

2026

Reports in Advance

for the

Annual Sessions of the

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

of the Religious Society of Friends

June 17-21, 2026

Held on the campus of Wittenburg University

Springfield, Ohio

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Agenda

Wed. 6/17/26, 3 - 5pm

Opening Worship
Roll Call of Representatives
Agenda Review
Land Acknowledgment – Barry Zalph
Thanks to Annual Sessions staff and volunteers
Letter of Introduction from visitors to OVYM
Joyce Ajlouny (Plenary speaker) and Lewis Webb, Jr. - AFSC
Keith Runyon – (Plenary speaker) - QEW
Jackson Malkus - FCNL
Myron Guachalla – Western YM and Friends, Doris Monasterios, Lisseth Solares
Friends Fellowship – Derek Parker
Appointment of visitors to Youth Committees – children, middle youth, and teens
Gatherings Committee Report – Lisa Cayard
Quaker Quill Report – Cecilia Shore
Epistle Summary – Stephen Angell
Consent Agenda review
Review and approval of minutes
Annual Sessions Announcements
Closing Worship

Thurs. 6/18/26, 10am-12:15pm

Opening Worship
Roll Call of Representatives
Agenda Review
Letters of Introduction and Welcome Visitors to OVYM
Pendle Hill Letter – “Our Call to End and Reform Unjust Immigration Enforcement Practices and Laws” Are OVYM Friends in unity?
State of Society Report – Rex Sprouse
OVYM Sexual Misconduct Policy reading and update – Barry Zalph
OVYM Sexual Misconduct Response Team, introductions and procedure for reporting – Gail Koehler
Nominating Committee initial report – Peter Hardy
Review and approval of minutes
Annual Sessions Announcements
Closing Worship

Thurs. 6/18/26 3:30 - 5pm

Opening Worship
Roll Call of Representatives
Agenda Review
Letters of Introduction and Welcome Visitors
Return of Travel Minute – Diann Herzog
FWCC Report – Marti Williams and Nicholas Graham Hall
Statistical Report – Peter Hardy
Review and approval of minutes
Annual Sessions Announcements
Closing Worship

Fri. 6/19/26, 10am - 12:15pm

Opening Worship
Roll Call of Representatives
Agenda review
Return of a Travel Minute –
Diann Herzog
Letters of Introductions and
Welcome
FGC Report – Karen Atcheson
and Eric Wolff
Youth Services Report – Carol
Simmons and David Hyde
Miami Quarterly Meeting –
Nikki Coffey-Tousley
Treasurer’s Report – Wilson
Palmer
Budget and Finance Report –
David Garman
Children’s Committee – Hannah
Branson
Review and approval of minutes
Annual Sessions
Announcements
Closing Worship

Sat. 6/20/26, 10am - 12:15pm

Opening Worship
Roll Call of Representatives
Agenda review
Letters of Introduction and
Welcome
Nominating Committee Report
for final approval – Peter
Hardy
AFSC Report from Joyce
Ajlouny
AFSC – Cindi Goslee and Jana
Schroeder
Whitewater Quarterly Meeting –
Ellen Hodge
Young Adult Friends Report –
Uta Goheen-Green
Religious Nurture and Education
Report – Rex Sprouse
Administrative Assistant Report
– Susan Lee Barton
Review and approval of minutes
Annual Sessions
Announcements
Closing Worship

Sun 6/21/26, 10 – 11am

Opening Worship
Roll Call of Representatives
Agenda review
Welcome
Planning Committee Report –
Martha Viehman
Registrar’s Report – Eric Wolff
Reports from visitors to youth
committees - children,
middle youth, and teens
Young Adult Friend’s Epistle
Teen Epistle
Middle Youth Epistle
Children’s Epistle
Adult Epistle
Minutes of Appreciation
Review and approval of minutes
Annual Sessions
Announcements
Closing Worship
Consent Agenda
Earthcare Committee
Executive Committee Report
Friends Music Camp Report
Personnel Committee Report
Record Coordinator’s Report
Website Administrator’s Report

Return of a Travel Minute – It All Began With “Yes”

My first travel minute was issued by Fall Creek Meeting in 2010 and returned in 2017. My current minute was also issued by Fall Creek Meeting in 2022 and has now been returned. I have been continually lifted up and supported by my meeting and I am deeply grateful.

Traveling in the ministry has been an intensive school of the Spirit, and the greatest adventure of my life. It has presented many challenges and many more opportunities for personal and spiritual growth than I would've had any other way. Obedience is costly but worth the investment, and the rewards have far outweighed the cost.

A travel minute begins with saying “yes” to the question, “Will you serve me?”. Love comes in and overcomes all objections and you are won over mind, body, and spirit. It is saying, “Yes, Lord. I will follow you, and then you take up the cross, find the courage to trust Divine Leadership, the headship of Christ, the high priest of our profession.

It can feel daunting and there will surely be doubts – those of your own, and those of others. But the Religious Society of Friends has a long tradition of preparing ministers for service. There are any number of books, journals, and pamphlets to refer to for instruction. We have the practice of clearness committees who provide deep listening and gentle questioning. Prayer, holding in the Light, discernment, more prayer, close spiritual F/friendships, and sensitive, wise Elders are all useful in nurturing the call.

The spiritual gift of ministry is, of course, not for the individual but for the entire community. The minister is not the gift.... The gift is God working through the minister to strengthen and unify the body, to bring us into unity (not uniformity) and oneness. It is the same for all the other gifts of the Spirit, and there is not one person among us, no exceptions, who isn't gifted for community. We are so much more than an assemblage of nice, helpful people; we are called to be together – we are a gathered people.

I feel a shift in my spiritual calling now toward the work of the Elder, helping rising ministers of all spiritual gifts, but especially traveling and vocal ministry. So..... who will be next, who is God calling right now to serve Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting? I am looking forward to meeting you, and encouraging you forward. This is YOUR great and rewarding spiritual journey! I am excited for you!

I have been far from perfect. I've misspoken at times, I've hesitated too long, I've rushed ahead, I've been late to arrive, I (still) haven't turned in my reports, and I often show up a little under prepared. At this point I'm sure you've all seen my clay feet, and I hope you'll forgive me.

In the sincere love of Christ toward you all,

Diann Herzog

Executive Committee Report

The Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee (EC) meets three times a year between annual sessions for the purpose of keeping the flow of institutional organization moving forward and to be in close touch with the spiritual temperature of our monthly meetings and others who report. We open with waiting worship, and as we take up each item of business on the agenda, we listen deeply with open minds and hearts and seek discernment to understand God's will for us in each situation.

Executive Committee hears reports from OVYM committees and officers, and from monthly meetings. We seek to recognize when prayer and encouragement are helpful, and to be aware when hands on, practical help is needed.

This year there have been some notable needs within our hard-working committees – the Youth Services Committee does not currently have a paid staff person and has only three members on the committee. EC is involved in ongoing, hands-on work to ensure that there is a program for annual sessions. We are holding all in the Light for the way forward.

Religious Nurture and Education has been revising the OVYM Sexual Misconduct Policy to be more clearly understandable and to ensure that it is victim centered. This is weighty work and there cannot be enough appreciation for all they have accomplished. In addition, they planned an excellent retreat on caring for one another, which they demonstrated in real time.

Our statistician provided the encouraging news that many meetings have seen an increase in attenders in our monthly meetings from the lows experienced during and after covid, some even exceeding pre-covid numbers. He posed some searching queries about tracking the vitality of monthly and quarterly meetings.

EC heard reports from monthly meetings about their varied efforts to assist immigrant communities around us by providing food pantries, financial aid, transportation, safe harbor, and our caring companionship. We read and responded to a letter from Minneapolis Friends Meeting offering our prayers, Light, and support. Many monthly meetings composed their own responses to the multi-layered crises happening around us, which were read during the April EC meeting. It is clear that Friends stand ready in many ways to put our faith into action.

Our beloved treasurer repeatedly reminds us, in the most kind and humble way, that we cannot sustain a budget deficit forever. This needs careful consideration – soon.

Nominating Committee feeds the entire yearly meeting with practical, effective, and spirit-led suggestions of Friends whose gifts are well matched with the work of various committees. Nominating is done by representatives from each monthly meeting.

The Social Action Coordinator has done just what her description says – she has coordinated discussions around relevant topics and has created a web of connections between individuals and monthly meetings.

The Young Adult Friends Committee has persisted despite having only a little help, but lots of heart. She will be aging out this year and wonders who might keep the committee going.

Planning Committee has had to overcome huge obstacles and work with challenging circumstances for us to gather for annual sessions the last several years. There are so many, many details and considerations, and we all owe them our deep thanks and appreciation for all they have given us. Even better, nominate yourself to join the committee.

The Gatherings Committee has provided bright spots of joy and celebration of community, by coordinating opportunities to be together. More please.

We are blessed beyond measure by the contributions, both practical and spiritual, of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends. There is always a welcoming place for your gifts and talents. Keep on keeping on, Friends.

Agreement to Respect Personal Boundaries

I support Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends' commitment to maintaining a community of respect and safety. At Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting activities, I agree to treat all present with sensitivity to personal differences regarding physical and sexual boundaries. In my interactions with others, I agree to refrain from the following:

- uninvited touching of others;
- isolating of others from a group, indoors or outdoors;
- stalking of others;
- directing uninvited attention, comments, or prolonged staring at others' bodies or aspects of physical appearance;
- sexually explicit or suggestive comments to or about others with whom I am not already in an intimate relationship;
- unauthorized participation in activities organized explicitly for Friends of specific age groups to which I do not belong.

Furthermore, I will accept support and advice from members of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Religious Nurture and Education Committee, the Clerk of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, and/or the Assistant Clerk of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting in complying with this agreement.

Executive Committee Minutes

Note: Statistical reports and the Treasurer's financial reports presented to the Executive Committee are not included since updated versions are elsewhere in these Reports in Advance.

August 23, 2025 Meeting

1. Opening Worship. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (OVYM) Executive Committee gathered in centering worship at Yellow Springs Friends Meeting. We had to deal with a technical difficulty, but resumed worship
2. Roll Call of Representatives. The recording clerk read the roll call.

Yearly Meeting Officers:

Presiding Clerk: Diann Herzog
Assistant Presiding Clerk: Barry Zalph
Recording Clerk: Terre Holada
Assistant Recording Clerk: Cecilia Shore
Treasurer: Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer: Rick Boyce

Committee Clerks:

Auditing: No representative
Budget and Finance: Rick Boyce
Children's Program: Diann Herzog
Earthcare: David Duvall
Gatherings: Lisa Cayard
Nominating: Peter Hardy
Personnel: Dinah Duvall
Planning: Martha Viehmann
Religious Nurture and Education: Rex Sprouse
Youth Services: Carol Simmons, David Hyde, and Peggy Spohr sent regrets

Quarterly Meeting Clerks:

Miami: Nikki Coffey Tousley sent regrets
Whitewater: Ellen Hodge

Monthly Meeting Representatives:

Bloomington: Rex Sprouse
Campus: No representative
Clear Creek: David Garman
Community: Lisa Cayard
Dayton: No representative
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer and Martha Viehmann
Fall Creek: Ellen Hodge
Fort Wayne: Terre Holada and Mary Anna Feitler
Lafayette: Jill Hutchcroft
Lexington: Peter Hardy
Louisville: Perry Thomas

Miami: Travis Cook
 Mississinewa (formerly White Rose):
 No representative
 North Meadow: Dinah Duvall
 Oxford: Cecilia Shore
 Yellow Springs: Annie Blanchard

Yearly Meeting Staff:

Administrative Assistant: Susan Lee Barton
 Youth Secretary: vacant
 Social Action Coordinator: Sandy Felt

Administrators:

Statistician: Peter Hardy
Quaker Quill Editor: Cecilia Shore
 Registrar: Eric Wolff (also FGC Representative)
 Yellow Springs Tech: Shreyas Casturi

3. The agenda was read and approved without any additions or corrections.
4. Gatherings Committee, Lisa Cayard. **The report is attached.** There was a wonderful gathering at Community Friends, August 3rd. There were some suggestions including singing and food labeling for future gatherings. It was appreciated that it was on a Sunday. The committee is working on improving the evaluation form. The next gathering will be at Fall Creek Meeting, September 19 – 21, 2025. A flier will be circulated. The report was accepted.
5. Social Action Coordinator, Sandy Felt. **The report is attached.** The group chat in Signal is the best way to communicate. Several meetings do not have a person in the group chat. Contact Sandy if you have questions or need help joining the chat. She plans to visit every meeting and has been to about half of them already. The report was accepted.
6. Treasurer’s Report, Wilson Palmer. **The report is attached.** A Friend asked for clarification on yearly meeting expenses. Some expenses do appear in both fiscal years since the bills are paid near the time that the new fiscal year starts. This requires sessions expenses to be looked at more closely over several years to get a more accurate picture. It is noted that Friends can now use Zelle to send money to OVYM. Information is in the report. The report was accepted with gratitude.
7. Approval of employee contracts. Administrative Assistant Susan Lee Barton’s and Social Action Coordinator Sandy Felt’s contracts were both approved for the coming year.
8. Request to purchase equipment for hybrid meetings - Barry Zalph reported. Friends have experienced technical issues at several places where gatherings have taken place. It was suggested and discussed among Friends who know the technology, to purchase portable equipment like the *Meeting Owl* that can be used at these gatherings with little set-up issues since people can be trained. The budget request is \$1,700.00, but a Friend suggested increasing that to \$2,000.00. A Friend said that the *Meeting Owl* was not picking up all the voices. The *Meeting Owl* also adjusts the picture which can cause issues to those with sensitive vision. Another Friend said they have been using the *Meeting Owl* for quite a while and it has been dependable. She said auxiliary speakers would help. Auxiliary speakers can be added any time. Several questions arose, but the clerk suggested that details can be discussed later. Friends approved the \$2,000.00 budget for purchasing equipment.

9. Minutes were approved to this point.
10. Proposal for Training for Recognizing and Preventing Sexual Misconduct in our meetings - Susan Lee Barton and Gail Koehler. The report is attached. Susan Lee and Gail were asked to look into finding professionals to train our response team(s). There are many details that need to be worked out. Susan Lee reminded us that this is just the beginning of what could be a long process. Any Friend is welcome to participate in the training. A Friend asked if trainees can come back to their meetings and train others. They will serve as a resource, but they will not be experts. *Into Account* was chosen and their staff have requested a programming fee of \$4,500.00. It will cost \$140.00 per trainee for room and board for the training weekend at Waycross. At the moment, there is not a limit to the number of attendees. A Friend reminded Friends that those who want to attend the training should not be expected to pay for it also. The committee asked the Executive Committee to approve the cost of \$4,500.00 to *Into Account*. To cover room and board, for those whose monthly meetings cannot provide support, Religious Nurture and Education (RNE) will be asked to consider using the Eileen Bagus Fund. Friends approved.
11. Religious Nurture and Education asked for 3 Friends to be on the Sexual Misconduct Response Team. The length of a term of service will be one year beginning and ending with the August Executive Committee meeting, for now as this is still an evolving service. There currently is no response team. Ellen Hodge raised her name to serve in this capacity. The RNE committee will offer support to Friends feeling a leading in this role. We were reminded that there are written procedures in place. This is a living document that can and probably will be changed as needed. Those in attendance today are reminded to share this information with their monthly meetings. Friends with a leading should contact Rex Sprouse, Clerk of the Religious Nurture and Education Committee. Friends approved.
12. Proposal for the implementation and dissemination of the “Agreement to Respect Personal Boundaries.” **The proposal is attached.** Susan Lee Barton will take the actions required for implementing the proposal. Representatives are asked to share this proposal with their Monthly Meetings. Friends approved.
13. Minutes were approved.
14. Announcements and Monthly Meeting updates
15. Carol Simmons’ father was taken to the hospital today. Please hold them in the Light.
16. Nikki Coffey-Tousley wants you to know that Miami Quarterly Meeting will be October 19th at Dayton Meeting. Community Friends will present a program.
17. Thanks to Yellow Springs Friends for hosting us today.
18. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting will be October 18th at Fort Wayne Friends.
19. Mary Anna Feitler announced the passing of her husband Fred after a long struggle with Alzheimer’s.
20. Susan Lee Barton visited Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative Friends Yearly Meeting. The Clerk read her letter of introduction and Clerk Carol Gilbert’s response.
21. Fliers for the camping weekend September 19 – 21st at Fall Creek Meeting were shared.
22. Minute books are ready. Those present please take your meeting’s copies.

23. Susan Lee made a form for Friends to volunteer with OVYM. There is a survey to fill out. Some requests for volunteers have been unfilled.
24. Volunteer Interest Form: <https://form.jotform.com/250754579096066>
25. The training for Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response will be Friday evening Nov. 14 and Saturday November 15 at Waycross Retreat Center in Morgantown, Indiana. Everyone is encouraged to attend. This training is for adults. There may be a training for younger people in the future.
26. The next Executive Committee will be November 1st at noon. We are looking for a host Meeting.
27. Miami Monthly Meeting invites Friends to attend a gathering September 7th at the White Brick Meetinghouse.
28. Miami Friends Meeting is concerned about maintaining the historic White Brick Meetinghouse in Waynesville, Ohio and are requesting resources that may help them find financing for repairs or other needs.
29. There was a recommendation for a book titled *Before the Resurrection* written by Emily Provance of the 15th Street Meeting in New York that focuses on transitions meetings experience at the monthly meeting, quarterly meeting, and/or yearly meeting level.
30. The yearly Fiesta Indianapolis which celebrates Latino culture has sadly been canceled.
31. Friends in Lexington Friends Meeting have translated the 2025 OVYM Epistle into French and Spanish to be shared with speakers of those languages.
32. Jade Rockwell, representing Friend's World Committee for Consultation, shared information about "Quaker Connect" at Yearly Meeting. Lexington Friends plan to pursue this.
33. Lexington is working on presenting Quakerism 101 and is willing to share it with other meetings using Zoom.
34. Faith and Play 20th Anniversary gathering on September 21st (online and at various hubs across the U.S. including Cincinnati):
35. <https://quakerfaithandplay.org/join-the-20th-anniversary-celebration>
36. The meeting closed in silent worship.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terre Holada, Recording Clerk

August 23, 2026 Reports to Executive Committee

Report from Gatherings Committee to OVYM Executive Committee

The Gatherings Committee continues to schedule meetings monthly, though we were not able to meet in June. Members include Lisa Cayard, Jana Schroeder, Sandy Felt, and Mary Anna Feitler.

We are very pleased with the success of the Summer Gathering hosted by Community Friends Meeting on August 3! There were about 20 Friends from other monthly meetings in attendance, with a total attendance of about 50 people of all ages! The day included both indoor and outdoor worship, a sumptuous lunch, and a tie-dyeing activity that was lots of fun!

The Gatherings Committee has developed an evaluation for Gathering events, and we were able to collect five responses. Asked what they most enjoyed, Friends mentioned catching up with people they don't usually see, outdoor worship, the amazing spread of food, and the deep worship experience. Recommended improvements included adding singing after lunch, making sure to identify ingredients in foods and making it more clear what items are vegan, and using less plastic/being more eco-friendly. Asked if they would do something like this again, all responses were an enthusiastic Yes!

We have heard that Fall Creek is planning a campout as a Fall Gathering the weekend of September 19-20, but we have not received any additional details.

We again reached out to all the OVYM monthly meeting contacts to encourage meetings to plan a Gathering. We have shared ideas for possible events and the dates of other OVYM events to avoid conflicts, and sent out the planning checklist that we have developed.

We stand ready to provide support, publicity, and some financial assistance to any meeting that is interested in exploring the fun and fellowship of hosting a Gathering!

2025-08-23 SAC Report for Executive Committee

The Social Action Social at Yearly Meeting went well. We had 12 people from 5 different meetings and a good discussion. Many at Yearly Meeting joined the Signal group chat, we now have 22 members representing 60% of meetings. People have begun posting their own items in the group chat, which means we're getting a wider variety of information and won't lose any time waiting on me as a potential bottleneck. I hope to have all of the meetings represented in the group chat eventually, so we can use it to pivot quickly for urgent action plans. The only meetings not yet represented in the group chat are: Fall Creek, Fort Wayne, Lafayette, Lexington, White Rose, and Yellow Springs.

I have noticed that even people on the group chat don't always read their Signal messages. Many people would prefer to use a regular text group chat. It might be worth considering having one group chat that provides less security than the other, for the tradeoff that more people would probably participate.

Social action worship sharing is now every other Sunday at 5PM. We've had much better attendance since switching to this day and time. I've started soliciting topics for the next meeting at the end of the last one, thanks to an excellent suggestion from Chris Harmer. Our last meeting, about "the illusion of separation" had 7 people, our highest so far.

The Social Action URL has changed slightly: <https://www.ovym.org/our-work/social-action/>. The focus is now more on the Social Action than the Social Action Coordinator.

After recent worship with Bloomington, Community, and Miami Meetings, I have now visited 50% of the OVYM meetings since becoming the SAC! I hope to visit them all eventually. I think that will probably be my focus once my schedule frees up in October.

My hours for the past 4 months were:

- April: 22
- May: 14
- June: 18.75
- July: 27.25
- Average: 20.5

My hours are mainly spent hosting worship sharing, attending social action events at other meetings, and writing reports. Sometimes I've been concerned about running out of things to do, since I'm done creating the initial infrastructure of the Social Action Coordinator role. However, I'm realizing that visiting different meetings to discuss social action is an important part of the role and likely helps other meetings – especially smaller meetings – to feel less isolated from OVYM. So that is likely how I'll be spending many of my hours in the future.

As always, I'm open to suggestions, and may create a new form soliciting suggestions at some point.

Thanks to everyone for supporting our social action efforts!

Sandy Felt, Dayton Friends Meeting

Social Action Coordinator, OVYM

SAC@ovym.org, (937)315-1609

Treasurer's Report to OVYM Executive Committee

“We are Christ's hands and feet to continue his work here on earth, no matter how ordinary, or amazing, or broken our life might seem. As we love and serve others, we do no ordinary task. We play host to our Host, who makes our ordinary extraordinary. We embrace life and whatever it holds because we journey not alone.” Teresa of Avila

Since the current fiscal year is barely started, there is not much which is of interest to be found in that column of the 5-page spreadsheet (second to last column). One thing to note is we are starting the fiscal year almost \$30,000 in the hole mostly because we did not pay many of Wilmington College's bills for Annual Sessions in June until recently. Perhaps Friends would be more interested in the following summary of the fiscal year that just ended on June 30,2025 (See middle column labeled 2024-25 Actual).

Although the numbers in each category do not exactly match our budget, we ended the fiscal year with close to the predicted deficit. We spent less than budgeted for our committees but overspent for yearly meeting Annual Sessions. We predicted a \$13,700 deficit and ended with about \$500 more than that (See Net General Fund Gain(Loss) at the bottom of Table 10). Both the income and expenses are inflated because the fiscal report includes the full potential amount of an OVYM expense and then our income includes the amount that was forgiven by those not charging us the full cost of the expense. For example, most of the \$2000 over the budgeted amount for OVYM representatives did not actually cost us anything. They traveled on our behalf but did not request full reimbursement for their costs. So, there is a matching \$2000 inflated amount on the income side of the ledger but no actual income was deposited into our accounts, either (See Table 10).

Our assets with Friends Fiduciary Corporation have grown over 8.5% since July 1, 2024. Two of our four invested funds show a different rate of change than that. Since OVYM no longer has the Braddock Fund, Meetinghouse Fund or the Faith and Practice Printing Fund, I modified the way things were set up at FFC this year and that affected their growth. Going forward all 4 funds should grow at the similar rates (Our various funds are listed on the first page of the 5-page spreadsheet).

Those using modern methods of banking can now use Zelle to transfer money to OVYM during Sessions, retreats or to make contributions to the yearly meeting. Unlike using our Square account for credit cards, we receive 100% of Zelle income. Our connection point is treasurer@ovym.org.

Proposed plan for implementing the OVYM Agreement to Respect Personal Boundaries

- A. The agreement to respect personal boundaries will be included in the following:
 - OVYM Handbook
 - Every OVYM event registration form
 - Paper copies at events
 - On the Events website page
 - On the website sexual misconduct resources page
 - On the announcements webpage this year
 - In the *Quaker Quill*
 - On a laminated poster hanging at the check-in desk for OVYM events
- B. Distribute it to monthly meetings via Executive Committee representatives and monthly meeting clerks, with a request that it be disseminated and discussed within each monthly meeting. Ask that monthly meetings consider adopting or adapting the statement of expectations in a minute approved at their meeting for business.
- C. Registration forms will have a checkbox. “All adults participating in an OVYM event agree to abide by the following behavioral expectations. If you are registering for a household including more than one adult, these expectations apply to all.” Checking the box will be required to continue with the rest of registration.
- D. We can set up forms to automatically e-mail the expectations to each adult registrant (not merely the individual completing the online form).
- E. For paper registrations we can request signatures at check-in.
- F. We will ask the Gathering Committee to include a link to the Agreement to Respect Personal Boundaries with publicity for OVYM gatherings.
- G. The sexual misconduct reporting form link will be available at all events.
- H. We will also share this with our consultants for the sexual misconduct prevention and response training.
- I. Monthly meetings and committees are welcome to propose changes to this statement. (Send to clerk@ovym.org and admin@ovym.org.) We consider it a living document that we will grow into and change as needed.

November 3, 2025 Meeting

1. The Clerk welcomed Friends to the Executive Committee meeting and thanked them for their service. We gathered in centering worship at 12:02 pm at Eastern Hills Friends Meeting.
2. Roll Call of Representatives. The recording clerk read the roll call.

Yearly Meeting Officers:

Presiding Clerk:	Diann Herzog
Assistant Presiding Clerk:	Barry Zalph
Recording Clerk:	Terre Holada sent regrets
Assistant Recording Clerk:	Cecilia Shore
Treasurer:	Wilson Palmer sent regrets
Assistant Treasurer:	Rick Boyce

Committee Clerks:

Auditing:	
Budget and Finance:	Rick Boyce

Children's Program:	Diann Herzog
Earthcare:	absent
Gatherings:	Lisa Cayard
Nominating:	Peter Hardy sent regrets
Personnel:	absent
Planning:	Martha Viehmann
Religious Nurture and Education:	Rex Sprouse
Youth Services:	David Hyde

Quarterly Meeting Clerks:

Miami:	Nikki Coffey Tousley
Whitewater:	Ellen Hodge

Monthly Meeting Representatives:

Bloomington:	Rex Sprouse
Campus:	absent
Clear Creek:	David Garman
Community:	Lisa Cayard
Dayton:	Nikki Coffey Tousley
Eastern Hills:	Martha Viehmann
Fall Creek:	Ellen Hodge
Fort Wayne:	Mary Anna Feitler
Lafayette:	Jill Hutchcroft
Lexington:	Peter Hardy sent regrets
Louisville:	Perry Thomas
Miami:	Travis Cook
Mississinewa (formerly White Rose):	absent
North Meadow:	absent
Oxford:	Cecilia Shore
Yellow Springs:	Annie Blanchard

Yearly Meeting Staff:

Administrative Assistant:	Susan Lee Barton
Youth Secretary:	vacant
Social Action Coordinator:	Sandy Felt

Administrators:

<i>Quaker Quill</i> Editor:	Cecilia Shore
Records Coordinator:	Susan Hyde

3. Agenda Review. A few changes were presented and approved.
4. Social Action Coordinator Report -- Sandy Felt. The report is appended.
5. Sandy spends most of her time hosting worship sharing online, visiting meetings to meet people and discuss social action, and posting about what she learns on OVYM's Facebook page. Her goal is to visit all of the meetings in OVYM, cross-fertilizing social action work, partly via Signal chats and helping the smaller meetings feel less isolated. She has worked about 24 hours per month for the past few months. There was a discussion regarding cooperation with other yearly meetings and nearby pastoral meetings. Her report was accepted with gratitude.

6. Youth Committee Report -- David Hyde. The report is appended. The committee has shrunken to three members over this year and would welcome additional members. All representatives of monthly meetings were urged to give names for potential new members to Nominating Committee. They have no immediate plans to recruit a new Youth Secretary (because the youth who attended last Annual Sessions are not of high school age). The Executive Committee approved their proposal for a Facebook presence for the Youth Program. The clerk agreed to convey concerns and advice raised by the Executive Committee. There was a request for a copy of the Youth agreement to respect personal boundaries; several Friends responded with relevant information.
7. Religious Nurture & Education Support—Rex Sprouse. Into Account training at Waycross Center, Morgantown IN, will take place 11th month 14-15. There are currently 20-22 attendees plus 2 leaders. Spring Retreat will be at Quaker Hill 3rd month 27-28, 2026. The report was accepted.
8. Planning Committee Report -- Martha Viehmann. We have a draft contract with Earlham College for June 10-14. Theme is to be announced. They are also seeking additional members. They are seeking a Registrar who has Excel skills, is friendly and organized, who has relatively few outside commitments in April and May, and can be present throughout the Annual Sessions. They need workshop proposals by January because the schedule needs to be set by March in order to finalize the contract. We accepted the report with gratitude.
9. Gatherings Committee Report -- Lisa Cayard. The report is appended. Fall Creek Meeting held a very successful Gathering for Camping September 19-21, with at least 15 Friends attending, who reported great enjoyment of the location and event. The event included campfires with music and queries to deepen conversation, a guided writing workshop with Marti Matthews, a painting class led by a local artist, and meeting for worship. The Committee stands ready to assist other meetings to plan early spring gatherings that do not conflict with other OVYM events, and encourages them to include queries to structure discussion. It was suggested that the committee keep records of the number of attenders who are not from the host meeting.
10. Return of Travel Minute by Diann Herzog. Diann reported that she has carried this ministry for seven years, and wishes to lay it down. We accepted her request and deeply appreciate the years of service she has given in traveling ministry.
11. Treasurer's Report -- Rick Boyce (Assistant Treasurer). The report is appended. Rick explained that the first 4 columns of Table 1 are for the past 4 years, the next two are for the past and current years, the last column is up until the past month. We appear to be financially ahead at the present time, but it is early in the fiscal year. The following tables are for specific purposes and currently close to what we expected. Table 10 summary is our general fund. Parenthetical amounts represent negative expenses, e.g., funds that have been returned to us. Tables following 12 represent specific categories of activities. Representatives to other organizations, please submit your costs, even if you choose not to be reimbursed. Annual Sessions are always confusing because the timing of income vs expense straddles the fiscal year. The Gathering Committee requests consideration of a line item in the budget for these expenses. Originally \$1000 was allocated per year; the budget committee is requested to remember to include this in the next budget.
12. Performance Review for Susan Lee Barton—Barry Zalph. This is nearly completed, and will be positive with a strong recommendation that we retain her, and make efforts to streamline and set boundaries on

the job. We accepted the report. Friends requested that Personnel committee discern the question of lengthening the term of contracts for staff who have served successfully for several years, as well as the timing of performance reviews and report regarding these questions at 2nd Month Executive committee meeting.

13. Miami Quarterly Meeting report. The report is appended. The quarter does intend to host Joint Quarterly Meeting next fall, with the location to be determined. Greenbrier Worship Group of Charleston MM and Charleston MM in West Virginia are considering requesting affiliation with our YM via Miami Quarterly Meeting. We accepted the report with gratitude.
14. Whitewater Quarter report. They had a warm meeting at Fort Wayne. Friends considered the sexual misconduct policy and behavioral expectations adopted at Annual Sessions. It is unclear how that policy would apply to quarterly meetings, but both quarters want to discern these issues after the training in November. It is important to clarify whether Joint Quarterly Meeting would qualify as a yearly meeting activity. The question was also raised as to how we would revisit and possibly revise the policies and expectations we set out at annual sessions.
15. We minuted appreciation to Eastern Hills Friends for hospitality.
16. Minutes were approved after corrections.
17. Announcements and Monthly Meeting updates.
18. The meeting closed in silent worship at 2:18 pm

The next executive committee meetings will be 2-7-26 in Bloomington, and 4-4-26 in Lexington.

Respectfully Submitted, Cecilia Shore, Assistant Recording Clerk

November 3, 2025 Reports to Executive Committee

2025-11-01 SAC Report for Executive Committee

We continue to have social action worship sharing every other Sunday at 5PM. Topics and turnouts for the past few months have been as follows: Illusion of Separation (7), Callings (7), Anthology (5), Finding your Voice (5), and Underground Railroad (2). Worship sharing is a meaningful experience no matter how many attend, and it's rewarding to see Quakers from different OVYM meetings meeting on Zoom.

In September, Quakers from Campus, Community, Dayton, Eastern Hills, and other OVYM meetings met up in Cincinnati for Eileen Flanagan's discussion and signing of her new book, Common Ground. She is an amazing activist, writer, and speaker, and we enjoyed dinner together beforehand.

The Fall Creek Gathering was a few days later. It was great to partake of the camping and other amazing activities they hosted all weekend, while connecting with people from a variety of meetings. I was available for conversations others wanted to have about social action, especially those who desired a face-to-face connection without any technology.

In October, I visited Campus Meeting. We had a lovely lunch and fellowship. Patricia Thomas told me about her work with Hope House and creating her own transitional housing project – from scratch! And I got to see firsthand the "Love All, Shelter All" mural Gary Huffenberger helped the Quaker Pirate paint.

This past weekend, I visited Fort Wayne Meeting. I attended the No Kings protest with 2 others from the Fort Wayne meeting and participated in Whitewater Quarterly Meeting the next day. I hosted a second hour social action workshop, where I shared stories about Patricia Thomas' incredible works of service from the Campus Meeting. I invited us all to bond strongly across OVYM, like the crystalline structure of a diamond. I shared quotes about hope, and we all shared stories of things that had inspired us recently. It was uplifting. I captured one quote, "It's good to be creative about things we have control over."

We added a Lafayette meeting representative to our Signal chat. Now 75% of OVYM meetings are represented in the Signal chat!

I've had the opportunity to visit 69% (all but 5) of our OVYM meetings, and will continue to do so until I have visited them all. The amazing overnight and meal hospitality I've been given has moved me deeply!

My hours for the past 4 months were:

July:	27.25
August:	19.25
September:	20.25
October:	30.5
Average:	24.31

I spend most of my time hosting worship sharing online, visiting meetings to meet people and discuss social action, and posting about what I learn on OVYM's Facebook page. My goal is to visit all of the meetings in OVYM, cross-fertilizing social action work and helping the smaller meetings feel less isolated.

Sandy Felt, Dayton Friends Meeting Social Action Coordinator, OVYM

SAC@ovym.org, (937)315-1609

Youth Services Committee Report

The Youth Services Committee continues in its work. We are looking both inward and outward. We have adopted a mission statement for our committee. We are working on outreach to the OVYM youth, with correspondence, visits and activities for in between the Annual Sessions.

We have adopted a *mantra* which we would like all Friends to consider. This came about because some newcomers have decided not to return due to insensitive remarks.

Let your thoughts pass through the Spirit before they pass through your lips.

Youth Services Committee

Our committee has shrunken from six members at the beginning of 2025 to our present three members. We would welcome additional members. We are thankful for the support that we have received from the Clerk and the Assistant Clerk.

We have no immediate plans to recruit a new Youth Secretary.

We request a Facebook presence for the Youth Program (unless one already exists).

Gatherings Committee

The Gatherings Committee continues to meet monthly. Members include Lisa Cayard, Jana Schroeder, Sandy Felt, and Mary Anna Feitler.

Fall Creek Meeting held a very successful Gathering for Camping September 19-21, with at least 15 Friends attending. The event included meals, campfires with music and sharing conversation, a guided writing workshop with Marti Matthews, a painting class led by a local artist, and meeting for worship on Sunday. Eight people completed an evaluation, with two people using the QR code provided. Evaluations expressed appreciation for the beautiful historic meetinghouse, the fellowship and conversations with Friends, singing and telling jokes around the campfire, the writing workshop, the painting class, the hospitality and chili supper, and food that met dietary needs of all. An activity that many appreciated was having queries to deepen conversations around the campfire! This is a suggestion that we encourage other meetings to try for future gatherings to help Friends get to know one another.

The Gatherings Committee encourages other monthly meetings to consider hosting a Gathering, perhaps in February or April. It's a good idea to check the OVYM events calendar to avoid conflicts with other planned events. The planning checklist is also available on the OVYM website. The Gatherings Committee stands ready to provide support, publicity, and some financial assistance to any meeting that is interested in exploring the fun and fellowship of hosting a Gathering!

Miami Quarterly Meeting Report 10/26/2025

Miami Quarterly Meeting met on 19 Tenth Month at Dayton Monthly Meeting. After Worship and Meeting for Eating, Deborah Jordan and Sarah Hoffman of Community Monthly Meeting led a rich discussion on the practice of nonviolence. Attendance was low, perhaps because of the heavy rain in parts of our region and the No Kings demonstrations which happened the previous day.

In our business session, there was an enthusiasm for planning a Joint Quarterly Meeting in Tenth Month 2026, and four people volunteered for a planning committee. We considered possible locations in our region. It would tentatively be planned for 10/17-18/2026 dependent on availability of venues. We heard from our treasure that our finances are in good order and from the Green Plain Committee/Trustees. The Green Plain Committee oversees maintenance of an historic meetinghouse and cemetery in Clark County, OH. Green Plain Meeting was laid down over 10 years ago, and remaining funds were set aside for ongoing maintenance. The committee has been considering ways to ensure this work goes further my partner with other community organizations, and perhaps extending their committee beyond Quakers.

West Virginia Friends: Last spring OVYM was approached by members of the Greenbrier Worship Group in Lewisburg, W.V., which is under the care of Charleston Monthly Meeting, W.V. These two groups were members of Southern Appalachia Yearly Meeting and Association, but split with SAYMA a few years ago due to unresolved conflict at the Yearly Meeting level not directly involving their meetings. They are looking to affiliate with another Yearly Meeting, including OVYM as one possibility. New meeting affiliation comes under the care of our Quarterly Meetings, so we invited them to attend our Fifth Month Quarterly Meeting. Two members of Greenbrier Worship Group visited at that time.

In return I, Nikki Coffey Tousley, visited Charleston Meeting on 26 Tenth Month. We were joined by the Lewisburg worship group which is about two hours to the southwest. We had deep worship and they seem to be a vital group, despite their small size and aging membership. Both groups have about 10 to 12 regular attenders. I described some of the structures, history and character of OVYM and answered questions to

help in their discernment. I asked what they were looking for in a Yearly Meeting, and they said they want to feel more connected to the wider world of Friends and support. They mentioned that despite their size, several members had been involved in committees and other work at the yearly meeting level.

My sense is that if they were to join OVYM, they would be committed, but there is considerable distance. It was a three-hour drive from Dayton, although would be a similar drive to Lexington. I will be in touch to see what they discern.

Nikki Coffey Tousley, Clerk Miami Quarterly Meeting

February 7, 2026 Meeting

1. We gathered in centering worship at 12:00 pm at Bloomington Friends meeting. The Clerk welcomed Friends to the Executive Committee meeting and reminded us that we do business in the presence of and by the leading of the Spirit.
2. Roll Call of Representatives. The assistant recording clerk read the roll call.

Yearly Meeting Officers:

Presiding Clerk:	Diann Herzog
Assistant Presiding Clerk:	Barry Zalph
Recording Clerk:	Terre Holada sent regrets
Assistant Recording Clerk:	Cecilia Shore
Treasurer:	Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer:	Rick Boyce

Committee Clerks:

Auditing:	absent
Budget and Finance:	David Garman and Rick Boyce
Children's Program:	Diann Herzog
Earthcare:	David Duvall
Gatherings:	Lisa Cayard
Nominating:	Peggy Spohr and Peter Hardy
Personnel:	Dinah Duvall
Planning:	Martha Viehmann
Religious Nurture and Education:	Rex Sprouse
Youth Services:	David Hyde

Quarterly Meeting Clerks:

Miami:	Nikki Coffey Tousley
Whitewater:	Ellen Hodge

Monthly Meeting Representatives:

Bloomington:	Rex Sprouse
Campus:	absent
Clear Creek:	David Garman
Community:	Lisa Cayard
Dayton:	Nikki Coffey Tousley
Eastern Hills:	Martha Viehmann and Wilson Palmer

Fall Creek:	Ellen Hodge
Fort Wayne:	absent
Lafayette:	Jill Hutchcroft
Lexington:	Ben Griffith
Louisville:	Perry Thomas
Miami:	Travis Cook
Mississinewa (formerly White Rose):	absent
North Meadow:	Dinah Duvall
Oxford:	Cecilia Shore
Yellow Springs:	Annie Blanchard and Carol Simmons

Yearly Meeting Staff:

Administrative Assistant:	Susan Lee Barton
Youth Secretary:	vacant
Social Action Coordinator:	Sandy Felt

Administrators:

<i>Quaker Quill</i> Editor:	Cecilia Shore
Records Coordinator:	Susan Hyde
Others present:	Peter Burkholder, audio-visual equipment host

3. Agenda Review. A few changes were presented and approved.
4. Nominating Committee (Peggy Spohr). Religious Nurture and Education is in search of members. Nominating committee submits the name of Peggy Spohr to serve through Annual Sessions. This nomination was approved.
5. Planning Committee Report (Martha Viehmann). The committee is in talks with Wittenberg University in Springfield OH for June 17-21. The theme is *Faithfulness in the Storm*. Two speakers have been confirmed: Joyce Ajlouny from American Friends Service Committee will do a plenary, and send another staff person from AFSC to do the workshop; and Keith Runyan from Quaker Earthcare Witness will be the other plenary speaker. The committee recommends raising the registration fee to \$60 without a Pay as Led option, but with widely available information about financial aid. The other change is that plenary talks will not be recorded. The call for workshops will be in the *Quaker Quill*, and Friends may submit them to Andy Garrison by Second Month 28. Ellen Hodge pointed out that funds are available in Whitewater Quarter to support attendance. The report was accepted with joy.
6. Children's Committee Report. Diann Herzog reports that the committee will be meeting soon to start planning for Annual Sessions. They encourage new members. The report was accepted.
7. Youth Services Committee Report (David Hyde and Carol Simmons). **Please see attached report.** The committee is discerning how to proceed with programming for youth and families. They may have a recommendation about hiring in time for Joint Quarterly Meeting. Carol has been in conversation with Midwest Quaker Collective to collaborate with Western, Wilmington and Illinois YMs. There will be a youth program at Annual Sessions, with leadership by the committee and help from hired young adults. The committee needs additional members. Friends accepted the report.
8. Religious Nurture & Education (RNE) Report (Rex Sprouse). The committee hosted a Survivor-Focused Sexual Misconduct Training in 11th Month. Attendees thank the yearly meeting for its financial

support and are carrying information from the training back to their meetings. There is a move toward rethinking the OVYM policy about responding to incidents in light of the training. We approved the RNE committee to name a response team and a support team to serve through the next annual sessions. The Spring Retreat on “Caring for Each Other” will be led by Ellen Hodge March 27-28 at Quaker Hill with generous support from the yearly meeting. There will be child care; parents need to register in advance. An update to the Sexual Misconduct Resources webpage on OVYM.org is in progress and will be published soon. We accepted the report and approved this amended minute.

9. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report. Ellen Hodge reports that the quarterly meeting meets regularly at the appointed time. We accepted the report.
10. Miami Quarterly Meeting Report. **See the written report attached.** They are planning a Joint Quarterly Meeting for 10/17-18 in the Dayton/Yellow Springs area. We accepted the report.
11. Annual Review for Susan Lee Barton. Barry Zalph. **The review is appended.** Susan Lee’s performance was highly positively regarded. Barry emphasized that Susan Lee is already working as much as she can for us, and when we ask, “Why don’t we have staff do that task?” we are asking, “Why don’t we have more staff?” We accepted the report.
12. Personnel Committee Report (Dinah Duvall). **The report is appended.** We approved renewal of Susan Lee’s contract and extension of the agreement to 3 years, with annual reviews. Clarity will be sought on the timing of these reviews by the next Executive Committee meeting. Sandy’s appointment began in 11th month 2024; it is unclear when the 3-year term will end. This was referred back to Personnel Committee.
13. Correspondence from Stephen Snyder, Clerk of Minneapolis Friends Meeting. Susan Lee read the letter. He indicated that they felt blessed by the well-wishes that they have received, but shocked and angered by the impact that the federal administration is having on the residents of Minnesota. He cited George Fox’s image of the ocean of light that overwhelms the ocean of darkness and rejoiced in all the concrete ways that people have provided support to the people of Minneapolis. He provided a list of non-profit organizations that are doing good work and could use financial contributions. The clerk noted that several yearly meetings have made public statements about their convictions. The letter from Friend Stephen Snyder will be distributed to representatives, who were invited to raise with their meetings the question of “where we stand” and considering a possible statement for consideration at next executive committee meeting. The clerk read a statement from Grady Walker Lights in 2021 on the undermining of democracy and the necessity of relying on spiritual forces in an environment hostile to truth and civility.
14. Monthly meeting news was shared.
15. Social Action Coordinator Report (Sandy Felt). **The report is attached.** The bi-weekly worship sharing group has grown in recent weeks. The Signal chat group is active. Some people have registered as a Courage Collective with Indivisible. Sandy is continuing to make visits to meetings. Her hours over the past several months have averaged about 20 hours per month. We accepted the report.
16. Announcements: Registration is open for Friends Music Camp in July in Goshen IN. Committees, please get your budget requests to Rick Boyce. Meetings, please be aware of the announcements page on OVYM.org as a way of communicating events at your meeting. Please hold Terre and Bob Holada in

prayers; her surgery went well yesterday. The Gatherings committee warmly encourages meetings to host spring Gatherings; the committee stands ready to help.

17. The Treasurer's report is appended.

18. We minuted appreciation to Bloomington for hospitality.

19. Minutes were approved after corrections.

20. Closing Worship. The meeting closed in silent worship at 3 pm.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be 4-4-26 in Lexington.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cecilia Shore, Assistant Recording Clerk

February 7, 2026 Reports to Executive Committee

Youth Services Committee Report

The Youth Services Committee, which has oversight for teens and middle youth, is discerning how to move forward after the resignation of our Youth Secretary last year. We feel that our task isn't just to hire a new Youth Secretary, but to rethink, or reaffirm, the youth programming that we offer, so we are clear in what we are asking a new Youth Secretary to do. We are asking if the model we have followed for a number of years is the best approach for our current youth and families and the world they live in.

Toward that end, I am arranging visits with monthly meetings to talk about youth programming. The visits are twofold — outreach to youth and families and fact-finding about what Friends want and can support. We hope that these visits bring more clarity to our committee's discernment.

While we don't anticipate hiring a new youth secretary before this year's annual sessions, we hope to hire, or be actively working on hiring, someone by the end of the year — and if way opens, by Joint Quarterly Meeting in October. Suggesting October is being very optimistic, but I don't want to limit the possibility of Spirit moving faster than I expect.

Also, in the meantime, I have been meeting with Midwest Friends Collective, facilitated by Tom Rockwell, of Western Yearly Meeting and Friends World Committee for Consultation. The collective is focused on youth and young adults, and was instrumental in organizing this year's Quake that Rocked the Midwest in Evanston, Ill., over the Martin Luther King Day weekend. I also participated in planning for the event, and was on the program to facilitate a worship sharing session. We didn't have any youth from OVYM, but I'm very glad I was there. I was able to connect with the Wilmington Yearly Meeting and Illinois Yearly Meeting youth leaders, as well as some of their youth. They are very open to the possibility of getting our groups together in the future, especially Wilmington, which shares two of OVYM's monthly meetings. Midwest Friends Collective has two events on the calendar for youth, one July 17-19 and another the first week in November. We hope we can get some of our youth to those events.

While the yearly meeting has been very generous financially, we need more involvement for a youth program to succeed. The Youth Services Committee currently has three members. The yearly meeting presiding clerk and assistant clerk have been attending our meetings, but our current work and the work ahead need more Friends discerning the way forward.

Humbly submitted, Carol Simmons

Miami Quarterly Meeting

Miami Quarterly Meeting met by Zoom on 25 First Month, with worship and a program. Snow prevented us from gathering in person, and we postponed our business.

A task group is planning a Joint Quarterly Meeting for 10/17-18 in the Dayton/Yellow Springs area. Tentatively the focus will be on retreat, refreshment and reconnection, with an emphasis on artistic expression. We have reserved the Schweitz Scout Leadership Center near Dayton, which has heated cabins with indoor bathrooms and a large meeting center. It would be relatively inexpensive, but we would need to provide our own food. We are hoping that the youth committee can plan for that age group, and are looking for someone to work with younger children. We also want to consider the Glen Helen Outdoor Center in Yellow Springs, which has a richer natural environment. The reservation at the Boy Scout camp can be canceled if we decide Glen Helen is preferable.

Nikki Coffey Tousley

2024–2025 Performance Review: Administrative Assistant, Susan Lee Barton (2025-11-24)

Susan Lee,

I am grateful for a second opportunity to evaluate your work as the administrative assistant of OVYM, four months after my rotating out of the post of presiding clerk. Your job's complications – having work time limited to roughly seven hours per week, needing to travel, supporting an ever-changing roster of dozens of volunteers, using a diverse portfolio of skills, having no other paid staff with whom to share assignments or cover for unavoidable absences – makes it challenging under any circumstances. Your own health challenges and major changes affecting your other part-time employer have made your job even more difficult this year. Nonetheless, you have once again served OVYM remarkably well this year (11/2024–10/2025 for the purposes of this evaluation).

To date, I have received written comments from seven OVYM Friends regarding your work over the past year. Friends have also commented to me informally. The comments are uniformly positive and appreciative. They confirm my observations that you have done a tremendous amount of excellent work for OVYM this year.

Your very positive performance review last year noted a handful of areas for improvement. You have done well this year implementing the suggested changes. These include: clarifying the boundaries between your paid and volunteer work; asking for help when needed, e.g., when unexpected tasks or projects led to an excessive workload; helping Friends understand which tasks fell within your work duties and whom to contact regarding other tasks; and helping Friends understand the limits of your OVYM paid time, the speed with which you can respond to requests, and the days and times when they can best reach you.

You have completed important tasks mentioned in last year's performance review, including implementing a per-task volunteering system, establishing and communicating clear guidelines on the lead time needed for background checks, and getting more committees and volunteers comfortable with using online forms and working with you to create those forms.

We have not yet implemented some of the reforms suggested in my review of your work dated 2024-10-14. I bear much of the responsibility for failing to follow up on my own suggestions. To help keep those incomplete tasks on the agenda for myself and our current presiding clerk (Diann), I repeat them here:

- recruiting one or more volunteers to work with you to create how-to manuals for periodic or repetitive tasks, including: preparing Reports in Advance, the Directory, and the minutes; printing the *Quaker Quill*, scheduling Zoom meetings, using PDF forms, and writing epistles;
- recruiting a volunteer to create online forms for OVYM events; and
- working with you to maintain a list of volunteer tasks that do not receive adequate attention, and intervening as needed with the committees or volunteers to get the work done.

You communicated clearly when health issues delayed your work, and did remarkably well getting up to date on tasks afterwards. I appreciate your taking the personal leave time that you needed to get appropriate medical care and to recover. Please lean on me and Diann anytime circumstances make it impossible or inappropriate for you do the OVYM work that you had planned. We understand the unexpected demands that our bodies, families, and communities can make on us. We appreciate how seriously you take your work. Nonetheless, we urge you to place your own needs ahead of the needs of OVYM. OVYM needs to make itself resilient to cope with the inevitable variations in its members' and employees' availability. This is all the more appropriate given our high average age and the increasing calls on our time.

You consistently dealt gracefully and effectively with a wide range of unexpected challenges at Annual Sessions and Executive Committee meetings. You have my personal gratitude for calmly dealing with urgencies that left me anxious, frustrated, or impatient.

As in the past two years, your work hours for OVYM have exceeded the number on which your pay is based. Your contract is based on 347 hours/year. During the ten months from 11/2024–8/2025, you worked 343 hours leading me to expect that you will again work at least 390 hours for the full evaluation year. Given your stated preference to work no more than 350 hours/year for OVYM, we need to support you in reducing your workload by roughly 10%.

I request that you create and maintain a list of website updates needed and performed, to be distributed and updated at each meeting of the Executive Committee. As we discussed today, please provide a prominent link on the website to the Google Calendar showing your availability along with OVYM events, in addition to the link on the Announcements page.

I suggest that our presiding clerk, Diann Herzog, and I take the following steps to avoid overloading you in your role as administrative assistant:

- Stay aware of the dates during which you will not be available for OVYM work due to commitments to your other work and personal matters, and share this information with OVYM Friends in time to schedule tasks appropriately.
- Keep a running list of Handbook revisions to clarify boundaries between volunteer roles and those of the administrative assistant, and help you make those revisions (with Executive Committee approval, if needed) and to remind Friends of those boundaries. These include clarifying that the administrative assistant job description currently does not include providing support for our Quarterly Meetings.
- Continue to remind Friends that you need a week of lead time before completing requested tasks, e.g., setting up Zoom meetings, posting changes to the website Monthly Meetings and Announcement pages, or sending emails to distribution lists. (Reminders: 1. Website Administrator Daniel Day performs all other website updates. 2. Submitting requested announcements and updates properly edited, in ready-to-post form, is very helpful.)
- Promote the use of the *ad hoc* volunteering system to relieve you of tasks that volunteers can do. Volunteer recruitment should not fall to the administrative assistant. Your self-evaluation listed

some priorities for volunteer recruitment: drafting how-to manuals for preparing Reports in Advance, the OVYM Directory, and OVYM minutes, printing the *Quaker Quill*, scheduling a Zoom meeting, using a PDF form, and other tasks (such as writing epistles).

- Seek guidance from Executive Committee on how to promote OVYM activities and who should have responsibility for event promotion. That discussion and discernment can start with a list of the steps already taken by the administrative assistant, and a reminder that you have chosen not to expand your work hours for OVYM.
- Write a piece for the *Quaker Quill* and for email distribution listing the guidelines given in your self-evaluation for email and telephone correspondence with you, and outlining the boundaries of the administrative assistant's job. The boundaries should include those involving website updates and maintenance, publications, and event planning and promotion. The piece should be emailed to clerks of monthly and quarterly meetings and members of OVYM committees.
- Keep a running list of new practices and procedures and periodically evaluate their use and value. As needed, work with you to suggest modifications to make them work better, or gain more widespread use. When appropriate, suggest discontinuing them. Examples include: online forms; Slack; *ad hoc* volunteering via the online form; donating online.
- As in 2023-2024, your work this year was essential to my work as presiding clerk. I look forward to working with you for the remainder of this OVYM year (through Annual Sessions 2026).
- Yours in the Light,

Barry Zalph, Assistant Presiding Clerk, OVYM

Personnel Committee Report

The personnel committee recommends that OVYM, with the mutual written agreement by the parties, extend the contract to Susan Lee Barton as Administrative Assistant, for a three-year term effective July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2029, and that OVYM extend the contract term for Sandy Feit as Social Action Coordinator, for one-year effective July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. The SAC position was initiated as a three-year experiment. Supervisor and self-evaluations should be forwarded annually to the personnel committee by the April executive committee each year.

SAC Report

We continue to have social action worship sharing every other Sunday at 5PM. Topics and turnouts for the past few months have been as follows: Callings (5), Anthology (3?), Finding your voice (5), Underground Railroad (2?), If you think being a Quaker is easy, you're doing it wrong (3), Love in the Era of Trump (4), Abundance of Community (2), Abundance of Community (reprise) (2), Courage Collective (16), and ICE Murdering People (13). Attendance has sure risen lately! Folks can visit the social action page of OVYM's website for the worship sharing details: <https://www.ovym.org/our-work/social-action/>.

We have 28 people in our Signal group chat and have had some good information sharing back-and-forth. People voted in polls to help us decide on the name for our new Courage Collective, and a few even proposed new acronyms! Our final name and description, which we've now registered with Indivisible, are:

Name: QUAKE (Quakers United Around Kinship and Equality)

Description: Angelic troublemakers (Quakers and allies), working to stop authoritarianism through spirited, nonviolent means.

Our Courage Collective group currently contains 5 people. Please let me know if you're interested in joining us. Courage Collectives are groups that are focused on organizing and taking action within a specific pillar of

society, ours is Faith. We plan to leverage our pillar into noncooperation with the Trump administration in a variety of spirit-led and nonviolent ways. Without support from these pillars, the administration loses power and legitimacy. We aren't clear yet on what we will do, but we're clear that we must do something! And that courage is contagious.

If anyone from Fall Creek, Fort Wayne, Mississinewa Gathering of Friends, or Yellow Springs would like to join our Signal group chat, please send me a text on Signal at 937-315-1609. We are connected with 75% of OVYM meetings, but would love to connect with all of them!

My plans to visit Louisville for Quarterly Meeting were thwarted by the winter storm. I hope to visit North Meadow Circle of Friends next. I would then like to make plans to visit the remaining meetings: Mississinewa Gathering of Friends, Louisville, Eastern Hills, and Lafayette. If you belong to one of those meetings, please reach out to me and suggest a date!

My hours for the past 7 months were:

July:	27.25
August:	19.25
September:	20.25
October:	30.5
November:	18.25
December:	5.25
January:	23.75
Average:	20.64

Even with very small months like December, the average still exceeds the desired 20hrs./month.

Sandy Felt, Social Action Coordinator

Treasurer's Written Report 02/07/2026

We are over half way through our fiscal year and the five-page spreadsheet has the details of our finances. We have received about a third of the expected gifts from our constituent Monthly Meetings, but that is normal as most of the income often comes in the latter part of our year. There have also been gifts from individuals and Monthly Meetings designated to the General Fund, FWCC Travel Fund, and the Youth Committee. We have received \$420.95 of interest from the bank. Over the last five years we have generated about \$250 from the sales of our *Faith and Practice*. Finally, the funds invested with Friends Fiduciary Corporation have grown 9.6% since July 1, 2025.

On the deficit side of the balance sheet, our yearly meeting has recently undertaken three new projects. We expected to pay about \$5,000 in expenses related to responding to reports of sexual abuse and training all of us in try to prevent future occurrences. The total costs so far this year is close to \$6,000 but individuals or their monthly meetings covered over a third of that with fees from those who participated in the training. Our goal was to have each of those participants lead programs and efforts within each of our Monthly Meetings hoping to prevent problems from happening within our organizations.

Our Social Action Coordinator is in her second year of the three-year trial of that new position. This year that means over \$6,000 of expenses by the end of our fiscal year. Finally, we authorized \$1,000 to the gathering committee and \$235 has been paid out, so far.

April 4, 2026 Meeting

1. We gathered in centering worship at 12:00 pm at Lexington Friends meeting.
2. Roll Call of Representatives. The assistant recording clerk read the roll call.

Yearly Meeting Officers:

Presiding Clerk:	Diann Herzog
Assistant Presiding Clerk:	Barry Zalph
Recording Clerk:	Terre Holada
Assistant Recording Clerk:	Cecilia Shore
Treasurer:	Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer:	Rick Boyce

Committee Clerks:

Auditing Committee:	absent
Budget and Finance Committee:	Rick Boyce
Children's Program Committee:	Diann Herzog
Earthcare Committee:	David Duvall
Gatherings Committee:	Lisa Cayard
Nominating Committee:	Peter Hardy
Personnel Committee:	Dinah Duvall
Planning Committee:	Martha Viehmann
Religious Nurture and Education Committee:	Rex Sprouse
Youth Services Committee:	David Hyde

Quarterly Meeting Clerks:

Miami:	Nikki Coffey Tousley
Whitewater:	Ellen Hodge

Monthly Meeting Representatives:

Bloomington:	Rex Sprouse
Campus:	absent
Clear Creek:	David Garman
Community:	Lisa Cayard
Dayton:	Nikki Coffey Tousley
Eastern Hills:	Martha Viehmann and Wilson Palmer
Fall Creek:	Ellen Hodge
Fort Wayne:	Terre Holada and Mary Anna Feitler
Lafayette:	Jill Hutchcroft
Lexington:	Ben Griffith and Peter Hardy
Louisville:	
Miami:	Travis Cook
Mississinewa (formerly White Rose):	absent
North Meadow:	Dinah Duvall
Oxford:	Cecilia Shore
Yellow Springs:	Annie Blanchard and Carol Simmons

Yearly Meeting Staff:

Administrative Assistant: Susan Lee Barton
Youth Secretary: vacant
Social Action Coordinator: absent (out of the country)

Administrators:

Quaker Quill Editor: Cecilia Shore
Records Coordinator: Susan Hyde
Statistician: Peter Hardy

3. The agenda was shared and added to. It was approved.

4. Youth Services Committee, Carol Simmons

The committee is preparing for the coming year. They are actively planning for Annual Sessions. Carol has been visiting with monthly meetings to discern their leadings about youth services. She will be continuing this service. They need more committee members.

The report was accepted.

5. Nominating Committee, Peter Hardy.

Peter shared a list of committee members and some MM clerks from MM's that do not have a representative on the Nominating Committee. Thanks were expressed to those helping out, like Barry Zalph.

They have been working to fill volunteer positions for sessions this summer and brought forward nominations for approval.

- Epistle Summary, Steven Angell
- Epistle Writing Committee, Paul Buckley and Lisa Cayard
- Memorial Meeting, Michael Birkel
- Auditing Committee for 2025/2026, JP Lund

6. Names were approved.

7. The report was accepted.

8. The Executive Committee is responsible to name a new member to the Personnel Committee. Two names were brought forward. Barry offered to call them during our break today.

9. YM Planning Committee Report, Martha Viehmann

10. The contract with Wittenberg University has been signed and sent to WU. The deposit of \$1,000.00 has been sent.

11. The distribution of keys will be handled by the university, but hours will be limited. Details will need to be worked out. Also, there will be fees if people are not on the registration list by the deadline but they want a dorm room. People need to register early.

Thanks were expressed to Martha.

The report was accepted with much gratitude.

12. Budget considerations for OVYM, Rick Boyce

The report was sent in advance.

13. Table 10, contribution requests from Monthly Meetings have not changed. There are more people predicted to donate travelling costs back to OVYM.
14. Operating Expenses shows a reduction due to not having a youth secretary.
15. There is a proposed deficit of \$13,000.00. We have had a deficit for the past 2 years. We have a reserve to cover this, but the reserves will not cover that forever. Friends added that we can't just keep saying, "We will have to do something about it."
16. Sessions are proposed to be more expensive this year. \$41,000.00 to \$49,000.00. Registration cost will go up. It was mentioned that our greatest income is from our MM's. The clerk asked us to take this issue to heart and bring it back to our MM's.
17. A friend said that \$120.00 per member a year is a small amount and Friends should understand that their donation goes to the greater advance of all of us. And remember, that this is just a suggested amount. Friends should consider adding more in their annual budgets.
18. Individual contributions could also be encouraged, like QCD's (Qualified Charitable Distributions). Seniors can make donations from their IRA accounts with tax benefits.
19. A Friend mentioned that our charitable donations to Quaker organizations have not increased even though inflation has risen. Many Friends organizations are struggling with this. Peter reminded us that he has suggested a workshop to help us discern our charitable contribution distribution.

The budget was approved to be forwarded to the Yearly Meeting this summer.

20. Treasurer's Report, Wilson Palmer
21. Wilson is asking approval to add an additional account at PNC Bank. It is necessary for the functioning of the YM.
22. Martha said we will need a resolution to present to the bank. She can do that. She believes we need a document with an inked signature. Wilson says that we should just go ahead with the minute for now.
23. The Executive Committee of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting approves the opening of an additional account at PNC Bank by Wilson Palmer, our Treasurer. Martha Viehmann is an authorized signatory on all our accounts at PNC Bank. Approved on April 4, 2026.
24. Minutes were approved in the face of the meeting.
25. Statistician's Report, Peter Hardy
26. This is a preliminary report. All MMs except Mississinewa, sent in their report. Thanks to Susan Lee for helping to collect them.
27. There was a net loss of 2 members this past year which means we are stable over the past few years.
28. There is a report that includes graphs showing attendance increases at MM's. There are more attenders than there were pre-Covid. Attendance has grown faster than membership.
29. Peter reflected on membership numbers being an indicator of the health of the (yearly) meeting. Maybe other things should be tracked like age, race numbers reflecting the surrounding community, etc. could be tracked.
30. Peter is optimistic for the future of OVYM.

31. Maybe it's time for us to reflect on the meaning of membership and discuss it with Friends and attenders.
32. The report was accepted with gratitude.
33. Responses from Monthly Meetings to Minneapolis Friends Meeting
34. Diann expressed concern for what is still happening in Minneapolis and the world. Our MMs are doing their part to strengthen the broader community. She is hoping that OVYM can have one voice for our values and beliefs.
35. Friends were asked to present what their MM had discussed about immigration enforcement.
36. Representatives today are asked to bring this information back to their MM's.
37. Representatives are asked to bring this issue up at Quarterly Meetings and write a Minute at QM, if possible, in hopes of finding unity at Annual Sessions. It would be wonderful to have something on our OVYM website that expresses our beliefs related to the immigration situation.
38. There were wonderful and emotional words shared.
39. Monthly Meeting News
40. Fall Creek is participating in an event Sat. April 11, in Anderson, and on May 15 there will be a reenactment of Frederick Douglas's speech that had been made on the meeting porch.
41. Perry Thomas is traveling and unable to attend, but sent news. "Barry Zalph is serving as interim Clerk of Louisville Friends for a few months as our nominating committee works to identify a candidate to replace Cindi Goslee. We're all much appreciative of Barry's willingness to serve in this capacity. That's the main update from Louisville!"
42. Oxford is hosting an OVYM worship gathering at Peffer Park pavilion at 10 am, please bring a lawn chair. There will be a pot-luck after worship. At 1 pm there will be a guided tour of the wildflower area. The park has trails. The pavilion is reserved until 3 pm. There is a registration form or you can email Cecilia.
43. The presentation at Lexington Meeting about last November's workshop on responding to adult sexual misconduct was well attended. A Slide Deck presentation is available. Attenders to that workshop will have access to the presentation to share with their MM. It is not a substitute for full training.
44. Announcements
45. There will be a gathering June 28 at the Butterworth Farm. Worship and a meal and historical information will be shared. **A flyer is attached.**
46. Joint Quarterly Meeting will be October 24 - 25th. More information will be coming.
47. Deb Kociszewski suffered broken bones. Please hold her in the light.
48. Kevin Bruner had a stroke. Gloria reports he is doing well, but love and prayers are welcome.
49. March 18 - 21, 2027, the FWCC Section of the Americas will be meeting at Quaker Haven in Syracuse, Indiana. This may be a good opportunity for volunteering. Contact the OVYM office for more information.

50. If you want an OVYM directory, you must fill out a form or contact Susan Lee. The information in the directory will not be available online. Directory changes must be sent to Susan Lee before the end of April. Remember that being in the directory does not mean that that person is a member.
51. April 15th is the deadline for State of the Meeting Reports and other reports for Reports in Advance.
52. Friends are reminded that there is money available for people to attend The Gathering. MM's may have funds available and FGC has money. It will be at the University of Vermont in Burlington, Vermont July 5-12, 2026.
53. The minutes were approved in the face of the meeting.
54. Closing Worship. The meeting closed in silent worship at 3:06 pm.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be in the 8th month (29th).

April 4, 2026 Reports to Executive Committee

04-2026 Report from Personnel Committee

All our contracts are using 6/30 as the expiration date, and we plan to continue doing that. It coincides with our fiscal year and occurs around our annual sessions.

We note the Handbook states (in section 4.5.4.1) that "The supervisor or Supervisory Committee will evaluate in writing the performance of the employee or service provider after the first 90 days and annually near the anniversary of the employee's date of hire." A copy is submitted to the Treasurer as well. At this time, Wilson does not have a copy of Rachel's evaluation of Sandy during the past year.

Executive Committee, Sandy Felt and supervisor Rachel Ernst Stahlhut have given consent to Personnel Committee that Sandy wants to renew her 1-year contract extension until June of 2027 at which time the position of Social Action Coordinator will be up for review. Executive Committee, Susan Lee Barton and supervisor Diann Herzog have given consent to Personnel Committee that Susan Lee wants to renew her contract which is now a 3- year contract extension until 2029.

Treasurer's Written Report 04/04/2026

"There is a spirit abroad in life...that makes for wholeness and for community.... It broods over the demonstrations for justice and brings comfort to the desolate and forgotten who have no memory of what it is to feel the rhythm of belonging.... It knows no country and its allies are to be found wherever the heart is kind." Howard Thurman

It is almost three quarters of the way through our fiscal year. We have received about two thirds of our expected income from our constituent Monthly Meetings. Our largest new expenditures this year, so far, are almost \$3,000 in audio/visual technology and various computer and online expenses, and a greater than \$3,500 bill for awareness training and prevention of sexual abuse in our organizations.

I have altered the name of Table 14, Clerical Support, to Office, Technical and A/V Expenses. I have also moved into table 14 the on-line expenses that I previously included in Table 16, Publications.

Monthly Meeting Responses on Immigration

Notes from Clear Creek Worship Sharing on 3/8/26

Concerns about what is happening

Concerned about methods being used when people are being detained or deported. Not being given opportunity to prove they are legal. Should be treated in a way that preserves their dignity, not in a forceful, brutal way.

Legal avenues are being circumvented by current action of ICE and the administration. Legal system we have is not even being followed.

We are concerned about converting warehouses into detention centers in this country.

Words to use

Love needs to be at the heart of the response.

If we want to change something we have to use language that the people we want to change can hear.

Wording to avoid

Don't close the door because of provocative language.

Using terms like "terror" and "occupation" may not leave communication open. Terror implies intention that may not be the intention of those carrying out or supporting these actions. What is happening is absolutely horrible but words matter. Be more careful.

People who are experiencing terror and occupation do not completely shy away from those words.

Those who treat others inhumanely begin to lose their own humanity.

Do not use legal arguments. The biblical passages are the law I want to follow.

Christian Heritage

Powerful to include biblical quotations.

Many places in the Bible speak of welcoming the stranger and hospitality such as Leviticus 19:34 [*"The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the LORD your God."*] and Matthew 25:35 [*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in"*].

In Leviticus, some versions say "stranger" instead of "alien".

Good Samaritan story.

Quaker Heritage

Inclusion of George Fox [*"I saw also that there was an ocean of darkness and death, but an infinite ocean of light and love which flowed over the ocean of darkness."*] is important and beautiful.

Remember our non-violent history. [1660 Declaration to King Charles: *"We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretense whatsoever; and this is our testimony to the whole world."*]

The early Society of Friends was declared to be illegal. Thousands were imprisoned, hundreds died. Parliament passed the Quaker Act.

We are an immigrant community. Quakers came to this continent in part as refugees from persecution that went on in the first half century of the faith.

Recognize our compatriots.

Quakers came as immigrants to exercise religious freedom and have a long tradition of speaking the truth and speaking truth to power. Now people are getting killed and imprisoned and pulled from their homes for doing that. Not just in Minneapolis.

Through OVYM and FGC we are part of a legal suit against DHS regarding exercise of our freedom of religion. Some of that lawsuit may be useful in writing a statement.

This topic emerged in FCNL priorities discussion among Richmond Friends last week.

What we do and could do

A number of monthly meetings are already directly involved in supporting immigrants in our communities.

Express willingness to give financial help.

Because we have many immigrants, there should be a way to pursue being legal residents. These are basic things that should be in place.

Other

We are moved by the involvement of Japanese Americans (who were detained based solely on their ethnicity during World War II) in speaking out against these actions.

We were reminded of the Martin Niemöller poem:

“First, they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist
Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist
Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist
Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew
Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me”

Fall Creek Minute on Immigration Justice

We at Fall Creek Monthly Meeting stand for the humane, fair, and just treatment of all people. We feel solidarity with recent immigrants to this country, in part because of our heritage as a nation of immigrants. The current injustice in immigration enforcement is incompatible with Christian values of equality (Galatians 3:28: “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus” and Exodus 22:21: “You shall not wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt”) and love (1 John 4:8: “Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love”). We endorse the AFSC statement “Our Call to End and Reform Unjust Immigration Enforcement Practices and Laws.” We call upon all Christians and people of moral character to oppose the current policies of unjust immigration enforcement.

Lexington Minute 03/08/2026

Today March 8, 2026 Lexington Friends Meeting endorsed “Our Call to End and Reform Unjust Immigration Enforcement Practices and Laws” that was forwarded to our meeting from a close F/friend of Francisco Burgos, Pendle Hill. I have attached it to this email. We will also be forwarding this to all monthly meetings in Miami Quarterly Meeting and to our Friends in Minneapolis. We feel it speaks to this issue with spiritual force of truth.

Oxford Minute 3/22/2026

Approved Minute: Opposition to Inhumane ICE Enforcement

The Oxford (OH) Friends Monthly Meeting (Quakers) affirms that there is that of God in every person, regardless of citizenship status. We stand in solidarity with undocumented immigrants, refugees, and their families, recognizing their inherent dignity and contributions to our community.

We therefore strongly oppose any enforcement practices of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), that result in:

- Mass deportations and the targeting of individuals without criminal records.
- The separation of families and the detention of individuals without due process.
- Violent, militarized tactics that terrorize communities and violate our rights as defined in the US Constitution.

These actions contradict our religious testimonies of peace, equality, and justice. We call upon the United States government to halt these practices, ensure fair legal processes for all, and establish a pathway to permanent residency and citizenship for undocumented residents. We commit to working with other Quaker meetings and faith communities to advocate for immigration policies that honor human rights and family unity.

Our Call to End and Reform Unjust Immigration Enforcement Practices and Laws

[Statement endorsed by some OVYM meetings]

As people of faith who believe that the Divine dwells within every human being, we bear witness to the devastating injustices perpetrated by current immigration enforcement practices in the United States.

These oppressive actions and the legal regime that supports them profoundly betray our most sacred spiritual truth: that every person is inherently endowed with dignity and worth.

Under the guise of lawful authority, our government is damaging communities, separating children from their parents, tearing the sacred bonds of family, and leaving wounds that scar the soul and psyche.

Current immigration enforcement unjustly singles out communities for oppressive and traumatic action based on race, creed and national origin, stripping away basic rights and privileges without due process. Vulnerable souls are thus condemned to persecution, oppression, poverty and even death within and beyond their home countries, sometimes using foreign prisons that practice torture.

Such cruel enforcement practices intentionally sow fear and spread terror in our communities—a violation of both human dignity and fundamental rights. Moreover, these actions blatantly breach our nation's binding commitments under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention Against Torture, and the Refugee Convention and its Protocol, all of which affirm our sacred duty to protect human dignity and uphold the right to asylum.

Illuminated by the divine Inner Light, our consciences declare that human laws draw their legitimacy only from higher, divine truths. When human statutes defy these eternal truths—when they spread wanton suffering, division and despair—they cease to command obedience. This foundational principle resonates deeply with the core ideals upon which our nation was founded: Certain rights, inalienable and sacred, flow directly from our Creator and are entrusted forever to the people, beyond the whims of government to grant or withhold.

History reveals that spiritually awakened communities possess the clear moral vision to challenge, defy and transform unjust laws and customs. From the abolition of slavery to the dismantling of segregation and apartheid, from the advancement of universal suffrage to ongoing struggles for racial, gender, LGBTQ+, reproductive and religious freedoms, and freedom of expression, courageous souls have stood firm, willingly enduring unjust earthly penalties to uphold divine justice. Our faith communities embrace this legacy of bold advocacy, remaining steadfastly committed to nonviolent resistance and reform in the service of divine truth.

Compelled by our commitment to radical hospitality and by our sacred calling to "welcome the stranger" and to love our neighbors as ourselves, we urge all spiritually guided communities and individuals to rise courageously alongside immigrants facing persecution. We demand swift legal reform and an immediate cessation of oppressive, unjust enforcement. Together, let us build a genuine beloved community where the human and civil rights of immigrants are fully honored, protected and upheld. In this endeavor, we affirm the divine presence within each person and embrace the eternal spiritual truth upon which our faith—and our shared humanity—depend.

With radical hope,

Individuals:

Br. Francisco J. Burgos, Pendle Hill

David Castro

Rabbi Aviva Marchioni, Congregation Beth Israel of Media

Rabbi Nathan Martin, Congregation Beth Israel of Media

Rev. Edward J. Hallinan, Pastor, St. John Chrysostom Catholic Church

Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel, Rector, Saint John's Episcopal Church, Concord, Glen Mills
Dr. Sam Lemon, Providence Friends Meeting
Rabbi Kelilah Miller, Congregation Ohev Shlom
Rev. Andrew Jacob, Executive Director, Chester Eastside, Inc.
Rev. Jennifer Casey, Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Wallingford
Sister Theresa Marie Firenze OSF – Congregational Minister, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
William J. Oberfield, Md, Providence Friends Meeting
Joyce Ajlouny, General Secretary, American Friends Service Committee

Organizations:

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
Providence Friends Meeting
Radnor Friends Meeting
[See website for additional names.]

Statistical Report

We have received statistical reports from all monthly meetings in OVYM except Mississinewa. For Mississinewa I have used the same numbers as last year and subtracted 1 due to the death of a member and the transfer away of another member. Below I summarize the analysis of the statistics for the yearly meeting.

Table 1a. Membership in Religious Society of Friends for meetings in Miami Quarter.

Miami Quarter Monthly Meeting ==>	Campus			Community			Dayton			Eastern Hills			Lexington			Louisville			Miami			Oxford			Yellow Springs			Total					
	Adults	Youth	Total	Adults	Youth	Total	Adults	Youth	Total	Adults	Youth	Total	Adults	Youth	Total	Adults	Youth	Total	Adults	Youth	Total	Adults	Youth	Total	Adults	Youth	Total	Adults	Youth	Total			
Membership 12/31/2024	14	2	16	40	8	48	20	0	20	22	0	22	41	0	41	24	0	24	23	0	23	18	0	18	74	0	74	276	10	286			
Additions																																	
Correction by addition	0	0	0				0	0	0			0			0			0			0			0			0	0	0	0			
Births & adoptions			0						0			0			0			0			0			0			0	0	0	0			
Request of parent(s)		0	0		0	0			0			0			0			0		0	0			0		0	0	0	0	0			
By conviction			0			0			0			0	3		3	0		0			0	1		1	2		2	6		6			
Youth accepted as Adults	0									0																		0					
Transfers into meeting			0						0			0			0			0			0			0			0	0		0			
TOTAL INCREASE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	6	0	6			
Losses																																	
Correction by subtract	0		0	0		0						0			0	0		0	0		0			0			0	0		0			
Deaths	1		1	0		0	0		0	0		1	1		1	0		1	1		1			0	0		0	3		3			
Removal by request	0	0	0			0	1		1			0			0	1		1	0		0			1	1		1	3		3			
Youth members --> adult	0	0										0			0													0		0			
Transfers away			0			0	0		0			0			0			0			0			0			0	0		0			
Loss of contact	1	0	1			0			0			0	1		1	1		1	0		0			0			0	2		2			
TOTAL LOSSES	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	8	0	8			
Net change	-2	0	-2	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	2	0	2	-2	0	-2	-1	0	-1	1	0	1	1	0	1	-2	0	-2			
MEMBERSHIP 12/31/2025	12	2	14	40	8	48	19	0	19	22	0	22	43	0	43	22	0	22	22	0	22	19	0	19	75	0	75	274	10	284			

Table 1b. Membership in Religious Society of Friends for meetings in Whitewater Quarter.

Whitewater Quarter Monthly Meeting ==>	Bloomington			Clear Creek			Fall Creek			Fort Wayne			Lafayette			North Meadow Circle			Mississinewa			Totals		
	Adults	Youth	Total	Adults	Youth	Total	Adults	Youth	Total	Adults	Youth	Total	Adults	Youth	Total	Adults	Youth	Total	Adults	Youth	Total	Adults	Youth	Total
Membership 12/31/2024	54	0	54	51	2	53	8	0	8	6	0	6	5	0	5	21	0	21	6	0	6	151	2	153
Additions																								
Correction from 2024							0	0	0	0		0												0
Births & adoptions							1		1									1	1		1			1
Request of parent(s)																0	1	1				0	1	1
By conviction	2	0	2							1		1	1		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Children accepted as Adults																1		1				1		1
Transfers into meeting				0									3		3							3		3
TOTAL INCREASE	2	0	2	0	0		1	0	1	4	0	4	1	0	1	1	2	3	0	0		9	2	11
Losses																								
Correction from 2024													0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0
Deaths	1		1							1		1	0		0	1		1	1		1	4		4
Removal by request				1		1										1		1				2		2
Youth member --> adult																1	1	1				1	1	1
Transfers away	0			0									0	0	0	4	1	5	1		1	1	5	6
Loss of contact																0						0		0
TOTAL LOSSES	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	6	2	8	2	0	2	11	2	13
Net change	1	0	1	-1	0	-1	1	0	1	3	0	3	1	0	1	-5	0	-5	-2	0	-2	-2	0	-2
MEMBERSHIP 12/31/2025	55	0	55	50	2	52	9	0	9	9	0	9	6	0	6	16	0	16	4	0	4	149	2	151

Table 2a, membership by group (residents, non-residents, adult, youth) for meetings in Miami Quarter.

	Campus	Community	Dayton	Eastern Hills	Lexington	Louisville	Miami	Oxford	Yellow Springs	Total
Resident membership - Adult	13	33	13	16	39	22	6	10	35	187
Resident membership - Associate (Youth)	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	11
Non-resident membership: Adult	3	7	6	6	5	0	4	4	30	65
Non-resident membership: Associate (Youth)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4
Total Membership	18	48	19	22	44	22	10	19	65	267

Table 2b, membership by group (residents, non-residents, adult, youth) for meetings in Whitewater Quarter.

Whitewater Quarter Monthly Meeting ==>	Bloomington	Clear Creek	Fall Creek	Fort Wayne	Lafayette	North Meadow Circle	White Rose	Total
Resident membership - Adult	51	35	9	9	2	18	3	127
Resident membership - Associate (Youth)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-resident membership: Adult	5	16	0	0	0	1	2	24
Non-resident membership: Associate (Youth)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	56	52	9	9	2	19	5	152

Table 3a, attenders at meetings in Miami Quarter divided by age.

Miami Quarter Monthly Meeting ==>	Campus		Community		Dayton		Eastern Hills		Lexington		Louisville		Miami		Oxford		Yellow Springs		Total	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Members and Attenders: Adults																				
Age 19-25:	2	2	7	6	3	1	0	0	6	10	1	2	0	0	7	5	0	0	19	26
ages 26-34:	1	1	8	11	6	4	2	2	5	4	7	7	0	0	2	2	0	0	29	31
ages 35-64:	9	6	31	27	19	18	4	2	23	8	19	18	3	4	5	5	20	20	128	108
ages 65+:	4	4	28	32	9	13	18	21	25	13	26	30	19	18	8	8	30	30	159	169
TOTAL ADULTS	16	13	74	76	37	36	24	25	59	35	53	57	22	22	22	20	50	50	335	334
Members and Attenders: Youth																				
age under 10:	2	2	10	6	4	6	0	0	6	3	6	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	27
ages 10-13:	0	0	1	1	3	4	0	0	2	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	7
ages 14-18:	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	10	5	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	9
TOTAL YOUTH	2	3	11	8	8	11	0	0	18	9	13	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	43

Table 3b, attenders at meetings in Whitewater Quarter divided by age.

Whitewater Quarter Monthly Meeting ==>	Bloomington		Clear Creek		Fall Creek		Fort Wayne		Lafayette		North Meadow Circle		Mississinewa		Total	
	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Members and Attenders: Adults																
Age 19-25:	10	10	10	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	21	22
ages 26-34:	8	8	7	1	4	4	0	0	2	2	1	7	0	0	22	22
ages 35-64:	35	35	25	15	6	6	2	5	5	8	10	5	3	3	86	77
ages 65+:	8	8	35	32	13	12	7	9	5	6	17	13	3	2	88	82
TOTAL ADULTS	61	61	77	51	24	23	9	14	12	16	28	33	6	5	217	203
Members and Attenders: Youth																
age under 10:	9	9	6	3	4	3	3	3	3	3	1	2	0	0	26	23
ages 10-13:	6	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	6
ages 14-18:	8	8	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	12	10
TOTAL YOUTH	23	23	8	4	6	4	3	3	3	3	2	2	0	0	45	39

Table 4a, average weekly attendance at meeting for worship and first day school for meetings within Miami Quarter.

Miami Quarter Monthly Meeting ==>	Campus	Com- munity	Dayton	Eastern Hills	Lexington	Louisville	Miami	Oxford	Yellow Springs	Total
Average weekly attendance at meeting for worship: Adult members and attenders	8	38	20	13	38	15	15	7	20	174
Average weekly attendance at meeting for worship: Children (18 and under) members and attenders	3	5	3	0	3	1	0	0	0	15
Average weekly attendance at First Day School	2	3	3	0	3	2	9	0	0	22
Average weekly attendance of non-member, regular attenders, but excluding visitors	0	15	11	3	22	10	5	1	4	71

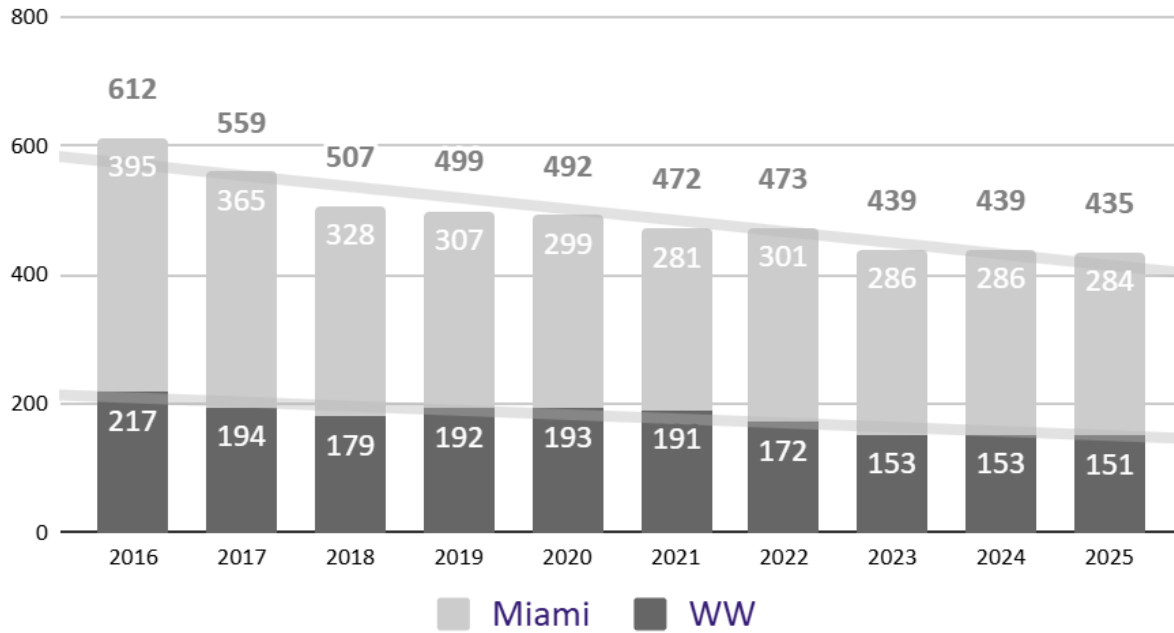
Table 4b, average weekly attendance at meeting for worship and first day school for meetings within Whitewater Quarter.

Whitewater Quarter Monthly Meeting ==>	Bloom- ton	Clear Creek	Fall Creek	Fort Wayne	Lafayette	North Meadow Circle	Mississine wa	Total
Average weekly attendance at meeting for worship: Adult members and attenders	36	22	15	5	6	11	2	97
Average weekly attendance at meeting for worship: Children (18 and under) members and attenders	4	0	4	0	0	0	2	10
Average weekly attendance at First Day School	0	1	10	0	0	0	0	11
Average weekly attendance of non-member, regular attenders, but excluding visitors	12	9	11	1	4	4	2	43

Below I summarize the results from this year's statistical report in terms of the previous ten years.

Figure 1. OYVM Membership divided by quarter over the most recent ten-year period. Values in white shown within the bars represent total membership in that quarter. The values above each column are the total membership of OYVM. The grey lines indicate the trend of membership for each quarter over time.

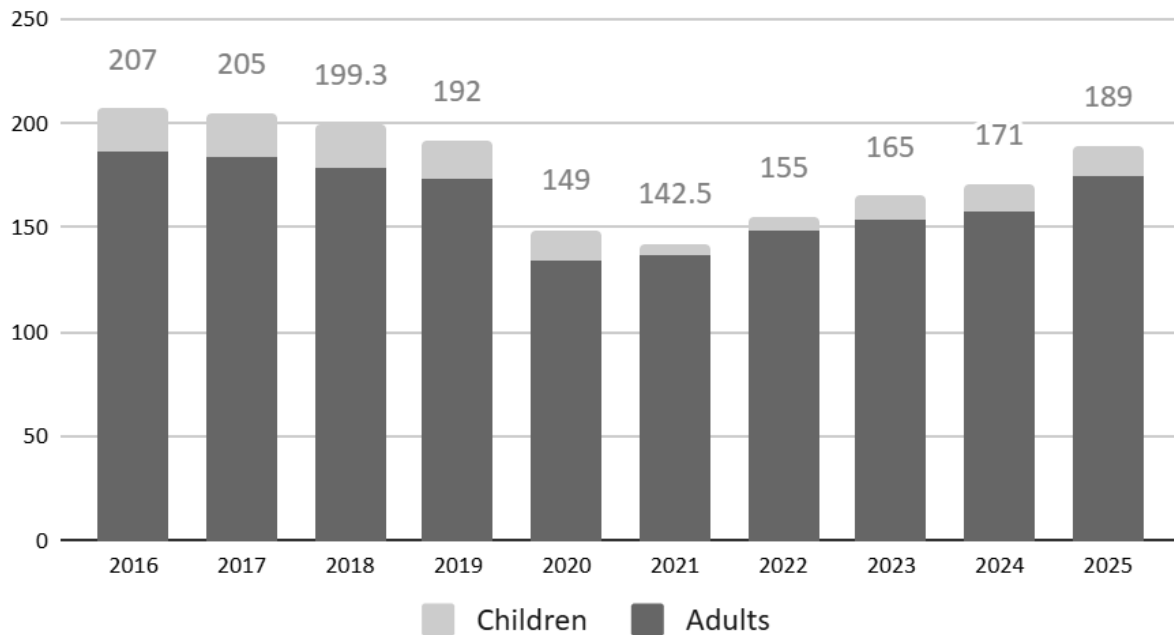
OVYM Membership 2016 - 2025



From 2024-2025, membership fell by four from 439 to 435, and has declined only modestly over the past three years.

Figure 2. Charts for attendance of adults and children.

Miami Quarter: Attendance: Adults and Children



Whitewater Quarter: Attendance: Adults & Children

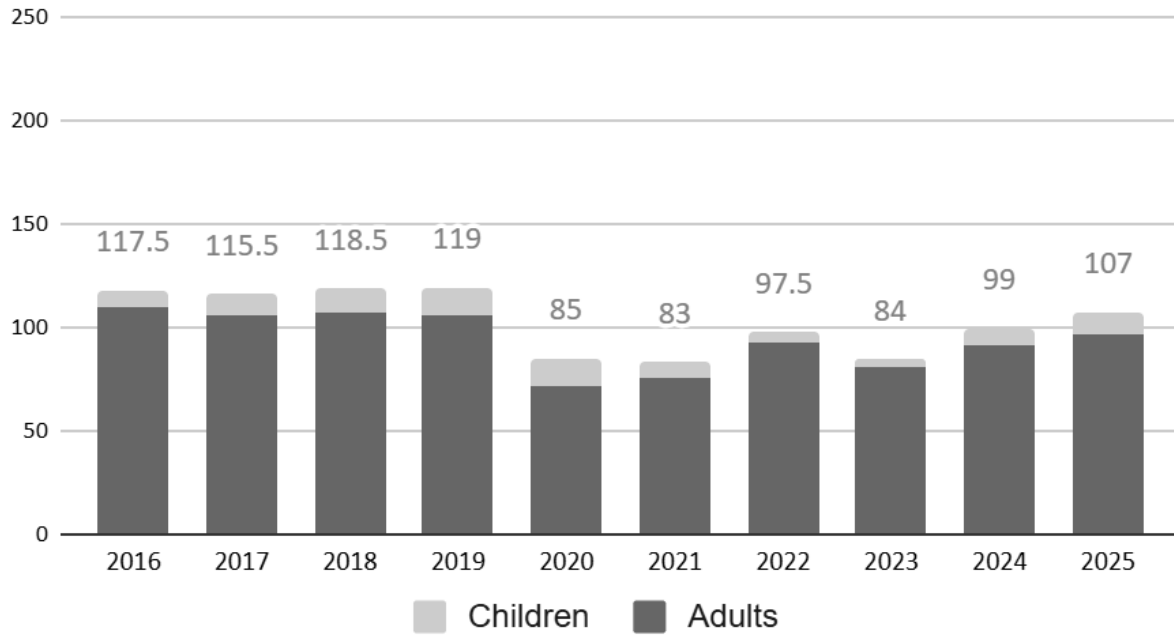
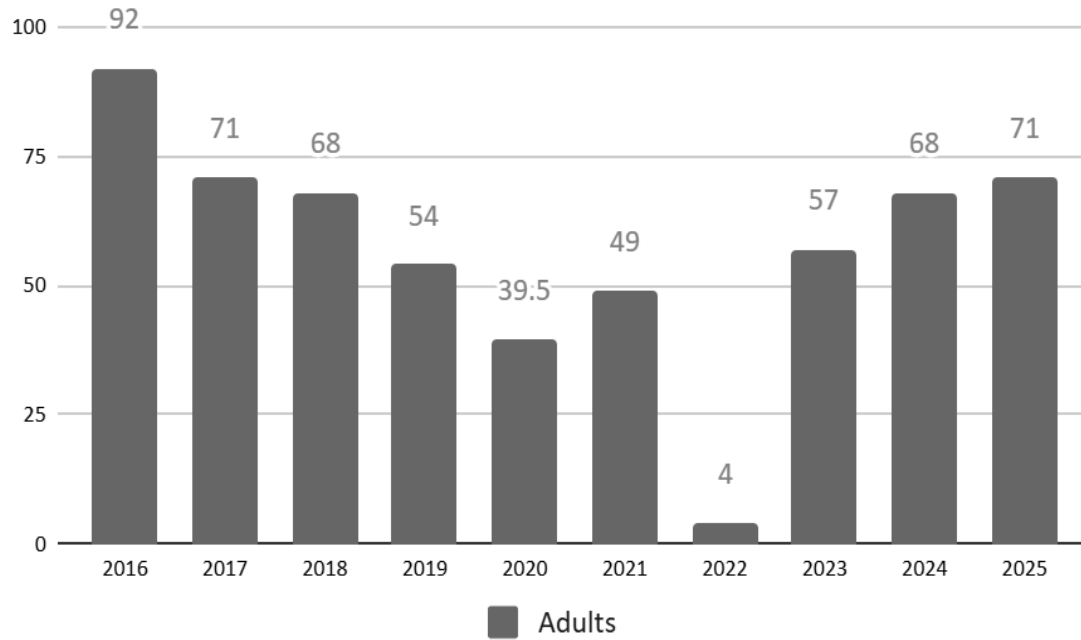
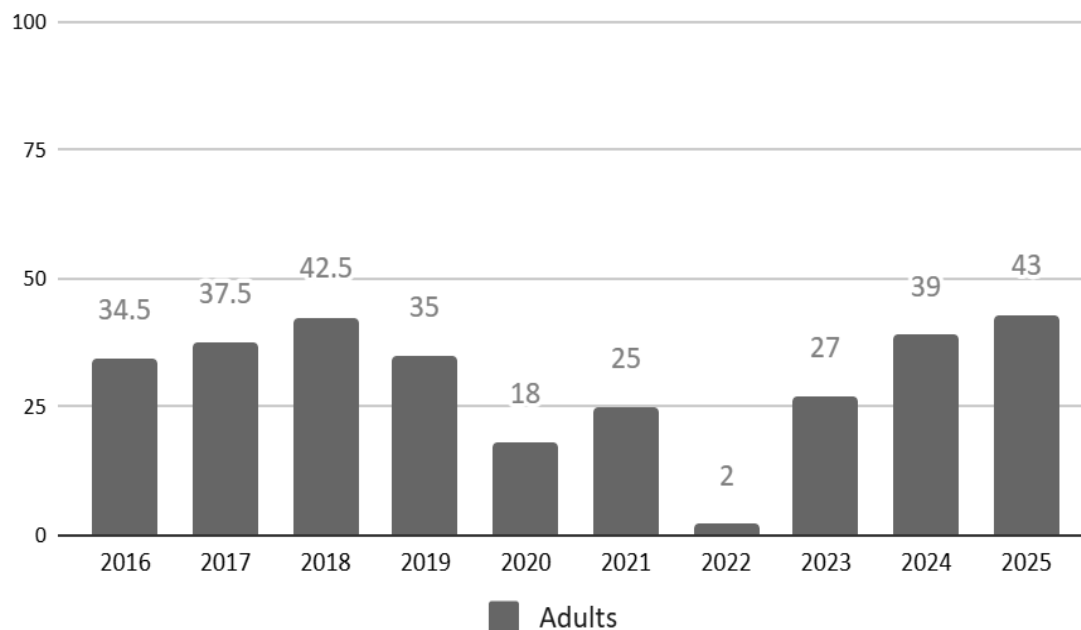


Figure 3. Attendance over the period 2016-2025 by non-members but who are regular attenders are shown below for (A) Miami Quarter and (B) Whitewater Quarter.

Miami Quarter: Attendance: Non-member, regular attender



Whitewater Quarter: Attendance : Non-member, regular attender



Comments on the results

The results of the statistical reports show interesting trends. Figure 1 shows that since the report of 2024, the net change in membership declined by four. This is the net change from a loss of 21 members and a gain of 17 members. Our membership continues to decline but at a show rate of approximately -1%. As I mentioned last year, most other mainline churches are witnessing declines in membership at about this same rate which indicates that the factors affecting membership in OVYM are similar to factors affecting other churches. A comment about emphasizing membership as the main indicator of the health of our society is worth making. The tradition of OVYM statisticians has been to focus on the number of members of the Religious Society of Friends as the primary indicator of the health of our yearly meeting. At my meeting, Lexington, we put little emphasis on Friends becoming members. Regular attenders participate fully in the life of the meeting and some non-members but devoted attenders have even become presiding clerks. Some Lexington Friends who joined the Religious Society of Friends recently did so only after attending for many years. Consequently, I question the value of focusing on the number of members as the sole indicator of the vitality of our society.

Figures 2a and 2b, show that the number of attenders (adults and children) in both quarters continues to rise year over year. The number of attenders in both quarters now exceeds what it was before the COVID-19 pandemic. Clearly, we offer something valuable and increasing numbers of Friends are seeking us out. One concern is that the number of children attending has not returned to what it was pre-COVID pandemic. Several meetings report not having any children in attendance.

The number of regular attenders is up substantially and is now about as high as it was in 2018. I wonder if statistics such as this might better reflect the vitality of our meeting. Other measures of vitality we might consider are:

- How many of a meeting's members attend regularly?
- How many regular attenders become members?
- What is the average / median age of attenders?
- Could we record the number of Friends of color who attend?
- How many families with children bring their adolescent children to meeting?
- How many Friends from a meeting attend quarterly and annual meeting?
- What is the meeting's budget used for? How much of the meeting' budget is used for the building?

I encourage YM to consider alternative methods of assessing the vitality of our monthly meetings.

Treasurer's Report

"Give us grace and strength to persevere. Give us courage and gaiety and the quiet mind. Spare to us our friends and soften to us our enemies. Give us the strength to encounter that which is to come, that we may be brave in peril, constant in tribulation, temperate in wrath and in all changes of fortune, and down to the gates of death loyal and loving to one another." Robert Louis Stevenson

I am writing this Report in Advance of Session during the third week of April and there is still over 2 months left before the end of the fiscal year. I do not see anything notable or worrying about our income and expenses, so far, which deviate from our expected fiscal status. I am hopeful that the last \$15,000 from those Meetings that have not yet fully given us their proportional share amounts will do so by the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2026. But our contributions to outside organizations and costs for our paid staff will end up costing about \$5,000 more than that income, so I will not be surprised to see a final deficit of \$20,000. Of course, Yearly Meeting Sessions income and expanses can mask the results if they become spread over 2 fiscal years, as often happens.

For the second year in a row, we will be finishing with a significant deficit. We have reserves to cover this problem right now, but this will not always be the case. When we are forced to tighten our belts, it will require changes in more than one area. Eliminating our gifts to other organizations, including Friends General Conference, will not balance our budget. Neither will ending our subsidies to pay the remaining costs of Sessions which currently our fees do not cover. We might also have to decide in the future when there is movement to support our youth, or coordinate our social actions, for example, that there needs to be palpable support in the form of human bodies willing to volunteer to do that work, instead of passing off the responsibility by saying "let's hire someone to do it for us." We are not going to have the money to do these things in the future and Friends should prepare themselves for reductions in all of these areas.

Our largest new expenditures this year were about \$3,000 in audio/visual technology and various computer and online expenses, and a greater than \$3,500 bill for awareness training and prevention of sexual abuse in our organizations. I have altered the name of Table 14, Clerical Support, to Office, Technical and A/V Expenses. I have also moved into table 14 the on-line expenses that I previously included in Table 16, Publications.

Treasurer's YTD Report (April 2026)

	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Actual	2023-24 Actual	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget	2025-26 thru 4/18/26	Proposed 2026-27 budget
Table 1. Fund Balances							
FWCC Triennial Travel Expense Fund (Table 2)	6,683.65	7,683.65	4,833.65	5,909.09	6,909.09	7,159.09	8,159.09
Benevolent Fund - Invested (Table 3)	8,630.96	9,549.95	13,207.74	14,137.86	14,279.24	15,487.50	15,642.38
Peace Witness Fund - Invested (Table 4)	3,270.30	3,622.81	4,033.23	6,369.23	6,432.92	6,976.34	7,046.10
Meetinghouse Resource Fund - closed (Table 5)	9,287.33	10,381.10	0.00	-	-	-	-
Faith & Practice Printing Fund - closed (Table 6)	2,203.47	-	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Committee Fund (Table 7)	975.44	975.44	1,075.44	1,180.44	1,180.44	1,285.44	1,285.44
Spiritual Nurture Fund - Invested (Table 8)	10,636.73	11,769.29	12,064.28	13,096.57	12,217.54	14,344.91	13,488.36
Braddock Fund - closed (Table 9)	80,181.78	82,890.75	85,535.57	0.00	-	-	-
General Fund Reserves - Invested	78,698.58	89,516.22	100,431.90	111,324.37	112,437.61	121,935.58	123,154.94
General Fund (Table 10)	47,830.84	57,845.47	82,156.05	67,904.82	44,734.82	51,947.26	38,642.26
Total	248,399.08	274,234.68	302,987.86	219,922.38	198,191.66	219,136.12	207,418.56
Table 2. FWCC Travel Expense Fund							
Starting Balance	5,683.65	6,683.65	7,683.65	4,833.65	5,909.09	5,909.09	7,159.09
Transfer from General Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Disbursements (gift to FWCC Fund)			3,850.00	(75.44)		(250.00)	
Ending Balance	6,683.65	7,683.65	4,833.65	5,909.09	6,909.09	7,159.09	8,159.09
Table 3. Benevolent Fund - Invested							
Starting Balance	10,014.56	8,630.96	9,549.95	13,207.74	14,137.86	14,137.86	15,487.50
Income or (Disbursement)			2,242.71	(200.00)		(200.05)	
Gain or (Loss) from investment	(1,383.60)	918.99	1,415.08	1,130.12	141.38	1,549.69	154.88
Ending Balance	8,630.96	9,549.95	13,207.74	14,137.86	14,279.24	15,487.50	15,642.38
Table 4. Peace Witness Fund - Invested							
Starting Balance	3,795.21	3,270.30	3,622.81	4,033.23	6,369.23	6,369.23	6,976.34
Gain or (Loss)	(524.91)	352.51	410.42	2,336.00	63.69	607.11	69.76
Ending Balance	3,270.30	3,622.81	4,033.23	6,369.23	6,432.92	6,976.34	7,046.10
Table 5. Meetinghouse Resource Fund - Invested							
Starting Balance	10,776.15	9,287.33	10,381.10		-		-
Income or (Loss)	(1,488.82)	1,093.77	(10,381.10)	-		-	
Ending Balance	9,287.33	10,381.10	0.00				
Table 6. Faith & Practice Printing Fund - Invested							
Starting Balance	3,423.95						
Gain or (Loss)	(1,220.48)						
Ending Balance	2,203.47						

	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Actual	2023-24 Actual	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget	2025-26 thru 4/18/26	Proposed 2026-27 budget
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Table 7. Youth Committee Fund - Results from Table 21

Starting Balance - last year's Ending Balance	975.44	975.44	975.44	1,075.44	1,180.44	1,180.44	1,285.44
Unused Fundraising+Contributions or (Debt)			100.00	105.00		105.00	
Ending Balance	975.44	975.44	1,075.44	1,180.44	1,180.44	1,285.44	1,285.44

Table 8. Spiritual Nurture Fund - Invested

Starting Balance	12,341.87	10,636.73	11,769.29	12,064.28	12,096.57	13,096.57	14,344.91
Donations				500.00			
Disbursements			(1,000.00)	500.00			1,000.00
Gain or (Loss) from investment	(1,705.14)	1,132.56	1,294.99	1,032.29	120.64	1,248.34	143.45
Ending Balance	10,636.73	11,769.29	12,064.28	13,096.57	12,217.54	14,344.91	13,488.36

Table 9. Braddock Fund for Prison Ministry – Invested

Starting Balance	93,051.60	80,181.78	82,890.75	85,535.57			
Disbursements		5,650.00	6,700.00	88,750.00			
Gain or (Loss) from investment	(12,869.82)	8,358.97	9,344.82	3,214.43			
Ending Balance	80,181.78	82,890.75	85,535.57	0.00		-	-

Table 10. General Fund Summary

INCOME							
Meeting Contributions (Table 11)	56,980.00	63,612.80	62,817.50	50,857.50	50,220.00	32,950.00	50,280.00
Money Market fund interest				839.77	-	581.65	400.00
Cash and purchases contributed to OVYM	108.00	130.75		993.35	100.00	750.00	100.00
Donated Travel Costs	74.66	-	1,238.85	2,538.70	250.00	926.56	1,350.00
Sales of Disciplines	49.15	65.50	27.18	85.68	50.00	24.45	15.00
Total Income	57,211.81	63,809.05	64,083.53	55,315.00	50,620.00	35,232.66	52,145.00
EXPENSES							
Operating Expenses (Table 12)	20,421.77	21,141.46	25,860.42	28,575.40	26,340.00	14,826.52	20,450.00
Committee Expenses (Table 17)	669.66	70.00	1,550.97	2,283.05	7,650.00	5,353.67	3,500.00
Representative Travel (Table 23)	-	-	1,738.85	4,564.95	1,100.00	1,665.00	3,000.00
Yearly Meeting Session (Table 24)	10,428.67	13,732.96	(7,901.11)	14,892.83	19,850.00	27,945.03	19,650.00
Transfer to FWCC Triennial Travel	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Joint Quarterly Meeting			73.82	-		-	
Donations by OVYM (Table 25)	17,650.00	17,850.00	17,450.00	18,250.00	17,850.00	400.00	17,850.00
Total Expenses	50,170.10	53,794.42	39,772.95	69,566.23	73,790.00	51,190.22	65,450.00
Net General Fund Gain/(Loss)	7,041.71	10,014.63	24,310.58	(14,251.23)	(23,170.00)	(15,957.56)	(13,305.00)

	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Actual	2023-24 Actual	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget	2025-26 thru 4/18/26	Proposed 2026-27 budget
Table 11. Meeting Contributions							
Bloomington	6,240.00	6,240.00	6,600.00	6,480.00	6,480.00	3,120.00	6,720.00
Campus	1,320.00	1,320.00	1,312.50	1,337.50	1,260.00	750.00	840.00
Clear Creek	8,400.00	8,520.00	8,400.00	6,480.00	6,360.00	4,240.00	6,240.00
Community	7,200.00	7,200.00	6,840.00	5,280.00	5,760.00	4,800.00	5,760.00
Dayton	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,280.00
Eastern Hills	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,320.00	2,000.00	1,320.00
Fall Creek	1,200.00	{1200.00}	3,600.00	{1200}	960.00	960.00	1,080.00
Fort Wayne	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	720.00	1,080.00
Lafayette	720.00	600.00	840.00	840.00	600.00		720.00
Lexington		10,080.00	5,040.00	5,040.00	4,920.00		5,160.00
Louisville	3,960.00	3,960.00	3,480.00	2,880.00	2,880.00		2,640.00
Miami \$2640 for 24/25 paid 23/24, \$2400 also off year	3,360.00	3,120.00	5,520.00	2,400.00	2,400.00	{2400}	2,640.00
North Meadow	4,560.00	4,080.00	2,640.00	3,840.00	3,120.00	1,920.00	1,920.00
Oxford	1,920.00	1,920.00	2,040.00	2,160.00	2,160.00	2,160.00	2,280.00
Mississinewa (formerly White Rose)	2,000.00	512.80					600.00
Yellow Springs	10,680.00	10,640.00	11,085.00	9,000.00	8,880.00	9,880.00	9,000.00
Total Meeting Contributions	56,980.00	63,612.80	62,817.50	50,857.50	50,220.00	32,950.00	50,280.00

Amounts in {braces} are received or paid in a different fiscal year than the one for which it was intended.

Table 12. Operating Expenses

Administration (Table 13)	1,020.62	966.00	1,027.55	1,329.00	1,515.00	1,306.63	1,800.00
Office, Technical and A/V Expenses (Table 14)	725.90	220.63	398.85	615.85	825.00	2,863.78	850.00
Staff (Table 15)	15,869.57	18,371.44	22,587.66	23,997.39	21,750.00	9,735.54	15,500.00
Publications (Table 16)	2,505.68	1,283.39	1,546.36	2,333.16	1,950.00	920.57	2,000.00
Archives	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00		300.00
Total	20,421.77	21,141.46	25,860.42	28,575.40	26,340.00	14,826.52	20,450.00

Table 13. Administration

Bank Charges	71.62		33.49	-	30.00	(150.00)	30.00
Liability Insurance	949.00	966.00	862.06	1,031.00	1,150.00	1,455.00	1,500.00
OVYM Background Checks				53.00	35.00		50.00
Constituent Meeting Background Checks (Constituent Meeting Reimbursement)			157.00	298.00	100.00		150.00
Officers' Expenses			(25.00)	(53.00)			
					200.00	1.63	70.00
Total	1,020.62	966.00	1,027.55	1,329.00	1,515.00	1,306.63	1,800.00

Table 14. Office, Technical and A/V Expenses

General Office Expenses	641.97	207.16	235.46	363.08	625.00	14.53	100.00
Postage	83.93	13.47	131.83	164.02	150.00	64.80	150.00
A/V, Tech expenses						2,784.45	550.00
Printing or Copying			31.56	88.75	50.00		50.00
Total	725.90	220.63	398.85	615.85	825.00	2,863.78	850.00

	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Actual	2023-24 Actual	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget	2025-26 thru 4/18/26	Proposed 2026-27 budget
Table 15. Staff							
Compensation	15,505.75	17,837.00	22,345.32	23,445.70	21,000.00	8,726.91	14,500.00
Workers Comp	236.50	248.61	242.34	252.45	250.00	256.82	250.00
Internet Access	45.00				-		-
<i>Donated Travel (not included or subtracted from total)</i>						(361.56)	(300.00)
Travel	82.32	285.83		299.24	250.00	751.81	800.00
Professional Development					250.00		250.00
Total	15,869.57	18,371.44	22,587.66	23,997.39	21,750.00	9,735.54	15,500.00

Table 16. Publications							
<i>Quaker Quill</i>	503.08	420.71	327.70	253.10	200.00	80.60	300.00
Website/JotForm - moved to Table 14 in 2026				234.00	250.00		-
Minute Books and Reports in Advance	1,191.63	862.68	972.46	1,293.40	1,200.00	798.58	1,200.00
Directory	810.97		246.20	552.66	300.00	41.39	500.00
Total	2,505.68	1,283.39	1,546.36	2,333.16	1,950.00	920.57	2,000.00

Table 17. Committee Expense							
Religious Nurture & Education (Table 18)	555.00	-	1,006.21	1,000.51	1,000.00	1,194.25	1,500.00
Boundaries Training	-	-			-	3,650.13	-
Gathering Committee (Table 20)	-	-	-	129.88	-	234.29	1,000.00
Youth Committee (Table 21)	-	70.00	249.76	-	6,300.00	-	200.00
Adult Young Friends (Table 22)	-	-	295.00	690.00	150.00	275.00	600.00
Joint Quarterly Meeting Children's Program							100.00
Travel - Donated	74.66			187.75	50.00		50.00
Travel - Reimbursed	40.00			274.91	150.00		50.00
Total Expenses	669.66	70.00	1,550.97	2,283.05	7,650.00	5,353.67	3,500.00

Table 18. Religious Nurture & Education Committee							
Resource materials, printing, mailing, etc.					50.00		50.00
Gatherings, Retreats, Honorariums	820.00		4,065.03	3,710.40	1,050.00	3,032.20	4,000.00
(Retreat participants fee payments)	(265.00)		(1,718.82)	(2,004.89)	(100.00)	(1,537.95)	(1,550.00)
(Extra contribution gifts received)			(340.00)	(205.00)		(300.00)	(200.00)
(Income transfer from the Spiritual Nurture Fund)			(1,000.00)	(500.00)			(1,000.00)
Total Expense	555.00	-	1,006.21	1,000.51	1,000.00	1,194.25	1,500.00
	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Actual	2023-24 Actual	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget	2025-26 thru 4/18/26	Proposed 2026-27 budget

Table 19. Joint Quarterly Meeting							
Expenses	Spring Grove Cemetery-->		2,700.00	2,648.77			
Square Income and other checks that came to OVYM	Most of cost MQM		(2,626.18)	2,648.77			
Total Expense		-	73.82	-	-	-	-

Table 20. Gathering Committee

Food				129.88			600.00
Expenses						234.29	400.00
Total Expense	-	-	-	129.88		234.29	1,000.00

Training on Boundaries and Prevention

Registration fees						2,136.53	
Donations						105.00	
Expenses						5,891.66	-
Total Expense	-	-	-			3,650.13	

Table 21. Teen/Middle Youth Program**INCOME**

Contributions				105.00		105.00	
Fundraising			100.00	-		-	
Registration Fees							
OYVM contribution to expenses (\$6300 max)		70.00	249.76	-	6,300.00	-	200.00
Total Income	-	70.00	349.76	105.00	6,300.00	105.00	200.00

EXPENSE

Publicity							
Teen Events		70.00	249.76	-		-	200.00
Service Trips					6,300.00		
Cost of Fundraising							
Total Expense	-	70.00	249.76	-	6,300.00	-	200.00
Teen Funds saved or (used) (Table 7)	-	-	100.00	105.00	-	105.00	-

Table 22. Adult Young Friends

(Income)				(6.01)	(50.00)	(100.00)	(50.00)
Retreats, book club, OYVM sessions			295.00	696.01	150.00	375.00	600.00
Scholarships					50.00		50.00
Total Expenses	-	-	295.00	690.00	150.00	275.00	600.00

	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Actual	2023-24 Actual	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget	2025-26 thru 4/18/26	Proposed 2026-27 budget
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Table 23. Representative Travel

Normal (\$600 per trip)			500.00	1,800.00	600.00	1,100.00	1,500.00
Additional Reimbursement				414.76	300.00	-	500.00
Donated Travel			1,238.85	2,350.19	200.00	565.00	1,000.00
Total Expenses	-	-	1,738.85	4,564.95	1,100.00	1,665.00	3,000.00

The amounts in {braces} are paid in a different fiscal year than the one for which it was intended.

Table 24. Yearly Meeting Sessions

INCOME							
Contributions	2,065.50	1,890.00	3,999.15	1,929.77	1,800.00		2,200.00
Previously Coffee contributions and collections		86.00	250.00	-	200.00		-
Registration	3,150.00	2,134.00	3,775.00	3,808.00	4,000.00		5,000.00
Room & Board Charges	12,617.71	15,883.14	22,244.30	18,647.79	15,000.00	443.00	22,000.00
Previously Bookstore. Now = Other Income	476.89	595.36	576.83		450.00		100.00
Total Income	18,310.10	20,588.50	30,845.28	24,385.56	21,450.00	443.00	29,300.00
EXPENSES							
Administration/A-V	671.95	515.55	2,132.36	11,961.03	2,000.00	215.87	1,500.00
Adult Program	1,200.00	1,544.56	3,215.18	3,063.82	2,500.00		3,500.00
Facilities charges	5,660.00					1,000.00	7,000.00
					600.00		-
Middle Youth and Teens	2,787.32	179.00	673.00	3,786.19	2,000.00		4,000.00
Children's Program	2,631.50	2,899.16	3,847.98	4,000.42	3,000.00	535.22	4,000.00
Adult Room & Board (other than Facilities)	10,772.00	23,797.50	(1,099.45)	16,405.93	25,000.00	26,433.94	28,650.00
<i>Room & Board Subsidies (subtotal: not included in sum)</i>	<i>4,411.00</i>	<i>5,097.00</i>	<i>12,770.00</i>	<i>7,751.50</i>		-	<i>6,500.00</i>
<i>Children, middle youth, teens</i>	<i>979.00</i>	<i>908.00</i>	<i>5,376.00</i>	<i>4,149.00</i>	<i>2,000.00</i>		<i>3,000.00</i>
<i>Staff, officers, and registration discounts</i>	<i>2,215.00</i>	<i>1,640.00</i>	<i>3,288.00</i>	<i>1,810.00</i>	<i>2,000.00</i>		<i>2,000.00</i>
<i>Guests</i>	<i>620.00</i>	<i>850.00</i>	<i>1,243.00</i>	<i>930.00</i>	<i>800.00</i>		<i>800.00</i>
<i>YAF attenders subsidy</i>	<i>310.00</i>	<i>922.00</i>	<i>1,259.00</i>	<i>236.50</i>	<i>200.00</i>		<i>200.00</i>
<i>First-time attenders subsidy</i>	<i>287.00</i>	<i>777.00</i>	<i>1,604.00</i>	<i>626.00</i>	<i>400.00</i>		<i>500.00</i>
Simple Meal Donation	497.00		629.00	-	500.00	203.00	300.00
Bookstore Expenses	108.00	288.69	776.10	61.00	300.00		-
Total Expenses	28,738.77	34,321.46	22,944.17	39,278.39	41,300.00	28,388.03	48,950.00
Net Cost of Session	10,428.67	13,732.96	(7,901.11)	14,892.83	19,850.00	27,945.03	19,650.00

	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Actual	2023-24 Actual	2024-25 Actual	2025-26 Budget	2025-26 thru 4/18/26	Proposed 2026-27 budget
Table 25. Donations by OVYM							
OVYM Ministry							
Friends Music Camp	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00		1,700.00
Subtotal	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00	-	1,700.00
Major Quaker Organizations							
AFSC	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00	2,650.00		2,650.00
FCNL (Add Friends Place payment to this check)+	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00		2,000.00
FGC	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00		4,000.00
Friends Journal	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00		600.00
FWCC	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00		3,000.00
Subtotal	12,250.00	12,250.00	12,250.00	12,250.00	12,250.00	-	12,250.00
Quaker Education and Outreach							
Earlham College	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00		300.00
Olney Friends School	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00		300.00
Quaker Heritage Center	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00		300.00
Wilmington College	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00		300.00
Subtotal	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	-	1,200.00
Peace and Social Concerns with specific focus							
FLGBTQC (Lesbian & Gay Concerns)	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Friends Peace Teams	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00		500.00
Friends Place on Capitol Hill (formerly W. Penn House)	200.00	200.00	{200.00}	400.00	200.00		200.00
Indiana Friends Com. On Legislation		200.00	{200.00}	400.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00		500.00
Quaker United Nations Office	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00		500.00
Right Sharing of World Resources	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00		600.00
Subtotal	2,500.00	2,700.00	2,300.00	3,100.00	2,700.00	400.00	2,700.00
Total Contributions	17,650.00	17,850.00	17,450.00	18,250.00	17,850.00	400.00	17,850.00

Nominations

Note: Friends whose name appears in **[bold]** are to be approved by the Yearly Meeting when in session.

Officers*	4-year rotating terms (Asst/Clerk/Clerk/Asst)
Presiding Clerk	Diann Herzog (3rd of 4 yrs.)
Assistant Presiding Clerk	[Peggy Spohr (1st of 4 yrs.)]
Recording Clerk	Terre Holada (3rd of 4 yrs.)
Assistant Recording Clerk[[Nikki Coffey-Tousley (1st of 4 yrs.)]
Treasurer	Rick Boyce
Assistant Treasurer	Wilson Palmer

*Note: Nominations to these posts are the responsibility of the Nominating Committee

Staff	
Administrative Assistant	Susan Lee Barton
Youth Secretary	
Social Action Coordinator	Sandy Felt

Administrators*	1-year renewable terms
Publications Coordinator	
<i>Quaker Quill</i> Editor	[Cecilia Shore]
Records Coordinators	[Carol Burks]
Statistician	[Peter Hardy]
Website Administrator	[Daniel Day]

*Note: Nominations by the Nominating Committee

2026 Annual Session Roles*	1-year renewable terms
Registrar (named by Planning Committee)	David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson
Epistle Summary	Steven Angell
Epistle Committee	Paul Buckley, Lisa Cayard, [Michael Fallahay]
Memorial Committee	Michael Birkel

*Note: Nominations by the Nominating Committee. Approved at the Spring Executive Committee meeting so that their work may commence prior to annual sessions.

Committees

Adult Young Friends* (4 - 7 members)		3-year renewable, staggered terms
Term Ends	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2029	[Bing Pfaltzgraff-Carlson (Campus)]	[Jack Albin]
2028		
2027	Uta Goheen- Brewington (2nd term)	Blaise Rzeszut (1st term) Noa Everet (1st term)

*Note: Nominations by the Nominating Committee

Auditing* (2 members)		2-year renewable, staggered terms
Term Ends	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2028		
2027		

*Note: Nominations by the Nominating Committee

Budget & Finance* (3 + 2 ex officio)		3-year renewable, staggered terms
Term Ends	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2029		
2028	Whitney Blackburn-Lynch (2nd term)	
2027		[David Garman (1 year only after 2nd term)]

*Note: Nominations by the Nominating Committee

Children's Program* (9–12 members)		3-year renewable, staggered terms
Term Ends	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2029		
2028	Hannah Branson (10th term) Perry Thomas (1st term)	Terry Reynolds (1st term) Diane Herzog (2nd term)
2027	Phyllis Tonne (1st term)	Noa Everett (1st term)

*Note: Nominations by the Nominating Committee

Earthcare*		3-year renewable, staggered terms
Term Ends	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2028	Travis Robinson (1st term) Bill Cahalan (3rd term+)	Karen Atcheson (2nd Term) David Duvall (4th term)
2027	Al McGrew (2nd term)	

*Note This Committee submits its own nominations.

Gatherings* (3)		3-year terms
Term ends	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2027	Lisa Cayard – Community (1st term) Sandy Felt – Dayton (1st term)	Jana Schroeder – Clear Creek (1st term) [Mary Anna Feitler – Ft. Wayne (2nd year)]

*Note: Nominated by the Executive Committee.

Nominating*		3-year renewable, staggered terms
Term Ends	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2029		Mary Anna Feitler – Fort Wayne (2nd term)
2028	Steve Angell – Oxford (3rd term) Doug Burks – Eastern Hills (1st term) Wilhelmina Branson – Community (2nd term)	Karen Atcheson – Lafayette (2nd term)
2027	Peter Hardy – Lexington (1st term) Phil Henry – Dayton (1st term)	Peggy Spohr – Clear Creek (1st term) Ellen Hodge – Fall Creek (1st term)

*Note: Monthly Meetings name members.

Personnel (2 + Treasurer)*		2-year renewable, staggered terms
Term Ends	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2028		
2027	Deborah Jordan—Community	

*Note: Executive Committee names members.

Planning* (6 + Children, Youth & Registrar)		3-year renewable, staggered terms
Term Ends	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2029		
2028	David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson (1st term)	
2027	Andy Garrison (1st term) Martha Viehmann (2nd term) Dan McGregor (1st term)	

*Note: Nominations by the Nominating Committee

Religious Nurture & Education* (12)		3-year renewable, staggered terms
Term Ends	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2029		[Ellen Hodge (1st term)] [Debbie Davis (1st term)]
2028	Bruce Heckman (2nd term)	Rex Sprouse (2nd term) Paul Ricketts (1st term)
2027	Deema Romer (1st term) Gail Koehler (4th term)	Gini Emigh (1st term)

*Note: Nominations by the Nominating Committee

Social Action Coordinator Supervisory*		Term length TBD
Term Ends	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
TBD	Rachel Ernst Stahlhut	

*Note: Named by the Executive Committee.

Youth Services* (6+ members)		3-year staggered + 1-year teen terms
Term Ends	Miami Quarter*	Whitewater Quarter
2029		
2028		
2027	David Hyde (3rd term)	

*Note: Nominations by the Nominating Committee Representatives

American Friends Service Committee* (2)		3-year renewable, staggered terms
Term Ends	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2029		[Paul Ricketts (1st term)]
2028	Cindi Goslee (2nd term)	
2027		

*Note: Nominations by the Nominating Committee

Friends Committee on National Legislation* (6)		3-year renewable, staggered terms
Term Ends	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2029	[Douglas Burks (1st term)]	[Gwen Halstead (1st term)]
2028		[Elaine Emmi (1st term)]
2027	Rick Boyce (3rd term)	[Anne Reynolds (2nd term)]

*Note: Nominations by the Nominating Committee

Friends General Conference* (2)		3-year renewable, staggered terms
Term Ends	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2029		
2028	Eric Wolff (1st term)	
2027		Karen Atcheson (1st term)

*Note: Nominations by the Nominating Committee

Friends World Committee for Consultation* (4)		3-year staggered terms, renewable twice
Term Ends	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2029		
2028		Marti Matthews (1st term) Nicholas Hall (1st term)
2027	Carol Simmons (1st term) Foote Lund (1st term)	

*Note: Nominations by the Nominating Committee

Other Representatives*	1-year renewable terms
Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns	[Beth Rosen] (5th term)
Friends Peace Teams	
Quaker Earthcare Witness	[Al McGrew] (6th term)

*Note: Nominations by the Nominating Committee

Ministries

Friends Music Camp* (5)		3-year renewable, staggered terms
Term Ends	Miami Quarter	Whitewater Quarter
2029	[Reid Pfaltzgraff-Carlson (1st term)]	
2028		
2027		Jane Stowe (1st term)

*Note: Nominations by the Nominating Committee

OVYM Administrators Reports

Quaker Quill Editor's Report

This year, I am especially grateful to the Planning Committee. Their work all year provides news which is the highlight of every issue, and this year has been an especially difficult one for them. I am thankful to our OVYM clerks and staff who submit their reflections for every issue, as well as 20-30 correspondents who send in news and reports from their meetings, committees, and external organizations. Special thanks also go to Susan Lee Barton, our administrative assistant, who sends me items for *The Quaker Quill*, and also volunteers her time to do thoughtful proofreading. Thank you all for making the *Quaker Quill* a resource for connecting Friends in our yearly meeting and beyond.

Website Administrator's Report

No major changes have taken place with our website infrastructure this year. Our server upgrade from last year has continued to serve us well, and I am happy to report that we have had few, if any, technical problems.

Traffic to the site increased again this year, to 385 average visitors per month. The bulk of these additional visitors were from China. It is possible some of these are bots or web crawlers, though since site performance has not been negatively affected that is not a concern at this time.

I have two priorities for the upcoming year. First, to complete the new structure for our Announcements section, to make it easier for these to be entered and displayed. Second, to upgrade our page builder plugin to the newest major version. The latter should mostly be invisible, but may result in some minor changes to the look and feel of the site.

OVYM Staff Reports

Administrative Assistant Report

Submitted by Susan Lee Barton

Questions I think about and encourage you to join me

- How do I show my love for the OVYM community?
- What assumptions do I make about how someone else communicates well?
- In what ways am I showing appreciation for Friends who think and work differently from me?
- How might my words and actions (or inaction) impact others in the yearly meeting?
- How does my service and involvement in the yearly meeting mesh with others' service?
- How can I help the love flow in our yearly meeting?

How To Reach Me

E-mail: admin@ovym.org. Many of you have my personal e-mail in your e-mail addresses. That is for my personal and volunteer use. If you're contacting the OVYM Administrative Assistant, please use my OVYM address.

Home phone (NO texting): 765-960-0175. I would like to stress the fact that I do not text! Please accept that I have valid reasons for this (I'm happy to tell you more if you want), and please don't expect me to receive or respond to text messages. I do not have an OVYM phone, only my home phone.

OVYM Slack: I'm happy to teach anyone to use Slack, a quick way to get a message to me when I'm working without waiting for me to wade through e-mail. I'll see your message as soon as I turn on the OVYM computer, or if you send it while I'm working, your message will pop up on my screen. Slack will also tell you when I'm not working and what date and time I'll return.

My usual hours are Monday-Friday 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (If I'm not available at these times, Slack will usually tell you why.) If you send me something in the afternoon or evening, I generally won't see it until the following weekday morning.

Hours Reported

I successfully cut down my overtime last year, but increased hours again this year. Part of this was situational, one-time only tasks, such as purchasing and setting up a new computer, ordering equipment for hybrid meetings and figuring out which companies I do and don't want to use again, getting sales tax exemption for companies in three states, and more. A bunch of hours were spent coordinating the November workshop on responding to sexual violence in our meetings, divided between work time and volunteer time. That won't be something I work on annually.

One task which repeatedly takes extra time each year is rounding up information from committees, representatives to Friends' organizations, and monthly meetings, sending multiple inquiries and reminders and pleas.

One way I plan to cut hours in the coming year is to take off more time in the summer when OVYM work is slower. I will be taking off most of June and July for a combination of vacation time with my family and

FGC work. If you want something from me such as setting up Zoom meetings, training on something, or information, please think far ahead and do not expect instant results.

The estimated breakdown for my time from May 2025- April 2026 is:

- Publications (Handbook, OVYM Directory, Assisting with Reports in Advance, Minute Book, and *The Quaker Quill*): 51.5 hours (last year 40.5 hours)
- Executive Committee (Both planning and attending): 50 hours (last year 38.5 hours)
- YM Planning/Sessions (Supporting various planning pieces plus work time during sessions): 21.5 hours (last year 15.75 hours)
- Committee Support: 44 hours (last year 29.25 hours)
- Officer and Administrator Support: 27.5 hours (last year 30.5 hours)
- Communications (E-mail correspondence, website updates on announcements and monthly meeting pages, Facebook posts, inquiries/conversations with other yearly meetings and Friends' organizations, and more): 139 hours (last year 118.75 hours)
- Child Safety: 7 hours (last year 21.75 hours)
- Miscellaneous Administrative Support (creating forms, helping people with forms, managing e-mail lists, keeping records, depositing archival materials, researching tech. for the office, collecting and printing epistles, updating contacts from monthly meetings, organizing information, writing reports and announcements, and everything else.): 106.25 hours (last year 100 hours)

Total for 12 months: 445 (last year 395 hours; contracted number of hours is 347/year)

Notes

- Thank you, thank you, thank you for the privilege of working with you all! You place a great deal of trust in me. I've also received sweet e-mails, cards, letters, and even flowers from members. I really love this yearly meeting and love working with you!
- I continue to offer help and training on use of webforms, which save time for both me and our OVYM administrators. Some people who find computer software confusing in general have tried the online statistical form and found it easier to use than the PDF form. I'm here to help!
- I can also help you learn how to set up a Zoom meeting and/or host a Zoom meeting.
- I can run background checks for monthly meetings for adults working with your children and teenagers, but results can take a few hours or a few days or a few weeks or a few months. If one state's computer system is down, that holds up any national records search. Please don't expect a rapid response.
- Many don't know or remember that I have another job. I am completely focused on Friends General Conference work 1-5 p.m. afternoons, and some evenings in the spring and early summer.

Some important weblinks to know about

- OVYM Volunteer Form: <https://form.jotform.com/250754579096066>
- Order printed copies of the minute book and other publications: <https://form.jotform.com/240914927633057>

You need to re-order each year!

- Sign up or change your e-mail preferences here. (OVYM events, publications, or proposals) <https://form.jotform.com/241484540532150>
- OVYM Announcements Page where you'll find other helpful links: <https://www.ovym.org/announcements/>

- OVYM calendar:
<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=ohiovalleyym%40gmail.com&ctz=America%2FIndiana%2FIndianapolis>

Social Action Coordinator Report

The Social Action Coordinator workshop this year is on Saturday, June 20th. Rachel Ernst Stahlhut and I will be co-leading *Spirit-Centered Faithfulness in the Storm*, where we'll learn together from Quaker quotations, reflect on our leadings, and get creative.

Looking at last year's report, I observed the following increases:

1. Signal group chat: Went from 17 members (50% of meetings represented) last year to 31 members (75% of meetings represented) this year.
2. Email contacts for SAC: Went from 88% of meetings represented last year to 90% of meetings represented this year.
3. JotForm survey: Went from 18 responses to 22 responses. (We haven't done anything yet with this data.)
4. Worship sharing attendance: Last year we had only had 3 worship sharings and 5 Zoom attendees total. (Avg. of 2) This year we had about 13 worship sharings and 84 Zoom attendees total. (Avg. of 6)
5. SAC visits:
6. Went from 50% of meetings visited last year to (planned) 88% visited this year.

We continue to have social action worship sharing every other Sunday at 5PM. Attendance peaked when things felt particularly dire after the murders of Renee Good and Alex Pretti. So many of us found comfort in the immense sense of solidarity with like-minded Friends.

For more details, visit our social action page: <https://www.ovym.org/our-work/social-action/>.

We haven't done anything yet with our new Courage Collective, QUAKE (Quakers United Around Kinship and Equality), but other events being hosted and/or publicized across OVYM included:

7. Watch Parties for Pramila Jayapal's Resistance Lab and Organizing Training (hosted by Dayton Friends Meeting in both March and May)
8. Braver Angels' Skills for Disagreeing Better in Cincinnati (co-organized by Eastern Hills)
9. Creative Resistance – Artivism, Technology and the Right to dissent (hosted by UD)
10. Great Ohio Climate March (organized by Third Act)

If anyone from Fall Creek, Fort Wayne, Mississinewa Gathering of Friends, or Yellow Springs would like to join our Signal group chat, please send me a text on Signal at 937-315-1609. We are connected with 75% of OVYM meetings but would love to connect with all of them!

I plan to visit North Meadow Circle of Friends in mid-May and Louisville at the end of May. I would like to make plans to visit Mississinewa Gathering of Friends and Lafayette. If you belong to one of those meetings, please reach out to me and suggest a date!

True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice. - Martin Luther King, Jr.

OVYM Committees

Children's Committee report

The Children's Committee met once as a committee and discussed activities for OVYM at the new location of Wittenburg University. We will have worship sharing in the mornings and hiking and book readings and art activities in the afternoon and evening. We will try to have a service project to a pet shelter or nursing home. We will have singing and dancing and discussions around the theme of "Faithfulness in the Storm."

I have contacted Lupe and her mom and her friend Paz to work with the children again this summer. We will have a 4th person as well.

Susan Hyde has graciously volunteered to help participate in the site visit to view the location for the Children's committee. The planning committee has also taken care of us as they have visited. We thank them all for their assistance.

Earthcare Committee Report

The Committee has met twice during the year. We continue to have faith in the regenerative power of nature and the pursue the activity necessary to remain true to regenerative principles in the Society.

We were very excited by the opportunities present at this year's OVYM location in Springfield where a nearby Cedar Bog Nature Preserve is being threatened by proposed data center development providing an excellent case study of observation and investigation of our society's most current concerns.

We were unable to construct a workshop around this concern with the short notice, but remain enthusiastic at the opportunities afforded.

We do plan a Thursday evening Interest Group event centered on the Cedar Bog concerns. We will also be tabling to provide information about Quaker Earthcare Witness' SEEDS Program, an outgrowth of its earlier Mini-Grant program.

We hope to Continue the tradition of a worship sharing group outdoors.

Gatherings Committee

During the past year, Gatherings have provided some wonderful opportunities for OVYM Friends to gather for connection and fellowship. We have honed our process for evaluation of these Gatherings during the year, and provided outreach to encourage meetings to host a Gathering and to attend planned events. Our efforts have been somewhat uneven, but we continue to see that Friends love to get together!

Community Friends Meeting hosted a Gathering August 3, 2025. There were about 20 Friends from other monthly meetings in attendance, with a total attendance of about 50 people of all ages. The day included both indoor and outdoor worship, a sumptuous lunch, and a tie-dyeing activity that was enjoyed by all.

Fall Creek Meeting held a very successful Gathering for Camping September 19-21, 2025 with at least 15 Friends attending. The event included meals, campfires with music and sharing conversation, a guided writing workshop, a painting class led by a local artist, and meeting for worship on Sunday. An activity that many appreciated was having queries to deepen conversations around the campfire. This is a suggestion that we encourage other meetings to try for future gatherings to help Friends get to know one another.

During the winter, there were no Gatherings planned, due to the holidays and the snowy weather. We did some brainstorming to think of different ways to promote Gatherings that were not as complicated to plan. As an example, Community Friends Meeting offered a planned Second Hour presentation by David Fankhauser on the history of Quakers and civil disobedience as an OVYM Gathering on March 29, 2026. The presentation was lively and well-received, but no one from outside the meeting was able to attend.

Oxford Friends Meeting hosted a Gathering on April 19, 2026, which included worship and a lovely guided wildflower walk at Peffer Park near Oxford. The event was attended by 12 people, including three from other meetings. During the planning process, the Gatherings Committee strongly discouraged holding this event on a date that conflicted with Whitewater Quarterly Meeting. However, there were no other dates available to schedule the wildflower walk, so Oxford decided to go forward with their planning, with apologies to Friends in Whitewater Quarter.

There is another Gathering scheduled right after yearly meeting sessions, to be hosted by Gretchen and Phil Stone at the historic Butterworth Farm in Maineville, OH, June 28, 2026. This is an annual event that includes worship, a potluck meal, and a tour of the historic Quaker home, which was part of the Underground Railroad. Other activities offered include swimming, fishing, hiking, and a creek walk with Al McGrew. Please register by emailing Gretchen at gn.stone@yahoo.com.au.

If other meetings would like to host a Gathering, please contact the Gatherings Committee during planning so we can provide support with outreach. Funds are available to help with expenses such as meals, supplies, or child care.



GATHERING FOR CAMPING



September 19-21 at Fall Creek Friends Meeting

Friends are invited to pitch their tents on the grounds of the meetinghouse and enjoy a weekend of fellowship and community! The gathering will begin on Friday at 5PM and continue through lunch after Meeting on Sunday--you are welcome to come for as much or as little of the weekend as you like.

Activities to enjoy:

- Nature Walks
- Campfire & S'mores
- Music (bring instruments if you like)
- Art & Craft Projects
- Local Excursions: Falls Park, Mounds State Park, Camp Chesterfield

Other details:

- We plan to order pizza on Friday night. Other meals we will prepare together in the meetinghouse kitchen. Please let us know about any dietary needs.
- The bathrooms in the meetinghouse will be available (no showers, though).
- If you need to borrow camping gear, or if you have gear to share, please reach out to the Gathering Committee.

Please RSVP to anna.margaret.greene@gmail.com
by September 17.

Butterworth Farm Meeting for Worship, Picnic and all-round-good-time-in-the-country-day

June 28, 2026

Morning tea 10:00-11:00

Meeting for Worship at 11:00

**Butterworth Farm
9299 Sibcy Road
Maineville, Ohio 45039**

Butterworth Farm is the home of Phil and Gretchen Stone, Nancy and Louis Neumann, and generations of Butterworths before them. The Butterworths were part of the Quaker migration of the early 1800s, leaving Virginia to settle in a state where slavery would never be allowed. Their historic home became part of the Underground Railroad.

The actual railroad, visible from the front porch, is now a paved bike path, alongside the Little Miami River. Bring bikes or kayaks if you like. Kayaks can also be rented at Loveland Paddlesports (513-683-4611). We can wander around the family graveyard, and chat about the history of the farm. Al McGrew's geologic creek walks receive rave reviews. You can fish in the pond, or swim in the spring-fed (chilly!) pool. Musical instruments are welcome.

Please bring food to share after Meeting. Dishes and drinks will be provided. We could host some out-of-state guests who might not want to drive both ways in one day. If you have accessibility issues, let us know.

Please RSVP to Gretchen by phone or email before June 26.

513-224-8467, or gn.stone@yahoo.com.au

Y'all come! Please.



Personnel Committee Report

Our past year has been getting our i's dotted and t's crossed with the guidance of the Handbook. OVYM presently has two contract employees, Sandy Felt as Social Action Coordinator and Susan Lee Barton as Administrative Assistant. All involved (Executive Committee, supervisor and contract employee) agreed to extend Sandy's 1-year contract until June of 2027 at which time the position of Social Action Coordinator will be up for review and extend Susan Lee's contract for 3 years until June 2029. Annual evaluations will continue. Thank you to Susan Lee and Sandy for their work!

Yearly Meeting Planning Committee

The Planning Committee has worked steadily and joyfully since August to provide the spaces and program elements that make our annual sessions a spiritually enriching and uplifting experience. In the process, our faithfulness has been tested as we weathered many storms, including the withdrawal of our first site choice, a broad search for a suitable new location and acceptable dates, health challenges impacting committee members and other volunteers, and a significant reduction in workshop proposals.

With Divine guidance and dedicated volunteer work, including regular attendance at our meetings of the assistant clerk and registrar, and help from the presiding clerk and past committee members, we have organized an OVYM annual sessions gathering that we hope will nurture your spirit and our community.

We are eager to welcome new members to our committee, and we continue to search for a Friend who can serve as a new registrar (the position typically requires work from January through June).

Religious Nurture and Education Committee

This report will focus on the activities of Religious Nurture and Education Committee during 2025-2026. Please see the State of Society Report for a deeper dive into the spiritual condition of the constituent monthly meetings of our Yearly Meeting. Two of the primary activities of Religious Nurture and Education Committee during 2025-2026 were an intensive workshop facilitated by staff of Into Account (a non-profit organization offers consultation on prevention of and response to sexual violence in faith communities) and the annual Spring Retreat, which was focused on pastoral care within our meetings. We also continued to labor with preventing sexual misconduct at our Yearly Meeting events and addressing them when they arise. Furthermore, we continued to provide training sessions for those who would be working with children and youth at Yearly Meeting events and to offer a quarterly Zoom-based consultation for Clerks of our constituent monthly meetings and our two quarterly meetings.

The theme of the Into Account workshop was "Building a Caring Community: Recognizing, Preventing, and Responding to Sexual Violence in Our Friends Communities." The workshop was held at Waycross Camp and Convention Center in Morgantown, IN from early evening, Eleventh Month 14, 2025 to late afternoon, Eleventh Month 15, 2025. Into Account trainers Stephenie Krehbiel and Hilary Scarsella facilitated the workshop and introduced 20-some Friends from several constituent Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting monthly meetings (and one from Illinois Yearly Meeting) to a survivor-centered approach to preventing and addressing sexual misconduct in faith communities. Participants found the workshop illuminating and appreciated the extent to which the facilitators had prepared by familiarizing themselves with the faith and practice of the Religious Society of Friends. Many participants in the workshop are working to share what they learned and experienced with their monthly meetings.

The Spring Retreat was held at the Quaker Hill Conference Center on Third Month 27-28, 2026. Twenty-one Friends attended in person, and facilitator Ellen Hodge joined us via Zoom. The theme was “Caring for Each Other: Pastoral Care among Unprogrammed Friends.” Evaluations of the retreat were generally very positive, and it is clear that Friends found the experience to be a spiritually enriching gathering. Ellen will also offer a workshop on this topic at 2026 Annual Sessions. As was the case for other events at Quaker Hill, the venue proved to be well-suited for our Spring Retreat. The use of Yearly Meeting funds to cover part of the cost of the event helped to make attendance affordable for many retreatants, and the evening session and overnight stay enhanced the program and the fellowship. Although children’s and youth programming were offered at the Spring Retreat this year, no Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends pursued this offer.

One of the questions that Religious Nurture and Education has begun to consider is whether in addition to our annual Spring “Retreat,” which is actually an intensive content-rich workshop (albeit with a certain amount of unprogrammed worship and time for journaling or other reflection), we might find a way to facilitate events that would have more the flavor of silent or primarily silent retreats for individuals or small groups of Friends. Religious Nurture and Education Committee Friends would welcome the guidance and feedback regarding this possibility.

Beyond offering the workshop at Waycross in Eleventh Month, the Committee devoted much of its time and attention to the ongoing work of developing policies and procedures for preventing sexual misconduct at Yearly Meeting events and for addressing reports of sexual misconduct when they arise. We are now definitely committed to having in place a Response Team who are ready to respond to reports of sexual misconduct at Yearly Meeting events, as well as a Support Team for the Response Team.

The Committee facilitates Safety Training for Friends helping with Children’s and Youth Programs at Annual Sessions. This year we will continue the practice of holding these sessions prior to the Annual Sessions, in order to free up their time on the day of arrival at Annual Sessions, when the workers need to focus on setting up for the Children’s Program.

Religious Nurture and Education Committee continues to facilitate a quarterly Zoom-based consultation for the clerks of our constituent monthly meetings and our two quarterly meetings.

Youth Services Committee

The Youth Services Committee continues to work on the program for OVYM's youth. Our committee is small---there are only three of us. We would benefit from having more members. Meanwhile we are glad to have Diann and Barry meeting with us and helping.

We are doing outreach to OVYM's monthly meetings. We want to communicate with youth, but also learn what Friends would like to have in a youth program.

Meanwhile we are taking advantage of the fact that this year's Annual Sessions will be in Springfield. We are arranging events that are specific to that city, like visiting Gammon House and working with St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Request from the Youth Services Committee

We have adopted a *mantra* which we would like all Friends to consider. This came about because some newcomers have decided not to return due to insensitive remarks.

Let your thoughts pass through the Spirit before they pass through your lips.

Friends Organizations

Braddock Fund

Prepared for Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting June 2026

Financial Considerations		
Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Donations:		\$1050
Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Donations (as of April 22, 2026):		\$305
Braddock Fund Balance (as of April 22, 2026):		\$80,900
PROJECT	STATUS	AMOUNT
Fruits of our Labor Art Exhibition	Approved	\$3000
PEP Resources: Individual Dictionary and Thesaurus for each student	Withdrawn	\$2075
Individual Scholarship for graduate studies	In review	Up to \$10,000
Community reacclimation programming through Friends of the Juvenile Court	Approved	\$3000

American Friends Service Committee

Both of OVYM's appointees to the AFSC Corporation participated in the annual meeting in Philadelphia. In addition to her role as a corporation member, Jana Scroeder concluded her time as clerk of the Standing Nominating Committee at this year's meeting. Cindi Goslee co-clerks the Friends Relations Committee which plans and hosts the annual meeting among other duties.

Spirit-Led Activism for Our Suffering World was the theme of this year's meeting. The meeting opened on Thursday evening with a session called Seeking Clarity: An AFSC Community Gathering for Discernment in Perilous Times. Friends broke into small groups to respond to queries to help us discern how the Spirit is moving us to act in this moment. Reports were shared and there will be further reflection on the notes gathered to see what may be emerging among Friends that can help AFSC to be spiritually grounded, strategically disciplined and prophetically bold. Many of the groups spoke of the importance of small and large acts of love and service that witness to the belief that there is that of God in everyone.

The following evening's plenary speaker was Anton Flores-Maisonet, founding director of Casa Alterna, a ministry under the care of Atlanta Friends Meeting, and author of *Welcome, Friends: Stories of Radical Hope and Hospitality with Immigrants*. Since 2020, Casa Alterna has welcomed and offered short- and long-term housing to hundreds of immigrants from fifty countries. While building intentional community and offering support and accompaniment to those waiting outside the gates of ICE, Anton's stories spoke of the importance of

acknowledgment, the ministry he has received from those he set out to serve and how many have become neighbors, friends and family along the journey.

On Friday and Saturday opportunities to learn about the work of AFSC were interspersed between business sessions. Workshop topics focused on the North Carolina Economic Justice Programs work supporting housing justice, the campaign to end Israeli apartheid, the U.S.-Mexico border program and AFSC's emerging work on climate justice. A panel presentation offered updates on AFSC's humanitarian work in Gaza and the ongoing research provided by the AFSC Action Center for Corporate Responsibility which helps people make informed decisions about using investment and divestment as tools for bringing about change in Israel and Palestine.

The business of the Corporation included consideration and approval of nominations to the Corporation the Board and committees; hearing reports from the General Secretary and treasurer and considering a proposal brought regarding Board composition. An ad hoc committee which has been examining AFSC Board composition for the past couple of years proposed reducing the number of ex officio Board appointees from eight (one from each of AFSC's U.S. and international regions) to four to make it easier to insure meeting the 80% Quaker Board membership stipulated in the bylaws. Corporation members observed a facilitated fishbowl discussion among a few Board members with different perspectives and experiences who reflected on the complex history and current reality in the organization regarding decision-making about programs, the desire for involvement of people close to program work and from affected communities and concerns about ex officio Board members possibly acting as representatives of their regions' interests rather than as members of a worshipping body seeking unity. Some also noted that an evaluation of the restructuring that took place in 2022 will take place in the coming months. Increasing the number of ex officio Board members from five (one from each U.S. region and one from the International Programs Executive Committee) to eight happened as part of this restructuring. The Corporation observed a lack of unity around the Board composition proposal at this time. The Board Composition Working Group was laid down with thanks for their labors and with the expectation that Board composition will be considered within the context of the restructuring evaluation, possibly resulting in recommendations coming back to the Corporation in the future.

In January AFSC initiated Love as Action, inviting Friends and people of all faiths to gather in public, Quaker-led silent worship that witnesses to the rising authoritarianism and oppression in the U.S. Although initially conceived as an action that would take place during two weekends in January and February, Friends have been led in growing numbers to continue this public witness on an ongoing basis.

We are fortunate to have Joyce Ajlouny, AFSC's General Secretary, and Lewis Webb, U.S. Peacebuilding Director, with us during this year's OVYM annual sessions. Please take advantage of their presence to learn more about AFSC's work and share that information with your monthly meetings. AFSC's work directly addresses many of the issues that are of great concern to Friends. We encourage you to learn more about resources and ways to get involved by visiting <https://afsc.org/friends-engage>.

Friends Committee on National Legislation Report

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) had a virtual annual meeting this year. (I was disappointed about that although I understand because it's so expensive.) I'm happy they have continued to press Congress to pass the War Powers Act.

I joined with Dinah Duvall in Indianapolis and Margaret Lechner and Miriam Bunner from Richmond to visit Todd Young's office as FCNL representatives. The staffer who was new had never heard of FCNL. I found that telling. We were there to push for the War Powers Act.

There are so many issues this year!

Submitted by Anne Reynolds

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns

Greetings, Friends. FLGBTQC has been around for several decades. They have been an important and active group. In recent years, they have experienced decreased participation, and less clarity regarding direction. Over the last few years, they have experimented with different forms of reorganization. In February 2026, I attended an online Threshing Session concerning the future of this organization. I left this session feeling hopeful about the changes they're pursuing, and the energy of the participants. They had another Threshing Session in early May, where they proposed a reorganization plan with 3 phases over the next 5 years. To me, these phases seemed both practical and inspiring.

FLGBTQC welcomes new members. They offer a monthly worship sharing online, an email listserv, and an in-person gathering as part of the FGC Gathering in the summer. They are meeting during the FGC Gathering this July. I would encourage any of you who will be attending, to check out their worship sharing and any other offerings that they have.

If you would like additional information about FLGBTQC or would like to connect with them or be on their email list, please go to their website: www.flgbtqc.org

Beth Rosen

Friends Music Camp

We report that camp is taking place this summer at Goshen College from July 5-19, after five years when camp did not run. We thank all friends who have supported camp even during the closure; because of your generosity, we have been able to give scholarships to many campers for this summer's session. We will be so happy to answer any questions about the session for this summer after it takes place.

Friends Peace Teams

Friends Peace Teams supports long-term peace and justice ministries in five regions around the world and invites participation in its many activities.

North American Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples (<https://friendspeaceteams.org/trr>) workshops and webinars invite us to build relationships among Native and non-Native communities based on truth, respect, justice and our shared humanity. Might you invite them your meeting?

Europe and Middle East teams work in areas impacted by war: Kurdistan/Iraq, Palestine, Ukraine and Georgia.

Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) originated in the African Great Lakes Region and serves individual and societies who have survived deadly conflict. Facilitator training will take place in Burundi July 6-24, 2026. Participants from all nations are invited.

Peacebuilding en las Americas partners with Sisters of Mercy to promote AVP workshops in Central and South America.

Asia West Pacific programs have spread to other regions. **Power of Goodness** teams present 1.5-hour AVP mini-workshops organized around a theme and a story. FPT Children's Peace Library is working to identify books that reflect specific cultures and ecologies and are appropriate for children globally. Can you help with the effort? Meetings are on Zoom, 7:30 – 9:00pm (Eastern) alternate Tuesdays (the day before 1st and 3rd Wednesdays).

Friends World Committee for Consultation

[Our two newest representatives to FWCC's Section of the Americas are reporting.]

From Marti Matthews:

I write as a new representative of OVYM to Friends World Committee for Consultation. I attended two FWCC online activities since our last YM. Both were similar experiences for me – delightfully full of surprises and very moving to feel so close to Friends so far away from me geographically.

First, I attended World Quaker Day via Zoom in October. There seemed to be about 95 Friends from all around the world. As now in most FWCC gatherings, *everything* was both in Spanish and English, as there is such a large number of Quakers now in Central and South America. Everything was translated so one missed nothing. "Time" was added to all interactions, i.e. using two languages requires more time, but this is not a new test for us as Friends! We are used to giving whatever time is needed to do anything in Gospel Order.

Likewise, everything is planned and practiced in a combination of worship traditions found among Friends. Silence surrounds all, is a rule. But referring freely to Jesus as our teacher and model was common as well as the use of Bible references. We had 10 or 15 minutes of Silent Worship, though it turned out that much time was taken by one lengthy sharing. A wonderful homily was given by a Guatemalan woman who was both a pastor and a medical doctor. I found her thoughts poignantly helpful. A trio of young musicians from Peru sang an inspiring hymn for us.

In general, I was touched by the Evangelical Hispanic relationship to Jesus as model for us (as opposed to "Savior"). I saw Friends from Australia, Japan, Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Switzerland, Belgium/ Luxembourg YM, Sweden, Russia, Ukraine, Kenya and much of South and Central America. It felt beautiful and heartening to be worshipping with other Friends around the world. This experience is held online every October and is open to all Friends anywhere!

In March I attended online the Meeting of the Section of the Americas. Over 150 Friends gathered. We had the opportunity to be in small groups, with the usual rules of sharing that we all know. A beautiful song was sung by Walter Shore, "Friends Will Be Friends Forever," done in both singing and signing ASL. Then Sandra Elizabeth Espinoza of El Salvador sang "Buscando La Verdad," (Searching for Truth) which she had written herself. We had received various items of business in advance and there was Meeting for Business. I did not have time that day to hear the Plenary Speaker nor all of the business, but I participated in enough to feel greatly enthused about our closeness to Friends so close here, our neighbors in the Americas, and I felt enriched by the sharing of traditions and wording for our common identity. The closing prayer ended "In Jesus' name, Amen," and I felt united with these Friends through the loving presence of Jesus as our model and teacher.

From Nicholas Hall:

Overview of QuakerConnect

QuakerConnect is a two-year program offered by the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas. The initiative is designed to help Quaker meetings and churches become more vibrant and connected to their local communities through a "Convergent Model for Renewal". By engaging in safe-to-fail, short-term experiments, reflection, and discernment, congregations are encouraged to deepen their spiritual traditions, attract newcomers, and build stronger internal and external connections.

Bloomington Friends Meeting's (BFM) Participation

BFM applied to join the 2026-2027 cohort to address several ongoing challenges. After the pandemic, the meeting found itself smaller, older, and lacking families raising children. Though recent efforts—such as forming an Advancement Committee and starting small study groups—brought new energy, BFM sought QuakerConnect's guidance to improve community outreach, increase visibility, and better reflect the diversity of the surrounding area.

Upon being formally invited to participate in October 2025, BFM began engaging in the program's structured experiments. Early activities included a "mapping" exercise to define the meeting's concrete ties to the local community. BFM also organized a "Timeline Experiment," which featured a pitch-in dinner and a hybrid panel discussion to build a collective memory of the meeting's history across different generations.

My Role as an Apprentice

I played a role in bringing QuakerConnect to BFM, initially inquiring about the program with the FWCC and collaborating with the Advancement Committee to shepherd the application process.

I was selected as one of three apprentices representing BFM, alongside Peter Burkholder and Naomi Satterfield. Responsibilities and participation include:

- Attending the online kickoff in January 2026 and participating in an in-person cohort retreat at the Quaker Hill Conference Center in Richmond, Indiana, in March 2026.
- Scheduling and hosting weekly planning meetings with my fellow BFM apprentices.
- Coordinating logistics and managing digital RSVPs for BFM's community events, such as the Timeline Experiment pitch-in dinner.
- Collaborating on program deliverables, including drafting the BFM community map and presenting materials like the "QuakerConnect and BFM" Google Slides presentation.

In Friendship, Nicholas Hall, Bloomington Friends Meeting

Report for Quaker Earthcare Witness

2025-26 continued on a path of energetic growth and evolving vision for Quaker Earthcare Witness. The growth has been seeded in part by a sizable grant from the Shoemaker Foundation, other generous donors, and collaboration with other Quaker organizations that allowed QEW to expand its staff, and to offer a rich series of monthly programming and worship opportunities, often accessible via Zoom. To keep up on what's happening and available through QEW please check our web site, <https://quakerearthcare.org> which provides easy to find links to QEW events, publications, Mini-Grants, and the Quaker Earth Action Map, discussed below. Another area of growth and change has been an enlivening of our state level environmental policy advocacy work parallel to our continuing work with **FCNL**. This has led to a re-branding of our FCNL Working Group as a broader Environmental Policy and Legislation Working Group.

Thus, if you have state or local environmental policy issues that are important to Earthcare in our region, please consider bringing them to the attention of QEW for potential collaboration and support.

The Quaker Earth Action Map. Another growth area has been the addition of a QVS staff member focused on building the Quaker Earth Action Map, which your meeting can access at <https://quakerearthcare.org/map/>. I would like to ask ***every active meeting in OVYM*** to make a point of adding yourselves to this map, which you can do through the organizational input form at <https://quakerearthcare.org/mapform/>. At present only three of our OVYM meetings have added their Earthcare actions and commitments to this map. This is not just an opportunity to “humble-brag” about what your meeting is doing to care for the Earth; it is part of an effort to build a worldwide network of Friends communicating, learning from each other and partnering to grow our collective Earthcare witness.

Quaker Earthcare Africa. Another growth area has been a focus on increasing our international reach with the establishment of a new QEW-Africa Working Group which aims ultimately to build a companion organization centered among the largest concentration of Friends in the world.

Mini-Grants and the QEW SEEDS Program. As your Steering Committee Representative, in my capacity as Co-convenor of the QEW Mini-Grants program, I have been working alongside these other areas to grow QEW’s evolving vision through the Mini-Grants program. I have been especially active in shaping a new Grants program to be called ***SEEDS***, which has received initial funding from an anonymous donor. The core concept of the ***SEEDS*** program is to encourage Friends everywhere to think systematically under the leading of Spirit to frame an Earthcare vision for each Friends meeting or organization, and to offer grants to facilitate their vision. A particularly novel and exciting aspect of the ***SEEDS*** program will be an effort to provide grant funding to seed ongoing, mutualistic relationships grounded in Spirit between Friends Meetings and organizations (primarily but not exclusively in the Global South) that need sustained financial, spiritual and/or other support to implement impactful Earthcare visions in cooperation with other Friends communities who are led to provide that support. I expect this program to be announced prior to our OVYM annual sessions, and I hope to encourage OVYM and its constituent meetings to step into such relationship-building as a vital element of our own Earth justice vision.

Finally, on a personal note, at QEW’s recently completed Spring Gathering, I was called to step into the role of Rising Clerk of QEW. I expect to continue as co-convenor of the Mini-Grants program for the next year concurrently with my tenure as rising Clerk in order to see through the roll-out of the ***SEEDS*** program, but to lay down that role when I step into my anticipated two-year term as Presiding Clerk of QEW with the Fall 2027 Gathering. Friends, please hold me in the Light as I step into this exciting but also daunting service at such a pivotal time in sharing and enlivening Friends’ Earthcare witness to our ailing world.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting State of Society

This year Religious Nurture and Education Committee received State of the Meeting reports from fifteen of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's sixteen constituent monthly meetings. These reports reveal a process of deep reflection on the spiritual condition of our local meetings, and the Committee thanks Friends for their faithfulness in taking the time to discern carefully what they are led to share about the lives of their meetings. We likewise encourage Friends to read and reflect on the reports from their sister meetings, since these reports include details about experiences of individual meetings that we will not include here.

Many of the recurring themes in this year's State of the Meeting reports echo themes from the previous year: the centrality of meeting for worship in the spiritual life of our monthly meetings; the importance of the meeting community and how in many meetings the spiritual depth of the community is enhanced by opportunities for worship, discussion, and fellowship beyond First-Day morning; our efforts to nurture children in our meetings and the sense of sadness when no children regularly attend a given meeting; the continued blessing that the introduction of Zoom-based participation has brought to those who otherwise might not be able to attend; the long-standing concern for earth care throughout our Yearly Meeting; grieving of beloved Friends who departed this life over the course of the year; the delight that the presence of new members and attenders brings.

It is striking that many of this year's State of the Meeting reports lay great emphasis on joy. Friends experience joy particularly in gathering together. In many reports, this sense of joy contrasts sharply with the profound concerns Friends express about the cruelty, violence, and greed that dominate national and international headlines.

Meetings that are a bit larger generally report the importance of smaller groups, where Friends can come to know one another more closely. For example, several meetings have opportunities such as Friendly Eights, book discussion groups, adult religious education groups, retreats, campouts, among others.

Many of our members actively participate not only in their respective Quarterly Meetings and the Yearly Meeting, but also in organizations or bodies in the wider Quaker world. Two of our monthly meetings are now involved in Quaker Connect, a project of Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas. Quaker Connect is bringing together representatives of local meetings, known as "apprentices," with an eye toward Friends across branches of Friends gaining from the experiences of one another's meetings.

In light of current actions and policies of the United States government and the governments of the three States in which our meetings are located, it cannot be a surprise that both meetings and individual Friends have been led to a heightened level of peace and social concern activism. Advocacy of peace, earth care, social justice, and equality is often coupled with concrete community-based service projects to support those facing material needs or threats from government agencies such as ICE.

Among the most pressing needs for many of our meetings is maintaining programs for children and attending to the needs of aging Friends. Several meetings are also bringing attention to the care of survivors of sexual violence. Some meetings are becoming more interested in how to share our faith with the wider communities in which we live without proselytizing.

Some meetings are experimenting with new practices or institutional changes. For example, some meetings report including an occasional Faith and Play story in the context of an all-ages meeting for worship. One

relatively small meeting has adopted a bimonthly schedule of meetings for business and replaced traditional committees with discernment directly by the meeting as a whole.

To circle back to the centrality of the meeting for worship, it would appear that our local meetings generally experience a good balance of vocal ministry and silence. One larger meeting reported that they sometimes experience popcorn meetings, but they also occasionally experience gathered meetings. As one State of the Meeting report put it, while their meeting clearly has substantial theological diversity, Friends find common ground in worship.

Miami Quarterly Meeting Report

Miami Quarterly Meeting has met three times for fellowship and business this year. We enjoy gathering together, which strengthens our bonds and allows Meetings to learn from one another. We agreed to host a Joint Quarter in the fall, Tenth Month 24-5, 2026 in the Dayton area. We have reserved the Schweitz Boy Scout Leadership Center at Cricket Holler, which has cabins with inside bathrooms. It is more accessible than Happy Hollow, but would also like to ask local Friends if they might provide hospitality so that we can welcome more Friends. The center where we would meet for meals and activities is entirely accessible.

In Tenth Month 2025, we gathered at Dayton Meeting, including a large number of youth and children. Friends from Community Meeting led a fruitful discussion of non-violence in everyday life. We intended to gather in Louisville in First Month 2026, but moved online due to a record snowfall throughout the area. We postponed our business, but enjoy a program led by Lexington Friends on how we respond to the plight of refugees and immigrants, an issue which has been on our hearts this year. In Fourth Month, we met at Community Friends to share the challenges and joy is reflected on our State of the Society reports. Attendance was somewhat low. Our business included endorsement of a minute from Pendle Hill on immigration, with an introduction touching on other current concerns.

Other important business this year included reviving the committee which oversees the Green Plain Meetinghouse, a historic Meetinghouse in Selma, Ohio. The meeting was laid down about 15 years ago, but we remain responsible for the upkeep of the building and cemetery. We also had interest from the Charleston Meeting in West Virginia about affiliating with OVYM, and our clerk visited the meeting. It was a good meeting, but we have not had further communication from them since the fall visit.

Our accounts are in good order. Officers for the coming year include Nikki Coffey Tousley, clerk, Wilson Palmer, treasurer, both continuing. Susan Loucks, a new attender at Community, agreed to serve as Recording Clerk. She brings a depth of experience from her former meeting, including time as Recording Clerk.

Campus Friends Meeting

We'll begin with responses to three queries related to Wilmington Yearly Meeting's theme, "Called in joy for these times."

1. How does your Meeting experience joy?

While joy can be felt or experienced as an individual during solitude, a discussion led by a member of Campus Friends Meeting at WYM's Fall 2025 gathering brought out clearly just how key caring and harmonious relationships are for experiencing joy. Our meeting members feel joy when they are in deep harmony with one another, and many of them experience joy in the natural world, such as in spotting

colorful birds and butterflies. Campus Friends also experience joy when engaging in activities with the two junior members (ages 7 and 4) of our meeting. It fit the theme during the Fall gathering when one of our members sang the joyful, "How Can I Keep from Singing?"

2. How does your Meeting create joy in these times?

We consciously create *opportunities* for joy—it's hard to manufacture joy—by continuing to hold a monthly fellowship meal at a member's home; by having a scavenger hunt and performing animal charades at our Fall 2025 retreat at Quaker Knoll Campground; having a Second Hour in December where a member, assisted by the two junior members, presented the Christmas story using nativity figures she's obtained on her travels; and by inviting the sharing of joys near the rise of worship each week. This is a chance to rejoice with those who rejoice. In these times, it does seem wise to be aware of the storms, but also to guard against becoming overwhelmed or overwrought by the storms.

3. How does your Meeting work toward unity?

In our discussion sessions before meeting held late last year, we read two Pendle Hill pamphlets on vocal ministry: Barry Crossno and Brent Bill's *On Vocal Ministry: Nurturing the Community through Listening and Faithfulness* and Douglas Steere's *On Speaking Out of the Silence: Vocal Ministry in the Unprogrammed Meeting for Worship*. Although the pamphlets on vocal ministry weren't chosen in order to lead us to greater unity, their guiding principle which asks us to direct our spoken ministry to the meeting as an assembled body can serve to unite meeting participants. A Spirit-led vocal ministry will encourage participants to speak words that minister to the needs within our meeting and beyond, encouraging deeper connection.

Moving on from the queries, there are a few specific actions and activities from the past year we would also like to highlight:

11. Campus Friends Meeting joined with other meetings listed on the AFSC website as an endorser of a Quaker-generated statement discerning genocide in Gaza. We also wrote our own minute and posted it on a new page we've added to our website (campusfriendsmeeting.org) for minutes of conscience that we have approved over the last several years.
12. Campus Friends provided financial support to Monteverde Friends Meeting in Costa Rica to feed seven families deported there by the U.S. government. We also donated to the digital initiative "Thee Quaker Project," which several of our members have found valuable.
13. Our children's First Day School has developed into a central part of our meeting's life, and facilitated a sense of inter-generational community. At the other end of the age spectrum, Campus Friends provided midweek worship at the Cape May senior living community.

Campus Friends Meeting is small, but active and engaged. Our time together in worship runs deep in the silence, and our business meetings are lively and productive. Visitors are always welcome!

Community Friends Meeting

Community Meeting is a vibrant and welcoming home for our members and attenders, where visitors come seeking a community with shared values, and where our many different backgrounds and experiences enrich our spiritual life. We put our faith into action in many ways as we seek to bring the Quaker message into the world. As always, meeting for worship continues to be the spiritual center of the meeting. We are grateful for the deep Oneness that gives us strength, encouragement, and connection in these difficult times.

There has been a groundswell of action in response to social justice concerns in the world. A book discussion group read “Life After Doom” by Brian McLaren, and led a second hour discussion about this book, which addresses feelings of despair in a world in crisis, offering a roadmap for finding hope, resilience, and meaning. Peace and Social Concerns Committee keeps us updated about issues, vigils, rallies, and the work of local immigrant groups. A training was held on what to do if ICE comes to our Meeting House. Our local FCNL Lobby group continues its work to share the Quaker message with elected representatives. Unity with Nature Committee invited a speaker on stopping fracking in State Parks, and work continued on re-wilding our woods and meadow removing invasive honeysuckle and planting native trees and shrubs. We are maintaining our connection with Homegrown National Parks. Our Tender Mercies ministry continues to provide monthly home-cooked meals to formerly homeless individuals, many with mental illness, who greatly appreciate the delicious meals.

Our Fall Renewal this year was again held at Quaker Knoll Camp, with 27 Friends attending. Former members Kate Anthony and Jamie Fota facilitated the event with the theme “Nurturing Community in Chaotic Times.” We worshiped together, lifted up the many ways that we nurture community with one another, and enjoyed hiking, cooperative games, and singing as Jamie played the guitar!

After several years of planning and discernment in Meeting for Business, and with the support of generous donations from meeting members, we have completed some major improvements to make our meetinghouse more welcoming. The Meeting Room has been repaired and painted, the beautiful hardwood floor has been refinished, and the old plastic chairs have been replaced with sturdy comfortable chairs. The driveway has also been resurfaced.

Two Friends from our meeting attended the workshop sponsored by OVYM last February on using the Faith and Play approach to storytelling with children. We have incorporated some of the Faith and Play stories into our First Day School lessons, and we are now offering intergenerational worship on the first Sunday of each month. On these Sundays, we have a cozy area set up for children, with a quilt and cushions on the floor, and quiet materials to keep small hands busy as they listen and participate in meeting for worship. It’s been a joy to have the presence of children in our spiritual community.

Outreach activities included participating in the annual Festival of Faiths in Cincinnati, with multiple religions represented. Five Friends marched in the Northside Fourth of July parade again this year, with our Quaker banner and accompanied by a miniature horse! We are active on social media, and we now have an Instagram account (follow us at [cincinnatiquakers!](#)) In August, we hosted an OVYM Gathering, with approximately 20 visiting Friends. We enjoyed spirit-filled worship, with both indoor and outdoor options, and a delicious lunch. In the afternoon, we had a creative tie-dying activity for all ages, with lots of wonderful conversations. We greatly value our connections with Friends in the wider Quaker community.

An ongoing effort has been made to develop procedures for responding to possible sexual misconduct in the meeting. Ministry and Counsel Committee spent four hours going through the Common Testimony process. After this process, we led a second hour discussion with the meeting to respond to the queries and get input on our work. Two Friends attended the OVYM sponsored workshop on Responding to Sexual Violence, and we are using what we learned to ensure that our procedures are based on restorative justice and survivor-centered care.

This has been a heart-rending year for all of us, marred by national cruelty, selfishness, and greed. We as Quakers hold fiercely to the message of love and compassion, and though often exhausted and heartsick, we

are determined to seek the Light and to answer that of God in all creation. We have travelled each step through this miry place as a spiritual community, sometimes shaken, but finding strength in the love that connects us all.

Dayton Friends Meeting

Dayton Friends has experienced a year of joys, sorrows, stresses, growth and most of all, togetherness. We have shared in the growth and joys our youth and new attenders even as we grieve the loss of some who have drifted away from us, either physically and/or spiritually. We have celebrated the introduction of new babies, adopted or on the way, even as we feel the loss, and celebrate the lives of four who were dear to us – Bruce French, a long time attender whose membership was at Yardley Meeting in Philadelphia YM; Marie Geisel, an attender who found her way to Friends late in life but soon gravitated to our spiritual center; David Lewis, husband of member Linda Lewis; and Don Kennedy, an attender.

We were delighted to host Quarterly Meeting in October and were particularly encouraged that the youth program was well attended. We continue to celebrate a lively group of youth and children who express their energy and creativity in a variety of ways such as our Christmas play. Additionally, we had a large group of youth at Yearly Meeting and a summer camp-out.

Like many Friends across the nation, we have at times struggled with the cruelties and vicissitudes of a political environment that on occasion seems almost hopelessly polarized and even violent, but we also remind ourselves that winter does not merely precede the Spring, it prepares it. We sometimes struggle, individually and collectively, with how to cover the fears and anxieties of these days with the revitalizing power of Spirit, as opposed to allowing them to interrupt our communion with Spirit, especially in our Meetings for Worship. Despite these challenges, we continue to nurture hope through faithful witness, both in Spirit and in Action, recognizing that the outward and the inward work of Spiritual connection rightly operate in unity, not in opposition to one another. Some among us have found a Thursday morning gathering focused on our social witness to peace and justice in the world to be especially helpful in finding that unity of Spirit and action.

We carry a special concern for those in our community who have been particularly affected by the cruelties of current governmental policies toward immigrants and gender non-conforming people who are part of our circle of love. We have been moved to render what assistance we can through building relationships with organizations serving our immigrant communities, as well as to immigrants within the Meeting. We continue to offer both food and other material support both to people beyond our Meeting community, and through a newly-created Special Needs Fund to some within our circle of love. We created a new Pastoral Care Committee this year to take on some of the work of direct care previously done by Ministry and Counsel. This shift and other rotation of leadership positions have been healthy both for the leaders and the meeting as a whole.

We also continue to grow in our consciousness of our interwoven connections and responsibilities to this living Earth. We express that awareness through our native plant and food gardens and our efforts to work toward a goal of carbon neutrality by saving to eventually draw all of our Meetinghouse's energy needs from the sun through the installation of solar panels.

In sum, Dayton Friends continues to seek way forward together under the leading of Spirit, and through the ministry of love, both to those within our community and to those beyond it.

Eastern Hills Friends Meeting

Eastern Hills Friends Meeting continues to provide consistent worship on First Day amid a rapidly changing world that often challenges beliefs. Our doors and zoom internet interface remain open to members, attenders, and visitors, offering an opportunity for spiritual refreshment and inspiration. We hope our community worship provides comfort, peace, and joy; although, some report that recently their experience has not shined as brightly due to external societal concerns.

Our community values the ministry provided through music, as reflected through our practice of beginning meeting for worship with hymn singing before settling into silence. We have found that messages shared through song can provide a leading to vocal ministry. Members also express an appreciation for the silence of waiting worship. When vocal ministry occurs, messages have been described as “deeply spiritual,” providing valuable thoughts for reflection. Our second hour discussions, particularly when addressing “difficult issues,” have led to some of our finest moments for growth as a community. We have unpacked issues related to the loneliness epidemic, boundaries around appropriate touch and what it means to embody reciprocity and interconnectedness as a community. These opportunities invited each person to contribute openly without judgment, know each other more deeply, re-examine our individual beliefs, and come to unity on complex issues.

Upon examining our areas of ministry, we expressed concern that our meeting’s outreach ministry is limited to providing a monthly meal with social interaction at Jimmy Heath House and postcard writing to our legislators on current topics of concern. However, in our individual ministries, we have a very active membership involved in numerous Friends and community organizations. Many report their time has been stretched thin and taking on additional activities is not realistic. As a meeting, we support our members’ interests and activities consistent with Friends testimonies through our meeting’s annual donations to non-profit organizations.

When looking out the window in the during for worship, we see the plantings we added several years ago. They have all taken root and grown under our care and stewardship, serving as a metaphor for the support we hope to provide in each member’s spiritual journey. We feel our meeting remains sensitive to the joys, concerns, and life challenges of one another. We strive to provide spiritual and emotional support to each other through open listening, visits, and correspondence. One member shared they feel free to go to any member for support.

This year we initiated a monthly mid-week meeting for worship at a Friend’s home that provides outreach and spiritual support to members and attenders unable to regularly attend First Day meeting for worship due to physical health or demands of care giving. We continue to include a Zoom option for our First Day meeting for worship, second hours and meetings for business. Although many of us report that our worship is enhanced through our physical presence within the meeting room, we have found that one-third to one-half of those in attendance participate through Zoom.

Our numbers are gradually shrinking. Most are in retirement with many dealing with health concerns that limit physical strength and vigor. As a result, we have a smaller group of members able to provide for the maintenance of the meetinghouse and grounds. We also have fewer people to serve on committees and in leadership positions of the monthly meeting. One member reflected the sentiment that our communal light of calling as a “people” feels dimmed, offering the Bible verse, “I will be your God and you will be my *people*.” We continue to discern individually and together what this new season means for our meeting. We

continue to make an intentional effort to follow-up with newcomers and those who have been absent or unable to attend to offer support.

Outside of our meeting, we have concerns about the unrest in current world events. We struggle with determining actions to take that will be meaningful. Keeping the challenges of our times in our collective light has fostered an opportunity for members to journey forward being true to our Quaker beliefs and values.

In summary, Eastern Hills Friends continues to be a meeting attentive to the needs of each other and our broader community, while illuminating the shadows within and around us. One member summarized the spiritual state of the meeting as described by Father Richard Rohr. We are in a time of “creative disturbance, Holy disorder and reordering.” This year has been an example of our love and compassion as the path to faithfulness.

Lexington Friends Meeting

Lexington Friends feel that the spiritual condition of the Meeting is promising and nurturing, with increasing numbers of people attending Meeting for Worship, new visitors coming almost weekly, and many new attenders expressing how welcome they feel. Friends often express their concern about the condition of American society and our democracy, and find our Meeting a supportive home. Our worship and community seem to fill a need of many in today’s challenging times. Quaker beliefs, testimonies, and practices provide encouragement in this disturbing and even frightening climate.

Over recent years, Lexington Friends Meeting has enjoyed a significant increase in attendance by young adults, who provide role models for our youth and new perspectives as they grow into leadership within the Meeting. Many of our attenders come to Quakerism from religious backgrounds that taught fear and spiritual manipulation. Quakerism developed from Christianity, but in an empowering way that encourages spiritual growth through personal seeking, mystical contemplation and discernment, and corporate decision making.

Our children tell us that they feel First Day is “solid,” and they appreciate the fifteen minutes they stay with the adults in Meeting for Worship. Four times a year we have begun holding all ages worship sessions that provide a Faith and Play lesson during Meeting for Worship. Friends have responded positively to this new format.

We need to focus more on worship etiquette as sometimes attenders deliver lengthy messages, or ‘popcorn’ ministry (speaking without returning to the silence before offering vocal ministry). On the other hand, we sense our unity in the silence and find it very fulfilling. Sometimes our Meetings feel gathered.

Our Meetings for Business are well attended, but we sometimes struggle explaining Friends’ business process to attenders. We work to stay focused on seeking how the Spirit is directing us rather than our personal preferences. Nevertheless, some feel our Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business are rushed, and the focus on correct process may squelch some voices. A number of Friends mentioned ways they feel our committees may work more effectively and congenially, with a specific suggestion to increase in-person committee meetings.

There are many ways the Meeting fosters relationships among Friends, including new attenders and visitors. We are beginning our second round of Quaker Eights groups, and Friends have organized other informal

get-togethers. Young Friends and their families continue the annual tradition of cider-making every fall for fellowship. There is much visiting at rise of Meeting and during our monthly Sunday potluck lunch.

We see love as a route to justice and the community we seek, both in Meeting and in the wider world. We engage in a number of efforts to express our testimonies to the larger community, especially on behalf of peace, justice, community, and equality. LFM has created the Listening in the Light Communication Group, our effort to learn positive ways to respond to conflict. Our meeting provides space for organizations that work with immigrants and refugees. The Anti- Racism Coordinating Committee collected funds for the Family Support Fund and made a donation to the Family Resource Center of Harrison Elementary School, which is in the neighborhood of the Meetinghouse and serves a low income, majority person of color population. We regularly participate in BUILD (Building a United Interfaith Lexington through Direct Action), Habitat for Humanity house builds, the Kentucky Council of Churches, the Black Church Coalition, and our FCNL Advocacy Team. Friends engage in contacting legislators through a variety of means, following the guidance of the Quaker Committee On Kentucky Legislation. Friends have been a regular presence at the local No Kings rallies protesting policies that threaten our democracy. Some feel we need to be doing more and taking more personal risks. At the same time, we persist in seeking avenues to learn to be more loving, even toward those we do not know.

One area in which we have recently fallen short is our anti-racism work. Our Anti-Racism Coordinating Committee (ARCC) has met regularly but has only brought one activity to the Meeting recently. There are many reasons for our inactivity, both individual and collective experiences in the Meeting. Anti-racism work necessarily involves discomfort, especially for white Friends. Friends share a concern for antiracism, but do not agree on the best path forward. This is a difficult challenge, and many Friends have expressed deep frustration and hurt concerning our work and its shortcomings.

As we look to the future, we consider these some of our most pressing needs:

- more education on Quaker ways,
- consideration of what Quaker ways may need to adapt to current realities and sensibilities,
- more active engagement in anti-racism work within and beyond the Meeting,
- procedures for responding to conflicts,
- further consideration of our responsibilities and abilities to respond to disturbing trends in
- our country's political life and commitment to democracy,
- engage more of our committee work in person rather than over video.

Friends Meeting of Louisville

Our Meeting has seen a continuing influx of new people over the past year. We are growing in community and Spirit through worship, Friendly Bible study, monthly Quaker studies, and potlucks.

We are playing an active part in OVYM's developing use of the Faith and Play process for children's religious education, which three Louisville Friends have received training to lead and create. The Faith and Play curriculum adapts well to the wide range of ages and the varying number of children participating each week.

As a Meeting, we are pretty inwardly focused right now and do not have much presence in Louisville other than through our annual donations. Individual members and attenders work in programs to provide food, housing, immigrant support, and other needs in Louisville. Some Friends bring Quaker values to bear on Kentucky's legislature during the legislative session through Quaker Committee on Kentucky Legislation.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee continues to look for opportunities for collective service, voice, and action in our larger Louisville community and the country.

Several newcomers have discovered and contributed to the richness of waiting worship — particularly the silence and the peace, which we find lacking in the world more generally. We are planning a “mini-retreat” this spring to explore and listen to what brought people—new and old — to Quakerism and to Louisville Friends, and how our Meeting may address our spiritual needs and encourage us in Quaker service to the broader community.

Our Ministry and Worship committee recently chose to suspend and consider our practice of starting our meetings for worship with a settling message, a short quotation of a spiritual nature shared by a volunteer. Settling messages helped some Friends to settle into the silence, exposed us to a variety of people’s spiritual insights and perspectives, and provided seeds for some vocal ministry. Some Friends, however, found them an unhelpful form of programming beyond the OVYM monthly queries and a distraction from one’s own focus on the Inner Light to lead the worship.

Our meeting’s vocal ministry has dropped off in the past year. Most vocal ministry has come from our members as opposed to attenders. Our Ministry and Worship Committee plans to provide a Second Hour discussion on vocal ministry.

Only about a quarter of our members come to worship on a regular basis. We struggle with how to encourage other members to attend more regularly.

Our presiding clerks have focused our attention on listening to Spirit for guidance during our meetings for business. Our presiding clerk, Cindi Goslee, has moved away. Barry Zalph is serving as an interim presiding clerk, which we deeply appreciate. It has been a gift to have these two past OVYM clerks help us conduct our business in a manner of worship. We are evaluating a variety of options for our transition to our next clerk, including use of co-clerks to help prevent burnout. We invite and appreciate hearing other Meetings’ experience and skills around co-clerking Spirit-led meetings for business.

Few of our members and attenders regularly donate to the meeting. We rely on income from investments to make up most of the budget. We have postponed until the fall of 2026 a threshing session to consider how to apply our resources, including financial, to the work that the Spirit calls us to do. This concern was heightened by the funds received from the recent sale of a building that we no longer used. Among our financial concerns are the age, need for repairs, and limitations of our meetinghouse. Major financial decisions have caused strife repeatedly in our Meeting. We invite other Friends Meetings to share how they have found unity on major financial decisions. We seek Divine guidance on how to transform our Meeting into one that actively serves the outside community as well as the spiritual needs of its members and attenders.

Miami Monthly Meeting

Through prayer, lively Religious Education Discussions, and thoughtful reflections in meetings for business, Miami Friends discerned an urgent Divine prompting to actively respond, in accordance with Quaker religious principles, to several harmful policies and actions undertaken by the Trump administration in 2025. As has been the case for many Quaker meetings and churches, Miami Friends recognized that shining our Light through vocal and written ministry, supporting initiatives advanced by Quaker organizations, and witnessing through our presence, when possible, to Truth at relevant rallies and gatherings, are profoundly meaningful ways to share our message of respect, compassion, and love for all. Friends found unity around

advocating for such critical social support programs as Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and funding for local food assistance programs. We found solidarity with our undocumented neighbors and those targeted for investigation due to racial profiling. As a community, Miami Friends recoiled at the morally bankrupt practice of deploying thousands of poorly trained masked, armed agents in peaceful ethnic neighborhoods.

Given these and other concerns, several Miami Friends regularly sent email messages to our state and federal elected officials educating them about Quaker values and imploring them to act in accordance with the rule of law, respect for civil rights, and compassion for human needs. Several members found patronizing at-risk businesses to be an effective strategy for supporting their economic stability. Monthly Meeting issued two strong minutes advising our representatives to reform ICE and, ultimately, to withhold funding until such time immigration agencies implement verifiable accountability and transparency practices that disavow racist and violent interventions, among other necessary ethical improvements.

Closer to home, Miami Friends sponsored a presentation about current issues facing Ohio migrant workers by Baldemar Velasquez, founder and leader of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee-AFL-CIO. Additionally, the meeting found unity around increasing our monthly contribution to our local food bank.

We believe these efforts are direct expressions of our commitment to the traditional testimonies of peace, integrity, and community.

Our meeting's spiritual life has been fortified by the presence of regular attenders who readily shared their Light and their energy when needs arose. At the same time, our long-time Friends strengthened our resolve by reminding us of the difficult moral choices and risks confronting an earlier generation facing military conscription amidst the Nazi horror and the Viet Nam War.

Overall, 2025 has been a year filled with joy in our faith and relationships. The stillness of First Day worship continues to nourish us individually and collectively as we welcome visitors and newcomers into our midst.

Oxford Friends

How is our spiritual condition of worship and business? We are small but the state of spirit is alive, warm, and nurturing.

Does meeting assemble quietly and reverently? Yes, it does. We use the time before worship to check in with each other - we feel this deepens the worship because it supports our community.

Do most people attend and find it valuable? Yes, it does, but we are hoping some people who have attended in the past will resume attending. We would like to attract families. We are very grateful to welcome Michael into membership, and also miss Sammie and Katie. We are looking forward to collaborating with West Elkton on outreach to college students (and others). We appreciate communication from one of our members who sends comics and poems sporadically.

How is our vocal ministry? We could do more Quakerism 101 to deepen ministry. We appreciate the messages that are delivered, but we love the depth and life and connection we experience in silent worship. There is a Spirit in our midst. We really appreciate our practice of Afterwords - we feel this draws us together and deepens our communal experience of knowing each other in that which is eternal.

How do we keep our spiritual values before us? We engage in relevant activities and projects in the community, e.g., Winter House, Earthfest, Pride Fest, and Empty Bowls, and also our practice of reading

Queries from *Faith and Practice* during silent worship. This serves to remind us of our values and gives us opportunities to act on them.

What conditions have affected the meeting? Concerns about actions of the present Administration and its impact both here and abroad weigh on our minds. On the other hand, we are grateful for the presence of distant Friends via Zoom.

How do we exercise stewardship? For stewardship of our time, we try to let God work through us, and do volunteer service in the community and yearly meeting where led. A sense of leading gives a deeper experience of the activity.

What are the most pressing needs? Outreach is a primary need. We've got too few hands. We may also consider an inreach activity of a monthly "book club" on *Pendle Hill Pamphlets*. We discussed the kinds of "elevator speech" that we use in responding to queries about Friends.

Yellow Springs Friends Meeting

Much of our attention the past twelve months has been on the first full year of a presidential administration whose way of governing goes against the core of who we are as Quakers. Friends have expressed overwhelm at the pace of news, dismay at the dismantling of national safety nets, and heartbreak over state violence. In many ways, our spirits are in pain.

As a group, we feel the tension between Quakers-as-activists and Quakers-as-discerners. Given the jarring speed at which issues arise, we find ourselves facing the question, "**How do we speak with a united voice in a timely fashion?**" Our efforts at answering this question have uncovered an unresolved and tender conflict within the meeting. Please hold us in the Light as we work to address it, knowing its resolve will strengthen us for the years and challenges ahead.

While we hold the above in one hand, our other hand is guided by Spirit into action. **When the nation's eyes turned towards the large and vibrant community of Haitian immigrants in Springfield, we paid close attention.** As Temporary Protection Status came into question and as the presence of Immigration and Customs Enforcement loomed, we knew the security of thousands of our neighbors was threatened. **In response, our Peace and Social Justice Committee recommended we join the local faith-based coalition G92, which we did.** Our participation in this network resulted in rapid-response training, volunteering, and amassing material and monetary donations, as well as education, prayer, and witness. The work continues.

We also pursued other social justice efforts. We decided again to contribute time and resources to The 365 Project of Yellow Springs to support their racial diversity initiatives and reparations. **Our work with these organizations is an outward expression of our desire to stand with that of God in every person.**

While Zoom remains a preferred option for some worshippers, our sense of community is strengthened as our in-person gatherings become routine again. Both the 8:30 and 11:15 Meetings for Worship have grown in regular attendees and visitors. **Having greeters ahead of the 11:15 worship has made a positive impact, which is bolstered by the "Welcome the Stranger" buttons many of us wear.** A large portion of us still find comfort in the hour of singing before worship, while others are nourished by our new QuakerSpeak and Quaker 101 educational programs (some attend both!). These activities help us center down into a prayerful state for worship.

The messages we hear through vocal ministry have often been ones of love, hope, and gratefulness to be alive in this moment. An equal amount has been reflections on loss—both personal and ambiguous. Some of us lost close friends and relatives this past year. As a meeting, we celebrated the life of friend Margrit Petrie on November 29, 2025, after her passing on October 29. Our practice of sharing the names and concerns of our loved ones at the close of worship remains beneficial. **From the time we spend together in silence, it is evident that prayerful seeds are present within our meeting.**

Our new Clerk invites everyone to experience those prayerful seeds in Business Meetings and to be part of Spirit-led decision making. **It is in this way that we can be sure our meeting's actions are aligned with our deepest shared beliefs.** This past year, a handful of us attended Quarterly and Yearly Meeting sessions. When we come together with our regional neighbors, we are reminded of the strong Quaker roots in southern Ohio.

There are still many needs for which we are prayerfully discerning a way forward. We are taking action to reestablish a program for children by naming a Religious Education Committee. We are also aware of the needs of our aging Members, including home visitations and transportation to worship. We have addressed some accessibility needs by introducing microphones and speakers into the worship room. Our aim is to make our space as welcoming as it can be.

We extend that welcome to our community. We feel genuine friendship and mutual respect towards a number of groups within the village. We remain spiritually connected to Friends Care Community. This connection remains important as many of our members and attenders live there, and as the institution faces an unsteady financial future. We are holding them in the Light as they address their concerns and work to welcome more Quakers into their care. We also continue to lovingly share our meeting space with the Yellow Springs Havurah, a weekly singing group, and welcome meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous and Overeaters Anonymous. **We understand that these gatherings deepen the presence of Spirit in our humble building.**

On the topic of our humble building, we are aware of an upcoming and uphill struggle regarding it. Our lease for Rockford Chapel with Antioch College is up in October 2027. **We admit that our ties with the college are strained and ask for prayerful support from our neighboring meetings as we navigate the next chapter.**

This past year was not without its challenges, but it also brought great joys. Our attention is needed within our own homes, our meeting, our community, our state, our country, and our world. **One thing Spirit continually reminds us of is this: it is a good time to be a Quaker.** We take strength in that and have faith that way will open.

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report to OVYM

Whitewater Quarter met three times during the year 2025-2026, in October at Fort Wayne Friends, in January at Lafayette Friends, and in April at North Meadow Circle of Friends. We discussed WQM finances and affirmed that their main usefulness is to support Friends' attendance at Quaker workshops and retreats, including Yearly Meeting sessions. The funds are also available for bail, should Friends be jailed after protests or other nonviolent actions. We heard a report on the November 2025 Sexual Misconduct workshop. We also reached unity on adding the name of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting to those who

endorse AFSC's statement, "Our Call to End and Reform Unjust Immigration Enforcement Practices and Laws."

Two known issues remain to be addressed in the coming year. One is how to integrate a sexual misconduct policy into the life of the quarterly meeting. The other is to check on the status and wellbeing of Mississinewa Gathering of Friends in Marion, Indiana.

Bloomington Friends Meeting

Bloomington Friends Meeting has had a rather amazing year, with our worship and business meetings being very positive and inclusive. Hymn singing prior to Meeting for Worship is a time-honored tradition and builds community. It's also wonderful to walk into the building and experience the joy.

Due to our very efficient Zoom system, many more people are able to attend who could not otherwise. We are grateful for those who keep this system in good working order. Since Covid, this has allowed people who are not able to travel to our Meeting to still participate. We also have two weekly worship opportunities on Zoom, Midweek Worship for Peace on Wednesday evenings and Friday Morning Worship.

We bring many spiritual gifts to our worship with many offering vocal ministry. At times, we share silent worship without ministry and that is also very fulfilling. There have been discussions about what is an appropriate message in Meeting for Worship, which has been very helpful. Meeting for Worship is followed by a period of sharing and fellowship both in the meetinghouse and on Zoom, which enriches and strengthens the spiritual depth of our community.

Our worship and our community have been enhanced by small groups who meet regularly. Participants in the Quaker Study Group read books about Quakerism and spiritual development and meet twice a month on Zoom to discuss them, in meaningful conversations that deepen our understanding of Quaker traditions and practices. Two groups meet once or twice a month for group meditation and sharing through the Experiment with Light program.

We gather once a month to discuss queries from OVYM Faith and Practice or other sources in a worship sharing format, which helps to strengthen our understanding of Friends' testimonies and concerns and builds community among us.

There are many chances for Friends and visitors to explore ideas and concerns within the community and the world. Often these events help us to explore our fears and hopes for a better world for all. We have a monthly afternoon tea time with cookies just for fun. It follows a drumming for peace circle that the community is invited to join in. Also, Friends and others from the wider community gather at the Meetinghouse every month or two for "Songs to Sustain Us," drumming, singing, and hearing music performed by Friends and guests. A weekly crafting circle draws many to not only share projects but to build community and joy. Also, Friends on Campus and Dinners with Friends have been restarted.

Unfortunately, we have lost many dear members recently, including Larry Rinker, Pat Reitemeier, JoAnna Henegar, and Bill and Janette Shetter, active members for many decades. But we have also welcomed several new members this year, from both older and younger generations. We continue to have intermittent attendance by children in meeting, but it's always a joy when they do participate. A special delight was the birth of five babies in our community this year.

Stewardship is a strong element in all we do, both in Meeting and in our personal lives. When the Meetinghouse was rebuilt, a commitment was made to environmental stewardship and to provide for our

community. Many outside groups feel at home in our space. We spend a lot of time learning and discussing all issues surrounding being better stewards.

A highlight this year was hosting a group of Guatemalan refugees for an evening of feasting and dancing, where they could feel safe and welcomed.

Our Meeting is taking part in a project of Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, called Quaker Connect. Three members of our community are leading our efforts, meeting every week, studying materials put together by the project's director, meeting monthly with others participating in the project from about a dozen Meetings throughout North America and Central America, and working with our Meeting to try out experiments in developing new connections within our Meeting, with other Quakers, and with the wider community around us in and near Bloomington.

We definitely feel the most pressing needs in our meeting are how to maintain programs for children and young people, and how to address the needs of aging members and attenders. We have addressed taking children into account through Worship with a Story, and have held a series of sessions discussing aging. In tandem with the concern in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting generally around care for survivors of sexual assault, several of our members attended a training on proactively addressing sexual violence to foster a place of safety for our community. Also, with the current state of the nation, many people feel off balance and fearful. Trying to build community for each other and our wider community is something we will continue to work toward.

Clear Creek Monthly Meeting

Clear Creek Monthly Meeting is a spiritually and theologically diverse community. We acknowledge the variety of ways that we understand the workings of the Spirit. On our better days, we are genuinely interested in how others in our meeting experience and articulate their spiritual lives. Our various understandings find common ground in meeting for worship—participating in and sharing the great love that happens in community.

Our spiritual invigoration comes from numerous sources: meeting for worship, after-worship singing and fellowship, second hour presentations, children when they come, visitors, interest groups that offer spiritual engagement or community-nurturing enjoyment, outdoor activities, and the presence of Earlham College and Earlham School of Religion students and their increasing participation in vocal ministry.

Our members find links between their inward lives and their social activism. Some feel great spiritual nourishment facilitating in prisons and elsewhere in the Alternatives to Violence Project. The AVP practices of presence and deep listening enhance their experience of worship and their interpersonal interactions. The Richmond FCNL Advocacy Team is another place of considerable activity, in concert with members of other meetings in town.

Encountering divine love ushers us into the world. It draws us into deeper relationship with the wider community—both Quaker and beyond. We strive to be a visible presence in our community, such as at the Quaker table (which we co-hosted with two pastoral meetings in our town) at the local Pride Festival, in environmental concerns, and in supporting the local immigrant community. We unite with other Richmond Friends for worship twice a year and have reestablished joint meetings of Richmond clerks and pastors. The Richmond meetings have initiated a Friends' Immigrant Solidarity Network and continued to offer classes in English as a second language. We celebrated World Quaker Day together. Clear Creek Friends also serve our monthly, quarterly, and yearly meetings.

As we celebrate sources of vitality, we must also speak truthfully about the challenges we face. We ask how we might faithfully share the love that grounds us, knowing we are an aging group with ailments, and decreased energy. Like many liberal Quakers, we struggle with how we can, without blatantly proselytizing, share our faith in ways that others can see and hear. While our meeting is good at stepping up when there is an acute need, we sometimes find it difficult to meet the ongoing needs of others in our meeting.

We have experienced some departures in the past year. One deeply treasured couple that has been part of the meeting for over forty years and contributed immensely to the life of the meeting moved away. We also sent off, with our blessing, a valued member to serve as the pastor of another meeting in town.

Still, experiences of the divine mystery come unbidden. We cannot fully understand this mystery, but we know when we get close to it. We sense that we are all made out of the same holy stuff, which inspires us to encounter and embody a loving presence. Joy, humility, gratitude, and curiosity help us to be open to that presence. Even in a time of much worldly violence, confusion, and chaos, we renew our dedication to spiritual openness and look to the future with confidence in God's guidance.

Fall Creek Monthly Meeting

Fall Creek Friends gather for worship each First-Day morning, and also in the afternoon on the first First Day of each month. We assemble in the spirit of worship. The silence is rich and deep. Vocal ministry is also a powerful part of our worship but Friends hunger for more frequent vocal ministry. Much of our vocal ministry is offered by a small number of Friends, who expressed feeling relief when that responsibility is shared by others. Recognizing the need for attention to vocal ministry, we hope to make that the focus of a workshop or retreat in the coming year.

We feel a close sense of love and friendliness with one another. We have come "to know each other in that which is eternal" through our worship, our meetings for worship with attention to business, our religious education, and informal conversations after meeting. We have had a book discussion group focused on *If the Church Were Christian* by Phillip Gulley. This year, we have enjoyed more opportunities for connection in events such as the fall camping gathering and a worship with bells. In both planned programs and casual conversations, Friends feel that keeping spiritual principles before us happens as we talk.

Our children's program has also grown this year. Noa Everett has been leading our young attenders through the Faith and Play curriculum on the first First-Day of each month. One young Friend brought a concern to help the unhoused to our meeting for business, which led us to connect with the Anderson Christian Center and prepare 120 hygiene care kits to donate. We hope to continue this project going forward. This young Friend says that the state of the children's program at Fall Creek is "good."

We have completed a project to stabilize the old resting room of the meetinghouse. Step by step, we continue the work to take care of our meetinghouse building. We feel more energy and confidence for this work than we have in the past.

Fort Wayne Friends

Spiritual Life and Fellowship

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I with them" (**Matthew 18:20**). This promise remains the cornerstone of our fellowship. Though we are a small body, we remain deeply faithful to the Spirit.

The passing of Fred Feitler left a profound silence in our circle and a hole in our collective heart; yet, we find ourselves bolstered by the strength of his memory and the enduring legacy of his ministry. In this season of transition, the return of Paul Ricketts after several years away has provided a welcome spark. We are mindfully tending this ember, laboring to bring it to a full flame of renewal and growth.

The Fort Wayne Worship Group

Under the care of our Meeting, the Fort Wayne Worship Group consists of four faithful attenders. While they primarily gather virtually via Teams, we cherish the moments when they join us in person at Plymouth Church on the second Sunday of each month.

Their commitment is evident in their structured discipline: they have established a rotating three-month schedule where each member takes a turn preparing and leading discussions during the second hour. They are a testament to the fact that a small group, moved by conviction, continues to carry the Inward Light effectively into their respective communities.

Stewardship and Community Outreach

We believe that God lives and speaks in the hearts of all people, and our faith is made visible through participatory service. Our stewardship of the community is active and varied:

- **Hosting:** We were honored to host the Quarterly Meeting this past October.
- **Partnership:** In collaboration with Plymouth Church, we serve meals and provide Christmas gifts for a local shelter supporting families experiencing homelessness.
- **Advocacy:** We maintain a presence at various community events and remain civically engaged by writing to and calling our government representatives.
- **Connection:** Our online book club has flourished, evolving into a space of fellowship that now includes Friends from other OVYM meetings.

Business and Discernment

In a practical shift, we have moved to a bi-monthly schedule for business meetings, as our agenda remains light. We have also dissolved our formal committees; instead, the Meeting as a whole gathers to discern decisions regarding outreach, education, and wider Quaker concerns. These sessions are conducted not as mere administration, but as a deliberate practice held under the guidance of the Spirit.

Looking Forward

While our small numbers remain a point of concern, our spiritual foundation is unshaken. We continue to hold our Sunday morning worship as a sanctuary—open and welcoming to all, regardless of religious background, political view, or life circumstance. We have been deeply rewarded by the presence of several new attenders who have joined us, enriching our communal communion with the Divine.

We move forward in the quiet confidence that where the Spirit is nurtured, the community will always find its way.

Lafayette Friends Meeting

Our small meeting continues to gather in worshipful waiting. We find spiritual sustenance and community as we await the guidance of that light which creates and shepherd's all things. Many of us share that our meeting serves as a source of strength, support and grounding for our corporate and individual leadings, especially in these turbulent times. We strive to create a space that is a safe respite for all who worship here, and to extend this harbor to those who live in our meeting house.

We realize that the last 2-3 years have required more care and nurture from our community as we have focused on Friends' challenges, physical, mental and material. And though we have been brought closer together, we have also grieved the loss of the physical presence of a central elder who has moved closer to family. She was a patient, steadfast presence for all of us over many years and we miss her deeply.

Our shared work includes regular help with a food pantry and providing homeless shelter dinners. For many years, our primary community support centered in the work of Lafayette Urban Ministry but we are currently challenged as they have drastically reduced their programming in ways that test our commitment to those populations' needs. We are searching for collective guidance on the way forward.

We have folks who come for a time, some staying on and some going but overall, we are slightly up in regular attendance. All are well appreciated, but we have so enjoyed some new younger people as well as a former attender who has joined worship again. We have joyfully welcomed a long-time attender to membership. We are grateful that several of our younger and/or newer attenders are stepping up their meeting participation, in particular taking charge of the Trustees committee which is responsible for the physical care of the meeting house and our tenants. We share a well-attended potluck each month and have recently started a second hour to share our understanding of various queries. We miss having children currently but publicize our children's room and rotation schedule that is in place to welcome them!

North Meadow Circle of Friends

North Meadow Circle of Friends seems to be undergoing a transition lately. Evalyn Kellum, one of our beloved founding members, died 5 September 2025 after extended illnesses. The end of the year saw two families, including our clerk and a trustee, move out of state for new jobs; our only child who attended was also part of that relocation. We are pleased that recently a few new young people have started attending Meeting for Worship. We have also welcomed one new baby, born to a long-time member. Commitment to our meeting and to waiting worship in the manner of Friends remains strong.

Concerned that our meeting is both aging and having diminished participation, we were led to apply to FWCC's Quaker Connect meeting revitalization programme. We are excited to be participating in the 2026-2027 cohort, which is currently providing an opportunity to explore our wider community and history as a meeting. Individual members and attenders continue to be active in promoting peace and social justice in a variety of ways, as they are led.

Part of our wider community is Iglesia Amigos (affiliated with Indiana Yearly Meeting), which has used our meetinghouse in recent years for both meeting activities and residences. We hope to find ways to overcome the language barrier between our meetings.

We continue to have representation on Herron-Morton Place Neighborhood Association, which for decades has sponsored the Talbot Street Art Fair on a June weekend every year. We support this well-attended event, which partially takes place outside our meetinghouse.

Our finances continue to be strong after selling our unused north lot. We are currently opening an account with Friends Fiduciary fund that will generate yearly revenue to use for supporting various Friends' and other groups and causes. We recently held a second threshing session to discuss to which organizations we might contribute.

Memorial Minutes

Fred Croohe Feitler (02/18/1940 - 07/23/2025)



Fred Croohe Feitler taught Chemistry at South Hills High School from 1964 to 1967 after graduating from Earlham College. While at South Hills he worked to complete a Master of Arts degree from University of Pittsburgh. He left South Hills to attend Syracuse University for a PhD in Education and continuing his career with teaching at Kent State University in Kent, OH. There he taught Education Administration and Organization Development working to educate future Superintendent of Schools and improve schools, businesses and hospitals.

Fred had leadership roles outside of education as well. He served the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) serving locally as clerk of his Meeting in Kent, Ohio. Fred was a long-time clerk of Fort Wayne Friends Meeting in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He was active in Lake Erie and Ohio Valley Yearly Meetings (regional groups of Friends' Meetings) as well as Friends General Conference (a North American group of yearly meetings) where he served as clerk of the Publications and Distribution Committee which was responsible for hymnals, books, and other official documents.

Fred was born in Palo Alto, California to his mining engineer father, Stanley Feitler and mother, Florence, and moved fairly often as a child because of his father's work. He ended his high school years in Vermont at Gould Academy, a private school that educated local public school students as there was no local public high school.

He married his first wife, Polly, also a Quaker, whom he met at Earlham (a Quaker school) and with her had two children Michele Feitler of Dunlop, IL and the late Carl Feitler of Longmont, CO and five grandchildren. Fred later (2001) married Mary Anna of Auburn, IN (two girls and four grandchildren) who he met on Quaker business and moved to Auburn, IN where he continued using his organization management skills by working on fund raising for DeKalb Outdoor Theatre, a successful public venue for the past 16 years.

Sadly, Fred, born February 18, 1940, succumbed to Alzheimer's disease on July 23, 2025. His work with students, teachers, businesses, and the communities in which he lived, worked, volunteered lives on. He was an active Rotarian and generous with his time. He also liked to cut and split wood for fires in the fireplace, gardened, and enjoyed his cat pets and was an avid reader. His start at South Hills as a teacher helped inform and direct his future and he was grateful for that time.

Bruce French (6/22/1947 - 7/29/2025)

Bruce French passed away on July 29, 2025, in Bradenton, Florida. He was very committed to his family and to his professions as educator and attorney. He was born in Yardley, Pennsylvania and was a member of Yardley Friends Meeting where he maintained his membership throughout his life. He was also a faithful attender of Dayton (Ohio) Friends Meeting for about twenty years, regularly driving there with his two young sons on most Sundays from his home in Lima, Ohio. In recent years he attended Sarasota Friends Meeting in Sarasota, Florida. Bruce exemplified Quaker values such as integrity, community, and service through his personal and professional life.

During his years of attendance at Dayton Friends Meeting Bruce served, at one time or another, as a member of our Meetinghouse Committee and our Finance Committee. Bruce contributed very meaningfully to the Meeting by quietly helping individuals without fanfare. Also, for many years Dayton Friends enjoyed receiving the birthday cards he faithfully sent to members and attenders on behalf of the meeting.

Bruce earned his bachelor's and master's degree at American University and his Juris Doctor degree at Antioch School of law before beginning a distinguished legal career. He served as legal counsel for the District of Columbia and spent over 30 years as a professor at Ohio Northern University's College of Law, where he inspired generations of students with his passion for justice, gift for teaching, and sharp wit. In recognition of his enduring impact, the local Inns of Court was renamed in his honor: The Bruce Comly French Inns of Court.

He also served as a Bankruptcy Trustee for three decades and maintained a private domestic law practice in Lima, Ohio where he lived most of his adult life. Much of Bruce's work was pro bono, and he was generous with his philanthropy. He was known for his unshakable sense of fairness and represented countless clients regardless of their means and was always available to offer advice, a listening ear, or a helping hand.

Above all, Bruce cherished his family. He is survived by his beloved wife of 38 years, Diane W. French; his sons, Alexander Comly French and Brandon Clark French; Brandon's wife Amanda; Alexander's fiancée Tesslyn; and his beloved grandchildren, Harper Comly and Kailor Daxton. He is also survived by his sister, Susan French. Bruce was deeply proud that both of his sons followed in his footsteps to become attorneys.

Lenna Mae Gara (2/5/1926 - 11/30/2025)



We celebrate the life of Friend Lenna Mae Gara who died at the age of 99 on November 30, 2025 in Austin, Texas. She met Larry Gara, her husband of 72 years, while a student at William Penn College, married him in 1946 and completed her university degree at Bluffton College in Ohio. They had two children, Robin and Brian and the family settled permanently in Wilmington, Ohio in 1962.

Lenna Mae Gara joined Campus Friends Meeting after the family settled in Wilmington. She lived and wrote from her belief that there is that of God in everyone. For nearly fifty years Lenna Mae ministered to Campus Friends Meeting by her faithful attendance in worship, which continued through her time in assisted living at Cape May retirement community, and by her participation in shared fellowship meals and retreats. She was actively present for meeting for business which she served as recording clerk for many years. An avid historian, Lenna Mae made certain that Campus Friends Monthly Meeting minutes were preserved on bonded paper and submitted to the Wilmington College Quaker Archives in a timely manner.

Her commitment to our Quaker stewardship testimony led to a 15-year campaign, which in 2005 finally brought curbside recycling to the city of Wilmington.

Lenna Mae expressed her commitment to our Quaker Testimonies of equality, peace and social justice in her writing and speaking and in her work for juvenile justice. A founding force behind the formation of the Clinton County Youth Bureau, she served as a board member, secretary and president. The Board's concern for at risk young people and making changes to the laws around incarceration of youth laid the groundwork in the mid-1990s for the current Clinton County Youth Council.

Present at the 1975 conference which founded the Peace Resource Center (PRC) at Wilmington College, Lenna Mae continued to raise awareness of peace and justice issues. She stood in the weekly vigil on the corner of College Street and Rombach in Wilmington as witness to the community that "war is not the answer."

Lenna Mae and Larry Gara co-edited *A Few Small Candles* as a tribute to the conscientious objectors to WWII, who served a prison term as a consequence of their refusal to participate in war. In the preface are the words, these men "served as symbolic candles in a world of darkness, keeping alive a belief in non-violence." Lenna Mae Gara was one of our Quaker small candles in Wilmington and Ohio Valley Yearly Meetings, a light which the darkness cannot overcome.

Mary Garman (4/24/1949 - 4/28/2026)



Mary Garman of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting lived a life full of conviction and purpose as well as joy and delight. Mary died of complications related to Parkinson's disease at age 77, on April 28, 2026.

Mary grew up in a religiously active family that also had a strong concern for social justice. When she and her husband David began their own family, that spiritual dedication and commitment to justice characterized their family as well. Their children, Sam and Kristy, grew up in a house filled with love and hospitality.

Mary and David began attending worship at Kalamazoo Friends Meeting in 1971. They received degrees from the Earlham School of Religion and were co-pastors at Second Friends Meeting in Western Yearly Meeting, where their gifts in ministry were recorded. At that time Mary also became a field education supervisor for ministerial students at Christian Theological Seminary. She later served on the pastoral team at West Richmond Friends Meeting and began to offer some courses as an adjunct at ESR. Feeling a call to teaching, Mary completed a Ph. D. in Religious Studies from a joint program of Northwestern University and Garret-Evangelical Seminary, where she studied with the pioneering feminist theologian Rosemary Radford Reuther.

Mary first joined the Earlham faculty in 1988, and she taught joyfully until her retirement 28 years later. She is remembered for many contributions to life at Earlham, both inside and outside the classroom. Among many other tasks, she served a term as clerk of the faculty, helping the College to maintain its Quaker identity through its form of governance.

Teaching was a form of ministry for Mary, and she was attentive to the spiritual needs and theological growth of her students. Mary Garman touched lives, helping others to find their gifts and use their voice. She was caring, a good listener, and a source of both wisdom and wit. A remembrance of Mary would be incomplete without recalling her robust sense of humor. She loved hilarity, and she once proposed the

formation of a Humor Deficit Task Force. She literally kept a supply of red rubber noses on hand, ready if a situation were to arise that required some.

Mary loved the arts and participated in local theater and choruses.

Mary's lifelong devotion to justice took many shapes. She was committed to helping first-generation students flourish at college. Her work was centered in the Religion Department, though she also taught in African and African American Studies and in Women's Studies. Mary offered classes at the Earlham School of Religion, where her courses in Feminist Theology were transformative for many students. Mary was an active Friend, locally in Clear Creek Friends Meeting, and also nationally and beyond, such as at the Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham, UK. Her service to Clear Creek Friends included that of clerk, and participation on a variety of committees, including the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice Revision Committee. Perhaps her greatest service to our meeting was that of an elder, caring for young and old. Her ministry during worship benefitted many.

Mary was a scholar of Quakerism, especially of 17th-century Quaker women. Among her publications, perhaps the most significant is the volume that she produced, in collaboration with others, entitled *Hidden in Plain Sight: Quaker Women's Writings 1650-1700*. Mary was interested in contemporary Quaker women as well, and in 1991 she was a primary organizer of the International Theological Conference of Quaker Women held in England. Mary also explored friendship, a theme that she researched historically and a personal practice in which she excelled.

This world was blessed by her presence.

William "Bill" Henry (2/23/1946 - 9/10/1925)

William "Bill" R. Henry, a devoted Friend and community leader, died on September 10, 2025 in Marion, Indiana, where he lived much of his life. Born on February 23, 1946 in Marion, he was the son of Friends William F. and Mildred E. (Schwark) Henry.

Bill graduated from Marion High School and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Earlham College. He then became Director of Community Education and Head Start for Marion Community Schools. For ten years, Bill was an Administrator, then Executive Director for the Kokomo, IN OIC. He was founding Executive Director of Community Rehab Project in Marion, then was Executive Director of the original Rehab Project in Lima, Ohio. Later he became Director of the Division of Housing and Economic Development for Community Action of Greater Indianapolis. Subsequently, he was Field Agent for Indiana Rural Community Assistance Program, helping small communities solve problems with wastewater, drinking water, parks, and housing. Bill was elected Mayor of Marion from 2000 to 2004, during which he was able to accomplish significant changes. From 2004 until his death, he was self-employed as a consultant and property manager.



Considering himself both a birthright and convinced Friend, Bill started and belonged to White Rose Friends Meeting, now reconstituted as Mississinewa Gathering of Friends. He was also Presiding Clerk of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting, Presiding Clerk of the Executive Committee of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, and served three terms on both Central and Executive Committees of Friends General Conference. Bill was a board member of both Friends Committee on National Legislation and Indiana Friends Committee on

Legislation. Bill Henry also headed the National Conference of Friends on Race Relations, presenting race relations workshops in seventeen states.

His strong lifelong commitment to social justice was recognized in his community. A member of the NAACP, he received the Sidney Smith Award from the Marion Branch. The Marion Hispanic Roundtable presented him with their President's Award.

Bill is survived by three sons: William (Allegra Churchill) Henry, Phoenixville, PA; Dr. Ian (Kirstin Eismín) Henry, Cincinnati OH; and Charles E. Faulkner, New York City; three grandsons, Lincoln Michael William Henry, Aiden Henry Langton Churchill, and Kyan Douglass Eismín-Henry; and a granddaughter, Inez Nicole Eismín-Henry.

His parents, sisters Jeanne Pressley and Dr. Sue Henry, and daughter Elizabeth Anne Henry preceded him in death.

A Meeting for Worship in his memory was held at Fall Creek Meeting House in Pendleton, IN on September 18, 2025.

Evalyn Ann Kellum (7/10/1943 - 9/5/1925)



Evalyn Ann Kellum was active in founding North Meadow Circle of Friends Meeting in Indianapolis. After originally meeting in private homes, she was one of a small group instrumental in purchasing the current Meeting House in 1983. She continued serving the Meeting until her death on September 5, 2025. In recent years, Evalyn was limited by her loss of short-term memory, but her good humor and loving personality remained intact to the end. Evalyn's kindness, lived Quakerism, sense of humor, and social activism are deeply missed.

Evalyn Ann, as she was known by her family, was born July 10, 1943, the first of two children (brother Allan) of Clark and Carolyn Kellum, descendants of some of the earliest Quaker settlers in central Indiana. Quakers migrated en masse around 1820 from the Guilford area of North Carolina to what included Guilford Township, Hendricks County, Indiana. One of the driving forces was opposition to slavery.

Evalyn spent her formative first 15 years on the family farm close by the Fairfield Friends Meeting. At the meeting and from the lived example of her parents and the community, she absorbed Quaker values and began to take stands that did not always fit with the local standards. One such early example was to attend the school prom with a Black classmate.

Evalyn's parents served on many Quaker committees. They were also active with the historical society, a nature club, and governance of the local town library. This meant that there were many evenings when one or both parents were away from home. As a young girl Evalyn noticed this and once commented somewhat disapprovingly: "Committees, committees, committees." As an adult Evalyn served actively and effectively on many committees. At one time Evalyn served as American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) regional representative and staffed an office in the North Meadow Meeting House.

After one year of study at Earlham College, Evalyn transferred to Indiana University, where she completed her bachelor and master degrees in counseling. Over her long career in social service and social justice, she worked at Central State Psychiatric Hospital, helping life-long patients learn to live outside the institution, counseled prison inmates, served as Dean of Women at the Indiana Girls School at Knightstown, and the

job that she retired from, with the Indiana State Vocational Education program. All this work gave her great satisfaction but her AFSC project with Indiana's Black farmers, especially those from Lyle Station, was particularly rewarding to her.

While she had professed that she would never marry, she changed her mind when she met her soulmate, James "JT" Taylor. Their love and respect for one another was evident to all who knew them and their home was a welcoming place for all. They worked together on many of their shared interests, which included opposition to capital punishment, and support of indigenous people's rights that included attending a conference in Mexico City.

At the 2015 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions, Evalyn and JT shared as Living Witness their long and rich history of working for social justice "transforming the world—and each other—with love."

Margaret "Margrit" Page Tydings Petrie (2/21/1941 - 10/29/2025)

Margaret Page Tydings Petrie (Margrit) passed away on the morning of October 29, 2025. Margrit had been an attendee at Yellow Springs Friends Meeting since 1991.

Margrit was born on February 21, 1941. She was born and raised in Kentucky. In 1963 she received a B.A. in Fine Arts as well as a B.S. in Education at the University of Cincinnati. She later earned a Master of Arts in Education at George Peabody College (Vanderbilt University). It was there that she met her husband Garner McReynolds Petrie, Jr. (Mack).

Margrit and Mack managed the Pennington Friends House in New York City. That's a Quaker residence for students and international visitors. Their son Mansir McReynolds Petrie was born there in 1977.

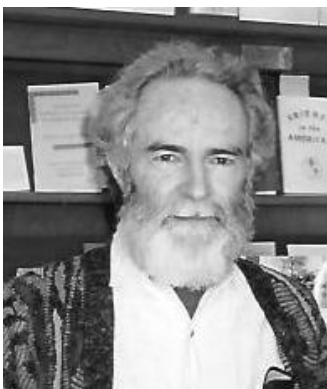
In 1980 the family moved from New York City to Ohio. Margrit taught art and art history at the Warren County Correctional Institution. This was part of Wilmington College's prison-education program. The family attended Miami Monthly Meeting in Waynesville, Ohio.

Then in 1991 Margrit moved to Yellow Springs and began attending Friends meeting there. She joined the Village Artisans Cooperative. Her home became a studio. She worked in various media, including papier-mache sculpture and acrylic paint. Groundhog Day at her house was a community event.

In 2009 Margrit's son Mansir Petrie and Daphne de Souza Lima Sorensen were married under the care of the Yellow Springs Friends Meeting.



Larry Addison Rinker (1/21/1942 - 7/2/2025)



Larry was born in Cumberland, MD on January 21, 1942 to Addison and Virginia (Binix) Rinker. Living in Cumberland, Larry was surrounded by the beauty of the Appalachian Mountains and he formed an early attachment to the natural world. This was enhanced by his childhood hobby of raising pigeons.

When he was less than ten years old, his parents divorced. He stayed with his mother in Maryland, while his father eventually settled in Indiana where much of his family resided. Trips to Bloomington to visit his dad and his many cousins pulled at Larry's heart, and as a teenager he left his mother and the

town of Cumberland to settle in the countryside around Bloomington to be with his father and to be close to his extended family.

Larry married at an early age, and like his parents' marriage, his did not endure. His two sons and his grandchildren were gifts from that union. In addition to his sons, over his lifetime Larry provided for approximately a dozen children from around the world through the Christian Children's Fund. Unlike most sponsors of this program, he was not satisfied with sending regular support checks and exchanging letters. He traveled to Asia, Africa, and Central and South America to visit them and become acquainted with their families.

Larry tried his hand at communal living, factory work, and farming before acquiring ownership of the Kirkwood Mobile Home Park. With the mobile home park and other property rentals, he was able to offer low-cost housing to those who needed it. If tenants had difficulty with their rent, he was known to often offer employment to help make payment easier.

He himself settled in a modest mobile home on a piece of land surrounded by forest. His time was divided between this home and an off-the-grid cabin situated on the banks of Lake Monroe and surrounded by Hoosier National Forest. The cabin was his place of peace, which he shared with others needing to find their way and return to calm.

His spiritual journey began in the Methodist Church, but the formality of organized religion played a backseat to the natural world. He became very involved with a group studying *A Course in Miracles*, and this writing played a very important part in his life. It was around his time studying the *Course* that Larry discovered Bloomington Friends Meeting. He was joyfully accepted into membership in May, 2009.

Over the years, his skills and practical knowledge of how things work made him a valued member of the Building and Maintenance Committee. His concern and care for others made him an equally valued member of the Pastoral Care Committee. He was also steadfast in helping individual Friends with needs at their homes, everything from plumbing and electrical issues to tree trimming.

For a good number of us, Larry is remembered more for how he made us feel than for what he did. He was slow to speak and gentle in his movements. He modeled simple living. His presence, heartwarming smile, and open and affirming heart can be credited with returning many a troubled soul to peace. Larry left this life on July 2, 2025, but he will be carried joyfully in our hearts for many years to come.

Donald L. Rucknagel (5/30/1928 - 2/14/2026)

Donald Louis Rucknagel was born on May 30, 1928, to Alma Hayden Rucknagel and Louis Rucknagel. He passed away peacefully at home on February 14, 2026, at the age of 97. Don grew up in St. Louis, MO, in a non-religious family, though he and his brother regularly attended Sunday school at the downtown Grace Lutheran church with a family friend. He was baptized there, and remained with the Lutheran faith for much of his life. In his young adulthood, Don rode his bicycle 100 miles each month with the Ann Arbor Cycling Club. Throughout his life, Don was always active, whether he was chopping firewood, washing dishes, repairing cars, hiking, or gardening.



Don was successful in high school, and received a scholarship to attend Washington University in St. Louis, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in chemistry and biology. He went on to medical school and became a

medical doctor in 1954. After completing medical school, Don went to Duke University for his residency, to the University of Pittsburgh for a fellowship in hematology, and then returned to St. Louis to serve on the medical staff of the University. A few years after he was married, he became interested in the genetics of Sickle Cell disease, so he and his wife moved to Ann Arbor, where he joined the Department of Human Genetics at the University of Michigan. He ended up getting a PhD degree in human genetics there, and served for many years on the faculty of the medical school.

While in Ann Arbor, the war in Vietnam began, and Don became involved with a group of professors who offered a series of teach-ins to inform the public about the real issues relating to Vietnam. It became clear to Don that the war was unjustified, and that the death and destruction served only to profit the military industrial complex. As a result, he became an anti-war activist, and discovered a local anti-war group called "Interfaith Council for Peace." With this group, he participated in lobbying legislators, picketing, marching, and anti-draft protests, helping organize resistance to the war among students on campus. This experience led to an awakening to the social message of the gospel, and to the important role of faith in promoting peace and justice in the world.

In 1987, Don and his family moved to Cincinnati after he was offered the directorship of the Sickle Cell Center at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Wanting to continue his involvement in peace and anti-war activism, he looked for a church that would align with these concerns. He attended Auburn Presbyterian church for many years, drawn by their strong social message. He began serving on the Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center (IJPC) peace committee, and discovered the Religious Society of Friends. Don began attending Community Friends Meeting in 2013, and became a member in 2016. He served faithfully on the meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committee, and participated in lobbying with the FCNL. Don loved attending the symphony, and he had a remarkable memory; a favorite memory was reciting The Rime of the Ancient Mariner with great enthusiasm. He participated in the meeting's annual Christmas variety show by singing Oh! Tannenbaum in German!

Don published over 150 articles in medical journals, including the New England Journal of Medicine. He did not retire until he was 90 years old! He devoted the last 25 years of his life to supporting universal health care through a single payer health care system, serving on the executive committee of SPAN Ohio. Universal health care and the elimination of wars were the abiding focus of Don's efforts. When asked what role his faith played in his many activist commitments, Don replied, "My faith has always been and will always remain my strong ally and an essential support in my various peace and social justice activities."

Don was predeceased by his wife, Lena Merle Williams Rucknagel, and his son Eric P. Rucknagel. He is survived by his daughter Dawn Diane Kerwin, and six grandchildren, Marshall Rucknagel, Rachel Rucknagel, Parker Rucknagel, Olivia Kerwin, Ruby Kerwin, and Patrick Kerwin, as well as his devoted companion, Mary Anne Curtiss.

Community Friends Meeting will hold a Memorial Meeting for Don Rucknagel on May 9, 2026 at 3:00 pm, at the Community Friends Meetinghouse, 3960 Winding Way, Cincinnati OH 45229.