

**Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee
February 4, 2017
Phone Conference**

1. Opening worship was difficult with joiners ringing in, but we began with centering silence.

2. Roll Call

Officers

Presiding Clerk: Betsy Neale
Assistant Presiding Clerk: Rex Sprouse
Recording Clerk: Terre Holada
Assistant Recording Clerk: Paul Buckley sends regrets
Treasurer: Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer: (vacant)
Statistician: Frank Huss

Committee Clerks

Adult Young Friends: no representative present
Auditing: Veronica Frost
Braddock Fund: Wilson Palmer
Budget & Finance: no representative present
EarthCare: no representative present
Faith & Practice: Betsy Neale
Naming: no representative present
Nominating: Richard Mitchell
Peace & Social Concerns: Richard Mitchell
Personnel: no representative present
Religious Nurture & Education: Nikki Coffey-Tousley
Web Administrator: no representative present
Yearly Meeting Planning: Kay Wheeler and Richard Mitchell
Youth Services Committee: Peter Hardy, David Funck

Quarterly Meeting Clerks

Miami: Veronica Frost
Whitewater: Diann Herzog

Monthly Meeting Representatives

Bloomington: Charlotte Hess
Campus: no representative present
Clear Creek: no representative present
Community: Deborah Jordan and Frank Huss
Dayton: Nikki Coffey-Tousley
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer
Englewood: Kay Wheeler
Fall Creek: Diann Herzog
Fort Wayne: Terre Holada
Green Plain: Caroline Taylor

Lafayette: Michele Tomarelli
Lexington: Richard Mitchell
Louisville: no representative present
Miami: Lonny Burger
North Meadow: Eric Hailperin-Lausch, Dinah Duvall
Oxford: Steve Angell
White Rose: no representative present
Yellow Springs: no representative present

Staff

Administrative Secretary: Deborah Jordan

Youth Secretary: Jason Dean

1. The agenda was reviewed.
2. Religious Nurture and Education, Nikki Coffey-Tousley
The April 22nd retreat will be in Indianapolis. Brian Drayton will be the speaker and the title is *Nourishment from Quaker Roots for Witness in these Times*. A mailing will be sent. Inter-visitation is still being planned. The committee is looking at ways of getting smaller groups of Monthly Meetings together who are working on the same issues. The committee is encouraging travelers doing ministry. The report was accepted.
3. Treasurer's Report, Wilson Palmer
The report was submitted in advance. The report was accepted.
4. Changing the June meeting of the Executive Committee
Since it is so near the new dates for Yearly Meeting Sessions, there was discussion of what topics are usually handled at the June meeting. The meeting is usually poorly attended. A conference call at 10 am on May 20th was approved.
5. Planning Committee, Kay Wheeler
Theme: "Moving Together in the Spirit" June 14 – 18, 2017
Plans are being finalized for the plenary speakers and workshop leaders. There will be a pre-sessions workshop on Wednesday afternoon. The report was accepted.
6. Youth Services Committee, Jason Dean
The Quake That Rocks the Midwest was canceled.
February 18th, Eastern Hills will host a sleepover for teens and middle youth. Jason has collected some demographic information from the directory. There were 27 teens. The committee wants to reach out to each of them. The number of Middle Youth was 28. They are hoping for at least three events a year: a service trip, *The Quake that Rocks the Midwest*, and the Yearly Meeting. But there may be other opportunities like the sleep over at Eastern Hills. There is a Facebook page for Quaker parents. If there are youth in your Monthly Meetings that are not in the directory, please give their information to Deborah Jordan. The report was accepted.
7. Miami Quarter, Veronica Frost
They will meet in February to discuss laying down Green Plains - an 1844 Meeting house, never updated, a beautiful historical place with a burial ground. It is on the list of Ohio and National Historic Places. It has been maintained by family.

Joint Quarterly Meeting was well attended. Camp Kern was very nice. 65 people attended.

The report was accepted.

8. Nominating Committee Discussion

The discussion was revisited on how we can encourage friends and attenders to participate in broader groups. The idea of inter-visitation was promoted again. Friends believe this is very important. Visitations do not need to be formal events made by designees. Everyone should be encouraged to attend other Quaker worship meetings or events. Committees should also be encouraged to reach out to meetings.

9. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting, Diann Herzog

The January meeting was canceled due to bad weather was rescheduled for February 19th at North Meadows in Indianapolis. The intersection of Mysticism and Activism will be the afternoon discussion. If friends have participated in marches or protests recently and carried a sign, please bring the sign with you.

There was a question about the status of Hopewell Meeting. The information is still contradictory but the meeting does not exist. Dinah Duvall believes that the property has been transferred and the only thing remaining is a letter to the Yearly Meeting stating that they are no longer active. Diann Herzog said there is still some disagreement over the property, but Diann will request a letter regarding the disposition of the meeting.

The report was accepted.

10. Ad-hoc Committee on external contributions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, Peter Hardy

The committee is working on a survey to share with Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting friends. The questions are difficult to write in order to solicit the information we need. Hopefully it will be sent out soon. The deadline for this information is the next EC meeting. Also, Monthly Meetings will also be asked these questions. There was a concern that this issue should not be rushed.

The report was accepted.

11. Letter from New England Yearly Meeting – Richard Mitchell

On behalf of Peace and Social Concerns – the Massachusetts Council of Churches has prepared a letter that New England Yearly Meeting has endorsed and shared. There was a request to give the YM Clerk permission to add Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting to these types of letters without going through the formal acceptance procedure. Friends requested that the letter be circulated before having our name added to it. Friends also trust the clerk and realize that the time taken to go through the formalities, may delay the impact of endorsing the letter. Friends said perhaps we can share the letter with a short deadline for Monthly Meetings to voice approval. There was a concern of becoming too politically charged and building our own walls without a spiritual leading. Perhaps the letters could be approved through the Executive Committee. There were several friends concerned with acting in a timely manner. We were reminded that the handbook empowers the Peace and Social Concerns Committee to act in this way as long as certain conditions are met as outlined in the handbook.

12. It was approved that the Peace and Social Concerns Committee can communicate with the Yearly Meeting Clerk to see if it is appropriate for our name to be added to the letters.

13. Revitalization of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

There are many exciting things happening in our committees in regard to inter-visitation and programming. Betsy wrote an article for *The Quill* on race and diversity. Hopefully

more educational opportunities on this topic will be available.
14. The meeting closed in silent worship.

Next meeting of Executive Committee: April 1st, 2017 at 12 noon at Earlham School of Religion

Respectfully submitted: Terre Holada, Recording Clerk