last year, teachers at Scattergood Friends School, inspired by May Term, have been working to make more interdisciplinary connections between their courses. Disciplines exist in the real world to serve a purpose, like different tools in a toolbox. What made this project interesting is that students were using math and science as their tools. In this case, our students were looking to solve a crime.

The planning for this project began last year after David Cohen, our geometry and algebra teacher, set out to make math education more relevant and engaging for his students. After several months of planning, David joined with teachers Michael Severino-Patterson, from Advanced Biology, and Stephanie Sheikholeslami, teacher of Government, staged an elaborate crime and launched students into an investigation in which they took on the roles of crime scene investigative unit and of members of the justice system. Students in our geometry class used mathematical tools to analyze pace and temperature data in order to assemble a list of suspects. Students in Government became attorneys, applying the information compiled by geometry and advanced biology students.

This incredible project was made possible by a generous \$5,000 grant from the Toshiba America Foundation. The Toshiba grant allowed Scattergood to purchase equipment to replicate and sequence DNA in our science laboratories, thus enabling our high school students to participate in work they normally would not experience until college-level biology classes. Advanced Biology students analyzed the DNA samples found at the crime scene using gel electrophoresis and compared them to the samples taken from suspects. On March 12, in the culminating act of this sweeping inquiry, the entire school gathered for a mock trial. The trial involved both sides presenting DNA evidence. To effectively argue their cases and question expert witnesses, students needed to understand the procedures used in the lab and to be able to access and analyze that data.

Another recurring theme that came out of discussions with constituents was how critical the farm is in Scattergood Friends School's history and mission. Last year, we launched a new class called Agricultural Research, a hands-on experience that places students in the roles of scientists. Students researched current trends in agricultural

sciences, engaged in research design, and carried out their own studies using the farm as a living laboratory. Ultimately, these young scientists traveled to Ames to present their findings at the Iowa State Science Fair.

At the end of this course, students remarked that the process had altered their pre-existing views of science as a clean-cut and linear procedure. They are now beginning to understand the cyclical nature of scientific research and the burden of proof placed upon scientists. This is a level of investigative work that many students do not encounter until graduate school. In many traditional high school classes, students memorize scientific facts, but often do not understand that these so-called rules are, much like many of the truths we seek in Quakerism, subject to change and interpretation in light of new data or evidence.

In the fall, our freshmen and sophomores will spend first quarter based at Scattergood's organic farm, which will become the basis of all of their core academic classes. These students will be applying skills and concepts in a meaningful context, and thus become active participants in their own learning. In this context, math becomes an opportunity to learn how to be a more successful farmer, as opposed to an isolated algorithm to be memorized for a test. In the fall, the test will not be on paper, but will be scored on the vegetable scale. This initiative will form a critical foundation for a broader program as students continue on to further immersive academic research in our curriculum of project-based learning. Most importantly this class will prepare students with the foundations needed to thrive in intensive, high-level academic courses, such as Agricultural Research.

For the entire history of Scattergood's existence, farming has been a critical part of the school's mission. There are many schools that have followed suit and introduced successful programs involving areas of sustainable agriculture. The idea of place-based education is one that has also proven to be successful in attracting and retaining high-quality students. Ultimately, expanding our farm program in our 125th year is a testament to the rich legacy of relevant education that Scattergood has provided for generations.

We believe that these programs not only build on our institutional strengths, but they also take full advantage of our unique offerings and will continue to help us grow a compelling college preparatory curriculum. However, the quality of a college preparatory program should not be measured solely on the content that it offers – it should also be evaluated by the habits of mind that it cultivates in its students. Colleges and top paying industries are looking to hire individuals that can demonstrate the following abilities:

- Critical thinking and problem solving

- Collaboration across networks
- Agility and adaptability
- Initiative and entrepreneurship
- Effective oral and written communication
- Accessing and analyzing information
- Curiosity and imagination

Our progressive academics provide Scattergood students with a strong foundation in each of these areas.

Irving Treadway recently said that he was confident that there are at least 60 kids in the world that would like to be at Scattergood; the hard part is that they do not know about us. In Seth Godin’s “Purple Cow: How to Make your Business Remarkable,” he goes against conventional wisdom by urging business owners to stop advertising and start innovating. This revolutionary farm immersion program will set us apart from all the other schools in the country that have a farm or garden. And it has already started working. Last month, the National Association of Independent Schools contacted us to discuss the program for a feature on innovative learning environments. The story can be found here: <http://inspirationlab.org/story/7237>.

I am so pleased to be working at Scattergood Friends School at a time when we are leveraging our rich past to move towards the future. As members of IYMC, I invite you to be a part of this amazing journey.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis Herbst

Assistant Head of School

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL AND FARM FARM REPORT

On graduation weekend, busied by so much but mindful of a rare dry stretch in our otherwise wet spring, multi-tasking by dropping off students at an SAT test and picking up a carrot seeder from a friend at the Iowa City Farmers Market, I heard a story on National Public Radio about the Benedictine monks of Nocia, Italy who spend almost five hours of every day chanting as part of their faith practice.

After the story I turned off the radio and drove in silent glee and appreciation at living in a churning world that still harbors individuals and communities that work and worship on the boundaries. Just knowing that these monks (and many others) exist and are singing brought me hope and reassurance. I drove happily on. And then I realized that not only do I get to live in this world, I get to live and work in one of those places that redefine the possible. The Benedictine motto of “prayer and

work” could easily apply to life at Scattergood, though prayer with teenagers may involve foosball, baking cookies or throwing a Frisbee. All members of the Scattergood community work hard, but we also find appropriate ways to honor creation and each other. Scattergood offers comfort, gives pause and brings hope in a world that undervalues these things. Scattergood sings its sacred life, challenged and inspired. And I am fortunate to live here.

So what song has the Farm sung this past year?

Student experiences continue to be our most important verse. All students once again took part in a Farm Work Day during student orientation and reprised the effort six weeks later to harvest loads of winter squash, carrots and mangels. Students also rotated on to two Farm Crews, and could choose from spring and fall Farm Projects as well as a Food Preservation Project. Many students sought Farm opportunities in addition to the weekday offerings and joined the weekend Farm Crews to shell popcorn, harvest potatoes and pumpkins, prune apple trees and bottle feed lambs and a calf. In the classrooms, Farm Science and Biology classes continued to explore the Farm, documenting various soil building strategies, erosion potential and livestock biology while Agricultural Research Class designed and carried out experiments in fodder feeding pigs, growing soldier fly larva for chicken feed and finding the optimal media for vermicomposting. A Humanities class studied farmland transfer by reading Shakespeare’s *King Lear* and Mary Swander’s *A Map of My Kingdom* (which premiered in the Hickory Grove Meeting House one year ago). A May Term class studied pollinators and constructed housing for wild pollinators and brought to the farm a colony of domesticated honey bees. We also celebrated two graduating seniors who earned their Sustainable Agriculture Concentration recognition by taking multiple Farm Projects, writing their Junior or Senior papers on a related topic, and most importantly to me, helped out with many of the day-to-day chores while Dana was gone on maternity leave.

In addition to learning experiences, the Scattergood Farm also produces food. Our greatest accomplishment grew largely from the addition of the new packing shed out on the Farm. In our first year with a walk-in cooler and rodent-proof storage, we ate carrots, cabbage, beets, potatoes, rutabagas, and celeriac all year long. Sweet potatoes and winter squash supplies stretched nearly to March. This was in addition to our typical bounty from August until December when nearly every vegetable consumed at Scattergood comes from our land and our labor.

Once again, all of the meat consumed during the year came from livestock that lived out their lives on our land including nineteen hogs,

three steers, eighteen lambs, and twenty turkeys. Many additional animals were sold to neighbors or at auction.

This production was done with a focus on ecological sustainability. We again received organic certification for our orchards and gardens, implemented a wide variety of cover-cropping strategies including a fallow year in our crop rotations, and we continued a six-year-long trial comparing fertility from plant and animal origins. We are also experimenting with transplanting crops into cut rye and we recently received funding from SARE (the USDA's agency of Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) to add prairie strips throughout our gardens.

The Scattergood Farm does not just hum quietly to itself, however. Many groups and individuals sought out the farm to learn, observe and contribute. Visitors included three fifth grade classes from West Branch Elementary School, the 3rd/4th class from Willowwind School, Outdoor Adventures Summer Camp, Taproot Nature Experience, Summers-Knoll middle school in Ann Arbor Michigan, heroes from the Great March for Climate Action, SARE representatives from four different states, the USDA's Regional Farm to School Director, a science teacher from Wilmington Friends School in Delaware, stakeholders in a nascent Texas Agricultural High School, and our state Representative Bobby Kaufman. Many other guests also informally visited the farm including attendees of the 125th Anniversary Reunion, prospective student families, and many friends and families of current students. Wartburg College completed one pollinator study in 2014 and the University of Northern Iowa began another in 2015. Pesticide Action Network chose Scattergood as a drift catching site, and the farmers remains active with Practical Farmers of Iowa, Field to Family, and the Women Food and Agriculture Network. In addition to the SARE grant and PFI honoraria, we also received two small grants from the Iowa Ag Literacy Foundation, and we were published in the most recent Wapsipinicon Almanac.

Many people contribute their verse. The Scattergood cooks are often an overlooked part of the Farm team, but their ability to get teenagers to eat what the Farm produces is the most important part of our farm to school model. Christa Hanson returned during the winter to help with livestock chores when labor was particularly short. Ben Bowman has been a steady presence on the Farm, quietly keeping machines running smoothly and landscapes looking tidy. Elana Gingerich has provided temporary labor for our livestock program. Christine Ashley and Mark Shanahan each offered great support for the Farm during their time at Scattergood. Ken Fawcett and the Farm Subcommittee of the School Committee continue to contribute in many different ways. Though she

will remain a presence at Scattergood and on the Farm, after six years as Livestock Manager, Dana Foster will be defining a new role for herself and she deserves much gratitude for keeping the program stable and students actively involved in the care of our animals.

I spend much of each day working quietly by myself, sometimes remembering to slow down and appreciate where I am and what I get to do. My work is my song and I try to sing it joyfully. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to do so.

Respectfully Submitted

Mark Quee

Farm Manager

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL AND FARM HEAD OF SCHOOL REPORT

I write deeply inspired by the collective spirit that I sensed during the school's celebration of its 125th birthday last month. We enjoyed excellent attendance with over 200 people on hand over the four days. Scattergood alumni and staff represented each decade since the school's re-opening in 1944. While many of us missed individuals who could not be present, they were often mentioned and remembered by their peers, their students, and their teachers during those days. I was particularly moved by how much conversation took place between folks from different decades as they shared what being here meant to them and their families. In these conversations and in Meeting for Worship common threads were expressed:

Each person has value in this community.

It is through community that we accomplish things that we cannot accomplish alone.

Quaker testimonies underpin all that we do here.

Together these elements change young lives in ways that students find their authentic selves.

There is much to celebrate at this school, and students are at the heart of this celebration. I think of the many students this past year who have matured by leaps and bounds intellectually and socially. I can name these students. I can describe their gifts to others and the obstacles they've faced. I'm spiritually nurtured by loving them at their best and at their worst. What a privilege it is to be present with them! Discovery of oneself is a magical event in adolescence and is at the heart of a changed life. Adolescents leave their child-identity behind and, like butterflies

emerging from a cocoon, seek to understand their new orientation to the world. I am honored to carry forward the leadership of the school and nurture and witness these transformations in this 125th year of the school's life.

Accreditation: Scattergood received acceptance of its progress report on recommendations made during the accreditation visit by the Independent Schools Association of Central States (ISACS) in 2012, and I'm able to announce that the school remains in good standing as a fully accredited college preparatory program. The report addresses every aspect of school program and operations: teaching and learning, staffing, budget and finance, facilities and grounds, risk management, and the quality of student life. ISACS asks us to shine the light on ourselves and examine how authentically we practice our mission. Its standards we follow are the same for some of the most prestigious college preparatory programs in the Midwest. Members of the Iowa State Department of Education have noted the rigorous nature of the ISACS standards and process, and Scattergood is legally recognized by the state as an independently accredited school. This allows the school to operate legitimately according to its mission and without many of the state-mandated dictates for curriculum and assessment. Thanks go to Christine Ashley for her spurring of school improvement initiatives in response to the recommendations. The affirmation of our accreditation is one of the many parting gifts from her tenure here. And thanks go to the staff in these years who designed and implemented these improvements.

Graduation in June was again a joyous affair with students, their families, and family friends on hand to celebrate the graduation of 12 individuals: **Adam Hanson, Anna Zakelj, Brais Sotelo, Collins Ntwali, Elias Lillienfeld, Grace Friedman, Jaci Tentinger, Jake Edwards, Madison Laurie, Marcus Pettus, Shawn Mahoney, and Socrates Bassuk.** And two juniors were recognized for their contribution to the school: **Sydney Dodson** received the Art Award and **Wubetu Shimelash** received the Berquist Award.

Enrollment remains our key concern. We have remained at an average of 41 students for the third year running. In light of this I began to make changes in January by drafting a new annual budget with Alicia Streeter, our Director of Admissions. She begins her third year with an increased budget tied to a detailed plan. With the School Committee's support we began this spring to use a budget of \$20,000 –up from \$8,500 --to better carry out our recruitment efforts. This level of funding still falls below the standard for funding of recruitment, and our hope is that as enrollment grows we will incrementally increase the percentage of our budget to this end in future years. The funds will improve our visibility

in venues where students and parents look for school options. We will target visits to locales where the gap is largest between openings in good schools and the number of families looking for good schools. Through visits to middle schools and school placement consultants we will focus on finding students who are the best fit as this is the most effective way to increase retention and recruitment.

More fundamentally, enrollment will improve if we more clearly distinguish ourselves in a very competitive market. Families have a myriad number of choices for education of adolescents. This is a fundamental condition that Scattergood has struggled under for a number of decades, and the internet makes the awareness of choices even greater. We will distinguish ourselves by doing what we do best and telling that story: teach on the farm and live in community grounded in the Quaker testimonies. The farm teaches us on so many levels. It feeds us, it challenges us to live with and not in ignorance of natural patterns and anomalies. It teaches ecology, anatomy, chemistry, history, literature, nutrition, meteorology, systems thinking, and practical arts. It teaches that we are accountable to not only each human but to the Earth for our well-being. It makes for a more authentic life, and in doing so we discover and affirm our true selves. In doing so, we will not stray from our college preparatory mission. Rather we will more clearly articulate how a farm experience uniquely prepares students for active and rigorous inquiry, independent thinking, resiliency and hard work—all essential habits for successful college work. Staff continue to meet regularly to discuss if and how essential content knowledge, mathematical skills, and writing skills are addressed and developed.

Together with the academic program, this school remains a healthy and rich environment for individuals to come of age. In this environment, adults keep students in the light of the testimonies enumerated in *Faith and Practice* so that students may for themselves discern their own true nature. This happens not just in the Meeting House; I witness it in the art studios, in classrooms, labs, in the dorms, the kitchen, the farm, and the prairie. In this sea of choices for families, we must stick to our best qualities and promote their value.

Finances: Low enrollment continues to place stress on the school's finances. Despite this we end this year with a significantly smaller deficit than last year. Working with the School Committee, we have a budget for the coming year that reduces administrative payroll, responds to yet another increase in medical insurance for staff, and takes advantage of new contracts for property insurance and fuel that provide close to \$30,000 in savings. Thanks go to Amanda Paul for the negotiation of these contracts. Thanks also go to Amanda for her maintenance and

preparation of school accounts for our most recent and successful audit, which took place in the fall of 2014. We are grateful for the increased support from the School Foundation for both operating and capital budgets in this coming year. The budget for this coming year projects a modest surplus if we reach our target of 45 students enrolled.

Master Planning: A significant moment of clarity emerged last fall working with the School Committee in its vision for capital improvements. Rather than focus on what building to erect, the perspective shifted to making the school more environmentally sustainable. Thinking has now turned to retrofitting existing structures (including the boy's dormitory) instead of replacing them and to installing more efficient heating/cooling systems. We also pursued a large and exciting project this year to build a solar farm that would make the school a net producer of electricity. Given the enrollment situation and the size of investment needed, these large-scale initiatives are now taking a back seat to smaller capital projects that can directly address our recruitment of students while remaining in line with our vision of sustainability. Together with staff and the School Committee I am developing two specific proposals to consider this fall before moving forward with fundraising. Our intent is not to abandon the larger initiatives. We continue to explore how we can realize them in the not too distant future.

Development and Advancement: This year's Annual Fund goal of \$275,000 was surpassed. 350 individuals contributed-- a significant increase in participation compared to previous years. Special thanks go to current Scattergood parents who increased their participation. Together with Christine Ashley, Jody Caldwell, and Scattergood parent Amy Eilers, we launched an active parent association that has met monthly via conference call. The 125th celebration netted a modest surplus that went to the Annual Fund total. More importantly, many younger alumni expressed their pleasure at re-connecting with the school during their visit and they are motivated to help the school build an active alumni network. Jody and I look forward to advancing this initiative this year and to bring back Family Camps.

Staff Transitions: Christine Ashley and Mark Shanahan are now in the eastern U.S. pursuing new opportunities. There have been a number of celebrations to thank them in their transition, including a tribute at the 125th Reunion. Their daughter **Sophie Shanahan** remains at Scattergood as our Health Office Coordinator and as a girl's dorm sponsor. **Louis Herbst** will continue supervision of the academic program and expand his role as Assistant Head of School. **Catherine From** expands her role to become the school's Director of Residential

Life. **Amanda Paul** completes her fifth year as the school's Business Manager and will take work at the University of Iowa next month. Her attention to the school's business and human resources operations during these years has been tremendous. **Tim Schulte** is our new Facilities Director. He combines a teaching degree with extensive experience as facilities and grounds manager of the Wesley Foundation in Iowa City and of the Ashokan Field Campus in New York. **Dana Foster** has laid down the duties of Livestock Manager and will coordinate our new farm intensive for first-year students and teaching Freshman Seminar. **Neal Shaffer '14** is extending his residency as a Friend and doing tech support, planning, and budgeting before he leaves for St. Olaf in mid-August. **Melanie Krupa** has taken an offer at Kirkwood that will preclude her ability to continue at Scattergood. We will miss her excellent work with our ELL students. **Hain Kate Moon** is our new Chemistry and Physics instructor. She is a recent graduate of the University of Iowa with a degree in Science Education with specialization in Chemistry. As a Korean-American, she also looks forward to teaching students Korean language and culture as a project class. **Bruce Whiteman** will return this year as a Poet in Residence. A published poet and former faculty at Grinnell College and McGill University, Bruce will teach two classes, tutor individual students, and of course nurture our campus poetry culture. Last and certainly not least, we are grateful to the many unpaid volunteers who have helped us and will continue their service to the school. Particular thanks go to **Nan Fawcett '63** for her help in the health office and the kitchen, to **Amy Eilers**, parent of Sean '16 for her leadership of the Scattergood Parent Association, and to **Leslie Schiller**, parent of Charlotte '14 and Gifford '19, with her consultation in development operations and strategy.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Weber
Head of School

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT

Date: 24 July 2015

Scattergood Friends School
Preliminary Report to Yearly Meeting

	2015-16 Updated Budget	2014-2015 Budget	6/30/2015 YTD
INCOME	1,259,975	1,256,250	1,259,337
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Contributions	587,400	555,650	601,675
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Annual Giving	275,000	275,000	281,624
Designated Donation	7,000	7,000	31,640
Prairie			7,428
Scholarship			
Financial Assistance			1,020
Gwen Shupe Scholarship	2,000	2,000	
other	5,000	5,000	23,193
Iowa Yearly Meeting	54,000	54,000	54,000
Measey Foundation	154,000	130,000	144,760
SFS Foundation	97,400	89,650	89,650
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Operating Revenue	672,575	700,600	657,662
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Application Fees	1,000	1,000	1,805
Fees & Charges	7,800	9,000	6,200
Interest Earnings	1,000	1,000	142
Net Tuition	620,775	644,000	607,579
Other Operating	5,000	5,000	9,647
Rental Use	18,000	18,000	11,154
Farm	6,000	9,000	10,108
Row Crop	13,000	13,600	11,027

EXPENSES	1,217,159	1,253,929	1,291,017
Payroll	595,687	605,602	612,424
Payroll Expenses	45,570	46,329	54,601
Personnel Costs	169,027	188,153	186,572
Activities	17,790	17,730	16,164
Communications	19,629	18,634	18,397
Contracted Services	36,874	35,800	36,503
Curriculum	14,051	13,640	16,605
Food Service	52,281	52,281	54,791
Farm	20,000	11,000	21,136
Insurance	47,319	64,502	55,644
Miscellaneous	21,619	25,131	22,854
Professional Services	13,000	14,000	15,860
Admissions	20,000	8,500	8,994
Development	12,333	12,294	12,414
Supplies	18,785	17,300	20,061
Technology	13,068	9,600	6,529
Vehicles/Equipment	20,292	19,673	23,918
Occupancy Costs	79,834	91,860	93,520
Portion to Capital		1,900	
DD: Expenses			14,030
NET INCOME/ (LOSS)	42,816	2,321	(31,681)
Capital Income	31,500		15,382
Westwood	6,000		6,382
Foundation	25,500		9,000
Other			
Capital Expense			16434
Roofs			7890
Capital Consult			2290
Move Well			6254
Net Income/Loss			(1,052)

We appreciate the clear and informative report of our yearly meeting Trustees. We thank these Trustees and the members of the School Foundation for their work on our behalf.

YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES REPORT

The Scattergood School Foundation has existed for 25 years. The Yearly Meeting Trustees explored how it has been working. We can report that the evidence shows that they perform their duties well and have given generous aid to the school. We commend the Yearly Meeting for the fore sight in making the care of endowment independent of the school committee. We urge the school committee and the trustees to honor this independence.

We appoint Richard Johnson and Lee Tesdell to the Foundation Trustees with term ending in 2019.

We express gratitude for the faithful cooperation of Christine Ashley and Mark Shanahan for the work of caring for the physical plant of the School, especially the meetinghouse.

Trustees Financial Report

Initial balance 7/1/2014	\$47.92
From Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)	2,000.00
From IYMC Entertainment Committee	39.74
Interest earned	<u>.29</u>
Total Funds Available	<u>\$2,087.95</u>
 Disbursements	
Scattergood Friends School (paint)	\$131.02
Fax & Fed Ex	50.53
Repay loans	1,700.00
Total Disbursements	\$1,881.55
Bank balance 6/30/2015	\$206.40
 Funds Available 6/7/2015	 <u>\$206.40</u>

Prepared by A.M. Fink, clerk

The Scattergood Foundation is charged with the stewardship of the school’s growing endowment, currently valued at approximately \$5.3

million. Through a diversified portfolio of socially responsible investments, primarily stocks, bonds, and farmland, the Foundation makes annual distribution 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 students. Funds are invested with a balanced approach to capital preservation and moderate growth. In calculating the annual disbursements, the Foundation follows the instructions of donors and the Foundation's own standard payout policy.

During the 2014-15 school year, the Foundation distributed \$89,650 to support tuition scholarship. The Foundation has committed to new scholarship distributions for the 2015-16 academic year totaling \$97,400, as well as \$25,500 toward capital improvements.

On behalf of the Committee,
A.M. Fink

***Note: The Scattergood Friends School Foundation Report can be seen in Reports Received but not Read, page 109.**

It is important that we know what is going on with Scattergood School and Farm, and the excellent School Committee Report keeps us informed. The work of this committee is a labor of love. The phrase, "labor of love" is definitely apt in this case as we are so grateful for all their work.

We appreciate Debbie Galusha's many, many years as both Scattergood teacher and School Committee member. Her work was an expression of her deep love for Scattergood School and Farm.

In both the Head Report and the School Committee Report, we were reminded of a few of the many gifts both Christine Ashley and Mark Shanahan brought to the school during the five years they were here. Their love for the School was also boundless, and we thank them for everything.

We appreciate the honesty of this well written report telling us the problems of having too few students. The sound strategies of dedicating resources towards attracting students, improving the grounds, and the integrated curriculum seem practical and wise.

But Scattergood cannot do this work by themselves. Every one of the reports we listened to this morning affirm that Scattergood is our "... experiment to manifest love in the world."

SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Mission Statement of the school is as follows: “Scattergood Friends School challenges students with a college-preparatory curriculum, farm experience, a shared work program, and community living in the spirit of Quaker faith.”

The ongoing practice of the school has been to use this mission to navigate the year and cultivate our strengths within these guiding principles. To emphasize what we are and what makes Scattergood a unique experience is part of our task to ensure this school can both survive and flourish. As a Yearly Meeting we seek to demonstrate our belief to the world, and Scattergood is a most compelling manifestation of our belief.

- Farm life continues to be integrated into the life of the school and provides nutritious food for the community’s bodies and minds.
- Academic programs are robust and all of our graduating seniors were accepted into colleges and universities.
- Work crews teach real-life participation and build relationships with students and staff that only the act of working together can create.
- Students and staff practice daily collection, weekly Meeting for Worship, and wrestle with the every-day and often difficult realities of trying to live in the spirit of Quaker faith.

We appreciate all of the staff who have worked this year to keep these legs of this mission as our stable and energizing base.

The 125th celebration in June reminded us that the connections made at Scattergood are enduring, and that lives are changed by this place. Alumni and former staff gathered for four days on the campus, and despite being of different eras, ages, and opinions, the sense of togetherness was palpable and the spirit was alive. Inspired by this gathering an alumni association is emerging to help foster these connections. The school’s new database system implemented this year will also help with future communications and event planning. We are thankful for all who helped organize and expedite this celebration of Scattergood and the gathering of friends.

We are also grateful for the wide-ranging and loving work that Debbie Galusha has given to the school committee as a member and as clerk for many years. Her constant presence, leadership, and attention to scattering good will be greatly missed.

After five years of committed service to the school, Christine Ashley and her family bid farewell to the Scattergood campus. Because of her

efforts we have increased our visibility within the local and wider communities and we are deeply grateful for her passion and tireless efforts to expand our vision, nurture diversity, and inspire people to be involved with this school. We hope to continue her work of outreach, activism, and working our way towards greater energy conservation.

Thomas Weber has stepped into the role of Head of School after sharing the role of leadership last year. We are excited to be working with him as he articulates his vision in the upcoming year.

Enrollment continues to be unsustainably low which translates into another financially challenging year. It's a tribute to the creativity and discipline Thomas has brought to the budgeting process that we have a budget with a net positive result for the upcoming academic year. The School committee recognizes the monumental effort and commitment of the entire staff to keep the school not just afloat but truly progressing despite operating within this bare-bones financial situation.

That our enrollment remains low at a time when our academic program and our commitment to the mission are so strong remains puzzling. We've been examining carefully what is unique about Scattergood among educational alternatives that currently exist and have concluded that the combination of farm and academics within a Quaker setting is our signature characteristic. To increase emphasis on farm life within the curriculum, starting next year, freshman and new sophomore students will spend all of their academic time during the first quarter on the farm where classes will be taught in an interdisciplinary, project-based setting.

Given the challenge of enrollment and the resulting budget constraints, this year we will shift the focus away from a large campaign and towards smaller and more immediate capital fundraising for projects that will strengthen academic programs and enhance the grounds, both of which can help to attract students.

Increasing the number of students is imperative; this depends on outreach and the telling of our story, but admissions is also supported by the cultivation and rebuilding of connections with those who know us. We must continually weave this web of support by nurturing relationships within the school, within the Yearly Meeting, in the greater community of Scattergood, and the world. We are grateful for the many contributions of time, energy, and finances from the members of the Yearly Meeting. The school intends to actively create opportunities for more interaction and we wholeheartedly invite members to visit the campus, to share meals and time with staff and students, and to experience firsthand how Quaker education and residing in community is shaping the lives of these young people. The school committee affirms

that Scattergood continues to be a dynamic and living example of our faith, Quaker education, and our Yearly Meeting's ministry. It is our experiment to manifest love in the world.

For the School Committee
Ruth Hampton, acting clerk

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

SIXTH DAY – FRIDAY – 7/24/15
AFTERNOON SESSION

We resume the business of the yearly 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 for one another, and helping one another up with a tender hand.

Isaac Pennington, 1667

Elizabeth Levin and Bob Yeats have been appointed as readers this afternoon.

This year's Audit Committee members were Carol Gilbert and Dan Schlitt

We are grateful for the exceptionally clear and lucid explanation of our yearly meeting finances given by our treasurer. It was helpful to hear an explanation of how we budget delegate expenses, and why it is helpful for those who attend Friends events on our behalf and do not draw on the line set aside for it, to still submit their expenses to the Treasurer as an "in kind" donation. This helps the Representatives when setting the budget, and ensures that those lines remain available for others who need the financial assistance.

We are grateful for our auditors in lending their skills to examine our books for us.

YEARLY MEETING TREASURER'S REPORT

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

		Actual
Contributions	Budgeted	Expenditures
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
Scattergood Facilities	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
William Penn House	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Total Contributions	\$62,800.00	\$ 62,800.00
Delegate Expenses		
FCNL	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,001.08
Friends Peace Teams	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -
FWCC - General	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$ 900.00	\$ -
Conservative Yearly Meeting Visitation	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -
Total Delegate Expenses	\$ 5,700.00	\$ 1,001.08
Yearly Meeting Expenses		
Archives Committee	\$ 200.00	\$ -
Clerk's and Other Adm. Expenses	\$ 400.00	\$ 84.17
Committee Expenses (Other)	\$ 300.00	\$ -
Conscientious Objector PSC subcommittee	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Junior Yearly Meeting	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 248.68
Pendle Hill Scholarship Match	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Publication Committee	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 2,968.68
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Special Needs Committee	\$ 750.00	\$ 695.80
Young Adult Friends	\$ 300.00	\$ -
Young Friends	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 931.63
Young Friends Travel & Conference	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 244.00
Midyear Planning Committee if receipts inadequate*	\$ 500.00	\$ -

YM Entertainment Committee if receipts inadequate*	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Contingency Fund	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 700.00
Transfer to Reserve Fund	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Total YM Expenses	\$ 15,150.00	\$ 9,772.96
Total Budget	\$ 83,650.00	\$ 73,574.04

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

For Midyear Committee Report, see pages 4 and 5.

For Entertainment Committee Report, see page 22.

Statement of Cash and Funds

Total cash balance July 1, 2014		\$ 16,000.59
Receipts:		
Monthly meeting apportionments	\$ 69,868.00	
Monthly meeting additional contributions	\$ -	
Midyear Meeting excess receipts, donated to IYM	\$ 1,124.48	
Other contributions, unrestricted	\$ -	
Other contributions, designated for Publications	\$ 100.00	
Interest earned on credit union accounts	\$ 36.88	
Total Receipts		\$ 71,129.36
Disbursements:		
2014-15 expenditures for budgeted items	\$ 73,574.04	
Payments from Reserve Fund	\$ -	
Less transfer into Reserve Fund	\$ (1,000.00)	
Total Disbursements		\$ 72,574.04
Total cash balance June 30, 2015		\$ 14,555.91
Reserve Fund Balance June 30, 2015		\$ 2,000.00
Balance Available for FY15-16 Budgeting		\$ 12,555.91

Jean Sandstrom,
Yearly Meeting Treasurer

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee met with the treasurer and examined the book and supporting documents for the 2014-15 fiscal year.

We appreciate the treasurer's transparent and well organized way of keeping the records.

From our examination we find the books in good order.

Carol Gilbert and Dan Schlitt

This year, our yearly meeting helped three young students attend Camp Woodbrooke. All three students wrote eloquent requests for why they hoped to attend a Quaker camp. Two went to a July session, and the third is going later this summer. The clerk received two thank you letters from the two who have already attended camp and we read their letters in our session.

THANK-YOU LETTERS FROM CAMP WOODBROOKE CAMPERS

From Callum Ashley-Shanahan:

Camp Woodbrooke is an awesome place. This year I spent the first week of camp there and I made quite a few new friends. I saw some of my old friends who were there last year and are from Northern Yearly Meeting. The meeting for worship was nice as we got to share our feelings and we [learned] that everyone is the same.

My favorite part of camp was hanging out with everyone, camp counselors, too. I like trying new things like the food and the evening activities and games.

The food was good because it is healthy, mostly vegetarian and organic. Now I am a Pescatarian so that was good for me.

There are such great games like "Everyone is It" and "Capture the Flag." I liked Taizo's speeches about Money and Government. This taught me valuable information that I can use in college.

I was sad and happy to see my family at the end of camp as I was sad to leave camp but happy to see my family and begin an exciting adventure ahead.

From Kieran Ashley-Shanahan:

Thank you for helping me go to Camp Woodbrooke this year. I really love this camp because it always helps me make new friends and try new things. I feel like it is a great home and place to be.

Camp Woodbrooke is not too fancy and when we are there everyone does crew and works together. This is good because we get to help out and make sure that we all get things done quickly so we get to have fun!

I always liked the fact that we get to play games and make things and Camp Woodbrooke helps me do stuff like woodworking and archery. When I do these things I feel helpful and creative and that I can do anything.

The counselors are always helpful and they treat each camper nicely. It is always peaceful in the morning because we have meeting for worship, and this is special.

I hope to go again as this was my second year and it was fun as usual. It was a good way to start the summer.

We heard the Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee Report with appreciation for them helping our IYMC members enrich their lives this way.

PENDLE HILL SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Yearly Meeting encourages its members to participate in the wider world of Friends and one way we do that is by providing scholarship assistance for Friends to go to Pendle Hill, a Quaker Study, Retreat and Conference Center near Philadelphia. The Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee was delighted when a Friend from Penn Valley Monthly Meeting, Shirley Scritchfield, was led to participate in a Conference, “Ending Mass Incarceration: The New Jim Crow,” led by Michelle Alexander and held at Pendle Hill April 29 through May 3. The committee was clear in wanting to support Shirley in her leading. As it evolved, her monthly meeting was also supportive and provided half of the fees associated with that conference matching what Pendle Hill provided. Thus, our committee was pleased to be able to provide the \$400 in our yearly meeting’s budget for this scholarship to help with her travel expenses. Our hope is that ways will open for Shirley to share her learnings with her community and with the yearly meeting as we know this is an area in which we all need to grow more aware.

We are sad to note that one of our committee members, and one who had a leading role in establishing this scholarship fund at Pendle Hill, Wilmer Tjossem, died during the past year. We are grateful for Wilmer’s vision and presence on the committee.

We are glad to hear such an affirmative report of the Friends Peace Teams. Hearing the impact of a small group of Friends all over the world fills us with gratitude. We are sorry to hear Flossie Cox is stepping down as our representative and are searching for her replacement.

FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS REPORT

After more than 20 years of providing care for Friends engaged in peace work in communities around the world, we are pleased to report that Friends Peace Teams continues to use the same peace tools we offer in all our workshops to govern our organization. The overarching goals of the governing council in the past year has been to increase publicity and outreach to Friends communities, enhance our communications to share news of our work more widely, bolster our infrastructure without increasing “non-program” expenses, and seek and welcome new members.

Our three initiatives remain active. Within the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) the Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) program and the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) program are being introduced to new communities throughout Kenya and Rwanda and are being well received. AGLI is also working on a relationship with the Mennonite Central Committee in Nigeria and eastern Congo, in the hopes of expanding the programs to those areas. On a local note, the coordinator of Friends Church Peace Teams in Kenya, Getry Agizah, traveled to Iowa in May and met with several groups throughout the state including an event at the Friends Church in West Branch, and a visit with the students at Scattergood. Getry spoke about her personal experience with peace work, and was very pleased with the people she met and the conversations she engaged in during her Trip to Iowa.

Peacebuilding en las Américas (PLA) supports AVP and Community Based Trauma Healing workshops with nine programs: five in Colombia; two in Honduras; and one each in Guatemala and El Salvador. The programs reach large numbers of people struggling to survive in an atmosphere of insecurity and violence. Longtime initiative coordinator Val Liveoak will be stepping down from her position in this coming year. She has been instrumental in growing PLA's operations and shaping its mission and she will be greatly missed. In the meantime, PLA has hired a Communications Editor to help us develop web and print materials for outreach.

The Asia/West Pacific Initiative (AWP) has been very active with grassroots peacebuilding in Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Palestine and Israel, and South Korea over the past year. New and active Friends in Australia have been supportive with energy and generous with resources. Several FPT council members were in Nepal leading AVP workshops during the major earthquake and aftershocks in April. Having on the ground perspective during the disaster led to very important discussions

about how AWP was able to respond to both immediate needs and long-term rebuilding efforts.

It has been a great pleasure to serve as IYMC's representative to the FPT council over the past two years. It is with regret that I must step down from my position, but I look forward to our meeting's continued involvement with and support of FPT and its initiatives in the future.

Flossie Cox

We heard the good report of our representatives to the Steering Committee of Quaker Earthcare Witness.

QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dear Friends,

This is the annual report from your three yearly meeting representatives to Quaker Earthcare Witness, Andrea Jilovec, Os Cresson and Peter Clay.

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) is a Quaker national environmental organization with about 75 members from about 15 yearly meetings. During the last five years QEW has been financially supported by 173 monthly and yearly meetings and 1500 individuals. QEW seeks to take spirit-led action to address the ecological and social crises from a spiritual perspective, emphasizing Quaker process and testimonies. The organization has an array of committees, not unlike a monthly meeting, and we work on several ongoing projects including a mini-grants program, outreach to the UN and to FCNL. We sign on to letters and petitions seeking enlightened environmental policies and practices. We have an active mini-grants program to help Friends with small environmental projects, and for many years we have supported a cooperative farm run by previously landless farmers in Costa Rica. QEW also publishes an array of brochures and pamphlets and newsletters. This is described at our website, www.quakerearthcare.org.

Of your three representatives, two have been limited in what they can do by employment problems and one finds it difficult to travel. Peter Clay participated in the Great March for Climate Action and took part in direct action at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (that approves infrastructure for hydraulic fracturing, and pipelines, refineries and export terminals). He also worked with the Bakken Pipeline Resistance Coalition, a coalition of 29 Iowa organizations opposing plans for the construction of a crude oil pipeline across Iowa. (This is for the especially toxic and explosive Bakken crude oil.) He also took our environmental concerns to a national meeting of FLGBTQC (Friends for

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns). Os Cresson's environmental activities were mostly internal to the QEW organization where he serves as recording clerk for their semi-annual meetings and for two of their projects.

All three of your representatives hope to be present during at least part of the yearly meeting sessions and we look forward to talking with any of you who have questions. We will have a display of materials produced by Quaker Earthcare Witness.

Andrea Jilovec
Os Cresson
Peter Clay

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT – PART I

Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee brought forward items for our consideration. The yearly meeting approved the following minute:

(Minute:) Working for peace entails working for justice.

The state of Israel continues to expand its occupation of Palestinian land, continues to imprison Palestinians without trial, continues to rob Palestinians of water and other vital resources, and continues to violently deprive Palestinians of basic human rights. By our economic and military support, we and all Americans are complicit. Our faith compels us to respond.

Therefore, we support the Palestinian civil society's call of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement to boycott products made in Israel's West Bank settlements and to divest from the companies that support Israel's military occupation and repression of the Palestinian people.

The yearly meeting approved the following minute and the following letter to be sent to our Congressional Representatives on our behalf:

(Minute:) Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) supports a carbon fee and dividend approach to accelerate the necessary transition from fossil fuel to renewable sources of energy.

(Letter:) Extreme weather is becoming increasingly common, with record breaking heat waves, droughts and floods. Representatives Matt Cartwright (D Pa) and Leonard Lance (R NJ) have just introduced the PREPARE Act to help plan for and respond to extreme weather. We urge you to support this act in any way you can.

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) has long supported the PREPARE Act as an important starting point to address the consequences of extreme weather events on people and communities. The bill's focus on extreme weather can be a starting point for much needed bipartisan discussion and action in Congress on climate change, its consequences, and more solutions.

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

**SEVENTH DAY – SATURDAY – 7/25/2015
MORNING SESSION**

We return to the business of the Yearly Meeting.

Perhaps the most neglected of all the advices is that we should live adventurously. If there is one wish I would pray the Spirit to put into our Christmas stockings, it is warmth, openness, passion, as bit of emotion that doesn't mind making a fool of itself occasionally.

Gerald Priestland, 1981

Martha Davis and Princess Nelson have been appointed as readers this morning.

**MINUTE OF
SIXTH DAY ACTIVITIES**

A panel including the Scattergood Head, staff members, and a Scattergood student met with our yearly meeting members for an evening discussion about Scattergood.

After a short video sharing highlights of the past year, the rest of the evening was devoted to Friends' questions that covered a range of topics. It was fun to hear of the many exciting and innovative things the students are doing and how the Scattergood community is thriving.

Last year's enrollment was 39 students, and it looks as if there will be somewhere around 40 students this upcoming year. A full enrollment is 60 students. The school is not sustainable with such a low enrollment.

The unique Scattergood experience is perfect for many young students, but those students don't know that Scattergood exists. A large part of the evening was devoted to discussing ideas to make Scattergood known to a wider audience. The need for better contact and a stronger

relationship with alumni was highlighted. The School is building a better database, and the Head promised that he would have more detailed statistics for us within a year. It is positive to note that we have moved away from dependence on large gifts from a few big donors, and now receive the same in the form of smaller gifts from a larger number of supporters.

The school and the school committee work closely with each other, but what was apparent was the gap that has grown up between the yearly meeting itself and the school. Much discussion focused on ways to rebuild and nurture this relationship.

We talked about the relationship between Quaker schools and yearly meetings in general and ours in particular. Quaker process can be seen as an anchor that weighs us down or seen as an anchor that helps us weather the storms. At the end of the evening, we started to explore some of the implications of the words “college preparatory school.” Is it the mission of the yearly meeting to own a college preparatory school?

The evening offered many ideas as well as different views, and only ended because of the lateness of the hour. It was the beginning of a conversation that we need to find ways to continue.

It is so very special to have Junior Yearly Meeting come and talk to us. Thanks! You have such good leaders and we thank them also. We noticed how much JYM helped out at mealtime, such as being servers and sweepers. We also thank you for raising funds for FCNL.

Your beautiful mural is fantastic. We are impressed, and hope that the mural can be hung in the dining hall so we can continue to enjoy it for the rest of our stay.

EPISTLE FROM JUNIOR YEARLY MEETING

July 25, 2015

Dear Friends Everywhere,

This week JYM met once again at Scattergood Friends School in West Branch, Iowa from July 21-26. Over the week we have had a lot of fun while also learning and serving the greater IYMC community. We were a smaller group this year than in past years, but that didn't stop us from doing a lot. We did a lot with the high-school aged Young Friends, such as picking tomatoes on the Scattergood farm for meals throughout the week, and playing capture the flag and card games.

IYMC's theme for the week was Growing in the Light, so we focused a lot on nature, the environment, and stewardship. We painted a

12-foot mural, with pictures of the environment (flora and fauna) and prayers for the earth. Our main project was selling bouquets of prairie plants to benefit FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) and their lobbying work against climate change. We picked plants from Scattergood's prairie and avoided all of the wild parsnip, and then arranged the plants and sold them to members of the yearly meeting. We made \$330.02 total.

We went to the evening collection where Trish Bruxvoort-Colligan gave a concert, where she and her husband did a variety of songs, from a song about cows in the driveway to a powerful and emotional song about a girl fleeing Prussia during World War II. Other activities over the week included painting birdhouses, playing fußball (soccer), and swimming at the local swimming pool. We also made a campfire and cooked marshmallows by the Scattergood pond. The week ended with the talent show, which is always a highlight. We learned a lot during the week, had a lot of fun, and look forward to next year!

Peace to All,
David, Chris, Roo, Maya, and Thomas
IYMC Junior Yearly Meeting Friends

We heard the rapping Young Friends' epistle and are thankful for their authentic report. We are glad there were so many cool things to do. Young Friends' presence has brought us a lot of joy and hope. We thank your leader as well and are grateful for our Young Friends being here.

EPISTLE FROM YOUNG FRIENDS

Dear Friends Everywhere,

This is a record of our spiritual journey, after you hear it, please don't hire an attorney

It's a rap, so start to tap

With a morning greeting, we headed into meeting

This year in our group there were six young peer

The leader of our program was a young adult named Lake, he liked the delicious beet cake

Picked a lot of sun-gold tomatoes, it was hot

They were old, but no mold

Also herded sheep toward a heap in the heat

Ate a lot of food, put us in a better mood

Talked about prosperity of the soul and ate ice cream with no bowl

Sandwiches for lunch, drank some cranberry punch

Threw around a Frisbee when we weren't very busy
Played a lot of card(s), Eli found it very hard
Played Capture the Flag, the flag was a rag
Chopped veggies, but cut finger(s), so we decided not to linger
Heard about Quaker community and learned about Lincoln unity
Talked about things that are deep, and made quite a leap
Friday we wanted to float, so we rented some boat(s)
Almost didn't arrive, cuz' Google Maps failed us during the drive
As we rode through the water, we saw what we thought was an otter
Emily learned to steer, she saw a deer and didn't veer
Kylie took a nap, and we wrote dope rap
Tomorrow we might go to the pool, and we hope it's really cool
Might rain -- that would be a pain
Wait till next year, we'll be back, don't fear.

Respectfully yours,

Morgan Kisling, Kylie Kisling, Claire Sponheim, Emily Rhodes,
Antonia Bachteler, Eli Kanake, Lake Giffen-Hunter

We listened to the good report of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee and approved all of the proposed minutes and letters to be sent on our behalf.

There is a strong desire among us to make our words lead to actions. These letters and minutes can be powerful tools if we use and re-use them both as monthly meetings and as individuals.

We thank the committee for all their work.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE REPORT – PART II

The Peace and Social Concerns Committee reports from our monthly meetings reflect a great deal and variety of work in areas of interest and concern to Friends. One monthly meeting asked that all of these reports be shared among all of us, which was done just prior to the beginning of our annual sessions.

This has been a year of numerous traumatic events related to injustice, as well as an increasing level of concern and response by Friends as well as many others. There is a sense of an increasing engagement by more of the public in social justice and peace work.

Outrage at the killing of so many people, particularly people of color, by police, as well as the violent, militarized response of the police has ignited nationwide conversations and actions, such as Black Lives

Matter, and the President's order to stop providing certain military surplus equipment to police departments.

This has caused many Friends to look more closely at our historic positions of privilege, and for ways to address the consequences of that.

The consequences of climate disruption have become increasingly evident by more extreme weather patterns. The positive side of that is that more people are paying attention to this, and we are heartened that Congress is beginning to bring forth legislation to start to address this, finally. We especially appreciate the very long and patient work in this area, including building faith based coalitions, by the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL).

We were moved by and appreciate the work of Junior Yearly Meeting to help us address our ongoing concern regarding changes in our environment. Their project of selling flowers to raise money to support FCNL's efforts related to the environment was beautiful both spiritually and artistically.

We were very fortunate to have Hannah Evans from FCNL, and Brant Rosen, Jon Krieg, Kevin Rutledge and Kathleen McQuillen from the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) spend much time with us, including attending our Peace and Social Concerns committee meetings. Their insights into many issues have been extremely helpful.

Kevin Rutledge, described his work of "bird dogging" Presidential candidates when they campaign in Iowa. Iowa is uniquely positioned for interaction with the candidates. By asking carefully crafted questions to the candidates in person, the candidates, press and public are often educated about issues of concern to Friends. We urge monthly meetings to invite Kevin to train them how to do this, and then do it.

Hannah Evans educated us about the recent policy to detain families seeking asylum in the United States.

The recently negotiated deal to limit Iran's ability to produce nuclear weapons is a welcome result of years of patient diplomacy. We encourage Friends to urge Congress to approve it.

Brant Rosen, AFSC Midwest Region Director, talked to us about AFSC and the situation in Palestine/Israel. An increasing depth and breadth of violent response in so many arenas is of great concern to us. We are heartened by so many examples and stories of Friends' work this past year on so many issues related to peace and justice. This is a great opportunity for us to continue and expand our commitment to lives of nonviolence. Direct actions of nonviolent civil disobedience are happening increasingly, in an increasing number of social justice areas. This is an opportunity for Friends to teach others about nonviolence and civil disobedience.

Stories of this work by Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Friends are a very powerful tool to teach others about this. We encourage Friends to share their stories on the Quaker Story Project as an effective form of peace and social justice education.

We ask that Friends continue to be mindful of the ongoing concerns and minutes from previous years.

The following minutes proposed by the Peace and Social Concerns committee were approved by the yearly meeting:

(Minute in appreciation for JYM:)

We are deeply moved and appreciate the contribution of Junior Yearly Meeting to our ongoing concern regarding changes in our environment. Their project to raise funds for FCNL's efforts to address environmental concerns by selling flowers was both spiritually and artistically beautiful.

(Minute on illegal detention of families:)

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) believes the recent practice of detaining families seeking asylum in the United States is both immoral and illegal. We support community based alternatives to help these families.

(Minute on Iran nuclear deal:)

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) supports the peaceable agreement among world powers, including the United States and Iran, to dramatically curb Iran's nuclear program in exchange for easing international sanctions against Iran. We recognize that the United States has a history of dealing poorly with Iran and that Iran has every reason not to trust the United States. We hope that this deal will be the beginning of greater trust and amity between the two countries.

The following two letters proposed by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee were approved to be sent to all Congressional Representatives of the yearly meeting on our behalf:

(Letter about Iran nuclear deal:)

The United States, Iran, and five other world powers have announced an historic deal to dramatically curb Iran's nuclear program in exchange for easing international sanctions on Iran. We ask that you give it your consideration and speak out in support of it. Congressional rejection of the agreement could put our country back on the path to confrontation and war.

This interim deal with Iran is not based on trust. The agreement provides for effective inspection and verification.

Already Iran has rolled back its nuclear program and upheld commitments it made prior to negotiations. We ask that the United States affirm our commitments under this agreement.

The present agreement has the potential to be the beginning of many peaceful negotiations.

(Letter about guns to be sent to all the Congressional representatives of the yearly meeting:)

We, along with many other Americans, are concerned about the number of Americans killed every day by guns. It is disturbing, therefore, to realize that Congress has effectively banned the use of federal funds to study the public health effects of gun violence. While many more children are killed by guns than by cancer, Congress funds the study of cancer but bars the study of gun violence. This is outrageous.

As our representative in Washington, we ask you to restore the money that the Center for Disease Control has previously used to fund independent research on the danger of guns to public health.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee Budget

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

Alternatives to Violence Project (split evenly between Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota)	\$ 150
AFSC Midwest Region (for immigration issues)	50
Frontera de Cristo (designated to Migrant Resource Center)	100
Friends Peace Teams (for Peacemaking en las Americas)	100
Nebraskans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty	50
Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty	50
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
Quaker House near Fort Bragg, NC	150
Total contributions	<u>\$1,100</u>

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

We listened to the report of the Ministry and Counsel Committee. We approved Deborah Fisch carrying a travel minute from us, and also the request in the report to continue her anchor committee. We thank the Committee for their careful work on our behalf.

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL REPORT

We listened carefully to the State of the Meeting reports. We are saddened by the laying down of Yahara Meeting, and hearing the challenges some meetings have faced this year. We feel privileged to hear the honesty and vulnerability in these reports.

We notice that meetings no longer report dismay at our small size and diminishing numbers; we focus instead on our strengths and

faithfulness. We acknowledge that we are changing in many ways. Are we willing to be transformed?

We listened to Friends from Laughing Waters Friends Preparatory Meeting share about their work to develop child safety policies. Ministry and Counsel shares this concern for the safety of children. We appreciate the profound work Laughing Waters has done in facing this difficult issue, persevering through conflict and coming out the other side, clearer about who they are. They offer us insights into how our culture and its scripts prevent us from having honest, hard conversations. We are inspired by what they have done and seek to move out of our comfort zone and do likewise. Look for an offering about this from M&C at next year's session!

We received the report and endorsed travel minutes from Deborah Fisch, member of Paullina Meeting, who travels in the ministry and works as Associate Secretary of Ministries for Friends General Conference. She recounts her return to full-time work and describes the new Spiritual Deepening Project. This is the message she wishes to share with her beloved yearly meeting:

“Make use of this new resource [Spiritual Deepening Project] when it comes out. Be generous with it, at least at first, as we learn to put it all together in a living and dynamic way. When it is available be sure to share both the wonderful and the difficult things about using the programs with FGC. We want to continue to improve them and that only happens when people care enough give loving feedback. Share if units are too intense and or really say nothing. Use the resource people we will have on hand to work with meetings as needed.

In listening to the State of the Meeting reports ... I hear yearning for community, yearning for Spirit, yearning to make a difference in the world, as individuals and as meetings. Find ways to reconnect with each other and learn about each other. Make time for each other. Play together, learn together, work together, laugh together, cry together, rejoice together, and mourn together. Risk getting into each other's business with Love. Learn to see and Love each other through the eyes of Christ. Have patience with each other. Live with Joy in each new day or at least talk about it often. Through little manageable things we can deepen our meetings. Think outside the box. Use electronic resources for midweek meetings. If you don't have midweek meeting, consider offering it, even if for just two or three people. Don't look at size as an indicator of success, that just makes things seem impossible. We end up doing less and

less when we hold our meetings tightly as if they were dying and we couldn't bear to say good-bye. Instead of holding them tightly with grief, hold them with kindness and gentleness and the expectation that if we still have work to do, and we Listen together, we will come to a place of restorative Love. God is Good...all the time!"

Amen.

We support Deborah (Fisch) in her ministry and we unite in asking Yearly Meeting to continue to hold her work in our care by approving a travel minute for her to carry and to continue the anchor committee.

We return 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

We listened with deep care and tender love to our State of the Meeting Reports. A healthy meeting is where people can know "that of God" in each other, and it was good to know people share that experience no matter how many in number they are.

It appears that we might be experiencing a change from the time when members were encouraged to make their meeting home where they lived. Many Friends now appear to feel their membership remains in place even after they move a distance away.

Our hearts are full hearing Yahara Monthly Meeting has laid itself down during this past year. We affirm that our yearly meeting neither creates nor lays down a monthly meeting, but that we witness how it is the manifestation of the Spirit moving through Friends. We recall Herbert Standing ringing the bell at this meetinghouse when Yahara first became a monthly meeting. Perhaps we should ring the bell again today, commemorating the life of Yahara.

STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS

Ames Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

The sense of the Ames Friends Meeting is that we want to continue and we will work together to make this happen. We value our shared worship, even as this past year has tested us. In the course of this year our clerk resigned and we had several months of uncertainty about how

to reassemble ourselves and make necessary decisions. We affirmed our commitment to the meeting after an unclerked discernment session.

Although we have many decisions to make, our initial commitment is to have a meeting for business on the last Sunday of each month. For this Sunday we will limit worship to 45 minutes to make it easier for everyone to participate. Following a short transition period, we will attempt to complete our business agenda in 30 minutes.

We also committed to a potluck on the third Sunday of each month. Worship will be shortened to 45 minutes for this also. We consider sharing food, speaking and listening to each other an integral part of our religious community.

On the Sundays in which there is no business or potluck we will continue our usual hour of worship, from 10:30 to 11:30.

We recognize that we need to assign various tasks to different individuals, being attentive to the need to rotate responsibilities. At present, we have selected co-clerks, a recording clerk, a house committee, and a treasurer who will be transitioning into her role by the end of summer. We have decided to keep in contact with regular emails and to set up a Google calendar.

As we move forward, we will consider ways to share the pastoral functions of meeting and carrying our social concerns.

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Bear Creek Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

There are so many changes from the large rural isolated meetings where the meeting and family were once the center of our lives. The small rural meetings are no longer isolated because of the many different forms of communications and transportation. We are connected and supported in many ways. We continue to appreciate the spiritual ties with Laughing Waters Preparative Friends Meeting, and distant members.

We welcome the benefits from some of the changes, but some of the distractions and interferences are detrimental to our worship and our seeking spiritual guidance.

We look forward each year to Mid - Year Meeting. It is a time of Spiritual learning and growing and a very special time of reconnecting with each other.

A wonderful addition – we have two new members. After they joined our meeting they were married in the meeting. They bring new energy and participation to our meeting.

Several of our members have had health issues – two episodes will prevent two different households from attending Yearly Meeting and they will be greatly missed. Three members have had recent hospitalizations – one for surgery, one for knee replacement and one for pneumonia. We take for granted our good health but these events remind us – praise God for our many blessings.

One of the treasures of belonging to Bear Creek is the steadfast Spirit that resides there. We always know there is love and support that surrounds us when we need it. One of the gifts of gathering for worship is that we can put aside the busy, stressful daily requirements and receive the precious, healing Spiritual Presence.

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

And there, someone wrestled with Jacob until the first light of dawn. Seeing that Jacob could not be overpowered, the other struck Jacob at the socket of the hip, and the hip was dislocated as they wrestled.

Then Jacob's contender said, "Let me go, for day is breaking." Jacob answered, "I will not let you go until you bless me."

Genesis 32: 24-26 (The Inclusive Bible)

Laughing Waters Friends Preparative Meeting continued to gather as a closed community this year, with the regular participation of about four families who meet for worship twice a month. We have been blessed with significant progress in rebuilding some of what we have lost, while also feeling frustrated by a sense of “stuckness.”

We appreciate the care-taking work that many of us have been doing – both for the worship community as a whole and for individuals in the meeting. We have seen many examples of care of each other and attentiveness to the Spirit.

After a great deal of hard and tender work, the ad-hoc Safety Practices Committee is nearly finished with its work on a document that lays down concrete rules for keeping kids safe, as well as queries for the meeting to continually examine its culture. A large part of our discernment and discussion on safety practices focuses on the importance of a community’s culture, and how that connects with specific rules we are considering. For example, we have mulled over the pros and cons of rules such as the “rule of 3,” which asks that children and adults stay in groups of 3 or more during official meeting functions. We have talked about the importance of having a core group of people that is ready to

hear and believe kids' and parents' concerns. We have sought input from the children about the drafted document, since they will be directly impacted by specific changes around how we come together as a meeting.

We've wanted to have this safety document approved before we opened our Meetings for Worship to the public again.

We have considered how the wider culture prepares us first to dismiss the voices of those who point out problems, such as inappropriate behavior around children – and then blame the individual carrying the concern for seeing something that, according to the wider culture, we are not supposed to see. We have had to peel back and explore more deeply what affects our personal perceptions and ability to hear one another clearly.

We have worked on the edges of our own limitations as individuals: limitations that based in our relational pasts and/or are imbedded in our culture. Alongside our experiences of clarity and understanding, minimization and distortion continue to occur as we struggle to make sense of our part in the conflict and to heal and grow. To be responsible means holding the pain of our own limitations as well as the group's. Our commitment to work through a difficult issue has put many of us in a painful borderland between how we have always functioned and that space where new patterns may emerge. For many of us, taking the group and its conflict seriously has meant we have had to change in some way.

We have a greater appreciation for the dynamics that keep people from being heard, and we recognize this is a common problem for many people in oppressed groups or in less privileged positions. We still struggle with the isolation and wounding that was part of our experience.

Our First Day School is functional again, which is a great relief and joy to many of us. Because of our small group, we are doing the work of the FDS committee as a whole. After having no structured children's programming for roughly two years, we have a rhythm that includes Godly Play lessons once a month, interspersed with planned intergenerational worship or a movie for the kids. The intergenerational worships and movies happen at one family's home in rural Minnesota. We are blessed to have found a new home for our Godly Play programming at St James Episcopal Church in Minneapolis. We recently learned that Friends School of Minnesota was first housed there.

Questions we hope to hold up in the coming year include how to meet the spiritual needs of such a wide age-range of children. Our youngest is 3, and the oldest are in high school. It has been common to have about 5 kids attending any given meeting this year.

We see the children’s community and the adult’s community coming together as part of a whole once more. There is tenderness and sweetness among them, and we continue to marvel at their growth and transformation. We appreciate ongoing support from Bear Creek and the yearly meeting; we’ve been held by that larger Presence over several years now. Visits with Bear Creek Friends by a few households continue to be gifts and treasures; one of our worshipers receives ongoing support through conference calls with a care-and-accountability committee.

It is very likely that we will open to the public again soon. Many of us yearn for this as we feel a sense of “stuckness” that might be caused by having been closed, “cocooning” for so long. We also miss participating in a more vibrant and populated religious community and miss adults and children who once worshiped regularly with us. On the other hand, we have grown to trust one another deeply in the past couple years, and opening up to more people always brings the unknown.

We don’t know what’s going to happen with the adults’ community or the kids’ program as others join us in worship. We’ve seen models of faithfulness this past year so that we don’t need a particular outcome in order to know faithfulness and to live faithful lives. Opening up our group may bring fruit that we couldn’t expect.

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**Decorah Monthly Meeting
State of the Meeting**

Our clerk was recently sorting through some files and discovered a piece that might have been a “state of the Meeting” written in 1987, well before Decorah became a Friends Meeting . Indeed, this was written at a time when we still considered ourselves a worship group under care of Twin Cities Friends Meeting, part of Northern Yearly Meeting.

Our 1987 report identified several themes that would be common to our report now, composed some 28 years later. We are still a small group of Friends who meet weekly to listen for a still small voice in the quiet waiting of unprogrammed worship. We have now, as then, been joined by new worshippers, and left behind by others, for whom this practice of connecting with the Divine has not met their needs. Then, as now, we continue to participate in activities, actions, and support of efforts in our local community and in the world, to endeavor to mend it. We feel some loss of our “cousin,” Hesper Friends Meeting, in northern Winneshiek County, with whom we have had warm collegiality and visits for many years. Hesper Friends will be laid down at Iowa Yearly Meeting (FUM) session this year.

In the past year, we note that our spoken ministry is somewhat more frequent than in years past. Sometimes the messages are as simple as “please hold in the Light...” and at other times, there have come ponderings prompted by beauty, joy, loss, gratitude, connection, or other divine nudges.

Individually, our members and attenders are quite involved in political and social justice issues at many levels. Many of us are active in living lightly and sustainably on the earth, and many of us contribute time, money and efforts to our local peace and justice center, and its many projects. Alcoholics Anonymous has been using our space for meetings five times a week. As a group, though, we have not become clear about a concern or an effort around which our entire fellowship might be involved and identified. What is it that Decorah Friends Meeting should be about?

Several of our members in the past year have had health conditions that kept them from participating in life of the Meeting as fully as they would have liked. More than ever, we have provided support with visits, phone calls, and letters, with travel assistance, with food, and other offers.

As noted in our “archival” reflection, we continue to support each other through gains and losses. We continue with annual practices that include a hillside sunrise service on the morning known as Easter, a gathering to welcome the transition between old year and new, and regular discussions on issues of concern and interest, and regularly sing times preceding Meeting for Learning. The number of Friends gathered at Worship on First Day morning usually is between 4 and 12. We wisely have chosen, when our energy and limited participation allow, to contribute to efforts led by larger faith and social action groups in the community. For Decorah Friends Meeting at this time, this is perhaps the most faithful that we can be in our endeavors to mend the world.

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

Mutual care has been a focus of our Meeting as we endeavor to meet the needs of our youngest members and our eldest and to support those Friends who have various challenges themselves or within their families. Our Meeting grew over the past year through the addition of several members and attenders who add their energy and ideas to 2nd Hour discussions, Queries, committees and Meeting for Worship with attention to Business. We value everyone's service to our Meeting, from the

children helping to bring the after-Meeting snack upstairs to others' willingness to take on all of the many tasks that keep the Meeting going.

Our children continue to be our "jewels". We have had many discussions about how to provide a welcoming space for First Day School and Child Care and how, as a Meeting, we can teach our children Quaker principles. Their ease at Meeting and within the Meeting House suggests that we teach best by involving them as much as possible in the overall life of the Meeting.

Second Hours are well attended. In addition to monthly Queries and Meeting for Worship with attention to Business, we have had 2nd Hours on a variety of topics. Other Meeting activities include monthly singing before Meeting, Mid-Week Worship, our yearly picnic, Thanksgiving dinner, holiday singing, and special activities coordinated by our Hospitality Committee. This year members of a Quaker church in Des Moines and their minister joined us for Thanksgiving dinner.

This past year we lost several long time members and attenders and many members of our Meeting lost friends and relatives. We honored these lives by having a Celebration of Remembrance during Second Hour on the last First Day of 2014. The children decorated tree branches and Friends were encouraged to write down the names of those they mourned and hang them on the tree. Memories were shared out of the Silence.

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Iowa City Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

Iowa City Meeting has been enriched with the influx of several young adults this year. One couple began a monthly gathering of other young adults at their home for potluck and discussion of Quaker readings, creating fellowship beyond the meetings for worship on Sundays.

Seeing the need for an improved library, a group of volunteers began meeting an hour early each Sunday to sort, discard, rearrange and label all the volumes in what had been a haphazard collection. What a difference! As is often the case, this exercise required a great deal of teamwork that provided new opportunities for community building.

Several other dedicated Friends spent many months leading the meeting in the revision of the welcome brochure which is now not only updated, but more succinct, informative, attractive, and in a form that can be easily brought current and printed at little expense.

Monthly meetings of Ministry and Counsel are often open meetings with interested Friends joining in the discussion of spiritual concerns. When planning a winter series on end-of-life issues, it was decided to use a worship sharing format where each person could be heard without discussion. The summary portions encouraged serious and helpful exchanges. We looked at preparation for our own deaths, death itself, grieving, and life after death. As a result of this sharing, we have reestablished a card file for members and attenders who wish to leave last wishes regarding memorial services.

In May our focus was on understanding LG

BT issues as the opportunity arose to make our meeting known at upcoming Gay Pride events in Iowa City.

Iowa City is one of the four meetings that make up the Entertainment Committee for IYMC this year. Following the Eastern Iowa Gathering in the fall, we convened two program planning meetings in Iowa City with representatives from the other three meetings and held another at Mid-Year Meeting. We enjoyed the spiritual leadings within the group and the fellowship of many Friends in bringing the program to printed form.

Our year ended joyfully with the beautiful, worshipful outdoor wedding of a couple in June. We are blessed to have participated and look forward to their future in our Meeting.

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**Lincoln Monthly Meeting
State of the Meeting**

Healthy and challenged.

Last year we reported growth in participation and enthusiasm. We draw together as we celebrated milestones in our lives: birth, marriage, turning 90, death. We hosted a gathering and a retreat. At the same time we are challenged by change and conflict. One family seeking the spiritual community Friends promise left meeting and their departure felt wrenching and unresolved. We struggle with conflicting needs and expectations and, unaware, hurt each other.

It seemed a miracle when someone who had grown up in Lincoln Meeting asked if he could serve as our resident caretaker as he entered retirement. The meetinghouse requires renovation to be habitable, and we are excited about the change.

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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. New regular attenders have enhanced our meeting and its worship. In July, we had a blessed worship experience as a couple was married under our care.

This winter, we lent one of our members to Monteverde Friends School (Costa Rica). She served as interim head and aided in the search for a permanent head. We just learned that she will be continuing there another year. We enjoyed sharing this experience through her blog.

We continue to learn how to reach out to help each other in time of need and turn to one another when we have needs. We are geographically spread across the metro area and the continent, which makes it difficult to participate in activities together, though we do communicate regularly by email, and our meeting place is centrally located.

We do the query monthly. Our Facebook page has been well received. We post our calendar, queries, as well as posts by our attenders. We have had some inquiries about our meeting through this page. By “liking” other meetings’ pages, their posts also show up on our page, providing a new way to keep in touch.

There is starting to be more networking with other meetings in eastern Nebraska as we invite each other to special speakers and events at our own meetings. We also are working with them on planning the second annual area gathering.

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Paullina Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

The Paullina Meeting meets for worship at 10:00 A.M. every Sunday with a core group of members and attenders. We welcome visitors who stop and share meeting with us. The fourth Sunday meeting for worship is often particularly well attended because we have Sunday school for children and adults as well as Sunday dinner. Several times this year, adult Sunday school was led by visitors sharing their knowledge and concerns about various topics.

Meeting for worship is an individual experience, which is meaningful to each person in his/her own way. Our meetings are mostly silent with occasional vocal ministry. Our Quaker faith moves us to become active in building a better world.

Meeting for business, which is better attended since we moved it to its new time, is attended by the same core group of regular members and attenders. Each month we reflect on an advice and query which we discuss and answer. These keep us on the same page so mayhem doesn't reign. In other words, they keep our Quaker values and beliefs in the forefront as we discuss and reflect upon pertinent issues.

We continue to make repairs on our buildings as funds allow. We are looking forward to our 130th celebration on September 6, 2015.

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

As we reflected during meeting for worship on the query, "How is Truth prospering among you?" a number of words emerged from the silence that convey the sense of our experience together—abundance, persistence, amazement, aliveness, faithfulness, unity and caring.

As we drive across the prairie to meeting during the year and watch the seasons change, we are amazed at the aliveness of the creation all around us. The greening of the fields in spring and summer, the many deer, birds and other wildlife, the way grass and flowers push up through the cracks in the pavement alongside the road, the beauty of the trees in autumn and the white landscapes in winter remind us of the abundance, persistence and beauty of creation. As we come to worship, we sense a unity with all of creation.

Although our numbers vary between 2-10 attenders, we sense the same abundance and persistence of Life among us as we gather for worship and fellowship. We especially value the presence of our newer younger attenders who have brought their experience of the Spirit and new perspectives to our worship group. We cherish our times of silence, vocal ministry and our fellowship at local restaurants following worship. We sense that there is indeed something at the heart of things that cares deeply. As we care for each other within the meeting and reach out with love to those we meet outside of meeting that "something that cares" feels enlarged. We are enriched by our different work experiences outside meeting with health care providers, troubled youth, the Alternatives to Violence Project, students and Friends around the world. We hope our new Facebook page will allow our little outpost on the prairie to reach out to others who want to be part of a beloved community trying to be faithful servants of the Spirit of Love in the world.

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Penn Valley Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

This past year was one of outreach for Penn Valley Friends, strengthening our associations with other Quakers and like-minded folks, and forming relationships with non-Quakers as well.

Intervisitations with Silver River Worship Group have slacked off this year, but our long-distance interactions have not. We support their vision and their mission, and we continue to feel spiritually linked to the group in LaPlata, Missouri. Our association with Iowa Yearly Meeting-Conservative also is strong. Individual Friends from Penn Valley have participated on IYMC committees; and the correspondences, conversations and visitations from representatives of IYMC and Scattergood School have contributed to a sense that our meeting is tightening the bonds to the Quaker Mothership in Iowa.

We are also reaching out to our immediate neighborhood. We held a block party and went door to door to invite folks to join us for food, games and fellowship. It attracted a good number of people from the neighborhood, a few homeless folks, and Friends from the Quaker Church in Kansas City. It was a fine event, and we plan to have another this fall. Penn Valley also has joined the neighborhood association, and individual Friends regularly attend the association's meetings, keeping us connected to this community.

With some financial support from the Meeting, one of our members attended a conference on "The New Jim Crow" at Pendle Hill this spring, and she presented a program for us about what she had learned. Our regular after-worship programs seem to be a centering force for us, and they have addressed some important topics, including racial issues, world affairs, faith healing and spiritual journeys. Outside of our Sunday programs, we held one midweek program for a traveling Quaker who presented a talk about Friends House Moscow and contemporary conditions in Russia.

We continue to wrestle with this old house. The garage is being painted at some cost, the new air-conditioner went on the fritz, and we are still hoping to secure outside funding to replace the porch lift to allow worry-free accessibility to the meetinghouse. We continue to support AFSC with free office space and utilities.

While our First Day School is strong, with enthusiastic facilitators and teachers, we all realize the meetinghouse does not have an ideal space for First Day School activities. We fear our meetinghouse is not attractive to families with children. We also realize that any solution would be an expensive investment.

Membership is steady; attendance at Meeting for Worship varies. We seem to have a steady stream of curious visitors stopping by, and occasionally one or two will return. It is gratifying to see new faces, and to realize that we are rewarded not only by reaching out, but also by being there when others choose to reach in. No one gains in isolation.

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*Silver River Worship Group
Under the care of Penn Valley Monthly Meeting*

We continue to meet for worship every First Day in the living room of the Possibility Alliance community building (the farm house). Attendance usually varies from 8-10 to 30+ when we are blessed with visitors including Truman University students. Although we dream of a meeting house with facilities for children’s religious education, we remain in and appreciate our current space which has served us well for 8 years.

On alternate Wednesday evenings we engage in a book study discussion and an exploration of spiritual writings. Peace and social concerns continue to be an important focus of our group. Activities over the past year and this summer include:

- Neighbors United, a grass-roots community group in Northeast Missouri that has formed in opposition to the Mark Twain Transmission Project, a 100-mile high-voltage transmission line proposed by Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois.
- Continued involvement with Peaceworks KC in their Trifecta Resista at the nuclear parts plant.
- Anti-racism training in St. Louis conducted by Chicago-based Crossroads Ministry. The training focused on dismantling systemic racism and building multicultural diversity within communities.
- Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation in Detroit. A delegation is the first step in eligibility for joining CPT's Peacemaker Corps in the future.
- “Drone Walk” in Wisconsin with Kathy Kelley’s Voices for Creative Nonviolence to call attention to the connection between the violence perpetrated by the drones indiscriminately killing people of color overseas and the militarization of our police forces at home where people of color are being killed through the use of police violence.

Several attenders are interested in membership which will provide a welcome opportunity to connect with Penn Valley Friends.

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West Branch Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

The meeting gathered for a pre-meeting sharing time to consider the state of our meeting. It was a thoughtful and searching gathering of many of our regularly attending members and attenders. We asked ourselves how God is walking with us, with the meeting. How are we walking with God?

We are grateful for the open, welcoming space of our meeting for worship. We find a safe harbor from the sound and the fury of the world we live in, allowing us to breathe, to center down to the always present and patient Spirit. The meeting often finds unity in our worship with that Divine Being. We come away refreshed, renewed and in place. Without this quality in our worship, we would feel bereft. Knowing this presence strengthens and deepens us as a community. It is good.

We are also aware that we are not growing in numbers, that we have no regularly attending children, and that some of us in our older years feel a weariness about taking on responsibility for the meeting. We are somewhat insular and isolated. We do not do outreach effectively.

What do our history, and the history of other meetings, tell us? What makes for vitality in our meetings for worship? We think of the strength and growth of the Iowa City Meeting during the years that Meeting sheltered refugees, of the vitality in some meetings following World War II when the conscientious objectors returned to our communities.

We recognize that some of us are involved in the Earth Care Working Group, and that some find renewal in the Song Circle at Nan Fawcett's home. Individuals have interests and energy for various issues, but we are not working as a whole, as a body, on anything we might consider outreach to the world around us. We seek answers to some uncomfortable questions about where and how we walk with God. We seek the grace and courage to walk into and with that Spirit. The Spirit is patient and present with us. We are thankful.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Whittier Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

“Whittier continues to be both a place of peace and inspiration for us. Our worship there carries us through our everyday life and holds us during times of stress. We especially like that sense of community, even though we can't always be there physically we know everyone is just an e mail or a phone call away. The people at Whittier do a good job communicating with each other and holding each other close and in the Light even when we are physically apart.” (quote by a couple who are regular attenders at Whittier Monthly Meeting)

Whittier Meetinghouse is a simple building with a wide porch and large yard that sits at the intersection of two country roads. It has been difficult for much of this past year for us to use our building. First storms with straight winds roared through, destroying most of our trees and leaving the grounds impassable. Then the county tore up both roads on either side of us, leaving us a very long detour before we could even get close to the meetinghouse. Finally, storms flooded our basement and took out our furnace. The men who replaced the furnace spilled some oil that we are still struggling to clean up completely. The residue wafts up through the air ducts with an unpleasant smell that also makes it hard to breathe, so that one of our most treasured Friends can no long join us for worship there.

Many of our members live a great distance away. It's been many years since anyone lived locally to Whittier. Our regular worshipers are about ten people who live in neighboring towns. Our meetings are small, commonly 3-7 people in attendance.

But Whittier is not the building and Whittier is not a number.

We meet together so that we can worship together. We support each other through struggles with family problems, job problems, and health problems. We do not have a great deal of business, but we do have a great deal of desire to learn about our faith. One Whittier Friend was led to teach a class over a number of weeks at his home Lutheran church called, “Quakers: The Grand Experiment in Knowing God.” We enjoyed joining him as he shared his newfound knowledge about the history of Friends. A couple of attenders asked if some of us would like to gather together for worship on Christmas Eve. We sent out an invite to our mailing list, and were joined by people we hadn't seen in a while, thankful for a place to go that particular night. It was a very special gathering. Because so many of us have work schedules that don't allow for regular attendance each First Day, we have finally succeeded in

holding a few midweek meetings at the meetinghouse for people hungry for corporate worship. We are now looking at alternate meeting places in Cedar Rapids, and it looks very likely that we might soon be holding regular midweek meetings there for those unable to make it out to Whittier on First Day mornings. This past year, Whittier did responses and queries for the first time in many, many years.

We frequently remark that we feel the spirit of our beloved Friends who have taught us and since passed on, when we sit in worship on our Whittier benches. One of those Friends was fond of quoting, “When two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. (Matthew 18:20 KJV). Those words return to us again and again as we seek to help each other live in the Light, no matter how many of us are physically present, or where we gather to worship.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Yahara Monthly Meeting State of the Meeting

Yahara Monthly Meeting, in accordance with the wish expressed in last year’s State of the Meeting report, has laid itself down. Over the past year the meeting has not held any business sessions. One member has faithfully and single-handedly maintained Yahara Worship Group; the group is on hiatus for the summer but may resume again in the fall. Of Yahara Meeting’s eight members, one has transferred to Madison Monthly Meeting (Northern Yearly Meeting); one transferred to Broadmead Monthly Meeting (Lake Erie Yearly Meeting); and five members transferred to West Branch Monthly Meeting, although of those, one is attending the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert in southern California and the other four currently worship with Madison Meeting in Wisconsin. One member of Yahara decided to allow her membership to lapse.

Yahara Meeting had a good run. A spiritual truth is that Love is born again through loss, letting go, and even death. A long term Yahara attender recently shared, “We all carry a piece of Yahara in our hearts now.” This brings us joy whenever our paths cross. The Love that was nurtured in Yahara Meeting will lead us now as we each continue to grow in the Light.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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

SEVENTH DAY – SATURDAY – 7/25/2015
AFTERNOON SESSION

We resume the business of Yearly Meeting.

True Godliness does not turn men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it and excites their endeavors to mend it.

William Penn, 1682

Deborah Fink and Liz Oppenheimer have been appointed as readers this afternoon.

We listened to the Recorder's Report and are grateful for the work of our Recorder in preparing this for us. We are also grateful for our Friends, now passed, and for the rich legacy given to us.

RECORDER'S REPORT

Deaths

Ames	Sarah Beane	April 22, 2015
Bear Creek	Helen Standing Spriegel	February 16, 2015
Des Moines Valley	Judith Allen (attender)	August 12, 2014
	John Findley (attender)	February 21, 2015
	Wilmer Tjossem	May 1, 2015
Lincoln	Ahda Ellis	September 3, 2014
	Richard Gilbert	November 29, 2014
	Margaret Jones (attender)	April 22, 2014
Penn Valley	Gertrude Oliver	August 18, 2014
	Marj Swomley	March 2014*
West Branch	Clark Glen DeHaven	October 28, 2010*
Whittier	Richard Placencia	December 12, 2014

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

Births

Des Moines Valley	Max Edwards Dauer** (to Jenny and Joe Dauer)	December 8, 2014
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Marriages under the Care of the Meetings

Bear Creek	Jennifer Dawn Cisar to Mark Ben Lumsden	November 22, 2014
Iowa City	Theo Manahan to Betsy Baertlein	June 6, 2015
Omaha	Paige Garcia to Christopher Cotignola	July 5, 2014
West Branch	Nathan Patton to Sarah Bozaan	August 23, 2014
	Dean Wilson to Jusy Wheeler	May 24, 2015

Reported Marriages not under the Care of the Meetings

Des Moines Valley	John Winchell (member) to Katie Davis (non-member) (in Dallas County, IA)	March 28, 2015
West Branch	Luke Patton (member) to Kelly Bates (non-member) (under the care of Annapolis Meeting)	June 27, 2015

New Members by Request or by Certificate of Transfer

Bear Creek	Jennifer Dawn Cisar	October 19, 2014 (by req)
	Mark Ben Lumsden	October 19, 2014 (by req)
Des Moines Valley	Gregory Jones	April 2015 (by request)
	Charlie Brown	June 2015 (by request)
Iowa City	John Andrews	November 9, 2014 (by req)
	Sarah Andrews	November 9, 2014 (by req)
Penn Valley	Anna Sophia Marshall	June 7, 2015
	Gary Marx	June 7, 2015
West Branch	Anne M. (“Meg”) McCormick	June 2015 (certificate from Yahara Monthly Meeting)
	Steve Deatherage	June 2015 (certificate from Yahara Monthly Meeting)
	Karen Greenler	June 2015 (certificate from Yahara Monthly Meeting)
	Thomas Greenler	June 2015 (certificate from Yahara Monthly Meeting)
	Penny Majors	June 2015 (certificate from Yahara Monthly Meeting)
Yahara	Anne M. (“Meg”) McCormick	July 16, 2014 (certificate from Madison Monthly Meeting, Northern Yrly Mtg)

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	18	
Bear Creek	0	1	0	0	2	0	79	
Decorah	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	
Des Moines Valley	0	1	0	0	2	0	66	
Iowa City	0	0	0	0	2	1	64	
Lincoln	0	2	0	0	0	1	17	
Omaha	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	
Paullina	0	0	0	0	0	0	71	
Penn Valley	0	2	0	0	2	0	69	
West Branch	0	1	5	0	0	0	92	
Whittier	0	1	0	0	0	0	37	
Yahara (laid down)	0	0	1	7	0	1	0	
Totals	0	9	6	7	8	3	535	(5)

Tim Shipe, recorder

We appreciate all the work of our yearly meeting Representatives. The request to revisit the scheduling and format of our yearly meeting is timely. We approve the Report, the budget and the proposal.

REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

This year the Representatives were able to satisfactorily complete all our routine, but important, business. This included the appointment of readers and members of several committees to serve during our annual sessions as well as preparation of a proposed annual budget. We feel that our work was helped by the presence of a full representation from our monthly meetings at our meetings throughout the week. This year, one usually routine business item - the setting of the date for our 2016 annual sessions - sparked a fairly extended discussion of a number of issues related to the structure and scheduling of Yearly Meeting. This discussion resulted in a recommendation for the appointment of a special committee

to consider these issues. The recommendation is included as an attachment to this report.

With the assistance of the yearly meeting treasurer, the representatives developed a proposed budget for the coming year which is nearly identical to the budget approved last year. The only change in a line item amount for expenses is adjusting the amount of the annual contribution to the Trustees back to \$1,000. This had been raised to \$2,000 last year because of unexpected expenses, but the Trustees report that the larger amount is not needed this year. The annual contribution to Scattergood is again \$54,000, as requested by the School Committee. The budget last year also included a special contribution to Scattergood of \$2,000 for facilities. Although not requested by the school, we felt that this item should be retained for the coming year, knowing that it can be put to good use. Most of the monthly meetings were comfortable in maintaining their apportionments at the current level, but two meetings felt able to make increases totaling \$1,500. The small changes in the budget totals will help keep the cash balance from dropping low, somewhat relieving problems in cash flow typically experienced during the year. It is also helpful to the treasurer if monthly meeting contributions can be sent in installments during the year, rather than as single large contributions at the very end of the fiscal year.

There is also a feeling that we as Representatives, along with all who participate in our annual sessions, should work to make all in our home meetings aware of the processes involved in how the yearly meeting functions. This would include, but would not be limited to, budget issues. Friends should also be aware of the process for requesting reimbursement from the yearly meeting. (This information is published annually in the yearly meeting minutes – see pages 116 and 117). Everyone in our meetings should be aware of the information included in the clerk's letter, which is sent to monthly meetings shortly after our annual sessions.

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

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

We recommend that our next annual sessions be held at Scattergood Friends School, Seventh Month 26 to Seventh Month 31, 2016.

Callie Marsh has been asked to break meeting on First Day.

On behalf of the Representatives,
Jim Cottingham, clerk

**Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
Budget for Fiscal 2016 (7/1/15 – 6/30/16)**

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
NRCAT	\$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	\$300.00
Total Contributions	\$62,800.00

Delegate Expenses

FCNL	\$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
Total Delegate Expenses	\$5,700.00

Yearly Meeting Expenses

Archives Committee	\$200.00
Clerk's and Other Adm. Expenses	\$400.00
Committee Expenses (Other)	\$300.00
Conscientious Objector PSC subcommittee	\$100.00
Iowa Yearly Meeting Trustees	\$1,000.00
Junior Yearly Meeting	\$1,500.00
Pendle Hill Scholarship Match	\$400.00
Publication Committee:	\$3,200.00
Quaker Youth Camp Scholarship	\$500.00
Special Needs Committee	\$750.00
Young Adult Friends	\$300.00
Young Friends	\$1,500.00
Friends Travel & Conference	\$1,000.00
Midyear Planning Committee if receipts inadequate*	\$500.00
YM Entertainment Committee if receipts inadequate*	\$500.00
Contingency Fund	\$1,000.00
Transfer to Reserve Fund	\$1,000.00
Total YM Expenses	\$14,150.00
Total Budget	\$82,650.00
Cash balance available for budget	\$12,555.91
Monthly Meeting apportionments	<u>\$71,360.00</u>
Total anticipated available funds	\$83,915.91
Starting balance Reserve Fund	\$2,000.00

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

For Midyear Committee Report, see pages 4 and 5.

For Entertainment Committee Report see page 22.

Monthly Meeting Apportionments

	Dollar Amount	Percent
Ames	4,200.00	5.9
Bear Creek	5,500.00	7.7
Decorah	1,500.00	2.1
Des Moines Valley	15,492.00	21.7
Iowa City	6,000.00	8.4
Lincoln	7,200.00	10.1
Omaha	3,252.00	4.6
Paullina	8,500.00	11.9
Penn Valley	5,500.00	7.7
West Branch	11,216.00	15.7
Whittier	3,000.00	4.2
Total Apportionments	\$ 71,360.00	100.0

Proposal from the Representatives

Because of changing demographics in the yearly meeting and the inability of some with week-day jobs to take time off, attendance at annual sessions has been slowly dwindling. We think it is important that everyone have a chance to participate. We recommend that a committee be appointed by the yearly meeting clerk to explore ways to improve attendance at Yearly Meeting annual sessions.

The committee should consider all possibilities, including changing the time of year, the days of the week, venues, and format. They should also consider different balances between business, programs, free time, and interest groups. To determine which options would draw more attendance, we recommend that this committee find ways to receive input from a variety of monthly meeting members and attenders: both those who attend Yearly and Midyear meetings and those who do not.

The committee membership should include people who are very familiar with the business of the yearly meeting and people who have been unable to attend. We propose that this committee function over a one year period; providing reports and recommendations to Interim Meeting and at the annual sessions of Yearly Meeting.

We are grateful for the wonderful letter prepared by our Special Replies Committee.

SPECIAL REPLIES REPORT
Letter to Absent Friends

Seventh Month 25, 2015

Dear Friend,

Our week was blessed with clear sunny days, rain showers, cool breezes in the shade, and brilliant sunsets as we gathered for the 138th session of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) at Scattergood Friends School and Farm. Though you were not here, we felt your presence as we gathered together for worship, for sharing, and for growing in the Light.

Because we had been pondering throughout the year our mission as a yearly meeting with regard to Scattergood Friends School, a message from Ohio Yearly Meeting's Epistle read at our opening session struck us deeply: "Why are we still a body today?" We were later reminded that we are not Friends in order to have business meetings. Instead, we gather to discern and carry out the will of God, and our monthly and annual sessions are meant to serve that aim. This year we seemed to be re-evaluating what this means for us.

A visitor from FCNL, Hannah Evans, helped us to confront the helplessness and discouragement we sometimes feel when trying to right the world's wrongs. She shared "there is a challenge zone between comfort and panic where we can find a sweet spot." From this zone we can move forward instead of feeling paralyzed with fear; we can welcome creative discomfort, risk being required to make big changes, and ask to be transformed. This inner work can and must go on in our daily lives and home meetings, where practices, like our monthly query discussions, help us stay in the challenge zone.

This year we said goodbye to more of our beloved elders and noticed that others of us are stepping back. As our younger people take up the reins in monthly meetings it becomes more clear that there are conflicts between having weekday jobs and attending Yearly Meeting. We hope to find ways that allow more people to attend.

If way opens for you to join us another year at annual session we would welcome it warmly. Our annual session will be held Seventh Month 26 to Seventh Month 31, 2016. We hold you in the Light and in our hearts as we enter another year; you are dear to us.

In Peace,

Deborah Dakin, clerk

On behalf of the Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

We approve the letters prepared for us by the Epistle Committee and appreciate the love and care they put into writing these.

EPISTLE COMMITTEE REPORT

Epistle to Friends Everywhere

Seventh Month 25, 2015

To Friends Everywhere:

The unlocking of cosmic power and love can be accomplished if you will become utterly, completely obedient to the Light within you.

Cecil Hinshaw

Greetings from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) which gathered at Scattergood Friends School on Seventh Month, 22-26, for the 138th annual session of our yearly meeting. During our week together we explored our theme, “Growing in the Light,” through worship, Bible study, evening programs, fellowship, service, and play.

We seek to be transformed in the Light, to be changed in our relationships, and to be startled by the miracles that surround us. Hannah Evans, an FCNL program assistant, spoke about the importance of moving out of our comfort zones and seeking our challenge zones where growth occurs. Brant Rosen, head of the Chicago AFSC office, spoke to the imperative of a radical inclusivity, in Israel/Palestine and elsewhere, building upon the common ground among religious traditions. Young Friends discussed gender issues and another Friend asked us to consider language that is more inclusive than the male/female gender binary to which we are accustomed.

Kevin Rutledge, Grassroots Education Coordinator of the Des Moines AFSC office, spoke to us about their “Governing Under the Influence” program, which includes “bird-dogging” the presidential candidates that descend on Iowa and asking questions in order to increase the scope and inclusivity of campaign dialogs. Trish and Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan shared music with us one evening and, in a workshop, asked us to deeply consider some key moments in our lives, using those insights to deepen our relationship to God and to those around us.

Scattergood School is our experiment to manifest Love in the world. We are excited to see the increased integration of the farm and academics with a new program in which freshmen and sophomores will spend an academic quarter in project-based learning entirely on the farm in

preparation for future engagement in agricultural research projects. Having enjoyed delicious meals, produced by Scattergood Farm and prepared by Scattergood students, we can attest to the tastiness of this labor. This week we discussed our relationship to the school, an extension of a year-long dialog that took place in our monthly meetings. As a yearly meeting, we are decreasing in size and have fewer families with generational ties to the school. Thus we are challenged to transform our support from an assumed to a chosen relationship with this beloved and amazing institution.

Seeking Divine guidance on how to live sustainably is an ongoing challenge. Our Junior Yearly Meeting made and sold beautiful bouquets from the Scattergood Prairie to benefit FCNL's climate change initiatives as they discussed stewardship of the earth. Jim Kessler, of Grinnell Friends Church, gave us instructions on building native plant and pollinator gardens. We hold our annual session on this idyllic and green campus, and yet we are continually aware of the noise of I-80 just beyond the campus. This juxtaposition seems to exemplify our challenge in right living.

During our Bible study we explored the stories of how God led the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt through the wilderness to redemption and reconciliation. We were invited to share our own Exodus journeys. As God sent a pillar of Light to guide the Israelites, there is the Inward Light of Christ within each of us and the Presence in the midst that can guide us on our journey toward a Beloved Community.

We might consider, however, whether that Presence could come in a form that leads us outside our comfort zone. Is the highway noise a pillar of light that guides us to God? Might it be our relationship with the stranger, the refugee, a child, a person who desires gender-fluid pronouns, the prairie with its wild and "untidy" growth patterns, or re-evaluation of an internal life-script that fosters our growth in the Light? We must listen deeply.

In love,

Deborah Dakin, clerk

On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative

Epistle to North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Seventh Month 25, 2015

To Friends in North Carolina Yearly Meeting:

The unlocking of cosmic power and love can be accomplished if you will become utterly, completely obedient to the Light within you.

Cecil Hinshaw

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We are sorry that way did not open for one of our Friends to attend your annual sessions and we missed having someone from North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) join our sessions this year. We hope that next year our tradition of visiting each other's yearly meeting can be resumed. Please know that you are in our hearts and that we desire to remain close.

We seek to be transformed in the Light, to be changed in our relationships, and to be startled by the miracles that surround us. Hannah Evans, an FCNL program assistant, spoke about the importance of moving out of our comfort zones and seeking our challenge zones where growth occurs. Brant Rosen, head of the Chicago AFSC office, spoke to the imperative of a radical inclusivity, in Israel/Palestine and elsewhere, building upon the common ground among religious traditions. Young Friends discussed gender issues and another Friend asked us to consider language that is more inclusive than the male/female gender binary to which we are accustomed.

Kevin Rutledge, Grassroots Education Coordinator of the Des Moines AFSC office, spoke to us about their “Governing Under the Influence” program, which includes “bird-dogging” the presidential candidates that descend on Iowa and asking questions in order to increase the scope and inclusivity of campaign dialogs. Trish and Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan shared music with us one evening and, in a workshop, asked us to deeply consider some key moments in our lives, using those insights to deepen our relationship to God and to those around us.

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In love,

Deborah Dakin, clerk

On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative

Epistle to Ohio Yearly Meeting

Seventh Month 25, 2015

To Friends in Ohio Yearly Meeting:

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Cecil Hinshaw

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We were very glad to have had David Eley with us at our sessions this year. His calm presence and deep listening in our worship and fellowship is greatly appreciated. It is also a pleasure to know that Bob Winchell will be able to attend your annual sessions. We know that he brings with him our loving greetings. We appreciate your hospitality and sharing with him. We value this intervisitation and the closeness that it brings to our yearly meetings.

We seek to be transformed in the Light, to be changed in our relationships, and to be startled by the miracles that surround us. Hannah Evans, an FCNL program assistant, spoke about the importance of moving out of our comfort zones and seeking our challenge zones where growth occurs. Brant Rosen, head of the Chicago AFSC office, spoke to the imperative of a radical inclusivity, in Israel/Palestine and elsewhere, building upon the common ground among religious traditions. Young Friends discussed gender issues and another Friend asked us to consider language that is more inclusive than the male/female gender binary to which we are accustomed.

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In love,

Deborah Dakin, clerk

On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative

We discussed the importance that all of our yearly meeting appointments (other than exceptions such as monthly meeting appointments of Interim Meeting, our Ministry and Counsel Committee and the Scattergood Foundation) be made by our yearly meeting Nominating Committee. If there is too much for the yearly meeting Nominating Committee to do during the time of our sessions, then perhaps at some point we can consider making Nominating a standing committee.

Of particular concern is our Scattergood School and Farm School Committee. We all strongly agree that the naming of these members must be done carefully, with input from the School Committee to our Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee as we follow our established nominating process.

We thank the Nominating Committee for their hard work this session.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Committees and Representatives to Other Quaker Bodies

2016	2017	2018			
Archives Committee					
Jeff Cox	Lucy Hansen	Daniel Treadway			
Jeff Kisling	Tim Shipe	Shel Stromquist			
Book Table Committee					
Liz Oppenheimer*	Sarah Andrews Mikel Johnson	Megan McCormick			
Document Committee					
Bear Creek					
Entertainment Committee					
Paullina	Ames	Decorah			
Omaha	Des Moines Valley	Iowa City			
Lincoln	Penn Valley	West Branch			
Laughing Waters		Whittier			
Interim Meeting (appointed by monthly meetings)					
Lorene Ludy	Lincoln	Burt Kisling	Bear Creek	A.M. Fink	Ames
Bill Deutsch	Decorah	Ginny Winsor	Omaha	Richard Johnson	BC
Deborah Fisch	Paullina	Gordon Bivens	Ames	Alice Hampton	Whittier
Cindy Winchell	DMV	Andy Juhl	Paullina	Bob Winkleblack	IC
Catherine Dorenbach	Ln			George Bergus	WB
				Carol Gilbert	Omaha
Junior Yearly Meeting (for Yearly Meeting)					
Jenny Schmidt	Sonja Sponheim	Deborah Fink			
Jean Sandstrom		Elizabeth O'Sullivan			
		Carol Gilbert*			
Young Friends Planning Committee (for Yearly Meeting)					
Claire Sponheim	Bill Deutsch*	Liz Oppenheimer			
		Stephen Snyder			

2016	2017	2018
Junior Yearly Meeting/Young Friends (Midyear)		
Erin Stiles	DJ Newlin* Jean Sandstrom	Carol Gilbert
Midyear Meeting Planning Committee		
A.M. Fink*	Jackie Leckband	Winifred Standing
Carol Spaulding-Kruse	Osa Bricker	Christine Kelly
Burt Kisling	JennyLumsden	Osa Bricker
Ministry and Counsel Committee (appointed by monthly meetings)		
Ruth Dawson	Carol Gilbert	Faith Juhl
Ebby Luvaga	Alberta Kisling	Catherine Dorenbach
Alice Hampton	Martha Davis	Dean Wilson
Ann Robinson	Ann Stromquist	Deborah Fisch
Lynda Fife	Lorene Ludy* Liz Voss	Liz Oppenheimer
Peace and Social Concerns Committee		
Jeff Kisling	Deborah Fink	Sherry Hutchison
Judy Plank	Nancy Jordan	Jim Bruener
Winifred Standing	Ann Stromquist	Quinn Dilkes
Kathleen Hall	Frank Griffith	Robert Yeats
Stan Sanders	Elizabeth Levin	Patty Wengert
Andrea Jilovec		Bridget Durst
Chris Kelly		
Pendle Hill Scholarship Committee		
Jean Eden*	Dorothy Rogers	Shirley Scritchfield
Callie Marsh		
Publication Committee (will designate webinders)		
Margie Haworth	Gary Marx	Callie Marsh
Ginny Winsor	Warren Miller	Ann Stromquist
Sarah Andrews	Jackie Leckband	John Andrews
	Katie Jacoby	Martha Davis*
Religious Education Committee		
Marshall Massey	Mary Snyder	Bill Deutsch*

2016	2017	2018
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Scattergood Friends School Committee

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

Doyle Wilson	Rebecca Bergus	Ginny Winsor
Roy Helm	George Bergus	Bob Winkleblack
Robert Winchell	Dan Schlitt	Ruth Hampton*
Russ Leckband	Karen Greenler	Lucy Marsh

Scattergood Friends School Foundation Trustees

Lowell Wilson	Robert Yeats	Barb Garlinghouse
Daniel Treadway	Larry Marsh	Carole Winkleblack

2019: Richard Johnson, Lee Tesdell

Special Needs Committee

Harry Olmstead	Bob Yeats*	Sherry Hutchison
	Bob Winchell	John Andrews

Trustees, Yearly Meeting

Jim Cottingham	Faith Juhl	Jonathan Fisch
	A.M. Fink*	

2019: Bill Deutsch

IYMC Representatives to Friends Organizations

2012	2013	2014
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American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Corporation Members

Robert Yeats	Andrea Jilovec	Ann Stromquist
Dan Schlitt		Rebecca Bergus (alt.)

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

Deborah Fink	Rebecca Bergus	Martha Davis
Andy Juhl	Carole Winkleblack	Dan Schlitt

Friends Peace Teams Advisory Board

Sonja Sponheim		
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Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

Mary Snyder	Chris Kelly	Thomas Greenler
		Ebby Luvaga

2012	2013	2014
Iowa Peace Network		
Patty Wengert		
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) Steering Committee		
Os Cresson*	Peter Clay	
William Penn House Consultative Committee		
Alberta Kisling*	Jeff Kisling	Lolly Ockerstrom

We are grateful for the work of the clerk, assistant clerk, and our soundman during these sessions.

CLOSING MINUTE

“How is the Spirit faring in thee?

Is thee being faithful to the measure of Light thee has been granted?”

These traditional greetings among Friends seem especially timely as we come to the end of our 2015 annual session. We gathered together this year to explore what our theme of *Growing in the Light* might mean for us.

The week began with the most literal of answers in learning about *Growing Greener* practices, but also with the encouragement to ask God “Who are we? What are we called to do?” so that we might discover the joy that comes from growing faithful to the measure of Light granted us.

We can be discouraged when we see the enormity of need in the world. Our speakers showed us ways to *Grow Stronger* by moving beyond discouragement. When we work for a more just world, we are not only joining together with like-minded Friends, but entering the powerful river that has sustained the community carrying this vision for thousands of years.

“...act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.”

This eternal community exists to sustain and help us *Grow Joyfully*. During the week, Friends worked tirelessly on the nitty-gritty infrastructure of our yearly meeting. Tending to the nuts and bolts of our structures through our committee work is one way we help each other

“remain faithful to our measure of Light.” There was also much joy found in just being together for meals, for playing, and for singing.

How do we *Continue to Grow*? We are in the process of asking: Who are we? What is our calling as a body of faith? Are we called to have a school? If indeed this is our calling, what is education?

It can seem sometimes that we are so small, and our dreams are so big. But as an America educator once said, “When I was a boy, and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find the people who are helping.’ ” Mr Rogers knew well about the blessed community.

The very words *Continuing to Grow* imply an ongoing process, not an end. It is fitting that this was not a yearly meeting session of settled answers, but one of questions, and of beginnings.

What is our calling as a community of faith? Who are we? How is the Spirit faring in us? What do we need to do in order to be faithful to the measure of Light that we have been granted?

*He has shown you, O mortal what is good.
and what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:8 NIV

We now conclude our 2015 annual session, planning to meet again, God willing, at Scattergood Friends School and Farm near West Branch, Iowa, Seventh month 26 to Seventh month 31, 2016.

Deborah Dakin, clerk

George Bergus, assistant clerk

Reports received but not read in annual sessions

EXERCISE OF THE SPIRIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Come Holy Spirit
Fill the hearts of the faithful
And kindle in us the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit
And we shall be created
And You shall restore the earth.

What we want can be a gift. The desire of our heart can be a great gift to the community. Samuel Bonas' life was changed when someone said to him, "You come to meeting and you leave just the same." It struck him to the core. There must have been something in him to be so moved. Do we hunger and thirst for righteousness, for transformation? Do we long for and give permission to the greatest source of love for this transformation to overshadow us and shine in glory?

I'm grateful to have been reminded in Bible study this morning of those verses in Micah telling what God requires of us: do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

The goal that Micah seems to set for us is one of perfection which we would do well to strive for. Biblical scholarship reminds us that in Aramaic "perfection" is inclusive. Moving toward perfection will be aided by inclusiveness in those efforts.

What does it mean to love mercy? If there are occasions to show mercy that I do not take, can I love mercy? As a person not in a position of power over others, where are my opportunities to practice mercy? But when I have the chance to serve another person, therein is an opportunity to practice mercy. I never feel like practicing mercy. I always have my own agenda. If I am to practice mercy, I have to set my own plans aside. Working in retail I have such opportunities daily. When I set aside my laziness, my personal agenda to serve another, something in me goes away--my will goes away--my ordinary personhood goes away. In some way I am put on automatic pilot. In that situation there is no true service without love, requiring me to open myself up and become a channel of

love. It is then that the bit of the universe I am in is as it was meant to be, that a tiny bit of the kingdom is restored. At that moment, I am too busy to recognize it, but when the moment is over, there is a residual glow and I realize that I acted as a “Friend of Truth,” which is the name of our body.

I have been recalling how Jean Piaget, the French cognitive psychologist, observed that very young children do not play together. They play by themselves, side-by-side with one another until about age 6, when they undergo what Piaget called a “Copernican revolution.” They are no longer the center of their universe, with everything revolving around them; they now see others as being as important as themselves, and they begin to play together.

George Fox, in his Journal, writing about the time of his great spiritual breakthrough as a young man, told of how he saw the priests and the people, when their moral awareness first began awakening, saying, “They, they, they, they are the evil men, the doers of evil things.” But then some of them would grow further and would come to say “I, I, I have been the Esau, the Ishmael, the Cain.” They had undergone a second Copernican revolution, in which they no longer saw themselves at the center of what is right.

This second Copernican revolution is never automatic. We always have to work at it, to remind ourselves that it is not just “they,” it is “us.” And it is only as we actively do so, that we begin to walk the path.

I’m grateful for Julia sharing with us in pre-meeting. It opened our hearts and helped us sink down to the seed and understand the Quaker experience of Light. Jesus said “Repent” not because of hell and damnation but repent because the kingdom of God is at hand. The Quaker experience of Light both helps us know that we are forgiven and gives us a little glimpse of the kingdom of God that is at hand.

In a Yearly Meeting session, Hannah Evans invited us to leave our comfort zone and move into our challenge zone. Ohio Yearly Meeting, in an epistle to our yearly meeting, suggested a different way to enter our challenge zone with a series of queries. One of these was: Why are we here?

Do we know why are here? Do we grasp why we are here? I think of the Greek philosopher Demonax. The Athenians fell under Roman

influence and determined they wanted to bring in gladiatorial combat. They asked Demonax for advice and he said to demolish the statue of Pity because they had clearly forgotten that divinity.

Let's think of the Athenians and ask ourselves what aspects of divinity we are forgetting. One hundred and twenty-five years ago our testimonies were written in our minute books. Those are the roots, but there are other branches:

Charity, as illustrated by the parable of the good Samaritan. If we have a school that is not for everyone, are we forgetting charity?

Forgiveness. If we write angry letters to our Congresspersons who are human beings too, are we forgetting forgiveness?

Humility. If we are a public friend? I am guilty of that too.

How do we discover why we are here? I am grateful to fellow Friends for giving me entry into the challenge zone.

May the spirit of God seize you as it did young King David. May it fall down upon you like the gentle rain. May it come down in great beauty like birds. If it comes to you as poverty of spirit, may it shine as the blessing in the Beatitudes. Let us go forth like the early Friends to share it in any measure we have been given to share it. Thank you so much for being here together. Praise God.

Our growth in the Light belongs to the community. These words this morning rang true for me. I am feeling gratitude this morning that there will always be opportunities to step into the challenge zone, and I am grateful for the community to which this growth belongs.

I am guided not by the testimonies nor by sacred scripts and texts. I don't turn to the Bible for inspiration or how to live my life. I don't turn to poetry for how to live my life. I turn to poetry so that my heart can be opened. I yearn for wholeness and communion with God through which the Light flows through me and washes over and around me. I know that Light in the smiles of people around me, opened by song, movement, dance . . . touched by a breeze. I yearn for the sensation of wholeness with the Light that pours through me. Yearning leads me. The testimonies just are. They are a product of seeking that of God within myself and those around me.

Several scriptures have come to me. Jesus said, “I stand at the door and knock.” Friends use the word opening. Opening is something we did not understand before. We open that door and meet the Inward Teacher. We don’t all meet the same Inward Teacher. Paul says “There are varieties of gifts.” It’s not one size fits all, but one that fits us.

I feel we are called to bring the kingdom of God into being here within us and around us and who we are together as a yearly meeting. It’s easy to get nervous that we are growing smaller and getting older. I feel inspiration in the words that Jesus spoke: the kingdom of God is like a little speck of yeast in a loaf of dough; it raises the whole loaf. Sometimes I feel myself struggling to find the Light within myself, to open the shell. I definitely feel I am a better person when I am here in community.

Mary Snyder, Dan Treadway, Carole Winkleblack
Exercise Committee

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Religious education reports from seven monthly meetings were received and read with interest. We noted that each Meeting addresses their educational needs in rich and varied ways. We found great life in these reports. We note that there are relatively few programs offered for children while many are offered for adults.

All of the reports received will be copied and shared with monthly meetings.

For the committee,
Bill Deutsch

**SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL FOUNDATION
TRUSTEES REPORT**

The Scattergood Foundation is charged with the stewardship of the school's growing endowment, currently valued at approximately \$5.3 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 students. Funds are invested with a balanced approach to capital preservation and moderate growth.

As of 6/30/2015 the total value of donations given to the Foundation over the years to support scholarships was \$1,950,551.76. The total value of donations given to the Foundation over the years to support capital improvements and operations was \$1,568,250.00. The combined donations given over the years to the Foundation was \$4,018,801.76.

During the 2014-15 school year, the Foundation distributed \$89,650 to support tuition scholarship. The Foundation has committed to new scholarship distributions for the 2015-16 academic year totaling \$97,400, as well as \$25,500 toward capital improvements.

**Assets Held by the Scattergood Friends School Foundation as of
6/30/2015:**

Everence	\$34,814.39
Westwood Trust #1 (scholarship)	\$2,223,279.61
Westwood Trust #2 (capital funds)	\$2,222,251.77
Westwood Trust Special Capital	\$585,290.91
Pemberton Farm	\$200,000 .00
Hills Bank checking	\$65,333.57

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE MIDWEST REGION REPORT

Warm greetings from the American Friends Service Committee's Midwest Regional Office! Best wishes for your Yearly Meeting. I hope you'll experience a renewed spirit and that you'll enjoy connecting with AFSC staff as we further our work together for peace and justice.

Since beginning with AFSC in December 2014, I've had the pleasure of meeting a number of Friends personally, and I look forward to seeing you this summer and/or connecting: phone (312-427-2533), e-mail BRosen@afsc.org, or Twitter @RabbiBrant.

Below I'd like to introduce myself a bit, share some program highlights and invite us to deepen our shared commitment to lasting change through faithful action.

From LA to Evanston

I'm a native of Los Angeles but have lived in Evanston, Illinois since 1998, where I served as the rabbi of Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation. My wife Hallie and I have been married since 1987, and we have two sons, Gabe (21) and Jonah (19). Before coming to the Chicago area we lived in Philadelphia for five years (where I attended the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College) and in Denver for five years, where I served my first congregation.

As a congregational rabbi, I always considered social justice activism to be a primary part of my job description. And during the course of my activist work, I've invariably found myself working with and marching alongside AFSC folks and progressive Quakers in general. AFSC has really been a fairly ubiquitous and natural presence in the circles in which I've traveled. As I've become increasingly involved with Palestinian solidarity work in particular, I've found wonderful colleagues and friends among the staff people in AFSC's Middle East program, both in Chicago and around the country.

I've been especially mindful and appreciative of AFSC's deep engagement in Israel/Palestine justice work. Too often, I think, we in the Jewish community assume that we are the only ones who have a relationship to this particular piece of land - and it has been important to me to learn that there are many other important "stake holders" in Israel/Palestine, including AFSC, which has been deeply invested there since well before the state of Israel was founded.

Beyond Israel/Palestine, however, I'm also struck that AFSC programs tend to focus on virtually all the issues I've been concerned about and involved in over the years: i.e. anti-militarism, immigrant and labor

justice, mass incarceration, and issues of structural racism in general. Closer to home, I've also cultivated a nice relationship with Evanston Friends Meeting; I've spoken there on more than one occasion and have worked with some of its members in local Evanston peace actions.

Now that I'm officially a "Quaker Rabbi," I'm eager to learn more from you about Quaker history, ideology and spirituality. From what I've learned already, I can clearly see important parallels between Quaker testimonies and Jewish spiritual values. Please see AFSC's "Acting in Faith" blog for my two-part look at Quaker-Jewish connections.

In sum, I share AFSC's profound vision of "a world in which lasting peace with justice is achieved through nonviolence and the transforming power of love." I don't know how to say it any better, and I'm grateful to AFSC for articulating this vision so simply and powerfully (and, I hasten to add, for implementing this vision around the world in transformative ways for almost a century).

I also believe that while we might separate issues from one another for good tactical reasons, we would do well to understand their intersectionality. To cite but one recent example: I was so struck – and in fact moved – when I read tweets this past summer from Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza to demonstrators in Ferguson, Missouri that explained how to concoct homemade remedies for tear gas inhalation. These simple gestures of solidarity were for me a reminder of the manner in which American militarism impacts lives both here and abroad – and why the proper response must ultimately be one that consciously connects these dots.

Program Highlights

Since arriving at AFSC, I've learned fairly quickly that two related things characterize our strongest work in the Midwest. The first is our reliance on the energy, imagination and creativity of young people. The second is the powerful way in which our staff and volunteers use art to touch people's hearts.

Examples include "Boycott! The Art of Economic Activism," an exhibit of historical and contemporary posters now touring the nation. The exhibit helps place the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement in historical context and shows the power of nonviolent action to end injustice. For more information, or to host the Boycott exhibit in your community, please visit boycott.afsc.org.

AFSC's Gaza Pinwheel Project is memorializing the 521 Palestinian children killed in Gaza during last summer's Israeli offensive. We are asking individuals and groups to create displays of black pinwheels bearing the names and ages of the children killed last summer. Displays

can be put up in front of homes, on college campuses, near places of worship, or in other public spaces.

More online at www.afsc.org/resource/gaza-pinwheel-project.

As I write this in May, AFSC staff are organizing an early June congressional hearing and interfaith vigil in Washington, DC in support of our No Way to Treat a Child campaign. This work shines a light on Israel's detention and abuse of Palestinian children and calls upon Israel to adhere to international treaties that protect the rights of children. More at www.nowaytotreatachild.org/.

Two more exhibits are in the works. Night Raid is a collection of 16 photographs by Rich Cahan which raises concern about Israeli Army night raids of Palestinian homes in the West Bank. A video about the exhibit can be found at www.afsc.org/video/night-raid-photo-exhibit. (As it turns out, Rich and I participated in a solidarity trip to the village of Bil'in in October 2013 – and it was during this trip that he took these powerful pictures).

All of Us or None: Responses and Resistance to Militarism is a new poster exhibit that will tour nationally. The exhibit questions whether militarism really keeps us secure and challenges us, instead, to invest in things which will help our communities and planet thrive. More at www.afsc.org/key-issues/campaign/all-us-or-none-responses-and-resistance-militarism.

Two ongoing efforts address structural racism and lift up young people's vision for a different world. AFSC's Freedom Schools in the Twin Cities and St. Louis are generally three-day, intensive workshops designed to help young people identify structural racism and explore how they can undo it. AFSC staff then follow up with "Youth Undoing Institutional Racism," in which young people organize for change in their communities. This video tells more: www.afsc.org/video/st-louis-freedom-school.

The fifth annual "If I Had a Trillion Dollars" Youth Film Festival and Leadership Training continue to inspire young filmmakers from across the country in creating positive visions for our future. Forty young people traveled to Washington DC in April to share their visions with members of Congress. More at www.ihtd.org.

As presidential candidates flock to the pivotal states of Iowa and New Hampshire, AFSC staff and volunteers are there to challenge them about undue corporate influence over policymaking. They're already making a difference. Last October, a student from Scattergood Friends School, accompanied by AFSC, asked Hillary Clinton about her position on a mandatory detention quota for immigrants. Secretary Clinton said she didn't know anything about it. This May, she announced her firm

opposition to this policy. We invite you to learn more and get involved at <http://gui.afsc.org/>.

There's so much more to share. For occasional e-mail highlights of AFSC's work throughout the Midwest, please contact Jon Krieg at JKrieg@afsc.org.

For resources geared to Friends and Friends meetings, please visit www.afsc.org/friends. Learn more about how you can stay connected through the AFSC Quaker meeting/church liaison program.

Let's keep in touch. My phone is 312-427-2533, e-mail BRosen@afsc.org, or Twitter [@RabbiBrant](https://twitter.com/RabbiBrant).

Peace and Shalom,
Brant Rosen

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION REPORT

Friends Committee on National Legislation was born in the cloud of World War II, a Quaker presence in war-logged Washington, an avenue for infusion of our voice in the halls of Congress. It is equally vital today. Where one Quaker's voice might easily be lost in the wind, FCNL provides a structure and a path for us to act together, to build on each other's work, to matter -- often incrementally, maybe in a quantum leap. With FCNL, despair over the fate of the world is unnecessary and unacceptable.

In November of 2014, the FCNL Annual Meeting and Public Policy Institute, with the theme "Living Our Faith Through Action," centered on promoting diplomacy with Iran. Quakers and allies met in Washington, received lobby training, and presented ourselves in the offices of senators and representatives from across the country to speak truth with quiet confidence. Our presence made a difference. In the face of fierce opposition, negotiations with Iran pressed forward and yielded a deal offering verifiable assurance that Iran will not acquire a nuclear weapon in immediate future. As this report is written, we do not know how Congress will receive this blessing. Again, Friendly persuasion will be critical.

FCNL's agenda is wide, yet strategic. Challenges of climate change, nuclear disarmament, immigration reform, military spending and the federal budget, mass incarceration, money in electoral politics, endless war, civil liberties and Native American health are taken up methodically and with integrity. The FCNL (fcnl.org) website provides a wealth of

information on issues and action. Newsletters and action alerts offer timely material on lobbying at home and in Washington.

FCNL is growing, thanks to increased funding and an ongoing capital campaign.

Expanded outreach to youth enhances the work of FCNL and strengthens the Society of Friends. This year, nearly 300 young adults attended Spring Lobby Weekend, receiving training and bringing concerns about climate change to Congress. Five young interns are working in the FCNL office this summer. This fall a new class of Program Associates, many of them recent college graduates, will begin a year of solid training and work with FCNL. A new program, Advocacy Corps, will pay eighteen young adults to engage in grassroots lobbying in the coming year. Scott Greenler of our yearly meeting is one of these.

There has been other expansion of the field program. A group of twenty FCNL Traveling Friends, including Carole Winkleblack of Iowa City Meeting, are speaking about FCNL at Quaker meetings and churches. Local Advocacy Teams are coalescing around particular concerns to amplify our message. An eastern Iowa team has formed to work for the repeal of the Authorization for the Use of Military Force, which Congress passed in the heated emotion of September 2001 and now serves as justification for virtually unlimited military action.

In the coming year FCNL will be setting priorities for its work with the Congress to be elected in 2016. All Friends have an opportunity to participate in this process. Based on FCNL Policies, we will discern the work that is vital to address by this Congress. The FCNL Policy Committee will receive these responses, distill and group them, and present a slate of priorities for adoption at the 2016 Annual Meeting in November. While FCNL will rise to address unforeseen dilemmas and opportunities, it will work primarily with the priorities established in this process. Let us embrace our opportunity to participate in setting FCNL priorities.

For the Committee,
Deborah Fink

IOWA PEACE NETWORK

Dear friends,

We want to thank you for your support of Iowa Peace Network this year. We continue to receive support through Joint Oversight Committee representation and donations from various congregations and state conferences from our four founding/ supporting church denominations.

We continue to publish and send a journal-newsletter to over 600 organizations, churches, and individuals throughout the year. We cover peace and justice events in Iowa, current peace/ justice issues, as well as some “perspective” articles and book reviews. Among other things, this year we covered and promoted the Great March for Climate Action and the Bakken Pipeline resistance coalition- encouraging peace and stability by protecting the environment, and wrote about many other social justice and peace issues affecting our nation and world. In addition, we continue to email a weekly peace calendar of state-wide events to approximately 350 individuals and organizations.

We maintain our website, www.iowapeacenet.org, and a Facebook page. This continues to expand our reach, educating the public and informing people about peace issues and peace events. IPN has also cosponsored, attended, and reported on various events this year including the Great March for Climate Action, a Drone protest, and ecumenical services for peace, among others. We helped plan and/ or provided worship leadership for two ecumenical peace services held in Des Moines. In addition, we hosted IPN tables/ booths at summer church conferences and two volunteer fairs, and we hosted our annual Holiday Open House along with an Alternative Gift Faire.

We do ask for your financial support again this year to continue to connect individuals and peace and religious groups throughout Iowa, the Midwest, and beyond- by educating and informing people, and encouraging discussion on issues and participation in movements for peace and justice.

In appreciation,

IPN Staff and Members of the Joint Oversight Committee

Joel Beane (JOC Convener), Myrna Frantz (Volunteer Coordinator), Darrell Mitchell, Sue McCullough, Jon Overton (Media Editor), Christine Sheller (staff), and Patricia Wengert

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, WORSHIP GROUPS, AND  
SCATTERGOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL AND FARM**

**Ames Monthly Meeting**

Worship: 10:30 a.m. First Day

Business Meeting: 11:15 Fourth First Day

Simple Potluck each Sunday following worship

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

Location: 121 S. Maple, Ames, Iowa

Co-clerks: Charles Johnson, Susan Zeigler, 1978 210th St., Boone, Iowa  
50036

Meeting phone: (515) 232-4610

Email address: [cjohnson@heartlandaea.org](mailto:cjohnson@heartlandaea.org); [suzzia@live.com](mailto:suzzia@live.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: Mikel Johnson, (515) 299-0152

Email address: mjohnpeace@aol.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 Friends 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

### **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

### **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: Ginny Winsor, 6324 S 96th Street, Apt #50, Omaha NE 68127,

(402) 391-1950 (work); (941) 716-1761 (cell)

Email address: winsor.ginny@gmail.com



### **Paullina Monthly Meeting**

Worship: 10:00 a.m. First Day

Potluck and discussion follow worship on 4th First Day

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

Clerk: Doyle Wilson, 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

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

Contact: Scritchfield, Shirley A., shirls720@gmail.com

(816) 942-3448

813 E 120th St.

Kansas City, MO 64146

### **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: 10:30 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](mailto: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](mailto:debdakin@earthlink.net), or [ajilovec@q.com](mailto:ajilovec@q.com)

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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

Head of School: Thomas Weber [tweber@scattergood.org](mailto:tweber@scattergood.org)

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

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