

# **2019**

**Great Plains Yearly Meeting  
of the Religious Society of Friends**

**Minutes of the  
One Hundred Twelfth Annual Assembly  
Fifth day, Fifth Month, Thirtieth, 2019  
held at  
University Friends Meeting  
Wichita, Kansas**

**Yearly Meeting Handbook  
Revised October 2014**

From: GPYM Ministry & Counsel

To: Great Plains Yearly Meeting, May 31, 2019

*Statement of Inclusion, approved 4:50 p.m., May 31, 2019*

We of Great Plains Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends recognize there is that of God in every person, and as people of faith and followers of Christ, we know that the tapestry of humanity is woven with the varied threads of God's beloved people.<sup>1</sup> Different and alike, we are all God's creations. God calls us to love one another as God loves us.<sup>2</sup> Our views are informed by scripture and our own experience of God's gifts and grace. Thus we affirm that people of any race, ethnicity, religious belief or nonbelief, nationality, socio-economic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, mental or physical capacity are welcome in our midst and are invited to fully participate in the life of Great Plains Yearly Meeting. Our Quaker testimonies of equality, peace, and community inspire our goal to extend grace, inclusion, and love to all.

<sup>1</sup>John 3:16-17

<sup>2</sup>Mark 12:31; Matt. 5:43-47; John 15:12-14; 1 John 4:7-12; Gal. 3:28-29 & 5:5-6

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**Great Plains Yearly Meeting  
of the Religious Society of Friends  
One Hundred Eleventh Annual Assembly  
Fifth-day, Fifth Month, Thirtieth, 2019  
hosted by University Friends Meeting  
“MUCH GOOD NEEDS DOING ...  
GROWING IN PEACE AND LOVE”  
*Guest Speaker: John Calvi***

**Schedule of Sessions**

Thursday, May 30

12:00pm Registration Open & Signing the Big Book

*\*Childcare only available (12:30-4:45)*

12:30 Gathering Worship

1:00 Finance Committee – room 351

Home Missions – room 353

3:00 Ministry & Counsel – room 353

Nominating – room 351

5:00 Dinner – Fellowship Hall

*\*Young Friends & Children's Yearly Meeting (6:30-9:00)*

6:30 Opening Worship and Business Session I, Room 205

Welcome & Opening Statement

Monthly Meeting Roll Call

Introduction of Guests & Visitors

Receiving of Minutes of Travel

In house Committees

Epistle

Extracts

State of Society Reports

Ministry & Counsel report

7:30 Break – Conversation, Hospitality & Displays room 207

7:45 Worship through Music! - Meetingroom

Prayer & Praises

Bring your favorite hymn choices

Friday, May 31

7:45am Breakfast – Fellowship hall

*\*Young Friends & Children's Yearly Meeting (8:30-11:45)*

8:30 Bible Study – Cliff Loesch, room 205 The Pool of Siloam (John 9)

9:15 Meeting for Worship

9:30 Business Session II

Friends Music Camp – Joseph Nagle

Quaker Agency and Involvement Reports & Committee Reports

Friends United Meeting – Cliff Loesch  
Wichita Friends School – Pam Chambers, Head of School  
Friends General Conference, Nancy Duncan – FGC  
AFSC – Dean Young  
FWCC – Beth Green-Nagle  
FUM – Cliff Loesch & Patrice Stephenson  
QEW – John Wine  
FCNL – Cliff Mesner  
Treasurer – Connie Adams  
Finance – Steven McConnell, clerk  
Ministry & Counsel - Cliff Loesch, clerk  
Statistics – Paul Mallonee  
GPYM Statistician  
Home Missions – Dorlan Bales, clerk

Noon Lunch – Fellowship Hall

*\*Young Friends & Children's Yearly Meeting (1:00-5:00)*

1:00 Finance Committee – room 351

Home Missions Committee – room 353

2:30 Ministry & Counsel – room 353

Nominating – room 351

3:45 Break - Conversation, Hospitality & Displays room 207

4:00 Business Session III

Committee Reports & Budget Proposal

Everence – Mitch Stutzman

Ministry & Counsel

Home Missions Committee

Finance Committee

Budget Proposal

Nominating Committee

5:00 Free Time – Conversation, Hospitality & Displays, room 207

6:00 Dinner

*\*Young Friends & Children's Yearly Meeting (6:45-8:15)*

7:00 Meeting for Worship

Keynote Speaker: John Calvi, *Much Good Needs Doing, Friends call to service in the world*

Saturday, June 1

7:45 Breakfast

*\*Young Friends & Children's Yearly Meeting (8:30-11:45)*

8:30 Bible Study – Cliff Loesch, room 205 *The Pool of Bethesda (John 5)*

9:15 Meeting for Worship

Memorial Service

10:15 Break – Conversation, Hospitality & Displays, room 207

10:30 Business Session IV

Continued Business

Yearly Meeting 2020

Workshop Announcements

Noon Lunch

*\*Young Friends & Children's Yearly Meeting (1:00-5:15)*

Saturday afternoon workshops

1:30-3:30 *Healing is for Today* – John Calvi

The workshop time will be to teach a simple laying-on-of-hands form. Early Friends were thrown into jail for their healing works. John will demonstrate and then observe as we work in pairs to give and receive this simple gift of peace and grace. Come and experience the possibilities of healing in your life.

3:30 Break - Conversation, Hospitality & Displays room 207

4:00-5:00 *Native Americans, the Church, and the Quest for Interracial Justice.*  
– David Hansen

Many denominations have apologized to Native Americans for their participation in Indian genocide and the mission to "civilize and Christianize" Indians. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's efforts to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline and other efforts to protect the environment signal a new day. Where do we go from here? Come and share your ideas. David Hansen, author of *Native Americans, the Mainline Church, and the Quest for Interracial Justice* (Chalice Press, 2017) is the workshop facilitator.

5:00 Free Time – Conversation, Hospitality & Displays, room 207

6:00 Dinner

\**Young Adult & Children's Yearly Meeting* (6:45-8:15)

7:00 Meeting for Worship

Guest Speaker: John Calvi, *Stories of Healing from Work and Witness*

Sunday, June 2

7:30 Breakfast

8:30 Business Session V

Epistles & Closing session

Children's Presentation & Epistle

Young Friends' Report & Epistle

General Epistle

Greetings to absent Friends

Clerk's Minute

9:30 Prepare to gather in the Meetingroom for Meeting for Worship

9:45 Meditative Music – LaVonna Loesch, piano

10:00 Meeting for Worship – University Friends Meeting

11:30 Dinner & Farewells

**GPYM 19-01 Friends Gather in Wichita, Kansas**

Registration began at 12:00 with a meeting for worship beginning at 12:30. Committee meetings followed at 1:00 for Finance and Home Missions and 3:00 for Ministry & Counsel and Nominating with dinner following at 5:00.

**GPYM 19-02 Opening Business Sessions**

Presiding Clerk, LaVonna Loesch, welcomed Friends to the 112<sup>th</sup> annual sessions of Great Plains Yearly Meeting. She has been revisiting the query from the end of last years' sessions: What work of the spirit is your monthly meeting drawn to? She has been going over the responses and contemplating them and each of the monthly meetings' strengths and interests, whether social activism or community building. What work of the spirit is GPYM drawn to? What gifts of each monthly meeting can contribute to the yearly meeting? Cliff & LaVonna are in transition, stepping out of pastoral ministry soon. Is the yearly meeting transitioning as well? Can we have a mission, purpose, reason to accomplish?

LaVonna offered a prayer as we gathered. Announcements were made regarding logistics of the sessions. Menus are available of upcoming meals. Evaluation forms are also available and the Wi-Fi password was made available. Friends were reminded to settle up their registrations with Connie Adams. Extracts & evaluations forms can be put in the manila envelope which will be on the registration desk. There are three John Calvi books are available for purchase for \$10 each. Please pay Laura Dungan or John himself when you see them. Please sign the 'big book' which has records of yearly meeting sessions back to 1908. If you need a copy of a report, let LaVonna know and she will make hard copies available. All the reports were sent out electronically to help save paper, so feel free to use electronic devices to view them.

Monthly Meeting roll call:

- Central City – Cliff Mesner, Steve McConnell, Neil & Grayce Mesner, Lynn Zeleski, Cheryl & Paul Mallonee.
- Heartland – Dorlan Bales, Connie Adams, Jim Perkins and Aaron Fowler.
- Hominy – Angela Brown, Beth Green-Nagle and David Nagle.
- Lubbock – Sara Scribner
- Topeka- John Wine and David Ozaki
- University Friends Meeting – Vonda Schuster, Cliff & LaVonna Loesch, Don & Linda Mallonee, Paul & Cheryl Mallonee, Randy Mullikin.
- Guests & Visitors – John Krieg – representing AFSC; Nancy Duncan – representing FGC; Mitch Stutzman – representing Everence.
- A Minute of Travel for John Krieg was shared.

Two committees of Epistle and Extracts need to be established for these sessions. Sara Scribner offered to work on the Epistle if a helper could be found. Neil Mesner volunteered to help Sara. Extracts, the citing of quotes or occurrences during the sessions, which may be funny or profound are

encouraged to be gathered. All friends are encouraged to write items down and place them in the manila envelope on the registration desk.

### **GPYM 19-03 State of Society Reports**

State of Society reports from the monthly meetings were shared: Central City was read by Lynn Zeleski, Council House was read by Beth Green-Nagle. We held Council House in the light as they have many decisions to make. Heartland was read by Aaron Fowler; Hominy was read by Angela Brown. Lubbock was read by Sara Scribner, Topeka was read by David Ozaki, University Friends was read by Vonda Schuster. [See appendices for the reports.]

### **GPYM 19-04 Ministry & Counsel Proposal**

Cliff Loesch shared a statement that Ministry & Counsel has prepared regarding inclusion for the Yearly Meeting which will be brought forth at business sessions on Friday morning for discussion. We took a brief break before gathering for a hymn sing in the meeting room, led by LaVonna.

## **Friday, May 31, 2019**

### **GPYM 19-05 Breakfast and Bible Study**

Breakfast was provided by University Friends followed by Bible Study led by Cliff Loesch focusing on the Pool of Siloam (John 9).

### **GPYM 19-06 Business Session II**

LaVonna opened the session by reading from Thomas Kelly's Testament of Devotion. We then settled into open worship.

LaVonna asked for 4 volunteers to verbally pray for the 4 committees that are meeting this weekend: Home Missions, Finance, Nominating and Ministry & Counsel.

New Friends have arrived: Lynn & Marjorie Van Buren – Topeka; Patrice Stephenson – Heartland; Pam & Doug Chambers - University Friends; and Dean & Angela Young – Heartland.

### **GPYM 19-07 Friends Music Camp Report**

Joseph Nagle shared his report about attending Friends Music Camp at Earlham College last summer. He really enjoyed the experience and the challenge of learning more about music and performance during the three weeks he was there. He thanked the yearly meeting for their financial assistance that allowed him to attend. [See appendices for full report.]

### **GPYM 19-08 Wichita Friends School Report**

Pam Chambers, head of school at Wichita Friends Schools, highlighted some events they had this past year. They started with a retreat with LaVonna Loesch in August and chose the theme “We Choose Joy” for the year. This theme set the tone for an outstanding year. They had an all school field trip to a honeybee farm in Norwich KS, which was a big event. All the kids must ride in car seats so this adds another level to excursions that some might not consider. They also visited the fire department, a screen-printing shop, and had a picnic at the park. Free vanilla ice cream was a treat at the town café. Experiences are a great way to learn.

Peaceful conflict resolution is practiced at the school. A 3-year girl who joined the school 2 years ago and now identifies as a boy and is an active 5-year-old, happy kindergartener. WFS says Yes to the love of God that seeks to bind us together. They celebrated Christmas with residents at Prairie Homestead, learning sign language to Silent Night. Their enrollment is up to 40 students this year. Two-and-a-half-year olds are now accepted, which helps enrollment. Children are valued, loved and respected and the staff and volunteers make it a rich experience for all. [See appendices for full report.]

### **GPYM 19-09 Representative from Friends General Conference**

Nancy Duncan, visiting on behalf of FGC was introduced. She has been filled already in the short time she’s been with us. She shared that FGC does not make decisions for the yearly meetings. Their job is to connect Friends and keep the community vibrant. A recent project is the ministry of racism, which is a very complicated issue, but they are working hard. The Gathering is a major event that they host every year. Their website has a new spiritual deepening program, available electronically. This can be used on many levels and in different venues. They also have a bookstore, mostly online, and they are starting to publish more books.

### **GPYM 19-10 American Friends Service Committee Report**

Dean Young, our representative to AFSC, shared about his trip to the annual corporation meeting in Philadelphia, which is a unique experience. The organization is 102 years old and they are experts at developing reports and data. Their main goal is connecting with each other and loving our neighbors. Our yearly meeting is on the edge of multiple regions and we are not always represented well. AFSC is trying to understand the way a new generation functions and how to support their needs.

John Krieg is a valuable resource to us who is working very hard. We are part of an organization that deals with resistance and the diversity of the world. A challenge is the question of ‘should we punish people perpetually for bad things they have done?’ AFSC has been downsizing and staff and programs will continue to be cut due to budget cuts. What we support is really important and they have been working with FCNL on issues and bills that are up for votes. AFSC does not give advice on what or which way to vote, but rather provide

support and information to Friends to help make these decisions. He's willing to come share with Friends if they want to hear more. They have reps in Mexico, Guatemala and El Salvador to make sure migrant human rights are represented. They have been at the border as a non-violent witness to the immigration issue. [See appendices for full report.]

### **GPYM 19-11 Friends World Committee for Consultation Report**

Beth Green-Nagle, our representative to FWCC, Section of the Americas, attended the section meeting in March 2019, near Kansas City MO. They explored 'Who is my neighbor and how can we all be friends?'. She led a Bible study and helped interpret Spanish with the bilingual committee. The Bible study she led focused on how are we called to love our neighbors. Who are our neighbors and what obstacles do we encounter in building relationship? One thing they discussed was how geographically spread out we are. How do children and youth participate? She was grateful to hear the messages from various speakers. Overtly Christian messages were difficult for some to hear, but welcomed by others. There is need for more sustaining financial support from the yearly meetings. [See appendices for full report.]

### **GPYM 19-12 Friends United Meeting Report**

Cliff Loesch, representative to FUM, shared that he has not been able to attend the past year. He wanted to make clear that FUM does not prescribe anything for yearly meetings to do or believe. This would have a very negative response from monthly and yearly meetings. They have the most diverse collection of yearly meetings which make things difficult and wonderful at the same time.

Patrice Stephenson who represented GPYM at the FUM Board sessions in Belize City, shared. They have a school, community and church that was all started with Sadie Vernon who saw a need and liked the Quaker way of doing things. They started with a 2-room building that was too small to fit their needs. They decided that the program was worth expanding and now have a larger building in the south side of Belize City. The students have to go through many gang neighborhoods to get to the school and most come from very rough home life. The school averages about 20 students at a time. Some get government support and some from FUM. They have to meet standards to get into the school, learn and study, then test again to go up to the next level of education. Oscar Mmbali from Kaimosi is their minister and there are two volunteers from Baltimore Yearly meeting who assist with needs. Nicki Holland and her family are going to be new missionaries there. [See appendices for full report.]

### **GPYM 19-13 Quaker Earthcare Witness Report**

John Wine, representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness, shared that they provide Friends with resources to help the earth. A toolkit for meetings is available on-line to download. He plans to visit with more folks at the FGC gathering. They

have a mini-grant program available for meetings to apply for. [See appendices for full report.]

### **GPYM 19-14 Friends Committee on National Legislation Report**

Cliff Mesner brings greetings from Diane Randall with Friends Committee on National Legislation. The average age is younger than in the past, down by 20 years.

### **GPYM 19-15 Treasurer and Finance Reports**

Connie Adams, treasurer, shared the balance sheet showing our account totals and operating expenses of GPYM and home missions. Pie charts outlined percentages of monies used.

Steve McConnell, clerk of the Finance committee, reported that the financial situation is overall in good condition. A modest increase in support to the Friends agencies was added to the budget. They will have more discussion on how to get a better financial return on our investments and bank accounts.

### **GPYM 19-16 Ministry & Counsel Report**

Cliff Loesch presented the statement of inclusiveness that was prepared and brought forth for questions and discussion. Friends were appreciative and grateful for the work that has been done. Dean Young recounted the events of the mid-80s our decision to not make a statement such as this when Ron Mattson was not allowed to be named as presiding clerk as an openly gay man. Dean is pleased that we are able to discuss this and have it a part of our yearly meeting documents. Following discussion about the verbiage of the statement, this will go back to Ministry & Counsel for a little more work.

### **GPYM 19-17 Home Missions Report**

Dorlan Bales shared about the visitation program that they are developing and promoting. Visiting unaffiliated groups has been a focus and has resulted in 2 new meetings to our yearly meeting in the past few years. There are a few other groups they are planning to visit. Interbranch visits to friends in our region that are affiliated with other yearly meetings are another focus. Fellowship among other friends is valuable. Visiting between our monthly meetings is the 3<sup>rd</sup> focus of this committee so we can get to know each other better. Funds are available from the farm property in Nebraska that will help in making this possible. The Arthur Larrabee workshop last fall about making decisions with Joy & Confidence was enjoyed. Talk-IES, a variation of Ted Talks, were hosted by University Friends, and were primarily organized by the young adults. Gratitude was expressed to the Topeka and Lubbock monthly meetings in joining and being active and participating, adding energy and ideas to our Yearly Meeting.

### **GPYM 19-18 Statistics Report**

Paul Mallonee presented the statistics report [See appendices.] There was some discussion regarding the calendar year of 2018, vs. yearly meeting session to yearly meeting session. The statistics are to represent calendar year. Perhaps the statistics should be gathered at the end of the year along with committee appointments.

Dean Young expressed his thanks to Connie Adams for all her work as treasurer and sharing her gifts. LaVonna shared a prayer before our lunch time together.

### **ATTENTION TO BUSINESS SESSION III**

#### **GPYM 19-19 Nominating Committee Report**

Angela Brown reported for the nominating committee. The clerks table will remain the same for the next year, except for the assistant clerk position. The committee is still discerning this. This was approved. David Ozaki was nominated to be an at-large member of the Continuing Committee. This was approved.

#### **GPYM 19-20 Finance Committee Report**

Mitch Stutzman from Everence has been helping the finance committee discover better ways to be stewards of our finances. Everence is a financial agency providing assistance to religious groups and individuals to manage their funds. Debt counseling is one of the many services they also provide. A safe church grant is another program that is available. These grants provide a church funds that help them provide a safe environment for individuals that may be at risk. The yearly meetings' 501c3 status was discussed. A charitable credit card option is also available with a benefit of 1.5 percent of your annual spending going to a charity of your choice. Steve McConnell and Connie Adams also presented the budget proposal for the next year. The proposal was approved. [See appendices.]

#### **GPYM 19-21 Ministry & Counsel Report**

Cliff Loesch presented the inclusion statement from this morning's discussion with a few modifications from Ministry & Counsel. The statement was read by all in unison and presented for approval. There was concern about the list being inclusive enough to love all people. Appreciation was expressed for the beautiful wording and hard work, and there may be room to massage this statement in the future as we grow as a body who loves and includes all. The discussion of using the word "religion" was a major point of discussion. The statement was approved with gratitude, recognizing the need to move forward with this and embrace it and love everyone. [See appendices for approved statement.]

## GPYM 19-22 Evening Session with John Calvi

Friends gathered as a jazz trio of Cliff Loesch, Aaron Fowler and Joseph Nagle played. Then Aaron and Laura Dungan sang a couple of selections before introducing our keynote speaker, John Calvi. He is a certified massage therapist who specializes in dealing with trauma and traumatic events. He considers himself a Quaker healer and lives in Putney, Vermont.

He opened with singing a phrase “Oh Mr. Ghandi, what do you think of Western civilization?” This was shared intermittently throughout his time of sharing. He said that knowing your spiritual poverty is the hard piece of healing. Can we find this place without feeling bad about ourselves? There can be a learned helplessness and that oppression can grind down people and then they stop trying to get out and depression can set in.

He shared several readings from his book *How Far Have You Traveled?* One excerpt outlined how after 9/11 the military was taught to do torture and the American Psychological Association was appalled by these practices. John helped in developing a program to resist torture and now any psychologist who knows of any torture, and does not report it, would lose their license and be reprimanded. In Guantanamo prison in 2002, prisoners were given medicine that was 5 times the prescribed amount that would cause suicidal tendencies, depression and seizures as an experiment in psychological torture. They don't know how long it lasted and it's still going on contributing to more suicides than combat deaths.

Blessed are the merciful as they will offer mercy. Where did we learn about mercy? Do we have traditions about mercy? Quakerism has grown slowly for John as he was raised in a large Italian family and he discovered Quakers at the age of 16. Mercy was not necessarily part of his upbringing.

Blessed are the pure in heart as they will see God. A perfect spiritual work should feel like a deep breath. He encouraged us to do what is important now, and the rest will follow. Is there a large spiritual work in play already? Getting America out of the business of war will do more to change our outlook in future.

Blessed are the peacemakers as they will be God's children. He described that in his work as a massage therapist there is no way to adequately describe the feeling of taking the grief, pain and suffering away from a patient. His work with a recent rape victim was a terrible and beautiful gift.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake. He encouraged us to love those who do us great harm, to love our enemies as Jesus said. What's to be done with a history of pain and confusion? As Quakers, there is an unspoken assumption that you are going on a spiritual adventure among Friends when we try to go on a mission to help others. The light of love may be strong, but people are fragile. He encouraged us not to choose the first, worst thing you can find, then serve. What makes our light shine brighter? Seek that we do our best, not our most, to bring light to a bad situation.

**Saturday, June 1, 2019**

**GPYM 19-23 Breakfast, Bible Study and Memorial Service**

Following breakfast provided by University Friends, Cliff Loesch led a Bible Study, focusing the Pool of Bethesda, from John 5. We then transitioned to our memorial service led by Sara Scribner, remembering with love and fondness friends who had passed away this past year. [See appendices for the memorial service program and list of names.]

**ATTENTION TO BUSINESS – SESSION IV**

**GPYM 19-24 Greetings and Housekeeping**

We welcomed Lorene Ludy and Jean Eden from Lincoln NE and Rhonda Newby from University Friends.

LaVonna made announcements regarding evaluation forms, requesting that Friends please complete them and turn them in before leaving. Make sure your registration fees are paid to Connie Adams and any donations are always welcome. The sub-committee for the Home Missions and Finance committees will be meeting over lunch. Jock Cameron from Lubbock Friends sends his greetings. Copies of the new inclusion statement are available for Friends.

Friends settled into a period of open worship.

LaVonna shared that we have a wide range of diversity in our meeting which is to be celebrated and is mysterious and wonderful. The dissonance of a train whistle is an illustration of how even though it's not a pretty chord, it has an important function and is valuable to keep us safe. Just as our many points of view and opinions do.

**GPYM 19-25 Finance Committee Report**

Steve McConnell reported for the finance committee. They focused on four items during these sessions. They discussed and plan on moving monies to an interest-bearing account. Everence has helped with this as well. They talked about putting a small amount of our money into an Index fund with greater risk, but long-term reward. Future Managed Funds is the line item on the budget. A Friendly audit of our books has been desired for years, but volunteers to do this have been hard to find. If you have an interest, please let Steve or Connie know. We do not have 501c3 status as a yearly meeting, so they are going to apply to get that done over the summer. We always accept donations, you can give at any time, but a letter will be going out at the end of the year. You can donate to a specific area if you wish. There is also a student loan fund that is available. Lynn Zeleski offered to do the friendly audit which was gratefully accepted.

### **GPYM 19-26 Home Missions Report**

Dorlan Bales presented the budget for the home missions committee. He expressed thanks to the finance committee for all their help. The main income come from the farm, which the Stephens family near Central City NE, takes care of. There is roughly \$10,000/year income from the farm. Gifts from individuals was budgeted at \$2000 was budgeted for 2019, and it was decreased to \$1500 for 2020. Gifts from monthly meetings was budgeted at \$400 for 2019 and decreased to \$250 for 2020. A total budget of \$13,950 for 2020 was proposed. They are working on a quarterly newsletter to increase communications. Large events such as the Arthur Larrabee retreat may be a focus one year and smaller regional gatherings would be focused on other years. A line item was added for young adults training opportunities in the gifts of the ministry. Concern was expressed about the communications piece and where the money should come from. The visitation reimbursement procedures are being ironed out. There needs to be a system about letting home missions know if you need payment back. Some can travel on their own and some need some assistance to travel. We are still in a learning curve to see how this will work. The continuing committee will have this discuss in the fall. The proposed budget for 2020 was approved.

### **GPYM 19-27 Nominating Committee Report**

Angela Brown reported for the nominating committee. David Nagle was nominated as a member-at-large to the continuing committee, and Beth Green-Nagle was nominated to be our FWCC representative. Both these nominations were approved. Sue Wine will be the clerk for nominating committee for the next year. They are still working on a recommendation of a new assistant clerk. They have joyfully found several to consider, but do not currently have a nomination to present. The search will continue as Friends are given more time to discern. Please keep the committee in your prayers and let them know if you have any thoughts or leadings for consideration.

### **GPYM 19-28 2020 Sessions and New Website**

Angela Young extended an invitation on behalf of Heartland Monthly Meeting to host Yearly Meeting next year, June 4-7, 2020. This was accepted joyfully.

LaVonna shared the new website and all its features. You can access many things and the new inclusion statement will be added.

Westtown School is an established Quaker school in Pennsylvania, which is desiring Quaker students and has a very generous scholarship available for students from grades 10-12. There is an application link on our website. Friends were at liberty to break for lunch.

## GPYM 19-29 Afternoon Workshops

### “Healing is for Today” – John Calvi

John gathered the group, seated in a large circle and set to show us a very simple energy work form. Benefits from this could be better sleep, less anxiety and less need of medication. We will first watch him do the form as an example, then we will partner up and receive the form and give the form to our partners.

Healing was one of the first things that Friends were thrown in jail for. George Fox did healing work. Everybody is surrounded by light. John’s gift is the release of physical or emotional pain after trauma. Small chakras are at all the joints, where he is going to work. He gathers all his calm and quiet and places one hand on the ankle and on the knee. He uses a firm touch and keeps his head and back straight. Then he moves to place pressure on the knee to hip, the hip to belly, the belly to heart, the wrist to elbow, the elbow to shoulder, the shoulder to heart. This is done on both right and left sides of the body. Symmetry is very important to relieve trauma. Once both sides are done then pressure is placed on the heart to the top back of the neck, the neck to the top of the head, then the forehead to heart. The form is the easy part. The hard part is staying right HERE just doing this. Kind thoughts, prayer, repeating an old hymn in your head may help you stay focused. I am the fingers and breath of the divine of the Holy Spirit as I give this gift.

He learned this method in massage school. He was asked if he felt feel energy from the patient. He explained that he is not the light, but the tube that the light moves through, taking the pain and moving it away. If his pains are too similar to the patient, he may have to step aside. The group practiced the form in pairs and evaluated. There is amount of trust between partners. Breathing can synch with your partner. One place can have more heat than another. Tired, weary, old physical hurt, infection or emotional pain can be treated. There is a hunger for the healing in that space. It would take practice to be able to clear your mind as healer. You need to be in a good place as healer to give that gift to another. Having a sense of goodness is important. Good givers are not always good receivers.

Quakerism is a religion felt through our bodies. There is not a lot of opportunity in this world to love someone as much as you want, but this method allows you to so. Popular American culture is very uncomfortable, noisy and loud. Shoes can be uncomfortable, loud and light. Quiet and calmness can be more healing than bombastic noise. The therapy can feel like you are being held, which is a very good feeling. Human touch is very important for our physical and mental health. Words are often insufficient in describing spiritual experiences.

Research has discovered there is a string of proteins that could be changed by trauma which can be genetically passed down, an example would be children of holocaust survivors. We have a spiritual obligation to make a life we want to live. Most want to stay with the pain they know rather than trade it for someone else’s. Staying tender is very important in the healing process. The best way to give light is to not have fear or anger.

“Native Americans, the Church and the Quest for Interracial Justice” – David Hansen

David Hansen has a background in ministry in Hawaii, Iowa and Kansas. His book, *Native Americans, the Mainline Church, and the Quest for Interracial Justice*, was published in January 2017, and things have changed a lot since even then. He asked if anyone had been to Standing Rock in North Dakota and Laura Dungan shared that she had. They worked in the kitchen and helped with prayer circles and got to spend some time in the encampment. Several people from Hominy went there as well. It was a watershed event. More than 10,000 people from all over the world were there and 500 Native American tribes were represented. Fifty clergy were involved in burning the Document of Discovery.

When the pipeline workers came in and started to set up camps it created a notoriously bad environment for Native American women. The official count of murdered and missing women was 1400 with the unofficial number being 4000. Native communities here and the Canadian government are starting to keep better track of what is happening. Local, state, federal and para-military have been hired to protect the pipeline. Eminent domain issues have been going through the courts regarding property issues. Overwhelming numbers of agencies are working to get the pipeline built. It's costing the state \$40 million. A bill to penalize out of state riot boosters is in the courts. It's a very broad issue that affects many states.

A letter from the Oglala Sioux to the governor of South Dakota was sent telling him that he is not welcome at their reservation until he reverses the bill regarding riot boosting. What we can learn from indigenous communities is their non-violent protests to opposition. We have been trying to push and convert the natives to become Christians. Many Indian boarding schools were established to take the native children away.

Another deep issue is how do we move from a fossil fuel economy to an alternative fuel economy? There are 400 treaties signed between tribes and the U. S. Government regarding this and the government has violated all of them. There is sacred land at stake and the natives have rights just as everyone else. In the Black Hills, it was sacred land, then a priest discovered gold and many flooded in to mine the gold. The Supreme Court intervened and said that they mined it illegally and offered to pay the Sioux for the gold that was mined. However, the Native Americans did not want the money; they wanted the land. Elton Lawrence -- “The native people believe they belong to the land and white people think the land belongs to them. The land doesn't belong to us, but rather, we belong to the land.”

There are seven core values of the Sioux nation: Pray and be in communication, respect your family, love one another, be honest and speak with truth to yourself, be generous and helping, practice humility, and practice wisdom.

## **GPYM 19-30 Announcements and Dinner**

The clerk, LaVonna, reminded us to make sure Friends take their displays home or find someone to take them. Please fill out the evaluation forms before you leave. There is a chance of storms this evening so safety protocol was reviewed, just in case. Lincoln Friends are hosting a workshop ‘Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: ‘Toward Right Relationship’ featuring Paula Palmer. The 2-hour workshop will be at the Indian Center in Lincoln June 29, 2-4pm.

Friends then had an hour or so break before another wonderful dinner prepared by University Friends. Many thanks were expressed to the kitchen crew for all the delicious food over the weekend.

## **GPYM 19-31 Evening Session with John Calvi**

The clerk, LaVonna Loesch, read our new statement of inclusion to open the evening. Laura Dungan offered an introduction of John before sharing some songs with Aaron Fowler.

John shared a story of John Cadbury discovering George Fox’s book of Miracles. It was a book that George kept to document the light and its healing capabilities. The works of healing was illegal so they would publish pamphlets, bragging about their healings. The Quakers went to jail for these healings. George kept his journal and carried herbal remedies to heal people on his journeys. The book could not be found and some think that it was he was too proud about the book. He kept a list of all those that opposed him and then he would check off all those who fell off. The healing gifts went underground and were not discussed in public to avoid persecution. There is a tradition among Friends that healing is a very private work. It is intimate and private and a rich tradition among Friends. We encourage a life of seeking the light. We know there is always more to learn and understand. In our seeking and our prayers, we understand there is more to know. In unprogrammed meeting anyone can get up and speak, which can be considered crazy!

It was never his intention in healing work to get on the bus. He was a teacher but was drawn to massage therapy and healing ministry. John was beaten and raped as a child, then disowned by his family for coming out as gay. He was taught a great deal about reverence and touch when learning to be a massage therapist. You need to indicate your intentions to develop trust with your patient. He works a lot with sexual abuse victims and provides safety through massage. He offered massage therapy to early AIDS victims whether they could pay or not in Colorado. He was feeling the pain of these sufferers leave through him and he discovered he had a healing gift. This was in the early 1980s and he began earning a living by receiving gifts for his healing. He did a lot of therapy in prisons during the AIDS crisis.

“Refuges that had been tortured” was the next path he took. 10,000 Salvadoran refugees were in Washington DC, and they were mothers of those who disappeared in El Salvador. He also taught workshops about avoiding burnout at the same time. Quakers are notorious for going to help those in need, no

matter how risky the situation might be. They are wanting to go do good work. They have an assumption that there is way for each person to be a person of service. You can make many mistakes when learning to make a fine teacher. Each of us has gifts to ease pain with those around us and the world. You need to find your gifts and polish them like a stone and it will make your gift to the world larger.

**Sunday, June 2, 2019**

**GPYM 19-32 Business Session V**

**Combined Business Session with Adults, Young Friends and Children**

LaVonna expressed her thanks to her Assistant and Recording Clerks at the clerks table for all their support and hard work. She also expressed thanks to all the folks who helped with the children and youth programs: Andrea Suttle, Monica Warnken, Dean Young, Aaron Fowler, Doug Chambers and John & Sue Wine. Appreciation was expressed to our kitchen crew of Jacque Robinson, Lynn Hankins, Kim Edgington and Judy Blue for taking care of meals and the hospitality room. Everyone was an important piece, keeping the weekend running smoothly.

The ‘littles and middles’ (children through middle school age) read the epistle they prepared. It was a colorful poster with contributions in words and drawings from everyone. [See appendices.]

The high school youth group took turns reading their epistle. [See appendices.]

Sara Scribner and Neil Mesner read the draft epistle to other yearly meetings that they prepared. Friends discussed a few minor corrections and the epistle was approved with much, grateful appreciation. [See appendices.]

Greetings to absent friends: LaVonna asked that if you have names that you want to remember, to send the names to her and she will send greetings out to each of them.

Announcements: Please leave your name tags at the registration table to be used again next year. Lunch will be leftovers from the week and will be available after meeting for worship. You can take a sack lunch if you are needing to get on the road.

We settled into worship and LaVonna asked friends to offer reflections of our time together if they felt led. Following this time, LaVonna read her closing minute. [See appendices.]

Friends were then invited to stay and worship with University Friends Meeting.

## **GPYM Continuing Committee Minutes, Fall 2019**

GPYM Continuing Committee – October 13, 2018 – University Friends,  
Wichita KS

Those in attendance: LaVonna Loesch, Dorlan Bales, Connie Adams, Sara Scribner, Steve McConnell, Paul Mallonee and Cheryl Mallonee. Regrets were sent from Angela Brown, David Ozaki and Cliff Loesch.

LaVonna opened the meeting by sharing information from a Pendle Hill pamphlet regarding Consensus vs. Sense of the meeting – “Beyond Consensus – Salvaging Sense of the Meeting” by Barry Morley – Pendle Hill pamphlet 307. We then settled in to time of centering.

The yearly meeting evaluations were discussed. Gratitude was expressed to Sue Wine for handling the children and Youth programming. It’s always great to be in Hominy. There was a sense of welcome that was wider than usual and deeper participation from members of Hominy meeting. Visiting Friend leadership was wonderful. Eden Grace brought a youthful energy and different ways of presenting ideas that was energizing.

Friends were pleased that Council House Friends could be there for some of the sessions. The schedule of events was discussed and Finance committee always feels pushed for time. The committee is very busy at sessions but cannot think of a solution for more time. We should be reminded to hold them in the Light as they make decisions. It was suggested to adjust the agenda with Finance and Home Missions to work with both their budgets. How can we be better stewards of our time together at yearly meeting sessions? A retreat time for the finance committee was suggested. Since we are larger, maybe some don’t have to serve on more than one committee. Finding the balance is a challenge.

There was appreciation expressed for the longer sessions times this past year. Home Missions is settling in to themselves as a committee. They aren’t spending as much time fundraising, so that releases them to do other work. Having a bit of business scheduled on Sunday morning was a good way not be rushed on other items. We used to read back the minutes from the previous business session for approval. Dorlan is not suggesting that this be done per se, but maybe just have a recap of any decisions that have been made and highlight items to catch Friends up on anything they may have missed.

Youth and children’s programming: The possibility of creating a sub-committee or point person to handle the planning of what happens for the youth and children during sessions was discussed. They could create a schedule so the kids know what is planned and the parents do too. It may encourage more kids to participate if they know what’s on the agenda. We need more intentionality on their programming and they shouldn’t be an afterthought. A coordinator for both age groups would be good to be a liaison to the clerk and the yearly meeting. It was suggested that we talk to Sue Wine first to see if she has any ideas or suggestions or may be willing to be a coordinator. Liz Wine also may be a good resource. They need to know there are funds available to do activities. Wichita Friends School may be a resource for the children. Doug Chambers may also be

a resource. Dean Young would be good with the youth. LaVonna will talk to Sue, Dean and Liz to gauge interest.

John Calvi is scheduled to be our speaker at the 2019 sessions. He has some strong leadings about what to share with us next summer. He speaks on Worship and healing touch. LaVonna will be having conference call with him Wed, 6:00pm central time, to discuss further details. He is willing to do workshops during sessions as well. How many times do we want to have him speak during sessions? We could check to see if he would be interested to talking with teens. We'll see if he could speak at least two times, plus a workshop. A social activity on Thursday evening was suggested as Friends are traveling and they wouldn't miss the speaker that evening.

Workshops topics for the 2019 sessions could possibly be: John Calvi – enhance on what he's sharing. FCNL – Lacina Onco again? Or someone that would have a Native American emphasis. David Hansen is newly retired minister here in Wichita who's knowledgeable in Native American issues. Their displacement and land taken is a focus of a book he's written. Boycott Debvest and Sanctions (BDS) movement is another possible topic. John Krieg from AFSC may be able to share on that subject. Mitch Stutzman from Everence would be a good resource. Laura Dungan could speak about the Poor People's Campaign.

We need to decide on a speaker for 2020. Names from previous discussions were revisited. Sara shared that she feels that a keynote speaker should speak to one's spirit rather than service or intellectual topics. Dorlan is challenged by what our sense of social justice is? But everyone has a different take on different topics and how they are presented. Disenfranchisement and capital punishment were other social justice items Steve brought forward. LaVonna will put out an email to the committee with the names of speakers and a bio of each one for each of us to consider and pray over and give responses with a deadline.

Finance – Connie presented the 2018 budget. Appreciation was expressed to Connie for her work following a brief discussion. Sara sent a correspondence regarding the Quaker Women's Conference is closing the accounts and presenting the money in the account to GPYM. A check was presented for \$3,374.39. Sara suggested putting this in the operating budget on a separate line item of Interbranch Activities. We want to be good stewards of these funds and use them as intended. Dorlan suggested under Home Missions traveling in the ministry line item.

Home Missions – Dorlan reported and shared they had a productive meeting last Saturday. They discussed visitation mostly, moving forward connections with worship groups that want to have with GPYM and each other. They asked for groups that would like to be visited. Norma, OK is a possibility. Central City, Hominy, Lubbock and Council House would also like to be visited. A worship group located just south of Tulsa may be interested to be under our care. They just received an email and we have responded back to them. Oread meeting in

Lawrence has invited us there for two different events and they are showing more interest in GPYM than in the past. Their clerk will be at the Arthur Larrabee event in a couple weeks at University Friends Meeting. A meeting in Manhattan, KS, is on their radar. Jim Perkins would like to visit there. Council House would probably appreciate visits and possibly someone bringing a message. Beth Green-Nagle did two sermons there this past summer. Thirteen potential Friends to do visiting are in the mix. David & Beth would like to visit Lubbock, but their schedule is not clear for a while. Dorlan Bales, LaVonna Loesch, Sara Scribner, Beth Green-Nagle, Dave Ozaki, Carole Revard, John Kreig, Steve McConnell, John Wine, Jim Perkins, David Nagle, Angela Brown and Aaron Fowler are Friends who expressed interest in being visitors on behalf of the yearly meeting. Now visits need to be planned and coordinated. Interbranch visits were discussed in NE & OK. KS visits were discussed also. There are many Friends meetings, mostly Mid-America Yearly Meeting, in Kansas. Maybe we need to be visiting them too?

A newsletter for Home Missions has not happened yet and they are bringing this to continuing committee for help. Technology plays a factor in making this happen. Someone is needed to coordinate incoming reports from the visits that are made. Sara suggested this may be a task for a young adult or near young adult may be interested in taking this on. Someone who is more tech savvy. Social media is a way to get info out quickly to many people. Websites and email are more 'old school' so to speak. Would we be able to pay this person a fee to prepare this newsletter? Collecting information is a challenge to consider. A discussion of social media and how to manage all of that followed. Facilitating 'pairs formation' by developing relationships between meetings and friends in our region is something that they are working on. It would be beneficial to have someone reach out to someone in another meeting to communicate on a regular/monthly basis to develop a closer relationship. The Arthur Larrabee workshop is coming up and they are very excited about it. Are other regional events being planned? Nebraska is planning a gathering on November 3, with John Calvi in Lincoln. Oklahoma is not planning any fall gatherings to encourage folks to attend the Arthur Larrabee retreat. They are not sure if they are doing anything in the spring yet.

Mentoring of young adults is another focus of home missions and teens. They didn't have a lot of time to discuss but want to keep it on their agenda.

Travel reimbursement has not been used since YM sessions and has not been discussed yet by home missions. Aaron and David may have it in their notes. The daily per diem rate was discussed and how reimbursement needs to be requested and from whom, but no formal approval was made on a procedure. The continuing committee lacks clarity and asked the finance committee check their notes and communicate any helpful information. Steve found notes of the discussion, but no approval of definite numbers. Can this be followed up via email and communicated before someone starts traveling? We need to look at ministry of the funds that have been entrusted to home missions and make sure there is accountability and transparency of how the funds are used.

Technology – LaVonna will be bring this topic forward often. Video or Zoom conference calls are a great way to meet across the miles. We need to be ready to explore more options to communicate easier. There is technology committee, but it is not currently functioning. It needs to be going into the future. Do we need someone to come in and do some training? Video and live streaming are ways we can share with each other what is happening in our meetings.

Cheryl read a statement from Cliff Loesch regarding the website. The current HTML format is too hard to maintain and expensive to continue using. He's happy to continue serving the site if we change to a simpler format and site plus there is large \$400 fee due next spring for what we currently use. Connie developed a prototype on WIX which Wichita Friends School uses and it's much easier to operate. It's free is you don't mind having WIX advertising on the page or you can pay \$130 fee to not have their advertising. On-line registrations could be done through this site as well. There could be a manager at each monthly meeting to have access through this format. It was approved to change to the new WIX format.

Minute and handbook committee – This document has much potential. The agenda was added this past session and there are other things we can add. LaVonna would like to study and suggest enhancements to make it more friendly and helpful resource. We possibly need a 2-year task force to do this and work with the publishing committee. What can be in this and what can be on the website, with password access (directory, etc.), needs to be examined. Dorlan volunteered to work on this. Sue Wine's name was suggested. David Ozaki was also mentioned. LaVonna & Connie will be ex-officio of this working group. Michael Barrett was also mentioned. LaVonna will contact Sue, David & Michael.

Steve asked if we wanted to send out another fundraising letter like last year in November or December. There are 4 areas, General operating fund, student loan, endowment and home missions. It was approved to send out a letter this year.

We will make an announcement of our new website via email and Facebook. A fun fact shared by Sara is that October 24 is International Talk Like a Quaker Day, which is also William Penn's birthday.

LaVonna shared responses from Central City and Hominy from the query she posed at the close of yearlly meeting sessions in June.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl Mallonee, Recording Clerk

## GPYM Continuing Committee Minutes, Spring 2019

GPYM Continuing Committee – February 23, 2019

Members present: LaVonna Loesch, Dorlan Bales, Cheryl Mallonee, Paul Mallonee, Cliff Loesch, Angela Brown, Connie Adams. Those joining via Zoom: Steve McConnell, Jock Cameron, David Nagle and David Ozaki.

A quote from Stephen Crisp 1663 was shared to open worship. – Essays on Quaker Order – Lloyd Lee Wilson, *Offer yourselves completely to God and be available in the moment. Listen to God. God has something for us now.* Holy Obedience. Friends then settled into worship.

The minutes from the October meeting were read and approved.

An appointment of Patrice Stephenson as a temporary FUM representative to Belize at the board meeting was approved via email a recently. Cliff Loesch is unable to attend. This was approved.

Nominating Committee: Angela Brown reported that there will probably be change to the clerks' table in a couple of years. A transition will need to be discerned. Cliff & LaVonna will be leaving University Friends Meeting at the end of June and LaVonna feels more comfortable stepping away as clerk, but it may take a 2-year transition period. If a Friend is willing to serve as assistant clerk the next year, they would then transition to presiding clerk the following year and LaVonna would then be assistant clerk. The new assistant clerk would begin their time at the end of this years' session. The hope and intention are that the new assistant would then transition to presiding clerk, but we have to be faithful as the Spirit leads us. LaVonna wondered if there was any concern that they would not be attending UFM, but their membership will remain. This was discussed and there was no concern. A letter of sojourn was suggested by David Nagle. Jock Cameron also said it was a good idea to prepare a letter to go to Heartland to 'look after' LaVonna, if that is where she is led to worship. If anyone has name to suggest to the nominating committee, please let Angela know. A letter from LaVonna to the clerks of the monthly meeting was suggested to outline her intention, to make the yearly meeting aware of what it going on. Angela was released to continue the work of the nominating committee.

Home Missions Committee: Dorlan Bales shared that the committee met a week ago and are encouraged by the yearly meeting to go forth with their visitation mission. An inter-connected ministry is important to grow and strengthen our yearly meeting. The spirit of God works through us and we need to be a part of something bigger and care for each other. In the next month or so they will match up visitors with places that want to be visited. They hope to be busier with this in the spring as the weather improves. Communicating with each other either via social media or a newsletter is an area that needs to be improved. Any suggestions will be appreciated to make us all more aware of what is happening. More energy will be spent on the visitation portion initially, but the communication piece also needs work. Connie Adams suggested that photos be

shared on the website and a pdf newsletter could also go on the website. Thanks to all who have volunteered to do visiting and meetings that want to be visited. Norman OK, Central City, Hominy, Lubbock, Council House, and Heartland have expressed interest in having a visitor. Tahlequah Friends Fellowship is a new group, Green Country Friends in Tulsa also would appreciate visits. Their budget is fine at this point and resources are available for travel. The farm income was more than expected which was very helpful. The reimbursement of travel procedure still needs to be clarified and Finance and Home Missions will work on this together.

Technology: LaVonna shared the new website [greatplainsyearlymeeting.org](http://greatplainsyearlymeeting.org) Registration for yearly meeting sessions should be available through Eventbrite and that can be linked through the website. Tabs for traveling ministry and home mission's activity can be added to the home page. Communications from the clerk can be shared as well. Connie can do updates for now, but the hope is that someone else or a committee handle the upkeep of the website. Zoom is a tool that can also help keep us connected over distances. If many people are on a zoom, it can handle the bandwidth better if the video is turned off. We will continue to use this so we can be better connected with each other. Technology has improved greatly over the years to make this more beneficial to everyone.

Finance Committee: Steve McConnell presented the final budget report from 2018. Just over \$1000 was brought in from the end of year fundraising letter. A variety of donations by Friends from all over were received. A donation of postage paid envelopes was received from Lynn Zeleski's husband, Sam, and was very helpful in keeping postage costs down. Topeka Friends sent a check to contribute to the YM. The report was received with gratefulness.

The budget for 2019 was presented. David Nagle thought it would be helpful for host monthly meetings to have a report to refer to as they plan for sessions. Connie can get some numbers put together to get to the University Friends host committee for the next sessions. This should continue to be done going forward. A budget update sooner following actual YM sessions would be helpful. Friends travelling in the ministry need to let Connie know if they are planning on using any of the funds available. Maybe the clerk could ask the reps if they are planning on using the funds so the finance committee can plan. The title of the travel funds on the report was discussed to help clarify agency travel versus traveling in ministry by home missions. When the nominating committee is asking friends to be reps to agencies, they could possibly ask if they will need funds to travel. This information could then be relayed back to finance committee so they can prepare the budget. While we would like to increase the budget for travel, this depends on an increase in donations from monthly meetings and individuals. It was suggested to create and label a 'travel fund' line item. A lengthy discussion followed and it was suggested that Finance committee delve into this further at yearly meeting sessions.

Ministry & Counsel – Cliff – presented a draft statement regarding inclusion of all peoples (race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, etc.) and discernment among the yearly meeting. GPYM has an open and affirming

attitude, but no actual statement. David Nagle suggested some Biblical grounding may be helpful to add. Friends shared their feelings and discussion followed. Cliff will take the information gathered and share it with Ministry & Counsel at yearly meeting sessions and see where discernment leads. Dorlan share some history of 30 years ago in NYM regarding this subject and some division it caused.

2020 Yearly Meeting session: John Calvi is our speaker. He will speak Friday (topic of Service) and Saturday (topic of avoiding burnout, choosing work) evenings and also doing a workshop. He has proposed four workshop subjects: Quakers & healing, Simple clothes-on massage, Avoiding burnout and The Quaker Initiative to End Torture – QUIT. Friends were drawn to the Quakers & Healing topic. Laura Dungan will be his elder for the weekend.

Youth & Children: It is really necessary to have an oversight or lead person to take care of organizing the children and youth programs. There is money in the Webb Fund to cover expenses. LaVonna has spoken with Sue Wine and Pam Chambers and they may be willing to help, probably with the children. The names of Wes Miller, Dave Suttle, Dean Young and Aaron Fowler were suggested for the youth. Dorlan would be willing to talk to Dean & Aaron to see what their availability is. Andrea Suttle was suggested as well for the children. LaVonna will work a schedule outline so we know when programming is needed.

Displays from agencies: An email should be sent to those agencies to let them know that space will be available for them.

Dorlan shared that the speaker this year is apropos for Heartland. Jayleen Reed has started a group with an emphasis on healing. They meet once a month. The Wild Onion Dinner in Hominy is set for March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Steve suggested we invest in a microphone when zoom is used. I would be helpful so everyone can hear more clearly.

Appointment list corrections were discussed from David Nagle, David Ozaki. & Steve McConnell.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Mallonee, Recording Clerk

## Appendices

### Statement of Inclusion

From: GPYM Ministry & Counsel

To: Great Plains Yearly Meeting, May 31, 2019

*Statement of Inclusion, approved 4:50 p.m., May 31, 2019*

We of Great Plains Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends recognize there is that of God in every person, and as people of faith and followers of Christ, we know that the tapestry of humanity is woven with the varied threads of God's beloved people.<sup>1</sup> Different and alike, we are all God's creations. God calls us to love one another as God loves us.<sup>2</sup> Our views are informed by scripture and our own experience of God's gifts and grace. Thus we affirm that people of any race, ethnicity, religious belief or nonbelief, nationality, socio-economic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, mental or physical capacity are welcome in our midst and are invited to fully participate in the life of Great Plains Yearly Meeting. Our Quaker testimonies of equality, peace, and community inspire our goal to extend grace, inclusion, and love to all.

<sup>1</sup>John 3:16-17

<sup>2</sup>Mark 12:31; Matt. 5:43-47; John 15:12-14; 1 John 4:7-12; Gal. 3:28-29 & 5:5-6

### Epistle

June 2, 2019

To All Friends Everywhere:

Great Plains Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends gathered for its 112<sup>th</sup> annual sessions May 30 – June 2, 2019, at University Friends Meeting in Wichita, Kansas. We rejoiced at the opportunity to fellowship together and to grow in the Spirit. We welcomed Friends and visitors from Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas, Illinois, Vermont, Colorado, and Germany.

Our theme – *Much Good Needs Doing . . . Growing in Peace and Love* – came to fruition as we adopted a Statement of Inclusion. The Statement recognizes that God calls us to love one another as God loves us, and we affirmed that all people are welcome in our midst and are invited to fully participate in the life of the Yearly Meeting. The Statement is the culmination of over 30 years of discernment within the Yearly Meeting, and it aided in healing some old wounds. We are indeed growing in peace and love.

We were reminded that "love is not a thing; it's a thing that does." During Bible Study on Friday and Saturday mornings, we examined the Gospel

stories in which Jesus revealed the Love of God by healing a blind man at the Pool of Siloam and a lame man at the Pool of Bethesda. We heard reports of the good works being done by Friends United Meeting and Quaker agencies, including the American Friends Service Committee, Friends World Committee for Consultation, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Quaker Earthcare Witness, and Friends General Conference. Our hearts were gladdened to learn of increased enrollment at Wichita Friends School and of the ways in which it blesses its students through love and acceptance. State of Society reports informed us of how God has been working within our constituent meetings and leading Friends to service in the world.

John Calvi of Putney (VT) Monthly Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting, served as our keynote speaker. John is a longtime Quaker with a recognized gift of healing. John spoke of Friends' call to service in the world. He wisely counseled us that "we want to be doing our best, not our most," and that "in order to do our best, we must choose carefully." In a workshop, John introduced us to a simple massage form – a "laying on of hands" – which we then practiced on one another. Another workshop, led by David Hanson, shared information about justice issues for Native Americans.

Although Great Plains Friends have much to celebrate, we also have our challenges. One of our meetings – Council House Monthly Meeting, a small congregation with Native American heritage – informed us that it will soon be unable to continue in its current manner, and it is seeking a way forward. Moreover, our Presiding Clerk expressed an intention to step down after one more year of service, but leadership has not yet been raised up to transition into that role. We place our trust in the Lord to guide us through these changes.

Our children and youth were well cared for by willing and dedicated adults who designed and implemented a program of education, service, and just plain fun. We are always grateful for the joy and gladness that radiates from our young folks and blesses us all.

It seems appropriate to conclude this epistle with the final sentence of our new Statement of Inclusion: "Our Quaker testimonies of equality, peace, and community inspire our goal to extend grace, inclusion, and love to all." May the Living Christ be with us in our efforts to be faithful.

With peace and joy,

LaVonna Loesch, Presiding Clerk

## State of Society Reports

### **Central City Monthly Meeting**

State of Society – May 2019

Greetings from Central City Friends Meeting!

Central City Friends meet monthly, most commonly on the third Sunday. We are maintaining our worship of about a half dozen attenders. We are pleased to have the occasional new attender and are always glad to have distant Friends come to visit. It was a pleasure to have a big enough crowd in March to push two tables together!

We helped plan and attended the Nebraska Quaker Fall Gathering in Lincoln in October. We welcomed John Calvi who shared his insights as a Quaker healer. Attendance was good and it was a pleasure to get together with other Friends in Nebraska. We hope to continue this annual event.

We enjoyed caroling Selma Mesner at her home at Christmas. We are missing her regular attendance at Meeting.

In response to severe flooding this spring we sent \$333 donations to three tribes with Nebraska connections. The Ponca tribe, the Santee Sioux and the Oglala Sioux of the Pine Ridge reservation.

We are holding fellow peace activist and friend Caryl Guisinger, and her family, in the light as she battles cancer.

We approved a minute of appreciation for Tabby Spence who spent her high school years attending meeting and has been a social activist since in her homes of Texas, England and Pakistan. We are pleased and awed that she has lived her commitment to equity, peace and the environment. She and her husband in Pakistan have had their lives at risk due to their activism. She is back in the U.S. this summer and we hope to have her come share her experiences with us.

We individually and corporately continue to be involved in peace and justice issues, including monthly vigils with the Central Nebraska Peace Workers in Grand Island; the annual Harvest of Harmony parade in Grand Island. We also work nationally and internationally with American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Friends General Conference and Quaker Earthcare Witness.

Problems of the world can seem overwhelming but we are happy to worship together and do what we can where we are.

## **Council House Monthly Meeting**

Isaiah 40:31 ESV -- *But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.*

2 Timothy 4:7-8 ESV -- *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing*

The words of Isaiah have brought us comfort and encouragement over these many years. However, we have reached the point where we now identify with the words of Timothy. With just two of us carrying the burden, we recognize our increasing frailty and inability to continue to shoulder the responsibilities. Nevertheless, we feel blessed as we consider what we have been able to accomplish with God's help over the past year.

We had the windows in the back room of the parsonage replaced with quality Pella units and had some other work done on it, too. We have worked on the loom house and the exterior is now more attractive. We fixed the corner entrance door to the Meetinghouse, including a functional latch and lock. Overall our facilities are in pretty good shape and we are keeping up with the grounds.

The cemetery is well maintained, a mapping of grave plots project has been completed and the information saved on computer. The average person likely has little idea of the work involved in running a cemetery and this burden has become too great to continue carrying. Please pray that God will enable someone capable to take on this responsibility.

Our hopes for a revitalized fellowship have not materialized and attendance has been low. Two of us continue faithfully with occasional participation by others. We do not have the physical capability to continue the status quo. We also recognize that we are nearing the end of our days here on this earth. We have been praying and searching for how best to go forward.

We are firm in our resolve to see Council House remain a Native American friendly, Quaker outpost in this fast-growing area of Oklahoma. We are also committed to providing facilities for Quivering Arrow Camp. Selling our facilities to a non-Friends entity is not an acceptable option. Thus, we have initiated contact with Hominy Friends to explore other options. One might be for us to lay down our monthly meeting and to become a preparative meeting under Hominy Friends. Our hope is that any such measure would be an interim one, to facilitate a search for new leadership and re-birth.

We feel that programmed worship better suits our community than silent worship. We continue to feel strongly that Friends have much to offer the wider community in our approach to worship and in living out our faith.

As we approach the end of our race, we appeal to Great Plains Friends to earnestly pray and seek God's will for our future here at Council House. May our actions glorify God.

On behalf of Council House Monthly Meeting,  
Frankie Sue Johnson, Clerk

### **Heartland Friends Meeting**

State of Society, Fifth Month, 2019

Friends, meet together and know one another in that which is eternal, which was before the world was. -- George Fox, 1657 2.35 Quaker Faith and Practice Britain Yearly Meeting

Heartland Friends Meeting has blossomed with many gifts, some challenging and others to be savored and simply appreciated. New members have provided joy and meaning-filled appreciation among Friends; and it's always heartwarming when new members bring their children into our presence and subsequently our future. We continue to learn how much better we can be when a child leads the way.

We share our grounds and meetinghouse with others. We feel joy when children and teachers of the Wichita Friends School worship in our space on Monday mornings. We hosted both children and teachers for Christmas parties. On Earth Day in April, 35 children and their teachers were led in an active and deep worship experience as they walked our Path of Quaker Testimonies. We are pleased to provide a place of Spirit and Friendly Community to these children. Other hosted events include a monthly spiritual study group and an evening poetry concert. We joined together with University Friends Meeting to host two labyrinth walks: 'Winter Solstice' at Heartland and 'Good Friday' walk at UFM. Both events were well attended and brought people from the community to our worship spaces.

We tried something new this year for our Christmas Candlelight Service: the Biblical story of Jesus told through song selections. Many were appreciative and uplifted by the experience; some found the changes challenging. We appreciate the gift of these challenges.

Last summer a member of Heartland Friends Meeting shared a leading, and after several months of discernment *Meetings for Healing* were implemented. Every month on the first First Day people gather in our worship room at 8:15 to intentionally pray for healing prior to adult education hour.

A new initiative began when building and grounds committee created gallery spaces for members and friends of the Meeting to share their art creations or collections. Beautiful artwork from handwoven pieces of clothing to paintings, handcrafted jewelry, custom quilts, and other art media have adorned the walls of our meetinghouse throughout the year.

Committees provide opportunities for comprehensive growth and models for demonstrating Quaker process at Heartland. Our building and grounds committee meets regularly in an ongoing effort to address the stability and longevity of our beautiful facility. Heartland members and attenders at-large enjoy the benefits of coming together 2-3 times a year to gather and work in unity to clean, wax, shine, mop, cut, weed, decorate, etc., for the sustained upkeep of our grounds and building. Those days invite each of us to demonstrate good stewardship and build community.

Finance Committee has expanded its membership and is discovering what sort of rhythm and information-sharing is needed for their work during the year. All attenders and members of Heartland Friends Meeting enjoy the opportunity to learn about and be involved in our yearly budgeting process as well as about the work of the finance committee.

The attendance and membership blessings we've experienced during the past year have served to encourage us to take pause and reflect on the structural traditions we hold in relationship to our "Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business." On the 2nd Sunday of each month, we begin with a 9:30am carry-in breakfast, followed with worship, and business meeting starting at 12:30. This is a very long day for most of us. We continue to search for pathways that move us forward and honor Quaker traditions, while simultaneously embracing and empowering all of our community.

Listening is an act of patience and love. Our Christ-centered fellowship and our Quaker faith tradition encourage us be deep *listeners* ... to the God Spirit within our individual selves, to each other, and to the leadings and unity that weave our personal journeys together as we move Heartland Friends Meeting, with all that we need to be, into our future.

Angela Young, Clerk

## **Hominy Monthly Meeting State of Society 2019 Report**

*Be still and know that I am God.* Almost weekly Frances Holding would quote this passage as we entered into open worship. Part of her heritage is this message of what we should be about as we gather together to worship. At Hominy Friends we also find comfort in the promise that where two or three gather together in His name, He will be there in the midst. Our desire is to become better grounded in God's love so that we may better share His love with those around us. Love is made real as it inspires our actions.

We have been gratified to experience a growing dedication on the part of a number of Friends and continued faithfulness by others. We are hopeful that these will continue in the coming year. We recognize the importance of coming together more than just once a week and so, after a hiatus of some years, we have finally resumed holding a Wednesday evening Bible study this spring. We

are already feeling blessed. Special events such as our Christmas Eve children's presentation, Wild Onion Dinner, Easter events, and Mothers' Day cookout afford us with opportunities to work together joyfully in pursuit of our objectives. One of our families also hosts weekly open worship meetings in their living room. We have sanctioned this as an allowed meeting for worship under our care and have invited Chesterfield M.M., Ohio Yearly Meeting to share in oversight of this endeavor.

We have explored ways to better communicate amongst ourselves and beyond. We are making more frequent use of text messaging and Facebook messaging. We have created a Facebook page for our meeting and at long last have a new and improved homepage on the web. Phone calls and face-to face conversations continue to be important opportunities to be more supportive of one another.

We continue to pursue our concern for greater fellowship among Friends in our geographic area. We participate in Quivering Arrow Camp along with Wyandotte Friends and Kickapoo Friends. Upon learning that Ramona Friends Church had become an independent congregation, we invited them to worship with us. Accordingly, their clerk joined us for worship on the occasion of a visit to us by two members of the FWCC Traveling Ministry Corps. Several Tulsa Friends were also present. Ramona Friends subsequently invited Hominy Friends and those of our progeny, Green Country Friends (South Central Yearly Meeting), to join them for a fellowship dinner which they graciously provided. Two couples from Hominy attended and the person from Green Country was also able to be with them for worship prior to the dinner. The FWCC guests also worshipped with Friends in Norman, Oklahoma City, Stillwater, and Tahlequah before heading north to Wichita. Our minister responded to a request by Council House Friends and met with them 5/15. Beth Green-Nagle led worship at Council House two Sundays last fall. A possible workday for South Central YM Friends at Council House is also being considered again. That we are so geographically scattered means that we must be intentional about developing relationships and fostering fellowship as we seek to encourage one another in the faith.

Leadership development continues as a priority for us and we covet everyone's prayers as we seek to address this essential need. As we build each other up, we become enabled to better share God's wondrous love in our communities and beyond.

On behalf of Hominy Monthly Meeting,  
Carole Revard, Presiding Clerk

### **Lubbock Friends of Christ Quaker Meeting** State of Society Report, Fifth Month 2019

Lubbock Friends of Christ Quaker Meeting continues to gather regularly for Friendly Bible Study and unprogrammed worship. We witnessed God at work restoring relationships as Jock Cameron and Sally Hockley reunited in marriage

after two decades apart. The wedding, held in Tenth Month, was the first in the thirty-year history of our meeting.

During Second Month, our consideration of a query helped us realize that our primary work is being spiritual companions to one another as we each seek to draw closer to God. It is truly a blessing to belong to a community that provides encouragement and support along the way.

We strive to be faithful at doing what we have been called to do: maintaining a witness to the beauty, power, and simplicity of traditional Quaker Christianity. May we continue to grow in peace and love.

### **Topeka Friends Meeting, State of the Society, 2018-2019**

On August 7, 2018, Duane's first book of fiction was published as an ebook. The title of the book is, "Escape from Earth: the Journal of a Planetary Pioneer," and is about a group of people that make a dangerous journey from Earth to homestead a new planet. It will be released as a print book but the date of release has not been announced.

On September 10, 2018, long time member David Beale died after a long decline following a broken hip. David was a thoughtful and caring member of the meeting and his gentle soul will be greatly missed.

January 14, 2019, John retired from his job as the Kansas Securities Commissioner. He has also been the Chair of the Kansas Corporation Commission, Assistant Secretary of State, and Assistant Insurance Commissioner, during his 34-year career with the State of Kansas. We are sure that John will be as active and productive in retirement as he was in his career with the state.

John and Sue have lived in Topeka for 38 years and have recently finished their move back to Wichita so that they can be closer to their family. John and Sue and their children were one of the founding families of the Topeka Friends Meeting. They have provided guidance and strength during the formative years of the meeting and their counsel will be greatly missed. We regret that we will not see them on a regular basis but look forward to visiting with them during yearly meetings in Wichita.

In the last twelve months James has completed several maintenance projects on the meetinghouse, including lowering the kitchen floor so that the door does not rub on it and replacing the fascia of the front porch. Most of the work he initiated on his own and he would not accept compensation.

September 20, 2018, James had surgery on his left hand to repair a torn tendon. He was supposed to have a period of recuperation following the surgery but he barely slowed down and continued to work at his usual tireless pace.

On February 25, 2019, James was arrested and charged with two parole violations. Several members of the meeting wrote letters and made phone calls in support of James. We are awaiting the final decision of the parole board and continue to hold James in the light.

Lori has become active in Friends Committee on National Legislation. She has started participating in the weekly FCNL telephone conferences with Oread Friends Meeting as part of their local advocacy team. Lori looks forward to meeting with the Kansas political establishment to push grassroots change in the national political discussion.

The meeting has enjoyed the fellowship with Suzanne and Dianna. They have both brought fresh air and new energy to the meeting and we look forward to spending additional time getting to know each of them.

The meeting continues to enjoy fellowship with each other especially at the monthly pot luck meals that always seems to draw out lively conversation.

### **University Friends Meeting, State of the Society Report, May 2019**

*To all in GPYM who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.  
(Romans 1: 7 NIV)*

Over the past year University Friends Meeting has experienced all the highs and lows that can be in the body of believers. Our body reveled in the joys of successful outreach events and corporate celebrations. Yet, began this year with the news that our faithful pastor of nearly a quarter century was retiring and seeking a new direction in life.

Outreach included our continued support and involvement with Family Promise of Greater Wichita. Our church supported Family Promise both financially and with our time. We have hosted and fed homeless families for four weeks over the past year. Many great relationships were formed. Many from our body attended the annual Family Promise Gala in October that raised thousands for the continued work of the ministry.

In the Summer, our Vacation Bible School was once again a resounding success.

October was a busy month for outreach starting with Singing Quaker Heritage Sunday to end the homecoming weekend at Friends University. A large crowd enjoyed the concert and hamburgers and hotdogs afterwards outside. This has become a very popular event but the future of it is in limbo as the current director of the Singing Quakers is leaving to assist his wife in caring for her family in Canada. On the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Arthur Larrabee once again travelled from Philadelphia to remind us how a clerk and a body should function in a way that honors and respects all speakers. A very good

representation of faith groups attended. October ended with a great turnout of neighborhood (and otherwise) kids seeking sweets in a safe environment at “Trunk-or-Treat.” It was almost a reproduction of the feeding of the five thousand.

In the spring we shared a labyrinth walk with Heartland Friends Meeting that appealed to many outside our meetings. A spiritual retreat focused on poetry with Mark Burrows drew a great response from many faith backgrounds. In March our church hosted a fundraising event for the Singing Quakers as they sought funding for their summer concert tour in Europe. A Sunday Jazz Service with a combo that included our Pastor Cliff and another member of our body was greatly praised.

Events within the meeting sought to foster a greater fellowship among us. Our Thanksgiving meal was well attended as always. The Christmas Eve Candlelight service continues to hold us close to the miracle of Christ’s birth in a manger. The Jazz Sunday highlighted our Advent week.

Easter highlighted what has been a great blessing to our music ministry this year. Due to the hard work in recruiting by LaVonna Loesch, FOUR Friends University students (and one fiancé) joined our ranks in music ministry. They sang in the choir and played hand bells for us. The good news is that it appears all of them will be back with us next year! The bell choir also includes several from a former neighborhood church that joined another congregation. Those that wanted to continue playing bells now join our group for Sunday services.

Muffins for Moms fed the congregations sweet tooth for Mother’s Day and Donuts for Dads will undoubtedly expand our congregation on Father’s Day.

On the other side of the coin, Ministry and Counsel was informed in December that our committee clerk was withdrawing his family from fellowship with University Friends, followed quickly by the same decision by the Clerk of the Meeting. Just as the body began to struggle with this turmoil, we were informed of the Decision of Cliff and LaVonna to retire from paid ministry after twenty-five years as our spiritual guides. As Ken Jack so aptly stated: “Cliff has served as lead pastor at UFM for 25 years – a long season. His tenure, from the beginning and throughout, has exemplified consistent, loving care for the members of UFM. Cliff’s love for us makes it hard to accept his announced retirement. But the coming of seasons, good and bad, peaceful and stressful, healthful and ill, is unknowable and outside our control. Ecclesiastes teaches us, therefore, to rejoice in the individual days of our lives, as they come to us day by day. In our last weeks and days with Cliff as our pastor we may do just that – rejoice. These coming weeks are a time to be with Cliff and his family, and to rejoice with them, looking back on good times, and looking forward to more good times for Cliff, for his family, and for UFM.”

And now we embark on a new journey of discovery about ourselves. Interim ministry has been procured and preparations are underway for those Sundays that fall between our interim ministers' availability. The toughest part is transitioning from the grief period into the acceptance and moving on steps. Our prayer is for peace, listening, understanding and cooperation as we seek to know God's intention for our body. May all of our words and actions glorify him. Amen.

*Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. (Acts 20: 28)*

## **Reports: Quaker Agencies, Entities and FUM**

### **AFSC Corporation Meeting**

April 11-13, 2019 Philadelphia, PA

For the second year in a row, I took a trip to Philadelphia on behalf of Great Plains Yearly Meeting to represent us on the American Friends Service Committee corporation. There was no big familiar packet of prep material and supporting information in the mail this year, instead the information was all nested online. After resetting passwords, consulting the help desk, downloading translation apps that froze, and negotiating AFSC's confounding intranet I printed my "reading materials" and participated in a pre-meeting conference call, and made my reservations. My enthusiasm level was low, but I was ready.

I am pleased to report the journey to the Corporation Meeting, the many conversations that followed, the listening and worship among gathered Friends and staff, and the challenges examined far outweighed my preparation snafus. The Committee operates programs acting in faith, on Quaker values, from 31 US cities. It also, has international programs in 17 countries and United Nations offices. I was among staff and volunteers who were thoughtful, informed, energized, and creative. We are making a difference in the lives of our neighbors, communities, and especially young people. We are speaking truth to power, listening, informing, helping, and educating. It is clear that Friends have a unique and distinctive voice that is needed now in our world.

I was able to participate in three staff led workshops, two plenary sessions, a strategic planning working group, three business sessions of the corporation, two presentation dinners, and worship sessions. The agenda was packed and engaging. I was pleased to learn how the AFSC and the Friends Committee on National Legislation find common area to work together and inform each other with advocacy arising from community needs.

I experienced a condensed but powerful workshop presented by youth of color and young staff on "Decolonizing the Future". A plenary session on "Love Knows No Borders" demonstrated our commitment through action to our

neighbors who happen to be migrants seeking a dignified life for themselves and their children. A workshop on the plight of the Palestinian people of Gaza was informative and heartbreaking. Marc Lamont Hill, a Temple University Professor, and fired CNN commentator, shared his experiences on suppression of free speech in the media while working across borders.

While listening to our treasurer, Susan Cozzens, report to the corporation, I learned that the AFSC is on the right path, having struggled to balance current and future program spending against anticipated revenue streams. Still, there will be downsizing in staff and programming for another year. It is painful to lighten our voice and work and lay off staff when the needs of our ever-changing world are growing. I am hopeful that the organization has turned a corner that leads to growth.

The Friends Relations Committee of the AFSC continues to build bridges among Quakers through active outreach to meet Friends where they are, while inviting participation and sharing through the internet. AFSC hosts workshops at the Friends General Conference Gathering. Our service committee is rich in data, analysis, and real human stories. Details of the work are easily available at [afsc.org](http://afsc.org) or [starcafe.org](http://starcafe.org). Because the AFSC and Britain's Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW) received the 1947 Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of all Quakers, as monthly meetings the AFSC invites us to forward names for nomination consideration of an organization or individual for the Nobel Peace Prize. You can learn more at [quakernobel.org/node/4](http://quakernobel.org/node/4).

My adventures in Philadelphia, especially at the very old Race Street Meeting House, representing GPYM with other Friends, was thought provoking and enlightening. It was time well spent. I thank you for the opportunity and encourage you to learn more about our American Friends Service Committee. I am happy to share through visitation.

Respectfully,  
Dean A. Young, Heartland Friends Meeting

### **FUM report for GPYM regarding Belize Friends School**

Patrice Stephenson 5/11/19

I was invited to represent Cliff Loesch at FUM Board sessions in Belize City March 4-5, 2019. It was a practical request in view of the fact that I was going anyway, to honor my brother-in-law, Dale Graves, by being present when they named a hall after him for his contributions to the school/church/community center.

**Overview:** Friends Boys School in Belize City was established to give young people a second chance to succeed at entering High School or Trade School. Most students have experienced trauma and early exposure to abuse or neglect which has long-term impact on performance and literacy. Some have autism dyslexia, ADD, or simply dysfunctional or single parent homes with many

children. They are referred to BFS with the expectation that their failing status can upturn within two years of intensive care and individual instruction. Its reputation and record of success makes it well known among Belizeans.

The determination was made to relocate in order to expand services, become a School, Community Center and Meeting for Worship. Dale was interim director during this transition and spent the better part of three years researching and renovating the tire store/warehouse into a new campus, with the help of scads of volunteer work crews. Within its gates are currently 3 classrooms, school offices, a minister's apartment, a dormitory with bunk beds and plumbing facilities for visiting guests, meeting hall, and a director's quarters including kitchen, living area, 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. Neighbors graciously allow the use of a field next door to grow vegetables and play sports.

**Report:** We heard from the Friends School Board of Directors, led by Lisbeth Ayuso, president. Her expertise and community integrity are clear, as well as her drive to serve, embracing Quaker guidelines. Of first priority is to change the name from Friends Boys School to Friends School, as girls have been students there for years. Beyond that, concerns are like that of any private school, addressing curriculum, staffing, mission statement update, budget, funding, and social issues. Unique concerns are noise and dust that effect health of students and staff. The school is located on the south side of the city where need is the greatest and bus transportation is available, but it is across the street from the entrance to one of the most active shipping piers in the world, meaning there is constant truck traffic and dust. Air conditioning would be a great improvement. The head of school was out on maternity leave and we heard from the interim principal. He is a meteorologist by trade, but as a neighbor became involved with the school years ago. Also contributing to day-to-day function are two teachers, a bookkeeper and a minister, Oscar Mmbali, a graduate of Friends Theological Seminary in Kaimosi, Kenya. In addition are two volunteers from Baltimore Friends Meeting, who contribute to building concerns and education standards.

Of most interest was the introduction of Nikki Holland who has been assigned to fill the position of director. She, her husband Brian, and three boys have been living in Merida, Mexico and are presently on a fundraising tour in order to make their move. (Donations can be made to Friends United Meeting, tagged for this purpose.) This family will provide enthusiastic and efficient leadership to the community. "Love is not a thing that is. It is a thing that does," she said. Nikki's first order of business is to determine the strengths of current staff, help them define their roles, and develop the team. Besides her vision of academic standards, is her commitment to Friends community welfare already active, raising awareness and protection from human trafficking, police officer relations, and gang violence.

I invite Friends to contribute to this mission with hope, prayer, funds, and, if you are so inclined, to pay them a visit. There is much good to do there! You can learn more by following them on Facebook, going to their website and by following FUM.

## **FWCC Section of the Americas Annual Meeting**

Beth Green-Nagle, GPYM representative, March 21-24, 2019

The 2019 FWCC Section of the Americas Meeting was held at Lake Doniphan Camp and Conference Center, outside Kansas City, Missouri. As a Section, we explored the questions: “Who is my neighbor?” and “How can we all be Friends?” and we were challenged to “Come and see!” “¡Ven y ve!” from John 1:46.

I served as a representative for GPYM to the Section and the Bible Study leader for three mornings. I continued my service as a member of the Bilingual Resource Group by interpreting consecutively during sessions and workshops and by translating documents as needed.

LaVonna Loesch, Lori Laub (from SCYM), and I gave an introductory presentation about Quakers in the Great Plains region of the United States. We shared a slide show with photos of many of the meetings and churches in our region representing MAYM, GPYM, and SCYM. We discussed the following questions:

- How far do you drive to attend your Yearly Meeting sessions? (and on Sundays)
- How do you see Spirit at work in your Yearly Meeting/Monthly Meeting?
- What does worship look like in your Church or Meeting?
- How do youth and children participate in the life of your Church/Meeting?

During the three morning Bible study sessions, I asked the participants to consider what it means to be "Called to Love Our Neighbors." I used *The Art of Neighboring* by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon as a resource, especially the block map. I led the participants through the exercise of asking:

- Who is my geographic neighbor in my community? Luke 10:25-37, the Parable of the Good Samaritan.
- What obstacles prevent us from taking the commandment to love our neighbors literally? Luke 10:38-47 and Luke 5:27-32.
- How can we apply the commandment to love our neighbors to our spiritual community in the Religious Society of Friends? 1 Kings 17:7-16 and John 17: 20-23.

Overall impressions:

- I was grateful to hear the messages from Joel Cook, Virginia Jalire Quispe, Emily Provance, and Dave Williams.
- The overtly Christian messages brought by speakers were difficult for some in attendance but were welcome by many others.
- Joel Cook shared a powerful message about his spiritual journey raised in the Christian Science tradition, finding a home in the Religious Society of Friends, and coming to terms with his identity as a gay man. This message

was challenging for some of the Latin American Friends in attendance and caused some controversy among them.

- There is an ongoing effort by the Section to increase the number of sustaining donors, and we were encouraged to consider a monthly gift to support the Sections office and FWCC ministries.

### **Quaker Earthcare Witness Report**

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) continues to provide Friends with resources that facilitate spirit-led action to help the earth. They emphasize Quaker process and seek continuing revelation.

QEW makes sure that its webpage has up-to-date links to information, including many publications. I have printed some of the information and have it here for you to review. I will also be around with my iPad if you would like to get online and check out more of their resources. For more information go to <https://www.quakerearthcare.org>

Every meeting should be aware of the “Earthcare Witness Toolkit for Meetings” which includes a 250-page study, three issues of the “BeFriending Creation”, an “Earthcare Checklist”, and many pamphlets. There is no charge but the kit but meetings are asked to make a \$35 contribution, if possible, to cover costs. The pamphlets can be downloaded individually.

QEW holds an annual research institute and a Fall Steering Committee Meeting. I plan to attend the FGC Gathering this summer and will visit with QEW representatives at that event.

John Wine, Topeka Friends Meeting

### **Wichita Friends School**

Dear Great Plains Yearly Meeting,

Wichita Friends School’s theme for this year is “We Choose Joy”. It is with great joy that I share with you the journey of this past year at Wichita Friends School. Our school week starts strong with Monday morning worship that provides a space for children, staff, and visitors to seek and recognize “that of God” in each of us. This is a time of reflection in our busy lives that strengthens all of us with peace and joy that are carried into our week.

2018-19 has been a year of growth for Wichita Friends School in many ways. At our end-of-year celebration, we joyfully recognized 40 amazing children, our highest enrollment in more than a decade. With high retention numbers for the 2019-2020 school year, we anticipate another great year of growth. We have grown from enrolling children 3 years old through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to 2 ½ years old through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

Another area of growth experienced this year is the continued development of a strong team of teachers and enrichment leaders. I offer prayers of gratitude for our WFS teachers every day. They are passionate about their classes. The play, curiosity and discovery they incorporate into lessons inspire our children to love learning. They love working with each other as a team. They build relationships with our parents that help our young families grow. By modeling kindness and respect, our teachers are having a long-lasting impact on the lives of our students. I appreciate the guidance of our Board of Directors and our Education Committee. Our Board is working on increasing our compensation to bring WFS teacher salaries close to the Wichita salaries; and our Education Committee mentors our teaching staff with decades of educational experience in diverse settings.

The mission of Wichita Friends School is to provide a high-quality academic experience within a supportive learning environment that deeply reflects the Quaker values of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship. These SPICES are an important framework for all we do at school. Each month we emphasize one of the SPICES -- having discussions, read-aloud books and fun activities around the featured testimony. Seeing our young children deepen their practice of peace, community, fairness and truth-telling and hearing young conversations about simplicity and stewardship is amazing and beautiful. Teaching values through the Quaker SPICES is very effective in our early childhood setting.

I feel God's presence daily at Wichita Friends School among our teachers, among our students, in how we discipline with love, and in all the smiles and kindnesses that are shared. I believe we are transforming our children's lives, giving them the tools and loving support they need to make a difference in their communities and in our world. I am convinced that our world needs Quaker education more than ever, and I am delighted to see the impact that our WFS Quaker education is making in these children's lives.

Helen Keller wrote, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." I am deeply grateful for Great Plains Yearly Meeting's partnership with Wichita Friends School. Your prayers, your service, and your financial gifts are crucial to carrying out our school's mission. Thank you.

Warmly, Pam Chambers, Head of School

### **Friends Music Camp Report**

FMC was a busy 3 weeks. There were 6 or so classes every day which really kept us occupied. I had one or two free periods each day not including our meals. The best thing about the camp was the teachers. They were all amazing and very supportive of all campers. They were talented musicians in their own right with one even attending Juilliard. I got to practice a lot and I felt like I really improved even in three weeks, which seems amazing. In the private

lessons I felt really challenged with the music my teacher had me play. It was very nice to sing in the choir and work with peers who were much better singers than I am, but it probably made coming back to Hominy and singing a little hard because I realized we all sang in different keys. Overall, we had full days designed to challenge us and keep us out of trouble, but the experience was extremely valuable and I came out of that camp with a newfound confidence in my playing abilities. We had meetings for silent worship every morning and night. And on Sundays we went to the meetinghouse to worship with Clear Creek Friends.

I really want to say thank you to Great Plains Yearly Meeting for supporting me and making it possible for me to attend and gain that valuable experience. It was incredibly fun and I learned a lot.

Thank you again,  
Joseph Nagle

## **GPYM Committee Reports**

### **Home Missions Committee**

The Home Missions Committee met at University Friends Meeting with some members joining by video conference October 2018 and again February 2019, paying particular attention to facilitating more visitation among Friends in the Great Plains region. Committee members are encouraged by the number of people who showed interested in visiting, and meetings who would like to host visitors after the workshop offered last year during GPYM sessions in Hominy. Prospects for visits and encouragement include: Unaffiliated Friends groups interested in associating with other Quakers for fellowship and increased spiritual unity; Friends in this region who are affiliated with other yearly meetings; the seven monthly meetings that are part of the Great Plains YM family. Committee members and others have begun to undertake these Friendly visits, and we look forward to more in the year to come. Please contact a committee member if you feel drawn to this ministry, or if your meeting would like to host visitors.

Thanks to income from GPYM's Nebraska farm property, funds are available to support this emerging travelling ministry which will draw GPYM congregations and individuals closer together in the Spirit despite the fact that we live in Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. A new worship group under the care of Hominy Monthly Meeting is gathering for worship in the Tahlequah, Oklahoma home of David Nagle, Joseph, Anika, and Beth Green-Nagle.

The Home Missions Committee also supports and encourages gatherings in Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Kansas in the fall and/or spring. Most recently an all-GPYM workshop was hosted by University Friends in October titled *Decision-*

*Making with Joy and Confidence* led by visiting Friend Arthur Larrabee. It was well-attended and well-received. HMC's desire to encourage young adults led to a time of sharing designed for them led by Arthur.

This past year young adults at University Friends created a semi-monthly series of meetings in a casual setting, called Talkies, that were both educational and inspirational. Three new guests were invited to make short presentations and answer questions during each meeting.

Great Plains YM's Home Missions Committee continues to be grateful that Topeka Friends Monthly Meeting and Lubbock Friends of Christ Monthly Quaker Meeting have become active participants, bringing new energy and giftedness to its work. We look forward to gathering for yearly meeting sessions later this month!

Dorlan Bales, Home Missions Committee Clerk

## Treasurer's Report, June 2019

### Report of Budget Year 2018 Activity:

#### Operating Income:

- \$4,786 from monthly meetings.
- \$857 gifts from individuals at yearly meeting. (projected \$700.)
- \$1,240 -- 36 individuals paid registration for 2018 YM.

#### Operating Expenses:

- Yearly Meeting: \$3,333 (balanced by YM income of \$3,375)
- Representative Travel: \$377 (AFSC Corporate Meeting)
- Gifts to Quaker Agencies: \$910
- Travel "Savings" (\$ put aside each year to be used when needed):
  - FUM Triennial - \$300
  - FWCC World Gathering Reps - \$300
  - FWCC World Gathering Asst Fund - \$100
- Operating Expenses - \$635 (non-profit registration, domain name fees, home page cost, printing of YM minutes, postage)

#### Home Missions:

- Ordinary Income: \$13,730 (farm: \$11,200; individuals: \$2,250; monthly meetings: \$260)
- Special gift from Quaker Women's Conference: \$3,374 (a balance sheet account)

#### Expenses:

- \$3,500 - property taxes
- \$2,600 - charitable gifts (Kickapoo Friends, Quivering Arrow, Wichita Friends School)
- \$1,000 – Arthur Larrabee workshop in Wichita

### Report of Budget Year 2019 Activity to-date

#### Income:

- \$2,700 from monthly meetings. Budgeted \$5,200.
- Gifts from individuals: \$95. Budgeted \$1,000.
- Yearly Meeting income to date: \$3,886. Budgeted \$3,300.

#### Expenses:

- Yearly Meeting: will report to fall continuing committee meeting.
- Representative Travel: \$890 (AFSC Corporate Meeting, FWCC Section of the Americas)
- General Operating Expenses (non-profit registration, domain name fees, home page cost, printing of YM minutes, postage) -- \$40
- 2019 Travel "Savings": planned to be equal to 2018.

#### Home Missions:

- \$5,600 income; expect \$5,100 more in farm income.
- No expenses to date.

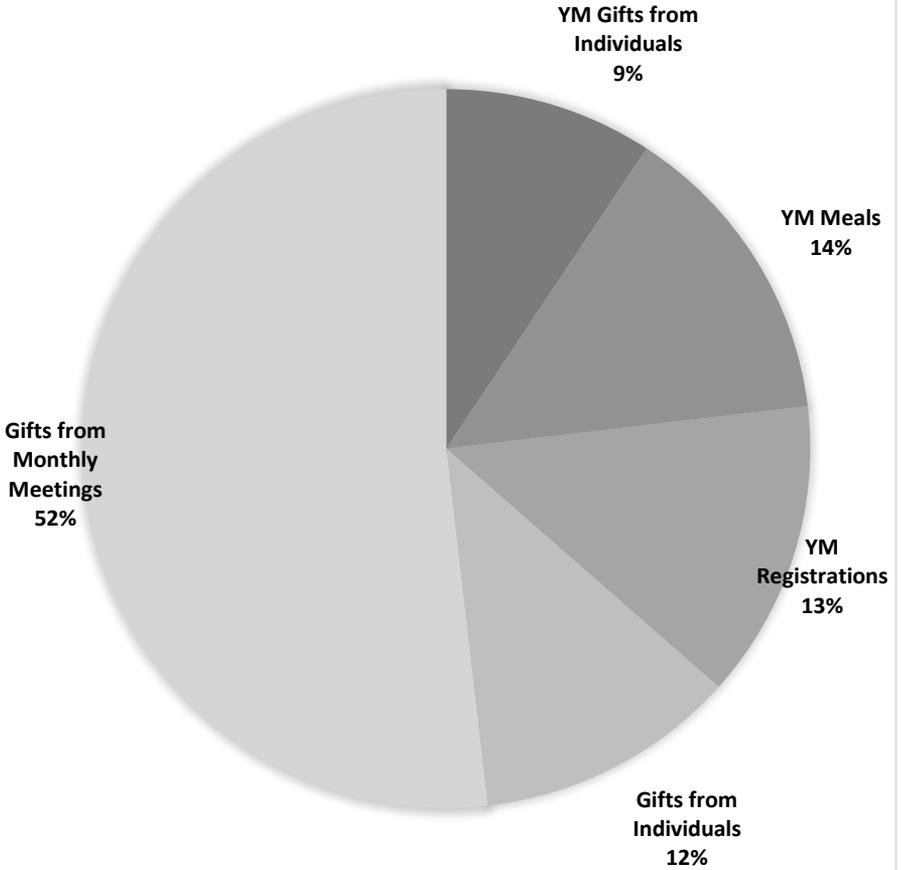
**2018 Final Budget Report**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	<b>Great Plains Yearly Meeting of Friends</b>							
2	<b>Final Budget Report: 2018</b>						<b>Inc/Exp</b>	<b>Budget</b>
3	Ordinary Income/Expense							
4	Income							
5	Annual Yearly Meeting Income							
6	Gifts from Individuals at YM						857.00	700.00
7	Meals						1,278.00	1,300.00
8	Registrations						1,240.00	1,200.00
9	Webb Fund transfer						279.00	-
10	Total Annual Yearly Meeting Income						<b>3,654.00</b>	<b>3,200.00</b>
11	General Operating Income							
12	Gifts from Individuals						1,075.00	1,600.00
13	Gifts from Monthly Meetings							
14	Central City Friends						500.00	500.00
15	Council House Friends						128.00	50.00
16	Heartland Friends						1,900.00	1,900.00
17	Hominy Friends						-	500.00
18	Lubbock Friends of Christ						400.00	400.00
19	Topeka Friends						250.00	250.00
20	University Friends						1,608.00	1,608.00
21	Total Gifts from Monthly Meetings						<b>4,786.00</b>	<b>5,208.00</b>
22	Total General Operating Income						<b>5,861.00</b>	<b>6,808.00</b>
23	Total Income						<b>9,515.00</b>	<b>10,008.00</b>

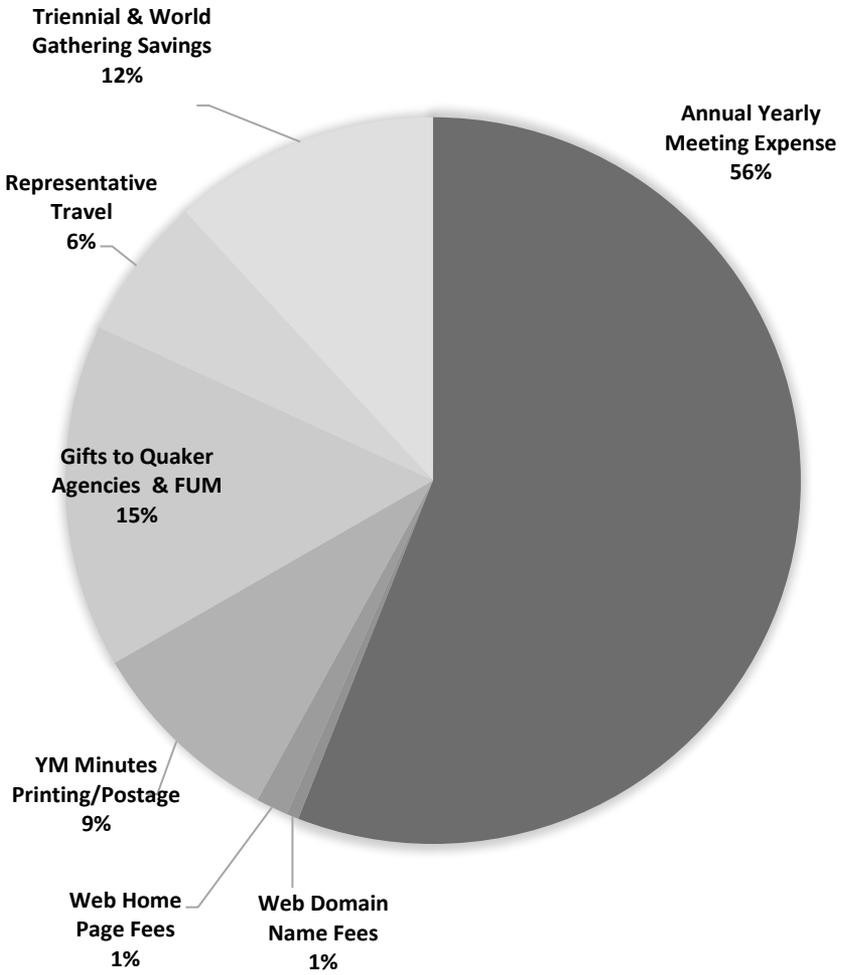
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	
1						<b>Great Plains Yearly Meeting of Friends</b>			
2						<b>Final Budget Report: 2018</b>		<b>Inc/Exp</b>	<b>Budget</b>
24						Expense			
25						Annual Yearly Meeting Expense			
26						Meal Cost	1,471.88	1,300.00	
27						YM Sessions-Speaker/Elder	1,122.99	1,500.00	
28						YM Sessions Programs	160.00		
29						YM Sessions Supplies	-	25.00	
30						Young Friend Ministry/ChildCare	579.00	1,550.00	
31						<b>Total Annual Yearly Meeting Expense</b>	<b>3,333.87</b>	<b>4,375.00</b>	
32						General Operating Expenses			
33						Bank & Accounting Costs	-	-	
34						Non-Profit Registration Fee	-	23.00	
35						Postage	-	60.00	
36						Web Domain Name Fees	31.95	-	
37						Web Home Page Fees	84.00	-	
38						Web Site Development	-	200.00	
39						YM Minutes Printing/Postage	519.60	450.00	
40						Young Friend Care - CC Meetings	-	90.00	
41						<b>Total General Operating Expenses</b>	<b>635.55</b>	<b>823.00</b>	
42						Gifts to Quaker Agencies			
43						AFSC	50.00	50.00	
44						FCNL	50.00	50.00	
45						Friends United Meeting	560.00	560.00	
46						FWCC Section of the Americas	100.00	100.00	
47						Quaker Earthcare Witness	50.00	50.00	
48						Right Sharing of WorldResources	100.00	100.00	
49						<b>Total Gifts to Quaker Agencies</b>	<b>910.00</b>	<b>910.00</b>	
50						Traveling in Ministry-Agencies			
51						Quaker Agency Meetings			
52						Agency Travel Total	-	2,400.00	
53						American Friends Service Cmte	377.51	-	
54						Friends Cmte - Natl Legislation	-	-	
55						FUM General Board	-	-	
56						FWCC Section of the Americas	-	-	
57						Quaker Earthcare Witness	-	-	
58						<b>Total Quaker Agency Meetings</b>	<b>377.51</b>	<b>2,400.00</b>	
59						Travel Savings Accounts			
60						FUM Triennial	300.00	300.00	
61						FWCC World Gathering Asst Fund	100.00	100.00	
62						FWCC World Gathering Reps	300.00	300.00	
63						<b>Total Travel Savings Accounts</b>	<b>700.00</b>	<b>700.00</b>	
64						<b>Total Traveling in Ministry-Agencies</b>	<b>1,077.51</b>	<b>3,100.00</b>	
65						<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>5,956.93</b>	<b>9,208.00</b>	
66						<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>3,558.07</b>	<b>800.00</b>	

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	<b>Great Plains Yearly Meeting of Friends</b>							
2	<b>Final Budget Report: 2018</b>						<b>Inc/Exp</b>	<b>Budget</b>
67	<b>Home Missions Income/Expense</b>							
68	Home Missions Income							
69	Home Missions Income							
70	Farm Income						11,220.00	9,000.00
71	Gifts from Individuals						2,250.00	5,000.00
72	Gifts from Monthly Meetings						260.25	400.00
73	Total Home Missions Income						13,730.25	14,400.00
74	Total Home Missions Income						<b>13,730.25</b>	<b>14,400.00</b>
75	Home Missions Expense							
76	Home Missions Annual Expenses							
77	Farm Property Taxes						3,496.06	4,000.00
78	Support to Home Missions Groups							
79	Kickapoo Friends (MAYM)						900.00	300.00
80	Quivering Arrow Camp						300.00	900.00
81	Wichita Friends School						1,400.00	1,400.00
82	Total Support to Home Missions Groups						2,600.00	2,600.00
83	Total Home Missions Annual Expenses						<b>6,096.06</b>	<b>6,600.00</b>
84	Revit/Leadership Devel Expenses							
85	Communications						-	2,000.00
86	Postage						-	100.00
87	Regional Gatherings/Events						1,000.00	2,500.00
88	Traveling in Ministry						-	2,500.00
89	Total Revit/Leadership Devel Expenses						<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>7,100.00</b>
90	Total Home Missions Expense						<b>7,096.06</b>	<b>13,700.00</b>
91	Net Home Missions Income						<b>6,634.19</b>	<b>700.00</b>

# 2018 INCOME BY SOURCE



# 2018 EXPENDITURES



**Balance Sheet**

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	<b>Great Plains Yearly Meeting of Friends</b>					
2	<b>Balance Sheet as of 5-22-19</b>					
3						Operating Fund
4	ASSETS					Cash Available
5	Current Assets					Computation
6		Checking/Savings				
7			GPYM Operating		30,141.90	30,141.90
8			Home Missions		47,006.85	
9			Savings-Credit Union Membership		5.00	
10			Total Checking/Savings		77,153.75	
11		Other Current Assets				
12			FUM Triennial Travel Fund		-1,170.64	-1,170.64
13			Future Managed Fund Savings		-815.00	-815.00
14			FWCC WorldGathAsst Travel Fund		-600.00	-600.00
15			FWCC WorldGathReps Travel Fund		-2,850.00	-2,850.00
16			HM InterBranch Activities-QWC		-3,374.39	-3,374.39
17			Student Loan Fund		-5,929.87	-5,929.87
18			Webb Fund		-9,265.22	-9,265.22
19			Total Other Current Assets		-24,005.12	
20		Total Current Assets			53,148.63	6,136.78
21	Fixed Assets					
22			Stevens Farm Property Valuation		258,650.00	
23		Total Fixed Assets			258,650.00	
24	TOTAL ASSETS				311,798.63	
25	LIABILITIES & EQUITY					
26		Equity			311,798.63	
27	TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY				311,798.63	

**2019 to-date Budget Report and 2020 Budget Proposal**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1						<b>Great Plains Yearly Meeting of Friends</b>	<b>2020 Approved Budget</b>	<b>2019 Approved Budget</b>	<b>2019 Actual to-date</b>
2						<b>Operating Income</b>			
3						<b>Annual Yearly Meeting Income</b>			
4						Gifts from Individuals at YM	800.00	800.00	1,594.00
5						Meals	1,300.00	1,300.00	1,062.00
6						Registrations	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,230.00
7						Webb Fund transfer	1,000.00	-	-
8						<b>Total Annual Yearly Meeting Income</b>	<b>4,300.00</b>	<b>3,300.00</b>	<b>3,886.00</b>
9						<b>General Operating Income</b>			
10						Gifts from Individuals	500.00	1,000.00	95.00
11						Gifts from Monthly Meetings			
12						Central City Friends	500.00	500.00	500.00
13						Council House Friends	50.00	50.00	-
14						Heartland Friends	1,900.00	1,900.00	950.00
15						Hominy Friends	500.00	500.00	600.00
16						Lubbock Friends of Christ	400.00	400.00	-
17						Topeka Friends	250.00	250.00	-
18						University Friends	1,600.00	1,600.00	670.00
19						<b>Total Gifts from Monthly Meetings</b>	<b>5,200.00</b>	<b>5,200.00</b>	<b>2,720.00</b>
20						<b>Total General Operating Income</b>	<b>5,700.00</b>	<b>6,200.00</b>	<b>2,815.00</b>
21						<b>Total Income</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>9,500.00</b>	<b>6,701.00</b>

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1						<b>Great Plains Yearly Meeting of Friends</b>	<b>2020 Approved Budget</b>	<b>2019 Approved Budget</b>	<b>2019 Actual to-date</b>
22						<b>Operating Expense</b>			
23						<b>Annual Yearly Meeting Expense</b>			
24						Meal Cost	1,500.00	1,300.00	942.36
25						YM Sessions-Speaker/Elder	1,500.00	1,500.00	533.00
26						YM Sessions Programs			-
27						YM Sessions Supplies	25.00	25.00	-
28						Young Friend Ministry/ChildCare	1,550.00	1,550.00	-
29						<b>Total Annual Yearly Meeting Expense</b>	<b>4,575.00</b>	<b>4,375.00</b>	<b>1,475.36</b>
30						<b>General Operating Expenses</b>			
31						Bank & Accounting Costs	30.00	-	-
32						Non-Profit Registration Fee		23.00	20.00
33						Postage	60.00	60.00	-
34						Web Domain Name Fees	40.00	36.00	19.95
35						Web Home Page Fees	90.00	200.00	-
36						YM Minutes Printing/Postage	550.00	500.00	-
37						Young Friend Care - CC Meetings	100.00	-	-
38						<b>Total General Operating Expenses</b>	<b>870.00</b>	<b>819.00</b>	<b>39.95</b>
39						<b>Gifts to FUM &amp; Quaker Agencies</b>			
40						Friends United Meeting	600.00	600.00	-
41						FCNL	150.00	100.00	-
42						AFSC	150.00	150.00	-
43						FWCC Section of the Americas	200.00	150.00	-
44						Quaker Earthcare Witness	150.00	100.00	-
45						Right Sharing of WorldResources	150.00	100.00	-
46						<b>Total Gifts to Quaker Agencies</b>	<b>1,400.00</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>-</b>
47						<b>Representative Travel</b>			
48						Representative Travel Total	2,400.00	2,400.00	-
49						American Friends Service Cmte	-	-	521.11
50						Friends Cmte - Natl Legislation	-	-	-
51						FUM General Board	-	-	-
52						FWCC Section of the Americas	-	-	460.00
53						Quaker Earthcare Witness	-	-	-
54						<b>Total Representative Travel</b>	<b>2,400.00</b>	<b>2,400.00</b>	<b>981.11</b>
55						<b>Travel Savings Accounts</b>			
56						FUM Triennial	300.00	300.00	-
57						FWCC World Gathering Asst Fund	100.00	100.00	-
58						FWCC World Gathering Reps	300.00	300.00	-
59						<b>Total Travel Savings Accounts</b>	<b>700.00</b>	<b>700.00</b>	<b>-</b>
60						<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>9,945.00</b>	<b>9,494.00</b>	<b>2,496.42</b>
61						<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>55.00</b>	<b>6.00</b>	<b>4,204.58</b>
62									

**2019 Home Missions Budget Report & 2020 Budget Proposal**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1						<b>Great Plains Yearly Meeting of Friends</b>	<b>2020 Approved Budget</b>	<b>2019 Approved Budget</b>	<b>2019 Actual to-date</b>
63						<b>Home Missions Income/Expense</b>			
64						Home Missions Income			
65						Farm Income	10,000.00	10,000.00	5,100.00
66						Gifts from Individuals	1,500.00	2,000.00	1,650.00
67						Gifts from Monthly Meetings	250.00	400.00	107.00
68						<b>Total Home Missions Income</b>	<b>11,750.00</b>	<b>12,400.00</b>	<b>6,857.00</b>
69						Home Missions Annual Expenses			
70						Farm Property Taxes	3,500.00	4,000.00	3,370.24
71						Support to Home Missions Groups			
72						Kickapoo Friends (MAYM)	1,200.00	300.00	-
73						Quivering Arrow Camp		900.00	-
74						Wichita Friends School	1,750.00	1,400.00	-
75						<b>Total Support to Home Missions Groups</b>	<b>2,950.00</b>	<b>2,600.00</b>	<b>-</b>
76						<b>Total Home Missions Annual Expenses</b>	<b>6,450.00</b>	<b>6,600.00</b>	<b>3,370.24</b>
77						Revit/Leadership Devel Expenses			
78						Young Adult Leadership Development	3,000.00		
79						Communications	2,000.00	1,900.00	-
80						Postage	-	100.00	-
81						Regional Gatherings/Events	1,000.00	900.00	-
82						Traveling in Ministry	2,500.00	2,900.00	-
83						<b>Total Revit/Leadership Devel Expenses</b>	<b>8,500.00</b>	<b>5,800.00</b>	<b>-</b>
84						<b>Total Home Missions Expense</b>	<b>14,950.00</b>	<b>12,400.00</b>	<b>3,370.24</b>
85	<i>Income/Expense note: Refer to GPYM Balance Sheet for Home Missions funds available.</i>								

**GPYM Statistics**

GPYM 2018 Statistics as presented at 2019 GPYM									
	Central City	Council House	Heartland	Hominy	Lubbock	Topeka	University	Total	
Members last Year	38	8	34	62	11	15	388	556	
Number of additions	0	0	4	0	0	2	3	9	
Births	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Requests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Number of loses	0	0	1	3	0	1	47	52	
Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Requests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Active Adult Members	4	2	22	14	3	15	110	170	
Active Associate Members (youth)	3	0	4	6	0	0	67	80	
Total active adults & youth	7	2	26	20	3	15	177	250	
Inactive & or non-resident adults	30	8	7	0	7	0	160	212	
Inactive & or non-resident associates	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	6	
Total inactive or non-resident members	32	10	11	40	7	0	160	260	
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>510</b>	
Attenders	2	7	7	0	1	0	33		
Average monthly attendance	4	8	76	76	16	52	332	20.1	

Date Monthly Meeting is Held	3rd First Day	2nd First Day	1st First Day	As needed	2nd First Day	3rd First Day
Presiding Clerk	Lynn Zeleski Delano	Frankie Sue Johnson Dorlan Bales	Carole Revard David E. Nagle	Sara Scribner	David Ozaki	B.J. Mills
Recorded Ministers	Cunningham					Donna Bales Arthur Binford Sheli Kadel David Kingrey Cliff Loesch B.J Mills Carol Mulikin David Wolfe

	Copies of Minutes
Central City MM reported by Lynn Zeleski	9
Council House reported by Frankie Sue Johnson	4
Hominy reported by David Nagle	20
Heartland reported by Dean Young	30
Topeka reported by David Ozaki	10
University reported by Cliff Loesch	30
Lubbock reported by Sara Scribner	3
Total minutes required	106

## **Young Friends Youth Epistle – June 2, 2019**

Greetings Young Friends everywhere from Great Plains Yearly Meeting. This year we had a lot of great fun, experienced many things, learned lots of new things and kept to our theme of Much Good Needs Doing: Growing in Peace and Love.

On our first day, we went to garden at Wichita Friends School. After we gardened, we played basketball with the little kids. We had a lot of fun but most importantly, we learned the importance of spending time outside and living in the present.

Later that evening, we drew mandala circles. The mandala circles represent things that were important to us such as family, friends, sports, etc. and also God.

On our second day we went a little more in depth and had discussions about our theme of Much Good Needs Doing: Growing in Peace and Love. During this discussion we talked about who needs good, what good does our society need and how we can help society travel in a positive direction through the guidance of the spirit.

## **Young Friends Children's Epistle – June 2, 2019**

### **Thursday – Day 1**

We met everyone and played in the gym.

Made crafts and did stories.

Finally had dinner.

The first day we did a gardening project at Wichita Friends School.

### **Friday – Day 2**

Walked 2 and a half miles to see the Keeper of the Plains.

We described that the Keeper of the Plains is a statue watching over the plains.

Saw some snakes and nine turtles, and took some pictures, and the bike pathways were flooded.

### **In the evening of day 2**

The middle school kids went to the pool with the high schoolers.

Then came back and the high schoolers took a nap for an hour and a half.

The younger kids made elephant toothpaste.

Then had dinner and played a game of sardines.

### **Saturday – Day 3**

The younger kids made key chains.

Then went down for lunch and got to organize to go to the pool.

And then we came back and starting writing the epistle.



*Great Plains Yearly Meeting Memorial Service*  
*Saturday, June 1, 2019*  
**June 2018 to Present**

Hominy Monthly Meeting

Randy McAngus, 5/15/2019  
“Danny” Hopper (Daniel Eugene), 4/8/2019  
Romaine Shackelford, 4/1/2019  
John Lee Hinman, 3/2/2019  
Christine Cecelia (Wilson) James, 1/18/2019  
Martha Sue (Hopper) Elliott, 1/4/2019  
Carole Jean Hutchens, 9/16/2018  
Ancil Simmons, 6/11/2018  
Richard Donald Wilson, 3/22/2018

Council House Monthly Meeting

Ancil Simmons, 6/11/2018

Topeka Friends Monthly Meeting

David Beale

University Friends Monthly Meeting

Doris Pohlenz, 6/10/2018  
Ruth Hennessee, 6/13/2018  
Dan Dieffenbacher, 1/23/2019  
Kenneth Carson, 3/14/2019

*We pause and remember that it is our God who has called us to life and who continually breathes life into us and invites us to a holy and intimate relationship with Him. He is never far from us. Blessed are You, O Lord our God, for You are the Keeper of the Book of Life. We remember those who have gone before us and we are grateful to them for the faith and for the gift of family they have passed on to us or the friendship they have given to us. We are grateful to God for all those who have touched our hearts and our lives. --Brothers McCarthy/Stockhausen*

*And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding  
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.  
-Philippians 4:7 (NET)*

## Extracts 2019

*The legacy of love keeps on giving.* ~ LaVonna Loesch

*We encourage a life that is not too caught up in finalizing, but in always seeking.* ~ John Calvi

*The more we can stay tender in the face of bigotry, hatred and prejudice, the more light we have to share...the more we know we are a part of something bigger.* ~ John Calvi

*After 3 weeks they (friends made there) still wanted to talk to me.* ~ Joseph Nagle after attending music camp.

*I am the fingers and breathe of the Divine.* ~ John Calvi

*Giving and receiving are very close friends and need to be maintained in balance.* ~ John Calvi

*The unity of Christians never did, nor ever will, nor can stand in uniformity of thought and opinion, but in Christian love only.* ~ Thomas Story, quoted by LaVonna

*I don't have an extract, so I'm leaving a check.* ~ Found in the extracts envelope

## **Members: Ministry & Counsel and Standing Committees**

Serving the Calendar Year Feb. '19 – Jan. '20

### **Ministry & Counsel**

<Sara Scribner, clerk, LFCQM (2019-20) - sarabscribner@aol.com  
\*Dorlan Bales, HFMM – dorlan@cox.net  
\*Cliff Loesch – crloesch@sbcglobal.net  
<Cheryl Mallonee, UFM (2019-20) – cemallonee@gmail.com  
\*David Nagle, HMM – davnagle@juno.com 918-885-2714  
Joseph Nagle, HMM (2018-19)  
Rhonda Newby, UFM (2018-19) – rhondajeannewby@cox.net  
<Carole Revard, HMM (2019-20) – carolerevard@aol.com 918-639-2153  
<Marjorie Van Buren, TFMM (2019-20) - mjvanburen@cox.net  
Lynn Zeleski, CCMM (2018-19) – auntlynnz@gmail.com  
*\*Recorded Ministers*

### **Finance Committee**

Steve McConnell, clerk, CCMM (2018-19) – veggieduderanch@yahoo.com  
Connie Adams, Treasurer (ex-officio), HFMM – adamscr@appstate.edu  
Jock Cameron, LFCQM (2018-19) jockntexas@yahoo.com 806-549-0750  
<Randy Cook, UFM (2019-20) bamankufan@cox.net  
<Aaron Fowler, HFMM (2019-20) – aaron@aaronfowler.org  
Paul Mallonee, UFM (2018-19) – pizzaguy@sprintmail.com  
Dorothy Manzer, HMM (2018-19)  
<David Nagle, HMM (2019-20) – davnagle@juno.com 918-885-2714

### **Nominating Committee**

Sue Wine, clerk, TFMM (2018-19) – swine@gmx.com  
<Angela Jake Brown, HMM (2019-20) – aajake277@gmail.com  
Amelia Jake, HMM (2018-19)  
Molly Loesch, UFM (2018-19) – mollybloesch@gmail.com  
<Lisa McConnell, CCMM (2019-20) – lpeach\_2001@yahoo.com  
<Greg Newby, UFM (2019-20) – gregnewby@cox.net

### **Home Missions Committee**

<Dorlan Bales, clerk, HFMM (2019-20) – dorlan@cox.net  
Connie Adams, Treasurer (ex-officio) HFMM– adamscr@appstate.edu  
<Rebecca Kimminau, CCMM (2019-20) rebecca.kimminau@windstream.net  
<Beth Green-Nagle, HM (2019-20) - nagle@nsuok.edu  
David Ozaki, TFMM (2018-19) – dozaki@fisherpatterson.com  
Carole Revard, HMM (2018-19) carolerevard@aol.com  
Sara Scribner, LFCQM (2018-19) - sarabscribner@aol.com  
LaVonna Loesch, UFM (ex-officio) – lavonna.loesch@gmail.com

***Key for Monthly Meeting Representation***

CCMM – *Central City Monthly Meeting*

CHMM – *Council House Monthly Meeting*

HFMM – *Heartland Friends Monthly Meeting*

HMM – *Hominy Monthly Meeting*

LFCQM – *Lubbock Friends of Christ Quaker Meeting*

TFCC – *Topeka Friends Monthly Meeting*

UFM – *University Friends Meeting*

“<” denotes a new appointment, serving two years (2019-20)

All Recorded Ministers are welcome and encouraged members by virtue of their recognition as recorded ministers, and are expected to participate in all Ministry & Counsel meetings when they meet.

## Nominating Committee Report 2019-20

**GPYM clerks and others** willing to serve from the end of these sessions to the close of the 2020 sessions:

LaVonna Loesch, Presiding Clerk  
Dorlan Bales, Assistant Clerk  
Cheryl Mallonee, Recording Clerk  
Connie Adams, Treasurer  
Paul Mallonee, Statistician  
Steve McConnell, Resident Agent (State of Nebraska requirement)

### **Continuing Committee:**

Sara Scribner, Clerk of Ministry and Counsel  
Steve McConnell, Clerk of the Finance Committee  
Dorlan Bales, Clerk of Home Missions Committee  
Sue Wine, Clerk of the Nominating Committee  
David Ozaki, at large member  
David Nagle, at large member

### **Trustees**

Steve McConnell, 2020  
Cheryl Mallonee, Angela Brown, 2020  
Angela Young, John Wine, 2021

### **2018 Minutes Publication Committee**

Editor/Publisher – Connie Adams  
Proof readers – Dorlan Bales, LaVonna Loesch, David Nagle, Sue Wine  
Printing/Distribution – Connie Adams, Cliff Loesch

### **Agency & FUM Representatives:**

#### **American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)**

Dean Young, 2020

#### **Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)**

Cliff Messner, 2021

#### **Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)**

Beth Green-Nagle, 2022 (3 yr. term)

#### **Friends United Meeting (FUM)**

Cliff Loesch, 2020 (3 yr. term)

#### **Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)**

John Wine, 2020

## **GPYM Clerk's Closing Minute**

I wonder... what work of the Spirit GPYM is drawn to? What might be a new invitation given by the sweet gentle Spirit for our yearly meeting?

As a people called Great Plains Yearly Meeting, we have experienced the presence of God in a real and powerful way...and we have been grateful. The Light was spread over many hard things, revealing woundedness we did not know was there in this present space. We have carefully and diligently walked on from these discoveries with a great fortitude and purpose. We are growing in confidence in God's ability to heal us & guide us... we are becoming sure in the hope that we may thrive as a people.

We are faithfully enduring (in a stable, positive sense) the process it takes to move forward. We have accepted the order brought to us through Divine intervention, revealed through revelation. A "Project" turned into an "Initiative"...the Initiative became our new Home Missions Committee... Provision has been better understood and implemented.

Holy clarity has been our gift. As Spirit continues to reveal to us the needs to care for ...I expect we will be seekers of unity & Light in all matters. Loving each other well...

So... what work might the Holy Spirit be drawing us to? What new invitation is offered to us? Consider our part in moving the agenda of God here on earth. What might that be for you? What might that be for your Monthly Meeting? What might that be for us all in GPYM?

Take this query home ...

# **Great Plains Yearly Meeting Handbook**

How We Work Together

First Edition 2009, Revised 2012, 2014

## **Overview**

Great Plains Yearly Meeting is made up of seven monthly meetings: Hominy Friends and Council House Friends in northeastern Oklahoma; Heartland Friends and University Friends in Wichita, Kansas; Topeka Friends in Topeka, Kansas; Central City Friends in south central Nebraska; and Lubbock Friends of Christ Quaker Meeting in Lubbock, Texas.

Great Plains Yearly Meeting has a rich history, having celebrated its centennial in 2008. Known as Nebraska Yearly Meeting until 2001, GPYM is part of Friends United Meeting (FUM). GPYM is theologically diverse, as demonstrated by each congregation's relationships with other Friends networks. Heartland and Central City are directly affiliated with Friends General Conference. University Friends belongs to Evangelical Friends Church Mid-America, as did Council House Friends for many years. Hominy Friends are in regular communication with Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and Kickapoo Friends Center. Some Friends from Heartland, Topeka and University Friends attended gatherings of the Missouri Valley Friends Conference.

University Friends Church has graciously agreed to be a consistent point of contact with GPYM for individuals and groups outside the yearly meeting.

## **Committees**

### ***Continuing Committee***

This committee is the official and legal voice of GPYM between annual sessions, making decisions that cannot wait to be considered by the entire body during the first weekend in June. GPYM's presiding and recording clerks, the treasurer, and the clerks of Ministry and Counsel, Nominating Committee, Home Missions Committee and Finance Committee are ex-officio members. One or two other members may be recommended by the Nominating Committee to create better gender, Monthly Meeting representation and geographic balance. Typically, the presiding clerk asks the Continuing Committee to meet during the fall at the site of the next yearly meeting sessions to settle on a theme, an invited speaker, and leaders for children's and youth programs for those sessions. One or more additional meetings are also held by conference call.

### ***Ministry and Counsel***

Ministry and Counsel is concerned with worship, outreach, visitation among monthly meetings, pastoral care, and general spiritual health of the monthly meetings and GPYM as a whole. The group meets before the opening yearly meeting session and at least once during the sessions, presenting a report of its work and recommendations to the entire body. Ministry and Counsel helps identify the theme for GPYM sessions, provides leadership for the annual GPYM memorial meeting for worship, and may prepare queries for monthly meetings to use as they write their annual State of Society reports.

It is the responsibility of Ministry and Counsel to nurture those of all ages who are tender in the Spirit, recognize gifts in public ministry, and recommend that members exhibiting these gifts be recorded by GPYM as recommendations are

brought forward by local meetings. Ministry and Counsel considers requests by local meetings to join GPYM and offers counsel if laying down an existing meeting is contemplated.

Each local meeting appoints two members by January 31 each year for two 12-month terms of service beginning February 1 and sends those names to the Presiding Clerk. Terms of the two appointees are staggered to promote continuity. Recorded ministers and the GPYM Presiding Clerk are ex-officio members. Ministry and Counsel names its own clerk during yearly meeting sessions to serve from the end of that session to the end of next year's annual gathering.

### ***Nominating Committee***

This committee is charged with prayerfully discerning gifts within the body and asking individuals who are members of GPYM meetings if they are willing to serve for one year as presiding and assistant presiding clerks, recording clerk(s), treasurer and assistant treasurer, minutes publisher, statistician, resident agent/custodian, and trustees.

It recommends representatives to other Quaker bodies for 3-year terms: American Friends Service Committee Corporation (4), Friends Committee on National Legislation (5), Friends United Meeting General Board (2 + alternate), Friends World Committee for Consultation (4) Quaker Earthcare Witness (1 + alternate) Wichita Friends School Board (2), and William Penn House (1). Each local meeting appoints two members by January 31 each year for two 12-month terms of service beginning February 1 and sends those names to the Presiding Clerk. Terms of the two appointees are staggered to promote continuity. Local meetings are asked to name people who are not members of the Finance Committee or Home Missions Committee and to consider service opportunities for younger Friends. The Nominating Committee names its own clerk during yearly meeting sessions to serve from the end of that session to the end of next year's annual gathering and meets before the opening yearly meeting session to begin its work.

### ***Finance Committee***

Members work with the treasurer to prepare an annual budget and present it for approval to GPYM. The Finance Committee considers requests for un-budgeted expenditures, usually by distance communication, and makes recommendations to the Continuing Committee. It also provides for an annual review of GPYM's financial accounting.

Each local meeting appoints two members by January 31 each year for two 12-month terms of service beginning February 1 and sends those names to the Presiding Clerk. Terms of the two appointees are staggered to promote continuity. Local meetings are asked to name people who are not members of the Nominating Committee or Home Missions Committee and to consider service opportunities for younger Friends. The Finance Committee names its own clerk during yearly meeting sessions to serve from the end of that session to

the end of next year's annual gathering and meets before the opening yearly meeting session each year to begin its work.

### ***Home Missions Committee***

During the 2014 GPYM sessions, the existing Anchor Committee created in 2012 was laid down in favor of a more permanent committee that will give energy to the new Leadership and Revitalization Initiative, using funds generated from the GPYM farm property and additional gifts from meetings and individuals. The Continuing Committee initially named the Home Missions Committee's members, acting on behalf of GPYM.

Each local meeting appoints two members by January 31 each year for two 12-month terms of service beginning February 1 and sends those names to the Presiding Clerk. Terms of the two appointees are staggered to promote continuity. Local meetings are asked to name people who are not members of the Nominating Committee or Finance Committee and to consider service opportunities for younger Friends. The Home Missions Committee names its own clerk during yearly meeting sessions to serve from the end of that session to the end of next year's annual gathering and meets before the opening yearly meeting session each year to begin its work.

### ***Trustees***

Trustees are stewards of GPYM's physical assets and have legal responsibility for them. The six trustees are proposed by the GPYM Nominating Committee and serve three-year terms. Trustees work closely with a manager to see that GPYM's farm property is rented and yields a fair income each year.

### ***Business and Program Committee***

The local meeting scheduled to host the next annual gathering of GPYM appoints three to five people who work with Continuing Committee to prepare an agenda for the sessions, arrange for resource people, and oversee local arrangements. Names are presented before the close of GPYM sessions.

### ***Extracts and Epistle***

During the opening session the presiding clerk asks Friends assembled who would serve GPYM by writing a general epistle (letter) to other Friends yearly meetings around the world, a message God would have our yearly meeting share. Two or three people are appointed to write the epistle, which is read and approved before the close of the sessions.

Two other Friends are asked to collect extracts, singular sayings both edifying and humorous, spoken during the course of the sessions. These sayings are included as part of the published minutes.

### ***Website/communications working group***

Great Plains Yearly Meeting has created a website to improve internal and external communications. An ad-hoc working group has been overseeing this project.

## **Yearly Meeting Leadership**

### ***Presiding Clerk and Assistant Presiding Clerk***

During GPYM sessions the presiding clerk creates the agenda for business sessions, introduces each item, and listens as various Friends speak to it. When the clerk senses that there is unity, he or she voices the “sense of the meeting” for the body’s consideration. If there is unity, the decision is written by the recording clerk for inclusion in the official minutes. If there is not unity and those who are not satisfied with the proposed minute do not feel able to “stand aside,” there is further consideration of the matter. Sometimes the clerk may call for a time of worship before inviting further comment and/or carry the item of business over to be considered at a later meeting.

During the months between sessions, the presiding clerk prepares an agenda for Continuing Committee meetings and receives items of concern from the yearly meeting’s leaders, from Friends agencies, and from others, referring items to others as appropriate. The clerk manifests a deep concern for the yearly meeting’s faithfulness and health and communicates with GPYM leaders to encourage them in their Christian service, seeking to understand their joys and struggles.

The assistant presiding clerk assists the clerk during the sessions and between sessions and presides in the absence of the clerk.

### ***Recording Clerk(s)***

The recording clerk creates a written record of all decisions and other pertinent information during sessions and Continuing Committee meetings and works with the GPYM minutes publisher to see that minutes of annual sessions are distributed.

### ***Minutes Publisher***

Working closely with the recording clerk(s), the minutes publisher will see that a final version of the minutes, with reports, epistle, and contact information for local meetings and session attendees is made available electronically and in print to GPYM members and Friends organizations who request a copy.

### ***Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer***

The treasurer receives funds and disburses them in accordance with the GPYM budget, consulting with the clerk of the Finance Committee, the presiding clerk, and the Continuing Committee as appropriate. The treasurer will keep accurate records and prepare an annual report that reflects the status of each budget category and the overall assets and liabilities of GPYM.

The treasurer, consulting with the clerk of the Finance Committee, will invest income greater than budgeted spending with Friends fiduciary agencies or other socially responsible managers. The treasurer will also work with the person who reviews GPYM’s financial records as directed by the Finance Committee.

### ***Statistician***

The statistician shall collect calendar year statistics from local meetings, including a report of additions and losses to the rolls of members and attendees, the average number of people who gather for worship, names of those deceased since the GPYM sessions, recorded ministers, and number of printed copies of the annual minutes requested.

### ***Resident Agent and Custodian***

GPYM's incorporation as a nonprofit group is with the State of Nebraska. All official communication from Nebraska officials and some other legal correspondence is received by the resident agent and custodian, who responds after consulting with the appropriate GPYM leadership.

### **Location of Yearly Meeting Sessions**

The ordinary rotation of annual sessions is, Hominy Friends (2021), University Friends (2019), and Heartland Friends (2020). Friends United Meeting Triennial Sessions were held at Friends University, Wichita Kansas, in 2017.

### **Monthly Meeting Responsibilities**

Appoint two members to serve on the Nominating, Home Missions, and Finance Committees and Ministry and Counsel by January 31 each year for two 12-month terms of service beginning February 1 and send those names to the GPYM Presiding Clerk. Ideally, terms of each pair of appointees are staggered to promote continuity.

Bring a State of Society report reflecting the meeting's spiritual condition to be shared with the rest of GPYM at the beginning of each annual assembly. Submit a calendar year statistical report, including names of Friends departed since last sessions to be remembered during the memorial service. A memorial minute is encouraged for those who attended yearly meeting sessions or played key roles in the life of the local meeting.

Include Great Plains Yearly Meeting in the monthly meeting budget.

Host yearly meeting sessions periodically, if able.

Recommend members for recording as ministers of the Gospel.

### **Budget and Special Funds**

Great Plains Yearly Meeting has three separate financial accounts: an operating account, a home missions account, and a student loan fund.

### ***Operating Account***

Income for this account comes from contributions from local meetings and individuals, plus registration for yearly meeting sessions. Expenses include yearly meeting sessions/printing minutes, travel funds that help send GPYM representatives to meetings of Friends agencies, and an enabling fund.

### ***Home Missions Account***

GPYM was given farmland by the Stevens family from 1922-32, with the stipulation that income from the property be used for mission work "within the limits of the Yearly Meeting," with "special attention given to gathering the scattered membership and to the establishment of meetings". Most income to the home missions account comes from renting the land, with additional money coming from local meetings, individuals, and the GPYM operating account. Since 2013, most of the expenditures of farm income have been dedicated to a new Leadership and Revitalization Project/Initiative focused within GPYM and facilitated by a released Friend. It was initially overseen by a temporary Anchor Committee. In 2014 GPYM created a new standing Home Missions Committee in its place to continue the initiative.

In the past, GPYM has used farm income to make financial contributions to Quaker agencies to support their work within the central plains states. Recently, despite the personal support of many GPYM Friends for those agencies, GPYM made a decision to reduce or eliminate those gifts in order to invest in the encouragement of new life and growth in GPYM's local meetings, including our young adult leaders. These funds have also been used to invite unaffiliated meetings and worship groups to join GPYM, all with the intention of revitalizing GPYM and honoring the wishes of the Stevens family.

### ***Student Loan Fund***

This revolving loan account established by designated contributions offers low interest loans to Friends pursuing higher education. Loans are approved by an ad hoc committee that includes the treasurer(s), clerk of the finance committee, and the presiding clerk. Loans paid back to the fund, with interest, become available to new borrowers.

### **Recording of Ministers**

Great Plains Yearly Meeting has not recorded many ministers in recent years. When it has, the procedure has varied. More discussion is needed by GPYM Ministry and Counsel to clarify the process. Until there is more clarity, local meetings that recognize a member who has experienced a call by God to public ministry and demonstrated ministry gifts that build up the congregation are asked to talk with the Clerk of GPYM Ministry and Counsel.

## Directory of GPYM Monthly Meetings

Central City Monthly Meeting  
403B Ave., Central City NE 68826  
Mail to: 1400 N 38th St, Lincoln, NE 68503  
Clerk: Lynn Zeleski  
Recorded Ministers: Delano Cunningham

Council House Monthly Meeting  
22601 S. 680 Rd, Wyandotte, OK 74370  
Mail: c/o Frankie Sue Johnson, Clerk  
<http://www.councilhousefriends.org/>  
Clerk: Frankie Sue Johnson

Heartland Friends Monthly Meeting  
14505 W. Sandwedge Circle, Wichita, KS 67235  
<http://heartlandfriendsmeeting.org>  
Clerk: Angela Young  
Recorded Ministers: Dorlan Bales

Hominy Monthly Meeting  
510 Friends Road, Hominy, OK 74035  
<http://www.hominyfriends.org>  
Clerk: Carole Revard  
Recorded Ministers: David Nagle

Lubbock Friends of Christ Quaker Meeting  
Grace Presbyterian Church, 4820 19th Street, Lubbock, TX 79407  
Mail to: 2813 23rd Street, Lubbock TX 79410  
[www.lubbockfriendsofchrist.org](http://www.lubbockfriendsofchrist.org)  
Clerk: Sara Scribner

Topeka Friends Monthly Meeting  
603 SW 8th Street, Topeka, KS 66603  
<http://topekaquakers.org>  
Clerk: David Ozaki

University Friends Meeting  
1840 W. University Ave., Wichita, KS 67213  
316-262-0471 <http://universityfriends.quaker.org>  
Clerk: B. J. Mills  
Recorded Ministers: Donna Bales, Arthur Binford, Shelli Kadel, Dave Kingrey,  
Cliff Loesch, B.J. Mills, Carol Mullikin, David Wolfe

**Mailing Address:**  
**Great Plains Yearly Meeting**  
**c/o University Friends Church**  
**1840 W University Ave**  
**Wichita, KS 67213-3966**

**on the web:**  
**greatplainsyearlymeeting.org**  
**gpymcontact@gmail.com**

**on Facebook:**  
**Great Plains Yearly Meeting**

**Presiding Clerk:**  
**LaVonna Loesch**  
**lavonna.loesch@gmail.com**