

Minutes
of the 203rd Annual Sessions of the

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends

“Finding Our Way – Your Gifts Are Needed!”

June 14-18, 2023

Mount St. Joseph University, Cincinnati, OH
(with some online participation)

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Agenda

| Agenda for Business Meetings for 203rd OVYM Annual Sessions (2023) | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Wednesday 6/14 3-5pm | Thursday 6/15 10am-12:15pm | Friday 6/16 10am-12:15pm | Saturday 6/17 10am-12:15pm | Sunday 6/18 10-11am |
| Centering worship Welcome Land Acknowledgement Clerk's Intro, Roll Call of Representatives, Introductions, Letters of Introduction, Travel Minutes Gratitude to youth workers Appointment of visitors to youth business meetings REPORTS: Epistle Summary State of Society Nominating Comm. - initial report Introduction to Consent Agenda Review / Approval of Minutes Closing worship | Centering worship Clerk's Intro, Roll Call, Introductions, Letters of Introduction, Travel Minutes REPORTS: Whitewater Quarter Miami Quarter Diann Herzog – YM Travel Friends General Conf (FGC) Review / Approval of Minutes Closing worship Thursday 6/15 3:30-5pm Centering worship / Intros REPORTS: Restructuring Comm – initial Statistician Friends Comm on National Legislation (FCNL) Review / Approval of Minutes Closing worship | Centering worship Clerk's Intro, Roll Call, Introductions, Letters of Introduction, Travel Minutes REPORTS: Treasurer Budget & Finance Planning Committee American Friends Service Comm (AFSC) Child Abuse Prevention at annual sessions Review / Approval of Minutes Closing worship Consent Agenda: Young Adult Friends Rel Nurture & Education Braddock Fund Executive Comm. | Centering worship Clerk's Intro, Roll Call, Introductions, Letters of Introduction, Travel Minutes REPORTS: Nominating Comm – final Restructuring Comm - final Report from visitors to youth business meetings Consent Agenda – all other Advance Reports Review / Approval of Minutes Closing worship Consent Agenda: Website Administrator Administrative Assist. Records Coordinators Youth Services Comm | Centering worship Clerk's Intro, Roll Call, Introductions, Letters of Introduction, Travel Minutes REPORTS: Registrar 2024 OVYM Sessions / Planning Committee 2023 Epistles from the Children, Youth, and Adults Minutes of Appreciation Review / Approval of Minutes Closing worship Children's Program Prev. of Child Abuse Earthcare Quaker Quill |

Consent Agenda: Absent significant concern, these items will be acted on without discussion and will be accepted with appreciation for the work of these Friends and committees. Questions and concerns should be pursued with the committee members prior to Saturday's meeting. If significant concern still exists at the time of our meeting, any item can and will be discussed more fully. It will be helpful to the clerk if she can be alerted to unsatisfied questions and concerns in advance of Saturday's meeting.

Minutes of the 203rd Annual Sessions

Minutes of the 203rd Annual Sessions Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Sixth Month 14 -18, 2023

Sixth Month 14, 2023

3:00 – 5:00 pm

- 1. Opening Worship:** Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting gathered in centering worship at Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati, Ohio for its 203rd annual session.
- 2. Welcome:** The presiding clerk, Rachel Ernst Stahlhut, greeted Friends assembled for the 203rd session of the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.
- 3. Land Acknowledgement:** The co-clerk, Barry Zalph, acknowledged that the land where we are meeting once belonged to the people of the Shawnee Nation and the Myaamiaki, or Miami Nation, with prayers of sorrow for the genocide of these peoples and for the well-being of their descendants. He also acknowledged the stolen profits incurred by our nation and our community at the expense of the enslavement and discrimination against people of African descent, which sustains a persistent gap in wealth and well-being. He asked the Divine Light that is in each of us to illumine and transform this body as we undertake the work of decolonization and anti-racism.
- 4. Clerk's Introductions:** The clerk introduced the theme of this year's sessions, "Finding Our Way – Your Gifts Are Needed!" She noted that we are living in a complicated world, and yet we carry on together in spite of shared trauma and anxiety in the wider world. We are coming together to share our gifts with each other and rediscover how Quakers can be faithful in our work to bring healing to the world. We can build community and pay attention to the spirit in our worshipful discernment together in business meeting. Since the meeting is being held in a hybrid format, Friends were asked to be recognized before speaking and to say our names before speaking.
- 5. Roll Call:** The Recording Clerk called the roll of Yearly Meeting officers and administrators, Committee Clerks, Quarterly and Monthly Meeting Representatives, and Yearly Meeting staff.

Yearly Meeting officers:

Presiding Clerk: Rachel Ernst Stahlhut

Assistant Presiding Clerk: Barry Zalph

Recording Clerk: Lisa Cayard

Assistant Recording Clerk: Cecilia Shore

Treasurer: Wilson Palmer

Assistant Treasurer: (absent)

Committee Clerks:

Young Adult Friends: (absent)

Auditing: (absent)

Braddock Fund: Wilhelmina Branson

Budget & Finance: David Garman

Children's Committee: Hannah Branson

Development Committee: (absent)

Earthcare: David Duvall

Nominating: Paul Buckley

Peace & Social Concerns: (absent)

Personnel: Dinah Duvall and Steve Angell
Religious Nurture & Education: Rex Sprouse
Yearly Meeting Planning: Martha Viehmann
Youth Services: David Hyde

Quarterly Meeting Clerks:

Miami: (currently vacant)
Whitewater: Christine Carver

Monthly Meeting representatives: (These names include those Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings.)

Bloomington: Rex Sprouse
Campus: Rhonda Pfaltzgraff-Carlson
Clear Creek: David Garman
Community: Lisa Cayard
Dayton: Nikki Coffey Tousley
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer
Fall Creek: Diann Herzog
Fort Wayne: Terre Holada
Lafayette: Karen Atchison
Lexington: Peter Hardy
Louisville: Laurene Scalf
Miami: Gretchen Stone and Phil Stone
North Meadow: Dinah Duvall
Oxford: Cecilia Shore
White Rose: (absent)
Yellow Springs: Bruce Heckman

Yearly Meeting staff:

Administrative Assistant: Susan Lee Barton
Youth Secretary: Adam Funck

Administrators:

Statistician: Rex Sprouse
Website Administrator: Daniel Day
Records Coordinators: Susan Hyde
Quaker Quill Editor: Cecilia Shore
Publications Coordinator:
Registrar: Eric Wolff

6. **Introductions:** The clerk asked Friends to introduce themselves, including those participating via Zoom. Friends welcomed two visitors: Norma Wallman, from Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, and Janice Domanik, representing Friends General Conference. The clerk then asked Zoom participants to raise their hand if they would like to speak, and to show something green to indicate approval.
7. **Gratitude to Youth Workers:** The clerk expressed gratitude to Adam Funck and Alondra Barera Garcia who will be working with the youth group, and the staff (Lupe Raab, Maria Hernandez, and Paz Santana) who will be working with the younger children.
8. **Appointment of Visitor to youth business meeting:** The clerk asked for a volunteer to visit the youth during their business meeting. Christine Carver offered to serve as the youth visitor.

9. **Agenda Review:** The clerk reviewed agenda items for the day. Friends APPROVED the agenda as proposed.
10. **Epistle Summary:** Rick Boyce presented the summary of Epistles received by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Friends accepted the report.
11. **State of Society Report:** Rex Sprouse presented the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting State of Society report, which summarized central themes of the individual reports of the monthly meetings. The complete report will be printed in the minute book. The report was accepted with gratitude.
12. **Nominating Committee Initial Report:** Paul Buckley presented the initial report from Nominating Committee. He noted that there is a full slate of officers, following a four-year rotation of clerks. Annual session roles were approved at the April Executive Committee, with the addition of Steve Angell on the Epistle Committee. Friends **approved** this nomination. There are still a few vacancies, which Nominating Committee will seek to fill during annual sessions. It was noted that Development Committee has never met, so Nominating Committee is recommending that this committee be laid down. Planning Committee has two new names of Friends who are returning to service on this committee. Religious Nurture and Education needs two additional members. Youth Services Committee has one new name. It has been challenging to find representatives from OVYM to other Quaker organizations, and Paul encouraged Friends to consider serving in one of these important roles to maintain connections with the wider Quaker world. Representatives to the Braddock Fund has two names for approval. It was noted that Friends Music Camp has not been held for three years, and they have been unable to hold the camp again this year. Sam Garman has agreed to serve on the Friends Music Camp Board as a Quaker representative. This organization is trying hard to reorganize after pandemic challenges. The full slate of nominations will be brought back for approval later in these sessions.
13. **Introduction to Consent Agenda:** In order to free up space on the agenda for business meeting sessions, the clerk explained the recommendation to accept a selected number of written reports that appear in the Reports in Advance without discussion on the floor of the Yearly Meeting. If there are concerns or a need for discussion regarding any of the reports, Friends are asked to let the clerk know before Saturday's session. A list of these reports was shared. Friends were asked to read these Reports in Advance and contact the individual who wrote the report if they have any questions. Unless concerns are raised, it will be recommended that these reports be accepted without discussion.
14. **Review and Approval of Minutes:** The minutes were read, corrected, and approved.
15. **Announcements:** Susan Lee Barton called our attention to the documents available on the table for review, including paper copies of the directory and the reports in advance, which have names of those who requested them and names of each monthly meeting on them. These reports are also available on the yearly meeting website.
16. **Closing Worship:** The session closed at 4:40pm with a brief period of waiting worship. Friends will reconvene Sixth Month 15, 2023, at 10:00 am.

Sixth Month 15, 2023

10:00 am – 12:15 pm

17. **Opening worship:** Friends gathered at the appointed hour in centering worship.
18. **Clerk's Introduction:** The clerk welcomed Friends to the second day of annual sessions, with an invitation to be mindful of the ways we are already living in an ocean of light and love, in the New Jerusalem, encouraging us to be brave and live into a world of abundant gifts.

19. **Roll Call of Representatives:** The recording clerk called for representatives from monthly meetings not previously recorded to introduce themselves. The list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is noted at the beginning of these minutes.
20. **Introductions:** The clerk asked all those in attendance to introduce themselves, including those participating via Zoom. Friends welcomed Della Stanley-Green representing Quaker Leadership Center at Earlham School of Religion. As a way of building spiritual community, the clerk asked us to share our favorite bird or insect with a person sitting nearby.
21. **Letters of Introduction/Travel Minutes:** The assistant clerk read a travel minute for Cai Quirk, who is traveling in the ministry with a message of spiritual and gender diversity among Friends under the care of Ithaca Monthly Meeting and New York Yearly Meeting. The clerk then read a letter of introduction for Norma Wallman, representing FWCC Section of the Americas Committee. Norma is available to nurture relationships with FWCC. Friends warmly welcomed these visitors.
22. **Review of Agenda:** The clerk added a few items to the agenda that was printed in advance reports. Friends APPROVED the agenda with these additions.
23. **Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report:** Christine Carver, clerk of Whitewater Quarter, reported that three quarterly meetings were held in the past year, including a joint quarterly meeting at Happy Hollow in October. The experience of meeting in person was revitalizing to those who attended. Business included acting on a concern about a display of a Confederate flag at Levi Coffin Days in Fountain City, Indiana. The complete report is included in the minute book. The report was accepted.
24. **Miami Quarterly Meeting Report:** Peter Hardy, former clerk of Miami Quarter, reported that there were three quarterly meetings held in the past year. The joint meeting at Happy Hollow was the first in-person quarterly meeting since 2020, which was a great joy. Meeting virtually in the interim did make it possible to carry out important business and to share information among monthly meetings. Peter noted that after five years he has stepped down as clerk, and the quarterly meeting is seeking a new clerk. The complete report is included in the minute book. The report was accepted.
25. **Spring Grove Trustees Report:** J.P. Lund reported that Miami Quarterly Meeting holds a section of Spring Grove Cemetery, and there is a part of this section comprising about ten additional plots which has not yet been engineered. The cost of this engineering will be about \$2,700. Miami Quarterly Meeting is establishing a fund to pay for this work, and donations are requested from all monthly meetings and individuals in OVYM. After the needed funds are collected and the work is completed, any remaining funds would be placed in the Benevolent Fund. Checks for donations can be made out to Miami Quarterly Meeting and mailed to Alice Palmer in Cincinnati. The full report is printed in the minute book. A suggestion was made to ask Budget and Finance Committee to consider contributing to this fund. Friends APPROVED this suggestion. In response to a question, it was clarified that anyone in OVYM and their family members may be interred at Spring Grove.
26. **Report from Diann Herzog, Yearly Meeting Travel Minute:** In 2022, the yearly meeting approved a travel minute for Diann Herzog to travel among OVYM meetings in order to stir up love and light and unity in the Spirit. Diann was invited to share with us some reflections on her travel. Diann shared that Jesus said, "If you love me, feed my sheep." Diann's modern interpretation is "if you love me, feed my cats!" She experiences the same hunger for love in herself and in others, and shared that we are all seeking to find sustenance in the life-giving power of God. Diann shared the travel minute that Fall Creek Monthly Meeting approved for her ministry. She has visited two monthly meetings so far, and she would welcome invitations to minister at other meetings. The report was accepted with gratitude.

- 27. Report from FWCC:** Norma Wallman showed a map of the four sections of Friends World Committee for Consultation. She referred to the FWCC report which is printed in the minute book. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting will be able to send an in-person representative to the upcoming World Plenary in 2024 which will be held in South Africa, as well as a representative who participates virtually. The theme is “Living the Spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with hope to God’s call to cherish Creation – and one another.” Norma is available to answer questions about the work of FWCC. The report was accepted.
- 28. Friends General Conference Report:** Janice Domanik shared appreciation for the gifts that OVYM has given, including time and talents to the work of FGC. Three members of OVYM are serving as FGC staff, and financial support has also been greatly appreciated. Janice reflected on the gifts of young Friends that have been mentored and nurtured by FGC, including clerking, discerning about finances, and seeking the will of God in making decisions. These experiences can transform people’s lives. Janice shared about a campaign called “Gathering Together” to sustain the long-term vitality of the FGC Gathering, the Ministry on Racism, supporting youth ministries, and doing a better job of connecting yearly meetings. She is available to answer questions about the work of FGC. The report was accepted.
- 29. Administrative Assistant Job Description Update:** Susan Lee Barton brought some proposed changes to her job description. The full text of the changes are included in the minute book. The proposed changes included:
- The position would consist of 347 hours of annual service (rather than 416) as included in the current contract.
 - Clarifying the procedure for handbook updates that are factual rather than reflecting changes to the substance of a committee’s work.
 - The Administrative Assistant would serve as the backup to the website administrator.
- Friends APPROVED these proposed changes.
- 30. Review and approval of minutes:** The minutes for this session were reviewed, corrected, and approved.
- 31. Announcements:** Planning Committee would appreciate it if Friends would complete an evaluation either on paper or by using the QR code or on the website. Peggy Spohr encouraged Friends to shop at the bookstore. Cecilia Shore requested photos for the Quaker Quill.
- 32. Closing Worship:** The session closed at 12:00 pm with a brief period of waiting worship. Friends will reconvene Sixth Month 15, 2023, at 3:30 pm.

Sixth Month 15, 2023

3:30 pm- 5:00 pm

- 33. Opening worship:** Friends gathered at the appointed hour in centering worship.
- 34. Clerk’s Introduction:** The clerk welcomed Friends to the afternoon session. She reminded Friends that all of us practice spiritual discernment in the spirit of worship during business meetings, and thus we all participate in clerking the meeting together.
- 35. Roll Call of Representatives:** The recording clerk called for committee clerks and representatives from monthly meetings not previously recorded to introduce themselves. The list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is noted at the beginning of these minutes.
- 36. Introductions:** The clerk asked Friends who were not present at the previous sessions to introduce themselves, including those participating via Zoom.

37. Agenda Review: The clerk reviewed the agenda, and added one additional item. Friends APPROVED the agenda with this revision.

38. Ad Hoc Restructuring Committee:

- Paul Buckley brought an initial report from the ad hoc committee with a proposal to lay down the Peace & Social Concerns Committee and the Earthcare Committee, and to instead create one or two Peace, Justice, Earthcare and Social Action coordinator positions. It was clarified that at this time the PJES Coordinator position is intended to be a volunteer position, to be named by nominating committee. In response to a question, the ad hoc committee explained that the proposal responds to concerns raised by monthly meetings that social action is primarily local, and that the role of yearly meeting is to support the work of the monthly meetings. The proposal also is intended to reduce redundancies and duplication of effort, since many committees are difficult to staff at this time.
- Rex Sprouse shared the ad hoc committee's assessment of diverging concerns about the current structure and function of quarterly meetings. They did not have clarity to make a recommendation at this time. The clerk noted that it may be helpful to consider creating a new ad hoc committee to consider the future of our Quarterly Meetings.
- Another concern heard by the ad hoc committee was the need for enhanced intervisitation and communication among monthly meetings, but no proposal was brought forward to address this concern. It was suggested that this concern might be referred to Religious Nurture and Education Committee for consideration.
- Friends were advised to review the full report that was printed in advance, and to enter into discussion and discernment regarding possible options for moving forward during the next two days. The proposals will be brought back for action on Saturday. The entire report is included in the minute book.
- Great appreciation was expressed to the ad hoc committee for completing this challenging task.

39. Review and Approval of Minutes: The minutes for this session were reviewed, corrected, and approved.

40. Closing Worship: The session closed 5:00pm with a brief period of waiting worship. Friends will reconvene Sixth Month 16, 2023, at 10:00 am.

Sixth Month 16, 2023
10:00 am – 12:15 pm

41. Opening worship: Friends gathered at the appointed hour in centering worship.

42. Clerk's Introduction: The clerk welcomed Friends to the third day of annual sessions, and shared some reflections about spiritual mentors who have been important in our lives, and trusting that way will open. Friends were invited to share with one another about a spiritual mentor in our own lives as a way of deepening our spiritual community.

43. Roll Call of Representatives: The recording clerk called for representatives from monthly meetings not previously recorded to introduce themselves. The list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is noted at the beginning of these minutes.

44. Introductions: The clerk asked Friends who were not present at the previous sessions to introduce themselves, including those participating via Zoom. Friends welcomed Megan Fair, representing Right Sharing of World Resources.

45. Agenda Review: The clerk added a few items that were not in the original printed agenda, and Friends APPROVED the revised agenda.

46. **Treasurer's Report:** Wilson Palmer reported that financial support from constituent monthly meetings has been very strong this year. He referred to the proportional share, which is \$120 per member, for each monthly meeting. Some meetings pay more than their proportional share to help with extra expenses, and many individuals also make additional contributions. As of the end of the third quarter, our assets have increased by 6.2% since March of 2022. Fiscally, over the long term, our finances are doing very well. In response to a question, Wilson explained that yearly meeting funds are held in Friends Fiduciary Corporation accounts that are invested in socially responsible and fossil-fuel free organizations that treat employees and communities with respect. The report was accepted with gratitude.
47. **Budget & Finance:** Wilson Palmer reported that the 2023-2024 budget was preliminarily approved by Executive Committee in April. The budget was available for review in the printed reports. It was noted that, although the budget does include a deficit, our expenses have historically resulted in a surplus of funds. Friends APPROVED the proposed 2023-2024 budget.
48. **Statistician's Report:** Rex Sprouse expressed appreciation to the 13 monthly meetings that submitted statistical reports. Based on those reports, yearly meeting statistics overall remained very stable in the year 2022. Unfortunately, because three monthly meetings did not submit a statistical report this year, the overall report is not as complete as hoped. Rex expressed regret for being unable to present a full report, but he was assured that his integrity and faithfulness in service were deeply appreciated. Friends accepted the report. Gratitude was expressed to Frank Huss for his many years of faithful service as statistician for the yearly meeting.
49. **Yearly Meeting Planning Committee:** Ben Griffith and Martha Viehmann shared that the committee consisted of five members, plus the Youth Secretary, Children's Program leaders, and the Registrar. The assistant clerk also participated in the Planning Committee this year. The work of the committee in preparing for annual sessions was explained, and Friends were invited to consider volunteering to serve on Planning Committee next year. The important work of the Registrar was also highlighted, and Friends were invited to consider taking on this role as well. Martha shared that this year, attendance at yearly meeting sessions was much larger, and we have filled the space at Mount St. Joseph University to capacity. If we return to this location next year, we will need to seek additional space to accommodate overnight participants. Earlham College has not been able to commit to a date for next year, and previously Wilmington College was not accommodating to our needs. Costs are also continuing to increase, and this may present a barrier to many Friends. It was recommended that the yearly meeting establish a scholarship fund to offset these increased costs as needed. Since the pandemic, annual sessions are now offered in a hybrid format, and the additional responsibility of setting up technology for virtual meetings has been a great challenge. COVID has significantly reduced the participation of families with children and youth. Another new challenge that has fallen to Planning Committee has been developing COVID policies for annual sessions. It has not been clarified that these responsibilities will become an ongoing part of Planning Committee's work. Discussion included suggestions for offering alternate hospitality in Cincinnati to make it possible for us to return to Mount St. Joseph University. It was recommended that the concerns of Planning Committee should be brought to the August Executive Committee for further discernment. Friends APPROVED the recommendation to task Budget and Finance Committee with developing a proposal to address the need for a scholarship fund to support attendance at yearly meeting sessions, to be approved by Executive Committee before the next annual sessions. There was unity that we want to have a scholarship fund established. The report was accepted with gratitude.
50. **Antiracism Queries Working Group:** Cindi Goslee reported on the queries on inclusion that were approved by Executive Committee in February 2023. An ad hoc committee was appointed to write queries to encourage monthly meetings to examine their leadings and witness to become more inclusive and diverse, removing cultural barriers that might get in the way of welcoming people of color to our meetings. Monthly meetings are invited to consider these queries and to share the outcome of these discussions with Executive Committee. The report was accepted.

51. **American Friends Service Committee:** Jana Schroeder shared that she and Cindi Goslee are appointed to represent OVYM at AFSC events. They attended the annual meeting virtually. Jana shared some of the history of AFSC, and that current initiatives include immigration, prison reform, and economic justice. Often the work of the organization involves communities that are not primarily Quaker groups, but the focus and inspiration remains grounded in Quaker values. The report was accepted.
52. **Child Abuse Prevention at Annual Sessions:** At April Executive Committee, Friends asked the youth services committee and the children's committee to develop an agreement with parents and older youth attending 2023 yearly meeting sessions regarding expectations for safety. The clerk shared a brief report from the Youth Secretary. Since only one child under 18 is attending overnight, and that child is rooming with a parent, the concern for overnight safety has not been a relevant issue this year. The report was accepted.
53. **Review and Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for this session were reviewed, corrected, and approved.
54. **Announcements:** Paulette Meier shared that she would welcome invitations to visit monthly meetings to provide workshops or presentations with her Quaker quotes set to music as part of her music ministry.
55. **Closing Worship:** The session closed at 12:15 pm with a brief period of waiting worship. Friends will reconvene Sixth Month 17, 2023 at 10:00 am.

Sixth Month 17, 2023

10:00 am – 12:15 pm

56. **Opening worship:** Friends gathered at the appointed hour in centering worship.
57. **Clerk's Introduction:** The clerk welcomed Friends to the fourth day of annual sessions. She shared a sense of excitement about how the spirit will lead us as we labor together in love today.
58. **Roll Call of Representatives:** The recording clerk called for representatives from monthly meetings not previously recorded to introduce themselves. The list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is noted at the beginning of these minutes.
59. **Introductions:** The clerk asked Friends who were not present at the previous sessions to introduce themselves, including those participating via Zoom. Friends welcomed Sharon Goens-Bradley, who is representing the American Friends Service Committee. As a way of building our spiritual community, the clerk invited us to share with one another our favorite form of aquatic life.
60. **Letter of Introduction:** The assistant clerk read a letter of introduction for Sharon Goens-Bradley from the Quaker Engagement team of the American Friends Service Committee.
61. **Agenda Review:** The clerk reviewed the agenda for the morning session, which had one addition. The revised agenda was APPROVED.
62. **Report from David and Susan Hyde on travels to Northern Ireland:** The yearly meeting approved a travel minute for David and Susan in 2022. They visited Northern Ireland last summer, including Grange Meeting where Susan's Hinshaw ancestors were members. They also visited the Irish Republic near Cork. Their travel minute was endorsed by the clerk of Grange Meeting.

63. [Nominating Committee Final Report](#): Paul Buckley shared the final Nominating Committee report. The final report is included in the minute book. Names of those newly nominated to yearly meeting committees and representatives to other Quaker organizations were read aloud and shared on the screen. Friends APPROVED those names. There were no nominations to the Adult Young Friends committee.

- There was discussion about an individual who is listed as a representative to FWCC but who has withdrawn her membership from the Religious Society of Friends and who no longer attends meeting for worship. The clerk proposed that this name be removed from our list of yearly meeting representatives at this time. The clerks of Eastern Hills offered to contact this individual to inform her that she has been released from service, to thank her for her service, and invite future engagement. Friends APPROVED these actions.
- Nominating Committee recommended that Development Committee be laid down, since this committee has not met. It was clarified that there is not a great need for fundraising at this time. Friends APPROVED laying down this committee.

64. [Ad Hoc Restructuring Committee Final Report](#): Paul Buckley brought forward the recommendations of the Restructuring Committee presented previously:

- Proposal to lay down the Peace & Social Concerns Committee and the Earthcare Committee, and to instead create one or two Peace, Justice, Earthcare and Social Action coordinator position(s). Friends shared their experiences on these committees, and expressed that the Earthcare Committee has been well staffed and has met regularly, and has a strong sense of purpose. Current members are willing to increase outreach to monthly meetings as part of the committee role. The Peace & Social Concerns Committee, however, has been mostly non-functional in recent years. It was clarified that the yearly meeting role is more appropriately to coordinate, empower and support the work of monthly meetings. There was support for the value of this role, and for giving someone the specific charge of connecting and supporting monthly meetings. There was concern, however, about losing the important role of Earthcare Committee of planning and carrying out workshops and leading initiatives at the yearly meeting level. There was also concern about asking an individual to take on what has been the work of two committees on a volunteer basis. The vital importance of improved communication among monthly meetings was lifted up.
- The clerk asked if there was unity to approve laying down the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, and Friends APPROVED this action, while maintaining the Earthcare Committee at the yearly meeting level.
- There was further discussion of the proposed Coordinator position. It was suggested that a volunteer Coordinator could be provided with support, but that a paid position would be difficult to fill. Support was expressed for creating a position for a passionate and committed volunteer who could serve an important role in supporting, encouraging and connecting the social action work of monthly meetings. It was further noted that part of this role is to be an organizer, and that it's exciting that we are on the cusp of moving to a structure that could help build morale and energy for this important work. It was proposed that we could move ahead with creating this coordinator position as an experiment to support social justice work of monthly meetings, working in conjunction with the Earthcare Committee. Another proposal was made to assign the coordinator function to the Quarterly Meetings.
- Since there is still more work to be done, the clerk asked if a new ad hoc restructuring committee could be asked to continue the work that was begun on this task, as well as continuing to work on a recommendation regarding restructuring Quarterly Meetings. Friends APPROVED this recommendation. Nominating Committee will welcome volunteers to serve on the new ad hoc committee, as well as checking in with members of the current ad hoc committee to see if they want to continue.

65. Closing Worship: The session closed at 12:15 pm with a brief period of waiting worship. Friends will reconvene Sixth Month 18, 2023 at 10:00 am.

Sixth Month 18, 2023

10:00 am – 11:00 am

- 66. Opening worship:** Friends gathered at the appointed hour in centering worship.
- 67. Clerk's Introduction:** The clerk welcomed Friends to the final session of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's 203rd annual sessions. She reflected on her gratitude for the way Friends have given each other grace during business meeting sessions this year as we worked together to complete our business.
- 68. Review of Agenda:** The clerk reviewed some changes to the morning's agenda. The revised agenda was APPROVED.
- 69. Roll Call of Representatives:** The recording clerk called for representatives from monthly meetings not previously recorded to introduce themselves. The list of Friends who identified themselves over the course of the sessions as designated representatives of their respective monthly meetings is noted at the beginning of these minutes.
- 70. Introductions:** The clerk asked Friends who were not present at the previous sessions to introduce themselves, including those participating via Zoom.
- 71. Review and Approval of Minutes:** The minutes for the Saturday morning session were reviewed, corrected, and APPROVED.
- 72. Consent Agenda:** The clerk asked for acceptance of all other reports submitted in advance without discussion:
- [Young Adult Friends](#) (Uta Brewington)
 - [Religious Nurture and Education](#) (Rex Sprouse)
 - [Braddock Fund](#) (Christine Snider, Wilhelmina Branson)
 - [Executive Committee](#) (Rachel Ernst Stahlhut)
 - [Website Administrator](#) (Daniel Day)
 - [Administrative Assistant](#) (Susan Lee Barton)
 - [Records Coordinators](#) (Susan Hyde, Karen Campbell)
 - [Youth Services Committee](#) (David Hyde)
 - [Children's Program](#) (Hannah Branson)
 - [Prevention of Child Abuse Ad Hoc Committee](#) (Susan Lee Barton)
 - [Earthcare Committee](#) (David Duvall)
 - [Quaker Quill](#) (Cecilia Shore)
 - [Personnel](#) (Steve Angell, Dinah Duvall)
 - [Quaker Earthcare Witness](#) (Allen McGrew)
- It was noted that Carol Simmons has a letter from someone who has benefitted from the Braddock Fund. This letter will be included in the minute book.
- Friends were encouraged to read all the reports printed in advance. Friends accepted these reports.
- 73. Registrar's Report:** Eric Wolff reported that a total of 111 adults over age 35 attended yearly meeting sessions, plus 13 young adult Friends age 18-35, 3 teens, and 5 children age 10 and under. There were 92 who attended in person, 16 visitors, and 17 attending via Zoom. It was clarified that Young Adult Friends and first time attenders only pay half price. The report was accepted with gratitude.
- 74. Report from visitor to youth business meetings:** Christine Carver reported that she attended the youth business meeting on Thursday morning. Some young adults participated along with the teens. The youth shared ideas for planning activities that included bowling, roller skating, making bracelets, and practicing

their skit for the variety show. Christine did not observe a review of rules or guidelines, and there didn't seem to be any need for that. The youth interacted with respect and joy, modeling good Quaker practices. The report was accepted with gratitude.

75. 2024 Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions/ Planning Committee: Ben Griffith and Martha Viehmann reported that the position for our contact with Mount Saint Joseph University has been discontinued, and it is not likely that this location will be available for rental for our group next year. Planning Committee will pursue Earlham College as our preferred location for next year's sessions. Friends were asked to complete evaluations. The report was accepted.

76. Nominating Committee Update: Paul Buckley presented an updated report. They contacted current members of the Ad Hoc Restructuring Committee, and all but one will continue. Peter Hardy, Christine Carver, Al McGrew and Ben Griffith have volunteered to join this Ad Hoc Committee. Friends APPROVED these names. Paul Buckley will continue to clerk the Ad Hoc Committee.

77. 2023 Children's Epistle: Hannah Branson presented the Children's Program Epistle. The epistle was accepted.

78. Youth Epistle: Brian Garcia and Elana Branson, and shared the Youth Epistle. The epistle was accepted with appreciation.

79. Adult Epistle: Peter Hardy read the OVYM Epistle of the 203rd annual sessions. The epistle was APPROVED with gratitude.

80. Minutes of Appreciation:

- Appreciation was expressed to Paul Buckley for his leadership, wisdom, and insights on the Nominating Committee and the Ad Hoc Restructuring Committee.
- Appreciation was expressed for the child care workers and those who work so hard to plan activities for our children.
- Appreciation was expressed to Rachel Ernst Stahlhut, for her faithful and loving service as presiding clerk for the past two years.
- Appreciation was expressed to Ben Griffith for his tireless and faithful service as the Zoom technician, making it possible for Friends to participate virtually, as well as for his piano playing and organizing for singing together.
- Grateful appreciation was expressed to the members of Planning Committee: Martha Viehmann, Gloria Stearns-Bruner, Peter Hardy, Ben Griffith, and Beth Lewis for the huge labor of love that they gave to all of us.
- Appreciation was expressed to the staff and food service at Mount Saint Joseph University for providing for us during sessions.
- Appreciation was expressed to Lisa Cayard for her service as recording clerk.

81. Review and Approval of Minutes: The minutes for this session were reviewed, corrected, and approved.

82. Closing Worship: The session closed at 11:20 am and Friends moved to the Interfaith Chapel for Meeting for Worship. The Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting will reconvene in Sixth Month 2024 for the 204th annual sessions.

OVYM Epistle of the 203rd Annual Sessions

Friends from Ohio Valley Yearly meeting met at Mount Saint Joseph University in Delhi, Ohio for the 203rd Annual Sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. The College's tranquil grounds enabled quiet contemplation and fostered unhurried conversation. The friendliness and helpfulness of the College staff made us feel at ease. Sessions opened on Wednesday, June 14th, 2023 with our assistant clerk reminding Friends that we were meeting on the original homelands of the Myaamia and Shawnee nations. These are peoples we have displaced and ignored. As well, our assistant clerk asked us to recognize the many ways we have benefitted from the work of enslaved peoples, a legacy whose effects are still manifest, particularly in the persistent gap in wealth between the races.

Friends heard a [summary of the many epistles](#) sent to OVYM from other yearly meetings. We rejoiced in hearing how the spirit moved among them. We trust that their meetings will continue to be filled with light and joy.

The theme for the sessions was "Finding Our Way – Your Gifts are Needed". The theme reflected that our world was still emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic and that we were still finding our way back to fellowship. Friends were welcomed in a way that emphasized the theme of the Annual Sessions. Friends brought wrapped, unlabeled gifts. After selecting a gift randomly, Friends were invited to reflect upon the significance of the gift they had chosen. Several Friends spoke about the uniqueness or surprise of their gift, as if the giver had chosen them specifically to receive it. To emphasize the spiritual nature of gifts, Friends sang the traditional Shaker hymn "Tis a Gift to Be Simple". This spiritually sensitive state was reinforced by early morning worship sharing. In multiple groups, Friends labored to address queries generated to explore the theme of the sessions. Friends were asked to recognize their own gifts (which other Friends were encouraged to name) and grow into them.

Meetings for business gave Friends greater opportunity to explore our path. A restructuring committee suggested changes to our committee structure to simplify and refocus the work of Yearly Meeting in ways better suited to our numbers, leadings and strength. Some Friends saw the changes that the restructuring committee suggested as opening a new way for the Yearly Meeting to serve monthly meetings while other Friends felt that existing committees, perhaps with added responsibilities to connect with monthly meetings – a task made possible with newer electronic technology – already serve Friends well. As we were challenged to find new ways to be together and new ways to work, we were reminded of Romans 12:2 "*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—[their] good, pleasing and perfect will.*"

Our first plenary speaker, Cai Quirk, a non-binary and gifted person from Ithaca monthly meeting gave us a spirit-filled message which both inspired and challenged us. Cai likened the rich range of genders to the spectrum of colors. Cai emphasized the important role Meetings have in nurturing youth. Meetings may recognize certain gifts in young Friends such as their youth and good health, but fail to value a young person's spiritual gifts or give them the opportunities (the soil) for those spiritual gifts to grow.

Our second plenary speaker, Gretchen Castle, Dean of the Earlham School of Religion, formerly General Secretary for the Friends World Committee for Consultation world office, called us to consider more deeply how we can speak to the needs of our time, such as climate change. We need Friends to commit to giving all that we can. There is considerable diversity among Friends, and Gretchen showed a video where Friends from FWCC's four sections of the world spoke about their lives and leadings as Quakers and their experiences of the Quaker community. With all our distinctive strengths, Gretchen asked, "Why aren't our meetinghouses overflowing?" In some parts of the world, meetinghouses function as community centers during the week. "Are we ready to invite others to a new life?" she challenged us. A good start would be to recognize, "What is the good news that each of us in OVYM has to share?"

A set of eight workshops provided rich opportunities for Friends to learn about Quaker work and the Quaker way. Workshops put on by the two plenary speakers gave a more interactive opportunity for Friends to learn more and to explore the speakers' themes.

Our traditional variety show demonstrated the immense talent and creativity of Friends as well as their willingness to fearlessly and joyfully present spiritually enriching entertainment. After two hours of laughter and joy, Friends met together in the "Afterthoughts Cafe" for refreshments, dancing and conversation.

At this yearly meeting we welcomed Friends of many ages and abilities. Young children were present and were nurtured with love and attention. They, in turn, brought the gathering joy as well as messages of love and encouragement which they wrote in chalk on the sidewalks of the College's quad. Young-adult friends met and enjoyed fellowship and activities such as rafting. We were enriched by their energy, their creativity and their presence.

Friends young and old were reminded of the cycle of life and the importance of caring for one another regardless of age or ability. We celebrated the lives and long, rich marriage of a vibrant gay couple. We mourned the loss, over the past year, of several Friends. We sought ways to make new burial plots available for Yearly Meeting Friends. We scheduled times and places to enjoy picnics and future gatherings. In short, we celebrated the abundant life that our spiritual community, rooted in silent worship and nurtured by meaningful service, has to offer.

We treasure our connections to Friends around the world and send this epistle with our wish for many rich blessings for the coming year."

2023 Children's Program Epistle

Greetings to Young Friends everywhere. The Children's Program of OVYM met June 14-18, 2023 at Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati, Ohio. We focused on the theme of Finding Our Way — Your Gifts Are Needed. We learned that we all have our own gifts, whether it be a game of Mad Libs using parts of speech, or bubbles or chalk drawings or kickball or painting or playdough, or learning and talking about animals. We shared our concerns about sharing. We talked about nature and spent time in the outdoors. We send a message to all to go out and share your gifts. In Peace and Light, the Children of OVYM.

2023 Youth Epistle

On the fourteenth day of the sixth month of the year 2023, OVYM Youth gathered at Mt. St. Joseph University. This year our group consisted of both Young Adults and Youth Friends. Cecilia Branson, Elana Branson, Max Dean, Toby Dean, Bing Pfaltzgraff-Carlson, Aeda Harutunian, and Bryan Rivera were all in attendance. Our first activity was a partial group trip to Waffle House and Party City and Aldi for snacks. We then took a walk down the trail that seemed to go down to the river. Meeting for Worship with the entire Yearly Meeting centered us for the rest of the week ahead.

On the fifteenth day of the month, we started our day with silent worship and a business meeting. Post business meeting the youth group took a hike down the same trail from yesterday in hopes of reaching the nearby Ohio River, sadly the trail ended before reaching the river. Our main activity for the day was visiting the impressive garden of Sue Brungs and noting the impressive level of work it takes to grow such an elaborate garden. Sue was kind enough to offer us lemonade and cookies after our tour of the garden. Then we took the Anderson Ferry across the Ohio River, largely for the novelty of doing so, before returning to the campus for dinner. After dinner we attended a plenary on gender and spirituality by Cai Quirk and had a more personal discussion with Cai on the same subjects afterwards.

On the sixteenth day of the month, we continued our favorite OVYM tradition and went rafting on the Whitewater River in Brookville, Indiana. During this rafting trip WE chaperoned many older Friends, specifically Yoshiya, David, Lupe, Adam, Alondra, Karen, Audrey, Andrew, Uta, and Caira. We took three rafts and Karen's kayak, alternating between drifting along at a relaxing rate and racing our rafts. Although the trip started cold and overcast, fortunately the sun came out to warm us up and remind Tobias of the consequences of neglecting to thoroughly apply sunscreen. Afterwards, we took a quick trip to the convenience store where David very kindly treated us to some snacks. After a nap to recover from the rafting trip the youth group continued the trend from last year of having a late night Skyline Chili outing. We then ended the night by watching National Treasure starring Nicolas Cage, released in 2004, about a year after Tobias was "released" in 2003.

On the seventeenth day of the month, we spent the morning planning our contribution to this year's variety show and more importantly that day's trip to the Cincinnati Zoo. After lunch we departed for the Zoo joined by the OVYM Children's Program as well as the associated parents and staff. At the Zoo we were

fortunate to experience pleasant weather and see many very active animals. After a brief stop by the gift shop we all piled back into the cars, to varying degrees of success, and rushed home for dinner. After dinner and a bit of last minute practice we attended and performed at the much anticipated OVYM Variety Show. Our skit, Friz Finds the S.P.I.C.E.S Cabinet was inspired by the many animals we saw at the Zoo. We ended the night with a much appreciated pizza party.

On the eighteenth day of the month, we wrote this here epistle over breakfast as we fondly remembered the week. We plan to see each other again throughout the coming year and once again gather for OVYM in 2024.

Summary of Epistles Received

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting received epistles from Friends around the world since our last annual session in 2022. As COVID-19 incidence has declined, many more gatherings were held than in the previous year. New England and Philadelphia Yearly Meetings met for the 362nd and 342nd times, respectively, while Piedmont Friends–Yearly Meeting and Fellowship — formed from the combination of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting and Piedmont Friends Fellowship — held its 1st annual session.

Most Friends’ gatherings were able to meet in person or in hybrid sessions. The themes of many epistles reflected the reconnection and renewal inspired by the joy of being in the physical presence of others again, including Australia (Caring for Humanity in Interesting Times), Illinois (Creating Unity Despite Separation), Intermountain (Celebrating the Divine in All of Us), Ireland (Hope, Renewal, Healing), New England (This Is the Hour: How Does the Spirit Find You?), South Central (Spiritual Refreshment for the Long Haul), and Switzerland Yearly Meetings (Being Together Again: Togetherness and Listening), as well as the American Friends Service Committee (Connecting for Lasting Change). The themes of other yearly meetings asked where should Quakers be going now, including Britain Junior (Speaking Truth to Power: How Can We Release this Energy to Bring Light to Our Worlds?), German (What Is the Spirit Moving Us to Do in the Present-day World?), Lugari (Kenya) (Seek Peace), Netherlands (Inclusive Security), Nordic (Seeking a Quaker Spirituality for our Times), Northern (Pruning before Growth), North Pacific (Deep Hope in Optimystical [*sic*] Times), and Philadelphia Yearly Meetings (We Seek to Repair Broken Foundations across the Generations Unified in Our Beloved Quaker Community), and Monteverde Monthly Meeting (Am I Living My Truth? Am I Causing Harm by Being False? Is How I Am Living Life-giving?). Other themes were centered on our Quaker traditions, including Belgium and Luxemburg (Community, Compassion, and Unity), Lake Erie (Many Roots, One Tree), Japan (So Neither the One Who Plants nor the One Who Waters Is Anything, but Only God, who Makes Things Grow,) and Pacific Yearly Meetings (Beloved Community; What Does It Mean to Belong to Ourselves, to Each Other, to the Earth?), as well as the Africa Pastor’s Conference (Partnering in the Body of Christ for Missions), the Central European Gathering of Friends (CEG – Where We Came from, Where We Are Now, Where We Are Going), and Friends Church of North Carolina (Be Thou My Vision).

Many yearly meetings continue to struggle with aging and declining numbers and how to make the changes needed by younger generations, including Britain, Canadian, Intermountain, North Pacific, Pacific, Philadelphia, and Sierra Cascades Yearly Meetings. Directly addressing this, North Pacific Young Adult Friends pointed out their concern about the way the Society of Friends is operating, including the oppression and absence of support for young adult Friends in favor of older, white “weighty” Friends and the practice of discrimination patterns seen in the larger society. Many epistles reflected the struggles to bring young people, parents, and children into full participation of the yearly meeting, including Australia, Britain, Canadian, and Pacific Yearly Meetings. New England and Pacific Yearly Meetings waived registration fees for children and used a “pay-as-led” policy for others to increase participation, especially of children and young people, which led to Pacific Yearly Meeting having a third of its attenders 35 or younger. On the other hand, Friends Church of North Carolina has been reaching out to immigrant communities and churches, resulting in a lot of participation by young people, and to colleges in North Carolina via Friends Campus Ministries. Northern Yearly Meeting had lots of children, and their parents support group continued work on how the yearly meeting can support parents. Australia Yearly Meeting asked how to bring families, young people, and children into the life of yearly meeting, not just at sessions.

Many yearly meetings, especially those in Europe, have been concerned about the war in Ukraine. Belgium and Luxemburg Yearly Meeting used the war in Ukraine as a lens to examine how refugees from different parts of the

world are treated. The Central European Gathering of Friends has not only been hosting Ukrainian refugees but also supporting hard-pressed Russian Friends. France, Nordic, and Switzerland Yearly Meetings asked how we can continue to follow our peace testimony in times of war. Iowa (Conservative), Ireland, and German Yearly Meetings expressed their concerns, while both German Yearly Meeting and the Quaker Council for European Affairs are working for the right to conscientious objection in Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia. Refugees are one of the issues through which the American Friends Service Committee is seeking to connect with Friends.

Many yearly meetings expressed concern about environmental destruction and climate change, including Australia, Britain, German, New England, Nordic, and Switzerland Yearly Meetings and the Quaker Council for European Affairs. Both Ireland and North Pacific Yearly Meetings are looking for paths to a life-sustaining society, while Netherlands Yearly Meeting sought ways to implement ecojustice.

Many yearly meetings struggle to find ways to make themselves more inclusive, including Britain, German, Intermountain, Iowa (Conservative), New England, North Pacific, Philadelphia and Philadelphia Young Adult Friends, and South Central Yearly Meetings, as well as Piedmont Friends–Yearly Meeting and Fellowship. France Yearly Meeting noted the need to create more French-language Quaker content and to strengthen ties among Francophone Quaker communities around the world. Intermountain and Philadelphia Yearly Meetings passed minutes calling for a Truth and Healing Commission for Indian Boarding Schools, which Quakers supported in the 19th and 20th centuries. Both Monteverde Monthly Meeting and Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting have been working toward means of preventing abuse.

So as Friends emerge from the strains and sufferings imposed by COVID-19, there is a recognition of the enormous challenges we face. But there is also an enormous amount of hope and a renewed sense of energy to pursue the world we seek. This is encapsulated in a poem that was included in the epistle of Iowa (Conservative) Yearly Meeting:

We are on a journey and it may not even
matter so much where we end up,
but that we rise up to take the voyage.
We speak the truth of our lives,
hear each other and are changed.
We can love without complete understanding,
walking the light together while miles apart.

— from “The Journey Worth Taking” by Sarah Katrreen Hoggatt
Freedom Friends Church (Independent)

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Boyce

State of Society Report

This State of Society report is intended to summarize central themes articulated in the State of the Meeting reports submitted by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting’s sixteen constituent monthly meetings. We thank our monthly meetings for their faithfulness in preparing and submitting those reports. We note that our summary cannot do justice to each individual monthly meeting’s full experience and condition in 2022. We encourage Friends to read all of the State of the Meeting reports printed in *Reports in Advance* and the *Minute Book* of the Annual Sessions with an open heart and a prayerful state of mind, so that you may rejoice where there is joy and sympathize where there are struggles and pain. As our *Faith and Practice* reminds us: “What binds us together as a spiritual community is ... our sense of a common journey on a shared path, seeking the guidance of the Light” (p. 2).

The year 2022 saw both a continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic and an easing of some of the restrictions and consequences associated with it. This state of affairs had many effects on the functioning and spiritual health of our meetings, but it was not the only factor in play.

By the end of 2022, most of our constituent monthly meetings were holding regular First-Day morning meeting for worship and other meeting events in hybrid format with a majority of worshippers attending in person and a number of others attending via Zoom. In general, technical challenges posed by hybrid format had been overcome, and the Zoom option made it possible and convenient for Friends with disabilities or who live a considerable distance from the meetinghouse to be included. Meetings reported varying frequency of vocal ministry, but Friends generally felt that the amount of ministry was satisfactory. Overwhelmingly, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends reported that meeting for worship lay at the heart of the spiritual life of their meeting communities.

Several meetings had instituted or reinstated additional opportunities for spiritual deepening. These included additional meetings for worship during the week, Quaker study groups, books groups, Experiment with Light groups, and opportunities for Friends to share accounts of their spiritual journeys.

Another piece of our recovery from the height of the COVID-19 pandemic concerns the quantity and quality of fellowship. While opportunities for fellowship tended to be reduced during 2020 and 2021, by the end of 2022, several meetings had restored structured events to facilitate Friends getting to know one another in those things that are eternal and even put in place new events. Several meetings mentioned plans to introduce or reintroduce further community events in the future.

Some meetings had lost regular attenders, especially families with young children, during the early days of the pandemic. While some meetings lamented the absence of families with children in attendance, other meetings were blessed with the presence of children. Likewise, while many meetings tended to be made up almost exclusively of older adults, some meetings reported younger adults in their presence as well. Several meetings reported that newcomers had found their way to the Religious Society of Friends, despite the chaos and confusion of the pandemic, and some meetings welcomed new Friends into membership in 2022.

Meetinghouse and meeting space issues figured prominently in the life of many of our constituent monthly meetings in 2022. A number of meetings reported the need for ongoing focus on meetinghouse maintenance and improvement. One meeting celebrated the fact that they were able to pay off the mortgage on their meetinghouse many years ahead of schedule. On the other hand, due to a variety of circumstances, some meetings were facing uncertainty about their meeting space, in cases where the meeting does hold exclusive ownership of their meetinghouse. One particularly small meeting has had to suspend regular meeting for worship, in part because their meeting space had become unavailable due to the pandemic, and another small meeting has had to deal with a complex legal dispute over the rightful ownership of their property.

Many meetings were actively engaged in the world beyond the meetinghouse in 2022. In their State of the Meeting reports, several meetings discussed their community outreach and involvement with local charities. Some meetings were also active in broader societal concerns, particularly reproductive health and racism.

In sum, while some meetings reported a certain degree of exhaustion or occasional spiritual dryness, many meetings expressed a sense of moving forward. We can be hopeful about the future, because many or most of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting's constituent monthly meetings found themselves in recovery and rebuilding mode in 2022.

submitted by Rex Sprouse, Clerk
Religious Nurture and Education Committee

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

We held three quarterly meetings since the last annual sessions. The first was part of Joint Quarterly Meeting at Happy Hollow in October. Then there was one in January at North Meadow Circle of Friends on First Month 15 and another at Fall Creek Friends Meeting on Fourth Month 16. Some meetings are hybrid, where the technology exists, but some will only be in person as before the pandemic.

We felt the joy of meeting in person again where we benefited from the atmosphere of loving fellowship together. We feel this is a vital part of the life of the quarterly meeting that many Friends miss out on by staying home or attending via Zoom. We have had four to five monthly meetings participate in quarterly meetings with attendance at the business meetings a little over 20 people. Christine Carver shared packets of seeds she has saved, mostly natives, and Friends loved this idea. This was modeled after a seed share at Lafayette Friends Meeting several years ago.

We followed up this year regarding the concern of Confederate flags being sold by vendors at the Levi Coffin Days event in Fountain City, Indiana. A team of Friends from Clear Creek found only one vendor who had one displayed. He was Chinese and once the meaning was explained to him by a Friend, who also spoke Chinese, he immediately pulled it down from his display; and it was still gone the next day.

We were delighted to have brought forward for our approval travel minutes for both Diann Herzog of Fall Creek and Paul Buckley from Clear Creek for travel in the ministry.

We shared some wide-ranging discussion of Oxford Monthly Meeting's Minute on Reproductive Health and sent it along to our constituent monthly meetings. While the issue was discussed at several monthly meetings, according to their representatives, none could unite in a statement to forward to the annual sessions this year.

Christine Carver, Clerk of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

Miami Quarterly Meeting

This report covers the period of 2022 during which Miami Quarter held three quarterly meetings and participated in OVYM's annual sessions in June of 2022. Earlier, and in response to the shift in the date for yearly meeting's annual sessions from late July to early June, Miami Quarter advanced the dates for our meetings. We thus met in January and April, i.e. one month earlier than was typical, in order to collect and review the state of the meeting reports in time for their presentation during OVYM's annual sessions. We kept the date of the fall meeting in October.

Our meetings in January and April were online. In October we held the first joint quarterly meeting since the two quarters met at Camp Kern many years previously. We met at Happy Hollow campground in Indiana and had a wonderful meeting amid the beautiful fall colors and warm weather. This was the first in-person meeting since February of 2020. It was clear that Friends were deeply appreciative of meeting in person, to hold each other's hands; to renew friendships; to share our experience and meet new friends. We discussed the possibility of making a Joint Quarter Meeting a permanent feature of our meeting schedule.

In addition to the meetings of all Friends in Miami Quarter, we began a series of meetings of the clerks of monthly meetings in Miami Quarter. These meetings, hosted by the clerk of Miami Quarter and conducted online, occurred midway between regular quarterly meetings. These meetings had several purposes: to inform clerks of events of interest, such as clerking workshops and annual meeting sessions, and to hear about and provide support for clerks with whatever difficulty they may be experiencing in their own meeting. These sessions have been well attended, and recently the group was expanded to include clerks of all monthly meetings in OVYM.

Peter Hardy, clerk Miami Quarter

Spring Grove Trustees Report

Background: Miami Quarterly Meeting has a section in Spring Grove Cemetery that is actively in use. A part of this section, lots 111-119, has not been "engineered" to establish the exact location of the burial plots. We are not sure how many additional plots there are, but the representatives of Spring Grove estimate that there are about 10. The estimated cost of engineering this section of the cemetery is \$2700. Miami Quarter does not have money in its accounts that can be used for this purpose.

Minute Approved by Miami Quarterly Meeting, April 30, 2023:

Miami Quarter establishes the Spring Grove Fund, designated for the engineering of the lots 111-119 of our section of Spring Grove Cemetery. The estimate of the cost for this project is \$2700, though that estimate might change by the time the fund has enough money in it to authorize the project. Money for this fund will be solicited from all the meetings in the yearly meeting, but especially from the meetings in Cincinnati. Once the fund is large enough to pay for the engineering, the Spring Grove Trustees will authorize the work to be done. Once the project is complete, the Spring Grove Fund will be closed. Any remaining money will be turned over to the Benevolent Fund.

Implementation: Veronica Frost has completed her service as Treasurer for Miami Quarterly Meeting, and no replacement has been approved. Veronica is frequently traveling and not in a position to be receiving funds. Given this situation, Alice Palmer has agreed to receive donations to Miami Quarterly Meeting, and deposit them into the Quarterly Meeting's bank account. To donate to the Spring Grove Fund, please make a check out to **Miami Quarterly Meeting** and mail it to

Miami Quarterly Meeting
% Alice Palmer
821 Dunore Rd,
Cincinnati, OH 45220

Friends World Committee for Consultation Report

FWCC held its first-ever hybrid section meeting from March 23-26, and by many counts, it was a great success. Over 100 Friends gathered in-person at Haw River State Park in Greensboro, North Carolina, and an equal number joined online.

- The theme was *Becoming the Quakers the World Needs*; Noah Merrill gave the keynote address.
- The biblical theme was God's great commandment to love God and one another. This theme inspired seven workshops centered on building relationships.
- A new online interactive map tool debuted at the Section Meeting that allows Friends to find a Quaker Meeting or Church anywhere in the Americas from their smartphones or computers--and even links to allow them to participate in Meeting for Worship by Zoom.
- Interpreters are a critical part of keeping the FWCC family together. For the first time in years, FWCC Section of the Americas offered a formal training for interpreters just before the section meeting. Providing more resources for interpretation is an important part of the strategy to maintain equity in who is involved with FWCC Americas. FWCC is also creating an interactive online glossary that will translate Quaker words into the many languages Friends speak globally and facilitate better communication via an app.
- Reflecting the diversity of Quakerism in the Americas, the event included programmed and unprogrammed worship led by Friends of varying traditions and was conducted in both Spanish and English throughout.
- Contemplating the invitation to joyfully accept our places in the covenant community, the concluding minute referenced Isaiah 6:8: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"

The World Plenary will take place in August 2024 and will be hybrid, with in-person events held in South Africa. The theme is "Living the Spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with hope to God's call to cherish creation – and one another."

There is a YouTube [video \(https://youtu.be/dw_17v1vmo8\)](https://youtu.be/dw_17v1vmo8) and [spiritual preparation information \(https://fwcc.world/living-the-spirit-of-ubuntu-in-2023/\)](https://fwcc.world/living-the-spirit-of-ubuntu-in-2023/) available on the FWCC website.

World Quaker Day 2022 was a huge success! We asked Friends to visit a different Quaker meeting or church than they regularly attend, and they delivered. The best way to see reports around the world is to check out this [Twitter thread from World Quaker Day activities \(https://twitter.com/FWCCWorldOffice/status/1578478968545497089\)](https://twitter.com/FWCCWorldOffice/status/1578478968545497089). It beautifully shows many Friends around the world and how they spent World Quaker Day. Friends Journal published a [reflection on World Quaker Day \(https://www.friendsjournal.org/world-quaker-day/\)](https://www.friendsjournal.org/world-quaker-day/) that focused on the Bible quote for the day, "You are the light of the world. A house built on a hill cannot be hidden." (Matthew 5:14)

World Quaker Day 2023 will be on Sunday, October 1. The theme will be the same as the World Plenary and will be preparatory (<https://fwcc.world/worldquakerday/>) to it.

Current projects:

- FWCC is creating an online interactive global directory of Friends through their work with the census of religions.
- FWCC is increasing translation and interpretation support and services. FWCC has been executing its strategy to ensure equity in who makes decisions about our global operations. FWCC is volunteer-led, and representatives from countries in Central and South America are represented on every committee. This means they must have live translation and/or interpretation for every committee meeting. FWCC is also creating an online, interactive glossary of Quaker terminology in the languages Quakers speak around the world.
- FWCC has begun offering consultations and formed a consultations program group, which was approved during the Section Meeting. Consultations we have already offered include hybrid worship, Spirit-led climate action and missions.

Project funding: FWCC has launched a global fundraising campaign (<https://www.fwccamericas.org/becoming/>) entitled *Becoming the Quakers the World Needs*. This campaign focuses on building resources needed for the Section to operate, including bilingual support and services, the new interactive global directory of Friends online, and travel support for the World Plenary. FWCC has already raised \$800,000 of the \$1.25 million of this campaign during the quiet phase, and some of the funded projects have begun. A campaign of this importance occurs only once every 15 years, and the FWCC is asking each Yearly Meeting to reflect upon and respond to the call.

American Friends Service Committee Report

Guided by the Quaker belief in the divine light of each person, AFSC works with people of all faiths and backgrounds to challenge unjust systems and promote lasting peace.

Cindi Goslee and Jana Schroeder, OVYM's appointees to AFSC's Corporation, attended the 2023 hybrid AFSC annual meeting virtually in April. This year was the first time that some Friends gathered in person at Friends Center in Philadelphia since 2019.

The organization is implementing restructuring of staff and governance to support the three main issues identified in the strategic plan adopted in 2020: just peace and peacebuilding, just economies and just immigration. One of the staffing changes is a new global cohesion unit which aims to increase coordination and cross-pollination among programs and across issue areas.

In the fall of 2022 the AFSC Board approved a new structure and process for decisions on program choice and implementation. Each program will have an advisory committee made up of diverse, informed and inspired people. Regional committees will continue. A new Joint Program Committee will bring together international and U.S. groups to make program and budget decisions based on understandings of both local/geographic concerns and thematic issues. This committee will approve the program portfolio and associated budget for Board consideration. The approved document notes that governance should lift up Quaker concerns and ensure that work is conducted in the manner of Friends. Implementation is in the beginning stage with new opportunities for Friends to serve forthcoming.

Brian Blackmore is the new Friends Relations Director at AFSC. He comes to AFSC from Westtown School where he taught religion. He is excited to connect with Friends and has a special concern for widening AFSC's embrace to include the thousands of young people and their families who attend Quaker schools and colleges who share a commitment to Quaker testimonies.

In April 2023 the second cohort of the Emerging Leaders for Liberation was convened. Participants are young adults, ages 18 to 22, from around the globe who have a connection to an AFSC program, Quaker meeting or Quaker educational institution. The emerging leaders receive a deep grounding in community-based social justice work informed by Quaker principles and practices. Each leader undertakes a project in their local community. Applications for the next cohort will be open in the winter of 2024. Please help spread the word about this opportunity. Anyone interested can visit <https://afsc.org/programs/emerging-leaders-liberation> for more information.

AFSC currently has programs in 18 countries and 27 U.S. locations. The Friends Engage page of the AFSC website includes links to a number of resources of interest to meetings and individual Friends. There Friends will also find a link to sign up to serve as an AFSC meeting liaison and a link to recordings and resources from the 2023 annual Corporation meeting. The page is at <https://afsc.org/friends-engage>

Budget and Finance Committee Report

The Budget and Finance Committee has met during the year to care for our financial resources. Our thanks go to the careful and loving work of our treasurer. Also, we express thanks to our clerical support staff in setting up Zoom meetings and Yearly Meeting communication. We met in person during 2022 sessions and held one internet meeting; we communicated via email when necessary. Our discussions led to a streamlining of the budging calendar to fit the current time of annual sessions. We solicited input from officers and committees and prepared a proposed budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year. This budget was presented at the 4/1/2023 meeting of the Executive Committee which approved it for presentation at annual sessions. The amount of \$600 as the suggested reimbursement for OVYM representative travel expenses was proposed and approved by Executive Committee.

Braddock Trust Fund Committee Report

On October 11, 2022, the Braddock Trust Fund Committee approved the disbursement of \$3000 to the 365 Project for the use of Guy Banks, a returned citizen, for use with his Destination Day Camp in Yellow Springs, Ohio. We requested a report from Catherine Roma.

On January 3, 2023, Catherine Roma wrote:

“I wanted to let you know Tron's (I guess that is Guy Banks' nickname) first opening day of All-In Fitness (renamed Youth Fitness Camp) happened and it was hugely successful. 30 kids (ages 8 -13) participated. Lots of adults worked during the day. An amazing meal was made with a talk about nutrition. Different activities and games in the gym were great for the kids. Thank you for making it happen. The 365 Project oversaw the monies and wrote checks. Tron got money from the Yellow Springs Community Foundation, The Braddock Fund, and the 365 Project.”

We have learned that Wilmington College faculty are in the process of applying to restart the Prison Education Program. If they are successful, we look forward to collaboration with them.

The Braddock Trust Fund Committee approved a change in our language in the OVYM Handbook. Currently, the Handbook says the committee should consist of “three” members. We have changed this wording to say the committee should consist of “at least three” members, so that we can accommodate more members, if the Nominating Committee should find more than three suitable members for the committee.

Steve Angell, on behalf of the Braddock Trust Fund Committee (Wilhelmina Branson, Christine Snyder, and myself)

Treasurer's Report

2022-23 OVYM Treasurer's Report - Fiscal Year 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023

| | 2018-19 Actual | 2019-20 Actual | 2020-21 Actual | 2021-22 Actual | 2022-23 Budget | 2022-23 Actual | 2023-24 Budget |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Table 1. Fund Balances | | | | | | | |
| FWCC Triennial Travel Expense Fund (Table 2) | 3,683.65 | 4,683.65 | 5,683.65 | 6,683.65 | 7,683.65 | 7,683.65 | 8,683.65 |
| Benevolent Fund-Inv. (Table 3) | 7,315.59 | 7,533.71 | 10,014.56 | 8,630.96 | 8,717.27 | 9,549.95 | 9,645.45 |
| Peace Witness Fund-Inv. (Table 4) | 2,728.07 | 2,854.15 | 3,795.21 | 3,270.30 | 3,303.00 | 3,622.81 | 3,659.04 |
| Meetinghouse Resource Fund-Inv. (Table 5) | 7,096.95 | 7,308.55 | 10,776.15 | 9,287.33 | 9,380.20 | 10,381.10 | 10,484.91 |
| Faith & Practice Printing Fund-Inv. (Table 6) | 5,036.63 | 5,186.80 | 3,423.95 | 2,203.47 | - | - | - |
| Youth Committee Fund (Table 7) | 975.44 | 975.44 | 975.44 | 975.44 | 975.44 | 975.44 | 975.44 |
| Spiritual Nurture Fund-Inv. (Table 8) | 9,015.68 | 9,284.49 | 12,341.87 | 10,636.73 | 10,743.10 | 11,769.29 | 11,886.98 |
| Braddock Fund-Inv. (Table 9) | 72,160.17 | 72,356.32 | 93,051.60 | 80,181.78 | 80,983.60 | 82,890.75 | 83,719.66 |
| General Fund Reserves-Inv | 66,704.83 | 68,693.66 | 91,314.52 | 78,698.58 | 81,711.07 | 89,516.22 | 90,411.38 |
| General Fund (Table 10) | 28,257.88 | 32,077.24 | 40,789.13 | 47,830.84 | 45,350.84 | 57,845.47 | 50,360.47 |
| Total | 202,974.89 | 210,954.01 | 272,166.08 | 248,399.08 | 263,841.66 | 274,234.68 | 269,826.98 |

| Table 2. FWCC Travel Expense Fund | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Starting Balance | 2,683.65 | 3,683.65 | 4,683.65 | 5,683.65 | 6,683.65 | 6,683.65 | 7,683.65 |
| 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 | | | | | | | |
| Ending Balance | 3,683.65 | 4,683.65 | 5,683.65 | 6,683.65 | 7,683.65 | 7,683.65 | 8,683.65 |

| Table 3. Benevolent Fund - Invested | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Starting Balance | 7,014.67 | 7,315.59 | 7,533.71 | 10,014.56 | 8,630.96 | 8,630.96 | 9,549.95 |
| Gain or (Loss) from investment | 300.92 | 218.12 | 2,480.85 | (1,383.60) | 86.31 | 918.99 | 95.50 |
| Ending Balance | 7,315.59 | 7,533.71 | 10,014.56 | 8,630.96 | 8,717.27 | 9,549.95 | 9,645.45 |

| Table 4. Peace Witness Fund - Invested | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Starting Balance | 2,605.22 | 2,728.07 | 2,854.15 | 3,795.21 | 3,270.30 | 3,270.30 | 3,622.81 |
| Gain or (Loss) from investment | 122.85 | 143.77 | 941.06 | (524.91) | 32.70 | 352.51 | 36.23 |
| Disbursements | | | | | | | |
| Ending Balance | 2,728.07 | 2,854.15 | 3,795.21 | 3,270.30 | 3,303.00 | 3,622.81 | 3,659.04 |

| Table 5. Meetinghouse Resource Fund - Invested | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Starting Balance | 6,805.02 | 7,096.95 | 7,308.55 | 10,776.15 | 9,287.33 | 9,287.33 | 10,381.10 |
| Income or (Disbursements) | | | 1,000.00 | | | 100.00 | |
| Gain or (Loss) from investment | 291.93 | 211.60 | 2,467.60 | (1,488.82) | 92.87 | 993.77 | 103.81 |
| Ending Balance | 7,096.95 | 7,308.55 | 10,776.15 | 9,287.33 | 9,380.20 | 10,381.10 | 10,484.91 |

| Table 6. Faith & Practice Printing Fund - Invested | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| Starting Balance | 4,829.45 | 5,036.63 | 5,186.80 | 3,423.95 | | | |
| Gain/(Loss) from investment | 207.18 | 150.17 | 1,508.81 | (438.06) | | | |
| Disbursements | | | 3,271.66 | 782.42 | | | |
| Ending Balance | 5,036.63 | 5,186.80 | 3,423.95 | 2,203.47 | | | |

| Table 7. Youth Committee Fund - Results from Table 21 | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Starting Balance - last year's Ending Balance | 685.44 | 975.44 | 975.44 | 975.44 | 975.44 | 975.44 | 975.44 |
| Unused Fundraising+Contributions or (Debt) | 290.00 | | | | | | |
| Ending Balance | 975.44 | 975.44 | 975.44 | 975.44 | 975.44 | 975.44 | 975.44 |

| Table 8. Spiritual Nurture Fund - Invested | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Starting Balance | 8,644.82 | 9,015.68 | 9,284.49 | 12,341.87 | 10,636.73 | 10,636.73 | 11,769.29 |
| Income and Disbursements | - | | | | | | |
| Gain or (Loss) from investment | 370.86 | 268.81 | 3,057.38 | (1,705.14) | 106.37 | 1,132.56 | 117.69 |
| Ending Balance | 9,015.68 | 9,284.49 | 12,341.87 | 10,636.73 | 10,743.10 | 11,769.29 | 11,886.98 |

| Table 9. Braddock Fund for Prison Ministry - Invested | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Starting Balance | 79,106.26 | 72,160.17 | 72,356.32 | 93,051.60 | 80,181.78 | 80,181.78 | 82,890.75 |
| Income | | 1,000.00 | | | | | |
| Disbursements | 10,074.00 | 3,121.78 | 3,000.00 | | | 5,650.00 | |
| Gain or (Loss) from investment | 3,127.91 | 2,317.93 | 23,695.28 | (12,869.82) | 801.82 | 8,358.97 | 828.91 |
| Ending Balance | 72,160.17 | 72,356.32 | 93,051.60 | 80,181.78 | 80,983.60 | 82,890.75 | 83,719.66 |

2022-23 OVYM Treasurer's Report - Fiscal Year 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023

| | 2018-19 Actual | 2019-20 Actual | 2020-21 Actual | 2021-22 Actual | 2022-23 Budget | 2022-23 Actual | 2023-24 Budget |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|

Table 10. General Fund Summary

| INCOME | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Meeting Contributions (Table 11) | 59,694.00 | 60,520.00 | 57,940.00 | 56,980.00 | 58,740.00 | 63,612.80 | 56,220.00 |
| (row available for some unknown future use) | - | | | | - | | - |
| Cash and purchases contributed to OVYM | 200.00 | 1,016.12 | | 108.00 | 200.00 | 130.75 | 150.00 |
| Donated Travel Costs | 603.63 | 490.74 | 176.00 | 74.66 | 350.00 | - | 250.00 |
| Sales of Disciplines | | | 144.66 | 49.15 | 10.00 | 65.50 | 10.00 |
| Total Income | 60,497.63 | 62,026.86 | 58,260.66 | 57,211.81 | 59,300.00 | 63,809.05 | 56,630.00 |
| EXPENSES | | | | | | | |
| Operating Expenses (Table 12) | 30,682.08 | 29,091.20 | 30,326.56 | 20,421.77 | 25,480.00 | 21,141.46 | 28,015.00 |
| Committee Expenses (Table 17) | 1,119.62 | 4,361.88 | 100.00 | 669.66 | 7,600.00 | 70.00 | 7,600.00 |
| Representative Travel (Table 23) | 1,918.25 | 1,987.54 | 376.00 | - | 1,300.00 | - | 1,100.00 |
| Yearly Meeting Session (Table 24) | 9,779.61 | 2,216.88 | 296.21 | 10,428.67 | 8,550.00 | 13,732.96 | 8,550.00 |
| 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 |
| (row available for some unknown future use) | - | | | | | | |
| Donations by OVYM (Table 25) | 17,650.00 | 19,550.00 | 17,450.00 | 17,650.00 | 17,850.00 | 17,850.00 | 17,850.00 |
| Total Expenses | 62,149.56 | 58,207.50 | 49,548.77 | 50,170.10 | 61,780.00 | 53,794.42 | 64,115.00 |
| Net General Fund Gain/(Loss) | (1,651.93) | 3,819.36 | 8,711.89 | 7,041.71 | (2,480.00) | 10,014.63 | (7,485.00) |

Table 11. Meeting Contributions

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Bloomington | 7,200.00 | 5,640.00 | 6,720.00 | 6,240.00 | 6,360.00 | 6,240.00 | 6,480.00 |
| Campus | 1,200.00 | 1,320.00 | 1,320.00 | 1,320.00 | 600.00 | 1,320.00 | 840.00 |
| Clear Creek | 7,800.00 | 6,960.00 | 8,280.00 | 8,400.00 | 8,520.00 | 8,520.00 | 8,400.00 |
| Community | 6,960.00 | 7,380.00 | 6,840.00 | 7,200.00 | 6,840.00 | 7,200.00 | 6,840.00 |
| Dayton | 2,160.00 | 2,700.00 | 2,700.00 | 2,700.00 | 2,520.00 | 2,700.00 | 2,400.00 |
| Eastern Hills | 1,620.00 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 2,000.00 | 1,380.00 | 2,000.00 | 1,380.00 |
| Fall Creek | | 2,800.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | | 1,200.00 |
| Fort Wayne | 720.00 | 600.00 | 720.00 | 720.00 | 720.00 | 720.00 | 720.00 |
| Lafayette | 720.00 | 1,440.00 | 600.00 | 720.00 | 600.00 | 600.00 | 840.00 |
| Lexington | 4,680.00 | 4,680.00 | 5,040.00 | | 5,040.00 | 10,080.00 | 5,160.00 |
| Louisville | 4,920.00 | 4,000.00 | 4,320.00 | 3,960.00 | 3,960.00 | 3,960.00 | 3,480.00 |
| Miami | 4,000.00 | 2,000.00 | | 3,360.00 | 3,120.00 | 3,120.00 | 2,880.00 |
| North Meadow | 4,234.00 | 4,060.00 | 3,980.00 | 4,560.00 | 4,080.00 | 4,080.00 | 2,880.00 |
| Oxford | 2,280.00 | 2,160.00 | 1,920.00 | 1,920.00 | 1,920.00 | 1,920.00 | 2,040.00 |
| White Rose | | 1,940.00 | 1,500.00 | 2,000.00 | 1,440.00 | | 512.80 |
| Yellow Springs | 11,200.00 | 10,840.00 | 10,800.00 | 10,680.00 | 10,440.00 | 10,640.00 | 9,480.00 |
| Total Meeting Contributions | 59,694.00 | 60,520.00 | 57,940.00 | 56,980.00 | 58,740.00 | 63,612.80 | 56,220.00 |

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| 2018-19 Actual | 2019-20 Actual | 2020-21 Actual | 2021-22 Actual | 2022-23 Budget | 2022-23 Actual | 2023-24 Budget |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|

Table 12. Operating Expenses

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Administration (Table 13) | 1,150.00 | 993.16 | 1,277.11 | 1,020.62 | 1,530.00 | 966.00 | 1,285.00 |
| Clerical support (Table 14) | 356.58 | 296.64 | 196.13 | 725.90 | 400.00 | 220.63 | 400.00 |
| Staff (Table 15) | 27,330.84 | 26,334.02 | 26,598.80 | 15,869.57 | 20,500.00 | 18,371.44 | 23,280.00 |
| Publications (Table 16) | 1,544.66 | 1,167.38 | 1,954.52 | 2,505.68 | 2,750.00 | 1,283.39 | 2,750.00 |
| Archives | 300.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 |
| Total | 30,682.08 | 29,091.20 | 30,326.56 | 20,421.77 | 25,480.00 | 21,141.46 | 28,015.00 |

Table 13. Administration

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Bank Charges | | | | 71.62 | 30.00 | | 30.00 |
| Liability Insurance | 1,117.00 | 945.16 | 965.86 | 949.00 | 1,020.00 | 966.00 | 1,020.00 |
| OVYM Background Checks | 33.00 | 39.00 | | | 80.00 | | 35.00 |
| Constituent Meeting Background Checks (Constituent Meeting Reimbursement) | | 99.00 (90.00) | | | | | |
| Officers' Expenses | | | 311.25 | | 400.00 | | 200.00 |
| Total | 1,150.00 | 993.16 | 1,277.11 | 1,020.62 | 1,530.00 | 966.00 | 1,285.00 |

Table 14. Clerical Support

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Office Expenses | 152.16 | 181.99 | 160.89 | 641.97 | 260.00 | 207.16 | 260.00 |
| Postage | 35.36 | 74.76 | 35.24 | 83.93 | 90.00 | 13.47 | 90.00 |
| Copying | 169.06 | 39.89 | | | 50.00 | | 50.00 |
| Total | 356.58 | 296.64 | 196.13 | 725.90 | 400.00 | 220.63 | 400.00 |

Table 15. Staff

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Compensation | 24,807.12 | 24,665.28 | 26,210.40 | 15,505.75 | 19,500.00 | 17,837.00 | 22,280.00 |
| Workers Comp | 230.34 | 216.72 | 208.40 | 236.50 | 250.00 | 248.61 | 250.00 |
| (row available for some unknown future use) | | | | | - | | - |
| Internet Access | 180.00 | 180.00 | 180.00 | 45.00 | | | |
| Travel | 2,113.38 | 1,272.02 | | 82.32 | 500.00 | 285.83 | 500.00 |
| Professional Development | | | | | 250.00 | | 250.00 |
| Total | 27,330.84 | 26,334.02 | 26,598.80 | 15,869.57 | 20,500.00 | 18,371.44 | 23,280.00 |

Table 16. Publications

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Quill | 360.29 | 338.74 | 615.97 | 503.08 | 600.00 | 420.71 | 600.00 |
| Web site expenses | | | 143.30 | | 150.00 | | 150.00 |
| Minute Books and Reports in Advance | 943.17 | 825.49 | 1,195.25 | 1,191.63 | 1,200.00 | 862.68 | 1,200.00 |
| Directory | 241.20 | 3.15 | | 810.97 | 800.00 | | 800.00 |
| Total | 1,544.66 | 1,167.38 | 1,954.52 | 2,505.68 | 2,750.00 | 1,283.39 | 2,750.00 |

Table 17. Committee Expense

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Religious Nurture & Education (Table 18) | 461.07 | 1,012.54 | 100.00 | 555.00 | 1,000.00 | - | 1,000.00 |
| (Table 19) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Peace & Social Concerns (Table 20) | - | - | - | - | 50.00 | - | 50.00 |
| Youth Committee (Table 21) | 193.06 | 2,999.39 | - | - | 6,300.00 | 70.00 | 6,300.00 |
| Adult Young Friends (Table 22) | - | - | - | - | 50.00 | - | 50.00 |
| Joint Quarterly Meeting Children's Program | | | | | | | |
| Travel - Donated | 200.00 | 51.20 | | 74.66 | 50.00 | | 50.00 |
| Travel - Reimbursed | 265.49 | 298.75 | | 40.00 | 150.00 | | 150.00 |
| Total Expenses | 1,119.62 | 4,361.88 | 100.00 | 669.66 | 7,600.00 | 70.00 | 7,600.00 |

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| 2018-19 Actual | 2019-20 Actual | 2020-21 Actual | 2021-22 Actual | 2022-23 Budget | 2022-23 Actual | 2023-24 Budget |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|

Table 18. Religious Nurture & Education Committee

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|
| Pamphlets, copying and printing | 411.07 | | | | 10.00 | | 10.00 |
| Gatherings, Retreats, Honorariums | 50.00 | 1,534.54 | 100.00 | 820.00 | 1,050.00 | | 1,050.00 |
| (Retreat Income) | | (522.00) | | (265.00) | (100.00) | | (100.00) |
| Resource Materials | | | | | 40.00 | | 40.00 |
| Total Expense | 461.07 | 1,012.54 | 100.00 | 555.00 | 1,000.00 | - | 1,000.00 |

Table 19.

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Total Expense | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Table 20. Peace & Social Concerns

| | | | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|----------|--------------|
| Workcamp and Pre-YM Workshop | | | | | 5.00 | | 5.00 |
| Postage | | | | | 45.00 | | 45.00 |
| Display for YM Sessions and other Materials | | | | | | | |
| Total Expense | - | - | - | - | 50.00 | - | 50.00 |

Table 21. Teen/Middle Youth Program

INCOME

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Contributions | 290.00 | | | | | | |
| Fundraising | | | | | | | |
| Registration Fees | | 75.00 | | | | | |
| OVYM contrib to expenses (\$6300 max) | 193.06 | 2,999.39 | | | 6,300.00 | 70.00 | 6,300.00 |
| Total Income | 483.06 | 3,074.39 | - | - | 6,300.00 | 70.00 | 6,300.00 |

EXPENSE

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|----------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Publicity | 45.10 | | | | | | |
| Teen Events | 147.96 | 646.49 | | | | 70.00 | |
| Service Trips | | 2,427.90 | | | 6,300.00 | | 6,300.00 |
| Cost of Fundraising | | | | | | | |
| Total Expense | 193.06 | 3,074.39 | - | - | 6,300.00 | 70.00 | 6,300.00 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Teen Funds saved or used (Table 7) | 290.00 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
|---|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|

Table 22. Adult Young Friends

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------|----------|--------------|
| (Income) | | | | | (100.00) | | (50.00) |
| Retreats, book club, OVYM sessions | | | | | 100.00 | | 50.00 |
| Scholarships | | | | | 100.00 | | 50.00 |
| Total Expenses | - | - | - | - | 100.00 | - | 50.00 |

Table 23. Representative Travel

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|
| Normal (\$600 per trip) | 600.00 | 600.00 | 200.00 | | 600.00 | | 600.00 |
| Additional Reimbursement | 914.62 | 948.00 | | | 400.00 | | 300.00 |
| Donated Travel | 403.63 | 439.54 | 176.00 | | 300.00 | | 200.00 |
| Total Expenses | 1,918.25 | 1,987.54 | 376.00 | - | 1,300.00 | - | 1,100.00 |

2022-23 OVYM Treasurer's Report - Fiscal Year 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023

| 2018-19 Actual | 2019-20 Actual | 2020-21 Actual | 2021-22 Actual | 2022-23 Budget | 2022-23 Actual | 2023-24 Budget |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|

Table 24. Yearly Meeting Sessions

| INCOME | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Contributions | 1,541.00 | 3,775.00 | 1,488.00 | 2,065.50 | 1,800.00 | 1,074.47 | 1,800.00 |
| Coffee contributions and collections | 438.00 | 231.00 | | | 200.00 | 86.00 | 200.00 |
| Registration | 2,746.00 | 4,668.60 | 2,672.87 | 3,150.00 | 4,000.00 | 2,150.00 | 4,000.00 |
| Room & Board Charges | 10,748.00 | 11,437.00 | | 12,617.71 | 15,000.00 | 16,682.67 | 15,000.00 |
| Bookstore Income | 560.15 | 10.00 | | 476.89 | 450.00 | 595.36 | 450.00 |
| Total Income | 16,033.15 | 20,121.60 | 4,160.87 | 18,310.10 | 21,450.00 | 20,588.50 | 21,450.00 |
| EXPENSES | | | | | | | |
| Administration/A-V | 1,845.00 | 2,113.36 | 233.08 | 671.95 | 1,000.00 | 515.55 | 1,000.00 |
| Adult Program | 1,859.28 | 445.48 | 2,000.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,544.56 | 1,200.00 |
| (delete "Sessions deposit" - add to Adult R&B) | 1,654.31 | | | 5,660.00 | | | |
| Coffee Service (previously this row was Teens) | 432.23 | 870.33 | | | 600.00 | | 600.00 |
| Middle Youth and Teens | 1,919.99 | 235.12 | 350.00 | 2,787.32 | 2,000.00 | 179.00 | 2,000.00 |
| Children's Program | 3,616.39 | 2,457.00 | 1,874.00 | 2,631.50 | 3,000.00 | 2,899.16 | 3,000.00 |
| Adult Room & Board (includes pre-Session deposit) | 6,186.96 | 8,114.42 | | 10,772.00 | 16,000.00 | 28,069.50 | 16,000.00 |
| <i>Room & Board Subsidies (subtotal: not included in sum)</i> | | | | 4,411.00 | | 825.00 | |
| Children, middle youth, teens | 3,800.00 | 3,934.00 | | 979.00 | 2,000.00 | 72.00 | 2,000.00 |
| Staff, officers, and registration discounts | 2,784.00 | 2,538.00 | | 2,215.00 | 2,000.00 | | 2,000.00 |
| Guests | 532.00 | 626.00 | | 620.00 | 800.00 | | 800.00 |
| YAF attenders subsidy | 373.00 | 96.00 | | 310.00 | 200.00 | 435.00 | 200.00 |
| First-time attenders subsidy | 369.00 | 523.00 | | 287.00 | 400.00 | 318.00 | 400.00 |
| Simple Meal Donation | 144.00 | 142.00 | | 497.00 | 500.00 | | 500.00 |
| Bookstore Expenses | 296.60 | 243.77 | | 108.00 | 300.00 | 288.69 | 300.00 |
| Total Expenses | 25,812.76 | 22,338.48 | 4,457.08 | 28,738.77 | 30,000.00 | 34,321.46 | 30,000.00 |
| Net Cost of Session | 9,779.61 | 2,216.88 | 296.21 | 10,428.67 | 8,550.00 | 13,732.96 | 8,550.00 |

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 | 1,700.00 |
| Subtotal | 1,700.00 | 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 | 2,650.00 |
| FCNL | 2,000.00 | 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 | 4,000.00 |
| Friends Journal | 600.00 | 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 | 3,000.00 |
| Subtotal | 12,250.00 | 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 | 2,000.00 | 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 | 300.00 |
| Quaker Heritage Center | 300.00 | 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 | 300.00 |
| Subtotal | 1,200.00 | 2,900.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 |
| Quaker Peace and Social Concerns with specific focus | | | | | | | |
| FLGBTQC (Lesbian & Gay Concerns) | - | 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 | 500.00 |
| Friends Place on Capitol Hill (formerly W. Penn House) | 200.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| Indiana Friends Com. On Legislation | 200.00 | 200.00 | (200.00) | | 200.00 | 200.00 | 200.00 |
| Quaker Earthcare Witness | 500.00 | 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 | 500.00 |
| Right Sharing of World Resources | 600.00 | 600.00 | 600.00 | 600.00 | 600.00 | 600.00 | 600.00 |
| Subtotal | 2,500.00 | 2,700.00 | 2,300.00 | 2,500.00 | 2,700.00 | 2,700.00 | 2,700.00 |
| Total Contributions | 17,650.00 | 19,550.00 | 17,450.00 | 17,650.00 | 17,850.00 | 17,850.00 | 17,850.00 |

Statistician's Report

I feel compelled to begin my report with an apology to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends. As Co-Statistician, I wish to thank those Friends who have faithfully submitted statistical reports from their monthly meetings. However, as I complete this report for final submission to the Yearly Meeting Minute Book, we are more than six months into 2023, and the report remains incomplete and inaccurate in several ways. When I accepted the responsibility of serving as Co-Statistician for the Yearly Meeting, I assumed that the work of the Statistician would simply be to receive reports, tally the results, and present the overall picture in a clear and transparent format. I did not fully grasp that I would be called up to engage in significant dialogue with constituent monthly meetings that were for some reason reluctant to report in a timely manner (or at all) and with monthly meetings whose reports included inconsistent or missing data. My performance has been a disappointment to the Yearly Meeting, because this report is incomplete and in some cases includes the inconsistent data provided by some constituent monthly meetings. I now realize that it is the responsibility of a Statistician to overcome personal hesitancy and fear of being perceived as a pest and to act much more aggressively than I have, in order to ensure the collection of full and accurate reports from all constituent monthly meetings. I realize that I have been a negligent Co-Statistician, because I have not found ways to obtain complete and accurate reports from all of our constituent monthly meetings.

This experience has been one of the most frustrating and negative experiences I have had since coming among Friends in 1999. I believe that I have grown in humility as I have confronted my own failures and weaknesses. I trust that God forgives me, and I hope that Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends will do likewise.

Going forward, I would like to lift up to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends the importance of maintaining and reporting complete and accurate records. I encourage constituent monthly meetings to take ownership of the responsibility for maintaining and responding to those records. I urge that Friends recognize the ministry of Monthly Meeting Statisticians and to hear and prayerfully consider annual statistical reports for a given year very early in the immediately following calendar year. Please consider regularly scheduling a report for your Monthly Meeting Statistician for the First or Second Month meeting for business and ensure that your meeting's statistical report is submitted to the Yearly Meeting by the end of Second Month.

Finally, I would ask Friends in constituent monthly meetings who have submitted statistical reports that are late, incomplete, or inconsistent or have not submitted a report at all to consider the impact that this behavior could have on my successors and to make an effort to treat future Statisticians with tenderness and concern. Please understand that any Yearly Meeting Statistician is seeking to serve the Yearly Meeting, and when you frustrate or undermine that service, you are not only harming the Statistician, but also undermining the faithfulness of the Yearly Meeting's recordkeeping.

MEMBERSHIP

Note: As of Seventh Month 17, 2023, White Rose Friends Meeting has not submitted a statistical report to the Yearly Meeting. As a result, all of the numbers reported in the TOTAL columns of this report for Whitewater Quarterly Meeting or Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting are to be understood as incomplete in the sense that they do not include numbers from that constituent monthly meeting. I have marked this by the use of double asterisks (**). Furthermore, Community Friends Meeting reported a total loss of four (4) members between 2021 and 2022; however, based on the report submitted by that constituent monthly meeting, it was not possible for me to report with confidence the precise number of gains and losses yielding that total loss. I have marked this by the use of double question marks (??).

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

| | BL | CC | FC | FW | LAF | NMCF | WR | TOTAL |
|--------|----|----|----|----|-----|------|----|-------|
| 2021 | 53 | 70 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 25 | ** | 171** |
| Gains | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ** | 4** |
| Losses | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | ** | 3** |
| 2022 | 54 | 70 | 11 | 6 | 7 | 24 | ** | 172** |

Miami Quarterly Meeting

| | CAM | COM | DAY | EH | LEX | LOU | MIA | OXF | YS | TOTAL |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| 2021 | 14 | 56 | 21 | 23 | 42 | 32 | 26 | 17 | 87 | 318 |
| Gains | 0 | ?? | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 8 | ?? |
| Losses | 0 | ?? | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 16 | ?? |
| 2022 | 14 | 52 | 20 | 23 | 43 | 29 | 24 | 17 | 79 | 301 |

Ohio Valley Yearly Total Membership

| | WQM | MQM | TOAL |
|--------|-------|-----|-------|
| 2021 | 171** | 318 | 489** |
| Gains | 4** | ?? | ??** |
| Losses | 3** | ?? | ??** |
| 2022 | 172** | 301 | 473** |

Budget Membership: Two monthly meetings are dually affiliated with Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and Wilmington Yearly Meeting. Thus, their membership numbers for purposes of budgeting are: Campus = 7; Eastern Hills = 11.5.

Youth Membership: Some monthly meetings report some members as Youth Members (see *Faith & Practice*, 2020, pp. 54-56).

| | CC | EH | OXF |
|-------|----|----|-----|
| Adult | 68 | 20 | 12 |
| Youth | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Total | 70 | 23 | 17 |

Actual gains and losses (Not shown here are simple corrections made to the previous year’s membership numbers or changes in status from Youth Membership to Adult Membership)

| | BL | CC | DAY | COM | EH | FC | LEX | LOU | MIA | NMCF | YS |
|-----------------|----|----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|------|----|
| GAINS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Convincements | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | |
| Transfers in | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| LOSSES | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Deaths | | | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Resignations | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | | | 10 |
| Transfers out | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | 2 | | 1 |
| Loss of contact | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 6 |

RESIDENT vs NON-RESIDENT MEMBERSHIP

Note: Figures below reflect the numbers reported on the Yearly Meeting statistical questionnaire. In some cases, the numbers reported in this section of the Yearly Meeting statistical questionnaire do not agree with the numbers reported for Total Membership elsewhere on the questionnaire. Some constituent monthly meetings of Whitewater Quarterly Meeting did not report a break-down of resident vs. non-resident members; hence, totals are not provided for Whitewater Quarterly Meeting. Furthermore, in several cases, the total membership numbers reported in this section do not match the total membership numbers reported elsewhere in the report. I apologize to the Yearly Meeting for my failure to notice these discrepancies in a timely fashion and to follow up with constituent monthly meetings whose reports reported inconsistent numbers in different sections of their reports.

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

| | BL | CC | FC | FW | LAF | NMCF | WR | TOTAL |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|-----|------|----|-------|
| Res (adult) | 49 | 36 | 11 | 6 | 7 | ** | ** | ** |
| Res (youth) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ** | ** | ** |
| Non-res (adult) | 5 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ** | ** | ** |
| Non-res (youth) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ** | ** | ** |
| TOTAL | 54 | 70 | 11 | 6 | 7 | ** | ** | ** |

Miami Quarterly Meeting

| | CAM | COM | DAY | EH | LEX | LOU | MIA | OXF | YS | TOTAL |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Res (adult) | 11 | 46 | 12 | 14 | 33 | 24 | 10 | 10 | 46 | 206 |
| Res (youth) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Non-res (adult) | 2 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 5 | 14 | 2 | 41 | 94 |
| Non-res (youth) | 0 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 12 |
| TOTAL | 13 | 56 | 20 | 23 | 43 | 29 | 24 | 17 | 87 | 312 |

COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP (“Members and Attenders”) BY AGE

Note: Community Membership is not equivalent to formal Membership in the Religious Society of Friends. Current practice does not specify precisely how constituent monthly meetings are to define Community Membership, and it is thus left to the discretion of monthly meetings to make this determination. Lafayette and White Rose did not provide data on Community Members. I have marked this by the use of double asterisks (**). The TOTAL column of this section of the report for Whitewater Quarterly Meeting is to be understood as incomplete in the sense that it does not include numbers from these two constituent monthly meetings.

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

| | BL | CC | FC | FW | LAF | NMCF | WR | TOTAL |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|-----|------|----|-------|
| age < 10 | 9 | 2 | 2 | 1 | ** | 0 | ** | 14** |
| 10 ≤ age ≤ 13 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 1 | ** | 0 | ** | 10** |
| 14 ≤ age ≤ 18 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | ** | 1 | ** | 10** |
| 19 ≤ age ≤ 25 | 10 | 4 | 0 | 0 | ** | 0 | ** | 14** |
| 26 ≤ age ≤ 34 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 2 | ** | 1 | ** | 21** |
| 35 ≤ age ≤ 64 | 33 | 36 | 3 | 1 | ** | 9 | ** | 82** |
| 65 ≤ age | 8 | 44 | 4 | 8 | ** | 15 | ** | 79** |
| TOTAL | 82 | 96 | 13 | 13 | ** | 26 | ** | 230** |

Miami Quarterly Meeting

| | CAM | COM | DAY | EH | LEX | LOU | MIA | OXF | YS | TOTAL |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| age < 10 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| 10 ≤ age ≤ 13 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| 14 ≤ age ≤ 18 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 12 |
| 19 ≤ age ≤ 25 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 15 |
| 26 ≤ age ≤ 34 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 |
| 35 ≤ age ≤ 64 | 5 | 28 | 19 | 11 | 10 | 16 | 5 | 7 | 45 | 146 |
| 65 ≤ age | 9 | 20 | 11 | 14 | 27 | 28 | 22 | 7 | 42 | 180 |
| TOTAL | 20 | 53 | 40 | 33 | 51 | 57 | 27 | 21 | 87 | 389 |

AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting

| | BL | CC | FC | FW | LAF | NMCF | WR | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|------|----|---------|
| Meeting for Worship (adults) | 33 | 25 | 5 | 5.5 | 12 | 12 | ** | 92.5** |
| Meeting for Worship (under 19) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0.0 | 2 | 0 | ** | 5.0** |
| First-Day School | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 | 2 | 0 | ** | 2.0** |
| Non-member Regular Attenders | 12 | 8 | 0 | 0.5 | 5 | 3 | ** | 28.5** |
| TOTAL | 45 | 34 | 7 | 6.0 | 21 | 15 | ** | 128.0** |

Miami Quarterly Meeting

| | CAM | COM | DAY | EH | LEX | LOU | MIA | OXF | YS | TOTAL |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|
| Worship (adults) | 6 | 21 | 19 | 15 | 32 | 16 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 149 |
| Worship (under 19) | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| First-Day School | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Non-mem Reg Atts | 3 | 4 | 10 | 4 | 16 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 48 |
| TOTAL | 9 | 25 | 31 | 19 | 54 | 24 | 10 | 13 | 22 | 207 |

submitted by Rex Sprouse, Co-Statistician
Seventh Month 17, 2023

Nominating Committee Report

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting 2023-24 Officers, Representatives and Committee Members

| OFFICERS | 4-year rotating terms (Asst/Clerk/Clerk/Asst) |
|---------------------------|---|
| Presiding Clerk | Barry Zalph (2 nd of 4 yrs.) |
| Assistant Presiding Clerk | Rachel Ernst Stahlhut (4 th of 4 yrs.) |
| Recording Clerk | Cecilia Shore (2 nd of 4 yrs.) |
| Assistant Recording Clerk | Lisa Cayard (4 th of 4 yrs.) |
| Treasurer | Wilson Palmer |
| Assistant Treasurer | Cathy Habschmidt |

| STAFF | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Administrative Secretary | Susan Lee Barton |
| Youth Secretary | Adam Funck |

| ADMINISTRATORS | 1-year renewable terms |
|---|------------------------------|
| Publications Coordinators | Jan and Dan Sims |
| Quaker Quill Editor | Cecilia Shore |
| Records Coordinator | Susan Hyde Karen Campbell |
| Registrar (named by Planning Committee) | Eric Wolff |
| Statistician | Peter Hardy |
| Website Administrator | Daniel Day |

| 2023 ANNUAL SESSION ROLES | 1-year renewable terms |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Epistle Summary | Rick Boyce |
| Epistle Committee | Peter Hardy, Steve Angell, Laurene Scalf |
| Memorial Committee | Dale Hayes |

Approved at Spring Executive Committee meeting

COMMITTEES

| | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| Term Ends | Ad Hoc Committee on OVYM Restructuring | |
| | Miami Quarter | Whitewater Quarter |
| 2024 | Annie Blanchard Rachel Ernst Stahlhut Peter Hardy Ben Griffith Al McGrew | Daniel Day Susan Lee Barton Rex Sprouse Christine Carver Paul Buckley, Clerk |

| | | |
|-----------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Term Ends | Adult Young Friends (4 - 7 members) | 3-year renewable, staggered terms |
| | Miami Quarter | Whitewater Quarter |
| 2026 | Adam Funck (1 st term) | |
| 2024 | Uta Goheen- Brewington (1 st term) | |

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------|--|
| Term Ends | Auditing (2 members) | 2-year renewable, staggered terms |
| | Miami Quarter | Whitewater Quarter |
| 2024 | | Bob Holada (4 th term) Cathy Habschmidt (1 st term) |

| | | |
|-----------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Term Ends | Budget & Finance (3 + 2 ex officio) | 3-year renewable, staggered terms |
| | Miami Quarter | Whitewater Quarter |
| 2026 | JP Lund (2nd term) | David Garman (2nd term) |
| 2025 | Whitney Blackburn-Lynch (1 st term) | |
| 2024 | Steve Angell (2 nd term) | |

| | | |
|-----------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Term Ends | Children's Program (9-12 members) | 3-year renewable, staggered terms |
| | Miami Quarter | Whitewater Quarter |
| 2025 | Hannah Branson (9 th term) Phyllis Tonne (1 st term) | Diane Herzog (1 st term) |
| 2024 | Susan Hyde (YS) (5 th term) | |

| | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Term Ends | Earthcare | 3-year renewable, staggered terms |
| | Miami Quarter | Whitewater Quarter |
| 2026 | Phyllis Tonne | |
| 2025 | Bill Cahalan (2 nd term+) | Karen Atcheson (1st Term) David Duvall (3 rd term) |
| 2024 | Al McGrew (1 st term) | |

Note: Committee submits its own nominations.

| | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| Term Ends | Nominating | 3-year renewable, staggered terms |
| | Miami Quarter | Whitewater Quarter |
| 2026 | | Mary Anna Feitler – Fort Wayne (1 st term) Mike Fallahay – North Meadow (1 st term) |
| 2025 | Wilhelmina Branson – Community (1 st term) Casey Shepherd – Louisville (1 st term) Steve Angell – Oxford (2 nd term) Rick Boyce – Eastern Hills (2 nd term) | Karen Atcheson – Lafayette (1 st term) Diann Herzog – Fall Creek (1 st Term) |
| 2024 | Richard Mitchell – Lexington (2 nd term) | Jane Stowe – Clear Creek (2 nd term) |

Note: Monthly Meetings name members.

| | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Term Ends | Personnel (2 + Treasurer) | 2-year renewable, staggered terms |
| | Miami Quarter | Whitewater Quarter |
| 2024 | | Dinah Duvall (2 nd term) |

Note: Named by Executive Committee.

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| Term Ends | Planning (6 + Children, Youth & Registrar) | 3-year renewable, staggered terms |
| | Miami Quarter | Whitewater Quarter |
| 2026 | Ben Griffith (2 nd term) | Gloria Bruner (3 rd term) Terre Holada (1 st term) |
| 2025 | Beth Lewis (1 st term) | |
| 2024 | Martha Viehmann (1 st term) | |

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| Term Ends | Religious Nurture & Education (12) | 3-year renewable, staggered terms |
| | Miami Quarter | Whitewater Quarter |
| 2026 | | Elizabeth Terney |
| 2025 | Bruce Heckman (1 st term) Cindi Goslee (1 st term) Karen Francis (1 st term) | Eric Hailperin-Lausch (2nd term) Rex Sprouse (1 st term) Bob Holada (1 st term) |
| 2024 | Gail Koehler (3 rd term) | Buck Bunner (1 st term) |

| | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| Term Ends | Youth Services (6+ members) | 3-year staggered + 1-year teen terms |
| | Miami Quarter | Whitewater Quarter |
| 2026 | Audrey Malhotra (1 st term) Cecilia Branson (1 st term) Carol Simmons (1 st term) | Peggy Spohr (1 st term) |
| 2025 | | Jane Stowe (1 st term) Rex Sprouse (1 st term) |
| 2024 | David Hyde (2nd term) | |

REPRESENTATIVES

| | | |
|-----------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Term Ends | American Friends Service Committee (2) | 3-year renewable, staggered terms |
| | Miami Quarter | Whitewater Quarter |
| 2026 | | Jana Schroeder (2 nd term) |
| 2025 | Cindi Goslee (1 st term) | |

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| Term Ends | Friends Committee on National Legislation (6) | 3-year renewable, staggered terms |
| | Miami Quarter | Whitewater Quarter |
| 2026 | Sandy Stephens (1 st term) | Anne Reynolds (1 st term) Jane Rapinchuk (1 st term) Elaine Emmi (1 st term) – alternate |
| 2025 | Steve Stone (2nd term) | |
| 2024 | Jamie Young (2 nd term) Rick Boyce (2 nd term) | |

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Term Ends | Friends General Conference (2) | 3-year renewable, staggered terms |
| | Miami Quarter | Whitewater Quarter |
| 2026 | Richard Mitchell (1st term) | |

| | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| Term Ends | Friends World Com. for Consultation (4) | 3-year staggered terms, renewable twice |
| | Miami Quarter | Whitewater Quarter |
| 2026 | | |

| | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| OTHER REPRESENTATIVES | | 1-year renewable terms |
| Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns | | Beth Rosen (3 rd term) |
| Friends Peace Teams | | Lois Kay (3 rd term) |
| Quaker Earthcare Witness | | Al McGrew (4 th term) |

MINISTRIES

| | | |
|-----------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Term Ends | Braddock Fund for Prison Ministry (3) | 3-year renewable, staggered terms |
| | Miami Quarter | Whitewater Quarter |
| 2026 | Wilhelmina Branson (3 rd term) | Miriam Bunner (1 st term) |
| 2025 | Steve Angell (2 nd term) | |
| 2024 | Christine Snyder (2 nd term) | |

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|---|
| Term Ends | Friends Music Camp (5) | 3-year renewable, staggered terms |
| 2026 | Carol Simmons | Sam Garman (Sandy Spring (MD) Friends Meeting) |

Personnel Committee Report

Personnel Committee has checked in with both workers under contract, Susan Lee Barton, our Administrative Assistant, and Adam Funck, our Youth Secretary. Both report that things are going well, and that they have had annual review conversations with their supervisors or supervising committees. The Personnel Committee stands ready to assist our workers in any way.

Steve Angell & Dinah Duvall, Co-Chairs

Ad Hoc Restructuring Committee Report

The ad hoc Restructuring Committee has been active since the February 2022 Executive Committee Meeting. In that time, we have held listening sessions at nine monthly meetings (three other meetings expressed interest, but were not visited due to scheduling difficulties).

Based primarily on what we heard in those visits, we have discussed a number of possible changes to the structure of the Yearly Meeting. Two topics seemed sufficiently seasoned for presentation to the 2023 Annual Sessions.

Peace & Social Concerns and Earthcare Re-organization Proposal

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting currently has a Peace & Social Concerns Committee and an Earthcare Committee with overlapping responsibilities. We have had difficulty finding people to serve on these committees. In addition, many if not all of our monthly meetings have similar committees, each acting on their own.

The ad hoc Restructuring Committee proposes *laying down* these two committees and asking the Nominating Committee to recruit one or two coordinators. This structure emphasizes the leadership of the monthly meetings in undertaking social action activities and the Yearly Meeting's role in supporting the work of the monthly meetings.

Peace, Justice, Earthcare, and Social Action (PJES) Coordinator(s) Proposal

The coordinator's primary responsibilities are to empower, support, cross-fertilize, and encourage the social action work being done by OVYM monthly meetings.

PJES Coordinator responsibilities include:

- Keep an up-to-date record of ongoing social action in the monthly meetings.
- Encourage communication between monthly meetings regarding current activities and new leadings.
- Plan and clerk at least one in-person meeting per year (perhaps in coordination with OVYM Annual Sessions).
 - a. The primary purposes of in-person meetings are to facilitate interpersonal relationships between activists in the monthly meetings, share information on existing activities, and foster joint action between monthly meetings.
 - b. At in-person PJES meetings, each participant will be given the opportunity to present brief descriptions of ongoing work and invite collaboration with other monthly meetings.
- Facilitate other opportunities for members of MMs to talk and plan together (for example, by monthly Zoom calls, a page on the OVYM website, or via Listserv).
 - a. Monthly check-ins may provide a mechanism to share information on new initiatives, report on successes and failures, solicit help from other meetings, etc.
 - b. Participants will be encouraged to offer workshops on projects at the annual sessions and for monthly meetings.
- Report to the wider OVYM membership through The Quill and at the OVYM annual sessions.

Considerations on the Functions and Future Status of Quarterly Meetings

One issue that has arisen is the future of the quarterly meetings. It is clear that many OVYM Friends have serious doubts about the value of the quarterly meetings. Others see significant potential value for quarterly meetings, but feel that this potential is not currently realized.

Generally speaking, quarterly meeting sessions are poorly attended, and of those who attend many have little or no understanding of the status and functions of the quarterly meeting. Because the group of Friends in attendance changes significantly with each session, continuity is difficult to maintain.

Some Friends complain that too much of the business at quarterly meeting sessions simply consists of maintaining the existence of the quarterly meeting. The OVYM Executive Committee also seems to render much of the business of the quarterly meetings redundant.

Some Friends feel that the time and effort required to maintain quarterly meetings could be better devoted to the Yearly Meeting and the constituent monthly meetings.

On the other hand, quarterly meeting sessions provide opportunities for intervisitation on a relatively large scale. Hosting the quarterly meeting can reduce the sense of isolation that smaller and more remote monthly meetings often experience and can remind Friends that they are part of a Religious Society larger than their local meeting.

Quarterly meetings provide a valued opportunity for fellowship and Friends who attend find the sessions to be spiritually deepening experiences. Friends can profit from hearing the reading of state of the meeting reports at the spring quarterly meeting session. There also have been occasions when important concerns and innovations were usefully seasoned by quarterly meetings before being brought to the Yearly Meeting.

OVYM Friends seem to be reluctant to ascribe any independent authority to the quarterly meeting business sessions. When a monthly meeting brings forward a minute for consideration, Friends often respond by saying they must take the matter back to their monthly meetings for approval there before the quarterly meeting can act — reducing the quarterly meeting to a rubber stamp for things its constituent monthly meetings have already approved.

Likewise, when one of the quarterly meetings comes to unity about something, there is often the notion that it must be considered by the other quarterly meeting before bringing it forward to the Yearly Meeting (which then means it will be referred to that QM's constituent monthly meetings). This denies that a quarterly meeting can season and bring forward a concern to the Yearly Meeting.

It would appear that no one is genuinely happy with the current situation. This is in part due to lack of shared knowledge of the duties and responsibilities of the quarters. Two divergent options for moving forward have been suggested:

- **Eliminate the quarterly meetings and transfer all of their functions to the Yearly Meeting.** A Half-Yearly Meeting or other regionally-centered gatherings could replace the fellowship aspect of the quarterly meetings. OR
- **Enhance the status and/or functions of the quarterly meetings.** The most common change suggested is to enhance opportunities for fellowship and intervisitation within the current structure.

Many other options may be available. The ad hoc Restructuring Committee does not feel clear to endorse a way forward and asks the Yearly Meeting to determine next steps.

Administrative Assistant Report

At the 2022 yearly meeting I was still learning the job, so this is my first written report to you all. I spent my first year establishing an office, letting Friends' organizations and colleges know our new contact information (and introducing myself), updating our sales-tax exemptions in all three states, purchasing office supplies, setting up an OVYM computer and software, organizing files and publications in a way that I can locate them quickly, and working with our website coordinator to establish a webpage for announcements in between newsletter issues. (Thank you Daniel!)

I am impressed with how much information Deborah Jordan kept track of! I am extremely grateful for her willingness to continue answering questions throughout my first year. My first fall season was slower for me since Deborah continued with several tasks (such as getting the minute books and the fall issue of *The Quaker Quill* sent out). We owe her many thanks, not only for her 14 years of service in OVYM's office, but for volunteering another year to support me and the yearly meeting during the transition.

I have gradually been converting typed lists into spreadsheets for easier editing and compiling, updating forms for the Handbook and website, and creating new forms when I think they would help streamline collection of information. Many of you have helped me by letting me know when an online form doesn't work properly, and what methods of communication do and don't work for you. Please keep the feedback coming!

I put together and convened a working group to review our OVYM Policy on Prevention of Child Abuse (see separate report), and have done a number of background checks both for the yearly meeting and monthly meetings.

Some things helpful for you all to know:

- I enjoy your questions, comments, announcements, suggestions, corrections, and friendly greetings! When in doubt about how to communicate something within our yearly meeting, please ask! I will do my best to help. I promise to thoughtfully consider all suggestions, I have passed along some, and I have adapted several things based on your feedback. Please keep the communication coming.
- On our OVYM website I manage an [announcements page](#) (updated at least once a week) and any updates needed on [monthly meeting pages](#). You can e-mail admin@ovym.org with information for these pages.
- I can run criminal and driving record background checks (forms online or e-mailed on request) on behalf of monthly meetings or OVYM committees. I do need to know who in the monthly meeting or OVYM committee should receive the confidential results. Checking references is up to the monthly meeting or committee.
- I do not automatically send someone's announcement to all monthly meeting clerks. I've heard from some clerks that e-mail can be overwhelming. I recently started collecting non-urgent messages to clerks and sending them together in one e-mail. I would love feedback from monthly meeting clerks about what works best for you.
- I do not have quarterly meeting mailing lists, and I do not in general support quarterly meeting business (such as registration questions for joint quarterly meetings). In particular the fall quarterly meetings come at a time when my other job keeps me quite busy, and I need to stick to the time I schedule for OVYM work.
- Many don't realize that I do have another job with Friends General Conference. I recently shifted my hours to better focus my time for each organization. I can usually be reached for OVYM business from 10 a.m. to noon on weekdays, and in the spring I add additional OVYM hours some evenings and weekends. I am completely focussed on Friends General Conference work 1-5 p.m. afternoons, and some evenings in the spring and early summer. I also take time off from OVYM work immediately after yearly meeting sessions in June so that I can help prepare for the FGC Gathering the first week of July.

Finally, thanks to everyone faithfully submitting reports for OVYM's 2023 annual sessions!
Susan Lee Barton, OVYM Administrative Assistant

Records Committee Report

Quaker Collection Update 2023

Quaker Research

Some of the meeting minutes requested for archival research in the past year were: Miami Monthly Meeting; Springboro Monthly Meeting; New Burlington Monthly Meeting; Cincinnati Monthly Meeting; Miami Quarterly Meeting; Springfield Monthly Meeting; Center Quarterly Meeting; and Fairfield Quarterly Meeting. Visiting researchers were also interested in: Hinshaw's *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*; Quaker involvement in the Underground Railroad; and Miami Monthly Meeting Cemetery records and deeds.

Michael Wells New Library Director

Michael Wells became Library Director at Wilmington College in June 2022. Prior to this role, he served briefly as the Assistant Library Director at Wilmington Public Library, and before that was the Library Director/Copyright Officer at Thomas More University. He has also worked at the Systems Librarian at Northern Kentucky University, the Library/IT Director at the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, and as the Manager of the Center for Information Management at Miami University (Ohio).

He is a graduate of Kent State University with a Master of Library and Information Science (MLS) degree, and is a summa cum laude graduate of Capital University with a Bachelor of Arts. In 2017, he was the winner of the EBSCO Charleston Conference Scholarship, and was also nominated that year for the Frederick G. Kilgour Award for research in libraries and information technology.

Updates to Library Website

History: We now have a Library History page! Check out the page on our library website to learn more about the library history and view a collection of historical images.

Deposits: The form for depositing archival materials at the Watson Library is now available online. Our archive deposit guidelines, on an online deposit agreement form, and a downloadable and printable version of the deposit agreement are now available in the Quaker Collections tab of our library website.

Thomas Hill Assistantship for Digitization of Quaker Archival Materials

The library has identified a student to be our first recipient of the Thomas Hill Assistantship for Digitization of Quaker Archival Materials.

Deposits and Access Information

Contact the library before bringing materials to deposit so that the library is prepared to accept them.

Anyone wishing to do archival research in person should contact Watson Library to schedule a visit. We need to coordinate staff schedules and identify and pull needed books and documents to be used during the research visit.

Anyone unable to visit the archives in person should reach out to Watson Library, as the library can research archival questions and send the relevant information electronically.

Questions?

For questions about preservation, depositing material, or Quaker research, please contact Watson Library staff at 937-481-2345 or Elizabeth House at *Elizabeth_house@wilmington.edu*

The “Schedule a Librarian” link on the library website can also be used to schedule a virtual or an in-person appointment, and the email *library@wilmington.edu* will reach all Watson librarians.

Website Administrator’s Report

No major infrastructure changes have been made to the website this year. We have had some issues with our email service that have become more apparent as we make greater use of email on the ovym.org domain. This year, I will investigate whether it makes sense for us to migrate to a different email platform.

Overall our traffic remains consistent from last year. From the close of 2022 annual sessions to this writing, the website averaged 165 visitors per month. Of those, 41.82% were mobile/tablet users. The five most-viewed pages, in descending order, are:

1. Home
2. Miami Quarter
3. Meetings
4. Events
5. Announcements

Most of our visitors coming from Google search use fairly direct search terms (our top query is “ohio valley yearly meeting”). However, this year I did notice a handful of more generic terms like “quaker church near me”, which suggests we are reaching new people unfamiliar with our meetings.

Quaker Quill Report

I am grateful to over 20 correspondents who regularly share news from their meetings, committees, and external organizations. I am always impressed by the vibrant life of our meetings and the faithful service of those who work on committees and organizations. I hope that readers feel more connected to the yearly meeting through the Quill.

Cecilia Shore

Religious Nurture and Education Committee Report

With five new members this year, the Religious Nurture and Education Committee has been restored to full staffing level of eight Friends. This means that there are more Friends to get under the weight of the work of the Committee. On the other hand, this has also meant that several of us began our service with little familiarity with recent Committee

practices and ongoing Committee projects. It was not the case that all of us knew each other at the beginning of the year, and we found that it was very helpful to spend an afternoon together in a Committee retreat devoted to becoming better acquainted with each other in those things that are eternal.

For much of this year, the Committee struggled with the timing and format of an event that would respond to the perceived need for a deeper understanding Friends business practices. Along the way, there seem to have been breakdowns in communication and misleadingly low registration numbers, resulting in re-scheduling and ultimately cancellation of a planned weekend workshop. The Committee's discernment was ultimately that rather than a "clerking workshop," Yearly Meeting Friends would profit more from a workshop on "Coming to Unity the Quaker Way," to be offered as a workshop at the 2023 Annual Sessions and facilitated by Cindi Goslee. The Committee also discerned that Friends might profit from two "Quaker Swap Meets" to be held during Interest Group times at Annual Sessions. These Swap Meets will be facilitated discussions where Friends are invited to share innovative responses to recent challenges their local meetings have faced.

Despite the frustrations that we experienced along the way, we feel that the Inner Light has guided us to offer events at Annual Sessions that will be genuinely helpful to Friends. We look forward to the coming year, hoping to keep up contacts with constituent monthly meetings, drafting and revising necessary documents, and offering events that will contribute to Friends' spiritual deepening.

Rex Sprouse, Clerk of Religious Nurture and Education Committee

Children's Committee Report

Our committee met via Zoom and discussed our plans for worship sharing groups for the children of OVYM this year. We hope to have children of all ages between 0-10. We are glad to be back in person and have the opportunity to interact with children personally and allow them to interact with each other. We have plans to make wrapping paper, coupon books, trade gifts we make, play games of hide-n-seek and go on scavenger hunts. We will sing songs and dance and make bubbles and play with playdough. We will go on hikes and offer service volunteer work in the community.

Since we have our art supplies stored in Richmond, Indiana, we will make a trip to the storage unit and get the items we can use this summer. Other items will have to be purchased.

We sent out a letter of encouragement to families in OVYM to attend the gathering. We wanted to make families feel comfortable when thinking of their plans to attend and join us and other families. We wanted to be sure they knew we provide all-day programming that is child-centered and family-welcomed.

Youth Services Committee Report

The OVYM Youth Services Committee is doing well. At the beginning of the 2022 Annual Sessions, I was the only member of the committee. Since then, our committee has quadrupled in size. Jane Stowe, Rex Sprouse, and Peggy Spohr are now also part of the committee.

We are very pleased with the service that Adam Funck has provided as Youth Secretary. He will complete his first year in that role at the time of the 2023 Annual Sessions. We hope that he will continue. Rebuilding the youth program following the Covid 19 pandemic remains a challenge.

David Hyde

Young Adult Report

In year 2022-2023 has been widely inactive. I attempted to have a small gathering during OVYM 2022 that was unsuccessful; the attendance of young adults was lower than expected. This year at OVYM 2023 I have a few more meet-ups planned.

I do hope to find more members to add to our committee and give more support for further activities. I would like to ask if it is possible for the planning committees that help plan each gathering to reach out to the clerk of the young adults (myself at the moment). I personally have found it challenging to know when to submit or who to submit plans to.

Thank you all.

Uta Brewington, Clerk of Young Adults

Policy on Prevention of Child Abuse Report

Our past OVYM Policy on Abuse Prevention (section 4.13 of the Handbook) was supposed to be reviewed every three years. The last approved revision was in 2014. A working group was formed in the spring of 2022 to review and update the policy. We changed the title to the Policy on Prevention of Child Abuse and presented a revision to the Executive Committee in April, 2023. Our working group recommended some changes and presented some questions we would like monthly meetings and yearly meeting committees to consider as we seek further clarity on other sections. We also listed additional sections we believe should be addressed in the next review (2025 or sooner).

The Executive Committee approved our draft revision in minute #7 from the spring 2023 Executive Committee Minutes. Friends can read the revised policy at the end of the Executive Committee Minutes section. You can also view it in the current Handbook with footnotes.

I would personally like to see the entire yearly meeting take responsibility for the care of our young people. This includes awareness of situations in which both misunderstandings and intentional abuse could arise. The Religious Nurture and Education Committee offers trainings to those working with youth, and I encourage everyone to attend a training and learn how you can help the prevention of child abuse. I would also like to call your attention to this sentence in the policy: “We do need to be aware that references and background checks can help, but are not a guarantee of safety and could create a false sense of security.” We need to be aware that child abuse continues to be a problem in both the Religious Society of Friends and our wider society.

Written by Susan Lee Barton, convener of the working group

Quaker Earthcare Witness Report

Over the past year, Quaker Earthcare Witness significantly increased online educational programming for Quaker communities and for individual Friends. Over 800 people participated in workshops on eco-spirituality, international climate activism and diplomacy, economics and ethics, and fossil fuel divestment and direct action. If your monthly or quarterly meeting would be interested in scheduling a program, visit QEW Presents! on the QEW website (<https://quakerearthcare.org/workshops/>), or talk with our representative, Al McGrew about planning an event.

Quaker Activism & Education. Over the past year QEW can point to the following highlights:

- Sponsored monthly worship sharing sessions online with the goal of building community. OVYM Representative Allen McGrew is currently scheduled to host the July 25 Worship-sharing.
- Hosted online events on Eco-spirituality, Activism and Indigenous Rights, and Environmental Justice.
- Encouraged Friends to pressure banks and other investment corporations to divest from fossil fuels. We partnered with EQAT to pressure Vanguard to change their investment policies, we joined the PeoplevsFossilFuels coalition, and we supported Third Act’s Stop Dirty Banks Day of Action.

- Sent three observers to COP27 in Egypt, hosted an online forum and published articles about successes and failures of the climate conference.
- Held workshops on Climate Grief.
- Through our Population Working Group, held monthly meetings, often featuring speakers, and prepared articles for publication, including an ethical statement.
- Continued our commitment to integrate racial and environmental justice into all our work.
- Produced four print and electronic issues of Befriending Creation, QEW's 12-page newsletter. The April-May-June issue of Befriending Creation highlights a letter from OVYM representative Al McGrew reflecting on parallels between his own personal health crisis a few years ago and the health crisis that our planet continues to struggle through resulting from a human mentality of domination and control ("Beyond the Great Dying to the Next Great Living" <https://quakerearthcare.org/looking-past-the-great-dying-to-the-next-great-living/>)
- Offered our website as a digital resource for up-to-date information on Friends action and contemplation.

Local Earthcare Projects. Does your meeting or other Quaker organization have a project in mind that just needs a little support to get off the ground? Consider applying for a traditional QEW mini-grant of up to \$500, or for larger projects our newly announced "Special Initiatives" program making awards of up to \$1500 for the next year. Last year one of the mini-grants went to Dayton Friends to help us develop our new Earthcare Peace Garden. As clerk of the Mini-Grants Working Group I would be especially delighted to see more proposals from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. Some of the other projects that we funded last year include:

- Renewable Juneau Heat Pump Fund through Anchorage Friends Meeting
- Inverter for solar array at Monteverde Friends School
- Landscaping for flood prevention at Fellbaum Health Center in Kenya via Albuquerque Friends Meeting
- Sustainability garden at Mbale Friends Meeting, Uganda
- Tree nursery at Kwibuka Yearly Meeting, Burundi
- Wildflower garden at Newtown Square Friends Meetinghouse

How Quaker Earthcare Witness Works: QEW is a volunteer-led organization guided by a 50-person Steering Committee that uses Quaker process and decision-making to guide its work. The Steering Committee is composed of 20 at-large members and 30 nominated representatives from Quaker yearly meetings in North America. Steering Committee members serve on QEW committees, visit their own monthly and yearly meetings on behalf of QEW, distribute resources, and/or provide workshops and interest groups.

Finance & Development. QEW has a small annual budget — \$178,000 — with a big mission. In addition to staff time, most of QEW's expenditures go to publication costs (printing, postage, editing), outreach (visits to monthly and yearly meetings, and events), and maintaining the network (Steering Committee meetings, conference calls, database maintenance). QEW spends about 10% of its budget on fundraising (15 percent of staff salaries plus the cost of the annual appeal). Nearly all of its income comes from monthly/yearly meeting donations and individual donations. You can learn more at QuakerEarthcare.org.

Submitted by your QEW representative, Allen McGrew. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve our community and the Earth

Earthcare Committee Report

The Earthcare Committee met twice since last yearly meeting, via Zoom. We have planned a third meeting before OVYM 2023.

Our meetings have focused on

1. activities and information opportunities during yearly meeting
2. discernment pursuant to OVYM's 2002 testimony on Sustainability
3. advancement of our concern for environmentally responsible burial practices.

We continue our focus on reformatting our information sources and references to minimize print waste and modernize the search for information by way of QR codes for literature. We are further refining our bio-regional orientation map display, informing the location of monthly meetings in relation to natural systems.

Examination of the 2002 minute on Sustainability found it to be surprisingly comprehensive despite lack of specific language regarding climate change. We do not believe there is presently call for any revision or expansion.

Among our meetings, members of Lafayette Monthly Meeting have been especially active in the advancement of opportunities for “natural burial.” Information about this topic will be added to our educational materials prepared for distribution at OVYM 2023.

Our plans for OVYM 2023 include a walking workshop and an evening interest group session.

The committee has not yet had opportunity for review of the restructuring proposal presented at the last Executive Committee Meeting. Hopefully, the Committee will be able to respond to this proposal after having met in May.

Respectfully submitted, David Duvall

Planning Committee Report

The Planning Committee has been hard at work, meeting about monthly via Zoom, and it is always a welcome relief that by the time we prepare this report, we have done most of the planning. The 203rd annual sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting return to the campus of Mount St. Joseph University in the Cincinnati metropolitan area. We waited as long as we could for an answer from Earlham, but they were not ready to book summer conferences in time for us to begin planning in earnest.

Our theme for this year, “Finding Our Way – Your Gifts Are Needed!”, acknowledges that we have been dislodged and disrupted by the pandemic that forced us apart, cancelled events, and took lives. We feel in our selves and our Quaker bodies a sense of loss and of being lost. Our theme also affirms that our collective and diverse individual gifts are needed for our way finding. Our theme beckons all Friends to seek and share their Spirit-given gifts with each other as we seek to heal and rebuild.

This is now the fourth annual sessions affected by COVID. 2020 and 2021 were Zoom years. The Planning Committee work was “virtually” changed. In 2022 we were once again in the business of planning annual sessions with people attending a campus site. This planning included building COVID safety protocols. Strongly felt diverse opinions about COVID safety created conflict that was brought directly to Planning Committee members. While the disagreements were resolved and our administrative assistant stepped in to handle questions and concerns, this committee knows that diverse views still exist and may be brought before us again. We beseech Friends to hold these disagreements with grace and mutual regard. In addition, 2022 had our committee managing Zoom technology for Friends attending remotely. We had little support from MSJU staff so relied on our own limited experience. Managing COVID concerns and providing access for remote attenders are two significant additions to our committee work. We are feeling the strain of these added tasks, and we foresee that COVID is now a permanent presence in our lives. As we attend to the final details, we are bumping up against the limits of our own energy, Zoom expertise, and the technical resources at our disposal. The Planning Committee needs additional support to manage the work of a large gathering in a world changed by the pandemic.

In our meetings, the Planning Committee has adopted our presiding clerk’s practice from Executive Committee of opening with a check-in. Sharing our joys and concerns with each other has knit us more closely together. Even through our computer screens and phones, we feel the love for each other and the love for our yearly meeting that brings joy to our work.

Among the faithful participants in this committee's work is our Registrar, Eric Wolff, who has served our Yearly Meeting for over a decade. We are grateful for his valuable contributions over the years and are pleased to announce that Mia Van Meter is assisting Eric this year, preparing to step into the role of Registrar after the conclusion of the 2023 annual sessions.

As we complete the final planning tasks, we look ahead with eagerness and with concern. COVID has taken a toll on our children's and youth programs, and the Yearly Meeting as a whole is declining in numbers. We need everyone's help to encourage families and all Friends to attend these annual sessions. We need you to come to sessions to help us find our way this year and every year.

Ben Griffith and Martha Viehmann, co-clerks

Executive Committee Report

As is our custom, Executive Committee met in August, November, February, and April. Two meetings took place over Zoom due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and two were conducted in a hybrid manner. During my tenure as presiding clerk, I have dedicated time at each Executive Committee meeting to deepening our spiritual connections with each other.

Executive Committee conducts the business of the yearly meeting, including approving the recommendations lifted up by the Nominating Committee and approving updates to the Yearly Meeting Handbook. This year, we approved updates to streamline the budget process, clarify the timeline for conducting financial audits and nominating publication coordinators, and accurately describe the work of the Clerk's Support Committee and the job description of the Administrative Assistant. Several approved handbook changes reflect new timelines for our work in response to the move of OVYM's annual sessions to June from late July.

In 2022-2023, Executive Committee discerned together on several notable items:

- Approved antiracism queries to be shared with monthly meetings for discussion and worship sharing
- Approved a child abuse prevention policy that was updated after many years without revision
- Seasoned a structural change proposed by the Ad Hoc Restructuring Committee and offered input about the role of Quarterly Meetings in the yearly meeting structure.

Executive Committee also struggled with several concerns this year, ultimately not finding unity on endorsing The Quaker Call to Action or the request from Friends General Conference for the collection of demographic data about monthly meeting members and attenders. When unable to find unity, we recommitted ourselves to building community and coming to know one another in *That Which is Eternal*.

We also dedicated time during our meetings to discuss our monthly meetings' efforts toward addressing antiracism and continued to learn from each other.

Yours in the Light,

Rachel Ernst Stahlhut, presiding clerk

Executive Committee Minutes 2022-2023

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Eighth Month 27, 2022

- 1. Opening Worship:** The meeting opened with centering worship at 12:00 pm.
- 2. Introductions:** Rachel Ernst Stahlhut, presiding clerk, invited Friends to introduce ourselves and to share our favorite mode of rest or restoration as a way to help build our spiritual community and get to know each other.
- 3. Roll Call:** The Recording Clerk called the roll of Yearly Meeting officers and administrators, Committee Clerks, Quarterly and Monthly Meeting Representatives, and Yearly Meeting staff.

Yearly Meeting officers:

Presiding Clerk: Rachel Ernst Stahlhut
Assistant Presiding Clerk: Barry Zalph
Recording Clerk: Lisa Cayard
Assistant Recording Clerk: Cecilia Shore
Treasurer: Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer: Cathy Habschmidt

Committee Clerks:

Auditing: absent
Braddock Fund: Steve Angell
Budget & Finance: David Garman
Children's Committee: Susan Hyde
Development Committee: absent
Earthcare: David Duvall
Nominating: Paul Buckley
Peace & Social Concerns: absent
Personnel: Dinah Duvall
Religious Nurture & Education: Rex Sprouse
Yearly Meeting Planning: Ben Griffith and Martha Viehmann
Young Adult Friends: absent
Youth Services: David Hyde

Quarterly Meeting Clerks:

Miami: Peter Hardy
Whitewater: Christine Carver

Monthly Meeting representatives:

Bloomington: Rex Sprouse
Campus: absent
Clear Creek: Cathy Habschmidt
Community: Eric Wolff
Dayton: absent
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer
Fall Creek: Daniel Day
Fort Wayne: Mary Anna Feitler
Lafayette: absent

Lexington: Richard Mitchell, Betsy Neale
Louisville: absent
Miami: Gretchen Stone
North Meadow: Dinah Duvall
Oxford: Cecilia Shore
White Rose: absent
Yellow Springs: Annie Blanchard

Yearly Meeting staff:

Administrative Assistant: Susan Lee Barton
Youth Secretary: Adam Funck

Administrators:

Statistician: Rex Sprouse
Website Administrator: Daniel Day
Records Coordinator: Susan Hyde
Quaker Quill Editor: Cecilia Shore
Publications Coordinator: Richard Mitchell
Registrar: Eric Wolff

4. **Agenda review:** The Clerk reviewed some changes in the agenda. The agenda was accepted with changes. The Clerk shared the color-coded system for indicating a request to speak, a question to raise, or approval.
5. **Budget & Finance Committee:** David Garman submitted a report prior to the meeting. The 2022-2023 budget, which was preliminarily approved at Yearly Meeting sessions, was slightly changed and then circulated to monthly meetings. Wilson Palmer clarified that the updates to the proposed budget are in the third to the last column in the Treasurer's report.
 - In the proposed budget, typical representative travel reimbursement was increased from \$300 to \$600, due to the increase in today's travel costs. Friends APPROVED this recommendation.
 - To streamline the budget process, it was proposed that Budget & Finance will skip the step of requesting each monthly meeting to submit a pledge of annual contributions before the budget is finalized. In recent years, this step has seemed unnecessary, as some meetings simply give more or less than the proportional share as they are able. It was clarified that meetings would be able to communicate with Budget & Finance Committee at any time about adjusting their contribution, instead of only at a certain point in the budget planning process. Friends APPROVED the proposed change in procedure. It was noted that Budget & Finance will need to bring a revision to the OVYM Handbook to Executive Committee that captures this change in procedure. This issue was referred to Budget & Finance Committee for consideration.
 - A concern was raised about the way the proportional share is calculated, which is currently based on membership rather than on the number of regular attenders. This concern was also referred back to Budget and Finance Committee for consideration.
 - Friends APPROVED the proposed final 2022-2023 budget.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Wilson Palmer's report was submitted prior to the meeting. There were no questions for Wilson about this report. The report was accepted. Wilson noted that he has communicated with a member of White Rose meeting, who sent a final check to OVYM, and this may mean the meeting needs to be laid down. Rex Sprouse shared that Religious Nurture and Education has been in contact with White Rose Meeting, and although their bank account is closed, the meeting still intends to continue being a part of OVYM.
7. **OVYM Handbook Updates:**
 - Rachel Ernst Stahlhut presented an update to the section on the Clerks' Support Committee description, laying out the timeline and the process for creating a support committee prior to an

assistant clerk's transition to presiding clerk. A change in one section of the proposed revision was recommended: "It is helpful for the support committee to meet with the presiding clerk before and/or after business meetings at annual sessions. It is the responsibility of the committee clerk to arrange these meetings." Friends APPROVED this revision as amended.

- Susan Lee Barton, Administrative Assistant, presented an update to the section on the Auditing Committee description, changing the time frame of the required audit, since yearly meeting sessions are now held in June. The suggested revision was changed slightly to clarify that the audit will be completed no later than the November Executive Committee meeting date. Friends APPROVED this revision as amended.

8. **Planning Committee Report:** Martha Viehmann, co-clerk of the Planning Committee, reported that the committee has reviewed the evaluations of Yearly Meeting sessions. Great joy was expressed about meeting in person again. There were no reports of anyone contracting COVID during annual sessions. In planning next year's sessions, a constraint is that Earlham College has not yet made a decision about hosting outside groups on campus next summer. The Planning Committee has determined that if Earlham has not made this decision by September 9, they will move ahead with plans to meet at Mount St. Joseph University. The dates will likely be June 21-25, 2023. The report was accepted.
9. **Minute of Appreciation:** Friends minuted our sincere and heartfelt appreciation to Mount St. Joseph University for the hospitality during Yearly Meeting sessions, especially the kindness and friendliness of the kitchen staff. The events coordinator, Kat Kenton, was extremely helpful, going above and beyond to make sure our needs were met. The staff's dedication to service was evident and clear. Friends APPROVED this minute.
10. **Quaker Call to Action:** Betsy Neale from Lexington Meeting shared the Urgent Call to the Religious Society of Friends that has been distributed by 19 weighty Friends, related to the threat against democracy that has been experienced in the United States. Betsy confirmed that this matter is part of our commitment to anti-racism work, and that the Quaker call to action is based on our testimonies of integrity, equality, and peace. Three of our monthly meetings have already endorsed the message. We were encouraged to endorse this Call to Action message as a Yearly Meeting, and to discern what other actions we are led to undertake. One meeting representative shared that their meeting has had internal conflict and is not in unity with this call to action. There was another concern raised that simply endorsing a message is not enough, that there would need to be meaningful action attached to our endorsement to be acceptable. Another Friend noted that the call to action can be perceived as a nudge to hear a divine call to act in accordance with our deeply held spiritual center. It was noted that there is historical Quaker precedent for individuals such as John Woolman being led to take a moral stand and to take actions based on a leading, and that making a statement as a body can also be an important action. It was clarified that this call to action is being endorsed by individuals as well as monthly meetings, yearly meetings, and other Quaker organizations. Several Friends recommended that the call to action be sent back to the monthly and quarterly meetings to discern what actions they are led to take on this important issue of social justice, since we did not find unity to approve endorsement by the Yearly Meeting at this time. This recommendation was APPROVED.
11. **Youth Services Committee:** David Hyde reported that the Youth Services Committee now has three members, and they welcomed Adam Funck as the new Youth Secretary as he is working to revitalize the OVYM youth program after two years of relative inactivity. The report was accepted. Adam Funck reported that the youth group at Yearly Meeting was very successful, and the highlights were the traditional canoe trip and a "ghost tour" of downtown Cincinnati. Adam welcomes input from monthly meetings on ideas for youth activities. He is planning a September Zoom gathering of young Friends to build excitement for an overnight trip to Happy Hollow for Joint Quarterly Meeting. Appreciation was expressed to Peter Hardy and Martha Viehmann for their support with the Youth Committee's work. The report was accepted. It was clarified that Adam does have an active support committee.

12. **Ad Hoc Committee on Restructuring:** Rex Sprouse reported that the Ad Hoc Committee is working hard, but there are no items to share at this time. Invitations have been sent to monthly meetings to host “listening sessions” to help inform the committee’s work. Monthly meetings are encouraged to respond to these invitations. The report was accepted.

13. **Nominating Committee Report:** Paul Buckley reported that Cathy Habschmidt has agreed to serve on the auditing committee for one year. Also, Veronica Frost is willing to serve on the auditing committee for one more year. It was noted that Terre Holada is temporarily living outside the Yearly Meeting area, so she is not able to participate on Planning Committee. Deborah Jordan is willing to serve on Planning Committee for one year. Martha Viehmann’s term on Planning Committee was corrected to end in 2024. These appointments and Martha’s corrected term were APPROVED.

14. **Administrative Assistant Announcements:**

- Susan Lee Barton announced that she is cleaning up the Quaker Quill mailing list for printed copies, and after the September issue, paper copies will only be mailed to those who request them.
- FGC is collecting public minutes/statements from yearly and monthly meetings to share with other meetings. These can be sent to Susan Lee.
- When requesting a background check for child safety, Susan Lee needs to know who in the meeting should receive the results, since these are confidential.
- Monthly meetings should let Susan Lee know right away how many printed copies of the OVYM minute book are needed. The minutes will also be posted on the OVYM website.
- Photos of yearly and monthly meeting activities would also be appreciated for use on the website or in the Quaker Quill. Please send these to Susan Lee.

15. **Announcements:** Rachel Ernst Stahlhut announced that she will be completing an annual review for Susan Lee as the Administrative Assistant, and she welcomes specific input for this review. Rex Sprouse announced that Religious Nurture and Education Committee is planning a workshop on clerking on November 12, which will be available in hybrid format. Christine Carver announced that Joint Quarterly Meeting is planned on October 22-23, with a cost of \$70 per person. The schedule will include interest groups and hiking. Participants should bring brown bag lunches on Saturday, but other meals will be provided. They are seeking someone to provide child care. Registration information will be sent out to monthly meetings.

16. **Closing Worship:** The meeting closed with silent worship.
The next meeting will be held November 5, 2022, at noon.

Minutes recorded by Lisa Cayard.

APPENDED REPORTS:

OVYM End of Fiscal Year 2021-22 Treasurer’s Report to August Executive Committee

"We are called upon to be stewards not only of the Divine Spirit which God has implanted within us, but also of the rich provision which the Creator has made for the sustenance of all life on earth. If we are true followers of Jesus, we must ever be seeking to bring conditions of life in this world into conformity with the purposes of God." OVYM *Faith and Practice*

Thank you dear Friends for your continued support, which is a component of our wellbeing. All of our constituent Monthly Meetings sent checks during the last fiscal year from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, although Lexington’s contribution was delayed in transit over a month. Therefore, it does not show up in this report but is listed on the current 2022-23 report. That is the explanation for their blank space in Table 11. Extra gratitude to those five Meetings that donated more than their suggested proportional shares: Yellow Springs, White Rose, Lafayette, Eastern Hills and Campus. Also, thanks go out to those individuals who collectively gave over \$2,000 of extra contributions during our yearly meeting sessions, those who supported the Sessions bookstore, purchased

items for the yearly meeting but were not or only partially reimbursed, and those who donate all or part of their yearly meeting travel costs.

The largest factor affecting our \$7,000 surplus this year was the lack of a Youth Coordinator for most months of the fiscal year. The close of the year on June 30, 2022 splits some of the income and expenses of Annual Sessions across two different reports. Most of the data is in Table 24, but there is almost \$1,500 more income which shows up in the current fiscal year report. Also Quaker Books has yet to send us an invoice for books sold, probably increasing our expenses by about \$300. This muddies the income and expense figures for Annual Sessions, but I am able to report exact numbers to the Planning Committee should they ask me to calculate it for them. Similarly, the Teen/Middle Youth line is misleading as \$899 of the \$2787.32 listed there was generated in the 2021 Sessions and not this year. I opened a new checking account which caused a one-time bump in Table 13. Table 14 also has a larger than normal expense which I do not expect to be repeated soon, due to the hiring of Susan Lee Barton.

Our investments with Friends Fiduciary Corporation (FFC) lost 13.8% since last year. To get a sense of what this means in the long term, we can look at Table 6, the Faith and Practice Printing fund, which is now closed. Over a period of 8 years OVYM transferred \$500 per year from our General Fund totaling \$4,000 in the F&P Printing Fund. The Yearly Meeting stopped making contributions after that, leaving the value at \$4,000. Seven years ago it was invested with FFC. In the last 18 months, OVYM paid \$4054.08 for hard and soft back copies of the new *Faith and Practice* for all Meetings and individuals who wanted a printed copy. Instead of paying \$54.08 to cover those final costs, the growth of the fund due to investment meant that there is \$2203.47 left in the fund to be rolled back over into the General Fund. Investments sometimes have losses, but so far, in the long term, we have benefited from gains.

Report submitted by Wilson Palmer, OVYM Treasurer

Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Report 8/2022

Planning Committee met in July and August via Zoom. We did not meet during lunch on the last day of annual sessions—tech responsibilities, adjusting to a new location, and trying to learn how to run an in-person gathering while refereeing COVID concerns depleted our reserves.

The committee selected Ben Griffith and Martha Viehmann to serve as co-clerks. We also reviewed a summary of 31 evaluations received (only slightly fewer than in past in-person sessions). The evaluations convey a general sense of joy in being together again, and most people found the facilities and food at Mount St. Joe acceptable. We noted that we received no reports of COVID diagnoses following Annual Sessions. The committee is heartened that our policy appears to have worked.

We have selected likely dates for Annual Sessions 2023: June 21-25. This will avoid conflict with Juneteenth, which has concerned some Friends, but it is close to the FGC Gathering. There is simply no ideal time.

We await word from Earlham. At this point, they haven't even set a deadline for their decision about whether the campus will be open to outside groups next summer. We will inform them that we require a response by Sept. 9. If they have not decided to open their campus to us by then, we will finalize our reservation with Mount Saint Joseph University. It benefits planning committee and the youth program to have a firm date and location.

In the fall, we will begin program planning—selecting plenary guests, workshops, and the living witness. Suggestions are welcome and can be submitted to me, Ben Griffith, or planning@OVYM.org.

Martha Viehmann

Proposed OVYM Handbook Revisions 8-2022

Proposed Revisions for **Clerk's Support Committee**

APPOINTMENT

At the last Executive Committee meeting before Annual Sessions, before the transition to Presiding Clerk, the Assistant Presiding Clerk will establish a Clerk's Support Committee of at least three members. The assistant presiding clerk may seek assistance from their Monthly Meeting or from OVYM Executive Committee. Approved by Executive Committee for a two-year term. One member will be designated as committee clerk.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Offers spiritual and practical supports to the presiding, assistant and recording clerk both during annual session and through the year as needed. The clerk will convene the committee as needed.
- Prior to opening of the first annual sessions business meeting, the committee clerk will arrange a place for the committee to sit with the clerk. It can be valuable for the committee and the clerk to meet before or after each business meeting.

Current Text:

3.5.5.3. Clerk's Support Committee

APPOINTMENT:

Three members: One of whom is a member of the and Education Committee, one who is an at large person selected by the Clerk, and one who is a member of the monthly meeting support committee or other body serving in this role. Approved by Executive Committee for a one-year term.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Offers spiritual and practical supports to presiding, assistant and recording clerks both during annual session and through the year as needed
- Meet during annual sessions and as needed during the year.
Practice has been for the Presiding Clerk to convene the committee as needed. Prior to annual sessions the member representing the Religious Nurture and Education Committee works with the at large member to host a day long retreat for the clerks. That retreat has included worship, a time for sharing concerns, and a time for reflection and affirmation.

Proposed Revisions for **Auditing Committee**

APPOINTMENT:

Two members nominated by Nominating Committee to be approved by Yearly Meeting in session for staggered two-year terms. **When necessary a nomination can be approved by the Executive Committee.**

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Between the end of the fiscal year (June 30) and the first session of Executive Committee (preferred, in August) or no later than the November Executive Committee meeting, audit the books of the yearly meeting Treasurer.**
- Report the condition of the books to the **Executive Committee.**

Current Text:

3.5.2. Auditing Committee

APPOINTMENT:

Two members nominated by Nominating Committee to be approved by Yearly Meeting in session for staggered two-year terms.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- At the end of the fiscal year (June 30) and prior to YM session (preferred), but no later than the first session of Executive Committee (October), audit the books of the YM Treasurer.
- Report the condition of the books to the YM.

An Urgent Call to the Religious Society of Friends May 2022

We Quakers, members of the Religious Society of Friends, hold strongly to the principle of speaking truth with integrity. We ground our speaking truth in our worship and our searching of ourselves, as we listen deeply and honestly within and across all differences. Our testimony to the world includes standing up for spiritually discerned Truth, the equality of all persons, the peaceful resolution of conflicts, and respect and care for our neighbors and the earth. Right now, we see many forces at work in our country and the world that are undermining these basic values. Accordingly, we call on Friends everywhere to act.

In this country, in 2020, we witnessed an attempted coup. The January 6 assault on the Capitol was a deliberate, violent attempt to prevent Joe Biden — the clear winner of the 2020 election — from taking office and keeping then-president Donald Trump in power. To maintain that the last election was riddled with fraud is demonstrably false. This politically motivated movement has now embarked on an orchestrated campaign to suppress voting by black, brown and young people and to pass new state election laws giving the power to throw out huge numbers of valid ballots to highly partisan legislatures, governors, and state attorneys general. Thus, this lie is being used to deprive people of their constitutional rights and constitutes a major injustice. As Friends, we feel called to speak out against these falsehoods and anti-democratic actions. We encourage Friends to seek spiritual guidance on any actions that you and your meetings might take to witness against this gross injustice. If this politically motivated movement succeeds in its anti-democratic takeover attempt, any hope of making significant progress on racial and economic justice, the equality of all people, the climate crisis, gun violence, and other urgent issues of our time will be gone.

We know that democracy in the United States has many flaws. During the past 100 years, our local, state and federal governments have acted to prevent formerly enslaved people and other communities of color from voting. It was not until 1920 that women finally won the right to vote, and their equality is still being challenged. We call on Friends to act — first, to resist all efforts to undermine our current democratic processes, and second, to support true democratic reforms to our still flawed election system. We cannot allow a government that is built on lies and injustice.

We the undersigned are encouraging Quakers throughout the country to work in their local communities, states, and the national arena to take critical actions to prevent an authoritarian takeover of our democracy. We urge Friends to discern the deep truths that provide a foundation for active love, wisdom, compassion, and a truly democratic electoral system—and then to actively support such changes. We know that love conquers fear. Let us lean into Divine Love and find ways forward in Truth.

On the reverse are two queries for you and your meeting to consider in response to this call. We've also included a list of specific actions that Friends could begin taking now. Some actions may become necessary later if there is another attempted coup during the next presidential election cycle.

Queries & Actions: Some queries and suggestions regarding what Friends and meetings might do in response to the Urgent Call to the Religious Society of Friends

QUERIES: 1. What, if anything, is the Light Within calling Friends to do in response to the unprecedented rise of domestic extremism, white supremacy, and authoritarianism that is threatening the destruction of our democracy at home and abroad? 2. How can I/we respond with resolute love even while I/we may be struggling with fear, anger, apathy, or hate?

POSSIBLE ACTIONS: Defending Truth: We urge all Friends to discern the deep truths that provide a foundation for active love, wisdom, compassion, and peace in the world — and then to defend them. We ask:

- Individual Friends to search yourselves about the threats to our country, and the world, and to witness publicly to the truths that you discern are grounded in your experience of the Spirit.
- Quaker meetings and organizations to issue public statements calling out lies and the purveyors of lies, all in the context of our understanding of love, equality, and justice for all.

Working for True Equality and Justice for All: We urge Friends to act for equality and equity within our diverse society:

- Join or support organizations led by people of color which are working for the empowerment of black, brown, indigenous and Asian people and communities.
- Speak, write, and protest in support for full equality of all people in American society, whatever their racial or sexual identity, gender, or class.
- Support legislative and economic changes that would lead to actual equity among all peoples.

Promoting Free and Fair Elections: Stemming from our testimonies of Integrity and Equality, we urge Friends to:

- Support non-partisan voter-registration drives, particularly in communities under attack from those seeking to prevent them from voting.
- Publicly condemn partisan efforts to restrict access to voting.
- Confront partisan efforts to seize control of the election administration apparatus.
- Support conscientious, non-partisan election officials in our communities.
- Volunteer as poll workers, election monitors, and drivers to get people to the polls.

Preparing for Non-Violent Resistance: We believe that as a religious society grounded in nonviolence, we can:

- Initiate discussions on the impacts of voter suppression and new laws enabling partisan actors to legally throw out ballots and change the results of elections, then garnering support for nonviolent resistance against all this, and forming community-based networks of support for such actions.
- Arrange for nonviolent direct-action training in our Quaker meetings and organizations, as well as with others in our larger communities.
- Form small “affinity groups” that can prepare to carry out direct actions in support of free and fair elections and the state and local officials who support them.
- Support wider efforts to plan and organize nonviolent resistance on a state and nationwide level, as needed.

You can endorse this Quaker message, find additional resources, register for national conversations on these issues, report on specific actions that you, your meeting, or your organization has undertaken, and sign up for continued updates at www.quakercall.net. We also welcome your questions, suggestions, and resources at info@quakercall.net.

MARIAN BEANE Charlotte Friends Meeting, Piedmont Friends - Yearly Meeting and Fellowship BRUCE BIRCHARD Central Philadelphia Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Former General Secretary, Friends General Conference LAURA BOYCE Providence Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Ujima Friends Peace Center MARTHA BRYANS Downingtown Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting SAM CALDWELL Providence Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Former General Secretary, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting GRETCHEN CASTLE Doylestown Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Dean, Earlham School of Religion, Former General Secretary, Friends World Committee for Consultation World Office ROBERT DOCKHORN Green Street Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting TOM EWELL Whidbey Island Friends Meeting, North Pacific Yearly Meeting EILEEN FLANAGAN Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting JOHN HELDING Lopez Island Friends Meeting, North Pacific Yearly Meeting AYESHA IMANI Ujima Friends Meeting, Philadelphia, Clerk, Ujima Friends Peace Center, Former Clerk of the Fellowship of Friends of African Descent PHIL LORD Ujima Friends Meeting, Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting MARY ELLEN MCNISH Byberry Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Former General Secretary, American Friends Service Committee DIANE RANDALL

Hartford Friends Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting, Sojourning Friends Meeting of Washington, Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Former General Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation CHRISTINA REPOLEY Atlanta Friends Meeting, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association, Founding Director of Quaker Voluntary Service COLIN SAXTON North Valley Friends Meeting, Newberg, Oregon JOE VOLK Executive Secretary Emeritus, Friends Committee on National Legislation MICHAEL WAJDA Goshen Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Sojourning Bennington Friends Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting, Former Associate Secretary, Friends General Conference PAM YALLER Upper Dublin Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Meeting and Organization Affiliations are listed for identification purposes only

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Eleventh Month 5, 2022

1. **Opening Worship:** The meeting opened with centering worship at 12:00 pm.
2. **Introductions:** Rachel Ernst Stahlhut, presiding clerk, invited Friends to introduce ourselves and to share how we are in spirit as a way to help build our spiritual community and get to know each other.
3. **Roll Call:** The Recording Clerk called the roll of Yearly Meeting officers and administrators, Committee Clerks, Quarterly and Monthly Meeting Representatives, and Yearly Meeting staff.

Yearly Meeting officers:

Presiding Clerk: Rachel Ernst Stahlhut
Assistant Presiding Clerk: Barry Zalph
Recording Clerk: Lisa Cayard
Assistant Recording Clerk: Cecilia Shore
Treasurer: Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer: Cathy Habschmidt

Committee Representatives:

Auditing: Cathy Habschmidt
Braddock Fund: Steve Angell
Budget & Finance: Wilson Palmer
Children's Committee: Susan Hyde
Development Committee: absent
Earthcare: absent
Nominating: Paul Buckley
Peace & Social Concerns: absent
Personnel: Steve Angell
Religious Nurture & Education: Rex Sprouse
Yearly Meeting Planning: Ben Griffith and Martha Viehmann
Young Adult Friends: absent
Youth Services: David Hyde

Quarterly Meeting Clerks:

Miami: Peter Hardy
Whitewater: Christine Carver

Monthly Meeting representatives:

Bloomington: Rex Sprouse

Campus: absent
Clear Creek: Cathy Habschmidt
Community: Eric Wolff
Dayton: Nikki Coffee Tousley
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer
Fall Creek: Daniel Day
Fort Wayne: MaryAnna Feitler
Lafayette: absent
Lexington: Richard Mitchell, Betsy Neale
Louisville: Chris Harmer
Miami: Jeanette Rockwell
North Meadow: Dinah Duvall
Oxford: Cecilia Shore
White Rose: absent
Yellow Springs: Annie Blanchard

Yearly Meeting staff:

Administrative Assistant: Susan Lee Barton
Youth Secretary: Adam Funck

Administrators:

Statistician: Rex Sprouse
Website Administrator: Daniel Day
Records Coordinator: Susan Hyde
Quaker Quill Editor: Cecilia Shore
Publications Coordinator: Richard Mitchell
Registrar: Eric Wolff

4. Agenda review: The Clerk reviewed some changes in the agenda. The agenda was accepted with changes. The Clerk shared the color-coded system for indicating a request to speak, a question to raise, or approval.

5. Treasurer's Report: Wilson Palmer provided a spreadsheet and written report in advance for Friends to review, and a question was raised regarding the deficit proposed in the budget if spending goes as planned. Wilson clarified that expenses are budgeted to be \$6,560 more than income for the fiscal year. Gratitude was expressed for Wilson's faithful work. The report was accepted.

6. Handbook Update for Budget & Finance Committee: Wilson Palmer, speaking for David Garman, the clerk of Budget & Finance Committee, presented a proposed revision to the OVYM Handbook description of Budget & Finance Committee, adding the responsibility of this committee to oversee and support the work of the Treasurer. The update was APPROVED. (Handbook section with approved changes attached below.)

7. Auditing Committee: The committee provided a written report in advance for Friends to review. Cathy Habschmidt shared that the audit committee found everything in good order, and that Veronica Frost has kept the work of the Auditing Committee very organized. Cathy clarified that since she is not doing any bookkeeping in her current role as Assistant Treasurer, there was not a conflict in her participating in the audit. The report was accepted.

8. Demographic Data Report to Friends General Conference: Susan Lee Barton presented the request from FGC for demographic data. This request came out of the work of FGC on anti-racism, as a strategy toward becoming an anti-racist organization. The data would serve as a benchmark to measure our progress in becoming more inclusive. This would include data on age, gender, race, and ethnicity to be reported on the monthly meetings' annual statistical report. A question was raised about how monthly meetings would

collect this data, which would involve a fair amount of work. A questionnaire for individual members to complete might be helpful. It was clarified that the statistics are being collected for both members and attenders. It was noted that when monthly meetings were asked about collecting this information in the past, there was quite a bit of hesitancy. It was clarified that anyone who does not want to participate would be able to decline sharing this information. A strong objection was raised to this request based on a conviction that Friends are one in Christ and should not be identified or separated by race, gender, etc. Caution was urged in being tender and clear with each other, and not rushing into this process. A suggestion was made that since we are not in unity in supporting this request, it might be more productive to find another strategy toward the goal of anti-racism with which we can unite. A perspective was shared, that Friends who identify as part of a group that experiences exclusion or prejudice often feel strongly about being seen and heard, and having their experience acknowledged. Without finding unity on this request for collecting demographic data, we sought another way forward. A suggestion was made that we need to get to know one another better, rather than placing one another in “boxes” that we may not be comfortable being open about. We were urged to be open to change and to center ourselves in love as we work toward becoming an anti-racist community. A suggestion was made to develop a few queries to encourage and support meetings in addressing the questions of becoming a more inclusive community. Friends APPROVED this suggestion. Barry Zalph, Chris Harmer, and Betsy Neale volunteered to draft these queries.

9. Handbook Revision for Administrative Assistant Job Description: Rachel Ernst Stahlhut presented a proposed revision to the OVYM Handbook, removing the sentence that the Administrative Assistant would take on all functions of the OVYM newsletter when there is no editor. She noted that the Administrative Assistant already has a heavy load, and as her supervisor, she wanted to protect her from this added heavy responsibility. A concern was raised that the OVYM newsletter is a critical form of communication, and that if there is no editor we need another way to ensure this communication takes place. A suggestion was made to create an assistant newsletter editor position instead. Another suggestion was made that, if the newsletter editor was not able to complete their task, other means of electronic communication could carry the yearly meeting over until a new editor could be named. There was a question and a clarification about how the Administrative Assistant’s pay is calculated, based on a record of hours worked over the year. The additional hours that would be required to put out the newsletter would be uncompensated time for this position. After some discussion, Friends APPROVED the proposed revision to the Handbook, without creating an assistant newsletter editor position. Two Friends stood aside from this decision.

10. Planning Committee: Martha Viehmann reported that OVYM Annual Sessions will be held June 14-18 2023, at Mount Saint Joseph University in Cincinnati. The theme will be “Finding Our Way: Your Gifts Are Needed.” Two plenary speakers have been contacted. One has accepted so far, Cai Quirk, an artist who is known to Bloomington Meeting. The report was accepted with gratitude for the committee’s hard work.

11. Nominating Committee: Paul Buckley reported that the committee is working hard, and they are having discussion about challenges in finding young adult Friends who are interested in participating on a Young Adult Friends Committee. Only one young Friend has expressed interest. They wonder if Friends in this age group may be in need of more pastoral care, so the concern has been passed on to Religious Nurture and Education Committee. The report was accepted.

12. Travel Minute for Diann Herzog: Rex Sprouse presented a travel minute for Diann Herzog. Diann’s monthly meeting, Fall Creek, brought the travel minute to Whitewater Quarter, which has approved the travel minute for endorsement. Diann is seeking support for travel within Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting to stir up love and light and unity in the Spirit in the current darkness of our times. Friends APPROVED endorsing this travel minute on behalf of OVYM Executive Committee. (Minute attached below.)

13. Braddock Fund Committee: Stephen Angell provided a report in advance for Friends to review. The committee has approved one grant of \$3,000 in the past year. This report was accepted.

14. Youth Secretary Updates: Adam Funck reported that five youth attended Joint Quarterly Meeting at Happy Hollow. The youth ranged in age from 9 to 19, and they had a wonderful time. Youth came from Fall Creek, Dayton, and Clear Creek monthly meetings, and all were new to attending Quarterly Meeting. They are looking forward to other gatherings. Some older youth will be invited to attend the Quake that Rocked the Midwest in January, and a youth gathering will also be held at Miami Quarterly Meeting in January. The Youth Committee helped brainstorm some potential new committee members among parents of the youth. Friends were invited to encourage youth in our meetings to attend Quarterly Meetings. The report was accepted.

15. Announcements: Rex Sprouse shared that the workshop on clerking and business “Listening to Spirit: Clerking and Community” planned by Religious Nurture and Education has been postponed until spring.

16. Upcoming Executive Committee Dates:

- February 4, 2023, 12-4pm, hybrid in-person and Zoom
- April 1, 2023, 12-4pm, hybrid in-person and Zoom

APPENDED REPORTS:

OVYM Treasurer’s report – 10/23/2022

“Two things I ask of you, LORD; do not refuse me before I die:

Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread.

Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’

Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.” – Proverbs 30:7-9 (NIV)

I would not make the Proverbs speaker a treasurer as his ability to count is suspect, since, it seems to me, he has asked for 3 to 5 things of the Lord and not 2. However, I like the sentiment anyway.

We have completed the steps to add Cathy Habschmidt to the new OVYM checking account. I have also given her instructions of where the check books and financial records are located and how she could gain access to them should I suddenly become incapacitated. I have been through my annual audit, once again performed in-person and more fully than we have been able to do in the previous two years. Many thanks for Veronica Frost as she finishes her many years of able leadership. Cathy Habschmidt is the next clerk and assisted with the audit just finished. Bob Hollada has been a faithful worker on the committee and we are fortunate to have him still willing to donate his time in the future.

I am grateful for the financial support from our member Monthly Meetings. We receive their income and I pay our bills. I have nothing else special to report at this point early in our fiscal year. Our investments have lost 7% of their value since the start of our fiscal year and 23% since the beginning of our calendar year. However, since we started investing with Friends Fiduciary Corporation 5 years ago our invested assets have grown 40% or 8% per year. The market fluctuates but in the long term tends to advance.

Submitted by Wilson Palmer

3.5. Committees

The Yearly Meeting may organize its work through the appointment of committees necessary for the effective carrying out of its concerns. It is cautioned against becoming over-organized and thus expending in merely maintaining a mechanical system, energies which should be conserved for the advancement of truth.¹

3.5.3. Budget and Finance Committee

PROPOSED:

The purpose of the Budget and Finance Committee is to provide consultation and oversight of the treasurer, propose the yearly meeting's annual budget and communicate with constituent monthly meetings their suggested proportional annual share of that budget.

APPOINTMENT:-At least three members nominated by Nominating Committee and approved by Yearly Meeting in session for three-year staggered terms. Treasurer and Assistant treasurer are members ex officio.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- *Provide support and consultation for the Treasurer*
- *Oversight of the Treasurer*
- *Develop the YM budget for the coming year to be approved during YM session (ref:Section 4.4 Budget Policy)*
- *Recommend the amount of the YM proportional share for each monthly meeting for the coming year*
- *May be charged with additional responsibilities of discerning/defining OVYM fiscal priorities*
- *Refer to the Proposed Guidelines for Budget Process approved at 1991 OVYM session (ref: Section 4.4 Budget Policy)*

CURRENT:

It [the Yearly Meeting] shall determine, annually, a budget necessary for its expenses and assign to each Monthly Meeting its quota for collection based on total membership.²

APPOINTMENT:

Three members nominated by Nominating Committee and approved by Yearly Meeting in session for three-year staggered terms. Treasurer and Assistant treasurer are members ex officio.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Develop the YM budget for the coming year to be approved during YM session (ref: Section **4.4. Budget Policy**)
- Recommend the amount of the YM proportional share for the coming year
- May be charged with additional responsibilities of discerning/defining OVYM fiscal priorities
- Refer to the Proposed Guidelines for Budget Process approved at the 1991 OVYM session, (ref: Section **4.4. Budget Policy**).³

1 *Faith and Practice*, The Yearly Meeting. (Note: In this document the term “yearly meeting” includes the yearly meeting in session or actions of the OVYM Executive Committee.)

2 *Faith and Practice*, The Yearly Meeting

3 Minutes of the business sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting 1990, Minute 35.

- Generally meet in late spring or summer

4.4. Budget Policy⁴

BACKGROUND:

This is an attempt to put into a sensible, logical guideline the procedure for handling each and every line item of the OVYM yearly budget--each and every year. The purpose is to regulate the process to one which is consistent and known to all. These guidelines strengthen the committee's responsibility to do the detail work as assigned by the yearly meeting and to report their work to the yearly meeting for action. It also provides that controversial problems may be referred to this or another committee for further deliberation, with key persons invited to help in resolving the specific problem.

OUTLINE OF THE BUDGET PROCESS:

- I. Committee Purpose
- II. Yearly Meeting-related Programs
- III. Contributions/Outreach Items
- IV. OVYM Budget Calendar

I. COMMITTEE PURPOSE:

PROPOSED ADDITION HIGHLIGHTED:

The Budget & Finance Committee's (B&F) basic purpose is to *provide consultation and oversight to the treasurer and* prepare and present a proposed annual budget to Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting at its annual session. It adjusts yearly meeting program needs following program requests to the best of the committee's ability. The committee responds to specific minuted actions of the yearly meeting pertaining to the budget. The committee will use the OVYM budget calendar to guide its work in bringing a budget forward to the Yearly Meeting. The Budget & Finance Committee presents its initial proposed budget at the beginning of OVYM's annual sessions or earlier, modifying the proposal as a result of discussions in the yearly meeting. Problems are referred to the Budget and Finance Committee or another committee of the yearly meeting for further deliberation. The Budget & Finance Committee will invite key persons and will welcome attenders to speak to the various sides of a matter referred for resolution.

IV. OVYM BUDGET CALENDAR:

PROPOSED:

January: Requests for input regarding next year's budget

Request responses by March 15

April: Open Budget and Finance meeting (morning of Executive Committee Meeting)

April: Propose budget to Executive Committee

April 15: Proposed budget sent to monthly meetings

May: Budget sent to Reports in Advance

June: Yearly Meeting in session approves budget

⁴ Minutes of the business sessions of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting 1990, Minute 35.

CURRENT:

Step 1: At the fall Executive Committee Meeting (or, about October first, if there is no fall meeting), the Budget & Finance Committee announces the beginning of the budget-setting process. Following the meeting, B&F sends a request for expense estimates to yearly meeting clerks, committees, and others.

Step 2: Committees and clerks respond by January 15.

Step 3: By January 31, the treasurer fills in any missing information, compiles a draft budget, identifying any policy issues and associated costs. B&F reviews the draft and makes any changes necessary.

Step 4: In the morning of the winter Executive Committee session (or, about February first, if there is no winter meeting), there is a Public Budget Meeting to discuss the first draft budget and collect any comments. Everyone in the yearly meeting is invited to attend. In the afternoon, (or the next Executive Committee Meeting if none is scheduled for that day) Budget & Finance Committee meets with the Executive Committee seeking advice on the draft budget any policy issues.

Step 5: By February 28, Budget & Finance Committee revises the draft budget, as necessary, and sends it to the monthly meetings.

This mailing includes:

- Summaries of the current year budget and the proposed budget.
- Descriptions of any changes between the current and proposed budgets, with reasons for changes, especially any policy issues.
- The amount of the suggested proportional share per member for the coming year and how much that would be for the meeting, based on the most recent Statistical Report.
- A request for monthly meetings to commit to support for the yearly meeting.
- An offer that a Budget & Finance Committee member can meet with the monthly meeting as needed.

Step 6: By April 30, monthly meetings review the budget, discern how much they can donate to the yearly meeting, and respond to Budget & Finance Committee.

Step 7: By May 15, Budget & Finance Committee prepares a final budget proposal taking into consideration updated financial statements, monthly meeting responses, and further input from committees. That document is published in the Advance Reports.

Step 8: At the annual sessions, yearly meeting acts.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT, 2021-2022 FISCAL YEAR

For the first time in three years, the Audit Committee felt comfortable meeting in person at ESR in Richmond, IN. Earlham School of Religion has been very helpful in providing space for us for the last several years and we appreciate it.

We were joined by our new member and future Clerk, Cathy Habschmidt. Veronica is stepping down after several years of service.

All accounts were successfully reconciled. The process went smoothly and faster than times past since we had an additional member. We commend the Treasurer on following through on Audit Committee suggestions over the years and improving the transparency of our finances.

Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.

Veronica Frost, Bob Holada, Cathy Habschmidt

Demographic Data Request from FGC

On 31-10-2022 13:56, Friends General Conference Ministry on Racism wrote:

Dear Yearly Meeting Clerk,

We are gathering demographic information in order to see where we are situated as a diverse community. This will be the baseline with which we can compare future data. Let us take action on this exciting recommendation from FGC's Institutional Assessment.

This information will also help FGC to:

- a. Identify and engage Friends of Color in Monthly Meetings to consider FGC service.
- b. Specifically ask Yearly Meetings to nominate Friends of Color to Central Committee.
- c. Provide enough resources to assist Friends of Color to serve FGC.
- d. Make every effort to bring in new Friends of Color rather than further burdening the few Friends of Color currently serving in leadership capacities with FGC.
- e. Share data across FGC's Yearly Meetings so different Yearly Meetings can learn from one another.

We know there are many demands on your time. We are grateful for your attention to this matter.

What: Collect demographic data on the race, ethnicity, gender and age of people in your Yearly Meeting. This should be submitted once by a representative of the YM, not by individual Members and Attenders.

Why: To have data on the racial, gender and age composition of FGC constituents.

When: Submit Yearly Meeting data by end of 2022.

Where: Using this form: [Yearly Meeting Demographic Survey](#)

The long answer on why we are doing this: [FGC Institutional Assessment on Systemic Racism Report](#)

But why data? [Baltimore Yearly Meeting Minute on collecting demographic data](#)

If you have questions or need help in any way, please contact us at becomingantiracist@fgcquaker.org.

Please let me know if you have any questions and/or want to arrange a meeting to talk.

In Friendship,

Vanessa Julye

Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

Nurturing Ministries Coordinator

Ministry on Racism and Youth Ministries Programs

Friends General Conference

Nominating Committee Report

Nominating Committee continues to meet monthly by Zoom and we are making steady progress on a 2022-23 list of nominations. There is nothing required from the Executive Committee in that respect right now.

We are concerned about the adult young Friends. Many phone calls have resulted in just one person on the AYF Committee, but our concern is that these Friends are detached from OVYM. Perhaps the lack of in-person events is part of the reason. It has also been suggested that they are of an age when energy and attention are required for new families. We have referred this as a pastoral care issue to RN&E. It seemed right to also report this to Executive Committee for your care and consideration.

I hope to see you on November 5.

Submitted by Paul Buckley, Nominating Committee clerk, on 10/25/2022

Travel Minute for Diann Herzog:

9th Month 2022

Dear Friends,

Please welcome our beloved Friend, Diann Herzog, who is answering a leading to travel among Friends within Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, to join them in worship, prayer, and fellowship. She has laid this concern before Fall Creek Monthly Meeting, and during our Meeting for Worship with attention to Business on Eighth Month 14th, 2022, Fall Creek Monthly Meeting united with Diann's concern.

Diann writes:

I am compelled by the love of God through Christ to profess my love and faith in the Eternal Spirit, whose beginning and end are pure Love. My hope is that our love and unity in the Spirit will be stirred up, and grow and deepen, that Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Friends rise up to become a wave of Light that washes over the current darkness of our times.

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

Isaac Pennington 1667

In the Light,
Anna Margaret Greene
Clerk of Fall Creek Monthly Meeting

Braddock Fund Committee Report

We have considered one request, and approved that request, since Executive Committee last met.

The Braddock Fund Trustees have approved the request for \$3000 from Guy Banks for the Destination Day Camp and the check will soon be mailed to the "365 Project" P.O. Box 165, Yellow Sp[rings], Ohio 45387.

Submitted by Steve Angell for the Braddock Fund Committee, 10/25/2022

Second Month 4, 2023
Held at Earlham School of Religion, Richmond IN, and via Zoom

1. Opening Worship: The meeting opened with centering worship at 12:00 pm.

2. Introductions: Rachel Ernst Stahlhut, presiding clerk, invited Friends to introduce ourselves and to share what we are carrying with us into this meeting as a way to help build our spiritual community and connect with each other.

3. Roll Call: The Recording Clerk called the roll of yearly meeting officers and administrators, committee clerks, quarterly and monthly meeting representatives, and yearly meeting staff.

Yearly Meeting officers:

Presiding Clerk: Rachel Ernst Stahlhut
Assistant Presiding Clerk: Barry Zalph
Recording Clerk: Lisa Cayard
Assistant Recording Clerk: Cecilia Shore
Treasurer: Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer: Cathy Habschmidt

Committee Clerks:

Auditing: Cathy Habschmidt
Braddock Fund: Steve Angell
Budget & Finance: David Garman
Children's Committee: Susan Hyde
Development Committee: absent
Earthcare: absent
Nominating: Paul Buckley
Peace & Social Concerns: absent
Personnel: Steve Angell
Religious Nurture & Education: Rex Sprouse
Yearly Meeting Planning: Martha Viehmann and Ben Griffith
Young Adult Friends: absent
Youth Services: David Hyde

Quarterly Meeting Clerks:

Miami: absent
Whitewater: absent

Monthly Meeting representatives:

Bloomington: Rex Sprouse
Campus: absent
Clear Creek: Cathy Habschmidt
Community: Eric Wolff
Dayton: Nikki Coffee Tousley
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer and Martha Viehmann
Fall Creek: Daniel Day
Fort Wayne: Mary Anna Feitler

Lafayette: absent
Lexington: Richard Mitchell, Betsy Neale
Louisville: Cindi Goslee
Miami: absent
North Meadow: Eric Hailperin-Lausch
Oxford: Cecilia Shore
White Rose: absent
Yellow Springs: Susan Hyde

Yearly Meeting staff:

Administrative Assistant: Susan Lee Barton
Youth Secretary: Adam Funck

Administrators:

Co-statistician: Rex Sprouse
Website Administrator: Daniel Day
Records Co-coordinator: Susan Hyde
Quaker Quill Editor: Cecilia Shore
Publications Coordinator: Richard Mitchell
Registrar: Eric Wolff

4. Agenda review: The Clerk reviewed the agenda. The agenda was accepted. The Clerk shared the color-coded system for those participating virtually indicating a request to speak, a question to raise, or approval.

5. Nominating Committee Report:

- Paul Buckley brought a recommendation for a new member for Youth Services Committee, Peggy Spohr. Friends **APPROVED** this nomination.
- Nominating Committee recommended Dan and Jan Sims as Co-coordinators of Publications, and Friends **APPROVED** this nomination.
- Nominating Committee recommended an update to the OVYM Handbook, changing the timeline for naming the Publications Coordinator to be approved at the spring Executive Committee, so that this position will be in place before annual sessions. The current description in the handbook says that the nomination for this position be approved at annual sessions, but this is impractical. An alternate suggestion was made to move this timeline for approval of the Publications Coordinator to the winter Executive Committee meeting. This latter recommendation was **APPROVED**.
- Nominating Committee recommended Miriam Bunner to be added to the Braddock Trust Fund Board as a fourth member. This would involve a change in the description of the Braddock Fund Board to allow more than three Board members. A suggestion was made to ask the Braddock Fund Board to recommend language for this revision, and to bring this recommendation back to the April Executive Committee Meeting. Friends **APPROVED** postponing the nomination of any additional Board members until after the change in the handbook language is approved. The committee may consult with Miriam Bunner at will in the meantime.

6. Antiracism Queries Working Group: Betsy Neale shared a written report in advance with suggested queries for monthly meetings related to becoming antiracist. (Attached below) Betsy read the five queries aloud. A concern was raised about the wording of the third query, but it was clarified that the queries are meant to address the different experiences of meetings that are on the spectrum of becoming more diverse and inclusive. It was also pointed out that in the preamble to the queries, meetings may choose to address queries in the order most pertinent to their need/current situation. After some discussion, Friends **APPROVED** the ad hoc committee's work and this report with gratitude. Friends further **APPROVED** distributing this report and queries to monthly meetings for discussion or worship sharing. It was agreed that

this would be a stand-alone communication coming from Executive Committee, as well as being included in the Quill.

7. Youth Secretary's Report: Adam Funck reported that most recently, three youth from Dayton Meeting participated in youth activities at Miami Quarterly Meeting. There were only three teens who signed up for the Quake that Rocked the Midwest, so this event was postponed indefinitely. The spring FCNL lobbying weekend will be March 25-28 in Washington DC, with the option to participate online. High school and college aged young Friends are encouraged to participate. Adam plans to visit monthly meetings to encourage youth to become engaged in yearly meeting activities. Friends are asked to contact Adam at youth@ovym.org or 513-587-9206 to invite him to your meeting. The report was accepted.

8. Treasurer's Report: Wilson Palmer sent a report in advance, and he invited any questions. With no questions raised, the report was accepted.

9. Budget & Finance Committee: David Garman reported that this is the season for the Budget & Finance committee to begin preparing the budget for next year. He invited committee requests for any changes to the current budget. The report was accepted.

10. Yearly Meeting Restructuring Committee: Paul Buckley shared a written report in advance. The Committee has visited about half the meetings in the Yearly Meeting. He shared a sampling of topics that came out of these visits. In response to a question about concerns of not having enough time, Paul shared that he heard a sense of exhaustion and isolation. Meetings welcome visitors, but are unable to manage visitation to other meetings. The report was accepted.

11. Annual Sessions Planning Committee: Martha Viehmann and Ben Griffith reported that two plenary speakers have been confirmed: Cai Quirk and Gretchen Castle, who is Dean of Earlham School of Religion. An Assistant Registrar has been named, Mia Van Meter, from Dayton Meeting. The committee is in the process of finding a Living Witness, and scheduling workshops. Suggestions from evaluations were greatly appreciated. The committee is discussing COVID policies for the upcoming annual sessions, looking at current pandemic conditions. Friends were invited to contact the committee if anyone would like to present a workshop. The theme of annual sessions is "Finding our Way - Your Gifts are Needed!" The report was accepted with gratitude.

12. Religious Nurture and Education Committee: Rex Sprouse provided an update on the committee's work. The committee has been struggling with how to best meet the needs of the yearly meeting. A workshop was planned on clerking and Quaker business process, but very few Friends registered. After a period of discernment and a committee retreat, the committee hopes to discern how to best be of service to the yearly meeting. The update was accepted.

13. Whitewater Quarterly Meeting: Christine Carver provided a written report in advance.

14. Miami Quarterly Meeting: Peter Hardy was not able to provide a report. Cecilia Shore shared that Miami Quarterly Meeting is struggling to fill officer positions. A good number of Friends participated in Quarterly Meeting in Dayton last week. The program on vocal ministry was appreciated.

15. Minute of gratitude: Appreciation was expressed to Earlham School of Religion for providing space and technology for our meeting today at no cost. Friends **APPROVED** this minute of gratitude.

16. Check-in with Monthly Meetings: The clerk invited monthly meeting representatives to share about opportunities and challenges meetings are facing, and what meetings have been doing to address and challenge racism.

- Rex Sprouse shared that Bloomington Meeting has been very active with a host of group activities such as Experiment with Light, book groups, etc. One frustration has been that there is no regular participation of children and youth. The masking protocol remains very strict, and there seems to be a new generation of attenders who have never met those who attend via Zoom, which limits fellowship opportunities.
- Betsy Neal shared that Lexington Meeting has also experienced limitations of having those who participate virtually. The meeting is aging, and some younger Friends feel a lack of good communication across generations. There have been some conflicts between white Friends and African-American Friends, and attempts at eldering have not been successful. Four Friends have left the meeting. An effort to revitalize outreach and the spiritual community are underway. The issue of trauma, especially racial trauma, and mental illness issues has contributed to misunderstanding. The meeting has approved an anti-racism minute, and they have an anti-racism committee. There seems to be a fairly small number of members who participate in the anti-racism work.
- Eric Wolff shared that Community Meeting is responding to the CDC COVID risk levels by masking when risk levels are at medium or high levels. There was a challenging discussion about how to handle invasive plants and the use of Roundup. There are several people of color attending, and also a good number of younger new attenders. There have not been many families with children attending. Hybrid meetings are going well, meeting the needs of those who cannot attend in person. Eric is the only person currently who can run the technology for hybrid meetings. The meeting continues to support immigrant families. Antiracism is not a strong focus, but a threshing session is being planned on the spiritual basis for our work for racial and economic justice.
- Wilson Palmer shared that one member at Eastern Hills meeting is active in the MLK Coalition, but they are an all-white meeting, and antiracism does not seem to be a major focus. The meeting is calm and centered, and the hybrid technology has been working smoothly. They miss the spiritual leadership of the Coppocks who have moved away, and Franchot Ballinger who recently passed away. Martha Viehmann shared that a few years ago the meeting reviewed all the children's books to remove any books that were dated or that showed Jesus as blond and blue-eyed, and they purchased books that better reflected diversity.
- David Hyde shared that Yellow Springs is also challenged by not having children attending. They are also having challenges with aging members. They still maintain a strict masking policy, which can make it difficult to communicate. The meeting is addressing racism through wider community projects on reparations and other topics. Susan Hyde also shared the weight of responsibility on older members, because there are no younger members to take their place. COVID seems to have fractured the meeting, and they struggle to return to a being a spiritual community.
- Cindi Goslee shared that Louisville meeting has consistent attendance at worship and at business meeting. They are still hybrid, but have more people attending in person. They have returned to potluck meals. There are very few children attending. There are a small handful of people working on racial justice issues. One member won't come into the meetinghouse any longer because the property was once part of a plantation. There are continuing concerns about the property. There are differing understandings about Quaker process and finding unity, so this has been a concern as well. Barry Zalph shared that they have lost a large number of Friends who have died in the past few years, and there is difficulty sustaining the work of the meeting since the pandemic. They are facing the struggle of how to support individual Friends who feel called to take action, but they are not able to unite on meeting actions.
- Cathy Habschmidt shared that Clear Creek Meeting continues to have hybrid worship, with most people attending in person. Masking is optional. COVID precautions are not currently a major concern. They had a series of retreats stemming from an acknowledgment that it was becoming harder to get people to serve on committees, and how the meeting could restructure to get the most important work done. They laid down two or three committees and are relying on individuals or ad hoc committees to do the work. They started a very fruitful series of small groups including Bible study, movie watching, singing, and environmental issues. They have only a few children in the meeting who don't usually come to worship. In an effort to find an action that the meeting could

unite to do together as a meeting, they held a series of prayer vigils in the weeks before the recent elections. The vigils were focused on praying for our democracy and the future of our country. There are a large number of inactive members who were contacted recently to ask about their relationship with Clear Creek Meeting.

- Cecilia Shore shared that Oxford Meeting is focusing on welcoming newcomers and supporting those who are facing life transitions. One member is working to support the needs of the homeless. They also approved a minute on reproductive health. Meetings for worship are hybrid, but depend on the iPads of the co-clerks. Younger meeting members are bringing new energy to the meeting.
- Nikki Coffee Tousley shared that Dayton meeting has had several younger attenders coming to meeting, some with children. There is an active Peace and Social Concerns Committee, working on prisons, the death penalty and AVP, but not so much focus on racism. There seems to be a lot of richness and possibilities, and they hope to nurture new leadership. The meeting has a goal to bring new attenders into a better understanding of Quaker faith and practice.
- Daniel Day shared that Fall Creek continues to carry a concern about the meeting's property, as they are no longer the legal property owners. They are working on a contract to work this out with the new owners. He asked Friends to hold them in the Light as they continue on this journey.
- Eric Hailperin-Lausch shared that North Meadow Circle of Friends has a member who is working with the AVP project, and they are renting space to a Central American Quaker church group. The meeting reduced many activities during the pandemic, and they are slowly bringing these activities back, such as social and spiritual activities outside of meeting for worship.
- Mary Anna Feitler shared that Fort Wayne has very few people attending, and few children. They meet at Plymouth Congregational Church, and they have very few visitors. They prepare meals for a local homeless shelter, but since COVID happened they are not able to eat with the residents. It is difficult to form committees with only six active members, so everyone does a big share of the work.

17. Announcements/Concerns:

- Next Executive Committee Meeting will be held April 1, 2023, from 12:00 to 4:00pm, both in-person at Community Friends Meeting in Cincinnati and via Zoom.
- Susan Lee Barton shared that April 15 is the date that State of the Meeting reports are due, meeting directories are due, and reports from representatives to other organizations are due.
- Lisa Cayard shared that Miami Meeting offers a category called "Friends of the Meeting" for those who have historical or family ties, but are no longer active in the meeting.

APPENDED REPORTS:

Report from Working Group on Queries on Inclusion in Monthly Meetings

1/20/2023

(per 11/5/22 Executive Committee)

On November 5, 2022, the Executive Committee of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting (EC) discussed a request from Friends General Conference regarding collection of demographic data from Monthly Meetings. FGC suggests that such data, which would include age, gender, race and ethnicity (to be included in monthly meetings' annual statistical report) would serve as a benchmark to measure Friends progress in becoming more inclusive.

At that time Executive Committee members had a number of questions and concerns regarding the collection of such data. Rather than proceed with FGC's suggestion, EC approved the following minute:

4. We were urged to be open to change and to center ourselves in love as we work toward becoming an anti-racist community. A suggestion was made to develop a few queries to encourage and support meetings in addressing the questions of becoming a more inclusive community. Friends APPROVED this suggestion. Barry Zalph, Chris Harmer, and Betsy Neale volunteered to draft these queries.

The three Friends mentioned above, along with Cindi Goslee (EC representative from Louisville Monthly Meeting) drafted the document below for Friends' consideration:

QUERIES TO MONTHLY MEETINGS REGARDING BECOMING ANTI-RACIST

Excerpts from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice (2020 edition, pages 16-18) state the following regarding our testimony of equality:

"The roots of racial prejudice lie deep within us, and in seeking a solution to the evil results of racial tensions we need to search our own hearts. Our belief in the significance of every individual in the sight of God and his need for an abundant life can guide us even when we shrink before the fastness of the problem" (London Yearly Meeting).

"Continuing revelation led Quakers to see that believing in spiritual equality carries implication for how we live our outward lives... Living out the testimonies requires reexamination in each era. We believe humble, faithful discernment in community will reveal what love requires of us."

"It is easy to be lulled into believing racism and unearned privilege have been overcome. This can render Friends oblivious to the ways such attitudes influence behavior. Facing these uncomfortable realities and assumptions can reveal hidden, unfair, and harmful biases." "To be faithful, Friends must be willing to confront anything in our lives, in our religious society, and in the surrounding culture that unjustly holds one person up and holds another back."

The following queries are suggested for Monthly Meetings' discernment process in becoming more welcoming and inclusive to people of all races/ethnicities. Meetings may choose to address each query in the order most pertinent to their need/current situation. The ad hoc committee which drafted these queries consists only of white Friends; therefore, we strongly encourage Monthly Meetings to include persons of color in exploring (and as needed, adding to) these queries.

- A. How do we practice the equality of all people before God, as expressed in our Faith and Practice? How does our practice of the testimony of equality (see above) influence our individual lives, our meeting, and our work and witness in the society at large?
- B. Do we sense the Spirit leading our Monthly Meeting to be more racially diverse and inclusive? Do I personally feel misgivings as we contemplate racial diversity and inclusion in our Meeting?
- C. How do we open ourselves to changes in our Meeting's culture because of increased racial diversity and inclusion? How do we address discomforts and disappointments (among Friends of all races and ethnicities) that arise as we pursue diversity and inclusion?
- D. How does our Meeting become more inviting? How do we create safe space for our members, attenders, and guests to share aspects of their identities that they feel led to share? How do we recognize and remove cultural barriers that might inhibit people of color from feeling welcome?
- E. How does our spiritual growth and community benefit from greater diversity?

Submitted by: Barry Zalph, Betsy Neale, Chris Harmer, Cindi Goslee

Ad Hoc Structure Committee Progress Report February 4, 2023

So far, the committee has visited 9 monthly meetings:

- 09/18/22 Fort Wayne
- 09/18/22 Clear Creek
- 10/02/22 Eastern Hills

- 10/09/22 Campus
- 11/13/22 Dayton
- 11/20/22 Bloomington
- 11/20/22 Oxford
- 12/04/22 Lafayette
- 01/22/23 Community

We remain hopeful that we will have the opportunity to visit the others and incorporate their responses and reflections when we are preparing our final report.

The following is a sampling of topics from the meetings visited so far:

- Several meetings suggested facilitating joint action on environmental and social concerns.
- The value of quarterly meetings as currently structured was doubted. The current schedule may need revision. The current boundaries may need review.
- OVYM annual sessions provide one valued opportunity for people to interact with Friends from other meetings. The Children’s Program has been particularly important. One person suggested hiring someone to plan and run the Adult Young Friends program during the annual sessions. Less time in business and more on what it means to be a Friend (i.e., workshops) was asked for. Not all workshops need to be held during the annual sessions. Annual sessions could be an opportunity to plan joint activities, especially for environmental and social action.
- There is a desire for more communications – especially from the Yearly Meeting to the Monthly Meetings rather than from monthly meetings to the yearly meeting. The internet offers ways of sharing between monthly meetings.
- The monthly meetings need support. Visitors are very welcome. One meeting suggested hiring a staff member to assist monthly meetings make better use of the internet.
- Time is a restraint. Travel time can be excessive for some meetings. They are more open to being visited than to be visiting. We need to make better use of our limited time together.
- Regular gatherings of monthly meeting clerks were suggested.

We have no recommendations for action by the Executive Committee at this time.

Whitewater Quarterly Meeting Report From First Month (January) 15, 2023

We met at the North Meadow Circle of Friends in Indianapolis. There were about 23 adults present in person or on Zoom for the Meeting for Worship. We spent almost 2 hours afterwards sharing a pot-luck lunch and visiting with one another. Friends were gathered from 5 of the 6 actively functioning monthly meetings in our quarter.

There were about 20 adults who joined us for the Business Meeting. Several agenda items were added at the beginning, which turned into a lengthy meeting. We enthusiastically endorsed a Travel Minute for Paul Buckley. We spent some time considering the Oxford Monthly Meeting’s Minute on Reproductive Health but followed procedure in sending it on to our constituent monthly meetings for their review and reactions to be brought back to our Fourth Month Quarterly Meeting. We also read an item from Peter Hardy, clerk of Miami Quarter, about merging the 2 quarterly meetings and having one half year session. We agreed this is an item that should be brought to the OVYM Ad Hoc Restructuring Committee for consideration. Diann Herzog was asked to share her experience in traveling

ministry and this was very moving. In particular she emphasized the difference between intervisitation and traveling ministry. She has visited Clear Creek monthly meeting since her minute was endorsed at Joint Quarterly Meeting.

We still had about 30 minutes for the program of worship-sharing centered on queries from North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative about building community. Overall Friends expressed the sense that we had experienced very powerful quarterly meeting in which we had deep connection to one another through the Holy Spirit.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Executive Committee
April 1, 2023
Held at Community Friends Meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio, and via Zoom

- 1. Opening Worship:** The meeting opened with centering worship at 12:08 pm.
- 2. Introductions:** Rachel Ernst Stahlhut, presiding clerk, invited Friends to introduce ourselves and to share a spiritual word that evokes something deep in us as a way to help build our spiritual community and connect with each other.
- 3. Roll Call:** The Recording Clerk called the roll of Yearly Meeting officers and administrators, Committee Clerks, Quarterly and Monthly Meeting Representatives, and Yearly Meeting staff.

Yearly Meeting officers:

Presiding Clerk: Rachel Ernst Stahlhut
Assistant Presiding Clerk: Barry Zalph
Recording Clerk: Lisa Cayard
Assistant Recording Clerk: Cecilia Shore
Treasurer: Wilson Palmer
Assistant Treasurer: Cathy Habschmidt

Committee Clerks:

Auditing: Cathy Habschmidt
Braddock Fund: Steve Angell
Budget & Finance: David Garman
Children's Committee: absent
Development Committee: absent
Earthcare: David Duvall
Nominating: Paul Buckley
Peace & Social Concerns: absent
Personnel: Steve Angell
Religious Nurture & Education: Rex Sprouse
Yearly Meeting Planning: Martha Viehmann and Ben Griffith
Young Adult Friends: absent
Youth Services: David Hyde

Quarterly Meeting Clerks:

Miami: Peter Hardy
Whitewater: Christine Carver

Monthly Meeting representatives:

Bloomington: Rex Sprouse
Campus: absent

Clear Creek: Cathy Habschmidt
Community: Eric Wolff
Dayton: Nikki Coffee Tousley
Eastern Hills: Wilson Palmer and Martha Viehmann
Fall Creek: absent
Fort Wayne: Mary Anna Feitler
Lafayette: absent
Lexington: Richard Mitchell, Betsy Neale
Louisville: Jolene Curry and Cindi Goslee
Miami: Jeanette Rockwell
North Meadow: Dinah Duvall
Oxford: Cecilia Shore
White Rose: absent
Yellow Springs: David Hyde

Yearly Meeting staff:

Administrative Assistant: Susan Lee Barton
Youth Secretary: Adam Funck

Administrators:

Statistician: Rex Sprouse
Website Administrator: absent
Records Coordinator: absent
Quaker Quill Editor: Cecilia Shore
Publications Coordinator: absent
Registrar: Eric Wolff

4. Agenda review: The Clerk reviewed the agenda. The agenda was accepted with one addition.

5. Treasurer's Report: Wilson Palmer provided a spreadsheet in advance (attached). The treasurer had no concerns to raise, and there were no questions. The report was accepted with gratitude.

6. Budget and Finance Committee: David Garman explained that the proposed budget for the next fiscal year is included as the last column on the treasurer's spreadsheet. Line items that are changed from last year are in italics. The recommended level of reimbursement of Yearly Meeting representative travel expenses has been increased from \$300 to \$600. Friends APPROVED this increase in the recommended level of reimbursement of travel expenses. Friends also APPROVED the budget in anticipation that final approval for this proposed budget will be requested at annual sessions.

7. Child Abuse Prevention Policy Working Group: Susan Lee Barton presented the draft policy, which was shared in advance (attached). She explained that the Yearly Meeting's child safety policy is to be reviewed and updated every three years. The current policy revision is incomplete. It leaves more responsibility to parents to make arrangements for youth overnight events. This working group has done all they were able to do. Other members of the working group were Andrew Hardy, David Hyde, Susan Hyde, Gail Kohler, and Lois Kay. Adam Funck was also included in the review. Friends APPROVED the policy as it was presented to us, with gratitude for the work of the group. A concern was raised about statistics included in the policy that did not include sources. Susan Lee offered to cite the sources for statistics when the policy is included in the OVYM handbook. The question was raised regarding how to move forward with any work that still needs to be done on this policy. It was recognized that the work has gone as far as we are currently able to go, and that the issue of overnight events is still unclear. It was suggested that the next step should be asking the youth services committee and the children's committee to have a plan in place for annual sessions. The plan should include clear communication with parents of the youth who will be attending. It was recommended

that we should plan for another review beginning in 2025. Our goal is to minimize risk to children as much as possible. Monthly meetings were invited to share any additional recommendations. Friends APPROVED the plan to begin the next review of the policy at Yearly Meeting sessions in 2025, and to ask the youth services committee and the children's committee to develop an agreement with parents and older youth attending 2023 Yearly Meeting sessions regarding expectations for safety. We are also asking both these committees to report to us how this process is working during Yearly Meeting sessions.

8. Nominating Committee: Paul Buckley provided a written report in advance (attached). The committee requested approval for the annual sessions roles: Rick Boyce for Epistle Summary, Peter Hardy and Laurene Scalf for the Epistle Committee, and Dale Hayes for the Memorial Committee. Friends APPROVED these names. Paul highlighted some committees where additional names are still needed. Monthly meeting representatives were asked to make sure each meeting has a named member on Nominating Committee. The report was accepted.

9. Personnel Committee: Steve Angell shared that he has reached the limit of two three-year terms, but he is willing to continue if asked. He also recommended, if approved to continue, that he and Dinah Duvall would serve as co-clerks. Friends APPROVED asking Steve to continue on this committee, and to appoint Steve and Dinah as co-clerks.

10. Proposed revisions to Whitewater Quarterly Meeting description in the OVYM Handbook: Christine Carver provided a written report in advance, with recommended revisions (attached). The schedule for Whitewater Quarterly Meetings is being changed to the third First Day of January, April and October. Hopewell Meeting, which was laid down several years ago, is being removed from the list of meetings. These handbook updates were accepted. It was also recommended that the deadline for submitting State of the Meeting reports be changed to "between January and March." Since this would also affect Miami Quarterly Meeting, we will wait until Miami Quarterly Meeting considers this recommendation to approve this change.

11. Yearly Meeting Restructuring Committee: The committee provided a written report in advance, which proposes that a "Peace, Justice, Earthcare, and Social Action Coordinating Group (PJES)" replace the current Peace & Social Concerns and Earthcare Committees (attached). Paul Buckley explained that this proposal will come to the June Annual Sessions for approval. The primary change is that the Yearly Meeting role would be to facilitate the work of monthly meetings regarding peace, justice and earthcare concerns.

- Friends were invited to give feedback. A concern was raised about those in small monthly meetings who don't have an active Peace & Social Concerns committee. There was clarification that the plan for a Yearly Meeting facilitator is intended to support such isolated Friends with opportunities for virtual meetings and actions across monthly meetings. The benefit of enabling communication among meetings was noted. There was concern expressed about grouping earthcare together with peace and justice issues, since both have so many issues to address. Another concern was that this would add an additional meeting for those active in social justice issues to attend.
- There was also discussion about whether the PJES Coordinator should be a paid position in order to sufficiently resource this important work. One response was that this work would not be as much as we are asking other committees to undertake without pay. Another response was that this is work that some of us are led to undertake, and it would not feel right to pay someone to do it.

Appreciation was expressed to the restructuring committee for their work. The committee will take the responses back for consideration.

12. Annual Sessions Planning Committee: Martha Viehmann shared an update on the work of Planning Committee. The work of the committee is well underway. The committee brought a proposed COVID Safety Policy for Yearly Meeting sessions, which was provided in advance (attached). The policy is aligned with Mount St. Joseph University's policy, which strongly recommends vaccination and asks those who are ill not to attend in person. Friends APPROVED this policy. The committee also brought a recommendation that the registration fee be revised to be "pay as led" between \$0 and \$30. It was noted that monthly meeting

assessments help subsidize the cost of attending Yearly Meeting sessions for children, youth, and plenary speakers. Friends APPROVED this recommendation. Martha shared that one plenary speaker will be Gretchen Castle, former General Secretary of the World Office of the Friends World Committee for Consultation and current Dean of Earlham School of Religion. She will speak on diversity of belief among Friends. Cai Quirk, a transgender person, will bring us a plenary on how the rainbow of diversity enriches all of us. Eight workshops are confirmed. Appreciation was expressed for the work of Planning Committee.

13. Religious Nurture and Education Committee: Rex Sprouse reported that the committee plans to offer a workshop at Yearly Meeting sessions, on “Coming to Unity the Quaker Way” through seeking God’s will. It was discerned that Friends do want to learn more about Quaker business practices, though not necessarily through a clerking workshop. The committee is also planning Quaker Swap Meets at Yearly Meeting sessions where Friends are invited to share innovative responses to pandemic disruptions. Friends accepted this report.

14. Listening Session from Ad Hoc Committee on Yearly Meeting Restructuring: Rex Sprouse asked for Friends to share thoughts about the role and function of quarterly meetings. Feedback from visitations so far have ranged from suggestions to enhance the role of quarterly meetings to laying them down. One suggestion was to have a half-yearly meeting to replace quarterly meetings. Another suggestion was to have a threshing session on this topic at yearly meeting, or an open forum for sharing ideas. It was noted that there is a big difference between the two quarterly meetings regarding attendance and frequency of meetings. There was a concern about increasing responsibilities of Yearly Meeting clerks if we were to implement half-yearly meetings. Some Friends spoke favorably about the importance of social connections provided by quarterly meetings, and the benefit of visiting other monthly meetings. Others spoke about the contrived nature of quarterly meeting business and how much more meaningful it would be to have more time with the whole Yearly Meeting in a half-yearly meeting. The importance of drawing in younger attenders was mentioned. It was also noted that many Friends do not attend either yearly or quarterly meetings, but when a monthly meeting hosts quarterly meeting it gives them the opportunity to meet and socialize with Friends from other meetings. The business of quarterly meetings is not as meaningful as the social connections. We need to create more opportunities for making connections, especially for young people, to visit other meetings and get to know other Quakers beyond their monthly meeting. It’s important for us to feel that we are part of the larger Society of Friends. There was interest expressed in overnight events at a camp like joint quarterly meetings.

15. Administrative Assistant Announcements: Susan Lee Barton shared the following announcements:

- The deadline for submitting Quaker Quill items is tomorrow.
- April 15 is the deadline for monthly meeting information, State of the Meeting reports, Quarterly Meeting reports, and committee reports (admin@ovym.org).
- May 15 is the deadline for requesting paper copies of any publications including the directory and reports in advance.
- Susan Lee is requesting names of all young adults in each monthly meeting between age 18 and 35.
- Reminder that Susan Lee is able to do criminal background checks for monthly meetings.
- A few monthly meetings still need to submit statistical reports that were due March 1.

16. Closing worship: The meeting closed with silent worship.

Save the Date: Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions, June 14 – 18, 2023 at Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati, Ohio. The theme is “Finding our Way – Your Gifts are Needed!”

Next Executive Committee Meeting will be August 26th at noon.

APPENDED REPORTS:

Policy on Prevention of Child Abuse

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting will take all reasonable precautions to insure the safety of the children and youth at all OVYM-sponsored events. To that end, we will provide appropriate screening of all staff and volunteers working with children and young people.

It is the policy of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting to follow the procedures outlined below. This provisional policy is a work in progress, something to use while additional learning and discernment shapes future revisions. This policy and procedures apply to everyone who works with children and young people under 18, whether they are 1) paid, 2) compensated by work grants or fee waivers, or 3) volunteers.

1. All applicants for youth and child care positions shall provide three references to the committee clerk or other designated person. Preferably, one of the three references should come from a person within the yearly meeting and another from a person who has direct experience of the applicant's work with youth or children. Family members should not be used as references. References will be checked, and written records of reference calls kept on file with the OVYM Administrative Assistant. We do need to be aware that references and background checks can help, but are not a guarantee of safety and could create a false sense of security.
2. All youth workers and others who will have supervisory roles (youth secretary, members of Youth Services or Children's Committees), and all who will have overnight responsibility for children or young people, and those who may be alone with young people, must consent to a criminal and child abuse background check prior to serving as a youth worker. The checks will be performed by the OVYM Administrative Assistant unless an applicant can provide a current background check performed by local law enforcement offices or similar database services in other states. The cost of the background check will be borne by OVYM. The OVYM Administrative Assistant will keep records of all background checks and will notify the appropriate committee contact of any concerns. The checks will be repeated every four years for continuing workers. For events when an adult and child might be isolated, such as driving a child somewhere, the Youth Services or Children's Committee may decide that all youth workers will have a background check and casual volunteers will not be accepted.
3. Workers who have not undergone the more thorough screening, including "walk-in" volunteers, will be accompanied at all times by a screened worker. Under no circumstances will these unscreened workers be left alone with a child other than their own.
4. Overnight trips: We have a special concern for overnight trips when there are more opportunities for potential abuse. No two people should be alone and out-of-sight from others in the group at any time (minimum group size of three). Prior to overnights parents should be advised specifically who will be with their child at night. Adults and youth need to sign agreements to community expectations, and parents and sponsors need to sign that they have gone over expectations with their charges in advance of the event.

There should be at least two adults, with a recommended ratio of one adult for every five youth. If enough adults do not volunteer or are not hired the trip shall be CANCELLED.

If there is a situation when the group will be divided for sleeping arrangements, the youth and parents will need to come up with advance rules for that specific trip (still keeping to the above policy).

There was not unity on this section within the 2022 review group. Here are some questions adults and youth should consider before the trip when sleeping arrangements are divided.

Questions:

- Do we want to have a same-sex and/or same-gender requirement for sleeping arrangements?
- How seriously have we considered that the male sex is the #1 demographic consideration when assessing violent crime risk/statistics?
- Do we want to have a separate room available for trans youth?
- Should all Friendly Adult Presence volunteers (FAPs) with girls or trans youth be female?

- How seriously have we considered that trans youth have a higher rate of being assaulted, and a higher rate of suicide?
- How can we best support our youth while minimizing opportunities for sexual harassment and abuse?

5. All information from references and background checks will be held in the strictest of confidence. Files will be held in the OVYM office until known death of the worker in a secure file. Access to these files will be limited to committee clerks and officers of OVYM. These files are the property of OVYM. Upon written request to the OVYM Administrative Assistant, workers shall have access to their files except for letters of reference, which are confidential and not available to the worker. The file is not available to others outside of OVYM.

6. Should a committee have a question or concern about information revealed during the screening procedures, they may discuss this information with the applicant and ask for further clarification. In the event the individual is hired or the volunteer is accepted, the committee should document their reasons in writing for overriding the detrimental information and submit to the OVYM Administrative Assistant for the worker's file.

7. All youth workers, including those who have supervisory roles (youth secretary, members of Youth Services or Children's Committees), those who will have overnight responsibility for children or young people (Friendly presences, parents, sponsors), and those who may be alone with young people (volunteers), shall be trained in abuse prevention prior to working with children or youth. OVYM shall provide, at no cost to the youth worker, abuse prevention training that meets the standards of OVYM's insurance company, state laws, and this policy. There will be an assessment at the end of the training to make sure participants comprehend the content and objectives of the training. Everyone working with youth needs to go through the training every four years. The OVYM Administrative Assistant will keep records of when people are due to renew their training. If someone can provide documentation of up-to-date Friends General Conference training and child safety clearance, that can suffice for training. Friends in supervisory roles will insure that staff, volunteers and committee members review this document prior to OVYM events.

8. The abuse prevention training shall be coordinated by the Religious Nurture and Education Committee. There are specific suggestions and concerns about the training which can be reviewed by Religious Nurture and Education Committee for the future.*

Abuse prevention training materials shall be available year round to youth workers who have met all other qualifications for work with children and youth. In addition, abuse prevention materials shall be available on request to monthly meetings (who develop their own policies). The Youth Services and Children's Committees will provide additional procedures, restrictions, and guidelines to youth and child care workers as needed.

*Points we discussed to add to training:

- Go over false sense of security from pre-checks/references. No matter how many precautions we take, we need to recognize the possibility of abuse and remain vigilant. Anyone can knowingly or unknowingly sexually harass and abuse another person.
- 91% of victims are female. 99% of perpetrators are male.
- How do transgender people fit into the training and this OVYM policy? What statistics and other information need to be included?

9. Any allegations of abuse will be taken seriously. For the purpose of handling allegations of abuse, the clerks of the Children's Committee, Youth Services Committee, OVYM presiding clerk and assistant clerk will serve as the Safe Child Response Team for annual sessions. All such allegations are to be reported immediately to the appropriate supervisor and/or one of these Safe Child Response Team members. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting shall comply with all legal requirements for reporting of abuse.

10. This policy will be reviewed every three years by Executive Committee in consultation with all youth committees appointed by the Yearly Meeting.

(Adapted from FGC Policy 2004, last revised 10/4/2014, current revision 3/2023)

Suggestions for future work:

1. Additional sections to consider (per 2022 review group):
 - Do we want a separate section on off-campus day trips? # of adults per # of children, so not one adult w/a large group of youth. 2 adults (at least) w/groups going on out trips and 2 more staying w/kids who can't go.
 - Do we want a separate section about online events and online safety? Do we want to include anything from the [FGC policy](#) for online events?
 - Do we want to include anything about other types of harassment contributing to feeling unsafe and particularly vulnerable?
2. Further consideration of the questions and training points in #4 and #8 above.
3. Review of the training.
4. Suggested resources.
5. Provide more detail as suggested (not required) by our insurance, including more detail about the process for dealing with allegations and training for the Safe Child Response Team.

Proposed Handbook Changes

2.1. Whitewater Quarter

Officers: Clerk, Recording Clerk, Treasurer

Schedule: Third First Day of January, April, and October.

21. Bloomington Friends Meeting, Bloomington, IN
22. Clear Creek Friends Meeting, Richmond, IN
23. Fall Creek Friends Meeting, Pendleton, IN
24. Ft. Wayne Friends Meeting, Ft. Wayne, IN

[Laid down years ago.]Lafayette Friends Meeting, N. Lafayette, IN

25. North Meadow Circle of Friends, Indianapolis, IN
26. White Rose Friends Meeting, Marion, IN

2.3. Responsibilities of both quarterly meetings to the yearly meeting:

Collect State of Society reports from each monthly meeting between January and March of each year and forward copies to the yearly meeting clerk and administrative assistant.

Forward items of business to the Executive Committee or to the yearly meeting in session.

Accept Benevolent Fund interest payments from the yearly meeting treasurer each year and use the money in accordance with the stipulations of the fund (ref: Section 4.1. The Benevolent Fund of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting).

Approve officers: Clerk, Recording Clerk, Treasurer

Explanation from Christine Carver: I think it is not the best practice to promote submission of State of the Meeting reports in April or May since we have moved forward the Yearly Meeting sessions. Since these reports relate to the previous calendar year, there is no reason why they cannot be submitted as early as January. Even April is potentially late and fosters procrastination. I have been advocating earlier preparation of the reports. Some people always do things at the last minute regardless. So I suggest changing the wording to read [as listed above].

DRAFT OVYM Covid Safety Policy for 2023 Annual Sessions
Mount St. Joseph University (MSJU) “Finding Our Way – Your Gifts Are Needed!”

Even as the threat of COVID-19 diminishes, dangers remain and dictate annual sessions policy. When the CDC’s COVID emergency management program ends in May, public health guidelines and OVYM’s initial policy will likely change. The OVYM Executive Committee approves this policy and empowers the Planning Committee to make adjustments to align with the Mount St. Joseph University policy, which anchors our protocols.

We want to be good guests, so we start with the Mount St. Joseph University policy, which Friends can access at this link: [MSJU Covid Safety Guidelines](#). A summary of the guidelines and additional useful information is at this link: [MSJU COVID Resource Center](#). Please familiarize yourself with the full MSJU Covid Safety Guidelines. As we draft this policy, the Planning Committee especially wants to highlight MSJU’s expectation that anyone who is sick will not come to campus.

Respect for each other and the different choices we make in response to this ongoing public health crisis are the foundation of this policy and our time together. The Planning Committee aims to respectfully accommodate specific needs of individuals as much as possible. We ask that all who come to annual sessions accept that each person can only control their own actions and that parents or guardians will make decisions on behalf of the children in their care.

Friends attending in person agree to follow these guidelines:

- 1) **Vaccinations and up-to-date on boosters are strongly recommended.** We hope that everyone follows this best practice for public health. We will not inquire about vaccination status with one exception for individuals seeking a roommate who is also vaccinated. Therefore, the registration form will include an option to affirm that you are up to date with vaccines and boosters and request a roommate who also affirms that they are up to date. (We hope that roommates will confer on personal masking policy in their suite.)
- 2) **Masking.** Above all, we support and respect those Friends who continue to wear masks. We will ask Friends to wear masks if MSJU requires masks indoors. If there is evidence of an outbreak among MSJU staff or our attendees, the Planning Committee may choose to require masks, and the requirement may apply only to specific venues (smaller rooms, for example). Please be alert to changes, and stay home if you are sick to protect everyone. We strongly encourage the use of N-95 or KN-95 masks. The Registrar’s Table will have a limited supply of these masks. If you feel it particularly important to maintain Social Distance for yourself, please let the Planning Committee know. We will work hard to provide you this level of personal comfort and safety in each venue and activity.
- 3) **Testing encouraged before arrival, required for those who feel ill or learn of COVID exposure.** We encourage everyone to do COVID testing before coming to sessions. If you are feeling sick, please test before coming. If you start to feel sick while attending sessions, please isolate yourself and take a test. Please alert the Registrar or Planning Committee of your sickness. See the schedule for the contact number of the day coordinator, or send a message to Planning@OVYM.org. The Registrar’s Table will have some COVID rapid tests available. If you should test positive, we need to report this to MSJU immediately. It is best public health practice and part of our agreement to use MSJU facilities. If you test positive, of course, you will be expected to leave. You may request a refund of unused food and lodging from our registrar.

Finally, we are excited to once again assemble together in person and online. The Planning Committee works hard to make each annual sessions a valuable and productive spiritual experience for every Friend. Giving your gift of mutual respect and love to this gathering will help ensure that all of us will collectively find our way to our Yearly Meeting’s higher purpose - we are, after all, God’s hands, feet, mouths and mind.

State of the Meeting Reports

Bloomington Friends Meeting

As we reflected on the past year, two intertwined themes arose: community and spiritual deepening. Our experiences around these themes pointed up the importance of encouraging integrity in all our dealings, particularly with each other, in order to create a safe space where we can each explore and express our authentic selves. Honest expressions of Friends' concerns and challenges led to a better understanding of ourselves as a meeting, allowing for the possibility of adjustments to our path.

We began the year grappling with the ongoing challenges of the COVID pandemic, finally settling on revised guidelines for the meeting in November, thanks to the work of our Commons Committee. The Religious Education Committee persisted with outreach to families, leading in June to their acknowledgement that there are "no families seeking to raise their children in the Meeting" at this time. Facing this realization is the source of ongoing grieving, and led to an adjustment to our approach to providing for children who occasionally attend Meeting. At the same time, we have welcomed a number of young adult visitors and newcomers. We were also pleased to approve Debbie Heaton as a new member of our meeting. The hybrid format has allowed Debbie and others who live at a distance from us to become active members of the meeting community by service on committees and participation in Quaker study and book groups.

It was reported to meeting in February that we might be within reach of paying off our mortgage on the meetinghouse. Pulling together, the mortgage was paid in full in October. This was a source of great joy. At the same time, by mid-year, a report of the Nominating Committee led us to the acknowledgement that many of us were exhausted and feeling overstretched, resulting in a called meeting to consider how to proceed. This led to a number of adjustments and a commitment to continue to hold this situation in the Light.

While acknowledging the challenges, there was a renewed sense of energy and faith in our meeting community. We enjoyed participation in World Quaker Day, some of us welcoming guests to our meeting and others bringing greetings from us to other meetings far and near. There was increased participation in meeting workdays, including our ongoing project to remove invasive plants, and Friends enjoyed an afternoon retreat at the meetinghouse in May. We hosted a concert with Annie Patterson that was attended both in-person and virtually. With the Citizens for a Just Peace in Palestine & Israel, the meeting welcomed Diane Legomsky to speak about mediation. A Zen meditation group and Girl Scout Troop 4702 meet at the meetinghouse.

The meeting held its first holiday party since the pandemic began, including a virtual option. That event combined the joy of being together with the regret that we are still missing regular in-person contact with a number of Friends. We accepted that we at times may have to scale back our expectations of what we can do. Regretfully, this included resigning from our long-term volunteer commitment to the Community Kitchen.

The Book Group has continued, recently completing *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*, by Heather McGhee. The Quaker Study Group completed a discussion of Lloyd Lee Wilson's book, *Essays on the Quaker Vision of Gospel Order*, and at the end of the year began a study of *Our Life is Love: The Quaker Spiritual Journey*, by Marcelle Martin. Both of these groups meet virtually and have welcomed participants from distant places. Mid-week meeting for worship and the Experiment with Light groups continued and Third Tuesdays for Tea and Conversation began. The Tuesday Crafting Group has become another valued opportunity for fellowship. Meeting committees took turns serving on the facing bench, affording them an opportunity to make others more aware of the committee work of the Meeting.

Though challenges continue, we are accepting who we are and where we are as a spiritual community through these and other activities. We continue to seek divine guidance in our efforts to be realistic about our limitations while discerning and carrying out what we are truly called to do.

Campus Friends Meeting

Query #1 (slightly modified) *How does the commandment to love God, with all your heart, soul, mind and strength guide decisions and actions of the monthly meeting?*

Friends gather in expectant waiting worship trusting the movement of God in our individual lives which in turn guides us in discerning way forward as a monthly meeting. In this spirit Campus Friends Meeting has engaged a Quaker Leader Scholar to provide childcare every First Day so our young parents can join us in worship.



With love as the first motion, flowing from the two greatest commandments to love God and neighbor, Campus Friends approved a minute of welcome and inclusivity to be prominently displayed. After Rebecca Bowman added her artistic touches, we hung our poster on the north wall in the meeting room. We are grateful to Wilmington College for installing a new outdoor building sign with the addition of “A Welcoming and Inclusive Meeting”.

Query #2: *In what ways have individuals or the meeting extended love to neighbor?*

Beginning with our immediate neighbors - the members and attenders of Campus Friends Meeting – we appointed a clearness committee to provide a safe, confidential time of listening and discernment as an expression of our loving support for one another. Our Fifth Sunday Friend program continues to provide an excellent opportunity to grow in our love and appreciation of each other as individuals share their spiritual journey. At the rise of meeting for worship on the first and third Sundays, we gather for Inner Search study, a time of study, reflection and discussion. Our Fellowship Meal held on the first Sunday of the month continues to strengthen our sense of community as we gather around a common table. Knowing college students as our neighbors, Friends approved participation

in the Golf Cart Ministry under the care of Nancy McCormick, Campus Minister. Our packet included a recyclable pen, fair-trade chocolate, a Quaker quote, and an invitation to join us in meeting for worship. We initiated a yearly meeting-wide Move-in Bucket drive to provide essential kitchen and bathroom items for our neighbors who are homeless as they transition from living on the street into an apartment of their own.

With the wider Quaker world as our neighbors, our presiding clerk Patricia Thomas responded to a request from FWCC to write an essay on the theme “Becoming the Quakers the World Needs.” It is a reflection on Quaker process in reaching a sense of the meeting as we conduct our meetings for worship with attention to business.

Clear Creek Friends Meeting

Our worship is of great spiritual value. Sometimes meetings for worship are completely silent, and sometimes several Friends offer vocal ministry. Both generally feel Spirit-led and nourishing.

Meetings for business are usually well-attended by those who are most active in the Clear Creek community. They are held in a worshipful, honest, and sometimes humorous spirit.

We are blessed with the regular participation of a few students from Earlham College and Earlham School of Religion. We value their vocal ministry and the leadership some contribute to meeting activities.

Continuing the practice begun in 2020, Clear Creek provides hybrid worship. We typically have one to three online participants, but in the large space of Stout Meetinghouse vocal ministry is often difficult or impossible for those on Zoom to hear. Another activity initiated during Covid times was summer outdoor worship. This activity was laid down, to the disappointment of some but with unity in recognizing our needs as a whole.

Clear Creek Meeting was led to take leadership in the local Friends’ response to the Quaker Call to Action regarding threats to democracy. One aspect of that response was a series of public vigils on the four Tuesdays preceding the November 8 polling, with weekly themes: civility, integrity, equality, and free and fair elections. The vigils, held near the downtown City Building, had an inner circle of centering prayer and an outer-facing circle with signs. In preparation for the vigils, Clear Creek organized training in nonviolent intervention which was attended by approximately 25 participants.

In response to an imbalance between the tasks required to fulfill our mutual obligations and our members' gifts and energy, the meeting conducted a series of four retreats during 2022, ranging in length from a half-day to a full weekend.

In the course of the retreats, several things became evident. For some of those in Clear Creek, worship is central. For others, the fellowship of community activities and outreach into the wider community is what is most important. Some expressed the desire for Clear Creek to be an extended family — providing emotional and practical support, especially in times of need. A few attend meeting for worship without taking on any additional responsibilities. Some local members do not participate in any Clear Creek activities.

For some, the responsibilities traditionally associated with membership in a Friends Meeting, including pastoral care, work on committees, and attendance at Quarterly and Yearly Meetings, have become draining instead of fulfilling. They feel that these responsibilities, especially as our numbers become smaller and our members grow older, can become so burdensome that they have to distance themselves or even lay down their membership, in order to maintain balance in their lives. Some have also wondered whether younger people may be put off by our current structure. In response to the desire for greater simplicity and space for spontaneity, Peace and Social Concerns, Adult Religious Education, and Hospitality Committees were laid down at the end of 2022.

In their place, we have opted for two new structures. The first is ad hoc committees which function for a short time for specific purposes. The second is coordinators who keep lists of volunteers for the following jobs: greeting newcomers, bringing snacks, setting up and cleaning up from snacks, and leading second hour programs. The Nominating Committee is not responsible for filling slots for either of those structures. Short term interest groups have also been formed so that those with similar interests in exploring the life of the spirit can gather for mutual support and inspiration.

We end 2022 with renewed hope, and look forward to discerning in the coming year how these new structures impact our worship and the spiritual life of the Clear Creek Meeting community.

Community Friends Meeting

In the past year, our meeting community has recovered a sense of stability and reconnection after the tumultuous years of pandemic disruption. We have learned to use our new hybrid form of worship with most Friends attending in person, while many use the option of virtual attendance via Zoom. The virtual option has helped many Friends stay connected when health issues or other concerns arise. We have returned to having carry-in meals and fellowship time after worship.

Many of us have been challenged with economic hardships in the past year, and the meeting has also experienced some economic challenges. The greatest challenge resulting from the pandemic has been maintaining connections with our families with children. Families have experienced so many disruptions in their lives with school closings, illness, and increased stress levels, and it seemed that bringing children to meeting was just one added complication in their lives. We offered opportunities for family outings to a park or swimming pool to help maintain connections. Recently, some families have started returning to meeting again, and our Religious Development Committee is providing children with more unstructured time to reconnect and play together rather than focusing on our curriculum or structured lessons. Special meeting events such as the traditional Easter egg hunt in the woods, and our annual Christmas Variety Show were times of joy for all of us when families came back in person!

A large number of Community Friends attended the OVYM Annual Sessions at Mount St. Joseph University, and being back together in person was a much-needed reconnection with our extended Quaker family. Several of our members are very active in the yearly meeting, and we draw a great deal of spiritual nurture from our participation. Our meeting's Fall Renewal this year continued the yearly meeting's theme of the Healing Power of Community. We invited Gloria Stearns Bruner to share her music ministry with us, and this spirit-filled time together helped us experience the joy and the spark of being drawn together in that which is eternal. Our renewal concluded with an experience of creating a shared prayer-song that included words and phrases that came to each of us during individual meditation. Creating and singing our shared prayer-song was a real bonding experience that included problem-solving, tenderness, and laughter!

Many members of the meeting are involved in the ongoing work of caring for our much-loved meetinghouse and grounds. This past year, renovation of the basement was completed to make it more comfortable as a playroom for children, and there were several repairs and upgrades to the caretakers' apartment. The cement steps behind the meetinghouse were repaired, and the wonderful blackberry bushes in front of the meetinghouse were lovingly tended, and then enjoyed by the wildlife! Work in the woods included removal of invasive plants and some dead trees, and cutting through multiple huge branches of a massive oak tree that fell onto the path in a storm!

The meeting continues to carry on several ministries in the local community and beyond. One member shares a spirited music ministry of Quaker quotes set to music, inspiring others with the Quaker message. We continue to contribute and serve meals to the residents at Tender Mercies, a home for formerly homeless individuals with mental illness. We also support the work of the Immigrant Dignity Coalition and Sanctuary Coalition, which provide support for local immigrant families. Many of us participated in the Quaker Call to Action by writing letters to our elected officials in response to the unprecedented rise of domestic extremism, white supremacy, and authoritarianism that is threatening the destruction of our democracy.

We are working together to navigate a new path through this “miry place” guided by the Light of love and truth. We’ve become more flexible and stepped out of many traditional ways to create new connections and reach out to our community. We are learning new ways to support one another, to demonstrate our caring for those who are most in need. We are deeply grateful for the spirit that binds us together and for the love that connects us all.

Dayton Friends Meeting

Dayton Friends Meeting continues to experience growth and vitality, with new, younger leadership particularly within our social witness and children’s programs. We are able to settle quickly into the silence, and there is depth of worship even for those attending online. It is not uncommon to have over 20 people in worship, between those in the meetinghouse and those on Zoom, double our attendance 15 years ago. Not all of the newcomers who attended during the pandemic remained, but many have become integrated into the meeting. We have one new application for membership, and others have expressed interest in joining formally. We hope to continue to grow and attract a more diverse community. To support this growth, our treasurer is making strides toward clarifying our finances and improving our stewardship.

Our greatest challenge is fostering a deeper understanding of Quaker faith and practice, particularly Quaker decision-making and worship. Ministry and Oversight met with clerks of the committees last spring before making nominations, to consider how we might nurture and support the emerging leaders. The committee plans to have an additional meeting quarterly to focus on the long-term health of the meeting. As we look to cultivate younger leadership, we feel the loss of elders who have moved or are no longer able to participate fully. We mourned the death of Carolyn Applegate in August. Carolyn was a member of the meeting for over 30 years and served in many capacities, including clerk. Her compassion and hospitality will be missed. Our dear Friend Marian Alter celebrated her 100th birthday this year and still attends faithfully online. Most Friends attend in person, but continued use of Zoom has allowed some to remain connected even if they cannot attend in person. We continue to seek to improve sound for those online.

We have three active families, with children ranging from 4 to 14, which brings the delightful challenge of teaching a diverse group in First Day School. The youth wrote and performed their own Christmas play involving witches and dancing candy canes. The enchanted candy canes were up to mischief until all were transformed by Santa’s Inner Light. In the summer, the children chose a service project, organizing a lemonade stand to buy items to make toiletry bags for the homeless, which were donated to DayBreak, a local shelter program for youth and young adults. We hope to build a stronger relationship with DayBreak, especially its program for LGBT+ youth.

Many new seeds have been planted by our Peace and Social Concerns Committee. We had a mini Alternatives to Violence Project workshop in the fall and this spring, with the hope of establishing a program in a local prison, and met with trainers from Friends Committee on National Legislation in order to establish a lobbying team in the area. For many years we supported the local St. Vincent DePaul shelter by serving food once a month, but were challenged last year by an attender to consider the national organization’s stance on LGBT+ persons. This led us to shift our attention to DayBreak. We continue to support local organizations working with African immigrants.

This March marks the sixth year we have been in our meetinghouse, and it was a joy to again host Miami Quarterly Meeting in person this January. We still have ideas for projects, and have considered whether we need to buy more chairs, but feel comfortable and blessed to have a home. We are seeking to expand our hospitality to other creatures with additional native plantings and a raptor house, though the resident groundhog has taken a bit more than we might wish from our vegetable garden. We applied and received a grant from Quaker Earthcare Witness to expand areas of native plantings, and took a first step of replacing the tree-lawn in front of the Meetinghouse with native shrubs and perennials. We are also partnering with the Marianist Environmental Education Center, a Catholic organization here in Dayton, which is providing plants and expertise. In the grant we wrote, “This space will express our Quaker values, led by our human community to be in touch with our animal friends, restoring our connection to the natural world. We hope to help humans give pause in their busy-ness to notice, reflect and reconcile with our Earth.” More generally, we hope that our small meeting can be a witness that gives others pause, restoring our human connections as well as our connection to Creation.

Eastern Hills Friends Meeting

2022 State of Society queries and scripture from Wilmington Yearly Meeting:

1. How does the commandment to love God with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength guide the day-to-day living and decisions of individuals within your meeting? How does love of God guide decisions and actions of the meeting?
2. In what ways have individuals or the meeting extended love to neighbors?

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: *'Love your neighbor as yourself.'* There is no commandment greater than these.

Trying to grasp "Love the Lord" as a tangible, actionable activity made it difficult, at first, to begin writing this report. God can seem ineffable even while we sometimes experience the Holy Presence and power. But once we turned to our love of neighbors, words began to flow and we understand again that loving God is the source and inspiration for our love for each other. Along with meeting for worship, prayer, and meditation, expressing our love also draws us nearer to the Source. We carry love in our hearts from and for God while our hearts are moved by thoughts of the preciousness and sufferings of others. Our souls constantly call us to seek God and to discern how best to respond to leadings. Our minds are a powerful force in our lives, so we must discipline ourselves to not let our plans and egos pull our thoughts away from discerning how to follow the highest teachings of our religion. And we need the strength of our physical bodies to become God's hands to carry out the work to which we have been called. Even the second commandment has a subtle second message, to remember to know and love ourselves, so we are more able to love our neighbors.

Looking back years and decades, we see how our tiny congregation has grown not in numbers but in breadth and depth. We have a palpable sense of love and concern for each other regardless of our imperfections. We worked hard to maintain our love in the search for unity to meet the needs of COVID-averse members and those longing for in-person meetings and hymn singing. With love and compassion we have made it through. Our women's group restarted this year -- a return which, along with the efforts of Ministry and Counsel, is important to our sense of connection and community. On their own initiative, individuals also bind us together with cards, calls and visits. Potluck lunches have restarted, allowing us to visit together. We also trust each other to fulfill leadership and committee positions in our meeting, Miami Quarter, Ohio Valley and Wilmington Yearly Meetings. Volunteers maintain and clean the building and grounds and attend workdays. Various members support the work of Friends World Committee for Consultation and Friends Committee on National Legislation. We have members working with local groups focused on concerns including racism, diversity, environmental justice, housing, community policing, and homelessness.

When called to financially support special causes in 2022, we responded generously. As a meeting and as individuals, we supported three Wilmington Yearly Meeting causes: the Afghan refugee program, the Wilmington College Plaque Project, and the homeless women and children kitchen and bathroom bucket collection. Our Christmas contribution supported the Red Cross in Cincinnati's Ukrainian sister city, Kharkiv. A total of 54% of our meeting's budget supports charities and organizations outside of ourselves with meeting individuals directly contributing many hundreds more to these organizations instead of through the meeting treasurer. We added three new charities to our contribution list this year whose work we hope will specifically focus on mitigating the damage caused by racism and injustice. This past year for us was like springtime returning to the woods after the ice storms of winter. The restrictions and confinement of the pandemic years seem to be behind us, but many of the trees are damaged or knocked down. We have hope for the future and regrowth, but recovery from the death or loss of some of our leading and spiritually rich members will take time. Many of us have come through battered and more distant from our connection with the Divine. While it might be harder now to love God with all our heart and strength, we are still comforted by the love we find within our congregation. Love for some on the political and world stage seems much harder, but is an important long term goal for the security of our souls and our world. A few have already found ways to begin to open their hearts to these "others." Certainly there is much to be done here at home and elsewhere, and we pray that the ripples from this still pond of our loving congregation will reach out to our needy world even beyond our knowledge of what shores they touch.

Fall Creek Friends Meeting

Fall Creek Friends Meeting has had a challenging year. Last March (2022) we learned that our meetinghouse property had been acquired by the development company M. Doed in a tax sale. When we learned of this issue, we worked diligently through the spring and summer with M. Doed and also with a lawyer to correct the records at the county which led to the tax issue, get the overpayment M. Doed had made returned, and take steps to reclaim the property. However, at the end of the summer, M. Doed had stopped returning our calls and letters; we did not hear from them again until March 2023. Now they say they will move forward with the steps to restore the property to us and we hope that this matter may be resolved soon.

It has been an anxious period of waiting, and we were challenged to remain hopeful that the right path would open for us. Through this year, we have worked to address each task before us steadily and with attention to Divine leading. We begin our meetings for business by reflecting on the queries from the Book of Discipline, considering one query each month. This practice helps to keep the basic principles of Quaker faith and practice clearly before us.

Our meetings for worship have been very sweet and spiritually rich. We have recently rearranged our meeting space to have the children's play area in the midst of our gathering. We find this is not a distraction, but rather fosters a loving connection between our young and adult members. When Friends are led to speak in Meeting, their messages are helpful and relevant, and are gratefully received by the meeting. When no message is given, Friends accept the silence as holding equal spiritual value. We do not feel that there is either too much or too little vocal ministry. We are grateful to share Fall Creek Meeting as our spiritual home.

Fort Wayne Friends Meeting

Fort Wayne Friends Meeting has been meeting in person during the 2022 year. We usually have five or six people in attendance. We have welcomed several visitors during the last year. Terre Holada took a leave of absence to care for her mother, who passed away recently. She has returned to worship with us, and we are grateful for her presence. We also have a returning visitor and some new visitors. We do not have regular vocal ministry, something that is lacking in our group.

Mary Anna Feitler has agreed to attend the OVYM executive committee by Zoom, and Kris Connerly has been interim recording clerk.

We continue to participate with Plymouth Church in Just Neighbors, a family homeless shelter, where we have provided meals a few times a year. We also have adopted a family from the same shelter, providing Christmas gifts for a family living there. We continue to have unity in our concern for others.

We try to love all, including those with whom we disagree. We seem to be a stopping point on some people's spiritual journeys. We are enriched by the participation of those who worship with us on their paths. Our little group is so small, and we continue to explore ways to attract new members and attenders. Even when only a few of us are gathered, we feel love and peace in our community. We hold in the light each other, our country and the world.

Lafayette Friends Meeting

The last year has been calm yet eventful for us. We have a new clerk, Michele Tomarelli, and a new trustee, Evan Rocheford, who are earnestly learning the skills needed for their new roles. We have been blessed with the attendance of a few new people and young families over the past few years and welcomed baby Logan to the family of Michael, Gloria and big brother Vincent Weesner.

We are still working on our old house; thanks to the skills of one of our members, we have a new roof and the garage doors and the front door are mended, along with some other minor repairs. Due to some issues with our basement tenant, we changed the locks for the first time in years. Minor repairs, paint and a good cleaning are still needed.

Our meeting is in the process of sitting with Oxford's Freedom of Choice minute, as we seek discernment on the issue of reproductive health. Though many of our meeting work either professionally or as volunteers with members of our community experiencing homelessness and mental illness, we as a meeting are also continuing to partner with local service providers to further their work.

Lexington Friends Meeting

What is the spiritual condition of the Lexington Friends Meeting?

Challenged. We continue to struggle with the challenges of the pandemic. The reality of hybrid meetings is here to stay. Some feel troubled by a sense of division between the online community and the in-person community. Others feel grateful to be able to share in the community gatherings through Zoom; it has been a lifeline to the Lexington Friends community due to several factors: some Friends live at a distance from the meeting house, live with an immunocompromised state, or have an inability to travel, for instance. We miss those Friends who have stopped attending. We have been challenged as the pandemic eases to return to regular attendance as frequently as we like, especially those of us who are families with young children. We feel the lack of this more vibrant attendance. However, the Religious Education Committee is working hard to provide programming for children who do come, and we have begun to welcome a few new families. We have been challenged by welcoming young adults to our in-person meetings for worship, only to have them stop attending after a few visits.

Sobered. We feel sobered by the difficulty of the past three years as we addressed racist behavior and speech within our community. We struggle as a mostly white community to recognize and address our privilege. We feel limited in our ability to address racist behavior in a concrete way. We have attempted laboring with Friends over issues of racist speech and behavior, and while the attempts were valiant and came from a deep desire to serve, we do not feel our process was effective. We are concerned that four Friends have left the meeting, recognizing that they made the choices they felt they needed to make. We feel discouraged, and that we have failed. However, because of the hard work and much time given to the subject of anti-racism, we passed a minute to work toward becoming an anti-racist meeting, which we see as an important step forward. Led by our co-clerks, our meeting is committed to developing a set of policies and procedures for using a laboring process for what we have called in the past “eldering.” An important piece is to determine when this practice is applicable, and what we want this practice to be. We want to move away from harsh and judgmental practice while also moving toward a strong stand against inappropriate speech and behavior. While we feel sobered from difficult times, some also feel grateful for the meeting’s willingness to be real with each other. This year we broached such subjects as reproductive rights, our own white privilege, racist behavior and speech, anti-racism, sex and gender identity, and conflict resolution to name a few.

Dry. Friends have expressed a dryness in their spirit. Some feel that messages and silence at meeting for worship does not feed their spirit. Conversations have not felt as deep among some Friends. We have not prioritized many activities to create harmony on a regular basis. Friends miss the simple joys of gathering to share a meal, play a game, embrace one another. Some Friends feel our anti-racism work has taken focus away from the ministry of peace-making and Earth care, and one Friend feels we have done little to nothing to promote peace in the world. If we are serious, spiritually, we will call upon our wholeheartedness to address problems of racism in our meeting while also addressing peace and other important issues. The tasks before us take a lot of work and selfless attention. We must put aside our pride and ego and work for the good of all.

And yet, Hopeful. Though troubled by the last few years of feeling dry, of things “going wrong,” we recognize and celebrate that we continue to stay with the trouble together. Perhaps these are spiritual challenges, growing pains, that will propel us to a more honest future. We are tired — it takes a lot of energy and effort to move off of dead center. And though at times it seems like we have only moved one half a step, we won’t give up. A Friend describes the spiritual condition of our meetings for business as friendly, committed, serious, yet open to humor. Our older youth have begun gathering again and seem to have gathered a momentum to continue. Singing together before meeting for worship brings joy. Potlucks have returned with actual food and actual people. Some Friends suggest reviving some of the fun activities of the past, such as Quaker 8s, spiritual friendships, and home visitation. We are encouraged by a new Spiritual Deepening group formed by a cohort of Friends, as well as upcoming first-hour discussions focused on deepening spiritual development. A Friend noted that our weekly online meeting for healing is a simple and profound event for her. Another said that attending meetings as a Zoom participant has been a tremendous growth experience for her, and that she has come to identify Lexington Friends Meeting as her faith family. And so it goes.

Louisville Friends Meeting

Friends Meeting of Louisville prioritizes three areas of growth: deepening our worship, strengthening our connections, and coming to a shared understanding of Quaker process. We recognize worship as the center that holds us together. We hold weekly worship in a hybrid format, allowing the attendance of Friends who would not otherwise be able to join us in person. Our worship continues to be quiet, with about one or two Friends sharing vocal ministry each week. We have held a quarterly worship sharing in place of regular waiting worship in order to support Friends in becoming more comfortable speaking out of the silence. We continue to seek ways to make our worship more accessible to Friends who struggle to communicate verbally or who do not feel comfortable speaking in front of groups.

Our Religious Education committee hosted two book studies for adults in 2022 and is planning a monthly breakfast potluck for Friends to discuss our Faith and Practice. The committee is also prepared to serve the needs of children, though usually we do not have any children attending.

The meeting has prioritized the rebuilding of social connections between Friends, fostering a sense of community that we hope draws in and retains visitors and newcomers. Those attending worship in person are invited to stay after for coffee and socializing. We have resumed monthly potlucks and social time at rise of meeting, a practice that was far less possible during Covid.

We are always open to and looking for how other meetings have attracted and engaged a diversity of families and younger people in their meetings — what we hope our Meeting will look like when we are gone.

Our Care and Nurture Committee plays a vital role in strengthening connections within our Meeting by reaching out to Friends experiencing hardship and grief, as well as those we simply have not heard from. The committee also welcomes visitors and extends invitations for newcomers to more deeply connect with our meeting.

Our Ministry and Worship Committee has refined our process of planning memorial meetings. The meeting hosted memorial meetings for two Friends: Kevin Klaphaak, who passed away in January 2022, and Marge Manke, who passed away in November 2022. Our Ministry and Worship Committee and other committees were able to coordinate with family and friends to hold rich memorial meetings for each of them to honor and celebrate their lives.

In spring of 2022, we held three called meetings to consider our strengths, values, and vision for the future of our meeting. In the last year, we have seen formerly less-engaged individuals taking on leadership roles and joining committees in both Friends Meeting of Louisville, as well as OVYM. At our January 2023 meeting for worship with attention to business, Friends expressed a desire to spend this year working through a number of issues revolving around right use of our physical, financial and human resources. Specifically, we will be reconsidering what we do with our buildings, how we make charitable contributions, how we might come together to contribute to the larger Louisville community, and exploring what it means to be a Hicksite Meeting. We will also be considering the queries from OVYM asking if Spirit is leading us to work toward being an anti-racist Meeting, with all that entails. We have recommitted to developing a shared understanding of Quaker process to follow as we labor with these issues. We move forward, slowly and deliberately, aware that a meeting moves at the speed of trust.

Miami Monthly Meeting

In 2022, Friends emerged from pandemic-imposed isolation with a renewed sense of purpose and joy in being a gathered community again. Throughout the year, we sought the guidance of the Spirit through corporate discernment in monthly meetings regarding tough financial and practical decisions critical to the survival of the meeting. Not only did we confront what at the time seemed an endless series of maintenance problems in our two buildings, but also upgraded our technological infrastructure in the White Brick Meeting House. Our spiritual lives were nurtured by the resumption of the monthly Adult Religious Education Discussion Group focused on reading and reflecting on *Faith*

and Practice. However, what really wove us together as an in-person and Zoom-based religious community were the events we shared with one another and folks outside our meeting.

We tried very hard not to let burst pipes, leaky roofs, and an ailing furnace dominate over our spiritual life. We felt deep appreciation for the members who spent hours researching heat pumps and meeting with building inspectors, contractors, roofers, and plumbers. And at the same time, we recognized that this sacrifice was being made because we all want to preserve our meetinghouse as the center of our community and the repository of so much critically important Quaker history and family memories. Two highly significant choices were made by Miami Friends in 2022: first, retaining Mike Benton as property manager has been a true gift. We needed a trustworthy, highly knowledgeable person to take on what had become an enormous burden for a small group of mostly older folks. And second, Friends found unity around the sad but necessary decision to sell the Red Brick Meeting House to a sympathetic, Quaker-friendly real estate agent. We may have future use of the Red Brick social room for special occasions but, in any case, are now free to channel requisite resources solely toward the preservation of the White Brick.

Because our community gatherings were at the heart of our religious experience this past year, we would like to share our joy through brief descriptions of four events, as follows:

- 6th Month: Orthodox Graveyard Ceremony. After an exhaustive, years-long, unsuccessful effort, primarily conducted by Eula McDermott, Miami Friends determined that it was time to lay down the search for the lost names of Orthodox Friends buried in the graveyard. Joined by Gary Farlow, Wilmington Yearly Meeting Trustee, and Christine Snyder, a Dayton Friend who presently attends Springfield Meeting (WYM) and her husband, Gene, Friends held silent meeting for worship in the Red Brick, held a short ceremony in the graveyard that included historical details about the Orthodox meeting, and a potluck lunch. We welcome all members of Wilmington Friends to visit any time they wish.
- 8th Month: Butterworth Farm Worship and Picnic. With Ft. Ancient no longer available for Miami Monthly Meeting's annual outdoor worship, Gretchen and Phil Stone offered their home, Butterworth Farm, near Loveland, as a gathering place for Quarterly Meeting Friends. Adults and children found the lovely, rural setting an inspiring place to worship. Friends shared a hearty potluck lunch and enjoyed an array of recreational activities, including fishing, walking the nearby bike path, and playing games.
- 10th Month: Cook-Selzer Wedding. Travis Cook and Becky Selzer married under the care of Miami Monthly Meeting at the White Brick Meeting House in a largely traditional Quaker ceremony. The Divine Presence was felt throughout and love overflowed! Our community was thrilled to share our meeting house and traditions with around 150 family and friends of the couple, many of whom were young people new to Quaker ways.
- 3rd Month, 2023: Celebration of Life for Dr. Robert Finley. Miami Friends Meeting embraced another transition as family, friends, and colleagues gathered at the White Brick to celebrate the remarkable life of "Dr. Bob," who passed away at his home with family near on 7th Month, 15th Day, 2022. Bob's daughter, Anna Finley Schroeder, supported by her family and the meeting community, created a loving space in which to reflect on the spiritual meaning of Bob's many medical and peace-driven accomplishments. We will long remember Dr. Bob's messages of hope for humanity by discerning that of God in scientific endeavor.

In 2023, Friends are looking forward to resuming the work of our Futures Committee, especially now that much of the building maintenance needs have been resolved. We are already planning programming that will welcome more of the surrounding community into our doors. In the meantime, all are welcome to visit us on First Days at the White Brick Meeting House.

North Meadow Circle of Friends

North Meadow has faced challenges as we have come out of the pandemic into a more normal way of meeting and worshipping. The past year gave us some deep spiritual challenges in that we lost one of our members, a homeless by choice individual who had been with the meeting a long time. We experienced the death of a tenant who lived in the meeting house, his remains were not discovered for a long time. We also buried the ashes of a long time member under a tree planted in his memory.

We are currently sharing our meeting space with Iglesia Amigos. They are sharing the work of maintaining the meeting house and have contributed some wonderful updates to the premises. It was a pleasure to share several work days at the meeting with them as well.

One of our longtime members has been ill and bedridden for the last two years. In all that time, her husband has been her source of strength and an inspiration to us all. For the last year or more she has lived at home, and he has taken care of her. Some of the members have visited to provide a bit of relief.

Some of us attended the Festival of Faith in Indianapolis where we participated in a booth with two other Quaker groups. It was engaging to present the forms of Quakerism in that context. We have had several attendees because of the festival.

On the path to normalcy, we have reduced Zoom use but continue to make it available. Sacred Harp Singing has resumed meeting. Our challenge is to continue to create or recreate events which make the community available to all in more varied forms.

Oxford Friends Meeting

Along with many in our yearly and quarterly meetings, we gratefully feel a re-opening as the COVID pandemic has scaled back. We have rejoiced in the return of face-to-face yearly and quarterly gatherings and the prospect of renewed opportunities for retreats and committee meetings. Our meetings for worship continue to be hybrid in format, which brings continued participation by distant Friends and visitors, and though we know that online worship is not our first choice, we feel their presence from afar and are glad of their inclusion and ministry. Surprisingly, Oxford meeting has increased in number in the past year. We are welcoming a young couple who are already active and thoughtful participants.

We continue to nourish our waiting worship in various ways. We increasingly find that our active service in community concerns keeps us available to leadings of the Spirit: homelessness, environmental justice, reproductive rights, hunger and other concerns are calls to both outward action and inner worship. Ministry in meeting is frequently Spirit-led. We continue our practice of “afterwords” at close of meeting, when Friends share thoughts and concerns that didn’t rise to the level of ministry, but seem worth sharing. We find the practice an integral part of worship that also serves to connect us with each other.

We feel deeply cheered and nourished by each other’s spiritual company. Various forms of connection are occasions for companionship: shared meals, a book study group, informal monthly discussion of the Yearly Meeting’s queries, and regular social times after meeting for worship.

Areas that require attention going forward, include renewing our introductory practices (worship, reading and discussion) for newcomers (and ourselves!), and the unpredictable future of our home in the Interfaith Center where we have worshipped for 42 years. We would welcome the creative guidance of other meetings who have struggled to find premises.

White Rose Friends Meeting

White Rose Meeting is sorry to report that it has gone into hibernation, as it were. We were down to two attendees, and the site where we met was unavailable to us due to COVID.

Yellow Springs Friends Meeting

The Nature of Our Worship and Fellowship

Yellow Springs Friends continue to seek spiritual guidance. The contentiousness of social, political, and economic forces can sometimes trouble the patient and quiet path we know to be faithful. Nevertheless, Friends return to our meeting for worship, walking cheerfully toward one another, and toward the Light.

Attendance at meetings for worship increased over the past year, and we typically see at least 20 people, including a few who join virtually. Newcomers have attended and several have expressed strong interest in Quakerism. Other visitors have come and gone.

Entering our fourth year of COVID precautions, we meet in the larger room of Rockford Meeting House. The room's multipurpose atmosphere is not the same as the cozier chapel where many have experienced deep peace and a stirring of the divine. We know those are available to us in all times and places, but we may discern them less often, or perhaps differently now. We hear less vocal ministry, and to some Friends, the silence has seemed flatter. By contrast, others experience a nurturing calm. We wait expectantly for a gathering of Spirit, though it may seem just out of reach.

A group of Friends have found joy and connection in song. They have sung outside under a canopy, then indoors when temperatures fell. Their voices seem to draw people to the meetinghouse, offering joy even to those who simply listen.

Disconnections have happened. Friends differed unhappily over the nature of a committee's work—the committee members believed that they were authorized to represent Yellow Springs Friends Meeting in letters to the editor on social issues, while some meeting members felt those statements should have come to meeting for business before they were issued. A visiting member of OYVM's Religious Nurture and Education Committee facilitated a threshing session on the topic of activism, communication, and Quaker process. The process was revealing, but not entirely healing. Clearness work remains necessary.

Brown bags before meeting for business or during discussion times have provided fellowship opportunities. Current efforts to revive our Friendly Eights supper gatherings are underway. Work bees and committee meetings help us connect and reconnect after times of distancing. We recognize that of God in one another with special affection at these times.

Concerns Considered in Our Meeting for Business, and Implementation of our Decisions

We have met for worship with attention to business regularly. Attendance ranges from 8-21 people. Membership concerns appear often on the agenda, with loving attention given to Friends who transfer membership, and those who venture outside our community. We have asked our clerks to write traveling minutes and letters of introduction for these individuals.

A nearly perpetual matter in meetings for business has been COVID protocols in Rockford Meeting House, both for ourselves and for other groups using the space. We have continued strict precautions but recognize that wider community expectations have changed.

Our Peace and Social Justice Committee is helping us learn about Reparations, and after lengthy reflection, discussion, and a workshop on white privilege, we approved a minute proposed by our clerk. Our meeting has established a Yellow Springs Friends Reparations Fund. Individuals may make donations to it with a goal of donating \$5000 to a community reparations project for administration and distribution.

We begin committee meetings and meetings for business with the minute we approved in early 2022: *"Yellow Springs Friends Meeting commits to anti-racism as a core principle of our spiritual lives, and one which guides our corporate and individual actions in our Meeting and in our wider world."*

Our Committees' Efforts

Our statistician brought membership records up to date. Membership transfers included none in and one out. We lost two active attenders to death during the period between 1/1/2022 and 1/1/2023, Carolyn Treadway and Pam Davis.

Many are reluctant to take on committee work. Those who do become fatigued. Consequently, we have temporarily reduced or eliminated some committee structures. For example, we now depend on a "Committee of the Whole" for hospitality.

The Pastoral Care committee assists aging and frail members with transportation, visits, soups, and friendships.

Ministry & Advancement presented Adult First Day sessions on Quakerism and anti-racism. Ministry & Advancement and the Communications committees have sorted out cameras, cables, and other tools so that we can focus on worship rather than technology.

We recognize and have discussed the need to rejuvenate our Religious Education program for children and teens. An aging membership makes this both essential and difficult.

We have replaced our monthly newsletter with a weekly email providing timely news and information. A new Meeting website (<http://yellowspringsfriendsmeeting.org>) will replace the soon-to-be-discontinued Quaker cloud site.

For a time, clerking the meeting for business was shared among several qualified Friends. We are grateful now to have a committed, seasoned clerk serving a full two-year term.

Care of our Meetinghouse occurs in cooperation with Antioch College. The committee has organized work bees to complete interior and exterior clean-up.

An *ad hoc* nominating committee identifies people to serve on the Friends Health Care Association Board of Trustees. Another *ad hoc* committee has been working to renegotiate the Rockford lease with Antioch College.

Yellow Springs Friends in the Wider Community

A member of our meeting involved in prison ministry also leads The World House Choir, performing music of racial and social justice. Several members of the choir are Friends. A weekly peace vigil started by Friends during the Gulf War continues. Individual members and attenders also offer various volunteer support for organizations in health care, social services, foster care services, and environmental organizations.

Deepening the Spiritual Life of Our Meeting, Strengthening the Witness of Our Testimonies

Our meeting knows that witnessing our testimonies must begin with prayerful reflection in the Light. The more we practice this together, the more seasoned our discernment process will become, and the clearer our recognition of the Divine in every person.

Memorial Minutes

Ruth Emily (Starbuck) Stuckey

Died 6/11/2022 (95 years old)

Ruth Emily (Starbuck) Stuckey, Campus Friends Meeting, died on June 11, 2022, at the age of ninety-five.

The second of four daughters, Ruth was born in Salem Ohio into a tightly knit Quaker community. She graduated from Olney Friends School in Barnesville, Ohio in 1945. Determined to attend a Quaker college, she enrolled at Wilmington College, met fellow student Roy Joe Stuckey, married the love of her life in 1948 and set up housekeeping on the College Farm on Fife Avenue. Ruth graduated in 1952 and in so doing became the first in her family to do so.

Ruth was a lifelong member of the Religious Society of Friends and their communities at Salem, Barnesville, and Wilmington. She was a founding member of Campus Friends Meeting. With deep roots in the Monteverde Friends community in Costa Rica, Ruth and her husband organized over 30 Costa Rica Study Tours highlighting Monteverde, and celebrating their own lifelong values and interest in farming.

Ruth had the gift of hospitality and her unwavering belief in “that of God” in every person instructed her children and inspired all who knew her. She greeted everyone with love, consideration, a kind word, and that smile of hers that could light up a room and bring joy to every heart.

A memorial service was held on Sunday, June 26, 2022, in the T. Canby Jones Meetinghouse on the campus of Wilmington College, under the care of Campus Friends Meeting.

You are greatly loved, dear Ruthie.

Dr. Bob — Robert K. Finley, Jr.

7/23/1924 – 7/15/2022

Dr. Bob was an attender/member of Miami Monthly Meeting of Friends for many years. He is remembered for freely sharing his thoughts and beliefs. He often spoke in Meeting for Worship with his Spirit-filled insights in national and international news. His life and beliefs encouraged Friends to follow our Quaker principals.

He led a remarkable life. He was a well-known and respected surgeon in Dayton, Ohio for more than 30 years. Upon retirement he volunteered his services overseas in various settings including Jamaica, American Samoa, Kenya, and Rwanda. He is most remembered for more than 10 years in volunteer service at Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital in Hangzhou, China, where he helped build a surgical residency program modeled after that at Wright State University.

Mentoring young leaders, especially in surgery, was his passion, employing the motto, “give hearty praise and lavish approbation.” He was an inspiration and a highly accomplished influencer of people for good. “Help people,” he often said, though he claimed not to give advice.

Dr. Bob is greatly missed, not only by members past and present of Miami Monthly Meeting, but by the many people he crossed paths with around the world.

Carolyn Ardith Smith Treadway

9/17/1933 – 7/15/2022

Carolyn Ardith Smith Treadway died on July 15, 2022, in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was 89 years old. Carolyn was born to Irving and Mary (Emmons) Smith at Emro Farm, near Coal Creek, in Keokuk County, Iowa, the first of four children. She graduated from Scattergood Friends School near West Branch, Iowa, and then from Earlham College in Richmond Indiana. Over the course of her life, Carolyn was active in Iowa Conservative, Illinois, Baltimore, and Ohio Valley Yearly Meetings.

She married Allen Frank Treadway in Iowa at Coal Creek Meeting on June 15, 1954. Married more than 50 years, they raised five children. Once her children were all in school, she worked as city clerk of Earlham, Iowa, and served on the Scattergood School Committee, where her voice was appreciated as one of calm reason.

She took part in bird counts for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. She was an avid gardener and knew about edible wild plants and the best times to pick them. Dandelion leaves joined homegrown lettuce on the family table every spring.

Carolyn had a talent for happiness and was a natural caregiver. She used her gift in hospital work, in her own expanding family, and in clerical work at Friends Committee on National Legislation, where she provided secretarial services to Wilmer Cooper (later, the founder of Earlham School of Religion). Friends remember her as a great, kind, strong presence in the world.

Carolyn and Allen moved to Ohio, in 2003, where they became active with Yellow Springs Friends. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the Meeting. After Allen died (May 19, 2005), Carolyn married Paul Wagner under the care of Yellow Springs Meeting (November 24, 2006). They were together until Paul’s death on July 25, 2012. She would often participate in inter-generational programs at Rockford, and is remembered for reading poems or verses from the Tao Te Ching, and for bringing delicious, stewed fruit to potlucks. She loved gardening and worked with Paul to plant beans and vegetables. One summer they travelled by boat through the Great Lakes. They also vacationed at Pelee Island in Lake Erie with Paul’s family. She had a dog named Maggie.

Carolyn served on the board of the local Friends Care Community, and her name, with other board members, appears on a plaque dedicating the Friends Care rehabilitative care unit which opened in 2011. Carolyn later lived at Friends Care, first in an independent apartment with Paul, and after his death, gradually moving through all levels of care. During the pandemic, Friends regularly met for worship on the lawn outside her room. Paul’s son-in-law, Tim Morand of Yellow Springs Friends Meeting, faithfully cared for Carolyn in her last years.

Memorial gatherings for Carolyn were held in Yellow Springs and Iowa, with many attending in person and virtually to celebrate her life and the gentle but strong impact she had on those who knew and loved her.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her first husband, Allen Treadway; second husband, Paul Wagner; and two sisters, Evelyn Mavromichalis and Margaret Lacey. She is survived by five children, Daniel Treadway, Brian Treadway (Geraldine Glodek), Dorothy Matthews (Samuel), Jennifer Peters (Vince), and Michael Irving “Irv” Treadway; Paul’s three children, Gordon “Pop” Wagner (Thea), Gary “Bodie” Wagner, and Suzanne Wagner; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and a brother, Steven Smith.

Carolyn Groves Applegate

5/17/1938 – 8/6/2022

Carolyn Applegate of Dayton Meeting, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, passed away on August 6, 2022. She was born in New Castle, Indiana and grew up in New Castle Meeting, Indiana Yearly Meeting (FUM).

Carolyn was a faithful, core member of Dayton Meeting for 31 years, along with her husband Tom who passed in 2018. The couple married on June 14, 1957 at Carolyn’s home meeting in New Castle and spent a life together serving Friends and the students and players Tom taught in schools in Dayton. Carolyn took courses at both Earlham and Wilmington colleges. Their son Trent, daughter Terri Scarpelli, son-in-law Al Scarpelli, and granddaughters Julie Scarpelli, Saco and Lisa Scarpelli are active participants in the life of Dayton Friends. One-year-old great-grandson Andrew Saco is the youngest friend in our meeting. Their third son, Scott, is active in the Mennonite community. Foster son Craig Reeder passed away the summer before Tom.

Carolyn’s life was a model of compassion and hospitality. She opened her heart and home to many, including Friends, many young people in West Dayton, and the wider community. Her warm smile made visitors welcome and at ease. The meeting often gathered in her home for potlucks and special celebrations. Carolyn found joy in nature, taking delight in a bird’s nest on the windowsill or the flowers in her yard. Dayton Meeting recently planted bulbs from iris that originated many years ago on the farm where she was raised. Carolyn was also an excellent administrator who used her gifts on behalf of Friends.

Carolyn and Tom served together in their life’s work. Although Tom often had the official role, her quiet service upheld his ministry without expectation of acknowledgement. She supported him as a pastor within Wilmington Yearly Meeting and later as a teacher and coach in Dayton. While they were in Wilmington, she worked as an administrative assistant for Wilmington Yearly Meeting and then for the Quality Quaker Management company, where she managed apartments and assisted living units for seniors. She also volunteered with 4-H, drawing on her farm upbringing. After relocating to Dayton, Carolyn served the meeting in a variety of roles, including Finance Committee, Ministry and Oversight Committee and clerk of the Meeting. Her leadership was central to Dayton Friends’ acquisition of a meetinghouse five years ago. She also served on the Quaker Concerns Committee for Quaker Heights in Waynesville on behalf of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

Tom taught and coached basketball at Dayton City Schools for 28 years, finishing his career at Dunbar High School as head basketball coach. Working in predominantly African-American schools gave the Carolyn and Tom friendships that prompted a life-long commitment to racial reconciliation. Carolyn was affectionately known as “Mom” to the team, and she opened their home, providing food, shoes and other material needs. The couple formally fostered one son, but had many other young men who became part of their family. Former team members often called her to check in after Tom passed and she continued to attend games. Carolyn’s passion for basketball and other sports rivaled Tom’s, and she enthusiastically cheered for the Reds, Bengals, and both Ohio State and Indiana University.

Dayton Friends deeply feel the loss of Carolyn. Visitors often comment on the feel of family at our meeting, and Carolyn was essential to creating a welcoming atmosphere without judgement. Her wisdom, compassion and hospitality challenged us all to care for one another.

Lamont S. Dean

Died 10/12/2022 (59 years old)

Lamont was very much a part of North Meadow Circle of Friends Meeting for many years. He was a regular attendee at meeting for worship and also served the meeting for many years mowing our lawn, setting out chairs when we had worship outdoors, and doing other tasks on the property. He opened our eyes to the experience of the unhoused. He embraced us and we embraced him.

Pam Davis

2/11/1952 – 1/1/2023

Pam Davis, of Yellow Springs, died Jan. 1, 2023, following a stroke suffered in December 2022 and complications of COVID. She was 70 years old. Pam was born Feb. 11, 1952, in Dayton, Ohio, to Juanita Brandt Pettit and Richard Pettit. She was raised in working-class East Dayton by her mother and grandparents. Pam graduated from Wilber Wright High School, attended Sinclair Community College and eventually earned a B.A. from Antioch McGregor University in 1989 and a Master's in Social Work from The Ohio State University in 1995. She served for 25 years as a social worker at the Dayton Veterans Administration, where she specialized in the mental health needs of returning veterans. She retired from the VA in 2018.

Pam was a rebellious, outrageous, warrior woman who, on more days than not, took some action to make change. Social work was not her profession, it was her calling. Pam was a loving wife, mother and grandmother, a kind and generous friend, and a dedicated animal rescuer. She was unwavering in her efforts to right wrongs, help people in need and promote a more just, sane, anti-racist world. Some of the organizations that benefited from her involvement include Dayton Welfare Rights, the Miami Valley Power Project, Artemis Domestic Violence Center, H.U.M.A.N and the H.U.M.A.N. Organizing Committee, House of the People Homeless Shelter, Greene Environmental Coalition and Afro-American Cultural Week. She served on the boards of the Yellow Springs Human Relations Council and the Friends Health Care Association.

Pam and Neal Crandall were married under the care of Yellow Springs Friends Meeting, where Neal is a member, on Sept. 4, 1993. She is survived by Neal; her sons Michael Davis (Vicky), from her marriage to Charles Davis, and Giovanni Ramos (Sabrina), from her marriage to Riccardo Ramos; stepson Benjamin Crandall; grandchildren, Joshua Davis, Lily, Alex, Felix and Kaia Ramos; and her brother Richard.

Though not a member of the meeting, Pam was well known to Friends. Her life was one loving testimony of seeing and caring for that of God in every person, and her absence is deeply felt among Friends and in the wider community. A memorial for Pam was held February 11, 2023, on the Antioch College Campus, under the care of Yellow Springs Friends Meeting. Dozens of Quakers, friends, family, and colleagues gathered to celebrate her life.