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**Great Plains Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
One Hundred Eleventh Annual Assembly
Fifth-day, Fifth Month, Thirty-first, 2018
hosted by Hominy Friends Meeting
“RECOGNIZING THE VOICE OF GOD”
Let it be with me according to your word (Luke 1:38)
*Guest Speaker: Eden Grace***

Schedule of Sessions

Thursday, May 31

- 12:30pm **Registration & Signing of the Big Book** - *entryway*
Display & Information Table set up - *fellowship hall*
**Childcare only available (1:30-4:45)*
- 1:30 **Gathering Worship** - *worship room*
- Working Meetings: 2:00 **Ministry & Counsel** - *worship room*
Nominating - *east room*
3:30 **Finance** - *library*
Home Missions - *east room*
- 5:00 Dinner - *fellowship hall*
- 6:00 **Opening Worship and Business Session I** – *worship room*
- Welcome and Opening Statement
 - Monthly Meeting Roll Call
 - Introduction of Guests and Visitors (including Travel Minutes and Letters of Introduction)
 - Committees to serve during Yearly Meeting Sessions
 - ❖ Epistle
 - ❖ Extracts
 - State of Society Reports
 - ❖ Central City Monthly Meeting
 - ❖ Council House Monthly Meeting
 - ❖ Heartland Friends Monthly Meeting
 - ❖ Hominy Monthly Meeting
 - ❖ Lubbock Friends of Christ Quaker Meeting
 - ❖ Topeka Friends Monthly Meeting
 - ❖ University Friends Meeting

7:00 *Break for fellowship*

7:15 **Meeting for Worship** - *worship room*

Evening Sharing with Eden Grace...

“Is that you, God? How can I be sure?”

(Throughout our sessions please pick up Children & Youth promptly following scheduled event)

Friday, June 1

8:00am Breakfast - *fellowship hall*

**Young Friends Ministry & Childcare (8:45am-11:45pm)*

8:45 **Bible Study - Beth Green-Nagle** - *worship room*

9:15 **Meeting for Worship**

9:30 **Business Session II**

(Breaks will be taken at the clerk's discretion)

➤ Wichita Friends School ~ Pam Chambers, Head of School

➤ Friends United Meeting Report - Eden Grace

➤ Home Missions - Dorlan Bales, Clerk

➤ Ministry and Counsel - Cliff Loesch, Clerk

➤ Nominating Committee - Angela Brown, Clerk

➤ Treasurer - Connie Adams

➤ Finance - Steven McConnell, Clerk

➤ Statistics - Paul Mallonee, Yearly Meeting Statistician

Noon Lunch

**Young Friends Ministry & Childcare (1:00-5:00pm)*

Working Meetings: 1:00pm **Finance** - *library*

Home Missions - *east room*

2:15 **Ministry & Counsel** - *worship room*

Nominating - *east room*

3:30 *Break for fellowship*

3:45 **Business Session III** - *worship room*

➤ Ministry & Counsel

➤ Home Missions

➤ Finance Committee

➤ Budget Proposal

➤ Nominating Committee

➤ Quaker Agency and Involvement Reports

6:00 Dinner

**Young Friends Ministry & Childcare (6:45-8:15pm)*

7:00 **Evening Sharing with Eden Grace ...**

“You want me to do WHAT?!? –

Biblical examples of responding to God's call”

Saturday, June 2

- 8:00am Breakfast
**Young Friends Ministry & Childcare (8:45am-11:30pm)*
- 8:45 **Bible Study - Beth Green-Nagle - worship room**
- 9:30 **Meeting for Worship - worship room**
Memorial Service
- 10:30 **Business Session IV – worship room**
(Breaks will be taken at the clerk's discretion)
- Continued Business
 - Yearly Meeting 2019
 - Workshop Announcements
 - Extracts
- Noon Lunch
**Young Friends Ministry & Childcare (1:00-5:00pm)*
- Afternoon Workshops ... worship room**
- 1:30pm **FCNL Advocate for Native American Issues, Lacina Oneo**
- 2:30 Break for fellowship
- 2:45 **Intergenerational Godly Play (Children, Youth & Adults)**
~ facilitator: Connie Adams
- 3:45 Break for fellowship
- 4:00 **Visitation - The Ministry of Connections**
~ facilitators: Home Missions Comm. and Ministry & Counsel
- 6:00 Dinner – Native American Feast
- 6:45 Hand Game with singers and drum

Sunday, June 3

- 8:00am Breakfast
- 9:30 **Business Session V**
- Children's Presentation & Epistle
 - Young Friends' Report and Epistle
 - General Epistle
 - Greetings to absent Friends
 - Clerk's Minute
- 10:30 Break for fellowship
- 11:00 **Meeting for Worship - Hominy Monthly Meeting**
Morning Sharing by Eden Grace...
"On the road again -- encountering God in the journey"
- Noon Lunch & farewells - *fellowship hall*

Thursday, May 31, 2018

GPYM 18-01 -- Friends Gather in Hominy, Oklahoma

Registration began at 12:30, with a meeting for worship starting at 1:30. Committee meetings followed at 2:00 for Ministry & Counsel and Nominating and 3:30 for Finance and Home Missions, with dinner following at 5:00.

GPYM 18-02 -- Opening Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

A jazz trio of Cliff Loesch, Aaron Fowler and Joseph Nagle shared a few selections and then Friends sang “The Voice of God is Calling” from the Worship in Song hymnal. Carole Revard, clerk of Hominy Monthly Meeting, extended a warm welcome to Friends and shared a passage from Matthew.

Presiding Clerk, LaVonna Loesch, welcomed us to the 111th sessions of Great Plains Yearly Meeting (GPYM) at 6:00 pm. It’s always a wonderful feeling when we gather together. We then did a roll call of those present:

Central City – Lynn Zeleski, Steve & Lisa McConnell, Meg Kimminau

Heartland – Jim Perkins, Connie Adams, Dorlan Bales, Aaron Fowler & Ms. Bella

Hominy – Carole Revard, Dorothy Manzer, Angela Brown, David Nagle, Beth Green-Nagle, Joseph Nagle, Isaac Jake

Lubbock – Jock & Sally Cameron

Topeka – John Wine, Sue Wine, David Ozaki

UFM – Cliff Loesch, LaVonna Loesch, Paul Mallonee, Cheryl Mallonee, Pam Chambers

Visitors were then asked to introduce themselves.

Eden Grace – FUM – Richmond IN, West Richmond Friends, Beacon Hill Meeting - Boston, New England YM.

Don Satterthwaite, Green Country Friends, Tulsa OK

Mitch Stutzman, Everence representative, Hesston Mennonite Church, Hesston
Jon Krieg, AFSC, Des Moines Valley MM

GPYM 18-03 -- Committee Appointments During Sessions

An Epistle Committee is needed to prepare the greeting to Friends from our sessions. Beth Green-Nagle volunteered and if anyone else feels led to help, please let Beth or LaVonna know.

Extracts are a tradition of our yearly meeting. An envelope is available on the clerks' table and Friends are encouraged to write down any funny, poignant or powerful moments throughout the sessions, and place them in the envelope.

Sue Wine is in charge of the children and youth and would appreciate the meeting holding them in the Light as they plan their weekend.

State of Society reports were shared from Central City, Council House, Heartland, Hominy, Lubbock, Topeka and University Friends. (See appendix).

LaVonna shared some housekeeping items regarding registration and meals before Friends were released for dinner.

GPYM 18-04 -- Keynote Message from Eden Grace

After dinner Cliff Loesch introduced our guest speaker, Eden Grace. She was introduced to Quakers as a teenager, being invited to a youth gathering, and was hooked. She is a member of New England Yearly Meeting. She has worked for the World Council of Churches, finishing in 2013, and is currently the Director of Global Ministries for Friends United Meeting, shepherding Friends from 11 countries on 4 continents. We sang the hymn, "Spirit of the Living God," then settled into worship.

Eden shared the Quaker understanding that the Spirit of God is within each of us. She shared the story of Samuel, who as a result of a promise to God made by his mother when he was 3, was sent to live in the temple. A very old man, Eli, looked after him. He learned a lesson about listening for God when he heard his name called out in the night. Upon the 4th calling of his name, he said "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening," after Eli advised him to do so. God talked to Samuel a very long time.

Most of us have the desire to hear and obey God's will, but how do we know we're hearing God? Of all the things we hear, what should we believe and what should we reject? Does our ego get in the way? There are those who follow the Bible literally for revelation, but the Bible does not have the final word.

There needs to be a conversational relationship of dialog on both sides of any issue. Eden discussed four theological claims to support this. 1) God's nature – He is creative and involved in the unfolding story. He cares about what we do. 2) God is communicative – He actively tries to communicate with us. 3) God is receptive – We are hardwired to know God's presence. 4) God is purposeful – Our differences are given to us for a purpose. Our best selves are what is needed to hear God. We are made for the task of hearing God, so why does it feel hard or elusive at times? There are other voices in our head, societal pressures, culture, temptation, deception and ego that come into play. We may not always hear a 'voice,' but He may be trying to communicate in different ways. God is constantly trying to lead us.

Eden outlined four tests for listening for God. 1) Purity – Is what I desire in line with what God desires? God is like a drop of water entering a sponge, and we are the sponge. There is a difference between willfulness and willingness. We should be desiring to be guided and be more patient and charitable. Obedience is our greatest joy. God is on the side of the vulnerable and oppressed. 2) Consistency – For Quakers, the spirit has been guiding us throughout history. Whose interests are being served by this guiding? 3) Unity – Our experience is that the body as a whole is where our joy is found manifest. It is a primary mark of true discernment. We risk feet of clay as a meeting as true obedience can be stifled by tradition. Following it does not guarantee freedom from error. 4) Patience – This speaks of your attitude about other tests. If we have a humble heart, there will be patience. As we wait on the Lord, more fruits of the spirit will be experienced. We should feel released, rather than pushed to serve. The core of Quaker spirituality is these four tests.

Eden closed by sharing an excerpt from Isaac Pennington – 1661

*Give over thine own willing;
give over thine own running;
give over thine own desiring
to know or to be anything,
and sink down to the seed
which God sows in the heart,
and let that grow in thee,
and be in thee,
and act in thee,
and thou shalt find by sweet experience
that the Lord knows that,
and will lead it to the inheritance of life,
which is its portion.*

Friday, June 1, 2018

GPYM 18-05 Breakfast, Bible Study and Worship

Breakfast was served by Hominy Friends followed by a Bible Study led by Beth Green-Nagle, using Acts 2, the story of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples and then on the Gentiles, reminding us that the Holy Spirit, given by Jesus as our direct connection with God, is available to all people, for *God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh.*

GPYM 18-06 Attention to Business – Session II

Presiding Clerk LaVonna Loesch opened the session by inviting those gathered into worship before we moved on to reports from Friends.

GPYM 18-07 Report – Wichita Friends School

Pam Chambers, head of Wichita Friends School, shared a report. She has been the director there for 2 years and has enjoyed her time and the growth there. This last year they celebrated World Quaker Day with Quaker stories in October and focused on a Quaker testimony each month. Monday morning worship has deepened as children and staff practice listening for God's voice. New trails around the school and Heartland Friends Meetinghouse have expanded the learning experience. This year, Pam and the teachers have been led to more understanding of autism and how to best work with these children and families. (See appendix for full report.).

GPYM 18-08 – Report: Friends United Meeting

Colin Saxton has sent a written report, included in the appendices. Eden Grace shared about 'Connections,' a monthly bulletin insert, that is free for any monthly meeting to use. *Quaker Life* magazine has been revamped as a quarterly publication. It is focusing on testimonies in lives of the Quaker world. It is no longer a news publication, but it is now being used as a method of outreach. Images, poetry and visual arts are being used. There is a new website name: friendsunitedmeeting.org, which is a resource for people who are searching for more information about Friends. The internet is one of the strongest outreach tools that Quakers have. Tanzania has had a great growth, thanks in part to the internet. Quaker Hill Bookstore has a dream of being relaunched, expanding on current online sales, but with no brick & mortar establishment. This would be a curated, recommended resource for Friends

who are searching for curriculum and education publications. An online and print catalog will be available in about a month.

Colin Saxton is stepping down and Kelly Kellum is the new General Secretary of FUM. The transition will take place later this month. Colin will be doing work with Everence back in the Pacific northwest. He'll be working with Friends across the country with stewardship ministry. Prayers for the staff as they transition are appreciated.

Global ministries will include the entire globe, including North America. Many meetings are struggling to survive and need assistance. God is not finished with the Friends movement anywhere. What do we need to carry out this purpose? North American ministries is the biggest growth area and a new staff member is being added. Strengthening the model of ministry is a focus for healthy ministers and meetings. Oscar Mbali from Kenya is now a church planting pastor in Belize. They have new buildings with a lot more space compared to their former location. Belize Friends Ministries is looking for a new director, so if you have or know of anyone who has a nudge in that direction, please see Eden Grace.

East Africa has the largest concentration of Quakers in the world. 90% of FUM is East African! Samburu Friends Mission is very isolated but has grown from 3 to 17 meetings. A video about Samburu is available on the FUM website and Facebook created by a New York friend. There is explosive growth in Tanzania Yearly Meeting. FUM will be focusing on growth of the Friends Movement in Tanzania in partnership with Kenyan Friends.

There is a series of three opportunities to participate in a webinar about Lugulu Hospital taking place in about a week.

GPYM 18-09 -- Report: GPYM Home Missions

Dorlan Bales shared for the Home Missions Committee. A written report is included in the minutes. It is exciting to have Lubbock and Topeka as part of the Yearly Meeting and participating on committees. Sara Scribner from Lubbock and David Ozaki from Topeka have been serving on this committee. Regional gatherings in the fall in Nebraska and Oklahoma have helped in keeping better in touch. University Friends/Kansas have been doing Talk-IES

(intellectual, emotional, spiritual) about once a month which Michelle Barrett of University Friends has been organizing.

Outreach to Friends groups to widen our fellowship has been a focus of Home Missions. Helping create young, new leadership is also a focus of the committee. Visitation has been a focus of this past year, with interaction between the monthly meetings being essential for growth. A workshop during these sessions is happening and will give more details. Dorlan would like to thank the Yearly Meeting for creating this committee and its outreach activities are encouraging.

GPYM 18-10 – Reports: Working Committees

Cliff Loesch reported for Ministry and Counsel. Inter-visitation between our monthly meetings is an important focus of this committee. More discussion will happen this afternoon.

Nominating committee is working hard during the sessions. Please keep them covered in prayer as they do their work.

Connie Adams brought forth the treasurer's report. (See appendix.).

Steve McConnell, clerk of Finance Committee, reported that it will be working on next year's budget this afternoon. We are behind anticipated contributions for this year, so the committee wants Friends to be aware that we have until the end of the year catch up.

LaVonna Loesch reminded us to keep each other supported in prayer as the committees continue their work during the sessions. We paused for a moment of worship to cover these four committees: Finance, Nominating, Home Missions and Ministry & Counsel, in prayer, as they continue the work of Great Plains Yearly Meeting this weekend

The statistics report was shared for Friends to review. Thanks to Paul Mallonee for his work as statistician.

We welcomed Dean & Angela Young – Heartland, Betty Jake – Hominy and Cliff Mesner – Central City, who have joined us.

GPYM 18-11 -- Attention to Business: Session III

Cliff Loesch reported for Ministry & Counsel. They are continuing to work with Home Missions on the new visitation program that is being launched. There is a workshop tomorrow with a panel discussion about visitation among GPYM meetings, including a panel discussion. Lynn Zeleski will lead the Memorial service in the morning.

Cliff also reported about his work on the FUM Triennial and as the head of the search committee for a new General Secretary. (See appendix.)

Dorlan Bales reported for the Home Missions Committee. The budget and the new visitation piece were discussed. The 2019 Home Missions budget was enthusiastically approved.

GPYM 18-12 – Agency Reports

Beth Green-Nagle reported as a representative to FWCC, Sections of the Americas. (See appendix for full report.) Traveling Ministry Corps is a new program that is being launched. World Quaker Day will be celebrated October 7, 2018. Friends are encouraged to participate to share our faith and heritage. Latin American Friends are very enthusiastic about these celebrations. The 2019 section of the Americas meeting will be near Kansas City March 21-24, 2019, at Lake Doniphan Camp & Conference Center.

Dean Young reported as an AFSC representative. (See appendix for full report.) He attended the annual corporation meeting in Philadelphia in April. He has been a representative for the Yearly Meeting in past years and enjoyed getting reacquainted with the agency and discovering changes. Finances are a struggle but are starting to even out. Some downsizing has taken place, and the agency is more engaged with Friends yearly meetings than it used to be. AFSC is mobilizing people to work creatively, guided by the Quaker testimonies. Dean had a feeling of hopefulness after his time at the meetings. John Krieg from the Des Moines office of AFSC is here and available to us as a resource.

John Wine shared a report for Quaker Earthcare Witness. (See appendix for full report.) Resources are available online to teach meetings about learning to reduce consumption, save energy and grow awareness.

Dorlan Bales reported for FCNL. (See appendix for full report.) FCNL Advocacy teams are a program that Heartland has been involved with for just over a year. The teams advocate with their federal government senators and representatives. The advocacy teams focus on one topic each year. The 2017 topic was military spending, including accountability of the budget and an audit of Pentagon spending. This audit is now underway and the outcome is expected in the fall of 2018. The 2018 focus is preventing war with North Korea. Some letters to the editor have been published in the local Wichita paper. There are close to 90 advocacy teams around the country. Voices are being heard locally and at a national level and gaining some ground. Relationship building is happening.

FUM triennial representatives David Nagle and Beth Green-Nagle shared their report. (See appendix.)

GPYM 18-13 – Nominating Committee

Angela Brown brought the Nominating Committee report. The following names were brought forward for approval: Cheryl Mallonee, Recording Clerk; Paul Mallonee, Statistician; Steve McConnell, Resident Agent; David Ozaki and David Nagle to at-large members of Continuing Committee; Connie Adams as Editor/Publisher of the minutes; Sue Wine as proofreader. These names were approved. There is a deadline of July 1 to get all items to Connie Adams for publication in the minutes. (See appendix for full report.).

GPYM 18-14 – Home Missions 2019 Budget

The Home Missions budget was presented by Dorlan Bales. The farm land in Central City generates most of the budget for this committee. Following discussion, the budget was approved. (See appendix.)

GPYM 18-15 – Friday Evening Session

The evening session began with a trio of Cliff Loesch (bass), Aaron Fowler (guitar) and Joseph Nagle (saxophone) playing some jazz selections. They were joined by Jocelyn Mallonee (flute) and William McConnell (cello) as they accompanied a few hymns for Friends to sing from the Worship in Song Hymnal.

LaVonna then settled us into open worship. Eden Grace's topic for this evening was "You want me to do WHAT?" – Biblical Examples of Responding to God's Call. We discussed the question of how we might respond to God's call and sometimes the call might happen when we aren't necessarily ready to respond. She shared Bible stories that illustrate God calling people to serve. We took turns reading through 14 passages and came up with what our own responses to those situations might be.

The first three selections of scripture were from Isaiah 6:1-11. This was an overwhelming sensory experience of the presence of God. At first Isaiah felt he was not worthy, and his first reaction was fear. We wrote the phrases "I'm not worthy!" "I'm gonna die!" on newsprint and taped them around the walls of the meeting room. The next section of scripture talked about how Isaiah was ready to serve so the phrases, "Pick me!" and "I'm ready!" came forth. When Isaiah realized how long this calling might take, he was not so eager to serve anymore, so the thoughts of "I don't understand what you want me to do" and "How long will this take?" were written down.

The second story came from Jonah 1:1-3. When Jonah got his instructions to go to Nineveh he ran away in a completely different direction. The phrase "Run! Run and hide!" was written down.

The next 3 selections were from Luke 1:26-38. When Mary was informed by Gabriel that the Lord was with her we came up with the phrase: "What the heck?!" And as the angel explained more to her she became more practical and confident and the phrase "Interesting. But how is that going to happen?" came forth. As she listened further to Gabriel she came to the conclusion that nothing is impossible with God, so we responded with "As you wish."

The next 4 selections came from Exodus 3:9-11, 4:1, 4:10 and 4:13. When Moses is being chosen to deliver the Israelites from Egypt his thought may have been "Why me?" He had doubts and insecurities about being ridiculed and not being believed so he may have thought "They'll make fun of me. Put me down." As he wasn't an eloquent speaker, with an impediment, he probably thought "You know I can't do that." And as he asked the Lord to please send someone else, he may have thought "Here I am, send Aaron."

The next selection of scripture was from 1 Samuel 3:4-10. Samuel doesn't recognize that it is the voice of the Lord that has been calling him until Eli explains what is happening. He is obedient to Eli so he may have been thinking "OK, I'm listening."

The next piece of scripture was from Esther 4:12-14. Esther is considering the fact that her whole life has prepared her for this and she is being obedient to the call. The phrase we chose to write down was "Everything has prepared me for this".

The last selection of scripture was from Amos 7:14-15. He is a herdsman and dresser of sycamore trees so when he is asked to be a prophet, his response may have been "Nothing has prepared me for this".

All of the phrases were written on large sheets of paper and taped up around the room. Friends were asked to think about how each of these phrases, how they have applied to situations in our lives, and how we responded. Eden asked us to place a green sticker on the sheets with phrases that related to significant events in our lives and orange stickers on the more secondary ones. We were free to write any notes of explanation as well next to the stickers. The posters were left up for the remainder of the sessions for consideration.

Saturday, June 2, 2018

GPYM 18-16 -- Breakfast, Bible Study and Worship

Following breakfast, Bible study was led by Beth Green-Nagle, using the story from Acts 10 of Cornelius and Peter posing the query at the end of our time, "How can we respond to the gifts of understanding that come from God but may be contrary to accepted teachings?" *We all belong. Gentiles, Jews, women, children... an Inclusive Gospel... that of God in us all.* We then transitioned into our Memorial Service led by Lynn Zeleski, remembering Friends who passed away this past year. (See appendix.) Lynn reminded us that everyone has a story and it's lovely to remember them.

GPYM 18-17 -- Attention to Business: Session IV

We welcomed Friends Sara Scribner from Lubbock TX, LaHunta Thompson, Frankie Sue Johnson & William Johnson from Council House OK, John & Gail

Fletcher from Norman OK, Lori Taub from Tulsa, OK, South Central Yearly Meeting.

LaVonna reminded us to register and sign the ‘big book.’ We are looking forward to this evening’s meal and hand game. Please fill out the evaluation forms that are available.

Eden Grace went over the lesson from last evening, explaining the posters around the room. Feel free to add stickers and write on the posters. There are also some handouts available about leadings from God and a Speed Clearness Committee (that should only take 20 minutes). The handouts are on the front pew.

GPYM 18-18 – Nominating Committee Report

Angela Brown brought forth more nominations: LaVonna Loesch, Presiding Clerk; Dorlan Bales, Assistant Clerk; Connie Adams, Treasurer; Cliff Mesner, Representative to FCNL. These nominations were approved. Many thanks to the nominating committee for all their hard work.

GPYM 18-19 – Invitation to University Friends for 2019

Cheryl Mallonee brought forth an invitation to the 2019 sessions, to be held at University Friends, Wichita KS, May 30 – June 2, 2019. John Calvi, who does healing ministry and is from Putney VT, will be the speaker. This was approved.

LaVonna reminded us of the three workshops that are scheduled this afternoon:
1:30 - Lacina Onco – FCNL Advocate for Native American Issues.

2:45 – Intergenerational Godly Play - led by Connie Adams and the children.

4:00 – Visitation – The Ministry of Connections – facilitated by Home Missions Committee and Ministry & Counsel.

Assistant Clerk Dorlan Bales read the Extracts received so far. (See appendix.)

LaVonna Loesch would like to plant a seed in the monthly meetings. As you gather with those you worship with, she encourages us to consider the work of our home monthly meetings. The work that the Spirit has spurred on. What are some ideas that are percolating that will need some seasoning? Maybe more

focus needs to be on what the monthly meetings are doing, and how we can encourage, grieve, and walk alongside with each other better. This might help us know each other better and love each other well. What work of the Spirit is your monthly meeting drawn to? Are there old leadings that need to be revisited? Are there new leadings to be discovered or revealed? She will publish these queries for Friends to consider.

Afternoon workshops

GPYM 18-20 – FCNL Advocate for Native American Issues

Lacina Onco has been with FCNL since November 2017, serving a 2-year internship and learning how to lobby in Washington DC. She is a Boston College graduate with a masters in social work, and a member of the Red Fox Clan of the Kiowa Nation. FCNL was the first faith-based advocacy group in D.C. and has been working on Native American policy for 75 years.

One focus of FCNL is the Urban Indian Health Parity Act, that focuses on health care for the Native Americans when they do not live on a reservation. Funding for a diabetes program for Indians, which is a prevalent health care need, was secured for 2 years at \$150 million per year. There is also work in Indian Child Welfare, which has a goal to keep children with their families and protect native children. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has been helping with this.

More than 4 out of 5 Native American women are victims of violence. Perpetrators who are non-natives cannot be prosecuted on native lands. FCNL wants the interfaith community involved and has established May 5 as an awareness day. Savannah's Act is a bill that allows tribes to have access to a national data base of missing Native Americans. The bill is still in committee at this point. There is also the Survive Act which would allow victims to get 5% of crime fines

Lacina has been traveling across the country sharing about her work. She's recently been to Alaska and New Mexico. She encourages Friends to access her newsletter through FCNL.org, and to build relationships with governmental representatives. Native American tribes are sovereign nations that are current and viable populations.

The U.S. Farm Bill affects Native Americans in that it can fund nutritional programs to promote more natural diets with fewer processed foods. Diabetes prevention work is also being done to help Native Americans.

GPYM 18-21 – Intergenerational Faith & Play

Connie Adams, with help from some of the children, facilitated a lesson in Faith & Play, which is a method of story-telling developed by Friends General Conference (FGC) based on Montessori techniques. The lesson today was about “Listening for God” and we learned about listening with our whole selves. Children carried story objects around the group as Connie read. “God touches our heart when we are together” -- represented with at heart; “God touches our eyes with the beauty of God’s creation” -- represented by a piece of quartz; “God touches our ears, so we can hear beautiful sounds” -- represented by a bell; “God touches our noses with beautiful perfumes of natural creation” - - represented by incense sticks; “God touches our tongues when we taste” -- represented by a lemon; “God touches us through our skin” – represented by the gentle touch of feathers; “God touches us through special stories about Jesus”; “God touches us through a community gathered for worship.”

“We practice listening wherever we are with our whole selves. God’s Spirit helps us know how to love.” Faith & Play stories usually have some ‘wondering’ questions when the story concludes. We were asked “I wonder what part of this story touched you today?” and “I wonder if there are other ways we listen to God?”

GPYM 18-22 -- Visitation: The Ministry of Connections

The Home Missions and Ministry & Counsel committees facilitated this workshop. There has been a growing concern about being more intentional in our visitation with each other. A panel of Beth Green-Nagle, Sara Scribner, Dorlan Bales and LaVonna Loesch shared stories of their visitation experiences.

Beth shared that she and her family, when they travel, intentionally try to visit other meetings in an informal capacity. Her home meeting, Hominy Friends, has long standing connections with area meetings. For example, Stillwater and Kickapoo Friends Center. They also have strong connection with Council House in Northeast Oklahoma. Beth recently helped by giving a sermon when their worship leader fell ill, which led to an invitation to attend their evening pot-luck and monthly business meeting. She led worship a second time in May

of this year. There are different elements of visitation: Active, planned ministry and establishing and nurturing relationships.

Dorlan asked the question, “What is it like to be visited?” His home meeting, Heartland Friends, has been visited many times over the years and they also visited Topeka and Lubbock when those meetings were considering membership in GPYM. It was a good way to be able to learn about the different cultures of the meetings. Our yearly meeting needs this type of visitation to build our relationships. Meetings are looking for support, especially if they feel isolated. It has been worthwhile to do visiting and it has been a rich experience to be visited.

Sara shared that a very unique gift of this yearly meeting is that of relationship building. Visitors come with a gift of listening and a spirit of genuine love. Being prepared to be sensitive to the Spirit is important. David Ely from Ohio Yearly Meeting visits Lubbock each year and they have built a relationship. Sara said that she once received a call to visit another meeting. After months of considering, she made arrangements to go. This other meeting was going through a similar situation as Lubbock and they’ve continued a friendship over the years. It is important to be sensitive and faithful to the spirit.

LaVonna admitted that visitation is not easy for her as it is not her first inclination to do so. She recalled Maria Bradley from Baltimore Yearly Meeting who visited GPYM to broaden her world beyond Baltimore YM. She came back for several years and built a relationship. LaVonna thinks it’s important to fellowship with other meetings, with no agenda, so you can see how they function on any given Sunday. This helps to understand better who they are.

A sign-up sheet was passed around with two parts on it: 1) I may be interested in being a visitor, and 2) My meeting may want to be visited. Dorlan asked that Friends sign up as they feel led. With participation by several Friends, this will promote the growth of our yearly meeting. Traveling with someone in a car can be a building experience. Our young people may have the gift of ministry and this could be a way to explore that. What we have to offer is good enough and we don’t have to be perfect.

There are other options to explore such as internet connections, Skype and conference calls for example. Do we send minutes of travel and how would

feedback be relayed back to the yearly meeting? Can outreach to unaffiliated Friends groups be combined with inter-visitation among GPYM's seven monthly meetings? Would this be especially helpful for smaller meetings? These are all good questions that need consideration and seasoning.

Aaron Fowler shared that there are many opportunities to be a traveling Friend. It is important to be present in that space and live with the moment. Be aware of the gifts of those in your meetings and who may grow in this area if invited to travel with a seasoned visitor. Recognize, encourage and motivate Friends and take seriously the power this has for the Yearly Meeting and other Friends in the Great Plains. Support people who have that call.

GPYM 18-23 -- Evening Activities

Hominy Friends Meeting treated us to an Osage feast featuring: corn soup, fry bread, meat gravy and grape dumplings. The meal was followed by wonderful fellowship while playing a traditional hand game and dancing around the drummers.

Sunday, June 3, 2018

GPYM 18-24 -- Business Session V

Following breakfast provided by Hominy Friends, we gathered for the final business session.

The clerk announced that 2017 minute books are available on the registration table for all who would like a copy. She also asked everyone to fill out an evaluation form. Packets of FUM information have been compiled and are available for each monthly meeting.

GPYM 18-25 -- Nominating Committee

Angela Brown brought forth the following nominations: Sue Wine to the publications committee; John Wine & Angela Young to Trustees through 2021. These were approved.

GPYM 18-26 -- Children's Report

The children who met during these sessions presented a choral reading of "The Daniel Jazz" by Vachel Lindsey from 1919. (See appendix for script.) Anika

Nagle shared the children's epistle which was approved with joy! (See appendix.)

GPYM 18-27 -- FUM Summer Mission Project

Eden Grace shared about the summer mission project, which is a child centered Cuba-centered curriculum for the northern hemisphere to be used by Sunday schools and first day schools. Friends have been in Cuba since 1900. The church advocated with the government to regain the school that had been abandoned in 1959. They got it back two years ago. It will be the AA center for Puerto Padre and provide a space for spiritual growth. Information was distributed to each meeting. Posters, children's activities, and recipes are all available in this packet.

GPYM 18-28 -- Minute to Norman Friends

David Nagle presented a minute to Norman Friends from GPYM. This was approved. (See appendix.)

GPYM 18-29 -- Greetings to Friends not with us this Year

The clerk gathered names of Friends unable to attend this year. She will send greetings to: Don & Linda Mallonee, Neil & Grayce Mesner, Laura Dungan, Selma Mesner, George McConnell, Marjorie & Lynn Van Buren, Jim Lynch, Jean Eden and Lorene Ludy, Molly Loesch, Liz Wine, Greg & Rhonda Newby, Patrice Stephenson, Micah Bales & Faith Kelley; Maria Bradley and Linda Coates. Please give any names we may have forgotten to LaVonna.

GPYM 18-30 Reading of Epistle

Beth Green-Nagle presented the GPYM epistle to Friends everywhere. Following minor corrections, the epistle (See appendix.) was approved with many thanks to Beth for her hard and loving work.

GPYM 18-31 Closing Thoughts from the Clerk

LaVonna Loesch, Presiding Clerk, asked that as we discern the leading of the Spirit. Richard Rohr, in the book "Everything Belongs" states we cannot **attain** the Spirit of God, because we are **in** the spirit of God. God chooses us, and we are in God's presence now...and now...and now. Julian of Norwich, from the 14th century reminds us: "For God wishes to be seen. God wishes to be sought. God wishes to be expected. God wishes to be trusted. God wishes to be enjoyed."

GPYM Continuing Committee Minutes - Fall 2017

GPYM Continuing committee - September 23, 2017 at University Friends Meetinghouse. Present: LaVonna Loesch, Cheryl Mallonee, Connie Adams, Dorlan Bales, Sara Scribner, Cliff Loesch, Steve McConnell, David Nagle via video conference.

Podcast – 22-minute guided meditation by Nathan Foster and Josh Banner. Julian of Norwich quote “for God wishes to be seen, God wishes to be sought, God wishes to be expected, God wishes to be trusted, God wishes to be enjoyed.”

We went around the table and checked in with everyone present.

We looked back on the 2017 sessions and growth points for the yearly meeting and monthly meetings. What did God have for us? We added two new monthly meetings and now we get to know each other better. The Kingdom of God vs. Empires of the world was very intriguing to Jock of Lubbock and comes up often in their discussions. A refocus on the book of Revelations has been discovered. Christians are faced with more challenges of loyalties in our national and international relationships. Learning more about Wichita Friends School was interesting. Cliff enjoyed getting to play music with Joseph Nagle & Jocelyn Mallonee, which was a highlight for him. The multi-generational aspect is exciting as well. The development of the youth is good to see and their working on the grounds of Heartland to make improvements was appreciated.

In the future, maybe it could be possible to have the evaluation forms online for people to submit electronically. Speaker Wess Daniels was very brave to explore Revelations in a short period of time. It was good to hear some positive aspects of that book and encouraged spiritual deepening. Business session feedback: Friends are more appreciative of committee reports from agencies around the world. It helps us be more connected outside GPYM. Sara Scribner appreciated the planning and how well the sessions flowed. It was the smoothest running annual session that she has experienced. Aaron's Stories to Songs is always enjoyable. Dean & Angela Young enjoyed being the subject this year. “Live in the Light”, the song written about Dean & Angela, should be a new Quaker standard per Steve McConnell.

Workshop feedback: Sometimes subjects or topics are hard to come up with. Cha Tullis is a Native American artist and might be an idea for next year. He has a gallery in Hominy. Spirituality and the arts could possibly be a focus for next session. The FCNL Advocacy Team and visitation were the two workshops we had this past year. It might be worth exploring them further.

An emphasis on Quakers & Native American connections was discussed. Possibly go to one of their dances if available.

Children and Youth: Andrea & David Suttle handled the younger kids. Monica Warnken, Dean Young & Aaron Fowler helped with the youth. It would be good to have a point person to handle getting people lined up to work with children & youth.

Some Friends missed the song circle this past year. More committee time is needed. Finance & Home Missions did not have enough time to get through all their agenda items. The extra half a day of programming did help. How do we make the most of the time that is available during sessions? Maybe do agency reports during workshop time to free up time for committee meetings. Express to representatives from agencies our time constraints and to make shorter verbal presentations and we know that they're available during meals, etc. Sometimes we don't know who's coming until shortly before sessions, so it's hard to know how much time to allot them on the schedule. Maybe do some committee meetings on Thursday mornings during sessions.

2018 sessions – Eden Grace is the planned speaker for the Hominy sessions. We started thinking ahead to the next three years and lining up speakers. John Calvi is a name that has been mentioned. Perhaps someone who would have a Native American connection? David Hansen is a resource that Dorlan knows of that may be helpful in finding a possible speaker with collaboration with David Nagle. Paula Palmer was also mentioned. Paula has worked with David Nagle about the history of Quakers in schools for native Americans. Host meetings need to feel that their local flavor be reflected.

Lunch break

Podcast meditation – memorize a scripture passage or prayer and repeat it 2 or 3 times to meditate.

Continuing committee travel consideration was discussed as we look at the distance between monthly meetings and the cost of gas to travel to different locations. Wichita is a more central location than most, but is it fair to make OK, NE & TX friends to travel all the time? Should YM help fund the travel expenses to Continuing Committee? Sara Scribner outlined the situation of Lubbock and they expect to have to travel to Wichita, but would appreciate notice a few months in advance so it can get on the calendar. Steve McConnell shared that travel expenses are a nice gesture, but wouldn't necessarily be used. We would like to support travel to continuing committee as needed with home hospitality and money for mileage or gas receipts. Dorlan suggested we use funds in the Traveling Ministries line item temporarily until an amount can be worked into the budget. Connie suggested letting Friends know that travel reimbursement is available. Mileage and/or receipts for cost can be handled between the traveler and the treasurer (Connie). The finance treasurer and clerk will work on an amendment to the 2018 budget to include travel expenses, email it to LaVonna to distribute for consideration/approval, and go that route. We would possibly be able to use operating funds if there are sufficient funds.

Discussion occurred about nominating committee reports and who is serving as representatives to agencies. We need to streamline the list and make the nominating committee's job easier. The list of agency representatives was inadvertently left out of the 2016 minute book, so it added to some confusion. Friends approved that David Nagle will ask Carole Revard if she is willing to continue to serve as a representative to FCNL for a 3-year term. More than one representative can be appointed to FCNL, to open way to Friends from other meetings to participate, such as Heartland which is becoming more involved in FCNL advocacy.

It was suggested that we try to meet in Hominy in the Spring for continuing committee since they are hosting the 2018 sessions. Hospitality and wireless connections are key issues that need to be considered. Connie shared a Finance Committee report of activity since yearly meeting sessions.

Fundraising for the operating budget, home missions budget and scholarship are an area of focus. A letter focusing on these giving options to GPYM would be good to get out by November before the end of the fiscal year. In needs to be sent to members of Heartland, Central City, Lubbock, Hominy, Topeka,

Council House (Frankie Sue and Stan Johnson) and University Friends who attend GPYM, and individuals that have attended GPYM the past few years. Steve will draft a letter for LaVonna to distribute.

Dorlan shared for Home Missions as they recently met on September 9. Travel in the ministry was discussed and they would like having more people available to travel. Possible workshop topics for next sessions were also discussed. Two kinds of visiting, visit each other's meetings within GPYM and visits to prospective monthly meetings. Yearly meeting regional gatherings in NE, OK & KS. Lincoln is hosting a gathering November 4, with prison reform in NE being the topic. Oklahoma is planning an FNCL-focused gathering October 22, but it may be postponed until the spring. University Friends is hosting Talk-IES, which are Intellectual, Emotional, Spiritual conversations with multiple speakers. They are similar to TED talks and take place the third Thursday of every month. Upcoming topics are: October 19, the role of government and November 16, Art & Faith which will also serve as the GPYM KS area fall gathering. GPYM communications was discussed. A quarterly newsletter is being developed and we are consulting Erin DeGroot to work on this. She is also working on a logo and our website. Online registration for YM is also area of focus. We can attach Erin's work to social media accounts. Fundraising was discussed.

Technology needs to be discussed more in depth. Not every meeting has Wi-fi access so that has to be considered while trying to keep communication open and flowing. Friends are asked to spend time thinking about this, whether grants need to be written to get Wi-Fi in all the meetings, or other options. The handbook/minute book was discussed and the need to develop a database of past attenders. Orientation for new members on procedural things of GPYM might be helpful as well.

David Nagle shared that their Children's Sunday School class is going very well and is increasing the adult attendance also. Angela Brown drives the van to pick people up. Steve McConnell invited folks to Lincoln on Nov. 4 for their fall gathering.

Friends adjourned until our next meeting in the spring of 2018.

GPYM Continuing Committee Minutes – Spring 2018

April 7, 2018 at University Friends Meeting

LaVonna Loesch, Paul Mallonee, Steve McConnell, Sue Wine, Cliff Loesch, Connie Adams, Sara Scribner, Dorlan Bales and Cheryl Mallonee gathered into worship. Friends checked in with how they are doing personally and the life of their meetings. The minutes from the September 23 meeting were approved with minor spelling corrections.

The clerk brought forth the question: Are there concerns the yearly meeting should consider? Connie Adams suggested a focus on our history of concerns for Native Americans, especially with our ties with Hominy. How do we express compassion for felons? Topeka is dealing with this and Nebraska has a history of working with this subject. Following further discussion about our Native American connection, Dorlan Bales suggested maybe we should focus on this at times that Hominy is not hosting yearly meeting sessions. Heartland has a retired minister that has been attending who has much knowledge on the subject and the history of the settlers and Native American interactions. Sara Scribner brought forth the topic of the concern for families of undocumented people. How to care for the families if one is sent away?

Steve McConnell suggested support of FGC as they have supported us over the years. Maybe Ministry & Counsel should discuss this topic. The finance committee could not come to consensus of support, as there were strong feelings for and against support of FGC. Dorlan noted that the topic of war and our peace testimony has not been discussed at the yearly meeting level for a while.

Where do these discussions need to go now? Is there a seasoning process? Twenty-minute breakout sessions with queries during yearly meeting sessions, just to discuss and see if there's a focus we want to pursue, were suggested. Small groups could possibly develop queries help identify the concerns. It was suggested to send an invitation to the monthly meetings to see if they have any concerns to bring to the yearly meeting. What are your monthly meetings concerns about things going on in the world? As a yearly meeting we need to be open to hearing what the monthly meetings are concerned with. How do we find out what the monthly meetings are wanting to work on? What are they passionate about? Quaker Voluntary Service is a possible outlet for the yearly meeting to focus on. The Continuing Committee is wondering what are the

concerns might be of each monthly meeting and we invite the monthly meetings to share with us any concerns and how the yearly meeting might be supportive. LaVonna is developing a query to send out to monthly meetings to discuss in the next month, then do a ZOOM meeting in early May to discuss what comes to the surface.

The finance committee brought forth a question from David Nagle about whether the Webb Fund could be used for Joseph Nagle to attend a Friends Music Camp at Earlham College this summer. LaVonna read a letter from Hominy monthly meeting requesting \$1500 to be used toward this 3-week camp in July 2018. Steve sent the guidelines of the Webb Fund to the finance committee and then they had a ZOOM meeting to discuss. Following the discussion, they heartily approved the use of these funds for Joseph. They ask that Joseph to write a letter expressing his hopes about going to this camp, a report of his experience to the continuing committee and the yearly meeting afterwards, and perform at the next yearly meeting sessions. The finance committee recommends that Continuing Committee approve this request. Following discussion the request was approved. The Finance Committee will draft a letter and LaVonna will send it to the Nagle's and Hominy Monthly Meeting.

Connie presented the Treasurer's report. A new fundraising letter went out at the end of the year and did not collect as much as anticipated. Different tactics of fundraising may need to be explored; perhaps an explanation of what the needs are for each fund.

Dorlan reported for Home Missions – Visitation was their main topic at a meeting last week. Visiting new meetings and inter-visitation among the current member meetings is also a focus they want to have. In person communication is best, but there are other ways to keep in touch with people: skype, zoom, letters and email are all valuable. Their plan is to ask who in the monthly meetings would be interested in these types of visitation. They are assembling a list of possible candidates and hope to have a list compiled before yearly meeting sessions. They would like to have a workshop to go over guidelines and information, then have friends sign up for whatever type they would be comfortable doing. They feel a need for more consistency in the visiting and reports back to feel more closely knit together as we are geographically challenged. A newsletter is in the works and a new one should be out before yearly meeting sessions. Reports from the three regions are

encouraged. Kansas had Talk-IES sessions this past year. Hominy had a gathering last fall that discussed Quaker history; there was a focus on prison reform at the Nebraska gathering in Lincoln last fall.

Technology concerns were discussed. Video conferencing has been a great help for committees to meet over the miles and at a short notice. There is a learning curve to getting more used to it and we just have to be more open to the process. The cost efficiency of our website needs to be evaluated. Erin DeGroot is ready to get the registration form on the website to register for yearly meeting online.

David Nagle joined the meeting via phone.

GPYM sessions- State of Society and Statistics report need to be gathered before sessions. Statistics are based on the calendar year. State of society reports are based on June to May. For the memorial service, we need to know who has passed since we met at last sessions. Deadline for submitting reports to LaVonna is May 23.

Clerks of committees are encouraged to contact their members prior to YM sessions. Eden Grace is the speaker this year. “Recognizing the Voice of God” is the theme she will be sharing. Luke 1:38 is the scripture she is considering. Leadership during the sessions is needed for children and young friends and Bible study. Liz Wine and Andrea Suttle are unavailable during this time. Aaron Fowler won’t be doing stories to songs this year either. Discussion followed on names and what kind of accommodations would be provided. Kate Donaghue, Molly Loesch, Wes & Kendra Miller, Sarah Wine were names suggested. Would the Fletchers from Norman have any connections? Bible study leadership is needed and a Friend from Hominy was suggested. Beth Nagle’s name was suggested and David will ask her.

Workshops for the upcoming sessions were discussed. Lacina Oneo, FCNL Advocate for Native American Issues; Visitation with Dorlan/Home Missions; and Eden Grace could present about FUM Global Ministries. Faith & Play about listening for God might be inserted into the business sessions to help have more interaction among Friends.

Future speakers: John Calvi will be our speaker at University Friends in 2019. No one is lined up for 2020 (Heartland) or 2021 (Hominy) yet. Eden does not

have an elder with her this year, but she asked that LaVonna find someone at these sessions to cover those needs in Hominy. Dorlan suggested a Native American speaker would be good to hear in a place other than Hominy so we can learn more about the relationship between the American church and native people races. David Nagle has this on his radar too. David and Dorlan will work on this together. Sara suggested Brian Drayton from New England YM. Steve suggested a man from Iowa, Jim Kessler, who has interest in earth care and prairie restoration. Robin Mohr the General Secretary of FWCC was also suggested.

Dorlan needs ideas for names of folks who would be interested in visitation who can help with the workshop at yearly meeting sessions.

LaVonna closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Mallonee, Recording Clerk

Appendices

American Friends Service Committee Corporation Meeting Report

A Report from the AFSC Corporation Meeting
April 12-14, 2018 Philadelphia, PA

My recent trip to Philadelphia on behalf of Great Plains Yearly Meeting to represent us on the AFSC corporation was approached with some apprehension and a lack of enthusiasm. A decade and a half had passed since my last airline flight or direct involvement with the American Friends Service Committee. Oh, how things have changed with time. I needed to participate in one of two pre-meeting conference calls, I was required to fill out an online bio, needed a temporary, then, a personal password to open and read informational corporation reports necessary to participate in the meetings. A slew of e-mails followed, and I took a deep breath. Then a thick packet arrived in the mail and I had a sense of *deja vu*. This was the AFSC I remembered.

I am pleased to report my deliberations, many conversations, listening, and worship among gathered Friends and staff was uplifting and even a tonic in our troubled times. The Committee operates programs acting in faith, on Quaker values, from 32 US cities. It also has international programs in 16 countries and United Nations offices and credentials. I was among staff and volunteers who were thoughtful, informed, energized, and creative. We are making a difference in the lives of our neighbors and communities speaking truth to power, educating, listening, helping. It was again apparent that Friends have a unique and distinctive voice that the world needs now.

Listening to our treasurer, Susan Cozzens report to the corporation I learned how the AFSC has struggled in recent years to balance current and future program spending against anticipated revenue streams in an ever-changing world and with an aging donor base. The stress on the organization has been heavy, yet Friends have journeyed faithfully. Through downsizing, reorganizing, intense deliberations, cost cutting, and fresh leadership the Service Committee is again finding a firm foundation to move our work and witness forward. I was impressed by the knowledge, experience, and grace of our newest General Secretary, Palestinian-American, Joyce Ajlouny. She now leads the organization in its one hundred and first year of service.

It was reinforced that Quakers are very good at gathering and sharing facts and stories. I attended workshops on “Unlocking Gaza,” “Healing Justice with the Good Neighbor Project,” “Fundraising, Quaker values, and you,” and was part of a worship sharing group to provide insights into a new ten-year strategic plan. I heard powerful testimony and twisting stories in our Friday evening program. Kempis “Ghani” Songster was a juvenile lifer, incarcerated 30 years for murder, recently released through the efforts of the Amistad Law Project. The presentation was intimate and authentic, titled, “A Journey Home: Healing Justice as an act of radical faith.”

The Friends Relations Committee of the AFSC is an important and active outreach to meet Quakers where they are, while inviting participation, sharing through the internet, and hosting workshops at the FGC Gathering. Our service committee is rich in data, analysis, and human stories. Details of the work are easily available at afsc.org or 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 nominate an organization or individual for the Nobel Peace Prize. You can learn more at quakernobel.org/node/4.

Times of worship in the very old Race Street Meeting House were provoking and enlightening, along with a comfort and warmth. My time representing GPYM with other Friends, on reflection, seems well spent. I thank you for the opportunity. More details available upon visitation.

Respectfully,
Dean A. Young, Heartland Friends Meeting

AFSC Midwest letter to Friends 2018

AFSC Midwest Region

Brant Rosen’s 2018 Letter to Yearly Meetings in the Midwest

I’m pleased to offer warm greetings to you from the Midwest Region of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). May your Yearly Meeting be a time of renewal and rejuvenation in your community of faith and action.

We are living in dark times, and it’s difficult to overstate the many threats to our planet and peoples. And yet, as Leonard Cohen sang, “There is a crack, a crack in everything. That’s how the light gets in.” As Quakers and as AFSC,

we love metaphors about light, and for good reason. Shining light in dark places is often the first step toward transforming hurt into healing, injustice into peace.

Please join me as we take a cursory spin around AFSC's Midwest Region. And please join us in this work by getting (or staying) involved in peace and justice work with AFSC and in your community.

There aren't many darker places in our country than prison cells, especially for people serving very long sentences. AFSC's Criminal Justice Program in Michigan works to connect mentors inside prison with mentors on the outside through our Good Neighbor Project.

With the hand of student interns and many volunteers, we answer dozens of letters each week from prisoners, helping to improve their conditions of confinement and, when possible, prepare them for parole hearings. Many people who have served long sentences are now vital members of our communities, and we're working with them to change the public narrative by sharing their stories.

AFSC's Freedom Schools and Youth Undoing Institutional Racism (YUIR) work in St. Louis and the Twin Cities are working to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline, which negatively impacts youth of color. In St. Louis, staff produced a 30-minute documentary called *Pipedreams*, shown recently at the St. Louis Friends Meetinghouse.

AFSC organizes highly successful peer mediation groups in St. Louis high schools where students work to resolve conflicts among themselves. In St. Paul, AFSC played a key role in supporting the St. Paul teachers' union as they secured funds for restorative justice pilot programs in schools. Through YUIR, youth decide together how best to address institutional racism in their communities.

In Ohio, AFSC is working with African student associations across the state on our "We Dream a World Project," designed to encourage civic engagement and address the xenophobia which African students confront. AFSC played a major role for years in the eventual empanelment of Ohio's New African Immigrants Commission. We continue to lift up the Welcome Dayton initiative as a model for communities across the country which want to grow thanks to the entrepreneurial spirit of new residents.

The Trump administration and those politicians who follow its lead have been especially intent on oppressing immigrants across the country. In Iowa, AFSC led the struggle against a new anti-sanctuary cities law which forbids any restriction of local law enforcement cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

While we “lost” in the short-term, the community organizing and leadership development we’ve done in the immigrant rights community will pay long-term dividends. Meanwhile, our low-cost legal services program and immigration hotline play key roles in supporting immigrants.

In Chicago, AFSC has worked alongside young people as they continue to organize against a proposed \$95 million “cop academy.” In a city devastated by school closures and cuts in human services, it’s criminal to spend even more on the police. Young people are charting their own course in this struggle, from holding a “die-in” at city hall to suing the mayor to canvassing neighbors in order to put pressure on alderpeople who’ve been voting against their constituents.

AFSC in Chicago is blessed to have staff who work locally and nationally in support of key AFSC projects. We led a group of Chicago teachers through an eight-week course in confronting and resisting Islamophobia and surveillance in the public schools. Our national “Communities Against Islamophobia” work is offering a number of helpful resources for allies, including Bystander Intervention Trainings.

While prospects for justice and human rights in Gaza and the rest of Palestine may appear dim at the moment, we keep building and organizing for change. One key success is the introduction of Rep. Betty McCollum’s bill in the U.S. House, now with 24 co-sponsors. The “Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act” (HR4391) is an historic bill; please contact Congress today to urge its passage.

This spring in Indianapolis, AFSC also made history by hosting “Hearing in the Heartland,” a congressional-style hearing featuring expert witnesses who shared seldom-heard stories about Gaza while encouraging changes in US policy.

After the hearing, people gathered for a lively celebration of Palestinian culture, music, poetry and food. Learn more and get involved at www.GazaUnlocked.org.

Our Indiana office exemplifies AFSC's commitment to intersectionality. Staff, interns and volunteers work on a number of related areas of oppression, from support for undocumented youth to Black Lives Matter. Once again this spring, AFSC organized an "alternative spring break" for Earlham students interested in peace and justice work. Indiana Friends play an important role in volunteering and serving on the Indiana Area Committee.

None of this work would be possible, of course, without your support. Your prayers, voluntarism, local action and donations have driven AFSC since its birth, and we continue to count heavily on Friends for your support and guidance. Learn more about how you and your meeting or church can get involved by visiting afsc.org/friends.

As AFSC enters into a strategic planning process for the next decade, we invite and need your input. How are you working for social change? How are you connected with AFSC, and/or how would you like to be? What is your meeting or church doing to address institutional racism? Which community leaders or "mavens" would you suggest we consult as we plan AFSC's future work? Let us know at StratPlan2018@afsc.org.

At the regional level, I'm very pleased to welcome Sharon Goens-Bradley as the new Associate Regional Director. Sharon has served admirably as director of the Twin Cities program for five years. We're grateful that Shanene Herbert has stepped into Sharon's former role.

I invite you to stay connected with AFSC's Midwest Region by subscribing to our monthly e-newsletter, the Midwest Digest (at tinyurl.com/MidwestDigest). And I encourage you to enlighten me directly. AFSC's phone in Chicago is 312-427-2533. My e-mail is BRosen@afsc.org, and you can connect with me on Twitter @RabbiBrant.

FCNL Report

Working Together for Change

Addressing Climate Change: FCNL is creating space for bipartisan progress to address climate change, even as the Trump administration works to dismantle environmental protections. We've led the way to bring more than 60 members into the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus.

Protecting Health Care for All: FCNL's persistent advocacy, helped defeat legislation that would have repealed the Affordable Care Act and cut 22 million people off health care. In nearly 300 lobby visits, we shared stories about the importance of affordable health care coverage and Medicaid. We continue to advocate for a community that helps everyone meet their basic needs.

[FCNL's Quaker Welcome Center] "will help stem the vitriol by fostering respectful conversation and a search for common ground. New space in DC intends to play host to bipartisan dialogue. *Washington Post*

Building Peace: FCNL's advocacy is counteracting the Trump administration's push to put military force at the center of U.S. foreign policy. We are building bipartisan support in the House and Senate for the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act, and we are successfully keeping Congress from cutting peacebuilding funding. We continue to press the U.S. to engage diplomatically and to uphold the nuclear deal with Iran. We are also pushing Congress to reconsider its unconditional support for military strategies, from ending the U.S. backing of Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen to repealing the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force.

Fixing Immigration: FCNL is working closely with Republican and Democratic senators on comprehensive legislation to protect Dreamers, undocumented young adults who arrived in the U.S. as children. Both in our own lobbying and that of the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, which we co-chair, FCNL is advocating for reforms to our immigration system and against harmful proposals such as increased deportation, detention, and a military buildup on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Protecting Muslims and Refugees: FCNL is at the forefront of opposing the Trump administration's executive orders gutting the refugee resettlement program and barring people from some Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States. We are lobbying for bills to rescind the order,

securing congressional support for court challenges to the order, and organizing public demonstrations to support refugees.

Reigning in Pentagon Spending: FCNL's Advocacy Teams – more than 1,300 people across the country – spent all of 2017 building relationships with their congressional delegations, focused on Pentagon spending. Now members of Congress are supporting Pentagon audit legislation and hearing hard questions about Pentagon spending increases. FCNL also continues to focus on blocking spending for nuclear weapons and supporting nonproliferation efforts.

Advocating with Native Americans: FCNL's persistent advocacy on Native American concerns honors a history of respectful relationships between Quakers and Native peoples. In November, we welcomed our first congressional advocate on Native American policy, Lacina Onco, who will lead FCNL's advocacy with Congress as an ally of Native American groups.

FWCC, Section of the Americas Report

Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas
2018 Representative Report to Great Plains Yearly Meeting

There was not a Section Meeting this year because FWCC Section of the Americas is holding Section Meetings every two years. This year I have continued to serve on the Naming Committee to recommend members for the Nominating Committee. I also hope to work on digitizing and editing the Spanish-English Glosario Cuaquero, Quaker Glossary this summer. In this report, I wish to highlight the Traveling Ministry Corps, the celebration of World Quaker Day on October 7, 2018, and the 2019 Section Meeting.

FWCC SOA is in the second year of developing the Traveling Ministry Corps, a program for volunteers traveling in the ministry crossing Yearly Meeting lines and other divisions among Friends. Their goal is for a FWCC traveling minister to visit or communicate with every Quaker meeting in the Americas over the next five years. The Traveling Ministry Corps currently consists 8 English-speaking ministers from across the United States and 6 Spanish-speaking ministers from Bolivia, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Mexico. The application period for the 2019 group of traveling ministers will open soon if you are interested in this ministry.

Friends Churches, Monthly Meetings and Yearly Meetings in the Americas are encouraged to request a visit from a member of the Traveling Ministry Corps.

The request form specifies: These traveling Friends will share their spiritual experience, the sense of unity that is possible across the branches of Friends, and encourage Friends to learn from one another. These Friends will visit Friends meetings and churches in yearly meetings other than their own and offer one or more of the following:

- Facilitate a one-day, half-day or weekend workshop on a topic of mutual interest to the meeting and the minister
- Bring a message and organize worship sharing after a weeknight potluck
- Attend a regularly scheduled worship service.
- Write a letter of encouragement and pastoral care

For more details about the traveling ministers and the specific topics their ministry covers, visit the FWCC website:

<http://fwccamericas.org/visitation/traveling-ministry.shtml>

World Quaker Day will be celebrated on October 7, 2018 this year. It is a celebration of our shared Quaker faith and heritage with Friends around the globe. I encourage GPYM Friends to participate by organizing an event about Quaker history in their Meetings and sending a photo to the FWCC office. For more information, visit www.worldquakerday.org. You can also check out the WQD Facebook group.

The 2019 Section Meeting of the FWCC Section of the Americas will be held March 21-24, 2019 at Lake Doniphan Camp and Conference Center, just outside Kansas City, Missouri. The theme will be ¡Come and See! (John 1:46) with explorations of “how can we all be Friends?” and “who is my neighbor?” Finally, please consider sending a contribution to FWCC Section of the Americas to support the important work happening across the branches of the Religious Society of Friends that is sponsored by FWCC.

Respectfully submitted by,
Beth Green-Nagle
Hominy Friends Meeting

Friends United Meeting report

On behalf of the Friends United Meeting General Board, staff and global community, I want to thank you Friends for your partnership in our shared work and for the generous support that enables FUM to minister all over the world. It has been a great year of growth, connection building and transformational ministry—made possible because of you! Colin Saxton

Here are a few highlights from Eden Grace, Global Ministries Director:

There've been many exciting developments in FUM's Global Ministries programs this year. Oscar Mmbali reached 100% of his support for his ministry as Pastoral Minister in Belize and took up his new position on August 1st. Shawn and Katrina McConaughy, from Newburg Oregon, were appointed as field staff in the Africa Ministries Office. After successfully raising 100% of their support, they departed for Kenya in late March and are settling in well. Adrian Moody, a Roman Catholic from Australia, was appointed as the new Head of Ramallah Friends School, taking over from Joyce Ajlouny, who left to become the new General Secretary of AFSC. Adrian began at the school on August 1st and is still working on raising his support. Ben Snyder was hired as the new North American Ministries Coordinator, working part-time in the Richmond office to support FUM's growing programmatic work among US and Canadian Friends.

The new Belize City Friends Center building that we purchased just over a year ago has undergone a comprehensive rehab under the capable coordination of Dale Graves and many, many volunteers. Dale left Belize in January due to health concerns, and we are actively searching for a new Director for Belize Friends Ministries. The new Belize City Friends Church is growing under Oscar Mmbali's pastoral leadership.

Friends Theological College reached a significant milestone in its quest for accreditation with the Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa by submitting the Self-Evaluation Report one year ago and receiving a one-week site visit in September. We expect a decision on accreditation any day now. FTC also has an exciting new website: ftc.friendsunitedmeeting.org. After long delays, construction has finally begun on the Samburu Friends Empowerment Center, a mixed-use commercial and residential complex that will generate income for the mission as well as create jobs in the community. In Turkana, Kenya, we are in the early stages of planning for a new mobile

medical ministry to reach remote and nomadic people who lack access to even the most basic health care. The Africa Ministries Office has a special focus on Tanzanian Friends, pairing Kenyans with Tanzanians to strengthen the church and increase outreach in that country.

Other highlights offered by Dan Kasztelan, Communications Director for FUM: Over the past year, the Communications Department has contributed to the work of FUM in multiple ways. In addition to regular publication of the quarterly *Quaker Life*, the monthly *Connections* newsletter, and the weekly e-news, we've created print and internet material to assist five field staff in raising or renewing their support for a three-year term in the field. We've greatly expanded and upgraded our website and separated our online donation center from our e-commerce store. Finally, we are involved in the work of creating an online bookstore, featuring Friends United Press books as well as books of theological and spiritual interest from other publishers; we've chosen books for inclusion based upon their potential interest for religious education in Meetings/Churches or for individual study. These books can be ordered online or through our printed catalog, which is being distributed this summer at Yearly Meeting annual sessions, and by post to congregations.

Thank you and blessing from outgoing the General Secretary, Colin Saxton: We are all excited for and hopeful about Kelly Kellum's appointment to serve as FUM's next General Secretary. Kelly brings deep spiritual insight, pastoral gifts, wisdom and connections across the Quaker community—all of which will serve FUM very well. Kelly begins his work July 1st.

I count it an honor and great privilege to have served this community over the last 6 ½ years. I believe very strongly in the necessity of a vibrant, global fellowship of Quakers. We need one another—across culture, socio-economic background, and perspective—to best embody the beauty and fullness of a Christ-centered, Quaker fellowship. FUM provides the organizational structure, spiritual focus, opportunities for shared service/worship/fellowship and relational ties to expand and strengthen just the kind of community our world needs. FUM is growing—this year our yearly meeting/association membership increased to 37. Especially among the East African membership, new meetings/churches are being planted and populated with fresh faces, energy and passion. With greater participation, however, comes greater need for engagement, partnership and interaction by all of us, if we want to continue to work and grow together. Also, at a time when so many Yearly Meetings and

Associations are facing serious challenges, there may be important ways in which FUM can better serve and partner with your more local community. Please reach out to the staff to explore what new forms of collaboration might look like. I will continue to be a strong supporter and advocate for FUM. Please join me in doing the same! Peace and joy to you! Colin Saxton

Friends United Meeting report, Cliff Loesch

Report of Cliff Loesch's involvement over the past year

Great Plains Yearly Meeting hosted the FUM Triennial sessions at Friends University in Wichita, Kansas last summer. The triennial went very well and was a great experience. Here is a summary of some of my activities in preparation for the event:

- Served as a liaison with Friends University in almost every aspect of planning the triennial.
- Recruited Connie Adams to help come up with an idea for a gift for all triennial attendees. She figured out an easy way to make quilted mug rugs. I recruited several other quilters to help make the mug rugs—but Connie personally made the vast majority of them. *We had some left over and we want everyone attending GPYM 2018 in Hominy to have one.*
- I built a bunch of quilt frames and solicited quilts from five or more quilters to have on display during the triennial.
- I created a “Welcome to Wichita” document to show off the city to guests that can still be accessed at <http://quaker.org/legacy/universityfriends/documents/WelcometoWichita1.1.pdf>)
- With Colin Saxton, I was heavily involved in the service projects: discovering several of them and recruiting others to organize and run them.
- Put together a jazz combo for the ice cream social.
- Recruited some drivers for airport transportation.
- Borrowed a labyrinth and made it available to triennial guests.
- Clerked business sessions.
- And other things.

My time as clerk of FUM came to an end at the triennial sessions. Over the summer my role transitioned to lead the search committee for the next general secretary. That process went well. Because of my hospital stay, I had to miss

the in-person interview with Kelly Kellum in March. That interview went well and Kelly was recommended by the search committee and was confirmed by the general board. He begins in July.

I continue on as a board member, appointed by GPYM. Unfortunately, I am missing two consecutive board meetings: March, 2018, because of my surgery that month, and June, 2018, because of a family gathering. I hope to become fully engaged again this fall.

Friends United Meeting Triennial Sessions

It was our privilege to be able to participate in last summer's FUM Triennial. We were blessed to receive home hospitality from Dean and Angela Young. Renewing old connections and making new ones was also a blessing. The sessions were informative and challenging, the worship was uplifting and edifying, and the fellowship was gratifying. Learning more of the ministries of FUM was exciting and interesting. It was abundantly clear to us that our parent body is alive and well. Friends seem genuinely hungry to serve as we are carried forward by fresh winds of the Spirit. The presence of Cuban Friends and the care taken to bridge the language gap, the leadership exhibited by East African Friends, and the presence of other Friends from around the world greatly enriched our corporate experience as we together shared what God is doing in our lives, joined in worship, and endeavored to know one another in more profound ways. The reminder that US Quakers are now but a small percentage of the worldwide family of Friends was humbling and challenging. Especially gratifying was learning that sufficient funding had been provided to enable Kenyan Friend Oscar Siema Mmbali to begin ministering in Belize. We came away from the Triennial spiritually refreshed and recharged.

--David E. Nagle and Beth Green-Nagle

Quaker Earth Care Witness

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) continues to provide network services to Quakers who are taking spirit-led action to address ecological issues, emphasizing Quaker process and testimonies, including continuing revelation.

Rather than waste resources printing their voluminous materials, I encourage all interested Friends to take time exploring QEW's webpage at <https://www.quakerearthcare.org>. I will have my iPad with me most of the time

at yearly meeting and welcome the opportunity to sit down with anyone to look at some of QEW's online resources.

Every meeting should be aware of the "Earthcare Witness Toolkit for Meetings" which collects resources for meeting to learn about reducing consumption, saving energy and growing awareness about our impact on the planet. It includes a 250-page study guide, three issues of the bi-monthly journal "BeFriending Creation," an Earthcare Checklist, and many pamphlets. There is no specific charge but QEW requests a \$35 contribution. There are also many pamphlets that can be downloaded individually.

QEW sponsors an annual research institute every summer to encourage spirit-led research using Quaker methods and a Fall Steering Committee Meeting. More information about these upcoming events are available online.

John Wine
Topeka Friends Meeting

Home Missions Committee Report

Great Plains Yearly Meeting's Home Missions Committee met in person in September and in March, combining in person and teleconference methods of being together. On both occasions we enjoyed the opportunity to worship together and talk with one another about our far-flung faith communities and personal joys and challenges.

Visiting new meetings that may be interested in affiliation with GPYM, visitation among the current member meetings, and interbranch visits with evangelical and Friends General Conference meetings has been a focus since we met for yearly meeting sessions at Heartland. We are pleased to report that interbranch visiting is already happening in Oklahoma and Nebraska. The committee is looking forward to leading a workshop Saturday afternoon during these sessions to consider the important ministry of connections and strengthen that connecting here in the heartland. We hope that you will attend, whether interested in being a visitor, hoping to be visited, or both!

The Home Missions Committee realizes that although in-person communication is best, there are other ways to stay in touch with people including paper letters, telephone calls, text and email messages, Facebook and other social media, and teleconferencing using a software such as Skype and Zoom. We hope for more consistent visitation and written reports of those visits which can help us all feel knit together despite the geographical distances.

A newsletter is in the works and will be published quarterly beginning this summer. Reports of visits to meetings and of fall regional gatherings are encouraged from Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska. Kansas had several interesting Talk-IES (intellectual, emotional, and spiritual) sessions at University Friends this past year, organized by committee member Michelle Barrett. Hominy Friends hosted a gathering last fall that explored Quaker history with the help of a lively presentation by John and Gail Fletcher from Norman Friends. There was a focus on prison reform at the Nebraska gathering in Lincoln last fall. Friends from Central City and Omaha explored the topic with the Nebraska American Civil Liberties Union director as guest speaker.

The Home Missions Committee continues to be vibrant and creative, and we appreciate the yearly meeting's encouragement as the committee continues to focus on networking, outreach, and mentoring young adults who have many ministry gifts to share.

Young Friends Readers Theatre: THE DANIEL JAZZ

Cast of Characters: Narrator 1 (N1), Narrator 2 (N2), Daniel (Dan), Darius (Dar), His Good Old Mother (M), His Tender Sweetheart (S), The Lions (L), The Lord, Gabriel (no lines)

N1: Darius the Mede was a king and a wonder. His eye was proud, and his voice was thunder. He kept bad lions in a monstrous den. He fed up the lions on Christian men.

N2: Daniel was the chief hired man of the land. He stirred up the jazz in the palace band. He whitewashed the cellar. He shoveled in the coal.

N1: And Daniel kept a-praying: "Lord save my soul." Daniel kept a-praying "Lord save my soul." Daniel kept a-praying "Lord save my soul."

N2: Daniel was the butler, swagger and swell. He ran upstairs. He answered the bell.

N1: He would let in whoever came a-calling: Saints so holy, scamps so appalling.

N2: Old man Ahab leaves his card. Elisha and the bears are a-waiting in the yard. Here comes Pharaoh and his snakes a-calling.

N1: Here comes Cain and his wife a-calling. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego for tea. Here comes Jonah and the whale, and the Sea!

N2: Here comes St. Peter and his fishing pole. Here comes Judas and his silver a-calling. Here comes old Beelzebub a-calling.

N1: And Daniel kept a-praying.

Dan: Lord save my soul.

N1: And Daniel kept a-praying.

Dan: Lord save my soul.

N1: And Daniel kept a-praying.

Dan: Lord save my soul.

N2: His sweetheart and his mother were Christian and meek. They washed and ironed for Darius every week. One Thursday he met them at the door. Paid them as usual, but acted sore. He said:

Dar: Your Daniel is a dead little pigeon.

He's a good hard worker, but he talks religion.

N2: And he showed them Daniel in the lion's cage.
Daniel standing quietly, the lions in a rage.

N1: His good old mother cried: M: Lord save him!
N2: And Daniel's tender sweetheart cried: S: Lord save him!

N2: And she was a golden lily in the dew. And she was as sweet as an apple on the tree. And she was as fine as a melon in the corn-field,

N1: Gliding and lovely as a ship on the sea. Gliding and lovely as a ship on the sea.

N1: And she prayed to the Lord: S: Send Gabriel! Send Gabriel!

N1: King Darius said to the lions:
Dar: Bite Daniel. Bite Daniel. Bite him. Bite him. Bite him!

[illegible]

N2: And Daniel did not frown. N1: Daniel did not cry.
N2: He kept on looking at the sky. N1: And the Lord said to Gabriel:

Lord: Go chain the lions down. Go chain the lions down.
Go chain the lions down. Go chain the lions down.

N1: And Gabriel chained the lions. N2: And Gabriel chained the lions.
N1: And Gabriel chained the lions.

N2: And Daniel got out of the den. N1: And Daniel got out of the den.
N2: And Daniel got out of the den.

N1: And Darius said:	Dar: You're a Christian child.
N1: Darius said:	Dar: You're a Christian child.
N1: Darius said:	Dar: You're a Christian child.

N1: And gave him his job again. N2: And gave him his job again.
N1: And gave him his job again.

Epistle

Epistle from Great Plains Yearly Meeting 2018 Annual Sessions
Fifth Month 31-Sixth Month 3, 2018

Greetings to Friends everywhere!

It is with joy we send our greetings to the Religious Society of Friends from our 111th Annual Session of Great Plains Yearly Meeting held in Hominy, Oklahoma and hosted by Hominy Friends Monthly Meeting.

We know we are different, and we choose to be in fellowship together as Friends. We are grateful that our circle of fellowship includes the newer members of Topeka Friends Meeting and the Lubbock Friends of Christ. We are programmed and unprogrammed, pastoral and non-pastoral, and we encompass the spectrum of Friends in the United States—Evangelical, FUM, Conservative, and FGC. Our attendance at this years' annual sessions exceeded 50 persons with a group of twelve children and youth.

Eden Grace, the director of Global Ministries for Friends United Meeting, brought us the message that “we are precisely made to hear God.” She encouraged us to listen attentively to God, presented ways to discern true leadings, and gave us examples of how Biblical characters responded to God’s call. She was a much-appreciated resource as she involved all ages in her presentations, invited interaction, provided a cross-cultural perspective, and advocated for the full involvement and development of all members in our meetings, especially the young people. In her presentation on the work of FUM, she reminded us that “FUM is an African denomination with 90% of membership in East Africa.”

We benefited from three workshops on Seventh-day afternoon. Lacina Onco, a Shinnecock and Kiowa fellow with Friends Committee on National Legislation, shared with us about the efforts to positively impact Native Americans’ lives by focusing on health legislation, specifically the Urban Health Parity Act and Diabetes program. FCNL is also working to combat attacks on the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Violence against Women Act. Lacina reminded us that 4 out of 5 Native women experience violence and that the disappearances and murders of Native women are underreported. We are reminded that God is on the side of the vulnerable.

Connie Adams facilitated an intergenerational demonstration of Faith & Play with the help of the Yearly Meeting children and youth. We are so grateful for the continuing efforts of those who engage in the work of religious education of children and youth.

The Home Missions Committee and Ministry and Council presented a panel on “Visitation, The Ministry of Connection” to discuss their project to increase visitation among our meetings and churches and outreach to other Friends in our geographic area.

As a Yearly Meeting, we continue to outline our project to expand visitation between our member meetings and churches in order to build relationships and fellowship and to support each other through ministry. Another focus of our visitation is to reach out to isolated or unaffiliated meetings and to connect with Friends in our geographic area in a concern for cross-branch relationships among the Religious Society of Friends. We feel that this ministry of visitation should be approached from a place of love and with a commitment to deep listening. The Yearly Meeting is inviting all who feel led to participate and encourages the identification of spiritual gifts of members knowing that God will use each of us exactly as we are to minister to others. While in person visits are preferred, we are encouraged to use letters, social media, phone calls, and video calls to reach out to other Friends. We also seek ways to encourage the development of new and established leadership within our monthly meetings and churches. We ask what work of the Spirit is your Monthly Meeting drawn to do? Are there old leadings that need to be revisited and are there new leadings that are being revealed?

Beth Green-Nagle led us in Bible study of Acts 2 and 10 when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the disciples and then on the Gentiles, reminding us that the Holy Spirit, given by Jesus as our direct connection with God, is available to all people, for “God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh” (Acts 2:17).

Our times of fellowship were filled with conversation, laughter, music, song, good food, and fun. We especially enjoyed the Osage feast Saturday evening. This was followed by an Osage handgame which included Osage singers around a drum. Most of us joined in the round dances and straight dances which concluded each handgame. What a joy to laugh and dance together!

We look forward to gathering together again Fifth Month 30 through Six Month 2 of 2019 at University Friends Meeting in Wichita, Kansas. We invite you to join us.

God is not done with Friends on the Great Plains. In fact, God is moving and working through us in our communities, our meetings, and in our relationships. For this we are very thankful.

With a grateful heart,
submitted by LaVonna Loesch
Great Plains Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk

GPYM Youth Epistle 2018

Great Plains Yearly Meeting
Children's Epistle

This is the report from the Young Friends Group of GPYM 2018.

We met at the First Assembly of God building. We played board games, basketball, foosball, carpet ball and air hockey. We also read Daniel Jaz. We went to the pool on Friday afternoon and we had lots of fun, even though most of us got sunburns. At the pool we played volleyball, basketball. Many of us jumped off the diving board, even Tanner. That same afternoon we estimate that we ate 1 ½ gallons of ice cream. We had 12 participants, the average age was 11 and the cumulative age was 128.

State of Society Reports from GPYM's Member Meetings

Central City Meeting - State of Society Report

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 a new regular attender and welcomed two first-time attendees this last month. In August we had several members of the Mallonee-Mesner clan from Wichita and Illinois attend which was a joy to us. They had come to celebrate the total solar eclipse that crossed our path.

We helped plan and attended the Nebraska Quaker Fall Gathering in Lincoln in October. We had an excellent discussion on prison reform led by Amy Miller, Legal Director of the Nebraska Chapter of the ACLU. The ACLU has led the way in addressing the numerous issues on prisons here in Nebraska. We were pleased to have good attendance and a chance to get together with other Friends in Nebraska. We hope to continue this annual event.

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 Women's March; Marches for our Lives in Hastings, Lincoln and Grand Island; the annual Harvest of Harmony parade in Grand Island; and school walkouts 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.

We are pleased to have Lynn Zeleski back at worship with us after her bout with cancer and other illness.

We were saddened by the loss of four members this past year, Gladys Anderson, Ardis Cunningham, Marian Krause and Philip Mesner.

We enjoy each other's company as we worship together and work to make our world a little better.

Hominy Friends Meeting - State of Society Report

As the Father sent Me, so I am sending you" (John 20:19,21).

As we gather each week to worship, we are often reminded that each one of us is to share in bringing Light into the world around us. When there is so much grief and sorrow, so much suffering and injustice, so much that is dark and negative, it is easy to despair. Yet we have hope in Christ. As we yield ourselves to the leadings of the Holy Spirit, we find ourselves inspired and strengthened to meet any challenges that come our way. The responsibility that stems from understanding that while Christ is the Vine, we are the Branches, can seem burdensome if our lives are not centered in Christ. We seek to be faithful friends of Christ throughout each moment of each day. Gathering together in Christ's name empowers us to more effectively share the love of Christ with others. Thus, we are grateful to those who have gone before us,

who have provided us with a place to gather, and who have been witnesses to us and many more.

We have worked well together this past year, accomplishing much. Times of fellowship and of worship have enriched our lives. We have celebrated important mileposts in the lives of many and have shared in the grief of those who have lost loved ones. The challenges of substance abuse, societal ills, and greed often seem overwhelming, but we have shown a determination to keep moving forward. Part of our outward witness continues to be making our facilities available to AA twice a week and for substance abuse counseling weekly. In addition, we serve the Lord through our continuing involvement in the Hominy Ministerial Alliance (HMA) and its community events and ministries, including Christ's Cupboard, a food pantry. Our involvement includes a significant annual donation to HMA.

Our Wild Onion Dinner continues to be a blessing to us and to our community. We enjoy working together to raise funds and share some of our treasures with other Native Americans and non-Indians alike. We also look forward to our monthly fellowship dinners the second First-day of each month. Other events such as Quivering Arrow Camp, our Easter Egg Hunt, Mothers' Day Cookout, Thanksgiving and Valentines dinners, Christmas Eve children's pageant and Santa's visit, are occasions of wonderful fellowship and some sharing with the wider community. The FUM summer mission projects are also helpful in raising our gaze beyond our borders.

Growth in leadership and in faith have characterized this past year. Friends have stepped forward in various capacities. David Nagle continues service as an At-Large Member of the AFSC Corporation which entails annual trips to Philadelphia. He has also accepted a request to serve on the AFSC Friends Relations Committee which may necessitate some additional travel. Angela Brown and Beth Green-Nagle have at times filled in for David when he has been away. Beth has recently led morning worship at Council House on two occasions and is willing to make that a once-a-month commitment. Angela also clerks our GPYM Nominating Committee. Carole Revard continues to serve our meeting well as presiding clerk and shoulders many other responsibilities. Beth continues to represent GPYM as a representative to FWCC, Section of the Americas, also assisting with translation and interpretation and serving on sub-committees. We continue to benefit in various ways from having Hermes Sanchez as part of our fellowship. Recently

he repaired the back hallway. Ann Sleeper's cooking skills are enjoyed by all. Several of us are involved in preparing the new edition of our cookbook. Many others have stepped forward at times to lighten the load of others as together we seek to serve God and to share His love with those around us.

We are excited at the prospect of dedicating new facilities here in Indian Village and of hosting GPYM. We pray for God's guidance and direction as we move forward together.

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

Heartland Friends Meeting - State of Society Report

Love is the hardest lesson in Christianity;

but, for that reason, it should be most our care to learn it.

William Penn, 1693, Quaker Faith and Practice, Britain Yearly Meeting, 22.01

It has been three hundred and twenty-five years since William Penn said these words and they still ring true today. Love is the challenge. How do we love each other when we don't agree? How do we love our neighbor when that spark of 'Light' within is difficult to find? How do we love others if we don't feel loved ourselves? The testimony of Community is our guide and encourages us to support and cherish one another. We are both appreciative and challenged with the energy and faith it takes to be open to the differences we have within our own community. Whatever our flaws, we are family.

Heartland members are busy active individuals who offer their gifts, talents and time to a wide range of activities. Our FCNL Advocacy Team is energized and engaged, building bridges with our Kansas members of congress. Recently (R.) Sen. Moran added his support for an audit of Pentagon spending which is due in the Fall. The Team's diligent work has opened doors for dialogue that was not happening a year ago. Also, Team members have been successful at getting letters to the editor published locally. Another Heartland member uses musical gifts traveling to schools and groups locally and around the country, leading song writing workshops that encourage sharing of feelings and fostering the love of music. One Heartland member continues to guide and help us to utilize the Everence Sharing Fund, which enables us to multiply our ministry outreach dollars.

In March, 2018 a Heartland member travelled to the James Lawson Institute in Nashville and attended a non-violent direct-action training, in preparation for the forty days of action that is part of the Poor People's Campaign. The Poor People's Campaign is a National Call for Moral Revival to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy and ecological devastation. Kansas is one of forty states participating in this call to stand up for love and justice for all.

Wichita Friends School, our neighbor, continues to use Heartland for their Monday morning worship. Using Faith & Play/Godly Play, a Heartland member leads the worship experience for the school children and leads Heartland children on the first and third Sundays. The positive feedback we receive about and from the children, their experiences worshiping, and their love of Heartland is uplifting. Our adult education hour has been enriched by the use of technology with added wifi that allows for streaming QuakerSpeak and other videos of interest.

We are encouraged to find more ways to share Heartland. We have hosted a poetry evening, a monthly directed spiritual study group, family events for members and Quiet days. We also hosted an open house for FUM Triennial visitors, who expressed enthusiasm and appreciation for our developing Path of Quaker Testimonies project as they walked our grounds last July. We continue to feel joy and happiness as we receive a steady stream of visitors for unprogrammed worship throughout the year.

In our world of challenges regarding racism, gun violence, war and corruption many of us are able to find renewal in our tenderly bound family at Heartland who cherish and support one another. Our meetinghouse and grounds offer a place of respite and joy in the neighborhood with the addition of meditation benches and contemplative space. We continue working on our grounds, creating a memorial garden space and adding to our path of testimonies. We have chosen to be DIY both to save our funds for other ministry needs and to build community while deepening our personal relationships working together. This year our building and grounds committee designed dedicated art display spaces for members to share creative creations, crafts and collections, opening a new way of knowing, enjoying and learning about each other.

We are aware that we are blessed, even in troubled times, and have an obligation through our faith to share who we are and what we have. We are called to be kind, present, and accountable.

We are called to love.

On Behalf of Heartland Meeting
Angela Young, Presiding Clerk

Lubbock Friends of Christ Quaker Meeting – State of Society Report

Lubbock Friends of Christ Quaker Meeting continues to mature as a spiritual community. We find that Truth prospers among us when we keep our focus on That which is Eternal, rather than the ever-present distractions of worldly events. We are continually learning to distinguish between God's leadings and human-driven agendas. Waiting consistently and faithfully for God's direction – neither dwelling on the past nor worrying about the future – brings us Peace.

Our weekly gatherings for Friendly Bible Study and unprogrammed worship are bearing fruit. We have two new attenders who seem to fit well in the Meeting. Our small faith community is becoming ever-more grounded in genuine relationships of Love and care for one another. There is Joy in being together.

Our sense of isolation from the wider world of Quakers is decreasing. Technological innovations have made it possible for us to participate with others in ways that were not available previously. We are grateful for the efforts of traveling Friend David Eley, who has faithfully visited us annually for several years. One of our own Friends has been led to visit another small unprogrammed meeting on occasion.

Confident that God has a purpose for us, we wait patiently for its further unfolding. May we lift our hearts and spirits to the Light in simple faith.

Topeka Friends Meeting - State of Society Report

After several years of consideration and visitation by Great Plains Yearly Meeting members, Topeka Friends Meeting affiliated with Great Plains Yearly Meeting – GPYM. At the 2017 Yearly Meeting Session, we celebrated our

new relationship and began to learn about being a part of a Yearly Meeting for the first time. For decades we had resisted such a move, but the accepting structure of GYPM caused a change of heart and mind.

There have been several changes in our membership over the past year. Two regular attenders, Nancy and Phyllis, moved out of state to be with family. They are greatly missed. Another regular attender, James, chose to stop attending due to conflicts with the conditions of his parole. He has been a valued member of our community for his many contributions, including the skillful maintenance of our meetinghouse and grounds as well as his thoughtful contributions in discussions.

We have had occasional visitors, some repeating several times, but no consistent attendance nor indications of interest in membership. An occasional visitor from Adelphi Meeting in Maryland, had come to visit his elderly father in town. The father has now died, so we don't expect to see his return. Overall, our Meeting is aging and that is a concern.

In other concerns Meeting has supported one member through cancer treatment and recovery, as well as celebrated Duane Herrmann's successful publications of his writings in print and online.

Our weekly worship is followed by a Second Hour which varies on a predictable schedule. The Second Hour of the second First Day of each week is a meeting for worship with a concern for business. The Second Hour of the fourth First Day of each week is a potluck lunch. No matter how small the pot, there is always something to share. The Second Hours for the first and third First Days are open for varied content.

During these Second Hours, for a series of several months, Jane has led us in sessions of Spiritual Deepening based on the program of the same name provided online by Friends General Conference. We have found them helpful and inspiring. Also, together, we have watched several interviews of QuakerSpeak, sponsored by *Friends Journal*. Marjorie has linked several of these interviews to our Facebook page for easy access. That has been the major addition, and updating, to our internet presence. During other Second Hours we have discussed articles from *Friends Journal*, or favorite writings which members have brought to share. Sometimes the subject is general

worship sharing. It is through these Second Hours that we grow together and closer with each other.

University Friends Meeting - State of Society Report

During the past year, members of University Friends Meeting have come together to pursue a variety of spiritual, social and service activities.

In society with one another, we enjoyed activities such as board games, trivia and movie nights, yoga classes, a Super Bowl party, and women's groups. We came together for several special occasions, holding a family Christmas party, a Consecration Sunday Thanksgiving meal with a reader's theater performance, and an Easter breakfast. At “Friendly Evenings” on Sunday nights, we shared meals, sang songs and grew together spiritually.

Family Promise, a local needs mission, continued this year. UFM provides meals and overnight hospitality to homeless families four weeks per year, in partnership with Family Promise of Greater Wichita. UFM has a group of volunteers who have shown great commitment to this ministry. Family Promise continues to grow and thrive in response to a great need. A Phase II of Family Promise has commenced, with seven new churches joining and moving Family Promise toward a goal of 14 new host churches.

Friends participated in work days and otherwise volunteered to help maintain our meetinghouse. A member of the Boy Scout troop that UFM sponsors became an Eagle Scout, and we were blessed that he chose to complete his service project requirement by undertaking an extensive renovation of the church playground. When Pastor Cliff Loesch had heart bypass surgery in March, members and guests stepped forward to deliver the Sunday message and help with other duties. We are blessed that Cliff's recovery went smoothly and that he has returned to his ministry as our pastor.

Two adult Sunday school classes met regularly over the past year, and our children's ministry program has continued to be active. In addition to regular Sunday school classes for children, UFM hosted an all-ages Vacation Bible School; the theme was “Campout.”

On Sunday, July 16, UFM held a meeting for worship that included about 200 guests who were in Wichita for the FUM Triennial. In addition to guests from around the U.S., we had visitors from Kenya, Cuba, Belize, Ireland and

Canada. Following the meeting for worship, we hosted everyone for lunch. Both the Fellowship Hall and the gym were filled with tables and chairs – and food. Many Friends volunteered to help with events both at the church and at Friends University.

Meeting for Worship continues to be central to our fellowship. We enjoy the opportunity to greet one another, followed by the pause as we center down to begin our worship – longer than just a pause, it is a real centering down to realize we are there to worship the Lord. Unprogrammed time during the meeting is much appreciated by many.

Special occasions like weddings, Graduation Sunday and the annual Sunday visit by Friends University's Singing Quakers have provided opportunities to experience joy this year. How special it is to share the joys of the birth of a baby in our midst. The faithful Fellowship Committee creates a lovely, special time during baby showers with the couples and their newborn children.

Looking forward, our discernment group has continued to meet and has productively brainstormed ideas and new initiatives for us to pursue. Each of UFM's standing committees was challenged to respond to queries and take a fresh look at how their work can contribute to the vitality of the meeting. We look forward to a future of continuing friendship, fellowship and spiritual togetherness.

Wichita Friends School Annual Report to GPYM

Dear Great Plains Yearly Meeting,

It is with a thankful heart and great joy that I share the journey this past year at Wichita Friends School. This is my second year at the school and I have experienced an incredible peace that I am just where God wants me. I have seen God's hand at work in the lives of our children and their families.

Wichita Friends School seeks to provide a transformational journey for the children in our school. Weekly worship provides a space for the children, staff, and visitors to seek and listen to the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. One beautiful sunny Monday we had our morning worship at Heartland Friends. There was an unusually bright reflection on the ceiling of the meetinghouse. After our worship time two little girls tapped me on the

shoulder and pointed to the reflection. I asked them what they thought it was. One of them responded, "I think it is the face of God smiling down on us." I was in total agreement and so grateful of their awareness of God's presence in our worship and in their lives.

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. By living out the SPICES, children and their family's lives are being changed.

Wichita Friends School continued to experience growth throughout the school year, ending the year with an enrollment of 30 students and 8 staff members. With the highest retention numbers we've had in a number of years, we are looking forward to an exciting and growing 2018-19 year. I deeply feel God using our school to profoundly shape children's lives, as we give them the tools and loving support every individual needs to make a difference in their communities and in this world.

I am so grateful for Great Plains Yearly Meeting's support. Your prayers, your service, and your financial gifts are crucial to us as we carry out our mission. Thank you.

Warmly,
Pam Chambers, Head of School

Treasurer's Report, June 2018

Operating Budget: We have 3 sources of operating income: monthly meetings, individuals and YM registrations. For the past few years we have been using the Webb Fund, established by a bequest, to help us pay for our Young Friend programming at yearly meeting. In December 2017 we mailed a year-end fundraising letter, which brought in \$810 in gifts and pledges from 8 individuals.

Our operating expense categories include our annual yearly meeting gathering, operating expenses (postage, printing our minutes, web homepage fees, & our non-profit registration fee), gifts we make to Quaker agencies, funds we save to

help Friends travel to the World Gathering and the Triennial, and funds we use to help GPYM Friends travel to Quaker agency meetings.

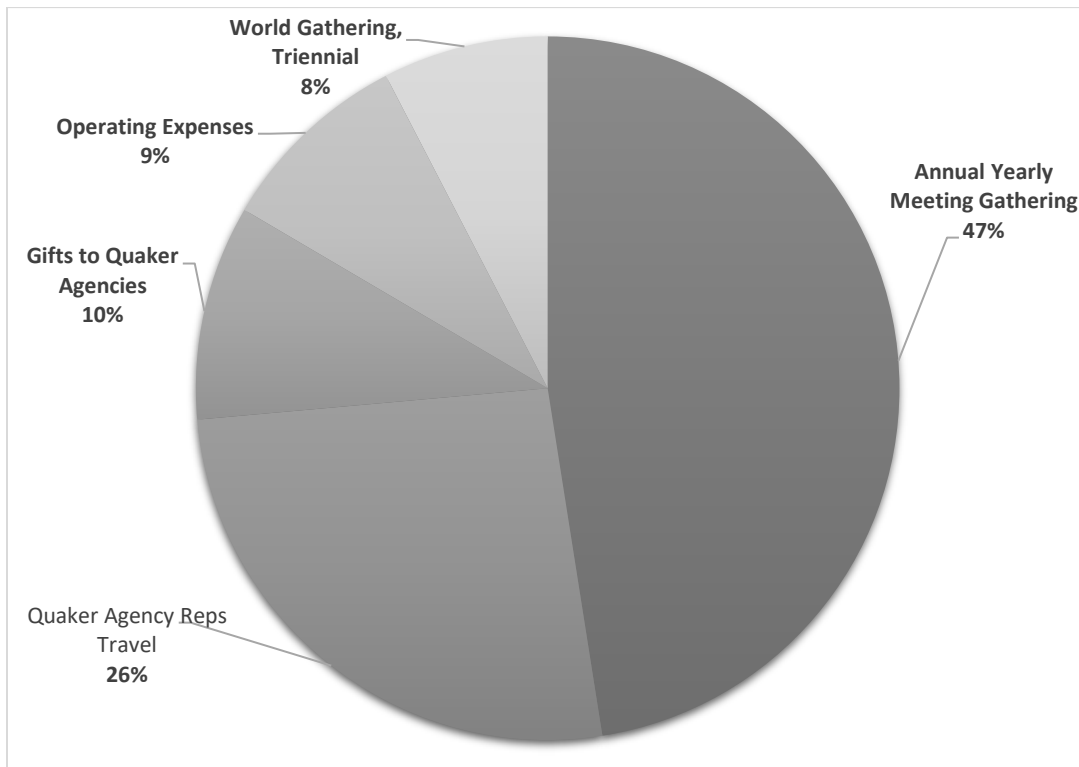
Home Missions Budget: For Home Missions, we have 3 sources of income: rent from a farm we own (approx. \$10,000/year), gifts from individuals and gifts from yearly meetings. In 2017 we received a \$1,020 bonus check from Tim Williams, our farm tenant, because his income was more than anticipated in our contract. We currently have 1 pledge to Home Missions and we receive quarterly gifts from a designated fund at University Friends. We have about \$38,000 total in our Home Missions bank account. This seems like a lot, but for Home Missions planning we need to have funds in hand before making agreements to pay people's travel expenses.

What we've done since 1-1-18:

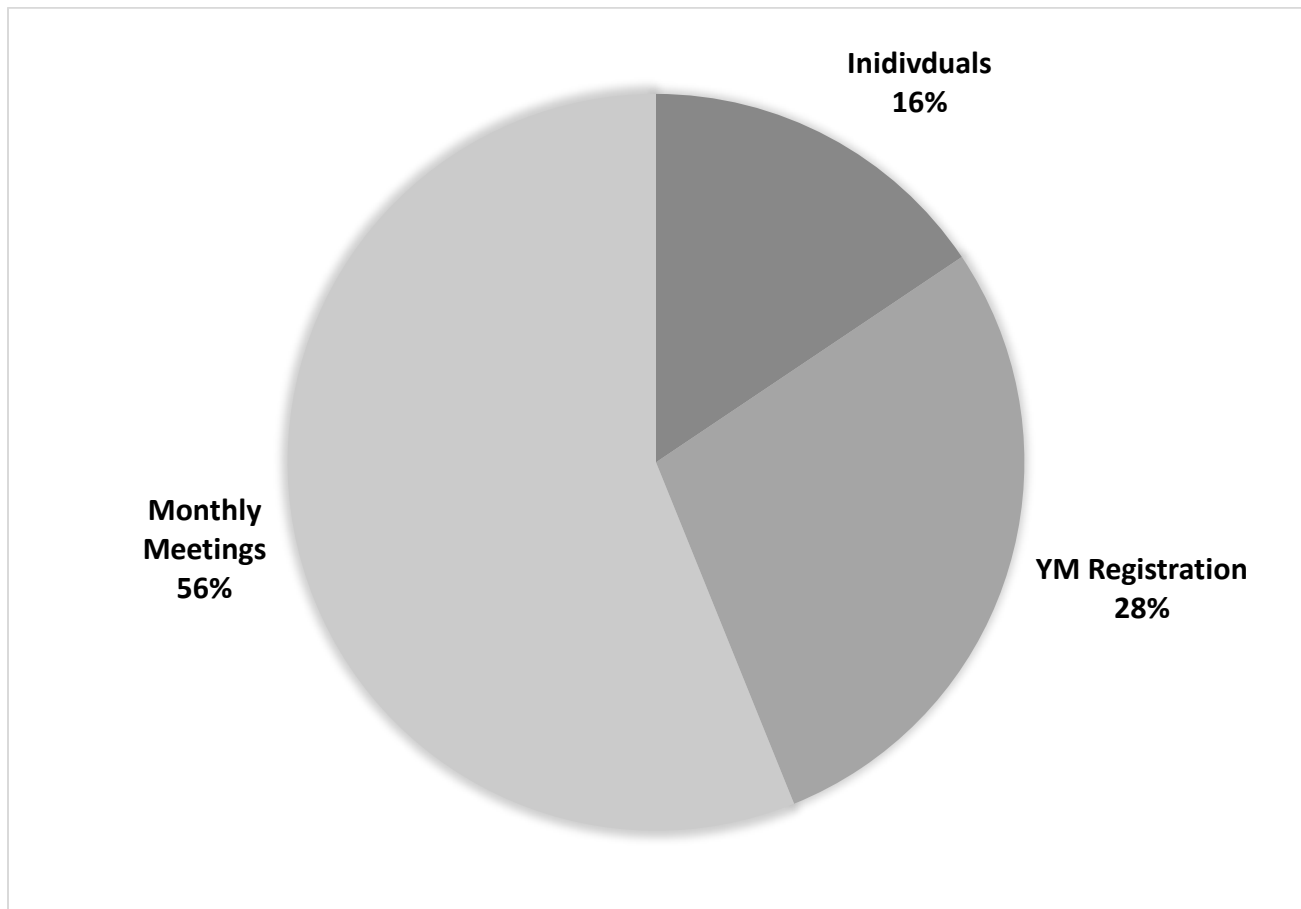
- \$377 for Dean Young's travel to the AFSC annual corporation meeting.
- \$12 annual fee for our GPYM domain name
- \$370 for our keynote speaker's airfare to yearly meeting
- \$1,500 from the Webb Fund to be applied to Joseph Nagle's Friends Music Camp tuition.
-

Student Loan Fund activity: We have one \$4,926 student loan that is being paid back. We have one \$1,700 student loan out to a member who is enrolled in a program of undergraduate study.

2018 Planned Expenses



2017 Actual Income



2017 Final Budget Report

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Great Plains Yearly Meeting of Friends							
2	Budget Report: 2017 Final						2017 Income / Expense	2017 Budget
3	Ordinary Income/Expense							
4			Income					
5			Annual Yearly Meeting Income					
6			Gifts from Individuals at YM				882.00	700
7			Meals				1,542.00	1,300
8			Registrations				1,238.00	1,200
9			Webb Fund transfer				301.65	-
10			Total Annual Yearly Meeting Income				3,963.65	3,200
11			General Operating Income					
12			Gifts from Individuals				650.00	
13			Gifts from Monthly Meetings					
14			Central City Friends				500.00	500
15			Council House Friends				100.00	50
16			Heartland Friends				1,800.00	1,800
17			Hominy Friends				600.00	500
18			Lubbock Friends of Christ				800.00	400
19			Topeka Friends				240.00	240
20			University Friends				1,474.00	1,608
21			Total Gifts from Monthly Meetings				5,514.00	5,098
22			Total General Operating Income				6,164.00	5,098
23			Total Income				10,127.65	8,298
24			Expense					
25			Annual Yearly Meeting Expense					
26			Meal Cost				1,512.46	1,300
27			YM Sessions-Speaker/Elder				1,173.20	1,500
28			YM Sessions Supplies				32.99	20
29			Young Friend Ministry/ChildCare				1,245.00	1,550
30			Total Annual Yearly Meeting Expense				3,963.65	4,370
31			General Operating Expenses					
32			Bank & Accounting Costs				-	-
33			Non-Profit Registration Fee				23.00	23
34			Postage				19.60	
35			Web Home Page Fees				422.70	60
36			Web Site Development					
37			YM Minutes Printing/Postage				495.58	450

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Great Plains Yearly Meeting of Friends							
2	Budget Report: 2017 Final						2017 Income / Expense	2017 Budget
38						Young Friend Care - CC Meetings	-	90
39						Total General Operating Expenses	960.88	623
40						Gifts to Quaker Agencies		
41						American Friends Service Cmte		
42						Friends Cmte National Legislation		
43						Friends United Meeting	560.00	560
44						FWCC Section of the Americas	100.00	100
45						Quaker Earthcare Witness	50.00	50
46						Right Sharing of WorldResources	100.00	100
47						Total Gifts to Quaker Agencies	810.00	810
48						Traveling in Ministry-Agencies		
49						Quaker Agency Meetings		
50						Agency Travel Total		2,400
51						American Friends Service Cmte		
52						Friends Cmte - Natl Legislation		
53						FUM General Board	245.00	
54						FWCC Section of the Americas	1,032.60	
55						Quaker Earthcare Witness		
56						Total Quaker Agency Meetings	1,277.60	2,400
57						Travel Savings Accounts		
58						FUM Triennial	300.00	300
59						FWCC World Gathering Asst Fund	100.00	100
60						FWCC World Gathering Reps	300.00	300
61						Total Travel Savings Accounts	700.00	700
62						Total Traveling in Ministry-Agencies	1,977.60	3,100
63						Total Expense	7,712.13	8,903
64						Net Ordinary Income	2,415.52	(605)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Home Missions Budget Report, 12-30-17						
2						Budget	Income / Expenses
3	Home Missions Income						
4				Farm Income		9,180.00	9,180.00
5				Gifts from Individuals RLD 2017		7,070.00	10,228.37
6				Gifts from Monthly Meetings		400.00	186.34
7	Total Home Missions Income					16,650.00	19,594.71
8	Home Missions Expense						
9				Farm Property Taxes		3,800.00	3,700.46
10				Support to Home Missions Groups			
11				Kickapoo Friends (MAYM)		300.00	300.00
12				Quivering Arrow Camp		900.00	900.00
13				Wichita Friends School		1,400.00	1,400.00
14				Total Support to Home Missions Groups		2,600.00	2,600.00
15				Total Home Missions Annual Expenses		6,400.00	6,300.46
16				Revit/Leadership Devel Expenses			
17				Communications		2,000.00	1,149.99
18				Postage		100.00	0.00
19				Regional Gatherings/Events		500.00	0.00
20				Traveling in Ministry		2,500.00	844.86
21				Total Revit/Leadership Devel Expenses		5,100.00	1,994.85
22				Total Home Missions Expense		11,500.00	8,295.31
23	Net Home Missions Income					5,150.00	11,299.40

Balance Sheet

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1				GPYM Balance Sheet	30-May-18		Unrestricted Operating
2				ASSETS			
3				Current Assets			
4				Checking/Savings			
5				GPYM Operating	22,756.39		22,756.39
6				Home Missions	37,864.20		
7				Savings-Credit Union Membership	5.00		
8				Total Checking/Savings	60,625.59		
9				Other Current Assets			
10				Endowment	-205.00		-205.00
11				FUM Triennial Travel Fund	-870.64		-870.64
12				FWCC WorldGathAsst Travel Fund	-500.00		-500.00
13				FWCC WorldGathReps Travel Fund	-2,550.00		-2,550.00
14				Student Loan Fund	-4,494.87		-4,494.87
15				Webb Fund	-9,544.22		-9,544.22
16				Total Other Current Assets	-18,164.73		4,591.66
17				Total Current Assets	42,460.86		
18				Fixed Assets			
19				Stevens Farm Property Valuation	266,650.00		
20				Total Fixed Assets	266,650.00		
21				TOTAL ASSETS	309,110.86		
22				LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
23				Equity			
24				Opening Balance Equity	266,650.00		
25				Net Income	42,460.86		
26				Total Equity	309,110.86		
27				TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	309,110.86		
28							
29							
30				Deleted the \$16387.69 asset account for "Retained Earnings from Farm" because keeping this separate is not necessary now that all farm earnings are in the Home Missions checking account.			

Stevens farm property shown at property tax valuation

2018 to-date Budget Report and 2019 Budget Proposal

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	GPYM 2018 Budget Report & 2019 Budget Proposal								
2							2018 Budget	Jan 1 - May 30 2018	2019 Budget Proposal
3									
4						Annual Yearly Meeting Income			
5						Gifts from Individuals at YM	700.00	624.00	800.00
6						Meals	1,300.00	639.00	1,300.00
7						Registrations	1,200.00	635.00	1,200.00
8						Webb Fund transfer	-	-	-
9						Total Annual Yearly Meeting Income	3,200.00	1,898.00	3,300.00
10						General Operating Income			
11						Gifts from Individuals	1,600.00	360.00	1,000.00
12						Gifts from Monthly Meetings			
13						Central City Friends	500.00	500.00	500.00
14						Council House Friends	50.00	-	50.00
15						Heartland Friends	1,900.00	-	1,900.00
16						Hominy Friends	500.00	-	500.00
17						Lubbock Friends of Christ	400.00	-	400.00
18						Topeka Friends	-	-	-
19						University Friends	1,608.00	670.00	1,600.00
20						Total Gifts from Monthly Meetings	4,958.00	1,170.00	4,950.00
21						Total General Operating Income	6,558.00	1,530.00	5,950.00
22						Total Income	9,758.00	3,428.00	9,250.00
23						Annual Yearly Meeting Expense			
24						Meal Cost	1,300.00	-	1,300.00
25						YM Sessions-Speaker/Elder	1,500.00	372.99	1,500.00
26						YM Sessions Supplies	25.00	-	100.00
27						Young Friend Ministry/ChildCare	1,550.00	-	1,550.00
28						Total Annual Yearly Meeting Expense	4,375.00	372.99	4,450.00
29						General Operating Expenses			
30						Bank & Accounting Costs	-	-	-
31						Non-Profit Registration Fee	23.00	-	23.00
32						Postage	60.00	-	60.00
33						Web Domain Name Fees	-	12.00	36.00
34						Web Home Page Fees	-	-	200.00
35						Web Site Development	200.00	-	-
36						YM Minutes Printing/Postage	450.00	-	500.00
37						Young Friend Care - CC Meetings	90.00	-	-
38						Total General Operating Expenses	823.00	12.00	819.00

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	GPYM 2018 Budget Report & 2019 Budget Proposal								
2							2018 Budget	Jan 1 - May 30 2018	2019 Budget Proposal
39						Gifts to Quaker Agencies			
40						AFSC	50.00	-	100.00
41						FCNL	50.00	-	100.00
42						Friends United Meeting	560.00	-	600.00
43						FWCC Section of the Americas	100.00	-	150.00
44						Quaker Earthcare Witness	50.00	-	100.00
45						Right Sharing of WorldResources	100.00	-	100.00
46						Total Gifts to Quaker Agencies	910.00	-	1,150.00
47						Traveling in Ministry-Agencies			
48						Quaker Agency Meetings			
49						Agency Travel Total	2,400.00	-	2,400.00
50						American Friends Service Cmte	-	377.51	-
51						Friends Cmte - Natl Legislation	-	-	-
52						FUM General Board	-	-	-
53						FWCC Section of the Americas	-	-	-
54						Quaker Earthcare Witness	-	-	-
55						Total Quaker Agency Meetings	2,400.00	377.51	2,400.00
56						Travel Savings Accounts			
57						FUM Triennial	300.00	-	300.00
58						FWCC World Gathering Asst Fund	100.00	-	100.00
59						FWCC World Gathering Reps	300.00	-	300.00
60						Total Travel Savings Accounts	700.00	-	700.00
61						Traveling in Ministry-Agencies - Home Missi	-	-	-
62						Total Traveling in Ministry-Agencies	3,100.00	377.51	3,100.00
63						Total Expense	9,208.00	762.50	9,519.00
64						Net Operating Income	550.00	2,665.50	(269.00)

2018 Home Missions Budget Report & 2019 Budget Proposal

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	GPYM 2019 Budget Proposal						2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2019 Budget
2	Home Missions Income/Expense								
3	Home Missions Income								
4				Farm Income			9,000.00	6,120.00	10,000.00
5				Gifts from Individuals			5,000.00	350.00	2,000.00
6				Gifts from Monthly Meetings			400.00	69.25	400.00
7	Total Home Missions Income						14,400.00	6,539.25	12,400.00
8	Home Missions Expense								
9	Home Missions Annual Expenses								
10				Farm Property Taxes			4,000.00	3,496.06	4,000.00
11	Support to Home Missions Groups								
12				Kickapoo Friends (MAYM)			300.00		300.00
13				Quivering Arrow Camp			900.00		900.00
14				Wichita Friends School			1,400.00		1,400.00
15	Total Home Missions Annual Expense						6,600.00	3,496.06	6,600.00
16	Revit/Leadership Devel Expenses								
17				Communications			2,000.00		1,900.00
18				Postage			100.00		100.00
19				Regional Gatherings/Events			2,500.00		900.00
20				Traveling in Ministry			2,500.00		2,900.00
21	Total Revit/Leadership Devel Expense						7,100.00	-	5,800.00
22	Total Home Missions Expense						13,700.00	3,496.06	12,400.00
23	Net: Home Missions Budget						700.00	3,043.19	-

GPYM Statistics

GPYM 2017 Stats as presented at 2018 GPYM								
	Central City	Council House	Heartland	Honiny	Lubbock	Topeka	University	Total
Members last Year	43	5	34	58	14	15	388	557
Number of additions		4		4			3	11
Births								
Requests								
Number of loses	4			2		2	10	18
Deaths								
Requests								
Active Adult Members	5	8	19	13	3	15	113	176
Active Associate Members (youth)	2		2	6			102	112
Total active adults and youth	7	8	21	19	3	15	215	288
Inactive and or non-resident adults	28		8		8		166	210
Inactive and or non-resident associates	2		5				7	14
Total inactive or non-resident members	31		13	43	8		173	268
Grand total	38	8	34	62	11	15	388	556
Attendees	1		9		1		26	
Average monthly attendance	6		72	75	16	52	356	24.0

Date Monthly Meeting is Held	3rd First Day	as needed	2nd First Day	1st First Day	as needed	2nd First Day	3rd First Day
Presiding Clerk	Selma Mesner	Frankie Sue Johnson	Angela Young	Carole Revard	Sara Scribner	Lynn Van Buren	B.J. Mills
Recorded Ministers	Delano Cunningham		Dorlan Bales	David E. Nagle			Donna Bales, Arthur Binford, Sheli Kadel, David Kingrey, Cliff Loesch, B. J. Mills, Carol Mulikin, David Wolfe
Copies of Minutes	9	2	15	20	3	10	30

Minute to Norman Friends

Great Plains Yearly Meeting

Norman Friends Meeting

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the love of God. Great Plains Yearly Meeting has been enriched by the presence of your members, John & Gail Fletcher. Some of our members have also had opportunity to become acquainted with you as they have visited Norman; you have visited Hominy Friends, or you have participated in work groups at Council House Friends.

We want to express our appreciation of and our love and support of you as witnesses to the Truth in Norman, OK. We hope for continued contacts and exchanges with you. We pray that God will bless you and provide you with courage and strength to move forward in service and worship.

On behalf of Great Plains Yearly Meeting,

LaVonna Loesch
Great Plains Yearly Meeting
Presiding Clerk

1840 W. University Ave - Wichita, KS - 67213

Nominating Committee Report, 2018-19

GPYM clerks and others willing to serve from the end of these sessions to the close of the 2019 sessions:

LaVonna Loesch, Presiding Clerk
Dorlan Bales, Assistant Clerk
Cheryl Mallonee, Recording Clerk
Connie Adams, Treasurer
Paul Mallonee, Statistician
Steve McConnell, Resident Agent required by Nebraska for incorporation

Others who have agreed to serve on the Continuing Committee through 2019 sessions:

Cliff Loesch, Clerk of Ministry and Counsel
Steve McConnell, Clerk of the Finance Committee
Dorlan Bales, Clerk of Home Missions Committee
Angela Brown, Clerk of the Nominating Committee
David Ozaki, at large member
David Nagle, at large member

Trustees:

Steve McConnell, 2019
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 Representatives:

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC): Dean Young, 2019
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL): Cliff Messner, 2021
Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC): Beth Green-Nagle, 2019
Friends United Meeting (FUM): Cliff Loesch, 2019
Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW): John Wine, 2019

Members: Ministry & Counsel and Standing Committees, 2018

Members & New Appointments for
Ministry & Counsel and Standing Committees
Serving the Calendar Year Feb. – Jan.

Ministry & Counsel

*Cliff Loesch, clerk, UFM – crloesch@sbcglobal.net

*Dorlan Bales, HFMM – dorlan@cox.net

<Jane Batterman, TFMM (2018-19) – batterman@cox.net

Patriz Holding, HMM (2017-18) – Box 1272 Pawhuska, OK 74056, 918-604-1028

Cheryl Mallonee, UFM (2017-18) – cemallonee@gmail.com

<Joseph Nagle, HMM (1918-19) – 536 Summit Ave. Tahlequah, OK 74464

David Nagle's cell - 918-885-2714 (Will serve when meetings are not in conflict with GPYM Youth programming)

*David Nagle, HMM – davnagle@juno.com 918-885-2714

<Rhonda Newby, UFM (2018-19) – rhondajeannewby@cox.net

Lynn Zeleski, CCMM (2017-18) – auntlynnz@gmail.com

*Recorded Minister

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) – jocknt3exas@yahoo.com 806-549-0750

Randy Cook, UFM (2017-18) – bamankufan@cox.net

Aaron Fowler, HFMM (2017-18) – aaron@aaronfowler.org

<Paul Mallonee, UFM (2018-19) – pizzaguy@sprintmail.com

David Nagle, HMM (2017-18) – davnagle@juno.com 918-885-2714

<Dorothy Manzer, HMM (2018-19) –

<Lynn Van Buren, TFMM (2018-19) – lynnvanburen@aol.com 785-273-2261

Nominating Committee

Angela Jake Brown, clerk, HMM (2017-18) – aajake277@gmail.com

<Amelia Jake, HMM (2018-19) 410 Russel Rd, Indian Village, Hominy OK 74035

Lisa McConnell, CCMM (2017-18) – lpeach_2001@yahoo.com

<Molly Loesch, UFM (2018-19) – mollybloesch@gmail.com

Greg Newby, UFM (2017-18) – gregnewby@cox.net

<Sue Wine, TFMM (2018-19) – swine@gmx.com

Home Missions Committee

Dorlan Bales, clerk, HFMM (2017-18) – dorlan@cox.net

Connie Adams, Treasurer (ex-officio) HFMM– adamscr@appstate.edu

Michelle Barrett, UFM (2017-18) – mab010888@gmail.com

Beth Green-Nagel, HM (2017-18) - nagel@nsuok.edu

<David Ozaki, TFMM (2018-19) – dozaki@fisherpatterson.com

<Sara Scribner, LFCQM (2018-19) – sarabscribner@aol.com

<Carole Revard, HMM (2018-19) - carolerevard@aol.com 918-639-2153

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

TFMM – Topeka Friends Monthly Meeting

UFM – University Friends Meeting

“<” denotes a new appointment, serving two years (2018-19)

All Recorded Ministers are welcome and encouraged to join Ministry & Counsel when they meet.

Memorial Service

GPYM Memorial Service June 2017 through June 2018

Central City Friends

Ardis Cunningham	8-16-2017
Marian Krause	8-23-2017
Gladys Anderson	8-24-2017
Philip Mesner	11-20-17
Ellen Campbell	7-14-2017

Hominy Friends Meeting

Richard Donald Wilson	3-22-2018
Rosemary Julia Mashunkashey-Jones	11-01-2017
Oney Kay Timmis	4-25-2018
Wilson Lee Mitts	10-18-2017
Lance Michael Toinetta	1-20-2018

University Friends

Helen Hoisington	7-17-2017
Marian Davis	7-27-2017
Ivan Kirkwood	7-27-2017
Ray Winchester	6-26-2017
Marilyn Pitts	10-4-2017
Delbert Howard	11-20-2017
Mike Blue	12-24-2017
Karen Miller	1-13-2018
Mike Hopkins	1-19-2018
Janalee Oehlert	4-19-2018
Fern Watts	4-14-2018
Martin Whitaker	5-20-2018

Quakers need extra-wide aisles in meeting houses because Quakers like to talk. -- Loring Henderson, quoting a Friend from the East Coast

We were made precisely for the task of hearing God. -- Eden Grace

You can only think so long. -- LaVonna Loesch talking about the need for more committee time.

We are ligaments in the Body of Christ. -- Eden Grace

When a Friend hides it's usually a sign they're not willing to serve. -- in response to a request for Friends to serve on the Epistle Committee

You can't volunteer someone who isn't here....or can you? -- LaVonna asking for Extract volunteers

Sniff, sniff, lick sniff...chew. -- Ms. Bella

Hearing God...like a drip of water entering a sponge...God entering us. -- Eden Grace

Great Plains Yearly Meeting Handbook

How We Work Together

First Edition 2009, Revised 2012, 2014

Overview

Great Plains Yearly Meeting is made up of five monthly meetings: Hominy Friends and Council House Friends in northeastern Oklahoma, Heartland Friends and University Friends in Wichita, Kansas, and Central City Friends in south central Nebraska.

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 and University Friends attend 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 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 (2015), University Friends (2016), and Heartland Friends (2017). Friends United Meeting Triennial Sessions will be 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
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