

129th Annual Session
WILMINGTON YEARLY
MEETING

July 23-26, 2020

Held online via ZOOM

2020
MINUTES & REPORTS



The new Yearly Meeting at Wilmington, Ohio, held its first meeting on “the third Seventh Day in Eighth Month, 1892” (August 21, 1892). According to this, 2020 marks the 129th session of Wilmington Yearly Meeting annual gatherings.

Wilmington Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Yearly Meeting Coordinator: Katie Ubry-Terrell
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2020 CLERKS & OFFICERS

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Presiding Clerk | J.P. Lund |
| Asst Presiding Clerk | Jeannette Hamby |
| Ex Committee Clerk | Jeannette Hamby |
| Recording Clerk | Jennilou Grotevant |
| Asst Recording Clerk | Patricia Thomas |
| Treasurer | Billie Baker |
| Bookkeeper | Dicka Nye |
| WYM Coordinator | Katie Ubry-Terrell |

WYM on MINISTRY & COUNSEL

| | |
|------------|----------------------|
| Clerk | Joan VanSickle Sloan |
| Asst Clerk | Patricia Thomas |

Recording Clerk
Asst Recording Clerk

Gary Farlow
Julie Rudd

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SECTION 1 ~ MINUTES

WILMINGTON YEARLY MEETING

MINUTES OF PERMANENT BOARD SESSION

**Held March 7, 2020, at Maryville Friends Meeting,
Maryville, TN**

Wilmington Yearly Meeting Permanent Board met at 10:30 am on Saturday March 7, 2020 at Maryville Friends Meeting with representatives in attendance from the following meetings:

| | | | |
|---------------|---|-------------|---|
| Ada Chapel | 1 | Campus | 1 |
| Cincinnati | 1 | | |
| Eastern Hills | 1 | Fairview | 1 |
| Knoxville | 1 | | |
| Maryville | 3 | Springfield | 1 |
| Wilmington | 3 | | |

Clerk J. P. Lund opened the meeting with a few brief remarks on what is lost in translation, from one language to another time as he experienced in Cuba, or even across the divides within our own culture. This was followed by prayer.

Minutes from the July 26, 2019 meeting were approved as distributed.

The meeting agenda was approved.

REPORTS

Executive Committee – Jeannette Hamby reporting

A request was received from the College Committee to change the date of the 2021 Mini-Yearly Meeting to March 19, so it could include an event planned for the Wilmington College sesquicentennial to celebrate the role of Friends in the life of the college. This event would also serve in place of the College/Quaker spring banquet for 2021. **APPROVED**

The Executive Committee is charged with updating and maintaining Yearly Meeting policies and procedures. APPROVED

Anticipating this, the Executive Committee formed an ad hoc committee to work on policies and procedures.

Ministry and Counsel – Joan VanSickle Sloan reporting

--Miriam Speaight and Hannah Lutz will be recommended for recording in July. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee is asked to plan an appropriate celebration of this event.

-- Katie Ubry-Terrell and Ray Geers are in the training process.

--Plans are underway for a workshop on clearness committees at the Yearly Meeting pre-meeting retreat. Paul Buckley has been proposed as a potential leader.

--State of Society reports are due soon. A few have already been received.

--The committee urges Friends to think about preparing an “elevator speech”, a brief response to questions about what it means to be a Quaker.

Finance & Stewardship J. P. Lund reported:

--The committee is planning to meet monthly.

--There has been good response to the personal appeal letters.

--The committee will be requesting responses from Monthly Meetings with their annual giving plans to assist the committee’s budget planning.

Yearly Meeting Clerk – J. P. Lund

--J. P. was privileged to visit with Friends in Cuba. He was able to worship with them and celebrate the renewal of their community.

--He has visited most of the Monthly Meetings in Yearly Meeting for worship, and will visit all meetings by the annual session. What he has shared and observed during these visits makes him hopeful for the future of Wilmington Yearly Meeting.

College Committee – Doug Woodmansee reporting

--Doug expressed thanks for the agreement to coordinate the 2021 Mini Yearly Meeting with a college sesquicentennial event.

--YM/College Banquet reservations are due by Friday, March 13.

--Jim Reynolds, the Wilmington College president has resigned effective June 30. Yearly Meeting has named Doug and David Raizk to serve on the presidential nominating committee.

--Doug shared a proposed minute of recognition from Wilmington Yearly Meeting to Jim Reynolds for his service as President of Wilmington College. APPROVED

MINUTES ON YEARLY MEETING PROCEDURES

The October 10, 2020 fall committee meetings in Berea will include a permanent board meeting. Minutes of the yearly meeting 2019 session will be approved at that time. APPROVED

The nominating process for permanent board members has been placed with Quarterly Meetings. The process will be changed so that **prospective permanent board members will be named by the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee and approved by the Permanent Board. APPROVED**

The Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee will consist of 6 members appointed for three-year staggered terms appointed at the YM annual session. APPROVED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*May 22-25, Maryville College is hosting a conference on nuclear disarmament.

*Doug Woodmansee is willing to address questions about coronavirus 19.

*FUM is celebrating 50 years of work in Turkana. Fund raising is now directed at a global impact fund.

*Emily Provence will be in Wilmington on March 18.

*Katy Ubry-Terrell will lead worship tomorrow morning at Maryville Friends.

*Joan VanSickle Sloan attended FCNL in November.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Hannah Lutz.

J. P. Lund, clerk

Jennilou Grotevant, recording clerk

ATTACHMENT 1: ADVANCE REPORTS

WYM COORDINATOR REPORT

Since starting this position on October 1, I have traveled to Tennessee twice to attend Friendsville Quarterly Meeting. I have met regularly with the Quaker Knoll Camp Board, Wilmington College Committee, and Board on Missions & Evangelism. I have also attended a meeting of the Finance & Stewardship Committee, Board on Property (Trustees), and Board on Youth & Young Adults. I have been in communication with the clerks/conveners of the Historical Materials Committee, the Board on Christian Concerns for Peace & Society, Training & Recording, Pastoral Care, and the Nominating Committee. I attended the open sessions of the Wilmington College Board of Trustees in October and February. In February I worked with the Executive Committee to plan a special called meeting to name our representatives to the search committee for a new college president.

Also in February, I met with Julie Bolton who designed our yearly meeting website, and learned more about how to make updates, add forms, etc. It felt like a great achievement to be able to add an online reservation option for both Mini Yearly Meeting and the WYM/Wilmington College Banquet. I'm still working out how to add a "pay online" function that links to our PayPal donations account so that registrations can be finalized online as well.

In addition to responding to emails and opening the mail, much of my time in the office is spent answering

and returning calls about Quaker Knoll, coordinating tours of the camp, monitoring the reservations calendar, invoicing our guests and receiving payments. I even gave a tour of the camp one weekend when my scheduled tour guide had a last-minute emergency. We have several weddings booked this summer, family reunions, graduation parties, youth camps, etc., which is wonderful. But the busier the camp becomes, the more of my time is spent on this part of the job!

As Coordinator, I feel like my number one priority is to know what is going on in our meetings so that I can share that information with you. The more we know, the more connected we feel and the more opportunities we have to gather together, to pray for one another, and to seek God's purposes for Wilmington Yearly Meeting together. My primary source of sharing that information is a weekly email that comes out of the office on Fridays and reaches approximately 200 people. I also mail about 20 hard copies a week to individuals whose names have been shared with me. Every week I receive responses from people saying how much they appreciate knowing what is going on, and sharing with me additional information that can be shared with the entire Yearly Meeting.

Recently I've also challenged Friends to pray intentionally for our Yearly Meeting. I've committed to spending 30 minutes in prayer, 5 days a week, in the T. Canby Jones Meetinghouse, to pray for the life of our meetings and the plans and purposes that God has for us as Wilmington Yearly Meeting. Our Yearly Meeting theme is Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of

you?” What does the Lord require of us? What is God’s vision for Wilmington Yearly Meeting? Let’s not just say that we want our meetings to experience life and growth and mending and renewal, but let us truly listen together, pray together, fellowship together, worship together, do business together, and work out those purposes together!

Respectfully Submitted: Katie Ubry-Terrell, Coordinator

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

The committee met only once since the last Executive Committee Meeting. The meeting was held in mid-February. The committee plans to meet monthly for the foreseeable future.

Friends did respond to the solicitation for more funds sent out by the Yearly Meeting clerk toward the end of last year. Donations from individuals were up significantly in December. Monthly Meetings, for the most part, did not respond directly, however, it is hoped that some increased their budgeted contribution to the Yearly Meeting for 2020. The Yearly Meeting clerk will be asking the Monthly Meetings to let us know how much they intend to give in the coming year, so that we can determine how much more needs to be raised from individual Friends to meet our budgeted expenses.

Submitted by: Mike Miller, clerk, with additions from J.P. Lund, Yearly Meeting clerk

BOARD ON PROPERTY (TRUSTEES)

Following are the actions recently taken by the Trustees and reports related to on-going Trustee matters.

- The allocation of available endowment in 2020 has been approved. [Attached is a copy of this allocation which was prepared by Gary Farlow.]
- We approved a financial review of the 2019 accounting records of the Yearly Meeting which includes records related to the operating budget and endowment funds. The goal is to have the review complete and a report available at the Yearly Meeting sessions.
- We are tentatively planning to meet in May with representatives of the Peoples Bank Trust Department regarding our endowment portfolio. This will be our first official update since we instructed them to follow a socially responsible investment strategy, in March 2019, similar to the strategy used by Wilmington Monthly Meeting. Our initial perception is that the funds are performing well.
- Lauren Raizk continues to research the appropriate documentation to provide Meetings leaving Wilmington Yearly Meeting (WYM); to renunciate any WYM ownership interest in those properties. The goal is to have a final report for the Yearly Meeting sessions.

Respectfully Submitted, Duane Earley, Clerk

WILMINGTON COLLEGE COMMITTEE

The Wilmington College Committee has held four meetings since our advance report to Yearly Meeting. These meetings have featured visits from and discussions with senior college administrators: Jim Reynolds, President; Matt Wahrhaftig, Vice President for College Advancement; and Erika Goodwin, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs.

There are two college projects in which committee members are playing an active role. Both projects are connected to the sesquicentennial of Wilmington College which is to be celebrated in the 2020-2021 school year. The first is a project to place plaques with historical information on various campus buildings. In Yearly Meeting sessions it was agreed that Yearly Meeting would provide support (fundraising, research, and/or labor) for this project. Christine Snyder has shared a draft list of possible plaques with college personnel. There is no further progress on this project to report.

The second project is to envision some sort of event that would celebrate the role of Friends in the founding and subsequent history of Wilmington College. Four members of the College Committee (Doug Woodmansee, Christine Snyder, Miriam Speaight, and Stephen Potthoff) are working with college staff on this project. The group has settled on an event that would be organized around the traditional Friends Testimonies (Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, Stewardship). For each testimony there would be a brief video describing an incident in college history that

illustrates the testimony. Each video would be followed by a musical selection that is also connected to that testimony. The date for the event has been set at Friday, March 19, 2021. The event is expected to be held in Boyd Auditorium. The Committee suggests that the 2021 Mini Yearly Meeting be coordinated with that event.

The committee sponsored another College Employee Appreciation Event on September 25 in the Quaker Heritage Center. Refreshments and a program by Stephen Potthoff about the "Bishops Bible" that T. Canby Jones donated to the college were provided. Attendance was approximately twenty persons. The committee is trying to think of ways to make next year's event more attractive.

Doug Woodmansee, Christine Snyder, and Neil Snarr were invited to present information about Friends as part of the Academic Area's new faculty/staff orientation program. Lucy Enge, a young Friend and Wilmington College student, also participated. Information presented included the organizational structure of Friends, the role of Wilmington Yearly Meeting in Wilmington College Trustee appointments, Quaker terminology, Friend's testimonies, and the Quaker focus on Social Justice.

The committee set the date for the annual Wilmington Yearly Meeting/Wilmington College Banquet for Friday March 20, 2020, in the McCoy Room of Kelly Center. The program will feature Friends Committee on National Legislation and its connections to Wilmington College. Jim Cason, Associate General Secretary for

Strategic Advocacy of FCNL will speak. Neil Snarr, Tabitha Speaight, and Christine Snyder served as a Program Committee.

The committee has an ongoing concern about the strength of the connections between Wilmington Yearly Meeting and Wilmington College. The committee was distressed that Quaker Leader Scholarships are no longer available to first year students. It fears that the new policy will weaken the college's ability to recruit Quaker students. The committee also noted with concern that one of the scenarios in the college's Facilities Master Plan called for the removal of Kelly Center but made no mention of a replacement structure. Finally, the committee is concerned that having one person serve as Director of both the Quaker Heritage Center and the Peace Resource Center sets unreasonable expectations for that person.

On February 10, 2020, Wilmington College announced that President James Reynolds was leaving the college as of June 30 to become President of Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. It is assumed that an interim president will be appointed and that the presidential selection process as outlined in the college's Articles of Incorporation will soon be initiated.

Prepared by: Douglas Woodmansee, Clerk

BOARD ON YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Camp dates for 2020 will be as follows:

- Day/Beginner Camp- June 15-19, 2020
(Director: Nichole White, Theme:
Investigating Our Faith)
- Junior/Junior High Camp- June 8-12,
2020 (Director: Dicka Nye, Theme:
Investigating Our Faith)
- Senior High Camp- June 22-26, 2020
(Director: Jonathan Goff, Theme: TBA)

Parents can register their children for camp through the Quaker Knoll Website, or they can register in person, or via mail. There is a severe need for camp counselors for the 2020 camping season. Male counselors are especially needed. Without a sufficient number of counselors, camp cannot happen. If you know anyone who might be interested in being a camp counselor, please direct them to the counselor application on the Quaker Knoll website, or have them contact the WYM office.

Highland Scholarship funds are plentiful this year! Youth can find the scholarship application on the Quaker Knoll website, or can contact the WYM office for an application. Per the scholarship guidelines, youth from Fairfield quarter get first priority, youth from Friendsville Quarter and Miami-Center Quarter get second priority, and non-WYM youth get third priority.

The committee is tentatively planning a youth lock-in at Quaker Knoll on March 14-15, 2020, to line up with Emily Provance's visit to Wilmington. We are also tentatively planning a youth lock-in in April to coincide with camp opening.

This summer, the committee plans to offer activities for the youth during yearly meeting sessions. More information will be coming out about this soon!

Youth don't use Facebook as much as they once did, so the WYM youth Facebook group is more or less only working as a way to get information to parents. The committee is hoping to create a phone list for youth, so that we can text them to let them know directly about future youth activities. If your child wants to be on this phone list, please let us know.

For the 2021 camping season, the committee is going to be more intentional about the hiring process for the Camp Coordinator position. Look for a job posting after the 2020 camping season ends in June. Anyone who is passionate about the camping program and about working with youth is encouraged to apply.

Respectfully Submitted, Hannah Lutz, Clerk

BOARD ON MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

Since the 2019 Yearly Meeting sessions the board has been busy! The Quaker Bakers had another successful year at the Corn Festival. We brought in \$1,748. Of that, \$500 each was given to the Board on Youth & Young Adults, the Aged Ministers Fund, and the FUM Summer Mission Project in Ramallah.

The board is raising money to send a young person to the next FUM Triennial in Africa. We have someone who has applied to go, but we are waiting to hear if

FUM will continue with plans for this summer or whether it will be postponed due to the coronavirus. We want to be able to pay this person's registration and airfare.

In October, the Sing for Missions was held at Xenia Friends Meeting. A silent auction in the foyer generated \$300 for the Yearly Meeting general fund. An offering was taken up and \$300 was collected toward sending a young person to Africa. Xenia Friends Meeting also donated \$300 in memory of Lois Hackney toward sending a young person to Africa. Lois worked tirelessly for the work of the Missions Committee. She is greatly missed.

The Quaker Bakers were invited to participate in Wilmington's Holidazzle Parade over Thanksgiving weekend. Our bakers came through, but the weather did not. Katie Ubry-Terrell generously allowed us to hold a two-day bake sale in the WYM office and we made \$165 toward sending our young person to Africa. The leftover goodies were used for the Belize Spaghetti Fundraiser and Nancy McCormick's Golf Cart Ministry.

We commend the ad hoc committee that formed over Christmas to raise funds for the Belize Friends School during their time of crisis. Through a spaghetti dinner at Wilmington Friends Meeting, a pancake brunch at Chester Friends Meeting, individuals and meetings and youth and committees all throwing in their support, over \$10,000 was raised by Wilmington Yearly Meeting.

Plans in progress include an April Sing for Missions and a workshop/information session on House Churches.

Respectfully Submitted: Cathy Hadley, clerk

QUAKER KNOLL CAMP BOARD

Camp Board holds no scheduled meeting during the month of December. Work continued though thru the end of the year on the deck at Quaker Knoll House. Richard Baker was able to locate enough material that matched the original donated material from Timber-Tech to complete the deck. The original material was no longer in production but was located at a wholesale lumber distributor in Cincinnati.

The new Quaker Knoll Camp web page may have helped several groups identify the camp as a site that meets their needs. Camp board members, especially Mandi Fast, have shown the facilities to prospective users. Katie Ubry-Terrell has done an excellent job 'closing the sale' for camp rental. A large LDS group is scheduled to use the camp in late June.

Harold Curry retired from the Camp Board because of health reasons after more than thirty years of service to the yearly Meeting, particularly with youth. Many thanks to Harold.

Disc golf at Quaker Knoll seems to be growing in popularity and the Board is working on guidelines to maximize the utilization of the grounds to best serve everyone.

April 4, 2020, was tentatively set as camp opening day.

The camp was able to operate with less than a .03% budget overage for the year. The camp's annual budget allocation was \$17,500.00.

A committee composed of Libbie Curry, Jay Schroeder, Katie Ubry-Terrell and Doug Woodmansee proposed an updated fee schedule for rental of the camp. The proposal was unanimously approved by the board. The fee schedule is available on the Quaker Knoll website.

The camp appreciates all donations. Donations earmarked for Quaker Knoll are used for capital expenses at the camp. The camp could not function safely without continuous attention to capital needs. A new electric service to Quaker Knoll House was made possible thru a generous donation from Maureen Larkin in memory of Art Godfrey and Eric Hackney.

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Miller, clerk

HISTORICAL MATERIALS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Historical Materials Committee is tentatively planned for May of 2020, post-graduation.

As was discussed in a previous meeting, Watson Library will accept and archive meeting minutes from those meetings which are now disaffiliated. The Historical Meetings Committee is working with the Executive Committee to contact those meetings and invite them to continue archiving their materials with Watson Library.

Watson Library has a new Head of Reference Services and Quaker Research Coordinator. Elizabeth House is a graduate of Kent State University (MLIS) and Ohio Wesleyan University (BA in English Literature). She comes to us from Southern State Community College, Fayette Campus, where she was a Library Technician. Elizabeth also has experience working with Southern State's Southern Ohio Genealogical Society collection and the Highland County Historical Society.

To make an appointment for meeting record deposits, or for questions about preservation or Quaker Research, please contact Watson Library Staff at 937-481-2345. The email library@wilmington.edu will also reach all three Watson Librarians: Lucinda Chandler, Elizabeth House, and Lee Bowman.

Submitted by: Elizabeth House, clerk

TRAINING & RECORDING COMMITTEE

The Training and Recording Committee has been busy this year. We have conducted seminars at Quaker Knoll in August, October, December, and in February we met at Wilmington Friends Meeting. Four candidates are currently under our care, with two of these candidates being recommended for Recording at this year's Yearly Meeting, after completing the T&R requirements. (See the T&R Manual, approved at last year's Yearly Meeting.)

We are saddened to have lost Lois Hackney this past year, one of our active committee members. We are

currently looking for other candidates for our committee.

We will begin another year of seminars in August, and look forward to more times of spiritual growth and learning with our Recording Candidates.

Respectfully Submitted, James R. Newby, Clerk

INTERVISITATION REPORT

As I have thought about this subject, it seems I go in a circle. The Circle goes round and round, somewhat as Pooh and Piglet did. It went something like this: We want to have members of our meetings visit each other on Sunday mornings to give support to each other and foster understanding amongst us. Each of our meetings attendance is low and we are loathe to leave our own meetings since each person is vital to the worship experience. So, one can leave, no one can visit. Circling, circling!

Then, in December, there was a hastily organized fundraiser spaghetti meal served up by Wilmington Friends Meeting. It was VERY well attended and raised beaucoup funds for Belize School. It was also advertised in the paper and a follow-up about the success appeared on the front page in a later issue. The feeling I got from that meal was GREAT! I saw people I hadn't seen for a long time. Even non-Friends came whom I was happy to see. Then again, awhile later, Chester Meeting had a breakfast/lunch pancake meal to support the yearly trip to Belize school which Nancy and Mike

McCormick lead. Again, it was well attended, Kelly Kellum was there from FUM, and a very warm feeling was felt. Springfield Friends also held a luncheon of soup and sandwiches to support the Belize Trip. All these were held after church services on Sunday.

So I began to think. Many people spend money at restaurants after church. Everyone needs to eat. Why can't we spend what we would spend at a restaurant for noon meal on Sundays, amongst ourselves, taking turns, say once a month, providing a meal? The funds raised could be earmarked for WYM general fund. Even if only \$200.00 was raised per month, that would be \$2,400.00 per year raised for WYM. And we would be visiting each other in our home meetings. We could call it "Meetin' for Eatin'!" It would take a commitment from us all to forego Gold Star Chili or Wendy's on that day and perhaps travel a bit more. It would take someone to draw up a schedule and advertise it, not only through Katie's WYM newsletter, but also publicly, in the paper. (If we keep it labelled "by donation", I think we can avoid Health Department restrictions.) Of course this plan does not include Friends in Tennessee. We still need to find ways to get Friends together from Tennessee and Ohio.

Other ideas that have been floated as I have inquired of various members of WYM, are that Wilmington Yearly Meeting offers a breadth of theology and people who could lead discussion groups. Could we ask different Meetings to host? Recently Jamestown Friends hosted a program to inform local people about the history of Friends in their community. This was requested by a

resident who is now living in an historic house across the street from the Meeting. Bill Medlin and Jim Hackney presented information. It was well attended and well received. We have several Meetings who have interesting histories and who need a way to invite people into their Meetinghouses. Samantha? Martinsville? Xenia? Jamestown?

Lastly, we need to focus on activities which are already in place which provide fellowship and community building. Such as: Quaker Lectures, the College/WYM Banquet, Quaker Leader Scholar Activities. Attendance and/or attention to these activities builds community and a Quaker sense that we are here, we care, we are important to the community. Commit yourselves to attending and supporting these events as they come along. Also, if there are those not connected by email in your meeting, take responsibility to make sure these people are included in the loop of information. Press PRINT and then hand them a copy every Sunday. "LIKE" every Meeting's Facebook page. Search for it and follow them. Let's focus our efforts on building Quaker Community within our spheres of influence.

Submitted by Miriam Speaight

ATTACHMENT 2: MINUTE OF APPRECIATION FOR JIM REYNOLDS

Minute of Appreciation for James Reynolds, President of Wilmington College

Wilmington Yearly Meeting recognizes James Reynolds for his thirteen years of service to Wilmington College, including eight years as President. The Yearly Meeting appreciates the emphasis that Jim placed on the traditional Quaker values, making them a centerpiece of the Wilmington College brand.

Jim has kept the Yearly Meeting informed by regular presentations to Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions and attendance at Wilmington Yearly Meeting College Committee meetings. Jim was a regular attender at the Wilmington College/Wilmington Yearly Meeting Annual Banquet and made himself available to meet with Yearly Meeting representatives.

The Yearly Meeting recognizes Jim's leadership in day-to-day campus administration, fundraising, and the construction of new campus facilities including the Center for the Sciences and Agriculture and the Center for Sport Sciences. Jim led the college through successful reaccreditation and provided the leadership necessary to cope with enrollment and financial challenges. Jim was also available to Wilmington College students, including hosting large numbers of students for meals at his home and travelling with students to the Friends Committee on National Legislation Spring Lobby Weekend.

Wilmington Yearly Meeting wishes Jim and his wife Sue every success as he enters his new position as President of Millikin University. We fully expect that the success Jim has enjoyed at Wilmington College will be replicated in his new position at Millikin.

Approved by Wilmington Yearly Meeting Permanent Board, 7thDay, 3rd Month, 2020.

J.P. Lund, Clerk

**THE 129th ANNUAL SESSION
OF WILMINGTON YEARLY MEETING**

Held July 23-26, 2020 via ZOOM

2020 THEME:

*“True Godliness does not turn [people] out of the world but enables them to live better in it and excites their endeavors to mend it.” -
William Penn*

2020 SCRIPTURE:

Micah 6:8, “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

PROGRAMS & GUEST SPEAKERS

Thursday, July 23, “Clearness Committees”

A workshop on “Clearness Committees” with guest Paul Buckley of Community Friends Meeting

Friday, July 24, USFW Dinner

Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Salinas Newby, member of Cincinnati Friends Meeting

Saturday, July 25, Peace Lecture

Guest Lecturer: Paul Moke, Professor of Political
Science and Criminal Justice at Wilmington
College

Sunday, July 26, Meeting for Worship

Guest Minister: Hannah Lutz, Pastor at Ada
Chapel Friends Meeting

“CLEARNESS COMMITTEES”
Thursday, July 23, 2020
Pre-Yearly Meeting Retreat with Paul Buckley,
Community Friends Meeting

Don't deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks you are wise by the standards of this age, then become a "fool" so that you may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. It is written: "God snares the wise with their craftiness"; and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile." (1 Corinthians 3:18-20)

Discernment

The Quaker doctrine of the Inward Light inevitably raises a question: How do I know when I'm hearing the voice of God? We all know how easy it is to fool ourselves into believing that God is telling us to do what we already want to do. We have all encountered people who insist that God has called them to do things that we think are silly or wrong or even dangerous. All we have to do is to look at Quaker history to see how an unfettered belief in each person's direct access to the divine can cause trouble. The Religious Society of Friends has suffered many separations, large and small, and in each and every split, people on both sides firmly believed that they were correctly hearing God's directions and that those on the other side were not. So again, how do you know that you are hearing the voice of God? The traditional Christian answer to this question is, "Don't trust yourself." Many Christians

don't think that God talks to ordinary people – only to prophets and saints. So, if you think God is talking to you, go ask your priest or your minister (or maybe a psychiatrist).

The traditional Quaker answer isn't very different, but it reflects our understanding of how God interacts with people – that everyone really does have direct access to God, not just prophets and saints. But (and it's a really big but) we each receive the Inward Light only "in measure." Each person is illuminated by the Inward Light – some get more and some get less – but no one gets it all.

In short, the Quaker answer is, God may indeed have a message for you, but it's not easy to completely understand what God is saying, so we need to exercise spiritual discernment. This is a skill we can develop over time with practice. It takes humility to do it, because the only way to learn is by trial-and error and it works better when we practice it in company with others who have consciously worked at developing this skill.

Business Meetings – Practice in Discernment

One place many of us get to practice discernment is in our business meetings. In them, our spiritual community is engaged in discernment and it becomes pretty obvious that we do it better when we search for God's will together. As it says in 1 Corinthians 1:9-10:

"God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful. I appeal to you, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with

one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.”

Think how different our Quaker family tree would look if we had taken that seriously instead of rushing into separations.

The Clearness Process

In our business meetings, we implicitly distinguish between “important items” that is, those that require our careful discernment, and the less important “ordinary items” that we can decide for ourselves. The classic example is the color of the carpeting in the meetinghouse. We tell ourselves that God doesn’t really care which color it is. Likewise in our personal lives. Choosing which toothpaste to buy doesn’t require spiritual discernment, but some things do. For example, when we ask to be married under the care of a meeting or we ask for membership, a clearness committee will usually be formed.

But are there other “important items” in our lives? The question that we each need to ask ourselves is what decisions are so important that I should be testing them with my community? When in my life has God tried to get my attention? In the past, Friends involved themselves much more in each other’s lives.

Another early practice was to ask the meeting for a certificate of transfer when an individual or a family wished to move to another location. When this situation arose, the meeting typically would appoint a

small group of Elders or Overseers to examine their circumstances – did they, for example, have outstanding debts or obligations that they might be attempting to avoid by moving away? If so, a certificate of transfer was withheld until they were clear of any commitments. Imagine a meeting trying to do that today!

Here's what I believe: God really does care about each of us and what we are doing with our lives. More often than we may care to admit or are in the habit of doing, it's worth asking if our plans are consistent with God's desires. Am I doing my part to build the kingdom of heaven on earth? Getting the answer to that question requires intentional and prayerful discernment. Sometimes it's important that we ask our spiritual communities for their help in the process.

Exercise 1:

We are now going to divide into discussion groups of 4 or 5 people in breakout rooms. When you are in your group, take a minute or two to introduce yourselves to each other. I will then send a message asking that you join together for a few minutes of silent, waiting worship. At the end of that period, you will receive a reminder of the following query:

“Have you ever had a time when you felt that God cared about a decision you were making? What did you do?”

Each person in the group will have about one minute to respond to this query. There will then be about 5 minutes for discussion. After about 8 minutes, I will

send a message that you have 2 minutes to finish up. There will be a final warning that there are exactly 15 seconds left and then the breakout rooms will automatically close.

Please note: Zoom is a cruel master. You can't plead for "just one more minute!" I won't be able to see or hear you while you are in your discussion group. The breakout rooms will automatically close whether you are done or not. Sorry.

Any questions?

End of Exercise 1

Welcome back. Is there anything that you feel must be said right now? We will have an opportunity for questions and comments later, but if it's essential, speak now.

The Nuts and Bolts of a Clearness Committee

One mechanism Friends have developed over the years for personal discernment is the Clearness Committee. This is a small group of people – usually three to five – who meet with a person who is facing an important decision. As mentioned above, when someone asks to become a member of a meeting or to be married under the care of a meeting, that decision is usually tested with a Clearness Committee. More generally, many Friends have found Clearness Committees to be valuable when they are trying to make other significant decisions or to figure out what to do about a spiritual leading.

In a monthly meeting, people may ask the committee that provides pastoral care or fosters spiritual development to form a committee for them. A seeker may also choose their own committee by gathering five or six friends together. This is often a less helpful approach; as humans, we are inclined to choose people who we like, and who like us, and who will support us. In either case, committee members should be chosen because they have developed their gifts of discernment or can help in some other way to aid in the process. It is good to include people from a variety of backgrounds and with diverse life experiences.

It is helpful for one person to be asked to serve as the committee clerk. This person can take on the task of finding a mutually convenient time and place and, during meetings, keeping the committee on task. It's also helpful to ask one member of the committee to act as a recorder. This person's job is to keep a record for the use of the seeker. This is not a transcript of every word said or minutes to report to anyone else. Most importantly, the recorder should write down the questions asked so that the seeker can refer back to them later. It is less important to record the answers given.

The purpose of a Clearness Committee is not to give advice or "fix" a problem. It is to listen deeply to a description of the situation, to help the person with the concern see the issue from different viewpoints – especially to help the seeker view the situation as it is illuminated by the Inward Light – and to provide

support to the seeker as that individual seeks a way forward that is consistent with divine guidance.

This is not a decision-making committee, or a planning committee, or a support committee. Members must be willing to give up any notion that they know what is best for another person and simply try, through prayerful listening and speaking, to help remove anything that obscures the Light Within.

Before the committee first meets, it is helpful for the seeker to write out a description of the concern and make it available to committee members. This can be valuable not only for the committee members, but also for the seeker. This description should be succinct, include relevant background information, and may list any alternatives being considered.

When the committee first meets it should be prepared to spend two or three hours together and understand that a second or even a third meeting may be needed. The first meeting should begin with a substantial period of worship. The seeker may then read the description or summarize the issue at hand. If necessary, the committee may ask factual questions before entering into its primary work. This task is simple to state, but is often difficult to do: members should not speak except to ask questions that will help the seeker come to a clearer sense of where God is leading. This means resisting the urge to offer solutions, give advice, or to tell stories about similar situations. It means giving up leading questions—such as those that start out with “Don’t you think ...” or “Have you considered ...” Questions can and should be probing and challenging,

but at the same time, loving. It is also important not to ask a question merely to satisfy the questioner's curiosity.

For many of us, this is the most difficult part of the process: Asking questions designed solely to help the seeker find spiritual clarity. It is not a strictly logical process – committee members should trust their intuitions. Even if a question seems off the wall, if it feels insistent, ask it.

Patience and prayer permeate the process. A short period of silence may be needed after a question to allow a careful and prayerful answer to be formulated. It is, of course, all right for the seeker not to answer a question – and no explanation is necessary.

An answer often leads to new questions, but the pace of questioning should be gentle – giving all time to consider what has been said. This frequently leads to additional periods of silence – these should be welcomed.

Clerk Check-in

When it seems appropriate, the clerk will ask the seeker if it is time to move to another stage. This might consist of a period of silent prayer and contemplation, an opportunity for the committee to reflect on what has been said (still resisting the temptation to give “the answer”), or for the seeker to ask questions of the committee. If a seeker wants the committee's advice, this is a time to ask for it. Or it might be time to end the meeting and decide on next steps for the process.

It is not necessary for the seeker to come to a decision during the meeting or, if clarity seems to emerge, to necessarily share any conclusions with the committee.

Finally, it is essential that everyone understands that anything said must be held in confidence unless the seeker gives permission for it to be shared with others.

Exercise 2:

We are now going to have a second small group exercise. Before you go into your breakout rooms, I will read a scenario – with luck, it will also appear on your screen. You will be going back into the same breakout rooms with the same other people. Please start with a period of waiting worship. I will send a message when it is time to end that worship. This is a two-part exercise. You will receive instructions for each part when the time comes. Okay?

Scenario: Jackie, a young woman in your meeting, has just graduated from high school. She is considering spending a gap year as a volunteer support worker for Physicians Without Borders in the eastern Congo. Although you feel that you barely know Jackie, she has asked you to serve on her Clearness Committee and you said yes. For this exercise, it may be helpful to think of young persons you have known in your meeting and model Jackie on them.

When the committee first gathers, there are several clarifying questions on practical matters: salary, training, term of service, personal safety, etc. Her answers were all satisfactory and it is time to move on

to more penetrating questions. Your task is to consider what questions you might ask. In the breakout room, we will start with about five minutes of waiting worship. You will receive a message when it is time for each of you to state one question that you think might be helpful. When everyone has shared a question, it will be time for the group to discuss what other questions might be good. After several minutes of discussion, I will send further instructions.

Any questions?

Second message to breakout rooms: “Someone asks Jackie if she feels that this would be doing God’s work. She answers that she doesn’t know – she just wants to help save lives. Take a few minutes in worship to consider what you might ask next.”

[After a few minutes, send a third message inviting the group members to discuss their ideas. After 8 minutes, send a warning that the room will close in two minutes. A final message warns that the room will close in 15 seconds.]

End of Exercise 2

Did you have fun? Let’s finish up, so we have time for your questions, comments, and corrections.

A Word of Caution

It’s not easy being on a Clearness Committee – especially for those of us who have been in brainstorming or problem-solving sessions on our jobs or with other organizations. This is very different. I know

for myself, it's really hard not to just tell the seeker the right answer or, more subtly, to ask loaded questions that will guide him or her to a particular solution. For many Friends, it's also hard not to be reflexively supportive – to avoid asking difficult questions and instead offer comfort and encouragement.

When it works well, the clearness process is Spirit-centered and its activities are grounded in worship. It can be a channel for Divine guidance – not only for the seeker, but for any of the participants.

Anyone have something to offer?

**THE 129th ANNUAL SESSION
OF WILMINGTON YEARLY MEETING
MINUTES OF OPENING SESSION
Friday, July 24, 2020**

Clerk J. P. Lund opened the session at 10:45 am with the following opening remarks:

We meet in an unusual manner at an unusual point in history. Our culture is ever more fractured, so fractured that the simple courtesy of covering your face to prevent the spread of the disease is taken as a political statement. As a result, the pandemic rages. Our society needs to heal. That will require political action, but politics will never be enough. We will need a healthy church, one defined not my narrow dogma, but by the radical love that Christ has taught us. We need people who act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together. As William Penn said True Godliness does not turn [people] out of the world but enables them to live better in it and excites their endeavors to mend it.” If we are to help mend the world, our organization must function. Much of what are we are about in these business sessions are the mundane matters necessary to human institutions. But though they be mundane, I believe they serve God’s purpose, a purpose beyond our ken. Let us prepare to attend to the matters before us, and take moment to clear our minds.

Following centering silence, J. P. Lund continued: Not long ago, we could argue that America was the most technologically advanced country in the world. Indeed,

our armed forces might still be able to make this claim. However, our society has failed in the face of the pandemic, doing far worse at suppressing the spread of the virus than almost any other developed country in the world. Our culture is fractured, so fractured that the simple courtesy of wearing a face mask to prevent the spread of the disease is taken as a political statement.

Some adaptations to meeting via zoom were suggested. Since vocal approval does not work, those in attendance were asked to use the hands up feature of zoom and/or hold up something green to indicate approval, red to indicate non-approval.

Clerk J. P. Lund called the roll. Representatives were in attendance from the following meetings:

| | | | |
|------------|------------|---|---------------|
| Ada Chapel | 2 | | Campus |
| 2 | Cincinnati | 4 | |
| Dover | 2 | | Eastern Hills |
| 4 | Fairview | 3 | |
| Maryville | 4 | | Springfield |
| 4 | Wilmington | 4 | |
| Xenia | 1 | | |

Visitors: Tom Roberts, Western Yearly Meeting; Bobby Trice, FCNL; Erika Goodwin, Wilmington College

The meeting agenda was approved as distributed.

REPORTS

Report from the Interim President of Wilmington College

Erika Goodwin reported that when they closed the campus in March in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, that included the Yearly Meeting office and the T. Canby Jones meeting house. She apologized for the inconvenience to Yearly Meeting.

Some events planned for the 150th anniversary celebration of the college have been cancelled. They are in hopes that some can still occur.

They established a Covid management plan utilizing the expertise of faculty, health organizations, the activities of higher education organizations and others. Plans include increases in cleaning, modifications to classrooms, dormitory accommodations, and dining facilities, as well as measures to ensure staff safety,

Planning for Fall semester includes work on course delivery--in-person, online, and hybrid. Enrollment numbers for Fall are good.

She hopes to increase and strengthen connections between the college and WYM including additional Quaker activities and increased recruitment of, and opportunities for, Quaker students.

In response to questions, Erika stated that it is hard to forecast financial status, but that the current year will probably end with a deficit.

Consideration of Nominees to the Board of Trustees for Wilmington College

Erika Goodwin shared biographical information for the three proposed trustees: Daniel-Smith Christopher, J. R. Reid and Richard Sidwell. **Approved.**

College Committee

Doug Woodmansee reported that two new members are needed for the Joint Trustee Nominating Committee.

Doug and David Raizk are the YM members of the Wilmington College Presidential Search Committee. The posting for the position is complete and posted on the College website and being circulated and posted nationally.

The Committee has been asked to once again participate in new faculty/staff orientation.

The report was accepted with gratitude.

Epistle Committee

Jonathan Goff, Julie Estelle Rudd and Dan Kasztelan have agreed to write the Epistle for the 2020 Yearly Meeting. **Approved.**

Initial Presentation of the Budget

Mike Miller shared the proposed budget and answered questions. The budget will be re-visited for approval tomorrow.

Technology Grant

J. P. Lund reported that the Yearly Meeting received a \$1,000 Technology Grant from FWCC. Some of the funds from the grant were used to support the technology needed for the YM sessions.

The meeting was recessed at noon following prayer by Dan Kasztelan.

3:00 pm, the meeting resumed for consideration of A Statement on Racial Justice

Jeannette Hamby clerked the session as J. P. Lund presented the draft statement. With some edits, the statement was **approved**. It will be posted on the Yearly Meeting website and used and publicized by Monthly Meetings. The statement is as follows:

WILMINGTON YEARLY MEETING STATEMENT ON RACIAL JUSTICE

There is a gap between the ideals we profess and the realities we live. This is true of the Religious Society of Friends, which has from the beginning proclaimed that

there is that of God in everyone, and it is true of the United States of America, founded with the declaration that “all men are created equal.”

In 2020, the gap between the reality of America’s behavior and the ideals expressed in its founding documents has become particularly stark. Through social media, we have watched in horror as a policeman casually squeezed the life out of George Floyd. What horrifies us most is that this is not an isolated incident but an extreme example of a pattern of behavior all too common.

We recognize that our system for maintaining order often harasses, demeans, and sometimes even kills, our own citizens. Because of the ubiquitous presence of cameras and social media, we are forced to be present when the unspeakable happens, and to see it with our own eyes.

Meanwhile, at the southern border, children were being separated from their parents and put in cages. Though the worst of these practices were curtailed by our courts, some border security officers continue to treat migrants with gratuitous cruelty and many children remain imprisoned, isolated from their parents.

Such behaviors by authorities have a common root, a root that reaches back to the time when keeping order meant keeping black and brown people in their place. Quakers have rejected this idea in principle and worked toward equal justice for all. However, we acknowledge that those of us who are white are the beneficiaries of a privilege not accorded to all Americans. Further, our

personal behavior sometimes reveals implicit biases that conflict with our ideals and even contribute to the oppression of others.

We find hope as our neighbors throughout the country reassess the symbols of oppression: the Confederate battle flag, statues of Confederate generals, and racially insensitive team mascots. These symbolic acts must be followed up by concrete reforms of our institutions and by reforming our personal behavior to eliminate the sometimes thoughtless and insensitive habits acquired from our culture.

Members of Wilmington Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends pledge to work with renewed vigor toward compassion and equal justice for all.

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

True Godliness does not turn [people] out of the world but enables them to live better in it and excites their endeavours to mend it. — William Penn

Approved 7/24/2020 J.P. Lund, clerk Wilmington Yearly Meeting

The meeting was recessed at 4:00 pm following prayer by Jonathan Goff.

“A MIGRANT WITH HOPE IN A TIME OF DESPAIR”

Friday, July 24, 2020

USFW Lecture with Elizabeth Salinas Newby of Cincinnati Friends Meeting

I was born in Brownsville, Texas, one block from the United States/Mexico border. At the time, my parents had been visiting relatives, and they were on their way back to the United States to join other Mexicans who were farm-laborers. I am the daughter of migrant workers.

Until I was fourteen years old, I was never conscious of sleeping anywhere except in the back of a truck. My father, unable to keep a steady job due to lack of education and comprehension of the English language, decided to take the advice of a close friend and join the migrant circuit. He invested all his money in a 1942 Army surplus truck, which served as our home for thirteen years. He cleaned and repaired the bed of the truck to make it suitable for living. Orange crates were used for stands and cupboards and baby beds. My first bed was an orange crate. An old-fashioned metal tub filled with coal was our stove, providing heat in cold weather.

As we travelled from state to state and town to town, my mother enrolled us children in school. I attended 22 different elementary schools, from Indiana to California. It was at one of these schools that I experienced my first encounter with prejudice in America. In a small town in northwest Texas, I had become very good friends with a little blue-eyed blonde girl named Kathy, who happened

to be the daughter of the town mayor. Both of us were totally unaware of our differences of race and social class. She was the first real friend I had ever had, accepting me for who I was---a little girl the same age as herself.

One day as we were walking home together from school, I saw a tall man dressed in Western clothes, complete with boots and a ten-gallon hat, approaching from a distance. As he drew near, I could see the expression on his face, which portrayed anger. My little friend screamed, "Daddy!" He grabbed her arm and quickly walked with her the rest of the way home, leaving me standing motionless by the side of the road. I was stunned by what had occurred, and I could hardly wait until the next day to ask her what had happened.

The next morning, when I stopped by the tree where we usually met so we could walk to school together, Kathy was not there. Not wanting to be late, I hurried on to school without her. At recess, when I finally found her, she ignored me. Though I was deeply hurt by her actions, I persisted with me questions, "What happened yesterday? What's wrong?" Finally, she broke down in tears and repeated to me what her father had told her, adding, "You have got to stop bothering me. My father told me that you are different, and I am not allowed to play with you anymore."

I was stunned. Many questions that had never been there before came to my mind, and to this day I have a difficult time relating this incident without a gnawing in my stomach. Dehumanizing some one or some group that we do not know is temptingly easy. I recently

shared a posting that I saw on Facebook about immigrants, dispelling the untruths that have been circulating and challenging the negative words that have recently been used against them. Here is one of the responses: "The truth about immigrants, legal or not, is that they bring diseases back to America that have been eradicated for years. Most turn to a life of crime because they do not speak English. If a person wants to live in America, they should learn English." Prejudice and discrimination never go away.

The Mexican migrant is in a constant cycle of economic exploitation. Powerful agricultural interests have been able to keep the migrant the most underpaid and the most oppressed worker in America. This oppression in a land of plenty has caused me, my family and other migrant workers great sorrow. When a whole group of people is seen just as cheap labor with little or no regard for their lives as children of God, with the same wants and desires for their lives and families as others, it is easy to become bitter. When the worth of an individual is measured by the number of rows he or she can hoe in an hour or the number of tomatoes he or she can pick in a day, then I weep for our nation and our people. Somehow the economic system must recover the idea that people...labor...are not something to be used and then put aside, deported when they are no longer needed to do a job, only to be lured back into the poverty cycle when they are needed for next year's harvest.

When I served as the Administrator for Latino Affairs in the State of Iowa, I was informed about the many

“Round-Ups” that ICE would conduct. A “Round-Up” is when the immigration authorities would raid farms and arrest all the undocumented Latino workers, and then deport them. Many would say, “This is what they deserve for being in this country illegally.” It is not this simple. On many of the huge farms in the agricultural industry, the farm owners and managers work hand in hand with the immigration authorities. They lure these migrant workers to their farms to do the manual labor, never asking about their legal status. When they are no longer needed, they contact ICE who comes and rounds them up, deporting them back to their countries of origin. It is a terrible cycle.

I want to be clear about my position on immigration policy, not just as one who has seen the United States immigration system at work close up, but also as a Christian and Quaker who cares about the well-being of my people. I am not an expert on drafting immigration policy, but I know about the humane and dignified treatment of my fellow human beings.

It must be acknowledged that the system is badly broken. According to an article in the Journal of the Catholic Health Association of the United States, titled, "I Was a Stranger and you Welcomed Me," by Sister Ann Scholz, the immigration system, "is woefully outdated, needlessly complex and most agree that it is patently unfair. Backlogs in the family-sponsored immigration system mean U.S. Citizens have to wait up to 20 years to be reunited with loved ones. Current caps on employment visas make it impossible for employers to fill critical jobs in fields from agriculture to high tech,

and foreign graduates, educated here, are too often denied the opportunity to put their training to use in the growing U.S. economy."

She continues, "The current system puts at risk far too many vulnerable immigrants, including unaccompanied minors, victims of crime and domestic violence, and those fleeing persecution. Too many unscrupulous employers exploit unauthorized workers and fail to protect the rights of both foreign and domestic laborers and, too often, unauthorized immigrants caught up in the system are denied due process of the law."

Sister Scholz speaks my mind.

Some of the events that occurred during our travels were puzzling, partly because I wasn't sure whether they occurred intentionally. There was the time in Oklahoma when we were picking cotton. As a little girl, I would often sit on my father's cotton bag, as he pulled me along the row he was picking. Anyway, suddenly there was a crop-dusting plane that descended upon the field in which we were working, spraying it with insecticides. Dad heard the plane coming, and having experienced this before, yelled to everyone to go to their vehicles and close the windows. Though most of them did, a few did not, and they soon became ill from exposure to the insecticide. Did the farmer fail to inform the pilot that we were in the field? Did the pilot and farmer just not care? I don't know. At any rate, my people were needlessly exposed to harmful chemicals for reasons that we never knew or understood.

During the first fourteen years of my life, I was living out my simple and uncomplicated existence from the back of a truck. Life was predictable. We traveled from one state to the next, from one field to another. We never realized how limited our world was. We stayed within our sub-culture, never venturing out of the tried and true ways of our tradition. We knew little about a religious or spiritual life during our time on the road. We never went to church, and we only saw a minister when he or she would stop by the camps to deliver Bibles and sanitary supplies.

My first real memory of a religious practice is from when I was six years old. In our truck home my mother had hung a picture of Christ, and she always lit a candle in front of it. I was fascinated with this picture, and as the candlelight flickered below, it produced a rather eerie look. Periodically my mother would read to us out of the Spanish Bible while we studied the picture and tried to connect what we saw with the stories about Jesus that she would share. I can see now that despite our spiritual poverty, my mother instilled within me an understanding of reverence.

Due to their lack of education and religious training, my parents, along with other migrant families, were highly superstitious. When I was about nine years old, I came down with influenza and was very sick for several days. My father, deeply worried, took me into the woods to an anthill filled with big red ants. He made me jump over the anthill in the form of a cross while he recited a prayer and ended it with, "In the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost."

For me the ceremony was a great mystery; all I understood was that I received many ant bites! For my father it was an attempt to drive away the evil spirits that were making me sick. I do not know whether it was the ant bites, my father's ritual, or just waiting for the sickness to run its course, but I eventually did get well.

When we became settled migrants, my mother began to take her children to a small Southern Baptist Mission church. I loved that little church, which served as a retreat from the world of violence, poverty, and deprivation which so characterized my culture. The two ministers from Argentina were wonderful to us, helping us with many practical matters, as well as teaching us Scripture. I eventually became active enough to be asked if I would teach Sunday School for Fifth and Sixth graders. I accepted the challenge.

I have many memories of this young group of Mexican-American Christians, but one that stands out. One Palm Sunday I was reading to the children the events of the last week of Jesus' life on earth. I had read Mark 15 many times, but never was I moved quite so deeply as when I read this chapter to those children on that particular Spring day. My class was perfectly silent as I read the part where Pilate asked Jesus, "Art thou the King of the Jews?" The picture of the strong, silent Christ standing before the Roman Governor was a gripping scene in my mind's eye. Later in the chapter I read about how the crowd cried, "Crucify Him!" and had to explain the meaning of crucify to a group of children who were not shocked by the violence.

But as I read about how the crowd mocked him and spit on him, I was moved to tears. My small, quiet band of little Mexican-American Christians did not understand this outburst of emotion. Though I quickly composed myself, before I could continue to read, Angela, one of my pupils, sought to comfort me. In a weak and trembling voice, she said, "Don't cry, Miss Salinas, it's almost Easter!" In her innocent way, Angela had moved my thoughts from the crucifixion to the resurrection. I am still amazed at how God chose that little girl to help move me from despair to hope.

The Southern Baptist Mission did many things for me, but the most important was that it forced me to study my life and question what my future would be. I refused to accept the idea that since I was born a migrant I was to remain in the traditional migrant pattern throughout my life. Believing in the power of prayer, I sat for long periods of time, openly talking to God and receiving in return a sureness of mind and a new assurance about my future life.

Not to bore you with details...I will let you read my book...In 1968 I was living in Wichita, Kansas and attending college. During this time I met my future husband at a Prayer Vigil for Peace on the campus of Friends University, and learned about the Quakers. Although I was born a Roman Catholic, I was reared as a Southern Baptist, and I eventually became a Quaker. My good friend, Tom Mullen at Earlham, used to say to me concerning baptism, that I had been, "Dipped, Dabbed and Dry Cleaned!" And I have been a Quaker ever since.

In closing, I am grateful that my parents came to America from Mexico seeking a better life. My parents' crossing into this country was at a more tolerant time than the one we are now in, a time in which many children are separated from their parents and living in cages, and a time when many still continue to die trying to reach America and start a new life for themselves and their families. I am a migrant who still clings to the hope that was instilled within me as a very young girl. I feel confident that the heart of America is bigger than the anti-immigrant words of President Trump. May God give us the strength and courage to become a better, more loving, and more open people, remembering the words of Jesus from the 25th Chapter of the Gospel of Matthew: "'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

**THE 129th ANNUAL SESSION
OF WILMINGTON YEARLY MEETING
MINUTES OF MEETING FOR BUSINESS SESSION
Saturday, July 25, 2020**

The meeting resumed with centering silence.

Friends added to roll call:

| | | | |
|---------|---|------------|---|
| Chester | 1 | Cincinnati | 1 |
| Dover | 1 | Wilmington | 1 |

Visitors: John Keller and family

Minutes of the Permanent Board from Mini Yearly Meeting, March 2020 were **approved**.

REPORTS

Advance Reports included in Section 2: Individual Reports.

Envisioning Committee

Patricia Thomas shared the narrative summary from responses to the query, Wilmington Yearly Meeting is..... and encouraged Friends to read the entire report. The Envisioning taskforce is ready to begin the work of creating an organizational structure which supports the faith and practice and the mission of WYM. The goal is to have a first draft ready for consideration of the Permanent Board in 2021. **Approved**

Executive Committee

Jeannette Hamby reported that the Nominating Committee brought some concerns and recommendations to the Executive Committee. After discussion and consideration of those concerns the Executive Committee presents the following recommendations to the Permanent Board. 1. The Nominating Committee present a slate of committee and board members along with the slate of officers when presented in annual sessions. (This was formerly done by the Quarterly Meetings). 2. List the year a person has served in a position in the minute book. 3. Allow the Executive Committee to appoint the 4 members to the Nominating Committee. (This was formerly done by the Quarterly Meetings). 4. Allow the Nominating Committee to name two additional people to the YM Planning Committee (To fill vacancies by positions no longer in use). Change the composition of the YM Planning Committee to reflect actual positions held-- WYM Presiding Clerk, WYM Office Coordinator, Clerk of Ministry & Counsel, Clerk of Youth & Young Adults, USFW President, Music Committee representative.

Jeannette Hamby reported that the Nominating Committee recommended a change in the process of naming the committee so that members of the Nominating Committee be appointed by the Executive Committee rather than from the floor of Yearly Meeting sessions. **Approved**

The 2021 Nominating Committee members are Nancy McCormick, Mary Ellen Krisher and Jonathan Goff.

Approved

There has been some discussion of the role of the Pastoral Care Committee. No one has been appointed to the committee pending the organizational recommendations of the Envisioning Committee.

Budget

Mike Miller led the discussion of the proposed budget. Discussion topics included separating salaries from office expenses, use of the travel funds, and the need for monthly meetings to commit to support of the budget through their contributions. It was suggested that each monthly meeting sponsor a fundraiser for the yearly meeting.

The budget was **approved**.

There was discussion of the responsibility for managing/allocating income from the Aged Ministers Fund. Mike reported a request from the Trustees that managing this fund should be assigned to the Missions and Evangelism Committee. **Approved**.

The meeting was recessed at 4:00 pm.

**THE 129th ANNUAL SESSION
OF WILMINGTON YEARLY MEETING
MINUTES OF CLOSING BUSINESS SESSION
Sunday, July 26, 2020**

The meeting resumed with centering silence.

Additions to the roll call:

| | | | |
|---------------|---|------------|----|
| Chester | 1 | Cincinnati | 2 |
| Eastern Hills | 1 | | |
| Maryville | 1 | Wilmington | 10 |

REPORTS

Ministry & Counsel

Joan VanSickle Sloan reported that Miriam Speaight (Springfield) and Hannah Lutz (Ada Chapel) will be recorded today. Two more are in the Training & Recording process.

Londonderry Friends are being helped in the process of laying down their meeting. They have a buyer for the building which will continue in use as church.

Their meeting yesterday (Saturday) included discussion of actions for racial justice and the encouragement of

local meetings to continue to find ways to work on actions for racial justice.

Minutes of appreciation for Bill Medlin and Cincinnati Friends were shared:

Appreciation for Service of Bill Medlin

This year, Bill Medlin is retiring from his service as pastor from 2012-2020, at Jamestown Friends Meeting. This event gives us an opportunity to recognize his contribution to Wilmington Yearly Meeting. Bill served for years as clerk of the Board on Christian Concerns for Peace and Society. Bill forcefully expressed his profound understanding of the Quaker tradition and its scriptural roots, without requiring that we all agree with him on every point. In a time of strife and division among Friends, Bill pointed to the experience of the early church recorded in Acts and First Corinthians. Following the example of these early Christians, Bill rejected division, proclaiming "Unity does not mean uniformity." In so doing, Bill has helped shape the Wilmington Yearly Meeting of today, and his influence will extend far into the future. We welcome Steven Farsaci, the new pastor of Jamestown Friends Meeting, and wish him success following in the footsteps of a Quaker leader.

Appreciation for Cincinnati Friends

Wilmington Yearly Meeting thanks Cincinnati Friends Meeting for serving as host for our 2020 yearly meeting sessions, our first ever sessions conducted over the internet. Cincinnati Friends have participated in planning from the beginning. They gracefully responded to successive revisions of our plans as we adapted to the ever-changing landscape of the COVID-19 pandemic. Behind the scenes, they have provided the technical support that made success possible. We gratefully acknowledge the time and energy Cincinnati Friends devoted to our annual sessions, and we look forward to the day when we can safely break bread together.

J. P. Lund will convey copies of the minutes of appreciation to the recipients and send written thanks to Katie Ubry-Terrell and Kristin Lally for their hard work and tech support.

The theme for the 2021 WYM sessions and State of Society reports is: Compassion through Action. Matthew 25:40 is the chosen verse.

Nancy McCormick reported that the school in Japan where the Ellen C. doll from WYM has been for many years has closed. Ellen C. has moved to the local public library.

Julie Estelle Rudd read the Yearly Meeting Epistle (attached). The epistle was **Approved with appreciation.**

Missions & Evangelism

Cathy Hadley reported that the cancelation of the 2020 Clinton County Corn Festival will greatly impact their income as they normally make \$1500-2000 at the festival. They are proposing a virtual bake sale—donate to YM what you would normally spend on ingredients for you baking or what you would spend shopping at the festival. **Report accepted.**

October 10 is the next permanent board meeting.

Thanks for J. P. Lund's leadership and clerking of these YM sessions.

Meeting was closed with prayer by Joan VanSickle Sloan.

WILMINGTON YEARLY MEETING EPISTLE 2020

“Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing, compared to love in dreams.”

Ray Geers, of Cincinnati Friends Meeting, used that quote from The Brothers Karamazov in his Bible study on the scripture that grounded this year’s sessions: Micah 6:8. It is a familiar verse to many Friends: “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God?”

We are unaccustomed to thinking of love as harsh or dreadful, but to be truly merciful requires us to comprehend the depth of pain of the one who needs mercy. Ray illustrated this with the parable of the Good Samaritan, pointing out how the extravagance of the Samaritan’s mercy is fully seen against the backdrop of the injured character’s pain and the indifference of the passers-by. Ray encouraged us to think of love in experimental ways, as scientists exploring the field of love. He gave us these queries: “How can we stop tripping over the threshold between knowing what to live and actively living by what we know? How can we walk gracefully over this threshold between knowing

what the Lord requires of us and actively living a life of love?”

While we chose Micah 6:8 well before the police murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the ensuing national and local conversation about dehumanizing and deadly police tactics, civil rights, and racial justice, we found that the prophet’s words spoke pointedly to our present faith concerns. Together we felt an urgent concern to respond to God’s call to action—if we could discern that call—at this moment when our corporate sins as Americans have been displayed so clearly before our eyes and hearts. With more energy and concord than your correspondents can ever remember, Friends freely discussed social issues like racism and public health and what we can do about them.

Throughout our sessions—in business, lectures, bible study, and small groups—we kept returning to this question of action. How do we act justly? How do we become people who love mercy? How do we come together to walk humbly before God?

But we must also acknowledge, before we go any further, that this year’s gathering wasn’t, remotely, anything like those in previous years. Our annual sessions in 2020 were held almost entirely on the Zoom

video conferencing platform, although a small group of people gathered in the library at Wilmington Friends Meeting—socially distanced and wearing protective masks—to video conference from the same location. Many normal features of Yearly Meeting sessions were lacking: there was no sitting down to share a meal, no fundraising for mission projects, no hallway conversations, no singing together.

Gathering over Zoom presented new challenges. Rather than using our voices to express approval or disapproval of minutes, we held red and green items up to the screen. When we wanted to gather in small groups, we were shuttled into Zoom breakout rooms. We made errors—especially in unmuting ourselves—and we forgave one another for errors.

We rejoiced in seeing friendly faces, though, even if they were just little boxes on a screen. On Sunday morning we experienced particular joy in recording the gifts for ministry of two Friends—Hannah Lutz of Ada Chapel Friends Meeting and Miriam Speaight of Springfield Friends Meeting. Though these were the first virtual recordings in our history, they served as confirmation that however the world is changing, the Spirit is still working in us and with us.

In his workshop on clearness committees, Paul Buckley reminded us that answering the query Micah poses—what does the Lord require of thee?—is best done in the context of a worshipping community. We need spiritual community in order to rightly discern the voice of God.

Throughout the past year, an envisioning committee has been meeting to help us discern what God is calling Wilmington Yearly Meeting to become. They began that process by asking Friends for written responses to the unfinished statement, “Wilmington Yearly Meeting is” The envisioning committee heard that we are a Christ-guided community, a public Quaker presence in our various communities, a force for ministry coordination, a vehicle for affiliating with broader Quaker and Christian organizations, and a spiritual family. At our next Permanent Board meeting, the committee hopes to offer a plan for a new organizational structure that will free us to act together in love.

Wilmington College Interim President Erika Goodwin, reporting on the College’s plans for re-opening this Fall in light of the challenges of COVID-19, showed us how humility is necessary to ensure the safety of a

community. This is a time at the College, she said, when we have to become learn-it-alls, not know-it-alls.

In her Saturday morning Bible study, Miriam Speaight spoke to us about the importance of compassion. She argued that compassion—loving mercy, as Micah would have it—must begin with a feeling of distress or discomfort. If we allow ourselves to pay attention to that anxiety, we can come to a place of calm from which we can act. When we act relationally, we create connective bonds of love that address our discomfort—and the pain to which we are witness—rather than denying that pain.

We could see this move from distress to creative action in how our constituent congregations have been moving through the pandemic. Both Miami-Center and Friendsville Quarterly Meetings cancelled their spring meetings to avoid bringing people together, and most of our Monthly Meetings have been physically closed for some period of time; many are still not meeting in person. COVID-19 hasn't stopped Wilmington Yearly Meeting, though. Friends are creating self-directed worship services, recording messages for broadcast over the radio, going on Facebook Live, gathering congregationally over Zoom, staying in touch via email, hosting drive-in services, starting YouTube channels,

and sharing fellowship from the foot of one another's driveways. And more, we're sure!

Our financial discussions were also underlain by a concern for action. We wanted to know what the budget required of us. What does this budget translate into for my Monthly Meeting, or for me personally? What is required of us to make the ministries of Wilmington Yearly Meeting successful?

Micah's call to act justly rang through both the USFW Lecture, delivered by Elizabeth Newby of Cincinnati Friends Meeting, and the Peace Lecture, delivered by Paul Moke of Wilmington Friends Meeting.

Ray Geers spoke of the threshold between knowing what the Lord requires of us and actively living a life of love. Elizabeth Newby offered one way over the threshold, as she shared some of her childhood memories of growing up as a vulnerable Mexican migrant laborer. As Elizabeth told her stories, she challenged us to see "immigration issues" as the stories of human beings trapped in a merciless system: people who are fully children of God and fully deserving of our emotional engagement, of love and mercy. God asks us to be willing to sit honestly with the discomfort of knowing that migrants are suffering—allowing

ourselves to be horrified by the reality that families are separated at the border, children are placed in cages, refugees are sent back to be murdered in their home countries. We need to be open to grief and outrage so that we can move into grounded loving response.

Paul Moke, in his lecture on the work of the American Friends Service Committee during WWII, paid special attention to the AFSC's unofficial responses—to the fieldworkers, largely women, who rescued hundreds of Jewish children from concentration camps while the AFSC's official response concentrated on mediation and feeding programs. These fieldworkers provided fake identities for Jewish children, hid children and their families, and smuggled children out of camps and across national borders. Their choices were at odds with what the world expected of women—and also with AFSC policy. These women acted at considerable risk to themselves. Yet they saw what justice required of them, and they moved into action.

Quakers have not always been on the side of human freedom for all, and we as a Yearly Meeting have not done all we could do to root out racism within our own body and in our communities. As our offering in the current American conversation on racial justice and injustice, we approved a statement on racial justice. Our

statement begins, “There is a gap between the ideals we profess and the realities we live.” Quakers have, in principle, rejected the idea that race should pose a social limitation. Those of us who are white, however—and this is the vast majority of us—know that we benefit from our whiteness. We uphold anti-racist ideals, but have not done the work to destroy racism, either as it is hidden within us or as it is expressed through our institutions.

And yet, we pledge to work with renewed vigor toward compassion and equal justice for all. “True godliness,” William Penn wrote in the quote that we chose for this year’s theme, “does not turn men [and women] out of the world but excites their endeavors to mend it.” We are gathered and ready for the work of mending the world.

Friends everywhere, we pray that you are also feeling this excitement about mending the world by putting love in action. True godliness isn’t about escaping the world. It’s about doing what the Lord requires: acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with Friends and with God. We extend our hands to all Friends with an invitation to walk humbly along with us.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Goff, Dan Kasztelan, Julie Rudd

7/26/2020

**WYM MEMORIALS FOR DEPARTED FRIENDS, 2019-
2020**

| | |
|------------|---|
| ADA CHAPEL | CHRISTINE A. SANFREY STEVENSON June 9, 1954 – October 28, 2019 |
| CAMPUS | LARRY GARA May 16, 1922 – November 23, 2019 |
| CHESTER | LOIS HALL HACKNEY August 12, 1945 – November 16, 2019 MARY EMMA HAINES November 25, 1922 – January 21, 2020 |
| CINCINNATI | SUZANNE JOHNSON November 17, 1938 – May 18, 2020 NAOMI BOONE OETZEL April 17, 1934 – April 13, 2020 ALLISON RODGERS January 8, 1959 – June 24, 2020 LOU SCHNIER February 4, 1931 – February 17, 2020 |
| DOVER | DAVID HARRIS April 27, 1935 – September 9, 2019 |
| JAMESTOWN | JAMES HUBERT KNISLEY March 18, 1929 – October 7, 2019 |

WILMINGTON CARL PROCTOR DEAN
Feb. 24, 1928 – September 11, 2019

MURIEL S. HIATT
July 11, 1922 – July 23, 2019

XENIA DAVID ALLEN FAWLEY
January 25, 1962-March 8, 2020

MARGARET LEWIS KATTER HEINRICH
August 13, 1939 – July 12, 2019

JOHN M. KELLER
December 26, 1943-December 26, 2019

**SECTION 2 ~ YEARLY MEETING
REPORTS**

ADVANCE REPORTS

**WILMINGTON YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL
SESSIONS, JULY 23-26, 2020**

**BOARD ON CHRISTIAN CONCERNS FOR PEACE
AND SOCIETY**

Our committee started getting reorganized at the March Mini-yearly meeting, some people in person and some on the telephone. I became clerk and we discussed getting a speaker for the peace lecture at WYM in July. Paul Moke will be presenting the topic, “Quakers and the Holocaust.”

Our committee obtained representatives for the FCNL meeting which will happen in November on Zoom. The reps are Neil Snarr, Michael Snarr, Joan VanSickle Sloan, and Lucy Enge.

In the future, we hope to be a more active committee—perhaps helping local meetings on their projects instead of duplicating projects. If your meeting has an idea that could use extra help, please let us know.

Mary Ann Raizk, Clerk

BOARD ON FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Because of the uncertainties surrounding the current health situation, Finance and Stewardship met but once to date this year. The financial status of the Yearly

Meeting has been monitored by Katie Ubry-Terrell and the Finance Committee clerk with data and other inputs ably provided by our accountant, Dicka Nye. The Yearly Meeting has been able to continue to operate because of the ongoing support of members who have continued their donations either through individual contributions or donations through their Monthly Meetings. If we believe that the Yearly Meeting is a force for good, it makes sense to continue our support. Now, I believe, is the time for us, collectively, to focus on the potential for the positive contributions by WYM, not those issues which have the potential to separate us. The YM needs your continued generous support to continue the good work it has engaged in for the last 120 years.

Mike Miller, Clerk

BOARD ON MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

Last year the Board on Missions and the Board on Evangelism and Outreach were combined to form the Board on Missions and Evangelism.

Since our 2019 sessions the board has had several events. At the 2019 Corn Festival, the Quaker Bakers brought in \$1,748. Out of that, \$500 each was given to the Youth and Young Adult Committee, Aged Pastors Fund, and the FUM Summer Project in Ramallah. We appreciate all who worked in the tent and all the friends who made baked goods. We could not do this without you!

In October, Sing for Missions was held at Xenia Friends Meeting. A collection of \$300 was brought in. Xenia Friends Meeting also donated \$300 in memory of Lois Hackney. Lois worked tirelessly on the Missions Committee. Her presence and giving spirit is greatly missed.

The Quaker Bakers were invited to participate in Wilmington's Holidazzle Parade Thanksgiving weekend. Our bakers came through, but the weather did not. Instead, we held a 2-day bake sale in the YM office, selling to students and faculty and those who wandered in. We took in \$165. All the leftovers were used for the Belize Spaghetti Fundraiser at Wilmington Friends Meeting and Nancy McCormick's Golf Cart Ministry at Wilmington College.

The board has committed to raising enough funds to send a young person to the next FUM Triennial, which was cancelled this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. The commitment continues for whenever the Triennial is rescheduled. We want to raise enough to pay registration and airfare.

We had several projects in the works when things were shut down in March. When we feel that things can safely be resumed, we will begin planning again.

As of the beginning of July, plans are being made for Clinton County to have the Corn Festival. If it happens, the Quaker Bakers will be there! We will obviously have to modify some things. Baked goods can be dropped off at the food drop off for people who do not want to attend. More information will be coming later.

Cathy Hadley, Clerk

ADDENDUM: As of today, July 13, the Corn Festival has been cancelled. Thinking about ideas on how to raise some funds for the committee. Stay tuned.

BOARD ON YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

During last summer's Wilmington Yearly Meeting sessions, the Youth and Young Adults Committee committed ourselves to being more "on the ball" when it comes to youth programming. Youth programming has long been something that is important to WYM, and that we are all able to get behind—regardless of our differences. The Youth and Young Adults Committee also feels strongly that youth programming has the power to change lives. Some of us on the committee have experienced this first-hand. And so, we went into the remainder of 2019 and into 2020 with a renewed sense of energy and purpose. In some ways, we experienced success in our commitment to be more "together", and in other ways, we have struggled.

In October of 2019, the Youth and Young Adults Committee hosted a lock-in at Quaker Knoll. The dates were aligned with camp closing so that the youth could assist Jay Schroeder and the Quaker Knoll Camp Board with camp closing on Saturday morning. Unfortunately, the weather was uncooperative, and a lot of our plans—including assisting with camp closing—did not work out. However, there were 8 youth in attendance, so the

committee was excited about trying to have another lock-in in April of 2020 to coincide with camp opening.

Then, COVID-19 happened. The committee made the decision to cancel the April lock-in with hopes of rescheduling at a later time. We also made the very difficult decision, in May of 2020, to not have Quaker Knoll camp this summer. Because camp is so important to so many, and it is a devastating blow not to have camp, the committee is currently working on what we are calling “virtual camp”. With the help of some faithful camp counselors, the committee is creating a series of videos that we plan to post on Facebook in hopes of bringing certain parts of the camp experience to Friends’ homes. The Youth and Young Adults committee has also purchased a plain white camp T-shirt that says “Jesus is Essential” that will be tie dyed and given away to past campers. These T-shirts will also be available, by donation, for anyone who is not a camper who might want one. Stay tuned to Quaker Knoll Facebook page and the WYM Facebook page for virtual camp videos!

As of right now, the Youth and Young Adults Committee is not planning any in-person youth activities for the remainder of 2020, due to COVID-19. We will revisit the possibility of having in-person youth activities in 2021.

The Youth and Young Adults Committee will be putting out a job posting for a Camp Coordinator for the 2021 camping season here shortly. Over the past several years, we have not followed a formal hiring process for this position, so in the spirit of “getting it together”, we are attempting to be organized in our hiring. Anyone

who is passionate about youth, Jesus, Quaker values, and the Quaker Knoll camping program is encouraged to apply.

The committee would like to extend a special “thank you” to Dicka Nye, Celeste Nye, Sadie Nye, Wesley Nye, Bryona Hudson, Kenzie Fawley, Ashley Harper, Haley Schroeder, Jordan Snarr, and James Godfrey for all of their help so far with virtual camp. We would also like to extend our appreciation to Katie Ubry-Terrell for all her help with coordinating youth events and with virtual camp over this past year.

Respectfully submitted, Hannah Lutz, Clerk

COLLEGE COMMITTEE

The closure of Wilmington College because of the COVID-19 outbreak has significantly disrupted the work of the College Committee. The annual spring banquet scheduled for March 20, 2020, was cancelled and work on items surrounding the 150th Anniversary of the college has largely come to a halt. The college plans on reopening for full operations in August but much uncertainty remains about what will happen and what ancillary activities will be allowed to go forward. We have not been informed of any activity on the project to place plaques with historical information on various campus buildings, a project that Yearly Meeting decided to support with fundraising, research, and/or labor at last year’s annual session. Christine Snyder has

prepared a draft list of possible plaques and this has been shared with college personnel.

Likewise, the event that would celebrate the role of Friends in the founding and subsequent history of Wilmington College is uncertain although significant planning had been completed before the shutdown. Four members of the College Committee (Doug Woodmansee, Christine Snyder, Miriam Speaight, and Stephen Potthoff) are working with college staff on this project. The group has settled on an event that would be organized around the traditional Friends Testimonies (Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, Stewardship). For each testimony there would be a brief video describing an incident in college history that illustrates the testimony. Each video would be followed by a musical selection that is also connected to that testimony. The date for the event has been set at Friday, March 19, 2021. The event is expected to be held in Boyd Auditorium. Executive Committee approved coordinating the date of the 2021 Mini Yearly Meeting to coincide with the event.

The committee sponsored another College Employee Appreciation Event on September 25, 2019, in the Quaker Heritage Center. Refreshments and a program by Stephen Potthoff about the "Bishops Bible" that T. Canby Jones donated to the college were provided. Attendance was approximately twenty persons. The committee is trying to think of ways to make next year's event more attractive.

Doug Woodmansee, Christine Snyder, and Neil Snarr were invited to present information about Friends as

part of the Academic Area's new faculty/staff orientation program. Lucy Enge, a young Friend and Wilmington College student, also participated. Information presented included the organizational structure of Friends, the role of Wilmington Yearly Meeting in Wilmington College Trustee appointments, Quaker terminology, Friend's testimonies, and the Quaker focus on Social Justice.

The committee has an ongoing concern about the strength of the connections between Wilmington Yearly Meeting and Wilmington College. The committee was distressed that Quaker Leader scholarships are no longer available to first year students. It fears that the new policy will weaken the college's ability to recruit Quaker students. The committee also noted with concern that one of the scenarios in the college's Facilities Master Plan called for the removal of Kelly Center but made no mention of a replacement structure. The committee received assurances from President Jim Reynolds and Vice President Brad Mitchell that Kelly Center is an important asset to the college and there were no active plans to raze the building. The committee remains concerned that having one person serve as Director of both the Quaker Heritage Center and the Peace Resource Center sets unreasonable expectations for that person.

On June 30, 2020, President James Reynolds left the college to become President of Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. Doug Woodmansee met with Dr. Reynolds to convey best wishes on behalf of the committee and the Yearly Meeting. Dr. Erika Goodwin

has been appointed as Interim President. A search committee for a new president has been formed with Doug Woodmansee and David Raizk serving as representatives of Wilmington Yearly Meeting. The committee has been meeting regularly over the internet and has completed work on the position description and an advertising plan. The college will make a public announcement of the search in July. There are hopes that the position may be filled in as few as four months although the COVID-19 pandemic has injected some uncertainty into the process.

Prepared by Doug Woodmansee, Clerk, Wilmington Yearly Meeting College Committee

COMMITTEE ON TRAINING, RECORDING, AND EMPOWERING PASTORS AND MINISTERS

The Training and Recording Committee has been busy this year. We have conducted seminars at Quaker Knoll on Hebrew Scripture, the Christian Testament, Pastoral Care and Counseling, Communication and Quakerism. For our final session of the year we met at Wilmington Friends Meeting where our Recording candidates spoke about what they believe and why they believe it. Four candidates are currently under our care, with two of these candidates, Hannah Lutz and Miriam Speaight, being recommended for Recording at this year's Yearly Meeting. They have completed the T and R requirements as outlined in the T and R Manual, which was approved at last year's Yearly Meeting.

We are saddened to have lost Lois Hackney this past year, one of our active committee members. We hope to have a replacement soon.

We will begin another year of seminars later this year when the Covid 19 restrictions can be lifted, and look forward to more times of spiritual growth and learning with our Recording Candidates.

Respectfully Submitted, James R. Newby, Clerk

ENVISIONING TASK FORCE

Task Force Membership: Katie Ubry-Terrell; Jennilou Grotevant; Dana Dunseith; Miriam Speaight; Jonathon Goff; Patricia Thomas, clerk

PROCESS

The Envisioning Task Force was established by the Permanent Board in March 2020. It was directed to describe the purpose and ministry of Wilmington Yearly Meeting, and then to put together a proposed organizational structure which supports the faith, practice, and mission of Wilmington Yearly Meeting to be submitted to Yearly Meeting for approval.

STEP ONE: The task force invited all members of WYM to complete the following sentence: **Wilmington Yearly Meeting is...** We received 23 written responses ranging in length from one word to several paragraphs; from full sentences to lists; from theological statements to this-is-how-we-are-organized-and-how-we-do-things. Taken as a whole, the detail and scope of the responses

provide a delightfully thorough description of Wilmington Yearly Meeting.

STEP TWO: These responses were organized into five categories: *Spiritual; Organizational; Service and Mission; Relationship, and Let Your Lives Speak*. Because several responses talked about the recent split within Wilmington Yearly Meeting, we added a sixth category: *The Split*.

A word about the results:

- 1) The task force noticed considerable overlap in the things Friends wrote about.
- 2) We note that many of the responses could fit in more than one category. In most instances, the task force assigned each response to one category.
- 3) All responses are anonymous.
- 4) All responses are included in this report.

BRIEF NARRATIVE SUMMARY

This narrative is a summary of the responses received by the Envisioning Task Force and is offered as a description of Wilmington Yearly Meeting. (A detailed summary of the responses follows.)

Who/what is Wilmington Yearly Meeting of Friends?

We worship and do business in the manner of Friends as a community guided by the Holy Spirit and Light of Christ, seeking to know the will of God. Wilmington Yearly Meeting is an organization that conducts the business required to sustain a Quaker presence in

Southwest Ohio and Eastern Tennessee. The Yearly Meeting coordinates ministry and service with a wider reach and impact than is possible for individuals or monthly meetings. This outreach is expressed in part by our active affiliation with regional, national, and international organizations.

Wilmington Yearly Meeting is more than an organization with structure and physical locale engaged in mission and service. It is also a spiritual family experienced in terms of the depth of care and compassion Friends have for each other. Letting our lives speak means doing the things we believe God is calling us to do as a community of Christ-Centered Quakers striving to live the teachings of Jesus.

The decision by a third of our monthly meetings to withdraw from fellowship in Wilmington Yearly Meeting and its effect on the yearly meeting is noted in some of the responses.

THE DETAILED SUMMARY

- 1) **Spiritual:** *We worship and do business in the manner of Friends as a community guided by the Holy Spirit and Light of Christ, seeking to know the will of God.*

Narrative: Wilmington Yearly Meeting is a fellowship of Christ-centered Quakers who seek to know and serve Christ as Inner Light and Teacher by empowering our monthly meetings and encouraging everyone through worship, workshops, fellowship meals, speakers, and

Bible study. Friends rely on the Holy Spirit for their authority, guidance, and inspiration.

Wilmington Yearly Meeting is worshippers who choose to travel the spiritual journey together and are bound by common beliefs though expressed uniquely in each monthly meeting. WYM is a fellowship of believers who seek to practice testimonies of integrity, peace, simplicity, equality, community, stewardship.

Wilmington Yearly Meeting ascertains the condition, both spiritual and temporal, of its constituent meetings and encourages and promotes an understanding of our unique Quaker traditions and perspectives.

- 2) **Organizational:** *Wilmington Yearly Meeting is an organization that conducts the business required to sustain a Quaker presence in Southwest Ohio and Eastern Tennessee.*

Narrative: Wilmington Yearly Meeting maintains an office on the campus of Wilmington College in Wilmington, Ohio and is the organizational structure within the Religious Society of Friends composed of monthly meetings in southwest Ohio and eastern Tennessee.

The yearly meeting comes together each year in annual sessions to conduct business in the manner of Friends. It is a “bottom up” organization. WYM operates a camp facility for use by its members which can be rented out to groups, businesses, and conferences. WYM trains, mentors, and records those called to ministry, preserves historical records, and is responsible for a college. WYM

is one of the yearly meetings of Friends United Meeting (FUM) and Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). It is a group and community of people who represent and follow the Faith and Practice of the Society of Friends and Quakerism. It is the face of Quakerism.

“Yearly” denotes a geographical area as well as a calendar date.

- 3) **Service and Ministry:** *Wilmington Yearly Meeting coordinates ministry and service with a wider reach and impact than is possible for individuals or monthly meetings. This outreach is expressed in part by our active affiliation with regional, national, and international organizations.*

Narrative: Wilmington Yearly Meeting is responsive to requests and calls for help. It is a way for small meetings to multiply impact and influence globally. It is a group of Friends motivated and united by a sense of mission but divided on many theological and social issues. We feel connected to missions in Belize, Cuba, Africa, and other locations as well as with other groups of Friends and Christians around the world in joint projects of service. Most recently our hearts have united around causes related to Quaker schools. WYM Friends have been effective in raising funds for everyone they believe in.

WYM helps its members to grow spiritually and thrive in service, serves as a training ground and mentoring place for young people, teaching the stories of Jesus and the Christian and Quaker saints especially to children.

Quaker Knoll Camp is a wonderful asset and place of enjoyment for many families, campers, counselors, and groups of people who schedule special events.

The Yearly Meeting sends representatives to FCNL and maintains contact with AFSC and FWCC. WYM engages with the Quaker Heritage Center, the Peace Resource Center, and with the help of Wilmington College library staff, preserves the history of the organization.

- 4) **Relationship:** *In addition to speaking about WYM as an organization with structure and physical locale and as the things we do together in mission and service, Friends describe Wilmington Yearly Meeting as a spiritual family in terms of the depth of care and compassion we have for each other.*

Narrative: Wilmington Yearly Meeting is a spiritual family, the glue to keep the meetings together, a fellowship of Seekers. WYM is a connector of meetings, people, and souls. Through the Office Coordinator, information is gathered and shared on a weekly basis. WYM provides an opportunity to see old friends and meet new ones.

- 5) **Let Your Lives Speak:** *Letting our lives speak means doing the things we believe God is calling us to do as a community of Christ-Centered Quakers striving to live the teachings of Jesus.*

Narrative: Wilmington Yearly Meeting reminds the larger Christian community that 'God has come to teach his people himself' and encourages and promotes an

understanding of our unique Quaker traditions and perspectives. WYM offers the world a different approach to God and how to live in this world. It is a place to address and try to correct social injustices, a place where people can know that Quakers are indeed alive and well and providing ministry and service in our communities. Articles appear in the local papers.

6) **The Split:** *The decision by a third of our monthly meetings to withdraw from fellowship in Wilmington Yearly Meeting, and its effect on the yearly meeting, is noted in some of the responses.*

Narrative: The Quaker values of equality and integrity run deep in WYM, deep enough to result in a split when some Friends began forcing decisions counter to those values. During a time of great diversity of belief, a number of monthly meetings have withdrawn from WYM. The resulting decrease in financial contributions, and the lack of available members to staff committees, have resulted in WYM becoming greatly diminished in size and impact.

STEP THREE: The Envisioning Task Force is ready to begin the work of creating an organizational structure which supports the faith, practice, and mission of Wilmington Yearly Meeting. The goal is to have a first draft ready for consideration by the Permanent Board in 2021.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

This committee met as needed this past year. One of our first tasks was to organize a search committee to fill the position of WYM Coordinator. Donne Hayden was resigning this position. During that first meeting appreciation was expressed for the diligent work Donne performed for the YM. Coming into a “part time” position that used to be held by two people, one full time and one part time, is an amazing task for anyone to take on. Donne was also quite helpful training her replacement which helped with a smooth transition. Donne’s experience, background, diligence, and patience were exactly what was needed during this transitional time of our Yearly Meeting. We give thanks for her service.

The search committee was successful in presenting Katie Ubry-Terrell to serve as our new WYM Coordinator. Katie is an extremely capable representative serving as the Yearly Meeting Coordinator. Her Friday emails are something we all look forward to as she has a talent for presenting information that is centered, engaging, uplifting, and cheerful.

Patricia Thomas received approval to form a task force to continue the work being done on articulating policies and procedures for the work of YM committees and boards. Members are: Dana Dunseith, Patricia Thomas, Katie Ubry-Terrell, Miriam Speaight, Jennilou Grotevant, and Jonathan Goff. Patricia shared that the task force needed an understanding of how we perceive WYM before policies and procedures could be completed. The

group therefore gathered responses to the question, “WYM is....” and was working toward using these responses to conduct a workshop at Annual Sessions in July. Because yearly meeting is being held virtually this year, the workshop will not take place. The task force will compose a summary report on the survey results and work toward a proposed organizational structure for WYM.

Katie Ubry-Terrell received approval to apply for a grant through FWCC for funds (\$1,000) for technology for the YM. These funds can be used in a multitude of ways for the Yearly Meeting to update technology.

The Executive Committee approved representatives to:

- FWCC – J. P. Lund will continue, and Glen Williams is approved as a new representative
- Ohio Council of Churches – Dana Dunseith will continue and Anne Hutchinson is approved as a new representative
- FUM – Mike Miller and Katie Ubry-Terrell will continue

Nancy McCormick, clerk of Nominating Committee (NC), reported that the committee has a slate in place for approval at YM. Concerns from the NC were brought to the Executive Committee and a considerable amount of time was spent discussing term limits, rotation, and how to form an NC. A recommendation will be presented to these Yearly Meeting sessions recommending the Executive Committee submit four people to be named as the Nominating Committee.

A few recommendations were brought forward from Mike McCormick, clerk of Friends Disaster Service (FDS), about the name and structure of FDS. The Executive Committee approved to bring forward a recommendation to the Yearly Meeting that the name be changed to Friends Response Team (FRT) as it does respond to different needs, not just disaster service. The recommendation will also include that FDS/FRT remain an independent committee to be able to respond to needs in a timely manner.

With the recent unjust deaths, protests, and riots, the committee spent time in prayer and discussion on how we as a Yearly Meeting can work towards equality and peace in our communities and nation. Many reported on what they as individuals and/or meetings are trying to do to help remedy these concerns. Some time will be spent on discussing these social issues during Ministry & Counsel at Yearly Meeting.

Jeannette Hamby, Clerk

FRIENDS DISASTER SERVICE

I traveled with the Belize Service team led by my wife Nancy, in March of 2020. Friends Disaster was able to assist the Friends School in Belize with minor repairs in the classrooms and some minor work around the building.

We paid for: Sandpaper and varnish for the repair of approximately 37 desks for the classrooms. The team did the sanding and re-varnishing of these desks, along

with some students. We had a team wash and re-paint a classroom floor for Ms. Greta's classroom. FDS always treats the service team and the Field Staff to a meal out. This year we ate at Mimi's Bistro, \$321.00.

Total Expense in Belize:

Western Depot \$28.00 – sandpaper and sponges/for desks.

Habet: \$47.00: Clorox, varnish, polyurethane, wood rollers, mops, bleach / Ms. Gretta's floor repair.

Habet: \$272.00: Brackets, shower curtain, duct tape, garbage cans, etc. Repair around the building.

Benny's: \$9.00: large multipurpose sponges/desks.

James Godfrey: repaired 15 laptops and reconfigured YIFI for the school.

Total: \$677.00

While in Belize I had an acute attack of Bell's Palsy. My first trip to the hospital was with terrible pain in my right ear. The second trip, via ambulance, was the Bell's Palsy. The hospital would not accept our traveler's insurance, so Nancy used the FDS credit card to help assist with the payments in case we did not have enough balance on our personal card. This debt has been paid back.

I would like to personally say this work team despite my illness picked up the ball and completed the tasks at hand. In fact, they accomplished more than what was on our work team to-do list. I was very proud of the accomplishments of this young team as they served with a purpose and helped Nancy during this difficult time.

2019/2020 PROJECTS

Sam and Becky Barber: Iowa Yearly Meeting called me in March 2020, to see if WYM Friends Disaster would be able to help pay for the re-roofing of the Barber's rental home in University Park, Iowa. Sam and Becky were former Friends United Meeting Field Staff in Belize. They continue to work in Belize City as Missionaries and rent their home to help supplement their income as they minister in Belize. I spoke with former FDS Co-Clerk Jeanette Hamby regarding this and we agreed we had the money to assist the Barbers in this repair. The amount was \$1,000.

Hope House: A local women's shelter in Wilmington, Ohio, needed an awning on their porch so women could sit under it during rainy days or during the heat of the evening. I also spoke with former FDS Co-Clerk Jenette Hamby regarding this expense and we agreed since we had the money it would be good to help this shelter improve their existing porch. The amount was \$800.00 purchased at Lowes – Patricia Thomas paid for the awning and FDS will repay her.

A SMALL HISTORY OF FDS

Wilmington Friends Disaster Service has been involved in the work of Christ as we serve others for 35+ years now. One of the first Wilmington Yearly Meeting FDS trips of a larger group of friends was to Mary Anis Shaw's in Monroe County, Tennessee, after her home burned. I will never forget people who came from Northern Ohio driving all night to work on her house and then turn around and drive home 2 days later after

working all day. The community building with one another as we shared the love of Christ blew me away! Nancy helped Freeda Johnson organize the feeding of people in the little fire department of Rafter making sure all were hydrated and fed well. That was the beginning for me, and I was hooked.

Since then we have helped with the work in Homestead, Florida, after Hurricane Andrew. Marilyn Haag and I took two work teams down to that region. We worked under the auspices of Samaritans Purse and American Friends Service Committee. Our charge was to roof and repair homes. We took several teams and worked after Katrina, and Rita, in Mississippi and Louisiana. We were charged to roof, repair homes, and build new homes 12-16 foot in the air, which is above flood stage. We took four small groups and worked with Dean Johnson and Bob Wynn to Elizabethton, Tennessee, to repair homes and build two new homes after flash floods hit that area. We traveled to North Carolina several times to assist with repairing homes after storm surges in that area. Several of us went to Ottumwa, Iowa, and began the rebuilding of a church that was destroyed by an arsonist. We have been to Georgia to repair homes after a tornado came through that area. We stayed at the church that President Jimmy Carter worshiped at. We also spent time in Louisiana, helping a large family of eight rebuild their home after a fire. We traveled to Northeast Ohio to build a new home for someone who lost their home to a tornado. We have been to Northwest Ohio to help build a new home for a family who lost their home to a fire. We have been to Buffalo, Iowa, to help rebuild a home above flood stage after

flooding there. We traveled to Memphis, Tennessee, to help rebuild another church that was destroyed by an arsonist. We also helped work on the children's home in Columbus, Indiana, White's Institute, a favorite place of Margarete Hadley's; we worked on two different group homes there. There were several homes in Monroe County, Tennessee, that we were involved with as well. One was on Citico Creek that flooded several homes. We went in and scooped-out mud from their homes, cut off interior insulation above the flood line and let the home dry out. We came back in a couple of weeks, replaced insulation and put the home back together. I was sure glad Gene Bivens had us number the vertical board and batten. We re-built a home in Tellico Plains for a young couple whose mobile home was whipped up in a tornado and lived to tell it; they were eternally grateful. We have been to Richmond, Indiana, and worked with the Starr Program Homes for a week. This was a community project to work on low-income homes. We also had a great opportunity to brainstorm with other volunteer groups for the week. At the end of the week we worked with a group from Indiana and worked on the shelter house at Quaker Hill. A couple of weeks later we took a family to shingle the roof. There have been several day trips of volunteers traveling to help repair or rebuild a home or two. There have been several ramps built in our community by volunteers of FDS. This is a very short history of the ministry work that FDS has done. Many of you reading this have either been on some of these work teams and/or have held us up in prayer and monetary donations. To that we say thank you.

CLINTON COUNTY CORN FESTIVAL

The major fundraiser for FDS each year is the Clinton County Corn Festival. For the past 20 some years FDS has made ice cream in the fellowship room of Chester Friends. We have divided the expense and income down the middle. A couple of years we gave Chester a donation toward their electric bill and use of the building. We have sold ice cream at the Clinton County Corn Festival with good cheer as well as a great quality product where people look forward to coming to this event and enjoying this great, tasty treat. We are grateful for the monthly meetings who have continued to support us as we serve others in God's love.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Previous policies and procedures have placed Friends Disaster Service under the care of the Evangelism Committee, but Friends Disaster Service has always been a group that stands on their own, because of the nature of the work. The response time in many instances needs to be made quickly and does not need to be bogged down in committee decision making.

As Co-Clerk of this committee I have worked alongside Marilyn Haag, Jeannette Hamby, and the Yearly Meeting Executive Secretaries to assist with the decisions of the ministry work of this organization. Former yearly meeting treasure, Fred Krisher, was also an instrumental individual to bounce ideas off. I have not always been prudent in getting receipts in when necessary – but the credit card has now eliminated that process.

I currently recommend we appoint another Co-Clerk of this response team – a faithful way to be accountable to the wider organization. I have talked with Rand Ubry-Terrell, and he has agreed to co-chair this committee with me, if his name meets with your approval.

I am proposing a recommendation that we change the name of Friends Disaster Service to: Friends Response Team of Wilmington Yearly Meeting. I feel this better represents what we currently are all about and covers a multitude of jobs that we will continue to do for those we are serving.

Respectfully Submitted, Mike McCormick, FDS chair

HISTORICAL MATERIALS

The Historical Materials Committee met once this year, in July 2020. This meeting was primarily to discuss access to the archives during the pandemic. Watson Library is currently closed to the public and will only be admitting Wilmington College students during the school year. Access to the archives is still possible, but physical access will be limited, and walk-ins are not possible. Anyone wishing to do archival research should contact Watson Library to arrange a meeting. Watson Library is also not able to accept deposits at this time. Committee members are looking into Meetings that would be able to store a deposit until the library is able to accept it. If materials need to be deposited to avoid their destruction, storage space can be found, so contact the library for assistance.

The Historical Materials Committee also reminds Meetings that it is important to record the impact of the pandemic as it happens. If possible, keep a record of when you can't meet because of the pandemic, when you are able to re-open, and what the meeting looks like when you do. If a Meeting uses Zoom, or rearranges seating to enforce social distancing, even that information is going to be an important part of the record.

The committee also agreed at the July meeting that individuals might wish to know if a book or record is available in the Quaker collection before contacting Watson Library. Watson Library's catalog is available online and does not require an account to use. The direct link to the library catalog is <https://cat.opal-libraries.org/search~S22/X>. To access it from the college website, <https://www.wilmington.edu/>, hover your mouse over "Academics" on the menu bar and select the link to Watson Library. Select the "Other Library Resources" link (this will be the last link on the Watson Library page) and "OPAL Catalog". It is called OPAL Catalog because the library is part of a consortium, but the catalog is set up to search only for items in Watson Library.

In other business, the library has purchased a cradle scanner. This allows the scanning of fragile books and documents that cannot be safely placed on a standard scanner, and the scanning of larger items than a standard scanner can safely handle. This will allow the library to move forward with the digitization of archive materials.

The library closed with the rest of the campus in March and is only slowly opening back up, but there have still been researchers using the archives. Particularly, in April of this year, Wilmington College was contacted by a researcher from the TV series, “Who Do You Think You Are?”, for information on the Miami Visitor, Patrick Henry Ellis, the Satterthwaite family (who were associated with Miami Monthly Meeting), and John E. Moss. Staff were able to locate census information on the requested names along with some additional materials, and were able to direct the researcher to other institutions indexing the Miami Visitor. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting also asked for research on any incidence of the 1918-1920 Influenza pandemic in the minutes for those years. One instance of correspondence from Baltimore Yearly Meeting, which was unable to meet due to the influenza pandemic, was located in the minutes. The pandemic was not otherwise mentioned in Yearly Meeting minutes.

Watson Library has a new Head of Reference Services and Quaker Research Coordinator. Elizabeth House is a graduate of Kent State University (MLIS) and Ohio Wesleyan University (BA in English Literature). She started at Watson Library in September 2019. It has been a challenging year to start a new job, but she is very happy to be here, and looking forward to working with you in the future. Before this position she worked as a Library Technician at Southern State Community College, and she has worked with Southern State’s Southern Ohio Genealogical Society collection and with the Highland County Historical Society.

For questions about preservation or Quaker research, please contact Watson Library staff at 937-481-2345 or Elizabeth at elizabeth_house@wilmington.edu. The email library@wilmington.edu will also reach all three Watson Librarians – Lucinda Chandler, Elizabeth House, and Lee Bowman.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth House, Clerk

MINISTRY & COUNSEL

This has been an unusual year. Ministry & Counsel has been diligent in prayer since early March, asking God's guidance and protection on our world, our nation, our communities and our meetings as we as a world are embroiled in a pandemic involving the Covid-19 virus. The safety restrictions related to interpersonal distancing have caused most meetings to close in-person gatherings for a time. Some have been able to continue meeting online via YouTube, FaceBook and Zoom. Lately, a few smaller meetings have re-opened in-person gatherings – outdoors or social distancing indoors. Each meeting strives to keep in touch with members and attenders in various ways. Please continue these efforts as the virus infection numbers are once again at an all-time high and continue to increase. Medical scientists still say it will probably be at least early 2021 before there is an effective vaccine for this virus. Meantime, we want to keep our youth and academic instructors, staff, and administrators in prayer as schools make plans for fall school sessions. Most will offer in-person instruction as well as online options,

which were available for the first time, nationwide, in the spring. In addition, our nation has been brought face to face, again, with racial injustices as we've once again experienced several murders of unarmed black people by police. Many of our meetings and individuals have reached out to try to establish relationships and address racial inequities in our own communities.

So, because of the pandemic dangers of a large group of people being together in one building, Wilmington Yearly Meeting will not hold in-person sessions this year in July 2020, and will conduct sessions online via Zoom technology.

At last year's annual meeting, Ministry & Counsel sessions approved this unity statement: The Wilmington Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Counsel declare our experience of unity in Christ even when we are not united on issues.

In July, the Training and Recording Committee recommended two new candidates to start the process for recording: Ray Geers of Cincinnati Friends Meeting, recommended by Miami Center Quarterly Meeting for recording as a minister with gifts in chaplaincy; and Katie Ubry-Terrell of Fairview Friends Meeting, recommended for recording as a minister of the Gospel. With WYM Ministry & Counsel functioning in place of Fairfield Quarter which hasn't met for some time, a WYM M&C clearness committee was appointed to meet with Katie to determine clearness for her calling. The committee brought a strong endorsement of Katie as a T&R candidate.

At Permanent Board Meeting in March, Training and Recording Committee brought forth two recommendations to be recorded at the July 2020 yearly meeting session: Miriam Speaight of Springfield Meeting as a minister of the Gospel with a gift of healing, and Hannah Lutz of Ada Chapel Meeting as a minister of the Gospel.

The Training and Recording Committee also asked the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee to set aside time for celebration at YM to recognize Friends who are being recorded in ministry.

Jim Newby, clerk of Training and Recording, presented a revised manual for use by the Training and Recording Committee to prepare candidates for recording with emphasis on seminar training rather than prepared written work based on readings. The seminars are also open to all Friends as a means of spiritual enrichment. After the manual was approved, the session asked that it be posted on the WYM website and also that three printed copies be sent to each monthly meeting.

A discussion brought numerous concerns that there should be further effort at visitation among meetings and individuals and including geographical outliers. Much already happens among meetings when there are special events and services at individual meetings where others attend, as well as yearly meeting, quarterly meeting, college, USFW, youth events, travel to missions and other happenings. In order to have a more formal tracking of intervisitation and to have new ideas shared, the Ministry and Counsel clerk asked Miriam Speaight, who brought the original concern, to

organize formal visitation efforts using office facilities and any available time of the office coordinator to accomplish this. During this year, and continuing the efforts started by Donnie Hayden, Katie Ubry-Terrell has sent weekly Friday emails to Friends which list activities and events throughout the Yearly Meeting. This regular communication has been extremely helpful to keep us all apprised of ways we can visit together, worship together, serve together, have fun together. Later in the year, M&C Friends added “community building” to the description of this intervisitation effort.

The theme and Scripture selected for 2019-2020 WYM is:

Theme: “True Godliness does not turn [people] out of the world but excites their endeavors to mend it.” From William Penn’s, *No Cross, No Crown*.

Scripture: Micah 6:8: “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.”

In addition, the Friendsville camp song is to be the YM song for next year.

As follow-up to expressed M&C concerns for regular “training” workshops, for July 2020 yearly meeting sessions we asked Paul Buckley to conduct a workshop on Clearness Committees. We had also planned to have workshops on clerking and on writing memorials, but those had to be omitted due to the time constraints

imposed by having abbreviated sessions online on Zoom rather than in-person sessions.

During this year, Londonderry Friends Meeting has been working with the YM Trustees and YM Presiding Clerk, J.P. Lund, to lay down that Meeting and sell the building to a congregation who has already been holding services in the building for awhile. WYM Ministry & Counsel clerk also reached out to members of Londonderry Meeting to offer spiritual or other support if desired or wanted, but no response came, so we offer prayers for the peaceful laying down of the Meeting in good order.

As a nation and world, we are now ensconced in a pandemic and also continue experiencing further racial injustices toward black and brown neighbors. We continue to offer fervent prayers for a vaccine to eliminate the pandemic. We also seek to offer concrete actions, as a corporate body of Meetings and as individuals, to improve racial relations and to promote friendship among all people and races. May our efforts be in God's will and to His Glory.

Respectfully Submitted, Joan VanSickle Sloan, Clerk

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**Faith and Practice states that all Yearly Meeting Clerks are appointed annually and may serve no more than 6 consecutive years. It would assist the work of the nominating committee if the number of years a person has served is listed in the Minute book.

AGREED TO SERVE:

2020 – 2021 OFFICERS:

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| WYM Presiding Clerk | J.P. Lund (year 3) |
| Asst. WYM Presiding Clerk | Jeannette Hamby (year 3) |
| Recording Clerk (year 3) | Jennilou Grotevant |
| Asst Recording Clerk | Sharon Trivett (year 2) |
| Treasurer | Billie Baker |
| Bookkeeper | Dicka Nye (Employee) |
| WYM Coordinator (Employee) | Katie Ubry-Terrell |

2020 – 2021 WYM MINISTRY & COUNSEL:

| | |
|--|----------|
| WYM Ministry & Counsel Clerk | Joan |
| VanSickle Sloan (year 3) | |
| WYM Ministry & Counsel Asst Clerk | Patricia |
| Thomas (year 3) | |
| WYM Ministry & Counsel Recording Clerk | Gary |
| Farlow (year 5) | |
| WYM Ministry & Counsel Asst Rec Clerk | Julie |
| Rudd (year 5) | |

Board on Missions and Evangelism:

Barb Napier 2023 (1st term) – Cincinnati Friends

Board on Christian Concerns for Peace & Society:

Gary Huffenberger, 2023 (1st term) – Campus Friends

Scilla Wahrhaftig, 2023 (1st term) – Campus Friends

College Committee:

Stephen Pottoff, 2023 (2nd term) – Campus Friends

Terry Miller, 2023 (1st term) – Eastern Hills
Gary Farlow, 2023 (1st term) – Xenia Friends

Training & Recording:

David Brindle, 2023 (1st term) – Wilmington Friends

Youth & Young Adults:

Jordan Snarr, 2023 (1st term) – Wilmington Friends

FWCC:

J.P. Lund – Eastern Hills

Glenn Williams – Cincinnati Friends

Ohio Council of Churches:

Dana Dunseith – Rep – Fairview

Ann Hutchinson – Alternate – Eastern Hills

FCNL:

Lucy Enge – Wilmington Friends (new appointee)

FUM:

Mike Miller

Katie Ubry-Terrell

*Next year one new representative will be appointed. Is
Katie Ex-Officio?*

Friends Disaster Service:

*Recommending a name change to Friends Response
Team. Same ministry, a new name that includes non-
disaster work. Such as ramps, and minor work to assist
an individual with disabilities, etc. Yes, if a disaster*

comes along and our group can handle it, we will continue to do our best to serve those in need.

Mike McCormick, Co-Clerk
Rand Ubry-Terrell, Co-Clerk

Pastoral Care Committee:

This committee has not been active as a committee especially since COVID 19. But, this committee has seen local meetings meet the crisis of COVID by using Facebook, Zoom, email, snail mail cards, phone calls, and some back porch visitation 6 feet away on Sunday mornings to stay connected with congregations. As clerk, I have wondered about the purpose of the Pastoral Care Committee. I saw this committee as a way to encourage one another and remain faithful to one another as we serve in love. Before the virus hit, several local Wilmington pastors were getting together to break bread together.

A few join in what is called a Lectionary weekly meeting; studying scripture with fellow pastors. Five individuals are doing a Sunday morning radio ministry; something we think we will continue as a way to advance the Kingdom, through message and song. Maybe what I am saying is "Pastoral Care" has sprung forth and we have encouraged one another through the loving care of our congregations. Katie Ubry-Terrell continues to knit us together and does a great job of encouraging us, as well as informing us through her weekly emails. There are only two people on this committee currently. Maybe M&C needs to address if there is really a current need? Or a shift in what this committee should really be about?

***Historically the Nominating Committee has been appointed on the floor of Yearly Meeting Sessions, but we recommend that the Executive Committee appoint the Nominating Committee in advance of annual sessions.**

***The Nominating Committee has been appointing the Epistle Committee. Should this be done at Mini-Yearly Meeting by the Permanent Board instead?**

Respectfully Submitted, Nancy E. McCormick, Clerk

QUAKER KNOLL CAMP BOARD

The later part of 2019 was a catch-up time for Quaker Knoll campgrounds. There had been an underground electrical problem for two years. Finally, the problem was found and an electrician from Dayton, Ohio, who had worked for a Quaker Knoll Friend, agree to bring his drilling equipment and fix the underground wire. The bill hurt, but wasn't nearly as high as we were expecting. At the same time, the Board received a memorial of \$2,500 honoring Eric Hackney and Art Godfrey.

The other big project was to finish replacing the decking at the Quaker Knoll House. Over a year ago, deck boards were donated to replace the old deck. During the job, it was discovered that there were not enough deck boards to finish the project. After considerable searching, a few were found at a Cincinnati store ... but would they really match? Yes! A perfect match! The deck was finished.

The railing still needs attention, however. If you would like to help, call Katie at the Wilmington Yearly Meeting office.

Developing a new friendly website was a priority for 2019. Design and style were developed with beautiful photos of the campgrounds taken by Wilmington College students. Along with the website, a new pricing schedule was developed. Now there is an updated website with easy to read and understand information. Reservations can be made online. Katie Ubry-Terrell, WYM coordinator, takes calls and money at the YM office. Several reservations were received before Spring.

Spring and summer are beautiful at Quaker Knoll. Instead of enjoying the spring season, however, Quaker Knoll was facing the reality of the restrictions of COVID 19. All Quaker camps and other Quaker gatherings were cancelled. Outside reservations were also cancelled. The campgrounds is now open, however, for private rentals.

Jay Schroeder, caretaker, has kept the camp looking good. He also has established a disc golf course, which has brought in several hundred dollars from playing fees during COVID 19 because of the ability to social distance. This has brought in money and visibility to the campus.

Expenses for the camp have been low because no projects are in process. However, donations would be very much appreciated. Please consider adding Quaker Knoll to your donation list as we hope for a normal year coming soon.

Libbie Curry, Recorder

WILMINGTON COLLEGE CAMPUS MINISTRY

FRIENDSHIP DOLLS TO JAPAN, AUGUST 2019

Making Little Rag Dolls: In 2010, the Quaker Heritage Center of Wilmington College had an exhibit that celebrated a doll exchange program that occurred in 1927 between Japan and America to help build relationships between our two cultures. I was fascinated with the idea of people who felt the need to build bridges even before Pearl Harbor, Nagasaki, and Hiroshima; a reminder that each generation needs to be building peace. These dolls were made of a hard resin type material that were beautifully crafted and dressed. Some 20,000 dolls were sent to elementary schools in Japan. One such doll from the Friends Meeting in Wilmington, Ohio, was named Ellen C.; a brave little doll who traveled all the way to an Island called Hirado. It was in Hirado Ellen found her new home, surrounded by loving children, until the bombing began in 1945 and then she was hidden by dedicated individuals who wanted to protect the virtue of Peace – even if it meant to hide a Quaker doll, named Ellen C. This exhibit really tugged at my heart, challenged my mind and beckoned my spirit to become involved in reconciliation. Something simple – yet profound – something with and for children. I did not feel the leading toward pre-made dolls – yet the idea of making rag dolls that children could hold, love, and play with interested me. The problem was I was not a seamstress, but surely, I could

figure out how to make rag dolls; or better yet who did I know that could sew, create, and stuff beautiful little dolls of Peace, Hope, and Love? Well it turned out I knew plenty of folks like that, so this is how the Rag-Doll-Connection began afresh in 2017. People of all ages were eager to gather together to cut, sew, stuff, and create all the while building community while they labored in love.

People of all ages gathered around tables, shared stories as they created quaint dolls of love. There were brown dolls, pink dolls, yellow dolls, tan dolls, and white dolls. Some had yellow hair, blue hair, black hair, pink hair, orange hair, brown hair, and purple hair. Some hair was straight, curled, knotted, braided, and pigtailed. Some dolls were boy dolls, some were girl dolls, and some were just plain old joy dolls. They brought joy to all who held them as they exchanged joy while looking into one another's faces. Some of those faces were painted on to make blue eyes, brown eyes, black eyes, green eyes, even purple eyes. Some were hand stitched noses and mouths, some were painted, all were designed with great love from a group of diverse people who believed in the miracle of HOPE as they participated in making these offerings of Joy. Each little doll was given a pair of bloomers, t-shirt, dress, skirt or britches, shorts or pedal pushers – but the greatest gift was given when a hand cut heart was stitched with a prayer of love as a reminder that God's Love was given for all – especially for children and their little rag dolls.

The Plan: To work with the Peace Resource Center on the campus of Wilmington College to send these little

ambassadors of Peace to children in an orphanage in Hiroshima, or Nagasaki.

The Reality: I traveled with Tanya Maus and three Wilmington College students to deliver a cross that had been housed in the Peace Resource Center since 1968. This wooden cross survived the bombing of the Urakami Cathedral in Nagasaki. Walter Hook, a US Marine, reports this cross was given to him by the Bishop of the Urakami Cathedral as a gift. Upon meeting Barbara Reynolds and seeing personally the deadly destruction of nuclear weapons, Walter became an anti-nuclear activist and sent the cross to Wilmington, Ohio, to reside in the Peace Resource Center.

It was in 2018, when the current Peace Resource Center Director, Tanya Maus, began thinking about returning the cross to its rightful home; the Urakami Cathedral of Nagasaki.

THE SENDOFF FROM WILMINGTON YEARLY MEETING

Wilmington Yearly Meeting sessions met on July 25-28th, 2019, at Kelly Center of Wilmington College. On Saturday, July 27, with chairs in a circle, we gathered around the wooden cross that had been carefully packed in a guitar case preparing this artifact for its long journey home. We also had Friendship dolls in our midst – dolls that would be handed out in love to children who knew the history of these bombings, as well as the living stories from survivors of the bombs. That afternoon we prayed, we sang, we sat in the Silence. There was a film crew there from a Japanese news organization that had been covering the return of the

Hibakusha cross. This was such a unique opportunity for Wilmington Yearly Meeting to be involved in this historic event; an opportunity of reconciliation, peace and hope. The 74th Anniversary of the Commemoration Mass of the bombing of Nagasaki took place on August 9th at the Urakami Cathedral to commemorate the bombing on that dreadful day. I carried the cross during the Silenceplacing it, in its designated place.

THE TRIP

My time in Japan was a Sacred shaking up – the shaking up of my heart, mind and soul. I find it hard to share regarding my experience without feeling emotions that rise from a very deep place. The only words I have for these tears is that our group truly experienced something Sacred. My heart was heavy, my mind was altered, and my body was challenged.

THE SCHOOL CHILDREN

The Quaker testimony of community is important to me and this trip was all about community. Having the experience of visiting three schools and presenting our friendship dolls was more powerful than I could have imagined. The curiosity from the children as they welcomed our group and my anxiety over the issue – “would they like our dolls?”, was quickly erased, as smiles gave way and expressions of joy filled their eyes and crinkled their faces. It truly was a time of Sacred Joy, especially when one Principle encouraged the children to, “get to know their dolls and to become friends – to make new friends.”

THE COLLEGE STUDENTS AND TANYA MAUS

I could not have asked for a better group of people to travel with. I was their senior, yet they did not treat me as if I was some decrepit old person! They gave me my space and when they saw I might need a little extra nudge of love – they offered it to me willingly. Forget what you hear from the outside world about the laziness of our youth, this group was on time, courteous, respectful, cleaned their plates and sometimes cleaned mine, and they worked until the sun went down. They did not grumble about our sleeping quarters or the many activities that challenged our day – they were hearty and willing people who I was proud to call my traveling companions; we had become Beloved Community.

THE CROSS

For me this cross was the symbol of reconciliation and hope. It was the reconciliation between a marine from the states by the name of Walter, and a Bishop from Urakami Japan. Both men had seen the devastation of the A Bomb. These two men should have been enemies, instead they found their common ground through the cross which represents hope and reconciliation. It was because of them I carried the cross.

I carried the cross for the school children – children 75 years ago, dancing, singing, smiling, playing; only to be no more. I will continue to carry the cross for them as I stand opposed to nuclear weapons.

I carried the cross for all who perished – I carried the cross and prayed for mercy upon all those who have lived through the travesty of the Atomic Bombs or any kind of war.

I carried the cross because I was asked to – at one point it almost seemed unbearable for me to carry something that was filled with such heaviness and sorrow – especially in this very place. Maybe it was the nudge from the ancestors that filled the room that night, maybe it was the beauty of the children’s choir, or maybe it was the call of being in Sacred Community – I don’t know; yet when I think of that wooden Cross I hear the call of courage and I am reminded of the call to Be Peace, but most of all I will carry the cross to be an agent of God’s Radical Love.

I ask you – what are the ways you are called to carry the cross?

ON CAMPUS

MID-WEEK WORSHIP

Every Wednesday at noon in the Quaker Meetinghouse, you will find me at Mid-Week Worship with a lovely group of people who desire to draw closer to God as we draw closer to one another. Please join us at any time.

GOLF CART MINISTRY

I appreciate all the gifts of cookies, money to purchase cookies, and other goodies that many of you have dropped off to my office as I share a little bit of Golf Cart Ministry Whimsy to our students on the college

campus. The Quaker Leader Scholars have helped with this project as we weekly bag about 40 gift packages. You might be surprised at how much students enjoy these little gifts. Especially when they have homemade cookies in them. We always include a note of encouragement.

SUPPORT MINISTRY

Much of my time is in the gift of supporting students, faculty, and staff on campus. You never know when those opportunities will rise to meet you. I travelled to Columbus to visit our WC student and his parents after he became paralyzed from a hunting accident. I have helped at memorial or graveside services of Wilmington College's faculty or staff. I drop off goodie boxes of donuts, cookies, and cards to a variety of places throughout the year. Quaker Leader Scholars meets weekly. Our intent is to build a faithful and loving community who puts into practice our core values. We enjoy two retreats throughout the year and establish service project that branches out into the local community, another way to be in service.

SPRING BREAK IN BELIZE

I speak with much gratitude regarding this Spring Break trip to the Quaker School and Community Center in Belize City, Belize. While there my husband Michael suffered an acute Bell's Palsy attack, which involved two visits to a hospital in Belize. As I prepare students when traveling on this service trip, I always advise them, that they must be prepared for anything to happen, when they least expect it. I remind them they must be ready

to step in as a community who serves with focus, integrity, compassion, and love. This team was able to do just that – two unexpected days when we were all thrown a curve ball and we were still able to hit the ball out of the park. I could not have done this trip without the assistance of a group of people who worked well together. We were able to complete all the work projects on the building, put on an after-school program, and support one another.

Projects completed:

- Sand, stain and varnish 35 plus student desks, (hailed up and down flights of steps)
- Clean, mop and paint classroom floor
- Clean, organize the school library which was in complete disarray
- Repair and clean 10 computers
- Add to two existing murals on outside walls
- Plan and organize and After-School Program that served up to 65 children on the last day of our Friday Carnival. Each Day we offered story time, crafts, games, lots of singing, and loads of fun. Two of our WC students held a class for students, ages 14-17, helping them dialogue of ways to build healthy relationships. This was a big undertaking, but one well received!

BACCALAUREATE 2020

In the last part of March, I began to coordinate with WC students, Brandon Ford, Trisha Seckel, Alanna Nelson, and Lauren Grover; Brianna Matzke, Asst. Professor of Music, and President Jim Reynolds to begin working on

their videos to be a part of a virtual Baccalaureate Program. Again, I found myself in another place to stretch and grow, because I had no idea how this would all take shape. But, under the remarkable talent of Ashleigh Wellman, our technological, video wizard, we offered a lovely, thoughtful, and inspirational program. Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks?

Respectfully Submitted, Nancy E. McCormick

AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

The Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), Section of the Americas, works to provide opportunities for communication, consultation and cooperation among the widely diverse Friends found in the Americas. Friends from the Arctic to the Andes, from a wide variety of Quaker traditions, speaking English and Spanish, work together to express our common spiritual heritage and our Quaker message to the world.

In the fall of 2019, Marty Smith from the FWCC Traveling Ministry Corps provided the programs for both Friendsville and Miami Center Quarterly Meetings. Unfortunately, the Traveling Ministry Corps had to be suspended in the spring due to the pandemic shut down.

The Section has spent recent months responding and adjusting to the novel corona virus pandemic. Much work of the section was already done by tele-

conference between plenary meetings. The occasional in-person committee meetings have been converted to virtual meetings, and travel is no longer happening. Robin Mohr, the secretary of the section, and her staff are accomplishing a huge amount while working from home. The Section has received a PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) "loan" which will help us weather the sharp decrease in donations since the crisis began.

New ways to promote direct engagement of Friends are being explored. The Section has hosted online forums reacting to the needs of the day, including a Latin American youth gathering, and a joint call with Everence regarding estate planning in uncertain times. One notable series has provided forums where yearly meetings can share their experiences with virtual annual gatherings and get ideas for upcoming sessions. Several people on the WYM planning committee attended and found these helpful. Remote regional gatherings are in the works.

JP Lund, WYM Representative to FWCC

Ohio Council of Churches (OCC)

From the Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr., Executive Director of the Ohio Council of Churches:

For many years, the prevailing belief among many who longed for the end of racism was that education was the key to change, and that somehow, if people sought and attained the highest levels of education possible, they would

be sharply less likely to think, speak, and live as operatives of racist ideologies and as captives to a self-directed sense of racial superiority. ... Much to do, yes? I am convinced that our best days as a nation are not behind us but ahead of us. So then, I say, let us be assured that God, who started a good work within us long ago, will be faithful in its completion. I am thankful to be your partner in ecumenical ministry and in interfaith partnerships. Know that I will be praying for you as the weekend unfolds.

As WYM Rep to the Council, I think of the OCC as a view into the large world of religion in Ohio. WYM must not look inward to its members constantly but reach out to non-Quakers.

Dana G Dunsieith, WYM Representative to the Ohio Council of Churches

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

2020 REPORT TO YEARLY MEETINGS

Our faith and practice as Quakers calls us to work for the peaceful, just, equitable, and sustainable world we seek. Since 1943, the Friends Committee on National Legislation has carried on this witness of the Spirit through action on Capitol Hill. Here are just some of the highlights of this year's work, made possible by your advocacy, engagement, and financial support.

**INFLUENCING FEDERAL POLICY TO ADVANCE THE
WORLD WE SEEK**

It is a challenging time to work for peace and justice in Washington, DC. We are faced with an administration that is dismantling protections for families, immigrants, our planet, and even our democracy itself and a Congress that is deeply divided. Despite these challenges, FCNL's approach for Quaker advocacy is making a difference. As a non-partisan organization, FCNL works with all members of Congress to claim their constitutional authority on decisions of war and peace and their authority over appropriations of the federal budget as well as on other vital issues that promote justice and peace. Find out more at fcnl.org/impact.

- **Congress Says No to War in Iran, Yemen.** In the past year, both the House and Senate passed legislation prohibiting the president from attacking Iran without congressional approval, and majorities voted for legislation to end U.S. support for the Saudi-led war in Yemen. FCNL's relentless lobbying was critical in securing bipartisan votes for these bills.
- **Addressing Root Causes of Violence.** In December 2019, the U.S. government committed to its first comprehensive strategy to address the causes of violence worldwide when Congress passed the Global Fragility Act into law. FCNL worked with peacebuilding colleagues to develop this bipartisan legislation and provided staff support in lobbying for its passage.
- **Help for Native American Crime Victims.** Responding to FCNL's advocacy, Congress set aside a record amount – five percent, or \$132 million – from the Crime Victims Fund for tribal use. This funding, part of appropriations legislation passed in December 2019, will help improve

services for victims of crime in Native American communities.

- Research on Gun Violence Epidemic Resumes. Reversing years of prohibitions, FCNL has advocated for funding for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on the public health impact of gun violence. In late 2019 Congress approved \$25 million for the CDC and the National Institutes of Health to conduct vital research on gun violence as a public health crisis. We continue to press the Senate to take up H.R. 8, the bill passed by the House to require universal background checks, an initiative that over 90% of the American electorate supports.

WILLIAM PENN HOUSE: HOSPITALITY AND ADVOCACY ON CAPITOL HILL

On September 1, 2019, the FCNL Education Fund assumed responsibility for ownership and operations of the William Penn House, a Capitol Hill guest house that shares a more than 50-year history with FCNL. Following the completion of necessary repairs to the 102-year-old building this summer, we anticipate reopening the House in the fall of 2020 for group rentals. The House offers Friends and friends a venue for education and advocacy training in a highly desirable location. We look forward to welcoming you to Washington, DC later this year!

OUR STRONG COMMUNITY

The many Friends who work with FCNL enriches all that we do.

- FCNL's Advocacy Teams include 1,500 people in more than 120 teams across the country who are committed to use their power as constituents to make change in Washington. Both Friends and others participate in this vital grassroots approach to advocacy. Their work this year led to successful votes to repeal war authorization legislation.
- Organizers in our youth Advocacy Corps spend nine months training, building relationships, and advocating in their communities on one of FCNL's priority issues. This year they have focused on gun violence prevention.
- FCNL's Young Adult Program offers four popular opportunities. Advocacy Corps Members spend nine months training, building relationships, and advocating in their communities on one of FCNL's priority issues. This year's priority: gun violence prevention. Young Fellows are program assistants in policy, communications and Quaker outreach who work as members of FCNL's full-time staff for 11 months. Our Young Fellows recruit in colleges and universities for Spring Lobby Weekend, Summer Interns, and Advocacy Corps.
- Through the Friend in Washington program, seasoned Friends volunteer on a short-term basis on specific projects and contribute to the spiritual richness of FCNL. This year we welcomed DeAnne Butterfield (Intermountain Yearly Meeting), Michelle Caughey (Pacific Yearly Meeting), and Marge and Carl Abbott (North Pacific Yearly Meeting).

ANNUAL MEETING: DISCERNING FCNL'S POLICY STATEMENT AND BY-LAWS CHANGES

FCNL has a new Policy Statement, *The World We Seek*— thanks to the discernment of Friends across the country. The engagement of Friends' meetings and churches in the creation of our policy statement and in helping set our legislative priorities is essential to FCNL.

In 2019, FCNL revised our Policy Statement, which was approved by our General Committee in November, 2019. This Policy Statement states our concerns and our vision on a range of complex issues and will guide FCNL's position on legislation for years to come.

Thank you to the more than 120 Friends meetings, churches, and individuals who participated in discernment on FCNL's Policy Statement. It is available at fcnl.org/updates/policystatement.

The General Committee also changed our bylaws regarding membership. The new provision states the General Committee's service requires that those serving "must be members of the Religious Society of Friends or otherwise demonstrate a history of connection with and commitment to the Religious Society of Friends." This change allows broader inclusion in FCNL's governance for those who have not established formal membership but who have a strong connection to the Religious Society of Friends.

In the year ahead, we look forward to your participation with FCNL, in your community and in Washington, D.C., as we work for a world free of war and the threat of

war, a society with equity and justice for all, a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled, and an earth restored.

STATISTICAL REPORT

| MEETING | ADULT MEMBERS | JUNIOR MEMBERS | REGULAR ATTENDERS (NON-MEMBERS) | AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE | SUNDAY SCHOOL |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Ada Chapel | 45 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Campus | 13 | 0 | 3 | 4 | N/A |
| Cincinnati | 69 | 9 | 21 | 35 | 15 |
| Chester | 31 | 2 | 21 | 45 | 0 |
| Dover | 16 | 0 | 1 | 8 | N/A |
| Eastern Hills | 22 | 2 | 7 | 17.5 | 1 |
| Fairview | 32 | 5 | 7 | 16 | 10 |
| Jamestown | 37 | 0 | 4 | 14 | 4 |
| Knoxville | 19 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Londonderry | | | | | |
| Martinsville | | | | | |
| Maryville | 16 | 6 | 3 | 12 | 6 |
| Sabina | | | | | |
| Samantha | | | | | |
| Springfield | 51 | 18 | 19 | 25 | 9 |
| Wilmington | 104 | 17 | 29 | 53 | 30 |
| Xenia | 36 | 7 | 1 | 8 | N/A |
| TOTAL | 491 | 72 | 117 | 250.5 | 78 |

STATE OF SOCIETY REPORTS

2020 Theme: “True godliness does not turn men” and women “out of the world but excites their endeavors to mend it.” –from William Penn’s, “No Cross, No Crown”

2020 Scripture: “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.” –Micah 6:8 2020

Queries:

1. How does the use of Wilmington Yearly Meeting’s queries, found in Faith and Practice, promote the spiritual life of your meeting and of the individuals within it?
2. In your study of the Bible, are you directed toward mercy and justice? How do the hope for mercy, justice and humility influence your study of the scriptures?
3. How do you tell yourselves the stories of the Quaker saints who have been excited to live Godly lives and who have practiced justice and mercy?

Ada Chapel Friends Meeting

Micah 6:8 is a gorgeous and powerful piece of scripture all on its own. The reminder that we have a part to play—that God asks us to join in with Him as He works on mending our broken and battered world—is both encouraging and convicting. To paraphrase some words from the author of Ecclesiastes: There is a time to break

down, and a time to build up; a time to tear, and a time to sew. There will be difficulties, uncertainty, and painful situations to work through in this world. This is for sure. But God, in His love, is always calling us forward—pushing us closer towards His vision of wholeness.

But Micah 6:8—as beautiful as it is—was not written to stand on its own. Towards the beginning of Micah 6, God is challenging His people and lamenting their disobedience. He says: “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.” It’s almost as if God is saying, “Remember who I am, and what I have done for you. Remember who you are, and how very much I love you. Remember what it is I have called you to do.” Remember.

This past year was a year of transition and of exploration for Ada Chapel. Like many meetings in Wilmington Yearly Meeting, we are facing declining numbers and an aging congregation. There has been a level of uncertainty and fear about our future. We played around with hosting a variety of different events at the meetinghouse, in hopes that we could engage the community around us and get them interested in church. Some were successful and some were not. Ideas to jazz up our service—in hopes that something more

exciting might draw folks in—were discussed. But ultimately, the response that we heard echoing through the meetinghouse was: Remember. Remember who you are. Remember what it is that the Church, and that individual followers of Christ are actually called to do. Remember who God is, and what He ultimately wants for His creation. Remember.

Ada Chapel—like every other group of people who proclaim to love Jesus—is called to love God and to love our neighbors. We are called to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God. We are called to offer hope and support to our community. We are called to work together as a corporate group to help one another grow spiritually. We are called to bear the image of God into a world that so desperately needs to see that God is with us, and that He has not left us. We are not called to get butts into pews. We are not called to try to take the reins from God—to force solutions in order to make our meeting grow. We are not called to gimmicks or to showmanship. We are called to faithfulness, and to holding up our end of the Creation story bargain.

As we commit to shifting our vision—being faithful to God and to each other and thriving as we are, rather than desperately trying to be something else—we hope that the queries picked for this year’s State of Society report will become more answerable to us. We have already begun reading queries from the Wilmington Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice as a way to center us before silent worship, but we could certainly benefit from expanded use of the Wilmington Yearly Meeting queries in worship. Mercy, justice, and humility are

things that the whole world is really in need of, but Ada Chapel is in the unique position of being in a neighborhood where drugs, fear, and distrust run high. There is a lot of brokenness around us. We are not so arrogant to think that we can “save” the neighborhood, but if we are able to embody the mercy, justice, and humility that we are called to, and offer some hope to the hurting along the way, then we are doing our job. This, of course, would require us to delve into what mercy, justice, and humility really mean and what they look like as a meeting. Being more proactive about remembering our Quaker history and tradition—not living in the past, but allowing it to inspire us—would give us a good solid base.

The possibilities are endless when we listen to God. When we take the time to remember who He is and who we are. We are looking forward to seeing what is in store for us and for our neighborhood.

Campus Friends Meeting

Though our attendance on Sunday morning remains small, Campus Friends continue to be nurtured by the power of the Spirit breaking through the silence of expectant waiting worship. Because several of our founding members live in the Cape May Retirement community, we established the Cape May Friends Meeting worship group which gathers in the Multi-Purpose Room on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. The CMFM worship group circle ranges in size from ten to twenty and expanded to over 30

residents and family members for a Christmas Eve service under our care. On October 26, 2019 we joyously celebrated our first anniversary.

Each first Sunday Campus Friends share a fellowship meal in the home of one of our members. This year we also gathered in the small dining room at Cape May for Sunday dinner which enabled all CFM members who live at Cape May to attend. Eric Guindon, a member of CFM, spoke about the work of the Clinton County Youth Council (CCYC) which he serves as director. Plans are currently afoot for a spring fellowship meal at Cape May.

In addition to a half-day retreat at Quaker Knoll Camp with Eastern Hills Friends, our two meetings gathered in December for worship followed by a discussion on the joys and challenges of membership in two yearly meetings (Wilmington and Ohio Valley) before fellowship around the dinner table. Eastern Hills Friends served as hosts.

2020 Queries (WYM):

1. How does the use of WYM's queries promote the spiritual life of your meeting and the individuals within it?

It is our practice for the Greeter-Breaker Friend to select and read a query during worship usually near the beginning of worship. We have heard and shared messages which arise from the query.

2. In your study of the Bible, are you directed toward mercy and justice? How does the hope for mercy, justice and humility influence your study of scriptures?

Campus Friends Meeting does not hold Sunday School or Bible Study. Vocal ministry is often concerned with the challenge we face to bring justice to 'the least of these'. Individual Friends are actively involved in community work for peace and justice which arises from an acknowledgment of the Light that resides within all of us.

3. How do you tell yourselves the stories of the Quaker saints who have been excited to live godly lives and who have practiced justice and mercy?

We held a memorial meeting for worship for our Friend Larry Gara whose lifetime of writing, teaching and public witness spoke to the deep longing within all of us for a more peaceful, justice filled world. Larry reminded us all that peace can and indeed does "begin with me".

Chester Friends Meeting

Chester Monthly Meeting continually searches within and without for "true godliness". We seek ways to deepen our personal relationships with God, as well as for ways in which to be God's voice and God's hands in our wider community by working for justice and sharing mercy.

By sharing from personal experience several within our meeting bring scripture to life and life to scripture with

heartfelt messages. Our meetings for worship are grounded in scripture and its relevance in meeting the needs of our society and faith community. While we are led by our pastors we recognize the gift of ministry of those among us which manifests in various ways— children’s ministry, serving meals on Second Thursday, the gift of music and the sharing of testimonies to name but a few.

We strive to “do justice” by listening and respecting divergent views and by learning together of the experiences and needs of those around us. Speakers from outside our immediate circle are invited in to share with us and broaden our understanding.

When considering the Quaker saints we are reminded of the saints who have lived, loved and worshipped within our own meeting over the generations. We recall the humility and devotion to justice that led Mary Hackney and others to teach in the kitchen schools in Hillsboro, Ohio, when African American children were denied access to an equal education.

Under the leadership and inspiration of Nancy McCormick, many in our meeting and the greater community uplifted and renewed the gift of the Peace Dolls. These handmade dolls were shared with children in Japan much as the original dolls were 97 years ago. They made their voyage at a time when Nancy, along with a contingent from the Peace Resource Center, returned a cross to the Urakami Cathedral in Nagasaki, Japan. The return of the beautiful cross to its rightful home was an act of justice and love that touched our

spiritual lives through our support of our pastor and the team that made this journey.

We recognize a more intentional use of the queries as an area in which we may grow and share the rich tradition of Quaker reflection.

While the effects of the pandemic have impacted our manner of worship it has not diminished our faith. We continue to worship and unite through personal outreach, love and compassion. We hold all in the Light.

Cincinnati Friends Meeting

True Godliness does not turn men and women out of the world but excites their endeavors to mend it.

Through the leadings and guidance of our Committees and the commitment of individuals to further our spiritual and communal responsibilities to be part of the world and not apart from it, we have challenged ourselves to continue the legacy of faithful Quakers who have come before us. We have accepted challenges that have taken us out of our 'comfort zone,' that have required us to reach back into our history to call on the strength, courage and depth of faith of those who came before us – to do what is required of us in our time and place as they did what they did in their time and place.

We have moved into the midst of the world with questions, apprehension, where there have been moments of fear and times of hurt, yet open and joyful

in following the leading that compels our community to do what we can to walk with on a continuing journey to mend the world.

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God?

So often in worship we hear these words from the Bible and so many others that reflect on our responsibility to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God. We are blessed with a pastor, Jim Newby, who brings us messages that not only remind us to follow this pleading within worship and our faith community, but who encourages and supports us as we follow the pleading beyond our Meetinghouse door.

Ours is a community of active faith and no scripture better describes who we were in 2019, as it continues to direct us to do even more in 2020. *What does the Lord require of us but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God?*

In keeping with our commitment as part of the Sanctuary movement, the flame of one single candle flickered on a table next to a photo of one little girl and her father as our Peace and Social Concerns Committee led us in a community-wide candlelight vigil for social justice in October in support of children and families caught up in the immigration crisis, to remember little Valeria and her father Oscar who died in the waters of the Rio Grande. During our interfaith service, we listened to the story told by Rabbi Miriam Terlinchamp that continues to inspire us to not be silent, to be

active, to always, always 'knock on the door' as long as there is injustice around us.

Three young women led us in sharing Valeria's story, Anne Frank's story and the stories of those who have suffered throughout history and continue to suffer, including this one message from one of the young women. – "If we do nothing more, we will stand here united to curse the darkness that ripped the life out of Valeria and Oscar. We will light our flames from Valeria's flame and as we do, it will deepen our commitment to building a world where no young girl ever again will be torn from the arms of her parents to die in a concentration camp. No little girl will wade in the water and lose her life to hate, intolerance and injustice."

In addition to the words of these young women growing in their Quaker faith, there was music from Alex Myers, a Quaker Scholar from Wilmington College, who played his flute as his grandmother, Jennie Harner, she a Quaker, played the piano, reaching into our very spirits with Wade in the Water. There was Joe Henry leading us as our candles were lit, as we sang together, "Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary." There was a new hymn, one every Quaker should hear, written by William Williams II and performed for the first time by William and his son William III, a hymn written to remember Valeria's life.

There was the social justice offering, generous gifts given from the hearts of those in attendance, with that offering then given to support the Ubry-Terrell family as they adopt children from a Mexican orphanage, a fitting

memorial to one little girl and a guidepost for us as Quakers to do justice and love mercy. We came together in unity as our candles filled the darkness and as some of us wrestled with our questions about safety - did we need to take precautions during the vigil based on some comments we received following our event posting on Facebook and the state of the world in general. We stood in our Quaker faith even as we struggled with our very real human apprehensions.

There were so many ways our Peace and Social Concerns Committee unified us in justice and service, under the leadership of Elizabeth Newby. We joined in community with Meetings throughout WYM, with Barb Napier leading us, filling our Mason jars to overflowing and donating to yard sales so that together across our Yearly Meeting we could be part of the reconstruction of the old Quaker school in Puerto Padre, Cuba into a community center. What a joy sharing this experience with other Quakers!

We continued our support for Bethany House, a shelter for abused women and children, continued to take meals to share with residents at Tender Mercies, continued ongoing donations for the Free Store, and raised more than \$1,100 in gift cards to supply food, water and other supplies for immigrants passing through Cincinnati and more.

In addition to the leadings of our Peace and Social Concerns Committee, we as a faith community stepped further out of our sheltered place into the midst of the world. A Social Justice Minute that we had prepared and approved as a Meeting was taken to Yearly Meeting

where all were in unity and the Minute was approved by Yearly Meeting.

We were active participants in the 2nd Annual Festival of Faiths, an interfaith community-wide event bringing together people of all faiths to share with each other and learn from each other. We had a table at the event at the Cintas Center in Cincinnati. Jim Newby presented the opening prayer. He also serves as a member of the Steering Committee for the event. As with our candlelight vigil for Valeria, we faced some of the same apprehension about personal and event safety. With an estimated 3,000+ in attendance in a large open space, we could not help but be aware of how vulnerable we were to the violence that permeates so much of our society today. We also opened our doors to host a Festival of Faiths open house at our Meeting House, welcoming guests from many faith traditions to experience Quaker worship for themselves.

We opened our doors and our hearts to listen and learn from those who gave of their time to come to our Meeting to share with us. We welcomed Earlham College Professor of History and author Tom Hamm, who led us through the difficult times of earlier Quakers who faced schisms and splits, reminding us that we are not unique as we continue to struggle with our own schism that has led to painful disaffiliations.

We learned more about FUM from Emily Provance as she shared some of her experiences in missions, bringing them to life for us so that we now have a fuller depth of understanding of what these missions are as we support them with our annual donations, including

Ramallah Friends School. Her presentation was one of the reasons that we were inspired to increase our giving to some of our wider Quaker outreach, including American Friends Service Committee and Friends Committee on National Legislation, affirming that our donations are an important way we support social justice and equality.

We shared openly about inclusion when we welcomed Wilmington College faculty member Sue Lucas to share her story of acceptance at the family and community level for LGBTQ+ people. Paul Buckley joined us as part of his traveling ministry to share thoughts from his new book.

We provide a welcoming space for those within our community to share their concerns and ministries as well. We continue to support the Artsy Fartsy youth ministry of Cathy Barney and the Permaganic Garden gardening ministry for youth of Luke and Angela Ebner. What an honor for us to host Cathy and her Artsy Fartsy kids for a special outing at our Meeting House, where they were each presented with their own hooded sweatshirt with their logo, paid for by funds from our Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

Meeting attender Bill Williams II led us following worship to learn more about our Quaker faith in action as it relates to the history of Ireland and the great famine. We learned for the first time about the lifesaving role of the Society of Friends Relief Committee that was based in Dublin.

Member Heidi Bright took us on her spiritual journey on her sacred pilgrimage to France, leading us in discovering the mystical connection between Mary and her son Jesus with the writers of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

With the leadership of Joe Henry and Suzanne Johnson we hosted Ohio's first Alternatives to Violence Basic training three-day workshop. Although no longer a Quaker program, Alternatives to Violence was founded based on the Quaker belief in an inborn power and seeking of peace in everyone. Ray Geers, Bob Green and Nan Hatch from our Meeting completed the training, alongside community participants.

Deeping spiritual ties with each other was the focal point when some members came together for a retreat in Cape Hatteras, dubbing themselves the Hatteras Eight. During their time together they focused on the theme of transformation.

Assuring that the legacy of Quakers who came before us lives on, like our own Meeting's Levi and Catherine Coffin, is a continuing passion for our four First Day School teachers, Jeff Arnold, Linda Daigle, Nan Hatch and Carole Barnhart. Having four teachers assures that our Young Friends have access to multiple viewpoints, since each teacher teaches from their own perspective.

Teachers take a 'current topic' approach to First Day School, looking for ways to tie Bible studies and Quaker testimonies (SPICES) into the topic, which can be spiritual, environmental, social and more. Topics have included immigration, the environment, sharing and materialism.

We begin sharing our Quaker way of worship and our Quaker heritage at an early age for our youngest children, led by teacher Patia Williams and Child Care Assistant Megan Myers.

We shared scripture and how it relates to our growing in faith during our weekly Adult Spiritual Sharing Group that meets before the beginning of worship. We planned and took part in a number of Spiritual Nurture groups. Our Prayer Shawl group made shawls that were given as a measure of comfort to patients in Hospice of Southwest Ohio.

Our Trustees provided loving care to our grounds and Meeting House, committed to their roles as caretakers of the legacy of those who made it possible for us to worship together as a blessed community on what we know is truly sacred ground.

We were blessed with funding that allowed us to increase donations to some of our community outreach commitments, including Quaker organizations. We, as a community of faith, committed to do justice and love mercy and walk humbly with God, now pay a portion of our Meeting Outreach budget – the money we set aside for ministries and missions – before we pay for monthly operating costs.

We continue to be surrounded by the memories and legacy of faith of Allen Riley and Jim Newby's sister Darlene.

As we have been more and more stepping out in the world to do our part in mending it, we have

encountered real fears that something might happen to us for taking a public stance. We have had deep doubts between us that we can accomplish something bigger than we think can, of trying something new or different. We have faced concerns that we might offend. We know that what we have done and continue to do and what we believe can and will cause friction, hurt, even disaffiliation. As the fear threatens to overtake us, as doubts make us pause in our actions, as our concerns to be good quiet Quakers and not offend slows our actions, as we walk with anger and hurt and become separated from each other, it is in these times when we bow our heads and wait for that still small voice to come to us that we find the faith and the courage to walk the next step. Be ye not concerned by the journey, but the next step in the journey. Levi and Catherine would expect no less of us. It is then we hear and follow the words, *“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God?”*

Dover Friends Meeting

Micah 6:8, “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.”

At Dover we often struggle to know what our “place” is in the world and our community. Our attendance is frequently only 8 people (including our speaker) but our members are loyal. Our speakers bring us meaningful and inspiring messages. We endeavor to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly.

We are committed to supporting the activities and endeavors of Wilmington Yearly Meeting and FUM. We continue to look beyond ourselves and support both local and international groups that help those in need.

Since we are a “mature” group with a number of health conditions, we have not met as a group since March. Members have found a number of ways to stay inspired and connected with others. We also try to keep in contact with each other.

We pray for each other and the wider world of Friends.

Eastern Hills Friends Meeting

Colin Saxton's “Radical Listening: Rooted in Love” (Quaker Life magazine, January 2019): “The more important and difficult work is how our fellowships become the practice fields for love, forgiveness, patience, forbearance, mutual accountability, discipline, eldering, support, generosity—all of the things we talk about but find so terribly hard to live out.”

Colin Saxton captures the core of what our fellowship at Eastern Hills Friends Meeting seeks, and occasionally finds. This quote is used to set the tone at the beginning of Ministry and Counsel meetings.

EHFMM starts each meeting for business with a query. We draw them from several yearly meetings. We do not attempt a unified response. However, considering queries encourages deep listening which continues as we attend to business. We open our meetings for

worship with hymns. This brings us together in harmony and often sets the tone for vocal ministry.

EHFM continues to grow in both numbers and spiritual depth. We have been blessed by persons new to Quakerism who have become faithful attenders as well as Friends who have chosen to have their membership transferred to our meeting. Our long spiritual practice of being prepared for the presence of children has been rewarded this year. Many of us are nourished and challenged through participation in Koinonia groups, mid-week Bible study, and spiritual nurture groups which afford deeper personal connections that enrich the corporate experience. Our meetings for worship are frequented by vocal ministry. We've had several second hours that have provided spiritual richness. For example, the participation of all those present identifying with each of the characters in the story of the prodigal son brought fresh life to this familiar parable.

We had two planned programs with Campus Friends, the other bridge meeting (members of both Wilmington Yearly Meeting and Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting), which have helped forge relationships on a more spiritual level than is often possible by intermittent Quarterly Meetings. We have struggled together on topics of being an effective bridge and aspects of transformation.

We have taken seriously the challenge of inter-visitation with other meetings. Being a bridge meeting, we have many meetings to choose to visit and several visits have been made in 2019. We have formed an ad hoc

committee to help plan and encourage visits in small groups to other meetings.

The work by individuals and by all of us to expand our sense of community beyond our own meeting increases the vision of our sense of love and connectedness. Our lives speak through the concern we show each other through life's challenges, through working together to beautify our grounds, and through participation in broader social justice groups. We continue to serve lunch and eat with residents of the Jimmy Heath House each month. Supporting the two members of Eastern Hills who are serving as clerks of our two yearly meetings expands our sense of community and connectedness.

Sometimes we wonder if it is easier to love our sister Friends who are at a distance than it is to welcome into our community those who are not like the rest of us. How willing are we to invite into our place of love, comfort, and safety those who do not look like us or act like us? Do we have the courage as the early Friends did to experience the discomfort of seeking a deeper awareness of Spirit breaking more clearly and powerfully into our daily lives and our Meeting community life? To be transformed? And if we do, will we find gifts to bind us more closely with the wider community of Friends and bring more visitors into our local community of faith? Each of us may answer these questions in different ways but we do feel thankful to be a part of Eastern Hills Friends Meeting. May we continue as the Spirit leads to build a stronger and deeper community of faith.

Fairview Friends Meeting

How does the use of the WYM queries promote the spiritual life of your meeting?

The queries have not been routinely incorporated into our services at Fairview, but are often discussed during Sunday school and brought forward into messages. The Meeting feels there would be benefit from offering one query regularly, possible at the beginning of Open Worship as a focus for inner meditation. The WYM queries often use the wording "How do you" to stimulate our thoughts and actions. We believe that is particularly helpful for committing to change.

In your study of the Bible, are you directed toward mercy and justice?

Yes, our messages reinforce these tenets and hopes as the core of our vision of Quakerism.

How do you tell yourselves the stories of the Quaker saints?

Again, in our Sunday school sessions and messages, their inspired lives are used by as examples of real people who struggled with many of our same challenges. Readings from their writing often will bring insight into how their relationship with God helped them live with joy in the face of almost overwhelming darkness.

Jamestown Friends Meeting

How does the use of Wilmington Yearly Meeting's queries, found in Faith and Practice, promote the spiritual life of your meeting and of the individuals within it?

In past years, we have included the reading of the queries in our worship, but in 2019, we did not. Plans are to begin reading them again after our new pastor comes and takes up his duties. When we have used the queries in worship, it gave us a focus—something to remind us of who Quakers are and how we can more readily show Quaker principles and how we can become more Christlike in our worship, our business meetings, and our communities.

In your study of the Bible, are you directed toward mercy and justice? How does the hope for mercy, justice and humility influence your study of the scriptures?

Study of the Bible lets us compare what we do and say today to what was done and said in Biblical times. The need for mercy and justice really hasn't changed much in all those years. As we study, we can search scriptures for examples of how God and Jesus showed mercy and justice. It can give us hope that we can truly learn to ask ourselves, "What Would Jesus Do?" We see what He did, and we can strive to emulate that. It also gives us examples of Old Testament people and how they walked humbly with God.

How do you tell yourselves the stories of the Quaker saints who have been excited to live Godly lives and who have practiced justice and mercy?

As a congregation, we really don't tell ourselves the stories of the old-time Quakers. But one very nice thing about having had Bill Medlin as our pastor for the past 8 years is that he is an historian. He often includes stories of Quaker men and women as sermon illustrations.

Knoxville Monthly Meeting

Knoxville Monthly Meeting continued during 2019 with three regular attenders. Although Sabbath Day meetings for worship in 2020 have not gathered at the appointed time at the Meeting House since pandemic rulings, members have contact by phone. One member collects the mail and checks the Meeting House. We are sustained by memories and a long tradition and fervent hope. We have passionate feelings about the need in Knoxville for a Friends Church.

We have continued our service project at the men's group home at Christmas time. We continue to support a missionary family with World Gospel Mission. And one of our members continues to be involved in local peace activities.

Maryville Friends Church

During this past year of 2019-2020, Maryville Friends Church is striving to move forward into fuller experience

of knowing and practicing walking “humbly with our God” and seeking to practice justice and love mercy. After the recent troubles among meetings, we are finding a smaller number of us within our own meeting who join together in worship, but we are also experiencing the gift of peace in hoping that we have practiced justice and mercy as we divided assets from Friendsville Quarterly Meeting and as we continue to love and help our former FQM F/friends as well as attend memorial services when they occur, visit among members, continue friendly contact as family and meeting issues arise that require attention. We find these efforts healing and helpful in moving forward into whatever spiritual future awaits Maryville Friends Meeting and the much smaller Friendsville Quarterly Meeting (now comprised of Maryville and Knoxville Friends Meetings).

To help us stay balanced in worship of the Lord, reading His Word, seeking spirit-filled actions in our personal and corporate daily living, we do indeed study the Bible together in Sunday School and Sunday worship services. We also pray and spend time in centered, silent worship. At meetings with attention to business for Ministry & Counsel and monthly meeting, we read queries from Faith and Practice. Currently, for Wednesday night sessions, we are watching the TV series, “God Friend Me,” and, after viewing each episode, the pastor leads discussion with queries that he develops related to the episode. Whether queries are newly-developed by the pastor for Wednesday night discussions or whether they are from the Bible or Faith

and Practice, we find that queries are helpful for group discussion as well as for individual introspection.

Among the blessings of the past year have been the gifts to us from others that have brought encouragement. Eighteen months ago, at the request of Diane Randall, Director of Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) in D.C., Tom Bertrand from Virginia Beach, came to visit Maryville following North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) session. He came to sit in worship with us at meeting, to offer encouragement, and he brought luscious North Carolina peaches to share. This past summer, after an ESR board meeting, Marty Smith and husband, Bill, responded to the leading to visit meetings in Wilmington Yearly Meeting, beginning with Maryville Friends in Tennessee. Her leading was to also visit, encourage and facilitate a visioning session for FQM. We've also been visited by WYM Coordinators Donne Hayden, Katie Ubry-Terrell, and WYM Clerk, J.P. Lund. These Friends have brought encouragement and faith in our small meeting and quarterly meeting to be able to continue to meet and grow in spirit and, hopefully, number.

In Wilmington Yearly Meeting, Maryville Friends continue to fulfill active roles as Clerk of the Executive Committee, Ministry & Counsel Clerk, Peace & Social Concerns Committee, Youth Committee, Training and Recording and Board of Trustees. We also serve as clerks in Friendsville Quarterly Meeting. Mini-Yearly Meeting was held at Maryville during the weekend of March 6 and 7. Maryville invited the Executive Director, Rev. Allyn Maxfield-Steele, to discuss the history and

current mission and goals of the Highlander Center, located in Jefferson County, an educational center that works to promote and support justice, equality and sustainability. National leaders such as Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks and Stokely Carmichael, as well as current local and national leaders consult with the Highlander Center to gain help in being effective in various social movements. The community was invited, along with WYM, and there was a nice attendance from the greater Maryville and Knoxville community.

During Sunday worship, individuals are invited to share ministries. During this time, we sometimes share our own stories and sometimes we share stories of Quaker saints who lived godly lives and practiced justice and mercy. Sometimes Quaker Saints are highlighted in the lesson for Children's Worship. This time gives us moments to reflect on the lives and ministries of Quaker saints such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton (Suffragist), Bayard Rustin (a Quaker deputy for Martin Luther King, Jr. who introduced King to Gandhi and Nonviolence), Susan B. Anthony and many others.

A query we've asked ourselves over the past year is, How can we maintain and/or expand our faith witness in this community? A way that has opened is a cooperation with the local Salvation Army congregation. The Salvation Army Captain approached us to determine if there are ways that we can serve and worship together. Ministry & Counsel met with Captain Maureen Diffley, and we established multiple events and service projects where our two congregations could meet together and, as a larger group, serve more

effectively as well as providing encouragement for both small congregations. Together, we conducted Trunk or Treat at Halloween, shared Harvest Dinner, hosted and participated in Friendsville Quarterly Meeting Community Christmas Service, a candlelight service and Christmas caroling in the community. Salvation Army collected Christmas Angel Tree gifts for community children in families having need as well as some gifts for seniors with need. Some of us helped package the gifts and then give them out to the families. We also worked with the Salvation Army "Relatives Raising Kids." Both congregations worshipped together in several services, and members met together for Bible study and service projects. We plan a joint Easter service at Maryville Friends Church. We believe that the joint services and projects with the Salvation Army has increased the effective ministry outreach for both congregations.

Another service to the community has been the opening of our building as a place for memorial services for community people who desire a service for loved ones but have no place to have the service. One service was requested by the family of Max Cummings, an artist, who was a former member of Maryville Friends Church. The family set up an extensive art exhibit of Max's artwork and invited friends and family to also bring and share his art pieces. The memorial service was a meaningful tribute to a man remembered fondly as a friendly person, a fine artist and a person of faith and prayer.

Another memorial service was held at the meetinghouse for a loved one who didn't attend the

church but who had family members who did. The service was a loving tribute to that family member which honored that life.

Some members continue to participate in Peace and Social Concerns groups in the greater Knoxville area. With guidelines from FCNL, some members continue to participate in legislative advocacy, visiting legislators and their staff and letter writing. One Maryville member was, in November, appointed to serve on the FCNL board as a representative of Wilmington Yearly Meeting. This opportunity to attend the FCNL annual meeting in Washington D.C., along with continuing further communications, has been a blessing and a learning experience as the member has learned more about FCNL and has shared with the local meeting. The “ask” this year to our legislators was to repeal the 2001 Authorization of the Use of Military Force. Further opportunities for advocacy have come through joint participation with West Knoxville Friends, an unprogrammed meeting which is part of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting Association.

Through participation in the Blount County Ecumenical Action Council (BCEAC), the Maryville Meeting stays involved in the ongoing actions of service in the community by supporting Good Neighbors of Blount County (budget counseling and some financial help for emergencies), Family Promise (assistance in job search, child care and temporary housing for homeless families) and the Community Food Connection (a food pantry). BCEAC congregations share participation in the various

services and events of each church and jointly address community spiritual issues as they arise.

As Maryville Friends strive to find our way forward in service to God, we do indeed find it helpful to seek scriptural enlightenment, discernment and direction through prayer, scriptural guidance by the pastor in congregational worship, and queries in the quest for discernment. We appreciate the fellowship of F/friends in Friendsville Quarterly Meeting, Wilmington Yearly Meeting, the Salvation Army and BCEAC churches. We feel blessed as a congregation to be able to love the Lord and strive to serve Him, both as individuals and as a congregation. We hope that we are serving as instruments of the Lord's Love through seeking and practicing justice and mercy within our community and wherever we are.

Springfield Friends Meeting

How does the use of Wilmington Yearly Meeting queries, found in Faith and Practice, promote the spiritual life of your meeting and of the individuals within it?

We have been using queries from AFSC this year. We print one in the bulletin which remains in the bulletin for one month. We also print a quote from a famous person of spiritual note which goes along with the query. We do not know how each individual is affected by this practice. Mike and Nancy McCormick, in their

messages, usually pose questions and queries for us to think about.

In your study of the Bible, are you directed toward mercy and justice? How do the hope for mercy, justice and humility influence your study of the scriptures?

In our adult Sunday School Class, our discussions have often centered around mercy and justice and how the life and message of Jesus is very clearly embodied by a core of justice and mercy and humility. We are currently studying the recent book by Michael Snarr, Faithful Witness in a Fractured World: Models for Authentic Christian Life. Our discussions range widely and we try to remain truly authentic to the Spirit of Christ. We do try to support those people and missions that stand up for the oppressed people of our world such as Hope House and My Father's Kitchen. Although we bemoan our own state and the state of our world, we try to focus on the positives around us.

How do you tell yourselves the stories of the Quaker saints who have been excited to live godly lives and who have practiced justice and mercy?

Each Sunday, in our bulletin insert, we print our "Quaker Moment" and have someone from the congregation read it aloud. It might be a short description of a Quaker saint and their life, or it could be a query or maybe a description of one of the Testimonies or practices peculiar to Quakers. Sometimes, a Friend will stand up and share a memory of a time past at Springfield Meeting, or of a particular Friend that they remember.

Goals for the future: We have newer members with families of small children. May we be vibrant and alive in the Spirit to bring them into a closer, more committed role in the community of the Living Christ.

Xenia Friends Meeting

Xenia Friends has been blessed with speakers sharing the stories of Quaker saints of the early years and of those in the present age.

This has been a most challenging time for Xenia possibly the hardest since our conception. Although we have been experiencing a declining membership without gaining any new members, we had a blow this year, we lost two members just 2 weeks apart. One was our beloved pastor and Spiritual leader and the other one was a strong pillar in our midst, He was known as "JACK of all trades". John was the first to arrive at Meeting on Sunday mornings ensuring lights were on and the sound system was working, temperature was comfortable, and everyone was greeted. John also helped in the kitchen when we had potlucks and memorial dinners. He was the one depended to receive the weekly offerings. He was invaluable with encouraging our guest speakers who we heard from afterward that they so appreciated his instructions.

Lois Hackney not only gave us a wonderful sermon each week but because her commitment and heavy involvement in WYM and the wider community of Friends, we were kept up to date with events and

happenings all around the world. Lois also included her whole family in her ministry, especially her husband Jim. She was so versed with scripture and the stories of the Faith. There is now a huge gap that can probably never be replaced. She was a world traveler and she shared her adventures with us in such a personal way. She encouraged us to do so many projects and to involve ourselves in many ministries. We hosted the United Society of Friends Meeting's Fall Banquet and the same weekend we hosted the WYM Fall Sing for Missions. We sponsored a Silent Auction in which we were able to add many dollars to missions for the yearly meeting. We were able to make quite a few dolls for Wilmington College to be included with the 100 dolls sent to Japan with Nancy McCormick. We felt we had traveled there with her. And we still were able to do many projects within our own Meeting.

It is not known if Lois' favorite scripture was Micah 6:8, but she truly embodied that perfectly.

Then when we were hit with the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, everything changed as it did everywhere else. But we have been continuously blessed by many members stepping up to keep us abreast of current events by E-mail to keep us connected. They have shared hymns, prayers, sermons, and important information to Xenia Friends' members and friends.