Minutes

of

Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends

Held near Barnesville, Ohio and online.

Eighth Month, 4th - Eighth Month 8th, 2026

Clerk: Charles Thomas, Jr.
Reading Clerk: Samuel Wilber
Assistant Clerk: Kenneth Jacobsen

Treasurer: Beverly Kirk Shull

Yearly Meeting mail may be sent care of:
Olney Friends School 61830 Sandy Ridge Road, Barnesville, Ohio 43713

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Opening Session, Eighth Month 4th, Afternoon

At the Annual Sessions of Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends held in the Stillwater Meeting House and online, by adjournments from Eighth Month 4th through Eighth Month 8th in the year 2026, inclusive.

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Matthew 7:7-8

We were asked how we can fear, how we can be discouraged when we know that our redeemer lives and lives within us. With the joy that is set before us, can we throw off that which discourages us? We asked Him to make us His disciples, His students, His followers so that we can know Him and immerse ourselves in His joy.

Thank you Lord Jesus, for your joy.

We have recently lost two tender and seasoned Friends in Elvina Mary Krekler and Frances Irene Taber. They embodied the Christian love and commitment that God's Kingdom is built upon. We pray that we can follow their example.

We read letters of introduction for Alicia McBride of FCNL, Tim Gee of FWCC, Nathaniel Corwin and Sarah Miller of Friendship Friends Meeting – North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative. We also read a traveling letter for Beth Green-Nagle of Hominy Monthly Meeting – Great Plains Yearly Meeting. We welcomed them and the following visitors in our meetinghouse: Derek Knox from Wellesley Friends – New England Yearly Meeting, Dan and Lucy Davenport, Bridge City Meeting – North Pacific Yearly Meeting, Jon Shafer, Penn Valley Meeting – Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative. We then welcomed the following Friends online:

Jana Norlin, Grand Rapids Meeting – Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, Rex Sprouse, Bloomington Friends – Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, Margaret Nunn, Pelham Executive Meeting – Canadian Yearly Meeting. Autumne Kirkpatrick – New York Yearly Meeting, Sherry Hansen from Missouri, Catherine Levinson from Washington state. Chaddo from Ontario Canada, Kathryn Louise from North Florida.

Query Summaries

We considered the first three queries and their proposed summaries. They were all approved.

1st Query: Are meetings for worship well and punctually attended? Is our behavior therein conducive to meditation and communion with God? Do we maintain a waiting spiritual worship and a free gospel ministry? Do we welcome others to share this fellowship with us?

YM Summary:

We practice an expectant, waiting, spiritual worship, quieting our minds to bring our whole being to a state wholly focused upon God. This worship becomes deep and powerful as we open ourselves to the movement of the Holy Spirit. It draws us closer to the Lord and closer to each other.

We commune with God without a paid clergy. Our Ministry is "given without money and without price."

Our meetings are sincere in welcoming visitors. Yet we still have a desire to be more creative, persistent, and diligent in this exercise. We recognize that there is a great need for what we have and that more can be done to invite others to share in it.

Both in-person and online attendance is good and generally punctual. There are concerns, however, that participation by full members might be better. The networking tool known as Zoom has become a mainstay in many of our meetings. It allows isolated Friends to worship with us and has generally made Conservative Friends more accessible.

2nd Query: Do we cherish a forgiving spirit, and strive to "walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us"? Is each one of us careful for the reputation of others? Are we ever mindful to love our neighbor as ourselves? If differences threaten to disrupt the Christian harmony between the members, is prompt action taken?

YM Summary:

Nurturing a forgiving spirit is a vital requirement in our walk with Christ. Holding grudges, resentment or anger is damaging and hurtful. We know we need to forgive, but simply trying to forgive is not the same as cherishing a forgiving spirit. True forgiveness requires seasoning and prayer. It is Christ's immediate direction that benefits both forgiver and forgiven.

Reputations are preserved by listening to, and being guided by the Holy Spirit. This guidance reminds us that each person has an inward seed of light and truth. The seed is in Christ's care to raise up. Our charge is to avoid gossip and to refrain from being judgmental. Our call is to harbor tender love by every word and deed.

Loving others as we love ourselves requires constant effort and self-examination. Lesser tasks can distract us from the forgiveness, grace and love that we are called to. But when we

focus on these things our love prospers, and others can know us as Christ's followers.

There is a concern that resolution of differences is sometimes avoided and conflicts buried. But this year has also taught us that relying on the Holy Spirit helps us to care for one another, giving us the ability to deal with any situation. We have learned there is joy to be found here.

3rd Query: Are our homes places of peace, joy, and contentment? Are they an influence for good in the neighborhood, community, and country? Do we set a good Christian example for our children to follow? Are Friends careful that their children realize that our loving Savior will faithfully guide them through life, as they are willing to accept and obey Him? Do we help our children to read and appreciate the Bible?

YM Summary:

Our homes are peaceful, a quiet comforting respite in a noisy world. It is the faithful work of Truth and our relationship with the Lord Jesus that provides this peace. While stress sometimes exists, we become safe, secure and more grounded as we lay aside divisive topics and negativity.

We acknowledge the importance of our children and grandchildren. We realize that they require work, consistency, balance, communication, and love. Our Christian calling is to lead them and others in the way of God's peace. We encourage all to read the Scriptures, early Friends writings, and to be guided by the Holy Spirit as they do so.

Quarterly Meeting Appointments

The Quarterly Meetings' appointments to this body were read. All were present. Also read were Nominating Committee appointments.

Quarterly Meetings' Appointments to Yearly Meeting 2026

Quarterly Meeting Representatives

Salem Quarter: Nancy Hawkins, Sharon Helms, Conrad Lindes.

Stillwater Quarter: Karen Walsh; Constance Bair-Thompson; Burton Doudna

Rockingham Quarter: Dave Casterline, Jack Smith, Mike Kinch and Penny Thomas

Appointments to Nominating Committee

The terms for these Friends expire in 2028

Chesterfield: Janet Hammer
Keystone: David Eley
Marlborough: Jared Valdez
Middleton: Becky Hawkins
Rockingham: Jack Smith
Salem: Kimberly A. Newlin
Stillwater: Marie Bundy

Currently serving on Nominating Committee

The terms for these Friends expire in 2027

Chestnut Ridge: Constance Bair-Thompson
Crossroads: Sharon A. Helms
Keystone: Michael R. Kinch
Marlborough: Penny Thomas
Middleton: Henry C. Jason, Jr
Stillwater: Jean Cooper

Temporary Epistle Committee Appointment

We read an early report from Nominating Committee. Diane Reynolds is unable to serve on the Epistle Committee for these sessions. We appointed Matt Rosen in her stead. Diane will complete her term in 2027.

Nominating Committee Interim Report

Nominating Committee has learned that Diane Reynolds, who is a member of the Epistle Committee, will not be present during the current Yearly Meeting week. It is felt that a replacement for her would be beneficial for the Epistle Committee to function properly.

Nominating Committee proposes that Matt Rosen serve on the Epistle Committee, just for this current 2026 Yearly Meeting session. With approval from the Yearly Meeting, Matt is willing to serve.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee,

Janet Hammer, convener

Treasurer's Report

We considered our Treasurer's report, reflecting on the financial health of our Yearly Meeting. In recent years we have always received enough funds to meet the budget. The Treasurer will be happy to notify the Monthly Meetings if it ever becomes the case that we fall short.

We appreciated the clarity and thoroughness of the report and the work of the treasurers.

OYM Treasurer's Report Eighth Month 2026

	General Operating		Special	General Operating	
	Budget 2024-25	Actual 7/1/24 - 6/30/25	Projects 7/1/24 - 6/30/25	Budget 7/1/25- 6/30/26	Actual 7/1/25-6/30/26
Revenue					
Book Sales		60.00			15.00
Monthly Meeting Donations		24,910.55			26,274.25
Other Donations		2,044.00			1,700.00
Restricted Donations	Technical Support		10,000.00	Monteverde School	245.00
		27,014.55	10,000.00		28,234.25
Disbursements					
Ad Hoc Committees	250.00	-		250.00	-
Agenda Committee	25.00	25.00		25.00	25.00
Christian Education Camp	1,200.00	1,200.00		1,200.00	1,200.00
Clerk's Expenses	300.00	300.00		300.00	300.00
Conservative Friend	25.00	25.00		25.00	0.00
Custodians of Records	300.00	64.16		300.00	80.00
FCNL	250.00	250.00		125.00	125.00
Friends Center	25.00	27.06		25.00	25.00
Friends Disaster Service	200.00	200.00		200.00	200.00
FWCC	500.00	500.00		500.00	500.00
FWCC Capital Campaign (year 3 of 5)	1,000.00	1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00
Historical Committee	25.00	25.00		300.00	300.00
Hominy Center	200.00	200.00		200.00	200.00
Insurance	5,171.79	5,171.79		6,581.00	6,581.00
Monteverde School		344.00			245.00
Outreach Committee	300.00	300.00		350.00	350.00
Peace & Human Relations	100.00	100.00		100.00	100.00
Printing	1,000.00	1,050.39		1,250.00	1,161.51

Property Trustees	1,500.00	1,500.00		2,000.00	172.75
RSWR	200.00	200.00		200.00	200.00
Technical Support (see note 3 below)	1,000.00		5,874.09	1,025.00	2,079.84
Travel Fund	2,500.00	2,500.00		3,000.00	3,000.00
Treasurer Expense	150.00	137.08		150.00	128.38
Walton Home	10,000.00	10,000.00		10,000.00	10,000.00
Water	250.00	165.68		250.00	152.75
WFCF	25.00	25.00		25.00	25.00
Youth at Yearly Meeting	250.00			250.00	180.30
Total Disbursements	26,746.79	25,310.16	5,874.09	29,631.00	28,331.53

1. The Historical Committee is authorized to draw up to $2,500 from the Chester E. Hartley Fund for painting needs.

2. FWCC Capital Campaign line is third of 5 yearly payments approved in 2023.

3. Technical Support Committee has an unspent balance of $4,071.07 to carry into next year.

4. Youth at Yearly Meeting expenses are reimbursed following Yearly Meeting.

5. Reminder: Treasurer has standing authority to draw up to $5,000 from General funds with Fiduciary Trustees if needed.

Monthly Meeting Contributions	
2022	$20,070.00
2023	$19,167.50
2024	$22,453.00
2025	$24,910.55
2026	$26,274.25

Checking Account Balance 6/30/2026	
Total	23569.74
Property Trustees	$3,165.01
OYM General Funds	$20,404.73

Investments with OYM Fiduciary Trustees

	7/1/2025	6/30/2026	**7/1/2026**
Chester E Hartley Maintenance	$21,982.21	$20,792.36	$21,969.86
General Funds	$95,334.15	$99,920.06	$105,800.06
Sale of Property to OFS	$56,511.04	$57,705.80	$60,952.83
Yearly Meetinghouse Maintenance Fund	-	$24,000.00	$24,610.85

Legal Services Contingency Fund	$30,056.01	$32,660.45	$34,541.30
	$203,883.41	$235,078.67	$247,874.90

**The 6% interest generated over the past fiscal year is credited effective 7/1/26*

Major OYM-Directed Transactions for Investment Accounts:

Hartley Maintenance Fund:	8/25	$5,000 to Stillwater MM for meetinghouse repairs
Sale of Property to OFS:	8/25	$10,000 to Stillwater MM for meetinghouse repairs
OYM General Funds:	1/26	$10,000 to Yearly Meetinghouse Maintenance

Revaluation of OYM Funds held by Fiduciary Trustees:
Each constituent fund held by the Fiduciary Trustees was revalued in First Month 2026 in order to reduce the Reserve Fund to the target level of 20%. The revaluation amount was credited to the accounts and explains why the fund totals are relatively unchanged from 7/1/25 despite the significant fund transfers directed by the Yearly Meeting.

Physical Assets of Ohio Yearly Meeting

Walton Retirement Home and Campus	Managed by WRH Board
Friends Center and garage	Managed by Friends Center Committee
Plummer House	Managed by Plummer House Committee
248 acres of farmland	Leased to Olney Friends School
Taber farmhouse Freestall barn & hay storage building	
Machinery shop & shed	
2,000 bushel corn crib	

Beverly Kirk Shull, Treasurer
Robert Becerra, Assistant Treasurer 8/1/2026

Audit and Budget Committee Appointments

David Male and Conrad Lindes were appointed to our Audit and Budget Committee. They will join the two Friends we appointed last year to audit our books and prepare a proposed budget for this year. They will also ponder names for Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer for the coming year. Those names and the budget will be considered in our last session.

Oversight of the Monteverde School Fund

We agreed that Marie Bundy will oversee the Monteverde contributions this year. She will report at our last session.

OYM Property Trustees Report

We read a report from the Property Trustees. We expressed appreciation for all the friends investing time and labor to preserve this meetinghouse. After a few corrections to the report, we approved it with gratitude.

OYM PROPERTY TRUSTEES REPORT
August 2026

Projects outlined in last year's report have been completed. These include complete covering of all soffit and fascia surfaces on meetinghouse eaves and gable overhangs with vinyl or aluminum material, new gutters and downspouts with an additional downspout on both East and West side. Total cost of this work $26,200.00.

New concrete steps at East door, reset stone steps at North door, and some new concrete sidewalk at both sets of steps. This cost $4,400.00.

OYM provided $15,000.00 toward the $30,600 total. Stillwater covered the rest.

All new handrails at North steps and new pipe handrail attached to wooden handrail on porch ramp. We haven't received a bill for the handrail. Suggest handrail cost be shared by OYM and Stillwater. It may be around $3,000.

Leonard Guindon has painted windows and doors on South

and East side of meetinghouse. He has also rebuilt the doors sills on the east side of the meetinghouse.

Dead oak tree by brick walk at the Morlan is scheduled to come down. Cost to remove tree and grind stump will be $3,607.00. We are suggesting the cost be split between OYM and Friends Center. Friends Center is agreeable to that.

Projected expense known at this time:

Handrails	$1,500
Tree removal	$1,800

We are requesting $2,000 allocation for the coming year.

Property Trustee Fund

7/1/25	Balance	$1,337.76
10/12/25	First Choice Fire Ext.	- 172.75
10/ 8/25	OYM Allocation	$2,000.00
6/30/26	Balance	$3,165.01

Trustees
Robert Rockwell
Richard Sidwell
Robert Stratton
David Male

Representative Meeting Report

We heard a report from Representative Meeting and made some minor corrections to it. The Yearly Meeting approved the decisions they made in our stead.

Representative Meeting Report to the Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends 2026

At the Fall Session, held in the Chestnut Ridge Meetinghouse, 11th Month, 15, 2025, Nancy Hawkins was appointed Interim Clerk, as Sarah Parsons was unable to attend.

1). It was agreed that members are not in support of the addition of the word ”disowned” in our membership records, or in the Discipline. It was also agreed to continue using the word “discontinued”, and that “in a grievous situation we should follow through to see that the individual does not do damage in another place.”

2). It was agreed that the Fiduciary Trustees are to set up a new fund designated for the care of the Yearly Meeting Meetinghouse. The fund can begin with $10,000 from the General Fund, and $10,000 from the Sale of Property Fund.

3). Two letters of appreciation from donors were read. One from FWCC, the other from Monteverde Friends.

4). A letter was read communicating the Yearly Meeting’s concerns to FCNL. Our Yearly Meeting Clerk will hand deliver the letter personally to their Washington DC office.

5). The current Representative Clerks’ terms conclude following the Spring Representative Meeting in 4th month, 2026. Kathleen Kovalick and Nancy Hawkins are named to the committee appointed to bring names forward for a Clerk and Reading Clerk for this body. They will report back at the Fourth month Representative Meeting, 2026.

At the Spring session of Representative Meeting held at Salem Meetinghouse on Fourth Month,18th, 2026, Constance Bair-Thompson was appointed Interim Clerk as Sarah Parsons was unable to attend.

1). The Outreach Committee sought our advice regarding the republishing of the Booklet “Continuing in Marriage”, which proved meaningful for many when it was first published in 1983. The Outreach Committee felt that it would also benefit many of our seekers in understanding our Conservative Friends’ beliefs and experiences of marriage. Many questions arose concerning the details and responsibilities involved in undertaking this work. It was agreed that republishing and adding some updated experiences would indeed be beneficial. The Outreach Committee is asked to continue exploring this leading, being aware that Dave Casterline has kindly offered to convert the current text into a form that could be easily edited.

2). Charles Thomas (Chip) Jr. read his report of the meeting that took place between him and FCNL on Twelve Month, 11th, 2025. He was able to hand deliver our letter, share our concerns with them, and listen to their concerns in a Spirit of love. We also learned that Alicia McBride of FCNL will attend our Yearly Meeting sessions as a visitor, and as a result of some discernment from the Agenda Committee, she is also scheduled to speak at one of the evening presentations.

3). We approved a Traveling Minute for Charles Thomas (Chip) Jr., who feels led to travel in ministry to Monthly Meetings in the geographic region around Marlborough Meeting. The minute was endorsed with our blessings.

4). The Nominating Committee requested directions from the Yearly Meeting as to whether an affiliate member can serve as a Custodian of Records. Is this considered to be a committee, or one made up of officers?

We heard readings from our Book Of Discipline and from the 2025 Minute Book regarding the function of the Custodian of Records. Our Discipline does not seem conclusive about this matter. While full membership would be ideal, it is our sense that an affiliate member with the right qualifications should be allowed to be a Custodian.

We have a sense that they are not considered a committee, but also not a group of officers.

5). The Committee to Consider Names for Representative Clerks reported that Constance Bair-Thompson has agreed to serve as Representative Meeting Clerk, and Mary Alice Pino has agreed to serve as Reading Clerk. We approved these appointments and expressed appreciation for the service of our outgoing clerks.

Sarah Parsons

Janet Hammer
Clerks

Custodians' Report

The Custodians of Records report was read. We were reminded of the importance of safely storing statements of conscientious objectors. Concern was expressed that we should not rely entirely on digital records. We appreciated the report. It is good to know that improvements are planned.

OYM Records Custodians Report

8th Month 2026

The Yearly Meeting vault in the lower level of the Main Building at Olney has seen little activity this past year. Based on last year's report to the Yearly Meeting, there are several issues that need addressing to maintain the historical and current records of the Yearly Meeting into the future. The Records Custodians will be creating formal guidelines to cover the known issues of concern.

We do not know of an official guide as to what records *should* be housed in the vault, and there are more records than storage space. Over the years, Friends have placed various committee minutes including Ministry and Oversight records onto shelves. Records of people seeking Conscientious Objector status are there. We have some Quarterly Meeting and Monthly Meeting minutes, including but not limited to those which have been laid down. Since the advent of digital records, few or none are in the vault. Having a good, searchable inventory of what we do have will also show us what we are missing, which we anticipate being quite a few.

We plan to catalog the contents of the vault, identify which records are missing, and determine which may not need to be housed in the vault. As George Partridge suggested in 2025, a central, searchable digital database could be created. This database could also house links to digital records of monthly meeting and quarterly meeting minutes.

As mentioned previously, the environmental conditions in the current vault are unstable: humidity and mold risk the physical integrity of records stored there. Fire and flooding are other potential risks. Should a larger secure and climate-controlled vault be created, perhaps adjoining the historical rooms at Stillwater?

We were allocated $300 last year for expenses. After purchasing a stable stepladder, no funds were expended. We are still seeking ways to scan the disintegrating maps which had been housed on the floor of the vault.

We plan to report progress on addressing these issues going forward.

The custodians,
Seth Hinshaw
Beverly Shull
Kim Newlin
Constance Bair-Thompson

Epistle from North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative

We took a few moments to hear an Epistle from our dear Friends of North Carolina Yearly Meeting. We appreciated the good letter and were glad for the continuing connection between our two Yearly Meetings.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

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Greensboro, NC 27404

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www.ncymc.org

"About this time, those members of the Yearly Meeting who felt that it was right for them to maintain the doctrines of the immediate and perceptible guidance of the Holy Spirit, of the headship of Christ over all things to His Church, and of the waiting worship and inspirational ministry which are, and must

ever be, the outgrowth of these doctrines, believed it would be right for them to hold a separate Yearly Meeting." — Faith and Practice, Book of Discipline of the North Carolina Year Meeting (Conservative) of the Religious Society of Friends, 1983 Revision

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Seventh Month, 8-12, 2026

To Our Friends in Ohio Yearly Meeting,

Summer is a busy time, with our attention being pulled in many different directions. But Friends found peace at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC, for the 329th gathering of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). We found old friends and met new friends, appreciating our time in the warm and welcoming space where many of us have fond memories of yearly meetings from many years past. We returned to the cafeteria, a haven we missed last year!

We were pleased to hear your epistle. Our hearts were lightened to welcome David Eley, and to see the dear face of Earl Smith on our Zoom screen. It is our hope that Nathaniel Corwin & Sarah Miller will be with you at your sessions in Eighth Month.

This year our theme was "Treasures of Our Tradition." Our Treasurer asked, "What is the treasure that we have, and how do we tend to it?" It is honoring the Light of God within us and following the immediate and perceptible guidance of the Holy Spirit. Lloyd Lee Wilson quoted R.R. Tolkien: "All that is gold does not glitter; not all those who wander are lost; the old that is strong does not wither; deep roots are not reached by the frost."

Our time together opened with updates on Guilford College. President Jean Parvin Bordewich rejoiced that the school is on much sturdier ground this year than last year, when she spoke

to us as the new Acting President. Their accreditation has been affirmed, enrollment is growing, and they are moving forward. Wess Daniels and Liz Nicholson from the Friends Center shared examples of Guilford's new emphasis on the radical attention movement. Gwen Gosney

Erickson showed off improvements to the digital side of the archives and talked about how the Guilford archives are working with the wider Greensboro community.

In the spirit of togetherness and embracing our own treasures, Friends were invited to three incredibly enriching intergenerational activities between business sessions and evening activities. Max Carter (Retired Director of Friends Center and Quaker Studies at Guilford College) led an incredible tour of the Historic New Garden Friends Cemetery (est. 1757). Max is a walking encyclopedia of Quaker history, and walking together amongst the tombstones and hearing the stories of influential Friends was awe inspiring. Seeking shade under the magnificent oaks and standing in the place where the Revolutionary Oak Tree once stood and hearing of the brave Quakers who took care of the wounded American and British soldiers was deeply moving. A nature and meditative walk around Guilford campus led by our own Nan Bowles offered a chance for Friends to walk slowly and listen deeply — listen to the earth, the trees, the grass. Listen to the sky, birds and clouds sailing by. Seeing and touching the Underground Railroad Witness Tree and basking in the sheer beauty of the Guilford Woods leaves a deep and reverent impression.
Our family grew this year. We welcomed Greenville, SC Monthly Meeting into our Yearly Meeting!

We accomplished all of our business with hours to spare! Friends treasured the free time, using it to get back and forth to the bathroom facilities in Founders Hall when the systems in the Community Center broke. The clerks invited us into a time of worship sharing around the query '[What does Yearly Meeting mean to you?" Friends shared beloved memories of their time with NCYM(C), with many remarking that it's not

what we say that leaves an impression, it's how we say it - always with love. And through our annual talent show, with joy and song as well.

On behalf of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative),

Michelle Downey

Clerk

Adjourning minute

We paused for a moment of worshipful silence and then adjourned, intending to continue our work in the morning.

FOURTH DAY, MORNING SESSION, 8/5

He has removed our sins as far away from us as the east is from the west. He is like a father to us, tender and sympathetic to those who revere Him. For He knows we are but dust and that our days are few and brief, like grass, like flowers, blown by the wind and gone forever. But the loving-kindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting to those who revere Him; his salvation is to [the] children's children of those who are faithful to His covenant and remember to obey Him!

Psalms 103:12-18

This morning, the Lord taught us about joy and hope for the future. If we live in His joy, hope, and trust, it is an antidote to all the evils that confront us. We must keep our eyes and ears on Him so that we can deal with anything, and help Him in His plan to save the world.

We read a letter of introduction for Jon Shafer that was not available when we welcomed him yesterday.

We also welcomed Ariadne Goerke from Arlington, VA, attender at Marlborough. Online, we greeted Gail Nelix Greenwall from Cape Cod – New England Yearly Meeting.

Query Summaries

The fourth, fifth and sixth queries were reviewed and the proposed summaries approved with one correction.

Fourth Query: Believing our bodies to be the temple of God, are we concerned to attain a high level of physical and mental health? To this end are our lives examples of temperance in all things? Do we avoid and discourage the use and handling of intoxicants, tobacco, and improper use of drugs?

YM Summary: Attaining physical health can be a struggle. We try to balance diet and exercise but are challenged by aging, overworking, and overeating. But we are aided in our struggle by a good relationship with God. We endeavor to keep our thoughts positive, pure and focused on Him. We seek the Lord's guidance when it comes to TV, movies, the internet & social media. He cares for our mental health and makes it easier for us to be good stewards of our physical health. Knowing that He dwells in us, fills us with awe for His grace and mercy.

Temperance forms in us as we surrender to Him. We avoid and discourage intoxicants, tobacco and the misuse of drugs. There is a concern that these vices are often used to fill voids and we are reminded to provide love and care for those who stumble. A very few of us report minimal wine consumption.

We are blessed that our internal cup is filled with the Light of Christ. We seek to maintain lives oriented to this Light; we continue to seek for simplicity and good in our daily walks; we live in the hope of Christian transformation, and trust in the power of

God's healing Love. We have experienced the deep contentment, love, joy and assurance that comes from a continual surrendering of everything to our Lord.

Fifth Query: Are we sensitive to the needs of those around us who may be in less fortunate circumstances? Do we prayerfully consider how we can share one another's burdens when the need arises? Do we counsel lovingly and prayerfully with those members whose actions in any phase of life give us grounds for concern?

YM Summary: We are concerned about those in less fortunate circumstances and try to be sensitive to their needs. This means continuing to seek Divine Wisdom for those struggling in difficult circumstances. We participate in material charities, strive to practice spiritual charity, and are conscious of marginalized groups.

As we become aware of need, we do consider how to prayerfully and lovingly share one another's burdens. One Meeting uses fellowship time after worship for careful listening. Appreciation has been expressed for the discernment, love, and kindness shown in times of need.

We remain watchful and prayerful for any causes of concern among our members. Where there is conflict, we try to approach it with grace and openness, remembering that love, not judgment, is the first motion. Our interventions may not always fix a problem, but we endeavor to do our best and show our care. It is important to be accompanied by the tender spirit of Jesus as we minister to others and others to us. True ministering and help can only come when the Holy Spirit is invited into our work, becoming a third presence in our midst. We pray to be perfected in these practices.

Sixth Query: Do we live in the life and power which takes away the occasion of all wars? Do we, on Christian principles, refuse to participate in or to cooperate with the military effort? Do we work actively for peace and the removal of the causes of war? Do we endeavor to cultivate goodwill, mutual understanding, and equal opportunities for all people?

YM Summary: Although it can be difficult in today's world, our call is to live in the life and power of Christ. We recognize that God is greater than all evil. His power takes away hate toward our fellow man. We testify to the whole world that we live in the security of Jesus Christ, not military power. He will never lead us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons.

Although we do not cooperate with the military effort, many are concerned that paying taxes is a form of participation. A few of us survive on an income low enough that their taxes do not support the military establishment.

Many of us work directly to promote world peace, participating in vigils, supporting organizations that assist asylum seekers, striving to help families and meetings, and sharing support for peace in public places. While we reach out to local and national politicians, we also try to keep faithful in our homes and relationships. We look for the good in others and respect them. We can speak in Christ's power and to witness to His peace, staying in a loving spirit, even when we disagree.

We pray that the actions we take spring from a godly root, so that God can harvest righteousness through us.

Membership Report

We reviewed and accepted a thorough Membership report offered by our Recorder.

Membership Report for OYM 2026		
Total Membership, Seventh Month First 2025 (last year)		407
Gains:		
	Births or Adoptions	0
	Requests	5
	Certificates Received	1
	Total Gains	6
Losses		
	Deaths	7
	Certificates transferred	1
	By request	5
	Membership discontinued	1
		14
	Net gain /loss for year	-8
Total Membership as of Seventh Month First 2026		399
	Full Members	264
	Affiliate Members	99
	Affiliate Associate Members	0
	Associate Members	17
	Sojourning Members	0
	Waiting	19
		399
Membership Summary (Including Associate Members)		
	Membership under 5 years	2
	Membership 5 to 18 years	7
	Membership 18 and older	390
	Total (same as above)	399

School Report (Members attending schools)

Attending Pre-school	1
Attending Friends School	2
Olney Friends School (1) New Garden Friends School (1)	
Attending Public Schools	5
Attending Private Schools	0
Attending Home School	0
Attending College	6
Total:	14

Weddings

1 Number of weddings under the care of this Monthly Meeting	0
2 Number of Members married this year under the care of Friends	0
3 Number of Members married this year NOT under the care of Friends	2
Total Friends married	2

GAINS
Births and Adoptions

Certificates Received

2/22/2026	Larry Muller (from Stillwater)	Rockingham MM

Requests

7/12/2025	Susan Moody (Full)	Chesterfield MM
9/14/2025	Rob Fensom (Full)	Crossroads MM
9/14/2025	Richard Stevens (Full)	Crossroads MM
9/21/2025	Daniel Lean-Moctezuma (Affiliate)	Stillwater MM
1/18/2026	Ruth Gaston (Full)	Stillwater MM

NOTE:

Change from Full

11/16/2025	Edward Gwozda (to Affiliate)	Marlborough MM

LOSSES

Certificate Transfer

2/22/2026	Larry Muller (to Rockingham)	Stillwater MM

Deaths

1/18/2026	Grant D. Kaufmann *(Full)*	Rockingham MM
1/24/2026	Wendell W. Satterthwait *(Full)*	Middleton MM
4/3/2026	Sharon E. Newlin *(Full)*	Salem-Upper Springfield MM
4/30/2026	Timothy Rockwell. *(Waiting)*	Stillwater MM
5/15/2026	Austin Wattles *(Affiliate)*	Marlborough MM
6/14/2026	Elvina Krekler *(Full)*	Salem-Upper Springfield MM
6/21/2026	Frances I. (Smith) Taber *(Full)*	Stillwater MM

By Request

12/7/25	Krista Nichole (Nikki) Gross *(Full)*	Rockingham MM
12/7/25	Sylvia Jane Gross-Kroker (Associate)	Rockingham MM
12/7/25	Micah Bales *(Affiliate)*	Rockingham MM
12/7/25	Faith Kelley *(Affiliate)*	Rockingham MM
2/1/26	Hannah M. Lomax *(Affiliate)*	Rockingham MM

Discontinued

1/1/25	Thomas Nordskog *(Associate)*	Salem-Upper Springfield MM

Names of those Married

8/31/2025	Daniel Newlin and Brittni Schlosser Not under the care of Friends	Salem-Upper Springfield MM
6/13/2026	Matthew Hammer and Siromani Duddu Not under the care of Friends	Chesterfield MM

Names of Ministers Recorded this Year		
6/21/2026	David Johnson	Marlborough MM

Names of Elders Recorded this Year		
	None	

Names of Overseers Recorded this Year		
2/1/2026	Kent Palmer	Rockingham MM
6/21/2026	Karen Walsh	Stillwater MM

Names of Ministers	
David F. Eley	Keystone Fellowship MM
Seth B. Hinshaw	Marlborough MM
David Johnson	Marlborough MM
Charles C. Thomas Jr.	Marlborough MM
John C. Smith	Rockingham MM
Nancy A. Hawkins	Middleton MM
Conrad Lindes	Salem-Upper Springfield MM
Winifred E. Stratton	Salem-Upper Springfield/ Sojourning Stillwater MM
Burton Doudna	Chestnut Ridge MM
John Benson	Stillwater MM
David Male	Stillwater MM
Names of Elders	
David F. Eley	Keystone Fellowship MM

Michael R. Kinch	Keystone Fellowship MM
Bridget Casterline	Marlborough MM
Susan S. Smith	Rockingham MM
Wil Brant	Crossroads MM
Sharon A. Helms	Crossroads MM
Lois G. Edgerton	Middleton MM
Rebecca J. Hawkins	Middleton MM
Mary Alice Pino	Middleton MM
Nelda J. Hawkins	Salem-Upper Springfield MM
Evelyn Groves	Chestnut Ridge MM
Kathleen Kovalick	Chestnut Ridge MM
Kenneth Jacobsen	Stillwater MM
Richard Simon	Stillwater MM
Earl Smith	Stillwater MM
Sylvia Thomas	Stillwater MM
Names of Overseers	
Penny Thomas	Marlborough MM
Dave W. Casterline	Rockingham MM
Kent Palmer	Rockingham MM
Sharon A. Helms	Crossroads MM
Dorothy Pearle Burlingame	Middleton MM
Eunice M. Burkey	Salem-Upper Springfield MM
Janet Hammer	Chesterfield MM
Marie Bundy	Stillwater MM
Diane Reynolds	Stillwater MM

Karen Walsh	Stillwater MM
Jean Cooper	Stillwater MM
Names of Clerks	
Eileen R. Kinch	Keystone Fellowship MM
Bridget Casterline	Marlborough MM
Dave W. Casterline [Co--Clerk]	Rockingham MM
Kent Palmer [Co-Clerk]	Rockingham MM
Sharon A. Helms	Crossroads MM
Mary Alice Pino	Middleton MM
Carey L. Newlin	Salem-Upper Springfield MM
Janet Hammer	Chesterfield MM
Burton Doudna	Chestnut Ridge MM
Carolyn McGinnis	Chestnut Ridge MM (Reading Clerk)
Thomas Rockwell	Stillwater MM
Leonard Guindon	Stillwater MM (Reading Clerk)
Names of Recorders	
Michael R. Kinch	Keystone Fellowship MM
Penny L. Thomas	Marlborough MM
Dave W. Casterline & Andrea Early	Rockingham MM
Sharon A. Helms	Crossroads MM
Nancy A. & Rebecca J. Hawkins	Middleton MM
Lola J. Toot	Salem-Upper Springfield MM

Janet Hammer	Chesterfield MM
Kathleen Kovalick	Chestnut Ridge MM
Roseanna (Rockwell) Wilkinson	Stillwater MM

Peace and Human Relations Committee Report

We read and accepted the Peace Committee's report.

Peace & Human Relations Committee Report to Ohio Yearly Meeting 7/11/2026

Peace and Human Relations committee meets each month online. Our best practice is to have one meeting for our committee discernments, and another open meeting for shared prayer for the world, listening to God and each other, in each month. When Friends have voiced a need, we have offered a called meeting for prayer and listening to concerns and pain; these have been precious times of comfort and spirit for all.

We have active members from Chesterfield, Chestnut Ridge, Rockingham and Stillwater Meetings, and invite visitors from all monthly meetings. Several Friends take part as often as they can, and are very valued. We encourage Friends to visit Peace Committee meetings and to share with their home meetings.

Love for God, and for the Word, who said, "*Whatever you have done for the least of these, so you have done for me also*", is the Spirit which labors with us. Love for God's

creation, humankind; and our earthly home inspires grave concern and distress for the wrongs we see.

Friends feel deep grief and examination by the Light, as we seek to hear what ours is to do, and feel our limitations. Somehow, we sense God's purpose and joy in our fellowship and caring for each other, and believe that more guidance will be given in time. Discussion is so inadequate to the suffering before us, yet our wrestling seems to be in the care of our Teacher, to weave us together in bonds of love, and help us grow in strength and hope.

We invite Friends to reflect with us on some of the concerns that have persisted through many months:

• The suffering of the Gazan people and all people affected by wars in the Middle East and everywhere. How can we, as citizens of the country providing the greatest proportion of lethal weapons in the world, make our objection to war and a militarized economy heard?

• We seek to understand the environmental emergency in all natural systems; how we are all affected by it; how war accelerates it; what can we do in local ways?

• Congress has passed legislation to automatically enlist all young men aged 18 - 26, which will begin as of Twelfth Month 2026. We are trying to discover how this will affect those who wish to register their Conscientious Objection to War.

• Most of all, seeking to live in the Truth, to uphold truth, and witness to truth...In this time when there is such terror

of truth, the truth is that you need never fear the truth. Friends are the Friends of Truth.

Please share your interest in discussions, perhaps webinars, on such subjects with members of Peace Committee.

We wish to share some openings, thoughts and prayers that have been expressed in our gatherings…

Thy strength, oh Lord, is perfected in our weakness. The dominant theme of our time does seem to be denial and fear of truth – but it is not too much for the boundless love and great peace of God, which is our birthright; and which is become the great theme of God's Truth. Thanks be to the Infinite Love which made us.

In the midst of big and dramatic world conflicts, I see how the Light wishes to come into the human hearts of each of us. I hope that we won't overlook the small but vital work of Christ in the heart, the human scale of the peacemaking that is asked of us. And remember the importance of the small circles in which we live.

Our hearts are tenderized by Christ, then break open to the world. The suffering in the world and the pain in our hearts are not separate. The work of God within us, and the work of God in the world are the same thing.

We have a strong paradox of living in two kinds of time – mystical time and present time. Christ has not freed us from engagement in the suffering of this day, nor allowed us to be separate.

What I mean by reconciliation is that we need each other. The witness of a community is also required by the Spirit. Reconciliation happens from a brand-new place, not an old place. Christ will bring thee there. Are we ready to let that happen?

That Spirit which sees to the end of all war, shows us today the "end"– the cause, the purposeless purpose, and utter futility, wastefulness and wickedness of all war. There are no foreign wars. All fighting, including fighting that our country supports with technology, weapons, and money, are all wars waged against ourselves and the precious sacred inward spirit of every living being. As we human beings escalate external wars, we are changing our world and ourselves internally from what we were created to be. What are we willing to do, what transformation can we seek? For our own sakes and the sakes of so many others, even if we can't change the course of nations, we must speak out.

The peace of God comes with a hope; a bubbling up from within that can't keep from breaking out, because our hearts have been changed. We can't know how or when, but we can sense that things are going to shift.

There is a call ringing out to all Friends, all churches, all people, to go back to that root that is already in them, which is rooted in the Prince of Peace.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you, not as the world gives..." John 14:27

Do we feel the peace that Christ gives, in heart and spirit, in the midst of a world without peace? Do we allow that

spirit of peace to calm our fears, settle our thoughts, anchor our leadings?

Do we seek Christ's power of bringing all hearts to peace in our daily lives? To transform our relationships, our speaking and doing? Has it removed conflict within and around and between us?

Budget Considerations:

For Peace and Human Relations Committee, at Ohio Yearly Meeting, 8th month 2026

At our last yearly meeting, it was suggested that the Peace Committee might bring to the gathered body an organization or cause to support, so that, in faithfulness to the tender Spirit of Jesus, we might give of what we have been given, sharing God's love and provision with our brothers and sisters.

We have been exercised in prayer on this, and are united to suggest that the Yearly Meeting make a donation to Doctors Without Borders. There are many things we could say about this organization: they provide humanitarian medical care, responding to acute emergencies around the world, including the recent earthquake in Venezuela, as well as conducting long-term programs to help with chronic health issues, like tuberculosis. They are active in more than 75 countries. But most importantly, it is our feeling that giving to this organization, responding in this way to the dire needs of so many around the world, is what the Lord would have us do, and our prayer is that by

giving together, we may be drawn further into unity of heart.

Our savings at the time of writing this report are $400. We anticipate spending that full sum to support our committee's activity at this yearly meeting, helping speakers to travel to be with us. This year, we ask the Yearly Meeting for $300, so that we can support speakers for yearly meeting next year, continuing our work on the Yearly Meeting's behalf to promote peace and justice in this world God so dearly loves.

For the Peace and Human Relations Committee,

Frederick Cooper, Jean Cooper, David Nagle, Matt Rosen, Earl Smith, Sylvia Thomas, Madeleine Vaché, Karen Lee Walsh

FWCC Representatives Report

We heard and appreciated a report from our FWCC Representatives.

FWCC report

The Friends World Committee for Consultation held its Section of the Americas meeting online on 3-21-2026. Unfortunately, none of OYM's representatives were able to attend this year.

The Section of the Americas has begun to hold regular online gatherings for Yearly Meeting representatives. During these meetings, representatives share what is going on in their Yearly Meetings and bring ideas for discussion. Eileen Kinch would like to attend in the future. The next one will be in 10th Month.

Ellerie Brownfain, an affiliate member of Stillwater, but not an OYM representative, is also involved with FWCC. She attended

the Europe and Middle East section meeting online this year. In 8th Month, she plans to attend an intergenerational event in Germany, sponsored by the Europe and Middle East Section. A few weeks ago, she was also able to give a short talk about Conservative Friends to a small group of programmed Friends in the United States. Ellerie reported that these Friends found the talk "really interesting."

In the fall, FWCC will be hosting an online global worship on 10-4, which is World Quaker Day. Worship will start at 10:00 am Eastern time and will occur continuously for eight hours. Friends (and their meetings) can join or leave the meeting at times suitable to them. This is a good opportunity to worship with Friends around the world without needing to travel. FWCC will release more details at a later date.

FWCC will be celebrating its 90th anniversary at the Friends Center on 10-9 in Philadelphia. Eileen Kinch expects to attend this gathering.

The next in-person Section of the Americas meeting will take place in Syracuse, Indiana, in mid-3rd Month 2027, and at least one representative is hoping to attend.

FCNL Representatives Report

The report of our FCNL Representatives was read. Several Friends shared a concern that we should not be making financial contributions to FCNL until issues regarding their abortion position are resolved.

Other Friends pointed out that FCNL does not encourage abortion and there is other good work that they do. A call was made to give this more time, before we complete a breach of fellowship.

It was pointed out that the issue of our donating to FCNL is separate from this report. We will need to wrestle with this issue, but perhaps not at this time.

We accepted this report.

FCNL Representatives Report to Ohio Yearly Meeting 2026

At Ohio Yearly Meeting in Eighth Month 2025, concerns were raised about the Friends Committee on National Legislation, questioning whether our 2024 minute about FCNL's policy on abortion and reproductive rights had been heard. Our Yearly Meeting Clerk was directed to compose a letter to FCNL explaining our concern, including the minute. The clerk felt it might have weight to deliver the letter in person at FCNL, and asked OYM representatives to help make contact with FCNL and facilitate generally. We all felt well used in an online meeting together with our clerk to prayerfully hear his letter and consider questions together. When contacted, FCNL's senior director of Quaker Leadership Alicia McBride and Deputy Director Lauren Brownlee offered to make themselves available to receive the letter and to hear about the Yearly Meeting's concerns from our clerk in person. The FCNL Representatives have experienced friendship and respect at FCNL and felt trust that FCNL wishes to hear from conservative Friends. It seems a positive start that Lauren, Alicia and Chip had a meaningful meeting together, and that following the meeting, Alicia wished come to Ohio Yearly Meeting to get to know us and be present for any help or clarity she might give. Let us take this opportunity to talk with Alicia, get to know her, share our questions, and also share who we are with her.

The past year has been one of changes for FCNL in the restructure of Annual Meeting and Congressional office visits. The representatives attended the online Annual Meeting in 11th month, 2025 by zoom. Karen Walsh also attended. We learned about steps taken to husband resources and cut costs,

increase relationships with members of Congress, and work with Advocacy Teams to deepen their expertise and effectiveness. We worked on the language for a new policy on artificial intelligence, posted in *The World We Seek: Statement of Legislative Policy* at fcnl.org.

Lobbying Congress in a new intergenerational Friends Changemaker Weekend took place in Fourth Month, and regrettably it did not work out for any of us to attend online. FCNL's report makes clear that all ages enjoyed training, preparing, making posters, making friends and visiting congressional offices together in an energetic, joyous time. Their message to Congress on April 14 was Not One Penny for War in Iran. At last, Congress has passed a War Powers Resolution. Now it is timely for Friends, if so moved, to support the cause of peace by calling on our representatives to refuse to pass the proposed $1.15 Trillion Pentagon Budget.

The 2026 Annual Meeting, FCNL's General Committee Gathering for discernment and business, will happen as usual in D.C. in 11th month. The representatives and potentially another person are hoping to attend this gathering in person or online, if it is in divine will and OYM's discernment. Representatives of Friends' Meetings, Yearly Meetings and Friends at large will gather from all participating bodies; for fellowship, worship, to hear about the operation of the organization, and a summary of the responses from all Quaker meetings that took part in the policy discernment process this past spring. Stillwater meeting held a discussion of the issues that matter most to us, and submitted our concerns to FCNL. Other monthly meetings may have missed this opportunity. Meetings can have a monthly meeting contact person for such

announcements by signing up online; also, we should do better to inform meetings of requests to work with FCNL.

A blessing of attending FCNL Annual Meeting in person and Advocacy webinars online are the friendships that grow with individuals in our own states and all across the country, as well as with the FCNL staff. It can be difficult to visit some Congressional offices to speak up about our convictions. FCNL provides updates on legislation, careful facts and a friendly approach to support people in speaking to or emailing a member of Congress; but also encourages everyone to use their own words and story. It is important to say what we are led to say. Participants learn about Friends' principles about speaking to that of God in each person, political officeholder or staffer, with kindness and respect, while upholding the truth. FCNL's work is not to tell Friends what to say, but to encourage us in advocating for our convictions from our own heart and conscience, drawing on their research, legislative updates and community for accuracy and support.

One friend shared, after last Ohio Yearly Meeting discussion, that the understanding was opened to him how when we speak to people not familiar with us and from a different background, it is appropriate to adjust our language to speak to their heart in ways they can understand. And he felt that it could truly be said that this is speaking in tongues. This thought led him to feel more easy with the language used by FCNL, who has the task of facilitating communications with politicians, as part of their calling.

The OYM representatives to FCNL are deeply grateful for the experience of representing OYM by witnessing to people in our nation's political service, with whatever the Spirit gives us to say. FCNL has helped to make it possible to have conservative

Friends at the table, often reducing our costs considerably. Ohio Yearly Meeting helped to create Friends Committee on National Legislation in 1943, sending Gilbert Thomas and Albert Livezey to represent us at its inception. We believe there is still a calling and a role for OYM in the work of FCNL today.

For the Ohio Yearly Meeting Representatives to Friends Committee on National Legislation,

Sylvia Thomas, Earl Smith and Tom Roberts

Costs of Annual Meeting 2025

The 2025 Registration Fees for the alternate Online Annual Meeting was $50 per person, for 3 Representatives and 1 guest.

The convenor will try to reach each attender to see if they wish reimbursement by Yearly Meeting

The upcoming 2026 Annual Meeting will be the in-person year. We don't have estimated costs yet, but will try to have them by yearly meeting time.

Historical Committee Report

A report from the Historical Committee was read. After the reading, the convener added some comments. We were urged to visit the Heritage Room, even though the door is closed to control the room's climate. It was also requested that the Yearly Meeting contribute $300 to help maintain that climate. This cost is shared with Stillwater Meeting.

We appreciated the committee's report, thanked them for their hard work and wish to encourage them.

OYM Historical Committee Report 2026

The Heritage Room has been open for visitors at various events at the meetinghouse during the year. The Olney Quakerism class had a tour of the Heritage room last winter. This summer,

Olney had a flax harvest event, and the heritage room was open for viewing our Flax/linen making display.

Members of the committee held a cleaning day before Olney Commencement with some minor cleaning or straightening up at other times.

The mini-split system installed in the North room has effectively controlled the temperature and humidity to prevent mold and mildew. It requires additional electricity; however, we feel it is well worth it for preserving our stored books and artifacts. We have moved the newer dehumidifier to the other room to provide additional humidity protection.

The lighting has been needing replacement bulbs, and we are investigating replacing the current fixtures with more efficient lighting fixtures.

We encourage OYM members and visitors to visit the Heritage room and welcome comments and suggestions.

Financial Report:

Balance 7/31/2025	$432.63
Income:	
OYM appropriation	300.00
Book sales	29.00
Donations	11.00
TOTAL INCOME	$340.00
Expense:	
Electric utilities	300.00
TOTAL EXPENCE	$300.00
Balance 7/31/2026	$472.63

Historical Committee: Marie Bundy, convenor, Gwen Giffen, Rebecca Hawkins, Evan Knappenberger, Tom Roberts, Loisanne Rockwell, Kay Smith, Earl Smith, Anne Marie Taber.

Adjourning minute

We entered a moment of prayer before we adjourned, intending to reconvene in the afternoon.

FOURTH DAY, AFTERNOON SESSION, 8/5

For this reason, we never become discouraged. Even though our physical being is gradually decaying, yet our spiritual being is renewed day after day. And this small and temporary trouble we suffer will bring us a tremendous and eternal glory, much greater than the trouble. For we fix our attention, not on things that are seen, but on things that are unseen. What can be seen lasts only for a time, but what cannot be seen lasts forever.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

We were reminded to keep ourselves from idols, from anything that keeps us from hearing the voice of the Lord. We asked that we might hear His voice, in this hour and in every hour.

Epistle from Jordans Young Adult Friends

We heard an Epistle from Jordans Young Adult Friends.

Epistle from the Jordans Young Adult Friends Gathering 2025

"*Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give will never thirst. But the water that I shall give them will become in them a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life. God is Spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth.*" (John 4:14, 24)

To all Friends everywhere, and to a world that God yearns to heal, we send our Love.

More than thirty young adult Friends gathered at Jordans Meeting House, near Beaconsfield, UK, to experience the Spirit of God in and between us, nurturing and transforming us. We came from many places: Kenya, the US, and all over Britain. We have been united in being drawn to this place, and united in finding Living Water to quench our thirst, even though we call that Water by different names. We want to share our hope with the world: the place we found this Water is within. You can join us there without even a step.

We have come in trust that we will find what we are looking for. We have trusted each other, being open and vulnerable. We have trusted our Guide to lead us into community and show us where we are needed. In true community, each need is tended as each person is given the ability. Trust in God and each other has drawn us into depth, stillness, and openness to the Teacher. We hope to carry this openness and share it with everyone we meet. It is hard to stay tender in a spiky world, but it is what we are called to.

We felt welcomed, by the Lord and each other, as if encountering the heart of God. God has a heart for the joy and the suffering, the beauty and the pain.

We have felt encouragement to open the door, let the Lord Jesus in, and let His love show. We hope to keep opening our hearts to the Spirit of Love, just as we opened the double doors that unbolt and swing open in this meeting house, to let the light and wind in. Even in small moments, conversations and quiet togetherness, we can feel ourselves being visited by a Power greater than ourselves.

We met at a time of fear, with uncertainty about the future - our own and the world's. Sitting with this, we felt God prying open doors we had closed, inviting us home, inviting us to trust, inviting us to lean in to God and each other. We heard a voice of Divine comfort and assurance: "I will provide. I will be there. I am always there, even and especially when things are hard and uncertain."

Together, we are answering the call to come home, to extraordinary peace that passes understanding. This peace endures even in times of fear, uncertainty, and crumbling institutions. What is the ground of our faith? Not our meeting houses, or our practices, or our structures, but the Life we have felt together, the peace that Life gives, and the fire it lights in us.

In days like these, we must not be ashamed of the gospel message: that the Light is in and with us, and the darkness of the present time cannot overcome it. Let us rejoice in sharing that Light with each other, as we have begun to here.
Thank You, God.

Jordans Young Adult Friends Gathering 2025

Query Summaries

We studied and approved the proposed query summaries.

Seventh Query: Do we observe simplicity in our manner of living, sincerity in speech, and modesty in apparel? Do we guard against involving ourselves in temporal affairs to the hindrance of spiritual growth? Are we just in our dealings and careful to fulfill our promises? Do we seek to make our Christian faith a part of our daily work?

YM Summary: We search for ways to simplify our lives and have become uneasy with the many possessions we have accumulated over the years. We wish to pare down our belongings and get closer to the kingdom of heaven. Dressing modestly and choosing words carefully is important to us. At the same time, we guard against plain dress and speech turning into rules or forms and acknowledge that leadings toward simplicity vary.

We are concerned when temporal affairs make inroads into our lives, taking over our time, and draining our energy. We try to avoid automatic participation in earthly concerns, and not to lose sight of God's desire for us. His refining spirit, works within us and we are reminded to do all that we do, including even the most menial tasks "to the glory of God." (Corinthians 10:31).

We are careful about the commitments we make, being careful not to promise what is not within our power. Our aim is to be fair, just, honest and to keep our promises. Keeping close to the Truth is our witness. Our actions speak loudest, when we depend on the Lord.

We strive to be more intentional and disciplined in seeking the Lord's will. Journaling, quiet moments, and prayer keep us grounded in Christ amid the chaos of the world.

Eighth Query: Are we faithful to Christ's command to avoid swearing oaths? Are we watchful for and faithful to Christ's promptings to share with others our testimony against the use of oaths? Do we avoid gambling and speculation based on the principles of chance?

YM Summary: When given the opportunity, we affirm rather than swear. We try to be honest in our everyday lives, not just in court or when signing papers. When the occasion arises, we have used the opportunity to witness to this principle.

Some are concerned about the public pledging of allegiance, recalling the sufferings of Friends and Mennonites during the time when oaths of allegiance were legal requirements.

We do not gamble. Our investments are conservative and not speculative. We are concerned with the misconstrued notion that attainment of riches implies personal worth. This belief traps many into a desire for worldly possessions and leads to a cycle of

speculation, gambling and credit card dept. Instead, we wish to learn from Christ's parables and take Him as our hope.

Nineth Query: Are we sensitive to the problems of family living? Do we offer counseling to couples both before and after marriage? How are we helping individuals, married couples and family units to strengthen and enrich their lives?

YM Summary: We are sensitive to the challenges of family living, remembering that each family may experience difficulties or trials of which we are not aware. Our approach to counseling focuses on prevention, listening and availability. Some are concerned about falling short in visiting, supporting and enriching the lives of isolated members. We use many avenues to help and enrich lives. These include conversations, maintaining contacts, worshiping together, studying together and above all prayer. There is no substitute for the healing of the Great Physician. We trust Him to show us how to help those in need.

In all our efforts we seek to

- listen carefully before offering advice
- speak with tenderness and humility
- respect privacy and personal boundaries
- allow love and concern to be guided by the Spirit

"*Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up just as in fact you are doing*."

I Thess. 5:11

Walton Home Report and President's Letter

We read two communications from the Walton Home: a letter from the President of the Board and a report from the Executive Director. We appreciated the letter and the report. We experience pride when we consider the effectiveness of the

community, which provides a home for many. God's love is at work there.

Walton Home Board President Letter – 2026

The Walton Retirement Home and the Walton Home Board of Trustees have been blessed with a strong year.

Capacity has been near 100%, which has strengthened our bottom line financially. The loss of residents, due to death or health needs beyond the scope of Walton's ability, is strongly felt. However, new residents are welcomed and quickly embraced by the community. Staff retention remains stable and state inspections have been passed. A much-needed parking lot extension is complete, thanks to our maintenance staff. The spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of the community continue to be met.

Our executive director, Kristina Moore, has decided to retire and has given the Board her nine-month notice. Kris has been a passionate advocate for the Walton, and her leadership has been greatly appreciated by the Board. A search committee is in place and applications are being accepted.

Board members this year include ten members of Ohio Yearly Meeting and four community members. We have appreciated the perspective and input of John Rockwell, a Walton resident, as an advisor to the Board. We have felt the loss of community Board member, Ann Bartells, and pray that her husband, Mitch, will rejoin us as his health allows. Three of our Ohio Yearly members are leaving the Board due to term limitations, but all others have felt led to continue. All Board members are assigned to

committees, and all committees have been actively meeting. Board meetings have been well attended – either in person or via Zoom.

Our Annual Fund drive was very successful this year, thanks to the generosity of Ohio Yearly Meeting Friends and community partners. The dining room and kitchen areas are benefitting from new appliances, new flooring, and other upgrades. The wheelchair accessible van, the result of last year's fundraiser, is greatly appreciated!

In response to the administrative queries, minutes and financial records are stored at the Walton Home utilizing professional standards for the safekeeping of these records. We have a vice-president to take over in the absence of the president, and any other officers can be replaced by an appropriate member of the Walton Home Board.

As president of the Walton Home Board, I continue to feel a strong connection to the Walton Community. It is a vibrant, caring community and a true extension of Ohio Yearly Meeting's mission for Christ-centered service. Please stop in and experience this for yourself!

Barbara Warrington, President

Walton Retirement Home Board of Trustees

Walton Home Update

Fortunately, our census has remained at full capacity for 5 months. We continue to experience some staffing challenges. Meeting with other Directors and Administrators in the community, we realize most health care facilities are

experiencing the same challenges at this time. We are very fortunate to have many long-term employees still with us doing God's work. We have had many inspections, which is routine for us at this time of year. We had a few citations that have already been cleared. We were very blessed this year for our fundraising events. We have been able to replace old equipment that was not compliant with state regulations and add new carpet along with many dining room updates, so our residents can have a truly enjoyable dining experience. We have increased our activities department, so our residents' levels of participation can be supported. We continue to work on our grounds and improve the facility with many updates throughout this past year. The new van has opened opportunities; the residents have been to several places and seem to enjoy it. Walton Home will continue to provide the highest quality of care in a Christian environment.

In God's love,

Kris Moore

Epistle from Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative

We read an Epistle from our sister Yearly Meeting, Iowa Conservative.

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends
(Conservative)

Dear Friends of Ohio Yearly Meeting,

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when

completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now, we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

- 13 Corinthians

Love is the Center.

- Source uncertain, often cited in our yearly meeting.

We send you warm greetings from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) as we have gathered at Grinnell College, Seventh Month 22 through 26, 2026 for the 149th annual sessions of our yearly meeting. We are grateful for the online presence of Earl Smith from Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative) this week, and grateful that our Friend Jon Shafer was able to visit your sessions last summer and plans to visit in-person again in just a few days. We joyfully anticipate more exchanges of visitors and correspondence, and invite Friends from your yearly meeting to join us when we return to Scattergood School next summer, Seventh Month 21-25 of 2027.

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) sends our greetings to Friends across the world. We have gathered for our 149th annual sessions at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, instead of our usual meeting place of Scattergood School, which is undergoing major construction this summer. The College has been warmly welcoming and the challenges of the new site for our Caretaker and Entertainment committees and technology team have all been met with good humor and grace. “Strengthening and Sustaining a Community of Hope” has been the stated theme of the sessions. We have felt the urgency of issues in the wider world, and in the condition of Scattergood School, which is

under our care. But we have also gathered in worship, in bible study, in business sessions, in evening collections, and as we walk around campus and eat together, reaffirming the sacred presence we are held up by and the joy and love we feel for one another and this gathered community of seekers.

Our host has been generous with their time with us: Our opening evening collection on Fourth Day was by two Grinnell faculty and staff and two graduates of Grinnell's Liberal Arts in Prison program, giving testimony to the power of generous, real, well-built opportunities to engage in the hard work of creating meaning, and how that inspires re-engagement and hope in a prison environment that encourages despair. In our Fifth Day evening collection, Grinnell's Dean of Religious Life and Chaplain/Rabbi Sarah Brammer-Shlay presented a workshop "Obligation, Hope and Community" in which she spoke out of her experience in Reconstructionist Judaism, seeking for justice and transformation, and how hope and obligation are part of that work. A deep discussion amongst Friends and with Rabbi Brammer-Shlay revealed a variety of ways that hope and obligation—and love—intersect in our experience and understanding. And after this collection, many of us went to the Grinnell observatory to view the night sky!

The Sixth Day evening collection welcomed Mary Klein from Palo Alto Meeting in California, who encouraged us to consider the ways that love can gather us, challenge us, change us, and pull us into changing the world for the better. She also presented the pre-meeting on First Day. Other presentations include AFSC and FCNL updates, and Des Moines Friend Billie Wade's presentation and discussion of her QuakerSpeak video "Are Quaker Meetings Safe for Black People?" We heard ministry that our care of and support for African Americans in our meetings and in our society need our further attention.

Our daily Bible study was led by Angelika Shafer, who helped us reflect on often difficult passages from

Revelation, and asked us to seek truths within scripture that do not so easily meet our understanding of God's love and the values we understand as God's will.

Reports from committees dealing with our yearly meeting's internal function showed us to be in good order, but we are wondering about change, as our membership continues its slow, constant cycle through generations. We celebrate the lives of Friends who have died alongside marriages, births, and new memberships in our monthly meetings. In our seventh year of adapting to online and hybrid meetings, we have gotten more used to the idea that meeting online—both at Annual and Midyear sessions, and in smaller groups, adds to our connections between one another, between monthly meetings, with national and international Quaker groups, and with the gathered sense of the Divine we all seek. We are grateful for the Friends gathered with us this week online.

The biggest and hardest issue we are dealing with within IYM(C) this year has to do with our formal, structural relationship with our deeply beloved Scattergood School, a core part of our ministry. The school has been a legally undifferentiated part of the yearly meeting since its founding, and recently the lack of clear distinction has caused legal and financial handicaps. The school itself has been engaged in a multi-year "Roots and Wings" comprehensive fundraising campaign, and enrollment in both its high school and its newer middle school continues to rise. We feel hope about what was a tenuous situation only a few years ago. We are committed to finding a structure within which the school maintains its deeply felt connection to the meeting, and has a solid basis to grow, flourish, and spread the Light it nurtures in its students.

Every year, the actions of our government present challenges to our conscience and the testimonies God has given us to speak out of that conscience. This year, as armed government agents have assaulted the neighborhoods members live and worship in, the basic need to care for our neighbors and each other was tried

and tested. Our Peace and Social Concerns committee carried forward action and advocacy around the war with Iran, genocide in Gaza, erosion of democratic norms in this country, treatment of transgender citizens (including actions by the Iowa state government), and Indigenous Americans' fight for justice. A minute condemning the American attack on Iran was approved by the meeting, and its wide distribution was encouraged. A display about justice for Gaza and Palestine provided by AFSC gave us much to consider. We seek in our small but persistent way to help shift our government's actions and national consensus towards the peace and justice we understand to be part of God's intended Right Order. Our involvement in a variety of regional and national Quaker and justice organizations continues to connect our small community to the work we believe is needed to bring about a better world.

Our time at annual sessions can feel like "drinking from the fire hose," an intense experience. But the love we feel for each other and our community, and the blessings and divine love we feel through that, make the work lighter, and continue to bind us together.

With you in the Light

On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative)

Carol Gilbert

Carol Gilbert, clerk

Adjourning minute

After a blessed moment of silence we adjourned, looking forward to gather again as the Walton Home Corporation Meeting after a break. If the Lord wills it, we shall continue Yearly Meeting business tomorrow afternoon.

Then Jesus asked, "What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches." Again, he asked, "What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough."

Luke 13:18-21

As we drew together, it was a pleasure to note the dear children joining us in worship.

We were reminded that when a flock of sheep is threatened by a predator, they don't look at the danger, but they look at their shepherd. The Holy Spirit encourages us not to look at the enemy who seeks to divide us, but look at our Savior, who is the one who protects us.

A city has been prepared for us. It is a city that is among us, but we need to be aware of it. Our Lord strives to break through to us so that we can be aware. He is the door to the city. Follow Him, heart, mind and soul. Follow Him, to become aware of the kingdom which is among us.

As we seek His face, we were reminded that, at the transfiguration His face shone like the sun. We were reminded that God commanded the light to shine out of darkness in the face of Jesus Christ.

We welcomed Megan Fair, from Wilmington Monthly Meeting – Wilmington Yearly Meeting.

Administrative Query Summaries

We considered and approved summaries for our administrative queries.

1st Administrative Query:

What new meetings have been established? Have any meetings been discontinued?

YM Summary:

No meetings have been established or discontinued.

2nd Administrative Query:

Do parents take an active interest in the administration and quality of teaching of the schools which their children attend? Is each Meeting making effective efforts to aid parents in the suitable religious instruction of their children?

YM Summary:

Only a few Friends have school age children. Those that do are interested and involved in their education. Interest and involvement is also reported by grandparents. Whenever possible, we participate with the religious education of the children we come into contact with.

3rd Administrative Query:

Have the General Queries been read and deliberately pondered and answered in all our meetings? Have the Advices been regularly read? Is the best possible time chosen for their reading, suitable for deliberate consideration of them by all Friends and attenders for their individual, spiritual refreshment?

YM Summary:

We read and ponder our queries, and record answers. Advices are read and reflected upon in the context of sacred worship.

4th Administrative Query:

Are former minute books, all interment charts and all records of similar importance, stored in a suitable fireproof safe or vault?

YM Summary:

Minutes, interment charts, and other documents are kept in clerks' homes, the vault at Olney and the online digital "cloud". Some gaps in minutes have been reported, but all meetings endeavor to preserve our history as reflected in our records.

5th Administrative Query:

Are our meetings for business regularly held; fully, and promptly attended? Are they conducted in a loving and solemn concern to make concerted effort toward unity of spirit?

YM Summary:

Our business meetings are held regularly. Attendance by active members is good. Times for business are selected which address the needs of fellowship. We often take advantage of online technologies. All meetings focus on unity of spirit.

6th Administrative Query:

Are our meetings prepared to continue their work if any Friend in a position of responsibility (such as meeting clerks, treasurers, and recorders) is unable to serve?

YM Summary:

Many of us continue to wrestle with continuity of meeting functions. Some Meetings have appointed assistants who can step in during difficult times. Others are working on additional signatories on bank accounts. But the challenge of smaller membership is common, and these solutions are not always feasible. In these cases, we have no option but to trust that the Lord will provide.

Yearly Meeting Answers: 4th and 6th Administrative Queries.

We considered and approved the Yearly Meeting answers to the 4th and 6th administrative queries. These summaries were not derived from the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings but reflect the functioning of our Yearly Meeting.

4th Administrative Query:

Are former minute books, all interment charts and all records of similar importance, stored in a suitable fireproof safe or vault?

Yearly Meeting Minutes are printed and published annually and placed in the Olney vault a year or two after publication.

The work of Yearly Meeting committees is typically represented by annual reports that are incorporated into the Yearly Meeting minutes and are preserved accordingly. Yearly Meeting minutes and reports are also stored in a data cloud. The Clerk and both Assistant clerks have access to this data.

Our Quarters and several Yearly Meeting Committees have reported on document strategies. These include storage on paper, convener's computer and the cloud. Some committees

are comfortable saying that professional standards are used for the safekeeping of records.

Cloud storage is currently managed separately by individual Meetings and Committees. The Clerk and the President of our Fiduciary Trustees are working on a project to demonstrate our nonprofit status to a major cloud vendor. If successful, this will provide common cloud storage for all parts of the Yearly Meeting, free of cost.

6th Administrative Query:

Are our meetings prepared to continue their work if any Friend in a position of responsibility (such as meeting clerks, treasurers, and recorders) is unable to serve?

The Yearly Meeting Assistant Clerk stands ready to temporarily fulfill the Clerk's responsibilities if necessary. A longer-term replacement would be handled by the Quarterly Meeting Representatives to Yearly Meeting and/or Representative Meeting.

Yearly Meeting assistant treasurers, recorders and registrars are expected to provide backup for the offices they assist. Yearly Meeting Committees tend to be intimate enough that clerks and conveners can be more easily replaced.

If a Friend holding a position of responsibility is unable to serve, turning over documents or accounts would be an important exercise. A few committees store important documents on paper and, it is felt, could be easily transferred if necessary. Some committees report dual access to cloud accounts. At least one committee is considering adding another name to their bank account. It is not clear that every part of the Yearly Meeting is currently ready to perform this part of a transition quickly.

Travel Fund Report

We heard a report from the Travel Fund Committee and considered issues held over from last year. We appreciated their foresight and hard work.

We find ourselves needing to trust that funds will be available. We are pleased to know that our representatives often carry costs themselves. But if there ever becomes a time that the costs become too burdensome, we might limit the number of representatives traveling to two, remembering that others can attend online.

We came up with a couple of suggestions for the Travel fund.

- The representatives could strategize among themselves on ways to limit costs.
- Transfer travel/airline miles to representatives.
- We remember that online attendance is a way to reduce costs.

The Yearly Meeting feels comfortable, at this time, for the travel fund to represent up to 12% of our budget. This should be seen as guideline, not a rule or form, and we urge the Travel Fund to return to us if necessary.

Going through these questions reminded us that we are larger than our budget. When Truth moves among us, we become united by His Spirit, not divided by costs.

Travel Fund Committee Report 2026

The Travel Fund Committee had no expenses this year as neither the Friends Committee for National Legislation or the Friends World Committee for Consultation held in-person gatherings. We had no requests for travel assistance.

Balance 7/1/2025	$3,178.24
Income	

OYM Allocation	$3,000.00
Interest	$11.73
Total Income	$3,011.73
Fund Balance 6/30/2026	$6,189.97

The Travel Fund Committee would like to request $3000 for the upcoming year. We prepare a 5-year budget on which to base this request. Both FCNL and FWCC will hold their annual meetings in- person this year. The Friends Committee for National Legislation will hold their annual meeting in 11/2026. The Friends World Committee for Consultation will hold their gathering at Quaker Haven Camp in Syracuse, Indiana from 3/18-21/2027.

While implementing alternate years of virtual meetings for both groups removes some pressure for us in terms of the finances needed to support our representatives, the Travel Fund Committee is concerned about the portion of the Yearly Meeting budget that is needed to cover these expenses. We brought these concerns up in our report to the Yearly Meeting in 2025 but opted to wait for input from the Yearly Meeting until this year. During the last three years, the Travel Fund portion of the overall Yearly Meeting budget averages 10% (2022-23 11.7%, 2023-24 8.5%, 2024-25 9.3%). With inflation we expect the cost to attend these meetings will rise. We wish to receive guidance from the Yearly Meeting about this concern. When the expense of travel becomes too burdensome to the Yearly Meeting, how might we possibly limit our expenses? Would the Yearly Meeting prefer to limit the number of representatives that attend or would it prefer to reduce the amount of money expended per representative? Are there other ways to reduce travel costs that we might consider? What percentage of the overall Yearly Meeting budget is the Yearly Meeting comfortable spending to support our representation to these organizations?

In answer to the queries presented to committees:

We feel that our committee acts as a facilitator in spreading and receiving our faith by helping those led to travel. We feel that we are doing the Lord's work effectively as our committee is presently configured.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Hammer, David Eley, Dennis Rockwell, Robert Becerra
Travel Fund Committee

Affiliate Members serving as committee clerks or conveners

We considered whether affiliates could serve as conveners. There were many thoughts on the subject. But after a loving exchange we could not come to unity enough to change the current discipline. We would like to remind monthly meetings to encourage full membership of those friends whose gifts suggest service as conveners or clerks.

Fiduciary Trustees Report

The Fiduciary Trustees presented their report. We appreciate their efforts and the care they have taken with our funds.

Fiduciary Trustees of Ohio
Yearly Meeting of Friends
Report for the Year Ending Sixth Month 30th, 2026

For the fiscal year ending 6-30-2026 the Fiduciary Trustees are managing the following trust funds:

Education Funds	$	630,492
Walton Retirement Home	$	1,553,879
Ohio Yearly Meeting	$	235,079
Monthly Meetings	$	1,518,643
Reserve Fund	$	1,192,142

Total Assets	$	5,130,235

Our income and expenses for the 2025-2026 fiscal year were:

Total Income	$	710,864
Operating Expenses	$	(765)
Net Income	$	710,099

Distribution of Earnings:		
Returned to Funds (7/1/2025)	$	199,700
Added to Reserve Fund	$	510,399
Same as Net Income	$	710,099

The Fiduciary Trustees have agreed to pay 6.0% return on the funds in our care as the Annual Distribution for the fiscal year ending Sixth Month 30th, 2026.

The Fiduciaries have recognized that the value of the Fiduciary Trustees Reserve Fund had grown to a level well above our targeted 20% of credited trust funds we hold. At our First Month meeting this year, the Fiduciary Trustees took action to reduce the Reserve Fund to our target level through a one-time "revaluation" of each constituent fund(s). This revaluation distributed a portion of the "Excess Reserve" to each fund the Fiduciaries manage. We worked to apply an equitable method which recognized the contribution of each fund to the current value of the Reserve Fund through a time-relative and value-relative calculation; long time funds and larger value funds have contributed more to the accumulated "Excess Reserve" than relatively new funds or smaller valued funds. This action was successful in returning the Fiduciary Trustees Reserve Fund to 20% of the credited trust funds we held at the end of 2025. We will continue to monitor the Reserve Fund and consider its value, and the behavior of our investments, when we determine the Annual Distribution.

During our 2025-2026 fiscal year, the value of the investments held by the Fiduciary Trustees increased a robust +12%. The

year-over-year inflation rate has increased significantly over the past twelve months, quietly eroding the purchasing power of a household's money. While our asset values are up, when compared to the long-term average return, they have seen some notably volatile periods in the past year. These seem to have been significantly influenced by the actions of our federal government. We are unable to anticipate future changes in governmental policies, and the investment markets, but we continue to be relatively conservative in how we invest and manage the funds in our care.

The Fiduciaries currently have no home loans outstanding. Both loans reported as outstanding in last year's report have been paid off.

On Sixth Month 30th, 2026, the Ohio Yearly Meeting "Sale of Property to OFS" fund was valued at $57,706. This follows transfers of $10,000 to Stillwater Monthly Meeting as a contribution to repair work performed at the meeting house, and $10,000 transferred to the newly created "Yearly Meetinghouse Major Projects Fund". We will continue to hold the balance of this fund and allow it to accrue income until we receive instruction from the Yearly Meeting to take other action.

At the Eleventh Month meeting of Representative Meeting, the Fiduciary Trustees were asked to set up a new, separate fund designated for the care of the Yearly Meeting house. The "Yearly Meetinghouse Major Projects Fund" was added to the accounts the Fiduciaries manage for Ohio Yearly Meeting. This fund was initially funded with $10,000 transferred from the OYM "General Fund" and $10,000 transferred from the OYM "Sale of Property to OFS" fund. After an additional contribution, the fund was valued at $24,000 on Sixth Month 30th, 2026.

During Ohio Yearly Meeting's annual meetings in Eighth Month 2024, the Financing Educational Concerns Committee was laid down and the Fiduciary Trustees were asked to assume the responsibilities of the Financing Educational Concerns

Committee to oversee and make decisions for the disbursement of all Education Trust Funds. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year the Fiduciaries felt there was no compelling reason to change how the education funds had been administered for several years and our plan was to continue the practices of the former committee.

Following discussion of the calculation method to determine the annual distribution for the Education Trust Funds, the Fiduciary Trustees have agreed to make a change, beginning this year, for the 2025-2026 Annual Distribution. For twenty-one years, the annual distribution for these funds have included a calculation of an "inflation accumulation" value to return to each education fund in an attempt to counteract the impact of inflation and maintain the purchasing power of these funds for the long term. The Fiduciary Trustees have decided to change to a "4% of account valuation" calculation method going forward. We recognize this calculation method is also used by a variety of other trust, retirement, and investment funds as a relatively straightforward means of providing annual income while continuing to grow the underlying capital fund.

Reviewing the education fund distributions over the past 21 years, using the "inflation accumulation" calculation, and calculating what the distributions would have been using the "4% of account valuation" method, the 4% method would have provided slightly higher cumulative annual distribution amounts and slightly more growth of the underlying capital fund.

It is our sense that the "4% of account valuation" calculation method will, over the long term, be simpler to apply, will provide more consistent, predictable, annual distributions amounts, and will also provide for a growing fund balance that will generate increasing annual distributions to offset the erosion effects of inflation.

In Eighth Month 2025, the Fiduciary Trustees distributed $6,000 to the family of one (1) Ohio Yearly Meeting member attending Olney or private secondary schools. In addition, $10,527 was

sent to Olney Friends School from the income generated by the Education Trust Funds which we hold in support of scholarships, a Christian Quaker presence, the library, repairs and improvements, and athletics at Olney.

The Fiduciary Trustees have received a letter from a company retained by Grenadier Energy

Partners to gather pre-drill baseline water quality information for properties that will be within 1,500 feet of a natural gas well drilling unit they intend to develop. The OYM owned property referenced in their letter is the Plummer Farm. The only water source currently at the Plummer Farm is water supplied by Barnesville Water Department to the house.

The Fiduciaries recognize this letter as an indication that Grenadier Energy Partners are planning to apply to the Ohio Division of Oil & Gas Resources for a permit to operate a new natural gas drilling unit that may involve some of the Plummer Farm property. We have not yet found an active permit application on the Division of Oil & Gas website which involves OYM property, but we will not be surprised to learn of one within the coming year. Grenadier does appear to currently have six drilling units permitted to the north and east of the Plummer Farm.

During our most recent committee meeting, we considered the following annual query:

> *Do we feel the power of Christ leading us in the work of our committee? Is it time to lay down this committee or incorporate its functioning into another? Can this committee function better with more or fewer members?*

We sense that the faithful and regular attendance of committee members at our meetings is a reflection of the leading they have received to serve Ohio Yearly Meeting and to be faithful to the guidance of Christ. We believe the Fiduciary Trustee committee provides a useful service to Ohio Yearly Meeting and should continue in the role they have been fulfilling since 1924.

Our current membership of five individuals works well and does not need to be increased or reduced to be effective.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Fiduciary Trustees,

David E. Warrington
President
Fiduciary Trustees of the Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends

Olney Taber Farm Report

A report from the Olney Taber Farm was read. Appreciation was expressed for all the work invested to produce the accomplishments they reported. It was noted that some of the food we ate at the Olney dining room came from the farm. The report was satisfying and delectable.

Olney Farm Report 2026

This is the 11th consecutive year of certification as an organic certified farm providing livestock and crops grown largely to feed students and staff at the school.

Farm Team

LIVESTOCK:

Chickens - There were about 400 layers producing 55 – 65 eggs per day. Around 700 broiler chickens were processed for food during the year. In the summer when the school was not in session, a Consumer Supported Agricultural Program (CSA) was established which allowed local people to subscribe to receive a dozen eggs per week. Also 105 dozen eggs and 230 chicken

backs were donated to Wheeling's Soup Kitchen to feed the needy.

Goats – There were around 13 – 24 goats, 10 of which were processed for Olney meals, and several were sold.

Beef – Eighteen calves were born and beef processed provided over 3,200 lbs. of dressed weight meat.

CROPS:

Three acres were in oats and meadows, 6 acres in rye cover crops, and 1.5 acres of field corn. Over 163 tons of hay was produced. An 800 ft. area of flax was planted and a "Flax Harvest" was held in late July. Community members assisted with the harvest and refreshments were available, some made with natural wild plants.

Gardens produced: Tomatoes, sweet peppers, pole beans, cucumbers, zucchini, lettuce, carrots, beets, three varieties of potatoes, sweet potatoes, asparagus, radishes, onions, kale, cabbage, leeks, garlic, eggplant, sweet corn, squash varieties, grapes and raspberries. Herbs raised were basil, cilantro, dill, and parsley. The Hoop House provided fresh greens in cooler weather.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Students participate by signing up for "Farm Team" to assist with various animal and garden chores.
- 1,040 feet of fencing were built or rebuilt including 80 posts that were cut and split by hand.
- Projects for "February Friday's" included welding with Ted Cope, goat shed rebuilding with Leonard and wool spinning with Hannah.
- Replaced 22'x16' of the Towe barn floor.
- Farm Tour in March with Central State Extension Agent to identify areas for their advice.
- We won a blue ribbon for our Mammoth Sunflower at the Pumpkin Festival.

Plummer House Report

The Plummer House Committee reported to us. We recalled a time when the Yearly meeting was ready to let the Plummer house go. But a number of OYM members volunteered to manage the property, and we are impressed and blessed with the results. We hold a deep appreciation for their work.

OYM Plummer House Report 2026

The Plummer House has been occupied year-round by Olney teacher, Phineas Gosselink. Olney has been paying the utilities in return for faculty housing. Phineas and Don Guindon have been doing the mowing.

A grant was received to cover materials for extending the back porch. The porch has so far been extended to the back door of the "great room" on the south end of the building.

Overnight lodging was provided for two OYM members. Olney's Senior Class held a Halloween party in the Plummer

woods (a howling good time) with a party afterwords at the Plummer House.

Olney has organized an ad hoc committee to propose a plan for use of the Plummer property. The first meeting was held to gather ideas. Plans chosen to be decided by April 2027 and developed on an appropriate time schedule. The Plummer Management Committee welcomes the opportunity to work with this committee in this endeavor.

The Plummer house is available for lodging for Olney and OYM members and events.

Finances:

Balance	8/1/2025	$4,069.23
Income	Contributions	200.00
Expenses		- 0 –
Balance	7/31/2026	$4,269.23

NOTE: Funds for material for the porch extension came from part of a grant to Olney, labor was volunteered. We have some plumbing problems that will need to be addressed in the coming year with some of our current balance.

Marie Bundy reporting for the Plummer House Management Committee

Adjourning minute

We closed our business with a moment of silence, expecting to reconvene in the morrow.

SIXTH DAY, MORNING SESSION, 8/7

These are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the

world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.

I Corinthians 2:10-13

We have learned to love one another, not just tolerate one another but to love one another as He has loved us. It is not that we just get along, but that we care for one another and listen to one another. When Solomon ascended to the throne, he asked God for a listening heart. As we obtain the same listening heart, we are able to hold close those who are discouraged. The Kingdom of Heaven is comprised of those with listening hearts. The Kingdom of Heaven is within us and grows to be among us. The curtain of the temple is torn, more than just in two, it is torn into small ribbons to bandage our wounds, for children's toys, and blown to the corners of the earth.

FCNL Consideration

We briefly considered if we should address donations to FCNL and decided to wait for the recommendations of the Audit and Budget Committee. We were cautioned not to lean entirely on them for decisions. They will only be describing our ability to make a donation. It is our responsibility to discern what the Lord would have us do.

We were reminded that this is not about the money. The clerk was asked to compose a letter thanking FCNL for their attendance and presentation at Yearly Meeting. This letter should reflect the love we have for those involved with FCNL.

North Carolina Friends Church

We heard an epistle from North Carolina Friends Church

Friends Church of North Carolina 8th Annual Sessions Epistle/Message to Friends Everywhere

Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

-1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

Representatives of Friends Church of North Carolina gathered at Quaker Lake Camp, Climax, NC, on Eighth Month 8-9, 2025 for their 8th Annual Sessions. Presiding Clerk Roger Holt welcomed Friends as the Friday afternoon first business session opened. In the opening minute he spoke on Psalm 150 (ESV), the praise psalm.

> *Let Everything Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*
> *Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!*
> *Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!*
>
> *Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!*
> *Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!*
> *Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!*
> *Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*

Growing up in a Friends Meeting, he did not remember much praising the Lord with trumpets, lute, harp, tambourines, dance, etc., but he also wondered if we regularly praised the Lord enough? We should praise Him for the simple things – the air we breathe, the ground we walk on, etc. Can we praise the Lord for the peace we can find even in turbulent times when we go to the Lord?

Roger Holt, Presiding Clerk
Christine Blamer, Recording Clerk

Christian Education Camp Report

With much anticipation, we heard a report from the Christian Education Camp Committee and their work with the next generation. It is always good to hear this report of their activities. This is valuable outreach, serving members and nonmembers alike. We deeply appreciate all those who have involved themselves in this ministry.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CAMP COMMITTEE REPORT TO OHIO YEARLY MEETING 2026

Christian Education Camp was held June 21 - 24th, 2026, primarily on the Olney School Campus. Our overall theme this year was "Hope in God." A key focus verse was Isaiah 40:31 *" But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."*

We were blessed this year to have 21 campers come to camp, a few less than last year. 6 other campers registered for camp, but ended up cancelling their plans to attend two weeks or less before the start of camp. Another camper was ill at the start of camp and was unable to come. Our campers ranged in age from first through seventh grade. 15 young ladies and 6 young gentlemen attended camp with some being away from camp for part of varying days. 8 campers were relatives of Quakers. 2 high school and college age counselors were relatives of Quakers and 2 were raised in a Quaker Meeting. We had 11 overnight campers and 8 counselors (high school through older adults who spent the nights with the campers in the dorm.)

We always appreciate the valuable help we get from our high school and college-aged counselors. Camp would not be able to happen without these dedicated young people. They take on many responsibilities and develop close connections with the campers, enabling all to have a safe, fun and blessed time while we are together.

This year, it was wonderful to have our newest committee member, Tom Roberts, be able to spend each night in the dormitory along with JoMae, the high school and college-aged counselors and the overnight campers. This additional older adult presence overnight was very helpful, and we are thankful. All of the committee members were not able to attend camp this year because of life events.

Young campers Bible classes talked about "HOPE" and what having hope in God is like. Bible scripture passages about hope were learned, as well as the story of Joseph being stripped of his multi-colored coat and sold into slavery by his brothers and how hope helped him remain faithful to God.

Older campers Bible classes also talked about Hope, about how and why we have hope in God, bringing in other Scripture verses, such as Hebrews 6:19 *"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure…"* And Jeremiah 29:11*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

Crafts of making ice cube candles were enjoyed by older campers, and all campers had fun making tie dye shirts. Some attempted cardboard weaving while others made bead designs and decorations. Micaela Drewett prepared and organized the craft projects, which happened under the tent by the parking lot at Olney.

This year, our planned cookout at the Locust Grove did not happen because of rain, but fun with s'mores was had at a different time. During that one day that it rained all day, JJ, one of our counselors, entertained the campers inside by directing skits based on Bible stories. All campers enthusiastically participated in the scavenger hunt one evening in friendly competition between different teams. Time Alone with God (TAG) in the morning before our morning meeting, is a nice start to our day after breakfast in which campers find the focus verse in the Bible themselves, copy it onto a card and then one of them reads it to the group during morning meeting. Siblings and older campers help younger ones locate the verse in their Bibles. This year, we had both a piano player (Tom) and a flute player (Constance) accompany us in singing well-loved hymns. Off campus field trips to the pool at the Barnesville park and to the Bark Camp beach were enjoyable outings for all who participated. Marie Bundy's daily wildflower guessing game she calls "What's IT" continued to be very popular among campers and counselors alike.

One of the most important parts of the Christian Education Camp experience is always in the smaller spontaneous interactions between campers, counselors and committee members, where we continue to feel the presence of God and His love abounding in and amongst us all. The campers' joy at seeing each other at the beginning of camp is catching! Disagreements or conflicts, when they did arise between campers a few times, seemed to be resolved quickly with friendships being restored. When we experience inevitable obstacles during camp, it never fails that God provides us with a solution.

Our committee members and other interested Friends begin our work for camp months before the start of camp, seeking our Lord's help and feeling strengthened by Him as prayers are lifted up, the overall theme is discerned, crafts are prepared for and organized, Olney is coordinated with about facilities, snacks are baked and purchased, s'mores packed are assembled, the schedule for camp is worked out, campers and counselors are reached out to, and so much more.

We are very grateful to have received donations of money and yummy snack foods. Rockingham Monthly Meeting sent a monetary donation, as did individual Friends from other Meetings. A donation of money was given in memory of Elvina Krekler by her family. (Elvina was a huge presence in the camp for many years.) Money was also given by day campers' families, who are not charged any fee to come to camp. Snack items were donated by most campers' families and by several Stillwater Meeting members. We feel thankful and blessed by all who donated, especially because the costs of using Olney's campus, meals and dorm facilities increases every year!

Much of the success of Christian Education Camp each year is due to all the prayers lifted up by Friends for camp, as well as your support for this ministry. Everyone involved in camp, with our Lord's help, is integral to making our time together a wonderful Christian outreach to so many children, allowing them to learn about God and experience His love. We feel our

committee size is adequate for the work that is laid before us, but would love to hear from any Friends interested in joining us. We are very grateful to have Tom Roberts as a new member of our committee! Thank you Friends!

In the love of Christ Jesus,

Christian Education Camp Committee (Constance Bair-Thompson, Margaret Marie Bundy, Micaela Shavonne Drewitt, Thomas Roberts, Johanna Mae Rockwell, and Debora Hope Taber)

CEC Financials

8/1/2025	$1,679.11	Beginning Fund Bal.
Camp Revenue		
	8.43	Bank Interest
	1,200.00	Yearly Meeting Allocation
	1,406.00	Camper fees
	780.00	Donations
	$3,394.43	**Revenue**
Camp Expenses		
	$3,103.00	Paid to Olney Friends School for Board & lodging,
	$164.88	Groceries
	$50.00	Pool Rental
	$74.72	Counselor Expense
	$57.36	Copies & Printing
	$24.44	Crafts
	$15.60	Postage
	$3,490.00	**Expenses for 2026 Christian Education Camp**
	($95.57)	Net Gain/(Loss)

	$1,583.54	Belmont Savings Account Balance
7/31/2026	$1,583.54	Camp Fund Balance
	(There were approximately $200.00 worth of in-kind donations made to camp this year.)	

Nominating Committee Report

We considered and approved the Friends suggested by the Nominating Committee. We thanked the committee for this hard task.

It was noted that those who serve do not see their work as simply filling out an appointment but as a true leading.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT TO OHIO YEARLY MEETING
Eighth Month 2026

Nominating Committee would like to propose the following appointments to serve the Yearly Meeting:

AGENDA COMMITTEE
2029 Nancy Hawkins, David Warrington

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CAMP COMMITTEE
2029 Constance Bair-Thompson, Jean Cooper, Diane Reynolds, Johanna Rockwell

COMMITTEE FOR YOUTH AT YEARLY MEETING
2029 Ellerie Brownfain, Diane Reynolds, Tom Roberts

COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE AND SUPPORT OUTREACH
2029 John Benson, Nancy Hawkins, Jack Smith

EPISTLE COMMITTEE

2028 Constance Bair-Thompson, John Edminster

FIDUCIARY TRUSTEES
2029 Robert Becerra, Beverly Shull

FRIENDS CENTER COMMITTEE
2029 David Male, Jack Smith, Susan Smith

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE
2029 Gwen Giffen

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
2029 Timothy Lillie

PEACE AND HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
2029 Earl Smith, Sylvia Thomas, Karen Walsh

PRINTING COMMITTEE
2029 Mike Kinch, Earl Smith

TECHNICAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE
2029 Constance Bair-Thompson, Nancy Hawkins, Conrad Lindes, Kim Palmer

TRAVEL FUND COMMITTEE
2029 Robert Becerra

TRUSTEES OF OHIO YEARLY MEETING PROPERTY
2029 Leonard Guindon, Rich Sidwell, Robert Stratton

WALTON HOME BOARD
2029 Robert Becerra, Sarah Parsons, Beverly Shull

WIDER FELLOWSHIP OF CONSERVATIVE FRIENDS
2029 Sarah Parsons, Tom Roberts

REPRESENTATIVE MEETING
2028 David Johnson (completing Charles C. Thomas, Jr.'s term)
2029 Dave Casterline, David Eley, Debora Taber, Jared Valdez, Karen Walsh

YEARLY MEETING RECORDER
2027 Mike Kinch

ASSISTANT YEARLY MEETING RECORDER

2027 Charles C. Thomas, Jr.

CUSTODIANS OF THE RECORDS
In Perpetuity Tom Roberts

REPRESENTATIVES to FRIENDS COMMITTEE on NATIONAL LEGISLATION
2029 Tom Roberts

REPRESENTATIVES to FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE for CONSULTATION
2029 Diane Reynolds

Nominating Committee would like to acknowledge and express appreciation for the many years of service that Loisanne Rockwell gave to Ohio Yearly Meeting as an important member of the Agenda Committee, the former Hospitality Committee, and the Historical Committee.

At 4th month Representative Meeting, Nominating Committee shared that Beverly Shull would like to be released of her duties as a Custodian of the Records. Support was expressed for this request. Representative Meeting discussed whether an affiliate member could serve in this position and gave approval for an affiliate member to serve as a Custodian of the Records.

In answer to the queries: *Do we feel the power of Christ leading us in the work of our Committee? Are there changes to Committee size that might make us more effective?*

1. Yes, it would be much harder to do our work without the power of Christ directing us. He is also guiding those members agreeing to serve on our committees.
2. We have representatives from each monthly meeting in attendance at our meetings with some having two members present to reach out to our membership. This size is adequate.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Nominating Committee,

Janet Hammer, convenor

Epistle Committee

We are grateful for these Epistles and for the efforts of the Committee. The committee felt the spirit of Christ close to them in their work. The Clerk was directed to include a copy of our general epistle in his letter of appreciation to FCNL.

General Epistle

Ohio Yearly Meeting
Epistle to Friends Everywhere
2026

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.
Philippians 4:4

To Friends everywhere, and to this world God so dearly loves,

We have been gathered together in the overflowing love of Christ. Bringing all into His healing love, sharing both our delight and our wounds, we are made whole. We discover that we are loved beyond imagining. Joy in the Lord has been breaking out among us. This joy comes in worship, hugs, conversations with friends new and old, connections with Friends around the world, the precious sounds of the children in our midst, a feeling of being welcomed by the Lord. God is in all of it, bringing in the Kingdom.

Jesus has been teaching us what it means that each one of us is held in His love. The physical distances between us melt away as we allow this love to join us together. God is pouring out many gifts in our midst like milk and honey. In our time together, the Lord has been challenging us to open our hearts to these gifts from Him, gifts without money and without price.

The body of Christ heals itself: we have felt the wine of the Holy Spirit stretching the wineskin and making it new, as the wineskin holds the fresh outpourings with tenderness. We give thanks for a sound vessel for the Spirit, formed with care over many generations, and for the Spirit pouring in. We have

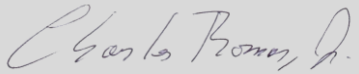
witnessed a dance of the old and the new, and the Lord has been at work in how these – how we – need each other.

With God's grace, when there are differences, we labor with each other. When there are forces that try to divide us, we look to our Shepherd, in a unity deeper and more lasting than our temporal concerns. In His care, conflict is not where we stay. God fills the spaces between us and forms us into a body in His image and likeness. To be the body of Christ is to be one another's ears and eyes, to learn each other's languages, to bind up each other's wounds, to learn to love and forgive each other as we each have been loved and forgiven. We falter, and we help each other home again. The living body of Christ is a dancing body.

We have felt a deep love for the beloved friends of the Lord in Yearly Meetings around the world. We have been grateful to Him for sending us visitors from many different places. Who but the Lord could bring us all together? In worship, wherever we are, we are together with Him, and with the faithful Friends who came before us. In their time, those Friends were at the growing edge, becoming new creatures in Christ. Now it is our turn to draw from that eternal spring. Now it is our turn to be bold in the Lord, sharing our joy from the rooftops.

It is our hope to shine Christ's Light in a struggling world, to share the treasure of that Light more and more widely, in all that we do and are. The Kingdom of God is within. The Lord is already with you. Can you feel His presence? Turn to Him, and let Him live through you. He will abide with you; He will change you; He will bring you His joy, this joy we have felt together. You will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free.

On behalf of Ohio Yearly Meeting,



Charles Thomas, Jr, Clerk

Epistle To Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

The epistle to Iowa Yearly Meeting is identical to the general epistle with the exception of the following introductory paragraph.

Epistle to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) from Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends 2026

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

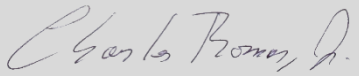
Philippians 4:4

To our dear brothers and sisters in Iowa,

We give joyful thanks to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) for sending us Jon Shafer, for the third time, to sojourn with us during our summer sessions. Jon is a lovable soul in whose company we delight. We are grateful for his persevering and well-informed witness to the gift of God's precious creation. The stream of gospel love continues to reach back and forth between us. We give thanks for your warm welcome for Earl Smith at your annual sessions. We pray that the tender cords of grace continue to draw us closer in Christ.

… *[text identical to body of General Epistle]* …

On behalf of Ohio Yearly Meeting,



Charles Thomas, Jr, Clerk

Epistle to North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

The epistle to North Carolina Yearly Meeting is identical to the general epistle with the exception of the following introductory paragraph.

Epistle to North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) from Ohio Yearly Meeting 2026

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

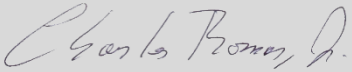
Philippians 4:4

To our dear brothers and sisters in North Carolina,

We give joyful thanks to North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) for sending us Nathaniel Corwin and Sarah Miller. Their presence and kindness remind us all of the value that intervisitation among Yearly Meetings can have in gathering the faithful from afar and renewing cherished friendships. The stream of gospel love continues to reach back and forth between us. We give thanks for your warm welcome for David Eley and Earl Smith at your annual sessions. We pray that the tender cords of grace continue to draw us closer in Christ.

… *[text identical to body of General Epistle]* …

On behalf of Ohio Yearly Meeting,



Charles Thomas, Jr, Clerk

Epistle to Friends in Britain

The epistle to Friends in Britain is identical to the general epistle with the exception of the following introductory paragraph.

Epistle to Friends in Britain from Ohio Yearly Meeting 2026

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

Philippians 4:4

To our dear brothers and sisters in Britain,

Greetings in the love of God, who is so wonderfully at work among you, opening ears and hearts, drawing all people to Himself, and bringing us precious encouragement through you. We give thanks for your warm welcome and care as members of our Yearly Meeting have traveled among you, and we are delighted to welcome British Friends into our midst this week. The stream of gospel love is reaching back and forth across the ocean between us. We are only beginning to see the breadth and depth of the new thing the Lord is doing. We pray that the tender cords of grace continue to draw us closer in Christ.

… *[text identical to body of General Epistle]* …

On behalf of Ohio Yearly Meeting,

Charles Thomas, Jr, Clerk

Wider Fellowship of Conservative Friends Report

We welcomed and appreciated a report from the Wider Fellowship of Conservative Friends.

Wider Fellowship of Conservative Friends Committee
Report to Ohio Yearly Meeting
2026

"*[George] Fox's analysis of the human dilemma is as relevant today as it was in his time. As humanity strives to cope with evil to build a better world, to avoid death and destruction, Fox observes that, 'the world would have a Christ, but not to rule over it.' The problem remains disobedience to God's will. Whatever we do, we cannot escape our condition without help. We cannot re-enter that perfect relationship without*

Christ Jesus. We cannot again know ourselves recreated in God's image, without God's power to transform us."

Quoted from THS Wallace in his book,
That Thy Candles May Always Be Burning. Pg 214

We did not host a General Gathering of Conservative Friends and those of like mind this year. Keeping to our usual Biannual schedule we have reserved the date of June 25 - 27, 2027 for the next event. We are grateful to Wil Brant, of The Conservative Friend for his skill in the publication of that paper. Issue #62 should be available by 8th Month. He will be sending monthly meetings a specific number of copies to distribute or make available to members/attender, and mail collection copies to libraries and depositories on the list. He would then have a subscription fee to cover a printing/mailing cost for those who would want a mailed copy. Online issues of the paper can be read at theconservativefriend.org. We appreciate articles contributed by OYM members and Friends of like mind.

Wider Fellowship of Conservative Friends
Financial Report for 06-30-2025 through 06-30-2026

The Conservative Friend Account

Starting Balance (06-30-2025)	**638.31**
Expenditures:	**0.00**
Income:	**0.00**
Balance in TCF account	**$ 638.31**

Wider Gathering of Conservative Friends Account

Starting Balance (06-30-2025)	**4621.50**
Income	
OYM Allocation	**25.00**
Deposit, meals/lodging)	**293.00**
Total income	**318.00**

Expenditures

Olney, Meals/lodging from previous event	**2871.00**
Stillwater, camping fees	**20.00**
Total Expenses	**2891.00**
Income minus expenses	**-2573.00**
Balance in Gathering account	**$2048.50**

WFCF respectfully requests $ 25.00 for Gathering account and $300.00 for The Conservative Friend Publication account.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon A. Helms
Treasurer

Memorial Committee Report

The Memorial Committee described their activities this year. We expressed our concern about the completion of the Memorial for William Taber*.

Memorial Committee Report 2026

The Memorial Committee is currently working on several memorials, which are in various stages of completion. We intend to bring a memorial to the Representative Meeting for approval before next yearly meeting.

Seth Hinshaw

Printing Committee Report

The Printing Committee report was read. It was suggested that the committee meet more regularly and at least once a year, research the need for more copies of our Discipline.

* Research has demonstrated that this concern was unfounded. The Memorial for William Taber was published in 2016 as reported in the 2016 minutes, page 43.

Printing Committee Report

Other than the 2025 Minutes, no printing project was authorized by the Yearly Meeting this year.
The minutes were edited, proofread and the final version submitted to Raven Rocks Press in Tenth Month. They were received early in Eleventh Month and mailed out to those Meetings whose Representatives were not physically at Representative Meeting. The rest were distributed at Representative Meeting.

Minute costs

Printing	1,145.82
Mailing	+ $15.69
Total minute costs	$1161.51

Relation to Budget

2025 YM Printing Budget	$1,250.00
Total minute costs	- $1161.51
Remaining budgeted amount after printing minutes	$88.49

The Printing Committee projects a 5% increase in printing costs for 2026. This suggests that the printing of 2026 minutes will be about $1200. The Yearly Meeting may wish to consider budgeting for other printing projects such as memorials, pamphlets or the Book of Discipline.
It may be worth noting that the Printing Committee does not receive an allocation from the Yearly Meeting, but draws directly from Yearly Meeting funds to complete printing projects.

The Printing Committee,
Anne Marie Taber (clerk), Janet Hammer, Sharon Helms, Mike Kinch, Carey Newlin, Earl Smith, Charles Thomas, Jr.

Adjourning minute

We paused and became silent for a moment with the intent to reconvene in the afternoon.

SIXTH DAY, AFTERNOON SESSION, 8/7

One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the scars of the nails in His hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in His side, I will not believe." A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then reach out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting, and believe!" Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!"

John 20:24-29

We were reminded that when Jesus called his disciples, that they were not all of one mind. They came from many different backgrounds, even a zealot and a tax collector. They were not models of virtue. Yet, Jesus brought them into a new and living way. We asked that, although we have our differences, are of different backgrounds and opinions, that we too may be called together to do the Lord's will and follow our precious teacher and savior.

Epistle from New England Yearly Meeting

We read an Epistle from New England Yearly Meeting.

New England Yearly Meeting 2025

To Friends Everywhere,

Loving greetings from the 365th annual Sessions of the New England Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of

Friends. From August 1 to 6, 2025, we gathered for the first time on the campus of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, as well as over Zoom.

Our theme this year was “Streams in the Desert” (Isaiah 43:19).

Kirenia Criado Pérez of our sister Yearly Meeting in Cuba joined us as our Bible Half Hour speaker. Kirenia serves as pastor of the Friends church in La Habana and as a professor at Matanzas Theological Seminary. Kirenia spoke powerfully to us on our theme as she invited us to join her on a journey through the desert, reminding us that God’s map seldom takes the easy route. And she noted that, when God brought the Hebrew people out of Egypt, they also had to remove Egypt from their hearts, reminding us that while most colonial empires have ended today, we continue to struggle to remove empire from our own hearts.

Throughout our time together we have been reminded that our work in the world as Quakers must be motivated by careful attentiveness to the will of the Divine, not by human fear and anger. We know that we must move from a foundation of faith and love, and find hope and joy in the presence of Spirit. The Living Water is a stream which sustains and guides us. Through it we hope to be the hands of God and become streams in the desert ourselves, bearing waters of hope and comfort to others who need them.

Let us recall the words of Isaiah (43:19 NIV) from which our theme this year was drawn:

> *See, I am doing a new thing!*
> *Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?*
> *I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*

Yours In Peace, Love, and Light,
New England Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Rebecca Leuchak, Presiding Clerk

Ministry and Oversight

The Meeting of Ministry and Oversight sent us a profitable message which we were glad to receive. We would approve this message if it were in our power to do so. But we deeply appreciate what we have heard.

Ministry and Oversight Message to Ohio Yearly Meeting
Eighth Month 7th 2026

"*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*,"

1st Peter Chap. 1 vs 3.

Greetings Dear Friends,

Growing in a personal obedience to divine promptings is the promised fruit of a life lived more and more fully in Christ. Our daily walk with the Lord seems to require us to be in community with other F/friends and followers of Christ, helping us to stay on the path that leads to life eternal. May we come, and help each other to come, to the place of love, joy, peace, and healing in the Holy Presence. While all else changes, Christ's love and blessings are eternal. With thankfulness, we feel God's invitation into that Holy Silence, to quiet ourselves completely in order to hear that "still small voice", Christ teaching us Himself!

Christ teaches us to feel conditions in the meeting and to be sensitive to suffering in the world, that these may be lifted up to Him. There is a sense of growth in the ministry during online worship. Thankfulness was expressed, seeing how Christ touches our lives and shows His love for us, drawing us together through our faithful ministering to each other. Attendance in worship , spending time with other members, and the prayers of others for us have helped us to grow in personal obedience to divine promptings.

Members continue to benefit in visiting family & friends, in comforting struggling friends, and in being loved by meeting members. Friends from a distance join us in worship, through zoom or in person, participating in our spiritual growth. We have been devoting more time to prayer and spiritual reading. Being calm and clear to listen to our Lord in stillness is being worked on. Newer members bring enthusiasm and faithfulness as they learn about the spiritual and historical underpinnings of our meetings, another source of joy.

Shared thoughts from third day M & O;

"how blessed we are to have one another in this life of faith. We remember when Rockingham meeting began their experiment in a spread-out body. Now we are worshiping with seekers all over the world. We are touched to hear how Friends have opened our doors and our hearts. But most especially we hear in these answers the joyful assertion how it is Jesus Christ leading us and emboldening us. We are all enmeshed in the love of Christ, and so it works and we all are greatly blessed with His Presence with us."

Fifth Day morning M & O session:

Habakkuk chap. 2 vs 4 "*Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.*"

Question brought forward?
"How do we operate as an M&O meeting for "confidentially of conversations " with the doors wide open to everyone?

Support, connect, and intervene to stand in the front of the boat, when called upon. By the Spirit, not the letter. Thank you Lord for listening. One loving community in Christ, is the first and foremost thoughts in our hearts. Keep the Spirit of Christ before us as we proceed with this question. When we are called upon as Ministers and Elders, we are held up with the sense we have understanding and discernment to feel God's power in us. The delight we all feel being a part of this meeting. Let us all take this back to our Monthly Meetings and Quarterly Meetings and call upon the Lord for guidance and thank the Lord His

abiding love does dwell within each one of us. What we feel we have is to walk forward with the love and grace of our God guiding us.

Praise the Lord for that! We praise the Lord with delight and thankfulness for our visitors and seekers amongst us. How can we receive people by ministering with His love over and beyond each other?

Our honesty is what forges us together. A song shared," Trust God, Trust God, Trust God, and stand upon His word."

Often when the Lord speaks to us it's not in words we understand but it's a source of His voice speaking to us. When we belong to Christ we can hear His voice. Pray that we each hear and obey His voice. I am pouring out this morning my good gifts to you. You are not little children for I know what I can send you to do. Thanks dearly beloved for I am with you.

Turn to God and ask for blessings. The blessings of the natural life. Christ has not come to preserve this life, but to end it on the cross. The self centered will which dies and is replaced by the Eternal Life of God. The freedom from the second death. It is God that works in us to will and to do. When our hearts are His Heart and our thoughts His Thoughts. Thank thee sweet Jesus. Love is the key.

On behalf of the M & O body,
Acting clerk Burton Doudna
Assistants; Sylvia Thomas, Kent Palmer

Committee to Coordinate and Support Outreach Report

We read a report from the Committee to Coordinate and Support Outreach.

2026 Report of the Committee to Coordinate and Support Outreach

We continue to meet online approximately every 6 weeks. Our main work is to share ideas and experiences among Monthly Meeting representatives on the committee regarding what other meetings are doing for outreach. We are encouraged by the continued spiritual, as well numerical, growth in hybrid worship, Bible studies, and the like. The fruit of these long-distance connections confirms that the Lord is present, active, and "live" during Zoom worship.

The website "look" has been updated to be more contemporary and to be easier to navigate using cell phones. Things have been rearranged so that new items show up on the first page to make the site look "more alive." Some Monthly Meetings have gained members from local in-person contacts and some through online worship and correspondence.

We continue to publish podcasts, which have become a major method of sharing our message, with more than 34,000 downloads of 196 episodes, since we began in 2020. As a result of the Monthly Meetings' and Yearly Meeting's prayerful leading not to permit John Watts' recording and publication of a video of a meeting for worship, a video was made instead of an interview by John Watts of Friends at Marlborough Meeting after he attended worship there.

Committee query answers: We feel the power of Christ leading us in our work as He brings to us fresh ideas and help. The size of the committee is good. Committee members continue to serve as they feel led.

Treasurers Report for Outreach Cmte for year ending 6/30/2026

Starting Balance	$662.16

Ending Balance	$410.57
Change	-$251.59
Income	
OYM allocation	$350.00
Expenses	
website	$601.59
Net cash flow	-$251.59

We ask the Yearly Meeting for $1000. this year, in anticipation of more podcasts being published

Friends Center Committee Report

We read and approved a report from the Friends Center Committee.

Friends Center Report to Ohio Yearly Meeting 2026

As we acknowledge the passing of another of the founders of Friends Center, Frances Taber, we are reminded of the precious responsibility we have to continue to practice and promote this way of life and faith that has been handed down to us through the generations of Ohio Friends, in ways that are meaningful for our times. May we be faithful and joyful in this service as time unfolds. It has been five years now since we began upgrading our facilities and embracing the potential of the internet. In addition to our traditional in person, weekend retreats, we are now able to offer online and hybrid (combined online and in person) events of shorter or longer duration, for just a few or many participants, from nearby and around the world. We are letting ourselves be led to embrace these

opportunities as way opens. New and old friends are joining us. God is good.

In the past year we held a weekend hybrid retreat in 11th Month titled *Metanoia: Discovering the Gospel of Joy with Jesus* led by Ken Jacobsen, continuing what has become an annual series of experiencing the Living Christ opening the scriptures to us in real time. In 3rd Month *Transformative joy in the daily walk: Growing into communities of disciples, friends of Jesus* facilitated by Constance Bair-Thompson, with help from Mary Alice Pino, focused on and experienced how our Divine Teacher knits us into community with one another. A one-day gathering in 1st Month of close to 50 Friends from both sides of the Atlantic, organized by Matt Rosen and David Male, dove into *Fresh Streams of Living Water.* The Morlan house has also been used to host prayer gatherings as well as out-of-town visitors to Olney Friends School, Stillwater Meeting and local families and friends.

Looking forward, we plan to continue our ongoing exploration of our experience of the Gospels with Ken Jacobsen leading *Jesus and the Gift of the Holy Spirit,* a 6th Day to 1st Day hybrid gathering in 11th Month. Marcelle Martin has expressed interest in offering a weekend program on the healing power of dreams based on her study of early Friends writings and her own experience. We are hoping that will happen next Spring. Some form of follow-up to our successful one-day invitation to *Fresh Streams of Living Water* is expected this fall or winter. Constance Bair-Thompson, Matt Rosen and Mary Alice Pino are envisioning a longer format for a retreat on *Learning to Hearken to our Shepherd's Voice* to take place in the fall of 2027.

Our committee has functioned well at its present size though we appreciate the participation of other members in our offerings and ideas for how else we might serve the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our times. The pin oak tree in the front yard of the Morlan has died and needs to be removed. The cost for that project is estimated to be $3,500. We would be grateful for any help the Yearly Meeting would provide for that expense. Otherwise, we receive sufficient funds from donations (which are always welcome) and program fees to sustain this ministry.

With deep gratitude to the Lord and to Ohio Yearly Meeting for the ability to continue this work - Susan Smith (Clerk), Ken Jacobsen (Asst. Clerk), Constance Bair-Thompson, John Benson, Burton Doudna, David Male, Sarah Parsons, Diane Reynolds, Robert Rockwell, Jack Smith

Agenda Committee Report

We heard the report from our Agenda Committee. We were happy to recognize the good job that the Agenda Committee does. We note that we follow traditions but are not stuck in the past.

Agenda Committee Report to Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends

Eighth Month 2026

The Agenda Committee does most of its work in the first five months of the year to produce an agenda for our Yearly Meeting sessions in Eighth Month. We meet on a regular basis during this time, sending the final agenda document off to be printed early in Fifth month, and a digital copy is then uploaded to our OYM website as well.

We have worked diligently to prepare an agenda that provides a useful and balanced framework for our time together during

yearly meeting. It is our hope that it will allow Friends to consider and address what we need to in the business sessions, as well as affording us time to worship together, the space to enjoy meals together, to learn together from our evening presenters, all with enough space between scheduled items for fellowship and more informal connections to be enjoyed.

Our committee enjoys a strong spirit of unity during our work together as we look to our Lord to lead us together to accomplish what is ours to do, listening to and upholding each other as we work side by side, sharing the work and growing in Friendship along the way.

The Co-Conveners work very well together and support each other. We continue to find this to be helpful for our committee.

We are thankful for this opportunity to serve the Yearly Meeting. Please know that we welcome any comments, ideas or suggestions you may have. Please feel free to reach out to any of the committee members in the coming year to share your thoughts.

Do we feel the power of Christ leading us in the work of our Committee?

We continue to feel the power of Christ leading us in our work in how well we work together for Him with singleness of purpose.

Are there changes to Committee size that might make us more effective?

The size of our committee now seems to serve us well, though we do feel it would be beneficial to have at least one member of the committee from each of our constituent monthly meetings.

Does each individual committee member continue to feel led in service to the committee?

Yes, each of our members always contributes in helpful and useful ways during our ongoing work together.

In the love of Christ Jesus,

The Agenda Committee: Bridget Casterline, Nancy Hawkins, Conrad Lindes, Sarah Parsons, Robert Rockwell, Loisanne Rockwell, Charles Thomas Jr, Karen Walsh, David Warrington

Co-Conveners: Constance Bair-Thompson, Sharon Helms

Agenda Committee financial report to OYM 2026	
Starting Balance 6/30/2025	$3,348.28
Income	
Deposits - donations/meals/rooms/camping	9,700.00
OYM allotment	25.00
Total income	9,725.00
Expenditures	
Olney Friends School -deposit, campus use fee, sanitation fee	1,150.00
Olney Friends School - lodging/meals	7,544.00
Stillwater Meeting camping fees	260.00
Air fare scholarship	316.97
Total Expenditures	$9,270.97
Income minus expenses	$454.03
Current Balance 6/30/2026	$3,802.31
The Agenda Committee respectfully requests allocation	$25.00

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon A Helms
Treasurer

Letter from FWCC

We read a letter from Tim Gee of FWCC and appreciated hearing it. We note, and are glad that Tim has often joined us online this week. It is good to be reminded of the three Abrahamic religions. It is our hope that one day these will reconnect.

Friends World Committee for Consultation

WORLD OFFICE

173 Euston Road, London, UK NW1 2AX

Dear Friend,

Greetings from the World Office of the Friends World Committee for Consultation. Grace and peace to you.

This is a sad time for FWCC with the recent passing of our clerk, Simon Lamb (Ireland Yearly Meeting). Esther Mombo (Highland Yearly Meeting) will now ably serve as clerk for the remainder of 2025.

This is also an anxious time for the world. Still I hold faith that the Light shines in the dark, and the darkness has not overcome it. This will be the case for as long as we each seek God's will for our lives, and seek to unite with it.

This year World Quaker Day (5 October) will have the theme "Love Your Neighbour", taking as its guiding scripture Galatians 5:14: "For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: 'Love your neighbour as yourself'".

There are many forces today encouraging us to hate our neighbour. I feel certain that we must respond with love. We

can use words, but also seek to be “doers of the word” (James 1:22).

The world needs what we have to offer more than ever. Even when environmental breakdown, war, untruths, isolation and unfairness seem to dominate, our message of simplicity, peace, integrity, community and equality is the antidote.

The world is in need of an inward change, to take us away from the present era of injustice, and towards the Kingdom Jesus spoke of. Thank you for the ways that you point people towards the Light, that each person’s measure of the Light may be seen.

By discerning and following God’s will for us, we will be shown a way forward. Let us hold one another, and the whole world community, in God’s Light

If appropriate, please share this greeting before or at your annual sessions. For ease of forwarding by electronic means, this year we have also published the letter online.

In Friendship,

Tim Gee
General Secretary
Friends World Committee for Consultation - World Office

Technical Support Committee Report

The Technical Support Committee described their work this year.

2026 Technical Support Committee Report to Yearly Meeting

The committee has only met irregularly now that there is little demand for help other than to improve the audio connection between the Stillwater meeting house and those attending Yearly Meeting sessions on Zoom. As

noted in our report last year, a large donation was received to be used to help with this matter, which we envisioned might involve consultation from audio engineers as well as the purchase of new equipment designed to be used in such a large room as the one where we meet. As it turns out, all of the donation was charged against this Yearly Meeting committee to install wireless internet connections to the Stillwater Meeting House, the Morlan, and the Activities Building. For now, we will see whether this increase in speed and bandwidth will substantially improve the audio connection of Zoom to Yearly Meeting sessions. If not, we will need to revisit the question of audio engineer input and fees before looking at equipment which, to be properly suited to our situation, will probably be expensive. We will need to continue in consultation with Stillwater Monthly Meeting to fairly apportion the anticipated benefits to each to the funds required from each.

We continue to seek and trust in the Lord's peace to help us deal with complex issues. In particular, Friends with professional experience with internet and social media, as well as gifts for organization, should be considered for this committee.

Final Balance 6/30/2025	$5,125.91	
8/20/2025	Baker IT Services	($5,079.84)
8/8/2025	OYM FY25 Allocation	$1,025.00
3/13/2026	Stillwater MM	$3,000.00
7/1/2026	Balance Available for Technical Support	$4,071.07

To cover anticipated expenses going forward for the audio equipment, we request $1,025 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Adjourning minute

During a moment of silence, it was observed that Jesus told us not to worry about the morrow. After our worship, we adjourned, expecting to gather again for our concluding session.

CONCLUDING SESSION, MORNING, 8/8

God's divine power has given us everything we need to live a truly religious life through our knowledge of the one who called us to share in His glory and goodness. In this way He has given us the very great and precious gifts He promised, so that by means of these gifts you may escape from the destructive lust that is in the world, and may come to share the divine nature. For this very reason do your best to add goodness to your faith; to your goodness add knowledge; to your knowledge add self-control; to your self-control add endurance; to your endurance add godliness; to your godliness add Christian affection; and to your Christian affection add love. These are the qualities you need, and if you have them in abundance, they will make you active and effective in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

II Peter 1:3-8

We were reminded of a time when an earthquake required that El Salvador Yearly Meeting assume the responsibly to raise 24 orphans. Our Yearly Meeting should look to their example. There shall be earthquakes and we should be prepared, but we should not fear. Such earthquakes could cause a collapse, but it will be a collapse into the kingdom – The kingdom that is within us.

We have been told *Be still and know that I am God.* Some translations show this as be empty, or be vacant. We are called to be silent within so that we can learn what is eternal. We need an earthquake within ourselves to shake us up and ensure that we are aligned with God's will. We need to be as little children, trusting in the Lord, believing that we will be safe in His arms. We need to be born as in the beginning, born of the breath and wind of the Spirit. We do not know where The Spirit comes from or where it is going, but we need to be born of it.

We greeted Glen Edgerton from Buffalo, NY, and Julio Carrazoni from Madrid, Spain.

Committee for Youth at Yearly Meeting Report

We heard a very encouraging report of the activities of the children attending our Yearly Meeting. Afterwards Franklin, Sylvia, Wesly and Charlie were introduced. They showed us butterflies and bookmarks. They had a hand in making each and every bookmark. These were handed out to fortunate Friends in the meetinghouse. We were all very glad to meet them and we gave them a heartfelt thanks.

YOUTH AT YEARLY MEETING 2026 REPORT

The Committee is pleased to report that we had a joyful and fulfilling time this year with 4 children attending each day and an additional one who came on Third Day afternoon. We were disappointed that a few more that we had hoped would come were not present, but found that where 2 or 3 are gathered in His name, Jesus is in the midst, and blessings abound. All four of our youth are grandchildren of OYM members, and range in age from 4 to 13. The adults involved in planning and leadership were Tom Roberts, Jean Cooper, Brad Jackson, and Fred Cooper. We had unexpected and valued daily leadership from Christina Troy, mother of three of our children. In addition, Sasha Lawson-Frost joined us on Fourth Day, and Kathy Kovalick helped as needed. Committee members who were unable to attend were Ellerie Brownfain, Diann Herzog, Madeleine Vaché, and Diane Reynolds.

The theme for 2026 was exploring the Friends testimonies of Community, Peace, Simplicity, Stewardship, and Integrity through scripture, discussion, crafts, and activities. Each day the children decorated a cardboard butterfly with the name of the day's topic and other drawings. Crafts included making collages from pictures in magazines and making tissue paper flowers. Our service project was led and provided by Christina Troy who brought her sewing machine, squares of fabric, and

experience to sew cloth bookmarks which will be given to the adults who are present this morning.

Much of their activity time was spent putting together unique puzzles provided by Fred Cooper. These depicted the heart, the brain, dinosaurs, the rainforest, the solar system, and maps of the world, Africa, Europe, and the United States. Leaders shared stories and explanations related to the theme each day. A special interest was the discussion on peace and Friends' historical response to war as conscientious objectors, draft resisters, and alternative service. After Fred Cooper shared his experience as a C.O. during the Vietnam War, we asked the boys present how they felt about participating in war. The response led us to encourage them to begin thinking now about documenting their conscientious objection to participating in war. We will follow up on this by determining how we can help preserve a paper trail that could be useful when they reach the age of registering. We will provide counsel and assistance as needed.

A discussion of the meaning of modesty in apparel was included in our session on Simplicity. We studied the painting of the "Presence in the Midst" to see how early Friends in England dressed, but more importantly to consider the Presence of Jesus and the responses of the Friends in attendance. After lunch that day, we took a trip to the Heritage Room to see items of interest, including playing with the old marble roll and trying on bonnets and hats.

Every day, Tom Roberts shared the fruits of his gift of music by leading us in familiar songs from Christian Education Camp and providing a quiet and soothing background of hymns and praise songs during craft and activity time.

On Sixth Day morning, Brad Jackson led the group on a nature walk and provides this report:

Our Nature walk was very unique. Instead of one or two leaders, we had seven. Each person got to share the knowledge and experiences with God's living things we saw and

heard. Yes, we heard a field sparrow, an indigo bunting, and several goldfinches, but we saw a turkey vulture and a yard full of chickens. An Eastern Towhee sang, "Drink-your-tea."

The pond area held many wildflowers that were being visited by dragonflies, butterflies, bees, and ants. One flower, Queen Anne's Lace, had a wild carrot as the root. As one historical note, one child noticed a strange growth on a pin oak leaf. One leader related the story she had learned that from this type of gall, ink was obtained that was used in writing the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. Such was the knowledge of God's creation observed on our walk. An awareness of stewardship was included in our discussions around this experience.

The theme of Community was experienced as we got to know each other, talk about our lives, solve minor conflicts, and mend hurt feelings. Our final session on Integrity included a thought-provoking exploration of the meaning of this word, as well as the historical and scriptural basis for refusing to swear oaths and to live a life that lets our yes be yes and our no be no.

Each day we enjoyed lunch together in the Activity Building and had a special activity including raspberry picking, and a scripture-based scavenger hunt that required looking up verses in the Bible. We joined Meeting for Worship at 2:00 p.m. each day, and all four sat quietly through the first 20-25 minutes. Our youngest preferred to find his granddaddy and sit with him during this time.

All agree that this was a blessed time. The adults enjoyed our time together and we bonded as a small intergenerational community. Friendships were forged and spiritual seeds were sown.

Financial report:

For food for lunches and snacks--$70.00

All supplies used were already on hand from previous years or were donated as needed

Submitted for the Committee for Youth at Yearly Meeting, Jean Cooper, Convener

Audit and Budget Report

We read the report from Audit and Budget Committee. We approved their proposed budget and appreciated the work went into it. Concern was expressed about the current way we determine who we make our donations to. We accepted the report but released our treasurer to use the words she is given as she writes a letter accompanying our donation to FCNL.

2026 Audit and Budget Committee Report

The Audit and Budget Committee reviewed the records of the Yearly Meeting treasurer and found them to be in good order. We are pleased to report that Beverly Shull, Treasurer, and Robert Becerra, Assistant Treasurer, have expressed a willingness to continue their service to the Yearly Meeting in the year ahead.

We also prepared a budget for the year ahead that we believe reflects a reasonable understanding of what our Yearly Meeting's means, based on donations, are likely to be and what we believe is reasonable to expend in furthering the Yearly Meeting's work. One note is that - based on limited responses from the Ohio-based Friends Disaster Service in recent years - we intend, with the approval of the Yearly Meeting, to send our donation in this and future years to the North Carolina Friends Disaster Service.

The Peace and Human Relations Committee urged consideration of a Yearly Meeting donation to Doctors without Borders. We do not feel inclined to begin budgeting donations to non-Friends organizations, but we do hope individual Friends will consider following the Peace and Human Relations Committee recommendation as they make their own donations.

A “budget” is commonly understood to be a list of expected incomes and expenses. This is a straightforward process when applied to covering the costs of maintaining our meeting place and holding our sessions, and we feel capable to prepare a budget of this nature. However, we cannot anticipate what or when the Lord will have us to do for His business – proclaiming the presence of the Word of God within each human heart or conscience and inviting people not only to find it but to follow it. For such matters, we should rely on the Lord’s providence to support such work at the time, rather than trying to allocate funds in advance. Therefore, perhaps the Yearly Meeting next year would consider which of our line items are actually necessary just for the Yearly Meeting to continue to function.

We ask that the following wording be stated in the letter that accompanies our donation to FCNL: “In appreciation for the visit of Alicia McBride to our Yearly Meeting sessions, and in the expectation that further contemplation of our concerns by FCNL will occur in the year ahead, we recommend that the already twice-reduced donation to FCNL in the past year be continued for one more year, hoping that the additional year of consideration will be fruitful.”

Respectfully submitted by the Audit and Budget Committee, David Male, Burton Doudna, David Eley, and Conrad Lindes

	General Operating		Proposed
	Budget	**Actual**	**Budget**
	7/1/25-6/30/26	**7/1/25-6/30/26**	**7/1/26 - 6/30/27**
Revenue			
Book Sales		15.00	
Monthly Meeting Donations		26,274.25	
Other Donations		1,700.00	
Restricted Donations	Monteverde School	245.00	
		28,234.25	
Disbursements			
Ad Hoc Committees	250.00	-	-

Agenda Committee	25.00	25.00	25.00
Christian Education Camp	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
Clerk's Expenses	300.00	300.00	200.00
Conservative Friend	25.00	0.00	300.00
Custodians of Records	300.00	80.00	100.00
FCNL	125.00	125.00	125.00
Friends Center	25.00	25.00	25.00
Friends Disaster Service (North Carolina)	200.00	200.00	200.00
FWCC	500.00	500.00	500.00
FWCC Capital Campaign (Year 4 of 5)	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Historical Committee	300.00	300.00	300.00
Hominy Center	200.00	200.00	200.00
Insurance	6,581.00	6,581.00	6,908.00
Monteverde School		245.00	
Outreach Committee	350.00	350.00	1,000.00
Peace & Human Relations	100.00	100.00	300.00
Printing (Gift-in-kind)	1,250.00	1,161.51	1,200.00
Property Trustees (See note #1)	2,000.00	172.75	2,000.00
RSWR	200.00	200.00	200.00
Technical Support (see note #2)	1,025.00	2,079.84	1,025.00
Travel Fund	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Treasurer Expense	150.00	128.38	150.00
Walton Home	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Water	250.00	152.75	250.00
WFCF	25.00	25.00	25.00
Youth at Yearly Meeting	250.00	180.30	250.00
Total Disbursements	29,631.00	28,331.53	30,483.00

Notes:

1. Property Trustees have a $3,165 balance
2. Technical Support has $4,071 unspent

Monte Verde School Fund

We raised $450[†] at our Yearly Meeting for the Monte Verde School. Marie Bundy collected these funds and will turn them over to our treasurer. We appreciated the report, the generosity of Friends and Marie's willingness to manage the fund. It was reported that our previous contributions were well used.

Quarterly Meeting Representatives Recommendations

We heard a report of the Quarterly Meeting Representatives to Yearly Meeting and approved of their recommendations. We also agreed that the Yearly Meeting Assistant Clerk should be an ex officio member of both the Printing and Agenda Committees. And we directed our clerk to update our handbook accordingly.

Quarterly Meeting Representative Report

The quarterly meeting representatives met to discern the names of individuals for the positions of Yearly Meeting clerk, assistant clerk and reading clerk. The representatives are recommending, for the Yearly Meeting's consideration and approval, the following people.

Clerk: Charles (Chip) Thomas

Assistant Clerk: Kent Palmer

Reading Clerk: Samuel Wilber

For the Committee:

Karen Walsh, Sharon Helms, Conrad Lindes, Nancy Hawkins, Penny Thomas, Constance Bair-Thompson, Dave Casterline, Mike Kinch, Burton Doudna

[†] Subsequent to this report, additional contributions were made. The final total was $510. This included $360 in cash and $150 in a check made out directly to Monte Verde.

Ad Hoc Report

The Peace Committee reported a young Friend turning over documentation on their position as a conscientious objector. This will be placed in our vault at Olney.

Message from Chagala Stanley Ngesa

During the silent worship preceding the conclusion of our sessions, the following message from Chagala Stanley Ngesa, an itinerant preacher at Lyavugulu Friends Church, Vihiga Yearly Meeting, Kenya was heard…

> *I send greetings in the name of precious Friend Jesus the Christ to the gathered body of Christ at Ohio Yearly Meeting.*

Concluding Minute

There was a brightness in the weather and in faces of Friends as we gathered on the South porch of Stillwater meetinghouse to register. Our smiles reflected the greetings of those we had not seen for a while, those we had only seen on a screen, and others we were meeting for the first time. It was encouraging to notice an increase in attendance. We felt joy in knowing that God is at work here.

We felt the absence of Friends we missed through illness, infirmity and passing. But many of those we would see on the screen, and they were all in our hearts. They are forever in our fellowship.

Our times of worship were deeply gathered. Love echoed in both the messages and in the silence. We experienced the love Christ showers upon us, and we prayed that we be worthy of it. We prayed to be able to share it with a world that so desperately needs it.

One morning, while watching the dawn from the South porch, a day of visitation occurred. The Lord knocked on our door, and it was opened. He became our God and we became His people. The dawn light shone brighter and brighter until the perfect day appeared.

We dove into our business, with appointments, query summaries and committee reports. It all was framed with a reverence for our Lord.

We labored with difficult questions that uncovered differences. In the depths of our work, the enemy had the audacity to enter our discussions. But he was noticed and we quickly turned away from him. Even this moment glorified God as it caused us to remember the love we have for each other and how we must guard that love in all we do. Our differences did not evaporate, but we became more tender with each other and in our prayers, we frequently asked that the Lord draw us closer.

There was a balm in the depths of our silent worship as we remembered that God can do anything.

In that worship, we realized how natural it is for us to ask God for blessings in this natural life: health, home, sustenance. And we thank God that He blesses us with these things. But Christ did not come to preserve this natural life. He came to end it. The life of the natural-will has ended. This is not death of the body, but death of the will. When it dies, it is replaced with God's will. This happens here and now. We do not have to wait.

In that worship, we remembered Peter's reaction to the vast load of fish that appeared at Christ's command. Peter fell on his face, afraid. This was a human fear, arising from witnessing great power. When God pours out His grace upon us, we can have the same fear. That grace can be so intimate yet so powerful. But as we transform our human fear of power into an awe of God, we delight in Him and He delights in us. Sometimes we experience

fear when He calls on us to act. But He provides us power and boldness. We prayed to lay aside our human fear and be bold in all He calls us to do.

In that worship, we heard from the Lord: *I am pouring out my gifts to you, without measure without price. Do you have eyes to see and ears to hear the gifts I am sending to you? Open your hearts dearly beloved, for I am coming among you. Open your hearts to my freely given love that pours out like a mighty river to quench every thirst.*

In the evenings, we became as little children, eating ice cream and catching fireflies.

We invited Alicia McBride of FCNL to converse with us. She read us Psalm 46. In the heart of that Psalm it says, "Our LORD and our God is with us." Alicia relayed how FCNL felt that God was with them in their work. She emphasized how important it was for them to come to a sacred center before they set out. During the conversation, the concerns of Ohio Yearly Meeting were reviewed along with that of individual Friends. The exchange was frank, but tender. Something was renewed.

Our Peace committee introduced us to several Friends. One was led to support those threatened by our overzealous government. In prayerful vigils he found a deeper spiritual life and demonstrated to those on the picket line how peace can be found in a simple Meeting for Worship. We also heard from one whose indigenous ancestors suffered from the influx of Europeans. Her spiritual connection to those ancestors and to nature dovetailed with her experience among Friends. Both allowed her to develop a universal kinship with all life on earth. Finally, a Venezuelan Friend described the sufferings his country has gone through. His Christian faith led him through times we cannot imagine. His perseverance was striking. His unshaken commitment to our Lord through it all demonstrated the power that comes from a walk with Christ.

The week left us tired, but satisfied in all that we accomplished. We spent hours conducting business and we made difficult decisions. But we found many things to be encouraged by. We experienced the depths of many gathered meetings. We felt both the love between us and His love, pressed down, shaken together, and running over.

We now conclude, purposing to gather again on Eighth Month 3rd, 2027, if it should so, be His will.

REPRESENTATIVE MEETING MINUTES

Fall 2025

At the Fall session of the Representative Meeting of Ohio Yearly Meeting, held in the Chestnut Ridge meeting house, 11th Month, 15th, 2025. This is a hybrid meeting with some members attending by Zoom. We are appreciative of Chestnut Ridge Monthly Meeting for their hospitality.

The scripture reading was Psalm 100

We are blessed to have 9 Monthly Meetings represented today with 14 of our 18 representatives here. We also have 4 Friends not appointed attending. With a quorum established, we can conduct our business.

Since our Representative Meeting clerk is unable to be with us, we appointed an interim clerk to act in her stead. Nancy A. Hawkins has agreed to serve as interim clerk. We are most appreciative of our Yearly Meeting clerk for agreeing to collect business items and to prepare an agenda for today.

Our first item of business is the possible use of the word "disowned" in our membership records. This was discussed at Yearly Meeting time and was sent to each Monthly Meeting to consider. The word "disowned" was removed from the discipline in 1962-1963. Before that it was used frequently. It was not necessarily a banishment. There is general agreement that Friends

are not in support of the addition of the word "disowned" in our membership records or the Discipline. We agree that it is important in a grievous situation we should follow through to see that the individual does not do damage in another place. Monthly Meetings agree that continuing to use the word "discontinued" as currently used in our Discipline is appropriate.

The second item of Business is: Designating funds for major projects at Stillwater Meetinghouse, as suggested by the Audit and Budget Committee report at Yearly Meeting.

We ask the Fiduciary Trustees to set up a new, separate fund designated for the care of the Yearly Meeting house. The fund can begin with the 10,000 dollars from the general fund and 10,000 dollars from the sale of property fund.

Our third item of business: Beverly K. Shull has received some letters of appreciation from donors and thought that they should be shared. Two interesting letters were read. One from FWCC and one from the Monteverde Friends.

Our Fourth Item of business: Communicating the Yearly Meeting's concerns to FCNL and reporting on the Yearly Meeting's clerk and treasurer's progress on this issue. The letter that they composed was read. Our Yearly Meeting clerk will hand deliver the letter personally to the Washington DC office of the FWCC to be sure it is actually read. The meeting appreciates his generosity.

Our Fifth item is to name a committee to bring forth names for Representative Meeting clerk and Reading clerk. The current clerk's terms will conclude at the end of the Spring Representative Meeting in 4th Month 2026. Kathleen M. Kovalick and Nancy A. Hawkins were named to bring names forward for a clerk and reading clerk for this body. They are asked to report at the 4th month Representative Meeting.

With no further business, we now conclude, intending to gather again at Salem Meetinghouse on 4th month 18, 2026.

Nancy A. Hawkins, Interim Clerk

Janet Hammer, Reading Clerk

Spring 2026

We are grateful to be able to be gathered for the Spring session of Representative Meeting held at Salem Meeting House in Salem, Ohio, and online via Zoom, on Fourth Month 18th 2026.

We began with waiting worship and a reading from the Scriptures: [Colossians 3:12-17 KJV]

Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

13 of our appointed members were in attendance. One Friend, Tom Roberts, attended as a visitor.

Representatives in attendance were David Eley, Michael Kinch, Charles Thomas, Jr., Dave Casterline, Sharon Helmes, Wil Brant, Nancy Hawkins, Mary Alice Pino, Janet Hammer, Burton Doudna, Constance Bair-Thompson, Debra Taber and Karen Walsh.

Having established a quorum, we proceeded with our business.

Our Clerk was unable to be with us today. We agreed that Constance Bair-Thompson would serve in her stead.

1.The Yearly Meeting published a booklet several years ago called Continuing in Marriage. It included reflections from several Ohio Yearly Meeting couples married for many years on the blessings and challenges of marriage. The Outreach Committee believes that it would be beneficial to share this booklet with a wider audience and seeks advice on republishing this tract.

Friends discussed this and remembered when this booklet was initially published in 1983, and how meaningful it was at that time for many, and we feel that republishing it would also bring many blessings. Have we done research on this and do we have an idea of how useful it would be to Friends now? Does anyone have access to the original digital file? Dave Casterline offered to get the text into a word processing program to aid in editing. The Outreach committee has felt that it would be good to give something like this to many of our seekers to share with them our conservative Friends' beliefs and experiences of marriage. It would be useful for us to update it by adding the stories of other couples since it was originally published who have reached the milestone of being married for fifty years. We have many questions about this project and the details required to republish and update this tract. We ask the Outreach committee to continue following this leading that has been kindled in them, being aware of the offer from Dave Casterline to convert the current text into a form that would be easily edited.

2. At our 11th month Representative Meeting, we heard a letter that was written by our Yearly Meeting clerk and treasurer to the Friends Committee on National Legislation about our concerns on their position on abortion. Our Yearly Meeting clerk was to meet with a representative of FCNL to hand-deliver the letter and express our concerns in person.

Charles Thomas Jr. read his report of his meeting with FCNL on Twelfth Month 11th 2025. His report is attached to the end of these minutes. He also told us that the Agenda Committee has discerned that one of our evening presentations at OYM sessions during Eighth Month will be a conversation with Alicia McBride of FCNL, and further that she has committed to being with us for all of our Yearly Meeting sessions as a visitor. It was pointed out that our sense of our disagreement with FCNL about this issue is not with the words of the policy, but more that they failed to include Friends who are opposed to abortion. This seems to be a departure from a long-standing policy of FCNL to avoid taking stands on potentially divisive issues that Friends as a whole have very different ideas and feelings about, which could have the effect of further dividing us. To say that they speak for all Friends on this issue seems to be lacking in integrity in using the name of "Friends." Chip said that our feelings were clearly shared with Alicia McBride and Lauren Brownlee, and that they shared that they felt that their process had been a good one. He had the sense that they were quite surprised at our reaction. The question of their integrity was not discussed with them. Chip shared in his report that he felt that their sharing about the process they followed was not done to justify their actions, but instead to just report the facts about their process. Friends appreciate our YM clerk's willingness to hand deliver our letter and for his willingness to share our concerns with them, and to listen to their concerns in a Spirit of love.

3. Traveling Minute for Charles Thomas, Jr.

A Traveling Minute from Rockingham Quarterly Meeting for Charles Thomas Jr was read, and that body has requested that we also endorse this minute. The minute (attached to these minutes) was approved by Marlborough Monthly Meeting on Third Month 25th 2026. Friends expressed gladness that Chip is feeling led to travel in the ministry to monthly meetings in the geographic

region around Marlborough Meeting. We feel to endorse it with our blessings.

4. Nominating Committee would like direction from the Yearly Meeting as to whether an affiliate member can serve as a Custodian of Records. Is there some special qualification needed to be on this committee? Is this considered to be a committee, or one made up of officers?

Janet Hammer read the paragraph in our Book of Discipline about affiliate members. She also read from the 2025 Minute Book about the function of the Custodians of Records. Janet shared that Beverly Kirk Shull would like to be released as a Custodian of the Records and we have an affiliate member who is interested in serving on that committee. Janet, as clerk of Nominating Committee, also shared that two Custodians are on Nominating Committee and both shared that they felt that they, plus Seth Hinshaw, could continue the work of the Custodians as a group of three without Bev. Are Custodians considered to be a committee? We have a sense that they are not a committee but also not a group of officers. We feel this is a question that has come up before for other tasks and roles within our Yearly Meeting, and is likely to come up with increasing frequency given our somewhat dwindling numbers. We wonder if we should begin to be more flexible about these things. Beverly is a lifelong OYM Friend who has a wealth of knowledge, and it might be good to have someone newer to us serve as a Custodian and learn from her. Our Discipline does not seem conclusive about this matter. Custodians are also caretakers of the records and how they are organized in the vault. They are also gatekeepers for people who want to look at records. While full membership would be ideal, it is our sense that an affiliate member with the right qualifications should be allowed to be a Custodian.

5. A report from the Committee to consider Names for Representative Meeting Clerks.

We heard the report from the Committee to consider Names for Representative Meeting Clerks that Constance Bair-Thompson has agreed to serve as Representative Meeting clerk and Mary Alice Pino has agreed to serve as reading clerk. We approve of these appointments. Friends wish to express our deep appreciation for the service of our outgoing clerks for their past service.

Our business concluded, we ended our meeting after a period of waiting worship, purposing to meet again at Chestnut Ridge Monthly Meeting on Eleventh Month 21st 2026, if that be consistent with the Lord's will.

Report to Representative Meeting Concerning FCNL

Background

At our 2025 Yearly Meeting sessions, the following minute was approved.

> *We direct our clerk and treasurer to compose a letter to FCNL explaining the reasons for our reduction in contributions and include the minute we approved last year on FCNL's abortion position.*

The clerk and treasurer, in consultation with our FCNL representatives composed a letter which was presented at the fall 2025 Representative Meeting. The clerk indicated that he would hand-deliver the letter to FCNL and report back in the spring of 2026.

Meeting with FCNL

The following is a personal account of the meeting.

On Twelfth Month 11th, I met with Alica McBride-Senior Director for Quaker Leadership, and Lauren Brownlee-Deputy General Secretary, at the FCNL offices in Washington DC.

After a deep moment of silence, I read the letter which expressed the Yearly Meeting's concerns. Alica and Lauren were good listeners. Upon hearing the contents of the letter,

they promised to place it before their *Policy Committee* and *Quaker Governance and Engagement Committee.*

They described their perspective of the process that produced the new abortion policy. Lauren's sense was that it was faithful exercise. They did not notice any discomfort in the outcome from the participating meetings. Alica commented on the effective clerking that produced the policy.

These comments did not come off in the spirit of justification, but a reporting of experiences as the decision was made.

As we talked, I acknowledged the challenge in establishing a consensus over a large gathering, let alone in an organization that endeavors to represent many differing Quaker bodies. I pointed out how discouraging it is for any clerk to minute that a body is not in unity. It is even more disappointing to recognize that a voice has been overlooked.

Alica explained that the policy attempts to account for a broad range of views and understandings of the abortion issue. I offered that this is different than recognizing non-unity.

Overall, the atmosphere was very pleasant. Our views blended without contention, and they clearly took the matter we raised seriously.

They expressed regret at not being able to visit our Yearly Meeting as often as they would like, and they indicated that they hoped to do so in the future. They also talked about renewing their Monthly Meeting contacts.

We parted tenderly, and with a sense that our meeting was worthwhile.

Charles Thomas,
Clerk Ohio Yearly Meeting

COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS AS OF 2026

(Years indicate expiration of term, asterisk* indicates clerk or convener)

AGENDA COMMITTEE

ex officio: OYM Clerk- Charles C. Thomas, Jr.
ex officio: Asst. OYM Clerk- Kent Palmer
ex officio: Registrar- Sharon A. Helms*
Assistant Registrars: Constance Bair-Thompson*, Bridget Casterline
2027 Sharon A. Helms, Sarah Parsons, Karen Walsh
2029 Nancy A. Hawkins, David E. Warrington

AUDIT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

(serves until the end of 2027 session)
2027 David Male, Conrad Lindes

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CAMP COMMITTEE

2028 Micaela S. Drewett, Debora H. Taber, Tom Roberts
2029 Johanna Mae Rockwell*, Constance Bair-Thompson, Jean Cooper, Diane Reynolds

COMMITTEE FOR YOUTH AT YEARLY MEETING

2027 Diann Herzog, Madeleine Vaché
2028 Brad Jackson, Jean Cooper*
2029 Ellerie Brownfain, Tom Roberts, Diane Reynolds

COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE & SUPPORT OUTREACH.

2027 Henry C. Jason, Charles C. Thomas, Jr., Dave W. Casterline
2028 Conrad Lindes*, Kim R. Palmer, Sharon A. Helms, Janet Hammer
2029 John C. Benson, John C. Smith, Nancy A. Hawkins

EPISTLE COMMITTEE (Two-year term)
2027 Kenneth P. Jacobsen, Diane Reynolds
2028 Constance Bair-Thompson, John Edminster

FIDUCIARY TRUSTEES
ex officio: Walton Home Manager Kristina Moore
2027 Shelley A. Rockwell, David E. Warrington*
2028 Carey L. Newlin
2029 Robert Becerra, Beverly Kirk Shull

FRIENDS CENTER COMMITTEE
2027 John C. Benson, Constance Bair-Thompson, Robert J. Rockwell
2028 Burton M. Doudna, Diane Reynolds, Kenneth P. Jacobsen, Sarah Parsons
2029 David Male, John C. Smith, Susan Smith*

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE
2027 Earl Smith, Tom Roberts, Evan Knappenberger
2028 Rebecca J. Hawkins, Anne Marie Taber, Kathryn E. Smith, Margaret Marie Bundy*, Jean Cooper
2029 Gwendolyn Giffen

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE
2027 Seth Hinshaw*, David Nagle, Burton Doudna
2029 Timothy Lillie

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
2027 Michael Kinch, Constance Bair-Thompson, Henry Jason, Jean Cooper, Penny Thomas, Sharon A. Helms
2028 Rebecca J. Hawkins, Janet L. Hammer*, Margaret Marie Bundy, Jared Valdez, John C. Smith, David Eley, Kim Newlin

PEACE & HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE
2027 Madeleine Vaché
2028 Jean Cooper, Fred Cooper, David Nagle, Matt Rosen
2029 Earl Smith, Sylvia E. Thomas*, Karen Walsh

PRINTING COMMITTEE

ex officio: OYM Clerk- Charles C. Thomas, Jr.
ex officio: Asst. OYM Clerk- Kent Palmer
ex officio: OYM Recorder- Michael Kinch
ex officio: OYM Nominating Committee Clerk-
Janet L. Hammer
2027 Sharon A. Helms, Carey L. Newlin, Anne Marie Taber*
2029 Michael Kinch, Earl Smith

RECORDERS

2026 Rockingham Quarter: Michael Kinch-Keystone
Fellowship, Penny Thomas-Marlborough,
Dave W. Casterline-Rockingham
Salem Quarter: Sharon Helms-Crossroads,
Rebecca Hawkins &
Nancy Hawkins-Middleton,
Lola Toot-Salem Upper Springfield
Stillwater Quarter: Janet Hammer-Chesterfield,
Kathleen Kovalick-Chestnut Ridge,
Roseanna Wilkinson-Stillwater

TECHNICAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE

2027 Dave W. Casterline, David Male, Kent Palmer
2028 Charles C. Thomas, Jr., Roger Reynolds
2029 Conrad Lindes*, Kim R. Palmer, Nancy A. Hawkins,
Constance Bair-Thompson

TRAVEL FUND COMMITTEE

2027 David F. Eley
2028 Dennis Rockwell, Janet L. Hammer*
2029 Robert Becerra

TRUSTEES OF OHIO YEARLY MEETING PROPERTY

2027 Robert J. Rockwell*
2028 David Male
2029 Richard F. Sidwell, Robert W. Stratton, Leonard Guindon

WALTON HOME BOARD

2027 Sharon A. Helms, Cindy McGee (Community), Karen L. Walsh, Karen Campf, Mitch Bartels (Community)
2028 Kathleen M. Kovalick, Barbara J. Warrington*, James S. Kirk, Mike Cook (Community)
2029 Robert Becerra, Sarah Parsons, Beverly Shull
No term limit Advisor to the Board John Rockwell

WIDER FELLOWSHIP OF CONSERVATIVE FRIENDS

ex officio: Registrar-Sharon A. Helms
2027 Nancy A. Hawkins*, Michael Kinch, John C. Smith, Sharon A. Helms
2029 Sarah Parsons, Tom Roberts

CUSTODIANS OF RECORDS (In Perpetuity)

Appointed 2009- Seth Hinshaw
Appointed 2010- Kimberly A. Newlin
Appointed 2024- Constance Bair- Thompson
Appointed 2026- Tom Roberts

REPRESENTATIVE MEETING

ex officio: OYM clerk- Charles C. Thomas, Jr.
2027 Burton M. Doudna, Nancy A. Hawkins, Janet L. Hammer, Sarah Parsons, Mary Alice Pino *(Reading clerk),* Constance Bair-Thompson* *(Clerk),* Wil Brant
2028 Diane Reynolds, David Johnson, Conrad Lindes, Kimberly A. Newlin, Michael Kinch, Sharon A. Helms
2029 Dave W. Casterline, David F. Eley, Jared Valdez, Debora H. Taber, Karen Walsh

TREASURER of OHIO YEARLY MEETING

2027 Beverly Kirk Shull

ASSISTANT TREASURER

2027 Robert Becerra

YEARLY MEETING CLERK

2027 Charles C. Thomas, Jr.

ASSISTANT YEARLY MEETING CLERK

2027 Kent Palmer

YEARLY MEETING READING CLERK

2027 Samuel Wilber

YEARLY MEETING RECORDER

2027 Michael Kinch

ASSISTANT YEARLY MEETING RECORDER

2027 Charles C. Thomas, Jr.

REPRESENTATIVES to FRIENDS COMMITTEE on NATIONAL LEGISLATION

2027 Earl Smith
2028 Sylvia Thomas
2029 Tom Roberts

REPRESENTATIVES to FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE for CONSULTATION

2027 David Male, Eileen Kinch

2029 Diane Reynolds

Agenda

Clerk/Convener: Sharon A. Helms, Constance Bair-Thompson

Appointed by Nominating Committee. Term of service is 3 years.

Member	Tenure	Meeting
Charles C. Thomas, Jr	EX_OFFICO Yearly Meeting Clerk	MARLBOROUGH
Kent Palmer	EX_OFFICO Yearly Meeting Assistant Clerk	ROCKINGHAM
Sharon A. Helms	EX_OFFICO Registrar	CROSSROADS
Constance Bair-Thompson	EX_OFFICO Assistant Registrar	CHESTNUT RIDGE
Bridget Casterline	EX_OFFICO Assistant Registrar	MARLBOROUGH
Sharon A. Helms	2027	CROSSROADS
Sarah Parsons	2027	MIDDLETON
Karen Walsh	2027	STILLWATER
Nancy A. Hawkins	2029	MIDDLETON
David E. Warrington	2029	SALEM UPPER SPRINGFIELD

Description

The Agenda Committee is composed of seven members plus the Yearly Meeting clerk and Registrar is named by the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee. Terms of service are for three years, with staggered expiration dates.

The work of developing the written agenda for yearly meeting sessions should begin in First Month for Event Contract and updated costs with Olney Friends School. The agenda should be ready for distribution by Sixth Month, with planning meetings held as needed. The agenda lists items of business to be considered at each session, as well as other scheduled events during that week. The agenda also provides information on accommodations, meals, youth activities and other items of interest to members and visitors. The basic format of the agenda is helpful in reminding Friends of the anticipated flow of Yearly Meeting business through the week.

The committee is responsible for delegating planning for evening programs for yearly meeting week and for making the necessary arrangements for their presentation. Members of this committee are also responsible for arranging for yearly meeting members to conduct the morning worship groups during the week. It is important to keep in contact with Olney Friends School personnel as arrangements are being made since we make use of their facilities. The Agenda Committee should see that the agendas are printed or copied, stapled and distributed to all monthly meetings.

Audit & Budget

Appointed by Yearly Meeting in Session. Term of service is 2 years.

Member	Tenure	Meeting
David Male	2027	STILLWATER
Conrad Lindes	2027	SALEM UPPER SPRINGFIELD

Description

The yearly meeting of 2003 directed that there be four members of the Audit and Budget Committee, with staggered two-year terms.

Two members are named each year from the floor of the yearly meeting. The committee is to

- Audit the books of the yearly meeting treasury. It is helpful if the YM treasurer gives to the committee immediately after their appointment the yearly meeting financial record book and bank statements, as well as a copy of the treasurer's report to the yearly meeting.

- Prepare a proposed budget for the yearly meeting for the coming year. The budget is usually reported to the last business session. It is helpful for the various committees of the yearly meeting to inform the Audit and Budget Committee of their fiscal needs soon after its appointment. The committee considers the balance of all requests as it prepares the budget. Individual requests by particular committees are usually not approved by the yearly meeting prior to considering the proposed budget. In its budget report the A&B Committee should include explanation of changes they propose from the previous year, as well as any other conditions they deem helpful in understanding the budget.

- Recommend an OYM member to serve as treasurer and assistant treasurer for the coming year. This recommendation usually is part of the budget report given on Seventh Day.

- In consultation with the treasurer, make recommendations to the yearly meeting for changes in procedures to expedite the fiscal functions of the yearly meeting. For example, in its 2003 report, the committee suggested that the treasurer, early in the fiscal year, forward to each yearly meeting committee its approved appropriation. Each committee would then be responsible for handling its own receipts and disbursements.

Christian Education Camp

Clerk/Convener: Johanna Mae Rockwell

Appointed by Nominating Committee. Term of service is 3 years.

Member	Tenure	Meeting
Micaela Shavonne Drewett	2028	STILLWATER
Debora Hope Taber	2028	STILLWATER
Tom Roberts	2028	STILLWATER
Johanna Mae Rockwell	2029	SALEM UPPER SPRINGFIELD
Constance Bair-Thompson	2029	CHESTNUT RIDGE
Jean Cooper	2029	STILLWATER
Diane Reynolds	2029	STILLWATER

Description

The purpose of the Christian Education Camp Committee is to provide oversight, support and assistance with planning and execution of the Christian Education Camp. The Camp is a two to four day period of time of interacting with our first through eighth grade children to assist and encourage them in their understanding of and desire for a growing relationship with Jesus as Savior and Lord.

The committee is to seek out an individual or individuals who can assume the leadership. The Leader is to

- Discern an appropriate theme for group focus.

- Make annual reservations with Olney for use of campus facilities.

- Direct outreach and publicity toward potential campers.

- Arrange for adult supervisors and senior and junior counselors and provide other resources.

- Select a camp treasurer and calculate probable need of Yearly Meeting financial support, expenses and camper fees.

- Make an annual report to the Yearly Meeting.

Committee members are encouraged to share their talents and gifts as they are able, such as by being counselors, in craft instruction, overseeing recreation activities, helping lead worship programs, or teaching. All committee members are asked to especially pray for the camp, campers, and counselors before, during and after the camp sessions. Gifts and qualities needed to be a member of this committee are a "willingness to be a worker for the Lord".

The camps held in the past have always been Christ-centered and Spirit-led. While children of Ohio Yearly Meeting have been the targeted campers, all children have been welcomed. Many campers are children of former OYM members or friends of campers. We have seen the workings of the Lord in so many aspects of the camps. When we allowed Him to work, in His perfect timing, the camps have been wonderful times of learning about and experiencing Him.

Committee for Youth at Yearly Meeting

Clerk/Convener: Jean Cooper

Appointed by Nominating Committee. Term of service is 3 years.

Member	Tenure	Meeting
Diann McFarland Herzog	2027	STILLWATER

Madeleine Vaché	2027	ROCKINGHAM
Brad Jackson	2028	CHESTNUT RIDGE
Jean Cooper	2028	STILLWATER
Ellerie Brownfain	2029	STILLWATER
Tom Roberts	2029	STILLWATER
Diane Reynolds	2029	STILLWATER

Description

Ohio Yearly Meeting welcomes Friends and visitors of all ages to our Yearly Meeting Sessions. We particularly desire to establish a warm Christian environment for the spiritual growth of our youth. One of our challenges is to be ready for children to be among us even when registrations for them is low or nonexistent. In 2024, the Yearly Meeting established The Committee for Youth at Yearly Meeting to address this challenge.

The committee is charged with recruiting resources that can be ready to teach, support and supervise children during our sessions, should the need arise. This includes training and background checks as defined by the Yearly Meeting Approved Safety Guidelines. The committee is encouraged to develop educational programs that seek to awaken the love of Christ and to discover the law of God already in the heart. Such programs should be ready to implement on short notice.

It is indeed a challenge to prepare for something that may never happen. In this context, the work of this committee is a true test of stepping out in faith.

Committee to Coordinate and Support Outreach

Clerk/Convener: Conrad Lindes

Appointed by Nominating Committee. Term of service is 3 years.

Member	Tenure	Meeting
Henry C. Jason, Jr	2027	MIDDLETON
Charles C. Thomas, Jr	2027	MARLBOROUGH
Dave Casterline	2027	ROCKINGHAM
Conrad Lindes	2028	SALEM UPPER SPRINGFIELD
Kim Richard Palmer	2028	STILLWATER
Sharon A. Helms	2028	CROSSROADS
Janet Hammer	2028	CHESTERFIELD
John Chapman Benson	2029	STILLWATER
John C. Smith	2029	ROCKINGHAM
Nancy A. Hawkins	2029	MIDDLETON

Description

As Christians, we in Ohio Yearly Meeting have a charge to spread Christ's good news to the whole world. The ideal means for this is through direct personal contact, sharing the gospel of Christ's love for us and His presence, in Spirit, within every human soul as the Word of God to speak to us and as the Light that reveals our faults and leads us to holiness. Thus, the essential place and responsibility for this personal outreach and for welcome seekers and new members is the Monthly Meeting. This Committee's role

is, as its title states, to coordinate and support that Monthly Meeting work. To make this possible, Nominating Committee members should seek out the members of their Monthly Meetings with the greatest gifts and availability for outreach, even if they live at a distance from the Meeting House, to name to the Committee to Coordinate and Support Outreach so that each Monthly Meeting is represented on it.

The internet provides us, cloistered as we sometimes seem to be, an unprecedented opportunity to proclaim our unique version of that good news to every corner of the globe. The primary charge of this committee is to be continually yearning and listening for the Word of God to speak through us, in written rather than in vocal ministry, to Friends and seekers the world over.

Ohio Yearly Meeting has "conserved" the Truth and Light which the first Friends proclaimed, but we have hidden it under a bushel basket, where its flame is dying. Though we are now few in number, we Friends of this Truth and Light have the opportunity to put that Truth and Light on a candlestick to enlighten the whole world. Members of this committee should burn with the desire to share our wonderful Good News and should be willing and able to spend the time to do that, primarily through their own Monthly Meetings, and then through correspondence and phone calls with individuals from anywhere in the world who might discover us and want to learn more about Christ within.

Each Monthly Meeting should be excited and willing to take on the opportunity for growth through its local, in-person outreach. Ideally, then, at least one Friend from each Monthly Meeting should serve on this committee so that they can learn from one another's Monthly Meeting work and coordinate and support that work among the Monthly Meetings. In addition, as members of this committee, they will be the contact point for the work of the whole Yearly Meeting to reach out to the world. When online inquirers find themselves to be in unity with us and desire to join, they will

need to do that through a Monthly Meeting, which can be facilitated by correspondence with individual committee members.

The Outreach Committee maintains a website which currently includes:

the OYM Book of Discipline;

statements regarding OYM beliefs and testimonies ;

information regarding locations and times of worship for our monthly, allowed and affiliated meetings;

links to related sites, including the OYM Friends Center;

a calendar of events useful to OYM members, and;

a provision for inquiries for more specific information or help

The committee meets in person once a year, at the Friends Center, the day before the opening session of Ohio Yearly Meeting. Throughout the year, we maintain conversation with one another through emails and through online meetings every 6 weeks. One committee member serves as its treasurer, and some members with the needed skills and interest maintain the website. One member serves as the correspondent. He or she receives and replies to all email inquiries that come through the website and passes them on to two other committee members, in rotation. EACH MEMBER of the committee is responsible to respond, at least initially, to these inquiries, and to maintain correspondence with those inquirers who continue to show interest.

Committee Schedule:

1. In person committee meeting at Yearly Meeting sessions. Finalize the report for YM at this time, and email the report to the YM Clerk in Word format.

2. Meet online, using Zoom or another means, every 6 weeks. During these meetings:

o receive reports of each Monthly Meeting's outreach work since that last meeting and plans for the future. This is an opportunity for cross-pollination of ideas;

o review the inquiries received through the website since that last meeting, the responses to them, and the current status of correspondence with inquirers.

The committee Correspondent is to make an initial reply and pass on the inquiry and his/her response to two committee members, selected in rotation, who also are to respond at least once to the inquirer;

the correspondent will maintain a list of inquirer's names, email addresses, any other known information regarding location, phone number, etc., and the current status of correspondence with each one.

The names of inquirers with whom there has been no active correspondence for 2 years, or who have joined OYM, will be dropped from the list.

o Review the website content and appearance in the light of performance reports for Google and others, and in the light of input from visitors to the site, to continually work to improve the effectiveness of the site in communicating our understanding of the gospel as widely as possible.

3. During the last online meeting before Yearly Meeting sessions, prepare a preliminary report for Yearly Meeting.

4. During the first online meeting of the calendar year, prepare to be give books to Olney seniors.

o Decide which book(s) to give, with the intent of providing these graduates with a valuable reminder of OYM Friends' experience of the living, inward Christ.

o Communicate with Onley to find out how many seniors will be graduating.

o Communicate with the OYM Historical Committee to acquire and store those books.

o Arrange with Olney for the books to be presented, on behalf of Ohio Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Conservative in a meaningful ceremony.

Epistle

Appointed by Nominating Committee. Term of service is 2 years.

Member	Tenure	Meeting
Kenneth P. Jacobsen	2027	STILLWATER
Diane Reynolds	2027	STILLWATER
Constance Bair-Thompson	2028	CHESTNUT RIDGE
John Jeremiah Edminster	2028	STILLWATER

Description

The Epistle Committee discerns which epistles, or portions thereof, should be offered to the yearly meeting to be read aloud during the sessions. Most epistle documents are sent to FWCC where they are put on a website for our viewing. Those documents and any that are sent directly are viewed by members who may bring forward selections for discernment at the committee meeting held the day before the opening session of yearly meeting when epistles or portions thereof should be selected to offer to the yearly meeting to be read aloud during sessions. Usually, four or six are made.

The Epistle Committee is also charged with writing letters to be sent to other groups of Friends, primarily yearly meetings, as

messages from Ohio Yearly Meeting in session. The committee usually reports on Sixth Day, to allow for any revision of letters that may be needed.

It is customary for the Epistle Committee to write epistles to Friends Everywhere and to Iowa and North Carolina Yearly Meetings (Conservative). Committees sometimes feel drawn to compose additional letters. Examples are messages to the various groups of Christian Friends with whom our members have had fellowship, or absent members of our own YM. Although the committee should not feel required to write all such groups in a given year, it is appropriate to keep in touch with those to whom we feel especially close in the family of Friends.

The writing of epistles opens an important avenue for ministry from OYM to other Friends. Accordingly, members of the committee need to be open to leadings to include spiritual messages as well as conveying the important themes of our time together during YM week. Letters should have some content unique to their recipients, but it may be appropriate to use certain paragraphs in more than one letter.

Epistles should be presented to the clerks in a digital form. The final copy for mailing is arranged and signed by the YM clerk after approval by the YM.

Four Friends serve on this Committee for a term of two years, starting their appointment from the time of approval at Yearly Meeting and ending two years later at the close of Yearly Meeting. The terms will stagger to ensure that half of the committee will always have at least a year's experience in service.

Fiduciary Trustees

Clerk/Convener: David E. Warrington

Appointed by Nominating Committee. Term of service is 3 years.

Member	Tenure	Meeting
Kristina Moore	EX_OFFICO Walton Home Manager	
Shelley Ann Rockwell	2027	SALEM UPPER SPRINGFIELD
David E. Warrington	2027	SALEM UPPER SPRINGFIELD
Carey L Newlin	2028	SALEM UPPER SPRINGFIELD
Robert Becerra	2029	STILLWATER
Beverly Kirk Shull	2029	STILLWATER

Description

The Fiduciary Trustees of OYM were incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio in 1924 to hold real property, stock, and other securities on behalf of Ohio Yearly Meeting. The real estate holdings of OYM include the lands and facilities currently used by the Walton Home and those leased by Olney Friends School, Inc. These properties are legally held in the name of the Fiduciary Trustees on behalf of OYM.

Various monthly meeting funds, graveyard funds, and similar endowments are sometimes placed with the Fiduciary Trustees. The endowment funds for OYM purposes, the Walton Home, and those to benefit Olney Friends School are part of the trustees' portfolio. These funds are invested by the trustees in order to realize investment return and in some cases, value appreciation. Portions of the funds may also be used for loans (primarily to OYM

members). Annually, at the end of the fiscal year (Sixth Month 30, as of 1992), a portion of the income earned and appreciation in value during the preceding 12 months is paid to those bodies having funds deposited with the trustees. The amount of the annual distribution depends on the success of the investment program for the year, expenses incurred, and funding a modest reserve fund to act as a buffer against fluctuations in asset valuation.

The organization, authorities, and membership of the Fiduciary Trustees are completely described in the By-laws which were last revised and approved by Representative Meeting in Eleventh Month 2010. Representative Meeting or the Yearly Meeting must approve all amendments to these By-laws.

There are currently five trustees who serve three-year appointments as nominated by the Nominating Committee and approved by OYM during the annual Eighth Month meetings. The business manager of the Walton Home is considered an ex-officio, non-voting member. As is customary for an incorporated body, there are four officers of the Fiduciary Trustees: president, vice president, treasurer-assistant secretary, secretary-assistant treasurer.

The trustees meet regularly four times a year in addition to holding called meetings as the need arises. Meetings are currently held in First, Fourth, Seventh, and Tenth Months. Decisions on the annual distribution of income are finalized at the Seventh Month meeting to permit smooth completion of reports to OYM. A special meeting during yearly meeting week in Eighth Month is sometimes held to elect officers; otherwise officers are elected at the Tenth Month meeting. Knowledge of investments and sound business acumen are both valuable assets for individual trustees.

Friends Center

Clerk/Convener: Susan Smith

Appointed by Nominating Committee. Term of service is 3 years.

Member	Tenure	Meeting
John Chapman Benson	2027	STILLWATER
Constance Bair-Thompson	2027	CHESTNUT RIDGE
Robert J. Rockwell	2027	STILLWATER
Burton M. Doudna	2028	CHESTNUT RIDGE
Diane Reynolds	2028	STILLWATER
Kenneth P. Jacobsen	2028	STILLWATER
Sarah Parsons	2028	MIDDLETON
David Male	2029	STILLWATER
John C. Smith	2029	ROCKINGHAM
Susan Smith	2029	ROCKINGHAM

Description

The Friends Center Committee meets five or six times a year, sometimes by phone or electronic conferencing, to oversee the work of the Friends Center, "a retreat and conference center for exploring Christian unprogrammed Quakerism and its meaning today." The committee establishes policy for the use of the Center for its own retreats and other events, including hospitality for OYM members. It plans programs at the Center and oversees maintenance and improvements to its building and grounds. Members share responsibility for arranging for leadership for each activity, hosting each event, and developing publicity. Local

members of the committee also share in housekeeping and maintenance tasks. One member of the committee serves as treasurer. Another member serves as registrar, sending out information and receiving inquiries and registrations for each Friends Center event. One or two members serve as host for each event, communicating with the weekend's facilitator and being present during the weekend to coordinate meals and meet participants' other outward needs. Some members of the committee should be acquainted with Friends in other yearly meetings to facilitate reaching out for leadership and participants. The committee makes an annual report to Ohio Yearly Meeting.

Historical Committee

Clerk/Convener: Margaret Marie Bundy

Appointed by Nominating Committee. Term of service is 3 years.

Member	Tenure	Meeting
Earl Smith	2027	STILLWATER
Tom Roberts	2027	STILLWATER
Evan Knappenberger	2027	ROCKINGHAM
Rebecca J. Hawkins	2028	MIDDLETON
Anne Marie Taber	2028	STILLWATER
Kathryn Elizabeth Smith	2028	STILLWATER
Margaret Marie Bundy	2028	STILLWATER
Jean Cooper	2028	STILLWATER
Gwendolyn Giffen	2029	STILLWATER

Description

The principal responsibility of the Historical Committee is the care of the Heritage Rooms in Stillwater Meetinghouse. The convener of the committee may also serve as the contact person for the Belmont County Tourism Council, as well as for others wishing to arrange tours of the Meetinghouse and the Heritage Rooms. Members of the committee may act as tour guides.

The committee presents to the yearly meeting a written report of their activities and a financial report for the year. Funds are often requested from the yearly meeting. Money paid by tour groups arranged by the Belmont County Tourism Council is usually retained by the committee. The committee also sells books and souvenirs. Money is needed sometimes for painting and improvements.

The committee has a short business meeting during yearly meeting and at least one all-day meeting in the spring or summer for cleaning the Heritage Rooms as well as any necessary business. Committee members take turns opening the Heritage Rooms and acting as hosts or hostesses at Olney Commencement and yearly meeting sessions, as well as at other meetings held at the meetinghouse.

Since the Book and Children's Literature Committee has been laid down, the Historical Committee has the responsibility of keeping on hand in the Heritage Rooms copies of Mind the Heavenly Treasure by Gary Bowell; "Living A-Top of the World" by Charles Morlan; the pamphlets "A Brief Introduction to Conservative Friends," "Welcome to our Meeting," "Advices and Queries," and other OYM literature as well as Bibles to be handed out to children of OYM at age eight. We cooperate with the Committee to Coordinate and Support Outreach and the Wider Fellowship of Conservative Friends to accomplish these tasks formerly performed by the Book and Children's Literature Committee.

The committee evaluates old clothing, papers, and other artifacts offered for display in the Heritage Rooms. If such objects are found

useful for that purpose, they are assigned accession numbers and recorded. Not all items can be accepted because of space limitations.

Historical Committee members should have an interest in preserving Quaker heritage. In addition, some should have clerical and record keeping skills or artistic talent for planning exhibits. It is also helpful for someone to be available on short notice.

Memorial Committee

Clerk/Convener: Seth Hinshaw

Appointed by Nominating Committee. Term of service is 3 years.

Member	Tenure	Meeting
Seth Hinshaw	2027	MARLBOROUGH
David E. Nagle	2027	CHESTERFIELD
Burton M. Doudna	2027	CHESTNUT RIDGE
Timothy Lillie	2029	MIDDLETON

Description

The Memorial Committee assists in the production of memorials of members who have lived exemplary spiritual lives. Each memorial should illustrate the operations of divine grace in the deceased so as to inspire future generations to know the fulfillment of coming into submission themselves.

Although the Discipline states that memorials are to be produced by local meetings, the Memorial Committee since its inception in 1971 has taken an active role in the composition of memorials. The Committee usually meets with the family and meeting of the

deceased to collect information, then creates the first draft. The draft is sent to the family for review. Once the text has been completed, the proposed memorial is forwarded to the Representative Meeting for final approval, printing, and distribution.

Committee members should have one or more gifts related to the committee's work. Perhaps most valuable is the gift of discernment, especially as it relates to weighing the desires of the meeting and of the family. Gifts for collecting and evaluating information about the decedent are particularly valuable. Last, a concern for producing an accurate account of the Friend's life with an emphasis on conveying the influence of the Holy Ghost upon him or her is critical. While the spiritual fruit and labor of the person are worthy, capturing that person's faith in Christ Jesus should be the goal of every Memorial.

Nominating Committee

Clerk/Convener: Janet Hammer

Appointed by Monthly Meetings. Term of service is 2 years.

Member	Tenure	Meeting
Michael R. Kinch	2027	KEYSTONE FELLOWSHIP
Constance Bair-Thompson	2027	CHESTNUT RIDGE
Henry C. Jason, Jr	2027	MIDDLETON
Jean Cooper	2027	STILLWATER
Penny Thomas	2027	MARLBOROUGH
Sharon A. Helms	2027	CROSSROADS
Rebecca J. Hawkins	2028	MIDDLETON
Janet Hammer	2028	CHESTERFIELD

Margaret Marie Bundy	2028	STILLWATER
Jared Valdez	2028	MARLBOROUGH
John C. Smith	2028	ROCKINGHAM
David F. Eley	2028	KEYSTONE FELLOWSHIP
Kimberly A. Newlin	2028	SALEM UPPER SPRINGFIELD

Description

The Nominating Committee consists of two members appointed by each Monthly Meeting, with alternating two-year terms. Each year's appointment is reported to the Quarterly Meeting immediately preceding that year's Yearly Meeting sessions, and is included in the Quarterly Meeting reports given at the opening session of Yearly Meeting. The terms of Friends thus named begin after the close of that year's Yearly Meeting, and continue through the next two Yearly Meeting sessions.

The Clerk of Nominating Committee is an ex-officio member of the Printing Committee. The Nominating Committee's purpose is to find, through God's Guidance, right persons to serve on yearly meeting committees. Once it has become clear, through the process described below, how many people are needed to fill committee positions, the Nominating Committee is encouraged to wait in worship to see which names they are led to and then to consider the questions in the following paragraph.

In choosing the right persons, we take into consideration the following: Have they been faithful in attending committee meetings in the past? Have they voiced a desire to serve on a certain committee? Does the Nominating Committee consider them to be suited or especially gifted in the area of consideration? Are they willing to serve? What is the balance of men and women, age differences, and the geographic spread of a committee, if these factors seem important in the work and dynamics of that

committee? The Nominating Committee clerk should, early in the year, compile a list of committees with the names of those whose terms expire. The committee members from each monthly meeting should then be provided with the names of the members of their own meeting whose terms on each committee are expiring. If it seems right to them, and keeping in mind the qualifications listed above, the members of the committee should contact those in their meeting whose terms expire and ask if they are willing to serve again.

It is suggested that the members of the Nominating Committee meet as a body in Fourth Month, in the morning on the day Representative Meeting meets in Salem, Ohio, to consider all appointees and together arrive at members to serve on the various committees. Each new appointee must be asked if he or she is willing to serve. The committee should meet early in the week at Yearly Meeting to finalize the appointments. The clerk should send each committee member a timely notice of each of these meetings.

A report of all proposed new appointments, listed by committee and date of service expiration, should be given to the Clerk of the YM. The Nominating Committee should be available during the YM sessions to fill any additional appointments that may be necessary. During YM this committee should meet and choose someone to be in charge of the next year's activities.

Some committees have persons that are not members of OYM. The names of those persons should be suggested to the YM Nominating Committee consideration before they are contacted or asked to serve.

At the close of the YM sessions the Nominating Committee clerk is requested to send a written report to each Monthly Meeting clerk, the Representative Meeting clerk, and the printing committee. This report should be a complete list of all committee members, including new appointments, listing their terms of service. This is

necessary since some committees may need to meet before the printed minutes are distributed.

Peace and Human Relations

Clerk/Convener: Sylvia E. Thomas

Appointed by Nominating Committee. Term of service is 3 years.

Member	Tenure	Meeting	Email	Phone Number
Madeleine Vaché	2027	ROCKINGHAM	mjvache@icloud.com	HOME:+1 512-567-0227
Jean Cooper	2028	STILLWATER	jacobswell1948@sbcglobal.net	(740) 310-2868
Fred Cooper	2028	CHESTNUT RIDGE	fredcooper1116@gmail.com	740-238-0036
David E. Nagle	2028	CHESTERFIELD	davnagle@hotmail.com	
Matthew Rosen	2028	STILLWATER	friendmattrosen@outlook.com	(730)797-2289
Earl Smith	2029	STILLWATER	quaker43713@gmail.com	(740) 249-7893
Sylvia E. Thomas	2029	STILLWATER	sethomas@protonmail.com	(614) 329-5564
Karen Walsh	2029	STILLWATER	karenleewalsh@gmail.com	(740) 296-9290

Description

The mission of the Peace and Human Relations Committee is to glorify God and promote peace and good will through helping to establish His kingdom here on earth. The committee helps to keep the Yearly Meeting informed on current issues about peace and justice. It acts, as led by the Spirit of Jesus, in influencing affirmative action in these issues.

The committee meets at yearly meeting time to reorganize and appoint a convener, whose name is forwarded to the Nominating Committee. It is responsible for writing an annual report given to the clerk of the yearly meeting on the year's activities. Included in this report is a financial statement on how monies were spent and a request for monies needed for the coming year. More meetings may be scheduled by the committee during the year to plan activities for yearly meeting. Activities may include sponsoring speakers and peace and human relations workshops, making available written materials for yearly meeting members, and supporting peace activities with other like groups.

Printing Committee

Clerk/Convener: Anne Marie Taber

Appointed by Nominating Committee. Term of service is 3 years.

Member	Tenure	Meeting
Charles C. Thomas, Jr	EX_OFFICO Yearly Meeting Clerk	MARLBOROUGH
Kent Palmer	EX_OFFICO Yearly Meeting Assistant Clerk	ROCKINGHAM
Michael R. Kinch	EX_OFFICO Recorder	KEYSTONE FELLOWSHIP
Janet Hammer	EX_OFFICO Nominating Committee Clerk	CHESTERFIELD
Sharon A. Helms	2027	CROSSROADS
Carey L Newlin	2027	SALEM UPPER SPRINGFIELD
Anne Marie Taber	2027	STILLWATER
Michael R. Kinch	2029	KEYSTONE FELLOWSHIP
Earl Smith	2029	STILLWATER

Description

The members of the Printing Committee are appointed by the yearly meeting Nominating Committee for three-year terms, with staggered expiration dates. It is this committee's responsibility to see that the yearly meeting minutes and any other documents authorized by the yearly meeting and Representative Meeting (such as memorials, pamphlets, and the Book of Discipline) are printed and distributed. The committee selects a printing company and sees that accurate information gets to that company in a timely manner. Yearly Meeting Minute Books are generally distributed early in Eleventh Month.

Monthly Meeting Recorders

Appointed by Monthly Meetings. Term of service is 1 year.

Member	Tenure	Meeting
Michael R. Kinch	2026	KEYSTONE FELLOWSHIP
Penny Thomas	2026	MARLBOROUGH
Dave Casterline	2026	ROCKINGHAM
Sharon A. Helms	2026	CROSSROADS
Rebecca J. Hawkins	2026	MIDDLETON
Nancy A. Hawkins	2026	MIDDLETON
Lola Jean Toot	2026	SALEM UPPER SPRINGFIELD
Janet Hammer	2026	CHESTERFIELD
Kathleen M. Kovalick	2026	CHESTNUT RIDGE
Roseanna Kathleen Wilkinson	2026	STILLWATER

Description

Each monthly meeting has the responsibility of appointing its membership recorder. The OYM Nominating Committee suggests an OYM recorder, subject to approval by the yearly meeting. The position does not have a specified term of service and does not have an allowance or budget. Its guidelines are self-imposed or traditional. Meetings of the monthly meeting recorders may be called by the OYM recorder if needed.

Membership in OYM is obtained and maintained through membership in one of the monthly meetings. It is the responsibility of each meeting's recorder to keep records of all members (current and past) and the way in which such membership was initiated or ended. These records should be kept as securely as possible to prevent loss, water damage, fire, or other harm. It is the monthly meeting records which are the original source of all OYM membership information. Electronic records kept by the OYM and monthly meeting recorders should also be kept in paper format.

Since the membership year ends on 6/30, the OYM recorder makes sure the monthly meeting recorders have the proper forms so that they may complete the annual membership report for their monthly meeting's approval. When approved, a copy remains with the monthly meeting clerk, one with the meeting recorder, and one forwarded to the OYM recorder by 7/1.

The OYM recorder uses the monthly meeting reports to prepare a summary report for each Quarterly Meeting, getting it to each quarterly meeting clerk at the appropriate time. After approval by the Quarterly Meeting, the summaries are used by the OYM recorder to prepare the annual membership report that is sent to the yearly meeting sessions for final approval.

In the interval between Yearly Meeting and the final printing of the minutes, monthly meeting recorders are asked to provide the OYM recorder with their updated Monthly Meeting Directory. These are compiled and sent on to the printing committee.

Technical Support Committee

Clerk/Convener: Conrad Lindes

Appointed by Nominating Committee. Term of service is 3 years.

Member	Tenure	Meeting
Dave Casterline	2027	ROCKINGHAM
David Male	2027	STILLWATER
Kent Palmer	2027	ROCKINGHAM
Charles C. Thomas, Jr	2028	MARLBOROUGH
Roger Reynolds	2028	STILLWATER
Conrad Lindes	2029	SALEM UPPER SPRINGFIELD
Kim Richard Palmer	2029	STILLWATER
Nancy A. Hawkins	2029	MIDDLETON
Constance Bair-Thompson	2029	CHESTNUT RIDGE

Description

Ohio Yearly Meeting has experienced firsthand, the challenges and opportunities that new technologies provide. In order to meet these challenges and take advantage of these opportunities, the Yearly Meeting gathered Friends with technological gifts and charged them with establishing general guidelines and to assist with technologies or technology-related decisions.

Under the Lord's guidance, these Friends will draw on their technical knowledge to discern where technology will help to advance His kingdom and where it may hinder it. Areas of discernment could be Outreach, record keeping, online meetings

and potentially others. The committee will not assume any responsibilities already allocated but will serve other bodies of the Yearly Meeting with advice and assistance.

A particular concern of the Yearly Meeting is that new technologies can create divisions amongst Friends. The concern includes the differences between those who are comfortable with technological developments and those who are not. This issue can be mitigated with education and support. However, there is another danger. Separate communities can develop separating those online from those physically present at a meeting. That problem will require specific attention. The committee will monitor the issue, drawing upon gifts of other Yearly Meeting Friends as needed to perceive and address it.

The committee has its roots in a time when Friends with technical expertise first assisted the Agenda Committee with online and hybrid business meetings. This committee must be ready to provide similar assistance.

When the need for support of online Yearly Meeting Sessions is confirmed by Agenda Committee or Representative Meeting, the committee will plan accordingly. Towards these ends they should meet no later than Fifth Month each year to begin planning for Yearly Meeting. The work must be coordinated with the Agenda Committee.

This planning involves allocating technical resources at Yearly Meeting time, helping sessions to be available online and to function smoothly. The allocation includes, but is not limited to, hardware, software, Internet access, and individuals to monitor and operate them. The committee will be responsible for assisting the Clerks in managing and displaying digital documents and aiding in the timely resolution of problems. To accomplish these ends, the committee will appoint one or more technical clerks for Yearly and Representative Meetings to monitor the computer screens for Friends who wish to speak to a topic and communicate this to the

clerk. The committee will also appoint one or more Friends On-Call who will have a publicized phone number to whom questions or problems with the online component can be addressed.

Problem resolution includes system-wide issues as well as smaller challenges that affect a single participant. This is not to suggest that all members of the committee must be present at Yearly Meeting. However, the committee should locate technically capable Friends and confirm that they are available and agreeable to fill these roles.

When requested, the Committee will also assist Quarterly Meetings, Monthly Meetings, and committees to set up online or hybrid gatherings.

Throughout the year, individuals on the committee and the committee as a whole should be available for consultation on technical matters. Each member of the committee should be acquainted with the specialties of the other members, in order that questions can be referred to the appropriate Friend when necessary.

Members serve on the Technical Support Committee for a period of three years. These periods can be adjusted for individual Friends at the recommendation of Nominating Committee and approval by Yearly Meeting to ensure that terms are staggered. Each of these three years of service begins at the end of the Yearly Meeting in which the appointment was approved and continues until the following Yearly Meeting concludes.

Travel Fund

Clerk/Convener: Janet Hammer

Appointed by Nominating Committee. Term of service is 3 years.

Member	Tenure	Meeting
David F. Eley	2027	KEYSTONE FELLOWSHIP
Dennis Rockwell	2028	STILLWATER
Janet Hammer	2028	CHESTERFIELD
Robert Becerra	2029	STILLWATER

Description

The purpose of the Travel Fund Committee is to oversee the disbursement of funds to assist Ohio Yearly Meeting members in their travel needs Members of the committee are appointed for a 3 year term. Most business is conducted via email correspondence. One member of the committee keeps a 3 year budget that projects anticipated expenses/requests. Committee members approve requests and the Travel Fund treasurer submits proper reimbursement.

Guidelines:

Types of travel that the committee considers for funding include:

- OYM representatives to Representative Meeting who need assistance with travel.

- OYM members attending Ohio Yearly Meeting who need assistance with travel.

- OYM representatives to FCNL and FWCC gatherings. Travel, registration, meals and housing are reimbursed.

- OYM members feeling led to travel in the ministry.

- OYM members who attend other Quaker gatherings where funding assistance may be needed.

Friends seeking funds for travel assistance should make a written request to a current committee member that includes an estimate of cost. To receive reimbursement, Friends should submit a receipt to the Travel Fund committee treasurer.

Because funds are limited, priority will be given to members needing help to get to Representative and Yearly Meeting, representatives to FCNL, FWCC and requests for traveling in the ministry. Other requests will be considered but due to limited funds may not receive approval.

Friends feeling led to travel in the Ministry are to approach their Monthly Meeting first to ask for discernment in their leading, issuance of an approving minute, and assistance with funds. If the Monthly Meeting approves the travel request and additional assistance is required then the Monthly Meeting may make a request to the Travel Fund Committee for further help. Friends are directed to the Discipline of Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends for further details about procedures for travel on religious concerns.

Because funds are limited, the Committee will attempt to anticipate upcoming travel requests for the year in advance in the above mentioned priority areas and budget accordingly. Travel to FWCC, in particular, is expensive as conferences often require overseas travel for 2-3 representatives.

The Committee proposes to look ahead to anticipated requests and budget accordingly in an attempt to allow full funding and to request an appropriate allocation from the Yearly Meeting to cover expenses for the upcoming year. A budget for the upcoming year will be submitted to Ohio Yearly Meeting when we make our request.

Trustees of Ohio Yearly Meeting Property

Clerk/Convener: Robert J. Rockwell

Appointed by Nominating Committee. Term of service is 3 years.

Member	Tenure	Meeting
Robert J. Rockwell	2027	STILLWATER
David Male	2028	STILLWATER
Richard F. Sidwell	2029	MIDDLETON
Robert W. Stratton	2029	SALEM UPPER SPRINGFIELD
Leonard D. Guindon	2029	STILLWATER

Description

Property Trustees were established as a committee of the yearly meeting in 1994, taking over the service of a committee appointed by the Representative meeting. The committee works with a similar committee of Stillwater Monthly Meeting to oversee maintenance and repair of the yearly meetinghouse. The yearly meeting budgets funds for this work, but often trustees and other Friends donate their own time and/or materials. The Property Trustees, again in cooperation with Stillwater Friends, may also schedule and oversee a time before yearly meeting sessions for cleaning the meetinghouse.

The Property Trustees should include Friends of varying ages who are able to climb stairs in the meetinghouse and participate in its repair. The trustees submit an annual report to the yearly meeting,

detailing the work completed during the past year and any maintenance needs anticipated in the near future.

Walton Home Board

Clerk/Convener: Barbara Warrington

Appointed by Nominating Committee. Term of service is 3 years.

Member	Tenure	Meeting
Sharon A. Helms	2027	CROSSROADS
Cindy McGee	2027	Coopted Community Member
Karen Walsh	2027	STILLWATER
Karen Campf	2027	MIDDLETON
Mitch Bartels	2027	Coopted Community Member
Kathleen M. Kovalick	2028	CHESTNUT RIDGE
Barbara Warrington	2028	STILLWATER
James S. Kirk	2028	MIDDLETON
Mike Cook	2028	Coopted Community Member
Robert Becerra	2029	STILLWATER
Sarah Parsons	2029	MIDDLETON
Beverly Kirk Shull	2029	STILLWATER

Description

It is the Board's primary function to create a wisely considered and compelling vision for the betterment of those the Lord has entrusted into our care and to consider what conditions or changes to bring to pass. The Board must relentlessly probe behind good

activity in search of good effects, keeping its attention focused on defining and refining the mission.

The Board is responsible for governance of the Walton, setting goals and objectives that will fulfill the mission and long-range plans of the Home and monitor the fulfillment of the plans. The Board is to serve as a liaison to the community and represent the community to the Home.

Regularly the Board must review financial statements, insurance coverage, assist management, and provide a financial compilation. The Board must make sure monies are handled properly and that all requirements of funders and contract criteria are met.

Walton receives funds from OYM and presents an accounting report to the Yearly Meeting on an annual basis. Additionally, written reports are made to OYM on the progress of the Home.

Service on the Walton Board is normally a 3-year appointment with nomination coming through the Nominating Committee.

The Board membership includes eight but not more than twelve members of OYM plus three to not more than five persons who are not members of OYM (Community Members), with a maximum of fifteen Members. The members' terms will be staggered so that some positions are filled annually.

The Board appoints officers each year, President, Vice President, and Recording Secretary, preferably after the new members have been appointed. The goals of OYM are to be reflected in all policies. In carrying out its objectives, the Board will want to:

- Be responsible for employing managers and guiding their work through carefully established policies.

- See that systematic organization and evaluation procedures are in place and functioning properly.

- Develop a detailed job description for the Manager(s), including employment terms, conditions, and expectations.

Wider Fellowship of Conservative Friends

Clerk/Convener: Nancy A. Hawkins

Appointed by Nominating Committee. Term of service is 3 years.

Member	Tenure	Meeting
Sharon A. Helms	EX_OFFICO Registrar	CROSSROADS
Nancy A. Hawkins	2027	MIDDLETON
Michael R. Kinch	2027	KEYSTONE FELLOWSHIP
John C. Smith	2027	ROCKINGHAM
Sharon A. Helms	2027	CROSSROADS
Sarah Parsons	2029	MIDDLETON
Tom Roberts	2029	STILLWATER

Description

The purpose of this committee is to facilitate and encourage visitation among Conservative Friends, and to promote the Good News of Jesus Christ. We plan and host gatherings, usually biannually, inviting Conservative Friends and those of like mind to worship our Lord together. We have found that many people outside formal Conservative Friends' membership have an interest and hunger for fellowship with Friends who hold to the centrality of Christ. This has opened up opportunities for a wide and growing correspondence between committee members and scattered

Friends within the U.S. and in other countries. There is also a sense of the need for traveling ministry, to encourage all to uphold Jesus, as His Holy Spirit gives openings in waiting Spiritual worship. The committee publishes the quarterly periodical The Conservative Friend, for "all those who love His appearing"

WFCF committee members need to understand Conservative Friends. They also should have a desire to practice the beliefs of Friends in allowing their lives to be yielded to the Holy Spirit.

Custodians of the Records

Appointed by Nominating Committee.

Member	Tenure	Meeting
Seth Hinshaw	IN_PERPETUITY Appointed	MARLBOROUGH
Kimberly A. Newlin	IN_PERPETUITY Appointed	SALEM UPPER SPRINGFIELD
Constance Bair-Thompson	IN_PERPETUITY Appointed	CHESTNUT RIDGE
Tom Roberts	IN_PERPETUITY Appointed	STILLWATER

Description

The Custodians of the Records preserve in a suitable, safe manner all OYM records of importance, including those of subordinate meetings, and the historical records of Olney Friends School and the Walton Retirement Home. Four Friends currently serve, including one from each quarterly meeting. The Yearly Meeting decided in 2010 that the Custodians had charge of the records in the vault at Olney Friends School and the vault in the Salem Meeting House.

The Custodians meet as required to manage the records or to deposit additional records. No ongoing funding is required. A written report is made to the yearly meeting following or anticipating any important records activity. It is helpful for

members to have analytical minds, historical interests, and some knowledge of OYM history and structure.

Representative Meeting

Clerk: Constance Bair-Thompson
Reading Clerk: Mary Alice Pino

Appointed by Nominating Committee. Term of service is 3 years.

Member	Tenure	Meeting
Charles C. Thomas, Jr	EX_OFFICO Yearly Meeting Clerk	MARLBOROUGH
Burton M. Doudna	2027	CHESTNUT RIDGE
Nancy A. Hawkins	2027	MIDDLETON
Janet Hammer	2027	CHESTERFIELD
Sarah Parsons	2027	MIDDLETON
Mary Alice Pino	2027	MIDDLETON
Constance Bair-Thompson	2027	CHESTNUT RIDGE
Wil Brant	2027	CROSSROADS
Diane Reynolds	2028	STILLWATER
David Johnson	2028	MARLBOROUGH
Conrad Lindes	2028	SALEM UPPER SPRINGFIELD
Kimberly A. Newlin	2028	SALEM UPPER SPRINGFIELD
Michael R. Kinch	2028	KEYSTONE FELLOWSHIP
Sharon A. Helms	2028	CROSSROADS

Dave Casterline	2029	ROCKINGHAM
David F. Eley	2029	KEYSTONE FELLOWSHIP
Jared Valdez	2029	MARLBOROUGH
Debora Hope Taber	2029	STILLWATER
Karen Walsh	2029	STILLWATER

Description

The Representative Meeting consists of up to 21 persons, seven of whom are appointed annually for three year terms. The clerk of the Yearly Meeting is an ex-officio member of the body. Representative Meeting meets in the fall and spring to represent the Yearly Meeting when it is not in session.

Called meetings may be called by the clerk at the request of four or more members. One third of the members are required to conduct business, including representatives from at least two Quarterly Meetings.

The Representative Meeting keeps written minutes of its proceedings. Copies of the minutes of each meeting should be forwarded to the Monthly Meeting clerks in a timely fashion to keep all members apprised of the business that was conducted. The minutes should be sent to the Yearly Meeting in Eighth Month for its approval.

The duties of the Representative Meeting are:

- In general, to act for the Yearly Meeting when it is not in session.

- To represent the Yearly Meeting, and to appear in its behalf, whenever the interest or reputation of the Society of Friends may call for it.

• To authorize any material to be published and distributed under the name of the Yearly Meeting, including any memorials of deceased Friends.

• To extend support to individuals as their case may require, or apply to the government on their behalf.

• To assist in the care of the yearly meetinghouse.

The Representative Meeting may draw on the Yearly Meeting treasury to cover its expenses. The Meeting is not to adopt any article of faith or discipline which has not been authorized by the Yearly Meeting.

Treasurer

Appointed by Audit and Budget. Term of service is 1 year.

Beverly Kirk Shull
Tenure: 2027

Description

The treasurer of OYM is appointed by the yearly meeting for a one-year term, from one yearly meeting session to the next.

The treasurer is to receive funds on behalf of OYM and to pay expenditures approved by the yearly meeting and/or Representative Meeting of OYM. Soon after the annual budget is approved, the treasurer shall send a copy of the YM budget to each monthly meeting clerk. In this notification, it is helpful if the treasurer indicates a time when monies should be forwarded to the treasurer. The treasurer is expected to keep accurate records of all transactions and to submit these records to an annual audit committee appointed by OYM. He or she is expected to handle these funds with care using sound business practices to earn a reasonable return on investment that is compatible with the "conscience" of OYM.

The treasurer will prepare a financial report showing income, expenses, and investments of the past year, as well as any other information that is felt to be important to the yearly meeting. This report shall be presented in printed form to the yearly meeting clerk so that suitable copies can be prepared prior to the time for the report to be considered by the yearly meeting.

Assistant Treasurer

Appointed by Audit and Budget. Term of service is 1 year.

Robert Becerra
Tenure: 2027

Yearly Meeting Clerk

Appointed by Quarterly Meeting Representatives to Yearly Meeting. Term of service is 1 year.

Charles C. Thomas, Jr
Tenure: 2027
Email: charles.c.thomas.jr@gmail.com

Description

"Clerks for the Yearly Meeting are appointed annually by the Quarterly Meeting representatives. They preside at the meetings for business, read reports, record minutes and answer routine correspondence. Names of Quarterly Meeting representatives, and all written reports, are to be given to the Clerks well in advance of the session at which they are to be read."

From the Book of Discipline, 2022 version, page 23.

The Clerk must be a full member of one of OYM's Monthly Meetings. Upon assumption of clerking responsibilities, he or she becomes an ex officio member of Representative Meeting as well as the Printing and Agenda Committees.

The Clerk is selected to help the yearly meeting recognize and find unity in the acts and conclusions to which God is calling them. The Clerk should refrain from advocating for any particular perspective in differences within the yearly meeting or in divisive public issues.

The Clerk receives Query Summaries from each Quarterly Meeting clerk. They can be expected to be received throughout the year as they are completed by Quarterly Meetings. They must be available to the Clerk soon after the Quarterly Meetings that are held in Seventh Month. Once obtained, the clerk combines this work into Summaries that can represent the entire Yearly Meeting. The Yearly Meeting Summaries should reflect the general sense of the Quarterly Meeting answers. They are to be presented at Yearly Meeting Sessions for modification and final approval.

The Clerk is to work closely with the Agenda Committee in preparation for each Yearly Meeting. He or she should ensure that non-routine items are considered by the Committee so that they may be placed in the proper place on the agenda. The Clerk may exercise discretion in adding, modifying or rearranging agenda items when timing makes it impractical to consult with the Committee (typically after the agenda has been printed and distributed).

The Clerk will prepare and distribute those documents (electronic or paper) that cannot be included in the work produced by the Agenda Committee. Typically, these include Query Summaries and Committee reports, but can include anything needed to support the Yearly Meeting's business. The Clerk should draw upon assistance from the Agenda and Printing Committees to fulfill this responsibility. At the Clerk's discretion, Yearly Meeting Committees may be asked to produce multiple copies of their reports for distribution before or at yearly meeting sessions.

As with the Quarterly Meeting Query summaries, committee reports should be available to the clerk early in Seventh Month. The Agenda Committee often issues specific dates in the printed

agenda. The clerk is advised to issue reminders if it appears that this deadline may not be met.

The Clerk will arrange minutes in a form that the Printing Committee can work with to produce a printed version. It is advised that these be completed and given to the Printing Committee no later than six weeks after yearly meeting sessions, so that the final minutes can be printed and delivered at Representative Meeting in Eleventh Month.

The Clerk receives epistles (and/or portions thereof) selected by the Epistle Committee each year to be read during sessions. In consultation with the Assistant Clerks, he or she determines the appropriate time for them to be read to the Yearly Meeting in Session.

The Clerk will also distribute each year's Epistles as written by the Epistle Committee and approved by the Yearly Meeting. The epistle To Friends Everywhere should be sent to Friends World Committee for Consultation and Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas for further dissemination. This epistle may also be provided in other forums and recipients as seems appropriate. Special care should be taken to deliver the epistles composed for our sister Yearly Meetings: North Carolina Conservative and Iowa Conservative. It is important to express the care and love we have for these like-minded Friends in our communications with them.

Yearly Meeting Assistant Clerk

Appointed by Quarterly Meeting Representatives to Yearly Meeting.

Kent Palmer
Tenure: 2027

Description

Yearly Meeting Assistant Clerk

Assistant Clerks are to support and advise the Clerk. They are to read reports and minutes to the body, in session, at the discretion of the Clerk. If the Clerk is unable to perform his or her duties at short notice, an Assistant Clerk should be ready to fill the Clerk's duties until such time as the Yearly Meeting or Representative Meeting can appoint a new clerk or a substitute who can serve until the clerk is able return to service.

The Assistant Clerk is an Ex officio member of the Printing and Agenda Committees.

Yearly Meeting Reading Clerk

Appointed by Quarterly Meeting Representatives to Yearly Meeting.

Samuel Olivares Wilber
Tenure: 2027

Recorder

Appointed by Nominating Committee. Term of service is 1 year.

Michael R. Kinch
Tenure: 2027

Description

YEARLY MEETING RECORDER

OYM Recorder's Responsibilities

Maintain a current list of Monthly Meeting recorders .

Maintain communication with those recorders, and meet with them during Yearly Meeting sessions, to improve accuracy, ease, and efficiency of their work and yours.

In 7th Month, compile membership statistics and report them to the 7th Month Quarterly Meetings and to Yearly Meeting sessions.

Serve on the printing committee to provide the membership report, membership summary, and membership directory for the Minutes book.

Because of the compressed time between the "closing of the books" as of 6/30 and the need to have reports to the Quarterly Meetings within as little as 8 days, a system has been developed to allow the OYM Recorder to have all data immediately available as of 7/1. Detailed instructions on how to use this system are available on the documents: OYM Recorder's Instructions and Instructions for OYM Monthly Meeting Recorders. These are stored in the online drive under the OYMRecorder@gmail.com account.

Assistant Recorder

Appointed by Nominating Committee. Term of service is 1 year.

Charles C. Thomas, Jr
Tenure: 2027

FCNL Representatives

Appointed by Nominating Committee. Term of service is 3 years.

Member	Tenure	Meeting
Earl Smith	2027	STILLWATER
Sylvia E. Thomas	2028	STILLWATER
Tom Roberts	2029	STILLWATER

Description

OYM members named as representatives to the Friends Committee on National Legislation are contacts for communicating concerns between the FCNL and OYM. It is hoped that at least one representative will attend the annual FCNL meeting in Washington, DC, in Eleventh Month. Financial help for attending the meeting may be requested from the OYM Travel Fund. A report of the highlights of the meeting should be presented to the yearly meeting and may be similarly shared with other meetings and individuals.

If an FCNL staff person is present during yearly meeting week, representatives should assure that the Agenda Committee has set a time and place when the staff person may meet with concerned

individuals. In addition, at least one representative should see that the staff person is welcomed and that his or her needs are met.

Although there have in recent years been no meetings among OYM representatives to FCNL during the year, coordination among them is important in planning possible attendance at the annual meeting and in welcoming a staff person. It is helpful if the representatives name a convener from among themselves. The convener or another representative should prepare a brief report to the yearly meeting, highlighting the representatives' relevant actions during the past year.

OYM representatives to the FCNL should have current experience with OYM and a desire to learn about the work of the FCNL. They should have a real concern to understand, and to help others understand, the legislation that Friends hope will help toward a more just and peaceful world.

FWCC Representatives

Appointed by Nominating Committee. Term of service is 3 years.

Member	Tenure	Meeting
David Male	2027	STILLWATER
Eileen Kinch	2027	KEYSTONE FELLOWSHIP
Diane Reynolds	2029	STILLWATER

Description

OYM's representatives to the Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, are to facilitate communication between the two organizations. They can help the Section understand the yearly meeting's concerns and help interpret to the yearly meeting the work and the needs of the

FWCC. The FWCC expects yearly meeting representatives to raise money for the Section, especially through appropriations from their yearly meeting.

Representatives are expected to attend the annual meeting of the Section of the Americas, customarily held in Third Month in a hotel in a different location each year. (That annual meeting is open to any Friend wishing to attend.) Representatives get priority from OYM in being chosen to represent it at FWCC Triennials, held every three years in various locations throughout the world. In addition, the FWCC asks many representatives to serve on working committees, which usually meet at least once a year (often in the fall), as well as at the annual spring meeting. Some OYM Travel Funds are available for attending these meetings, by request. Some funds may also be available from the Section.

If FWCC personnel are present at yearly meeting, OYM representatives should see that their needs are tended. Retiring representatives retain their duties through yearly meeting week. Terms for OYM Representatives to FWCC should be for three years, in order to mesh with the Section's expectations of representatives.

Representatives should be concerned Friends with current experience in OYM as well as an interest in worldwide Quakerism. They should be able to articulate their faith and ideas, have a zeal to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, be able to travel when called upon, and have a degree of tolerance for various cultures and religious expressions.

PROFILE OF OHIO YEARLY MEETING AND ITS SUBORDINATE MEETINGS

All times referenced are Eastern U. S. (New York) time.

OHIO YEARLY MEETING

Website: ohioyearlymeeting.org
Clerks: Charles Thomas, Jr. (charles.c.thomas.jr@gmail.com), Kent Palmer Assistant Clerk (kent.palmer@gmail.com), Samuel Wilber Reading Clerk (swilber9371@gmail.com).
Worship & Business: Opening session Eighth Month 3rd 2027 at 2:00 PM and continuing by adjournments until Eighth Month 7th.
Location: Stillwater Meeting House, near Barnesville, Ohio
Zoom Link: Provided after completed registration.
Ministry and Oversight:

Clerks: Clerk, Mary Alice Pino, Assistant Clerk, Burton Doudna.
Worship & Business: Eighth Month 3rd and 5th at 9:30AM.
Location: Same as Yearly Meeting.

Subordinate meetings in 2026-2027 are scheduled to be held as follows:

REPRESENTATIVE MEETING

Clerks: Constance Bair-Thompson, Reading Clerk: Mary Alice Pino,
Worship & Business: The third Seventh Day in Eleventh Month (11/21/2026). Also, the Third Seventh Day in Fourth Month (04/17/2027)
Locations: Eleventh Month Chestnut Ridge, Fourth Month Salem.
Zoom Link: Contact Clerk.

ROCKINGHAM QUARTERLY MEETING

Clerk: Kent Palmer
Assistant Clerk: Evan Knappenberger
Worship & Business: The second Seventh Day of First, Fourth, Sixth, and Ninth Months.
Location: First Month Zoom, Fourth Month Marlborough, Sixth Month Keystone, Ninth Month Rockingham.
Ministry and Oversight:
Clerk: Seth Hinshaw
Worship & Business: Same day at 10 AM
Location: Same as Quarterly Meeting
Zoom Link: Contact Clerk

Rockingham Constituent Meetings

Keystone Fellowship:

Website: keystonefellowship.org
Clerk: Eileen Kinch
Worship: Usually on Seventh Day or First Day. Hybrid meetings are held most weeks. Contact Clerk for details.
Business: Usually the third Seventh Day of each month at 10:30 AM. Hybrid meetings are held most weeks. Contact Clerk for details.
Location: Either in members' homes or in the local meeting house, 2641 Old Philadelphia Pike, Bird-in-Hand PA. Contact Clerk for details.
Zoom Links: Contact Clerk.

Marlborough:

Website: marlboroughmeeting.org
Clerk: Bridget Casterline
Worship: 11:00 AM, First Day.
Business: Only on Zoom. Usually, the third First Day of each month at 1:30 PM. Contact clerk for confirmation.
Location: 361 Marlboro Spring Rd., Kennett Square, PA 19348-1309.
Zoom Link: Contact clerk for business Zoom Link. No Zoom available for worship.

Rockingham:

Website: rockinghamfriends.org
Clerk: Evan Knappenberger.
Email: RockinghamMonthlyMeeting@gmail.com
Business: Online with Zoom. Usually, the first First Day of each month, from September - June at 2:30 PM.
Worship: Hybrid meeting on the first four First Days of each month at 10:30 AM: In person at 3876 Hopkins Gap Rd, Harrisonburg, VA 22802, or online with Seekers' Haven Worship Group. On the fifth First Days, Rockingham meets offline at various locations. Check for location.
Location: 3876 Hopkins Gap Rd, Harrisonburg, VA 22802. Take exit 251 from I-81 S. Turn left on US-11 S. Turn right onto Mt Clinton Pike. Continue to follow highway 763 as the name of the road changes from Mt. Clinton Pike to Singers Glen Road. Turn left onto State Rte. 613/State Rte. 763. This becomes Hopkins Gap Road. Continue straight on Hopkins Gap Rd at the top of the hill. Pass the yellow house and turn into the drive past the yellow house. The Meeting Room is located at the back of the yellow house. Enter from the parking area on the side of the house.
Zoom Link: Contact clerk(s) at RockinghamMonthlyMeeting@gmail.com. Links to

online worship are available at ohioyearlymeeting.org/worship/online-worship/.

SALEM QUARTERLY MEETING

Clerks: Mary Alice Pino, (330) 831-1242; Conrad Lindes, assistant.

Worship & Business: Second Seventh-Day in Second, Fifth, Seventh and Eleventh Months, at 10:30 AM.

Location: 350 East 6th Street, Salem, Ohio 44460**.** Hybrid Zoom connections are available.

Zoom Link: Contact Clerk.

Ministry and Oversight:

Clerk: Nancy Hawkins.

Worship & Business: Same day at 9:30 AM.

Location: Same as Quarterly Meeting

Salem Constituent Meetings

Crossroads:

Website: crossroadsquakers.org

Clerk: Sharon Helms

Worship: First Day Worship 10:30 AM at the Meetinghouse and on Zoom. First Day Evening 7 PM on Zoom.

Midweek Worship: Fourth Day Evening 7 PM on Zoom.

Business: On Zoom at 5:30 PM on the second First Day of the month. Zoom information on the OYM website calendar.

Location: 4108 Menton, Flint, MI 48507. For additional information, contact clerk.

Zoom Links: See crossroadsquakers.org or ohioyearlymeeting.org/calendar/

Middleton:

Website: middletonfriends.blogspot.com
Clerk: Mary Alice Pino
Worship: 10:30 AM, First Day.
Midweek Worship: Fifth Day, 3:00 PM.
Business: 11:30 a.m. on the second First-day, following worship.
Preparative Meeting for Ministry and Oversight: 5th day after meeting for worship and the week before Salem Quarter M&O.
Location: 44866 Crestview Rd., Columbiana, OH. 3 miles south of Rte. 14 on Rte. 7, west ¼ mile on Crestview Rd.
Zoom Links available upon request.

Salem Upper Springfield:

Website: ohioyearlymeeting.org/salem-upper-springfield
Clerk: Carey L. Newlin
Worship: 10:30 AM, First Day
Business: The second First Day of each month, after worship.
Preparative Meeting for Ministry and Oversight: held after business meeting and fellowship.
Location: 350 East 6th Street, Salem, Ohio 44460
Zoom link: Uses Seekers' Haven link for worship. See ohioyearlymeeting.org/online-events. Contact clerk for business meeting link.
Worship Groups under Salem's care:

Seekers' Haven Worship Group:

Website: seekershaven.org

Contact: Conrad Lindes

Worship: 10:30 AM First Day Online.

Zoom link: See ohioyearlymeeting.org/online-events

STILLWATER QUARTERLY MEETING

Clerk: Clerk, Kathy Kovalick

Worship & Business: 1 PM hybrid meetings.

11/07/26 at Stillwater Meeting near Barnesville

4/03/27 at Chesterfield Monthly Meeting at Chesterhill

7/03/27 at Chestnut Ridge Monthly Meeting near Barnesville

Ministry and Oversight:

Clerk: Sylvia Thomas

Worship & Business: Same day at 9:30 AM.

Location: Same as Quarterly Meeting

Stillwater Constituent Monthly Meetings

Chesterfield:

Website: ohioyearlymeeting.org/chesterfield

Clerk: Janet Hammer.

Worship: 10:30 AM First Day Followed by shared lunch and fellowship.

Business: The third First-day of each month following meeting for worship.

Location: 1510 Coal Street , Chesterhill, OH, on Rte. 555 east from Rte.377

Zoom link: No Zoom. In-person only.

Chestnut Ridge:

Website: ohioyearlymeeting.org/chestnut-ridge

Clerks: Burton M. Doudna, Carolyn Doudna McGinnis, reading clerk.

Worship: 10:30 AM, First Day.

Bible Study: First Day 9:30 am shared with zoom attendees from Stillwater, Ways Meet, and differing parts of the world.

Business: Second Third Day of the month at 9:30 am at Chestnut Ridge meeting house.

Location: 35555 Chestnut Ridge Rd Twp 26 Barnesville, Oh. 43713.

Zoom link: Worship and bible study Zoom shared with Stillwater, see Stillwater Zoom information. Link for

business is available upon request, contact Constance Bair-Thompson:

Stillwater:

Clerks: Thomas F. Rockwell
Worship: 10:30 AM, First Day in the Meetinghouse and online.
Bible Study: Join Stillwater Meeting's First Day Worship link from 9:30-10:15 AM, (before worship at 10:30), to share in Bible Study reflection with Stillwater and Chestnut Ridge Meetings and Waysmeet Worship Group. Join online or in person at Stillwater and Chestnut Ridge Meetings in Barnesville OH.
Business: First-day following the third Seventh-day of each Month, after worship.
Location: 61830 Sandy Ridge Rd., Barnesville, OH From Barnesville, OH, 1 mile east on E. Main St., take right onto Shamrock Dr. opposite Save-A-Lot, turn into Olney Friends School at top of hill.
Zoom Links: Check Yearly Meeting website worship page at ohioyearlymeeting.org/worship/online-worship/ or email Sylvia Thomas

Worship Groups under Stillwater's care:

Waysmeet Worship Group

Contact: Sylvia Thomas
Worship: 10:30 AM on Zoom with Stillwater Meeting. In-person available upon request.
Midweek Worship: Fifth Day 2:00 – 3:30 PM.
Location: 2747 Bexley Park Rd. Columbus OH 43209.
Zoom link: Check Yearly Meeting website events page at ohioyearlymeeting.org/worship/online-worship/ or email Sylvia Thomas

OHIO YEARLY MEETING MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS									2026	
	Members Gains			Members Lost					Total membership as of Sixth Month 30	
Meeting	Births	Certificate in	By Request	Deaths	Certificate out	Request Release	Discontinued	Net Gain or Loss	2025	2026
Keystone MM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5
Marlborough MM	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	-1	16	15
Rockingham MM	0	1	0	1	0	5	0	-5	32	27
Rockingham QM	0	1	0	2	0	5	0	-6	53	47
Crossroads MM	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	8	10
Middleton MM	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	-1	63	62
Salem-Upper Springfield MM	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	-3	86	83
Salem QM	0	0	2	3	0	0	1	-2	157	155
Chesterfield MM	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	18	19
Chestnut Ridge MM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	27
Stillwater MM	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	-1	152	151
Stillwater QM	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	197	197
Yearly Meeting	0	1	5	7	1	5	1	-8	407	399

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