

2013
ADVANCE REPORTS

**New York Yearly Meeting
of the
Religious Society of Friends**

**Prepared for Summer Sessions
July 21–27, 2013, Silver Bay, NY**

Please use the documents of this book throughout the week in preparation for business sessions, committee meetings, and interest groups sponsored by committees or affiliated organizations.

THIS COPY BELONGS TO

NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING ADVANCE REPORTS

The documents of this publication were printed in advance of the 2013–2014 *Yearbook* for consideration at sessions of New York Yearly Meeting in July of 2013.

Please note that the budgets and expenditures of many committees may be found in the Treasurer’s Accounts, page 38. Committees that have their own financial clerks submitted financial reports as part of their committee’s Advance Report. All financial reports are for the 2012 calendar year.

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NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING

FALL SESSIONS

November 10–11, 2012

Anna Curtis Center, Powell House, Old Chatham, New York
Saturday, November 10, 2012, 10:00 A.M.

Jeffrey Hitchcock (Rahway & Plainfield), Clerk

Lucinda Antrim (Scarsdale), Assistant Clerk

Roger Dreisbach-Williams (Rahway & Plainfield), Recording Clerk

Karen Snare (Bulls Head-Oswego), Reading Clerk

Preface—Clerk’s Opening Comments: We may not live in a broken world, but the world cries out for our attention. Not just us alone. But we do have some answers. We have a wonderful witness. Both a social witness and a spiritual witness. And one might even say we have a procedural witness:

- our process of discernment
- our openness to that of God within
- our experience of radically embracing our shared humanity.

We live in the midst of empire where success is falsely defined and measured by how much material goods one can accumulate for oneself.

In a world where the cost of a single fighter jet would fund our Yearly Meeting for half a century.

If we were to look back at the last 50 years, I think we would find that this Yearly Meeting has had more true success, has brought forth more power, and created more positive change than that fighter jet might ever hope to do.

We don’t practice our faith, we live it. It’s not always easy being a Quaker, but personally, I would find it more difficult not to be one.

There is much to do if we are to be faithful. We have occasion over the next day or two to do some of that work and to live our faith together.

2012-11-01. Meeting clerk, Jeffrey Hitchcock (Rahway & Plainfield), welcomed Friends and spoke of the wider context in

which we meet—a world that cries out for our attention in spirit, witness, and practice. Friends gathered in joy and confidence.

2012-11-02. The Clerk introduced those at the clerks' table, and reviewed the agenda. Friends were given permission to use personal electronic devices to access documents from the Yearly Meeting website.

2012-11-03. The Reading Clerk read the roll call of meetings by region. No one from Long Island Quarterly Meeting was present. They have recently suffered from a major storm affecting power and travel. Friends expressed concern for Friends affected by the storm.

2012-11-04. Member of the original host committee, Jeffrey Aaron (New Brunswick), spoke of the impact of the recent storm, which made it necessary to change the location of these sessions. Our original host church invited us to return when possible. The efforts of all who made the transition possible were acknowledged. Ann Davidson (Farmington) welcomed us to Powell House.

2012-11-05. Co-clerk of Aging Concerns, Norma Ellis (Scarsdale), introduced Callie Janoff (attender at Brooklyn Monthly Meeting), the third ARCH Coordinator joining Anita Paul and Barbara Spring.

2012-11-06. Friends approved Minutes 2012-11- 01-05.

2012-11-07. Clerk of General Services, Jeffrey Aaron, introduced the agenda items that they will be bringing to us this morning.

2012-11-08. Clerk of the Development Committee, Joyce Ketterer (Brooklyn), presented their report. Funds will be sought from Friends within New York Yearly Meeting. The amount in the budget—\$20,000—is less than what the Committee expects to raise. Friends approved the establishment of an annual appeal for New York Yearly Meeting through Spring Session, 2013.

2012-11-09. Clerk of General Services, Jeffrey Aaron, presented the Treasurer's Report in place of Susan Bingham, who is recovering from the storm. As of 10-31-12 we have received 77% of budgeted income and spent 75% of budgeted expenditures. Our

opening balance was \$204,735, our closing balance is \$218,811, an increase of \$14,076. Last year this was a negative number.

2012-11-10. Clerk of Financial Services, Sandra Beer (Old Chatham), presented a provisional balanced budget of \$514,954 for 2013 (a \$9,133 reduction from last year), with 3 tiers (totaling \$23,728) of restored funding should those funds become available. Friends approved a provisional balanced \$514,954 budget for 2013. Friends asked the Financial Services Committee to report to Spring Sessions with recommendations for the FY 2013 operating budget to allow additional funding.

2012-11-11. Friends approved minutes 2012-11-06-10.

2012-11-12. Clerk of the Priorities Working Group, Lee Haring, (Bulls Head-Oswego) reported that they have been working together about a year and a half and have met with twenty-four monthly and quarterly meetings. At each meeting they focus on three queries: How is the Spirit alive in your monthly meeting? What work, ministry, witness is your meeting called to? What work do you feel God is calling NYYM to do?

They are hearing about the importance of relationship. "Life in our meeting is love and care and support for each other." In many meetings there is a renewed interest in activity in community—in peace, social justice, environmental justice, more participation in local events. Ministry and witness in a number of meetings is directed to their property, to maintaining or restoring a physical building, or merely finding space to meet, wondering whether they should build a meeting house. Again and again, they hear Friends saying, "When we get together, there's a good energy and the result makes a difference to the meeting." One worship group spoke for many other meetings: "Meeting is a safe place to open up and to engage with others through sharing stories, struggles, and triumphs." First Day Schools are a concern of many meetings, who say they need First Day School leaders, but find it hard to get a First Day School going if no young people attend regularly.

When they ask what New York Yearly Meeting can do to help, Friends tell them that the Yearly Meeting can help meetings and Friends learn to deepen worship and ministry within the Quaker tradition. It can also be an opportunity to allow or

enable a “critical mass” for work with conflict resolution, or the Alternatives to Violence Program. Also, Friends point out that New York Yearly Meeting can get media attention in a way monthly meetings can’t. Many Friends appreciate connecting with the wider fellowship of Quakers, for example through workshops, and suggest regional gatherings or workshops that are not too far away. One meeting told them that the most valuable contribution New York Yearly Meeting could make to a monthly meeting is having events at local meeting houses. They see a hunger for regional programs, which the Yearly Meeting could set up, but which would engage local Friends in organizing and leading them. They often get answers like, “The Yearly Meeting has resources that we could use if we looked at them.” One worship group told them, “The more the Yearly Meeting addresses people’s basic needs, the more Quakerism will help people and spread.”

But what has most impressed all members of the Priorities Working Group is the warmth of the welcome they receive wherever they go, and the joy and exhilaration that they have experienced in this service. Again and again they hear statements like, “It is in the spiritual aspect, more than the social action side of Quakerism, that I would like to have inter-meeting exchanges. Christopher’s workshop helped us focus on developing the spiritual side of ourselves. I would like to have visitations that would continue to expand my/our growth in spiritual awareness.” Friends want to take Quaker spirituality and use it to address issues such as environmental issues or peace concerns. They see Quaker support for their environmental leading and would like the Yearly Meeting to be a way to connect with others sharing this leading. Help with conflict resolution could also come from the Yearly Meeting. Thus our work is much more than mere information-gathering; it is a spiritual exercise.

The Priorities Working Group expects to have two recommendations to make to this body at Spring Sessions about the process by which we set priorities when we review and approve the operating budget.

The Priorities Working Group is considering a recommendation to gather all of the information about financial practices

into a consolidated financial report. We believe a consolidated financial report will, in the words of our enabling minute, “focus the energy and resources of the Yearly Meeting,” and “inform our planning and work as a body” for the ensuing four to six years.

The Priorities Working Group believes that a periodic review of the use of the Yearly Meeting’s restricted funds, in the light of their original designation, would fill out our picture of the extent of the ministry we are sponsoring, ministry that is being performed in our name. It would also provide us opportunities for periodically reconsidering their use. The Priorities Working Group believes that when we examine and restate our mission and priorities, having digested and synthesized the perspectives of our constituent monthly meetings, the Yearly Meeting will sharpen its focus, deepen our spiritual connections, encourage accountability and engagement with one another, and fuel our love for each other and our shared devotion to the light.

The Priorities Working Group welcomes the insights of Friends from throughout our Yearly Meeting.

The full report is on the website, and will be attached to these minutes, and is commended to Friends.

2012-11-13. Friends approved Minute 2012-11-12.

2012-11-14. The Reading Clerk read several announcements affecting our session and Friends departed in peace to reconvene tomorrow morning.

Anna Curtis Center, Powell House, Old Chatham, New York
Sunday, November 11, 2012, 10:15 A.M.

Jeffrey Hitchcock (Rahway & Plainfield), Clerk

Lucinda Antrim (Scarsdale), Assistant Clerk

Roger Dreisbach-Williams (Rahway & Plainfield), Recording Clerk

Jillian Smith (Saratoga), Reading Clerk

2012-11-15. Meeting clerk, Jeffrey Hitchcock (Rahway & Plainfield), welcomed Friends.

2012-11-16. The Clerk introduced those at the clerks’ table, and reviewed the agenda.

2012-11-17. A Memorial Minute for Elizabeth Hoskins was read. Friends remembered her kindness and mentoring of Friends new in service.

2012-11-18. The Consent agenda of Nominations and Release from Service was approved.

2012-11-19. Assistant Clerk of Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting, Lu Harper (Rochester), presented a travel minute that originated with Central Finger Lakes Monthly Meeting and has been endorsed by Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting for Greta Mickey in her work with Friends in the Republic of Georgia. Friends approved the Clerk's endorsement of the travel minute.

2012-11-20. Clerk Jeffrey Hitchcock reported on actions taken in the name of the Yearly Meeting since our last session. In August Christopher Sammond signed an Interfaith Resolution Concerning the Dangers of High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing in advance of an interfaith service "Blessing of the Waters" held on September 6 at Cooperstown, New York.

2012-11-21. Clerk of Witness Coordinating Committee, Mary Eagleson (Scarsdale), reported on the state of High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing (hydrofracking) in New York State. Albany, Butternuts, Genesee Valley, Ithaca, Rochester, and Scarsdale Monthly Meetings, and Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting have prepared minutes on hydrofracking. The Witness Coordinating Committee welcomes minutes from other meetings as they are prepared. Suzanne Blackburn (Genesee Valley) presented the following minute on hydrofracking.

New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Minute on Hydrofracking

New York Yearly Meeting has considered the potential consequences of High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing (also known as HVHF, horizontal hydrofracking, or fracking) in New York State. We oppose hydrofracking in New York State and beyond. We urge our political representatives to prohibit the practice of HVHF in New York State. As Quakers, we experience the Divine through loving and truthful relationships with all people and all creation. After extensive efforts to inform ourselves about fracking we have concluded that it

is inconsistent with our faith and practices, which include a commitment to integrity, community, equality, and care of God's creation. We observe that the natural gas industry and government agencies have placed financial gain over the health of our communities and the environment. We see no legitimate reason to exempt hydrofracking from existing laws protecting water, air, land, and health, as is currently the case. In other states where horizontal hydrofracking has been performed, it has resulted in the loss of vast amounts of fresh water, the release of toxins into the environment, damage to communities, and cost to the tax payers.

We support legislation and incentives that promote research, development, and use of renewable and sustainable energy; support local farms and farmers; protect the air and water; enforce accountability for industries that risk environmental harm; and create economic policies that promote work for New York State residents that they can do in good conscience. We urge all citizens to thoughtfully consider the long term effects of hydrofracking on the water, land, local economy, infrastructure, services, and the community as a whole. We are encouraged by the many communities coming together to seek a way forward based on truth and respect. We are called to stand against fracking, and invite others to join us in opposition to this practice.

Friends spoke on activities around hydrofracking in New York State, the danger to water quality, and the importance of developing renewable sources of energy.

2012-11-22. Friends approved the proposed minute on hydrofracking.

2012-11-23. Mary Eagleson presented the following action agenda in response to the approved minute:

We, the task group of Witness Coordinating Committee charged with creating this minute, suggest the following actions:

- We ask that the NYYM clerk and general secretary disseminate this minute widely through press releases, letters to our elected officials, to other yearly meetings, and other Quaker organizations.
- We charge our representatives to the New York and New Jersey Councils of Churches to bring this concern to those bodies, and to advocate for those bodies getting under the

weight of this concern.

- We urge Friends to examine our own lives to discern the seeds that might inadvertently support the practice of fracking, and, to the degree possible, do what we can to limit or eliminate those seeds.
- We ask Friends to prayerfully consider adding their names to the list of people, started in part by Friends, who have made a public commitment to join with others to engage in non-violent acts of protest, as their conscience leads them. The link to this list is as follows:
<http://www.dontfrackny.org/pledge/>.

Friends responded to the recommended actions, and asked that we include listening to those who support hydrofracking, particularly the economic impact. This is the first step in a larger effort to consider whether Friends are called to a new testimony on how we shall seek to live.

2012-11-24. Friends are in unity with the action recommendations.

2012-11-25. Friends approved minutes 2012-11-15-24.

2012-11-26. Steering Committee of Meetings for Discernment clerk, Lucinda Antrim (Scarsdale), reported on the Meetings for Discernment held in the last year and the queries for the next Meeting, which will be held on 3/2 (snow date 3/9) at Brooklyn Monthly Meeting.

2012-11-27. Nurture Coordinating Committee Task Group on New York Yearly Meeting–Chwele Yearly Meeting partnership member, Gloria Thompson (Manhattan), reported on the background of contacts between New York and Chwele Yearly Meetings. Friends heard the report.

2012-11-28. We rejoiced in hearing the report from the four New York Yearly Meeting Friends who attended the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Conference in Kenya during April 2012 and then visited with Friends in Chwele. In our continued discernment Friends spoke of concerns, possibilities, faith, and the rich rewards of this proposed relationship. Friends acknowledge an opening to an ongoing relationship between New York and Chwele Yearly Meetings. It is too early

to define what that relationship will be. We are listening to how we are being called into this relationship. We ask that the Task Group convey the sense of the Meeting to Friends in Chwele. Friends who feel led to attend the Chwele Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions in August should contact the Task Group.

2012-11-29. Clerk of Financial Services, Sandra Beer, reported a clarification around the funds in the Young Friends in Residence line in the 2012 budget. Unspent funds can be transferred to the Young Friends in Residence (YFIR) fund. Friends approved.

Attachment

Priorities Working Group Report to Fall Sessions 2012

See Minute 2012-11-12, page 3.

The Priorities Working Group was constituted by minutes of the Spring 2011 Session, charged first to “gather the sense of the monthly and regional meetings and of individual Friends as to how the Spirit is at work among us and where it is leading us as a society of Friends in the immediate future,” and second “to distill those insights and discern from them a proposed Statement of Leadings and Priorities that is both prophetic and workable.” I shall give you a brief account of our work so far and alert you to two recommendations that will come to Spring Sessions.

We have been working together about a year and a half; we have met with twenty-four monthly and quarterly meetings. As we told you at Summer Session, in each meeting we focus on three queries: How is the Spirit alive in your Monthly Meeting? What work, ministry, witness is your Meeting called to? What work do you feel God is calling NYYM to do? We spend most of every visit not talking, but listening to monthly meeting Friends. If you ask what we have learned, I’ll limit myself today to telling you some things we have heard. Please don’t think that what I tell you today is a preliminary version of our statement of the leadings and priorities of New York Yearly Meeting. That is still our responsibility for the future. I just want to share with you

what we hear, as we are welcomed by one meeting after another.

When we ask, “Where is the Life in your Meeting; what ministry and witness are your Meeting and individual Friends engaged in?” we get answers about the importance of relationship. “Life in our meeting is love and care and support for each other.” Supporting youth and families is important to the monthly meeting. Some meetings don’t feel very connected to the Yearly Meeting, sometimes because of geographical location. Many meetings tell us, “Most of our focus is local.” We notice in many meetings a renewed interest in activity in community in peace, social justice, environmental justice, more participation in local events. Ministry and witness in a number of meetings is directed to their property, to maintaining or restoring a physical building, or merely finding space to meet, wondering whether they should build a meeting house. They tell us, “It’s just a few Friends who take care of the property.” But again and again, we hear Friends saying, “When we get together, there’s a good energy and the result makes a difference to the meeting.” One worship group spoke for many other meetings: “Meeting is a safe place to open up and to engage with others through sharing stories, struggles, and triumphs.” One meeting experienced substantial energy brought to a meeting by the Young Friends in Residence program. They see YFIR as young people giving back their gifts to the meeting. With that experience, that meeting would strongly like the YFIR program to continue. First Day Schools are a concern of many meetings, who say they need First Day School leaders, but find it hard to get a First Day School going if no young people attend regularly.

When we ask how the rest of the Yearly Meeting can support you in that life, or what New York Yearly Meeting can do to help, Friends tell us that the Yearly Meeting can help meetings and Friends learn to deepen worship and ministry within the Quaker tradition. It can also be an opportunity to allow or enable a “critical mass” for work with conflict resolution, or the Alternatives to Violence Program. Also, Friends point out that New York Yearly Meeting can get media attention in a way monthly meetings can’t. Many Friends appreciate connecting with the wider fellowship of Quakers, for example through workshops, and suggest regional gatherings or workshops that are not too

far away. One meeting told us that the most valuable contribution New York Yearly Meeting could make to a monthly meeting is having events at local meeting houses. We see Friends hoping for programs like the ones at Powell House, but closer to them geographically. We see a hunger for regional programs, which the Yearly Meeting could set up, but which would engage local Friends in organizing and leading them. We often get answers like, “The Yearly Meeting has resources that we could use if we looked at them.” One worship group told us, “The more the Yearly Meeting addresses people’s basic needs, the more Quakerism will help people and spread.”

I’m afraid none of these remarks and comments convey the one thing that has most impressed all members of the Priorities Working Group. That is the warmth of the welcome we receive wherever we go, and the joy and exhilaration that we have experienced in this service. Again and again we hear statements like, “It is in the spiritual aspect, more than the social action side of Quakerism, that I would like to have inter-meeting exchanges. Christopher’s workshop helped us focus on developing the spiritual side of ourselves. I would like to have visitations that would continue to expand my/our growth in spiritual awareness.” Friends want to take Quaker spirituality and use it to address issues such as environmental issues or peace concerns. They see Quaker support for their environmental leading and would like the Yearly Meeting (YM) to be a way to connect with others sharing this leading. Help with conflict resolution could also come from the yearly meeting. Thus our work is much more than mere information-gathering; it is a spiritual exercise.

Looking ahead to Spring Sessions, the Priorities Working Group will have two recommendations to make to this body about the Yearly Meeting’s budget, or rather about the process by which we set priorities when we review and approve the operating budget. It is clear to us that the priorities of the Yearly Meeting can be implemented faithfully only if Friends do a better job in sharing information about the work being undertaken in all the “constituent parts” of the Yearly Meeting (Minute 2011-4-33). At present, the operating budget is prepared by the Financial Services Committee, in consultation with the coordinating committees and interested Friends. Then it is presented

to monthly meetings for their discernment, then to the body for approval. Yet the operating budget reflects only a part of the ministry, nurture, and witness of the entire Yearly Meeting. Not included in the operating budget is the work supported by funds entrusted to the Yearly Meeting Trustees, Yearly Meeting Treasurer, Witness Coordinating Committee (Sharing Fund), and other groups within the Yearly Meeting. Nor is information about those funds usually presented during that discernment.

For example, a few years ago, working to produce a balanced operating budget, Friends considered reducing the contribution from the operating budget to Oakwood School from \$12,000 to \$11,000. What we did not know, as we struggled with this difficult decision, was that, in addition to the operating budget contribution, Oakwood School receives substantial funds from the Trustees (then \$74,000) and from the Lindley Murray Fund (\$4,700). Another example is Powell House, which receives substantial support from the Yearly Meeting through the operating budget (\$65,000 in 2010), but also receives further Yearly Meeting support through funds under the care of the Trustees (over \$12,000 in 2010). As a third example, outside Friends organizations (such as Friends General Conference, American Friends Service Committee, and Friends Committee on National Legislation) receive support from the Yearly Meeting through its operating budget, but they also benefit from additional Yearly Meeting funds awarded by the Lindley Murray Fund. In fourth place, the work of the committees under the care of Witness Coordinating Committee is supported by both the operating budget and the Sharing Fund, but only the operating budget is presented to friends for review and approval.

There are many more examples of collective ministry, nurture, and witness that are supported from multiple sources within the Yearly Meeting. To inform Friends more fully, the Priorities Working Group is considering a recommendation to gather all the information about financial practices into a consolidated financial report. We have consulted the Financial Services Committee, the Yearly Meeting Treasurer, and the Treasurer of the Trustees, and over the next few months, we will be continuing this process of consultation and discernment. Between now and Spring Sessions, the Priorities Working

Group welcomes the insights of Friends throughout our Yearly Meeting. We believe a consolidated financial report will, in the words of our enabling minute, “focus the energy and resources of the Yearly Meeting” (Minute 2011-4-33), and “inform our planning and work as a body” for the ensuing four to six years. (Minute 2011-4-38)

Our second recommendation will focus on the restricted funds under the care of the Yearly Meeting trustees. We believe the body should periodically review the work of the Trustees with respect to these funds, so as to determine whether we want to maintain the trustees’ reinterpretations of their historic designation. Two examples are the Mosher Fund and the Caleb Sutton Fund. The Mosher Fund was originally designated to support the writing of Quaker tracts (“circulating books and tracts inculcating and developing the principles of the Christian religion as preached and practiced by the early Friends”). Now the fund is used to give books to monthly meetings and staff at summer sessions each year. Perhaps at the time of redesignating this fund, the writing of tracts was deemed archaic. Yet we now have at least one Friend actively writing tracts, and publishing them on his own. The Caleb Sutton Fund was to be used by ministers of limited resources who “shall feel drawn in Gospel love to visit foreign lands.” It is not clear from the *Handbook* where one would expect to find such information, how these funds are used each year. In fact we now have Yearly Meeting Friends traveling to the republic of Georgia, Indonesia, Colombia, and Kenya, who would meet the criteria of this designation. It would be helpful to know how the Caleb Sutton Fund is actually being used. The Priorities Working Group believes that a periodic review of the use of the Yearly Meeting’s restricted funds, in the light of their original designation, would fill out our picture of the extent of the ministry we are sponsoring, ministry that is being performed in our name. It would also provide us opportunities for periodically reconsidering their use. Perhaps the trustees could report each year on a few of the restricted funds. The Priorities Working Group believes that when we examine and restate our mission and priorities, having digested and synthesized the perspectives of our constituent monthly meetings, the Yearly Meeting will sharpen its focus,

deepen our spiritual connections, encourage accountability and engagement with one another, and fuel our love for each other and our shared devotion to the light.

Again, between now and Spring Sessions, the Priorities Working Group will welcome the insights of Friends throughout our Yearly Meeting, and members of the Priorities Working Group who are present would be pleased to answer your questions or hear your comments.

Lee Haring, clerk

**NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING
SPRING SESSIONS
April 6–7, 2013**

Friends Academy, Locust Valley, New York
Saturday, April 6, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

*Jeffrey Hitchcock (Rahway & Plainfield), Clerk
Lucinda Antrim (Scarsdale), Assistant Clerk
Andrew Mead von Salis (Brooklyn), Recording Clerk
Karen Snare (Bulls Head-Oswego), Reading Clerk*

2013-04-01. Friends fell silent and centered in worship. From the silence, the Clerk reminded us that we have been called Friends of the Truth. He said that our practice and process, discovered by early Friends, requires that any and each friend of the Truth must seek and discern that Truth by opening ourselves to God directly. He called on us to join now in bearing this awesome responsibility of asking God's will and listening for the answer.

2013-04-02. The Clerk introduced the Friends serving as clerks today. He presented the agenda for the morning's session.

2013-04-03. The Reading Clerk called the roll of regional meetings, and Friends in attendance stood at the call of their region, with all regions being represented.

2013-04-04. Herb Lape (Westbury), on behalf of the host committee of Long Island Quarterly Meeting, introduced

Bill Morris, Head of School of Friends Academy. Bill Morris welcomed Friends with humor and warmth. He spoke of the Quaker mission, tradition, and watchwords of the School.

2013-04-05. Jeffrey Aaron (New Brunswick), clerk of the General Services Coordinating Committee, began that Section's business. He read the report of Barbara Menzel (New Brunswick), clerk of the Personnel Committee, on the four-month sabbatical of our General Secretary, Christopher Sammond. It explains the logistical and financial aspects of the sabbatical, which conform to the Yearly Meeting's previously approved policy on sabbaticals. Friends inquired as to the donation or reimbursement of costs and expenses, and were assured that it is expected as stated in the report. A report to us on the General Secretary's productive activities on sabbatical is also expected. The report was received.

2013-04-06. Jeffrey Aaron introduced Gabrielle Savory Bailey (Chatham-Summit), our Young Adult Field Secretary. Friends heard her give her report with explanatory comments. She told us that she continues to serve with joy and passion. She described the inquiry, information gathering, assessments, and ways forward that she has explored. She called on us to recognize that detail work and constant attention are an imperative, and are also an honor, in developing fruitful personal relationships and connections among people of all ages. She told us that this attentive work is an act of faith. The report was received, with gratitude to the Source.

2013-04-07. Anita Paul (Schenectady) and Callie Janoff (Brooklyn), two of the Coordinators of Aging Resources Consultation and Help (ARCH), gave their oral report. They traveled to Farmington-Scipio Winter Gathering, Old Chatham Meeting, and weekend retreats that ARCH has hosted at various locations. Sixty-five ARCH Visitors have now been trained. For this year, ARCH has planned a workshop at the Farmington-Scipio Spring Gathering involving music, another workshop based on telling our stories, a focus on prisoners' needs, a liaison with Philadelphia Yearly Meeting in upgrading the ARCH website, developing resources for caregivers, promoting and enabling the use of advance healthcare directives, visits outside our Yearly Meeting,

and developing resources on housing for the aging. They made clear their availability to consult, in person or otherwise, and to accept invitations to present any of a number of workshops. Callie Janoff emphasized the growth in our spiritual depth and community that this caring work nurtures. Their report was received.

2013-04-08. Jeffrey Aaron introduced Susan Bingham (Montclair), our Treasurer. She offered copies of the final financial report for 2012 and the interim financial report for 2013. Our operations have proceeded to date in accordance with budgeted expectations. The reports were received.

2013-04-09. Jeffrey Aaron next introduced Sandra Beer (Old Chatham), clerk of the Financial Services Committee. She reminded us that at Fall Sessions 2012 we provided for time to encourage additional revenues to fund specified tiers of important spending in 2013 beyond the amount of the provisionally-approved 2013 budget. We had established a Development Committee to pursue such efforts. But now, the Financial Services Committee has foreseen a deficit of \$14,500 for 2013, even without any spending on the additional tiers.

Sandra Beer told us that we have been cutting back broadly in recent years: We refrain from giving raises to our staff, we reduce donations to outside organizations, and we limit allocations to our committees. Due to our limited income, the Committee has recommended that we continue operating under the 2013 budget that we provisionally approved in November, with no spending on the additional tiers.

Friends spoke to that recommendation. The possibility and the logic in developing new ideas for raising revenue were urged. Hope and inspiration from Friends in our past and Friends now undertaking our work were recalled. Examples of Friends' revenue-generating enterprises elsewhere were shared.

The same reality can lead individual Friends to focus on heeding faithfully the call of our vision or on following prudently the dictates of fiscal stewardship. These different imperatives, arising from one Spirit, can seem to vie for primacy.

Jeffrey Aaron emphasized that the recommendation before us includes the General Services section's plan to work on new

solutions in the coming months, so that the currently expected \$14,500 shortage might be resolved and a balanced budget might be presented for approval to the Yearly Meeting at Summer Sessions.

Friends received the report and approved the recommended plan.

2013-04-10. Passion, bravery, faithfulness, and optimistic caution among us were acknowledged in ministry.

2013-04-11. The Minutes were read, corrected, and approved in stages during the session.

2013-04-12. Friends returned to silence to conclude the session.

Friends Academy, Locust Valley, New York
Sunday, April 7, 2013, 10:15 a.m.

Jeffrey Hitchcock (Rahway & Plainfield), Clerk
Lucinda Antrim (Scarsdale), Assistant Clerk
Karen Way (New Brunswick), Recording Clerk
Sylke Jackson (Rockland), Reading Clerk

2013-04-13. The meeting opened with silent worship.

2013-04-14. The Clerk introduced the Friends at the Clerks' table and reviewed the agenda.

2013-04-15. For a space of silent worship we held Stella and Jim Schultz in the Light for the loss of their son.

2013-04-16. The Reading Clerk presented a memorial minute for Judy Morse of Chappaqua Friends Monthly Meeting. Judy was married in the Chappaqua Meeting House and served actively in the life of the meeting. She had a strong concern for prison work that led to her participation in the worship group at Otisville Correctional Facility. Her optimism and quiet, luminous presence will be missed.

2013-04-17. A travel minute was read for Judy Meikle of Wilton Monthly Meeting. Judy is traveling in the ministry with a concern for the criminal justice system. She is a death penalty abolitionist and an anti-prison activist. Friends approved having the Clerk endorse the travel minute.

2013-04-18. A travel minute was read for Rachel Pia, an attender at Syracuse Monthly Meeting. Rachel is traveling as part of a team for the New Meetings Project of Friends General Conference. She is supported by an anchor committee composed of at least one member of Syracuse Meeting and members of Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting. Friends approved having the Clerk endorse the travel minute.

2013-04-19. Minutes 2013-04-13 through 2013-04-18 were approved.

2013-04-20. Lee Haring (Bulls Head-Oswego) presented the report for the Priorities Working Group. Members of the group met with many monthly meetings, including 13 monthly meetings and three prison worship groups, since Fall Sessions, “to gather the sense of the monthly and regional meetings and of individual Friends as to how the Spirit is at work among us and where it is leading us.” The group has learned that the first priority among Friends is their spiritual community in the local meeting. There is a widespread desire that the Yearly Meeting’s activities be focused on the monthly meetings. Friends told the group that the Yearly Meeting should do more listening than telling, offer more face-to-face visits, and share resources on Quaker practice and inspiration. The working group concludes: God is calling New York Yearly Meeting to become more connected with monthly meetings and individual Friends.

The Priorities Working Group is thus considering several action items. First, the Yearly Meeting could offer assistance to the monthly meetings on fundamental spiritual topics, such as vocal ministry and clerking. Second, the Yearly Meeting could do a better job with practical advice and help with many topics, including fund-raising, curricula, grounds management, and advancement. Third, the Yearly Meeting could continue to improve communication with the local meetings. Finally, Friends are suggesting that New York Yearly Meeting be an instigator of spirit-led change and a spearhead for our testimonies to the world.

This work is still in progress. The Priorities Working Group will continue visiting monthly meetings and will expand its outreach to regional groups within the Yearly Meeting. Friends

are invited to join the working group in this important project.

Friends asked that the full report be attached to these Minutes and proposed that it be printed in *Spark*. Friends also spoke to the importance of intervisitation and the possible continuation of the intervisitation function after the working group’s planned completion in Summer Sessions 2014. Friends received the report.

2013-04-21. The Consent Agenda was presented for approval without discussion, as is our practice. Friends approved minutes 2013-04-22 through 2013-04-25 in accordance with the Consent Agenda.

2013-04-22. The addition of a page in the NYYM *Handbook* on the “Committee on Conflict Transformation” was approved. The page is attached.

2013-04-23. A revision to the “Nurture Coordinating Committee” page in the NYYM *Handbook* was approved. The revised page is attached.

2013-04-24. Friends approved the following nominations for service:

Patricia Chernoff (Morningside), Quaker Earthcare Witness, 2014

Jane Simkin (Poplar Ridge), Representative to Rural and Migrant Ministries, 2015

2013-04-25. Friends received the following requests for release from service:

Sandra Clark (Shrewsbury), Representative to NJ Council of Churches, 2013

James Bacon (New Paltz), Indian Affairs, 2014

Vivi Hlavasa (New Paltz), Indian Affairs, 2013

Joyce Ketterer (Brooklyn), Young Adult Concerns, 2013

Thomas Rothschild (Brooklyn), Committee to Revise *Faith and Practice*, 2013

Amy Savage (Syracuse), Representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness, 2014

H. Wayne Williams (Brooklyn), Communications Committee, 2015

2013-04-26. Minutes 2013-04-20 through 2013-04-25 were approved.

2013-04-27. Irma Guthrie (Perry City), clerk of the Committee to Revise *Faith and Practice*, explained the need and the process of creating a definition of Worship Groups for *Faith and Practice*. The following definition was presented as a First Reading:

When Friends or other seekers choose to worship together on a regular basis, whether in the community or in a prison, they may form a worship group by requesting the care of a nearby monthly, quarterly, regional, or half-yearly meeting. A committee of care and accountability should be appointed by that meeting to assure the conduct of the worship group in the manner of Friends. The care committee for that worship group should include meeting members or attenders who attend the worship group regularly. Attenders at the worship group should be familiar with the ways of Friends faith and practice; new attenders should be welcomed.

Attenders of a worship group may apply to the monthly meeting providing care for the worship group for membership in the Religious Society of Friends, or for marriage, in accordance with the process used by the meeting to which they apply, and the guidance offered in this *Faith and Practice*. If the worship group is under the care of a regional, quarterly, or half-yearly meeting, they may apply for membership or marriage to any monthly meeting in that region, quarter, or half-yearly meeting.

A worship group (sometimes called an indulged or allowed meeting) may hold material or financial assets, and may receive and disburse funds on behalf of its attenders. It may also conduct business, such as choosing a treasurer or clerk, and prepare business and forward it to the meeting under whose care it operates.

Friends noted that prison worship groups actively contributed to the development of this definition. Other topics included a clarification about the need for such a group to associate with a monthly meeting or regional body to be considered a part of NYYM, and a suggestion that the definition might explicitly mention campus worship groups. These comments were received by the Committee.

2013-04-28. Anne Pomeroy (New Paltz) of Ministry Coordinating Committee reported on the committee's progress in considering the practice of recording gifts in the ministry. There is both interest and diversity of opinion about recording gifts in NYYM and on the Committee. The topic was explored in a threshing session and interest group at Summer Sessions last year, at Powell House in the fall, and in *Spark*. There is a desire to support Friends gifted in ministry while also fostering the recognition and development of other gifts. In our current practice, monthly meetings can ask the Yearly Meeting to record one of their members as gifted in ministry. This is very important for some meetings, and not for others. The Committee asks that Friends continue to worship on this topic. For now, we will continue our established practice of recording gifts in ministry. Friends received the report.

2013-04-29. Minutes 2013-04-27 and 2013-04-28 were approved.

2013-04-30. Lucinda Antrim (Scarsdale), clerk of the Steering Committee on Meetings for Discernment, reported on the Winter Meeting for Discernment held March 2, 2013, at Brooklyn Meeting House, attended by about 70 Friends. Out of deep worship, Friends raised up topics such as recovery from Hurricane Sandy, the value of Occupy Wall Street, prison worship groups, prayer groups, and concern for the environment. A full report will appear on the NYYM website. The steering committee is also considering the future of the Meetings for Discernment and how their function can best be supported in the structure of the Yearly Meeting. The committee is preparing several queries to guide the Yearly Meeting's exploration of this issue. Friends received the report.

2013-04-31. The Clerk introduced a letter from Chwele Yearly Meeting (CYM, in Kenya), which was read by the Reading Clerk. There is a task group in NYYM and a partnership committee in CYM considering a sister relationship between the two yearly meetings. The Chwele committee thanked NYYM Friends for school books and raised up hope for peace in Kenya and intervisitation between the Yearly Meetings. Friends offered additional information about work to support and fund this

connection. A report from the working group is anticipated for Summer Sessions.

2013-04-32. Melanie-Claire Mallison (Ithaca) of Sessions Committee reported that 89 Friends participated in these Spring Sessions. As new clerk of the Spring-Fall Sessions subcommittee of Sessions Committee, she looked forward to creating a vital program for children during Fall and Spring sessions, and hoped for input from Friends on how best to do this.

2013-04-33. Friends offered thanks to the hosting committee of Long Island Quarter for the excellent hospitality this weekend.

2013-04-34. The final minutes were approved.

2013-04-35. We closed with a period of worship.

Attachments

Priorities Working Group Report to Spring Sessions 2013

See Minute 2013-04-20, page 18.

Since Fall Sessions, the Priorities Working Group has continued to carry out its charge from two years ago, “to gather the sense of the monthly and regional meetings and of individual Friends as to how the Spirit is at work among us and where it is leading us.” Today we tell you our present insights into New York Yearly Meeting’s priorities. Since our last report, at Fall Sessions in November, we have met with thirteen more meetings: Orchard Park, Kendal-on-Hudson, Manasquan, Saranac Lake, Chatham-Summit, Bulls Head-Oswego, Albany, Schenectady, Manhasset, Fifteenth Street, Morningside, Manhattan, and Westbury. We have also been asked about visits to prison worship groups. So far we have visited three, Auburn, Cayuga and Sing Sing. In all visits we focus on three queries: First, How is the Spirit alive in your monthly meeting? Second, What work, ministry, witness is your meeting called to? And third, What work do you feel God is calling New York Yearly Meeting to do? These queries are as useful to us as they were when they were used at the recent Meeting for Discernment. In our meeting

visits, we spend most of the time listening to local Friends. We are as likely to hear things like “We want to partner with Chwele YM in Kenya as well as New York Yearly Meeting” as we are to hear, “Because of our geographical location, most of our focus is local.”

When we ask the first question, “Where is the Life in your meeting; what ministry and witness are your meeting and individual Friends engaged in?” we hear again and again that Friends’ priority is their involvement with the spiritual community of their local meeting, from which Friends derive their primary sustenance. Although for some Friends the meeting is subordinate to other activities, many tell us that their meeting is central to their lives. Gathering on First Day is an opportunity to be enriched by spirit and receive the support of other Friends. Also, in some meetings, the life is felt to center on children and First Day School. In others (I quote from one meeting), “the meeting provides spiritual support for Friends doing work outside the meeting, and then they in turn bring those experiences back to meeting, enriching them all.” Nurturing our local meeting is a top spiritual priority for many of us.

I’ll come to our second query in a moment. Our third query, “What are your hopes, expectations, and leadings for our Yearly Meeting as a whole? What work is God calling our Yearly Meeting to do?” brings us back to the first one. Friends want those who are led to be active in New York Yearly Meeting to connect more meaningfully with monthly meetings and individual Friends. This theme has been sounded many times in our visits. The expectation is that the Yearly Meeting’s activities should be either in support of, or on behalf of, the monthly meetings, and not unconnected with meetings’ spiritual condition and leadings. As stated at a visioning exercise held at Coordinating Committees weekend on January 25, “a yearly meeting that articulates our faith, teaches our practices of centering, aids our preparation for worship, and helps us recognize gifts in ministry.”

Now as to the second query: when we ask, “How can the rest of the Yearly Meeting support you?” we are surprised and pleased at one answer we often get, namely what a blessing it is that Priorities Working Group Friends are there to visit.

Sometimes we are told, “This meeting feels little connection to New York Yearly Meeting, and we are blessed by your visiting us.” From these two comments we see a priority emerging. That would be to increase face-to-face contact between Friends engaged mainly in local meetings and Friends engaged in the work of the Yearly Meeting. Those who are active in New York Yearly Meeting are to connect better with monthly meetings and individual Friends. Friends want the Yearly Meeting, as a spirit-led organization, to encourage and support the kind of visitation we have been practicing, where there is more listening than telling. This theme has been sounded many times in our visits. The priority therefore is to find paths to taking away all reason to feel that our Yearly Meeting is a place far away, or that it is an event that happens once a year at Silver Bay, and remind Friends that the Yearly Meeting surrounds them as their large spiritual home. God is calling New York Yearly Meeting to become more connected with monthly meetings and individual Friends.

We have heard specific suggestions for how the Yearly Meeting can help a local meeting. One is to provide them with spiritual inspiration and shared teaching about Quakerism. We have been told that *Spark* is already a vehicle for keeping NYYM grounded in spirituality, and that the ARCH program and the Young Friends in Residence program ought to be better publicized. But very few local Friends read *Spark*, and fewer know how to take advantage of ARCH. We conclude that New York Yearly Meeting must make its presence, resources, and skills better known. Meetings are also requesting help with Quaker process, guidance in good clerking, and help with vocal ministry. They seek connection with other local Friends who have similar interests or challenges. At this time, for example, many Friends are seeking divine guidance to help them speak to the dangers of hydrofracking. Other Friends seek more practical information on such problems as the upkeep of older meetinghouses and cemeteries. Evidently the Yearly Meeting is the central body that can give advice on where to turn when looking for others with a witness concern. We are also told that the Yearly Meeting can help Friends travel in ministry. On the financial side, Friends suggest that the Yearly Meeting could aid local

meetings to enable children to attend Friends schools.

The Priorities Working Group foresees a number of action items we may be considering bringing you in future sessions. First is that the Yearly Meeting offer assistance to monthly meetings to help them enrich their worship on fundamental spiritual topics, such as guides to good clerking, the role of after-thoughts, guidelines for vocal ministry, principles of meeting for worship with a concern for business, and how to maintain love and cohesion through periods of disagreement or conflict. Yearly Meeting activities might also be planned for locales other than Silver Bay and Powell House. Friends are more eager to attend such activities than they are able to.

A second action item is doing a better job of providing practical information of immediate use to most monthly meetings, such as curricula for First Day School, ARCH resources, fund-raising tools for building repairs and maintenance, cemetery upkeep, insurance, advancement, and increasing their impact on local communities through the peace testimony. New York Yearly Meeting is positioned to advertise, through radio announcements for example, who Friends are and where a Friends meeting can be found.

A third recommendation may be for the Yearly Meeting to produce clearer, more complete and more user-friendly information on the Yearly Meeting itself. The recent appointment of a communications director expands our use of electronic communication. We can now make *Faith & Practice* current and accessible online and show updates in it as these are approved. We can also publish more thorough and more comprehensible information about finances and staffing. Friends want to know more about the services that the Yearly Meeting treasurer, trustees, and staff are dedicating to the benefit of our portion of the Religious Society of Friends. Through the Internet, the Yearly Meeting can encourage inter-meeting communications and active intervention in quarterly and regional events, by maintaining an inter-meeting bulletin board or listserv. Technology can help engage Friends in Yearly Meeting committees and overcome obstacles such as the time and costs of travel.

Finally, more broadly, Friends are suggesting that New York Yearly Meeting be an instigator of spirit-led change on our

behalf and a spearhead for our testimonies to the larger world of Friends and indeed to the world itself. Modern communication offers global impact. The Yearly Meeting's resources can stimulate monthly meetings to speak our truth to the world.

We welcome your comments. Part of our charge is to reflect our insights and priorities back to our constituent regions, to ensure that we have discerned accurately. Quarterly, half-yearly, and other regional meetings over the next year should expect to hear from us and respond. We would also welcome more Friends to join the Priorities Working Group, which continues to be a richly rewarding service for all its members.

Lee Haring, clerk

Handbook page: Committee on Conflict Transformation

See Minute 2013-04-22, page 19.

Purposes and Objectives

The Committee on Conflict Transformation serves the monthly, quarterly and regional meetings and worship groups in New York Yearly Meeting; committees of the Yearly Meeting; and the Yearly Meeting itself when it convenes in Sessions. Its objective is, when invited, to assist meetings in situations of disabling conflict and help facilitate the transformation of those situations into opportunities for spiritual growth, both for the individuals involved and for their Meetings. This objective can be accomplished by timely intercession in response to a crisis, or by helping the engaging group to build skills in avoiding debilitating conflict. In addition, the Committee offers general education on the principles and tools of conflict transformation in order to strengthen the skills of Monthly Meetings.

History

Minute 2006-07-20 of the 2006 Yearly Meeting sessions approved the establishment of the Committee as a standing committee of the Yearly Meeting.

Functions & Activities

1. The Committee acts in two capacities: First, as "First

Responders" to a crisis; and second, as a resource to train meetings in the skills of conflict acknowledgment, understanding, and prevention.

1. The Committee's work is under the care of the Ministry Coordinating Committee, to which it reports as needed or requested. The work of the Committee is confidential, and in its reports no identification or attribution is made without the permission of all concerned.
1. The Committee seeks the active engagement of the Yearly Meeting and its monthly and quarterly meetings, and of individuals, in identifying debilitating conflict and seeking opportunities for spiritual growth. In order to achieve this goal, the Committee works closely with, and periodically consults, the General Secretary.
1. The Committee provides workshops in conflict identification, skills learning, approaches to reconciliation and transformation, and the challenges of conflict avoidance and denial. All workshops emphasize acknowledgement, eldering in love, participation of the Spirit, and Compassionate Listening as key components in the processes of healing and transformation that conflicts can prompt.
1. The Committee makes itself available in a confidential capacity to monthly, quarterly, and Yearly Meeting committees that are experiencing conflict, listening and encouraging healing worship and communication.
1. The clerk of the Committee serves as a member of the Traveling Friends Advisory Group.

Organization & Method of Appointment

The Committee comprises six to eight members appointed by the Yearly Meeting for three-year terms, with a two-term limit to service. The Committee appoints its own clerk, who also serves as, or assigns, the Committee's representative to Ministry Coordinating Committee.

The Committee particularly seeks members who possess mediation/negotiation/eldering skills and training; gifts in spiritual centeredness; an ease with conditions of confidentiality and neutrality; gifts and training in empathetic and active listening; and a predisposition to counsel through questions rather than instructions or directives.

Meeting Times & Places

Meetings of the Committee are held at times and places convenient for the Committee. It is flexible with respect to the arrangements of its meetings.

Finances

The Committee's activities are funded from two sources. Funds are provided from the operating budget of the Yearly Meeting through the requests made on the Committee's behalf by the Ministry Coordinating Committee which approves an annual budget provided by the Committee.

The Committee may also generate revenue by way of contributions from meetings or individuals who seek its services.

Handbook page: Nurture Coordinating Committee

See Minute 2013-04-23, page 19.

Purposes & Objectives

The Nurture Coordinating Committee (NCC) functions as an enabling body of the Nurture Section, which is composed of committees within the section, separately incorporated Yearly Meeting institutions, and representatives to certain wider Quaker bodies, all of which are concerned with the advancement of Friends' principles, with education, and with the provision of nurturing services within the Yearly Meeting. They include:

Committees

- Committee on Aging Concerns
- Epistle Committee
- Friends World Committee for Consultation/New York Section
- Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM)
- Young Adult Concerns
- Young Friends In Residence Committee (YFIR)
- Youth Committee

Institutions within the YM

- Oakwood Friends School
- Powell House Retreat & Conference Center

Bodies

- Friends General Conference
- Friends United Meeting
- Friends World Committee for Consultation/Section of the Americas

Functions & Activities

The Coordinating Committee provides advice and guidance to the constituent groups and considers the activities of these groups in relation to each other, assisting in their coordination. It functions as a clearinghouse for nurture concerns, forms task groups for exploring these concerns, and lays the groups down when the tasks are accomplished. It arranges for the reporting of nurture section concerns to Yearly Meeting sessions, coordinates preparation of the section budget, and participates in preparation of the Yearly Meeting budget.

Organization & Method of Appointment

Each group in the section appoints a representative to the coordinating committee. Six to nine members at large are named upon the recommendation of the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee, at least two each year for three-year terms. From the at-large members, NCC appoints a clerk and an assistant clerk, and may appoint a financial clerk. A recording clerk may be appointed from the representatives. The clerk (or another appointee) represents NCC on the Sessions and Liaison Committees, and the Meetings for Discernment Steering Committee.

Meeting Times & Places

NCC meets during Coordinating Weekend, at Summer, Fall, and Spring Sessions, and additionally as needed.

Finances

The Yearly Meeting Operating Budget provides money for administrative and travel expenses of NCC members, as well as funds for task group activities not otherwise provided for. JYM, YFIR, Oakwood, and Powell House handle their own finances. Other vouchers are approved as determined by NCC each year.

2013 OPERATING BUDGET

EXPENSES		
General Services Section	2013 budget	2012 budget
Section expenses:		
Audit	3,550	3,050
General expense & travel	2,000	2,000
Provision for Equalization Fund	1,000	3,000
NYYM officers' expenses	2,600	2,600
Total section expenses	9,150	10,650
Committee expenses:		
Communications Committee	14,000	18,420
Nominating Committee	200	200
Records Committee—donation	2,500	2,500
Sessions Committee	9,220	9,500
Total committee expenses	25,920	30,620
Office operations:		
Administrative expenses	12,900	12,900
Computer consultation	700	700
Office equipment	1,200	950
Insurance	4,850	4,950
Rent & utilities		
<i>(diff space/also reduced sublease income)</i>	27,241	25,835
Office staff travel	8,500	8,500
Total office operations expenses	55,391	53,835
Personnel expenses:		
Hourly staff compensation	24,891	24,891
Staff employees salaries	170,000	181,570
Salary and wage-related expenses	71,845	46,054
Staff development	1,000	1,500
Volunteer support	400	400
Total personnel expenses	268,136	254,415
Bookkeeping services	31,200	31,200
Total General Services Section	389,797	380,720
Ministry Section	2013 budget	2012 budget
Committee and task group expenses:		
Advancement	250	250
Conflict Transformation Committee	700	400
Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee	200	200

	2013 budget	2012 budget
Section expense & travel	500	500
Spiritual Nurture Working Group	800	800
Task Group on Racism	500	600
Worship at YM Sessions	50	100
Total committee expenses	3,000	2,850
Program expenses:		
Bible study leader Summer Sessions		
Work Grant	600	600
Pastors Conference	1,250	1,250
Total program expenses	1,850	1,850
Total Ministry Section	4,850	4,700
Nurture Section	2013 budget	2012 budget
Committee expenses:		
Committee on Aging Concerns	0	211
Junior Yearly Meeting	17,850	18,350
Young Adult Concerns	650	800
Young Friends in Residence	50	0
Youth Committee	250	253
Total committee expenses	18,800	19,614
YM appointee expenses:		
FGC Central Committee—reps to board	1,400	700
FUM—reps to board	3,500	3,500
Provision, FUM reps to Triennial	550	422
Provision, FWCC—Section of the Americas meetings	1,435	0
Provision, FWCC World Gathering (Triennial/Quadrennial)	900	1,759
Total YM appointees expenses	7,785	6,381
Allocations & Donations:		
Friends LGBTQ Concerns	150	127
Friends General Conference (FGC)	5,000	6,310
Friends Council on Education	150	127
Friends United Meeting (FUM)	5,000	6,310
FUM—Third World attendance to Triennial	150	422
FUM Triennial—Third World Board reps	150	127
FWCC (Friends World Comm. for Consult.)	2,000	2,871
FWCC Section of the Americas—		
Third World reps	150	127
Oakwood Friends School	6,000	7,599

	2013 budget	2012 budget
Powell House	58,022	65,000
Young Friends in Residence	5,000	10,470
Quaker EarthCare Witness	–	–
Total allocations & donations	81,772	99,490
Section expense & travel	1,700	1,773
NYYM Resource Library	300	253
Total Nurture Section	110,357	127,511
Witness	2013 budget	2012 budget
Committee expenses:		
Barrington Dunbar	–	–
Black Concerns	–	–
Conscientious Objection to Paying for War	–	–
Indian Affairs	–	–
Meeting the Minimum Needs of All	–	–
Peace Concerns Coordinator	–	–
Prisons	–	–
European American Quakers Working to End Racism	–	–
Torture Awareness Working Group	–	–
World Ministries	–	–
Witness CC Section expense	–	–
Total committee expenses	1,550	2,091
YM appointee expenses		
AFSC—9 representatives	–	–
FCNL—6 representatives	–	–
Friends Peace Teams—2 representatives	–	–
National Campaign for Peace Tax Fund	–	–
New York State Council of Churches	–	–
Quaker Earthcare Witness	–	–
William Penn House representative	–	–
Additional funding for reps to Quaker orgs	–	–
Total YM appointee expenses	1,000	923
Donations		
American Friends Service Committee	–	143
Alternatives to Violence Project	–	143
Bolivian Quaker Education Fund	–	143
Friends Committee on National Legislation	–	143
Friends Peace Teams	–	143
National Campaign for Peace Tax Fund	–	143

	2013 budget	2012 budget
National Religious Campaign against Torture	–	143
Quaker Earthcare Witness	–	143
Right Sharing of World Resources	–	143
Rural and Migrant Ministries	–	143
William Penn House	–	143
N.J. Council of Churches	–	143
N.Y. Council of Churches	–	143
Total donations	2,250	1,859
Sharing Fund Campaign expense	2,400	2,184
Total Witness Section	7,200	7,057

EXPENSES CONSOLIDATION

	2013 budget	2012 budget
General Services	389,797	380,720
Ministry	4,850	4,700
Nurture	110,357	127,511
Witness	7,200	7,057
Meeting for Discernment	750	600
Priorities Working Group	2,000	3,500
Total expenses	514,954	524,088

INCOME

Income from Endowment	11,500	11,500
Other revenue	47,550	47,326
Registration fees	24,000	24,000
Income subtotal	83,050	82,826

COVENANT DONATIONS

All Friends	48,500	51,700
Butternuts	6,200	6,100
Farmington-Scipio	66,980	65,226
Long Island	47,200	50,850
New York	71,811	71,300
Nine Partners	35,496	31,573
Northeastern	30,399	29,464
Purchase	78,580	88,048
Shrewsbury & Plainfield	46,718	47,000
Covenant subtotal	431,904	441,261

	2013 budget	2012 budget
Total revenues	514,954	524,087
Total expenses	514,954	524,087
Difference	0	0

The following are items requested for inclusion in the budget. At the time of the budget's presentation at Spring Sessions 2013, Financial Services Committee was not aware of anticipated revenue that would allow for their inclusion in the budget. These items are listed in the priority order discussed by Friends at Budget Saturday. This group also reached clarity that if additional partial funding was available for a Tier, then this would be applied proportionally within that Tier.

First Tier Priority

Powell House – restore funding to \$65,000	6,978
Total First Tier Priorities	6,978

Second Tier Priorities

Young Friends in Residence	5,000
Total Second Tier Priorities	5,000

Third Tier Priorities

Equalization Fund	2,000
Oakwood Friends School	2,000
Junior Yearly Meeting	1,500
Priorities Working Group	1,500
Friends General Conference	1,310
Friends United Meeting	1,310
Friends World Conference for Consultation	1,000
Staff Development	500
Sessions Committee	380
Committee on Aging Concerns	250
Total Third Tier Priorities	11,750

Total 1st – 3rd Tier Priorities 23,728

FUNDS REPORT (unaudited)

	Balance as of 1/1/12	Sharing Fd Distribution	Fund Specific	Dist.	Balance as of 12/31/12
Sharing Fund	\$ -	\$ 4,903.89	-	\$ 4,923.89	\$ (20.00)
AVP Donation	10,435.61	14,561.62	1,114.00	19,750.00	6,391.23
Barrington Dunbar	3,381.04	6,417.40	-	4,242.04	5,556.40
Friends for Black Concerns	4,079.30	10,706.13	5,255.86	9,181.38	10,859.91
Indian Affairs Committee	5,054.79	3,083.68	-	1,075.49	7,062.98
Peace Concerns	3,243.38	6,302.40	-	5,150.15	4,395.63
Prison Committee	-	3,640.42	-	3,655.42	(15.00)
Right Sharing of World Resources	5,012.45	6,267.40	-	9,140.90	2,138.95
Witness Activities	11,436.77	3,892.11	-	19,350.00	14,904.02
World Ministries	2,885.02	1,213.47	-	-	4,098.49
Conscientious Objection to Paying for War	3,552.46	-	-	-	3,552.46
Meeting the Min. Needs of ALL Working Grp	524.40	-	-	-	524.40
Torture Awareness Working Group	2,920.38	1,213.47	-	-	4,133.85
NYYM Named Representatives	1,467.68	606.75	-	360.00	1,714.73
Quaker Earthcare Witness					
Total Sharing Fund	53,993.28	62,808.74	25,328.60	76,829.27	65,301.35
General Sharing Fund Income Less Trustee Income		43,101.84			
Sharing Fund Endowment Income		21,250.90			
Total Sharing Fund Income Less Trustee Income		64,352.74			
2012 Sharing Fund Goal		55,000.00			
Percentage of General Sharing Fund Goal		78.38% * does not include Trustee and Endowment income			

FUNDS REPORT (unaudited)—cont.

	Balance as of 1/1/12	Transfers from Oper. Budget	Fund Specific	Dist.	Balance as of 12/31/12
Advancement Committee—Lafayette	12,314.72	-	3,297.00	9,188.26	6,423.46
Advancement Committee—Leach	1,938.10	-	8,490.00	5,069.35	5,358.75
Advancement Committee—Women	204.00	-	411.38	-	615.38
Equalization Fund	5,850.78	3,000.00	10,918.22	16,610.80	3,158.20
Aging Concerns	5,854.91	-	59,634.00	57,195.38	8,293.53
Aging Resources Website	319.48	-	-	-	319.48
<i>Faith and Practice</i> Fund	3,213.18	-	649.47	89.71	3,772.94
Sufferings Fund	2,192.68	-	-	-	2,192.68
FWCC World Gathering	4,285.00	1,759.00	-	5,368.90	675.1
FUM Triennial NYM Attendance	593.52	422.00	-	96.30	919.22
FUM Kenya Board Meeting	-	-	-	-	-
Records Preservation	1,332.23	-	-	80.30	1,251.93
FWCC Regional Hosting	1,860.00	-	-	-	1,860.00
Meeting Visitation	6,642.46	-	-	595.20	6,047.26
Youth/Young Adults	11,591.82	-	-	10,130.00	1,461.82
Young Adult Concerns-Circle of Young Friends	1,609.79	244.80	209.83	600.00	1,464.42
Mosher Fund	6,881.33	-	5,000.29	5,642.61	6,239.01
Young Friends in Residence Fund	10,878.26	10,403.25	1,145.00	262.99	22,163.52

FUNDS REPORT (unaudited)—cont.

	Balance as of 1/1/12	Transfers from Oper. Budget	Fund Specific	Dist.	Balance as of 12/31/12
Young Adult Field Secretary	7,139.79	5,000.00	22,435.00	21,259.02	13,315.77
Fall/Spring Sessions	-	-	-	-	-
Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund	-	-	11,071.00	3,000.00	8,071.00
2012 Budget Fund	-	-	-	-	-
2013 Budget Fund	-	4,425.00	6,085.30	-	10,510.30
Contingency Fund	-	7,073.49	-	-	7,073.49
Sharing Fund Bequest	20,000.00*	-	-	20,000.00	-
Total Yearly Mtg Managed Funds	104,702.05	32,327.54	129,346.49	155,188.82	111,187.26
Total Funds	158,695.33	95,136.28	154,675.09	232,018.09	176,488.61

* transferred to investment portfolio

TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS
Statement of Operations 1/1/12 to 12/31/12

	2012 Budget	2012 Actual
Disbursements and transfers:		
General Services		
<i>Section expense</i>		
General expense & travel	2,000	146.60
NYYM officer's expense	2,600	2,075.90
Audit	3,050.00	3,075.00
Provision for Equalization Fund **	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total section expense	10,650	8,297.50
<i>Committees</i>		
Communications	18,420	20,147.19
<i>Handbook</i>		500.00
Other		1,091.27
Spark		11,759.54
Web site/Yearbook/Adv Reports		6,796.38
Nominating	200	-
Records committee		
Contribution—Friends Historical Library	2,500	2,500.00
Sessions committee	9,500	10,110.24
Fall/Spring Sessions		1,773.94
Summer Sessions		8,133.00
Other		203.30
Total committee expense	30,620	32,757.43
Office expense		
Office operations		
Administrative expenses	12,900	11,863.97
Insurance	4,950	4,624.08
Rent & utilities 15th St. (a)	25,835	24,044.42
Office staff travel	8,500	7,916.55
Computer consultation	700	590.00
Office equipment	950	953.28
Personnel		
Staff employee salaries	181,570	177,589.63
Hourly staff compensation	24,891	24,891.00
Salary and wage related expenses	46,054	46,853.05

	2012 Budget	2012 Actual
Staff development	1,500	681.10
Volunteer support	400	333.15
Bookkeeping service	<u>31,200</u>	<u>31,200.00</u>
Total office expense	339,450	331,540.23
Total General Services	380,720	372,595.16
Ministry		
<i>Section expense</i>		
Programs	750	50.00
Bible study leader Summer Sessions	600	600.00
Conflict Transformation	400	368.92
Ministry & Pastoral Care	200	-
Meeting program assistance	-	-
Pastor's conference	1,250	-
Provision for meeting visitation	-	-
Spiritual Nurture Working Group	800	400.00
Worship at YM sessions	100	-
Task Group on Racism	600	385.00
Total program expense	<u>3,950</u>	<u>1,753.92</u>
Total Ministry	4,700	1,803.92
Nurture		
<i>Section expense *</i>		
NYYM Resource Library	1,773	100.00
	253	46.40
Total section expense	2,026	146.40
<i>Committees</i>		
FWCC Committee	-	-
Junior Yearly Meeting	18,350	17,261.74
Planning		2,678.06
Silver Bay		14,583.68
Young Adult Concerns	800	800.00
Young Friends in Residence	10,470	10,470.00
Youth Committee	253	125.70
Committee on Aging Concerns	<u>211</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Committee Expense	30,084	28,657.44
<i>NYYM appointee expense</i>		
FGC Central Committee *	700	561.90
FUM Board representatives *	3,500	2,251.60

	2012 Budget	2012 Actual
Provision for FUM Triennial Sessions	422	422.00
FWCC Section Meetings	-	-
Provision for FWCC World Gathering	1,759	1,759.00
Provision for FWCC Regional Hosting	-	-
Total NYYM appointee expense	6,381	4,994.50
<i>Allocations and donations</i>		
Friends Council on Education	127	127.00
Allocation and Donation	-	429.00
Friends General Conference **	6,310	6,310.00
Friends United Meeting **	6,310	6,310.00
FUM—3rd World Attend to Triennial	422	422.00
FUM 3rd World Board reps	127	127.00
Friends World Committee **	2,871	2,871.00
FWCC Section of the Americas	127	127.00
Friends LGBTQ Concerns	127	(23.00)
Oakwood School	7,599	7,599.00
Powell House **	65,000	65,000.00
Total allocations and donations	<u>89,020</u>	<u>89,299.00</u>
Total Nurture	127,511	123,097.34
Witness		
<i>Section/committee/appointee/program expense*</i>	4,871	2,343.48
Quaker Earthcare Witness (b)	-	143.00
Sharing Fund Campaign Expense	2,185	2,343.80
Total Witness	7,056	4,830.28
Meeting for Discernment	600	506.75
Priorities Working Group	3,500	378.83
Contingency	-	8,850.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	524,087	512,062.27
Receipts		
<i>Meetings</i>		
All Friends Regional	51,700	52,100.00
Butternuts Quarterly	6,100	5,325.00
Farmington Regional	65,226	68,460.00
Long Island Quarterly	50,850	65,597.00
New York Quarterly ***	71,300	68,986.00
Nine Partners Quarterly	31,573	28,860.00

	2012 Budget	2012 Actual
Northeastern Regional (c)	29,464	30,974.00
Purchase Quarterly	88,048	88,750.00
Shrewsbury & Plainfield HY	<u>47,000</u>	<u>50,016.00</u>
Total meeting income	441,261	459,068.00
<i>Other sources</i>		
Registration fees	24,000	19,506.59
Trustees	11,500	10,924.36
All other (a)	<u>47,326</u>	<u>22,737.21</u>
Total other sources	82,826	53,168.16
Total receipts	524,087	512,236.16
Year 2012 Opening Balance		204,734.58
+ Receipts		512,236.16
- Disbursements		512,062.27
Closing Balance		204,908.47
NET CHANGE		173.89

(*) Appendix A – For 2011, as per action taken at Spring Sessions 4-2-11, \$2,000 would be taken from the Contingency Fund according to Tier I proposals in the 2011 Approved Budget as follows: \$100 added to the FGC appointee line, \$1,000 added to the FUM Board Representatives line, \$450 to the Section Expense line for other Nurture representatives line, and \$450 to the Section/Committee/Appointee/Program Expense line for Witness representatives.

(**) Appendix B – As per action taken at Spring Sessions 4-2-11, the \$1,907 in additional Covenant Donations would be added to the following lines: \$795 to Sessions Attendance line in GSCC; \$795 to the Powell House line in Nurture Allocations and Donations, and \$106 to FGC Donations, \$106 to FUM donations, and \$105 to FWCC donations lines.

(***) Appendix C – \$15,000 payment from LI Quarter was 2011 and not 2012 income (Matinecock check dated 03/01/12).

(a) For 2011, offset by rent received (\$5,280/annually) is included in the All Other line under Other Sources of Income.

(b) Moved from Nurture.

(c) Includes 2011 income of \$300.

MINISTRY SECTION

State of Society Report

Each year, the monthly meetings and worship groups of NYYM are asked to reflect on the State of our Society. Queries guide us in our reflection.

Query #1: How has your meeting deepened and grown in the Light in the past year? What are the particular gifts of your meeting?

Most of our meetings report that they are spiritually strong. Many meetings reported growth, or at least have a fairly sizable base of members and attenders, with new attenders occasionally coming in. Smaller meetings treasure their size, feeling that it fosters a sense of intimacy and closeness. One meeting put it this way: our meeting is “small in number while mighty in the spirit.”

However, not all meetings reported growth in the light this past year. A few meetings are very small, with dwindling numbers and no new or young members. Two communities are wrestling with the question of whether or not to lay their meetings down. Many meetings reported budget shortfalls and difficulty fulfilling their financial commitments. Some meetings spoke of suffering and pain within their community, attributing these to conflicts, the loss of beloved Friends, or the perception that promises are not being kept.

Declining numbers can, however, carry gifts, revealing to the meeting what is essential. Remaining members struggle and learn to stay true to who they are, as any growth must be “spiritually sustainable.” When numbers fall and members leave a meeting, structures of committees may be reexamined, and some committees may be laid down or streamlined. Many meetings spoke of the challenge of doing committee work in our busy modern world. Meetings continue to struggle to fill committee positions without relying on a handful of people who are close to burnout.

There are both gifts and challenges revealed in having a growing meeting. Several meetings spoke of tensions between

the wish to encourage new attenders, who may not have familiarity with Quaker values, and the wish to emphasize the traditions, faith, and practice of a definitive Quakerism. How inclusive of new and different values and ideas should we be? Ought we to focus on increasing the spiritual depth and energy of current attenders and members, thereby perhaps indirectly attracting more attenders to an increasingly vital spiritual body? Or should small meetings focus energy on reaching outward to grow larger, increasing spiritual energy with new members? Perhaps new members offer us the gift of self-examination and articulation of who we are.

Our meetings desire to engage with others and the wider world. Many meetings report looking beyond Quakerism to other practices for insight and inspiration. We consider the diversity within our communities and relationships to be great gifts. We also seem to be interacting and sharing more between programmed and unprogrammed meetings within the yearly meeting.

Many meetings also expressed great appreciation for their meetinghouses. Other meetings acknowledge that difficult economic circumstances push the responsibility for their meeting house toward a burden from which they need relief. Some meetings share their properties with renters. One meeting reported significantly distressing experiences with mismanaged finances, resulting in a dire financial situation. Several meetinghouses were damaged by Hurricane Sandy. The storm provided an opportunity to come together and care for one another.

Meetings grew in spiritual depth and closeness through Friendly gatherings outside of meeting for worship, such as family gatherings, movie nights, book groups, and spiritual nurture groups. Committee work can also enrich our experience of our meetings. One meeting happily reports that “we have experienced a blessing of growth and movement of Spirit in nearly all aspects of our meeting life this year. Our committees have been more active and have seen revitalization.” A spirit of cooperation and shared purpose was noted.

Prison worship groups speak of valuing the diversity of ideas they share at their gatherings. Worship in prison is a gift to the people inside prison walls, to the Friends who come from

the outside to worship, and to the Yearly Meeting as a whole. There is a profound gratitude for the fellowship, the sharing, and the silent worship in meetings for worship on the inside. Some prison meetings were among those who say they have fostered communication, listening, understanding, and acceptance among each other over the past year.

Many Meetings expressed a profound sense of delight and gratitude for the gift of children in their meeting, and a renewed commitment to First Day Schools. Children are described as “treasured” members of the meeting, bringing joy and vibrancy to the gathering. Several meetings are deliberately developing intergenerational activities and worship as a community. However, some meetings do not have any children among their regular attenders or members, the lack of which is keenly felt.

Query #2: How has worship been meeting your members’ and attenders’ spiritual needs?

Meeting for worship is the experience most central to our faith. The connection to the Spirit is the foundation of our lives as Quakers. Friends value Quaker practice, and worship is where that practice is learned. One meeting reflected that “We are led to bring the sense of peace and unity that we experience in Meeting to the outside world, speaking to “that of God” in others we encounter in our daily lives and public places.”

Worship is described as “luminous experiences of peace and love,” and as “what holds our lives together.” Meeting provides inspiration and solace. Gathering for meeting is restorative, a chance to slow down, to commune with the Inner Light and listen to what God would have us hear. Friends are grateful to be able to worship together. Being at meeting for worship is “a gift from all of us to each of us.” As one meeting said, “We feel the acceptance of others without judgment and try to follow Jesus’ teaching to love one another.”

One meeting referred to the dual needs for quiet and spoken ministry during worship as a “delicate balance.” Silence is deeply valued in our monthly meetings as an island of peace in a chaotic world. Some Friends dislike meetings without spoken messages, finding the perceived reticence to speak out of the silence to be a symptom of a lack of energy in our worship. One Friend

shared the profound experience of hearing another’s message crystallize something within her. Programmed meetings within our yearly meeting rely upon and deeply treasure their pastor’s messages, simultaneously understanding that we have all been called to minister one to another.

Many meetings have a period of afterthoughts, messages that may not have risen to the level of “divinely given” before the rise of meeting. One meeting described afterthoughts as “a time to connect.” But some feel that the messages saved for afterthoughts could have better enriched the formal worship had they been offered during meeting.

The spiritual richness of worship can be deepened when Friends take part in religious education discussions, worship sharing, and spiritual nurture groups. Friends noticed that these efforts added depth to silent waiting worship and vocal ministry, and fostered a sense of community.

Query #3: How do Friends’ historical testimonies of simplicity, integrity, and equality inform your meeting’s response to emerging economic, ecological, and political crises in our time? Are new practices and testimonies emerging?

Regarding the testimonies, one Friend offered the following statement: “It is not so much that our testimonies inform our work in the world. Rather, our testimonies and our work in the world are fruits that come from the same root. That root is our experience of seeking to live our lives as led by the Spirit, and that experience both informs our work as Friends, and gives meaning and life to our historic testimonies as Friends.”

Friends in our meetings continue to work for peace and justice and equality of all persons. Economic justice, confronting the prison system, the abolishment of the death penalty, racial justice, and earthcare were some of the issues mentioned most frequently by our meetings. Several meetings maintain a long-standing weekly peace vigil in their local community. Friends donate their time and money to work that supports our testimonies. We all try to integrate Quaker values in our daily lives. One meeting simply stated, “We try to be useful.”

Working together on our testimonies requires a shared “fire in the belly.” This can be difficult to achieve. Some meetings feel like they don’t do enough as a meeting. Some meetings join together with other local faith organizations into ecumenical groups that can do things together that would be impossible to accomplish apart.

Earthcare is a growing concern. The environmentally dangerous practice of hydrofracking threatens parts of our Yearly Meeting. Many meetings have written minutes in support of the banning of this practice, adding to the one written by our Yearly Meeting.

Meetings inside prisons examine and discuss Quaker faith and practice and use the testimonies to guide them. One incarcerated person said, “We are used to living simple lives because of our circumstances. We maintain our integrity by not engaging in harmful or dishonest activities.” One worship group wondered if simplicity might equal utopia. Another concluded that greed is the driving force against equality.

Almost no meetings claimed to have developed new practices. The traditions of Quaker practice are rich and useful and are being relied upon more and more.

Perhaps Community can be seen as an increasingly important testimony. A great number of meetings expressed gratitude for their Quaker community, and for one another. One meeting suggested that perhaps Joy is a new testimony, the source of which is the children in their meeting.

Some Friends experience our time as “a critical time in our history.” Several meetings spoke of the knowledge that there is great suffering in the world. Another meeting perceives it as prideful to think the times we live in are extraordinary.

Conclusion

Our monthly meetings are full of spiritual gifts. We help one another through difficulties. We practice humility in recognizing failures and working to resolve conflicts. We reach out to the community and welcome newcomers. We support each other in our spiritual journeys. We celebrate our joys together. We learn how to carry Quaker practice and the quietness of meeting into our daily lives. We do not know exactly how we will continue

to grow and what steps we will take to share the work of the meeting, but we trust that the way will open.

Sarah Way, clerk

Ministry Coordinating Committee

Ministry Coordinating Committee (MCC) has been blessed to continue the work of fostering and supporting vital ministry across the Yearly Meeting. Much of the work of the section is done in the constituent committees. We remain a place where their work is shared and at times seasoned. The individual committee reports will provide details on much of that work. As a committee MCC continued to explore the issue of recording gifts in the ministry. The following excerpt from our report at Spring Sessions describes our work in this area.

MCC provided a number of opportunities for Friends across the Yearly Meeting to think about and discuss this practice. In June of last year each monthly meeting was sent a short history of recording gifts as well as a number of queries about ministry and an invitation to join us at Summer Sessions for a threshing session. The threshing session on Wednesday morning of Summer Sessions 2012 was well attended and we heard many Friends speak.

Our fears related to equality, hierarchy, lifting people over one another. They spoke to a concern about our ability to do personal and corporate discernment. They spoke to our faithfulness in worship and in carrying out leadings. Our hopes for recording focused on the importance of supporting ministry. Recording is one form of support. There was recognition of the diversity of our gifts and that the community is served by the diversity God has given the body. Corporate forms of support nurture all in the meeting community.

We heard the call to build up the Life of our existing practices of recording names of Friends with gifts in the ministry and of the Yearly Meeting endorsing the minutes of Friends traveling under a concern. And we were challenged to be open to new ways to name, to recognize, to support, and to offer loving and engaged oversight and accountability to Friends with a broad range of gifts in ministry.

MCC hosted an interest group on gifts in the ministry at Summer Sessions. We also sponsored a Powell House retreat in September that continued and expanded our discussion

of ministry and support of ministry in many of its forms, including eldership, healing & vocal/pastoral ministry. The November 2012 issue of *Spark* was on the theme of ministry and included more discussions of recording gifts as one of a number of ways of recognizing, naming, and cultivating gifts in ministry in our meetings. This issue also included an extensive list of resources on ministry.

The Yearly Meeting is not in unity about discontinuing this practice. Indeed, we have seen renewed interest within our Yearly Meeting in recognizing and providing support and accountability to a wider array of gifts in ministry. We are seeing new life, growing edges, and vital ministry in meetings that choose not to record, as well as those who find value in the practice. MCC will continue to listen to Friends on this issue. We invite you to speak to us privately about your experiences, and more importantly, we invite all to accompany one another as we continue to discern how we are being led to a place of love where all the gifts we are given are utilized, recognized, and supported.

In addition to this important work on recording gifts in the ministry, MCC continues to hear from monthly meetings across the YM about the Apology to Afro-Descendants. We've been pleased with the number of meetings that have labored with this document and have responded to our requests for feedback. The work in this area continues. MCC has also continued to update and revise the portions of the NYYM website in our care. We hope to accurately describe the powerful experiences of our worship and community as well as be true to the rich diversity that our YM embraces.

Amy Willauer-Obermayer, clerk

Advancement Committee

The Advancement Committee continues to experience energy and movement in seeking ways to support the various ministries found within the Yearly Meeting. Some projects are happening at a slower pace than we might wish, but we are continuing to be faithful to that which is upwelling within ourselves and our committee. Some highlights of the year include:

- The Quaker Quest program continues to generate interest within meetings; we know of several meetings that have

either undertaken it this year, or plan to in the near future.

- We are working with Friends General Conference New Meetings Project to support the growth and vitality of new or emerging meetings and worship groups.
- Planning is underway for the 4th Advancement Consultation, entitled "Welcoming the Prophetic Voice," to take place in September 2013.
- Work continued on the Directory of Ministries within New York Yearly Meeting.
- We continued work on seeking funding for ministries.

As a reminder, the Advancement Committee has stewardship over the Lockport/Brinkerhoff Fund (for repair of meeting-house property), the Leach Fund, and the Lafayette Avenue Meeting Fund (both for general outreach and advancement). This year, the committee has seasoned a number of requests for these funds, both by individuals and by meetings, and we remind Friends of their availability. To aid us in this work, a small subcommittee has been convened to begin discernment on the creation of guidelines for disbursement of these funds. We do this in order to create more transparency within the Yearly Meeting, and as a way of providing loving support and accountability, to ourselves as the stewards, as well as to the recipients. As we work to create these guidelines, we are mindful of the admonition, "the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life" (2 Corinthians 3:6).

The Advancement Committee needs several new members who can share their Light and leadings in the work of advancement, and there is space on the committee for those who are called to this work. Those who feel a leading within them to pursue the kind of work outlined above are encouraged to speak to the committee co-clerks, or to the NYYM Nominating Committee.

Donald Badgley & Mia Kissil Hewitt, co-clerks

Committee on Conflict Transformation

The Committee on Conflict Transformation had the opportunity to be of service to several bodies in the Yearly Meeting during the past year, including monthly meetings, worship

groups, individuals, and the Yearly Meeting itself.

The Committee now comprises seven members. The range of representation is good, with members from All Friends Regional Meeting, Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting, New York Quarterly Meeting, Nine Partners Quarterly Meeting, Northeastern Regional Meeting and Purchase Quarterly Meeting. The widespread geography of the Committee is beneficial to its service to the Yearly Meeting but creates challenges in arranging face-to-face meetings. The Committee met four times during 2012 and felt nourished by the Spirit on each occasion.

The Committee was called upon by several monthly meetings and by three individual Friends, to whom assistance was offered on the usual confidential basis. Issues arising during sessions were also subject to the Committee's concerns.

At Summer Sessions, the Committee again maintained a table in the dining hall for members wishing to consult the Committee or to learn about its activities. For the first time in 2012, the Committee also led a morning worship-sharing group.

Two one-day workshops were held during 2012, both in the Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting. Ithaca Monthly Meeting hosted the first, which attracted participation by several mid-state monthly meetings, and Orchard Park Monthly Meeting hosted the second, drawing participants from the western part of the Yearly Meeting.

The Committee considered its *Handbook* page, and drafted a statement of its charge for consideration by the Ministry Coordinating Committee. The Committee proposed that its mission include service not only to the Yearly Meeting when it met in sessions, but also the committees of the Yearly Meeting, in the event that they experience internal conflict that prompts them or their members to seek assistance. The proposal also included language acknowledging that the Committee's activities were financially supported, in part, by revenues additional to those derived from the Yearly Meeting's operating budget (such as contributions from attenders to workshops, which partially defray the workshops' expenses). The proposed *Handbook* page was considered but not approved by year's

end. It was slated for consideration by the body at Spring Sessions 2013. [Editor's note: *The Committee's Handbook* page was approved at Spring Sessions 2013; see *Minute 2013-04-22*, page 19; see page 26 for the text of the page.]

Friends Journal approached the clerk of the Committee with a request for an article to appear in a forthcoming issue of the magazine devoted to questions of conflict and eldering. The Committee worked on a draft article prepared by the clerk, and it was submitted to the *Journal* in December for publication in March 2013. [Editor's note: *The article is available on the NYYM website, with Friends Journal's permission, through a link on the Resources web page.*]

Planning for 2013 includes two workshops—one in the Northeast Region and the other in New York Quarter. The latter is planned to be filmed, for the purpose of posting "modules" on the Yearly Meeting website, suggesting how to recognize and respond creatively to conflict within meetings. In late 2012, the Committee began the process of raising funds to support the filming project.

Peter Phillips, clerk

Meetings for Discernment Steering Committee

The Meetings for Discernment are beginning their seventh year of service to the Yearly Meeting. The Steering Committee has welcomed two new members, Alanna Badgley and Rachel Pia, and now numbers eight members. We meet by conference call, on average monthly, and are planning an in-person meeting at Summer Sessions. At a recent meeting we welcomed the clerk of the Priorities Working Group, who participated in our discussions of the past and evolving role of Meetings for Discernment in the Yearly Meeting.

Two Meetings for Discernment were held over the past year, one at Silver Bay during Summer Sessions and one in March hosted by Brooklyn Monthly Meeting, with attendance ranging between 70 and 120 friends. Many of those who participate experience a deep sense of worship. We believe that for many, Meetings for Discernment meet a deep need for extended communal worship. Our preliminary sense is that this need may be beginning to supersede some of the needs Meetings for Discernment were originally designed to meet, those of

“provid[ing] opportunities for deeper consideration of concerns the Yearly Meeting has agreed to focus on, consider[ing] minutes from monthly and regional meetings that reflect their concerns, and support[ing] individual leadings that have been seasoned by monthly and regional meetings” (YM Minute 2007-07-38). Some of those functions do occur and are valued, but the deep worship that holds those functions seems primary.

With a view toward the decision that the Yearly Meeting will make in 2014 on the continuation of Meetings for Discernment, the Steering Committee is planning to listen carefully in the next few months to the Yearly Meeting. We will hold meal-time talks at Summer Sessions, inviting those with questions or thoughts on Meetings for Discernment to sit down with us and share their feelings and ideas. Prior to Fall Sessions, we will take what we have heard, along with our own continuing discernments, to Nurture and Ministry Coordinating Committees, and perhaps a few others, for their thoughts and feedback. We will report on the results at Fall Sessions.

We are increasingly clear that the work of elders in holding the Meetings for Discernment fosters depth of worship and increases the discipline of those attending. It is an ongoing, evolving experience through which we learn about eldering as well as experience its usefulness. Our sense is that this may resonate throughout the Yearly Meeting, beyond the actual days of discernment, as Friends gain experience eldering and being eldered and are held, throughout the year, in a deeper sense of unity.

Our 2012 summer queries were “How do we know what is true and how do we share it as Friends and as meetings? How do our meetings respond to the challenges that living with integrity presents? Where is the Spirit of Truth leading our meetings? Are we following it toward greater wholeness? What are the challenges?” Our winter queries were “What are your dreams, yearnings, and hopes for your meeting? What is God calling your meeting to become? What are your hopes, leadings, and expectations for our yearly meeting as a gathered body? What work is God calling us to do together that we cannot do separately?” Our 2013 summer queries focus on faithfulness, revisiting earlier queries along those same lines, and are: “What

does it mean to be faithful as individuals? As a gathered body? What does faithfulness mean for a meeting?” As we developed these queries there was an emerging sense that simple queries, serving more to open and deepen worship than to elicit information, may be useful.

Lucinda Antrim, clerk

Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee

The committee meets primarily by phone, with meetings at Sessions as is possible.

Pastoral Meetings

We continue to lift up and support the gifts of the pastoral meetings within NYYM. We have seen that the best layers of support for pastoral meetings are within the Region/Quarter in which the pastoral meetings are located. Ministry and Pastoral Care committee does designate a committee member to be in touch with each pastoral meeting. On a NYYM level we continue to join with New England Yearly Meeting to provide a four-day retreat for pastors and elders in the early spring of the year. There has been a focus on the relationship between Ministry and Counsel and the pastor to support the spiritual life of the meeting. This committee supports the pastors’ retreat that occurs in the fall.

Traveling Friends

There is a spirit of thanksgiving for the work of the traveling Friends. New members have felt and responded to the call to minister to small meetings in this format. We are grateful for the service of the clerk of this group, who has given abundantly and now comes to the close of her term. A source of nurture and support for the traveling friends was a retreat held for all who are traveling under the care of the Traveling Friends Advisory Group, as well as individuals with recorded gifts in the ministry,

The Yearly Meeting prayer list is well cared for and much appreciated.

The management of the Stevens Fund, which provides some ongoing financial support for retired pastors, has enjoyed the commitment of a committee member for several years. We are

grateful for his work. We are looking for another member to take on the management of this important aspect of the committee.

We would also like to lift up an initial effort being made for intervisitation among Friends at the regional level. The Northeast Region of NYYM has a significant plan in place to facilitate organized intervisitation. We recognize the value of intervisitation to the life of all meetings and continue to see where there is life in this form of ministry.

Ministry and Pastoral Care in conjunction with Spiritual Nurture Working Group planned several events relating to recording gifts in the ministry. These include the threshing session held at Summer Sessions, an interest group on recording gifts in the ministry, and a retreat, "The Life Cycle of Ministry," which looked at the different types of ministries present amongst us and how gifts are recognized and supported.

The committee continues to prayerfully hold the work of recognizing and supporting all gifts of ministry evident in the Yearly Meeting.

Alice Houghtaling & Anne Pomeroy for the committee

Committee to Revise *Faith and Practice*

The Committee to Revise *Faith and Practice* met regularly at Summer, Fall, and Spring Sessions. We were joined by several visitors at each of our meetings and appreciated their insights.

We presented the Advice and Query for the Environment on the floor of Yearly Meeting for a second reading in summer 2012. They are now part of our discipline and have been circulated to Friends for their use.

We also presented the definition of Worship Groups to Ministry Coordinating Committee at Fall Sessions for approval and possible presentation to the full body for a first reading. The definition was approved by MCC and read on the floor at Spring Session 2013. In the process of bringing this forward the Committee to Revise *Faith and Practice* submitted a draft to the Prisons Committee, which asked for responses from members of prison worship groups. These were incorporated into the draft we read at Spring Sessions, after which Friends made additional suggestions. The work on this paragraph continues.

This past year we also began looking into how we might provide guidance for Friends around electronic communications. This process is still in its preliminary stages. We are finding it very challenging since the information is changing all the time.

Another area we began to address is possible revision of the sections on Marriage and Covenant Relationships. We are listening to Friends who feel excluded in our current version and looking at how we can be more inclusive of all of us. We are just beginning this conversation and welcome Friends' participation as we move forward.

The committee has worked well together this past year. The long term members, grounded in their understanding of our *Faith and Practice*, balance those of us with less experience who bring new perspectives to our work together. As we learn to listen and share together we are led to move forward in faith to do the work given to us.

Irma Guthrie, clerk

Spiritual Nurture Working Group

The Spiritual Nurture Working Group is called to encourage F(f)riends' growth in love and deepening their experience of the Divine. The Spiritual Nurture Working Group continues to find life in its mission. Its meetings are open to all who share this concern.

This past year the focus of the work of the Spiritual Nurture Working Group has been on the understanding of ministry, supporting ministry, and recording gifts of ministry. The Spiritual Nurture Working Group worked in conjunction with Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee and Ministry Coordinating Committee to hold a threshing session on recording gifts in the ministry at Summer Sessions 2012. The threshing session was followed by an interest group on recording gifts in the ministry.

The Spiritual Nurture Working Group also collaborated on the retreat on Cultivating Ministry held at Powell House in the Fall. The diversity of gifts in ministry, how to support ministry, and the ways we recognize ministry were explored at this retreat.

The Spiritual Nurture Working Group continues its exploration of the best way to support vital ministry among Friends and in the wider world. Members of this group participated in the planning of the first retreat of elders from New York Yearly Meeting and New England Yearly Meeting. This retreat deepened connections between elders both within and between the yearly meetings and was a means of supporting vital ministry. A planning team is being formed to plan the next gathering of elders from the two yearly meetings.

The Spiritual Nurture Working Group, Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee, and Advancement Committee are collaborating on areas of interest to each group. We see this collaboration as deepening the effectiveness of the work and enlivening all of our Spirits.

The Spiritual Nurture Working Group invites anyone who is excited about spiritual nurture, spiritual formation, and supporting vital ministry to contact Lu Harper or Anne Pomeroy with their interest. We meet at least twice a year to carry out our work.

Lu Harper and Anne Pomeroy , co-clerks

Committee on Sufferings

The Committee on Sufferings has not met in the last year, since there have been no requests for assistance. Unless the Committee receives relevant requests that meet the guidelines outlined in the NYYM *Handbook*, there is no need for the committee to meet. Friends who feel moved to ask for help may pass the request on to Ministry Coordinating Committee or to the Yearly Meeting office, which will then pass it on to our Committee.

Dick Goodman, clerk

Committee on Worship at Yearly Meeting Sessions

At Fall (Powell House) and Spring (Friends Academy) Sessions, the Worship at Yearly Meeting Sessions committee helped the Quarterly Meeting host committees by inviting additional Friends who have the spiritual gift of eldering. These Friends from the wider Yearly Meeting body were asked to sit on the facing chairs as well as sitting in the body during meeting for

worship and meeting for worship with attention to business. They prayerfully grounded and held the body in the Light, being radiators of God's Love.

At Silver Bay 2012, the Committee on Worship at Yearly Meeting Sessions helped oversee the many Summer Sessions activities under the care of the Ministry Coordinating Committee. At meeting for worship and meetings for worship with attention to business, the committee invited and coordinated Friends sitting on the facing chairs as elders. These Friends provided a prayerful presence and helped remind us that we are connected to the Divine Center. The committee helped coordinate and lent support to the additional worship opportunities at Silver Bay, including Worship Sharing Groups, the Healing Center, hymn singing in the chapel, meetings for worship at the boathouse, Early Morning Coffee and Conversation, as well as Meetings for Worship for Racial Healing, Worship with Friends in the Spirit of Christ, and Worship with Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns. The committee contacted the Bible Study leader, Margaret Webb, and provided grounding and support for her and the body those four nights. Margaret and the committee worked together for the programmed portion of the closing worship on Saturday, choosing hymns and providing eldering and moral support. The committee identified three Friends—Steven Davison, Anita Paul, and Kristina Keefe-Perry—to bring the message for Silver Bay's Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday vesper services in the Chapel.

We thank all the myriad Friends who served as worship sharing leaders, elders, healers, holders-of-the-space, speakers, and music makers.

The committee is currently working with JYM, Youth, and Young Adult Concerns Committee for the Community Worship opportunities at summer sessions 2013.

Ann Davidson, clerk

GENERAL SERVICES SECTION

General Services Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committees exist in large part to be sure the committees in their Sections are functioning well, and to assist their work, in particular prior to their presenting a concern or minute to the gathered Friends at our sessions. Details of the workings of the General Services Section committees follow in their individual reports. General Services Coordinating Committee (GSCC) met at Spring Sessions, at Summer Sessions, at Fall Sessions, and at the January Coordinating Weekend at Powell House.

During the past year, the Development Committee was formed from the preceding working group. At Fall Sessions 2012 the new committee received approval to launch an appeal to individual NYYM Friends to give additional support to the 2013 budget. While several other yearly meetings have some form of proactive fund raising, until now ours has been intermittent and not planned by a special committee. This first appeal garnered many thousands of dollars despite very limited time and experience. The committee is in the process of envisioning its future methodology and processes. Any future appeals will require approval of gathered Friends in session.

In a related financial concern, the Financial Services Committee is now putting anticipated covenant donations on a spreadsheet so that meeting treasurers can be advised if expected payments have not been sent in as the year's financial close approaches. There will not be pressure to make payments, but advice in light of the fact that there have been frequent inadvertent omissions of payments by new or inexperienced treasurers and other situations that have led to inadvertent non-payments and funds misapplied to the wrong year, causing confusion and inaccurate records.

There have been interchanges among GSCC, Financial Services Committee, Development Committee, and the Priorities Working Group to find the best way to provide clearer and more complete financial information to Friends without too much confusing detail, especially for budget planning and

discernment. The right balance has been difficult to achieve, but the process is moving forward and will involve many Friends in varying roles.

In midyear 2012, Steven Davison was hired as Communications Director for the Yearly Meeting. Although this is not a new position, it is a revised position that includes bringing much of the work previously outsourced into the hands of our own staff. This will hopefully improve efficiency of communication, modernize and update our capabilities and processes, and be more cost efficient. Friends have welcomed Steven warmly and he has jumped into the position with enthusiasm and expertise.

In another process designed to reduce a complex situation to a more manageable one, there is an ongoing review of the relationship of the ARCH program and coordinators to the YM structure. Though the program is funded entirely by grants from Friends Foundation for the Aging, the coordinators are technically part-time staff for legal and other reasons. They are supervised by the Committee on Aging Concerns and for some purposes by the Personnel Committee, which connects them to both General Services and Nurture Sections. This sometimes awkward situation is being addressed for better clarity of oversight, but in the interim the committees are having one Friend sit on both committees, which now confer more frequently.

Early in 2012, the Yearly Meeting offices moved from the basement to the third floor of 15 Rutherford Place. The move was handled efficiently and with minimal expense. The new facilities are much more congenial for the staff and visitors, much more professional in appearance, and have turned out to provide more substantial savings than was anticipated because of lower utility bills than expected.

After many years without a current, updated, and accessible NYYM *Handbook*, a subcommittee of GSCC worked closely with staff and has made the *Handbook* easily available on the YM web site. It will eventually be downloadable by page/entry. It is now available for reference by committee clerks, by those who are asked to consider service on a committee, and for many other purposes. This had been a significant gap that has now been filled. The *Handbook* can be kept current much more

easily than it had been. The last complete version had been in print and dated 2000. There were limited updates in 2008.

GSCC approved a sabbatical leave policy presented by the Personnel Committee in early 2012. The policy includes a provision that any request by an eligible staff member include complete financial neutrality for the Yearly Meeting. The first such sabbatical was taken by the General Secretary early in 2013, at which time it became evident that the policy needed some clarifications and tweaking to avoid confusion. The review process is ongoing.

At Spring Sessions 2013, GSCC approved the establishment of a task group on committee clerking concerns, at the request of Liaison Committee, which has begun to function.

Also at Spring Sessions 2013, GSCC discussed advancing the concern approved by the Yearly Meeting body of a process to gather Friends from Liaison, Financial Services Committee, and Development Committee to address both short- and long-term financial concerns. Financial Services Committee is responsible to convene that ad hoc group.

Most Committee members are dedicated and thoughtful, and work continues to progress in a spirit-led and timely fashion.

Jeffrey Aaron, clerk

Audit Committee

The committee met in May and September, 2012, with the NYYM Auditor, Robert Lee, to review his reports on the 2010 and 2011 financial accounts of the Yearly Meeting. After careful examination the Committee approved the Consolidated Financial Statements for 2010 and 2011. Based on the recommendations in the 2011 Audit Report, the Committee initiated a discussion of Temporarily Restricted and Contingency Funds. The Committee determined that more uniform office policies, approval procedures, and responsibilities be established for the initiation and disbursement of such funds.

In pursuing issues originally raised in 2011, the Committee discussed its responsibilities relating to Audit of the Trustee Managed Accounts with the Treasurer of the Trustees and concluded that this function would continue to be performed

by the Trustees, and would be funded out of their budget. The ongoing effort to clarify Trustee Managed Accounts as they impact the NYYM budgeting process, if successful, should provide sufficient information to assure that the NYYM Audit is accurate. The auditing requirements for Trustee Managed Accounts (which operate more like mutual fund audits) is sufficiently different from that for the NYYM Operating Budget that no cost would be saved by combining them.

The Committee delayed a routine review of the auditor agreement until later in 2013, in view of the need to collect additional information concerning appropriate practices for solicitation of auditors. The committee is quite satisfied with Mr. Lee as the present auditor, but considers that a periodic review and renewal of audit agreements is desirable as an aspect of due diligence. The Committee also discussed the prospects for improving timeliness of audits, so that the audit for one fiscal year could be completed prior to the end of the next fiscal year. The practices of “late” closing of books (due primarily to late receipt of covenant donations from monthly meetings), and the retroactive modification of Yearly Meeting budgets (as occurred in 2012), which are to be discouraged in the future, delay the date that data can be sent to the auditor for review. In part, these issues are due to the continued use of the Calendar Fiscal Year by NYYM, and the large amount of year-end giving. (It is noted that Powell House realized considerable simplification of their financial procedures by changing their fiscal year away from the Calendar Year.) The suggestion to adjust the NYYM Fiscal Year was brought to General Services Coordinating Committee, but was there dismissed in view of unsuccessful past efforts to do this.

Ed Doty agreed to continue as clerk. Lisa Gasstrom agreed to continue to serve as liaison with GSCC through 2012, and as a co-opted member of the Committee in 2013, with Tim Johnson continuing in the role of GSCC Liaison in 2013. The committee feels it is fulfilling the charge given to it by NYYM. We look forward to the Nominating Committee bringing forth more nominees for future Audit Committee service, as Ed’s term also expires in 2013.

We are continuing discussions about the 2012 audit, the new

Auditor solicitation, about procedures to be used in contingency budgeting and accounts, and about the linkage between Trustee Treasurer Managed Accounts to the NYYM Financial statements. We believe that the work of the committee impacts the life of the monthly meetings by reassuring them that the funds entrusted to NYYM are being cared for in a clear, careful, and responsible way.

Edward Doty, clerk

Communications Committee

Spark. We have continued with the practice of dedicating issues of *Spark* to a theme, with issues on Science, Recognizing Gifts in Ministry, The Gathered Meeting, Volunteering Among Friends, and Patriotism. The Science issue was blessed with an abundance of articles, and the extras were posted to the Yearly Meeting website, so as to keep to our print budget. The Patriotism issue has received such a strong response that this topic will be spread over two issues! We have begun publishing the theme articles on the website on forum pages that allow readers to comment on the articles, in the hope of fostering a wider conversation in the Yearly Meeting around the topics raised by the themes. The Committee welcomes article submissions, ideas for topics, and comments in the Forum.

Advance Reports and the Yearbook. The committee has discussed increasing the use of electronic communication and reducing print (without leaving behind any Friends who rely on print!) as a way to save money and communicate in real time. We have considered printing significantly fewer *Advance Reports*, as currently we publish them twice—once as the throw-away *Advance Reports*, and once in the *Yearbook* for archival purposes. Possible alternatives include strongly encouraging Friends to print out their own copies from a web version and encouraging people to “recycle” their copies back to a central location at Summer Sessions so that another person might use the same copy.

Handbook. The *Handbook* as a guide to NYYM committee responsibilities is slowly being revised. We encourage each constituent committee to examine their *Handbook* pages and

update them, if necessary. The current draft version of the *Handbook* is available on the YM website, and will soon be replaced by a permanent version that we will update in real time as revisions are made. We also will produce printed copies occasionally as needed.

Social media. We have been gradually developing a social media presence for the Yearly Meeting, including a Facebook page, www.facebook/newyorkyearlymeeting. We post to it fairly often with information that is too timely to wait for the next issue of *Spark* or *InfoShare*. To receive our Facebook postings on your own Facebook Timeline, you must Like the Yearly Meeting Facebook page; we hope you do.

Website. We have made some changes to nyym.org in an effort to make it more useful to Friends, and more changes are on the way.

Press relations. We produced press releases on the Yearly Meeting’s minute on fracking and the minute repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery. This latter was well received in Native American communities and actively distributed among them.

Disaster communications. Hurricane Sandy brought to everyone’s attention the need for a Yearly Meeting disaster communications plan and Communications Committee has been tasked with devising a way for the Yearly Meeting to serve effectively as a hub for communications between members in a disaster.

Annual Report. We produced for the first time a brief, end-of-year annual report that summarized key actions and events in the Yearly Meeting.

It’s been a busy year, with more to come. Let us know anything we can do to assist the communications within the Yearly Meeting and between the Yearly Meeting and the non-Quaker world.

Adam Segal-Isaacson, clerk

Development Committee

The Development Committee was approved as a new committee at Spring Sessions, April 14, 2012. It arose from a recommendation by Financial Services Committee to the General Services Coordinating Committee at Summer Sessions 2011, and was formed at that time as the Development Working Group.

The current committee has addressed and continues to address the following concerns:

- The need for a process of collecting and reporting of donations data to the YM, which has not been updated since the time of “assessments” to the regions, prior to the current general practice of “covenant donations,” all coming from the monthly meetings, both as expectations during the process of creating each new budget and as actual donations throughout the year.
- The need for a process to review donations toward the end of each year comparing them to the covenant donations expected, and for making timely inquiries where appropriate.
- Seeking more clearness concerning the roles of monthly meetings and individual Friends and how we integrate Yearly Meeting, monthly meetings, and the various witnesses, entities, etc., into one coherent vision and coordinated program.
- The possible creation of a database for individual contributors, to become more effective in communicating and energizing the individual base.
- The need for timely submission of expense vouchers to avoid the confusion of year-end pile-up and the uncertainty about how budget lines are being used. A protocol for submission deadlines is being developed.
- Regional and monthly meetings may welcome help in bookkeeping, fundraising techniques, and financial reporting to their members. Assistance might come from this committee or other sources.

A database and fundraising letter were developed and implemented at the end of 2012.

Please note our following minute.

The NYYM Development Committee has completed the work for our 2012 appeal, and is looking forward to exploring developing strategies for our Annual Fund 2013, such as legacy issues, coordination with other committees, and reinvigorating further development. We respectfully request from Friends the approval for another appeal for 2013/2014 to continue our endeavors.

Ray Rios, clerk

Financial Services Committee

No report submitted.

Committee on Expenditure of the H.H. Mosher Fund

Last year, at our annual sessions at Silver Bay, we distributed \$3,637.26 in books and CDs. This included \$3,617.99 for gifts to 71 monthly meetings, worship groups, prison worship groups, and Friends institutions (mostly schools). We gave gift books to 11 individuals (staff, recorded ministers, presenters at NYYM, and first-time visitors at our Yearly Meeting from other yearly meetings).

Please visit the Book Table, located just inside the front door to the lobby during Summer Sessions at Silver Bay to replenish your monthly meeting’s libraries’ shelves with up to \$50 worth of free books. If your meeting is not sending a representative to YM summer sessions, please ask a neighboring meeting that is planning on sending a Friend to select books totaling \$50 for your meeting, as well. Everyone is invited to sign up for an hour or two to help us sell and distribute the books.

Ruth Ralston, for the committee

General Secretary’s Report

Our advance reports are due in mid-May, so I habitually report on my work from the mid-May of one year to that same time the next. I was privileged to be granted a sabbatical leave starting this past February 15th, so this report will cover only the nine months since my last report.

I continue to find this work to be both a wonderful blessing and a significant challenge. It is a blessing to be able to do work that I feel is valuable, that I feel led to fulfill, and that I believe contributes to the overall good in the world. It is a challenge in that it stretches me mightily, requiring me to draw upon all my resources, in body, mind, heart, and soul. Also, the sheer multiplicity of the tasks that this position requires is at times hard to manage.

As I look back on this past year, I am heartened at how far we have come, and grateful to have been a part of that work. We have moved closer to drawing upon a common vision, we

have made significant progress in better communicating the work of the Yearly Meeting within and beyond our community, and we have greatly increased our confidence in our ability to marshal our financial resources in service of our vision. We have deepened in the Spirit. And for yet another year, we have expanded programs while keeping the budget essentially flat. This is no small feat given rising costs in healthcare, insurance, rent, etc. Most importantly, I feel we are drawing together more and more as a community. We have greater capacity to labor over difficult topics, such as our different views on recording gifts in the ministry, without rancor or bitterness.

The largest portion of my work continues to be devoted to visiting monthly and regional meetings, and worship groups. I made twenty such visits in the past nine months. Sometimes these visits involve joining a community for worship and some fellowship afterwards. Sometimes I am asked to speak to a particular topic, or share about the work being done by our Yearly Meeting. Sometimes I facilitate a workshop or retreat for part of a day, a day, or a whole weekend. I find all of these opportunities such a blessing. It is a rare gift to get to know so many Friends, to hear of their life in the Spirit, to hear about the joys and struggles of their communities, and to join them in worship. It is an honor and a privilege to do such work. I continue to carry a concern for helping Friends to deepen in our experience of worship, and welcome opportunities to lead workshops or retreats assisting meetings in deepening their worship.

The next larger portion of my time is spent supporting committees in their work. The global perspective that I get from visiting with Friends across our yearly meeting and knowing the work of most committees is useful in advising Friends on how best to support the Life and work of this yearly meeting. In supporting our work in visioning, communication, and development that I mentioned above, I gave significant time to working with the Priorities Working Group, our Communications Committee, and our Development Working Group, which then became our Development Committee. I anticipate the fruits of this work will help us to have budgets that accurately reflect the needs and leadings of Friends across the Yearly Meeting, and

that fully fund our growing edges, so that we may respond faithfully to God's leadings for our work.

I also worked extensively with the Advancement Committee this year, helping them to plan and facilitate the third Advancement Consultation, and in their ongoing work towards unleashing and supporting gifts in ministry of all types. We are now planning a fourth consultation for this fall.

In addition to the above, I gave time and attention to the Meeting for Discernment Steering Committee, the Financial Services Committee, the Spiritual Nurture Working Group, the Personnel Committee, the Liaison Committee, and the Traveling Friends Advisory Group. I also served on the planning group and helped to facilitate the Spring Pastors Retreat and the 4th Northeast Regional Christ-centered Friends Gathering, as well as helping to plan and facilitate the Nightingales singing weekends.

Part of my work is to represent NYYM in the wider body of Friends. I continued my work on Friends United Meeting's North American Ministries, clerking that committee. That has been satisfying and valuable work, helping that committee to envision and plan for the first efforts Friends United Meeting (FUM) has made at a unified North American ministry in many years. Connected with this work, I co-facilitated a retreat at Woolman Hill for NYYM and New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM) Friends on Deepening Worship that was the first in a series FUM is sponsoring across North America to nurture our monthly meetings.

I also went to the World Gathering of Friends, in Nakuru, Kenya, and facilitated a workshop there on "Living Out the Kingdom While Living in the Empire." It was quite a gift to lead a Bible-based workshop for Friends from North America, Europe, and East Africa. It made for very different dynamics than I have experienced in this work on this continent, due to the variety of cultures represented and the fact that the workshop involves issues of gender and ethnicity.

While in East Africa I was part of a NYYM group visiting Chwele YM to further conversations about whether or how we might be in a partnership relationship with them. Since that time I have served on a Nurture Coordinating Committee task

group on Chwele YM, which has been carrying the concern of this relationship.

With our Yearly Meeting clerk, I participated in a Friends General Conference (FGC) consultation on starting new meetings. Friends from all 15 FGC affiliated yearly meetings and associations were present. It was energizing and I think that we all learned from each other. Jeff [Hitchcock] and I came away with an understanding of how NYYM might use FGC resources to support meeting starts here.

I continue participation in the Superintendents and Secretaries Retreat, held for three days once a year in various locations. This is a gathering of Superintendents and Secretaries from FGC, FUM, and EFCI (Evangelical Friends Church International)-affiliated YMs, as well as Quaker umbrella organizations such as American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), FUM, FGC, and FWCC. The value of the bridge-building and increased understanding between different parts of the Religious Society of Friends that happens at these gatherings is hard to over-estimate.

I also continue to meet via phone and in person with the General Secretaries of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PhYM), Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM), and NEYM. We meet every other month, and share about what is happening in our respective YMs and how different initiatives are, or are not, working. This has been invaluable, both learning from what is going on in other yearly meetings, and how we might benefit from each other's experience, and in the realm of interpersonal support. We meet face to face once or twice a year.

I am ultimately responsible for the good functioning of our office. Helen Garay Toppins, our Associate Secretary, makes this very easy. The fact that she does such a good job of managing our office staff allows me the freedom to travel as much as the other aspects of my job description require. I also supervise Gabi Savory Bailey, our Young Adult Field Secretary. Gabi's energy, initiative, and enthusiasm make her a joy to work with as she gets more and more settled in her work in this position.

As I prepare to embark on my sabbatical leave in less than two weeks, I am deeply grateful for that opportunity to rest in the Spirit, to reflect on my work over the past eight and a half

years, and to listen for clarity as to the priorities for my work upon my return. Thank you. I look forward to seeing many of you at Summer Sessions, and in my travels after my sabbatical.

*Christopher Sammond, General Secretary
February 5, 2013*

Nominating Committee

At Spring Sessions 2013, we heard from the Young Adult Field Secretary that one of the main things younger people appreciate is being NOTICED. Friends of all ages seemed to murmur, "Hear, hear" in various ways. Members of the Nominating Committee work at "noticing" who has a passion for which endeavor in regions, Yearly Meeting Sessions, our own monthly meetings, and whenever and wherever Friends gather. Nominating Committee members have sometimes worn hats to identify ourselves at Yearly Meeting Sessions with the question, "What is your Gift?" inviting Friends to approach us about an opportunity for service on a committee of the Yearly Meeting. We also want to know, "What opportunity do you think could help you grow, and who do you know in your meeting with talents that are begging to be used rather than kept under a bushel?"

Anyone should feel free to contact one of the clerks of the committee (contact information available in the *Yearbook*) to inquire about the current concerns of the committee, meeting times, etc. The committee descriptions are also available on the NYYM website.

Members of the nominating committee are appointed by their own region, proportionate to the number of Friends in that region—which makes sense, as it is the people we work with most closely who NOTICE when eyes light up about a concern and when gifts are in evidence. One region is currently without members on the committee and five are underrepresented, so we welcome new appointees anytime during the year. When more are gathered in our Nominating Committee meetings, whether in person or via phone conference, the possibilities are greater for connecting someone we know with special gifts to the needs of a committee.

In an effort to reflect the reality of what business we are led to

pursue and the readiness of Friends to take on responsibilities for carrying on the work, some committees have been laid down in recent years and new ones have arisen. One new committee that is having some growing pains and needs more members is the Development Committee. The Development Committee's purpose is to ensure an adequate funding base for the leadings of the Yearly Meeting as a whole.

At Summer Sessions, note that the list of nominees is posted on the Inn porch for inclusion on the consent agenda for the end of the week. During the week of Summer Sessions, Nominating Committee members are available to respond to questions in person, and a note for one of the co-clerks can be posted on the message board. The committee meets at breakfast each morning of Summer Sessions, at Fall and Spring Sessions, and by phone conference as needed. Our work is most effective when we have the continued input of many spirit-filled Friends!

Jill McLellan & Deborah Wood, co-clerks

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee remains a vital and active committee consisting of eight members, including the Clerk of the Yearly Meeting. The General Secretary often attends the committee meetings. This year we welcomed two new members: Joyce Schroeder and Hans-Jurgen Lehmann, and accepted the resignation of Patricia Glynn.

The Committee prepared a budget for staff salaries and related expenses for 2013 and has been active in seeking funding for the continuing Young Adult Field Secretary position. We submitted a request for funding to the NYYM Trustees and are actively seeking additional funding.

This year the position of Communications Director was redefined and Steven Davison was hired. Steven began his work during a very busy period of the year and has done an excellent job learning the various work responsibilities. We look forward to his creative input into the many communication endeavors of the Yearly Meeting.

The Personnel Committee received and reviewed the annual evaluations of staff of the NYYM. We also continue to have one

member serve as liaison to the Supervisory Committee for the General Secretary. Both committees are exploring the ways in which we work together and are seeking a structure for that work.

We have also asked one member of personnel (Hans-Jurgen Lehmann) to serve as a liaison between our committee and the Committee on Aging Concerns, which oversees the ARCH Program. We hope that this will provide support to the ARCH staff and link them more closely with the staff of NYYM.

The Personnel Committee was very active this year in the structuring of a sabbatical leave for our General Secretary. It became clear as we engaged in the process that the policy is somewhat ambiguous and will need some significant changes. We decided to wait until the General Secretary's leave is completed before revising the policy so that we can incorporate what we have learned from the process.

The Personnel Committee continues its work to revise and create a Policy Handbook for staff. This is an ongoing concern that will continue in the coming year.

Barbara Menzel, clerk

Yearly Meeting Staff Reports

Gabrielle Savory Bailey, Young Adult Field Secretary

It has been just over two years since I began serving as Young Adult Field Secretary for New York Yearly Meeting, and it feels like I am *just now* getting started. I am still filled with gratitude and a feeling of deep blessing that I am engaged in this work. The first two years were an information gathering time, a time to get a sense of the work, the vast scope of the needs of young adults, and families in our Yearly Meeting. As of the time of this writing, I have traveled to over 23 conferences, monthly or regional meetings, family gatherings, young adult gatherings, or similar visits since Summer Sessions 2012. Those visits, and the visits I did the year before, have been invaluable to me. I have stayed in homes, shared meals, listened, laughed, and been present to meetings and regions. There is good work happening all over our region. I feel blessed to be able to take the time to know so many of those who make up the Yearly Meeting.

This time of listening has given me much information. I concluded a survey of 151 young adult Friends and attenders. I have worked closely with Young Adult Concerns Committee, and other committees, to understand the needs and hopes of many in our Yearly Meeting. I came to see that it is an act of faith for people to speak their truth and their condition. It is an even bigger act of faith to truly hear what others are saying. The biggest act of faith is that once I hear, I have to also respond to what someone has said to me in faith.

So, with the information gleaned from the survey, and my conversations, I have created a monthly newsletter to disseminate information more efficiently. I have updated the database of young adults, and included those with families, who may also be young adults, and those who still want to be kept in the loop. I have helped to connect young adults and families who are looking for other people near them geographically. I have supported two worship groups organized by young adults and families. I have worked on, and continue to work on, gatherings for families and young adults that are meaningful and draw people together. I have been part of an ongoing conversation about youth programming at our Spring, Summer, and Fall Sessions. I maintain a blog, and a heavy Facebook presence to spread information about events and committee needs. The survey gave me a sense of who may be interested, or have gifts for a particular committee, or endeavors that they may not have otherwise known about. I also travel to monthly and regional meetings, and Yearly Meeting events with the information I have from the faithful Friends who have taken the time to share with me. It is my hope that as many people as possible hear what they shared so that we can learn and grow together even more.

Most recently, I co-facilitated a Powell House weekend designed for families to participate together, instead of splitting up sessions by age. This is a new model, one where we learn together, and are present to each other, no matter what developmental stage we are in. It was a success. I think in part because it fed a deep need for people of all ages to engage in meaningful learning together, as well as families to have spiritual experiences together. It is my hope that this model will be repeated

at Powell House, as well as expanded into a program that can travel to various regions and meetings.

I have spent a lot of time nurturing and growing individual relationships. I learn who may be interested in different events and I have sent dozens of hand-written cards with flyers and information. This note writing resulted in several Young Adult Friends and Families attending events that they may not have known about or paid attention to previously. I initially approached this work believing that the things that people could really notice were in the big, broad strokes. Now I know that this work is slower. It is in the fine strokes, the personal interactions. It is in the listening. The more I have the honor of listening, the more I come to know each person's gifts, passions, needs, and strengths. I know more than ever that the more we know each other the more we can understand how we can each carry and share the work that needs to be done. I hear people of all ages, faithful, well meaning people, becoming burned out, and disengaging because a few people do much work, while others do not even know where they might be led. How do we support those who do so much? I have driven and accompanied Young Adults to meetings and sessions, so that they would have a way to get there, but also someone to interpret and talk about their experiences with. In the connections I make, I can see more clearly how we can share what God is asking of us as Quakers in New York Yearly Meeting. I hope to further this sharing so that those who feel over-burdened can feel support, and those who yearn for meaningful work, and a place to serve, can feel fulfilled.

I hear the fear that Quakerism is dying, and we need young people. I also see the life that is *already happening*. I hear that we need to change what we have been doing to make room for new Friends to come in. I also see that there are many places where that *is* happening. I have heard families say that they feel alone, and in need of support, and I have seen the power of Spirit when they are gathered together. What I know for sure is that we *must* continue on in the slow work of knowing each other, and truly, faithfully listening to each other. It is in this knowing that we can know God, and hear how we are being called. As more people engage in this listening, we will have more information. As we listen to people from different worship traditions, we can

see where we are all striving to live into something bigger than ourselves. As we listen to graduates of our youth programs, we can learn from their reflections on how to shape our programs going forward. As we listen to families, we can learn how to serve them. As we listen to our elders, we can hear the wisdom of experience. As we listen to Young Adults' passions and joys, we can hear where the work of this Yearly Meeting is headed.

The important thing I have learned is that once I really hear, really know someone else, it is my responsibility to respond to their condition, even if it means introducing them to someone who can attend to them in ways I cannot. Sometimes this feels too big, because so much change is needed. It is a lot of work, and far more than can be done in my part-time position. It is not always easy on my family either. Even though I am working with so many of you, this work can be lonely and overwhelming. BUT, I will continue to listen, and to paint these fine strokes. There are many of us, and there are many who are already doing the work with me. I am grateful for the love, prayers, and support that I feel on a regular basis. We are doing good work.

Steven Davison, Communications Director

First let me say how much I love my job and how grateful I am to be working for New York Yearly Meeting. I really enjoy the tasks I perform and especially, the new areas I'm exploring and the new skills I'm developing. It also feels great to come back home to this Yearly Meeting and to serve a community that I know so well and care about so much. And it is a joy working with the rest of the Yearly Meeting staff and the Friends I serve in this position. Oh, and I love my office.

As your communications director, I have been trying to add value, features, and scope to the various areas of Yearly Meeting communications:

The Yearly Meeting Website. Ever an ongoing project, we continue to make incremental changes to the website and are planning a fairly significant upgrade, as time allows. I have discovered that I love writing the code involved and I look forward to making the website more attractive, accessible, and useful to its users.

Spark. We publish our print newspaper in January, March, May, September, and November. We have continued the practice of dedicating issues of *Spark* to a topic, and Friends in the Yearly Meeting have responded quite enthusiastically to our themes this year: Quakers and Science, Recognizing Gifts in Ministry, The Gathered Meeting, Volunteering Among Friends, and Patriotism. The Patriotism issue (May 2013) elicited so many submissions that we are continuing the theme in the September issue. I have introduced some innovations in *Spark*: a table of contents, a regular section featuring Quaker resources on the various themes, and, most importantly, a new format for the web publication of the theme articles using the forum module of the website, which allows Friends to comment on the articles. Our hope is that this will generate a lively conversation in the Yearly Meeting around the issues and ideas presented in the articles. Please check out our articles and leave your comments, if you feel so led.

InfoShare. We publish our digital newsletter in February, April, June, Mid-summer, October, and December. The email announcing each *InfoShare* issue now features headlines and links to each item on the web publication, allowing Friends to go directly to items that especially interest them.

Sessions. The information for Summer Sessions 2013 was published on the website in a new format this year, with a page devoted to each of several sections: a Welcome page, Registration & Other Essentials, JYM, Accommodations, Worship, Program, Helping Each Other, and Travel.

Social Media. The Yearly Meeting now has an official Facebook page (www.facebook.com/newyorkyearlymeeting), to which we publish information that is more timely than can wait for publication in either *Spark* or *InfoShare*. Friends who wish to receive notification of these posts on their own Timelines must "Like" our Facebook page. We plan more experiments with social media.

Handbook. The current draft version of the *Handbook* is now available on the website. We are in the process of publishing an updated version in a format that will allow us to keep it up to date in real time. While we will continue to print a few copies of the *Handbook*, the go-to version will now reside permanently

on the website.

Other projects. For 2012, we published and distributed at year's end an Annual Report letting Friends know what meetings, staff, and committees have been up to over the past year.

Press. Along with Social Media, this is a new area for the communications director. We sent out two press releases to the press and other recipients this year, on the Yearly Meeting's minute repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery and the minute opposing hydrofracking in New York State and beyond.

Walter Naegle, Administrative Associate

The years 2012-13 have been unusual in that my professional and personal lives have overlapped on occasion. My late partner, Bayard Rustin, was a member of New York Yearly Meeting. He was an activist and leader in the struggle for civil rights for African Americans. With 2012 being the centennial of his birth and 2013 marking the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, for which he was Deputy Director and chief organizer, interest in his life has grown. The Yearly Meeting, under the auspices of the Black Concerns Committee, has encouraged local meetings to commemorate Rustin's life, using a recent collection of his letters and a documentary film as starting points for study and discussion. I have been invited to participate in a number of these events, without my "NYYM staff hat," and they have given me an opportunity to meet many members with whose names I have become familiar through my work at the NYYM office. So, these activities have been fulfilling both personally and professionally.

My primary responsibility is maintaining the NYYM database in both paper and electronic form. The database consists of members of NYYM, members and former members of our Prison Worship Groups, administrative offices of other Yearly Meetings (both domestic and international), organizations associated with the work of Friends, and individuals and groups who have asked to be included in our mailings. These records are the basis for compiling registration lists for the various Yearly Meeting sessions (Spring, Summer, Fall), Meetings for Discernment, Nightingales weekends, and other events. The mailing lists for

Spark and the Sharing Fund appeals are also generated from this information. We also have a global email list of members and attenders for those interested in NYYM news and events. If you are not on this list and would like to be, please let me know. The database also includes lists of elected officials whom we may contact about issues of concern to our community. This list was most recently updated when we contacted elected officials with our concerns about the debate over whether to allow hydraulic fracking in New York State.

Using the database, I work closely with monthly meeting recorders who notify us about new members, births, transfers, deaths, and who provide the statistics about their meeting that appear in each NYYM *Yearbook*. Twice a year each Recorder receives a printout of their meeting's members which they compare with their records for accuracy. I organize the announcements about our membership that appear in *Spark*.

I work with Helen Garay Toppins, the Associate Secretary, on NYYM finances, processing payment vouchers, reviewing bank statements, preparing bank deposits, and sending out acknowledgments for contributions to the Sharing and Equalization Funds. I send Treasurer's reports via email to monthly meeting and quarterly/regional treasurers.

I assist in collecting photographs and illustrations for use in *Spark* and *InfoShare*, and work on both the Alphabetical and Committee sections of the *Yearbook*. I collect the Epistles, State of Society Reports, and memorial minutes that are made available at Summer Sessions.

Everyday tasks include answering the telephone, reviewing/responding to email, opening mail, ordering office supplies, and shipping out copies of *Faith and Practice* and NYYM *Yearbooks*.

Helen Garay Toppins, Associate Secretary

After serving New York Yearly Meeting for more than 20 years, my job has decidedly taken a new turn. With the support of Christopher Sammond, NYYM's General Secretary, I am now spending more time out of the office and in the field. I love visiting meetings and worship groups. I just love it. In 2012, I visited 15 monthly meetings and worship groups, some more than once. I especially like leading activities that strengthen

our testimony of community. I participated in Quaker Quest training and co-facilitated the NYYM Quaker Quest workshop. I hope that we can promote Quaker Quest throughout NYYM. I took grant writing refresher workshops and prepared the NYYM Young Adult Field Secretary renewal grant proposal. The grant was renewed. And of course I attended Spring, Summer, and Fall Sessions, Coordinating Committee Weekend, and Sessions Committee meetings. My time out of the office was made possible in great part to the expanded office duties performed by Walter Naegle, NYYM's Administrative Associate.

My routine work assignments continue. I supervise office staff and volunteers; support the work of the NYYM treasurers; provide liaison with the accounting service; approve vouchers; execute our bank transfers; prepare for our audit; support the work of the General Secretary, coordinating committee clerks, officers of the yearly meeting, and committee clerks; assist with *Spark*, *InfoShare*, and the *Yearbook*; provide information for seekers; respond to queries from NYYM monthly meeting clerks, members, and attenders; handle registration for Summer Sessions; and allocate the Equalization Funds.

One aspect of my work that has not been routine is orienting Steven Davison, our new Communications Director. He is a welcome addition to our staff and a pleasure to work with.

My mother died Memorial Day Weekend. I sincerely appreciate all of the inspirational letters and cards that I received as well as all of the heartfelt support.

Aging Resources Consultation and Help (ARCH) staff

Since this is our first official staff report to be included in the *Yearbook*, this report primarily reflects on who we are and what we are doing in general.

ARCH (Aging, Resources, Consultation, and Help) is a program of our Yearly Meeting that is funded by the Friends Foundation for the Aging (FFA) and is in the care of the Committee on Aging Concerns (CAC). The program was created some years ago by Barbara Spring and Anita Paul as a response to an FFA interest group discussion at Yearly Meeting's Summer Sessions. Barbara and Anita built this program whole cloth and have shepherded it into a thriving community of committed

volunteer Visitors and staff coordinators.

The program provides both material and spiritual resources to help Friends meet the challenges and blessings of the last third of life and adult Friends living with disabilities, in a way that embraces our Quaker testimonies, is ultimately life-giving, and that deepens and strengthens our meeting community. This year the CAC hired a third coordinator, Callie Janoff, to fortify the team, to share in the work load, and to focus on communications.

So then there were three. Barbara and Anita have always worked together closely in all of ARCH's areas of concern: Visitor training, workshops, individual consultations, Visitor enrichment and support, communication and interface with the Yearly Meeting body, planning, reporting, and all the other little and large ways that they serve us all as we age. Bringing Callie on to the team—someone with a new set of interests and strengths and not as much experience—leads us to consider our “specialties.” While we each continue to support and stand in for each other in many of the functions we perform, we each have particular affinities and strengths we bring to our work.

Barbara is a born networker and activist. You will find her on the front lines of the work of racial equality and listening and talking to Friends about their aging concerns in more living rooms around our meeting than you can imagine! Her academic background in gerontology, a decade of end-of-life research and community engagement in Missoula, Montana, plus her love of storytelling equips her with insight and experience about how we can thrive as we age. In addition to the individual consultations and constant communication she undertakes, Barbara gravitates to recruitment and planning for our Visitor training weekends, meeting new people and hearing their stories. She also has a number of workshop topics that are her specialty, including Telling Our Stories, Care Teams, and Music and Aging.

Anita artfully combines her deep well of knowledge and experience about aging issues with her spiritual depth. With a Master's Degree in training design, she crafts group experiences that are rich in both detailed and specific information and in the emotional and psycho-spiritual understanding of the work

we undertake. She helps those who come to our trainings and workshops feel well equipped to serve those they care for practically and spiritually. She is a walking encyclopedia of knowledge about everything from Medicare to medication to relieving a stressed caregiver to spirituality in retirement. Of course Anita also carries out individual consultations, even as she advises Visitors and her fellow coordinators about the consultations they provide. Anita is your go-to person for specific and even arcane questions on aging issues, as well as any public speaking/vocal ministry needs.

Callie joins the team with spiritual curiosity. Her training as a hospital and hospice chaplain takes her into the spiritual and existential questions we face in our aging. She is also handy with a computer, likes writing, and enjoys sharing new technologies with her senior Friends. So while she takes a philosophical and empathetic approach to her conversations and consultations, she is also encouraging her team to share her Google Calendar, writing submissions for *Spark*, and optimizing our web page. With her hospice experience comes empathy and special concern for issues of advanced care directives, end of life care, and issues of death and dying. Callie is a student of the skills and art of listening, and shares this learning with the Visitors and workshop participants.

While each coordinator serves the whole Yearly Meeting, Friends can reach out to any one of them depending on their geographic proximity, personal preference, or their area of concern. They are all available for individual consultations and general questions on any topic.

Barbara – The Networker

(Northeastern Regional Meeting)

Becoming a Visitor

Information about the Visitor Program

Telling Our Stories Workshop

Advice on Care Teams

Connecting with a Visitor near you

Scheduling a Workshop

Anita – The Teacher

(Northeastern Regional Meeting)

Specific questions about resources or practical issues

Learn more about our Workshops

Information about the Visitor Training program

Information sessions for groups about the ARCH Program

Spiritual Gifts of Aging

Callie – The Communicator

(New York Quarterly Meeting)

Hospice and palliative care

Spiritual/existential concerns of aging, death, and dying

Technical issues accessing resources

Advanced care directives

Listening skills

Spiritual companionship

ARCH Visitors are an amazing group of volunteers. They are attracted to the work as a form of pastoral care. Often they have known situations in their own family or the meeting when an older adult became isolated and needed a helping hand or a listening ear. Visitors come as trained social workers, nurses, or therapists, but professional training, while a help, certainly is not necessary. The weekend Visitor training provides some training, enough “tools” to get started, and it is a very rich mix of self-reflection, community building, and spiritual renewal.

After the training weekend Visitors return to their meeting and engage with the older adults and persons with disabilities, as they are called upon. Visitors consider what issues may be helpful for the meeting as a whole, then work with Ministry & Counsel to invite an ARCH staff person to facilitate a workshop. It has been exciting to see teams of ARCH Visitors evolve, becoming a support for each other and then, with a variety of personalities and skills, for the meeting.

There are currently 64 Visitors throughout NYYM. Twenty-seven meetings have a Visitor or a Visitors team. The hope is for each meeting to have at least two Visitors who can bring ARCH resources to the meeting and, most importantly, to accent the spiritual gifts of aging in our midst.

The work of the ARCH Visitors and staff ultimately is intended

to bring us deeper into a community of support, mutuality, and hospitality. Every one of us either currently needs or absolutely will need some kind(s) of support as we age. As Quakers we are quick to offer our service to others and slow to request it for ourselves. By building a network of mutual support and care, the roles of caregiver and cared-for lose their distinctiveness, allowing us to care as we are cared for and to receive nurture as we offer it to each other.

Barbara Spring, Anita Paul, & Callie Janoff, coordinators

Records Committee

No report submitted

Sessions Committee

This has been a busy year for Sessions Committee. We have reexamined our *Handbook* page and in the process learned a great deal about ourselves! This document is under revision and is expected to be completed by the end of Summer Sessions. It is anticipated that we will have our NYYM *Handbook* page on the Consent Agenda for Fall Sessions.

Our Spring/Fall Sessions Subcommittee has managed its own Handbook and is well positioned for the foreseeable future with sites and host committees in place through 2014. The process has been much streamlined and feedback has been that it is working well for all involved.

At our winter meeting we chose this year's theme for Summer Sessions—*Keeping Faith: Answering That of God in All Creation*—and at this meeting we had in attendance the clerk of the Yearly Meeting, the General Secretary, and the Young Adult Field Secretary, all of whom provided key insights into our week-at-a-glance planning. There are some significant changes that we believe will enhance the experience of Summer Sessions for all ages.

There has been increasing interest and energy around young adult / youth engagement at our Spring / Fall Sessions and it is expected that 2013 will bring increased cross-committee work (Sessions, JYM, Youth Committee, Young Adult Concerns Committee). As these groups develop sessions that engage all

generations in the work of the YM, we believe we will create successive generations of Quakers eager to continue the great work of our faith community.

For 2012, our Equalization Fund donations from more than 70 individuals and a monthly meeting totaled \$10,668, which includes \$8,580 from the Silver Bay complimentary room packages. In addition, we receive an annual contribution from the YM budget to this fund. We use this package by asking Friends to contribute one of these stays by sending their room stay charges to the YM. We then provide the Equalization Fund with those monies and can thereby assist a number of people to attend Summer Sessions who may otherwise not be able to do so. In 2012, we were able to help 91 people attend Sessions at Silver Bay. As of December 31, 2012 we have \$3,158 in the Equalization Fund.

As our Summer Sessions approach, there are conference calls, emails, and added collaboration between various committees and the YM office as the logistical details of planning such a large conference move forward at an ever-accelerating speed. With most, but not all, plans in place for Summer Sessions we expect our efforts to provide for a nurturing and fulfilling time at Silver Bay, but as always leave it to God to lead our faith community in its work.

Roseann Press, clerk

Supervisory Committee for the General Secretary

The Supervisory Committee for the General Secretary (SCGS) has been functioning without a clerk this year, so Deb Wood has acted as clerk.

We met as a committee five times during the past year. Most of these were with Christopher for part of the meeting, and a portion in executive session. Members of the committee spoke regularly with Christopher by phone, not quite monthly, but close.

We are pleased that Christopher was able to take a sabbatical, from February 15 to June 15, 2013. The committee explored with him his goals for the time away, helped to ensure that the sabbatical was revenue neutral and that his responsibilities

were covered in his absence. An article about his sabbatical was published in the January *Spark*.

Christopher's vision for yearly meeting functioning has resulted in a number of positive changes that became evident in 2012. The job description of the Communications Director has changed, and Steven Davison's taking over that position has already improved YM communications. The Development Committee was established, and has been able to raise a significant amount for the 2013 operating budget.

We conducted Christopher's annual performance evaluation. A letter was sent to monthly meeting and yearly meeting committee clerks asking for feedback about their interactions with Christopher during the past year. Christopher completed a self evaluation, commenting on his goals for 2012 and looking forward to plans for 2013. The committee met with Christopher in early February to go over the findings.

Deborah Wood, acting clerk

Trustees, Lindley Murray Fund

In 1836, the original principal of the Lindley Murray Fund was established with the residue of the estate of Lindley Murray, who died in 1826. Six trustees were named in the will to hold this principal in trust and to apply the income thereof yearly in perpetuity for all or any of a variety of purposes, including:

1. "to liberate Black people from slavery and give them, their descendants, and other Black persons suitable education";
2. "to promote the civilization and instruction of the Indians of North America";
3. "to purchase and distribute books tending to promote piety and virtue and the truth of Christianity"; and
4. "to assist and relieve the poor in any description and in any manner that may be judged proper".

The description of purposes is a considerable abbreviation of the will's exact terms. The will also specified that the trustees should have the advice and direction of New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, which was given the power to reappoint the trustees and to establish such regula-

tions and limitations as should seem proper and most likely to promote the ends the legator had in view.

When the \$42,700 fund came into possession of the trustees in 1836, two of the originally named trustees were deceased, so the Yearly Meeting appointed successors and also named a seventh trustee. The Yearly Meeting currently names seven trustees.

Over a period of nearly a century and a half, ten Friends made additional contributions to the Murray Fund, either through bequests or through direct donation. These donors usually placed special emphasis upon one or more of the Murray goals. Prominent among their objectives were needs of Indians and Blacks, relief of the poor and needy, promotion of Christianity, and the peace principles of the Society of Friends. One found "religious, educational and charitable objects" suitable language. As a result, the original Murray Fund more than doubled, reaching \$91,577 by 1975, in direct gifts and bequests. In 1915, Murray Fund trustees accepted the responsibility of managing the \$7,500 principal fund of the New York Female Association and forwarding the income to the association for distribution. Known for initiating free education in New York City in 1800, the Association is an independent organization ministering to "benevolent needs."

The historical account makes clear that the trustees of the Lindley Murray Fund are responsible for:

1. the care and proper investment of the trust funds in their possession; these funds were invested in the Unit Plan of the NYYM Trustees in January 2003;
2. the collection of income from these investments;
3. the disbursement of the income in accordance with their best interpretation of the terms of the bequests.

The Lindley Murray Fund Trustees awarded \$31,627 in 2012.

AFSC Healing Justice Program	2,600
Alternatives to Violence Project.....	1,450
Amerinda	1,450
Creative Response To Conflict.....	1,450
Committee on Conflict Transformation (NYYM).....	1,500
FCNL.....	2,000
Friends General Conference	1,500

<i>Friends Journal</i>	2,800
Indian Affairs Committee (NYYM)	1,500
Long Island Council of Churches	1,500
Oakwood Friends School.	3,600
Powell House	3,000
Redemption Center.	1,900
Westbury Friends School.	1,005
Youth Services Opportunities Project (YSOP).	2,000
Subtotal	29,255
Total before New York Female Association	29,255
New York Female Association (7.5%)	<u>2,372</u>
Grand total Lindley Murray Fund Distributed	31,627

The Lindley Murray Trustees are requesting that when applying for funds next year you clearly state:

- how the current year’s award was used (if awarded),
- how the new request fits with the Lindley Murray Mission Statement,

and that you apply by email to Tilton45@optonline.net by December 1, 2013.

Todd Tilton, clerk

NYYM Trustees

The value of the investment portfolio held by the NYYM Trustees with the Friends Fiduciary Corporation was \$5,649,062.95 as of 12-31-12. Of the 88,588.466 shares in the Unit Plan at that time, 58,517.236 shares were held on behalf of New York Yearly Meeting and the rest were held as Funds Under Management: 11,356.689 shares owned by various monthly and regional meetings, 11,513.530 shares for the Lindley Murray Fund, and 7,201.01 for the Sharing Fund Endowment. The net asset value of each share can be rounded to \$61.77. The dividend rate paid to each share is computed using a 36-month average of the portfolio; in 2012 the rate was \$2.75 and in 2013 the rate is \$2.89.

In 2012 the Trustees approved a contribution of \$5,000 to the Young Adult Field Secretary’s Fund from the Florence Stevens Trust Fund and a \$500 contribution to the Friends International Library from the Beers Fund.

The Trustees, on behalf of New York Yearly Meeting, continue

to own the Monkton, Vermont, and the Yorktown Heights, New York, meetinghouses. These buildings had been owned by Meetings that were laid down several years ago and are currently being used by other religious organizations. We are continuing our ongoing efforts to settle the titles of these buildings with the groups currently using them. In November, 2010, the Stamford-Greenwich Meeting was laid down by Purchase Quarter. At this time we are negotiating a sale of the property to the religious group that has been renting the property since January 2011.

Trustees would again like to remind regional/quarterly/half-yearly meetings to attend to the overall health of their constituent monthly meetings and to alert the clerk and general secretary of New York Yearly Meeting of any meetings that could use additional support and assistance.

Todd Tilton, clerk, NYYM Trustees

NYYM Trustees Financial Report

Distribution of Funds for 2012

These dividends from certain trust funds are distributed regularly twice yearly to those beneficiaries who have been previously determined by the trust donors and/or by action of the Yearly Meeting.

Oakwood Scholarship	22,082.62
Oakwood Administrative	42,563.61
H.H. Mosher	3,592.68
Powell House	10,699.86
Advancement Committee	3,153.88
Nine Partners Quarterly Meeting	1,639.84
World Ministries	18,928.74
New York Yearly Meeting	10,924.36
Friends Foundation for the Aging	4,640.31
Manasquan Monthly Meeting	2,285.87
Indian Affairs Committee	3,355.86
Friends Historical Library	6,267.18

Funds Under Management

Scarsdale Monthly Meeting	1,013.62
New Brunswick Monthly Meeting	1,032.18
Montclair Monthly Meeting	22,238.28
Farmington-Scipio Region	1,798.70
Cornwall Monthly Meeting	3,132.01
Buffalo Monthly Meeting	<u>1,930.94</u>
Total	161,280.55

NYM Retained Income Funds – Summary 2012

The income from these funds is held until a request is received that meets with the purposes of the fund as designated by the donor and/or the Yearly Meeting. Some of these funds are released at the request of specific committees or regions of the Yearly Meeting and others are released at the discretion of the Yearly Meeting Trustees.

Fund	Bal 1-1-12	Income	Disbursements	Bal 1-1-13
Haines	\$6,891.95	\$1,529.52	\$ -	\$8,421.47
Sutton	\$1,620.86	\$305.24	\$ -	\$1,926.10
Monkton	\$16,874.86	\$1,649.72	\$731.50	\$17,793.08
Yorktown-Underhill	\$1,134.40	\$954.16	\$ -	\$2,088.56
Stevens	\$12,975.70	\$5,835.24	\$5,250.00	\$13,560.94
Beers	\$1,318.32	\$247.44	\$500.00	\$1,065.76
Smith	\$3,224.40	\$605.00	\$ -	\$3,829.40
Morris Cemetery	\$16,871.36	\$564.36	\$ -	\$17,435.72
Lockport	\$1,662.78	\$773.68	\$ -	\$2,436.46
Brinkerhoff	\$1,474.09	\$671.00	\$ -	\$2,145.09
York	\$6,952.66	\$9,259.24	\$9,000.00	\$7,211.90
Sufferings	\$8,510.68	\$904.00	\$ -	\$9,414.68
DeForest	\$704.61	\$949.84	\$ -	\$1,654.45
Total	\$80,216.67	\$24,248.44	\$15,481.50	\$88,983.61
Funds Under Management				
Lindley Murray	\$31,854.86	\$31,662.20	\$31,352.80	\$32,164.28
Non-Regularly Distributed Fund Under Management				
Sharing Fund Endowment	\$13,948.14	\$19,802.76	\$23,750.90	\$10,000.00
Unrestricted Funds				
General	\$4,204.84	\$553.52	\$ -	\$4,758.36
Florence Stevens	\$8,934.06	\$5,512.32	\$5,000.00	\$9,446.38
Trustees Administrative	\$23,539.06	\$6,201.19	\$14,150.00	\$15,590.25

NURTURE SECTION

Nurture Coordinating Committee

Nurture Coordinating Committee (NCC) this year has focused much of its attention on how to support, minister to, and nurture our youth. We have not made a great deal of progress in this area, but our committees are working with the Coordinating Committee to find ways to move forward. In October 2012, a day-long session was held in Albany with Friends who are interested in expanding our service to our youth. Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) and Sessions are considering ways to make the experience for young Friends at Silver Bay more dynamic and positive. We have not yet found a way to bring programming for children to Spring and Fall Sessions.

The Friend who has handled the Resource Library for many years is no longer able to handle that responsibility, and NCC will be looking for ways to make that resource more accessible to monthly meetings for their First Day School programs.

Some of our members have been working with Steven Davison to create a dynamic and useful Nurture section of the NYYM website. This is moving slowly, but it is moving!

We were pleased to have the chance to meet Callie Janoff, the new Aging Resources Consultation and Help (ARCH) coordinator, at one of our meetings. ARCH volunteers continue to expand their ability to meet the needs of aging Friends throughout the yearly meeting.

We looked at the cost for our representatives to attend meetings of FGC, FUM, and FWCC. The amount budgeted, the same for the past several years, does not cover the costs. We are concerned that our appointed representatives are only those who can afford to pay at least a portion of their own way. This situation will continue as long as projected YM expenses meet or exceed the expected revenue.

We have followed with interest the efforts of the Chwele Task Group to build a framework to develop a meaningful partnership with Chwele (Kenya) Yearly Meeting. Friends from both yearly meetings are in communication, and hope to be able to have some intervisitation in 2014.

Support from staff has been very helpful this year as we work toward positive changes.

Deborah Wood, clerk

Committee on Aging Concerns

In 2012 the Committee on Aging Concerns (CAC) met frequently by phone conference and in three retreats to work with the ARCH (Aging Resources Consultation and Help) coordinators and two consultants on a strategic plan for the next 2-5 years. Identified goals included: 1) hiring a third ARCH coordinator; 2) becoming more integrated into the fabric of the Yearly Meeting, including better communication with NYYM staff and with the wider Quaker community; 3) maintaining the good work of the ARCH Visitor Program; 4) optimizing staff/committee working relationships; and 5) exploring new possibilities for research and creative outreach in the areas of housing and the aging population in prisons.

The work was funded in part by a planning grant from the Friends Foundation for the Aging. With the great help of our primary consultant, Spee Braun (Old Chatham Meeting), we completed the Plan and a separate Policies and Procedures manual in September. The Plan has been guiding us well since.

The heart and “life blood” of the ARCH program are in the Visitors, who have been through training and enrichment opportunities to help them reach out to Friends with aging and disability concerns in their own meetings. Celebrating the lives of elders in our midst is joyous and serving their needs can take many forms. Visitors build on the experience of our first two coordinators, Anita Paul (Schenectady Meeting) and Barbara Spring (Albany Meeting). They spend time listening, in prayer, and in connecting those they serve with appropriate resources.

Visitors work in tandem with the Pastoral Care or Ministry & Counsel committee of an individual’s meeting or region. You may also have attended an ARCH workshop on Meaningful Retirement, Grief/Loss, Advanced Care Directives, Care Giving, Death and Dying, or another topic. If you haven’t heard of these workshops, or want to become more involved,

share your ideas, questions, or concerns with one of the ARCH coordinators listed below or with a member of our Aging Concerns committee. We also encourage Friends to participate in the next all-expenses-paid ARCH Visitor training on October 11–13 at Grove Hall in Ocean Grove, NJ.

In late 2012, we hired a third coordinator, Callie Janoff (Brooklyn Meeting), who in her first six months has had a good orientation and who successfully co-led the most recent Visitor training program in Syracuse in March. She is getting acquainted with Friends in all regions and had a report in the March *Spark* on the celebration of Farmington elders. In Manasquan she co-led a workshop in connecting with Friends from New Jersey. An important qualification we looked for in our third coordinator was the ability to increase visibility of the ARCH program through the NYYM website and other Quaker communication venues, and we hope everyone in the NYYM is seeing the results of Callie's fine efforts in this area. Watch for "ARCH WAYS" in *Spark*.

The Committee feels blessed by the spirits, skills, and energy of all three of our ARCH coordinators. They meet at least twice monthly in a staff conference call and monthly with the whole Committee. We all meet for an annual weekend retreat in the fall and work together on the yearly grant application to Friends Foundation for the Aging. While our Committee is under Nurture Coordinating Committee, ARCH staff is also under General Services' Personnel Committee. To strengthen the connection with Personnel, we added a member of Personnel, Hans-Jurgen Lehmann (Ridgewood Meeting), to our Committee as a liaison between the two committees. His presence facilitates our fuller integration into the life of the whole yearly meeting, and because of Hans-Jurgen's background and interest in aging issues, it is a blessing in itself.

With the new prisons initiative, we are beginning to reach out to prison worship groups in the NYYM and to formerly incarcerated F/friends. We have set up a subcommittee of the Committee on Aging Concerns to help us work in coalition with others in the NYYM and elsewhere who are involved in advocacy and to clarify our "way forward" regarding needs of the aging who are, or have been, incarcerated.

The housing initiative is starting by helping each meeting and region begin to assess what housing options are available for the elderly (shared housing, assisted living, continuing care residential communities, community support groups like Home Matters in Poughkeepsie, etc.) in its area. Education of staff and others includes attending conferences and connecting with local agencies on this and related topics.

Outreach to the wider Quaker family has included continued contact with Friends in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting who address needs of the aging as well as a pre-conference program led by ARCH coordinators Anita and Barbara at Friends General Conference in Rhode Island in summer 2012. Out of the latter came an invitation to share further on the ARCH program with Friends at Ohio Yearly Meeting in August 2013, which Anita will be attending.

Our committee thanks the Friends Foundation on the Aging for its ongoing financial support of ARCH and welcomes feedback from all regarding aging concerns in general and the ARCH program in particular. We encourage all meetings to have a free visit from an ARCH staff member to explain ARCH programs and/or present a workshop. Committee members' contact information is listed in the *Yearbook*. ARCH coordinators can be reached as follows: Barbara Spring at bkspring70@gmail.com; Anita Paul at anitalouisepaul@gmail.com; and Callie Janoff at callieoff@gmail.com. More contact information is in the *Yearbook*.

Dare Thompson and Norma Ellis, co-clerks

Chwele Task Group

The Chwele Task Group met this spring and decided to seek AVP-trained Friends to volunteer to go to Chwele to participate in HROC workshops (Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities) and, if possible, to attend their yearly meeting annual sessions in August, 2013. NYYM Trustees approved a grant of \$2000 in funds for Friends travelling to Chwele. Other Friends pledged \$200 and a fundraising concert raised only \$80 (due to poor attendance) for a total of \$2,280 raised.

Jill McLellan (who has done AVP for almost 20 years) and John McLellan from Buffalo Monthly Meeting are exploring the

possibility of a trip in fall/winter 2013. Lisa Kuller (who has been a social worker for 22 years) and her daughter Hannah D'Alessio (who just completed AVP) from Wilton Monthly Meeting have expressed interest in making the trip in August 2013, possibly with Grace Kuto who is leading a group from Tigard Friends Church in Oregon to Chwele annual sessions. Each of these pairs of travellers has expressed a willingness to cover close to half their travel expenses from personal resources. Total cost per person is estimated to be \$2,200 per person for a two week trip. Continued fund raising is necessary.

Ben Frisch, a member of Chwele Task Group and a member of Brooklyn Meeting, is considering a trip to Chwele in summer 2014 to study the Quaker schools there. There is the possibility that volunteers could participate in the teacher trainings regarding a peace curriculum for the high schools in the Chwele area.

We seek other volunteer travellers to go and see what we can learn from conflict resolution and trauma healing techniques being used in the Chwele, Kenya. Chwele Yearly Meeting continues to express interest in partnership with NYYM but this work can go on regardless of any larger commitment. Anyone interested in going to Chwele should contact dianekeefe@gmail.com

Diane Keefe, clerk

Epistle Committee

This past year we prepared the outgoing Epistle from New York Yearly Meeting to Friends everywhere. The task of the Committee is to prepare the outgoing Epistle. The work is done during Summer Session, beginning on the third day and focusing on the fourth and fifth days when the Epistle is prepared, presented, and approved. Those on the Committee should enjoy the process of corporate composition and have gifts for discerning the state of the meeting and putting it into a few well-seasoned words. Patience and humility are also required, but the joy and spiritual intensity of the work, and the satisfaction of accomplishment, are ample rewards.

*Roger Dreisbach-Williams, Elizabeth Gordon,
Colleen Hardiman, Kate Moss*

Friends General Conference representatives

Friends General Conference (FGC), with Divine guidance, nurtures the spiritual vitality of the Religious Society of Friends by providing programs and services for Friends, meetings, and seekers.

FGC is active primarily in the United States and Canada. The work is implemented by representatives appointed by fifteen yearly meetings, and twelve independently affiliated monthly meetings. Central Committee is the governing board of FGC, where 170 Friends gather over a 4-day weekend in late October. In addition to the work done by the full committee, there are a number of program and administrative committees. Here are some areas that are being served by New York Yearly Meeting's ten appointed representatives.

Christian and Interfaith Relations (CIRC) is a program committee responsible for the ecumenical and interfaith work of FGC, including participation in the World Council of Churches, other ecumenical bodies, and wider Quaker circles. This committee also sponsors dialogues and workshops to encourage Friends to be active and involved in ecumenical, interfaith, and inter-Quaker activities.

Committee for Nurturing Ministries (CNM) Subcommittee for Deepening guides and supports programs and services focused on enhancing Quaker worship experiences, the discernment of gifts and leadings, ministry and eldering, clerking, meeting for business, and pastoral care in the manner of Friends. Representatives are involved with traveling in the ministry, support of yearly meeting clerks, and retreats for Friends engaged in various kinds of ministry.

Committee for Nurturing Ministries (CNM) Subcommittee for Growing carries a concern for education for seekers and Friends of all ages, which includes outreach to seekers, religious education programming, and developing print and electronic education resources. This committee is currently working on Quaker Quest, Sparkling Still (pre-kindergarten to age eight curriculum), and Faith & Play/ Godly Play.

We have a representative serving on Personnel, which takes responsibility for personnel practices within FGC. This Friend also carries the interest of the staff as a representative to Friends

Pension Plan Committee, caring for pension matters on behalf of FGC and a larger body of Quaker organizations.

Several of our representatives serve on Long Range Conference Planning (LRCP). This committee establishes on-going policy and procedures for the annual Gathering of Friends that is held on a college campus in July. We have one representative in a leadership role on the site selection sub-committee, looking 2 to 5 years ahead for appropriate venues for future FGC Gatherings. Other duties of Friends on LRCP include selecting Gathering clerks, and providing support and evaluations of the annual Gathering. LRCP is also available to advise other committees organizing smaller conferences.

We currently have two representatives serving on FGC's Nominating Committee, whose work is through consultation with our Yearly Meeting's Nominating Committee to share and communicate the needs of the organization with the gifts and talents of Friends that are nurtured here with our own body. FGC's Nominating Committee in prayerful discernment brings forward names of Friends to undertake the many responsibilities within the FGC structure and who continue to be a blessing to the Religious Society of Friends.

And we have a representative that is sitting on the Finance Committee that recommends fiscal policy, develops investment policy, and prepares the annual budget for approval by Central Committee, while considering longer-range financial trends and projections.

We hope to continue to learn and grow in faith, and strengthen our understanding in a partnership of support and caring between NYYM and FGC. New York Yearly Meeting representatives look forward to telling you more. Please also check out FGC's website (fgcquaker.org) for books, resources, outreach, and upcoming events and programs.

*New York Yearly Meeting FGC Representatives,
co-clerks: Ernie Buscemi and Karen Snare*

Friends United Meeting Representatives

During 2012, the FUM General Board (GB) met in Richmond, Indiana, in February, June, and October. NYYM was represented at these meetings by John Edminster (Fifteenth Street)

and Beatrice Beguin (Saranac Lake). We experienced the work of this Board to be grounded in worship and fellowship. The business of the GB is to understand, review, and approve FUM budgets and accounts and approve reports from the FUM Trustees. The Executive Director, Colin Saxton, provided opportunities for Board members to be informed about the work in Ramallah, Kenya, and Belize. The American Ministries Committee is planning a Youth and Young Adult Gathering for fall 2013.

The Board approved and the FUM staff implemented Forty Days of Prayer for the Future of Friends in fall 2012. The daily devotions were written by forty Friends from all walks of FUM. The Restructuring Committee continues to work on recommendations to: more effectively live out our mission, develop an organizational model that is sustainable, increase involvement of Yearly Meetings, and improve communications.

FUM upgraded its Web site last year: www.fum.org.

Beatrice Beguin, clerk

Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) Committee

The NYYM FWCC Committee began the year with a great excitement and spiritual deepening brought back from the 2012 World Conference of Friends (in Kenya) by our representatives. They presented their experience to the committee, to the whole body of Summer Sessions during meeting for business and to Junior Yearly Meeting groups. That excitement continues as we look forward to the coming year.

Gloria Thompson and George Rubin will be serving as co-clerks for the Northeastern Region of the Section of the Americas. They will be working out a program for this Region, and plan to attend nearby Annual Meetings of the constituent Yearly Meetings.

For the first time, the biennial Quaker Youth Pilgrimage will be in Latin America, visiting throughout the evangelical yearly meetings of Peru and Bolivia. The pilgrimage is one month long and will likely be around mid-July to mid-August of 2014. The applications for the 2014 Quaker Youth Pilgrimage will be available during the summer of 2013. Applications for

youth attenders are due in late 2013. The age range will be the traditional ages for the FWCC pilgrimage, 16-18 years of age at the time of the program. The mix of youth will be roughly nine from Latin American yearly meetings, nine from other yearly meetings in the US and Canada, and nine from the Europe & Middle East Section. Spanish proficiency is recommended but not required. Links to further information will be on the Yearly Meeting and Powell House web sites.

Our representatives to the Friends World Conference noted that delegations from other countries had a large number of young adults. One of our main goals is to identify young adults who would like to officially represent NYYM in the next FWCC Section of the Americas Meeting in March 2015, and at the International Representatives Meeting (in Peru) in 2016. People who are interested should attend a FWCC committee meeting and/or speak with any current committee member.

Other possible opportunities coming up that this committee would like to promote are a work camp program in Rwanda sponsored by the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) and an exchange between the NYYM folks involved in Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP) and Kenyans involved in Healing and Rebuilding of Communities (HROC).

“The purpose of the Friends World Committee for Consultation is to encourage fellowship among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends. The Quaker community circles the globe, spanning a rich diversity of regional cultures, beliefs and styles of worship. FWCC, through its four section offices, runs programmes in different regions, uniting Friends around the world through Spirit-led fellowship.”

Michael Clark, clerk

Junior Yearly Meeting Committee

The Junior Yearly Meeting Committee, also called JYM Committee, is lucky to have an especially happy job. We plan activities and discussions for kids, starting when they're in first grade and going through high school. JYM happens mostly in the mornings at NYYM Summer Sessions (Silver Bay). Most of the day-to-day work at Silver Bay (and the planning ahead of

time) is done by two coordinators and by about 25-30 adults who volunteer to help.

Last summer (2012), the kids in JYM did lots of things that they've been doing for years. Children do a lot at Fun(d) Fair and Café Night. These are two events that raise money, especially for the Sharing Fund (which helps Friends who want to do Friends' work out in the world) and for Powell House (so that all Friends can go to conferences there, even if they can't afford to go without help).

All the different age groups seemed to have fun at Silver Bay. The teenagers even did most of the planning for their own sessions. Every summer, it seems like the teen clerks do more and more! They get ready for their responsibilities by going to a clerking workshop during the winter. Then, they attend the JYM planning weekend along with the adult coordinators and volunteers in the spring. The past few years, high school students have also been going to worship sharing with the adults, which has been an amazing way for Friends of different ages to get to know each other better. Finally, we saw our youth really use Quaker process when they held their own meeting to talk about the use of drugs and alcohol at Silver Bay and how it affects our community.

Our committee met at Summer Sessions, Fall Sessions, and Spring Sessions. We talked about a lot, but we especially remember a few specific things:

At one of our Summer Sessions meetings, the teen clerks gave us a report. Among other things, they asked for more freedom to make their own decisions and lead their own groups. In the fall, we committee members had our own conversation about drugs and alcohol at Silver Bay. We tried to really think about this worshipfully in order to figure out if there is anything we should be doing differently. We also talked about adding some extra afternoon and evening activities for JYM. Some of us thought that doing things in the afternoons might really help everyone feel more a part of the community. On the other hand, we worried that our volunteers might already be working too hard. We also might not have enough extra money in our budget.

JYM Committee has noticed a concern rising in many Friends throughout our Yearly Meeting. Lots of people are thinking

and talking about how we can make sure that our children are really part of everything we do as Friends all year. Some of the Friends who have mentioned this include individual families, Youth Committee members, JYM Committee members, and the Young Adult Field Secretary. Sometimes in the past, there have been programs for kids at Spring and Fall Sessions of the Yearly Meeting. This year, some Friends talked about wanting to have those programs, but it didn't work out in the end.

The NYYM *Handbook* says that JYM is only in charge of activities for kids during the summer—at Silver Bay. We're trying to faithfully discern whether we should be doing more than that in order to fill a larger need. As always, though, we're worried about asking people to do too much or trying to do things that we can't afford within our budget. Going forward, we really hope to work with everyone who has a concern about making sure that we treat our children and our adults as one community.

*Aldona Januszkiewicz (co-clerk) &
Emily Provance (recording clerk)*

Oakwood Friends School

Oakwood Friends School's year has been characterized by the optimism and energy that come from wonderful students, engaged and creative faculty members, and, as always, a recognition of the spiritual nurture that springs from life in a community guided by Friends principles.

This past spring, Oakwood completed its ten-year, re-accreditation process, conducted by the New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSAIS). This process involved eighteen months of exploration and reflection on the part of every member of the Oakwood community, resulting in a 150-page "self-study." Then, a visiting committee, made up of three NYSAIS volunteers from Quaker schools and four volunteers from boarding schools, came to the campus for four days, during which time they explored every area of school operation as outlined in our "self-study." The result is an extensive written report, prepared by the visiting committee and submitted to the NYSAIS Commission on Accreditation. The commendations and recommendations outlined in the committee report

will help Oakwood to make further improvements in the years ahead.

Oakwood's students and faculty responded to global events in a variety of ways. The Friends Committee, whose membership includes both students and faculty, was especially active in planning programs to help foster dialogue regarding Quaker testimonies as they relate to current events. A group of faculty and students again traveled to New Orleans during spring break to help with the continued rebuilding process in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and another group provided volunteer hurricane relief in the Rockaways. Our sophomore class continued its tradition of participation in Youth Service Opportunities Project (YSOP) in New York City. An endowed lectureship focusing on social justice brought a distinguished journalist to campus—an Oakwood graduate—to speak about racial stereotypes. Two groups of students traveled to Model United Nations conferences, one in Montreal and one at Dartmouth College, to immerse themselves in simulated challenges of international diplomacy. Individual and small-group volunteer projects continue each week within the local Hudson Valley. And this winter, five of our students and two faculty members participated in the Quaker Youth Leadership Conference, held this year at Sidwell Friends School in Washington, DC.

During these past months, Oakwood has been graced by the presence of Emma Condori, our visiting apprentice teacher who came to us under the auspices of the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund (BQEF). Emma has lived here on campus and has participated in a variety of teaching and extracurricular activities. She has been a regular attendee at Poughkeepsie Meeting, and she has participated in AVP activities, Friends Council on Education workshops, community service work, Friends General Conference and FUM programs, not to mention activities of New York Yearly Meeting. This is the second time that Oakwood has participated in this exchange program, and we hope to continue our involvement in the future. The participating school and BQEF share in the cost of the exchange visit.

All of you who support Oakwood Friends School participate in our school's endeavors, however far you may be from the campus. None of the school's work could be done without those

who have helped to sustain and nurture this institution over the years. Alumni, members of the Board of Managers, parents, faculty, staff, administrators, friends of the school, and Friends in New York Yearly Meeting and beyond, all work together to make this school an exceptional place for young people to learn and to form the values that will guide them on the varied paths of their lives. This year, we have been reminded again of our Quaker heritage, and its powerful resonance in the complex world around us.

Peter F. Baily, Head of School
William F. Bogle, Jr. '76, President, Board of Managers

Elsie K. Powell House, Inc.

After several challenging years, in our report for 2012–2013 we have simple good news to relay.

The IRS reinstated Powell House as a tax-exempt organization in late September 2012—a few months after sessions at Silver Bay. Not only was the tax-exempt status reinstated, the IRS also made reinstatement retroactive to December 17, 2011. This means that Powell House was only without tax-exempt status for a period of five and a half months, from June 9 to December 16, 2011. Those who had made contributions during that period were contacted to ask what they wanted done about their non-tax-deductible contributions. Instructions varied and were complied with.

State and county tax authorities were also contacted to make sure that Powell House was in compliance with their requirements and to explore any further liabilities in terms of sales taxes, real estate taxes, etc. We are satisfied that there are none and that all is in good order.

In addition, the required 990 form has been filed—and we have clearly minuted that 990 forms will continue to be filed going forward. With the reinstatement of tax-exempt status, contributions that had been pledged to Powell House but were being withheld have come in and fund-raising efforts are being renewed.

Last year Powell House ended its fiscal year modestly in the black. This year Powell House's expenses exceeded income by \$1,000.

With the IRS issues resolved, the committee turned again to the strategic planning process begun by the online questionnaire so many people filled out two years ago. The Spirit was strong in our initial strategic planning session, leading us to consider what it could mean for Powell House to provide lifelong stewardship for Friends and Friends-to-be in New York Yearly Meeting. At our May committee meeting, we agreed to several new avenues to revitalizing Powell House's relationship with New York Yearly Meeting—both our connections with members of the body and monthly meetings and with the Yearly Meeting at an organizational level. We are approaching new activity from a place of listening and leading.

Powell House programming continues to be generally well received. The Youth Program is doing very well, with strong attendance and enthusiastic support. The Youth Program is unique in North American Quakerdom in that it is the only year-round resident program for children and teens.

On the adult side, some weekends were canceled in the fall because of low registration and one of the school retreats shortened its stay by 24 hours, all of which affected income. New Year's attendance was strong, and the annual Creativity weekend in February expanded to fill both houses instead of its usual single house. Clerking, as always, had good support. A new Parenting weekend was small at 20, but the evaluations were happy and spirited. The Quaker Tool Box weekend for families of all types, as of this writing, is fully registered. The big winter disappointment was that Phil Gulley's weekend in March had to be rescheduled for August when he couldn't get a flight out of Indianapolis because of snow. This affected the cash flow for March, but almost everyone who registered for the March weekend has reregistered for the rescheduled session in August—so we are trusting that it's going to even out.

Powell House was able to provide immediate support to New York Yearly Meeting by hosting Fall Sessions in November with only a few days' notice when the damage and power outages caused by Hurricane Sandy made meeting in New Jersey impossible. In addition, two families with children found a haven from homes in New York and New Jersey that were without heat, water, and light.

No major repairs have been needed in 2012–2013, although to quote Ann Davidson, “There is always continuing maintenance and often surprises when caring for an old house.” The Spring and Fall Work Weekends were fun and productive. Two bathrooms were freshly painted this spring. Spring work weekend revealed that some repairs are needed on the upstairs porch off Loring Crossman.

The big operations news is that an on-site laundry in the former garage between Pitt Hall and the Anna Curtis Center is completed and in use. The laundry will save the housekeeping staff much time and energy. The sheets and towels are coming out of the washer and dryer in better condition, and the expense of installing the laundry is expected to be offset by the estimated \$4,000 a year savings in laundry costs over time.

After several years of challenges, Powell House has been graced with a gift of relative calm and stability. In our strategic planning and visioning work, we are seeking ways to build on that gift and to find innovative ways in addition to our traditional weekends to fulfill our mission: “to foster the spiritual growth of Friends and others and to strengthen the application of Friends’ testimonies in the world.”

Elizabeth K. Powers, President of the Corporation

Powell House Financial Report, 2012

**Statement of Financial Position
As of March 31, 2013 and 2012**

	March 31, 2013 (unaudited)	March 31, 2012 (audited)
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts/Investments	\$ 937,755	\$ 926,909
Accounts Receivable	1,226	1,574
Other Current Assets	<u>350</u>	<u>78</u>
Total Current Assets	939,331	928,561
Fixed Assets	<u>1,006,840</u>	<u>944,605</u>
Total Assets	\$ 1,946,171	\$ 1,873,166
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 3,002	\$ 3,037
Other Current Liabilities	<u>30,842</u>	<u>33,243</u>
Total Current Liabilities	33,844	36,280
Total Liabilities	33,844	36,280
Total Net Assets	1,912,329	1,836,886
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$ 1,946,173	\$ 1,873,166

**Statement of Activities
For the years ending March 31, 2013 and 2012**

	March 31, 2013 (unaudited)	March 31, 2012 (audited)
INCOME		
Contributions	\$ 64,011	\$ 54,827
Guest fees	260,935	254,391
Investment income	26,585	44,613
New York Yearly Meeting	65,524	75,115
Rental income	7,200	7,450
Other revenue	<u>2,007</u>	<u>1,940</u>
Total income	\$ 426,262	\$ 438,336

	March 31, 2013 (unaudited)	March 31, 2012 (audited)
EXPENSES		
Annuities payable	\$ 730	\$ 1,130
Communications	4,912	4,129
Food	29,010	28,081
Fundraising	2,117	3,531
Occupancy	57,775	62,884
Office Supplies	38,052	30,845
Personnel	274,920	280,948
Program Costs	<u>20,516</u>	<u>15,025</u>
Total Cash Expenses	\$ 428,032	\$ 426,573
Depreciation	TBD	\$ 38,043
Total Functional Expenses	\$ 428,032	\$ 464,616
NET ORDINARY INCOME	(\$ 1,770)	(\$ 26,280)

* Cash surplus for year ending March 31, 2012 was \$11,763.

Young Adult Concerns Committee

This year was an exciting time of transition for Young Adult Concerns Committee (YACC). We welcomed four new members and started meeting with the Young Adult Field Secretary much more often. We began meeting virtually regularly and frequently (taking advantage of our youthful tech-savviness) and nominated two new co-clerks of the Committee. Our Committee now feels more whole, having a more diverse representation of Young Adult Friends (YAF) from different life stages and from regions throughout New York Yearly Meeting.

This year, we had the first ever YACC meeting at Spring Sessions, when many of us met in person for the very first time! As we regain our footing, we have not held any of our usual conferences, but we have approved the formation of a Planning Committee, supported under the umbrella of YACC, as exists in New England Yearly Meeting. This committee will be made up of YACC members and non-member YAF alike, and will be charged with organizing at least three conferences each year. This committee will better support the diverse needs of Young Adult Friends in our community by drawing from a larger pool

of Young Adults seeking to develop a rich spiritual community.

We are excited to continue to deepen with one another and hold the wide array of concerns found in our Young Adult Friend community and the Yearly Meeting as a whole.

Alanna Badgley and Audrey Jaynes, co-clerks

Young Friends in Residence Committee

The Young Friends in Residence (YFIR) Committee continues to meet faithfully. Understanding how important youth retreats are to young Friends, we continue to search for ways to keep this program alive and vital.

We continue to search for interns. This has been difficult. We seek ways to access young adult Friends who want to live in spiritual community and serve the larger body of Friends for a year or two. We have created and are circulating a survey, asking young Friends what they know about YFIR. We continue to advertise at Quaker universities. We continue to talk about the program as much as possible. We are always open to ideas and suggestions for getting information about the YFIR program to potential interns. We are also striving to remain flexible. For instance we discussed the possibility of having interim interns. There is a care-taker position available at the Burt House (owned by Ithaca meeting). The committee would be willing to hire a person to fill this role and take on some of the work related to keeping the YFIR program going, including staying in touch with Perry City meeting, organizing and possibly facilitating retreats, and searching for new interns. Although the intentional community aspect would be lacking, such interns would be able to at least do some of the necessary leg work to find full-time interns, or potentially become full-time interns themselves.

Realizing how important youth retreats are, we have organized two weekend-long retreats this spring, one in April on Renewal and Reconnection, and one in June on Testimonies, both led by Kody Hersh. We had 12 or more youth participate in each of them, some who had attended in the past, and some new Friends. Our preteens and teens crave Quaker community, and we were glad to keep this portion of the program active.

We sponsored an Elder Workshop earlier this spring, facil-

itated by Mary Kay Glazer. Ten friends attended. This was a general look at eldering, a process that has been deepening among western Friends, thanks to the YFIR program. If we have interns this fall, Mary Kay has agreed to lead another workshop focusing specifically on eldering interns.

Abe Kenmore, clerk

Youth Committee

The work that the Youth Committee had planned for 2013-2014 got derailed when a miscommunication about the Committee's intention to fulfill its *Handbook* charges resulted in too few members in the Committee. In the 2012 *Advance Report*, we had stated that we would like another committee to take on the planning of youth programs at Fall and Spring Sessions. The wording led some people to understand that we were asking to be released from all duties except the Fall/Spring Sessions—the opposite of what was intended.

Due to that misunderstanding, no new at-large members were named and no members cycling off were renamed. The Nurture Coordinating Committee clerk suggested we have a one-day retreat to discuss the role of Youth Committee and bring in a larger group of people from around the Yearly Meeting.

That retreat was held on October 8, 2012, at Albany Meeting. The intent was to create a vision of how we (New York Yearly Meeting) would look and act if we were doing our best to support and nurture the youth among our Quaker families, monthly meetings, and Yearly Meeting. Twelve friends from five different monthly meetings gathered to share experiences, games, and ideas. We laughed, we groaned, we ate together, and we felt our motivation grow. It was a Spirit-led, productive gathering and led to good insights on First Day activities and incorporating youth into our local meetings. It was a good model for a regional gathering that we would love to replicate in other places and we offer to facilitate such workshops. It did not, however, get to address the original concerns of revisiting the vision for the Youth Committee in Yearly Meeting and including a spectrum of folks from across the geographic breadth of Yearly Meeting.

One of our goals for the coming year is to identify additional people who would like to help the Youth Committee further its

role in helping monthly meetings nurture the youngsters among us. We seek those who are excited by their positive experiences working with youth and with other adults who work with youth. We particularly seek people who are active on the local level, but who are not on other committees at the yearly meeting level.

In our January 2013, report to the Nurture Coordinating Committee, we shared our concern that the major line items that were reduced in the 2013 Yearly Meeting budget dealt with youth and young adults: Young Friends in Residence, Junior Yearly Meeting, and Powell House. Each reduction has logical reasons behind it, but what is the message actually sent when people notice it is primarily the spectrum of youth programs that are being reduced?

Youth Committee representatives participated in a conference call led by Nurture Coordinating and the on-going email exchanges to discuss concerns around, and the planning of, additional youth activities at Summer Sessions. We also arranged a discussion workshop about Summer Sessions led by a young adult and three of the four High School JYM clerks during the EarthSong retreat at Powell House in May.

Youth Committee goals for the 2013 – 2014 year include:

1. Expand the Youth Committee with a wider base of members from around Yearly Meeting representing a variety of interests and priorities. We also welcome and seek people to do specific tasks, such as managing and promoting the YM resource library.
2. Help the Nurture Coordinating Committee find a new coordinator for the Yearly Meeting Resource Library.
3. Return its focus, time, and energy to fulfilling its main charges in the YM *Handbook*:
 - facilitate communication and exchange of resources and information among youth, youth workers, and the committees and groups with a concern for youth within New York Yearly Meeting;
 - support Spirit-led, intergenerational youth work in monthly meetings and worship groups, regional meetings, and Yearly Meeting; and
 - articulate to the Yearly Meeting as a whole the comprehensive needs and goals concerning youth.

Michael Clark, convener

WITNESS SECTION

Witness Coordinating Committee

Queries number 10 through 13 in the current edition of New York Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice* read as follows:

10. Do we support measures to avoid pollution of air and water? Do we support measures to establish the conservation and right use of natural resources?
11. Do we foster reverence for life? Do we strive to find, to understand, and to remove causes of misery and suffering? Do we, in loving concern, extend assistance to those who require it?
12. Do we acknowledge the oneness of humanity and foster a loving spirit toward all people? Do we honor Friends' traditional testimony that men and women are equal? How do we work to make these ideals a reality?
13. Do we maintain Friends' testimony against war? Do we "live in the virtue of that life and power which takes away the occasion of all wars"? Are we exerting our influence in favor of settlement of all differences by truly nonviolent methods? Do we strive to transmit to everyone an understanding of the basis of our peace testimony?

The concerns reflected by these queries are the basis for the work of the committees, working groups, and NYYM representatives to outside organizations who are under the care of the Witness Coordinating Committee (WCC). The *Advance Reports* from these groups and individuals follow this one.

In 2012, WCC sent to the floor of the Yearly Meeting three minutes for consideration, one received from Flushing Monthly Meeting (and also forwarded to the Yearly Meeting by New York Quarter), another arising from a concern brought to the coordinating committee by individuals involved in the opposition to hydraulic fracturing to release shale gas in New York state, and the third, a minute on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Doctrine of Discovery, which was presented previously and brought forward for a second reading (YM minutes 2012-07-25 and 2012-07-26.)

The Flushing Minute on Columbia and Free Trade was read on the floor at Spring Sessions (minute 2012-04-16), and was

then returned to WCC with the request that the coordinating committee discern how we can further the concerns raised in the minute. Nothing further was done with this concern, in part, perhaps, because the Latin American Concerns Committee has been laid down.

The minute in opposition to hydraulic fracturing (fracking) was approved (minute 2012-11-21) by the Yearly Meeting and disseminated to other organizations, including the New York Council of Churches, and to government officials. A number of written responses have been received.

WCC appointed a Care Committee for Greta Mickey's work in the Republic of Georgia. At Fall Sessions, Greta reported on her work and the current situation of the Tbilisi Worship Group. Her care committee found her clear to travel once more to Georgia in the spring of 2013.

Early in the year, as part of a project to discern the need for a peace committee at the Yearly Meeting level, WCC queried monthly meetings about their peace and social concerns activities and tabulated the responses. The following table gives a summary of the responses to this survey:

45	Total number of meetings responding
7	Number with inactive or no peace and social witness committee
20	Number engaged in peace activities
4	Number engaged with Occupy
2	Number working against torture
8	Number involved with Alternatives to Violence Project or conflict resolution
3	Number involved with Conscientious Objection to Paying for War
22	Number engaged in social justice
13	Number who have Friends working as individuals in various areas
6	Number working on environmental concerns
5	Number strongly interested in Latin America
8	Number interested in Latin America(ns) but not so strongly engaged

(Note that many meetings are engaged in more than one area.)

The WCC approved a description of the role of a Peace Concerns Coordinator or Task Group but did not find anyone to fill this position. The idea was to have a person or group sharing information about the activities of monthly meetings with others who would be interested.

WCC made the following grants from the Witness Activities Fund:

Witness Activities Fund Grants in 2012:

- \$600 to the Yearly Meeting Communications Committee for the expansion of the March, 2012 issue of *Spark* with the theme “Activism and Spirit.” This theme was so popular that it filled not only the 12-page March issue, but was carried forward into the May issue as well.
- \$375 to NY Quarter for a workshop on nonviolent resistance.
- \$1,500 to Buffalo Monthly Meeting to support a refugee Congolese Quaker family in Buffalo.
- \$350 to Morningside Monthly Meeting to buy gifts for residents in transitional housing for women returning from prison and their children.
- \$2,500 to Margaret Lechner (Purchase Monthly Meeting) to continue peace-building in Central America.
- \$1,160 to Friends Bike Clinic (Ithaca Monthly Meeting) to expand the operation of the clinic, which teaches people how to make simple repairs to their bicycles.
- \$1,000 to Ithaca Monthly Meeting for a movie series on undoing racism.
- \$500 to Scarsdale Monthly Meeting for holiday gifts (socks and underwear) for residents of homeless shelters.

Mary Eagleson, clerk

Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), Inc.

AVP New York’s work in 2012

AVP New York’s work contracted somewhat in 2012 compared with 2011 (162 full workshops in 2012 vs. 178 in 2011). Two of

the prisons we had programs in were closed in 2011 and another discontinued AVP even as other prison administrations are asking for AVP. We need outside volunteers so we can respond to these requests. We offered more workshops in community settings and our work with youth in and out of schools grew, as well. Genesee Valley Area Council of AVP/NY began a second Landing Strip in Rochester. Landing Strip is our support group for people released from prison. The groups meet monthly in Rochester and twice monthly in Manhattan.

Our Community Programs

We held 26 community workshops with 290 participants and trained 33 apprentice facilitators. These numbers include our work in schools reported below.

In Rochester, we held five full workshops; three were multi-generational. The Church of the Ascension Episcopal has a strong prison ministry and has offered us space for the workshops and for our monthly Landing Strip meetings.

We are excited to have restarted a program in Brooklyn after many years, with Brooklyn Friends offering the use of their meetinghouse. We held four full workshops in Brooklyn and one at 15th Street Meetinghouse in Manhattan and three in the Bronx.

In Buffalo, we held six workshops, one multigenerational and one with high school students. We held four mini workshops for Buffalo Mayor Brown’s Summer Youth Employment Program.

In Westchester Area Council, we held two full workshops in community settings and one mini workshop with youth from New York Yearly Meeting.

We restarted our presence in Ithaca after more than 20 years, with a basic workshop.

Our School Programs

The Walton Central School AVP program continued with two full workshops for 8th-12th graders (14 took the training for facilitators) and mini workshops for 5th, 6th, and 7th graders, reaching approximately 300 students.

In Westchester, we held 20 one-hour mini sessions at three high schools and two middle schools, reaching approximately 400 students.

Our Prison Programs

We held 134 full workshops (five in Spanish and two bilingual) with 1,643 participants and three all-facilitator workshops. We trained 120 new apprentices inside the walls and 165 inside facilitators served on at least one team; 94 outside facilitators served on-team at least once, either in prison, in the community, or both.

Our annual Forum Day was held at Attica this year and nine of the inside facilitators were allowed to join with nineteen outside facilitators from across the state. The Attica AVP team led us in exercises that looked at challenging situations they have experienced while facilitating. We were thrilled to be able to quote some of the Attica team in our spring newsletter and one inside facilitator authored some of our fall fundraising letter.

Special topic workshops focused on parenting from inside, living a meaningful life, transforming imprisonment, parole/reentry, and anger management.

We are truly grateful to all who do this work and who make this work possible.

Jill McLellan, clerk of NYYM Representatives

*Alternatives to Violence Project, Inc. (AVP-NY)
Financial Report, 2012*

INCOME

Direct public support

Contributions—individual	
Landing Strip contributions	\$ 172.30
Retreat contributions	192.50
Scholarship	100.00
Contributions—individual—other	<u>16,809.48</u>
<i>Total contributions—individual</i>	<i>17,274.28</i>

Contributions—churches/meetings	
Landing Strip contributions	0.00
Contributions—churches/meetings—other	<u>3,376.83</u>
<i>Total contributions-Churches/Meetings</i>	<i>3,376.83</i>
Contributions—AVP programs	50.00
Area Councils revenue	
Area Councils revenue—other	<u>1,539.45</u>
<i>Total Area Councils revenue</i>	<i>1,539.45</i>
Total direct public support	22,240.56
Indirect public support	
Contributions—NYYM	
Sharing Fund	4,530.33
Lindley Murray	<u>1,500</u>
<i>Total contributions—NYYM</i>	<i>6,030.33</i>
Program service revenue	
Manual sales	2,054.45
Annual meeting fees	2,656.00
Sales of T Shirts & Merchandise	<u>18.00</u>
<i>Total program service revenue</i>	<i>9,728.45</i>
Dividends & interest-securities	3,963.47
Employee Health Insurance Contract	194.96
Total income	\$ 37,157.77

EXPENSE

Program services	
Certificates & TP cards	\$ 1,065.00
Annual meeting expenses	2,660.00
Landing Strip	2,192.18
Manuals	0.00
Newsletter	2,076.75
Scholarships	200.00
Volunteer expenses	132.96
Workshop expenses	423.10
Fundraising expenses	899.66
Promotional materials	758.00
Retreats	<u>242.71</u>

<i>Total program services</i>	\$ 10,650.36
Management & general expenses	
Payroll expenses	\$ 12,383.50
Payroll taxes	1,062.09
Payroll service fees	1,095.57
Health insurance	7,280.04
Investment fees	50.00
Supplies	397.86
Telephone & telecommunications	1,536.82
Web site	300.00
Printing & copying	245.00
Postage	532.69
Rent	1,200.00
Travel & meetings expenses	108.66
Insurance—Liability	577.36
Insurance—Workman’s Comp	240.00
New York State Disability Insurance	120.00
Filing fees—NY State	60.00
<i>Total management & general expenses</i>	<u>27,189.59</u>
Total expense	\$ 37,839.95
Net ordinary income	-\$ 682.18
Draw on investments (dividends plus net ordinary income)	\$ 4,645.65

**American Friends Service Committee
New York Metropolitan Regional Office**

In 2012 the AFSC made major changes, reorganizing the nine regions in the United States into four regions. The former New York Metropolitan Region was incorporated into a region that includes programs from Maine to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In October the newly constituted Northeast Regional Executive Committee met for the first time. This has been a time of learning for all of us. Not only are there new policies and procedures we need to understand, such as program-based budgeting, there are also programs in the new region to absorb.

At each of our meetings so far, we have learned about exciting programs, far too many to list. One highlight is the Maine

program, which, as part of a Healing Justice Program, has allowed the Wabenaki Indians to speak directly to those who were responsible for implementing a damaging foster care program that took children away from their families. New England Yearly Meeting is considering a minute on the Doctrine of Discovery similar to the one approved by NYYM last year. In Pittsburgh, children prepared a video describing the impact of school closings, which they were able to show to some of their City Council members as part of the Peace Program there. In New Hampshire, materials prepared by the AFSC helped to turn the tide against private prisons in that state. In the old NYMRO region, work continues on Healing Justice issues, such as solitary confinement and mass incarceration. The Immigrant Rights Program provides legal services. The knowledge the staff gains by doing so is shared across the country.

With a much larger region, there is an emphasis on encouraging similar programs to communicate and support each other’s efforts. A major accomplishment was the cooperation of the Peace and Healing Justice Programs in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Massachusetts, which encouraged the National Religious Campaign against Torture to make solitary confinement in U.S. prisons a major focus. The Immigrant Rights programs have a long history of cooperation. These programs have a focus on helping give voice to their concerns and needs with special attention at this time to legislation that is before Congress. In many of the programs there is a special focus on listening through art and conversation. The programs have strong passion and energy from the staff.

In the future, the American Friends Service Committee hopes to focus more on work with youth as well as continuing with the ongoing projects. In addition, the finances of the organization seem to be stabilizing. The AFSC welcomes your interest. Meetings may contact Lucy Duncan, who is working to connect local Meetings to the AFSC.

Pamela Wood, NYYM Liaison to the AFSC

Barrington Dunbar Fund for Black Development

He wrote to me about one member who referred to him as a “thorn in the flesh.” When I wrote back to Barry and asked him how he could still remain a Quaker in the face of such treatment, he replied, “Because they let me speak my piece.”

“A Quaker Speaks from the Black Experience”
James Fletcher, *Friends Journal*, January, 2007

The charge of the Barrington Dunbar Fund is to help meet the educational needs of disadvantaged members of the Black and Latino communities. We are also charged with assisting grassroots organizations that nurture and support these communities. Our name recognizes the work of Barrington Dunbar.

In 2012 the committee carried out our charge by granting funds to:

American Friends Service Committee Healing Justice Program New York/ New Jersey – Helps empower individuals harmed by violence and by criminal justice policies. Staff disseminate information on the collateral damage of incarceration, on criminal justice trends and healing opportunities; monitor abuses in U.S. federal and state prisons, specifically the practices of isolation and torture; respond to needs of persons incarcerated and those harmed by criminal acts; promote alternative thinking on the incarceration of youth and on reintegration of persons formerly incarcerated; seek to influence administrators and policy makers; and provide expertise to coalitions, advocacy groups, community organizations, students, the media, and writers.

Breathing Space, Catskill Mountains, near Liberty, NY – A healing community designed to create a safe place for people returning home from prison through gentle advocacy, creating entrepreneurial green businesses that sustain our actions, and the reinvigoration of our most valuable renewable resource, people. With strong ties to the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), and New York Theological Seminary.

The Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions, Brooklyn, NY – Supports the Raise the Youth, Raise the Bar,

Raise the Age juvenile justice reform initiative, which seeks to raise the age of criminal liability—the age at which a young person can be tried and prosecuted as an adult in the criminal justice system—in New York State for all children under 18 years old. The mission of the Center for NuLeadership is to reduce the overreliance on incarceration. The Center is the nation’s first and only criminal justice policy, advocacy, and training center founded and developed by formerly incarcerated professionals.

R.E.A.L. Skills Network, Poughkeepsie, NY, and Dutchess County – Relationship, Empowerment, Affirmation, and Leadership Skills Network provides after-school and summer programs for elementary through high school students at risk in Poughkeepsie, NY, and throughout Dutchess County. Programs help students that have had difficulty navigating the paths of traditional social, educational, and judicial systems to understand and obtain mainstream skill competency levels and social values that would empower them to interact in their community, school, or job setting more successfully. We train middle and secondary school peer counselors. They are taught mediation skills, communications skills, and alternatives to violence skills.

Redemption Center, Brooklyn, NY – Provides transitional housing, linen, and food for formerly incarcerated individuals. Also provides mail and telephone referral services.

Quaker school scholarships – As the committee is very concerned about racial diversity in Quaker schools, we continue to support Black and Latino disadvantaged students attending Quaker schools. In 2012 we awarded funds for this purpose to Brooklyn Friends School, Friends Seminary, and Westbury Friends School.

Helen Garay Toppins, for the committee.

Black Concerns Committee

Last year the Friends Committee for Black Concerns carried out our charge from New York Yearly Meeting: **To increase awareness among Friends of the history and contribution of Blacks and other ethnic groups both within and outside the Religious Society of Friends**, by promoting the Bayard Rustin Centennial. We distributed a Bayard Rustin

resource packet and asked meetings and Friends in general to celebrate his life and works. We are extremely pleased at how many meetings did celebrate Bayard Rustin's life. Friends held book discussions on the newly released *I Must Resist: Bayard Rustin's Life in Letters*, and invited the author, Michael G. Long, to public speaking engagements. Other meetings showed the film *Brother Outsider, The Life of Bayard Rustin*; still others reflected on his writings and the influence of his Quaker roots. If you knew Bayard, please write down your reflections so that we may send them to the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore.

This year we are asking meetings and Friends in general to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs & Freedom. Bayard Rustin was a primary organizer. We have distributed a 1963 March resource list and it will be posted on our website along with the Bayard Rustin resource list. The Black Concerns Committee invites you to share your reflections about the importance of the March on Washington with younger members of your meeting and community. You might host an event where people can share their memories, or perhaps hold worship sharing with a concern for the words and demands spoken at the March. Or have a poster event and make 2013 March for Jobs & Freedom posters. How similar would they be to the 1963 March?

We also continue to lift up our charge from New York Yearly Meeting: **To develop among Friends a keener awareness of the violence of racism.** This is the most difficult aspect of our work as it can encompass white privilege, internalized oppression, black anger, and white guilt. We provide scholarships for Friends participation in Undoing Racism Training offered by the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond. The following is from their website:

The fabric of racism is inextricably woven and constructed into the founding principles of the United States. Racism was done and it can be undone through effective anti-racist organizing with, and in accountability to, the communities most impacted by racism."

We also provide scholarships for Friends to attend What White People Can Do About Racism Workshop. This workshop

examines how to act against racism from a position of unearned (and unwanted) racial privilege.

Interested Friends should contact us about workshop schedules. Don't hesitate to ask for scholarship assistance.

Our charge from New York Yearly Meeting: **To help to support, enhance, and deepen the multiracial character of the family of Friends.** To support this aim we sponsored the Bedford Stuyvesant Worship Group by paying the rent and paying for newspaper advertisements in local community newspapers. Due to lack of participation we are changing the worship group format to the public format that we used for HarlemQuake. We also stand at the ready to provide Powell House scholarships for children of color.

Helen Garay Toppins, clerk

Bolivian Quaker Education Fund

The Bolivian Quaker Education Fund entered a new phase as our founder, Newton Garver, disengages from the day-to-day activities, and other board members step up to take on expanded responsibilities.

The central element of the program, the scholarships awarded to Bolivian Quaker youth for university studies, remains strong, with 55 scholarships awarded this year. We continue to receive reports of the dreams and life opportunities made possible, as they complete university educations and take on professional positions in Bolivian society.

The student residence in the town of Sorata continues to improve the services it provides, most recently with the completion of a new dormitory room and bathroom to serve female borders. As is not unusual in the Bolivian context, some unexpected issues have recently arisen with the paperwork that was completed for the sale of the buildings and lots several years ago. The local municipality is now requesting clarification on several aspects of the sale documents. We hope to resolve these issues in the near future.

The visiting Bolivian Friends program is ready for a summer of visits by Alicia Lucasi and Emma Condori to Quaker meetings, yearly meetings, and other Quaker events. We feel this form of

exchange is central to the BQEF mission of connecting Friends from different parts of the world, and we have received many expressions of appreciation for the relationships these visits have generated.

Though Emma Condori has been working at Oakwood Friends School, we had hoped to have more apprentice teachers placed at Friends schools this year. The complexities of US visa requirements have provided the largest challenge to this aspect of our work, in that qualified Bolivians have not been able to receive the necessary visas to come up and take on a role in the various Friends schools that expressed interest in adding a Bolivian staff member. This has, of course, also made it more difficult to find Bolivian candidates, as few individuals want to enter into the process and then have their visa application rejected. Given that good English language skills are needed, the pool of applicants is somewhat limited.

The organization has been pleased to hire a part-time bookkeeper, Shirley Way, such that our US Coordinator, Victoria Kaiser, can be freed up to focus more intensely on fundraising and outreach. We are also pleased to have a board member join us in the United Kingdom and to receive support from Friends in that part of the world. We look forward to expanding Bolivian visits and apprentice teaching opportunities to Europe in the future.

The primary work of the organization for the coming year is to build a stable and ongoing funding base, to maintain good communications in our cross-cultural work context, and to resolve the issues of visas for Bolivian Friends who are ready to travel in the US and Europe, and teach in Friends schools. We look forward to the coming years as BQEF continues to fulfill an important role in supporting academic education for Bolivian students and less formal relationship and global education among Friends.

Jens Braun, NYYM representative to BQEF

Committee on Conscientious Objection to Paying for War

This report was drafted by members of New York Yearly Meeting –Quakers (NYYM) who attended the 14th International Confer-

ence on War Tax Resistance and Peace Tax Campaigns which was held in Bogotá, Colombia in early 2013. Four members of NYYM were conference participants. NYYM was a conference sponsor and provided financial support with funds allocated through its Committee on Conscientious Objection to Paying for War.

Participants from several regions of Colombia and six other countries attended the conference. This biennial international conference was held in South America for the first time.

The conference was organized and coordinated by Acción Colectiva de Objetores y Objetoras de Conciencia (ACOOOC), a Colombian group of human rights defenders who advocate for those who are conscientious objectors to obligatory military service.

Individuals are forced to pay for war and violent conflict in various ways: they pay with compelled military service; they pay with their lives; they pay when they are injured in body and in spirit; they pay when relatives and loved ones are killed or injured; they pay when their property is seized or destroyed; they pay when human rights are violated; and they pay when coerced to provide financial support for warmaking through taxation. Conference participants acknowledged how they each pay for war and expressed their objections in personal statements of conscience.

Mary Eagleson, for conference attendees

Earthcare Working Group

The Earthcare Working Group (EWG), as such, did not meet or hold any conference calls in 2012. We had a table at Summer Sessions, where current and important environmental literature was on display. We continued to host the NYYM-Earthcare Google Group, which is an on-line communication network over which members can share Earthcare news and concerns. This sharing of information helps to stimulate participation in public demonstrations and with letter-writing advocacy. Members of the group were engaged in various ways in their home communities on issues and projects that concerned them, usually in collaboration with outside environmental organizations.

In October, we sponsored our NYYM representative, Patricia

Chernoff, to the Quaker Earthcare Witness annual meeting in Chicago. The program theme of the meeting was “Biodiversity and Food,” with speakers ranging from “Transforming Beliefs into Advocacy” to “Why Native Plants Matter” to “Tending the Garden.” Patricia has become a QEW representative at the United Nations in regard to Climate Change and Sustainability.

At Fall Sessions 2012, the issue of natural gas hydrofracking rose to a high level of concern, as evidenced by a number of meetings producing epistles that protested New York State’s planning toward allowing companies to begin operations in New York’s southern tier. Members of EWG participated with others in developing a minute expressing our support for banning the practice, because of its inherent degradation of the environment, its threat to public water supplies, and its contribution to global warming. This minute was approved by the Yearly Meeting and forwarded to state officials and representatives. A task group was formed to follow up with appropriate witness, given the highly polarized climate surrounding this issue. Arrangements were begun for an all-day discernment session at Ithaca Meeting, which has resulted in ongoing non-violent direct actions and civil disobedience witness, in collaboration with other non-Quaker organizations. Those involved with this concern have formed a separate online Google Group, HF Concerns, which has relieved the more general Earthcare network from communications specific to the hydrofracking issue.

Both the Earthcare Working Group and the QEW Representative are funded by the Sharing Fund, which contributed \$350 for our 2012 activities. In addition, many of our members often make contributions by not claiming their out-of-pocket expenses, such as travel and publicity. Those Friends who wish to join either of the Google Group listservs should contact either of the co-clerks named below.

Patricia Chernoff and Fred Doneit, co-clerks

European American Quakers Working to End Racism Working Group

EAQWER began as an informal Spirit-led group in the early 2000’s, and was approved as a working group of Witness Coordi-

nating Committee in July 2011. One of our mission goals is to be a catalyst for anti-racist change in NYYM, so we continue to work hard at being an anti-racist presence, especially at Summer Sessions. In 2012 our display table included our mission statement, history, and timeline, with handouts and contact information and sign-up sheet available to interested Friends. We welcome new members and faithfully follow our commitment to meeting three weekends a year, as well as several times during Summer Sessions. In addition we sponsor activities at Summer Sessions and a number of us labor outside of the working group on furthering this work. The activities of this working group and the relationships formed within it help to energize and support each of us in our efforts to confront racism.

In response to a young Friend of color who made it clear to a member of our group that it is important to have conversations about race with the Junior Yearly Meeting youth at Summer Sessions, two members presented a prepared program with first and second graders, and a more spontaneous session with ninth and tenth graders about Bayard Rustin.

We continue to work on the Apology to Afro-descendants, minuting that we need to apologize in order for our own healing to take place and for us to become good allies. Through deep listening we can become a vehicle for healing. Black Concerns Committee requested we compile a breakdown of arguments given against the apology and we additionally crafted replies to each argument. We worked on placing some reference to the 13th Amendment back into the apology when informed by Otisville Worship Group they were particularly concerned about its absence in the current draft. We have contacted meetings laboring with the apology and feel it makes a difference when Friends committed to this work sit with those addressing these issues. We presented an interest group at Summer Sessions, “Why Apologize? Reflecting on the Apology to Afro-descendants,” and a fruitful discussion followed.

We completed reading *Lifting the White Veil* by Jeff Hitchcock, which addresses the concept of whiteness and white culture in a multiracial society. We read and discussed Langston Hughes’s book, *The Ways of White Folks*, agreed to read *I Must Resist*, the book of Bayard Rustin correspondence, and have assigned

ourselves the book *Occupying Privilege* to discuss next.

To fulfill our goals of working on our own racism and to act as allies to both whites and people of color outside of this group, two members attended a training with Showing UP for Racial Justice (SURJ), a white anti-racist organization in Baltimore and represented EAQWER at this event. We also maintain liaisons with the Black Concerns and Indian Affairs Committees, and the Task Group on Racism. It has been a fruitful year.

Robin Alpern, clerk

Friends Committee on National Legislation representatives

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), the oldest and largest registered religious lobby in Washington, is a nonpartisan Quaker lobby in the public interest. FCNL works with a nationwide network of tens of thousands of people to advocate for social and economic justice, peace, and protection of the environment. The FCNL Annual Meeting is the gathering of its General Committee, made up of Quakers appointed by 26 yearly meetings and several dozen individual Friends chosen because they are particularly active on lobby issues. NYYM appoints representatives to FCNL, who attend the Annual Meeting in Washington and engage in work to promote FCNL's goals. Other interested Friends, who are not appointed representatives but may be on various FCNL committees, attend as well.

The FCNL Policy Committee prepared a set of priorities for the 113th Congress with input from 270 Quaker meetings and churches around the country to determine what Friends see as the most important work for FCNL in the upcoming Congress. A good number of meetings in New York Yearly Meeting participated in this process. Anthony Smith of New Brunswick Monthly Meeting is on the FCNL Policy Committee.

In November, 2012, the Annual Meeting included a lobby day in which members of Congress were asked to support \$1 trillion in cuts to the military budget over the next ten years. Subsequently, the sequester resulted in \$100 billion in annual military spending cuts without requiring legislative action. Now FCNL's strategy is to ask Friends to contact our legislators to advocate for maintaining the cuts to military spending while

supporting restored funding for programs that address poverty and improve access to education, training, health care, and jobs. Another legislative priority is to support restoring pre-sequester funding levels for solutions to counter global climate disruption and programs to assist threatened human populations both at home and abroad. Support for the development and use of sustainable energy and resources also needs heightened priority for funding in line with the FCNL budget priorities.

On a recent trip to New York City, Diane Randall, the new executive secretary of FCNL, called on Friends to contact our legislators and ask them to support immigration reform legislation that provides a path to citizenship for the 11 million unauthorized immigrants already here and more effectively keeps families together. FCNL remains deeply concerned about language that would further militarize the U.S.-Mexico border or other harsh enforcement policies.

When asked about the recent failure to pass national background checks, Diane noted that the events of December 14, 2012, gave gun violence prevention advocates an opportunity to form coalitions with newfound vigor. However, the process of change is often slow and difficult with entrenched interests holding sway. When asked about climate change, Diane remarked that there are still many members of Congress who do not acknowledge the effect of fossil fuel use as a primary cause of increased severe weather disturbances, flooding, and wildfires. FCNL's approach has been to bring unique new voices to the conversation, including evangelical Christians and Native Americans as climate activists. When asked how she motivates the staff on these issues when prospects seem discouraging, she reminded us that FCNL's mission asks only that we work toward the long-term goals of economic justice, peace, and good government. She said the passion the young staff people bring to the work along with the wisdom and experience of FCNL's long term staff make it exciting to be a part of FCNL's work.

On an optimistic note, the recent election in Kenya showed that the peaceful prevention of deadly conflict is possible and is a worthwhile goal for US foreign policy. More detail on legislative issues and areas of work at FCNL are available at fcnl.org.

Diane Keefe, NYYM FCNL representative

Friends Peace Teams representatives

Friends Peace Teams (FPT) is a Spirit-led organization working around the world to develop long-term relationships with communities in conflict to create programs for peace-building, healing, and reconciliation. Friends Peace Teams' programs build on extensive Quaker experience combining the practical and spiritual aspects of conflict resolution.

During the last year, Peacebuilding en las Américas has increased the number of Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) and Community Based Trauma Healing workshops that are being done in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. New groups of local facilitators were trained in each country, and the programs extended: in Colombia, to new groups in Barrancabermeja, one of the most conflictive cities in the country, and in Cauca, to areas of battles between the army and guerrillas; in Honduras, to Mennonites in La Ceiba, and to small farmers in the western Cobán province; in Guatemala, to adolescent street children and indigenous groups; and in El Salvador, to members of the Friends Church. All of the countries have program coordinators who are local people—in Guatemala, the New Zealand-based Coordinator is a long term resident, and we are actively in the process of recruiting and training a local to replace her). The Coordinator of AVP-Honduras had a successful speaking tour in the US in the fall and was invited to return in March to give testimony at the UN on the effects on women of the post-coup government.

The **African Great Lakes Initiative's** (AGLI) major activity during the last year was to prevent and respond to violence related to the March 4 Kenyan election. AGLI's major focus was in two hot spot areas that had significant violence after the last election in 2007. Another major endeavor was to respond with humanitarian assistance and listening sessions in the city of Goma, North Kivu, Congo, which was captured by rebels for eleven days. Assistance went to 200 rape survivors and members of the Friends' Church in Goma. In Rwanda, the Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) program has initiated six Children's Peace Libraries. HROC-Burundi was involved in an extensive bio-sand water filter project and in bringing trauma healing and reconciliation to government-established peace

villages. The clinic in Bujumbura, Burundi, continues to serve low-income clients, including many who are HIV+. In Bududa, Uganda, the program has raised sufficient funds to build a two-story classroom block for the Bududa Vocational Academy.

The Asia West Pacific Initiative: The Asia West Pacific Initiative has had a welcome resurgence of energy this year, and their work is fruitful as they continue to articulate their priorities as an established and reliable Friends program of travel and visitation with attention to grassroots peace work based on discernment. John Michaelis, of Australia Yearly Meeting, joined as Co-Coordinator with Nadine Hoover, and she has relinquished some of her administrative responsibilities, preferring to concentrate her energy for on-the-ground peace work in the region and writing and publishing while back home. They have formally hired a part-time office coordinator, Sarah Rozard. John and Nadine recently created a new and very well-received Discernment Workshop—an advanced AVP workshop. John has developed a strong and ongoing relationship with Subhash and a group of AVP facilitators in Nepal undertaking numerous AVP workshops particularly in the refugee camps administered by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees near Damak in southeastern Nepal, where rape and ongoing domestic violence has been an increasing problem. Valerie Joy, another Australian Friend, is exploring a trip to the Philippines later this year, hoping to develop exchanges among AVP facilitators in Java and the Philippines. Rosemary Epps continues her quiet and successful peace work trips to Afghanistan. Nadine's visitation amongst Friends in Australia has opened windows of opportunity in relation to Australian indigenous Friends and West Papua.

Overall the administrative office of Friends Peace Teams is improving its income and streamlining its work. FPT publishes *PeaceWays* newsletter twice a year. Friends are reminded that people who work with any of the projects in any capacity are part of the peace teams. We invite you to join in the work of our Initiatives as volunteers in the field or from home by serving on a Working Group that governs the work of the Initiative, helping with fundraising and outreach, and scheduling speaking tours, or any other way that you can support the work. Your

Sharing Fund donations and prayers provide greatly appreciated accompaniment for our international and local volunteers, whose work brings them into regions where violence and war have left residents in great need of peace and healing.

The address of the national office is 1001 Park Ave., St. Louis, MO 63104.

Sue Nowelsky, NYYM representative to FPT

Indian Affairs Committee

This past year has been a momentous year for our committee. Last summer, the body of NYYM approved the minute repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery and calling for support of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We were reminded that Friends have benefitted from the Doctrine of Discovery—a sobering thought. Indian Affairs plans to pursue crafting a statement of condolence and regret to the Native American Nations. This will require embracing the role of Friends in the actions that destroyed the Native cultures and peoples, for without this we cannot offer a sincere statement.

As a result of publicity following the approval of the minute, Indian Affairs was contacted by the American Indian Community House (AICH), which hoped to form a closer partnership. Two committee members traveled to NYC to attend a joint meeting and craft new ways to support their programs. We are thrilled by this deepening relationship and look forward to working with them to support their new summer youth forum.

We continue to offer support to students through our modest stipend program and the Marjorie Sexton Scholarship at Onondaga Community College (OCC). Our stipend program, which has mainly focused on college and graduate students, received a welcome infusion of applications from the Akwesasne Freedom School. We are excited by this new avenue for providing support to students.

This was also a landmark year because we offered our first youth trip to visit the Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne. The youth going on this trip offered assistance in setting up for the annual Quilt Festival, which is a benefit for the Akwesasne Freedom School. Seven middle-school youth and two adults participated

in this trip. The trip was interesting and productive, but we wished there had been more time for in-depth exploration of Mohawk culture.

We have continued to support Friends Committee on National Legislation's Native American Project, which has been especially active in lobbying for the support of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and for the inclusion of Native American women in the protection offered by that Act. We are happy to report that VAWA was finally passed and did include Native American women.

After last year's outreach by the Seneca Nation, we are happy to report the process is under way for awarding them stewardship of the Pumped Storage Project at Kinzua Dam. The Seneca people have indicated that they would like to remain open to cooperating with Indian Affairs and Friends on other issues in the future.

The Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment continues to offer its varied programs. We send a representative to their monthly meetings whenever possible, and the exchange of information and culture is invaluable.

This year is the 400th anniversary of the treaty that resulted in the creation of the Two-Row Wampum Belt. This belt features two parallel strips of purple wampum on a field of white, signifying that the Haudenosaunee and settler peoples shall live in peace, both groups traveling the river of life side by side, neither group interfering with the other, each supporting the other, and both caring for the earth on which we all live. This past year began an effort to renew the spirit of this treaty: to honor and preserve the earth and the environment, to revitalize relationships between the Haudenosaunee and the people who have settled this country, and to call for equity and justice in dealing with Native peoples. Indian Affairs was the first "spiritual community" to support the Two-Row Renewal Campaign, and individual members have been active in their local communities to support this effort. It is hoped that this year's effort will be only the beginning of various programs to raise consciousness and awareness about the issues Native peoples face in this country. One of the hoped-for outcomes is more accurate representation of Native history and culture in school curricula.

We recently heard about efforts to preserve the Abenaki language and plan to support this effort. We are gathering information about this program and should have more to report next year. We are looking forward with anticipation and with excitement. We invite anyone interested to join us in this vital and important work.

Susan Wolf, clerk

Indian Affairs Committee Financial Report, 2012

Operating Budget	\$ 203.72
Administrative Expenses	\$ 126.52
Travel to attend committee meetings:	\$ 77.20
Sharing Fund	
Stipends	\$2,600.00
Marjorie Sexton Scholarship	\$1,500.00
Support for Friends' groups	\$1,500.00
Support for Native American initiatives	\$5,800.00
Travel to support witness/committee work	\$ 163.42
Lindley Murray Fund	
Awarded to the Akwesasne Freedom School	\$1,500.00

National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund & Peace Tax Foundation

No report submitted.

New Jersey Council of Churches

No report submitted.

New York State Council of Churches

Since starting in 1889 as the New York State Sunday School Association, the New York State Council of Churches has reinvented itself many times, responding to changes in culture and needs. Over the past two years, the Council has once again been going through a period of self-examination, discernment, and change. A significant change has been the shift from being a group of denominational executives to being more of a grass-

roots organization, bringing prophetic witness into the political sphere.

An exciting development in the last year has been the arrival of Brooke Newell, director of social witness. Her considerable energy focuses on direct action and building relationships with other organizations and with legislators. She hopes to connect with congregations throughout the state to share ideas and experiences about making way for peace by working for justice of all kinds, including such current concerns as the Earth, immigrants, the poor, women, children, and campaign finance reform. If your meeting is in New York, contact the Council office at nyscoc@aol.com and invite Brooke to visit!

Like our Yearly Meeting, the council is a member of New Yorkers Against Fracking, a coalition of groups working to secure a ban on hydraulic fracturing in New York. The chaplaincy program certifies and seeks to support Protestant chaplains working in the New York State prison system, and brings to light concerns for the humane treatment of incarcerated men and women.

With a current annual operating budget of \$155,000, the council derives 53% of its income from contributions from 9 of its 11 member denominations and 19% from grants, and draws another 19% from investments.

Over the years that NYYM has been involved with the Council, we have made an impact in encouraging the council to allow space for Spirit in its deliberations, and to be more concerned about being faithful than being careful.

*Heather M. Cook,
NYYM representative to the NYSCC*

Prisons Committee

The Light Behind The Walls: Our Quaker Prison Worship Groups

Attica Prison Worship Group – has grown during 2012, both in size and in Spirit. Members of our group can discuss their experiences and ideas respectfully without disagreement in this community, even if we do not share one another's views. Attica Friends find peace in their worship times. This year we

discussed essays in the *Quaker Bible Reader*. We value our practice of the “check-in” as we settle into worship. This is a form of worship sharing in which we share with each other the news of our lives. Because of this practice we know each other deeply and feel like a family. We urge other Friends Meetings to try this practice so that all Friends may experience the depth of relationship with one another that we share.

Auburn Prison Preparative Meeting – We are grateful for the life of long-time member Gary Sickler, who served as our co-clerk. Gary was taken to an outside hospital on February 14, 2013 and died the following day from liver cancer. He remained upbeat and strong until the end. The Auburn Meeting has grown in two ways: greater participation by members in willingness to lead programs and in our communication level. We have had less turmoil and conflict than in previous years. We have new members, young and old, and are appreciating each other’s points of view. We appreciate the connection with the Yearly Meeting as evidenced by birthday and Christmas cards, pertinent literature sent our way, and visits from various Friends, including the former clerk and the General Secretary.

Cayuga Prison Worship Group – Our meeting gives us the opportunity for communion with God and a stronger awareness of each other. The deep silence makes it possible for us to travel inward and connect with the true essence of our being. The love and concern that is experienced at our meeting is fulfilling and Godly. Our meetings assure us that we are in the right place on the right path. Meetings give us a chance to explore and address some of the issues that affect our everyday living. The positive energy that flows through our meeting is awesome, and very nourishing to our spirits and souls. This is always a joy and great pleasure to attend our meeting.

Green Haven Prison Preparative Meeting – Knowing that what it is we contribute to the Quaker legacy is ourselves, we have embraced the practicality of simplicity. We express our Quaker faith through the overlooked and underappreciated gestures: being humble, offering a kind word or bright smile, actively listening when spoken to, being courteous to our fellow man and woman, being forthright and true, providing a helping hand when needed, and forgiving others as we

wish to be forgiven. By walking in this manner, all movements that we participate in are instilled with our Quaker values. The example we set communicates the loudest to non-Quakers, fellow Friends, and the larger world. Walking with humility, we worship through our actions.

Otisville Prison Worship Group – We are trying to see the bigger picture in life. We are discussing how to step out of our comfort zones and be challenged. We often come to the meetings upset, but leave feeling much better. It is a place of safety, equality, simplicity, and integrity.

Sing Sing Worship Group – The men in the Sing Sing Worship Group close both meeting for worship and our entire two hours together with the words “Fellowship and Community.” This has been a longstanding practice and sums up nicely what the men find in the Worship Group—a community that is very different from the prison environment, where they can express themselves freely in a safe and supportive place. When we do our weekly check-in before worship, many of the men will respond that what they have been doing during the week is staying positive and staying focused. Staying positive and staying focused is one of the main challenges of prison life because of all its dangers and distractions. And the Worship Group serves the role as a touchstone where men can gather to get support for the week to come.

Sullivan Prison Worship Group – Due to death and prison transfers, the worship group attendance is way down. We hope that we are able to attract more members and more outside visitors.

Woodbourne Prison Worship Group – We are a small group; nevertheless, we are impacted with the quality and value in the sentiment of our worship. During the past year we explored Gifts of the Spirit, Nudged by the Spirit, Equality, Simplicity, *The Woman’s Bible* and our *Faith & Practice*. We are now under the care of Morningside Monthly Meeting

Judy Meikle facilitates a traveling group composed of those who have had direct involvement with prison ministry. Some are formerly incarcerated. We want to come and talk to your monthly and quarterly meetings. We want Friends to know the impact that prison ministry has had on our lives. We want to

come and share our stories. Please invite us to your meeting.

There are more than 200 men on our prison worship group list. We need more volunteers to worship inside prison; even a one-time visit can be of tremendous importance to those who are incarcerated. Please come and visit a worship group and share how Spirit is moving in your life! It is difficult to visit. There are numerous forms to fill out, but it is so worth it. The Prisons Committee needs you! Contact office@nyym.org if you would like to get involved in prison ministry.

Judy Meikle, for the Prisons Committee

Right Sharing of World Resources

The dream behind Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR) is that compassionate Friends and friends will, if given the tools and encouragement, share their wealth with some of the world's 1.2 billion poorest people. The experience of RSWR is that, if extremely poor people are given the tools, a little capital, and encouragement, they will lift themselves out of poverty. New York Yearly Meeting has had a long and fruitful association with RSWR, and still contributes to it out of the Sharing Fund. RSWR gets 6% of the Sharing fund. In 2012, the contribution was \$3,655.42.

2012 saw major changes in the life of Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR), Inc. In the winter of 2011-2012, a search committee began looking for a new general secretary to replace Roland Kreager, who resigned as general secretary in February. In April, the Board of Trustees appointed Betty Tonsing as general secretary. Betty has shown herself to be an energetic and capable manager and fundraiser. Under her direction, the RSWR website has been revitalized and is kept up to date. She placed ads in *Friends Journal*, *Quaker Life*, and *Sojourners* in November, encouraging people to give gifts in honor of friends and family members who already have everything they need, and more. The Board is pleased that the financial picture looks better now than it has since the economic downturn of 2008. This is not to say that it is not still in need of improvement!

For many years, RSWR boards approved grants to projects on faith before the funds were available. As contributions came in, the money was then distributed. This sometimes meant

that projects had to wait as much as six months between being approved and being funded, and in some years, the organization had to borrow from its reserves to make all the grants. In 2012, the board decided to change this practice. Money is now set aside in advance of the board meetings, and if there is not enough to fund all the worthwhile projects, some will not be funded. As a result of this transition, fewer projects were funded in 2012 than in previous years. Needless to say, board members found this situation painful, but they felt that integrity demanded it. With increasing contributions from new and old donors, the organization hopes in 2013 to return to its previous levels of grant making.

Friends are invited to learn more about RSWR and ways it can enrich our monthly meeting lives by visiting the website, www.rswr.org.

Mary Eagleson, RSWR resource person

Rural and Migrant Ministry

No report submitted.

William Penn House

More than a safe and economical hostel-style accommodation for a constant stream of international travelers—more than a seminar center where student groups come to learn about how the federal government works and how citizens can impact that work—more than a small staff living out our Quaker values of simplicity and community—more than home to daily meeting for worship before breakfast around over-sized tables on the second floor—more than the staging area for Washington Quaker Workcamps—more than a model for greener urban living—William Penn House is all of these, and more! My time in coming and going from 515 East Capitol Street over the years gives an experiential understanding that “the whole is more than the sum of its parts.”

In addition to the carriage house vegetative roof project and the ongoing hospitality and seminar programs, a major focus for staff and volunteers in recent years has been the nurture and growth of Washington Quaker Workcamps. Again this summer,

while New York Yearly Meeting Friends are gathered at Silver Bay, Penn House will have a multi-generational group engaged in hands-on involvement with the Lakota community on their lands in Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

Few of us are able to participate directly in Washington Quaker Workcamps, but might NYYM plan to send participants to this intensive experience in 2014? Might more of us help spread the word that William Penn House is a resource on Capitol Hill for those engaged in Quaker witness or simply visiting Washington? And might more us support this unique Quaker presence with our financial contributions? Please join me!

A visit to www.williampennhouse.org is a great way to learn more about the many programs and projects that are part of William Penn House—and for understanding how the total is more than the sum of its parts.

*Lyle Jenks, NYYM appointee
to National Consultative Committee*

Committee on World Ministries

The World Ministry Committee (WMC), with funds from bequests and the Sharing Fund, has been active in supporting the ministry of NYYM Friends in the “wider world” since 1889.

The WMC provides a means whereby individual members and meetings can both encourage and support programs of NYYM, FUM, and other Friends’ organizations.

WMC is a unique committee in that it meets twice a year by teleconference (or more if warranted), usually in May/June and late November. This timetable is based upon the time when funds become available to the Committee.

Throughout the year, the WMC clerk receives grant requests by email, which are then disseminated to members of the Committee for review prior to the teleconference meeting.

Our main objective is to evaluate whether the application is for ministry, i.e. to “spread Quaker love in the wider world.” This is a broad mandate, but it is a serious and often complex charge, so each request is first examined to see if it falls within this mandate; then whether the project can be implemented in a

practical manner; and then, finally, to insure that the funds will have oversight by a member or members of NYYM so that the funds will be used within the parameters of the grant request.

The approved grants requests are also based upon the amount of money available at the time of the Committee meeting. This fiscal year, WMC approved grants to:

Blossom Garden Friends School – for a book project

Bolivian Quaker Education Fund – scholarships for eight students

Orchard Park Friends Meeting – for Crossroads Springs orphanage in Kenya

Friends Peace Teams/African Great Lakes Initiative – for Trauma Healing in Burundi

Manhattan Monthly Meeting – for a Davanga School water pump

Schenectady Friends Meeting – for famine relief in Zimbabwe

Wilton Friends Meeting – for a book project to benefit schools in the Chwele region of Kenya

Youth Service Opportunities Project (YSOP) – for the Fellows Program

We who serve on WMC feel our mission has a unique purpose: to help enable Friends with special leadings to give of their time, skills, and hearts by spreading the Light to those who need our help.

We feel strongly that in this ministry, within our limited means, WMC does make a difference. Mother Teresa once remarked, “it is not how much we give, but how much love we put in the giving.”

It is to that end that NYYM Friends are encouraged to apply for grant funds, to help WMC “spread Quaker love in the wider world.”

Requirements for grant proposals are included in the Committee’s *Handbook* page posted on the NYYM website, and inquiries to the clerk of the Committee are always welcome: sweisfeld@juno.com or write: Susan Weisfeld, 11 Perry Place, Bronxville, NY 10708.

Susan Weisfeld, clerk

Liaison Committee

The Liaison Committee consists of the Yearly Meeting clerk, assistant clerk, and the clerks of the four coordinating committees. The general secretary customarily participates as well. It is the committee's practice to meet in expanded form during Summer Sessions Monday through Friday mornings with the addition of the Yearly Meeting recording clerks and the Yearly Meeting reading clerks.

The committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Yearly Meeting and Yearly Meeting clerk as needed. Recent practice has been for the committee to meet regularly each month by conference call, with occasional called meetings. The committee considers rising business within the Yearly Meeting and recommends items for the agenda of Yearly Meeting business sessions. The committee also discusses matters of concern to the Yearly Meeting that do not fall clearly within the scope of any coordinating committee, or that encompass the responsibilities of more than one committee. On occasion the committee helps the clerk respond to emergent conditions. Examples are the relocation of fall 2012 business sessions from New Jersey to Powell House due to Hurricane Sandy, and subsequently advising on setting up a structure and process to administer donations of hurricane relief funds that the Yearly Meeting received. The committee has also considered the need to develop leadership among, and support for, committee clerks and thus called for the establishment of a working group, now under General Services Coordinating Committee, to explore these concerns further. The Liaison Committee is responsible for planning Coordinating Weekend, usually held in late January at Powell House. This year, along with meetings of the various coordinating committees, the assembled group undertook an exercise envisioning where the Yearly Meeting might be in three years.

Jeff Hitchcock, clerk, Liaison Committee