

Minutes

of the business sessions of

Ohio Valley

Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

(Friends General Conference)

“Living Our Testimonies Today:
Let Us See What Love Can Do”

The 189th Annual Sessions

Seventh Month 29 to Eighth Month 2, 2009

Earlham College

Richmond, IN

Contents

Agenda for OVYM Worship for Business.....	5
Minutes of the 189 th Session.....	6
Roll call of Monthly Meeting Representatives	27
Notes from Threshing Sessions	28
Appended Materials	29
Epistle	36
OVYM Committee Reports	38
Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report	39
Miami Quarterly Meeting	42
OVYM NOMINATIONS Final Report.....	44
Executive Committee Report.....	48
Clerical Support Staff Report.....	50
OVYM Web Site.....	50
Personnel Committee Report	51
Summary of Epistles 2009	52
OVYM Property Corporation Report	55
Budget & Finance Committee Report.....	59
Treasurer's Report	70
OVYM Discipline Revision Committee.....	77
Quaker Quill Report.....	79
OVYM Religious Education Committee Report	79
Advancement and Nurture Committee Report	80
Peace & Social Concern Committee Report.....	81
Quaker Earthcare Witness.....	82

OVYM Young Adult Friends Report	83
Youth Secretary Report.....	85
Teen Committee Report 2009.....	86
Middle Youth Committee Report	88
OVYM Planning Committee	89
Reports from our Ministries.....	90
Friends Home, Inc. (Quaker Heights Care Community)	91
Friends Music Camp Report	92
The Historic Lauramoore Friends Home, Inc.	93
Reports from the Wider Quaker World	94
American Friends Service Committee Report	95
Epistle to Friends Everywhere	98
Report from Representatives to Friends General Conference Central Committee.....	101
FCNL Annual Meeting	105
William Penn House Report	106
Quaker Heritage Center of Wilmington College	107
FWCC Report	110
Executive Committee Minutes 2008-2009	111
State of the Meeting Reports.....	160
Response to State of Society Reports	161
Bloomington Monthly Meeting	162
Campus Friends Meeting	163
Clear Creek Monthly Meeting	165
Community Friends Meeting	166
Dayton Friends Meeting	168
Eastern Hills Friends Meeting	169

Fall Creek Meeting	170
Green Plain Meeting	171
Hopewell Friends Meeting.....	171
Lafayette Friends Meeting	172
Lexington Friends Meeting.....	172
Louisville Friend Meeting.....	174
Miami Monthly Meeting.....	174
North Meadow Circle of Friends	176
Oxford Friends Meeting.....	178
White Rose Monthly Meeting.....	179
Yellow Springs Friends Meeting	179
Fort Wayne.....	181
OVYM Monthly Meeting List.....	182
Memorial Minutes.....	189
David Klaphaak Sr.	190
Horatio C. Wood IV	190
Jean Elizabeth McGrew Stoffregen	192
Kathryn (Kay) Sturm Thomson	193
Mary Morrissett Mullin.....	195
James Andrew Lacey	196
Seth Joseph Duell.....	197
John Hubbard	198

Agenda for OVYM Worship for Business

WEDNESDAY 7/29 2:30PM – 5:00 PM	THURSDAY 7/30 10:00AM – 12:30PM	THURSDAY 7/30 3:30PM – 5:00PM	FRIDAY 7/31 10:00AM – 12:30PM	SATURDAY 8/01 10:00AM – 12:30PM	SUNDAY 8/02 10:00-11:00AM
Centering Worship Greetings Roll Call of Representatives Welcome, Introductions, Letters of Introduction Gratitude to those working with youth Delegates to youth business sessions Absent Friends Review of Agenda Epistle Summary Whitewater Qtr Report <i>Traveling minute</i> Miami Qtr Report Initial Nominating Committee Report Executive Committee Report Announcements Closing	Centering Worship Greetings Roll Call of Representatives Welcome, Letters of Introduction Statistician Report Treasurer Report Audit Report Proposed Budget from Budget and Finance Lauramoore Home Report Friends Home, Inc. Report Friends Music Camp Report Announcements Closing	Centering Worship Greetings Roll Call of Representatives FWCC report QEW report FGC report AFSC report FCNL report Planning Committee Peace and Social Concerns report Religious Ed. report Personnel Committee report Property Corporation report Records Coordinator Quill Editor report Publications report Announcements Closing	Held in Richmond Rm Landrum Bolling Centering Worship Greetings Review of Discipline Revision Process Discipline Revision Committee Report Table of Contents Draft Approval for Membership, Part I Draft 6 Approval for Membership, Part II Draft 5 Threshing Session on Membership, Part III Draft 4 Threshing Session on Earthcare section (if time permits) Threshing Session on Local Food minute from Earthcare subcommittee Announcements Closing	Centering Worship Greetings Roll Call of Representatives Welcome, Introductions, Letters of Introduction State of Society Summary A&N Committee report Youth Secretary Report <i>Alaska Trip Recap</i> <u>Youth Committees</u> Teen Committee/Queries* Middle Youth/Queries* Children/Queries)* Announcements Closing	Centering Worship Greetings Final Nominations Minute of Appreciation for those leaving service to OVYM Site for OVYM 2010 Registrar's Report 2009 Epistles from the Youth of OVYM Children Middle Youth Teens Young Adult Friends Epistle 2009 OVYM Epistle Closing Worship @ Stout Meetinghouse

Minutes of the 189th Session

Seventh Month 29, 2009; 2:30 pm – 4:55pm

1. Opening of Session

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting gathered in waiting worship at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana for its 189th annual sessions. The clerk shared a passage from William Penn.

2. Greetings and Welcome

The clerk greeted the Friends assembled for the 189th session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

3. Roll call of Representatives

The clerk called for the roll of monthly meetings. A list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is appended to the minutes. Other Friends present from the various meetings were recognized at this time.

4. Welcoming of Guests

Mary Ellen Newport was welcomed as a representative of Olney Friends School. William Alsup was welcomed as a Traveling Friend from Mountainview Friends Meeting in Denver, Colorado. Erin Polley was welcomed as a representative of the American Friends Service Committee.

5. Staff, Volunteer Gratitude

The clerk recognized staff and volunteers who will work with the young people of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting during the 189th session and encouraged Friends to greet and thank them throughout the sessions at meals and other community times. The Children's program clerk is Hannah Branson. Staff for the Children's program, are Lupe Witte, Maria Hernandez, Mary Hyde and Cate Reynolds. Middle Youth co-clerks are Gail Koehler and Deborah Jordan. Staff for the Middle Youth program are Jason Dean and Carrie Griffith. Teen Program co-clerks are Nikki Coffey Tousley and Cynthia Sibrel. Staff for the Teen program are Rachel Dean and Nick Rhein.

6. Delegates to the Youth Business Sessions

The clerk requested that Friends interested in serving as visitors and liaison to the Children's and Youth program business meetings please contact the clerk's table.

7. Absent Friends

Friends were reminded to hold in the Light those who were absent from this year's sessions. The clerk announced the passing of Jane Haldeman of North Meadow Circle of Friends on Seventh Month 25, 2009. A Memorial Meeting will be held at Stout Meeting House on Eighth Month 1 from 3:00 pm to 3:45 pm. Friends entered into silence to hold absent Friends in the Light. The clerk requested that names of Friends in need of special prayer be provided to the Clerks' table.

8. Review of Agenda

The clerk directed Friends' attention to the agenda printed in *Reports in Advance*, pointed out changes, and asked for questions and comments.

9. Epistle Summary

Bill and Janette Shetter summarized epistles received by the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting from Friends everywhere. They noted a common theme that Friends consider their Yearly Meeting sessions to be a high point in their year. Children and families were recognized as blessings, and Friends everywhere marked conditions that affected yearly meeting sessions. Concern for the earth was a clear theme in Friends' epistles, and weather conditions affected a number of yearly meetings' sessions. Declining membership was noted as a concern in many epistles, and Friends shared many concerns that drew them to dialogue and discernment. The summary of epistles noted that we are reminded by these epistles that we are a part of the family of worldwide Friends.

10. Whitewater Quarter Report

Rex Sprouse presented the report from Whitewater Quarterly Meeting and directed Friends to pages 8 through 10 of *Reports in Advance*. Concern was shared about the structure of the Quarterly Meetings within Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The Quarterly Meetings are charged with seasoning concerns from Monthly Meetings before those concerns are brought to the Yearly Meeting sessions, and with shepherding new meetings into the Yearly Meeting. Of specific concern relative to this structure was low and inconsistent attendance at Quarterly Meeting sessions. These conditions make it difficult to carry over business items between quarterly meeting sessions. Friends were asked to seek guidance to address these concerns, and enter into dialogue on the function and structure of Quarterly Meetings within Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Friends entered into silence to consider this concern, and shared considerations out of the silence. The clerk thanked Friends for the sharing of concerns.

11. Traveling Minute

The clerk shared a Traveling Minute endorsed by Whitewater Quarterly Meeting in support of the work of Rex Sprouse of Bloomington Friends Meeting relative to the 2010 Friends General Conference Gathering to be held at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio in Seventh Month 2010. Rex will travel among meetings in the Midwestern states of the United States from Fifth Month 2009 through Sixth Month 2010. Friends approved the endorsement of the Traveling Minute by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

12. Miami Quarter Report

Tom Nowel presented the report from Miami Quarterly Meeting and directed Friends to page 11 of *Reports in Advance*. A summary of Miami Quarterly meetings in the past year described the fellowship and richness of the programs. Roy Joe Stuckey of Campus Meeting is serving as clerk of Miami Center Quarter of Wilmington Yearly Meeting, and a joint event is planned with Miami Quarter of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Concern was offered relative to decreased attendance, and a need for enhanced relevance of Miami Quarterly Meeting.

13. Nominating Committee Initial Report

Rachel Dean, Evalyn Kellum, David Wood and Byron Branson presented the initial report of the Nominating Committee. Friends were directed to page 13 of *Reports in Advance*. It was noted that another name for the Epistolary Committee is needed to serve with Betsey Neale, and an Assistant Treasurer is needed. Advancement and Nurture and Yearly Meeting Planning are in need of members to fulfill their work in service to the yearly meeting. The committee members shared concern about the number of vacancies on the list of committees and the importance of the committees to conduct the work of the yearly meeting. The clerk asked Friends to enter into silence to lift names for the positions of Assistant Treasurer and Epistolary Committee member. Names were also offered for consideration for Advancement and Nurture. The clerk thanked Friends for the names that rose from the silence, and reminded Friends to hold the Nominating Committee in the Light as they continue to do their work throughout the yearly meeting sessions.

14. Naming Committee Report

The Assistant Clerk reported that the Naming Committee is bringing forth the name of Howie Baker of Louisville Monthly Meeting to serve a 2 year term on the Nominating Committee ending in 2011 and Diann Herzog of Fall Creek Monthly Meeting to serve a 3 year term on the Nominating Committee ending in 2012. Friends approved these appointments. The Naming Committee is in need of one person to serve a 3 year term on the Nominating Committee ending in 2012. Friends entered into silence to lift names for this need. As no names were lifted out of the silence, this concern will be reconsidered at the next business session.

15. Executive Committee Report

The clerk directed Friends to page 16 of *Reports in Advance* for the full report of the Executive Committee. The relationship of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting to the Clerical Support Person and the Youth Secretary has changed to a contractual arrangement. The audit of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting financial records finds them to be in good order. The audit expressed concern that monthly meetings be timely in their contributions to the yearly meeting. Executive Committee also considered subsidies to help first time attenders to Yearly Meeting sessions, and those for Young Adults. Future suggestions for subsidies recommended by the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee will be brought to the floor of yearly meeting for implementation in the following year. Executive Committee held one of its meetings in the past year via conference call and considered the right ordered and effective use of newer technology to conduct the work of the Executive Committee and the Yearly Meeting. The clerk shared the suggestion that a Visioning process for Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting could be timely, having last been undertaken in 1994. Friends shared thoughts and concerns relative to a Visioning process and the need for one for Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The clerk suggested that the discussion begun at this time could be carried out informally among Friends throughout these sessions.

16. Closing Worship

After a few brief announcements, the session closed at 4:55 pm with a period of waiting worship. Friends will reconvene on Seventh Month 30, 2009 at 10:00 am as way opens.

Seventh Month 30, 2009 10:00am – 12:31pm

17. Opening of Session

Friends gathered at the appointed hour in waiting worship. The clerk shared a passage from the first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 13, verses 1-7. Beth Parrish of Louisville Friends shared a song that reflected the theme of the scripture passage.

18. Roll Call of Representatives

The Clerk called for representatives from Monthly Meetings not previously recorded to introduce themselves. A list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is appended to these minutes. Other Friends present from the various meetings were recognized at this time.

19. Introduction of Visitors

Wendy Waters-Connell was introduced as a representative of Quaker Heights Care Community. Jerry Knutson was introduced as a visitor from Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. Jerry is sojourning at Clear Creek Monthly Meeting while he studies at Earlham School of Religion.

20. Statistician's Report

The clerk directed Friends to page 25 of *Reports in Advance* for the Statistical Report and noted some changes in the overall meeting numbers. Friends were reminded that Statistical Reports for the current year are due to the Statistician by the end of Twelfth Month 2009.

21. Treasurer's Report

Steve Angell distributed copies of the Treasurer's Report and reviewed Tables throughout the report. The Teen Committee was cited as a model for committee utilization of their allotted budget. Friends accepted the Treasurer's Report.

22. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2010

Paul Buckley presented the Proposed Budget from the Budget and Finance Committee and directed Friends to the table printed in *Reports in Advance*. Friends were then directed to the Summary of the General Fund in *Reports in Advance*. This summary is included in the report published in the Minutes of the 189th session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Paul reviewed with Friends the experience of the change to the proportional share system of contributions from monthly meetings during the past budget year. Responses from monthly meetings required Budget and Finance to meet to adjust budget figures to reflect the expected contribution levels. The proposed budget presented is 3.5% larger than the actual expenditures for the past budget year. The budget presented reflects \$ 1500.00 in deficit spending based upon expected contributions. It is projected that the Yearly Meeting will spend less on Publications than in the past, and committee budgets were reduced to reflect their historical trends of expenses. Committees were advised that if they submitted expenses to the Treasurer, the expenses would be paid regardless of budget amount. Budget and Finance recommended three points of action to address the \$ 1500.00 deficit. The committee recommended not transferring funds into the Discipline Printing Fund for this fiscal year. The committee also recommended a draw down of reserves in the amount of \$ 1500.00. An appeal letter to monthly meetings could potentially

bring enough funding to offset the deficit amount, thereby eliminating the need to draw down reserves. Friends approved the action of not contributing to the Discipline Printing Fund. Friends approved the action of sending an appeal letter to monthly meetings requesting an average 2 % increase in proportional contributions. Friends approved the action of drawing down reserves if monthly meetings are not able to increase their proportional contribution. Friends approved the proposed budget.

23. Quaker Heights Care Community

Wendy Waters-Connell reported that the Quaker Heights Care Community has completed renovation of the entrance to the Assisted Living Community. The renovation has provided benefit to residents and their families. Quaker Heights Care Community is in the process of instituting Electronic Medical Records. Wendy shared the benefits of this system. The past year featured an exhibit of art from the collection of Larry Barker, and continuing diversity initiatives. Residents were entertained by visits from a troupe of clowns, salsa dancers, and Greek dancers, as well as craft activities appropriate to residents' abilities. One celebration featured a unique Lithuanian cake. Outgoing Trustees Byron Branson, Tom Hill, Horatio Wood and Christine Snyder were honored for their combined 143 years of service by the installation of a quilt titled Peace Quilt III by Dee Mallon. Violeta Tribandiene-Gwynn organized many events and enhancements. State of Ohio Satisfaction Surveys conducted at Quaker Heights Care Community brought results above State of Ohio averages for all care communities. Diversity in the staff at Quaker Heights Care Community has increased dramatically during the past year. Finances during the current year are stable. Projections for the future indicated that this status is likely to be unsustainable. The Quaker Heights Care Community is engaged in a process of evaluating and seeking new means of financial opportunity and stability. The organization is actively studying the competitive market for facilities and services. Friends of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting will be asked to participate and connect with these initiatives. Wendy shared profiles of several residents of the various facilities at Quaker Heights Care Community and their needs and experiences of the residents and their families. Friends were advised that Quaker Heights Care Community has a need for Friends to serve as Trustees on the Board.

24. Introduction of Visitor

Tory Rhodin of Hanover Meeting in New Hampshire was introduced as a representative of the Friends General Conference Committee for Ministry on Racism. The clerk shared a letter from Friends General Conference endorsing Tory's visit to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

25. Nominating Committee

Byron Branson reported that Betsy Neale of Lexington Friends Meeting and Barry Zalph of Louisville Friends Meeting will serve as the Epistolary Committee. Friends approved. Wilson Palmer of Eastern Hills has agreed to be considered for a four year commitment to the Treasurer position for Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. His name will appear on the Nominating Committee slate to be considered later in the 189th session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

26. Delegates to Youth Business Meetings

The assistant clerk requested that Friends approach the clerk's table if they are willing to represent the yearly meeting to the Youth Business Meetings.

27. Naming Committee

Friends entered into silence to consider the lifting of a name to serve on the Nominating Committee for a three year term to end in 2012. As no names were lifted out of the silence, the clerk requested that Friends continue to prayerfully consider the need for someone to serve.

28. Friends Music Camp Report

Ben Griffith reported that he visited Friends Music Camp on the second day of this year's camp session. He shared pictures sent by the camp. The annual Friends Music Camp Concert on Seventh Month 25, 2009 was a success with the audience. Campers shared song with people at Young's Jersey Dairy in Yellow Springs, Ohio to celebrate a birthday and at Wheeling Park to empower a young girl afraid of the water. The 2009 session of Friends Music Camp was at full capacity.

29. Olney Friends School

Dale Blanchard shared the report from Olney Friends School, as Mary Ellen Newport of Olney Friends School was canoeing with the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Teens. Dale shared her own story titled "Why My Poor Son Attends Boarding School", attesting to the value of the Olney Friends School experience. Approximately one-third of the student body comes from a Friends' background. International students enrich the student body. Olney Friends School is seeking students and Board members with Quaker backgrounds.

30. Right Sharing of World Resources

The clerk read a letter from Roland Krieger and will forward their report to the Peace and Social Concerns committee.

31. Closing Worship

The session closed at 12:31 PM with a brief period of waiting worship. Friends will reconvene Seventh Month 30, 2009 at 3:30 PM as way opens.

Seventh Month 30, 2008 3:30pm – 5:15 pm

32. Opening of Session

Friends gathered at the appointed hour in waiting worship. The clerk shared a quote from a Parker Palmer interview that cited a lyric from musician Leonard Cohen.

33. Earlham College

Douglas Bennett, the President of Earlham College addressed the Friends gathered and offered words of greeting and invitation to visit campus and its many programs. He emphasized the importance of Earlham College's identity as a Quaker institution.

34. Roll call of Representatives

The Clerk called for representatives from Monthly Meetings not previously recorded to introduce themselves. A list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is appended to these minutes. Other Friends present from the various meetings were recognized at this time.

35. Introduction of Visitors

Traci Hjelt Sullivan was welcomed as staff visitor from Friends General Conference. The clerk read a letter from Bruce Birchard commending Tracy to the loving care of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

36. Friends World Committee for Consultation

J.P. Lund presented the report as representative of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting to the Friends World Committee for Consultation. Friends were directed to the written report in *Reports in Advance*. J.P. shared the value of the surprising pockets of richness in his experience with Friends World Committee for Consultation. The report noted financial difficulties for the organization, and advised that some staff members have been laid off. A World Gathering will take place in Nairobi, Kenya in 2012. Friends accepted the report.

37. Quaker Earthcare Witness

Marci Ankrom presented the report as the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness, describing her experience as a part of the Steering Committee of Quaker Earthcare Witness. Friends accepted the report.

38. Friends General Conference Report

Rex Sprouse presented the report and directed Friends to pages 27-30 of Reports in Advance. It was noted that Indiana Yearly Meeting Hicksite was one of the seven founding meetings of Friends General Conference. It was noted that the annual Gathering is the highlight of the work of Friends General Conference, but not its only activity. Rex announced that the 2010 Gathering will be held at Bowling Green State University, with Lake Erie Yearly Meeting and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends being considered hosts. There are opportunities to serve on the planning committee on one of three sub committees – those planning worship, workshops and evening programs. Richard Mitchell and Betsey Neale are co-clerks of the subcommittee planning the evening programs. The planning committee is scheduled to meet Tenth Month 2 through 4, 2009 at Community Friends Meeting. Traci Hjelt Sullivan spoke to Friends about the Gathering experience and the opportunity it provides to connect with the wider circle of Friends. Traci addressed concerns about the cost of attending the Gathering, encouraging Friends to work within their monthly meetings to establish scholarship funds. The Gathering will take place Seventh Month 4 through 10, 2010. Friends interested in serving on the Gathering Planning Committee should contact Rex Sprouse or Traci Hjelt Sullivan. Tory Rhodin of the Friends General Conference Committee for Ministry on Racism addressed Friends. Friends were encouraged to read the book Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship, a recent publication of Friends General Conference, both as individuals and part of groups. Friends accepted the report.

39. American Friends Service Committee Report

Jana Schroeder presented the report. American Friends Service Committee is facing severe economic hardship as a result of the economic downturn. The organization will face drastic cuts

in programming and staff in the coming months. The programs of the American Friends Service Committee will depend upon volunteer participation more than ever. Friends accepted the report.

40. Friends Committee on National Legislation Report

Paul Kriese presented the report, noting happiness at being able to serve and sadness at the passing of Jane Haldeman. Paul noted that the Friends Committee on National Legislation had its beginning at Quaker Hill in Richmond, Indiana. The Barack Obama administration has requested that Friends Committee on National Legislation explain its positions on a number of issues for which it works. Friends accepted the report.

41. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee

Paul Kriese presented the report of the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, expressing gratitude for the quality of the work being done by committee members. The committee has named Day Coordinators for each day of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting session. Friends experiencing needs during the sessions were advised to contact the Day Coordinator. Friends were encouraged to return evaluation reports at the end of the annual session, as that input is vital to the function of the committee. Friends were asked to consider the matter of subsidies as a means of facilitating increased opportunity for Friends to attend the annual session. Two subsidies recommended by the committee are: a 50% subsidy for first time attenders to Yearly Meeting sessions and a 50% subsidy for Young Adult Friends to attend. It was noted that for the 189th session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, 10 first time attenders took advantage of the subsidy, and of 16 Young Adult Friends, 11 took advantage of the subsidy. The Registrar agreed to collect estimates of the total cost of the subsidy for the 189th session and report back to the body of the meeting. Data to be collected will include the cost of the subsidy, and input from the beneficiaries whether the subsidy indeed affected the attendance to the session. The registrar will make annual reports on the subsidy to the yearly meeting for the next three annual sessions, accumulating and aggregating the numbers. Friends approved the continuation of both subsidies through the 192nd annual session in 2012, with further action to be discussed during the 192nd session.

42. Peace and Social Concerns Report

Richard Mitchell presented the report, directing Friends to the printed report in *Reports in Advance*. The committee functions as a whole, and consists of three sub committees; these being concerned with earth care, health care, and the Quaker testimonies. A minute titled "Seeking Right Relationship with Food and Land" will be distributed. If time is available, a threshing session may be scheduled to discuss this minute during the 189th annual session. Friends accepted the report.

43. Religious Education Report

Diann Herzog presented the report, expressing that the four members serving on the committee are a good number to conduct the work of the committee. Diann noted that meeting visitation has been an effective vehicle for the committee's work. Friends accepted the report.

44. Personnel Committee Report

Tom Nowel presented the report, directing Friends to the printed report in *Reports in Advance*. The committee completed work to change the relationship of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting from that of employee to contracted service providers. The committee is recommending that individuals within Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting consider presenting a voluntary financial gift to Lauren Baumann in recognition of her work with the Teens of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Friends wishing to donate to this gift were advised to contact J.P. Lund. Friends accepted the report.

45. Quill Editor Report

Dan Cartmell addressed Friends regarding his work on the Quaker Quill, inviting Friends who wish to receive the Quill electronically to contact him, thereby saving some publication cost.

46. Publications Coordinator

Eric Clevon addressed Friends, expressing thanks to Deborah Jordan and Ben Griffith for their assistance as he has assumed the role of Publications Coordinator.

47. Closing Worship

The session closed at 5:15 PM with a brief session of waiting worship. Friends will reconvene Seventh Month 31, 2009 at 10:00 AM as way opens.

Seventh Month 31, 2009 10:00am – 12:43

48. Opening of Session

Friends gathered at the appointed hour in waiting worship. The clerk shared a passage from the words of Jesus as stated in the book of Luke, chapter 6, verses 27-35. Paulette Meier shared quotes from Margaret Fell and William Penn in song.

49. Roll call of Representatives

The Clerk called for representatives from Monthly Meetings not previously recorded to introduce themselves. A list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is appended to these minutes. Other Friends present from the various meetings were recognized at this time.

50. Introduction of Guests

Wendy “Manna” Wightman was introduced as a visitor to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Margaret Kantz was introduced as a visitor from Irvington Friends Meeting.

51. Review of Discipline Revision Process

The clerk reviewed the history of the current Discipline Revision process for the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Book of Discipline, and the procedures put in place by the yearly meeting to seek unity in adopting text to appear in the revised Book of Discipline. Friends were reminded that when a draft comes to the yearly meeting session floor for approval, it has been reviewed and seasoned by monthly meetings and the yearly meeting.

52. Discipline Revision Committee Report

Betsey Neale referred Friends to the copy of the report of the Discipline Revision Committee in *Reports in Advance*, highlighting the work of the committee throughout the year and offering a preview of the work for Friends to undertake on the floor of the yearly meeting session. Two questions were brought forward by the committee for consideration by Friends. The first question asks whether text from the 1978 Revision of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Book of Discipline needs approval to be included in the current revision. The second question asks whether, after the fifth draft (final draft) of a section comes to the floor of the yearly meeting and does not gain approval, the section rests with the clerk's table.

53. Minute of Support

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting expresses gratitude to the Discipline Revision Committee for their work, and faith in the ability of the committee to discern from our responses so carefully gathered, those sections of the Book of Discipline, that are identified for revision. Until the Yearly Meeting approves additions, revisions or deletions, the current Book of Discipline remains our guideline for Quaker faith and practice.

54. Discipline Revision Committee, Table of Contents Draft

Betsey Neale reviewed the draft of the Table of Contents.

55. Discipline Revision Committee, Membership Part I, Draft 6.

The clerk reviewed clauses in Draft 6 of Membership Part I that have drawn concerned reactions from Monthly Meetings and individual Friends relative to membership in multiple religious bodies. Friends were reminded to treat membership considerations with tenderness and empathy, as deep hurts can result from difficult discernments regarding membership in a meeting. Friends entered a period of worshipful consideration of Membership Part I, Draft 6, seeking a way forward. Friends approved Membership Part I, Draft 6 as it appears in *Reports in Advance*, with Marjorie Isaacs standing aside. (Approved Text is appended to these minutes)

56. Discipline Revision Committee, Membership Part II, Draft 5

The clerk reviewed areas of Draft 5 of Membership Part II that have drawn concerned reactions from Friends, especially those regarding disownment. Friends approved Membership Part II, Draft 5. (Approved Text is appended to these minutes)

57. Discipline Revision Committee, Membership Part III, Draft 4 Threshing Session

Betsey Neale reviewed the text of Membership Part III, Draft 4 regarding youth membership. Friends entered into consideration and discussion of the draft. Betsey Neale gathered the concerns raised, and they are appended to these minutes. Friends were encouraged to consider the thoughts of our young people, encouraging them to speak for themselves on the matter of youth membership.

58. Discipline Revision Committee, Earthcare Section, Draft 7 Threshing Session

Betsey Neale reviewed the text of Earthcare, Draft 7, "Seeking Harmony With Creation." Friends entered into a period of consideration and comment on the text as it appears in *Reports in Advance*. Betsey Neale gathered the concerns raised, and they are appended to these minutes.

59. Peace and Social Concerns, Earthcare Committee Local Food Minute Threshing Session

The clerk distributed copies of the minute titled “Seeking Right Relationship With Food And Land.” Bill Cahalan shared the story of the committee’s work to develop and draft the minute. Quarterly meetings considered and responded to the minute. Some monthly meetings adopted the minute as is, others provided responses to the Earthcare committee, others were not able to unite with the minute. Friends were encouraged to approach members of the Earthcare Committee throughout the sessions.

60. Closing Worship

The session closed at 12:43 PM with a period of waiting worship. Friends will reconvene Eighth Month 1, 2009 at 10:00 AM as way opens.

Eighth Month 1, 2008 10:00am – 12:04

61. Opening of Session

Friends gathered at the appointed hour in waiting worship. The clerk shared a passage from John Griffith (father of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting clerk Ben Griffith). Patricia Griffith and Deb Kociszewski shared an instrumental prayer.

62. Roll Call of Representatives

The Clerk called for representatives from Monthly Meetings not previously recorded to introduce themselves. A list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of these sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is appended to these minutes. Other Friends present from the various meetings were recognized at this time.

63. Introductions

Participants in the Teen Program introduced themselves to the business session and were welcomed.

64. State of Society Summary

David Garman shared a response to the State of Society reports submitted by monthly meetings and summarized by the Advancement and Nurture committee. Love was a common theme lifted from the reports submitted. Love was a theme carried throughout joys, sorrows, difficulties, and opportunities for growth. The challenge of spreading the messages Friends have to offer in the twenty first century was addressed by many meetings. The committee offered the phrase “listen deeply then put love into action” to close. Friends accepted the report.

65. Advancement and Nurture Committee

David Garman presented the report of the Advancement and Nurture Committee, referring Friends to the printed copy in *Reports in Advance*. The past year has been one of regrouping, listening and discerning the committee’s role in the yearly meeting. The committee has looked to its form and function in the future, noting that much of its work may be conducted electronically, with travel remaining a component of its work. Friends accepted the report.

66. Lauramoore Friends Home, Inc. Report

Julie Owens presented the report and distributed printed copies of the report. The text of the report is appended to these minutes. The Lauramoore Friends Home has been nominated as a Conservation District by the City of Richmond's Preservation Commission, and is developing a plan for putting conservation easements on the property. The Lauramoore Home will celebrate its 150th year in 2010.

67. Young Adult Friends Report

Howie Baker presented the report, directing Friends to the printed copy in *Reports in Advance*. Young Adult Friends held three retreats during the year. Young Adult Friends enjoyed communal cooking, and report that camping in Brown County Indiana during the spring is beautiful. Young Adult Friends are active in many areas of the 189th annual session and are enthusiastic about planning activities for the coming year. Friends accepted the report with appreciation.

68. Youth Secretary and Teen Committee Report

Lauren Baumann and Nikki Coffey Tousley presented the report. The summer of 2009 featured a trip to Alaska by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Teens. The budget for the trip appears to have been very accurate, and fundraising activities varied and successful. The committee does not expect any need for additional funds. The 189th annual session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting is hosting 19 teen participants. The Teen Program also carried out a summer service project at various sites throughout Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, sharing in the expertise of Friends in several locations. Lauren Baumann has resigned her position as Youth Secretary, effective at the end of Eighth Month, 2009. The Teen Committee is in the process of interviewing applicants for the Youth Secretary position during the 189th session, and plan to have the new Youth Secretary named in time to work with Lauren for a few weeks to transition. Teens participating in the Alaska trip addressed Friends, sharing thanks and experiences of the trip and a slide show. Lauren Baumann accompanied Adam Funck, Bret Marshall, Corrigan Eckert, Dylan Cahalan, Kaitlyn Funck, Laura Hyde, Rachel Logan-Wood, Somer Eckert and Uta Brewington on the Spirit Camp trip to Alaska.

Adam Funck read the following *Epistle from Spirit Camp* (Alaska Friends Conference / Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting) July 2009

Greetings to Friends Everywhere,
Participants of Spirit Camp wish to share the following with you.

The wilderness at Eklutna Lake provided a great container to be challenged in all sorts of ways – how to function as a community, deepening spirituality and building lasting friendships.

I enjoyed the experience of building a small community.

Bending with the community and finding patience.

At Spirit camp I learned how to be more open with people and more outspoken in a community.

I am deeply appreciative of being part of this strong community.

Being able to feel completely comfortable with people really expanded my spiritual growth along with the natural beauty.

I appreciated watching others grow and find their own spirituality as I did the same. The community that we developed made us love the changes in others, as much as the ones in ourselves.

Walking toward the Glacier feels like walking toward the light, in both instances the journey is hard but the reward is the best.

Peeing in a puddle, on the ground, and into the lake.

Meeting and forming new friendships.

My favorite part of Spirit Camp was binding with everyone and playing wink. (Overall I had a lot of fun.)

I appreciate how accepting everyone is.

When we worshiped on the beach the group was in a half asleep half awake mode. It was amazing.

The sun on my face along with raindrops, the rocks beneath me, the sound of the glacial water breaking on the shore, the mountains surrounding the lake with the light shifting as the clouds moved – I felt so connected with the elements and with spirit.

Peace found in the depths of a lake.

I found that I had yet another level in getting to know people, which was a spiritual sense.

Participants came together through rain and sun. Grounded in love and the spirit. This trip has helped me move forward in my spiritual journey in so many ways: friendships, connecting with spirit and nature, and being more open. It was a great experience. It was the best experience of my life at the most perfect time. Thank You.

We reaffirmed our connection with a our love for each other and the world around us expressed through out thoughtful evaluation of our actions; are they good for me, good for us, good for our community?

Teaching Quaker values, process and community to Quaker youth is integral to the continuation of our Society of Friends in this world. Creating that was beautiful and essential. Thanks so much for the opportunity.

Adam Funck, Autumn Ball, Bill Herman, Bret Marshall, Corrigan Eckert, Dana Hallert, Danie Holden, Daniel Tanner, Dylan Cahalan, Helen Walker, John Inman, Kaitlyn Funck, Kelvin Smyth, Laura Hyde, Laura Elena Herman, Lauren Baumann, Rachel Logan-Wood, Rebekah Rice, Somer Eckert, Urias Rooney, Uta Brewington.

The clerk read the following minutes to Friends present:

Minute of Appreciation for the Teen Committee

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends give heartfelt appreciation to the Teen Committee's dedication and perseverance for this year's work: committee planning meetings, teen retreats, fundraising almost \$ 10,000, the Dayton service trip, and the Alaska trip. We can only imagine the many challenges you had to face, but sincerely thank you for providing care to our teens and our Youth Secretary.

Minute of Appreciation for Lauren Baumann

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting has benefitted from the work of Lauren Baumann as Youth Secretary. Since December of 2007, Lauren has brought with her a passion for the future of Friends and worked to deepen the worship life of the Teen Program. We appreciate her service and hold her in the Light as she moves on to the next stage of her journey.

Friends presented Lauren with a gift in appreciation of her service to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting teens.

Friends accepted these reports.

69. Middle Youth Committee Report

Gail Koehler presented the report, thanking Friends for responses to the Middle Youth queries offered at the 188th annual session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Gail presented a slide show highlighting activities of the Middle Youth program during the 189th annual session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The report attested to the importance of non-parental adults in the lives of Middle Youth. The Middle Youth Committee has approached Friends to serve as Worship Mentors to help the young people deepen their experience of the closing worship of the 189th annual session. Friends accepted the report.

70. Report of the Delegate to the Middle Youth Business Session

Lynda Ream represented the yearly meeting at the Middle Youth Business session. Friends' responses to the middle youth queries were shared and responded to. Lynda reported that the experience of representing the yearly meeting was enjoyable.

71. Closing Worship

The session closed at 12:04p.m. Friends will reconvene Eighth Month 2, 2008 9:45 a.m. as way opens

Eighth Month 2, 2009 10:00 am – 11:02am

72. Opening of Session

Friends gathered at the appointed hour in waiting worship. The clerk shared a meditation from Lao-Tzu.

73. Welcome, Final Roll Call of Monthly Meetings

The clerk welcomed Friends to the closing session of the 189th session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

74. Nominating Committee Final Report

The Nominating Committee presented its final report to the 189th session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, detailing names that have been added during the sessions of the yearly meeting. The final report of the Nominating Committee will appear in the minute book, and will be added to the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting website. Vacancies remain on the Advancement and Nurture committee. The Nominating Committee will continue to work with this committee throughout the year. There is no name at this time for the yearly meeting website, and only one person is serving as representative to the Friends Committee on National Legislation. Friends discussed concerns relative to the identification of Friends serving on subcommittees of Peace and Social Concerns. Friends approved the nominations as reported with gratitude.

75. Minute of Appreciation for Those Leaving Service to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

The Assistant Clerk read the following minute of appreciation:

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting expressed its gratitude to all those who are completing service to the yearly meeting. We appreciate the time and energy you have given to help us build a loving community. Because of your shared love of the work and for us, we have been made stronger. Friends approved the minute.

76. Minute of Appreciation for David and Virginia Wood

Dear David and Virginia,

What a team you make! As seasoned Friends, you have nurtured us and helped us grow. You are wonderful, living examples of the best of the Quaker Way. You have shown us over and over what love can do by your strong, gentle presence and caring. You have taught us to listen by listening to us. Your right words have led us to calm discernment. Your steadfast groundedness has provided us with a solid foundation on which to continue building at the monthly meeting, quarterly meeting and yearly meeting levels. You've also served as our links to the wider Quaker world. You let your lives speak with your loving kindness, your love of the earth and consistency in practice.

One Friend said, "Parachutes are noted for coming down, but Virginia knows how to use a parachute to pick people up." The young children gladly attest to this as they gratefully inherit the parachute. After your own travel in the ministry to Alaska, you faithfully held us to the vision of the Alaska Spirit Camp, which became a reality for our teens this summer. And David, the Saturday night talent show won't be the same without the Dayton Monthly Meeting skits.

We are loath to let you go, but we know the Spirit is calling you to new work. We will sorely miss you. So we thank you, good and faithful servants. We send you out to be a blessing to others as you have blessed us. We love you.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
Friends approved this minute.

77. Minute of Appreciation for Tom and Barbarie Hill

Tom and Barbarie Hill have been pillars of the yearly meeting for decades, doing far too many tasks to attempt to fully enumerate them here.

After completing her term as clerk of the yearly meeting, Barbarie, recognizing a dire need, took on a role that came to be called Publications Coordinator. She compiled and edited the yearly meeting Directory, the Advanced Reports, the Minutes, the newsletter, and, as the internet grew in importance, the web site. In order to find a way for her to hand this job off to others, it had to be divided into four parts.

Tom has been more visible in OVYM business meeting, which has had the benefit of his detailed knowledge of Quaker history and practice, his concern for right order, and his insistence that the minutes be clear and accurate. He has brought this same concern for clarity and right order to everything that he has undertaken, and he has undertaken a lot. At the international level, he has served as clerk of the FWCC Section of the Americas, and on the FWCC Central Executive Committee. In this region, he has served as a trustee for both Friends Home and for Wilmington College. For OVYM, he has served in many capacities, most recently as Statistician. As is typical, he not only accurately compiled the report supplied by monthly meetings, but he brought to the yearly meeting's attention the inconsistencies in the ways that monthly meetings were counting, especially with youth members.

A Friend offered the following: I need to offer another example of the way that Tom has served. The first time I attended Miami Quarterly Meeting, the first item of business was the Treasurer's report, which included a statement of the amount of money in the Cincinnati Fund and the Benevolent Fund. I asked what these funds were. The answer was a collection of confused, garbled, half-accurate explanations that took about a half hour. The next quarterly meeting that I attended, the business again began with the treasurer's report, which prompted the same question from another first time attender, which was answered with the same half-hour of confusing information. Eventually, Tom Hill wrote an clear, accurate description of the funds, which was approved. The next time the question was raised, the written explanation was handed to the one who asked, and we proceeded with business. This one action has probably saved hundreds of person hours in quarterly meeting business sessions.

We will sorely miss the loving care that Tom and Barbarie have lavished on this yearly meeting. Friends approved this minute.

78. Announcement of Site for 2010 Annual Session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

The 190th session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting will be held Seventh Month 28 through Eighth Month 1, 2010 at Earlham College. Friends accepted the report.

79. Registrar's Report

Yoshia Togami presented the registrar's report. 173 attended the 189th annual session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. There were 10 participants in the Children's Program, 8 in the Middle Youth, 19 in the Teen, at least 15 Young Adult Friends (of which approximately one fourth served as staff). 9 were first time attenders. Yoshia expressed appreciation to Lisa Cayard, who served as Registrar since 2006. Friends accepted the report.

80. Epistle from the Teen Program

Laura Hyde presented the Epistle of the Teen Program.

To Friends Everywhere,

Greetings from the 2009 meeting of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Teens. Even though we seemed separated at first, we quickly coalesced into a single community, and our time here has been very hopeful.

We sat in on Hollister Knowlton's plenary and she came to talk with us about the things we could do to save the biosphere. We came to realize that by living simply we could allow others to simply live. Friday (Seventh Month 31, 2009) we picked up trash in Whitewater Gorge, putting Hollister's teachings into action.

We learned our own personal strengths during both our canoe trip and our talk with Mary Ellen Newport from Olney Friends School, about applying the Quaker testimonies to everyday life. With our new knowledge from the workshops Friday and our various other talks, we know we will leave with new views on our world, and lasting bonds.

Peace Be With You,
2009 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Teens.
Friends accepted the Epistle.

81. Epistle from the Middle Youth Program

Hanae Togami presented the Epistle of the Middle Youth Program.

8 Middle Youth attended the annual session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting at Earlham College, from July 29 to August 2, 2009. The theme of the gathering was "Living our testimonies today: Let's see what love can do."

We enjoyed many activities together, such as rafting on the Whitewater River, biking, helping at the animal shelter, going to Bike Co-op, and listening to guest speakers.

While enjoying rafting, we saw all kinds of nature including dragonflies, herons, and turtles. We helped each other overcome our fears on the rope swing and we cheered each other on. We had no trash left from lunch because we used reusable containers. Not only did we leave no trash, but we left the river cleaner than we found it by picking up garbage on the banks.

We biked to the animal shelter which took endurance, but saved gas. While we washed around 20 dogs at the shelter, we got to know the cats and dogs better by learning their names and socializing them. We were really showed what love can do. When we showed love to the animals at the shelter, not only did they get calmer, but they shared affection, too.

We appreciated guest speakers and worship mentors s\who spoke to us about what they are passionate about. Barry Zalph talked to us about bike safety and traffic rules and how we can get exercise and help the environment through biking. Dinah Duvall and her daughter helped us make the masks that we used in the variety show. Hollister Knowlton talked about our ecological footprint and we were surprised to learn that even though we're Quakers, our footprint is not necessarily better than average. David Hartsough spoke about practicing nonviolence and we did some role playing.

During O.V.Y.M., we felt joyful, helpful, and strong. We also felt good about showing our love. We enjoyed ourselves so much, we wish we could have more retreats and gatherings.

The Middle Youth Program
Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
Friends accepted the Epistle

82. Epistle from the Children's Program

George Balmide, Cecilia Branson, Adrian Cleven, Fiona Bolmida, and Alissa Vandembark presented the Epistle of the Children's Program.

Greetings to Friends Everywhere

Ten Young Friends aged 1-9 met at the 189th annual sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting at Earlham College in Richmond Indiana from July 29 – August 2, 2009 to consider the theme "Living Our Testimonies Today – Let Us Now See What Love Can Do."

During worship sharing we talked about equality, peace, and love. Our stories were about sharing and caring. We make dog treats and catnip toys and took them to the animal shelter to share with the puppies and kitties. We showed our love with homemade gifts.

Imaginative play led to the children holding their own worship sharing in the tent Sunday morning. We were aware of their tender hearts as they watched a live bunny outside and wished to include it in their play.

Experiences of equality and love came during the singing and dancing with the adults. We experienced folk dances from around the world. We sang and rejoiced about the children who saved the trees. We felt a part of the larger community through these experiences.

The Children's Program
Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

83. Epistle from the Young Adult Friends of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

Howie Baker presented the Epistle of the Young Adult Friends.

Epistle of the Young Adult Friends, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting 2009

Greetings to Friends everywhere! Fifteen of us met at Earlham College between July 29 and August 2. Our community is scattered across activities with all age ranges at our yearly meeting. YAFs make up the majority of our child care providers and chaperones for the teens and middle youth, leaving the other half of us to attend worship sharing, business sessions, and workshops.

Needless to say, our spiritual experiences of yearly meeting are very different. Those of us who provide care for the younger generation are nourished, and sometimes exhausted, by their zest for life. Many of the rest of us labor in Meeting for Business and are nourished by the workshops we attend. Those of us who like staying up late strengthen our fellowship over brownies and conversation, or we relax with our books. The only free time we all have in common is during mealtimes, and you can usually find a table in the cafeteria composed mostly of YAFs who are hanging out and checking in.

It was during one such mealtime when we had our Meeting for Business. Along with conversation about Segways and other such silly stuff, we nominated and approved some officers for our nascent program. Howie Baker is our clerk, Nick Rhein and Newell Pledger-Shinn are our co-convenors and net gurus, and Rachel Dean is our treasurer. We plan to hold a number of retreats over the coming year, with our next to take place at Fall Creek Meeting in late October.

We hope this Epistle finds you well, and look forward to hearing how the Inward Light of Christ is moving in your community. If you're ever in the area, look us up.

Yours in the Light,
YAFs of OVYM

84. Epistle of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

Betsy Neale and Barry Zalph presented the Epistle of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
July 29 – August 2, 2009

Living Our Testimonies Today: Let's See What Love Can Do

Greetings and blessings to Friends everywhere

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of Friends (OVYM) met for our 189th annual sessions on the campus of Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, July 29 through August 2, 2009, with the theme, "Living Our Testimonies Today: Let's See What Love Can Do." 173 attended, including Friends from OVYM, visiting Friends, and other guests. While this marked a 10 per cent decrease in attendance from last year, we noted significant increases in the numbers of teens and continued strong attendance by young adult Friends. Four well-represented monthly

meetings accounted for 41 per cent of all participants, reflecting strong and growing involvement from those meetings alongside a decline in yearly meeting participation among several other monthly meetings. This exemplifies a patchwork of strong and weak elements within our yearly meeting.

Listen deeply and then put love into action – this advice echoed in many areas of our Yearly Meeting sessions this year. This theme ran through the State of Society reports of our monthly meetings. It described our business sessions, conducted with skillful clerking and thoughtful engagement by Friends. Our plenary speakers, Hollister Knowlton speaking on “Right Relationship: A Story of Love for the Planet and a Journey to Gaviotas” and David Hartsough addressing “Living Our Peace Testimony in the 21st Century,” each presented us with spirit-led ways to put love into action. Hollister encouraged us to live more lightly on our precious planet, and told us about Gaviotas, a sustainable community in Colombia built around innovative technologies. David recounted his work around the globe employing nonviolent means to challenge injustice and highlighted the many successful nonviolent campaigns in the twentieth century described in the film, “A Force More Powerful.” He urged Friends to work ensure that this film is widely seen. Friends were deeply moved and inspired by both Hollister’s and David’s presentations.

Friends also participated in workshops and interest groups devoted to a broad range of spiritual and social concerns. The spirit continues to lead OVYM Friends to have fun and strengthen our social bonds through intergenerational games, our annual variety show, and biking and rafting for young people. We also remembered Friends at two memorial meetings – one our annual memorial meeting and the other a meeting called to remember a beloved Friend, very active in the yearly meeting, who died a few days before our sessions began.

At these sessions OVYM Friends also addressed a number challenging issues. One quarterly meeting reported that it feels morbidly weak, suffers from low attendance, and feels disrespected by the yearly meeting. This report spurred a discussion about the frail state of both of our quarterly meetings. In addition, we have difficulty finding Friends to serve in many leadership and committee positions, including the Advancement and Nurture Committee. As a result, the work of this committee has been severely curtailed. The revision of our book of faith and practice has also been quite challenging. We have worked for ten years, laboring over several controversial issues, often failing to find unity.

Yet the Spirit’s blessings continue to manifest themselves among us, strengthening our faith and resolve. We found long-sought unity on revised text on membership for our book of faith and practice, and reaffirmed our confidence in the committee laboring on revisions. Our business sessions reflected mutual respect, forbearance, and dependence on our Guide. All ages took joy in the high level of participation and enthusiasm in the youth programs, with a clear sense that our young Friends see OVYM as their home. Our young adult Friends credit their childhood yearly meeting experiences with helping to form their Quaker identities. We celebrated the resurgence of involvement by young adult friends, who engaged so fully in the activities of younger and older Friends that they longed for more time among their peers. We received joyfully the report from the teen trip to Alaska for Spirit Camp in conjunction with Alaska Friends Conference. The trip, which involved financial, physical, and spiritual challenges,

rewarded the faith of all involved. The gifts of our Youth Secretary and Teen Committee, and the Spirit Camp staff, created a life-enriching experience for our teens with spiritual benefits already evident in the days following their return. Our plenary speakers inspired and challenged us with specific examples of how Friends, seeing what love can do, contribute mightily to healing a wounded and imperiled world. Not neglecting our own spiritual nurture, we grounded ourselves in waiting worship throughout the sessions and opened our hearts in worship-sharing each morning.

As we look toward the future, we face serious challenges, but we also enjoy abundant gifts that give us hope and joy. As we seek to put love into action, we wonder if we might find the spiritual vitality we seek if we could be more open with each other about our personal spiritual experiences. We share with Friends this query: How can our monthly, quarterly, and yearly meetings cultivate our hearts to foster the growth of the Seed?

Friends accepted the Epistle with a change from the floor.

85. Closing Worship

The session closed at 11:02AM and moved to Stout Meeting House for worship. The Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting will reconvene Seventh Month 28, 2009 at Earlham College for the 190th annual session.

Presiding Clerk: Ben Griffith

Assistant Clerk: Virginia Wood

Recording Clerk: Deb Kociszewski (assisted Martha Viehmann and Barry Zalph on Minute number 49)

Roll call of Monthly Meeting Representatives

(See Minutes 3, 18, 34, 45, 58, 71)

189th Session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of Friends
Seventh Month 29 through Eighth Month 2, 2009

Miami Quarterly Meeting

Campus	Roy Joe Stuckey, Ruth Stuckey
Community	Eric Wolfe, Paulette Meier
Dayton	David Wood
Eastern Hills	J.P. Lund
Green Plain	Carolyn Taylor
Lexington	Richard Mitchell
Louisville	Beth Parrish, Barry Zalph
Miami	Tom Nowel
Oxford	Paul Kriese, Steven Angell
Yellow Springs	Ben Thornber
Henderson Worship Group	

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

Bloomington	Rex Sprouse
Clear Creek	Newell Pledger-Shinn,
Fall Creek	Diann Herzog
Fort Wayne Friends	Paul Ricketts
Hopewell	
Lafayette	Linda Olis
Maple Grove	
North Meadow Circle	Stanley Zarowin
White Rose	Vaughn Peebles
Fort Wayne Worship Group	

Notes from Threshing Sessions

Threshing Session – Membership, Part III, Draft 4

This procedure has worked very well for Community Friends Meeting.

Wording: (last line first paragraph) word should be *rearing* rather than *raising* – raising applies to animals

Do we need to add text on youth who initiate membership?

It doesn't make sense for children to ask for "adult membership"

Youth membership as used in this document refers to membership initiated by someone (parent or guardian) on behalf of child or young person because they are not able to do so for themselves. It is not a category indicating the age of the member.

Suggestion: define youth membership in the glossary

Talk to children and youth about membership

Clearness process should be part of youth membership

This process should be reviewed by young people before approval

Threshing Session – Seeking Harmony in Creation

The shortening of the document has taken out its teeth. It needs specifics on what individuals (can) do.

We need an admission that we are in a deep crisis, "seriously unraveling"

We need a document that will stand the test of time.

Our view of community is essential

Public policy must be addressed

Refer to redemption

This is a statement for the F&P, not a minute

Economic system is umbrella under which the attack on the environment is happening

"Walk more lightly" In the future, will Friends understand what we mean?

Population control is a key issue, though it is highly controversial

Appended Materials

Texts Approved at the 2009 Annual Sessions

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

July 31, 2009

At the 2009 annual sessions, on July 31, 2009, after a year of seasoning following the 2008 annual sessions, Parts I and II of the membership section were approved for our book of discipline, now called *Faith and Practice*. These texts appear below.

We remind Friends that because the membership section is such a long section, it has been divided into three parts during the review and revision process. The part demarcations will not appear in the final publication of the section. Parts I and II address all aspects of membership except the membership of children. A suggested procedure for the membership of children is outlined in Membership (Part III), which is published elsewhere in this Minute Book, and which will be brought to the floor of the 2010 sessions for consideration for final approval.

Faith and Practice: The Book of Discipline of the

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Membership, (Part I) 6th Draft,

Ninth Month 6, 2008

The meaning and responsibilities of membership

Membership in the Religious Society of Friends has been called an “outward sign of an inner experience of the living God and of unity with the other members of a living body” (*Faith and Practice of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends*, 1985, p. 235). Membership expresses a commitment to the Religious Society of Friends, founded on the belief that God is actively guiding the individual and the community of faith. Becoming a member expresses outwardly an inward leading toward spiritual enlightenment and growth. When a meeting accepts a person into membership, the meeting and the new member enter into a long-term spiritually based covenant relationship.

Membership entails several responsibilities including bearing faithful testimony to the guiding principles of the Religious Society of Friends and giving of one’s energy, time, and financial resources, as one is able. Members are expected to faithfully attend meeting for worship and meeting for business, and are encouraged to participate in quarterly and yearly meeting activities. Members should be willing to enter into a process of loving discernment with the meeting to seek where their gifts and talents can be most helpful. Such service may include pastoral care, religious education, witness to the broader community, or involvement in the broader Quaker world.

The role of attenders

There are those who manifest a continuing interest in the life of the meeting, but have not entered into formal membership. Friends welcome the participation of such active attenders in activities of the meeting, offer them guidance and instruction in Quakerism, and nurture their spiritual growth. Active attenders, nourished through their involvement with the meeting, familiar with and enriched by Friends' basic beliefs and practices, and willing to undertake greater responsibilities within the meeting are encouraged to apply for membership.

Preparation for membership

Friends consider membership to be a serious relationship to be entered into after careful discernment. It is generally recommended that an individual considering application for membership attend meeting for worship and meeting for business regularly, seek service on a meeting committee, and undertake a personal study of Quaker faith and practice. Prospective applicants for membership need not delay application fearing they have not yet attained a particular level of spirituality. Becoming a member is intended to mark the beginning of a long-term commitment to a way of life, not its ultimate completion.

Application process

Those who desire to become members of the Religious Society of Friends should apply to the monthly meeting they attend by submitting a letter stating this request to the clerk of the Committee for Ministry and Counsel. The Committee will then appoint a clearness committee to meet with the applicant. The clearness committee should include one or more members of the Committee for Ministry and Counsel and may include other seasoned members of the meeting. The members of the committee will hold worshipful discussions with the applicant as often and for as long as necessary for all to reach unity regarding the rightness of the relationship and the readiness of the applicant for membership. During the clearness committee's deliberations, applications for membership should generally be treated as confidential.

After meeting with the candidate, the clearness committee reports its findings to the Committee for Ministry and Counsel. When clearness to move forward with an application is reached, the Committee for Ministry and Counsel should report the recommendation for membership to the next regularly appointed monthly meeting for business. The committee's report is to be recorded in a minute, but no action on the application is to be taken at that meeting for business. At this time Friends are encouraged to get to know the applicant if they have not done so earlier, and Friends who have questions or reservations about the applicant should explore these with the Committee for Ministry and Counsel. At the following regular monthly meeting for business, Friends should consider the application for membership and, if prepared to do so, should approve it, recording the action in a minute. The individual thereby becomes a member of the monthly meeting and of the quarterly and yearly meetings of which the monthly meeting is a constituent member. It is customary for Friends to appoint a committee to welcome the individual into membership.

If it becomes clear during the application process to the applicant, to the clearness committee, or to both that membership is not advisable or not advisable at this time, the application may be withdrawn. Friends are advised to respond lovingly to such applications, encouraging the applicant to continue attendance and participation in the life of the meeting. Those whose applications are withdrawn may be led to reapply for membership at a later time. Membership itself is not as important as the spiritual growth of the prospective member.

Dual membership

Membership is a major commitment to participate in a particular community of Friends, and full participation in two religious bodies at once is usually impractical. Dual membership is generally discouraged. Except in unusual circumstances, a member of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting belongs to a particular monthly meeting and should not hold full membership in another religious body, including another monthly meeting.

Membership (Part II),5th Draft

Ninth Month 6, 2008

Sojourning membership

When Friends find themselves temporarily residing away from their home meeting, they may wish to be released from most of the usual responsibilities of membership in the home meeting and be willing to take on such responsibilities in their new location. Such Friends may ask their home meeting to issue a sojourning minute, which is then conveyed to the Clerk of the new meeting. Upon acceptance of the Friend as a Sojourning member, the Clerk of the new meeting will inform the Clerk of the home meeting. Sojourning members are considered fully participating members and may serve the new meeting in whatever ways are fitting. However, the primary financial responsibility of these members will remain with their home meeting, and they will also be counted in their home meeting's statistical report. Sojourning status ends when the Sojourner leaves and the Clerk of the new meeting notifies the home meeting. Friends who find that their stay is longer than two years should seriously consider transferring their membership.

Transfer of membership

It is recommended that a member who moves away from his or her monthly meeting seek a new meeting where he or she can assume full responsibilities of membership. When such a meeting is found, the Friend will ask the home meeting to issue a certificate of transfer. Upon verifying that the applicant is a member, the home meeting's Committee for Ministry and Counsel brings the request before the monthly meeting for approval. Once issued, the certificate of transfer is conveyed to the Clerk of the new monthly meeting, where it should be referred to the Committee for Ministry and Counsel for review. When prepared to do so, the Committee for

Ministry and Counsel brings forward the request to the monthly meeting. Upon approval, the Friend is recorded as a member of the new meeting, and the other meeting is notified of this action. Until this is done, the Friend remains a member of the other meeting. The new monthly meeting should appoint one or more Friends to welcome the transferred member.

Termination of membership

Membership in the Religious Society of Friends can be terminated in cases of (a) resignation, (b) loss of interest in membership, or (c) disownment, each of which is explained below. Termination of membership becomes effective only when a record to this effect is made in the minutes of the monthly meeting of which that person is a member. One whose membership has been discontinued and who desires to be reinstated may be received into membership in accordance with the procedure for admitting new members.

(a) Resignation

A member wishing to resign his or her membership should address a letter of resignation to the Clerk of the monthly meeting. The Clerk should refer the letter to the Committee for Ministry and Counsel. Normally, a resignation should not be accepted until after a visit (or exchange of correspondence) to inquire sensitively into the matter. If the member does not reconsider, the Committee for Ministry and Counsel should report this to the meeting, and the meeting should release that Friend from membership. The Clerk should inform the former member in writing of the action.

(b) Loss of interest in membership

Membership entails participation in the life of one's monthly meeting as a spiritual community. Meetings and their members share a mutual commitment to each other's spiritual wellbeing. When Friends become concerned about a member who has not attended meeting for worship or communicated with the meeting, the Committee for Ministry and Counsel should contact him or her, expressing the meeting's care and loving concern. Friends should seek through the grace of God and the spirit of divine love to restore this Friend to regular fellowship with the community and to provide assistance and support, if possible. In some cases, it may be necessary for Friends to approach the individual repeatedly. If, after sincere and diligent effort, restoration of interest in the meeting is unsuccessful, the monthly meeting may adopt a minute removing him or her from membership. The meeting should, if possible, inform the individual of this action.

(c) Disownment

A member whose conduct or publicly expressed views repeatedly undermine Friends' testimonies should be labored with lovingly and patiently for as long as there is reasonable hope of restoring unity with the fellowship. No judgment should be placed hastily or in the spirit of condemnation. Monthly meetings, however, have authority to record a minute of disunity with such a person's actions.

In rare and exceptional circumstances, the meeting also has the authority to terminate a person's membership through disownment. This process begins when the Committee for Ministry and Counsel brings forward to the monthly meeting a minute justifying a recommendation of disownment. If the monthly meeting agrees to proceed with the recommendation, the member should be promptly notified of the charges in writing and should be given an opportunity to present his or her case to the meeting at a called meeting for business devoted exclusively to this matter. The monthly meeting should assure itself that all possible steps to aid the member's return to unity with the meeting have been taken, remembering that all persons are subject to error and that love and forgiveness may restore unity. After careful consideration, but without undue delay, the meeting may approve a minute terminating membership. In that case, a copy of the minute should be delivered to the individual along with notification of the right to appeal. A disowned person is released from the rights and responsibilities of membership; however, disownment does not mean a severing of all relationship between the meeting and the disowned person. Friends are encouraged to treat this person with loving kindness.

Appeals

If anyone believes that the monthly meeting has rendered an unjust judgment against him or her, that person may appeal to the quarterly meeting. The individual making the appeal should promptly notify the Clerk of the quarterly meeting and the Clerk of the monthly meeting. The quarterly meeting is then to refer the case to a suitable committee, excluding Friends from the monthly meeting involved. The monthly meeting should appoint a committee to represent it in the appeals process and should provide the quarterly meeting's appeals committee with copies of all minutes having a bearing on the case. The appeals committee should meet with both parties, prayerfully consider the case, and report its recommendation to the following quarterly meeting. The quarterly meeting shall consider the recommendation, confirm or reverse the original judgment, or return the case to the monthly meeting for further consideration. Care should be taken to inform the person making the appeal and the monthly meeting of the decision, either of which, if dissatisfied, may appeal to the Yearly Meeting for further hearing. In the case of such an appeal, the Yearly Meeting shall in like manner refer the appeal to a suitable committee, excluding Friends from the quarterly meeting involved. This committee shall meet with the individual and representatives from the monthly meeting and the quarterly meeting, have access to all relevant minutes, and make a recommendation to the Yearly Meeting. The Yearly Meeting will then uphold or reverse the original decision, and Yearly Meeting's decision will be final. At either level of appeal, parties may agree to accept the judgment of the appeals committee and not bring the matter before the entire meeting body.

***Faith and Practice* text pending approval
at the 190TH SESSIONS (2010)
OYVM Discipline Revision Committee
September 2009**

Membership Section We remind Friends that because the membership section is such a long section, it has been divided into three parts during the review and revision process. The part demarcations will not appear in the final publication of the section.

At the 2009 annual sessions, after a year of seasoning following the 2008 annual sessions, Parts I and II of the membership section were approved for our book of discipline, now called *Faith and Practice*. Parts I and II appear elsewhere in the appendix of the 2009 Minute Book.

Membership, (Part III) addresses the membership of children. The 4th draft of Part III was threshed at the 2009 sessions. The committee then developed a 5th draft, making minor editing changes for clarification. In the first paragraph the 5th draft defines the terms “adult membership” and “youth membership” as used in the document. The final paragraph clarifies that some meetings may be led to implement different procedures for children’s membership. This 5th draft of Membership (Part III) is presented for a year of seasoning and final approval at the 2010 sessions.

According to established Yearly Meeting procedures, this text is being published in the Minute Book so that it may be considered by Friends prior to being brought back to the floor of the 2010 Yearly Meeting sessions for final approval. The 5th draft text appears below.

**Faith and Practice: The Book of Discipline of the
Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Membership (Part III), 5th Draft
Ninth Month 12, 2009
To be considered for approval at the 2010 OYVM Sessions**

Youth membership

Friends’ communities rest on a principle of equality and on the worth of every individual. We value and welcome the young people who attend our meetings and participate in the lives of our communities. At the same time, our faith rests on deep personal and individual experience, and membership in the Religious Society of Friends and in a particular monthly meeting calls for a serious commitment. One person cannot make this commitment for another, and a caregiver cannot make this commitment for a young child. In order to accommodate both of these spiritual insights, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting presents the following procedures as a model to consider. These procedures recognize both youth membership and adult membership and outline a process for transition to adult membership. Regardless of a Friend’s age, the term youth membership as used here is understood as membership requested by another on that Friend’s behalf, while the term adult membership is understood as membership requested by that Friend directly.

Members who are parents or those with parental responsibility intending to bring up a child in accordance with Friends' faith and practice may request youth membership for the child. Monthly meetings may accept minor children as youth members at the request of one or both of their parents or guardians. The Committee for Ministry and Counsel should approach members who are new parents and parents requesting transfer of membership and ask if they would like to request youth membership for their children. Likewise, the membership clearness process for new members who are parents should include the children in the discussion of membership. When the monthly meeting accepts a child into youth membership, the child will also be considered a youth member of the relevant quarterly meeting and of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

Children must ultimately make their own decision about adult membership. Youth members may request transition to adult membership at any time they feel ready to do so, by writing a simple letter to the Committee for Ministry and Counsel. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting recommends that monthly meetings appoint membership clearness committees for youth members seeking transition to adult membership, following the same procedures set forth above for new membership.

To help prepare children for making this decision, the meeting should teach children about the meaning and responsibilities of membership. This process includes teaching children how to enter into waiting worship and how to participate in the Spirit-led Quaker business process, giving them opportunities to accept responsibilities such as participation on committees as they are able, and encouraging them to participate in youth groups associated with quarterly meetings, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, and Friends General Conference.

When parents or other adult Friends sense that a young person may be ready for adult membership, they should encourage the youth member to consider taking this step. The Committee for Ministry and Counsel should send a letter to each youth member around age 16, expressing appreciation for the young person's gifts and growing spiritual maturity and encouraging him or her to consider whether the time is right to request adult membership. Ministry and Counsel should continue to send letters to the youth member every two or three years between the ages of 16 and 25. The youth member should be asked to make a decision by his or her 25th birthday.

If a youth member has not requested adult membership by age 25, youth membership status ends, and the monthly meeting will minute that action. Should a youth member of any age inform the meeting that he or she does not wish to remain a member of the Religious Society of Friends, Ministry and Counsel is advised to seek discernment regarding the appropriate course of action in that individual case. However, if the youth member is clear about resignation, the monthly meeting will minute that the individual's youth membership has ended. These young people should be warmly assured that they are welcome to continue as active attenders, that they may at any time request membership, and that the meeting will continue to support them with loving care.

Friends recognize that monthly meetings may discern alternative procedures concerning membership of children. Whatever procedures are adopted should reflect Friends' sense of loving concern and responsibility for children, as well as our belief in the value of raising children as part of a spiritual community.

Epistle

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

July 29 – August 2, 2009

Living Our Testimonies Today: Let's See What Love Can Do

Greetings and blessings to Friends everywhere

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of Friends (OVYM) met for our 189th annual sessions on the campus of Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, July 29 through August 2, 2009, with the theme, "Living Our Testimonies Today: Let's See What Love Can Do." 173 attended, including Friends from OVYM, visiting Friends, and other guests. While this marked a 10 per cent decrease in attendance from last year, we noted significant increases in the numbers of teens and continued strong attendance by young adult Friends. Four well-represented monthly meetings accounted for 41 per cent of all participants, reflecting strong and growing involvement from those meetings alongside a decline in yearly meeting participation among several other monthly meetings. This exemplifies a patchwork of strong and weak elements within our yearly meeting.

Listen deeply and then put love into action – this advice echoed in many areas of our Yearly Meeting sessions this year. This theme ran through the State of Society reports of our monthly meetings. It described our business sessions, conducted with skillful clerking and thoughtful engagement by Friends. Our plenary speakers, Hollister Knowlton speaking on "Right Relationship: A Story of Love for the Planet and a Journey to Gaviotas" and David Hartsough addressing "Living Our Peace Testimony in the 21st Century," each presented us with spirit-led ways to put love into action. Hollister encouraged us to live more lightly on our precious planet, and told us about Gaviotas, a sustainable community in Colombia built around innovative technologies. David recounted his work around the globe employing nonviolent means to challenge injustice and highlighted the many successful nonviolent campaigns in the twentieth century described in the film, "A Force More Powerful." He urged Friends to work ensure that this film is widely seen. Friends were deeply moved and inspired by both Hollister's and David's presentations.

Friends also participated in workshops and interest groups devoted to a broad range of spiritual and social concerns. The spirit continues to lead OVYM Friends to have fun and strengthen our social bonds through intergenerational games, our annual variety show, and biking and rafting for young people. We also remembered Friends at two memorial meetings – one our annual memorial meeting and the other a meeting called to remember a beloved Friend, very active in the yearly meeting, who died a few days before our sessions began.

At these sessions OVYM Friends also addressed a number challenging issues. One quarterly meeting reported that it feels morbidly weak, suffers from low attendance, and feels disrespected by the yearly meeting. This report spurred a discussion about the frail state of both of our quarterly meetings. In addition, we have difficulty finding Friends to serve in many leadership and committee positions,

including the Advancement and Nurture Committee. As a result, the work of this committee has been severely curtailed. The revision of our book of faith and practice has also been quite challenging. We have worked for ten years, laboring over several controversial issues, often failing to find unity.

Yet the Spirit's blessings continue to manifest themselves among us, strengthening our faith and resolve. We found long-sought unity on revised text on membership for our book of faith and practice, and reaffirmed our confidence in the committee laboring on revisions. Our business sessions reflected mutual respect, forbearance, and dependence on our Guide. All ages took joy in the high level of participation and enthusiasm in the youth programs, with a clear sense that our young Friends see OVYM as their home. Our young adult Friends credit their childhood yearly meeting experiences with helping to form their Quaker identities. We celebrated the resurgence of involvement by young adult friends, who engaged so fully in the activities of younger and older Friends that they longed for more time among their peers. We received joyfully the report from the teen trip to Alaska for Spirit Camp in conjunction with Alaska Friends Conference. The trip, which involved financial, physical, and spiritual challenges, rewarded the faith of all involved. The gifts of our Youth Secretary and Teen Committee, and the Spirit Camp staff, created a life-enriching experience for our teens with spiritual benefits already evident in the days following their return. Our plenary speakers inspired and challenged us with specific examples of how Friends, seeing what love can do, contribute mightily to healing a wounded and imperiled world. Not neglecting our own spiritual nurture, we grounded ourselves in waiting worship throughout the sessions and opened our hearts in worship-sharing each morning.

As we look toward the future, we face serious challenges, but we also enjoy abundant gifts that give us hope and joy. As we seek to put love into action, we wonder if we might find the spiritual vitality we seek if we could be more open with each other about our personal spiritual experiences. We share with Friends this query: How can our monthly, quarterly, and yearly meetings cultivate our hearts to foster the growth of the Seed?

OVYM Committee Reports

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report Sixth Month 17, 2009

Over the course of the last year, Whitewater Quarterly Meeting held three sessions: Tenth Month 11-12, 2008, at Happy Hallow Camp in Nashville, IN (in conjunction with the biannual Joint Quarterly Meeting, facilitated by North Meadow Circle of Friends); First Month 17, 2009, at Bloomington Friends Meetinghouse in Pendleton, IN; and Fourth Month 18, 2009, at Stout Meetinghouse in Richmond, IN (hosted by Clear Creek Friends Meeting). Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends gratefully acknowledge the faithful service of Friends who participated in hosting these sessions, as well as those who attended.

At the Fourth Month 2009 session, Friends united with a traveling letter forwarded by Bloomington Friends introducing Rex Sprouse, who has leading to travel under religious concern among Friends in the Midwest through Sixth Month 2010. The letter will be forwarded to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting for consideration.

At the First Month 2009 session, North Meadow Circle of Friends brought forward a minute on agrarian living. Friends were asked at the time to discuss and season this minute in their monthly meetings and to be prepared to report on those discussions at the Fourth Month 2009 session, at which time the minute would be considered again. Several meetings followed through and representatives presented summaries of discussions, including in a few cases alternative wordings at the subsequent session. Although there was clearly a broad-based sense of sympathy for the actions outlined in the original minute, a number of concerns were expressed. Friends agreed that rather than seeking to find precise wording around which all meetings can unite, each meeting would forward its responses and recommendations to the Clerk of the Earth Care Subcommittee of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

At the Tenth Month 2008 session, the Clerk shared with Friends a letter he had received from Eastern Hills Friends Meeting, expressing disappointment with the response that Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends had offered at an Executive Committee meeting in Third Month 2008 to an inquiry submitted to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting in autumn 2007 regarding the circumstances under which Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting would be open to the membership of meetings with programmed worship and/or paid pastors. At the time, Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends stressed that both of these practices are inconsistent with the current Book of Discipline of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, although a number of additional concerns were also raised. In their letter, Eastern Hill Friends Meeting asked Whitewater Quarterly Meeting to reconsider its position. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends agreed that the matter would be discussed again in their monthly meetings and the matter would be revisited at the Fourth Month 2009 session. At that session, reports on discussions about the Eastern Hills/Irvington concern were heard from North Meadow, Clear Creek, Lafayette, Fall Creek, and Bloomington Friends. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends seek to express their love for Irvington Friends and to find further venues for dialogue and outreach. At the same time, however, Friends found that there was no unity among Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friends to change the response to Irvington Friends' query minuted at the First Month 19, 2008 session.

At the Fourth Month 2009 session, Friends heard State of the Meeting reports from Bloomington, Clear Creek, Fall Creek, Fort Wayne, Lafayette, and North Meadow Friends Meetings. It was noted that this year's State of the Meeting reports were particularly successful at conveying the spiritual conditions of the monthly meetings. Although the quarterly meetings in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting are morbidly weak bodies, one should not imagine that Friends who attend sessions do not experience deeply spiritual speaking and listening.

Currently, Whitewater Quarterly Meeting's Advancement and Nurture Committee consists of: David Gay Diann Herzog (Fall Creek; term ending First Month 2011) and Elaine Troff (North Meadow; term ending First Month 2012). Friends have yet to discern a second member to serve on Budget and Finance Committee with Treasurer Stan Zarowin (North Meadow). At the moment, Rex Sprouse (Bloomington) is serving as Presiding Clerk. Rex prefers to clerk meetings without the assistant of a Recording Clerk. At any time, Whitewater Quarterly Meeting's Nominating Committee consists of those Friends who have been designated as their monthly meeting reporters/representatives to the Quarterly Meeting. At this time, Nominating Committee has been unable to identify a name to bring forward to replace the current Presiding Clerk, who has asked to be released from service. Once a new Presiding Clerk is in place, Ron Haldeman (North Meadow) will assume the office of Recording Clerk.

Those who regularly attend the Quarterly Meeting sessions generally enjoy the opportunity for fellowship with Friends they do not see every week and find these meetings spiritually nourishing. The quality of vocal ministry is sometimes very high, and the time together often enables Friends to receive encouragement and nurture in one-on-one or small group settings. At a recent session, Friends experienced the Divine grace of an unplanned worship sharing around the topic of healing.

However, it would be disingenuous to end this report on too optimistic a note. Attendance at Quarterly Meeting sessions is extremely poor. The vast majority of members of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting do not bother to attend even a single Quarterly Meeting session a year, and in many cases, only a handful of members of even the hosting monthly meeting attend. In general, our monthly meetings have failed to impress upon candidates for membership in the Religious Society of Friends both the joy and the responsibility associated with membership in the Quarterly Meeting. Very frequently, only about half of the constituent monthly meetings send reporters/representatives to Quarterly Meeting sessions. While we were blessed to be able to welcome Fort Wayne Friends Meeting into the Yearly Meeting in Fourth Month 2008, it should also be noted that Fort Wayne Friends came to us as a fully developed monthly meeting, fully prepared to enter into the life of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting in terms of both faith and practice: Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Friend merely needed to visit, to listen, and to recognize what the Holy Spirit had already accomplished among Fort Wayne Friends. We contributed virtually nothing to their development.

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting is generally not respected by the Yearly Meeting, as evidenced by the handling of the Irvington query, the Eastern Hills letter, and the protests heard at the 2008 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting sessions from the Yearly Meeting Advancement and Nurture Committee over the Quarterly Meeting's establishment of two committees necessary for it to function. I would like to call on Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends to enter into a serious discussion about the continued existence of the quarterly meeting structure. Only if we are willing to participate actively and regularly in the life of our quarterly meetings, to impress on new members that this participation is both a right and a

responsibility of membership in the Religious Society of Friends, and to honor and support the mission of the quarterly meetings as the bodies responsible for shepherding new meetings into the Yearly Meeting, should we continue in this organizational pattern. If we are not willing to do what is required to let quarterly meetings thrive, then we should lay this structure down, being careful that the responsibilities and services it once provided are met by other structures. I ask that we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and that we then act on the Light we are given. To allow these bodies to continue in their current moribund state, holding responsibilities that neither the Yearly Meeting nor most of the membership in the monthly meetings believe they should have and floundering for a sense of purpose, does not feel rightly ordered.

Rex Sprouse, Presiding Clerk

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

Miami Quarterly Meeting

Miami Quarterly Meeting gathered on three occasions during the past year, the first on Tenth Month, 11, 2009 at Happy Hollow Campgrounds near Nashville, Indiana. This was a joint quarterly meeting hosted by Whitewater Quarterly Meeting. In addition to Meeting for Worship and business session, Friends enjoyed a beautiful and warm weekend of reflection in the woods and trails of the camp. Twenty-one Friends attended meeting for worship with attention to business including sixteen named representatives from monthly meetings. The Quarter united with Community Friends Meeting in its minute which opposed a gambling initiative on the Ohio ballot. Friends approved an expenditure from the Cincinnati Fund to assist OVYM teens in the cost of the joint quarter gathering at the camp. Eastern Hills Monthly Meeting requested that further discussion and consideration of the request from Irvington Friends Meeting take place among monthly meetings. Irvington Friends Meeting is a programmed meeting with a pastor. This meeting has approached OVYM to determine the feasibility of affiliation with a non programmed, FGC, yearly meeting. Representatives to the Quarter affirmed continued openness and dialog with Irvington Friends.

Miami Quarterly Meeting convened at Louisville Monthly Meeting on Second Month, 15, 2009. After weeks of snow and severe ice storms, Friends enjoyed a warm and sunny late winter day for travel to Louisville. The program portion of the gathering was especially enjoyable as OVYM teens engaged adults in a worship sharing session regarding questions of living as a Quaker in a secular world and the role of the teens within the yearly meeting. This session highlighted the leadership and intuitiveness of our teens, a critically important constituency within the yearly meeting. Nineteen Friends attended meeting for worship with attention to business including nine named representatives from monthly meetings. Nominations for Quarterly Meeting officers were approved. All incumbent officers agreed to another one year term, Tom Nowel, Presiding Clerk; Lonny Burger, Recording Clerk; Frank Huss, Treasurer; and Susan Hyde, two year term on the Committee of Two. Friends considered the minute "Seeking Right Relationship with Food and Land" which had been submitted for consideration by the Earth Care Subcommittee. Miami Monthly Meeting had approved the minute, and Community Meeting had also approved the minute with a minor change. Representatives approved the spirit of the minute but also recommended that it be returned to all monthly meetings in the quarter for wider unity and reflection with the understanding that Miami Quarterly Meeting would again consider the minute at its session during Fifth Month. Friends considered financial support of the OVYM teen trip to Alaska. Friends felt that it was appropriate to allocate funding from the Cincinnati Fund. It was stated that Quarterly Meeting and Yearly Meeting have a history of supporting youth in their quest for spiritual growth and discovery. Friends approved financial support in the amount of \$1000.00 with additional financial support, if necessary, assigned to the authority of the Committee of Two.

Miami Quarterly Meeting convened on Fifth Month, 17, 2009 at Miami Monthly Meeting in Waynesville, Ohio. This was the 200 year anniversary of Miami Quarterly Meeting. The first session was held on Fifth Month, 13, 1809 in Waynesville at nearly the same location as the present day gathering. Friends enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate the anniversary with historic documents and photographs which were placed on a history table in the Red Brick Meeting House. The highlight of the anniversary event was a wonderful power point presentation of the photographic history of Miami Quarterly Meeting which had been created by Christine Snyder from Dayton Friends Meeting. Many old photographs of meeting houses, graveyards and other historic sites chronicled the spread of Friends' Meetings throughout the southwestern portion of Ohio in the early and mid 1800s. Copies of the minutes taken at the first session of the quarter in 1809 were on display, both men's and women's sessions. State of Society Reports were read in a spirit led manner. This is always a special event as Friends consider the health, vitality and concerns of our constituent monthly meetings. Nineteen Friends attended meeting for worship with attention to business including nine named representatives from monthly meetings. Friends again considered the proposed minute from the Earth Care Subcommittee regarding food and land. As unity among monthly meetings was not achievable, Friends suggested that the subcommittee re-write the

minute based on suggestions that have been forwarded by both quarterly meetings and monthly meetings. It was also suggested that monthly meetings have another opportunity to respond to a revised minute prior to submission to yearly meeting. Friends approved a minute outlining these recommendations. Roy Joe Stuckey was in attendance from Campus Meeting. He reported that he is also Presiding Clerk of Miami Center Quarterly Meeting of Wilmington Yearly Meeting. Campus Meeting has dual membership with OVYM and Wilmington. Roy Joe invited Friends to attend Miami Center Quarterly Meeting session on the second First Day of Eighth Month, 2009. The session is being held at the historic meeting house at Pioneer Village in Caesar Creek State Park.

Quarterly Meeting Friends expressed appreciation for the wonderful hospitality of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting, Louisville Friends Meeting and Miami Monthly Meeting as they each hosted our sessions over the past year. We experienced centered meetings for worship, warm facilities, delicious meals and time to enjoy friendships and relationships. We have been blessed by the attendance of teens and youth. We strive to gather in a manner that will allow Friends to hear and follow the still, small voice of God in our corporate actions and individual lives.

OVYM NOMINATIONS Final Report

OFFICERS	Presiding Clerk	<i>Ben Griffith</i> (thru '10 YM)
	Assistant Clerk	<i>Paul Kriese</i>
	Recording Clerk	<i>Deborah Kociszewski</i>
	Treasurer	<i>Stephen Angell</i>
	Assistant Treasurer	<i>Wilson Palmer</i>

2009 SESSIONS	2009
Epistolary Committee	<i>1. Betsy Neale 2. Barry Zalph</i>
Summary of Epistles received	<i>Bill and Janette Shetter</i>
Reporter to Friends Journal	<i>Newell Pledger-Shinn</i>
Memorial Meeting	<i>1. Janette Shetter 2. Roy Joe Stuckey</i>

2010	2011	2012
ADVANCEMENT AND NURTURE (12)		
<i>Sunny Rhein (PM)</i>	David Garman (1W)	<i>Terry Reynolds (1W)</i>
	Jack Davis (1W)	V _____
	V _____	V _____
	V _____	V _____
YEARLY MTG PLANNING (ex-officio, Clerks of Teen & Junior Yearly Mtg. Comm.) (9)		
	V _____	<i>Phyllis Martin (1W)</i>
Stan Zarowin (2W)	Tunia Mclure (1W)	<i>Byron Branson (1M)</i>
V _____	Jeremy Coppock (1M)	<i>Jamie Fota (1M)</i>
CHILDREN'S PROGRAM (6)		
V _____	Beth Parrish (2M)	<i>Gloria Bruner (2W)</i>
Hannah Branson* (4M)	V _____	<i>Susan Hyde (4M)</i>
MIDDLE YOUTH (9 - Maybe 6)		
Dinah Duvall (1W)	Gail Koehler* (2M)	<i>Barbara Robinson (2M)</i>
	V _____	<i>Jason Dean (1M)</i>
	Yoshiya Togami (2M)	
TEEN ACTIVITIES (9) + 6 teens		
Wilhelmina Branson (3M)	Nikki Coffey Tousley* (1M)	<i>Cynthia Sibrel* (1M)</i>
V _____	Chance Duvall (1W)	<i>Dale Blanchard (1M)</i>
Mandy Smith (1W)	James Taylor (1W)	V _____
_____ -TM	_____ -TM	_____ -TM
_____ -TM	_____ -TM	_____ -TM

2010	2011	2012
PEACE & SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE (9)		
Richard Mitchell* (2M)	Ken Bordwell (2M)	<i>Jane Stowe (2W)</i>
Frank Huss (2M)	V _____	<i>Robert Vetter (1W)</i>
Ron Haldeman (3W)	V _____	V _____
AUDITING COMMITTEE (2 year overlapping terms)		
Donita Barnes (2W)	<i>Veronica Frost (1M)</i>	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE (ex-officio, Treasurer, Assist. Treas. [-- who is Clerk of B&F] (3+)		
Stan Zarowin (2W)	Dean Matthews (1M)	V _____
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE (9)		
Richard Mitchell (1M)	Marjorie Isaacs (2M)	<i>Diann Herzog (4W)</i>
	V _____	V _____
		V _____
DISCIPLINE REVISION COMMITTEE (9)		
Lisa Cayard (2M)	Paul Buckley (1W)	<i>Rex Sprouse* (3W)</i>
Betsy Neale* (2M)	Byron Branson (3M)	<i>Barbara Robinson (1M)</i>
	V _____	<i>Mary Garman (1W)</i>
Wilson Palmer–Invited Member		
FRIENDS MUSIC CAMP BOARD (ALL reps named by FMC) ** (6)		
Carolyn Stanley(OH Cons.)	Paul Wagner (3M) (?)	<i>Victoria Burke (1M)</i>
Barbarie Hill (1M)	Gail Miller (1W)	<i>Ellen Duell (2M)</i>
BRADDOCK TRUSTEE +Named by Braddock family (3) Year to Year		
Byron Branson (2M)	Ramona Braddock Buck +	
QUAKER QUILL EDITOR		
<i>Dan Cartmell</i>		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
RECORDS COORDINATOR		
<i>Susan Hyde/Christine Snyder</i>	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
STATISTICIAN		
<i>Frank Huss</i>	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR		
<i>Erik Clevon</i>	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
YM WEBSITE		
V _____	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

2011	2013	2015
YEARLY MEETING TRUSTEES (6)		
Vaughn Peebles (2W)	<i>David Hyde (1M)</i>	<i>Tom Nowel (2M)</i>
Beth Stafford (2M)	Evalyn Kellum (1W)	<i>David Duvall (2W)</i>

REPRESENTATIVES TO FRIENDS ORGANIZATIONS (4)		
2010	2011	2012
AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE (4)		
Phyllis Martin (1W)	Jana Schroeder (1M)	<i>Peter Fosl (1M)</i>
		V _____
FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION (up to 4)		
	Rachel Dean (2M)	V _____
	JP Lund (2M)	
	Krystin Schmidt (2M)	
FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (3)		
Rex Sprouse (1W)	Eric Wolff (1M)	
	Richard House (1M)	
FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (4)		
Frank Huss (2M)	V _____	V _____
		V _____

The following are one year Y M appointments to the named organization

2010

FLGBTQC	Georgette Boneham
WILLIAM PENN HOUSE COMMITTEE	__V_____
QUAKER EARTHCARE WITNESS	<i>Marci Ankrom</i>
FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS	__V_____

M = Miami Quarter; W = Whitewater Quarter; 1 or 2 = 1st or 2nd 3-year term; P = Partial term; * = convener or clerk;

TM = Teen Member. (#) next to the Committee’s name equals the number of committee members for that committee.

“V_____” equals a un-filled position (or vacancy) to be filled later by E.C. and NOM COM action.

Executive Committee Report

Ben Griffith, Clerk

Our Executive Committee had a relatively “quiet” year. We have a continuing concern about the lack of attendance by some of the monthly meeting representatives. Our ability to hear all voices and concerns from within the Yearly Meeting is severely limited by this.

There are a number of noteworthy actions to report:

- Transition from employee status for our positions of Youth Secretary and Clerical Support Person to a contractual relationship. Legally we are better off to have this kind of relationship and additionally there are some labor saving advantages for the treasurer.
- Training of youth workers, volunteer and paid, was taken under the care of Religious Education. The committee will establish periodic and regular showing of the training dvd.
- Received and approved the Audit Committee report from last year. Also approved the Nominating Committee’s request to allow the Auditor’s more time to complete the audit. The handbook asks the audit to be completed before sessions. This leaves only the briefest window for the audit to occur.
- We held our first regularly called Executive Committee via phone conference. The committee members felt it useful to conduct many of the more straight -forward items of business this way, but concern exists about discerning any more involved matters. It does save gas, green house emissions and time.
- A number of handbook revisions were approved and posting the “official” approved version on the web. All handbooks that are floating around are merely reference documents- it is just too much work to try and continually update the many copies with approved revisions.
- Caught by the unusual calendar issues presented to the YM planning committee, the Executive Committee approved the Planning Cmte’s suggestion for providing subsidies to First-time Attenders and Young Adult Friends (18-35 yrs. Old). However, for any future subsidies, the Planning Committee will bring the matter to the floor of the sessions for approval for the following year.
- Held the first Annual Budget Advisory Meeting in April. All Friends (anyone who wanted to be a part of the process) were encouraged to attend a morning session of Executive Meeting to help flesh out concerns and ideas about the proposed budget for Yearly Meeting
- Extended the deadline for the Ad hoc Committee on Contributions to work with the Budget and Finance Committee to bring a well-thought out plan to regularly review our contributions in the yearly meeting budget.

In addition to these actions, our committee heard about a year of reflection and study by A&N to thresh out its role in YM, heard from the Teen Committee and Youth Secretary at the steady progress of fund-raising to make the Alaska Trip possible, and many of the myriad chores that our many people are engaged with. We are an active body of Friends. Please continue to hold the work of this interim body, the Executive Committee, in the Light. It is an especially challenging chore to discern the work that needs to be done for the Yearly Meeting and the work that should/could wait for the session floor.

Clerical Support Staff Report

All is well. The main news is that the Clerical Support Staff position is now an independent contractor rather than an employee position. This hasn't changed the substance of what I do, but only how I get paid. I continue to exchange emails, calls, and even letters with a variety of Friends who are doing the work of their Monthly Meetings and the Yearly Meeting. Please let me know if I can help you or your Meeting better communicate with the Yearly Meeting. Remember to check out the updated Handbook on the OVYM website if you have questions about OVYM and its structure. I welcome pictures to post on the blogsite too. I'm still grateful to be able to do some of this work at home and work with and for Quakers.

Yours in service,

Deborah Jordan

OVYM Web Site

Barbarie Hill, Publications Coordinator

The OVYM web site (<http://quaker.org/ovym>) was maintained this year with the following additions:

- Program, epistles, minutes, FY09 budget and statistical report from the 2008 annual sessions
- Officers and committee clerks
- Issues of Quaker Quill
- Program, schedule and registration forms for 2009 annual sessions

Other pages were updated as needed.

Personnel Committee Report

The Personnel Committee enjoyed a full agenda over the past year. A minute amending the composition of the committee was approved by the Executive Committee last year. But the most important work of the committee involved OVYM paid staff. Yearly Meeting employment practices were reviewed and brought into compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act last year. The committee balanced the needs of OVYM with employee fairness and equity and determined that moving to a contractual relationship provided benefits for all involved. Service provider agreements replaced the direct employee relationship. This approach also simplified the responsibilities of the OVYM Treasurer. Initial six month contracts were finalized with the clerical support person and Youth Secretary with the expectation of one year renewal contracts to follow. The committee then recommended a number of modifications to the personnel policies, that are contained in the OVYM Handbook, to reflect the new contractual arrangements.

With the recent announcement of the resignation of the current Youth Secretary, the Personnel Committee will be prepared to assist with the recruitment process and development of a new employment agreement. Members of the Personnel Committee are J P Lund, Steve Angell and Tom Nowel.

Tom Nowel
Clerk

Summary of Epistles 2009
Janette K. Shetter and William Z. Shetter

On reading through the epistles we have received, one thing that impressed us was how for Friends the Yearly Meeting sessions seem to be a high point in the year. It is a unique chance to get together for addressing common concerns, for fellowship together and for just plain fun. And it is a time for being more conscious of the presence of our youth than Friends might be when aware of only their own Meetings. The epistle from Britain YM starts by saying “As we opened our hearts one to another in the truth of God, we experienced the personal warmth of friendship and passed around infectious smiles that the children gave us.”

Almost all expressed the simple joy of being together. North Pacific YM speaks of “the renewal of our connections”, Philadelphia YM of “the holy community we created at this gathering”, Lake Erie YM says “we have been blessed by ... each other’s presence”, Northern YM “We come for community”. New England YM is honest in reminding us that “we need to learn to forgive each other”. New York YM finds a blessing in the rainy weather at YM time: “throughout the week the nearly continual rains kept us largely indoors: in community, in relationship, and in ourselves”. Unprogrammed Quakers in Latin America assure us that “this gathering was a gift of friendship, closeness and intimacy”, and German YM “We rejoice in the presence of so many families”.

The epistles mention the nature around them at the time of meeting. Lake Erie YM speaks of “torrents of rain that miraculously parted whenever the children’s program had outside activities”, Intermountain YM Friends are awed by “the beauty of God’s creation ... the strong wind sweeping across the colored rock spires”, Northern YM reminds us of “the natural loveliness of our retreat site.” At New York YM “the rains continued to pour down as did the power of God working in our midst”, New Zealand YM had similar weather: “The weather sent us rain, mist, fog and welcome sunshine”, and Cuba YM met “bathed by the rushing waters of the Caribbean”.

The nature around them has reinforced Friends’ deep consciousness of the care of the earth. Philadelphia YM says that “an earth restored [is] much on our minds”, Intermountain YM reminds us that “climate change continues as a significant concern”, and Iowa YM is mindful of “disproportionate use of the earth’s limited resources”. Britain YM says “we walk cheerfully in the right direction, seeking to live sustainably on our earth.” New Zealand YM assures us that “we were challenged by Friends working on issues of Climate Change”. Denmark YM’s keynote speaker spoke of “testimony of love for our earth”.

Many Friends have gone on to discern specific actions on environmental issues. North Pacific YM approved a “Minute on Global Climate Change”, Illinois YM is designing a new building mindful of “seeking to live lightly through sustainable buildings”, and New York YM informs us that “issues seasoned in committees included ... care of our earth”.

At Netherlands YM Friends played the ‘footprint game’: they “calculated how much carbon dioxide we produce” and encouraged donations to “support sustainable development”; they will sign an initiative to enforce reduction of carbon dioxide emission, and to check the loss of biodiversity.

The themes under which YM sessions were held were as varied as the YMs themselves, but what Friends everywhere are reminding each other of shows how much we have in common. North Pacific YM’s was “Answering to that of God in Everyone”, Iowa YM’s “Follow the Light”, Illinois YM’s “Our Ministry of Reconciliation”, Philadelphia YM says “Starting our Journeys—In Light, Love and Peace”, and Intermountain YM spoke of their “Compassionate Listening Project”. New York YM Friends showed a strong awareness of the spread of generations: “Spiritual Community across the Spectrum of Age”. Wilmington YM’s was “Do you want to be made well?” (John 5: 2-9) and Indiana YM’s “I want to know Christ” (Phil. 3:10).

Of the YMs abroad, Switzerland YM showed the same awareness: “the integration of all generations to promote the future of our Quaker Society”. Unprogrammed Friends in Latin America are still pondering together “Our Quaker Identity”, Cuba YM reminds each other and us “Let us leave all for Christ” and Northwest YM of Friends Church calls us to “Bring Forth the Kingdom”. The strong environmental concern of Netherlands YM is evident in their theme “Sustainability—where is *your* limit?”.

Many Yearly Meetings were restructuring, exploring new possibilities, finding the best structure. North Pacific YM’s experiment of adding another day to the sessions is “openness to explore new possibilities”, and Philadelphia YM is “committed to an intentional process of self-discovery and discernment”. Unease with Friends United Meeting’s personnel policy excluding gays and lesbians caused some Friends to struggle with ways of addressing this issue. New England YM struggles with staying in FUM: “We are resentful over differences within our YM” and want to “transform that pain into something else”, and New York YM is “Seeking clarity about how to be in association with FUM”

Of concern to all of us is the decline in membership that some YMs are noting and sharing with us. Indiana YM regretfully tells us “Once again, we recorded a decline in membership and attendance and noted the laying down of one of our oldest monthly meetings. Many of our congregations have become so small that some might question their viability.” Wilmington YM is equally candid in saying “We seek ways forward through concerns about dwindling membership and differences of opinion regarding theology and individual behavior.”

Other YMs attempted discernment on different issues. Northern YM asks us “how do we learn to be faithful to a small number of corporately discerned concerns?”, and New York YM : “We are in a place of pausing ... seeking guidance to discern our direction and readiness to address the impending global crises.” Northwest YM, in revising their *Faith and Practice*, admitted that “it was hard for us to make these deep structural changes”.

Ireland YM found a peaceful place “after years of travail over ... *Quaker Life and Practice*”. The painfulness of some of these struggles for clarity was evident: New Zealand YM speaks of the “sometimes painful inquiry of our policies”. Indiana YM says “The Holy Spirit also guided us to unity to

address a letter to our members of Congress, urging a lowering of rhetoric and a search for peaceful solutions on our conflict with Iran.”

Friends in some YMs had unique situations or took unique action. Unprogrammed Friends in Latin America were regretful that “many Latin American Quakers could not attend”, Denmark YM engaged in “constructive dialogue” after the widely publicized cartoon offensive to Muslims was published in the Danish press “in the hope of reconciliation with the Muslim community in Denmark”. Switzerland YM approved a statement to send to the European Union about the need for non-violent intervention in countries where civilians are being slaughtered. New Zealand YM approved a statement on Maori rights.

Ireland YM had recently hosted the FWCC Triennial, and this was evident throughout their epistle. Australia YM’s clerk Lyndsay Farrall, incidentally, had once studied at Indiana University and attended Bloomington Meeting. In Australia, their Young Friends will deliver the keynote lecture next year.

The warmest side of epistles is always the personal greetings they send to Friends in other Yearly Meetings. Philadelphia YM says “we send you our prayers”, Northwestern YM of Friends Church assures us “our epistle is sent to you with love and blessings, “Cuba YM sends “a warm greeting to our brothers and sisters”, and Switzerland YM “we are very grateful to belong to the worldwide Quaker family”. Let us heed the words of New England YM which reminds us “dear Friends, pray for us” and Britain YM’s “We send you this epistle with our love and hold you in our prayers as we trust you are holding us in yours.” As we begin our own yearly meeting sessions, we feel blessed to be reminded by these epistles that we are part of the worldwide fabric of Friends.

OVYM Property Corporation Report

Trustees of the Property Corporation met at Yearly Meeting session during Eighth Month, 2008. There was unity in respect to officer positions.

The assets of the Property Corporation are contained in a Certificate of Deposit which is held by First Financial Bank of Hamilton, Ohio. Since the founding of the Property Corporation, approximately twelve years ago, there has been one donation of \$1000.00. The current value of the CD on Fifth Month, 31, 2009 is \$1405.12.

Tom Nowel
Treasurer

Monthly Meeting:	MQM	BL	CC	FC	FW	HPW	LAF	MG	NM	WR
MEMBERSHIP 12/31/07	501	63	108	10	*	11	15	2	41	9
Correction by addition		9					2			
Births/Adoptions										
Request of parents										
Convincement	3	3	1	1		1				
Children accepted as adults	2	1	2							
Transfers to	4		2							
TOTAL GAIN	9	13	5	1	*	1	2	0	0	0
Correction by subtraction	0	1								
Deaths	6									
Removal by request			1				2	1		
Children becoming adults	2	1	2							
Transfers from	6		2			1				
Loss of contact	2								3	
TOTAL LOSSES	16	2	5	0	*	1	2	1	3	0
Net gain or loss	-7	11	0	1		0	0	-1	-3	0
MEMBERSHIP 12/31/08	494	74	108	11	8	11	15	1	38	9
Resident members over 18	292	58	28	9	7	11	8	1	34	5
Resident members under 19	47	3	3	2	1	0	3	0	0	0
Non-resident members over 18	136	9	77	0	0	0	4	0	4	4
Non-resident members under 19	19	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Regular attenders over 18	139	50	12	0	2	0	9	0	24	0
Regular attenders under 19	35	20	1	0	0	4	2	0	0	0
United Meetings					*					
Budget members from line 20	459.5	74	108	11	4	11	15	1	38	9
Budget members from lines 22-25	459.5	74	108	11	4	11	15	1	38	9
Worship attendance	204	53	28	12	8	7	13	0	16.7	2
Non-member attendance	75	28	8	17	2	0	5	0	6	0
First Day School	41.75	14	3	5	6	0	2	0	0	0
Friends in school/college	22	5	6	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Difference in Budget Members	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Budget & Finance Committee Report

Bottom Line:

1. This year's proposed budget is 3.5% larger than last year's.
2. It has a \$1500 deficit – that is, we expect our income to be \$1500 less than expenses.
3. Projected contributions from monthly meetings are less than was hoped for

Budget increases include:

1. Provision for an overlap of outgoing and incoming Youth Secretaries
2. An increase in representative travel
3. Subsidies for first-time attenders and Young Adult Friends at this year's sessions

Budget cuts include:

1. Skipping the *Discipline* Printing Fund transfer
2. Reducing projected Operating and Committee expenses

Recommendation to close the deficit:

Draw \$1500 from reserves

3. Send an appeal letter to monthly meetings
4. Alternative is to reduce contributions to other Quaker organizations by 8%

Budget Proposal:

The budget proposal for the advance documents was much shorter this year. Only those tables that relate to parts of the budget under consideration by the yearly meeting were included. All the detail is included in this final report for the minute book. Also note that there may be some small differences in the actual 2008-09 actual values between the treasurer's report and this report. In those cases, the treasurer's report is to be relied on.

This has been a difficult budget to compile. We have undertaken two major initiatives to encourage attendance at the annual sessions just as the problems in the economy put a squeeze on projected contributions. As a result, we are recommending some changes from the preliminary budget. These will be pointed out in the review of the budget tables.

Table 1 presents a summary of the seven active funds. First, draw your attention to the *Discipline* Printing Fund. In each of the past three years, OYVM has been adding \$500 to this fund. In light of the need to tighten the budget and the fact that the actual printing of the *Discipline* is several years off, we recommend this transfer be skipped. As a result, the balance in the fund would remain at \$1500.

2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Budget	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Budget
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Table 2010-1. Fund Balances at Year End

FW CC Triennial (Table 2010-2)	516	1,516	1,516	2,516
Benevolent Fund (Table 2010-3)	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800
Peace Witness Fund (Table 2010-4)	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Capital Fund (Table 2010-5)	5,376	5,576	5,518	5,618
<i>Discipline</i> Printing Fund (Table 2010-6)	1,000	1,500	1,500	1,500
Teen Alaska Trip Fund (Table 2010-7)	239	0	3,617	0
General Fund (Table 2010-8)	35,037	32,134	35,009	33,573
Total	50,467	49,026	55,459	51,507
Increase (decrease)	327	-1,441	4,992	-3,952

Tables 2-6 contain detail on activity in various funds. There is nothing surprising in them.

Table 2010-2. FWCC Triennial Fund

Starting Balance	1,686	516	516	1,516
Transfer from General Fund	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Close WGYF Fund				
Disbursements	2,171			
Ending Balance	516	1,516	1,516	2,516

Table 2010-3. Benevolent Fund

Starting Balance	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800
Income	229	200	152	100
Disbursements	229	200	152	100
Ending Balance	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800

2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Budget	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Budget
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Table 2010-4. Peace Witness Fund

Starting Balance	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Income	100	100		100
Disbursements	100	100		100
Ending Balance	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500

Table 2010-5. Capital Fund

Starting Balance	5,179	5,376	5,376	5,518
Income	197	200	142	100
Distribution				
Ending Balance	5,376	5,576	5,518	5,618

Table 2010-6. Discipline Printing Fund

Starting Balance	500	1,000	1,000	1,500
Income	500	500	500	0
Distribution				
Ending Balance	1,000	1,500	1,500	1,500

Table 7 presents the detail on how the remaining costs of the Teen Alaska Trip will be paid. At this point, it looks like income will be very close to expenses.

Table 2010-7. Teen Alaska Trip Fund

Starting Balance		239	239	3,617
From OVYM Reserves		3,000	3,000	-67
From Teen Budget (Table 2010-19)		3,000	3,000	
Fundraising & Contributions	414	9,361	8,584	1,300
Participant Fees		3,500	2,000	800
Total Income	414	19,100	16,823	5,650
Fundraising Costs	175		485	0
Cost of Alaska Trip		19,100	12,721	5,650
Total Expenses	175	19,100	13,206	5,650
Ending Balance	239	0	3,617	0

Table 8 is the General Fund summary. This is where most OVYM activities are booked. The proposed budget is somewhat ambitious. First, we are projecting an increase in contributions from the monthly meetings. This number is primarily based on responses from the meetings, telling us what they hope to contribute in the coming year. For those meetings that did not send this information, we have made a “best guess.” Also on the income side, we have decreased the expected income from interest and individual contributions based on the past year’s actual values.

On the expense side, the big change is in the cost of the annual sessions. Please remember this refers to the sessions that start in July 2009 – this is already committed by the time the budget is approved. Costs this year are expected to be nearly \$5000 higher than last year. This will be described in more detail below. Based on the actual expenses in the past year, we are budgeting less for our operating and committee expenses and more for representative travel in the coming year.

2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Budget	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Budget
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Table 2010-8. General Fund Summary

INCOME				
Meeting Contributions (Table 2010-9)	69,089	76,903	73,846	79,000
Interest	891	500	116	100
Other Income				
Cash contributions	2,154	500		200
Contributed Travel Costs	3,369	3,500	3,058	3,500
Sales of Disciplines			8	
Total Income	75,503	81,403	77,028	82,800
EXPENSES				
Operating Expenses (Table 2010-10)	29,130	31,015	28,848	30,290
Committee Expenses (Table 2010-15)	11,537	10,755	5,972	9,600
Representative Travel (Table 2010-20)	8,288	8,000	8,808	8,500
Yearly Meeting Session (Table 2010-21)	7,252	10,686	9,578	15,562
Transfer to FW CC Triennial Travel	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Transfer to Discipline Printing Fund	500	500	500	0
Contributions by OVYM (Table 2010-22)	16,000	19,350	19,350	19,350
Total Expenses	73,707	81,305	74,056	84,302
Net General Fund Gain (Loss)	1,796	98	2,972	-1,502

Table 9 presents the contributions made by each monthly meeting for the past two years, the budgeted amount for last year and the proportional share for each meeting for the coming year. As noted above, the proportional share may be different from the amounts that the meetings will be able to contribute in the coming year. As a result, the total shown here (\$82,181) is different from the expected total contributions (\$79,000) in Table 8.

2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Budget	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Budget
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Table 2010-9. Meeting Contributions

Bloomington	7,200	6,572	6,892	8,325
Campus	1,428	1,484	1,641	1,575
Clear Creek	10,476	11,342	11,342	12,150
Community	5,917	8,374	7,885	8,663
Dayton	2,134	2,226	2,226	1,575
Eastern Hills	2,200	2,279	2,300	2,306
Fall Creek	1,261	848	0	1,238
Fort Wayne		0	450	450
Green Plain	0	1,166	480	1,238
Hopewell	970	1,060	0	1,238
Lafayette	1,164	1,590	1,150	1,688
Lexington	5,238	5,724	5,724	5,963
Louisville	8,000	8,692	9,100	9,113
Maple Grove	0	106	0	113
Miami	5,432	5,830	6,000	5,850
North Meadow	3,783	4,346	4,346	4,275
Oxford	1,649	1,590	1,590	1,688
White Rose	500	954	0	1,013
Yellow Springs	11,737	12,720	12,720	13,725
TOTAL Meeting Contributions	69,089	76,903	73,846	82,181

Tables 10, 11, & 13 show the details of our operating expenses. There have been a number of minor adjustments based on recent expenses, but the only significant change is we are setting aside money to allow an overlap in the terms of the current Teen Secretary and a new hire. Overall, we are projecting modest savings in these categories.

2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Budget	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Budget
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Table 2010-10. Operating Expenses

Administration (Table 2010-11)	2,449	3,050	1,836	2,500
Clerical support (Table 2010-12)	849	750	903	900
Staff (Table 2010-13)	21,059	21,925	22,112	22,240
Publications (Table 2010-14)	4,148	4,690	3,997	4,350
Archives	600	600		300
Misc	25			
Total	29,130	31,015	28,848	30,290

Table 2010-11. Administration

Bank Charges	157	100	11	50
Printing	180	200	92	100
Liability Insurance	813	850	815	850
Background Checks		400	230	300
Clerks' Expenses	937	1,000	412	800
Treasurer's Expenses	361	500	276	400
Total	2,449	3,050	1,836	2,500

Table 2010-12. Clerical Support

Office Expenses	150	200	895	700
Setup New Office	400			
Postage	100	250	8	
Travel	199	300		200
Total	849	750	903	900

Table 2010-13. Staff

Compensation	15,340	18,346	20,066	20,500
Tax	1,106	1,403	792	
Workers Comp	313	325	358	360
Medical	2,842			
Cell Phone	514	550	459	480
Internet Access	348	300	274	400
Professional Development	597	1,000	163	500
Total	21,059	21,925	22,112	22,240

Table 14 shows the detailed publications expenses.

2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Budget	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Budget
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Table 2010-14. Publications

Quill	1,896	2,290	2,039	2,200
Minutes	1,490	1,600	1,623	1,650
Directory	763	800	335	500
Total	4,148	4,690	3,997	4,350

Table 15 is a summary projected committee expenses. For the most part, adjustments from last year's budget are based on actual expenses in the past year. In addition, the natural movement of some children from the middle youth program to the teen program is reflected in the projected costs for those programs. Requests for committee travel reimbursement were down this year, but we expect to see more in the coming year. **Tables 16 to 20** contain the detailed costs by committee and representative travel expense detail.

Table 2010-15. Committee Expense

Ad Hoc FWCC 2009 Arrangements	327		0	
Advancement & Nurture (Table 2010-16)	666	355	0	400
Middle Youth (Table 2010-17)	1,031	1,275	198	600
Peace & Social Concerns (Table 2010-18)	356	750	170	600
Religious Education	0	300	0	200
Teen Program (Table 2010-19)	5,756	5,275	4,142	5,800
Travel - Donated	1,058	1,000	900	1,000
Travel - Reimbursed	2,343	1,800	562	1,000
Total Expenses	11,537	10,755	5,972	9,600

Table 2010-16. Advancement & Nurture Committee

Retreat Honorarium	50	100		
Books for members	227	50		60
Pamphlet reprinting	388	100		300
Printing & Advertising		35		
Postage & Photos		70		
Gathering of M & C clerks				250
Sample Resource Materials				100
Total Expense	666	355	0	710

2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Budget	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Budget
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Table 2010-17. Middle Youth Committee

Joint Quarterly Gathering		450		
Winter Gathering		550	198	
Spring Biking		275		
Staff				600
Supplies				200
Total Expense		1,275	198	800

Table 2010-18. Peace & Social Concerns

Work Camps		120		120
Pre-YM Workshop	94	400		400
Postage	96	180	170	180
Materials	85			
Display for YM Sessions	82	50		50
Total Expense	356	750	170	750

Table 2010-19. Teen Program

INCOME

Contributions				
Fundraising				
Participant Fees	800	75	215	300
Total Income	800	75	215	300

EXPENSE

Publicity		200		100
Travel	879	1,000	286	1,200
Teen Events	1,341	750	788	800
Service Trips	4,255	400	283	4,000
Alaska Trip		3,000	3,000	
Misc	81			
Total Expense	6,556	5,350	4,357	6,100

Net Teen Program Cost	5,756	5,275	4,142	5,800
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2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Budget	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Budget
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Table 2010-20. Representative Travel

Normal (\$250 per trip)	2,877	2,750	2,750	3,000
Additional Reimbursement	1,600	1,750	2,916	2,000
Coopted Representatives	1,500	1,000	984	1,000
Donated Travel	2,311	2,500	2,158	2,500
Total Expenses	8,288	8,000	8,808	8,500

Table 21 shows expected income and expenses for the 2009 annual sessions. You will notice two experimental programs – subsidies for first-time attenders and Young Adult Friends make up the bulk of the changes from last year. Whether these programs are continued in future years will be taken up during this year’s business sessions.

Table 2010-21. Yearly Meeting Sessions

INCOME				
Contributions	2,424	2,500	2,749	2,500
Registration	2,750	2,910	3,120	2,910
Room & Board Charges	13,181	15,554	16,146	15,554
Bookstore Income	2,097	2,100	1,180	1,700
Total Income	20,452	23,064	23,195	22,664
EXPENSES				
Administration	120	120	109	470
Adult Program	1,316	1,900	1,221	1,740
Young Adult Program				
Teen Program	1,108	1,200	1,633	1,500
Middle Youth Program	1,677	1,740		1,740
Children's Program	2,355	2,400	2,701	2,400
Adult Room & Board	12,582	15,554	16,086	15,554
Room & Board Subsidies				
Children	5,409	6,383	6,916	6,383
Staff	1,622	1,913	2,073	1,913
Guests	189	502	242	633
YAF attenders subsidy				1,800
First-time attenders subsidy				2,056
Simple Meal Donation		637	650	637
Bookstore Expenses	1,326	1,400	1,142	1,400
Total Expenses	27,704	33,749	32,773	38,226
Net Cost of Session	7,252	10,686	9,578	15,562

Finally, **Table 23** presents the contributions OVYM makes to other Quaker organizations. As you can see, these values are unchanged from last year.

	2007- 08 Actual	2008- 09 Budget	2008- 09 Actual	2009- 10 Budget
Table 2010-22. Contributions by OVYM				
OVYM Ministries				
Friends Home	400	1,500	1,500	1,500
Friends Music Camp	1,000	1,500	1,500	1,500
Lauramooore Home	400	400	400	400
Subtotal	1,800	3,400	3,400	3,400
Major Quaker Organizations				
AFSC	2,500	2,650	2,650	2,650
FCNL	1,900	2,000	2,000	2,000
FGC	3,700	4,000	4,000	4,000
<i>Friends Journal</i>	600	600	600	600
FW CC	2,750	3,000	3,000	3,000
FW CC Midwest Field Sec. (restricted)	650			
Quaker United Nations Office	300	500	500	500
Subtotal	12,400	12,750	12,750	12,750
Quaker Education and Outreach				
Earlham College		300	300	300
Olney Friends School	300	300	300	300
Quaker Heritage Center		300	300	300
Wilmington College		300	300	300
Subtotal	300	1,200	1,200	1,200
Quaker Peace and Social Concerns with specific focus				
FLGBTQC (Lesbian & Gay Concerns)	200	200	200	200
Friends Peace Teams	100	500	500	500
Indiana Friends Com. On Legislation	100	200	200	200
Quaker Earthcare Witnesses	500	500	500	500
Right Sharing of World Resources	600	600	600	600
Subtotal	1,500	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total Contributions	16,000	19,350	19,350	19,350

Deficit closing alternatives:

As noted above, this budget has a \$1500 deficit. Budget & Finance Committee is proposing we draw about \$1500 from our reserves (currently we have \$27,169 in reserves) to bring it into balance. To minimize the decline in reserves, we will ask monthly meetings to consider increasing their contributions to the yearly meeting.

We discussed a number of alternatives for closing the deficit. The only one we felt reasonably comfortable with was to trim slightly our contributions to other Quaker organizations. An 8% reduction would save \$1548 – which should wipe out our deficit. Such an action could be authorized at the annual sessions. Or the Budget & Finance Committee could review actual income and expenses in June 2010. If there is still a deficit, make an adjustment to the contributions at that time.

Finally, we are hoping things will actually be better in the coming year. The overall economy should improve and the Yearly Meeting won't be fund-raising for an Alaska Teen Trip This was also the first year in which monthly meetings were asked how much they are able to contribute, rather than being told how much to pay. As we gain more experience with this process, things should be smoother.

Treasurer's Report

OVYM Treasurer's Report

	2007-08 Budget	2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Budget	2008-09 YTD Actual	Percent
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Notes

Table 2009-1. Fund Balances at Year End

FWCC Triennial (Table 2009-2)	0	516	1,516	1,516	100%
Benevolent Fund (Table 2009-3)	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800	100%
Peace Witness Fund (Table 2009-4)	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	100%
Capital Fund (Table 2009-5)	5,379	5,376	5,576	5,518	99%
<i>Discipline</i> Printing Fund (Table 2009-6)	1,000	1,000	1,500	1,500	100%
Teen Alaska Trip Fund (Table 2009-7)		239	0	3,617	
General Fund (Table 2009-8)	34,665	35,037	32,134	33,476	104% ^(a)
Total	49,344	50,467	49,026	53,926	110%
Increase (decrease)	-796	327	-1,441	3,459	-240%

Table 2009-2. FWCC Triennial Fund

Starting Balance	1,686	1,686	516	516	100%
Transfer from General Fund	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	100%
Close WGYF Fund					
Disbursements	2,686	2,171			
Ending Balance	0	516	1,516	1,516	100%

Table 2009-3. Benevolent Fund

Starting Balance	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800	100%
Income	220	229	200	152	76%
Disbursements	220	229	200	152	76%
Ending Balance	5,800	5,800	5,800	5,800	100%

Table 2009-4. Peace Witness Fund

Starting Balance	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	100%
Income	100	100	100		0%
Disbursements	100	100	100		0%
Ending Balance	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	100%

Table 2009-5. Capital Fund

Starting Balance	5,179	5,179	5,376	5,376	100%
Income	200	197	200	142	71%
Distribution					
Ending Balance	5,379	5,376	5,576	5,518	99%

Table 2009-6. Discipline Printing Fund

Starting Balance	500	500	1,000	1,000	100%
Income	500	500	500	500	100%
Distribution					
Ending Balance	1,000	1,000	1,500	1,500	100%

Table 2009-7. Teen Alaska Trip Fund

Starting Balance			239	239	100%
From OVYM Reserves			3,000	3,000	100%
From Teen Budget (Table 2009-20)			3,000	3,000	100%
Fundraising & Contributions		414	9,361	8,584	92%
Participant Fees			3,500	2,000	57%
Fundraising Costs		175		485	
Cost of Alaska Trip			19,100	12,721	67%
Balance		239	0	3,617	

(b)

Table 2009-8. General Fund Summary

INCOME					
Meeting Contributions (Table 2009-9)	69,743	69,089	76,903	73,846	96%
Interest	1,000	891	500	116	23%
Other Income	0				
Cash contributions	500	2,154	500		0%
Contributed Travel Costs	4,000	3,369	3,500	3,058	87%
Sales of Disciplines	25			8	
Total Income	75,268	75,503	81,403	77,028	95%
EXPENSES					
Operating Expenses (Table 2009-10)	31,863	29,130	31,015	28,848	93%
Committee Expenses (Table 2009-15)	9,565	11,537	10,755	5,972	56%
Representative Travel (Table 2009-21)	8,000	8,288	8,000	8,808	110%
Yearly Meeting Session (Table 2009-22)	8,150	7,252	10,686	11,111	104%
Transfer to FW CC Triennial Travel	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	100%
Transfer to <i>Discipline</i> Printing Fund	500	500	500	500	100%
Contributions by OVYM (Table 2009-23)	16,000	16,000	19,350	19,350	100%
Total Expenses	75,078	73,707	81,305	75,589	93%
Net General Fund Gain (Loss)	190	1,796	98	1,439	1473%

Table 2009-9. Meeting Contributions

Bloomington	6,014	7,200	6,572	6,892	105%
Campus	1,746	1,428	1,484	1,641	111%
Clear Creek	10,476	10,476	11,342	11,342	100%
Community	5,917	5,917	8,374	7,885	94%
Dayton	2,134	2,134	2,226	2,226	100%
Eastern Hills	2,134	2,200	2,279	2,300	101%
Fall Creek	1,261	1,261	848	0	0%
Fort Wayne			0	450	
Green Plain	1,067	0	1,166	480	41%
Hopewell	970	970	1,060	0	0%
Lafayette	1,164	1,164	1,590	1,150	72%
Lexington	5,238	5,238	5,724	5,724	100%
Louisville	7,954	8,000	8,692	9,100	105%
Maple Grove	194	0	106	0	0%
Miami	5,432	5,432	5,830	6,000	103%
North Meadow	3,783	3,783	4,346	4,346	100%
Oxford	1,649	1,649	1,590	1,590	100%
White Rose	873	500	954	0	0%
Yellow Springs	11,737	11,737	12,720	12,720	100%
TOTAL Meeting Contributions	69,743	69,089	76,903	73,846	96% (a)

Table 2009-10. Operating Expenses

Administration (Table 2009-11)	3,258	2,449	3,050	1,836	60%
Clerical support (Table 2009-12)	1,100	849	750	903	120%
Salary & Benefits (Table 2009-13)	22,005	21,059	21,925	22,112	101%
Publications (Table 2009-14)	4,900	4,148	4,690	3,997	85%
Archives	600	600	600		0%
Misc	0	25			
Total	31,863	29,130	31,015	28,848	93%

Table 2009-11. Administration

Bank Charges	40	157	100	11	11%
Printing	600	180	200	92	46%
Liability Insurance	818	813	850	815	96%
Background Checks			400	230	58%
Clerks' Expenses	1,200	937	1,000	412	41%
Treasurer's Expenses	600	361	500	276	55%
Total	3,258	2,449	3,050	1,836	60%

Table 2009-12. Clerical Support

Office Expenses	300	150	200	895	448%
Setup New Office	400	400			
Postage	100	100	250	8	3%
Travel	300	199	300		0%
Total	1,100	849	750	903	120%

Table 2009-13. Salary and Benefits

Salary	15,208	15,340	18,346	20,066	109%
Tax	1,163	1,106	1,403	792	56%
Workers Comp	313	313	325	358	110%
Medical	3,700	2,842			
Cell Phone	520	514	550	459	83%
Internet Access	600	348	300	274	91%
Professional Development	500	597	1,000	163	16%
Total	22,005	21,059	21,925	22,112	101%

Table 2009-14. Publications

Quill	2,200	1,896	2,290	2,039	89%
Minutes	2,200	1,490	1,600	1,623	101%
Directory	500	763	800	335	42%
Total	4,900	4,148	4,690	3,997	85%

Table 2009-15. Committee Expense

Ad Hoc FWCC 2009 Arrangements	200	327		0	
Advancement & Nurture (Table 2009-16)	355	666	355	0	0%
Middle Youth (Table 2009-17)	250	1,031	1,275	198	16%
Peace & Social Concerns (Table 2009-18)	890	356	750	170	23%
Religious Education (Table 2009-19)	300	0	300	0	0%
Teen Program (Table 2009-20)	5,070	5,756	5,275	4,142	79%
Travel - Donated	1,000	1,058	1,000	900	90%
Travel - Reimbursed	1,500	2,343	1,800	562	31%
Total Expenses	9,565	11,537	10,755	5,972	56%

Table 2009-16. Advancement & Nurture Committee

Retreat Honorarium	100	50	100		0%
Books for members	50	227	50		0%
Pamphlet reprinting	100	388	100		0%
Printing & Advertising	35		35		0%
Postage & Photos	70		70		0%
Gathering of M&C clerks					
Sample Resource Materials					
Total Expense	355	666	355	0	0%

Table 2009-17. Middle Youth Committee

Joint Quarterly Gathering			450		0%
Winter Gathering			550	198	36%
Spring Biking			275		0%
Staff					
Supplies					
Total Expense	250		1,275	198	16%

Table 2009-18. Peace & Social Concerns

Work Camps	120		120		0%
Pre-YM Workshop	400	94	400		0%
Postage	220	96	180	170	94%
Materials		85			
Display for YM Sessions	150	82	50		0%
Total Expense	890	356	750	170	23%

Table 2009-19. Religious Education Committee

Lending Library					
RE Newsletter					
Postage					
Fall Retreat & Spring Workshop			300		0%
Total Expense	300	0	300	0	0%

Table 2009-20. Teen Program**INCOME**

Contributions					
Fundraising					
Participant Fees		800	75	215	287%
Total Income	0	800	75	215	287%

EXPENSE

Publicity	270		200		0%
Travel	1,000	879	1,000	286	29%
Teen Events	200	1,341	750	788	105%
Service Trips	3,600	4,255	400	283	71% (e)
Alaska Trip			3,000	3,000	100%
Misc		81			
Total Expense	5,070	6,556	5,350	4,357	81%

Net Teen Prog Cost

	5,070	5,756	5,275	4,142	79%
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Table 2009-21. Representative Travel

Normal (\$250 per trip)	3,500	2,877	2,750	2,750	100%
Additional Reimbursement	2,000	1,600	1,750	2,916	167%
Coopted Representatives	500	1,500	1,000	984	98%
Donated Travel	2,000	2,311	2,500	2,158	86%
Total Expenses	8,000	8,288	8,000	8,808	110% (f)

Table 2009-22. Yearly Meeting Sessions

INCOME					
Contributions	2,700	2,424	2,500	2,749	110%
Registration	3,000	2,750	2,910	3,120	107%
Room & Board Charges	13,500	13,181	15,554	16,146	104%
Bookstore Income	800	2,097	2,100	1,180	56%
Total Income	20,000	20,452	23,064	23,195	101%
EXPENSES					
Administration	500	120	120	109	91%
Adult Program	2,000	1,316	1,900	1,221	64%
Young Adult Program					
Teen Program	1,300	1,108	1,200	1,633	136%
Middle Youth Program	1,550	1,677	1,740	1,533	88%
Children's Program	2,300	2,355	2,400	2,701	113%
Adult Room & Board	13,500	12,582	15,554	16,086	103%
Room & Board Subsidies	6,500				
Children		5,409	6,383	6,916	108%
Staff		1,622	1,913	2,073	108%
Guests		189	502	242	48%
YAF attenders subsidy					
First-time attenders subsidy					
Simple Meal Donation			637	650	102%
Bookstore Expenses	500	1,326	1,400	1,142	82%
Total Expenses	28,150	27,704	33,749	34,306	102%
Net Cost of Session	8,150	7,252	10,686	11,111	104% ^(g)

Table 2009-23. Contributions by OVYM

OVYM Ministries					
Friends Home		400	1,500	1,500	100%
Friends Music Camp		1,000	1,500	1,500	100%
Lauramoore Home		400	400	400	100%
Subtotal		1,800	3,400	3,400	100%
Major Quaker Organizations					
AFSC		2,500	2,650	2,650	100%
FCNL		1,900	2,000	2,000	100%
FGC		3,700	4,000	4,000	100%
<i>Friends Journal</i>		600	600	600	100%
FWCC		2,750	3,000	3,000	100%
FWCC Midwest Field Sec. (restricted)		650			
Quaker United Nations Office		300	500	500	100%
Subtotal		12,400	12,750	12,750	100%
Quaker Education and Outreach					
Earlham College			300	300	100%
Olney Friends School		300	300	300	100%
Quaker Heritage Center			300	300	100%
Wilmington College			300	300	100%
Subtotal		300	1,200	1,200	100%
Quaker Peace and Social Concerns with specific focus					
ACFIA (Indian Affairs)					
Canadian FSC					
Washington Work Camps					
FLGBTQC (Lesbian & Gay Concerns)		200	200	200	100%
Friends Peace Teams		100	500	500	100%
Indiana Friends Com. On Legislation		100	200	200	100%
Quaker Earthcare Witness		500	500	500	100%
Right Sharing of World Resources		600	600	600	100%
Subtotal		1,500	2,000	2,000	100%
Total Contributions		16,000	16,000	19,350	100%

- (a) Income is less than we expected, but expenses are less to a greater degree. So we accrued a surplus for this year.
- (b) More income and more expenses are expected for the Teen's Spirit Camp trip, but we expect the result to be about what we budgeted.
- (c) secretary's expenses are normal; travel, postage, office expense have been lumped under "office expense"
- (d) tax expense is now combined with salary in employee's "contractual fees"
- (e) teen committee has been wonderfully active; service trip to Dayton, as well as spirit camp in Alaska.
- (f) rep travel has been slightly more than budgeted, reimbursed committee travel somewhat less.
- (g) yearly meeting income and expenses from last year's sessions about what we expected.

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OVYM Discipline Revision Committee

September 2009

Committee Members Byron Branson, Paul Buckley, Lisa Cayard, Betsy Neale (co-clerk), Wilson Palmer, Rex Sprouse (co-clerk). Barbara Robinson and Mary Garman joined the committee following the 2009 annual sessions.

Work of the committee and monthly meetings, 2008-2009 The Discipline Revision Committee held four day-long meetings in September, November, January, and May, each time at Community Friends meetinghouse.

Membership Section We remind Friends that the Membership Section has been divided into three parts during the review and revision process because it is such a long section. The part demarcations will not appear in the final publication of the section.

At the 2009 annual sessions, after a year of seasoning following the 2008 annual sessions.

Parts I and II of the membership section were approved for our book of discipline, now called *Faith and Practice*. Those documents are published in this Minute Book in a section following the annual session minutes. Membership, (Part III) addresses the membership of children. The 4th draft of Part III was threshed at the 2009 sessions. The committee then made minor editing changes for clarification and presents the 5th draft of Membership (Part III) for a year of seasoning and final approval at the 2010 sessions. In the first paragraph the 5th draft defines the terms “adult membership” and “youth membership” as used in the document. The final paragraph clarifies that some meetings may be led to implement different procedures for children’s membership. This 5th draft text is included in the Minute Book in a section following the minutes of the annual sessions. Friends plan to consult with the Teen Committee and the teens about this procedure for youth membership during the year prior to the 2010 OVYM sessions.

Seeking Harmony with Creation At the 2009 annual sessions the committee presented the 6th draft of “Seeking Harmony with Creation,” the text on concerns about the environment. The text was threshed, and, based on comments from the threshing session, the committee will make further revisions and circulate a revised draft to monthly meetings.

In closing We thank Friends for their participation in the work of discipline revision during the past year. We look forward to a productive year in 2009-2010. Monthly meetings can again expect assignments, one for consideration between early October 2009 and mid-December 2010 and another for consideration between early February and early April 2010. We encourage meetings to consider whether each text is an adequate expression of the shared faith and practice of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends. We ask Friends to send responses that represent a sense of their meetings.

Faith and Practice – A Book of Discipline

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

Seeking Harmony with Creation

6th Draft

Fifth Month 2, 2009

The Earth is the Lord's
and the fullness thereof,
The world and those
who dwell therein.

(Psalm 24: 1)

Quakers have a long and deep history of respect for the Creation of which we are a part. The natural world is a wondrous manifestation of the Divine with the Power to nourish us physically and spiritually. William Penn articulated this faith-based concern for the Earth when he wrote, “how could Men find the Confidence to abuse [Creation], while they should see the Great Creator look them in the Face, in all and every Part thereof?” Likewise, John Woolman wrote, “To say we love God as unseen and at the same time to exercise cruelty toward the least creature moving by his life ... is a contradiction in itself.”

In 2002, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends found unity around the principle of sustainability as a basic standard for responsible living. Unsustainable use of the Earth's resources threatens the natural world and is incompatible with our testimonies. It is our responsibility to care for God's Creation. Individually, Friends are encouraged to examine their lives and take action to walk more lightly on the Earth, seeking harmony with Creation. Corporately, we are also called to act in ways that heal and protect the Earth.

Quaker Quill Report

Being editor of the Quaker Quill is rather like being the mason that builds a dry stone wall. I have been given the plan, the history of the Quaker Quill, the stone, the copy that many of you have given, and a place to build, the community of Friends. There are the usual problems, opportunities for solutions, where careful, patient craftsmanship transcends.

It is inspiring to see the hard, long and earnest work of the community Friends intended for good and care full ends. It would give me satisfaction that the Quaker Quill of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting reflects the enterprise of this community of Friends.

Dan Cartmell

OVYM Religious Education Committee Report 2009

Diann Herzog, Clerk Rex Sprouse, Marjorie McKelvey Isaacs, Richard Mitchell

The RE Committee seems to have found our way forward as a service committee, responding to needs and requests rather than initiating activity. We have taken responsibility for FAP (Friendly Adult Presence) training at OVYM sessions and are also available to conduct this training at Quarterly and Monthly Meetings. We have been responding to requests for workshops, retreats and visitation. The members of the RE Committee have a diversity of gifts to share and are available and ready to share them in the spirit of love and service.

Advancement and Nurture Committee Report

We have devoted our time and energy as a committee during the past year in a period of discernment of the call for our committee and in listening to each other. We have listened to those on the committee as well as those guests who have joined us. Meetings have taken place in person and via electronic mail and a conference call. Our sense is that there is a role for an Advancement and Nurture committee in the yearly meeting, but that it will probably look different than it did as initially formulated. It will probably be a smaller committee that makes greater use of communications media that require less travel.

At our initial meeting, we decided that the theme for our work this year to be listening for where God is calling us to serve the spiritual needs for the yearly meeting. We decided to meet again in late winter. At that meeting, we discussed what role that our committee might play in encouraging and enabling spiritual formation groups and other growth activities in and among our constituent monthly meetings. We also decided to invite monthly meeting clerks and ministry and counsel clerks to meet with us in May for a time of sharing ideas that excite and also those concerns that are serving as frustrations as we seek a way forward for Friends to address the spiritual needs of our age.

The above-mentioned meeting took place and we experience a day of deep sharing and heard much that excites Friends. We have work to do and we need the time and energy of individuals, communities, and committees to accomplish it. There are hopeful things taking place that show growth in both numbers and deepening worship. We choose not be discouraged by what is at this moment a small committee, but feel called to continue our work. Those who share our call to a work in the spiritual growth and nurture in OVYM and invited to consider joining the Advancement and Nurture Committee.

Peace & Social Concern Committee Report

7/1/08 – 6/30/09

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's Peace & Social Concerns Committee (PSCC) endeavors to help Friends and Friends Meetings in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio live up to our testimonies on peace, simplicity, and equality and our evolving testimonies on a sustainable planet. We do this through education among Friends and witness to others.

Our committee does its work through the main committee and three subcommittees: the Earth Care Committee (ECC), the Healthcare Reform Concerns Committee, and a Testimonies Committee.

A proposed minute "Seeking Right Relationship with Food and Land" has been a major focus of the ECC work during the year. The minute has been considered by many monthly meetings and both quarterly meetings. Some bodies have adopted the minute. Other bodies have forwarded suggestions for changes and/or objections. The committee will be considering the feedback and will rewrite the minute. ECC also planned a table on local/sustainable foods for the 2009 YM Sessions.

Our Healthcare Reform Subcommittee has been inactive during the year. To invigorate this subcommittee, we will convene an interest group on healthcare reform during the 2009 YM Sessions.

We are in process of recruiting members to the Testimonies subcommittee. This subcommittee will prayerfully consider each of our testimonies and ask: 1) how does the testimony speak to us today and 2) does our current condition suggest new insights regarding the testimony? They will share insights and queries with OVYM meetings and individual Friends. Since 2010 is the 350th anniversary of the Peace Testimony, the committee plans to begin its project with the Peace Testimony. Friends who are interested in serving on the Testimonies subcommittee are urged to contact subcommittee convener Ron Haldeman.

During the 2008 sessions, the PSCC presented a workshop "Searching for Peace Between Israel & Palestine." In the workshop, we showed parts of Landrum Bolling's video "Searching for Peace in the Middle East." The video was followed by comments from members of a four-person panel who have traveled or worked in the Middle East, including, Anna Lisa Gross from Richmond's Church of the Brethren, and OVYM Friends Jane Haldeman and Jane Stowe. During Yearly Meeting sessions we held interest groups, maintained a display table, and showed videos on numerous issues. We proposed two minutes that were adopted by the Yearly Meeting in session (No. 70; Minutes of the 188th Sessions OVYM): 1) Minute Regarding Cluster Bombs and 2) Minute Regarding Potential Attack on Iran and Escalation in Afghanistan.

During the year the Committee shared information by email and phone calls and met once via a conference call. Throughout the year, we continued our program of sending monthly meetings videos to be used for religious education regarding a sustainable planet, peace, and social justice. For the 2009 Sessions, we planned a pre-session workshop "Making Peace a Personal Way of Life." David Hartsough and Marge Nelson will lead this workshop.

Peace & blessings,
Richard Mitchell, Clerk

Quaker Earthcare Witness

OVYM Representative: Marcia K. Ankrom

The Fall Quaker Earthcare Steering Committee and Annual Gathering was held at the Calvin Conference Center in Hampton Georgia. I served on Spiritual Nurturance and Sustainability: Faith and Action committees. The theme for the Gathering was: What do Friends have to offer to the "Great Awakening". We spent most of our time in five Plenary Sessions as follows.

Plenary Session #1: Our deepest spiritual aspiration, nourished by the contemplative tradition, the "new cosmology", and the wisdom tradition of Christianity. By Mary Coelho

Plenary Session #2: Ways that Jesus practiced land-based spirituality and ways that ecology has shaped our tradition by Steven Davison.

Plenary Session #3: How modern science enriches my sense of Spirit, or the Light Within by Bill Cahalan.

Plenary Session #4 Friends' faith and practice, Friends' process and spiritual unification by Eric Maya Joy.

Plenary Session #5: Friends as a force of nature: Bringing forth Friends' highest visions for establishing right relationship with earth by Angela Manno.

After each session we met in groups of six or eight members and had a discussion of each topic in the form of queries. These sessions helped me to get to know other Friends better, helped me to experience nature more fully, and feel the presence of God without and within. My most memorable time was walking around the labyrinth surrounded by casts of small hand prints. The Spring Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee Annual Meeting is held at the Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center in Lincoln Park Chicago, Illinois.

Each business session was opened by a member of the Spiritual Nurturance Committee read a poem or other writings concerning the earth. Our committee is continually evaluating what our charge is in caring for spiritual health of the meeting and each individual present. This session our committee offered two minutes to be considered:

1. QEW recognizes the Light within all creation.
2. QEW recognizes Eric Maya Joy's leading and ministry regarding "spiritual unification", which includes Friends' process as a unique and significant gift.

We also requested that a new working group be formed within QEW's organization where Friends can explore together topics such as the New Story, indigenous spiritual concepts, and other kinds of thought that are less traditional among Friends. The Ad Hoc Committee presented the first reading of a draft of QEW's purpose statement: Grounded in Friends process and our love for the Earth, QEW supports and connects Friends carrying a concern for living in right relationship with all creation and helping bring forth a peaceful, just, and sustainable world." Sustainability: Faith and Action Working Group discussed the use of funds to offset carbon emissions. In the past this was estimated to be about \$300 for each of the two annual meetings. This money has been donated to Native Energy. Sustainability: Faith and Action Working Group has decided to add funds to the QEW Mini Grant program which has

increased from \$1000 to \$2000 to be given in \$250 amounts to Meetings requesting funds to help them be more Earth friendly. Meetings are required to give a matching amount to their project. Bloomington Monthly Meeting continues to find ways to lessen our impact on Mother Earth. We have turned a shed into a Garden Cottage, made from mostly from recycled materials, to be used for a First Day School class room, have a garden plot planted by First Day School members with adult help, are in the process of purchasing blinds to make our Meeting more energy efficient, and replacing wiring so we can purchase a solar panel to provide some of our own electricity. Also, we are investigating earth friendly sidewalk materials to be installed in front of the Meetinghouse. We recently received a QEW Mini Grant to be used to purchase an Energy Star refrigerator. Some of our Earthcare committee members are active in community organizations working to have a "greener" Bloomington.

OVYM Young Adult Friends Report

It has been an interesting year for me working with the Young Adult Friends. We noticed during an interest group at the previous Yearly Meeting that there is no program for YAFs in OVYM, and also that we feel we would benefit from spending time with Friends who are in the same transitional stage of life that we are. While we were unable to implement a plan to get some programming geared specifically towards our age range, we were able to schedule and attend a few retreats throughout the year.

The first of these was in December, at the home of Newell Pledger-Shinn and his wife Jennie Isbell. There were seven of us in attendance; we thank them for their hospitality and especially for Jennie's cooking skills. This retreat was spent in brainstorming and laying some groundwork for future retreats. We nominated Howie Baker as provisional clerk and Nick Rhein as provisional treasurer, with the understanding that we would appoint someone at Yearly Meeting to fill these roles for the coming year. We also worshipped outdoors and enjoyed each other's company in song, yoga, cooking, and card games. We sent a letter of endorsement with myself to an ecumenical conference being held in San Francisco in January.

The second retreat was held in March at Community Friends Meetinghouse in Cincinnati, Ohio. Twelve of us attended; much thanks to Community Friends for their hospitality. We continued our experimentation with communal cooking and heard a report from myself on the ecumenical conference I attended; I will be more than happy to discuss it with any who ask. We also put on a talent show for Community Friends and enjoyed each other's company.

The third retreat was held in May at Brown County State Park. We thank Bloomington Friends for granting us use of their meetinghouse if the weather had turned nasty; fortunately for us, it didn't. We enjoyed relaxing in the sun and taking in the natural beauty of God's good creation, as well as taking in

some excellent food cooked over the coals of our campfire. We worked with the Friends at Mt. Gilead Retreat Center just outside of Bloomington on the betterment of their site. Seven of us attended this retreat.

I am hopeful that these retreats will continue into next year, with four or five of them between OVYM Sessions in 2009 and in 2010. It has been a challenge to organize these events, and while I have much to learn I've also learned a fair amount that will facilitate getting people my age together. The concern for programs specific to YAFs in the Yearly Meeting still remains. I would point out that most people who become convinced Friends become so convinced either in college or shortly thereafter, in the very age range that OVYM currently neglects. One common concern among recently convinced Friends was the lack of opportunities for YAFs who are new to Quakerism to observe Quakers their own age in action. While we value the advice of our elders, there is a broad cultural gap between our computerized generation and the flower children of the sixties, and books on historical Quakers simply don't cut it for some of us. Our faith needs to be strengthened by fellowship. Perhaps as fellowship builds we will develop our own ministries, and our own leadings will give us direction—this is my prayer.

I submit this report for your consideration.

Howie Baker,

Provisional Clerk of OVYM YAFs.

Youth Secretary Report

The Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting teen program is thriving. Larger numbers of teens are regularly attending retreats and the wider teen community (including parents and many monthly meetings) have come together to help fundraise for the Alaska Spirit Camp.

This year, the teens participated in three weekend retreats (including retreats at Joint Quarterly in October; Fall Creek Friends Meeting in November; and, Louisville Friends Meeting in February), as well as a four-day service trip in Dayton, Ohio. And, a group of nine teens have just returned from the Alaska Spirit Camp, a two-week wilderness adventure jointly coordinated by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and Alaska Friends Conference (our unprogrammed Quaker counterparts in Alaska).

The focus of our retreats has largely been on developing a better understanding of Quaker spirituality, a topic that teens requested during last years' Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting sessions. To help engage the teens, young adult Friends, and the wider OVYM community at Joint Quarterly, I coordinated a spiritual autobiography activity and sharing period. We wrestled with issues of Quakers and non-violence while at Fall Creek, and led a spiritual fishbowl activity at Louisville (with queries developed by the teens). This all culminates in the spiritually challenging (and intense!) camp experience in the Alaskan wilderness this summer, as our teens continue to develop their Quaker spirituality and gain more leadership experience.

After much discernment, it has become clear to me that I need to return to Philadelphia and complete my Earlham School of Religion degree from afar. Unfortunately, this also means that I am unable to move forward in renewing a full-year contract with Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. I will continue with my contract through August 31, 2009. I am very grateful for the opportunity to work with the OVYM teens. They are thoughtful, caring, inquisitive and hardworking. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting is truly blessed to have such a great group of teens.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Baumann

Teen Committee Report 2009

After a decade of visits, conversations, and missed opportunities, the teen trip to Alaska become a reality. Nine of our teens joined a group from Alaska Friends Conference in July for three weeks of service, wilderness experience and intervisitation with Alaskan Friends. The group of our teens was younger than we initially expected, as many of our older teens were unable to participate because of jobs and preparing for college. The six members of the programming team included our youth secretary Lauren Bauman and five Alaskans with diverse experience in the wilderness and leading spiritual retreats with younger Friends. In addition, an elder traveled with the group to provide spiritual grounding, participating in the community holding the staff and teens in the Light. Other Alaskan Friends worked on logistics. A subcommittee of the Teen Committee spent considerable time addressing some sensitive issues, but with the assistance of the OVYM Clerk and Assistant Clerk, and the Middle Youth Committee, we felt confident as we went forward.

As of 6/1/2009, the budget estimations by Alaskan Friends suggested that our preliminary budget was accurate. We should not exceed the total of \$20,100 approved by executive committee last year (\$6,000 from OVYM budget, 9,600 from fundraising with any shortfall guaranteed by the Yearly Meeting, and \$500 per teen from each family). As of 6/1 we had raised \$7198 from appeals to meetings and fundraisers and hope to have other events this summer and fall. We owe a profound debt for the contributions of time and money from individuals, Monthly Meetings and Quarterly Meetings that made the trip possible.

The ages of the teens traveling to Alaska reflects a shift in the teen group as a whole, as we welcomed a large group of middle youth who moved up this year. In addition to working on the Alaskan trip, we held three teen retreats and a short service trip. In the fall, teens met at Joint Quarterly Meeting in October and at Fall Creek Friends Meeting for a work weekend in November. At Joint Quarter, six teens heard from David Wood about his travels in Alaska and participated in the Young Adult Friends program on spiritual journeys. We also played games and enjoyed singing, stories and worship around a bonfire. At Fall Creek, the afternoon was spent clearing the Indian trail that is on the edge of the cemetery and meeting house land. The six teens had a powerful discussion around the bonfire and later that night regarding violence in the schools and security measures such as cameras and police officers in their high school.

In February, eight teens met for an overnight at Louisville Meeting during Miami Quarterly Meeting. The retreat started with a Bible study on Adam and Eve in the afternoon and after dinner the group participated in the Urban Goatwalker Coffee House open mic night, which makes an effort to include homeless and mentally ill performers and listeners. One of our teens, Chie Togami, regularly volunteers and performs at the open mic night. The teens wrote questions for a fishbowl intergenerational discussion on Quaker spirituality held on First Day.

Because of the Alaska trip, our usual week-long service trip was shortened and was held locally. Eight teens met in Dayton in June for a long weekend of service and learning about sustainable eating and local immigration issues. We worked side by side with Burundian men, women and children to build a compost bin and spread manure and mulch on their a community garden in Dayton An impromptu

football game with the refugee children was a highlight for many. We also worshipped with Friends at the historic Miami Meetinghouse before visiting Friend Milton Cook's organic farm in Waynesville, where his family has lived for over 200 years. We also mulched, weeded and staked tomatoes at "God's Garden," which grows organic vegetables for food pantries, talked about sustainability with Bill Cahalan of OVYM's Earthcare Witness sub-committee, and met with Julie Arias of AFSC to learn about her work with African and Iraqi refugees resettling in Dayton. We reflected on how we might become more rooted in the places we live, while becoming more aware of how others are involuntarily displaced.

In all, 18 teens from seven monthly meetings participated in events this year, and nine adults volunteered as Friendly Adult Presences. Adult volunteers are integral to the success of our community. Following guidelines established by executive committee last year, we continue to perform background checks on volunteers who stay overnight at events. The youth secretary set up an account on Flickr where pictures from teen activities are posted. The URL is Flickr.com/photos/ovymteens.

We are planning for OVYM sessions. We expect our group will be smaller this year because the teens will be returning from Alaska trip the day before sessions begin. At our February meeting, we decided that Lauren Bauman would be the adult to accompany the group to Alaska, and thus we would put greater responsibility on Nick Rhein of Community Meeting to help plan and facilitate the teen group during the sessions.

Youth Secretary Lauren Baumann has submitted her resignation as of the end of Eighth Month, 2009 and plans to return to Philadelphia for an internship and to be near family. We thank Lauren for her service and recognize her enrichment of the programming for the teens and her planting of seeds for the future. At the advice of the Personnel Committee, the job of youth secretary became a contractual position rather than an hourly position this year, which makes it easier to accommodate the longer hours the secretary tends to work in the summer months.

Middle Youth Committee Report

In last year's report, we said that "our work for the year is usually centered on planning sessions for middle youth activities." Frequently, Yearly Meeting hears about the canoe and bike trips. Given the amount of physical energy the youth possess, these remain important, and we are extremely grateful for all the spiritual and financial support we receive from OVYM. However, we want you to know, too, that we have found ourselves through the years, but particularly lately, asking ourselves as we plan: "What makes this gathering of middle youth a *Quaker* gathering?"

It is a commonplace to hear about how busy we are in this 21st century, and how over-scheduled are our children. They have lots of choices for entertainment and activity. Our goal must be to ask ourselves: "Where is the spiritual component in what we can offer that our youth may not get elsewhere?" We have found answers to these questions in our quest to be mindful by creating intentional space for our time together. We aim to bring to the middle youth the Quaker practices of worship sharing and the doing of business where—surprise—decisions are not reached by a vote of the majority. Cultural imperatives regarding the strongest and most charismatic personalities winning sway are strong, and our press to push back at them meets with varying success.

As adults, we also learn to listen to the youth concerns with respect, if not always agreement. We are challenged to make expectations clear, and we continue to learn as we go. We particularly appreciate all the Friendly Adult Presences who are willing to help out in numerous ways: accompanying the youth, offering wisdom and inspiration and simple presence. This year we've benefited from Young Adult Friends as staff and presenters who demonstrate a Quakerism that is adult while not being parental.

In our programming, this past year, 14 Middle Youth joined us for Yearly Meeting sessions: this was a record for attendance in recent memory. During the year the numbers were considerably smaller, but continuing programming during the intervening months remains a goal of ours. Five Middle Youth met during Joint Quarterly meeting at Happy Hollow, and in February, 4 Middle Youth, along with the Teens, met at Louisville Meeting during Miami Quarterly session for fellowship and fun. They were joined by young Friends from Burundi who are now at Louisville Meeting.

At each of these sessions, we've been blessed by having adult Friends share -- stories of their work, their leadings and experience so that our Middle Youth have the opportunity to know a wide variety of Friends. As we say goodbye to some of our faithful Middle Youth participants (including 3 of our sons) moving up to the Teen Group, we welcome new youth; and the circle continues.

Gail Koehler and Deborah Jordan, co-clerks
Jason Dean
Dinah Duvall
Barbara Robinson
Yoshiya Togami

OvYM Planning Committee
7th Month, 2009

Paul Kriese, Clerk

Anyone who has had the privilege of serving the YM as Clerk of Planning Committee knows that they are as successful as the people on the committee. This year was no exception. We gathered a centered group, some more seasoned in the work than others, but all who contributed their sense of God's Leading's for this year's Sessions. Our deliberations have been both spirit-led and communally developed. You are now in the midst of the results of these deliberations. We have tried some new ways of business: table registration before YM sessions begin, new discernments to encourage youth and young adults to these sessions, revised daily news sheets, attempts to provide transportation needs in useful and timely way and to create environmentally safe ways to treat our meal preparations – thanks to the vision of youth and children's YM staffs and YM youth and children. We have continued practices that YM participants have found necessary for sound and Spirit-led sessions including worship sharing, workshops, canoe trips, intergenerational activities, and of course, our bookstore and evening interest groups. The Planning Committee staff each takes a day for which they will be on hand to deal with issues of that day. They are: 3rd day: Paul Kriese, 4th Day: Jane Haldeman, 5th Day: Stan Zarowin, 6th Day: David Pilbrow and 7th Day: Tunia McClure. Please fill out YM comment sheet at the end of YM. Planning Committee pays attention and tries to accommodate concerns raised by these comment sheets.

Reports from our Ministries

Friends Home, Inc. (Quaker Heights Care Community)
2009 Report to Yearly Meeting

Quaker Heights continues to provide independent and assisted living, as well as skilled nursing care to the Waynesville community. The nursing home remained full most of the past year. Assisted Living has had open units since last fall; we believe this decline in occupancy to be related to the general economy.

The Board of Trustees recognized their need to seek **external** help in determining future directions for Quaker Heights. To this end Wipfli, Inc. was engaged to complete a market analysis of our current services and the possibility of adding home care. It was quickly clear that we do not have the resources to initiate home care. Currently Wipfli is working with the administrators and Board to complete a strategic plan within the next few months.

An electronic medical records system has been implemented this year in the nursing home. The goals for its use include to encourage complete charting required by external agencies and to decrease the time nursing staff spends away from direct care. Full implementation of the system continues.

Our chaplain has been very active in providing care to residents and families. She and the Quaker Concerns Committee have created a Quiet Room for the community. It is a beautiful space open to all for medication, prayer, and reflection. The Quiet Room was dedicated in May in a service that embraced many faith communities within the Waynesville area.

The Foundation and the Advancement Committee of the Board of Trustees have been working more closely this year as we begin to seek ways to sustain Quaker Heights. Help from outside sources will become increasingly important if the Medicaid support to nursing homes is reduced next year. We recognize the need to move forward aggressively with structured and intentional fundraising in order to survive.

At the annual meeting this spring we honored four Friends who have contributed their time, efforts, and most importantly their values and intellect to Quaker Heights: Byron Branson, Thomas Hill, Christine Snyder, and Horatio Wood. A quilt hangs near the Community Room as a reminder of their many years of service. Soon after the service we were grieved to hear of “Woody’s” death.

As always, the administrators and staff strive each day to “Make Love Visible Through Service” on behalf of our residents. Caring for fragile elders each day is a joy and an immense challenge. We are humbled by their good work and reinvigorated to support them.

Wendy Waters-Connell, Executive Director
Alice Palmer, Presiding Clerk, Board of Trustees

Friends Music Camp Report

Friends Music Camp will meet for its 30th session when staff and campers gather at the Olney Friends School campus from July 5 through August 2. The campers come from 17 states and 4 foreign countries: Costa Rica (from the Friends community there), Canada, Spain and Japan. Two thirds of the campers are returning; a third are new.

A visiting speaker this year will be Ben Griffith from our Yearly meeting. He will share his amazing personality and thoughts on the death penalty at his presentation.

Positive feedback from campers and their parents continues. It is almost always about the musical growth and enlarging of musical experience; and about the caring, supportive Friends community which makes campers report, "I can be my true self at FMC. And I made lifelong friends."

Challenging this season has been raising sufficient funds to provide scholarships for all who need financial help to attend FMC. As one might expect, due to the economic times we are experiencing, the need for scholarship help is much greater this year. We are very grateful to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, many monthly meetings and individuals from the yearly meeting--and elsewhere--for help in raising these scholarship funds.

Directorship of Friends Music Camp is shared by Peg Champney of Yellow Springs Friends Meeting, and Drea Gallaga and Nick Hutchinson of Chicago.

--Peg Champney for Friends Music Camp

The Historic Lauramoore Friends Home, Inc.
“Independent Living in a Homelike Atmosphere”
504 N.W. 5th Street
Richmond, Ind. 457374

Report to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting from The Lauramoore – August 1, 2009

Hello to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting from all of us connected with The Lauramoore!

This year our focus has included some items continued from the past year such as developing a plan for purring conservation easements on the historic property. However, The Lauramoore has been nominated a Conservation District by the City of Richmond’s Preservation Commission. These are both very deserving awards.

It appears that this has been the year of the appliance with quite a list of new items – two new bathroom sings, two new all ovens, a new dishwasher and TV! After gale force winds, there were broken windows and shutters which have almost all bee repaired along with downed trees (or parts of trees).

The most significant “happening” was a grant we received for redoing floors in the upstairs hallway and dining room and kitchen. The hall and dining room have been finished now and have had the old tile removed and the original wood floors sanded, and finished. The kitchen will receive new linoleum fairly soon. We appreciate the continued support and interest of the Wayne County Foundation.

The present staff and residents are really a joy and truly like being one big family! We are continuing our efforts to make The Lauramoore more visible in the community and always are glad for your help in this regard as well. Our new color brochure has been designed and is being used for marketing.

2010 will mark the 150th year of The Lauramoore! Perhaps you would like to help us plan a celebration? Thomas and Mary Birdsall would be very happy to know of the use of their beautiful home!

Reports from the Wider Quaker World

American Friends Service Committee Report

Annual Meeting

OVYM appointees to the AFSC corporation, Tom Bennett (Community), Phyllis Martin (Bloomington) and Jana Schroeder (Clear Creek), along with AFSC board member Marcy Wenzler (Bloomington) attended the AFSC annual meeting in Philadelphia in November 2008. We felt especially informed, inspired and moved by:

- A dramatization of voices of people in the U.S. who have been affected by the war in Iraq, especially veterans and the families of current soldiers, veterans and those killed in the war, which have been collected during listening projects conducted in conjunction with the Eyes Wide Open exhibit as it has toured Pennsylvania.
- A presentation by the new staff person to direct the resumption of program work in Somalia which was halted in 2003 due to danger to staff and community partners. The program will focus on humanitarian relief and peacebuilding efforts. The presentation was delivered over a speaker phone from Kenya because the staff person was unable to obtain a visa due to the national holiday taken by Kenyans in celebration of the election of Barack Obama.
- Discussion of “A Roadmap for Peace,” organized around five core principles for bringing about a more peace-oriented U.S. foreign policy. The roadmap was developed by over 30 peace and religious groups with key leadership from the AFSC Washington office and QUNO and endorsed by thousands of groups and individuals. The full roadmap can be accessed at www.roadmapforpeace.org. The five core principles are:
 - Our nation should invest in peace.
 - Strengthen the civilian agencies that work on peace and development issues.
 - Give diplomacy a chance.
 - Be a part of global peacebuilding efforts.
 - Create justice through good development and trade policies.

Current Financial Situation

The following is excerpted from documents provided by AFSC to corporation members to help interpret AFSC's current, serious financial situation.

AFSC is experiencing the direct impact of the global financial crisis. We have seen significant declines in donations from our supporters and our reserves have seriously eroded. AFSC must prepare for an extensive period of economic downturn. Recovery of the economy, when it occurs, does not mean AFSC can quickly revert to a larger budget size. Contributions are likely to lag one to two years, and the organization's reserves must be built back up to prudent levels. This means that in the next few years, AFSC can only plan to spend what we can realistically expect to raise in new revenues.

Managing this uncertain period of time is both a governance and staff responsibility, and decisions must be thoroughly analyzed and seasoned. With the guidance of AFSC's Board and Regional Executive Committees, and consultation with Staff across regions and the central office, we are committed to building a sustainable organization that will be leaner – perhaps half its current size. The Board will review various scenarios and provide further directions at its June 2009 meeting, with a final decision for the coming fiscal year by September 2009.

Is AFSC still solvent? Absolutely. However, our financial flexibility has been seriously affected and we must take action to scale back in the immediate term and build a platform for a renewed organization for the future. We must contract in size and scope and focus on what we do particularly well, so that AFSC will not only survive but thrive to do the work the world needs us to do into our 100th year and beyond.

What can Friends do to help?

- Spread the good word of the works and mission of AFSC. Friends have been historically some of our most effective ambassadors to new or current donors.
- Be willing to speak about your support for AFSC at events, or in a newsletter. It isn't necessary to say how much one has given, but to convey why and how important you see AFSC's work in the world.
- Write an editorial or find other ways to raise AFSC's visibility.
- Pass on any leads for funding that you might be aware of.

Proposed Change in Timing of AFSC Annual Meeting

A proposal to change the AFSC annual meeting from November to March is currently being seasoned. If approved, there would be an 18-month gap between the annual meeting in November 2009 and the next annual meeting in March 2011. The By-Law Revision working Group provided the following rationale for this suggested change.

For a number of reasons, the November Board meeting is ill-suited for the deliberation of financial matters. It is a short meeting that lasts less than a full day and takes place after two days of the Corporation meeting. In addition, many of the Board members are new and may be unfamiliar with issues of concern for the AFSC.

The Finance Committee considered this problem, and recommended that the AFSC change its meeting calendar to better meet the needs of its financial planning schedule. In its current planning cycle, the November meeting is a critical meeting where organizational and unit targets are approved. A full three-day meeting with experienced members will greatly aid the consideration of these matters.

As a result, the Finance Committee has requested that the AFSC move the Corporation meeting to March and have new terms for AFSC Board members begin at the March meeting. This will result in a more focused and more experienced Board deliberating on the important financial matters that are part of the November agenda.

The By-law Revision Working Group has asked that questions, advice and concerns be forwarded to them by August 21. please share any thoughts with an OVYM-appointed corporation member who will convey all feedback to the working group. The anticipated timeline is as follows.

September Board meeting	Bring Draft 2 of the Revisions with a request for action
Nov. Corporation meeting	Present recommendations for revisions, as approved by the September board for Corporation approval.

Epistle to Friends

AFSC's epistle to Friends is appended.

Respectfully submitted,

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**American Friends
Service Committee**

March 7, 2009

Epistle to Friends Everywhere

Dear Friends,

The American Friends Service Committee sends warm greetings to Friends everywhere.

For more than 90 years, day in and day out, AFSC has cooperated with Friends around the world to work against violence, destruction, and discrimination.

Throughout the past year, Friends everywhere have been pointing to a path that will foster real security for all people. Together, we have nourished hope for a better world. The challenges are many, and we are called to do much. We want to take this time to recognize our joint accomplishments in the past year.

Though we write this greeting in troubled times, we believe hope abounds:

We continue to work to end the war and build the peace in Iraq through nationwide vigils, advocacy, lending a hand to Iraqi refugees, and prayers. With the touring Eyes Wide Open and Cost of War exhibits, which rely on a partnership between AFSC local staff and dozens of Friends' volunteers, we have brought attention to the heavy human and financial cost of the war.

With the help of 10,000 signatories and a few dozen partner organizations, we delivered the Roadmap for Peace, our principles to guide a new foreign policy, to the Obama transition team in January and engaged in a productive conversation about resetting the U. S. approach to foreign affairs. For the first time in many years, we have access to the president and the opportunity for ongoing dialogue.

To create a fair and humane response to the economic crisis, we made thousands of phone calls to Congress to put families first and pass an economic stimulus package that follows the Quaker values of simplicity, equality, and the belief in the worth of every individual. Our advocacy, hand-in-hand with other faith, labor, women's, and many other groups produced so many calls that we overloaded the Congressional switchboard.

Our staff has worked to help families stay afloat and communities to build a fair, prosperous, and sustainable economy in the U.S. and around the world. We stand together to stop the economic exploitation of the weak. A few examples:

- In Cleveland and in Akron, Ohio, AFSC staff continues to lead public campaigns to ask the sheriff to stop home foreclosures.
- In Koh Kong Province of Cambodia, our staff members work with local communities to support fisheries and help people secure their livelihoods.
- In Postville, Iowa, and around the U. S., AFSC partners with immigrant communities to protect the rights of all workers and to keep families together in the face of home and workplace raids by immigration enforcement agents,
- In Zimbabwe, AFSC helps people displaced by violence build new homes, restore their livelihoods, and speak up for their rights.

On the international stage, we've served as an example of using dialogue and discussion to resolve conflict and prevent violence. We engaged the Iranian people and their president in a dialogue with U. S. religious leaders, fostered dialogue between the U. S. Congress and Iraqi Parliamentarians, and engaged in people-to-people diplomacy with China to help shape a new bilateral peace movement. Our digital storytelling project in Baltimore brought together a far-flung Somali Bantu refugee diaspora (see the stories at www.afsc.org/SomaliBantu). A community theater project in Pittsburgh opened the way for Christian, Muslim, and Jewish Israelis to discuss their differences and commonalities. We find time and again that after engaging in dialogue, people can resolve their differences and find it harder to see each other merely as enemies.

AFSC, with Friends' involvement and support, has hosted life-transforming opportunities for youth, including popular summer work programs in China and Mexico. In communities across the country, our staff has counseled young people on the truth about military recruitment. In support of this effort, our recent *It's My Life!* guide to alternatives to military service, based on the work of North Carolina Friends, has been distributed to hundreds of schools, libraries, and guidance counselors nationwide. Each young person who finds an alternative career to the military is a life possibly saved.

Also this year, the Service Committee and Friends reached out to those struck by natural and human-made calamities. For refugees in war-torn areas as disparate as the Democratic Republic of Congo and Iraq, AFSC staff distributed needed humanitarian supplies and worked to heal the wounds of war. In Gaza, AFSC staff and partners helped supply a hospital to help civilians caught in a conflict zone. And in Burma/Myanmar, AFSC staff and community partners helped feed and educate impoverished children after spring 2008's cyclone and flooding.

Yes, these are troubled times. Our world is suffering from a global recession, seven major wars, and many other violent conflicts. Millions of families around the world are mourning the loss of their loved ones, struggling to put food on the table, and many have been driven from their homes by violence or loss of income.

Those troubles make our work for peace, justice, and human dignity take on even greater importance.

We thank all Friends and our partners around the world for their ongoing support and perseverance. Our message and work – our hope – are needed now more than ever. Together, we will continue to take vital steps toward the better world we all seek.

In peace,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink on a light background. The first signature, on the left, reads "Paul A. Lacey" in a cursive script. The second signature, on the right, reads "Mary Ellen McNish" in a similar cursive script.

Paul Lacey
Clerk

Mary Ellen McNish
General Secretary

Report from Representatives to Friends General Conference Central Committee
Sixth Month 18, 2009

General background

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (then known as Indiana Yearly Meeting (Hicksite)) was one of the seven yearly meetings that co-founded Friends General Conference in 1900. Most Quakers affiliated with Friends General Conference do not view FGC as their “titular denomination,” but rather as an umbrella organization offering spiritual support and services to its 14 affiliated yearly meetings and associations, its nine directly affiliated monthly meetings, and its one statewide fellowship.

In Tenth Month 1998, Friends General Conference adopted the following as part of its statement of purpose:

Friends General Conference is a Quaker organization in the unprogrammed tradition of the Religious Society of Friends which primarily serves affiliated yearly and monthly meetings. It is our experience that:

- Faith is based on direct experience of God.
- Our lives witness this experience individually and corporate.
- By answering that of God in everyone, we build and sustain inclusive community.

FGC provides resources and opportunities that educate and invite members and attenders to experience, individually and corporately, God’s living presence, and to discern and follow God’s leadings. FGC reaches out to seekers and to other religious bodies inside and outside the wider Religious Society of Friends.

Annual Gathering

Friends General Conference may be most familiar to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends through the weeklong Annual Gathering sponsored by FGC every summer, traditionally scheduled to include the Independence Day holiday. Beginning in 2010, arrival will be on First Day and departure on Seventh Day, yielding a six-night gathering, and allowing a weekend day on either side for travel. Venues include:

2009: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA

2010: Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH

2011: Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA

The Annual Gathering offers:

- a wide range of weeklong workshops on a various of topics of interest to Friends
- several daily opportunities for worship, including extended worship
- a series of evening plenary speakers and performers
- an extensive program for children and high school students

- an art gallery and a film series
- a wide range of interest groups
- a Gathering bookstore
- shared meals
- many opportunities for making and deepening spiritually-based friendships
- accessibility services for those with disabilities
- and much, much more...

It is generally understood that the only FGC business conducted at the Annual Gathering is that which is necessary for the rightly ordered functioning of the Gathering itself (typically, through meetings of the Gathering Committee). FGC seeks to make Annual Gathering attendance within the financial grasp of everyone; Friends are referred to the FGC website (www.fgcquaker.org) for affordability tips.

Other programs, services, and resources

FGC is much more than the Annual Gathering. FGC's other programs include:

- Christian and Interfaith Relations
- Couple Enrichment
- FGC Bookstore and the Quaker Press of FGC
- Meetinghouse Fund
- Ministry on Racism
- Quaker Quest of FGC
- Religious Educators' Institute (held every four years, more recently at Bradford Woods in Martinsville, IN, in Eighth Month 2008)
- Support for the Ministry of Clerking (facilitated by Ministry and Nurture Committee)
- Traveling Ministries Program
- Youth Ministries
- and other programs and services

Friends are encouraged to visit the www.fgcquaker.org for an overview of the programs, services, and resources available.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Representatives to FGC Central Committee

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's named Representatives to Friends General Conference Central Committee for 2008-2009 were Richard House, Rex A. Sprouse, and Eric Wolff. As part of their work on Central Committee, Richard also serves a member of Long Range Conference Planning Committee; Rex also serves as OVYM's Yearly Meeting Representative to Executive Committee, as a member of Blue Book Committee, Ministry and Nurture Committee, Traveling Ministries Committee, and Yearly Meeting Visitors Committee, and as Co-Clerk of the 2010 FGC Annual Gathering Committee; Eric also serves as a member of Publications Committee.

Friends General Conference Central Committee meets every year over a long weekend at the end of Tenth Month. The 2008 meeting was held at the New Windsor Conference Center, operated by the Church of the Brethren, in New Windsor, MD. This gathering proved to be a busy, yet spiritually

centering experience for your Yearly Meeting representatives. This year's meeting was not particularly characterized by controversy or the need to seek fresh discernment on a range of issues. Indeed, much of our work in plenary sessions consisted of listening to reports of the various program and administrative committees that carry out many of the tasks of Friends General Conference Central Committee, lifting up one another, and supporting one another in prayer and with words of encouragement. Similar words could be written about the smaller Executive Committee meetings held Second Month 6-7, 2009, at Providence Meetinghouse in Media, PA and Fourth Month 24-26, 2009, at Pittsburgh Friends Meetinghouse, in Pittsburgh, PA.

FGC Update for Summer 2009

One of the great achievements of the past year was the publication by the Quaker Press of FGC of the much anticipated volume *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans and the Myth of Racial Justice* by Vanessa Julye and Donna McDaniel. The release of the book was celebrated on Second Month 5, 2009, at the Arch Street Meetinghouse in Philadelphia, PA. To quote from the Fit for Freedom web page (<http://www.fgcquaker.org/fit-for-freedom>):

Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship reveals that racism has been as insidious, complex, and pervasive among Friends as it has been generally among people of European descent. The book documents the spiritual and practical impacts of discrimination in the Religious Society of Friends in the belief that understanding the truth of our past is vital to achieving a diverse, inclusive community in the future.

Friends are encouraged to read *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship* with open hearts and minds, to form study groups within their monthly meetings (perhaps aided by the study guide also available) to consider the material not only individually, but also corporately, and to have faith that confronting the past of our Religious Society in a truthful, de-romanticized fashion is an important key to the development of a racially diverse, inclusive faith community in the 21st Century.

Like almost all non-profit organizations, the recent economic downturn proven financially challenging for Friends General Conference. Because of good financial stewardship in recent years, FGC is not facing the same sort of crisis mode faced by many non-profits. Nevertheless, FGC Finance Committee has warned us that there is a growing disparity between projected expenses and projected income and has urged us to set as a goal reducing that gap to zero within the next five years. Finance Committee Friends have urged major steps toward restructuring in 2011 and 2012. Already, it has been necessary to terminate the position of FGC office receptionist, and it is likely that additional FGC staff positions will be cut in the future. There is a movement to conduct more of our committee business by conference call, rather than face-to-face weekend meetings, and the reduced number of weekend committee meetings are more likely to be held in the Philadelphia area, saving money on FGC staff travel. An Ad Hoc Priorities Committee is also working to discern how Friends General Conference can be faithful to our leadings to nurture the spiritual vitality of the Religious Society of Friends, while keeping within the material blessings we are being given.

FGC service opportunity for Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends

The 2010 Friends General Conference Annual Gathering will be held at Bowling Green State University in Northwestern Ohio. FGC is relying on support from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends to volunteer to serve on the Gathering Committee. Service on the Gathering Committee is primarily a matter of service on one of the subcommittees. We are still looking for Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends willing to serve on one of the following subcommittees: Worship Subcommittee, Workshop Subcommittee, and Evening Programs Subcommittee. You can read descriptions of the various subcommittees and register your interest in serving at the following URL: <http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering/next-year>. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact Rex Sprouse.

Rex A. Sprouse
Sixth Month 18, 2009

FCNL Annual Meeting
November 13 – 16, 2008
Washington, D.C.

More than 200 Quakers from about 40 states, representing 26 yearly meetings, gathered in the nation's capital for the Friends Committee on National Legislation annual meeting to approve its legislative priorities and plan strategies for promoting that agenda in the 111th Congress. Frank Huss, Mary Anne Curtiss, Ken Bordwell, Ron and Jane Haldeman, and Paul Kriese represented Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

Prior to the opening of the annual meeting, approximately 60 Quakers gathered at the FCNL offices on Capitol Hill to participate in lobby day. There was training in the morning, then Quakers visited one or more of their legislators' offices. The topic of the lobbying this year was engaging with Iran. Frank, Mary Anne, and Ken met with Matt Ortman, Sen. George Voinovich's foreign policy aide. They then dropped into Sen. Sherrod Brown's office and left materials concerning the wisdom of sitting down with Iran. Paul Kriese had met with Congressman Mike Pence prior to Lobby Day.

The speaker on Thursday night, veteran White House correspondent Helen Thomas, cautioned that the press and the public must remain vigilant and engaged with government to ensure that real change takes place.

On Friday night, author and journalist Barbara Slavin reviewed the history of missed opportunities for improving relations between the U.S. and Iran and talked about the importance of people in the United States understanding Iran's perspective.

Slavin and Rep. Wayne Gilchrest of Maryland, who received the Edward F. Snyder Award for National Legislative Leadership, both noted FCNL's key role in preventing Congress from passing legislation that effectively called for a more complete embargo on Iran, a step both said would have increased tensions to even more dangerous levels. Gilchrest urged members of the audience to continue their work to promote dialogue with Iran and to address climate change.

Among the specific results of the gathering were the following:

- Participants agreed to lobby new and returning members of Congress to begin the long-term work of reducing military spending and shifting resources to education, health care, and energy conservation;
- In FCNL's 65th year, the Friends gathered this weekend set a goal of organizing 65 house parties to talk about FCNL's work and urge financial contributions. For our meeting, Mary Anne Curtiss will be hosting one- stay tuned for further details.

“Well, good, now it's all done but the work.”
— Meg Hummon at the close of Annual Meeting

William Penn House Report
7th Month, 2009

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

Paul Kriese, OVYM representative

William Penn is famous for the statement that Friends must not 'hide their Light under a bushel'

William Penn House does just this. At the center of official D.C. William Penn House serves as a visible beacon for Friends and friends of Friends. In the past year hear some of their activities:

--Plymouth Meeting Friends Meeting 4th grade

--retired women's group lobbying on nuclear technology

--Thorton Friends School 8th grade for a Quaker Workcamp on issues of hunger

--a group of developmentally challenged people from England on a US tour

--Quaker Workcamps to New Orleans

--Weekly potluck programs on:

AIDS/HIV

Human rights

Elderly of DC

Recycling

Lobbying on Capitol Hill

Developing a vegetative roof on the Carriage House and many more issues and groups.

Income for 2008: 366,082

Expenses for 2008: 367,276 (-1,194)

"The staff of William Penn House reflects the concept of service and dedication that makes this place so special." William Penn would agree, as do I.

Quaker Heritage Center of Wilmington College
Annual Report for 2008/2009

A year of challenges and opportunities. A year of changes and continuity. A year of successes and learning experiences. As the 2008/2009 academic year comes to a close, I find myself grateful for it all.

Since Summer 2008, we have hosted four different exhibits in the Quaker Heritage Center Gallery. "Wilmington Yearly Meeting in Black & White: The Art of Marty Leigh," "The Children of Abraham," "A Time for Reflection," and "A House Divided: Quaker Responses to the Civil War" welcomed Friends (and friends of Friends) to reflect on their own stories, their own lives, and their own beliefs. Wilmington College students, faculty, and staff, the wider Quaker community, and visitors from around southwest Ohio each found something different to identify with in each exhibit. Special thanks goes out to the many people who made these exhibits possible, including the Ohio Humanities Council for providing "The Children of Abraham," and Wynn Alexander and the Wilmington College Theatre Department for construction of the "meetinghouse" for "A House Divided," which will remain in the gallery through October 9. It will be followed by "The Quaker Tapestry," a traveling exhibit from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. We will begin work this coming year on a special exhibit celebrating the work of Friends United Meeting, in preparation for the 2011 FUM Triennial, which will be held on the Wilmington College campus.

What are exhibits without collections? This year we were able to restore an 1861 Seth Thomas Quaker calendar clock that came from the Peelle family. We also received a collection of items from Charlie Pearson (Cincinnati Friends Meeting, WYM) related to his military service during World War II; radio recordings and documentation from Cincinnati Monthly Meeting; and a large collection of Quaker books from the estate of Larry Pickard (Council House Friends Meeting, Great Plains YM and Midwest YM, and Wilmington Friends Meeting, WYM).

Visitors to the Center included the parents of incoming freshmen during Summer Orientation; tourists participating in the Quaker Heritage Tour; members of the Ward family who made a visit to the Center part of their family reunion; Wilmington College Resident Advisor orientation; Quaker students, faculty, and staff who gathered for an opening year celebration; local teachers who attended a National History Day in Ohio Teachers Workshop; Wilmington College students from Academic Resources, Writing I, Freshman Global Issues & Cultures, Comparative Religions, and Senior Global Issues & Cultures classes; community members on campus for the Heart Music Change concert; young women from the Wilmington Church of the Latter Day Saints; prospective Wilmington College students and their parents; young people from Ecuador and the Philippines who were participants in the International Undergraduate Research Seminar; a local Red Hat club; individuals who attended the Peace Clinics at the Peace Resource Center; participants in the Quaker Genealogy & History Conference; 4th graders from East End Elementary School; the United Society of Friends Women from Wilmington Friends Meeting; and the Wilmington Middle School College Club.

This year's Quaker Genealogy & History Conference focused on the impact of the Civil War on the Religious Society of Friends. "A House Divided: Quakers, the Civil War, and Lincoln" featured presentations by historians, theologians, and scholars such as Jim Newby, Gary Kersey, Lester Horwitz,

Martin P. Johnson, Donne Hayden, Christine Hadley Snyder, Karen Campbell, Jessica Nelson, David Goff, and Gary Farlow. The Sunday bus tour of historic sites was a highlight of the conference, although nothing could top the special presentation of “Led By the Spirit,” a multimedia dramatization scripted by Christine Hadley Snyder (Dayton Friends Meeting, OVYM) based on “A Quaker Family Visits President Lincoln,” a play by Gary Kersey (Dover Friends Meeting, WYM).

I spent quite a bit of time this year “on the road” sharing the mission and vision of the Quaker Heritage Center with individuals at the FUM Triennial in North Carolina, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, Ada Chapel Friends (WYM), the Springboro (Ohio) Historical Society, and the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums annual meeting. I also participated in a weekend retreat facilitated by FUM on the Role of Campus Ministry in Quaker Colleges. Most exciting, the Quaker Heritage Center was invited by the Friends Committee on National Legislation to install a traveling exhibit in the Wilson Conference Room in their Washington DC facility, “*To Friends Beyond the Sea That Have Black and Indian Slaves: Friends Respond to Slavery.*” The exhibit has been up for almost 12 months, and has generated interest in the Quaker Heritage Center among individuals who otherwise would never have known the Center existed!

The Quaker Heritage Center continued working with the Wilmington College Peace Resource Center on two projects: “Stories of Hope,” a series of permanent exhibits on Barbara Reynolds, the Hiroshima Maidens, Sadako Sasaki, and Dr. Takashi Nagai; and Peace Week, which included a Family Fun Night and a concert with Australian diplomat, songwriter, and peace-keeper Iain Campbell Smith. We also collaborated with the Isaac Harvey Fund in February and March to present a series of speakers on the theme “If War Is Not the Answer, What Is?” Joe Volk and Bridget Moix (FCNL), Mary Lord (formerly of AFSC), Chuck Fager (Quaker House), and Rick Polhamus (Christian Peacemaker Teams) spoke on campus, met with students, and addressed the topic from a variety of perspectives. The Center was also able to lend financial support to the Campus Ministry Office to bring Bart Campolo to campus for Religious Emphasis Week in April.

Use of the T. Canby Jones Meetinghouse continues to be in high demand from groups within the Wilmington College and wider Quaker communities. The Meetinghouse was the site of Faith & Life Forums, faculty meetings, Instruction Development and Resources Committee programs, Honors Program capstone presentations, Admissions events, Entrepreneurship presentations, Catholic mass on high holy days, weekly College Worship, Conflict Resolution Education in Teacher Education workshops, faculty retreats, an Agriculture program alumni gathering, Introduction to Quakers classes, the Leadership Clinton Youth Collaborative graduation celebration, and a weekly Bible Study led by Matthew Zuehlke (Wilmington Friends Meeting, WYM).

As a part of the Wilmington College campus community, I was able to provide training for four students who completed internships with the Center this academic year: Blyss Fadley, Elizabeth Heidler, Kari Jones, and Jessica Nelson learned about exhibit research, design, fabrication, and installation, and educational programming. I have continued as a member of the Isaac Harvey Fund Committee, and served as the Coordinator for the Westheimer Peace Symposium and Issues & Artists series. I provided the message at College Worship, sat on a panel of faculty and staff for new trustee orientation, met with Writing I courses who were reading about the experience of silent worship, served as a scholarship contest evaluator for incoming freshmen, and participated in FCNL’s spring lobby weekend. I have been

meeting with the Wilmington Yearly Meeting Wilmington College Committee. In the wider museum professional world, I continue as the Region 8 Representative to the Board of the Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums, serving on the planning committees for the 2008 Region 8 meeting and the 2009 annual meeting, and speaking at the 2008 Region 8 meeting. I am the Chair of the Heritage Advisory Council and a member of the History and Legacy Subcommittee of the Clinton County (Ohio) Bicentennial Committee.

The Center has been blessed this past year by the generosity of a number of groups and individuals who have made financial contributions to the work of the Center: Cincinnati Friends Meeting, Leesburg Friends Meeting, Wilmington Friends Meeting, Deborah Beard, Nancy Bernard, Michael Birkel, Dave Chapman, John Fitzgerald, Ellen Gilbert, Doug Haag, Dale Hayes, Susan Henry, Mary Kathryn Hilberg, Richard Perry, Cindy Peterson, Ed Roberts, Oreida Schroeder, Tom Terrell, Patricia Thomas, and Frances Wilkin. Thank you also to those who volunteered their time and energy to our programs and exhibits: David Brindle, Les Dobyns, Jenna Fuerst, Alan Haines, Nic Haines, Patti Kinsinger, Mark Lunsford, Kent Pickard, and Lauren Wayson, who did everything from clean exhibit cases and put stamps on postcards to set up displays and catalog collections. A special thank you goes out to two graduating Wilmington College students: Jerry Wheeler, who has worked as a Student Gallery Assistant for three years, and Sonja Koehler, who worked as a Student Gallery Assistant this past year. They will be missed!

None of these wonderful programs, exhibits, or activities could have happened without your encouragement, donations to the collection, and financial support throughout the past year. With your continued assistance, I look forward to another banner year!

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth M. Dobyns, Curator, Quaker Heritage Center of Wilmington College

FWCC Report

The annual sessions of FWCC-SOA were held this year in Canby OR with the theme of *The Vision is for its appointed time* from Habakkuk 2:2-3. This was an appropriate theme because FWCC-SOA continues to work to find ways to bring the organization's vision into the world while facing the realities of financial constraints. FWCC-SOA continues to operate under a deficit and we realize that this is not sustainable. To this end we have a committee FRPIC (Fiscally Responsible Program Implementation Com.) actively working to restructure the organization, so that it can perform its mission and stay within our income. The goal is to present a balanced budget within the next couple of years.

Because of the deficit, last year FWCC-SOA made the difficult decision to lay off some of their staff, but we are happy to report that over the last year all the staff that were let go have landed on their feet, with continued employment offering both spiritual and professional growth.

In the midst of this reorganization FWCC continues to inspire and to offer excitement for the future of Quakerism. Of particular interest at annual sessions were the presentations from the local Friends churches and meetings. Freedom Friends Church shared their experiences as an unaffiliated, evangelical yet not fundamentalist church. Their motto is "Hold On! Let Go!" and they presented a form of Quaker worship that stretches the boundaries of all affiliated Friends groups. In other news, we are happy to report that the plenary to take place in Nairobi, Kenya on August 13-21 2012 is on track to be a phenomenal event. The theme of *Being Salt and Light: Friends living in the Kingdom of God in a broken world* has been chosen and we expect around 1,000 Friends from all over the world to be in attendance. We strongly urge the Ohio Valley YM to be thinking about fundraising for sending representatives to this historic gathering.

But FWCC also provides spiritual inspiration in less dramatic ways as well. JP Lund offers this story "During the final worship, I noticed a little program next to the hymn pamphlet in the pocket of the chair in front of me. The program was for a camp that had been held there earlier. I think it belonged to someone named "Annnnnnnnnn." It had printed material from the leaders, which I paid no attention to, and lots of space for the campers to write in. Ann used this for a cursive roller coaster (the entire alphabet), a game of tic tac toe ending in cats, a message from an acquaintance "you'll never guess who this is", lots of doodles, and one message for me: "I will make a difference in the lives of my friends who didn't get to come." For all of you who are not so fortunate as to be able to attend FWCC gatherings, the FWCC reps will continue to try to bring back spiritual energy and share with our Friends back home.

Executive Committee Minutes 2008-2009

OVYM Executive Committee

4th day, 10th Month, 2008

Community Friends Meeting Cincinnati, OH

1. **The meeting opened with a period of waiting worship.**

2. **Roll Call of Meetings and Committees**

Meeting/Committee	Representative
Miami Quarterly Meeting	
Campus	Dale Hayes
Community	Frank Huss, Byron Branson
Dayton	Virginia Wood, David Wood
Eastern Hills	Linda Coppock
Green Plain	No Representative
Lexington	No Representative
Louisville	No Representative
Miami	Tom Nowel
Oxford	Steve Angell
Yellow Springs	Peg Champney
Presiding Clerk Miami Quarter	Tom Nowel

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

Bloomington	No Representative
Clear Creek	No Representative
Fall Creek	No Representative
Fort Wayne Friends Mtg	No Representative
Hopewell	No Representative

Lafayette	No Representative
Maple Grove (inactive)	No Representative
North Meadow Circle	Paul Buckley
White Rose	No Representative
Presiding Clerk Whitewater Quarter	Rex Sprouse

Yearly Meeting Officers

Presiding Clerk	Ben Griffith
Assistant Clerk	Virginia Wood
Recording Clerk	Deb Kociszewski
Publications Coordinator	Not Present
Quill Editor	Not Present
Treasurer	Steve Angell
Assistant Treasurer	Paul Buckley

Standing and Special Committees

Advancement and Nurture	No Representative
Budget and Finance	Paul Buckley, Steve Angell
Discipline Revision	Rex Sprouse
Nominating	Peg Champney, Byron Branson
Peace and Social Concerns	No Representative
Religious Education	No Representative
Personnel	Tom Nowel
YM Planning	No Representative
Children's Program	No Representative

Middle Youth	Regrets
Teen Activities	Nikki Coffey-Tousley, Cynthia Sibrel

Yearly Meeting Staff

Clerical Support	Regrets
Youth Secretary	Regrets

Liaisons

Friends Home, Inc. Liaison	Dale Hayes
Lauramoore Home	No Representative
Friends Music Camp	Peg Champney

Not required to attend Executive Committee but welcome:

Auditor
Braddock Trustees
Personnel Committee Representatives
Yearly Meeting (Property Corporation) Trustees
Records Coordinator
Statistician
Webmaster

Guests

3. Review of minutes of sixth month, 2008

No corrections were offered to the minutes of the sixth month, 2008 Executive Committee.

4. Approval of proposed agenda

Friends approved the proposed agenda with no additions

5. Earthcare

The clerk read a letter from the Earthcare subcommittee requesting stand-alone committee status within the Yearly Meeting, noting that the subcommittee had been meeting since 2006. Jamie Fota, Marcie Ankrom, Mark Williams, Marshall Gibson and Bill Cahalan have been meeting as the subcommittee. Concerns were shared that the current subcommittee consists of Friends who exhibit a life-long commitment to the cause of Earthcare. As a stand-alone committee, the Nominating Committee would have the charge of discerning and rotating the membership of the committee. The Assistant Clerk recommended that the matter be forwarded to the quarterly meetings for discernment, and then to the Yearly Meeting session upon the advice of the quarterly meetings. The clerk will request that the Earthcare subcommittee draft a proposal for the committee that would be suitable for the Policy manual and forward this proposal to the quarterly meetings to use in their discernment. The subcommittee is asked to explain why stand-alone committee status would be preferable to remaining a subcommittee.

6. Position of Registrar

The Yearly Meeting Registrar has historically been a part of the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, having been recruited by the committee. It has been suggested that the Registrar be a position discerned by the Nominating Committee. The clerk will research the Yearly Meeting handbook for its guidance and bring the matter to the Executive Committee at a future meeting.

7. Training of Youth Workers

All people working with the young people of the Yearly Meeting, both volunteer and paid, must be trained in the policies adopted by the Yearly Meeting. The training is an expression of our responsibility to our children. It was suggested that the clerks of the three youth committees coordinate the training. It was also noted that the Religious Education and Personnel committees could be incorporated into the process. The clerk will work with the clerks of the Children's Committees, Religious Education, and Personnel Committee to develop a procedure. Friends approved.

8. Appointments by Executive Committee

The clerk distributed a listing of the Executive Committee appointments to the Yearly Meeting. It was noted that these appear on page 54 of the Yearly Meeting Minute Book.

9. Treasurer's Report

Steve Angell summarized the Treasurer's Report. It was noted that the Annual Session expenses were approximately \$ 9000 more than income. This is less than the budget projection of \$ 10,600. It was noted that some meetings have expressed concern that they would not be able to meet the budgeted contribution after the budget has been approved. Friends noted that some of the timing issues on budget discernment are related to the new procedures being implemented to the Yearly Meeting budget process. The Treasurer's Report will be appended to these minutes.

10. Miami Quarterly Meeting

The Miami Quarterly Meeting last met in fifth month, 2008. The quarter has received a request from Teen Activities for assistance for attendance at the Joint Quarterly Meeting. The Committee of Two has approved \$ 40 for two teens to attend the Joint Quarterly Meeting.

11. Joint Quarterly Meeting

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting reminds Friends that the deadline for registration for Joint Quarterly Meeting is upon us. Meetings are reminded that registrations must be received to complete the plans for Happy Hollow.

12. Youth Secretary Report

The clerk distributed copies of the Youth Secretary Report dated tenth month 4, 2008.

13. Audit Committee

The clerk reported that Tom Glen has requested to be released from the duties of the yearly meeting audit. J.P. Lund has offered to work with Donita Barnes to complete the 2008 audit. Friends approved.

14. Personnel Committee

Tom Nowel reported that the Personnel Committee has met regarding two matters, one being the performance evaluation of the Yearly Meeting Clerical Support Staff, the other being the status of the two Yearly Meeting staff persons. The Personnel Committee advises that in the past, the yearly meeting has operated as if the staff people were employed on an exempt basis (exempt from the requirement to pay for overtime). In fact, the staff positions are non-exempt positions. This status has been confirmed with the United States Department of Labor (verbally) and the Human Resources Manager of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. The committee proposes changing the relationship with the staff persons to contract status, with the initial contract period to run December 1, 2008 through May 31, 2009. The contract would detail terms of service to the yearly meeting. The Presiding Clerk of the Yearly Meeting and the Treasurer

would have the responsibility to act on behalf of the yearly meeting in executing the contracts. The Personnel Committee will proceed with the transition to contract status, with approval to be managed by phone conference of the Executive Committee. A draft of the contract will be appended to these minutes. Friends expressed gratitude for the work dedicated to this change in status, and the transparency it will represent. Friends approved.

15. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee

The committee will meet tenth month 18, 2008. Paul Kriese will convene.

16. Discipline Revision Committee

Monthly Meetings should have received the third draft of Membership, part 3. Responses are requested by early first month, 2009. Guidelines were included to help meetings provide the most helpful communication with the committee. Meetings are encouraged to name someone to draft a sense of the discussion. The committee also needs the most accurate contact list from monthly meetings. It was noted that the Discipline Revision report in the minute book is the one pre-annual session. An updated report from the ninth month 6, 2008 meeting was submitted for publication. It was requested that the update be re-sent and cc'd to Deborah Jordan to be inserted into the archive copy and distributed via e-mail and postal mail to monthly meetings. The updated text would also appear in the Quill.

17. Advancement and Nurture Committee

Virginia Wood reported that the committee is meeting eleventh month 22, 2008. That will be the first meeting since the annual sessions, and will be under the care of the clerk's table.

18. Publications Committee

Virginia Wood expressed gratitude to Erik Cleven for his work on the Yearly Meeting Minute Book. The publication for archive will need an insert with corrections. Formatting difficulties were the most significant challenge. The final document should be available for Joint Quarterly Meeting. The Statistical Report, starting on page 64, includes some issues. The Statistical Report will be distributed to meetings via e mail and postal mail to meetings in a correct format. Friends should expect some guidelines for the submission of reports for the 2009 Reports In Advance to help with some of the formatting issues for the next sessions. Friends approved. Friends will consider the items to be included in Reports in Advance and the Minute Book at a future Executive Committee meeting to provide the most appropriate reporting.

19. Nominating

The Nominating Committee met tenth month 4, 2008 prior to the Executive Committee meeting. The committee is looking at the need for officers, and has become aware that a CPA is desirable for the audit. The committee will meet next on eleventh month 17, 2008 via conference call.

20. Teen Activities

Nikki Coffey-Tousley presented the report of the Teen Secretary. The Teens are energized with preparations for the Alaska Spirit Camp trip. More than \$ 500 has been raised through the sale of candles and jewelry. They are applying for grants through Quaker organizations, and more items will be available for sale at Joint Quarterly Meeting. The Teens will present a program with the Young Adult Friends at the Joint Quarterly Meeting. The full report of the Teen Secretary is appended to these minutes.

21. Budget and Finance

Paul Buckley reported that a concern has been raised that we approved contributions of \$ 20,000 but only allocated \$ 19,350. It was suggested that Budget and Finance consider a donation to William Penn House, as the yearly meeting has a named representative to the organization. Friends approved.

22. Friends Music Camp

Peg Champney reported that 5 dorm staff workers at the 2008 Friends Music Camp were former campers, who bring a special connection to the experience. She reported that one camper who was having difficulties with associations has now enrolled at Olney Friends School, and another has experienced positive changes following the camp experience.

23. Friends Home, Inc.

Dale Hayes reported that Hurricane Ike left Friends Home without power for approximately 24 hours. The organization is in the process of strategic planning, and is carefully considering demographic changes and needs. The entrance to the facility has been re-done to be more accessible.

24. Friends Committee for National Legislation

Frank Huss reported that Friends Committee for National Legislation will meet in the Eleventh month. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting will have five in attendance.

25. Earlham School of Religion

Steve Angell reported that Earlham School of Religion is exploring relationships between the school and monthly and yearly meetings. Steve invited any comments on the subject that he could share.

The meeting closed in silent worship.

Friends approved the minutes.

The next Executive Committee Meeting is second month 7, 2009 via conference call starting at noon. Details will be distributed closer to the time.

Fourth month 4, 2009 will include work on the budget in the morning, and Executive Committee in the afternoon at Earlham School of Religion.

Sixth month 6, 2009 is currently scheduled to be at Community Friends. The clerk will contact North Meadow Circle of Friends to possibly change the location of the meeting.

Friends were reminded to expect a called meeting via conference call to consider the contracts for the yearly meeting staff positions.

Submitted,

Deb Kociszewski

OYVM Recording Clerk

OVYM Executive Committee

7th day, 2nd Month, 2009

Conference Call

1. **The meeting opened with a period of waiting worship.**

2. **Roll Call of Meetings and Committees**

Meeting/Committee

Representative

Miami Quarterly Meeting

Campus

Dale Hayes

Community

Byron Branson, Frank Huss

Dayton

Virginia Wood

Eastern Hills

Green Plain

Lexington

Betsy Neale, Richard Mitchell

Louisville

Miami

Tom Nowel

Oxford

Steve Angell

Yellow Springs

Peg Champney

Presiding Clerk Miami Quarter

Tom Nowel

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

Bloomington

Clear Creek

Fall Creek

Fort Wayne Friends Mtg

Hopewell

Lafayette

Maple Grove (inactive)

North Meadow Circle

Stan Zarowin

White Rose

Presiding Clerk Whitewater Quarter

regrets – Rex Sprouse

Yearly Meeting Officers

Presiding Clerk

Ben Griffith

Assistant Clerk

Virginia Wood

Recording Clerk

Betsy Neale (substituting)

Publications Coordinator

Quill Editor

Treasurer

Steve Angell

Assistant Treasurer

regrets – Paul Buckley

Standing and Special Committees

Advancement and Nurture

Virginia Wood

Budget and Finance

Stan Zarowin

Discipline Revision

Betsy Neale

Nominating

Byron Branson, Peg Champney

Peace and Social Concerns

Richard Mitchell

Religious Education

Personnel

Tom Nowel

YM Planning	Stan Zarowin
Children's Program	
Middle Youth	Deborah Jordan
Teen Activities	Cynthia Sibrel, Nikki Coffey Tousley, Lauren Baumann

Yearly Meeting Staff

Clerical Support	Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary	Lauren Baumann

Liaisons

Friends Home, Inc.	
Lauramoore Home	
Friends Music Camp	Peg Champney

Not required to attend Executive Committee but welcome:

Auditor	
Braddock Trustees	
Personnel Committee Representatives	
Yearly Meeting (Property Corporation) Trustees	
Records Coordinator	
Statistician	Frank Huss
Webmaster	

Guests

- 3. Review of minutes of tenth month, 2008.** No corrections were offered to the minutes of the tenth month, 2008 Executive Committee.

4. Approval of proposed agenda. The agenda was approved.

5. Treasurer's Report. Steve Angell reported. His report will be appended to these minutes. We are roughly on budget at this point. The proportional share income is a bit low, and we will be looking to make that up over the next months. Friend Angell agreed to review past information to see how we are doing compared to prior years. Friend Zarowin inquired as to whether we need to be making adjustments in response to the current economic crisis. Friend Nowel reported that Miami Monthly Meeting has reduced some of its budget items in anticipation of reduced income. Friend Angell said he will contact individual meetings to see what they anticipate being able to contribute to the Yearly Meeting. Friend Griffith reminded Friends that in the morning prior to the April 4 Executive Committee meeting there will be time for an extensive discussion of the budget. Friend Angell expressed some concern for fundraising for the Alaska trip.

6. Follow-up from Tenth Month Executive Committee Meeting. The Earth Care Subcommittee will remain a subcommittee of Peace and Social Concerns. The Religious Education Committee will take over training of our youth workers. The Personnel Committee has executed contracts with our two employees – Clerical Support, and Youth Secretary – in place of the former hourly structure.

7. Standing Approval for Use of OVYM Mailing List. Friends approved use of the mailing list for OVYM ministries and FGC.

8. Handbook Revisions Virginia Wood reported. See appended texts of revisions.

Youth Secretary - change to contract status

Clerical Staff - change to contract status

Presiding Clerk/Assistant Clerk rotation

Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer rotation

Support Committee for Staff

Clerk's Support Committee

Executive Committee

Teen Activities Committee

Personnel Committee

OVYM Application Form – Volunteer working with minors

Friends approved these revisions. Our clerical support person will be instructed to make these changes to the handbook.

9. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report – April 18, 2009 at Clear Creek Friends Meeting.

10. Miami Quarterly Meeting Report – Tom Nowel reported. Miami Quarter will meet February 15, 2009, at Louisville. All incumbent officers are willing to serve an additional term. Teens are handling the program at the February 15 session.

11. Youth Secretary Staff Report Lauren Baumann reported. There have been two retreats in the last few months, and teens are gearing up for a retreat at Louisville. Please let teens know that they are welcome to join that retreat. There will be a service retreat in Dayton in mid-June. Five teens have been accepted for the Alaska trip, and more applications coming in. Various fundraising activities are underway. Planning is ongoing with Alaska Friends. A new Flickr site for OVYM teens has been created, and the link to it will be included in Lauren Baumann's written report.

Deborah Jordan reported that 5th and 6th graders from New Garden, NC meeting will be coming to Cincinnati for a service project and all are welcome to join in.

12. Advancement and Nurture Committee Virginia Wood reporting. A written report is appended to these minutes. The committee met and discerned that there is a strong role for the committee within the YM. Concerns were raised about poor attendance at workshops that the committee has offered in the past. One idea is to convene in the spring a meeting of clerks of monthly meeting Ministry and Council committees. This suggestion was approved by Executive Committee Friends present.

The committee suggests that there needs to be some discernment of the relationship among the committee, yearly meeting, and quarterly meeting.

The Presiding Clerk urged Friends to read and consider the Advancement and Nurture report.

Friend Branson asked Friends to forward to Nominating Committee the names of Friends to be considered for service on the Advancement and Nurture Committee.

13. Teen Committee Nikki Coffey Tousley reported. It is important to let Friends know about the Alaska trip. Unfortunately, none of the grant applications were approved for funding the trip. We are asking meetings to do local fundraising. The age limit for teen participation has been lowered to 13 years old, as of June 2009. The committee will seek OVYM teens to fill out the group. If there are not enough teens from OVYM, participation will be opened to FUM Friends in the region, and in that case we would ask them to pay their airfare.

14. Nominating Committee Byron Branson reported.

Quill Editor Nomination Dan Cartmell of West Lafayette MM has volunteered to serve as soon as his nomination is approved. Friends approved.

Audit Time Frame The Nominating Committee suggests a change in the schedule for the audit work to allow a longer time window for accomplishing the audit. Friends are asked to waive the requirement that the audit be completed in July of this year. Friends approved. At the summer sessions we will consider changing the handbook.

Associated Committee on Indian Affairs Representative This position has not been filled in the last five years. The Nominating Committee asks whether this position should be dropped. Friends approved eliminating the position of representative to the Associated Committee on Indian Affairs.

Assistant Treasurer This is now a 4-year commitment as part of the Treasurer/Assistant Treasure rotation. Please forward any suggestions for this position to the Nominating Committee.

15. Audit Report A written report is appended to these minutes. Friends accepted this report.

16. Budget and Finance Stan Zarowin reported. He asked that yearly meeting committees submit their budget requests to Budget and Finance Committee along with an explanation of the need for these funds. These requests should be submitted by the middle of March. Please email requests to Paul Buckley at Paul.Buckley1@sbcglobal.net .

17. Discipline Revision Betsy Neale reported that the committee is actively working but has no requests for Executive Committee.

18. Yearly Meeting Planning Stan Zarowin reported. The Yearly Meeting Planning Committee asks for a subsidy for first time attenders of \$2055.80. This request will be considered at the budget discussion the morning of the April 4 Executive Committee meeting.

Budget line for young adults – the committee is awaiting direction for this item. Again, this will be discussed at the April 4 Executive Committee meeting.

The theme for the 2009 OVYM sessions is “Living Our Testimonies Today – Let Us See What Love Can Do.”

19. Announcements

Miami Monthly Meeting and the Nowel family are hosting a fundraiser for FCNL. Contact Tom Nowel for further information.

There will be a Middle Youth program at Miami Quarterly Meeting, February 15, 2009 at Louisville FM. Because space is limited in the meetinghouse, there will be no overnight for Middle Youth.

The fall issue of the Quill has been delayed but is coming out very soon. Ben Griffith will distribute contact information for the new editor, Dan Cartmell.

20. Next Meeting Executive Committee April 4, 2009 at Earlham School of Religion, Richmond, IN. A budget discussion will begin at 9:30 am with the Executive Committee meeting noon to 4 pm.

Submitted,

Betsy Neale

Substituting for OVYM Recording Clerk

2008-09 OVYM Budget Summary

Feb. 2009

Category	2007-08	2007-08	2008-09	2008-09	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	

7 mos. 59% of year

Income

Proportional Shares	69,743	69,089	76,903	22,125	29%
Interest	1,000	891	500	116	23%
Other Income	525	2,154	500	58	12%
Donated Travel	4,000	3,369	3,500	1,938	55%
Total Income	75,268	75,503	81,403	24,237	30%
Teen Fundraising				3,885	
Total Income for On and Off Budget Items¹				28,122	

Expenses

Administration

Background Checks			400	189	47%
Bank Charges	40	157	100	11	11%
Clerk's Expenses	1200	937	1,000	353	35%
Liability Insurance	818	813	850	815	96%

¹ It is possible that our two types of fundraising are working at cross purposes with one another. There are some meetings that have contributed to our on budget expenses but not our off budget ones; similarly, ones that have contributed to the off budget expenses but not to the on budget ones (i.e., they have not yet sent in any proportional shares); and one meeting so far has contributed to both.

Printing	600	180	200	92	46%
Treasurer's Exp.	600	361	500	254	51%
Total Admin.	3,258	2,449	3,050	1,714	56%

Clerical Support

Office Expenses	300	150	200	833	417%
Postage	100	100	250	8	3%
Travel	300	199	300	0	0%
Office Setup	400	400			
Total Cler.	1,100	849	750	841	112%

Salary, Benefits, Contractual Payments

Sal. Tax. Con. ²	20071	19288	19749	13829	70%
Worker's Comp.	313	313	325	358	110%
Cell Phone	520	514	550	306	56%
Internet Access	600	348	300	156	52%
Prof. Development	500	597	1,000	163	16%
Total SBCP	22,005	21,059	21,925	14,812	68%

Publications

Quill	2,200	1,896	2,290	410	18%
Minutes	2,200	1,490	1,600	1,489	93%
Directory	500	763	800	335	42%
Total Pubs.	4,900	4,148	4,690	2,235	47%

² Since we switched from paying wages to paying contractual fees in the middle of the budget year, it is necessary to combine some categories here. On previous budget sheets, what is included in this line would have been broken down into salary, taxes, and medical benefits.

Committee Expense

Adv & Nurt	355	666	355	0	0%
Middle Youth	250	1,031	1,275	148	12%
Peace & SC	890	356	750	170	23%
Teen Program	5070	5,756	5,275	1,288	24%
Teen P: Alas OB			15,861		
Other Comte				329	
Travel: Donated	1000	1,058	1,000	275	28%
Travel: Reimb.	1,500	2,343	1,800	567	32%
Total Cmtes.	9,565	11,537	10,755	2,778	

Rep Travel

Normal	3,500	2,877	2,750	2,500	91%
Addit. & Coopt.	2,500	3,100	2,750	2,230	81%
Donated	2,000	2,311	2,500	1,663	67%
Total Rep Travel	8,000	8,288	8,000	6,393	80%

Contributions by OVYM

	16,000	16,000	19,350	0	0%
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Yearly Meeting Sessions

Total Income	20,000	20,452	23,064	22,195	96%
Total Exp.	28,150	28,938	33,749	32,514	96%
Net Cost	8,150	8,486	10,685	10,319	97%

Transfer to FWCC Triennial Fund

1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	100%
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Transfer to Discipline Printing Fund

500	500	500	500	100%
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Total Expenses	75,978	74,491	81,305	40,592
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Total Off-Budget Alaska			15,861	
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Total On and Off Budget Expenses			97,166	
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Handbook Revisions 2009

3.1.1 Youth Secretary – revision to narrative for “Appointment”

Appointment: OVYM reserves the right to enter into a contract for services for those responsibilities contained in this Section or may employ a Youth Secretary as a member of its paid staff. The Teen Activities Committee will interview for the position and recommend a final service provider or final candidate for staff to be approved by Yearly Meeting in session or by the Executive Committee.

3.1.2 Clerical Staff – revision to narrative for “Appointment”

Appointment: OVYM reserves the right to enter into a contract for services for those responsibilities contained in this Section or may employ an OVYM Clerical Staff Person as a member of its paid staff. An ad hoc committee, consisting of the OVYM Presiding Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer and a member at large, will interview and select the service provider or staff member.

Added responsibility: Performs/ records background checks for paid and volunteer Friendly Adult Presences when requested.

3.2.1 Presiding Clerk - added paragraph on “Rotation”

Rotation: A Friend will first serve one year as Assistant Clerk, then two years as Presiding Clerk, followed by one final year as Assistant Clerk. At the beginning of the third year of this Friend’s service, another Friend would begin the first year of his or her four-year term of service.

3.2.2 Assistant Presiding Clerk – added paragraph on “Rotation”

Rotation: A Friend will first serve one year as Assistant Clerk, then two years as Presiding Clerk, followed by one final year as Assistant Clerk. At the beginning of the third year of this Friend’s service, another Friend would begin the first year of his or her four-year term of service.

3.2.4 Treasurer – added paragraph on “Rotation”; added statement regarding responsibility for background checks; added responsibility of serving on Personnel Committee

Rotation: A Friend will first serve one year as Assistant Treasurer, then two years as Presiding Treasurer, followed by one final year as Assistant Treasurer. At the beginning of the third year of this Friend’s service, another Friend would begin the first year of his or her four-year term of service.

-Serve as the alternate for the Clerical Staff Person for the processing of background checks**(This needs to be added to copy I sent earlier.)

-Serve as ex-officio member of Executive Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, and Personnel Committee

3.2.5 Assistant Treasurer – added paragraph on “Rotation”

Rotation: A Friend will first serve one year as Assistant Treasurer, then two years as Presiding Treasurer, followed by one final year as Assistant Treasurer. At the beginning of the third year of this Friend’s service, another Friend would begin the first year of his or her four-year term of service.

3.6.5 Support Committees for Staff – rewrite of entire page

3.6.6 Clerk’s Support Committee – rewrite of most of page

3.6.7 Executive Committee – added responsibility for naming Personnel Committee

Executive Committee serves as the naming committee for nominations to Nominating Committee and Personnel Committee. The committee also receives the names of those persons named to support committees for staff and those presiding at the Clerks Table (Presiding Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and Recording Clerk).

3.6.11 Personnel Committee – rewrite of entire page

3.6.13 Teen Activities Committee – removed responsibility for serving on Personnel Committee

4.5 Personnel Policy – added paragraph on “Employment Contracts”

1.5 OVYM reserves the right to employ individuals as staff of the organization, or, if appropriate, contract for services with qualified Providers. It is the intention of OVYM to conduct its employment and contractual relationships in a legal and ethical manner. The Personnel Committee will recommend the appropriate employment relationship, staff member or contracted Provider. In the case of a contractual employment relationship, the Personnel Committee, in cooperation with the appropriate supervising committee, will develop the terms of the Provider Agreement for approval by the Executive Committee and the parties to the contract. The Employment Agreement will contain a specified set of responsibilities and deliverables to be provided to OVYM. It will also outline the qualifications of the Provider, fee schedule, length of contract, waivers and other matters of mutual agreements and understandings.

Form 5.5 OVYM Application Form...Volunteer working with minors - added section allowing social security number to be removed after background check completed.

Social Security Number_____

(Persons with security concerns may write the number in pencil or give the social security number verbally to the clerical staff person. After receiving the background check the social security number will be removed from your application.)

Report to Executive Committee
Advancement and Nurture Committee

Advancement and Nurture Committee was convened by Virginia Wood, Assistant Clerk OVYM, Saturday November 22, 2008. Present from the committee were Donita Barnes, Jack Davis, David Garman, Paulette Meier, and Paul Ricketts. Absent was Victoria Burke. Paulette, Victoria, and Paul do not feel that they can adequately give time this year to the activities of the committee and wish to be released from their service.

A good part of the day was spent just getting to know one another in that some members were new to the committee and others had had little experience with the committee. Thus when asked to reflect upon the nature of the committee and its relationship and role within the YM, members were asked to draw upon current and past experiences. Three observations emerged from the day.

1. The committee would like to proceed with their charge –“...to promote the spiritual growth and nurture in the Yearly Meeting...” (minute 24, eight month, seven, 1992) Although ----
2. There is a feeling that perhaps over the past few years that the committee focus has been on the tasks assigned to it rather than assessing needs and then formulating a program that would meet those needs.
3. *The observation made in 2 might also be applied to the Yearly Meeting in general. Is the committee structure currently in place the best way for the YM to provide its services?*

Specific actions that the committee would like to undertake were noted.

-At the next committee meeting, the committee would like to explore the concept of spiritual formation groups at the YM level as a way of providing ongoing nurture for those individuals wishing more or in addition to what is available at their local level. Such groups might help to establish a network of connections between individuals within the YM.

-Visitation was seen as an important tool for not only nurture but as a way of gaining a sense of needs. However, there are some drawbacks to merely periodically visiting a meeting or responding to requests (which happen to be few). The committee would like to try convening a meeting of Ministry and Counsel Clerks to provide an opportunity for the clerks to share from their experience and highlight areas of concern about which they could use additional support. Visitations and spiritual friendships could then be set up based on the information obtained.

-The committee did not go into an extended discussion of its membership or its relationship to the Quarterly Meetings but did note that communication within and committee, between the committee and nominating committee, and between the committee and Quarterly Meetings was poor. *It does feel that if*

a clearer understanding of its relationship to the Quarterly Meeting is one that needs to be made, that discussion should occur at the YM level, not within the committee. Its feeling is that having members representative of both quarters is good for the committee, but also feel that those Friends willing to serve are called to the work and the current members feel that is best. The committee needs to build upon the gifts within the committee and use them rightly. Currently the active committee members consists of three people, all from Whitewater Quarter. To merge with another committee merely to increase numbers does not seem in right order. It would be appropriate for the YM to re-consider the number of people appointed to the A&N committee and in light of actions by Quarterly Meetings establishing similar committees. This might be appropriate also for other YM committees.

-Noted repeatedly was the feeling that it is the health of the Yearly Meeting we are addressing. What is the best way for our religious community to build up the spiritual health and vitality of the Yearly Meeting? Is our current committee structure the best? If so, how do we nurture and support the committees?

The next committee meeting for Advancement and Nurture Committee will be February 21, 2009. To be invited will be a resource person on the topic of spiritual formation groups. In late spring the committee most likely will convene a meeting of Ministry and Counsel clerks. We would appreciate Executive Committee considering the questions noted in italics.

Prepared by Virginia Wood

Approved by Advancement & Nurture Committee

AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT
OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008

October 25, 2008

We have examined the financial records of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. We find them to be in good order. The Treasurer's Report accurately summarizes the financial state and activities of the Yearly Meeting.

Closing the books at the end of the fiscal year (June 30) was complicated by late payments of proportional shares by a few monthly meetings. We encourage the monthly meetings to make their contributions in a timely manner, as this will simplify the work of the treasurer and the auditing committee.

J. P. Lund & Donita Barnes

OVYM Auditing Committee

OVYM Executive Committee

4th day, 4th Month, 2009

Earlham School of Religion, Richmond, IN

1. **The meeting opened with a period of waiting worship.**

2. Roll Call of Meetings and Committees

Meeting/Committee	Representative
Miami Quarterly Meeting	
Campus	No Representative
Community	Byron Branson
Dayton	Virginia Wood
Eastern Hills	No Representative
Green Plain	No Representative
Lexington	Ben Griffith
Louisville	No Representative
Miami	Tom Nowel
Oxford	Steve Angell
Yellow Springs	Peg Champney
Presiding Clerk Miami Quarter	Tom Nowel
Whitewater Quarterly Meeting	
Bloomington	No Representative
Clear Creek	Larry Habschmidt

Fall Creek	Diann Herzog
Fort Wayne Friends Mtg	Paul Ricketts
Hopewell	No Representative
Lafayette	No Representative
Maple Grove (inactive)	No Representative
North Meadow Circle	Stan Zarowin
White Rose	No Representative
Presiding Clerk Whitewater Quarter	Regrets

Yearly Meeting Officers

Presiding Clerk	Ben Griffith
Assistant Clerk	Virginia Wood
Recording Clerk	Deb Kociszewski
Publications Coordinator	No Representative
Quill Editor	No Representative
Treasurer	Steve Angell
Assistant Treasurer	Not Present

Standing and Special Committees

Advancement and Nurture	Virginia Wood, David Garman
Budget and Finance	Stan Zarowin
Discipline Revision	No Representative
Nominating	Peg Champney, Byron Branson
Peace and Social Concerns	No Representative
Religious Education	Diann Herzog
Personnel	Tom Nowel, Steve Angell

YM Planning	Stan Zarowin
Children's Program	No Representative
Middle Youth	Deborah Jordan
Teen Activities	Cynthia Sibrel, Lauren Baumann

Yearly Meeting Staff

Clerical Support	Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary	Lauren Baumann

Liaisons

Friends Home, Inc. Liaison	
Lauramoore Home	
Friends Music Camp	Peg Champney

Not required to attend Executive Committee but welcome:

Auditor

Braddock Trustees

Personnel Committee Representatives

Yearly Meeting (Property Corporation) Trustees

Records Coordinator

Statistician

Webmaster

Guests

3. Qualifications / clarifications of minutes of second month, 2009 conference call.

It was noted that item 14 needs a dash added for clarification. The minutes were accepted as recorded.

Friends discussed the effectiveness of the conference call as a vehicle for Executive Committee. Friends shared that the conference call format could be effective for short agendas when the meeting is well organized. Friends also observed that face to face meetings are also very important. Nominating committee has met via conference call, but limits its use to alternate meetings.

4. FGC Gathering 2010

The Friends General Conference Gathering in 2010 will be held in Bowling Green, Ohio. The Gathering is seeking 30-40 Friends to join the Planning Committee for this event. Those interested should contact Rex Sprouse, who will co-clerk the event.

5. State of Society Reports

Meetings are reminded that State of Society Reports are due to the Clerical Support person, who will distribute them to the Quarter clerks for consideration by the Quarterly meetings. It was noted that the Clerical Support person in this case is facilitating the distribution to the Quarters.

6. Handbook Revisions

The Clerk advised that there are several versions of the OVYM Handbook in circulation. The most recent revisions to the Handbook were distributed. The clerk is considering the best method to streamline the process of maintaining the accurate copies of the Handbook.

7. Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer distributed copies of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Budget Summary. Meetings were reminded that the deadline for responses to the proposed budget is the June 15 2009, especially with regard to proportional share. It was noted that the proportional share is expected to increase from the current \$ 106.00 to \$ 112.50 in the proposed budget. The Treasurer reminded Friends to submit their travel expense reports for the Executive Committee meeting of fourth month fourth day, 2009. Friends accepted the Treasurer's Report.

8. Statistician's Report

The clerk noted that Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting membership for the previous year was 761, and for the most recent reporting year was 760. The report of the Statistician will be appended to these minutes.

9. Request for Discernment

Friends considered the matter of pay raises for the contracted professionals of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The current contracts will expire fifth month 31, 2009. It was noted that the current contracts could serve as templates for the next year. The supervisory committee clerks were reminded to meet soon and submit recommendations for the next contract year. The Personnel Committee is available for consultation with any questions relative to the contracts.

10. Budget Subsidy for Yearly Meeting Session First Time Attenders and Young Adult Friends

The Yearly Meeting Planning Committee has proposed a budget line in its plan to help cover 50% of the cost of first time attenders and young adult Friends to the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting annual session. It is proposed that Young Adult Friends would be invited to help in some way with the program of the Yearly Meeting session. The Yearly Meeting Planning Committee will consult with Young Friends prior to the sixth month Executive Committee session for their input on the proposal. It was noted that Executive Committee would consider this matter for the 2009 session, but that continuation of this policy for future sessions would be brought to the floor of the Yearly Meeting session. Friends entered into silence to consider this matter. It was noted that Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting is reaping the reward of past subsidies for children, young adults and first time attenders, with involvement that may not have been possible without the financial assistance. Friends approved the inclusion of the subsidy for Young Adult Friends and first time attenders to the budget.

11. Naming to the Nominating Committee

Serving as Naming Committee for the Nominating Committee, Friends entered into silence to prayerfully consider names of those friends who could be contacted to consider service to the Nominating Committee, with one opening to a position to serve through 2011 and two openings to positions to serve through 2012. Five names rose out of the silence. The Assistant Clerk will contact the individuals whose names rose out of the silence.

12. Miami Quarterly Meeting Report

The clerk of Miami Quarterly Meeting reported that the current officers are willing to continue their service to the Quarter for the next year. The Miami Quarterly Meeting will meet fifth month 17, 2009 at Miami Monthly Meeting, during the celebration of its 200th year of Miami Quarterly Meeting. Friends will consider the State of Society reports from Miami Quarterly Meeting constituent meetings, and the

history of Miami Quarterly Meeting. Friends were asked to bring any photos or documents to add to the celebration of this anniversary.

13. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting will meet fourth month 18, 2009 at Clearcreek Monthly Meeting.

14. Personnel Committee

The clerk of the Personnel Committee advised that the annual meeting of the committee will be scheduled in the near future, and that its current business are the matters regarding the professional contracts noted in minute number 9 of these minutes.

15. Youth Secretary Report

The Youth Secretary distributed copies of her report dated April 4, 2009. Highlights include a retreat second month 14 and 15 in Louisville, fundraising activities for the Alaska trip, and the annual service trip scheduled for sixth month 12 to 15, 2009 in Dayton, Ohio. The Alaska trip is scheduled for seventh month 12 through 28, 2009. Eight Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting teens will attend the Spirit Camp. The full report will appended to these minutes. Friends accepted the report.

16. Teen Committee

The clerk of the Teen Committee reported that the committee is experiencing the benefits of being a consistent presence in the Yearly Meeting. The committee anticipates additional fundraising needs of approximately \$ 2000.00 for the Alaska trip. The teens will return late Tuesday, July 28. Yearly Meeting will begin Wednesday, July 29.

17. Clerical Staff Report

Deborah Jordan advised Friends of the Fifth Annual Quaker Genealogy Conference fourth month 17, 2009. Requests for updates to the Yearly Meeting Directory will be sent soon. Dan Cartmell is the new Quaker Quill editor. Steve Angell will visit Iran fourth month 25 to fifth month 10, 2009. Friends should consider this schedule in any needs for the Yearly Meeting Treasurer.

18. Friends Music Camp

Peg Champney reported that Friends Music Camp is in need of fundraising for scholarships. The 2009 roster is almost full at this time. This will be the thirtieth year of the camp. Alumni stories continue to validate the importance of the Friends Music Camp experience.

19. Middle Youth Committee

The Middle Youth group enjoyed a retreat in Louisville. The committee is looking for a female staff person for the annual session in 2009.

20. Nominating Committee

Byron Branson advised that the Nominating Committee slate still has openings. Friends approved the appointment of Jeanette and Bill Shetter to summarize the epistles received and to be shared at the 2009 Yearly Meeting session, and Roy Joe Stuckey and Jeanette Stuckey to lead the Memorial Meeting at the 2009 Yearly Meeting session. The committee is concerned with finding Friends to step into the roles of Assistant Clerk and Assistant Treasurer. Friends entered into silent worship to consider names to recommend for these needs. One name rose out of the silence. Friends were reminded to carry this concern back to their monthly meetings and communicate to the Nominating Committee.

21. Religious Education Committee

The Religious Education Committee has accepted the responsibility to show the DVD for training of those interested in working with young people in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Committee members are available to visit monthly meetings for this purpose.

22. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee

The Yearly Meeting Planning Committee has considered the possibility of keeping the coffee shop open during Yearly Meeting for informal discussions. This is an option, but one that requires money. The clerk of the Teen Committee requested clarification of the payment available for Children's program staff for the 2009 annual sessions. It was confirmed that the amount of payment will be \$ 125 per day. The calculation of the number of days of service will be made with Budget and Finance.

23. Advancement and Nurture

David Garman reported that Advancement and Nurture has entered a period of reflection. The committee will meet fifth month 2, 2009 from 11Am to 3PM at Hopewell Friends to hear ideas and concerns from monthly meeting clerks and ministry and outreach clerks to guide the committee in clarifying its focus.

24. Announcements

Shannon Isaacs will participate in the Great Lakes Initiative in Burundi during the summer of 2009. Friends are asked to hold her in the Light.

Fall Creek Monthly Meeting will host an outreach event fifth month 16, 2009 at 11:30 AM at the meeting house featuring a creative presentation about the Quaker testimonies.

Ft. Wayne Friends will host a Peace and Justice Week-end fourth month 24 and 25, 2009 with Plymouth Congregational UCC. Brochures will be forwarded to Clerical Support for distribution to monthly meetings.

The meeting closed in silent worship.

Friends approved the minutes.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held sixth month 6, 2009 at North Meadow Circle of Friends in Indianapolis.

Submitted,

Deb Kociszewski

OVYM Recording Clerk

Youth Secretary Report
Executive Committee, Richmond, IN

April 4, 2009

Greetings Executive Committee members!

There are many exciting developments within the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting teen community:

- From February 14 to 15, we had a teen retreat with Louisville Friends Meeting. Eight teens participated throughout the weekend, making this retreat one of our largest weekend retreats of the year! We spent Saturday afternoon look at the Adam and Eve story in the Bible and learning how the Bible is still relevant today. In the evening we went to the Urban Goatwalker Coffeehouse, a community project hosted by a local Baptist congregation, bringing together all sorts of people (including homeless folks) for an open mic night. We helped by serving hot chocolate and desserts. Some of the teens even performed! On Sunday afternoon, the teens led a fishbowl conversation with Miami Quarterly Meeting, raising important questions about Quakerism and spirituality. It was a great weekend!
- As always, we are continuing to raise money for the upcoming trip to Alaska. As of March 31, we have raised \$5,348.60, not including the money generously donated from Miami Quarterly Meeting. We are excited how the yearly meeting has come together to help us fund this trip. Donations have ranged from individual contributions, monthly meetings, and from various fundraising efforts by the teens, including successful sales of homemade candles, blankets and jewelry. Efforts continue to get creative: in early March, Community Friends Meeting hosted a fabulous spaghetti dinner. We hope to have future fundraising dinners in Dayton/Yellow Springs, Richmond and Indianapolis. Donations are always appreciated ☺
- We continue to work with Friends from Alaska to solidify our trip itinerary. After a thorough application process, eight OVYM teens have now been accepted to go on the trip; Alaska now has six teens who will be joining us. The teens are really excited about connecting with the Alaska teens for a spiritually deepening adventure.
- Plans are also underway for our annual service trip. This year, we will stay at Dayton Friends Meeting from June 12 to 15. We will be looking at sustainable ways of living in our world, helping out in the local farm community.
- Photos from retreats are posted online here: www.flickr.com/photos/ovymteens. Check 'em out!

We are certainly a busy group! And we are growing. As Executive Committee members, you all can be an invaluable resource to the continued growth and development of the teen group. We would greatly appreciate it if you could notify new teens within your monthly meeting about upcoming teen events (and make sure you let their parents know, too).

Please contact me if you have any questions/comments/new teens to include! I can be reached by email at baumala@yahoo.com or by phone at 215-432-9854.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Baumann

Youth Secretary

Notes for the First Annual Budget Advisory Meeting

April 4, 2009

Held at Earlham School of Religion, 9:30 AM

Attending- note this list is probably incomplete because I think I missed some late-comers.

Bruce and Julie Pearson, David and Virginia Wood, Dave Garman, Dean Matthews, Ben Griffith, Steve Angell, Tom Nowel, Byron Branson, Stan Zarowin

Ben acted as convener for the meeting, the meeting being loosely structured and more informal. Steve gave regrets from Paul Buckley, and passed out a Draft Budget and Budget Summary. He noted that the budget for the annual sessions is the biggest increase in the budget; this increase is due to the two subsidies for First time attenders and Young Adult Friends. The budget as drafted would result in an increase in the proportional share from last year's \$106 / member to \$112.50 / member. (As to the budget and tweaking numbers, the Friends assembled felt comfortable with the figures presented after all was said and done.)

At this point we touched on a number of specific topics. These were:

1) Subsidies for First Time Attenders and Young Adult Friends. Questions were raised to how the numbers were generated. It was felt that the number for 1st Timers represented an actual estimate of newcomers, and the YAF figure came about from some email communications between Planning Cmte, Yafs, and other persons. It was clarified that the subsidy for 1st timers was calculated at reducing the cost of attendance by 50% and this is also the assumption for YAFs. Ben noted that the Planning Cmte tried to bring this forward last year, but understood that the request came in too late. Others in Executive Committee thought it was communicated that subsidies should be approved on the yearly meeting floor. This is further complicated by the clumsiness of approving Session budgets after the session is already underway. If the item is to remain in the budget, it must be approved by Executive Committee- since Planning will be putting this subsidy information out for 1st timers and YAFs in the registration packets (and thus we would expect to be paying these subsidies!). If these subsidies are to remain in the budget as new practice, it must be approved on the yearly meeting floor.

2) Alaska Teen Trip. It was pointed out that the contributions still needed to be raised totaled \$4499. Steve added that Miami Quarterly Meeting had sent in a check for \$1000 that was not reflected in these figures. It was clarified that whatever remains in this line would be paid from the General Fund reserves. One person spoke to the need for better communication of the Teen Trip needs to monthly meetings.

Teen Cmte feels the some pledged contributions may not have come in yet. They feel as if they have about \$2000 to raise. Tom reported that Miami Quarterly can be re-approached in case of a shortfall.

3) Volunteer vs. Business Mileage Rates. Concern was raised about having to put down the IRS Business Rate for travel if one wanted to be reimbursed fairly. At the present, IRS business rate is \$.55 and the volunteer for non-profit rate is \$.14. (Steve might help clarify the concern better than I am doing!) It was also noted that some are reluctant to send in forms for whatever reason, and this really needs to be done so the YM can keep track of what it costs to keep us going. The concern for reporting is mainly about travel within the YM for committee business.

4) Contract-Salary Question. Tom Nowel brought up the concern that language within the budget may give us potential problems. Now that YM has begun to contract for needed services instead of employing people for the jobs, we need to carefully weed out the language of “employee” and “salary” in our budget.

5) Budget process concerns. One friend wondered if the draft budget could be sent out earlier, and some B&F members spoke to the difficulty of this request. There will be a two month window for monthly meetings to look at the proposed budget, the proportional share, and report an expected contribution. We also made one editorial change in the budget calendar that repeated the contribution discerned could be at the proportional share rate, or more or less. Steve recorded this change. It was pointed out the awkwardness of the staff contracts expire on June 1st. In our previous discussions about the covenanting process, we made clear that these figures for salary or now contractual fees are line items that are not negotiable except through the work of the Personnel Cmte. The current staffers need to have their annual performance reviews completed and a new contract ready by June 1st. These then can be approved at Executive Committee on June 6. Friends expressed appreciation for the process we were doing now. It makes the budget a more clear and understandable reflection of the work we are doing as a YM. This advisory meeting gives the full YM another opportunity to voice its concerns and questions. The Pearsons reported that this meeting was so important to their MM of Bloomington that they were sent. Julie Pearson said that she was very glad she did, and that she felt more able to explain items to her MM. One possibility to deal with the “limbo” of Planning Session budgets and Contract Fees was the suggestion to move to a 15 month budget. Another idea was to move the fiscal year to Jan 1- Dec 31.

6) Forms. It was suggested the “retreat/program” sheet looked like a good sheet for YM Planning Committee to use. It ought to include a blank line. The “Conference Call” line ought to be reworded- “Planning the program costs- including conference calls”. On the budget summary pie chart, it might help if some graphic solid differences might be included so that those who print it out in B/W (or who are color blind) might more clearly see what the chart/key is trying to say.

Ben Griffith, a somewhat sketchy recording of the meeting...

Questions to Paul- How are workdays figured at session?

Are contract/employee items together in Paul and Tom's mind?

OVYM Executive Committee

6th day, 6th Month, 2009

North Meadow Circle of Friends, Indianapolis, IN

1. **The meeting opened with a period of waiting worship.**

2. **Roll Call of Meetings and Committees**

Meeting/Committee	Representative
Miami Quarterly Meeting	
Campus	Dale Hayes sends regrets
Community	Frank Huss
Dayton	Virginia Wood
Eastern Hills	No Representative
Green Plain	No Representative
Lexington	Richard Mitchell
Louisville	No Representative
Miami	No Representative
Oxford	Steve Angell
Yellow Springs	Peg Champney
Presiding Clerk Miami Quarter	Tom Nowel sends Regrets
Whitewater Quarterly Meeting	
Bloomington	Rex Sprouse
Clear Creek	Larry Habschmidt

Fall Creek	Diann Herzog
Fort Wayne Friends Mtg	No Representative
Hopewell	No Representative
Lafayette	Dan Cartmell
Maple Grove (inactive)	No Representative
North Meadow Circle	Stanley Zarowin
White Rose	No Representative
Presiding Clerk Whitewater Quarter	Rex Sprouse

Yearly Meeting Officers

Presiding Clerk	Ben Griffith
Assistant Clerk	Virginia Wood
Recording Clerk	Deb Kociszewski
Publications Coordinator	No Representative
Quill Editor	Dan Cartmell
Treasurer	Steve Angell
Assistant Treasurer	Paul Buckley

Standing and Special Committees

Advancement and Nurture	Virginia Wood
Budget and Finance	Paul Buckley
Discipline Revision	Rex Sprouse, Betsy Neale
Nominating	Peg Champney, Evalyn Kellum
Peace and Social Concerns	Richard Mitchell
Religious Education	Diann Herzog
Personnel	Tom Nowel sends regrets

YM Planning	Stan Zarowin
Children's Program	No Representative
Middle Youth	Deborah Jordan
Teen Activities	Nikki Coffey-Tousley

Yearly Meeting Staff

Clerical Support	Deborah Jordan
Youth Secretary	Lauren Baumann sends regrets

Liaisons

Friends Home, Inc. Liaison	No Representative
Lauramoore Home	Ron Haldeman
Friends Music Camp	Peg Champney

Not required to attend Executive Committee but welcome:

Auditor

Braddock Trustees

Personnel Committee Representatives

Yearly Meeting (Property Corporation) Trustees

Records Coordinator

Statistician

Webmaster

Guests

3. Qualifications / clarifications of minutes of fourth month 2009 Executive Committee

No clarifications were requested. The minutes stand as approved in fourth month.

4. Review of the Agenda

Friends requested that the agenda include time for discussion of monthly meeting representation at Executive Committee meetings.

5. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee Calendar

The Executive Committee Calendar for the coming year is:

Tenth Month 3, 2009	at	Community Friends
Second Month 6, 2010	at	Format and Location to be determined at Tenth Month 2009 Executive Committee meeting
Fourth Month 3, 2010	at	Earlham School of Religion, hosted by Clear Creek
Sixth Month 5, 2010	at	North Meadow Circle of Friends

6. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Handbook

The Clerk noted that the official version of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting handbook will be posted on the Yearly Meeting website. Friends requested that revisions be clearly noted on the table of contents.

7. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Reports in Advance

The clerk is working with Erik Clevon to post the Reports in Advance on the yearly meeting website. Committees and Meetings are reminded that reports are due to Erik Clevon by June 15, 2009. Monthly Meetings are reminded that their responses to the Budget and Finance proportional share of \$ 112.50 per member for the next year are due June 15, 2009.

8. Naming Committee

Virginia Wood advised Friends that Howie Baker of Louisville Monthly Meeting and Diann Herzog of Fall Creek Monthly Meeting have agreed to fill positions on the Nominating Committee. Howie has accepted a 2 year appointment and Diann has accepted a 3 year appointment. Friends accepted the appointments of Howie and Diann to the Nominating Committee. The Friends contacted for the remaining opening had to decline. Friends entered into a period of silent worship to raise additional

names for the remaining opening. Two names rose out of the silence. The Friends named will be contacted.

9. Nominating Committee

The committee has finally found a nominee to serve as Assistant Clerk. Newell Pledger-Shinn was brought forth and approved as the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting reporter to the Friends Journal. Friends accepted this recommendation of the Nominating Committee. Friends entered into a period of silence to raise names for consideration as Assistant Treasurer and Epistulary Committee of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting 189th session.

10. Personnel Committee

The Committee has met with the Youth Secretary and the Clerical Support Person. Lauren Baumann has indicated that she will resign her position as Youth Secretary effective the end of eighth month, 2009. It is hoped that a new Youth Secretary can be in place prior to Lauren's departure, and preferably prior to Yearly Meeting sessions. Deborah Jordan will continue as Clerical Support person. The contracts for the Clerical Support person will be effective June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010. The contract for the Youth Secretary will be effective June 1, 2009 through August 31, 2009. Friends requested that these contracts be brought to Executive Committee at the fourth month meeting for review prior to the effective start date of the contract period. Friends approved the enactment of the service provider contracts for the coming year for the Youth Secretary and the Clerical Support person.

11. Handbook Revision Recommended by the Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee recommended a revision to the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Handbook regarding service provider contracts, clarifying language relative to employment and service provider classifications in section 1.5 titled "Employment Contracts". Friends requested that the Personnel Committee reconsider the revisions with concern toward the sentences relative to the distinction of standards applied to employees and those applied to service providers. It was also requested that the committee review the sentence starting "It is the intention..."(sentence number 3). The committee might also consider moving this section out of the Personnel policy, or establishing a separate section in the handbook.

12. Handbook Revision Recommended to Budget Policy

The Budget and Finance Committee recommended a revision to the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Handbook regarding the schedule of the committee's budget calendar. Friends approved the revision.

13. Ad Hoc Committee on Contributions

The Ad Hoc Committee on Contributions requested another year to work with Budget and Finance to bring more comprehensive proposals to Executive Committee, as per minute number 41 of the Minutes of the 188th session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Friends approved.

14. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer distributed copies of the report through June 5, 2009. Friends accepted the report with thanks to the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.

15. Yearly Meeting Planning Subsidies

It was clarified that Young Adult Friend will apply to those ages 18-35 for the purpose of 50% subsidy toward the fee of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting annual session. Friends approved.

16. Friends Music Camp

Peg Champney reported that Friends Music Camp has full enrollment for the 2009 session. There has been an increased need for scholarship funds. The camp is celebrating the participation of an active Alumni Association this year. The annual benefit concert will be held July 25, 2009 in Yellow Springs.

17. Lauramoore Friends Home, Inc.

Ron Haldeman reported that Lauramoore Friends Home has 6 residents. The budget is set to break even with 6 residents. Ron reported that a 2008 goal of \$8000 in grants was met with an actual result of \$14000. The 2009 goal of \$10000 has already raised \$10400.

18. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee

Stanley Zarowin reported that the plans for the 189th annual session are on schedule. It is expected that all attendees will be housed in Mills Hall. There is some concern about attendance level due to the economic situation. Stanley reported that the relationship between Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and Earlham College is very strong.

19. Teen Committee

Nikki Coffey-Tousley reported that 9 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting teens will make the Alaska trip, and will be joined by 5 teens from Alaska Friends Conference. Nikki reported that the committee does not expect to exceed the budgeted amount for the trip. The Committee has begun the search for a new Youth Secretary. The teens will engage in the annual service project with the Dayton office of American Friends Service Committee. Nick Rhine of Community Monthly Meeting will assume responsibility for much of the Teen program at the Yearly Meeting annual sessions, as Lauren will return from the Alaska trip on July 28, 2009.

20. Middle Youth

Deborah Jordan reported that Middle Youth program planning is well under way for the Yearly Meeting annual session. The committee is looking for a female staff person.

21. Religious Education Committee

Diann Herzog reported that Religious Education Committee will hold Friendly Adult Presence training on July 29 from 1PM to 2PM prior to the first business session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting annual session. The committee has also been contacted to help with the Yellow Springs meeting retreat in September 2009.

22. Budget and Finance Committee

Paul Buckley distributed copies of the Budget and Finance Committee report. It was noted that 6 meetings have responded to the committee relative to the proportional share amount of \$112.50. Monthly meetings are reminded that the deadline for response is June 15, 2009. The committee is showing a shortfall of \$2000 at this time, with the budget increased by \$1500 during this Executive Committee session.

23. Discipline Revision

Rex Sprouse reported that the committee is prepared for one morning of time at the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting annual sessions to consider discipline revision sections. Rex expressed pleasure at the posting of the Reports in Advance in advance of the annual session.

24. Quaker Quill Editor

Dan Cartmell distributed draft copies of the Summer 2009 edition of the Quaker Quill. The Quill will be distributed in the very near future.

25. Advancement and Nurture

Virginia Wood reported that the committee met with clerks of monthly meeting ministry and counsel committees and monthly meeting clerks in May 2009, with attendance being somewhat sparse. The committee has been engaged in discernment relative to its role and will report at the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting annual session. The committee will review State of Society Reports and will summarize them at the annual session.

26. Peace and Social Concerns

Ron Haldeman reported that David Hartsough and Marge Nelson will be part of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting annual sessions. David Hartsough will present a plenary talk, a workshop and will work with our young people. The upcoming year marks the 350th anniversary of the Quaker Peace Testimony. The committee will invite Friends to contribute to an updated statement on the Peace Testimony for consideration, not approval.

27. Miami Quarterly Meeting

The Miami Quarterly Meeting will request a threshing session at the Yearly Meeting on Local Food Policy. The fifth month session of Miami Quarterly Meeting featured a program on the 200th anniversary of Miami Quarterly Meeting.

28. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting has been meeting and conducting business as scheduled.

29. Quarterly Meeting Function

Friends discussed concerns relative to the existence and function of Quarterly Meetings within Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The clerk advised that the matter will be considered at the 189th annual session of the Yearly Meeting and could become part of a visioning process.

30. Teen Secretary Report

Nikki Coffey-Tousley read the Teen Secretary report, as Lauren Baumann was unable to attend the Executive Committee meeting. The report summarized the itinerary for the Alaska trip and the June service project. The report will be appended to the minutes.

31. Clerical Support

Deborah Jordan reported that Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Directory updates are being submitted. Meetings are reminded to keep them coming.

32. Friends General Conference Gathering

Rex Sprouse announced that the 2010 Gathering will be held at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio and invited Friends to consider joining the planning committee for the 2010 Gathering. Relevant subcommittees are Worship, Workshops and Evening Events.

The meeting closed in silent worship.

Friends approved the minutes.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held tenth month 3, 2009 at Community Friends Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting will meet in annual session seventh month 29 through eighth month 2, 2009 at Earlham College.

Submitted,

Deb Kociszewski

OVYM Recording Clerk

Youth Secretary Report
Executive Committee
North Meadow Circle of Friends
Indianapolis, Indiana
June 6, 2009

Greetings Executive Committee members!

It is with regret that I am unable to attend today's meeting. This weekend, I am volunteering as a facilitator with Friends General Conference's Quaker Quest program, helping to run a full-day workshop in Sacramento, California.

Since we last met, I have been heavily involved with planning for the upcoming Spirit Camp in Alaska. We now have nine OVYM teens coming on the trip: Laura Hyde, Uta Brewington, Corrigan Eckert, Somer Eckert, Rachel Logan-Wood, Adam Funck, Kaitlyn Funck, Dylan Cahalan, and Bret Marshall. We will be joining with six teens and several adults from Alaska Friends Conference. An OVYM parent/teen orientation meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10 with hopes to schedule another meeting before our departure in July. I also will be taking a CPR/First Aid certification course with the American Red Cross within the next week in preparation for the trip.

Roles for the trip have also shifted. My role on the trip has expanded to become the clerk of the staff team, helping to establish a solid daily program throughout the camp. I will work jointly with the four other camp staff members to provide a safe space for the teens to explore their Quaker spirituality and have fun.

The trip will begin in Wasilla, Alaska, where we will work to build community while engaging with service projects to benefit the yearly meeting. From there, we will transition to the weeklong wilderness portion of the trip, kayaking and biking to our next base camp at Eklutna Lake. We will then attend Alaska Friends Conference's yearly meeting sessions at the Wasilla Meetinghouse. The trip will close in Wasilla and we'll fly home just in time for Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, returning on July 28.

We have a shortened service trip at Dayton Friends Meeting planned for June 12-15 with six teens registered. We plan on focusing on issues of sustainability, but will also meet with Julie Arias

(Englewood Friends Meeting) of the Dayton office of the American Friends Service Committee to learn about their refugee resettlement program.

After much discernment, it has become clear to me that I need to return to Philadelphia and complete my Earlham School of Religion degree from afar. Unfortunately, this also means that I am unable to move forward in renewing a full-year contract with Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. I hope to continue with my contract through August 31, 2009. I am very grateful for the opportunity to work with the OVYM teens. They are thoughtful, caring, inquisitive and hardworking. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting is truly blessed to have such a great group of teens.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached by email at baumala@yahoo.com or by phone at 215-432-9854.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Baumann

State of the Meeting Reports

Response to State of Society Reports 8/1/2009

The reading of the 2009 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting State of Society reports was a wonderful experience for our committee. It simply feels good to have the opportunity to read documents that have been prepared in love and with so much care. In fact, love is one of the themes that we would lift up to summarize what we have read together.

Love is expressed in many ways. There are expressions of joy as new members are welcomed via convincement and transfer and as new babies are welcomed into the life of a meeting. Conversely, there are tender expressions of grief and care for those who have died and are carried in tender memories. There are expressions of love for one another as meetings strive to listen deeply as the way forward is discerned when Friends attempt to find God's will during difficult times or when complicated concerns come to meetings.

Worship as the core or center of meeting life is another theme of this year's reports. Meetings are exploring many ways to deepen this core including experimenting with new ideas in their religious education activities. There were many examples of how small groups are being used to learn about and get to know members and attenders at a deeper level.

Another center that was noted was the idea of the meeting as a community. The community as described in these reports was more than a group of people who like each other. These communities are attempting out of their many gifts and diversity to reach out to one another and to the community beyond the walls of the Meetinghouse. Activities of service to the call to be involved in peace and justice on local, national, and international levels are mentioned often.

The reports strongly leave us with the challenges that we face as a Society. Letting our light shine from under our various bushels is spoken to. How do we communicate our message in the 21st century? This question is stated often and implied almost universally in the reports. Yes, there is work to do and problems with which to deal; however over all the words that our committee read gave us encouragement. The Spirit is at work among us.

Lastly, we offer the phrase "listen deeply then put love into action" as a program to put into practice the collective experience of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends in 2009.

Advancement and Nurture Committee

Bloomington Monthly Meeting

Our Meeting continues to enjoy a robust attendance of First Day activities with 47 of our 53 resident members and 4 of our 17 non-resident members participating. There are another 60 adults and 30 youth or children who have attended Meeting for Worship with us more or less regularly. We have felt joy in welcoming Catherine (Cati) Reynolds from associate to full membership, and Julia Pearson, Holly Folk, and Don Byrd into full membership and in the wonder of birth with the arrival of 3 babies. Sorrow has touched us with the passing of one of our oldest members, Ivan Wayne Marker; a long-time attender, Charles Miller; and in farewells to members and attenders who have moved away.

Our community life has been enriched by the creation of a Pastoral Care Committee who are charged with supporting individuals in need but also with development of a caring, gathered community. This has allowed Ministry & Counsel to focus on our corporate and individual spiritual life. We are blessed with flourishing committees of every kind whose faithful response to the Light within is vital to an unprogrammed Meeting. Among our efforts to recognize the contributions by the many members and attenders to our Meeting, we set up a rotation of introductions of all committees, their work, and membership.

We have been given the gift of many children and families in attendance on First Day. This led to one of our biggest projects this year: renovating a large garden shed into a small cottage to use as an additional class room. Our Long Range Planning Committee has achieved this using environmentally friendly design and building methods and involving the community with various aspects of the project. Our Earthcare Witness Committee continues to foster native plants and wildlife in landscaping our grounds and supports plans for a food garden this summer.

As a Meeting we continue to discuss and explore in practice the functions of eldering and ministry and feel it is a sign of spiritual health in our Meeting that members are concerned to seek better understanding of contemporary and traditional Quaker practice with origins beyond our own Meeting's experience.

We lift up the idea of Friends' waiting worship as group communion for the purpose of listening for and sharing the Word of God rather than an opportunity for silent meditation. We do not lack for speaking in our Meetings for Worship although some of us are concerned that Friends' may speak too often, that messages may be too many, or too lengthy. We encourage Friends to practice greater discernment in examining their leadings to speak and remind ourselves that not every message will appear to speak to each of us. To address the needs of those who express a desire to experience longer periods of silent worship we continue to offer mid-week Meeting for Worship and encourage not only prompt arrival to Meeting for Worship but also the option to be seated 15 minutes before the official start of worship.

The Meeting has worked to understand the concept of spiritual gifts, particularly the "gift of vocal ministry." Some fear this idea means setting some Friends above others and that it discourages the contribution of those less experienced in vocal ministry. We seek to recognize that each of us has been blessed by God with different spiritual gifts, at different times, and to different degrees. Further, we must

help one another recognize and develop our gifts and to be faithful to the calling to use these gifts for the benefit of the whole community.

For example, Friends have discussed what means of encouragement might be used with those for a gift of vocal ministry beyond speaking privately to the Friend who delivered the message. Expression of appreciation for the benefit received is sometimes met with embarrassment, which we understand to mean they feel humbled by being led to speak and prefer to take no credit for the content or for the results. We seek additional approaches for fostering the many gifts with which we have been blessed.

Another area in which we are profiting spiritually is in query discussions. These have been well attended with insights deeper than in the past. In addition to the traditional query format, we have begun an experiment using the Facebook social networking Website as a forum to discuss queries and other issues among members. There is a generational divide that exists in terms of comfort with this medium, but it has generated a significant membership of Bloomington Friends on Facebook and an opportunity to get to know more of each other's lives.

Perhaps of greatest concern regarding the spiritual life of our Meeting is that some of our Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business or forum discussions, appear to lack the intensity of the Living Light that we feel refreshed by in our Meetings for Worship. We are reminded that there are rhythms in society and in nature that are reflected in individual behavior. By reflecting the troubled society in which we live, Friends face greater temptation to turn away from the Light on matters that we feel strongly about. We seek to develop our habits of spiritual listening to the Will of God and not our own fears and desires. We challenge ourselves to practice greater love, charity, patience, forgiveness, understanding, and tenderness with one another than we have sometimes recently displayed. As we are bound together by our common humanity and the frailties instilled in us by our Creator, we look to our communal spiritual life for support.

Campus Friends Meeting

In our unprogrammed worship, Friends listen to the vocal ministry of those gathered on Sunday, attentive to the voice of God speaking through the human words. Occasionally, we have a totally silent meeting, and everyone is comfortable with that. Listening can occur in the absence of speech. Sometimes we are blessed with a song or a poem or a quotation of Scripture. Our hymn-singing sessions once a month provide yet another opportunity for listening.

When we attend to business, we listen to all opinions and points of view before coming to approval.

Campus Friends Meeting has re-instituted a monthly pot-luck and sharing which we are calling Deepening Corporate Worship. After a potluck meal in the hosting home, Friends share responses to a

query prepared by our Ministry & Counsel committee. This gives us an opportunity to listen together for ways in which our corporate worship might be deepened.

We have instituted a Fifth Sunday program, which provides additional listening opportunities. In months containing five Sundays, we invite one of our members to speak after the rise of meeting for worship to share an interest or bit of history about themselves. These have proven to be not only fascinating but an opportunity to get to know each other better and to learn things we didn't know before. Listening to friends talk about experiences that have spoken to them expands and enriches our own experience, especially the spiritual components of our lives.

We continue to offer a Circle of Care to individuals facing difficulties with health or other life challenges, which provides opportunity to listen carefully to the individual's concerns or requests in order to provide assistance and relief. This is also an opportunity for the members of the committee to interact and share their gifts and reservations when it comes to assisting in concrete ways.

We are also continuing our long-standing Inner Search sessions before meeting for worship. We are very fortunate to have our esteemed scholar, T. Canby Jones, as mentor to this activity, which is usually centered around a book on some aspect of spiritual seeking. Listening to the reactions of others to the texts broadens our understanding and deepens our appreciation for the gifts of the spiritual life.

We have begun a time of sharing Joys and Concerns at the rise of meeting for worship which allows us to keep up to date not only on the lives of members of the meeting, but also on the lives of loved ones and neighbors who are not members of the meeting or necessarily even in town.

We seek to listen to how God desires us to respond to the needs of the community around us. Our own Wilmington community is grieving the loss of a major employer and the economic dislocation of many who are losing their livelihood. We have responded individually and corporately by service to a variety of organizations that reach out to those in need, such as Your Father's Kitchen, a local ministry to the destitute and distressed. The meeting has also benefited from the generosity of Friends from the wider Quaker body who have heard of the community's plight and responded. The meeting has directed that their gift be used to defray expenses of local students attending Wilmington College.

God also continues to call us to witness for peace. We have heard the call and responded by, among other things, holding ongoing peace vigils on the college campus.

Clear Creek Monthly Meeting

Clear Creek Meeting has continued the process of adjusting to being a smaller meeting, seeking the path of faithfulness and growth in the Spirit. We experience both benefits and distractions of closeness to the larger Earlham College community, and seek to find ways to incorporate student members and attenders in the life of the Meeting. We are increasingly aware of the need to seek opportunities for connection to, and participation in projects with, other members of the Richmond community, as we also participate in wider Quaker groups, activities, and concerns.

Gathering for the First Day hour of worship continues to be the core of the Meeting's life. Our worship is deepened by a variety of voices in spoken ministry. We appreciate the presence of our one toddler and two elementary-age children during the opening period of our worship, as well as the regular participation in the worship hour of high school, college and seminary students. The children follow a First Day School curriculum. A second-hour schedule of adult religious education activities has been revived. Our small but active Peace and Social Concerns Committee has faithfully provided information and opportunity for communicating our concerns to appropriate, responsible groups. We rejoice to hear of the experiences and achievements of our young people in school at other places, and welcome them to our worship when they are at home.

Members of Clear Creek Meeting participate in the responsibilities and events of Whitewater Quarterly and Ohio Valley Yearly Meetings, as well as the wider Quaker world, and share the news and challenges of these groups with the local Meeting. We are gratified that the First Day worship during the annual session of our Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting fills our Meeting Room once a year!

We are grateful for the diligence of faithful participants who share and assume the routine tasks of "Keeping the Meeting going." We now have an active Meeting web site that keeps us informed of Meeting activities. Our newsletter editor has put special effort into compiling an interesting and informative document distributed to local and former members and friends. The schedule of monthly potlucks has been revived, experimenting with Saturday night instead of Friday night gatherings. Several interest groups: "Poetry Writing as a Spiritual Practice", "Mystical Practices and Worship Sharing," "Book Group," and "Spiritual Friendship" continue on their separate schedules. The mid-week Meeting for Worship continues to gather at Friends Fellowship Community. The traditions of "Simple Gift Making," the children's Christmas Program (now including the participation of eager adults), and Christmas caroling nurture our fellowship and joy. The fireplaces, closed without authorization a few years ago, were opened in time for our Christmas morning worship. A weekly peace vigil, started on Christmas Eve, 2002, was regretfully laid down this year, as attendance dwindled. Several members of the Meeting were involved in political activities related to the national election. We have welcomed two new members, and two transfers. Two Friends have transferred memberships to other meetings. A long-time, very active member has moved to service in another area. We have experienced loss through the deaths of a long-time member, and a long-time attender. We cherish the friendly experiences we have had with these and others who are no longer with us for regular worship and fellowship. We send greetings to our fellow Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends, and welcome your visits at any time!

Community Friends Meeting

During the last twelve months God has blessed our Meeting with new life and we have witnessed the passing of lives we have held dear. Two of our founding members died within a month of each other: Kay Thomson on 7/14/08 and Jean Stoffregen on 8/14/08. Diana Becket joined the Meeting by transfer on 8/10/08. We were also blessed with the birth of three new babies in our extended meeting community.

Attendance at Meeting for Worship is about 40 adults and 7 children and teens. It is noteworthy that our Meeting has a total of 25 regularly participating attenders, with about 12 of these attending weekly. We have a relatively high proportion of active attenders in relation to active members. Quakerism 101, a course on Introduction to Quakerism, was recently offered with six people attending. Ministry and Counsel dialogues with attenders who might want clearness for membership. We also make a faithful effort to contact young adults at intervals to see if they desire adult membership.

This year has been marked by some major undertakings. The Meeting undertook its largest-ever construction project: the removal of our ancient furnace and radiator system, together with removal of asbestos. The new system provides zoned heating and air conditioning for our caretaker's apartment, First Day School classrooms and the first level of the house. This commitment to be more ecologically responsible and economical was an enormous effort for both our House and Grounds committee and Stewardship committee. Stewardship committee took on the challenging task of planning and carrying out a major Capital Campaign, successfully coordinating donations, pledges and loans to fund the project. The outpouring of support and financial commitment for this project is an indication of the vitality of our meeting community.

Another growing trend for our Meeting has been more extensive networking with other Quakers, Meetings, Peace Churches, and Ecumenical bodies. Meeting members have attended spiritual nurture groups and shared community-building opportunities with other Quaker meetings in Cincinnati. We also shared the planning of a memorial meeting with Cincinnati Friends Meeting. Activities of Peace and Social Concerns Committees and teen groups are shared among the three Cincinnati meetings..

The Religious Development committee holds First Day School for a small but very active primary class, and a large, active group of teens. A monthly intergenerational activity at the rise of meeting for worship has given younger and older Friends opportunities to get better acquainted. Our teens are connecting with the wider Quaker world through regular game nights with teens from the other two Cincinnati meetings, through active involvement with the OVYM teen group, and especially through plans for five of them to participate in the OVYM teen trip to visit Alaska Yearly Meeting. Religious

Development Committee and their families supported the teens in planning a successful spaghetti dinner fundraiser for this trip.

Peace and Social Concerns committee has attempted to draw everyone in the Meeting into its activities by holding meetings over potlucks at members' houses and inviting all in the Meeting to attend. The committee has cooperated with other meetings and peace churches on Peace and Social Concerns activities such as an alternatives to local violence brunch, and a gathering of Cincinnati's peace churches at a Mennonite Church. They also continue to coordinate ongoing projects such as providing meals at the Tender Mercies housing project for the mentally ill and working at the Free Store.

Our faithful Community committee takes care of providing First Sunday carry-ins, food for Meeting for Business and other special events. In addition they have planned many enjoyable community-building activities such as Easter egg dyeing and pumpkin carving. Social and educational events, such as cheese making and tapping our own maple tree to make syrup, were also provided by our Friends in Unity with Nature committee. These committees also co-sponsored another successful Quakerfest last summer with live music, food, and entertainment provided by members of all three Cincinnati area Quaker meetings.

Adult Education Committee was small this year and provided Second Hours discussions, the Quakerism 101 class, and a discussion group on Marcus Borg's *The Heart of Christianity*. In addition, Cincinnati Friends invited our Meeting to all of their adult religious education classes, programming and retreat. Many opportunities for spiritual growth continue to be available to us in wider Friends circles.

Ministry and Counsel Committee again invited Deborah Haines to be the program facilitator for our Fall 2008 weekend Renewal, continuing with the theme of Inreach and Outreach efforts to cultivate a vital spiritual community. We have followed up with many of the suggestions the Renewal generated. Our outreach efforts this past year have included a series of panel discussions called "Quaker Questions" (similar in format to Quaker Quest.) We also designed and printed outreach T-shirts, and shared information about Quakers with other religious and community groups.

Meeting for worship continues to be the center that connects us and pulls us together, and the depth of our worship and ministry is good. We support the ministry of one member of our Meeting who is traveling under a concern for earth care and consumption of local foods, and we support the music ministry project of another member. Many of our members serve in work with OYVM, the Board of the Quaker Heights Care Community in Waynesville, FGC, AFSC, FCNL, the Corporation of Haverford College, and other wider circles of service. We are an active, busy group of people. Our inreach and outreach efforts have borne fruit this year in renewed vitality and the presence of new members and

attenders, in spite of losing older faithful members to death and retirement moves. We continue to seek a deeper daily awareness of the presence of the Divine Spirit, and give thanks for the many blessings of our beloved spiritual community.

Dayton Friends Meeting

Dayton Friends Meeting is a small, spiritually rich community.

We continue to be a meeting of spiritual depth. Our meetings for worship are spiritually rich and many members have regular spiritual practices. Our vocal ministry is nourished by these practices and grows out of a deep silence. This enables our place of meeting to be one that is welcoming and within which people find it easy to center. Monthly meeting for business is a continuation of meeting for worship. The regular meeting of the women's group also adds to the spiritual nurture of the meeting.

While our official membership is stable, we have welcomed a new member this year and have had a number of new attendees, including some children. We provide regular first day programming for these children. We have welcomed a new baby into our community, creating a welcoming quilt for her. We have also celebrated the transition of one of our teens to attending Earlham College. We have communicated with members who live at a distance about their membership. These are all adult sons of local members. Most have requested to retain their membership. The meeting will need to address how to communicate with and serve these distant members. We miss one of our elder members who died last year. Her spiritual presence remains with us.

We continue to discuss and work on issues of social concern. Members of the meeting participated in the Dayton Dialogue on Race Relations with members of Omega Baptist Church. Our monthly second-hour discussion has given us the opportunity to address concerns of the meeting such as counter recruitment and to discuss areas of spiritual interest. We have also addressed issues related to death and dying and have given members the opportunity to express and file their requests related to these concerns.

We have worked on our physical space in the Mack Memorial Church of the Brethren. Most of the windows in the Meeting Room are now double-pane glass. The heating and cooling systems are better regulated. We have developed a comfortable place for meeting and will continue to discuss these needs. Our space is now more conducive to quiet worship.

We continue to gather together in homes for celebrations. We have celebrated graduations, new members, Christmas, and Easter this year. These gatherings allow us to enrich our friendships and further strengthen the social life of the Meeting.

The first week-end of April, we shared a joint retreat with Englewood Friends Meeting (FUM). We explored some of the divisions in Quaker traditions with Steve Angell from Earlham School of Religion as our facilitator. Members of the two meetings were able to get to know each other better and to understand our mutual concerns and commitments.

While all of these factors contribute to the vital life of the meeting, we are concerned about the slow growth of the meeting. In addition, the average age of our members is increasing. We have fewer members who are able to provide significant financial support. Many of our members serve in multiple roles. Several active members have retired at a distance or will do so in the near future. All of this serves to make us uncertain about our future. Yet, we are sustained by the presence of the Spirit and the hope for the future.

Eastern Hills Friends Meeting

As a small monthly meeting, Eastern Hills is particularly sensitive to the effect of changes in membership and attendance. In the past year, we have experienced some growth but also some loss.

Our meeting has not grown dramatically in membership or attenders, but we are pleased at the growth that has occurred. We took pleasure in approving a request of one young associate member to move to full membership in the Meeting. We have welcomed a number of visitors throughout the year, some for only one or two Meetings for worship, others staying for months. A new family has become fully involved in the Meeting community. Their two young sons have joined the small number of children in our Meeting and have added to our joy at having children around us. Unfortunately, some members/attenders have drifted away or will be leaving. In the last few years, the number of young people in the Meeting has dwindled as older teens left for college. Some senior members have reached retirement age and have moved or will soon move from Cincinnati. Others have drifted away for other reasons. One member left our Meeting because we had failed to adopt a clear position on same-sex marriage. Such losses may occur in nearly all meetings, but we do not relish the experiences.

The changes at Eastern Hills led us to hold three Second Hours in which we shared our individual perspectives on our Meeting's identity, its strengths and weaknesses, and our visions for the Meeting's future. While we have not made much progress in creating that future, we believe that our open sharing confirmed for us that we are indeed a faith-based community even though there is some diversity of belief among us. We are grateful that during this process we truly practiced listening as an act of love.

Two of the issues we discussed during our visioning sessions were how Eastern Hills Meeting might grow and how we might reach out to the community more. We have diligently maintained our meetinghouse property and see it as an attractive place to gather. We welcome the frequent use of the meetinghouse by a community group, Greater Anderson Promotes Peace. We continue to seek ways that the Meeting and meetinghouse can serve the immediate neighborhood and the community. If we attract more of the community to the meetinghouse, perhaps our spiritual community can grow.

We believe that we have much to offer. We see ourselves as a supportive, loving faith-based family. We see evidence of this in the way that we reach out to others in the Meeting during difficult times. We see it in happier times, as well. Recently, for example, we celebrated the tenth anniversary of one of our young couples. We joined them in a Meeting for Worship during which they recommitted themselves to their marriage.

We also experience rich Meetings for Worship. We begin our worship by lifting our voices in joyous, robust singing to the Divine. Then we enter the silence in expectant waiting. Occasionally, someone rises to share vocal ministry after which we return to the silence, enriched by what we have heard. Even if the silence is not broken, many feel that our worship is frequently deep and bountiful.

Fall Creek Meeting

Diann Herzog, Clerk Fourth Month, 18th, 2009

On a typical First Day, Fall Creek Friends move from an hour of thoughtful, spirited reading and discussion of the Bible quietly into meeting for worship where we are joined by more Friends arriving for the hour of worship. After sharing warm greetings, we settle into that sweet and loving flow that passes from heart to heart between us and God. We have noticed a deepening in our meetings for worship and feel an intense connection at times, even when we are worshipping separately. All who attend are faithful in their individual spiritual work during the week, which brings passion and energy to the hour spent together. Vocal ministry arises when needed and the Spirit speaks to us, showing us truth, love, compassion and sometimes correction.

We have been taking reading and discussion of the Queries more seriously for the last several months and really taking the time to contemplate and savor them. Doing this as a spiritual practice has had a seasoning effect on us individually and certainly corporately. We are also giving the Testimonies their due, emphasizing their importance in uniting us as a community, while respecting individual understanding.

As one of our attenders recently stated, “Differences of opinion are of small matter; Love rules here”. That is the current state and condition of Fall Creek Meeting - Love rules!

Green Plain Meeting

Green Plain Monthly Meeting has a very small membership and many of the members reside in other states. Therefore we are unable to hold meetings on a regular basis. We try to maintain contact with all the members and to provide them with information. Once a year each member receives a copy of the OVYM minutes and a letter with explanations of what has occurred during the year. The members with concerns are asked to share them with the membership. Several members have shared their concerns and other members have been of assistance to them. The Meeting House and grounds are maintained by resident members. Several non-resident members serve the Meeting in other capacities.

Hopewell Friends Meeting

We have wrestled with our discouragements within our meeting. We have also "counted beans" (all the activities we did this past year.)

We struggle with commitment to attend Meeting. We only have 5-8 attending each first day. That means we struggle to keep our doors open at all. We care deeply for the few children that come and desire to give them religious instruction. The children cannot come regularly and this creates a problem of preparation for the class. the age variance creates another obstacle. we need to hear, discuss and practice the queries in Faith and Practice. We need to commit to be at meeting on time. The costs of keeping our beautiful country meeting open are a continual concern as we draw from savings to make it happen.

We now have a sign at Hopewell to tell our worship times. We replaced all our windows with energy efficient ones. We added a Peace Pole in the Peace Garden this year and many walk the labyrinth full of flowers. We had broken water pipes and have not repaired the floors in the bathroom area. Before the flood, we witnessed the wedding of two dear Friends. A member is now pastor at Kokomo and another Friend moved to Boston, MA for a new job as well. A member's husband passed away and we attended his memorial service in Muncie. Kokomo Friends helped us build a ramp for a member. We share a meal each monthly meeting day.

Our activities have included discussion of poetry and art related to peace; support for Crossroads Shelter, a safe-house for women and children struggling with domestic violence; discussion of science versus religion; and reading and discussion of the book *The Faith Club* (a Muslim, a Christian and a Jewish woman discuss their faith). We hosted a reunion gathering in October and Advancement and Nurture of OVYM. We have a GO GREEN committee to look into more ways of living in peace with our environment.

We are not the building--we at Hopewell Friends care for and love each other deeply. We are still being transformed by our recognition that God is in everyone. We are Spirit Seekers.

for Hopewell Friends
Susan Scott

Lafayette Friends Meeting Fourth Month, 2009

Lafayette Friends Meeting has been enriched over the past few years by the presence of several new members and regular attenders. Appreciative as we are for their fresh perspectives and energy and desiring further growth, we find ourselves reaching out to make our presence known to the broader community in our area.

For the third year in a row, we have prepared and served Easter dinner for the homeless at a downtown Methodist church, which provides a noon meal every Sunday, and we are planning to work with the local Church of the Brethren to provide an additional meal. Last fall we joined a coalition of local peace groups to present the AFSC exhibit “Eyes Wide Open” on the human cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan on the Purdue campus, and we continue to support the endeavors of the coalition. Last summer we hosted a concert by singer/songwriter/political activist Tom Neilson at our Meeting House. Tom has been invited back this summer, and we have contacted the local Unitarian Universalist church about using their larger space and publicizing the concert more widely than last year.

Our clerk of some years, Karen Atcheson, who presided at our meetings for business with patience and grace, was given the gift of retirement in January. Our new clerk, Ann Pellegrino, is finding her way with the support and love of the Meeting. Our children’s committee has two new members and is involving other members and attenders in First Day School. Thanks to the work of a committee that was originally formed to draft a budget for charitable contributions, we now have two budgets that separate the work of the Meeting itself from the physical maintenance of the Meeting House, and we are assured that the Meeting House is financially viable.

Lafayette Friends Meeting continues to proceed as the way opens, seeking to support each other, to be appreciative of our varied talents and tolerant of our foibles, and to make the principles of our faith more widely known while walking humbly with our God.

Lexington Friends Meeting

May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009

Like a plant absorbing sunlight, air, water and earth, our Meeting blends our diverse energies and grows. We welcome many visitors and newer attenders for worship each week as we continue to benefit from the experience of longtime Friends. Our First Days contain enthusiastic singing, a good balance of silence and messages as well as sharing our highs and lows as we build community. We made it through the

presidential election without becoming unduly political and are coping with the economy as companions on the journey seeking to sustain one another.

Our annual retreat to Pine Mountain offered us a program on care and nurture of the Meeting. Each of us is called to minister to others, but it is difficult to know how best to offer the support we want to give; how to reach out while respecting Friends' boundaries. There is always need among us in many shapes and forms. The puzzle is how to effectively bring together our needs and our resources. It has happened that some individuals' need for support from our Meeting has fallen through the cracks. Our primary basis for care and nurture is to keep current on Friends' contact information. We strive to stay informed about Friends' needs and in touch with those who cannot attend regularly.

Our outreach efforts brought Iraq war veterans and an Iraqi citizen to Lexington to tell what they have seen (part of the AFSC's Wage Peace Campaign); activist Rae Sikora on how to live a sustainable lifestyle; author Shirley Hayden talking about her book "Women of Nelson" a fictionalized account of actual families of black soldiers in 1864. Friends have also participated in protests of mountaintop removal mining, gathering school supplies for those in need, weekly interfaith prayer vigils for peace (6th anniversary) and support of local community groups (BUILD and Manchester Center).

We foster our Friends community with monthly spiritual nurture potluck dinners, Sandwich Sundays, Quaker Eights social potlucks in homes, Quaker Experience discussions, an annual gathering of all Quakers in Kentucky at a camp the kids love, in part for its climbing wall. Our library has been revamped. Our religious education program is strong for both children and adults due to the dedicated efforts of many Friends. We do have a concern of how best to integrate our Meeting into our local neighborhood. We want to be good neighbors, but we ponder on what "community" actually means to us and them.

Our dominant concern throughout this past year has been the renovation of our Meeting House. After much threshing, we created a conceptual plan for the renovation that was brought to an architect. He developed a design that incorporates much of what we want in our building. Financing the renovation is our major obstacle. We continue to thresh hopefully, in a worshipful manner, as we try to reconcile our plans with the cost. We want our Meeting House to be useful, accommodating, environmentally sustainable, attractive and community-oriented. All we need are the funds to make that happen. We are exploring different financing options that may stretch us fiscally as a Meeting.

Our ongoing focus on the renovation can create tension between our spiritual concerns and external considerations. With so much attention in one area for so long, there may be other issues and concerns that are neglected. We must foster awareness of our community of Friends. We hope to continue to live

and move and have our being in the Light. We will go at varying speeds and most likely in a spiral rather than in one straightforward direction. Our intention is to match our inner values with our outer action.

Louisville Friend Meeting

Louisville Friends continues to search for the spirit. We see new life emerging and at the same time, there are places we are stuck, as a meeting. We have begun a first hour discussion on the readings of other Friends, the first being Wilmer Cooper's book, A Living Faith. Discussions have been productive and generally well-attended as those Friends who attend wrestle with formulations of Friends faith. Those Friends who are led to activism work with Quaker Committee for Kentucky Legislation, the peace education program, access to health care and other issues. Our Burundi and Sudanese Friends have transitioned to self-sufficiency and some continue to take part actively in our community. We do not have a clerk; others have taken on some of the responsibilities, but way has not opened for a new clerk to come forward.

We have the same attenders actively engaged outside meeting for worship. The same Friends come to monthly meeting and serve on committees. Some Friends voiced a feeling of being depleted. A small number of Friends influence the outcome of decisions in the meeting. The committees are small and it is difficult to fill some committees fully. There is more open discussion and disagreement on issues that in the past may have been avoided

At times, our meeting appears to be a collection of individuals. Newcomers are few, but are welcomed by the members in attendance. Vocal ministry in worship is considered before Friends speak, and perhaps not as frequent as some might wish. The Quality of messages is generally meaningful to those in attendance.

The meeting has approved the addition of space to the meeting house, to provide more classrooms and room for children. This has been a lengthy process, but one to which the meeting is committed.

Louisville Friends are rediscovering our path as a meeting; we look forward to what we will grow into.

Miami Monthly Meeting

Miami Monthly Meeting sends greetings to Friends throughout Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and beyond. Active membership in the Meeting is relatively small with an average of twelve to fifteen attenders at Meeting for Worship each First Day. The business of the Meeting is borne by five or six Friends. Nevertheless the Meeting finds the capacity to provide ministry in a number of ways. Members continue to serve in leadership positions at Friends Home, Inc. The Meeting continues to provide an early morning service, every other month, at Quaker Heights. Eula McDermott coordinates and plans these events. Tom Nowel and Lonny Burger serve as clerks of Miami Quarterly Meeting. Members also serve as trustees of the Waynesville Area Cultural Center. Milton Cook continues to serve the Meeting as Clerk, Lonny Burger as Assistant Clerk and Bill Hoch as Treasurer.

The Meeting is financially secure although expenses have exceeded income for the past few years. The budgeting process this year required a reduction in expenses in an attempt to close the deficit gap. Although some contributions have been reduced this year, the Meeting continues its financial support of AFSC, FCNL, FGC, Pendle Hill and other Quaker organizations and some local ministries. The Meeting continues its tradition of providing financial support for members, who are pursuing college educations and other "Friendly" school programs, including Travis Cook, Will Nowel, Zach Cook, Maggie Furnas, Katie Stone, Peter Stone, Woody Stone and David Furnas. The Meeting sponsored and assisted financially in Will Nowel's travel to Washington, DC during Fourth Month, 2009 to participate in the annual FCNL Friends' lobby day. Dialog and peace with Iran and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty were topics discussed by Friends with members of Congress including Ohio Senator George Voinovich's staff.

Miami Monthly Meeting held a public open house on Sixth Month, 22, 2008. Approximately fifty attenders at this event included members of the Meeting, Friends from various monthly meetings and members of the public with an interest in the Meeting and Quakerism. Milton Cook spoke about the history of the Meeting, and Paul Buckley discussed basic principles of unprogrammed Quakerism. An informal session followed the presentations which included a light meal and refreshments. Maureen McDermott assisted in the creation of an historic time line of Miami Monthly Meeting for the event which now spans a wall in the Red Brick Meeting House. The event was sponsored and arranged by the Meeting's Advancement Committee which had been resurrected after a number of years of inactivity.

Adult First Day School continues to meet at 9:30 am each First Day. Discussions tend to be informal, but they are educational and serve as a social and learning time for those who attend. The Meeting has been blessed by the attendance this year of students from China who have been visiting with Bob Finley for a number of months. Bob is a retired physician who spent a number of years, in a voluntary capacity, assisting with the establishment of a medical center on mainland China.

The physical property of the Meeting suffered through two significant wind storms during early summer, 2008, a hurricane during Ninth Month and a heavy ice storm this past First Month. A number of large trees around the White Brick Meeting House were downed as well as trees in the Graveyard. Clean-up has been an ongoing project during late winter and early spring. There was little or no damage to any of the Meeting's buildings.

Much has been written about the migration of Friends from Bush River, South Carolina to southwest Ohio around 1800 as a protest against slavery. Some members of Bush River Meeting were original members of Miami Monthly Meeting. Milton Cook traces his roots back to these early Friends. Descendants of these migrating Friends from around the country gathered in Bush River during Fifth Month last spring. Milton attended the gathering and obtained information regarding histories of Miami Monthly Meeting families.

The Meeting was blessed to admit Hannah Salmon into membership following the recommendation of the clearness committee. Hannah is the daughter of Kristin and Peter Salmon and granddaughter of Bill and Jeananne Hoch. Some Friends were removed from the membership roster due to death or loss of contact. Mansir Petrie contacted the Meeting to announce his forthcoming marriage. Mansir grew up in the meeting. He has traveled the world in pursuit of his education and professional endeavors and has always maintained contact with the Meeting.

The annual Fort Ancient worship and picnic lunch was a success again. Friends from a number of meetings in the area joined with Miami Friends on a beautiful First Day morning during Eighth Month. Friends are invited to join us again this summer although it has been announced that Fort Ancient will close to the public this year due to a financial shortfall and the recession. The annual worship and lunch will move to a new location. The historic meeting house located at Pioneer Village in Caesar Creek State Park is being considered.

Miami Monthly Meeting is the host for Miami Quarterly Meeting session during Fifth Month. This year marks the 200 year anniversary of quarterly meeting. The first session was held at Miami Monthly Meeting on Fifth Month, 13th, 1809, almost two hundred years to the day of the scheduled session this year. This first session was held in a log meeting house that was erected for \$130.00 and which was near the site of today's Red Brick Meeting House and at the same basic location of the 2009 quarterly meeting session.

Friends from around Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting are always welcome to join Miami Friends for worship in Waynesville at 10:45 am. One Miami Friend recently noted that Miami Monthly Meeting is the only house of religion in the Waynesville area that posts a sign that states "everyone welcome."

For Miami Monthly Meeting,

Tom Nowel

North Meadow Circle of Friends

Dear Friends,

This year, we tried a new approach to creating a state of society report. In the past, one individual has done most of the work in drafting the report. In an attempt to include more viewpoints, the Ministry & Counsel Committee sent an email to everyone on our electronic list, inviting them to give their thoughts on the meeting. Included in the email was a list of meeting activities from the past year. A dozen responses were received. There were a variety of responses, ranging from one simply saying, "I have no opinion," to some that addressed the activities of the meeting one-by-one.

The activities that drew the most comments were meeting for worship and sharing spiritual journeys. Worship is the core of our meeting. Both the silence and the ministry offered are valued – we get plenty of silence, but may not have as much vocal ministry as some would like. One noted, "I always love meeting for worship and the surprises which come forth."

Each month for the past two years, one member or attender told of his or her spiritual journey. Rather than specifying a particular form, we have allowed each presenter to determine what and how to talk about their spiritual life. As a result, we have received a wide variety of stories and have given us deep insight into our fellow worshipers.

Even those who have been in the meeting for a long time have found the opportunity to be one for new understanding and greater depth. One person wrote, “It has been amazing to me to learn more in depth about people that I thought I knew well.” Several people hoped that we would ask those who told their stories already to give us an update.

We also have a practice at the rise of meeting each Sunday of going around the room and giving each person a chance to share something of their week. While some find this sharing tedious, they also recognize the value both for those who share and for our spiritual community.

Some of our other activities were held up for comment. One Friend likes the Wednesday evening movies, writing that, “The discussions are important both for learning and hearing how others feel about things and even putting words to my thoughts and feelings.” Another said he hope to be able to attend the midweek worship sharing more often. Appreciation was also offered for our social events – including a request that we have more of them.

We continue to miss the activity, excitement, and different contributions that young families bring to a meeting. Many times families with young children stop with us for a short time but then move on to other meetings and churches that offer an active program for youth. It is hard to justify their staying when they desire companions for their children. If only we could reach a critical mass of families on the same Sunday, then perhaps we could reach a critical mass of children! But what might we do differently to welcome enough families and children on the same Sunday?

As we count down to our last mortgage payment, members and attenders struggle with some issues focused around our meeting house. These issues represent more than material or financial concerns, but are central to our sense of covenant community. We know of improvements we should address. For instance, providing adequate restroom access to welcome people of all abilities is one of our top priorities. As we consider the possibilities, there is joy in knowing that the meeting house is considered a welcoming presence for groups and meetings. We sometimes even have scheduling conflicts! We have a great variety of events in our space, including a recently started yoga class.

Our meetings for business continue to be well-attended, reflecting our love and care for our business as Friends. We have almost as many attenders at business meeting as we do for meeting for worship. Lately, meeting for business occasioned a lively exchange of ideas concerning revisions to OVYM’s Discipline.

One well-known characteristic of our Circle of Friends is our involvement in social action. Among other things, some members of our meeting hold a weekly vigil against the war in Iraq at the Capehart Federal Building. Other members are very active in the Alternatives to Violence Program in Indiana prisons, Help Increase the Peace for incarcerated youth, and other prison ministries. Our members and attenders are also active in concerns about the Middle East, our environment and use of limited energy resources, and assisting the poor and dispossessed. We continue to have a stock of supplies in the meetinghouse to serve some in our own neighborhood.

Perhaps the simplest statement of what it means to attend North Meadow Circle of Friends was, “I think, learn and feel supported and accepted here at NM.”

Oxford Friends Meeting

We maintain a small but diverse and active meeting. We continue to offer an opportunity for sojourning by making ourselves available to students and faculty passing through this college town. We meet at the Campus Ministry Center, whose director Harry Bolen has made us most welcome and provided library space, extra parking, and internet access. We have gained a member by transfer from another OVYM meeting, a lifelong and seasoned Friend who adds substantially to our gifts. We are enriched by diversity of age, experience, educational background, and political involvement.

Weekly meeting is a source of nourishment and community. Our attendance is variable, but weekly meeting for worship is usually 8-12, and midweek meeting is usually four. We maintain our practice of speaking at rise of meeting, giving voice to thoughts that didn't take the form of vocal ministry out of the silence. Many find that this practice helps us understand each other's spiritual and personal lives, and broadens the inclusiveness of ministry. Midweek meeting is an informal practice, gathering at the small chapel of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. Midweek offers a low-demand opportunity for reflection in the midst of a busy week.

We all feel a sense of community and family from our meeting, enhanced by new members/attenders. We continue the practice of going out to lunch occasionally after meeting, especially when we have visitors. We keep in touch with more distant Friends/attenders by our newsletter, both e-mailed and paper. We have formed an ongoing group to support one member's call to hospital chaplaincy.

Participation in weekly worship supports and inspires us with hope to show up and be counted in local service projects and concerns of peace and justice. Many of us were active in the recent presidential campaign and continue to give active support to the spirit of renewal it offered. Several of us are active on the board of Oxford Citizens for Peace and Justice. We joined with other local peace activists in successfully changing Talawanda High School's military recruitment policy. We shared in the effort to support the local food pantry through the (revived) annual Empty Bowls event. Many of us are involved in the local food movement through the Miami Oxford Organic Network. Several of us also offer service in the community through art work with the elderly, Meals on Wheels, the MS Walk, and the Church World Service's Crop Walk.

With the increasing maturity of our youngest attender, we have enhanced our First Day School program by making it richer and more focused in content, including lessons on relations with nature and each other, Quaker history and practice, and other religious traditions. Adult teachers and our young student have all enjoyed the expanded lesson plan, and we all benefit from her presence and the opportunity to share the gift of learning.

We continue to enjoy second-hour presentations which enrich and support our worship with a balance of inward and outward topics. These have included Quakerism 101, the history of Palestine, sacred and secular community organizing, and others to come.

Oxford Friends serve more widely among Friends beyond the Monthly Meeting. While our Quarterly Meeting attendance has been low this year, we stay active in Yearly Meeting through committee

work: Planning, Faith and Practice Revision, Peace and Social Concern, Executive, Personnel, and Finance. Until the 2008 Sessions, Oxford Friends also served on Nominating and Teen Activity committees as well. Two of us gave workshops at Earlham School of Religion's conference on Christian Spirituality in a Multifaith World. One member has provided a workshop at Pendle Hill, and traveled internationally this year in the service of Friends.

Challenges for us: maintaining active outreach, staying visible despite our small numbers; keeping mindful of the spiritual basis of our outward activity through vocal ministry and otherwise; and finding occasions for more frequent hospitality in our homes.

White Rose Monthly Meeting

White Rose Meeting remains a small gathering of Friends. We meet the first and third First Day of each month for fellowship and worship. We are presently at two regular attendees, with an occasional visitor. Due to the activities of each, we do not meet some of our scheduled days by mutual agreement. The size of the meeting does not easily allow participation by the meeting itself in many activities, but we believe the commitments of the individuals to their various organizations takes the place of these responsibilities, which are usually fulfilled through the meeting. We remain, each in our own way, active in Christ's and Quaker's affairs.

Murray Cox, Clerk
White Rose Meeting.

Yellow Springs Friends Meeting

The work and ministry of Yellow Springs Friends Meeting continues to carry us to places near and far. These include: Friends Music Camp, the Earlham School of Religion, a prison in Lucasville, Ohio, Black Mesa Reservation in northeastern Arizona (among Navajo and Hopi people), as well as a local corner where the Saturday Peace Vigil is in its eighth year.

We have been refreshed and renewed by the Spirit this year -- when many things were made new. Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee has found a new clerk and been revived. We officially began to have greeters at the door to welcome all to meeting on First Day. Antioch College closed. Friends were eventually led to: take over responsibility for all utilities, incorporate the meeting as a nonprofit, replace the heating system in our worship room, and make an offer to buy the meetinghouse for.

Our children's First Day School began and carried out a Meet Thy Friend program in which they got to know some older Friends and to know something of their journey. Worship opportunities now include a

3 p.m. First Day meeting at Friends Care Center, where long time member Irwin Abrams now resides. Other opportunities continue including early worship on First and Fourth days and a worship sharing group on Fifth day afternoons.

We lost a beloved Friend, Seth Duell, who left this life in Seventh month 2008. Whereas several Friends transferred into our meeting only one transferred out – leaving us up in numbers. And, happily, a child was born! Lilly Clair, a daughter, was born to a frequent attender.

Many meetings for eating give us opportunity to learn to know and love each other. Refreshments after rise of meeting on First Days continue various and well attended. Two potluck meals each month support us in being faithful to monthly business meeting as well as committee meetings and special events or visitors like George Brose an attender and David Bucura a Rwandan Friend who spoke on behalf of The African Great Lakes Peace Initiative. There were four successful Friendly Dinners in early Spring and planning has begun for our biannual retreat in Ninth Month 2009.

May all our thanks be to God!

Fort Wayne

Our worship is centered in the Friend's practice of expectant waiting. Both the spoken word and the silence continue to nourish our community. We continue the traditions of sharing joys and concerns at the close of worship. We find that this practice brings our small group together and makes us aware of individual's needs. Our usual number of worshipers has nearly doubled with new Friends joining in our circle.

At the rise of meeting for worship, we meet for fellowship and learning. Discussions this year have been a time of reading and reflection on one or another book. This past year, we have studied "Fresh Winds of the Spirit" by Jay Marshall, and "Holy Silence: the Gift of Quaker Spirituality" by J. Brent Bill.

Social concerns include sponsoring a Chili Supper at our host church (Plymouth Congregational Church), the proceeds of which purchased books for a local elementary school. A few Friends volunteer at the Interfaith Hospitality Network, which is an organization that enables the local faith community to respond to homeless families. The Network provides shelter, meals, and comprehensive assistance and encouragement toward self-reliance in an atmosphere of warmth and hospitality. We also sponsored a Friend's participation in the DeKalb County CROP Hunger Walk. This year, Fort Wayne Friends joined with other faith communities in co-sponsoring the Interfaith Prayer Service for Human Rights, which was a celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), written 60 years ago at the United Nations as the foundation for human rights law.

We look forward to the next year of new challenges with a sense of joy and growth in the spirit and service to the community.

OVYM Monthly Meeting List

LOCATIONS AND TIMES OF MONTHLY MEETINGS

BLOOMINGTON FRIENDS MEETING

Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sundays at the meetinghouse on Moores Pike at Smith Road in Bloomington, Indiana. From the east: Highway 46 from Nashville (it becomes Third Street); at the second stoplight (Smith Road), turn left (south) and travel to first four-way intersection; turn right (west) and go about one block. From other directions: Highway 37 from north or south, Highway 46 or 48 from west or southwest, to point at which Bypass 46 intersects Third Street. From there, go left (east) on Third Street to stoplight at Smith Road. Turn right (south) and travel to first four-way intersection; turn right (west) and go about one block.

Business: Second Sunday following Meeting for Worship and potluck lunch at the meetinghouse.

Clerk: Michael Evans

Contact information:
Bloomington Friends Meeting
P. O. Box 2303
Bloomington, IN 47402
812 336-4581

CAMPUS FRIENDS MEETING

Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sundays at the Quaker Heritage Meetinghouse on the campus of Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio; off College Street, one half block south of U.S. Route 22 and Ohio Route 3, east of downtown.

Business: First Tuesdays alternately in homes or at Ellis Room, Friendly Center at 7:30 p.m.

Clerk: Patricia Thomas

Contact information:
Campus Friends Meeting
Wilmington College Box 651
251 Ludovic St.
Wilmington, OH 45177

CLEAR CREEK FRIENDS MEETING

Worship: 10 a.m. Sundays in Stout Memorial Meetinghouse on the Earlham College campus, Richmond, Indiana, south of National Rd. (US Route 40).

Business: Second Sunday of the month after Meeting for Worship.

Clerk: David Garman

Contact information:
Clear Creek Friends Meeting
Earlham College Drawer 96
Stout Meetinghouse

Richmond, IN 47374-4095
765 935-5448

COMMUNITY FRIENDS MEETING

Worship: 10:00 a.m. Sundays at Quaker House, 3960 Winding Way, Cincinnati, Ohio; about three blocks north of Dana Avenue and three blocks east of Reading Road (U.S. Route 42).

Business: Second Sundays, 11:30 a.m. in the meetinghouse.

Clerk: Doug Burks

Contact information:
Community Friends Meeting
3960 Winding Way
Cincinnati, OH 45229-1950
513 861-4353

DAYTON FRIENDS MEETING

Worship: 10 a.m. Sundays at Mack Memorial Church of the Brethren, 1717 Salem Avenue, Dayton, Ohio. From I-75, follow Salem Avenue Northwest from Downtown.

Business: Following worship on the first Sunday of the month, same location.

Clerk: Terri Scarpelli

Contact information:
Barbara Robinson
627 Kenwood Ave.
Dayton, OH 45406-5118
937 279-1197

EASTERN HILLS FRIENDS MEETING

Worship: 10:00 a.m. Sundays at 1671 Nagel Road, Anderson Township, Cincinnati, Ohio, on the Northwest corner of Nagel Road and Blackthorn Drive. Take I-275 to Exit 65 ("Beechmont Ave./Amelia"), go west 1.8 miles on State Route 125 (which becomes Beechmont), then north 0.6 miles on Nagel Road.

Business: Fourth Sunday of the month, following an after-worship meal.

Clerk: Alice Palmer

Contact information:
Eastern Hill Friends Meeting
PO Box 54565
Cincinnati, OH 45254-0565
513 474-9670

FALL CREEK FRIENDS MEETING

Worship: 10:00 a.m. on First Days; at the meetinghouse 2 1/2 miles east of Pendleton on the north side of Indiana Route 38.

Business: Usually on the third First Day.

Clerk: Diann Herzog

Contact information:
Fall Creek Friends Meeting,
P.O. Box 561
Pendleton, IN 46064

FORT WAYNE FRIENDS MEETING

Worship: Sunday 10:15 am Hymn singing, 10:30 am Meeting for Worship,

Clerk: Kris Connerly

Contact information:

Fort Wayne Friends Meeting
Plymouth Congregational Church, UCC
501 West Berry, Room 201
Fort Wayne, IN 46806
260 482-1836

FORT WAYNE WORSHIP GROUP

Worship: 10:45 a.m. on First Days at the Center for Nonviolence at 235 W. Creighton Avenue in Fort Wayne, IN. Adult forum follows Meeting for Worship at 11:30 a.m.

Business: Each first Sunday of the month.

Clerk: Rita Voors

Contact information:
Fort Wayne Friends Worship Group
235 W. Creighton Ave.
Fort Wayne, IN 46807
Attn: Rita Voors, Clerk

GREEN PLAIN FRIENDS MEETING

Worship: Held occasionally in members' homes.

Business: As called.

Clerk: Caroline Taylor

Contact information:

Caroline B. Taylor, Clerk
Green Plain Monthly Meeting
1476 Oakbrook East
Rochester, MI 48307
248 656-8793

HOPEWELL FRIENDS MEETING

Worship: 10:00 a.m. each First Day at the meetinghouse with discussion following at 11:00a.m. West of Richmond, IN take 1-70 west to Wilbur Wright exit #131, south about 2 miles to 700S, right about one mile to 575 E 700S.

Business: Last First Day of each month at 11:00 a.m. in the meetinghouse.

Clerk: Susan Scott

Contact information:
Hopewell Friends Meeting
P.O. Box 22
Pershing, IN 47370
765 332-2027 (answering machine only)

LAFAYETTE FRIENDS MEETING

Worship: 10:00 a.m., 176 E. Stadium Avenue, West Lafayette, Indiana.

Business: First Sunday at 11:15 a.m., at rise of meeting for worship.

Clerk: Ann Pellegrino

Contact information:
Lafayette Friends Meeting
176 E. Stadium Avenue
West Lafayette, IN 47906-3046
765 463-2011

LEXINGTON FRIENDS MEETING

Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sundays at 649 Price Avenue, Lexington, Kentucky. From downtown, take North Broadway out of town. Turn left at 6th Street and take the second right onto Price Avenue. The meetinghouse is on the left toward the end of the block. From New Circle Road, exit onto North Broadway and head south toward town. Pass under the RR overpass and watch for Delcamp Avenue on the right. Turn right onto Delcamp, then take the second left onto Price Avenue. The meetinghouse will be the first building on the right. From the interstates 64 and 75, take exit 113 and head toward Lexington. This will become North Broadway. Cross New Circle Road and pass under the RR overpass. Watch for Delcamp Avenue on the right. Turn right onto Delcamp, then take your second left onto Price Avenue. The meetinghouse will be the first building on your right.

Business: At noon on the first Sunday of the month.

Co-Clerks: Peter Hardy and Todd Kelly

Contact information:
Lexington Friends Meeting
649 Price Avenue
Lexington, KY 40505
859 254-3319

LOUISVILLE FRIENDS MEETING

Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sundays at 3050 Bon Air Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky. If you are coming from the east on 1-264 (Watterson Expressway), take the exit at Taylorsville Road North (KY 155). Go due west on Taylorsville Road a short distance to the second light at Dutchmans Parkway. Turn LEFT at this intersection into Betty Lane. Go one-half block and turn RIGHT on Alanmede Lane. Go about one-third of a mile to the corner of Bon Air Avenue. If you are coming from the intersection of Bardstown Rd. (US 31 E/US 150) and Taylorsville Rd. (KY 155), go due east on Taylorsville Road to the first light at Seneca Park Road. At the light, turn RIGHT at the gas station then bear slightly to the left on Bon Air Avenue. Commence five blocks to the corner of Alanmede. The Meetinghouse is on the northwest corner. Park either on Alanmede Street or in the Meetinghouse driveway.

Business: 9am on the second Sunday of the month.

Contact: Ellen Galbraith or Paul Neumann

Contact information:
Louisville Friends Meeting
3050 Bon Air Avenue
Louisville, KY 40205-3181
502 452-6812

MAPLE GROVE FRIENDS MEETING

No Worship or Business scheduled

MIAMI FRIENDS MEETING

Worship: 10:45 a.m. Sundays at the meetinghouse at Fourth and High Streets, Waynesville, Ohio. Take Ohio Route 73 or U.S. Route 42 to their intersection on the edge of Waynesville, then north on 42 to first left, west on Miami Street to Fourth Street, one block south to the meetinghouse.

Business: 9:30 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month in the meetinghouse.

Clerk: Milton Cook

Contact information:
Miami Friends Meeting
P.O. Box 731
Waynesville, OH 45068

NORTH MEADOW CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Worship: 10:00 a.m. Sundays at 1710 North Talbott St., Indianapolis, Indiana. Take I-70 to I-65 north to Meridian Street exit, north on Meridian to 16th St., east to Talbott, north on Talbott.

Business: Second Sundays at 8:30 a.m., same location.

Clerk: Pat Zarowin

Contact information:
North Meadow Circle of Friends
1710 North Talbott Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202
317 926-7657

OXFORD FRIENDS MEETING

Worship: 10:00 a.m. Sundays at Campus Ministry Center, 16 S Campus Ave., Oxford.

Business: First Sunday of the month, at rise of meeting for worship.

Clerk: Andy Garrison

Contact information:
Oxford Friends Meeting
P.O. Box 495
Oxford, OH 45056
513 524-7426 or 513 523-1061

WHITE ROSE FRIENDS MEETING

Worship: First and third Sunday mornings of every month at 10:00 a.m. in Wabash, Indiana at Honeywell Center, 245 West Market St.

Business: As called when needed.

Clerk: Murray Cox

Contact information:
Vaughn Peebles: 260 563-2303

YELLOW SPRINGS FRIENDS MEETING

Worship: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sundays and 7:00 a.m. Wednesdays at Rockford Meeting House, President St., on the north side of the Antioch College campus. Religious Education at 10:00 a.m. for adults and children. Turn east from U.S. Route 68 on Whiteman St., then south on President St. to the dead end.

Business: 6:30 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month, at Rockford Meeting House, preceded by pot luck.

Clerk: Cheryl Keen

Contact information:
Yellow Springs Friends Meeting
P.O. Box 45
Yellow Springs, OH 45387

Memorial Minutes

David Klaphaak Sr.

The meeting wishes to minute the passing of David Klaphaak Sr., who died on April 22, 2009 at his home. He was a member of Louisville Friends Meeting for forty years. Memorial services were held after the manner of Friends on May 3, 2009. Many friends and acquaintances joined the family for worship sharing in his memory. The memorial was a reminder of the impact an individual can have on others as they find and reflect the light within.

Minute was approved by Louisville Friends Meeting for worship with attention to business on First day, May 10, 2009.

Horatio C. Wood IV

Horatio C. Wood IV, M.D., “Woody,” was born Tenth month 29, 1928 in New York City, N.Y. He was the son of Olive Yale Anderson and Horatio C. Wood III, of Radnor, PA, members of the Buck Lane Monthly Meeting in Haverford, PA. Woody cherished being a birthright Friend. The family also had two younger children, twin sisters Ellery Yale Wood and Lovell Wood Royston. Woody’s father changed professions and went to medical school after he had his family, making finances tight. Both Haverford School’s high school and Haverford College awarded Woody scholarships, for which he felt lifelong gratitude.

In college he majored in English literature and then followed his father’s footsteps to medical school, attending Washington University at St. Louis. While there he met Barbara June Youngmeyer. They married during his senior year on Tenth month 3, 1953. They celebrated their fiftieth anniversary in 2003. They had three children: Peter Anderson Wood, Katherine “Kate” Wood Logan, and Nicholas Bacon Wood. Woody is survived by his beloved wife, his sisters, son Nicholas, Kate’s daughters Olivia and Rachel, and Nick’s sons Henry and Charles.

Woody interned at the University of Virginia Medical School in Charlottesville, VA. He served two years of alternative service in the U. S. Public Health Service, first at an assignment he requested at the leprosarium in Carville, LA, then in Texas at a federal hospital for drug addiction treatment. His alternative service involved a significant amount of patient counseling and influenced him to pursue a residency in psychiatry at the University of Cincinnati Medical School. He made Cincinnati his permanent home, working for thirty-five years in the private practice of psychiatry. After retirement he worked for five years as Medical Director of the Federal Medical Center in Lexington, KY.

Woody transferred his membership in the Religious Society of Friends from Bucks County Meeting to East Cincinnati Meeting in Second month of 1958. East Cincinnati joined with Seven Hills Meeting in 1968 to form Community Friends Meeting, of which Woody was one of the founding members. He served his Meeting in many roles: as Presiding Clerk, Recording Clerk, Treasurer and Clerk of Ministry and Counsel committee.

Woody was a leader in wider Quaker circles and the civic community as well. He was chosen permanent president of Haverford College's class of 1950, which involved him in fundraising and other work for the Alumni Association. Later he also served on Haverford's Corporation governing body. He both served on and clerked the Board of Trustees of the Quaker Heights Retirement Home in Waynesville, OH for some thirty-five years, seeing it through some of its most extensive phases of construction. Less than a month before Woody's death, Quaker Heights honored him for his invaluable service. For years he served as a Quaker delegate to the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati and the Council of Christian Communion of Cincinnati. He was also a member of the American Civil Liberties Union board.

Woody was a devoted family man and a fun-loving human being. He mourned the untimely loss of two of his children—Peter in childhood and Kate, who died of cancer, leaving two young daughters. Barbara and Woody, both in their seventies, adopted Olivia and Rachel. At his memorial service, Olivia described Woody as her only father figure.

Woody loved life, from college days in which he captained the soccer team until his last months, when he still drove Olivia to all her soccer events. His college love of books also lasted all his life; he remained an avid reader and collector of them. He traveled to a different province of France for years, sailed in a local lake and went deep-sea fishing in Puerto Rico for decades. He Elderhosteled and learned to bake bread. He trained German Shepherds. He enjoyed hiking and rafting in the West with his son Nick.

On Fifth month 28, 2009, at age 80, he died quietly at home at 222 Greendale Avenue, Cincinnati, OH—the place where he had lived nearly fifty years, and which he never wanted to leave. His Memorial Service was held on Six month 10th 2009 at The New School in North Avondale, under the oversight of Community Friends Meeting.

-- Approved at Community Monthly Meeting for Business

Second FirstDay, Seventh Month, 2009

Jean Elizabeth McGrew Stoffregen

Jean Elizabeth McGrew Stoffregen, born October 14, 1919, was the first child of Glen McGrew and Emily Jameson. She grew up in Chicago. In 1940, she graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Indiana University with a major in philosophy. In 1942, she graduated from IU law school, after which she worked as a law clerk for the Indiana Supreme Court. In the early 1940s, Jean joined the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), and traveled to Washington to protest WWII. As a member of FOR, she worked to bring a group from the Congress of Racial Equality (including Bayard Rustin) to Friends Meetings in central Indiana.

When the Chief Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court was appointed to the court at the Nuremberg war crimes trials, he asked Jean to serve as his law clerk. She spent one year in Germany, during which she traveled widely, visiting many camps housing Displaced Persons (DP's, as refugees were officially known). She was instrumental in gaining admittance to the US for many DP's, making it possible for them to begin new lives in America. In 1948, she traveled widely in the Midwest lecturing on her experiences in Europe, and on the plight of DP's.

At one of these lectures she met David Stoffregen, and in 1949 they were married. They lived in the house where David was born, at 2830 Madison Road in Cincinnati for the rest of their lives. Their long marriage lasted until David's death in 1998, just a few months short of their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Jean is survived by their four children, Philip, Emily, Roger and Thomas, together with their spouses, Jean and David's eight grandchildren, and Jean's only sibling, her brother Jameson McGrew.

After their marriage, Jean joined David in the practice of Quakerism for nearly sixty years. She first belonged to Cincinnati Friends Meeting, which gave rise to Seven Hills Meeting, which merged to form Community Friends Meeting, of which she was a member at the time of her death on August 21, 2008. Jean was modest but energetic, always aware of her Meeting community, quietly filling many needs but also ready to lead when needed. She co-clerked the Religious Development Committee when Community Friends was formed. For many years she clerked the Library Committee. She organized seniors to work on the Meeting's newsletter and eventually guided the establishment of the Senior Seekers, a social group for Meeting seniors. All her life she remained active in causes relating to peace and social justice. In the 60's, while raising four children, she went to graduate school to earn a Master's Degree in Social Work..

Jean was a talented photographer, a lover of trees and flowers, of the arts, classical music, and theater. She led her daughter's Girl Scout troop and cooked wonderful meals for her family from scratch. She

sewed, did needlepoint and water color painting. Her daughter Emily said, “My mother was the original Martha Stewart.” Her wide-ranging love of learning extended into her latest years through many Elderhostels, lectures, tours, and pre-recorded courses. In her 80’s she was learning calculus on videotape. Hers was truly an indomitable spirit.

Jean’s body was cremated. Her memorial service was held on October 4, 2008 at Cincinnati Friends Meeting house, under the care of Community Friends Meeting.

Kathryn (Kay) Sturm Thomson

Kathryn (Kay) Sturm Thomson was born December 3, 1912 at Winona, MN to Harry F. Sturm and Edna Rudolf. Her long life, which ended on July 14, 2008, may have seemed relatively quiet by worldly standards. On a spiritual level, however, she was a mighty force of pure Light and love who touched many people with her inspiration and compassion.

Kay grew up with her sisters Jeanette and Marjorie, both of whom preceded her in death. They were raised Baptist, with their father serving as both Sunday school teacher and choir master at their church. Kay’s father introduced her to music, coaching his two-year old daughter to sing her first solo—a song in a church Christmas pageant. She loved music all her life, later singing in her church choir and at weddings, and playing the piano.

The family moved several times, to the outskirts of Chicago, and to Mason City, IA before settling in Cincinnati. During the Depression her father struggled to provide a living from his general store in Clifton, while all five members of the family lived in a one-bedroom apartment behind the store. Kay went to public schools and graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a major in early childhood education.

Music brought Kay together with her husband, Leland (Lee) Stone Thomson. They met when she was the soloist in a wedding in which he was an usher. On October 11, 1937 they were married. Their marriage lasted until Lee’s death on August 24, 2007, less than two months before their seventieth wedding anniversary. Their only son, David Stone Thomson was born September 25, 1945. Kay is survived by her son, by daughter-in-law Joan Coolidge, and granddaughter Rachel from David’s first marriage.

Although Kay spent most of her life as a homemaker, when David was grown she worked for several years as a children’s librarian in her neighborhood library, reading stories and interacting with the

children she loved. She and Lee received a set of hand-made puppets from friends in Germany whom they had helped after the war. For fifty years they delighted in performing puppet plays for children and adults. After Lee's retirement, Kay traveled with him when he volunteered in the International Executive Service Corps for more than ten years. They stayed in eleven developing countries for weeks or months, making some lifelong friends. She cherished memories of this time.

Kay had many talents. She was a fine watercolor artist, and often collaborated with Lee on art projects. When he carved a wooden nativity set, she painted it. She wrote the plays for their puppet shows and occasionally published essays. She was a dedicated gardener who loved having cut flowers from her yard in every season. She enjoyed observing nature and feeding birds. She was a good cook and made a serious study of nutrition and vitamins, to which Lee attributed their longevity. She sewed, making many of her own clothes. To her, beauty was a necessity of life, and she managed to find it everywhere and in everyone.

What made Kay's life and spirit soar was her deep spirituality. She was much more than a member of any one church, but rather someone who tried continually, in every way she could, to practice the presence of God. She joined the Cincinnati Friends in the 1940's and was a member for years before changing to the Unity Church. She felt Friends were then so focused on political activism that they had lost sight of their spiritual base. She again became a Quaker when she joined Community Friends in 1993. Here she was active on Religious Development and Ministry and Counsel committees. She retained her membership until the end of her life.

Although Kay was grounded in Christianity and followed the teachings of Jesus, she was eclectic in her choice of religious sources. She practiced Transcendental Meditation for many years, and read widely in Eastern religions and mysticism. She and Lee hosted many diverse study groups in their home—from spiritual formation, to healing, meditation, and prayer. People of all ages and backgrounds were attracted to her because she listened to them and made them feel valued. Her niece said, "I absolutely adored my aunt. I could barely wait when she came to visit." Kay cheered and supported many people with special needs, including poverty, addictions, mental illness and incarceration. She believed that we should perform whatever service to our fellow beings that we can. At her memorial, one attender described her as "our Meeting's resident angel."

Six years before her death, Kay took the unusual step of composing a statement to be read at her own memorial service. She began it, "As I approach the time of my transition from earthly life to purely spiritual life, I would like to leave behind some comfort and a short credo." She asserts that she tried to follow the biblical imperative of seeking first the Kingdom of Heaven, and that she believes the Kingdom of Heaven lies within us. But she clearly believed in the reality of an afterlife and hoped to convey that to her loved ones: "Your joy will lighten my spirit as it goes on its way....I shall sometimes send you blessings and do bless me at times too. There is no barrier in the spiritual lives of any of us...whether on

this side or on that side....Be of good cheer and live with a good and happy heart. We shall meet again....”

Mary Morrissett Mullin

A long-time member and beloved friend of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, Mary Mullin, age 93, died on January 16 at Friends Fellowship Community in Richmond. Her family was with her and she went peacefully. Arrangements will be announced by Riggle-Walkermann Mortuary in Richmond.

Mary was born in Columbus, Ohio, on April 29, 1915, to Irving and Anna Rogers Morrissett. She grew up in Dayton, Ohio, and graduated from Denison University. After college, Mary worked for the American Friends Service Committee as a College Secretary in New England and California, recruiting college students to work in AFSC projects and work camps. She was active in the Emergency Peace Campaign in Philadelphia where she met James P. Mullin of Brookville, Indiana. They married on December 27, 1941 and settled in Brookville in 1946 where they raised four daughters.

A member of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting of Friends (Quaker), Mary was active in many organizations both locally, statewide, and nationally. She was a long-time member of the Women’s Club in Brookville and the Franklin County Historical Society, a Girl Scout leader for 17 years, on the executive committee of the Dayton Region of the American Friends Service Committee, president of the Indiana Historical Society, and on the Board of Trustees of Earlham College. She was a homemaker and worked as a tax accountant in the James P. Mullin Law Office in Brookville.

After her four children left home, Mary traveled widely with her husband, expanded her gardening interests, and became an enthusiastic quilter. She made more than 200 quilts, many of her own design, which she lovingly gave to many family members and friends. She was an avid reader and computer user, reading the *New York Times* daily on the Internet.

Mary is survived by her four children, Ann Stromquist (Shel) of Iowa City, Iowa, Beth Mullin (Brad Whitfield) of Knoxville, Tennessee, Marty Mullin (Tom Cooney) of Brookville, Indiana, and Becky Lough (Bob) of Atlanta, Georgia; eight grandchildren, Chris and Matt Stromquist, Nathan and Matt Whitfield, Brendan and Meghan Cooney, Gabe and Dan Lough; two sisters, Virginia Thornberry, Echo Davis (Perry), a brother, Jim Morrissett; numerous nieces and nephews; and many good friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, one granddaughter, Elizabeth Stromquist, and four siblings, Irving Morrissett, Edie Morrissett, Alice Rhodes, and Ann Davidon.

In an email to her grandchildren in December 2008, Mary told them that she was contemplating exploring the vast universe free of a frail body.

A memorial service will be planned for later this spring. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Mary's memory to any of the following: Franklin County Community Foundation, 527 Main St., Brookville, IN 47012; Cope Environmental Center, 4910 Shoemaker Rd., Centerville, IN 47330; American Friends Service Committee, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.

James Andrew Lacey

June 4, 1968 – June 6, 2009

James Lacey was a lifelong Friend and member of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting in Richmond, Indiana, where he was for a time very involved in children's ministry. He is the third child of Margaret S. and Paul A. Lacey (of Richmond), and brother to Mary Lacey (of Richmond) and Patrick Lacey (of New York). He will be remembered as a devoted son, brother, and friend who cherished time with family as a central blessing and source of joy in his life. Second only to this was time with friends, whom James seemed to regard as a kind of extended family. His remarkable gifts for deep and true friendship, playfulness, encouragement, and imagination were shared with many and he is deeply missed.

He graduated from Richmond High School in 1986 and received a BA in History from Earlham College in 1991. After volunteering at the local history museum for several years, he became a museum employee. His father Paul said of him, "James was a collector, and a museum curator at heart." James filled his modest home with elegant arrangements of simple treasures that reflected his interests, including a vast collection of books, games, gaming figures, keys, prisms, swords, polished stones, and many varied works of his own creation. His favorite media included found objects, corks, scrap fabric, stones and wood.

In true Quaker fashion, James appreciated nature and took delight in simple pleasures, like feeding birds and watching the play of light on crystals. He lived fully in the present. He expressed his faith and values by reaching out to others in practical, concrete ways. James loved games, and many can confirm that gaming was a way that he welcomed people, connected them, and enjoyed them. He hosted weekly game dates with different groups of friends, for bowling, for role-playing and other games. For James, it wasn't about winning or losing -- it was about playing the game and enjoying one another's company.

James saved time for joyful pursuits and met his financial needs through helping others with varied tasks such as, carpentry, painting, animal care, handy man services, lawn mowing, and airport and appointment transportation.

James died in a car accident on June 6, 2009, just two days after his 41st birthday. The sudden loss of this loyal friend will be deeply felt throughout our community. A memorial service was held in the manner of Friends on June 28, 2009.

His father Paul offered the following reflections on the significance of James's prism collection:

“Prisms are wonderful, miraculous things. As long as there is sunlight, there is the possibility of rainbows. James loved to place prisms in every well-placed window, so at the best moments his rooms would be a-dazzle in rainbows. I think of William Wordsworth's poem “My heart leaps up when I behold/ A rainbow in the sky....” That's the poem that ends “The child is father of the man/ And I could wish my days to be/Bound each to each by natural piety.” The rainbow in Wordsworth's poem links adulthood to the perpetually enriching springs of childhood, days bound together by natural piety, the gift of always being capable of an openhearted, joyful, affirming, childlike embrace of the world. That is our James. . . .

To say we hold someone in the Light is a promise of loving human fellowship, of active goodwill toward others. Our experience of James is of a man of strong principle, a courageous commitment to love and justice; an honest and generous person, a peacemaker, above all a loving caretaker of other people. He knew how to be a friend, he knew how to love others wholeheartedly; he knew how to forgive the meanness, slights and hurts he experienced. James was and is a child of Light. Above all, he had a great gift for happiness and was a source of happiness for others.”

Seth Joseph Duell

Seth Joseph Duell died July 6th, 2008, at the Friends Care Center in Yellow Springs. He was 83. Seth was born in Ruleton, Kansas on June 25, 1925 to Seth Edwin and Martha Gattshall Duell, one of eleven children. Seth entered the U.S. Navy officers training program and was sent to study engineering at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. At the First Baptist Church there he became engaged to Ellen “Kitty” Newton. A fervent Christian, he decided that military action was not the will of Jesus Christ; he chose an honorable discharge from the Navy and registered as a Conscientious Objector. He graduated in 1947 and went to work for Westinghouse in Pittsburgh. After a year he became convinced that he was called to Christian ministry and entered the Colgate-Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, New York, where Seth earned his Master of Divinity degree. He and Ellen were married in December 1949. In 1954, Seth began a new church in Page Manor and preached integration of housing for the nearby air force base. Four years later, he resigned from the pastorate and returned to engineering at the National Cash Register Company. In 1977 Seth received his Masters in Engineering from the University of Dayton. In addition to NCR, he worked for the Huffman Bicycle Company, Standard Register Company, and Corning, Inc.

Seth and Ellen had five children and shared with them a deep love of music and dance; family members participated in ballet and modern dance classes as well as piano and flute lessons. The children all chose vocations in the fine arts, Daniel and Joseph becoming principal dancers in the New York City Ballet Company. The tragic loss of son Joseph in 1986 by suicide plunged the family into deep sorrow. Seth and Ellen found loving support in the church “family” of the Congregation for Reconciliation.

Seth continued his study of piano after retirement in 2001. In 2002 his poor health required that he move into the Friends Care Center. Ellen moved to Yellow Springs in 2003, and the Yellow Springs Friends Meeting received them both into membership in 2004.

John Hubbard

John Hubbard of Community Monthly Meeting died where he resided in Atlanta, Georgia 6-14-09.