

2015
ADVANCE REPORTS

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

**Prepared for Summer Sessions
July 19–25, 2015, Silver Bay, NY**

Please use the documents of this book throughout the week in preparation for business sessions, committee meetings, and the special meetings being held this year.

THIS COPY BELONGS TO

NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING ADVANCE REPORTS

The documents of this publication were printed in advance of the 2015–2016 *Yearbook* for consideration at sessions of New York Yearly Meeting in July of 2015.

Please note that the budgets and expenditures of many committees may be found in the Treasurer’s Accounts, page 28. Committees that have their own financial clerks submitted financial reports as part of their committee’s Advance Report. All financial reports are for the 2014 calendar year.

Minutes of Yearly Meeting Sessions

Fall 2014.....	1
Spring 2015.....	14

Finances

2015 Operating Budget.....	23
Treasurer’s Accounts	28
Funds Report	32

Reports of Yearly Meeting Committees, Resource People, and Representatives to Affiliated Groups

Ministry Section

State of the Society Report	35
Ministry Coordinating Committee	38
Advancement Committee	40
Committee on Conflict Transformation	41
Meetings for Discernment Steering Committee	42
Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee.....	45
Committee to Revise <i>Faith and Practice</i>	46
Spiritual Nurture Working Group.....	47
Committee on Sufferings.....	48
Committee on Worship at Yearly Meeting Sessions	48

General Services Section

General Services Coordinating Committee.....	50
Audit Committee.....	51
Communications Committee.....	53
Development Committee.....	53

Financial Services Committee	54
Committee on the Expenditure of the H.H. Mosher Fund	54
General Secretary's Report	55
Nominating Committee	57
Personnel Committee	59
Yearly Meeting Staff Reports	59
Records Committee	70
Sessions Committee	71
Supervisory Committee for the General Secretary	72
Trustees, Lindley Murray Fund	73
Trustees, New York Yearly Meeting	74

Nurture Section

Nurture Coordinating Committee	80
Committee on Aging Concerns	81
Epistle Committee	82
Friends General Conference representatives	82
Friends United Meeting representatives	82
Friends World Committee for Consultation Committee ..	83
Junior Yearly Meeting Committee	85
Oakwood Friends School	86
Elsie K. Powell House, Inc.	88
Young Adult Concerns Committee	91
Young Friends in Residence Committee	92
Youth Committee	92
Youth Institute Summary Report	93

Witness Section

Witness Coordinating Committee	97
Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), Inc.	99
American Friends Service Committee—Northeast Region	104
Barrington Dunbar Fund for Black Development	107
Black Concerns Committee	109
Bolivian Quaker Education Fund	111
Committee on Conscientious Objection to Paying for War	112
Earthcare Working Group	113
European American Quakers Working to End Racism Working Group	114

Witness Section (cont'd)

Friends Committee on National Legislation
representatives..... 116

Friends Peace Teams representatives 118

Indian Affairs Committee..... 121

Latin American Concerns..... 123

National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund
& Peace Tax 124

National Religious Campaign against Torture..... 124

New Jersey Council of Churches 124

New York State Council of Churches..... 125

Prisons Committee 125

Right Sharing of World Resources..... 127

Rural and Migrant Ministry 129

William Penn House..... 129

Committee on World Ministries.....130

Liaison Committee 131

NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING
FALL SESSIONS
November 15–16, 2013

Fifteenth Street Meetinghouse, New York, NY
Saturday, November 15, 2014, 9:30 a.m.

Jeffrey L. Hitchcock (Rahway & Plainfield), clerk
Lucinda Antrim (Scarsdale), Assistant clerk
Roger Dreisbach-Williams (Rahway & Plainfield),
Recording clerk
Karen Snare (Bulls Head-Oswego), Reading clerk

2014-11-01 The clerk spoke of the deep worship we shared this morning. The Yearly Meeting has faced difficult times with a troubled economy and declining numbers. He has heard a sense of despair and cynicism as he travels around the Yearly Meeting. The ministry we heard this morning may be a step in a new direction, a sense of guarded optimism. He invited Friends to enter the work before us with joy. The clerk introduced those at the clerks' table and reviewed the agenda.

2014-11-02 Friends were asked to stand as their region was called. All nine regions, quarters & half yearly meetings are present. The clerk asked Friends to identify their home meeting and role when speaking to the body.

2014-11-03 Carol Summar (15th Street) and Emily Provance (15th Street) spoke for the host committee welcoming us and going over access issues since the elevator is not working. Special thanks were extended to Friends Seminary, Yearly and Quarterly Meeting Staff for their efforts in preparing for these sessions.

2014-11-04 The clerk reported interim items approved by the clerk and general secretary and not reported previously.

November, 2012 – signed on to a statement from Britain Yearly Meeting and AFSC calling for the end of the use of force in Gaza.

December, 2012 – signed on at the request of the NYYM Conscientious Objection to Paying for War Committee as

official co-sponsors of the next International Conference of War Tax Resisters and Peace Tax Campaigns.

December, 2012 – signed on to a letter from FCNL for The Climate Summit 2013 coalition, of which FCNL is a charter member, supporting President Obama in following through on his commitment in hosting a national summit on climate change. The President was particularly looking for religious groups to show support for this initiative.

January, 2013 – signed on to a letter to Governor Cuomo from many organizations applauding his commitment to address climate change after hurricane Sandy, and challenging his ongoing support for hydrofracking as being inconsistent with that stance, due to its large impact of greenhouse gas emissions.

September 2014 – Signed a shared statement by Quaker groups titled “Facing the Challenge of Climate Change.”

A list of all interim items approved by the clerk and general secretary since 2010 was made available to Friends.

2014-11-05 Friends heard the 2014 epistle from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting.

2014-11-06 Friends heard a report from the general secretary which he entitled “Community, Communion and Living in Truth.” There was ministry of appreciation and expansion of the general secretary’s report. Notes for the oral report are attached (page 4). A separate written report on the work of the general secretary is also attached (page 7). Friends received the general secretary’s oral report.

2014-11-07 Minutes 2014-11-01 to -06 were approved.

2014-11-08 John Cooley (Finger Lakes), serving as clerk of General Services, spoke on Friends commitment to follow the law when possible and to break it when necessary and to act with integrity and transparency.

2014-11-09 Susan Bingham (Montclair), serving as Treasurer, presented her report. Last year the closing balance was \$18,000 less than the opening balance, this year it is \$26,000 less. In the context of the total budget this is not a serious concern. Friends received the report (page 11).

2014-11-10 Matt Scanlon (Scarsdale and Sing-Sing Worship Group) presented the first part of the budget for 2015. The budget now considers volunteer efforts and trust fund expenditures, which effectively doubles the size of the budget.

Meeting income is about the same (this number had been decreasing). Most meetings are able to increase what they contribute, several have indicated that they must reduce their contributions, and it balances.

Christopher Sammond spoke on the work of the Development Committee; about asking for our passion, and the funds that go with it. He expressed gratitude for automatic donations, multi-year donations, and the member of a prison worship group who gave \$5 on an income of a few cents an hour. Concerns that Development efforts will take funds from Covenant Donations are not supported by the experience of New England Yearly Meeting that has been doing this for several years (page 11).

Matt Scanlon resumed his presentation of the budget, which now includes a consolidated audit to include Trust Funds, Development Contributions, Covenant Donations and Program Revenue, highlighting the changes from last year, and notes on how the budget reflects the Statement of Leadings and Priorities. This will come most forcefully from the work of the committees and should be reflected in the 2016 budget. Yearly Meeting Staff, Powell House and Trustees are already reporting on their work in the context of the Leadings and Priorities.

The covenant donations should reflect what meetings can do. Some will be able to do more and some won't.

The institutional structure that we support in this budget enables Friends to respond to callings. The example of a Friend who was able to replace college courses in prisons when the State of New York ended the program was cited.

Timothy Johnson (Schenectady), serving as clerk of the Audit Committee, spoke to the increased cost of the audit, which is being paid for by Trustees. We have not been in compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and part of the cost increase is to bring us into compliance with GAAP.

Friends approved the budget for 2015.

2014-11-11 Mary Eagleson (Scarsdale), serving as clerk of the Witness Coordinating Committee, presented the concern to ask President Obama to release Leonard Peltier from prison. Susan Wolf (Ithaca) presented a minute in support of this request. Friends asked that the minute be reworded to reflect the spiritual basis of our concern. Friends also spoke of others who are unjustly imprisoned and need our concern. A Friend asked what should be done after the minute is approved. This should be the beginning, not the end of our concern. The minute will be brought back tomorrow.

2014-11-12 Minutes 2014-11-08 to -11 were approved.

2014-11-13 The meeting closed with worship.

Attachments

General secretary's message, as delivered to the body

See minute 2014-11-06, page 2.

This is our first time back together as a community since Summer Sessions. There, after days of real difficult wrestling with one another, we came to a powerful sense of unity, one which I can still touch back on in my heart. Friends who were there used language such as “a powerful movement of the Spirit,” “a Pentecostal experience,” and “conflict transformation.” While many of us who are here today were present then, many also were not, and I feel a need to perhaps help us bridge back to that time, that energy, that powerful presence of the Spirit aflame in open hearts. I hope we can touch back on that. And I hope that our sessions here, and our work going forward, are tempered by that experience of openness, joy, and spiritual power.

Summer Sessions – conflict, resolution, and what arose in me afterwards:

The words Community and Communion. And the sense that much of the conflict I had been witnessing revolved around an orientation to one or the other.

Description of Community – a powerful sense of connectedness: a “conference high.”

Description of Communion – the powerful feeling of gathered worship when “the power of the Lord is overall.”

I have been holding questions about these two experiences. Are they flip sides of the same coin? Part of a continuum? The same thing as experienced by different spiritual types? Does one lead to another? We need to become more conscious of these two different spiritual modalities, and how they play out in our life in community.

I am uncomfortable with the sense of “Community” as an end in itself, understood only as this nice thing that happens between people. Like all testimonies, it is rooted in something deeper. This wonderful experience we call “Community” is not just something happening between individuals. There is a spiritual dimension as well. As we open profoundly to each other, we also open to the Divine. I can feel that shift when it happens in a group I am facilitating. I can feel it when the whole temporary community at an FGC (Friends General Conference) Gathering makes this shift. It usually happens on Wednesday of that week, but sometimes on Thursday. And it is palpable, and huge. We need to understand and acknowledge the spiritual dimension of this experience.

My concern is that I experience those who favor one or the other—Community or Communion—as their way in to the Divine, as being often in conflict with one another. These are different entry points into participation in the Divine. But I see us looking past this in one another, not understanding their complementary nature.

If our richest spiritual experiences are happening away from our monthly meetings, what does that call us to?

Now I am going to make a broad generalization, and all generalizations are false in some degree, including this one. Most of our experiences of profound community are happening away from our monthly meetings communities. And most of our experiences of communion happen within our monthly meeting communities.

What does it mean that most of our experiences of deep community are happening away from our monthly meetings? What does this require of us?

As the goal of our worship is communion, and that is how I

understand our practice as Friends, and that is not happening as often as we would like, what does that require of us?

Let me state a radical position: Without our monthly meetings, there is no reason to have a yearly meeting, or its sessions. There is no reason to have Powell House, its conferences, or its youth program. There is no reason to have FGC or its Gathering. How can we, how do we, take the spiritual riches we experience in these places, and live them out in our home communities? If our richest spiritual experiences are happening away from our monthly meetings, what does that call us to? How do we sustain that sense of openness, and bring it back to our monthly meetings?

There is a third strand to our communities, which I would call living in Truth. This is the dimension of our witness work. Recently, I had a refresher in that spiritual dimension.

Witness of Sandra Steingraber, Roland Micklem, and many others. And then a comfortable dinner in a good restaurant. I became aware of, I could feel the dissonance between those two, and a palpable sense of what in Seminary we called “Middle Class numbness” in the latter. That numbness denied the truth of the larger situation. In that restaurant, the world was a fine place, the current order benign, just and good. We could enjoy our meal in peace, not needing to worry. And it ignored the Truth that forces are actively at work that are destroying our planet, that money have corrupted both science and politics, and that the Empire will defend those forces against any who challenge them.

We have many Friends whose experience spiritually centers on having the courage to live in the Truth of our situation, to see clearly the school-to-prison pipeline, to see clearly our racism, to see clearly the destruction of our planet, to see clearly the genocide of peoples at home and abroad, to see clearly that we are a country that tortures, that we send out drones to kill those we perceive to be our enemies, killing others in the process, to see clearly that we live amidst vast and accelerating economic disparity, Friends who are unwilling and unable to live out the numbness that says that all is well, fine, just and good, when it is not.

And in this yearly meeting, I have seen an attitude of conflict between “Witness Friends” and “Ministry Friends,” and could tell you stories about that.

We need all of these three strands, and more. We need all of us. These three strands complement, complete each other. We need to be conscious of when we are feeling in competition or conflict with those who come from a different spiritual orientation, and pause, and remember how they are a vital part of our community.

That is the unity that embraced us at Summer Sessions, and that is the unity we need to live out, consciously and fully.

Christopher Sammond

General secretary’s Written Report

See minute 2014-11-06, page 2.

This is our first time back together as a community since Summer Sessions. There, after days of real difficult wrestling with one another, we came to a powerful sense of unity, one that I can still touch back on in my heart. Friends who were there used language such as “a powerful movement of the Spirit,” “a Pentecost experience,” and “conflict transformation.” While many of us who are here today were present then, many also were not, and I feel a need to perhaps help us bridge back to that time, that energy, that powerful presence of the Spirit aflame in open hearts. I would invite those of you who were there to go back to that time, to touch back to that energy, and to bring some of that forward. And I hope that our sessions here, and our work going forward, might be tempered by that experience of openness, joy, and spiritual power.

My time at Summer Sessions was a week of listening to Friends who were angry, concerned, feeling alienated, feeling left out of the vision for the Yearly Meeting as elaborated by the Statement of Leadings and Priorities. It was one long conversation, with the partners changing, but the content was pretty similar. As I pondered all those conversations in the weeks afterwards, the words “Community and Communion” kept coming to me, along with the sense that much of the conflict I had been witnessing revolved around an orientation to one or the other.

Each of us might use those words, but mean very different things. I will give you my descriptions. By “community,” I mean the feeling we experience of incredible openness of hearts and spirits, unity, and togetherness Friends often talk about experiencing at Summer Sessions, at an FGC Gathering, at a Powell House conference, where we refer to coming away with “a conference high.”

By “communion” I mean the powerful experience when we are in a gathered or covered meeting, when the silence gets so thick it is palpable, and the air gets heavy and full, and you can actually sense the presence and the unity of the Spirit in the room, with all there open in heart and spirit to each other and to God.

I have been holding questions about these two experiences. Are they flip sides of the same coin, part of a continuum, the same thing as experienced by different spiritual types? Does one lead to another? We need to become more conscious of these two different spiritual modalities, and how they play out in our life in community.

I am uncomfortable with the sense of “Community” as an end in itself, understood only as this nice thing that happens between people. Like all testimonies, it is rooted in something deeper. This wonderful experience we call “Community” is not just something happening between individuals. There is a spiritual dimension as well. As we open profoundly to each other, we also open to the Divine. I can feel that shift when it happens in a group I am facilitating. I can feel it when the whole temporary community at an FGC Gathering makes this shift. It usually happens on Wednesday of that week, but sometimes on Thursday. And it is palpable, and huge. We need to understand and acknowledge the spiritual dimension of this experience.

My concern is that I experience those who favor one or the other—Community or Communion—as their way in to the Divine, as being often in conflict with one another. These are different entry points into participation in the Divine. But I see us looking past this in one another, not understanding their complementary nature.

Now I am going to make a broad generalization, and all generalizations are false in some degree, including this one. Most of

our experiences of profound community are happening away from our local meeting communities. And most of our experiences of communion happen within our local meeting communities.

What does it mean that most of our experiences of deep community are happening away from our local meetings? What does this require of us?

As the goal of our worship is communion, and that is how I understand our practice as Friends, and that is not happening as often as we would like, what does that require of us?

Let me state a radical position: Without our local meetings, there is no reason to have a yearly meeting, or its sessions. There is no point in having a yearly meeting office, its staff, or certainly a general secretary. There is no reason to have Powell House, its conferences, or its youth program. There is no reason to have FGC or its Gathering. How can we, how do we, take the spiritual riches we experience in these places, and live them out in our home communities? If our richest spiritual experiences are happening away from our local meetings, what does that call us to? How do we sustain that sense of openness, and bring it back to our local meetings?

There is a third strand to our communities, which I would call living in Truth. This is the dimension of our witness work. Recently, I had a refresher in that spiritual dimension.

I was with my wife Barbara at the arraignment of Friends Sandra Steingraber, Roland Micklem, and ten others. We were at a rally and press conference just before they entered the court building. One after another gave powerful witness as to why they felt called to do whatever was necessary to stop a proposed massive natural gas storage facility in the salt caverns under Seneca Lake. They were willing to be arrested for blocking entry to the facility, and to go to jail, if need be. We stood out in the dark, with candles, for an hour and a half on a cold, windy evening, getting chilled to the bone, and deeply moved by their witness.

As the courthouse would not accommodate more than the defendants, their families and their lawyers, Barbara and I headed home at the end of the rally. It was late, and we stopped for dinner in a restaurant in Ithaca. We were enjoying a comfort-

able dinner in a good restaurant, with good food, music, people around us enjoying their meals, with a glass of wine or beer. We warmed up, settled in.

I became aware of, I could feel the dissonance between the scene where we had just been, and where we were now, and a palpable sense of what in Seminary we called “Middle Class numbness” in the latter. That numbness denied the truth of the larger situation. In that restaurant, the world was a fine place, the current order benign, just and good. We could enjoy our meal in peace, not needing to worry. And it ignored the Truth that forces are actively at work that are destroying our planet, that money has corrupted both science and politics, and that the Empire will defend those forces against any who challenge them. And I could feel that where we had been, that scene in the courthouse parking lot, had a lot more life in it than the cozy restaurant. And I wanted more of that life.

We have many Friends whose experience spiritually centers on having the courage to live in the Truth of our situation, to see clearly the school to prison pipeline, to see clearly our racism, to see clearly the destruction of our planet, to see clearly the genocide of peoples at home and abroad, to see clearly that we are a country that tortures, to see clearly that we live amidst vast and accelerating economic disparity, Friends who are unwilling and unable to live out the numbness that says that all is well, fine, just and good, when it is not.

And in this yearly meeting, I have seen an attitude of conflict between “Witness Friends” and “Ministry Friends,” and could tell you stories about that.

We need all of these three strands, and more. We need all of us. These three strands complement, complete each other. We need to be conscious of when we are feeling in competition or conflict with those who come from a different spiritual orientation, and pause, and remember how they are a vital part of our community.

That is the unity that embraced us at Summer Sessions, and that is the unity we need to live out, consciously and fully.

Treasurer's Oral Report

See minute 2014-11-09, page 2.

The opening balance:	\$204,093	(\$204,000)
Total receipts for the year:	\$370,955	(\$371,000)
Total disbursements:	\$396,617	(\$397,000)
Closing balance:	\$179,431	(\$179,000)
This is a net change of	-\$25,662	(\$26,000)
Net change at this time in 2013	-\$17,630	(\$18,000)

Report of the Development Committee

See minute 2014-11-09, page 3.

Twelve months ago, Matt Scanlon, clerk of Financial Services, reported to Fall Sessions that we had roughly eighteen months to explore whether we could increase revenues, or face substantially altering the way we structure our efforts as a yearly meeting. An increase in Covenant Donations has certainly been a part of that exploration, and Matt will be reporting on that aspect of our financial picture in his report today. The other part of the question of whether or not we can increase revenues has fallen to the Development Committee.

We are a relatively new committee, only being approved as a committee in summer of 2012. While we have filed Advance Reports, we have not yet reported to a yearly meeting session about our work. We are still in the process of building a development program in New York Yearly Meeting to help ensure that the needs and leadings of Friends in this yearly meeting will be better supported. But based only on the limited experience of the past two and a half years, we would answer Matt's question, "Yes, we can."

In 2012, our predecessor, the Development Working Group, just barely getting up and running, raised \$15,044. In 2013, we raised \$22,960. This year, we will raise at least \$33, 394. (We hope to add to that number here at Fall Sessions, making our goal in the Operating Budget of \$34,000.) That is a 50%

increase each year over the previous one. We have committed to raising \$40,000 for the 2015 Operating Budget.

We have been building this program from scratch, each year adding a new program or capacity. We have had to build slowly, as we are a small group. The first year, we put together an annual appeal. The next year, we did an annual appeal and looked to how we should prioritize the other options before us. This year, we added automatic donation services, and had ice cream socials and our first house party fund raiser. We have offered to host monthly meeting automatic donation pages on our service. We also received our first multi-year gift, a gift of \$40,000 over the next five years.

We are incredibly grateful for this gift, and equally grateful for the \$5 gift from an incarcerated Friend, and just as grateful for all the \$5 per month contributions we are receiving. Together, they are adding up to healthy, proactive support for the work being done by us as a yearly meeting. Thank you, each and every one of you.

In the coming year, we anticipate doing more house parties, pursuing other multi-year gifts, and increasing participation in our automated giving program, in addition to our annual appeal. As time allows, we hope to begin the work of inviting Friends into opportunities for planned giving to the Yearly Meeting.

We have heard some concerns that funds raised through development might overwhelm or undermine the core of what sustains this yearly meeting, our Covenant Donations. While we understand and respect those concerns, and welcome conversations about them, we do not see those risks as being substantive. In New England Yearly Meeting, each year for the past many that they have solicited contributions from individuals, both individual giving and giving by monthly meetings have gone up. Giving begets giving.

In our proposed 2015 Operating Budget, Covenant Donations make up 81% of our income, the proposed appeal, 7%. At what point should we become concerned that money raised through development might undermine the more important contributions through Covenant Donations? That is a worthwhile question for us to consider, and we should do so. But we do not see ourselves nearing that level just yet, and are optimis-

tic about the positive effect a coordinated development effort can have, not just in supporting crucial work done at a yearly meeting level, but also in better connecting individuals and meetings with that work.

Up until this point, we have asked the body for approval on a year by year basis to do an appeal for the coming year. We now will be reporting to General Services Coordinating Committee the idea of doing appeals on an ongoing basis, as we discern they are needed. We hope that this recommendation will then be on Sunday's agenda.

*Respectfully Submitted,
The New York Yearly Meeting Development Committee*

*Peter Baily
Tom Bonhag
Linda Hill Brainard
Joyce Ketterer
Ray Rios
Christopher Sammond*

NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING
SPRING SESSIONS
April 11–12, 2015

Oakwood Friends School, Poughkeepsie, New York
Saturday, April 11, 2015, 9:30 a.m.

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

2015-04-01. The meeting opened with silent worship. The clerk spoke of Spring, the season of transition, the season of Easter and rebirth. We have much work to do, but much work has already been done. What arises comes from beyond expectation. We really have and have always had only one agenda: to discern what God would have us do.

2015-04-02. The clerk introduced the members of the clerks' table and reviewed the agenda, reminding Friends to review the Consent Agenda, which will be considered tomorrow.

2015-04-03. Friends stood as their region was called. All regions were represented.

2015-04-04. Karen Snare welcomed us on behalf of the Nine Partners Quarter Host Committee and thanked Oakwood Friends School for support. Over 130 Friends have registered.

2015-04-05. Peter Baily, head of Oakwood Friends School, described renovations under way at the school, including several energy-saving projects. Oakwood serves as a small village to 155 students and many staff. Peter is finishing his 15-year tenure at Oakwood and will be continuing his work promoting education in Maryland. A new permanent head of Oakwood is expected for July 2016.

2015-04-06. The clerk welcomed Shan Cretin, general secretary of the American Friends Service Committee, who had presented to Friends on "Fostering Leadership for Social Change" on the previous night.

2015-04-07. The clerk reported one interim item approved by the clerk and general secretary and not reported previously:

2014-12-11 The clerk and the general secretary issued a statement entitled “Black Lives Matter,” which was widely distributed and is available on the NYYM website under the heading Social Witness.

2015-04-08. Minutes were approved to this point.

2015-04-09. Elaine Learnard (Conscience Bay) of the Priorities Working Group presented a revised proposal for two minutes addressing first the implementation of the Statement of Leading and Priorities that was adopted last summer (Minutes 2014-07-28 through 2014-07-32), and second, the assessing of that implementation. An initial version of the two minutes was presented to Friends at Fall Sessions with a request for consideration and comments. Elaine explained the process of revision, showing how elements of the minutes were simplified, clarified, and refocused based on suggestions from monthly meetings and individual Friends.

2015-04-10. Fred Dettmar (Purchase) read the proposed Implementation Minutes, which describe the situations and processes in which the Leadings and Priorities will guide decision-making in NYYM, particularly concerning financial actions. Friends spoke in response, asking for additional clarification on how the new process will work with budgeting and requests for funding. Priorities Working Group members emphasized that these minutes aim for coordination, not control. The process is expected to evolve as the Financial Services Committee undertakes that coordination over the coming years.

The first set of minutes was approved as follows, with one Friend standing aside:

Financial Implementation Minutes

1. All in service to the Yearly Meeting will be guided by the Leadings and Priorities in planning and undertaking their functions and activities. Financial Services Committee will use the Leadings and Priorities in proposing budgets and in discerning priorities among requests for funds. In making all budget requests, committees and other groups

and Friends in service to the Yearly Meeting, through their Coordinating Committees if possible, will provide information as requested by Financial Services Committee explaining how the proposed expenditure(s) further the Leadings and Priorities.

2. The Treasurer of the Yearly Meeting Trustees and the clerk of Witness Coordinating Committee's Finance Sub-committee (or whoever oversees the Sharing Fund and the Sharing Fund Endowment) will be members ex officio of Financial Services Committee. Financial Services Committee also will seek to include regional and monthly meeting treasurers in its discernment.
3. Financial Services Committee will address revisions to its description in the Yearly Meeting's *Handbook* made necessary by these minutes, if any.
4. All committees, groups or persons undertaking fundraising or spending within the Yearly Meeting, to the extent consistent with the directions and limits of any gifts or trust instruments, will coordinate their fundraising and spending planning and actions with Financial Services Committee, so as to jointly further the implementation of the Leadings and Priorities.

2015-04-11. Elaine Learnard introduced the proposed Minute Establishing a Priorities Assessment Committee (PAC), which defines the structure, goals, and duties of a new committee under the care of Ministry Coordinating Committee. The PAC is intended to maintain and deepen connections between Yearly Meeting organizational structure and the monthly meetings. PAC will help achieve the accountability and transparency needed to assure that all our Yearly Meeting resource allocations decisions—whether they be about budgets, staff, volunteer activity or other “treasure”—will be rooted in the priorities of the monthly meetings.

2015-04-12. Fred Dettmer read the proposed minute. Friends spoke in response, emphasizing the importance of the entire body of the Yearly Meeting and expressing concern about creating yet another committee. We decided to lay over this concern for our Sunday meeting for worship with a concern for business.

2015-04-13. The remaining minutes of this session were approved.

2015-04-14. After announcements, we closed with quiet worship.

Oakwood School, Poughkeepsie, New York
Sunday, April 12, 2015, 10:00 a.m.

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

2015-04-15. Following morning worship and a last-minute change of meeting room, we convened at approximately 10:15 a.m., and the clerk greeted us. Taking stock of our substantial remaining agenda, we were relieved of our main Priorities Working Group business, which it had been agreed overnight to re-examine for presentation again at our Summer Sessions 2015 under the care of the Liaison Committee.

2015-04-16. The Consent Agenda was addressed. In accordance with our consent agenda practice, the Yearly Meeting had been asked to release the following Friends under committee or other appointment from their service through July of the specified year, and these releases were approved:

Nurture Coordinating Committee, at-large (2015)

Julia Giordano (Bulls Head-Oswego)

Representative to Rural and Migrant Ministry (2015)

Jane Simkin (Poplar Ridge)

2015-04-17. Elaine Learnard (Conscience Bay), on behalf of the Priorities Working Group, citing its appreciation for the opportunity to do their work, requested that the Working Group be laid down. Friends approved.

2015-04-18. Mary Eagleson (Scarsdale), clerk of the Witness Coordinating Committee, introduced Pamela Wood (Morning-side). She presented a seasoned and updated proposal, previously recommended by the Witness Coordinating Committee,

that the Yearly Meeting issue a public statement on solitary confinement. It affirms Friends' belief in personal transformation and nonviolence, and against psychological torture. It proposes a minute for our adoption, calling for a halt to the use of solitary confinement in prisons. The pending legislation, New York State bill (A.4401 / S.2659), is titled "Humane Alternatives to Long-Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act."

Some Friends stated a preference that our public statements and minutes express clearly the spiritual witness and the experience of the Society of Friends, such as are referred to in the proposal read by Mary Eagleson. Friends approved the proposal, including the Minute as follows:

The New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends calls on Governor Cuomo to support the reform of the practice of solitary confinement in the state correctional facilities and local jails of New York, as developed in the Humane Alternatives to Long Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act, Bill #A4401/S2659. With the enactment of the changes in the use of solitary confinement proposed in the Act, New York would become a leader in the effort to stop human rights abuses in the United States.

Friends also directed its clerk and general secretary to draft a cover letter to be issued to the Governor and members of the Legislature with the foregoing minute, so as to convey that witness and that experience to all the recipients.

2015-04-19. Mary Eagleson next introduced a concern for nuclear weapons non-proliferation. Only recently had our president's policy called for substantial bolstering of the United States' nuclear arsenal. The Witness Coordinating Committee now offered us an opportunity to commit ourselves to personal, local, and regional non-proliferation actions, as well as to state publicly our commitment to peace, by joining in the endorsement of an imminent event called "Peace & Planet: Mobilization for a Nuclear-Free, Peaceful, Just, and Sustainable World" in New York City on April 24 - 26, 2015. Friends approved.

2015-04-20. Mary Eagleson then introduced Robin Mallison Alpern (Scarsdale), who brought us an invitation to join the 2016 White Privilege Conference host team. This annual inter-denominational and secular conference of roughly 2,000 partic-

ipants is to empower transformation of individuals and structures from roles in white privilege to building racial equity. The reading clerk read the invitation from Friends General Conference to join the host team. Robin, a member of the European American Quakers Working to End Racism, delivered a statement of the work and seasoning done to date by several named groups and committees of our yearly meeting, and explained the role and responsibilities of a host team member. These include pledging a sum between \$2,000 and \$5,000 to the Conference, in return for which we would receive free registrations to attend the conference in proportion to our donation. The Black Concerns Committee and multiple elements in our Witness Coordinating Committee have pledged a total of \$3,000, the sum Witness Coordinating had recommended, from existing budget lines.

Friends considered whether to co-host the Conference and to contribute the proposed \$3,000. Friends approved.

2015-04-21. John Cooley (Central Finger Lakes), as clerk of the General Services Coordinating Committee, brought us several reports. First, he read a Treasurer's Report from Susan Bingham, our Treasurer, and he commended to our attention the copies of the financial statements that were made available to us. Their numbers are rounded to the nearest dollar. Our balance of moneys on hand gained \$11,393 over the budget and calendar year 2014. To the end of February 2015, our net change from year-end was a loss of \$6,517, as is typical of our first-quarter operations. The report was received.

The treasurer and Financial Services Committee clerk proposed to carry over \$11,000 of the operating surplus from 2014 to our 2015 budgeted income, the plan that had been noted in the 2015 budget proposal that we approved at Fall Sessions 2014. Friends approved.

2015-04-22. John Cooley introduced two personnel items. The General Services Coordinating Committee had examined for some time a proposed position of Children and Youth Secretary, a field secretary position to be funded from existing available sources within the Yearly Meeting and from an anticipated multi-year grant from the Shoemaker Fund. Our Young Adult

Field Secretary and our new Children and Youth Secretary would coordinate with New England Yearly Meeting's existing Religious Education and Outreach Coordinator and a young adult field secretary to be newly established, so as to share their respective experience and mentoring for the mutual benefit of each yearly meeting's staff members.

Friends received the oral report.

2015-04-23. Barbara Menzel (New Brunswick), clerk of the Personnel Committee, reported that the Committee has taken stock of the first four years of the work of our Young Adult Field Secretary, Gabrielle Savory-Bailey (Chatham-Summit). Barbara told us, at Gabi's request, that Gabi was now commencing a medical leave, but she had drafted the substance of a thorough report to the Shoemaker Fund of her work over the past four years. Barbara summarized several of the report's highlights for us, including increased participation and new depth in the growth of our young adults and their community. Personal connections and care change lives, and we need awareness of opportunities for that. Our young adult community is often centered at the local level, which we need to appreciate. A new concern has arisen for the need to nurture our children and teens—our future young adults—to ensure continued growth. The Personnel Committee has recognized Gabi's remarkable gifts.

The oral report was received, with one Friend was recorded as standing aside. Friends moved into a period of worship rich with personal perspectives and heartfelt appreciation for Gabi and her difficult yet faithful and successful work, which has served all of us.

2015-04-24. John Cooley reported on our Audit. A new auditor, O'Conner-Davies, had been retained, and an agreement for additional work (preparation of the consolidated financial statements necessitated by our current financial structure) to be done by our bookkeeping firm had just been finalized. The oral report was received.

2015-04-25. Irma Guthrie (Perry City), clerk of the Ministry Coordinating Committee, introduced Mia Kissel Hewitt (Chatham-Summit), clerk of the Advancement Committee.

She reported that the Committee had received three requests for assistance with meetinghouse repair totaling approximately \$7,200. The Lockport-Brinkerhoff Funds have only about \$1,300 available. The Advancement Committee recommends approving \$1,200 to Quaker Street Meeting for some of the required painting and water system work at Quaker Street meetinghouse. The requests from Albany Meeting and Poplar Ridge Meeting for roof repair assistance are reported to us as unmet to date. The Committee invited all individuals, monthly meetings, and regional meetings to assist such meetings in need.

Friends received the oral report and considered and approved the recommended funding.

2015-04-26. Irma Guthrie introduced a first reading of two proposed sections of our book of discipline, *Faith and Practice*. Lucy Harper (Rochester) and Anne Pomeroy (New Paltz), of the ad hoc Task Group on Recording Gifts in Ministry, report that the proposed language was approved by the Ministry Coordinating Committee at Fall Sessions 2014. They alternately gave us several examples of the experiences shared and the work done in the group in moving from differences to a clarity and unity on the text presented. These touched on, among other things, the authority of monthly meetings, the accountability of the Yearly Meeting and its committees, and the inclusiveness of our community. Anne read the proposed change in the Spiritual Care of Members section, which adds a clause concerning nurturing gifts in ministry. Lu read the section now re-named from “Recording of Gifts in Ministry” to “Care of Ministries and Recording of Gifts in Ministry,” which reflects multiple changes in language and three new paragraphs, all as had been distributed electronically in preparation for this first reading.

The first reading of the proposed sections was heard.

2015-04-27. The clerk called on Melanie-Claire Mallison (Ithaca), assistant clerk of the Sessions Committee. She reported orally, thanking our host Meeting, Committee and School. A total of 148 participants, including 6 youth, attended this weekend. She looked forward to our Summer and Fall Sessions. The report was received.

2015-04-28. The minutes of this session were read, corrected and approved in stages during the course of the meeting.

2015-04-29. The Yearly Meeting then adjourned, to meet again for Summer Sessions at Silver Bay, New York, on July 19-25, 2015.

2014 OPERATING BUDGET

EXPENSES

General Services Section	2014 budget	2015 budget
Section Expense		
General expense & travel	2,000	1,000
NYYM officers' expenses	2,600	2,600
Audit	3,550	15,000
Provision for Equalization Fund	–	–
Total section expenses	8,150	18,600
Committees		
Communications Committee	14,000	15,000
Nominating Committee	200	200
Records Committee—Contrib to Frds Hist Lib	–	–
Sessions Committee	9,220	10,000
Development Committee	1,500	4,038
Total committee expenses	24,920	29,238
Office Expense		
Office operations:		
Administrative expenses	12,900	12,000
Insurance	4,850	9,000
Rent @ 15th St	27,307	27,000
Utilities @ 15th St	1,500	1,800
Office staff travel	12,600	10,000
Computer consultation	375	500
Office equipment	1,200	1,000
Total office operations expenses	60,732	61,300
Personnel expenses		
Staff employees salaries	175,020	200,476
Staff Hourly Wages	24,891	25,400
Salary and wage-related expenses	74,000	60,000
YAFS Salary & Benefits	20,565	–
Staff development	1,000	750
Volunteer support	400	400
Total personnel expenses	295,876	287,026
Accounting/Bookkeeping services	31,200	31,200
Total General Services Section	420,878	427,364

Ministry Section	2014 budget	2015 budget
Section expense	500	700
Programs		
Advancement Committee	200	–
Bible study leader	800	900
Conflict Transformation	675	600
Ministry & Pastoral Care	200	200
Meeting Program Assist	–	–
Pastor's Conference	1,250	1,250
Provision for Meeting Visitation	–	–
Rep to Council on Minister Advise	–	–
Spiritual Nurture Working Group	750	750
Worship at YM Sessions	100	100
Task Group on Racism	500	500
Total program expenses	4,475	4,300
Total Ministry Section	4,975	5,000
Nurture Section	2014 budget	2015 budget
Section expense		
Section expense	1,700	1,700
NYYM Resource Library	300	300
Total Section	2,000	2,000
Committees		
FWCC Committee		
Junior Yearly Meeting Planning	1,500	1,500
Junior Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions	16,350	16,400
Young Adult Concerns	650	650
Young Friends in Residence	50	50
Youth Committee	250	250
Total committee expenses	18,800	18,850
Appointees		
FGC Central Committee	1,400	1,400
Earthcare Witness	–	–
FUM Board Representative	3,500	3,500
Provision, FUM Triennial Sessions	550	550
FWCC Section Meetings	1,435	4,070
Provision for FWCC World Gathering	900	900
Provision for FWCC Regional Hosting	–	–
Total YM appointees expenses	7,785	10,420

	2014 budget	2015 budget
Allocations & Donations		
Friends Council on Education	150	150
Friends General Conference	2,500	2,500
Friends United Meeting	2,500	2,500
FUM—Third World attendance to Triennial	150	150
FUM—Third World Board reps	150	150
Friends World Committee	1,000	1,000
FWCC Section of the Americas	150	150
Friends LGBTQ Concerns	150	150
NJ Council of Churches	–	–
NYS Community of Churches	–	–
Oakwood School	–	–
Powell House	65,000	66,000
Young Friends in Residence	–	–
Quaker Earthcare Witness	–	–
Total allocations & donations	71,750	72,750
Total Nurture Section	100,335	104,020
Witness		
	2014 budget	2015 budget
Section		
Section		
Coordinating Committee		
Total Section		
Bolivian Quaker Education Fund		
Committees		
Barrington Dunbar		
Black Concerns		
Indian Affairs		
Peace Concerns		
Prisons		
Right Sharing of World Resources		
William Penn House		
World Ministries		
Total committee expenses	700	700
Appointee Expenses	500	500
Donations	1,600	1,600
Sharing Fund Campaign	–	–
Total Witness Section	2,800	2,800

	2014 budget	2015 budget
Meeting for Discernment	750	750
Priorities Working Group	750	750
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	530,488	540,684

Expenses Consolidation

	2014 budget	2015 budget
General Services	420,878	427,364
Ministry	4,975	5,000
Nurture	100,335	104,020
Witness	2,800	2,800
Meeting for Discernment	750	750
Priorities Working Group	750	750
Contingency	0	0
Total expenses	530,488	540,684

INCOME

	2014 budget	2015 budget
Meeting Income	430,500	430,349
Registration fees	22,000	20,000
Trustees	29,650	36,500
YAFS Fund	7,065	0
Other revenue	42,000	53,875
Total Income	531,215	540,724

Covenant Donations

All Friends	49,750	43,360
Butternuts	5,400	4,411
Farmington-Scipio	70,622	71,846
Long Island	47,260	47,985
New York	74,361	77,652
Nine Partners	36,400	35,900
Northeastern	31,563	32,545
Purchase	67,285	64,734
Shrewsbury & Plainfield	47,893	51,916
Covenant subtotal	430,500	430,349

Revenue – Other Sources

Grant Admin	6,000	6,500
Interest Income	2,000	2,000
2015 Budget Fund		5,000
Individual Donations	34,000	40,375
Total Other Revenue	42,000	53,875

	2014 budget	2015 budget
Contributions Moved to Funds		
Share Fund Expense/Share Fund Endow	2,400	2,400
Letter on Applying to Funds		
Friends General Conf from Lindley	2,500	2,500
FUM Contributions from World Ministries	2,500	2,500
FWCC Contribution from World Ministries	1,000	1,000
Oakwood Contribution from Lindley Murray	6,000	6,000
Total	14,400	14,400
Op Expenses Pd by Trustees		
Director's & Office Insurance		
Audit		
	2014 budget	2015 budget
Total revenues	531,215	540,724
Total expenses	<u>530,488</u>	<u>540,684</u>
Difference	727	40

**NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING
OPERATING BUDGET 2015**

NOTES

1. A portion of contributions related to FUM, FGC, FWCC, and the entire contribution to Oakwood will be considered for funding from funds outside the operating budget.
2. The expenses related to the Sharing Fund Appeal will be funded outside the operating budget.
3. The fee for Director's and Officer's Insurance is paid by the NYYM Trustees and is not included in the operating budget.

TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS
Statement of Operations 1/1/14 to 12/31/14

	2014 Budget	2014 Actual
Disbursements and transfers:		
General Services		
<i>Section expense</i>		
General expense & travel	2,000	33.91
NYYM officer's expense	2,600	830.60
Audit	3,550	3,550.00
Provision for Equalization Fund		
Total section expense	8,150	4,414.51
<i>Committees</i>		
Communications	14,000	14,289.94
<i>Handbook</i>		-
Other		1,181.57
<i>Spark</i>		7,618.87
Web site/ <i>Yearbook/Adv Reports</i>		5,489.50
Development Committee	1,500	3,554.36
Nominating	200	-
Records committee		
Contribution—Friends Historical Library		-
Sessions committee	9,220	9,414.79
Fall/Spring Sessions		1,537.50
Summer Sessions		7,834.36
Other		42.93
Total committee expense	24,920	27,259.09
<i>Office expense</i>		
<i>Office operations</i>		
Administrative expenses	12,900	11,460.53
Insurance	4,850	4,055.74
Rent 15th St.	27,307	27,255.83
Utilities 15th St.	1,500	1,502.80
Staff travel	12,600	10,504.91
Computer consultation	375	90.00
Office equipment	1,200	195.96

	2014 Budget	2014 Actual
Personnel		
Staff employee salaries	175,020	175,019.88
Hourly staff compensation	24,891	24,450.00
Salary and wage related expenses	74,000	55,930.35
YAFS salary & wage expenses	20,565	17,157.76
Staff development	1,000	627.95
Volunteer support	400	295.27
Bookkeeping service	<u>31,200</u>	<u>31,200.00</u>
Total office expense	387,808	359,746.98
Total General Services	420,878	391,420.58
Ministry		
Section expense	700	455.00
Programs		
Bible study leader Summer Sessions	800	800.00
Conflict Transformation	675	797.27
Ministry & Pastoral Care	200	-
Meeting program assistance	-	-
Pastor's conference	1,250	638.58
Provision for meeting visitation	-	-
Spiritual Nurture Working Group	750	750.00
Worship at YM sessions	100	-
Task Group on Racism	500	150.00
Total program expense	<u>4,275</u>	<u>3,135.85</u>
Total Ministry	4,975	3,590.85
Nurture		
Section expense	1,700	550.00
NYYM Resource Library	300	-
Total section expense	2,000	550.00
<i>Committees</i>		
FWCC Committee	-	-
Junior Yearly Meeting	17,850	16,625.87
Planning		3,055.00
Silver Bay		13,570.87
Young Adult Concerns	650	150.95
Young Friends in Residence	50	-
Youth Committee	250	-
Committee on Aging Concerns	-	-
Total Committee Expense	<u>18,800</u>	<u>16,776.82</u>

	2014 Budget	2014 Actual
<i>NYYM appointee expense</i>		
FGC Central Committee	1,400	1,184.52
FUM Board representatives	3,500	2,530.51
Provision for FUM Triennial Sessions	550	550.00
FWCC Section Meetings	1,435	1,514.00
Provision for FWCC World Gathering	900	900.00
Provision for FWCC Regional Hosting	-	-
Total NYYM appointee expense	7,785	6,679.03
<i>Allocations and donations</i>		
Friends Council on Education	150	150.00
Allocation and Donation	-	-
Friends General Conference *	2,500	2,500.00
Friends United Meeting **	2,500	2,500.00
FUM 3rd World Attend to Triennial	150	150.00
FUM 3rd World Board reps	150	150.00
Friends World Committee **	1,000	1,000.00
FWCC Section of the Americas	150	150.00
Friends LGBTQ Concerns	150	150.00
Oakwood School *	-	-
Powell House	65,000	65,000.00
Total allocations and donations	<u>71,750</u>	<u>71,750.00</u>
Total Nurture	100,335	95,755.85
Witness		
<i>Section/committee/appointee/admin expense</i>	1,200	1,550.00
Witness Coordinating Committee donations	1,600	-
Sharing Fund Campaign Expense ***		(250.00)
Total Witness	2,800	1,300.00
Meeting for Discernment	750	225.00
Priorities Working Group	750	-
Contingency	-	-
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	530,488	492,292.28

* Additional contributions from the Lindley Murray Fund.

** Additional contributions from the Committee on World Ministries.

*** Sharing Fund Campaign Expense to be paid by the Sharing Fund Endowment.

	2014 Budget	2014 Actual
Receipts		
<i>Meetings</i>		
All Friends Regional	49,750	40,025.00
Butternuts Quarterly	5,400	3,935.00
Farmington Regional	70,622	70,575.00
Long Island Quarterly	47,260	48,427.50
New York Quarterly ***	74,777	71,393.00
Nine Partners Quarterly	36,400	35,200.00
Northeastern Regional (c)	31,563	31,384.00
Purchase Quarterly	66,835	68,164.00
Shrewsbury & Plainfield HY	<u>47,893</u>	<u>48,268.00</u>
Total meeting income	430,500	417,371.50
<i>Other sources</i>		
Registration fees	22,000	20,495.83
Trustees	29,650	24,605.37
Young Adult Field Secretary Fund	7,065	-
2014 Appeal	33,775	32,950.75
All other	<u>7,498</u>	<u>8,261.74</u>
Total other sources	99,988	86,313.69
Total receipts	530,488	503,685.19
Year 2013 Opening Balance		199,018.12
+ Receipts		503,685.19
- Disbursements		492,292.28
Closing Balance		<u>210,411.03</u>
NET CHANGE		11,392.91

FUNDS REPORT (unaudited)

Sharing Fund	Balance as of 1/1/14	Sharing Fd Distribution	Fund Specific	Total Disbursed	Balance as of 12/31/14
AVP Donation	\$ —	\$ 4,584.97	—	\$ 4,584.97	\$ —
Barrington Dunbar	12,240.16	12,189.91	—	12,870.00	11,560.07
Friends for Black Concerns	4,824.19	4,634.97	—	5,061.33	4,397.83
Indian Affairs Committee	6,662.58	8,402.93	5,083.77	15,840.94	4,308.34
Peace Concerns	7,212.98	—	—	181.28	7,031.70
Prison Committee	3,920.62	5,651.95	110.00	2,886.55	6,796.02
Right Sharing of World Resources	—	3,209.48	—	3,209.48	—
Witness Activities	6,602.02	6,066.95	162.55	5,595.63	7,235.89
World Ministries	28,932.94	3,209.48	19,532.67	23,881.00	27,794.09
Conscientious Objection to Paying for War	5,147.36	—	—	380.00	4,767.36
Working Groups (MMA/Euro/Torture)	4,429.92	—	—	438.05	3,991.87
NYYM Named Representatives	4,133.85	—	—	—	4,133.85
Quaker Earthcare Witness	1,404.43	—	—	1,050.00	354.43
Sharing Fund Endowment Income	—	—	1,200.00	1,191.07	8.93
Total Sharing Fund	85,511.05	47,950.64	26,088.99	77,170.30	82,380.38
General Sharing Fund Income Less Trustee Income		53,306.96			
Sharing Fund Endowment Income		1,200.00			
Total Sharing Fund Income Less Trustee Income		54,506.96			
2014 Sharing Fund Goal		55,000.00			
Percentage of General Sharing Fund Goal					96.92 % * excludes Trustee and Endowment income

FUNDS REPORT (unaudited)—cont.

	Balance as of 1/1/14	Transfers from Oper. Budget	Other Income	Total Disbursed	Balance as of 12/31/14
Advancement Committee—Lafayette	9,237.23	—	3,245.00	3,104.00	9,378.23
Advancement Committee—Leach	1,933.63	—	2,830.58	1,370.40	3,393.81
Advancement Committee—Women	218.64	—	423.92	539.99	102.57
Equalization Fund	7,866.48	—	13,312.32	16,959.00	4,239.80
Aging Concerns	(3,548.90)	—	144,271.00	66,948.34	73,773.76
Aging Resources Website	319.48	—	—	—	319.48
<i>Faith and Practice</i> Fund	3,895.88	—	77.00	75.00	3,897.88
Sufferings Fund	2,192.68	—	—	—	2,192.68
FWCC World Gathering	1,575.10	—	—	(900.00)	2,475.10
FUM Triennial NYYM Attendance	1,469.22	550.00	—	2,019.22	—
Records Preservation	1,237.39	—	—	—	1,237.39
FWCC Regional Hosting	1,860.00	—	—	—	1,860.00
Meeting Visitation	5,917.26	—	—	90.50	5,826.76
Youth/Young Adults	1,661.82	—	—	—	1,661.82
Young Adult Concerns—Circle of Young Friends	1,894.42	—	—	—	1,894.42
Mosher Fund	6,423.39	—	5,273.95	5,037.02	6,660.32
Young Friends in Residence Fund	21,438.52	—	75.00	—	21,513.52

FUNDS REPORT (unaudited)—cont.

	Balance as of 1/1/14	Transfers from Oper. Budge	Fund Specific	Dist.	Balance as of 12/31/14
Young Adult Field Secretary	2,275.15	—	10,100.00	2,210.85	10,164.30
Fall/Spring Sessions	—	—	9,638.82	9,638.82	—
Conflict Transformation Film Project	762.50	—	1,317.50	700.00	1,380.00
Sabbatical Fund	—	—	—	—	—
2014 Budget Fund	—	—	—	—	—
2015 Budget Fund	—	—	5,356.05	—	5,356.05
Contingency Fund	7,287.36	—	—	—	7,287.36
Total Yearly Mtg Managed Funds	<u>75,937.25</u>	<u>550.00</u>	<u>195,921.14</u>	<u>107,793.14</u>	<u>164,615.25</u>
Total Funds	161,448.30	48,500.64	220,010.13	184,963.44	246,995.63

MINISTRY SECTION

State of Society Report—DRAFT

June, 2015

For the State of Society report this year the constituent meetings of New York Yearly Meeting were asked to use the guidelines set forth in the current edition of our *Faith & Practice*, which recommends “a searching self-examination” by the meeting and its members. Unlike in the recent past no queries were suggested. Meetings responded in various ways and several common themes emerged.

Quality of Worship and Spiritual Ministry

“... those treasured moments when the Spirit gathers us into one body with a common leading.”

Friends described meeting for worship as welcoming, comforting and joyful, a spiritual home, well-grounded in the Light. Still, while feeling refreshed and renewed in the silence, treasuring the moments when Spirit gathers Friends into one body, some Friends shared that waiting in expectation can be a challenge and some expressed a desire to cultivate an inward stillness that goes beyond silence.

Some meetings expressed their appreciation of the depth and richness of worship in their meetings, noting that there seems to be more substance in vocal ministry, spiritual counsel, and deep feelings of love. Others expressed the concern that vocal ministry is rare and more would be welcomed. Some find it difficult to achieve a comfortable balance between silence and spoken messages.

Spiritual Growth

Meetings are laboring to foster growth in the Spirit in different ways, striving to provide a welcoming, safe place for seekers. Most meetings hold study sessions, worship sharing or discussions arising out of various Quaker or non-Quaker writings. These sessions are reported to be deep, received prayerfully and without judgment. Sharing from wide-ranging faith tradi-

tions found among Friends and attenders helps open Friends to diverse spiritual journeys.

Some meetings schedule hymn singing once a month or use the natural world to evoke or broaden connection to Spirit. Others have been making an effort to understand early Friends, finding joy and fascination in exploring our Quaker heritage.

Meeting for worship with a concern for business is also experienced as a ministry, a time when Friends can speak truth and be listened to deeply. Friends report that depth in worship aids corporate discernment, though lovingly dealing with diversity of leadings is ever a challenge.

Discovering and nurturing the gifts of members and attenders as they are led to fill the roles of those who can no longer serve also fosters the spiritual growth of our meetings, as does honoring the joy and growth of the Spirit-led work of our children and youth. One meeting mentioned a gratitude box from which messages are taken out and read periodically. Meeting retreats either at the meetinghouse or at Powell House also contribute to spiritual growth, as do mid-week meetings in homes, joint gatherings of several small meetings, pot-luck meals, picnics, or gathering at a local restaurant.

Witnessing to Friends Principles

Friends participate in a broad range of witness activities in their communities. Some of these activities include earthcare witness, working for peace, AVP, Amnesty International, AFSC, FCNL, Christian Peace Teams, witness against torture, prison ministry, war tax witness, gun control, sustainable agriculture, and work to overcome racism. The Friends' tradition of Spirit-led witness in the world remains constant and strong in our meetings.

Personal and Family Relations

Because so many meetings are facing an aging membership, many have been having conversations on aging or offering workshop on late-life issues for children of aging parents. Some meetings have been holding monthly life-story sharing for elders or sponsoring a care-givers' group. Many meetings now have members who have completed ARCH (Aging Resources Consultation and Help) training.

Friends are offering rides to meeting and to medical appointments for those no longer able to drive. Some are reaching out by phone and email, delivering meals and paying visits to the homebound, sometimes holding meeting for worship with them.

In worship, Friends “hold in the Light” those who are ill and also make meeting attendance as comfortable as possible for the disabled. Some meetings have installed such services as an assisted-listening device or microphone in the meeting room for those who are hard of hearing. Friends who need pastoral care are receiving it from members, committees, and clearness committees.

Many meetings mention a sense of community with First Day School families and some report activities such as a parent luncheon discussion or nurturing a teen group as they learn Quaker process. Intergenerational activities have been offered, such as outings to baseball games, to visit a bee-keeper, a family picnic, kayaking, holiday celebrations, and crafts projects.

Relations with Community and Other Religious Groups

Friends carry our faith into the community and welcome the community into the meetinghouse. Many Friends meetings are affiliated with local interfaith organizations; some have participated in ecumenical retreats; others mention exchanging speaking engagements with other religious bodies.

Many meetings have scheduled events and activities at the meetinghouse, open to the community, such as tag sales, arts projects, fairs, open houses, contra-dances, and healing prayer meetings. In the community, Friends have participated in local parades, a blessing of the animals, a booth at a local festival. Some have joined with other local organizations to offer scholarships to high school students.

Many meetings are participating in activities to help the less fortunate: assisting at a homeless shelter; supporting and working at a food pantry or soup kitchen; providing clothing for the needy; visiting nursing homes; providing weekend food for free-lunch school children.

Participation in Wider Friends Activities

Members from nearly every meeting participate in the work of Yearly Meeting, quarterly or regional meetings. Inter-visitation with other meetings has increased and many meetings report attendance at Powell House weekends, Quaker Youth Pilgrimage, Young Adult Friends retreats.

Concerns that Test Us

As it has been for many years, some of our meetings report significant and growing concerns regarding aging and dwindling membership rolls, small or non-existent First Day programs, and the difficulties of maintaining meetings both spiritually and physically.

Many mentioned that their diminishing numbers create an increasing burden on the few who remain. Maintenance of buildings and grounds requires energy and is often costly. Small numbers can sometimes make upkeep seem overwhelming, especially when there is a historic meetinghouse and cemetery to maintain. Nevertheless, it is clear that despite these concerns, Friends across the Yearly Meeting are sustained and inspired by the Divine Source that nourishes our souls and lights the path before us. In nearly every report there is a sense of hope and an unwavering commitment to the worship that unites us in the cause of Love.

Joy Weaver, for the committee

Ministry Coordinating Committee

Ministry Coordinating Committee (MCC) focused this past year on deepening the Spiritual life of our Yearly Meeting. We spent much time in worship in our meetings listening to Spirit for guidance in ways we might live into this work. The sharing during these times of worship was often deep and rich.

This process was especially helpful as we discerned ways to support the work of the Priorities. Questions that arose from our worship together included: How do we listen to one another across our faith experience? How can we stay open to the leadings of Spirit and deeply grounded in our faith and also be deeply gathered into one body? How can we hold a deep understanding of the joy of mutual accountability in our thinking

about how to be transparent and accountable to one another from monthly meetings to the yearly meeting?

Friends were heartened by the developing intervisitation that connects Friends and meetings and lessens the sense of isolation or insularity among some meetings, creating reason for hope. As members of MCC, we are invited into intervisitation. Towards this end we approved several new Friends to serve on the Intervisitation Working Group.

Friends noted that we need to take the filters off our hearts that result in lack of diversity and asked how we might take under our care the fostering of a spirit of welcome and hospitality. How can we invite those we meet into deeper relationship?

We spent some time discerning how the State of Society report reflects the spiritual life of our yearly meeting and how to support the committee in its work. We were clear that the report should be a synthesis rather than a summary. This work is still in process as we discern our way forward.

We approved changes to the process of Recording Gifts in the Ministry for *Faith and Practice* that was brought to Spring Sessions for a first reading. We also approved changes to the section in *Faith and Practice* on Covenant Relationships, which will come to the Yearly Meeting in Summer Sessions for a first reading.

The committees under our care continued to do good work throughout the year. We heard reports from the Task Group on Racism, the Advancement Committee, the Committee on Conflict Transformation, the Committee to Revise *Faith and Practice*, Ministry and Pastoral Care, the Spiritual Nurture Working Group, and Worship at Yearly Meeting Sessions, as well as the ad-hoc committee to Record Margaret Webb in the ministry. The reports on all of this work reflected the ways each committee lives into its role of supporting the spiritual life of our yearly meeting.

To this end the Spiritual Nurture Working Group has been planning a retreat series at Powell House (“Tending the Garden,” which began January 2015) that will be accompanied by offerings of regional and local retreats starting Fall 2015. The Working Group also collaborated with Advancement on a weekend retreat for members of Advancement, Ministry and

Pastoral Care, SNWG, and Young Adult Concerns Committee.

MCC supported the Task Group on Racism's request that the Yearly Meeting sponsor the White Privilege Conference in Philadelphia in 2016; held the committee to record Margaret Webb in the ministry in the Light as they worked to find times to meet together; and approved an addition to the *Handbook* page for the Committee on Conflict Transformation that reflects additional financial resources for their on-going work in and out of NYYM.

In conclusion, this was a year of movement of the Spirit. Ministry Coordinating Committee spent much time listening to how we can best lead our Yearly Meeting forward and connect each other through that which is eternal.

Irma Guthrie, clerk

Advancement Committee

This past year, the Advancement Committee felt called to support and participate in the planning and implementation of a weekend retreat in March of 2015 called "Spirit Leading Our Work." One of the main purposes of the retreat, the collective energy for which arose out of Fall Sessions 2014, was to take a closer look at the charges of several NYYM bodies that share, in some significant ways, closely-related charges: Ministry & Pastoral Care, the Spiritual Nurture Group, Advancement Committee, and the Young Adult Concerns Committee--all participants in the retreat. Retreat participants were called to examine each body's stated purpose, discuss areas where confusion and possible duplication of effort exist, and seek greater clarity for more productive collaboration going forward. With respect to Advancement, out of the March retreat and subsequent discussion at Spring Sessions, several concrete and promising outreach efforts appear to be taking shape, at both the yearly meeting and local meeting level. Advancement was clear at Spring Sessions that the energy and leadings to pursue greater outreach efforts in NYYM at all levels have the attention and continuing support of Advancement.

In addition, the committee received and considered various requests for the funds it oversees: The Lockport-Brinkerhoff Fund, for repairs to meetinghouses; the Lafayette Avenue Fund, for the training of present or potential meeting workers; and the Leach Fund, for the general work of the Advancement Committee. Please speak to a member of the committee for more information about these funds.

Mia Kissil Hewitt, clerk

Committee on Conflict Transformation

The Committee on Conflict Transformation had the opportunity to be of service to several bodies in the Yearly Meeting during 2014, including monthly meetings, worship groups, individuals, and the Yearly Meeting organization. It also was active outside of New York Yearly Meeting.

At different times during 2014 the Committee comprised as few as four and as many as seven members, at various times including members from Farmington-Scipio, Purchase, All Friends, New York, Nine Partners, and Northeastern regional and quarterly meetings. The widespread geography of the Committee created challenges in arranging face-to-face Committee meetings and in responding to requests for services. The wide net also means that we are collectively more aware of and more familiar with more of the Yearly Meeting than if we were closer to each other. We have adopted the practice of visits being accompanied by an elder, increasing the challenges in planning visits and workshops. The Committee met six times during 2014, four times by phone and twice in person.

The film that was made in September 2013 was completed and posted on the Yearly Meeting web site. Plans were undertaken to make the film available on YouTube and, in DVD form, to monthly meetings and other Quaker bodies; however, these efforts were not complete at the end of 2014.

The Committee was called upon by monthly meetings, individuals and Quaker entities, and assistance was offered on the usual confidential basis. At Summer Sessions, the Committee again led a morning worship-sharing group.

Three one-day workshops were held outside the Yearly Meeting during 2014. Two were at the request of Friends World

Committee for Consultation, in Sacramento, CA, and High Point, NC. A third was held at Chapel Hill Friends Meeting in North Carolina. Each inviting body covered the travel expenses of the Committee and made an additional contribution to the Yearly Meeting to assist the Committee in its work and relieve the Yearly Meeting of demands on its operating expenses. During the year, further inquiries to conduct workshops were received from Adelphi (MD) Meeting, All-Maine Friends, All-Kentucky Gathering, the FGC Gathering, and Woolman Hill Conference Center. Workshops were planned for 2015 at Woolman Hill, All-Maine, and the FGC Gathering.

Within the Yearly Meeting, workshops were held during 2014 at Long Island Quarter and at Purchase Quarter. With these two workshops, every quarterly and regional meeting in the Yearly Meeting except Nine Partners and Butternuts has hosted a Committee workshop.

The Committee was clear to support the training of one of its members at Eastern Mennonite University.

The Committee timely submitted to Ministry Coordinating Committee its responses to the Accountability Queries. It also approved and submitted to General Services Coordinating Committee a description of its fund, which maintains contributions from those attending its workshops and other revenue related to the Committee's activities.

Peter Phillips, clerk

Meetings for Discernment Steering Committee

The Meetings for Discernment are beginning their ninth year of service to the Yearly Meeting. The Steering Committee met by conference call, on average monthly, and in person during Yearly Meeting Sessions. We are charged with having six at-large members who serve on a rotating basis, along with representatives from Ministry, Witness, Nurture and General Services Coordinating Committees, the clerk, assistant clerk, and general secretary. We are currently seeking representatives from the General Services, Witness and Nurture Coordinating Committees.

Two Meetings for Discernment were held over the past year, one during Summer Sessions at Silver Bay and one in March

hosted by Old Chatham Meeting, with attendance ranging between approximately 65 and 120.

In committee meetings this year, we have examined our original charge and considered how we have met, or could meet, its many parts. In particular, we have considered the charge to bring firm recommendations to committees, monthly meetings, and other groups based on the ministry rising up at Meetings for Discernment. Thus far, we have rarely made such recommendations.

Now we are in discussion and discernment as to how we might make recommendations more regularly, so that the joys, needs, and concerns that Friends express in worship at Meetings for Discernment can reach those who should hear those concerns.

We are also considering the relationship between Meetings for Discernment, the Statement of Leadings and Priorities, and the State of the Meeting/State of the Society reports in understanding more completely how Spirit is moving throughout the NYYM body.

We do not feel that we have answered these questions in their entirety, and we will continue to consider them. One thing is becoming clear: The representatives of the Coordinating Committees are much more capable of seeing concerns that relate to their agendas than the Steering Committee is without their participation.

New York Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions, 2014, were dominated by consideration of the report from the Priorities Working Group. In keeping with our charge to “work with issues that transcend the scope of any individual monthly meeting or Yearly Meeting section, allowing significant blocks of time to the Friends gathered so that they can labor in God’s time for discernment,” we devoted the morning session to consideration of the following queries:

What are your hopes and dreams for your monthly meeting, for your regional/quarterly meeting, and for New York Yearly Meeting over the next 3-8 years? Where might God be leading us?

In the afternoon we considered how we were going to achieve the vision that we described in the morning.

At Old Chatham we had one set of queries for both sessions:

What is happening in your monthly meeting that the rest of us need to hear?

What is happening in your monthly meeting that the rest of us might hold?

Ministry that was given at Summer Sessions 2014 included:

“When the meeting for discernment was first proposed, I was extremely dubious. I was concerned about usurping things that were the prerogative of the business meeting. I was wrong. From my sense, what the meeting for discernment has done is to teach people the depth of worship that is possible, the space out of which messages can be given. I was particularly touched this morning by the quality of the extended worship and then the messages that arose from the body.”

Following are qualms that people have expressed to the clerk about participating in the Meeting for Discernment, and the clerk’s personal experience with these concerns.

You Want Me to Sit in Worship For TWO Hours? ...

My first experience of extended worship was at a Powell House weekend when I discovered that there would be worship from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Without a strong sense of needing to do something else, I went—with trepidation. The first hour was no problem, a bit of anxiety, a few moments of inattentiveness, which continued into the second hour, and then I experienced a deeper sense of stillness than I had ever known before. That experience has stayed with me ever since and is something that I need to come back to for my own spiritual well-being.

... On THOSE Benches?

Even comfortable chairs can cause pressure points after a while, and many of us have bodies that require some movement from time to time. All of this is normal and acceptable in extended worship. Getting up and walking around, stretching, whatever your body requires, is perfectly acceptable.

That’s Not Extended Worship!

The Meeting for Discernment began as extended worship, but the practice was quickly modified to include queries. After a period of gathering worship, a clerk reads the queries. Friends

then have an opportunity to consider them in prayer before the clerk asks for ministry. This is focused worship. Friends who have been given ministry to share are asked to wait to be recognized by the clerk, who manages the pace of the meeting to retain deep worship and give the time needed to let the ministry work in us and to clear our hearts and minds for the next message.

(At the recent Meeting for Discernment at Old Chatham there were 58 messages given in seven hours of worship. No one felt rushed, and within 15 minutes of the scheduled end, the clerk voiced the sense that we had completed our response to the queries, and that Friends could share ministry on other topics.)

Now That's Ministry!

Part of what happens in the Meeting for Discernment is that with the extra time, and the presence of elders holding and grounding the worship, deep messages come to the surface. Thus far, these messages start coming in the middle of the afternoon, or after five hours of worship, and they are ministry that those present are unlikely to ever forget.

This year, the sessions at Silver Bay will be on Monday morning and Wednesday afternoon. It is an experiment, and we will see if we receive the same quality of ministry that regular participants have become accustomed to. We will also see if there is a change in the depth of our work together in the business of the Yearly Meeting. (There is a sense that the Meeting for Discernment has improved the quality and efficiency of the sessions concerned with business.) These factors will be evaluated and considered in future planning for Summer Sessions.

Roger Dreisbach-Williams, clerk

Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee

The work of this committee continues to be the support of pastoral meetings in our Yearly Meeting. The committee supports the NYYM/NEYM Pastors retreat in the fall and the Pastors and Elders retreat in the Spring. These retreats provide support and retreat time for the pastors. The committee continues to look at developing the relationship between pastors and their ministry partners, Ministry and Counsel committees. One focus of this year's Pastors and Elders retreat was on sustaining vital ministry.

The charge of the committee is broad. This year the committee joined with Advancement and Spiritual Nurture Working Group to examine the scope of work each body has. A retreat was held that included these three bodies and Young Adult Concerns Committee. Our work was enlivened by the retreat. Our role is to support individuals and their leadings. We have added to our numbers and are looking forward to growing the work we do. We continue to seek members who are interested in the work. We meet twice a year and as the work requires.

The committee continues to administer the Stevens Fund for superannuated ministers, yearly meeting workers, and their spouses.

The Intervisitation Group continues its work. It is developing a group of Friends able to travel to serve the meetings in our yearly meeting.

Anne Pomeroy , clerk

Committee to Revise *Faith and Practice*

Members of the Committee to Revise *Faith and Practice* met regularly at Summer, Fall and Spring Sessions. We welcomed visitors who joined us and brought ideas, experience, and insight that helped us in our discernment on several occasions.

This year the committee approved editorial changes to the sections referring to Representative Meeting, replacing them with Fall, Spring, and Summer Sessions to reflect our current practice. We also confirmed the previous approval of the definition of Worship Groups and the new Advice and Query on the Environment for inclusion in the latest printing of our Book of Discipline.

This year we brought our suggested changes to the sections on Growth and Reconciliation and Covenant Relationships to Ministry Coordinating Committee (MCC). MCC approved the changes to the latter with a slight edition but sent the former back for more work. The section on Covenant Relationships will come to Summer Sessions for a first reading.

We initiated contact with Friends engaged in spiritual healing work for ideas on how to include this growing work in our book. We are still waiting to hear from them. We hope to draft a state-

ment of some kind in the next year.

One of the sections in *Faith and Practice* that has needed updating is the section referring to the Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Counsel, particularly the part related to Recording Gifts in the Ministry. We were aided in this work by an ad hoc committee of MCC that brought a draft of a suggested revision to Fall Sessions. MCC approved the draft, which was subsequently brought to Spring Sessions for a first reading.

The committee began work on revision of Section G (The Yearly Meeting) and Section H (Representative Meeting) with the expectation of combining the two sections and dropping the one on Representative Meeting. This is still in its working stages. The clerk was aided in this work by the clerk of General Services whose help was much appreciated.

We continue to be challenged to create a statement that will guide Friends in the use of electronic communications that reflects the on-going changes in the media while holding us to our practice of listening to Spirit as we discern way forward.

It is clear that much of our Book of Discipline is timeless and will always reflect the Truth of who we are as Friends and that some sections will need on-going revisions as we open to continuing revelation. The Committee to Revise *Faith and Practice* remains open to discernment about where we are called to work.

Irma Guthrie, clerk

Spiritual Nurture Working Group

The Spiritual Nurture Working Group (SNWG) has been planning a retreat series at Powell House (Tending the Garden, which began January 2015) that will be accompanied by offerings of regional and local retreats starting Fall 2015. The Working Group also collaborated with Advancement on a weekend retreat for members of Advancement, Ministry & Pastoral Care, SNWG, and Young Adult Concerns Committee. Meetings of the SNWG are open to all who share a concern for the work of spiritual accompaniment in support of ministry, spiritual nurture, and spiritual formation, at the local meeting level and beyond. The work of the group is discerned at meetings at sessions and

at occasional retreats. Please let us know if there is some way we can support spiritual nurture work you are already doing.

Lu Harper & Anne Pomeroy, co-clerks

Committee on Sufferings

The committee on sufferings has not been called on this year

Committee on Worship at Yearly Meeting Sessions

At Fall (15th Street Meeting) and Spring (Oakwood Friends School) 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 business in worship. They prayerfully grounded and held the body in the Light, being radiators of God's Love.

At Summer Sessions (Silver Bay) 2014, the Worship at Yearly Meeting Sessions committee helped oversee the many 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 spiritually. 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 JYM clerks coordinated the community worship with us, serving as elders when we gathered in the boathouse after dinner. The committee contacted the Bible Study leader, Maggie Edmondson, pastor at Winthrop Friends Meeting in New England Yearly Meeting, and provided grounding and support for her and the body those four nights. Anita Paul and the committee worked together for

the programmed portion of the closing worship on Saturday, choosing hymns, providing eldering and spiritual support. The committee identified three Friends Mary Kay Glazer, Kate Lawson, and David Gerhan to bring the message for Silver Bay's Monday – 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.

Ann Davidson, clerk

GENERAL SERVICES SECTION

General Services Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee (GSCC) has met at each of the three Yearly Meeting Sessions and the January Coordinating Committee weekend since last year. Some of our between-meeting business is handled through emails and conference calls. The clerk and other yearly meeting officers and staff handle a significant portion of the work of the General Services Section.

As clerk I have made several visits to the yearly meeting office. Our representatives on GSCC are often busy with their own committees' business. GSCC has only three at-large members, rather than the six to eight recommended in the *NYYM Handbook* description.

Work of the several committees and trustees in our section can be reviewed in their own reports.

Highlights have included

- increased fundraising through the Annual Appeal, under Development Committee's direction;
- Audit Committee's facilitating the selection of a new auditor and the accounting required to consolidate our operating and trustee accounts;
- review and coordination of the ARCH program's plan for fundraising to make a transition in their work and staffing;
- evaluation and approval of the proposed Children and Youth Field Secretary position, with attention to associated costs and grant application;
- attention to the general and liability insurance of NYYM and the protocols and documentation for child safety measures in the programs we conduct at each of our Sessions;
- focus on how the identification of priorities and leadings of the Yearly Meeting affects each of our section committees;
- completion of negotiations with New York Quarterly Meeting related to cost sharing (rent) for NYYM office space at 15 Rutherford Place in New York City.

In order to facilitate transparency and engagement, the minutes of GSCC meetings are readily available at nyym.org. Other committees are invited to post theirs as well. Send the minutes or other documents with instruction to Steven Davison, communications director.

John Cooley, clerk

Audit Committee

The primary responsibility of the Audit Committee is to assure that an annual audit of Treasurer-Managed and Trustee Accounts is performed in a timely fashion, to review these audit results and recommendations, and to assure that recommended bookkeeping adjustments are made in a timely fashion. During 2014, members of the Audit Committee (including the Liaison member from the Trustees) solicited and received audits for the 2013 Financial Statements (one from the Treasurer, and one from the Trustees), reviewed the draft audits, and responded to the findings and recommendations of the final audit. The audit of the 2012 Treasurer Managed Accounts had been completed in 2013; the audit of the 2012 Treasurer Managed Accounts had been delayed by illness of the auditor, but this was approved by the Trustees in early 2014. So in summary, these primary tasks were completed and the audit process is now up to date.

In keeping with recommended Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), a decision was made in 2013 to solicit a new audit firm. This process continued in 2014 with the distribution of a Request for Proposal (RFP) to the three audit firms who had responded to NYYM's earlier Request for Information (RFI). Three bids were received, and since the bidders were all considered to be qualified, interviews were held with each of them at the NYYM offices, under the expectation that greater familiarity with NYYM's accounting practices might enable (some of) them to reduce their initial bids. This was accomplished and final bids were received by early November, 2014. In the process of the interviews, however, it became apparent that significant bookkeeping adjustments would be required in order to conform to GAAP recommended practices, including the generation of a single, consolidated Financial Statement for NYYM. In view of the time required to make these changes, a

revised Statement of Work (which is one portion of the RFP) was generated, and updated final bids were received. The Audit Committee reviewed these bids and selected a winning bidder in mid-December. Negotiations were then undertaken on a sole-source basis to engage NYYM’s bookkeeper to make suitable accounting changes, and to engage the winning bidder of the auditor solicitation. The common practice in these businesses is to use letter contracts (termed engagement letters) to secure bookkeeping and auditing services, and these were reviewed and finally approved by the Trustees and by General Services Coordinating Committee at Spring Sessions, 2015.

The Audit Committee is now in the process of supporting and monitoring the bookkeeping changes following closure of the 2014 NYYM fiscal year. Since the GAAP process for audit requires two years of financial statements, it was decided to hold a “review”, which is an informal audit, of the first year’s consolidated financial statements (2014), recognizing that these initial records would not be fully GAAP compliant, and to hold a full audit GAAP audit of the 2015 Consolidated Financial Statements. The “review” of the 2014 consolidated financial statement is expected to occur in August of 2015, and to be completed before the end of 2015. The Committee will continue to oversee any subsequent bookkeeping adjustments and any additional changes recommended by the auditors during the remainder of 2015 and early 2016.

The Committee has held approximately 15 teleconferences during 2014-2015, and three or four meetings at the Yearly Meeting office, in the course of completing the above tasks. In addition, the committee anticipates the need for some minor changes in the Audit Committee *Handbook* listing in 2015 in order to bring our procedures in keeping with GAAP recommended practices. It is possible that other procedural changes will be recommended to bring NYYM into compliance with other GAAP recommended practices, and that some of these may require future action by the body; however, these changes are likely to be of an administrative nature and seem likely at this time to be also consistent with good Quaker practice.

Tim Johnson, clerk

Communications Committee

The work of the Communications Committee proceeded with *Spark* and revisions to the website. We invite members to share your views of the changes to the website and the kinds of changes you would like to see. Among the changes are pages about the Yearly Meeting Priorities, several reorganized sections (About Quakers, Find a Meeting, and Social Witness), and a new section for videos produced by and about Quakers. We have begun plans to completely redesign the website, including making it more accessible on mobile devices. We hope that Friends will volunteer to assist at various stages, by preparing new content, testing the new site, and migrating content from the old site to the new one. Please contact the communications director if you are interested.

We continue to search for new topics for *Spark* and welcome your suggestions and reactions to material we have published. We printed our first issue in color. We continue to expand our outreach through Facebook and Twitter.

We helped to connect a few Friends involved in ham radio with each other.

A well-received *Annual Report* was sent to members at the end of 2014.

Adam Segal-Isaacson, clerk

Development Committee

The Development Committee has met regularly this year, both in person and by conference call. Our goal is to help the members and attenders of NYYM monthly meetings to understand the mission and work of the Yearly Meeting, to recognize the need for financial support, and to raise the funds to address the gap in the fiscal year's budget. To date, we have raised approximately \$23,000 through mailings and personal solicitations, and we hope to raise a total of \$40,000. We have found it to be quite challenging to raise the level of funding needed to support the active and varied ministries of the Yearly Meeting, and we deeply appreciate the generosity of the Friends who have supported this critical effort.

Our electronic donation option through the Yearly Meeting website has been active on line for approximately one year now. It has become a source of recurring on one-time donations. We look forward to the ways this electronic option will continue to draw members, attenders, and other Friends and friends to support the important work of the Yearly Meeting and its staff.

In July of 2014, we hosted an ice cream social at Summer Sessions, as a way of increasing awareness of the annual appeal. In connection with the Climate March in New York City in September, we hosted a fund-raising reception at a Friend's home. At Spring Sessions on the Oakwood campus in April, we hosted an awareness reception at the head's house. Each of these events has resulted in new or increased donations to the annual appeal. At this year's Summer Sessions, we plan to have donor envelopes available as well as technical support for making on-line donations.

Our work has been challenging because of the geographical distance between members of the Development Committee and our busy schedules. Phones and computer technology have helped us in our work, and we have received the active and consistent support of our general secretary. We are committed to supporting the Yearly Meeting and welcome everyone's engagement in our fundraising efforts on behalf of an organization that is crucially important to all of us.

Peter Baily, clerk

Financial Services Committee

Financial Services Committee met to draft the 2015 Budget. The budget is on page 23.

Committee on Expenditure of the H.H. Mosher Fund

Last year, at our annual sessions at Silver Bay, we distributed \$3,523.89 in books and CDs. This included \$3512.08 for gifts to 68 monthly meetings, worship groups, prison worship groups, and Friends institutions (mostly schools). We gave gift books to 12 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 at Silver Bay to replenish your local meeting's libraries' shelves with up to \$50 worth of free books again this year. If your meeting is not sending a representative to 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

Whew! What a year this has been. Between the work of the Priorities Working Group, ramping up our development capacity, clarifying the work and leadings in the areas of advancement, religious education, and pastoral care, supporting initiatives in outreach, and developing a new staff position to support children, youth, their families, and monthly meeting outreach, we have taken on, and accomplished, an enormous amount in this past year. Much of the time, I have felt like I was running hard just to keep up. That is not a bad thing. It is a sign of just how much life and energy is being unleashed in our yearly meeting.

In addition to supporting the above initiatives, and more, I made twenty-two visits to worship groups, monthly, and regional meetings since my last report. I consider that aspect of my work the most valuable, as well as the most enjoyable, service I have to offer. I am most well-used in visits when I am asked to lead a retreat or workshop on topics such as opening to greater depth and power in worship, learning tools for more careful discernment in vocal ministry and worship for business, and fostering greater spiritual community. Seven of my visits last year were such opportunities, and each and every one was a considerable blessing.

That work is so valuable, and so much needed across our ninety-some monthly meetings and worship groups, that I gave considerable attention to working with committed Friends to create a yearly-meeting-wide program of local retreats available to monthly meetings and groups of monthly meetings.

These retreats will cover a range of topics devoted to helping our worshipping communities to grow in the depth of our rich practice as Friends. We expect to launch that program this fall.

I also put a great deal of time into helping Friends to get our development program on a sounder footing. Many on the committee, myself included, have been learning as we go, not initially being experienced in the ways of asking Friends for money. We have been gaining strength and momentum as a committee, gradually growing different facets of a program which seeks to bring in much-needed income in addition to our Covenant Donations. When the yearly meeting body was clear to unite with the Statement of Leadings and Priorities, one Friend wondered, "Will we be willing to pay for what we have prayed for?" I believe we will, and we can, and this committee is where the rubber meets that particular road.

Our Personnel Committee has been working with our Youth Committee to develop a job description for a new Children and Youth Field Secretary position. I have put in many hours supporting that work, developing budgets, working on a grant, and hearing Friends out on both their enthusiasm for, and concerns about, this proposed position. I have been working with my counterpart in New England Yearly Meeting to create a cooperative grant proposal whereby we mentor their equivalent of a Young Adult Field Secretary, and they mentor our new staff person. We are both excited at the prospect of our two yearly meetings learning and cooperating together in this joint venture.

I also represent us in the wider Quaker world. In the past year, I attended two FUM General Board meetings, clerked the North American Ministries Committee, attended the FUM Triennial, attended the FGC Gathering, and the FGC consultation on Spiritual Deepening. I also helped plan and provided leadership at the FUM Stoking the Fire gathering and attended the annual Superintendents and Secretaries Retreat.

I am also responsible for the good functioning of our staff, and for working in collaboration with the Yearly Meeting clerks. I am incredibly grateful for the fine, skilled, and hardworking staff with which we are blessed. They make my job much easier than it would be otherwise. And I have greatly enjoyed working

with our gifted clerk and assistant clerk.

My work is incredibly multi-faceted. Here are some of the other ways I spent my time this past year: Of course, I attended Spring, Summer, and Fall Sessions. I also attended Budget Saturday, Meetings for Discernment, and Coordinating Committee Weekend. I was part of a contingent that met with the New York State Department of Community and Correctional Services (DOCCS) leadership in Albany, and, like many other Friends this year, participated in a weekend Undoing Racism Workshop, and in the Climate March. I also helped plan and facilitate the two Pastors Retreats (which are a significant boost to our New York Yearly Meeting pastors and their meetings); the retreat clarifying the respective roles of Advancement, Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee, the Spiritual Nurture Working Group, and the Young Adult Concerns Committee. I also planned and helped facilitate the Northeast Regional Christ-centered Friends Retreat.

I must admit I struggle at times to keep all these balls in the air at the same time, and sometimes fail to do so. Since I began this work almost eleven years ago, the work of the Yearly Meeting has grown enormously. And it continues to do so. At times it is hard to keep up. More and more, my role has shifted to supporting others in their leadings, rather than taking a lead role or being the initiator. That is an infinitely better feeling than that of feeling like I am prodding things along.

This is an exciting time to be in a leadership role in this yearly meeting. We have embraced a vision for our common work, one which feels Spirit-led. We are trying to get our feet under it, and to gain traction. And, by degrees, I see us doing so. The next few years will be pivotal as we seek to more fully own our common vision and to make that vision a reality. It is a blessing to be a part of that work.

Christopher Sammond, general secretary

Nominating Committee

It's possible that we on Nominating have more opportunities to really get to know people all around the Yearly Meeting than do folks on any other committee. To present a good set of nomina-

tions for the consent agenda each year, we ask for recommendations, we listen to messages in meeting for worship, we laugh at a joke in line for ice-cream, we enjoy hospitality during meetings away from home, we read *Spark*, we work on other committees, we follow the work of the coordinating committees . . . you get the idea; if you are reading this, you do it, too. But the next step is the real privilege: we get to call up a person even if we have never met and ask her how she thinks her gifts align with the work of the Yearly Meeting. Sometimes we are tapping into a leading he has been coming into for a long time; sometimes we are striking a light for someone just discovering her gifts. It is an encounter that can fill us with joy, show us a new part of an old friend, make us a new friend, enlighten our own searching.

It's also work. Lots of e-mails and phone calls, lots of information to keep track of. A few meetings with the rest of Nominating (Spring, Fall, at least four mornings at Summer Sessions) and a few conference calls. We have a lot to do, with fifty-some-odd committees that need Spirit-led Friends to take up the tasks and the commitment each year at the end of Summer Sessions.

It's not work everyone wants to do. We usually do not have a full complement of representatives from the regions—this current year, we have about half of what we could have—but the work does get done. So please read this paragraph as a plea to every region to encourage Friends to think about taking on this work even if they think they “don't know anybody.”

It's not about filling slots.

It's all about identifying gifts and skills, and matching them with needs for ministry and outreach in the yearly meeting.

It's appreciated. Sometimes the appreciation comes in good suggestions for new ways to do it and new ways to think about the work of the Yearly Meeting, sometimes as “I don't know how you do it” and a quick hug, sometimes in a loud “thank you” after Sessions. But most important is the appreciation shown when committees work well and Spirit can be seen in action.

It's work all of us can do, and it's challenging and rewarding. We look forward to your suggestions, recommendations, and participation as we finish our work at Summer Sessions and start on the new year. And we look forward to finding out about your gifts.

Elaine Learnard & Deborah Wood, co-clerks

Personnel Committee

Personnel Committee has been meeting on a regular basis. Our work together involves the yearly evaluation of staff and an ongoing review of policies and procedures in relation to staff of the Yearly Meeting. We have spent time reviewing the benefits offered to staff and clarifying our policies in relation to benefits. This year we have had liaisons to both the Supervisory Committee for the general secretary and the ARCH staff. In this way, Personnel Committee is able to coordinate our work with the work of other committees that interact with staff.

We have spent considerable time working on the creation and funding for a Child and Youth Field Secretary. In conjunction with that work, some of us have met with and collaborated with the Youth Committee to develop a shared vision for the position. We are currently seeking support for the possible position from the Trustees and a grant from the Shoemaker Fund.

Barbara Menzel, clerk

Yearly Meeting Staff Reports

Gabrielle Savory Bailey, Young Adult Field Secretary

Prepared by Steven Davison, NYYM communications director, and Christopher Sammond, general secretary. Gabrielle Savory Bailey is on an extended leave of absence. Earlier in 2015, she prepared a report on the first four years of her service as Young Adult Field Secretary for the Shoemaker Fund, a major funder of the position. This Advance Report has been excerpted and adapted from that report, and so covers the years 2011 to 2015, not just the year since Summer Sessions 2014, as is usually the case with Advance Reports. Thus it speaks in a third-person voice, rather than in Gabi's own voice, as has been her practice in the past.

Since the beginning of the Young Adult Field Secretary position in 2011, there has been a shift away from Young Adult Friends (YAF) programming as a separate group focused on Summer Sessions and YAF retreats, and towards Young Adult Friends being well-integrated into their local meetings and the yearly meeting committee structure and sessions. This new focus

has yielded great results. We are able to see more clearly the constituency of YAF in New York Yearly Meeting (NYYM) and better understand and meet the needs of these Friends. But the benefits of the position extend beyond just the population of young adults and includes attitudes and practices in local meetings and in the wider Yearly Meeting.

In an attempt to measure the results of her work, Gabi conducted two surveys of Young Adult Friends, in 2012 and in 2015. We have learned a great deal from these surveys. They highlight Gabi's personal gifts and the effectiveness of her ministry, in particular, as well as highlighting the value of the position to the Yearly Meeting in general. They also have provided unique and valuable insights into the needs of Young Adult Friends and into aspects of the collective life of the Yearly Meeting.

The impact of the Young Adult Field Secretary

Here are some highlights from the survey results regarding the impact of this position and of Gabi as the Young Adult Field Secretary:

- **YAF involvement in meeting life.** More Young Adult Friends are active in their local meetings, attending worship, and serving on local meeting committees, and more are attending Yearly Meeting Sessions, including Spring and Fall Sessions, and serving on Yearly Meeting committees.
- **Tokenism on the wane.** The more that Friends at both the local meeting level and the Yearly Meeting organization view Young Adult Friends in terms of their gifts rather than just seeking to fill a slot with a young person, the more Young Adult Friends get involved and the more satisfied they are with their experience of service. The Yearly Meeting is doing a better job of this than local meetings are, perhaps because of Gabi's persistent presence and messages at Yearly Meeting sessions, and the difficulty of visiting the large number of local meetings.
- **Young Adult Concerns Committee** has been revitalized after a collapse in 2011.

- **Regional YAF networks.** Several regional YAF networks have emerged over the past several years.
- **Leadership.** Gabi has assumed a leadership role in cultivating a network of YAF staff and workers across the continent and across branches of Quakerism. Staff from other yearly meetings are adopting some of Gabi's insights and practices. Also, some NYYM YAF have participated in Quaker life beyond New York Yearly Meeting, including Quaker Voluntary Service and the Young Adult Friends Conferences at Pendle Hill.
- **Ministry to families.** When Gabi began her work, no parents participated in either the Young Adult Concerns Committee or the wider YAF community. Now parents regularly participate. She not only has brought families into the community, but also has done much to bring their needs to the attention of both local meetings and the Yearly Meeting, and has ministered to those needs herself in important ways.
- **Individual pastoral care.** Many YAF have turned to Gabi for personal counsel and she has become an important mentor, not only to individuals but also to the wider YAF community.
- **Religious education of YAFs.** Recognizing that unfamiliarity with Quaker process, jargon, and culture impedes YAF participation in meeting life, Gabi has conducted "seminars" in these areas for groups of YAF at sessions, and conducted running explanatory comment sessions during the sessions themselves. Many YAF come to Gabi personally for guidance on issues like meeting membership, Quaker process, marriage under the care of the meeting, and Quaker faith and practice.

What we have learned

We have learned some important things about our Yearly Meeting and about this position as we look forward.

- **Personal care and connection matter.** This level of effective spiritual nurture needs direct personal contact, not just newsletters and Facebook accounts. And that means a lot of travel.

- **Gifts, not tokens.** Young Adult Friends—well, all people—want to be known as people, not as members of a category, and they want to participate in meeting life as an expression of their gifts, not as tokens representing their population. When engaged as persons with spiritual gifts of value to the meeting, Young Adult Friends become more engaged in response.
- **Pastoral care.** The Young Adult Field Secretary has been called upon to provide pastoral care for a wide range of personal concerns, some of which are serious. This position was not conceived to require training as a mental health professional. We need to develop a network of contacts to whom the Young Adult Field Secretary can turn for advice and to whom she can refer the people who come to her when it's appropriate.
- **Religious education.** We have not prepared our Young Adult Friends to be informed, effective participants in Quaker meeting life. They report that they do not know Quaker process, Quaker history, Quaker jargon, or Quaker structures well enough to participate the way they want to, and they are a little unhappy with us that they now have to play catch-up. They yearn for what they term a “Quaker toolkit”—they want to be equipped with the essentials that would empower them to fully contribute to meeting life. This points to a failure in our religious education of our youth: neither local meeting First Day Schools, nor the Yearly Meeting institutions have prepared our young people to be fully equipped young adult Friends.

Steven Davison, Communications Director

The year since our annual sessions in July 2014 has been very productive for your communications director. I have made some significant improvements in the Yearly Meeting's website, experimented with new ways to communicate through social media, published *Spark* in color for the first time, and have done quite a bit of witness outreach communications on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.

Website (www.nyym.org)

I have reorganized some sections of the website and installed new navigational aids to make it easier to find our content and I have added a great deal of new content.

Resources for meetings. I have created a new page with links to resources of special value to local meetings. A link to this page appears in the “NYYM Info” sidebar on the right-hand side of all pages. This Resources for Meetings page is an addition to the already established Resources section of the website, which lists print and other resources on more than fifty Quaker subjects.

NYYM Info section—for members and regular visitors to the website. I have created a new tab in the main menu titled “NYYM Info” that leads to a portal for the areas of the website used most by NYYM members and meetings, by Yearly Meeting committee members, and by other regular visitors to the site.

Social Witness section. This section has been completely reorganized and some new content has been added, though parts of this section are still under development. You can access the Social Witness section from the Social Witness tab in the main menu.

About Quakers section. I reorganized the About Quakers section as a welcoming and informative introduction to Friends’ ways for seekers and first-time visitors to the site, accessible from a tab in the main menu.

Videos. I have created a new section just for Quaker videos accessible from a tab in the main menu, with an extensive library of links to videos by and about Quakers. In addition, the website now features a video on the home page, which I rotate every week or so. So keep coming back to our website to see what we are highlighting that week.

NYYM Sessions Portal. I have created a new page with links to the web pages for New York Yearly Meeting Sessions going back through Spring 2010.

Find a Meeting. I have reorganized the Find a Meeting section, putting all the ways to find a meeting on one page, accessible from the main menu.

Website traffic report

Overview. We have had 21,400 visits to the website since Summer Sessions 2014 (ten months—August 1, 2014 through May 31, 2015), an average of about 2100 a month. Of these, two-thirds are new visitors (67.7%). However, almost 60% of visitors leave right away. Assuming that most of these bounces are new visitors, then roughly 1750 new people stayed to check us out a little more, an average of between five and six people a day.

Devices. Of these visits, 14% were by people using a mobile device and 7% were by tablets, which means that 20% of our visitors are no longer using their computers to visit us. This highlights the need to upgrade our website to be more device-friendly.

Demographics. Our age and gender demographic information is limited by technical factors, but the data we do have appears below. Forty-four percent of our visitors are male, 56% female.

Age	% Users	% New Users
65+	25.2	19.9
55–64	23.4	17.3
45–54	13.9	15.1
35–44	10.9	12.9
25–34	16.5	20.7
18–24	10.2	14.2

How people find us. This is how people find us:

Organic (or general) search	55%
Direct search (typed the url or used a bookmark)	26%
Referral (sent by other websites)	17%
Social media	3%
Email	0%

Social Media—Facebook & Twitter

I use our Facebook page and Twitter primarily to broadcast information about things that are more timely than the items published in *InfoShare* or the Around the Yearly Meeting section of *Spark*. Enough Friends followed the #ClimateMarchQuakers hashtag I created for the People’s Climate March in September 2014 that I feel it’s a useful way to organize and communicate

during events, especially big ones like the Climate March, where it would otherwise be hard to find each other or communicate.

So—like us on Facebook (Facebook.com/NewYorkYearlyMeeting) and follow us on Twitter, at communications@NYYMTweets.

Press releases and witness communications

This was a very active year in the area of press relations and communicating our witness to the world. I sent out press releases about our letter to President Obama asking him to ask for the release of Leonard Peltier from prison, about our minute of conscience and letter to officials in New York State regarding solitary confinement, about our support of the People’s Climate March, and advertising presentations by Shan Cretin, general secretary of AFSC at Spring Sessions and anti-fracking activist Sandra Steingraber at a fundraiser after the Climate March.

Spark

We published *Spark* in color for the first time in May 2015. The themes for the year were as follows: September 2014—Stepping into Religious Education; November 2014—Climate Change, Social Change; January 2015—We Envision . . . Implementing the Yearly Meeting’s Priorities; March 2015—Quakers and Other Faiths; May 2015—Summer Sessions.

Walter Naegle, Administrative Associate

This is my 13th year working for NYYM. It is a joy to work at 15 Rutherford Place with other Quaker organizations that share my values. The environment is friendly, non-competitive, and supportive, and fosters growth at the personal and professional level. The surrounding neighborhood is a welcome respite from the busier parts of Manhattan, and is within walking distance of my home.

My primary task is maintaining both the card file and the electronic version of the NYYM database. Information in the database can be easily sorted and used for a variety of tasks, including mail merge operations, statistical compilations, and e-mail blasts. The active card file consists of members of NYYM, and also individuals and organizations associated with our work. The electronic address list includes monthly meetings, other

Quaker organizations, and other yearly meetings. Additional tables in the database include incarcerated individuals who attend our Prison Worship Groups, administrative offices of other Yearly Meetings (both domestic and international), organizations associated with the work of Friends, and lists of elected officials who we may contact about issues of concern to our community. These records are the basis for compiling registration lists for the various Yearly Meeting sessions (Spring, Summer, Fall), as well as Meetings for Discernment and other events. The mailing lists for *Spark* and the Sharing Fund appeals are also generated from this information, as well as the global e-mail list for those interested in NYYM news and *InfoShare*. We recently began to use the database to track contributions.

I work closely with monthly meeting recorders who keep us up to date with information about new members, births, transfers, deaths, and who provide the statistics about their meeting that appear in each NYYM Yearbook. Once 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 my supervisor, Helen Garay Toppins, 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 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 the Meeting Reports, and memorial minutes that are made available at Summer Sessions.

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

My ongoing work with the legacy of my late partner, Bayard Rustin, continues to complement my work with Quakers. I was one of three authors of a recent young person's biography, Bayard Rustin, *The Invisible Activist*, published last November by Quaker Press of Friends General Conference. The book has been doing well, and during the first week of

May, Jacqueline Houtman (the principal author) and I visited several monthly meetings and Friends schools in the Northeast, talking about Bayard's life and work, and his relevance to today's world. Although he is principally known for his work in the African-American civil rights movement, his ideas about poverty, police/community relations, and LGBT issues continue to be relevant today.

Helen Garay Toppins, Associate Secretary

My job, one that I truly love, continues to be a challenging balancing act. There is a continuous push-pull between my administrative duties and my desire to be get out into the field more.

My administrative duties seem to grow by leaps and bounds. I supervise the Yearly Meeting's administrative associate and communications director; provide staff support for the Yearly Meeting general secretary, clerk, treasurers, section clerks, and committee clerks; process payment vouchers; proofread *Spark* and *InfoShare*; compile the committee section of the *Yearbook*; serve as the registrar for our Summer Sessions held at Silver Bay; respond to seekers who contact the yearly meeting office; and respond to queries from the general public. I read every issue of every monthly meeting newsletter and share their contents with yearly meeting staff, officers, committees and Friends, as needed.

My field work encompasses worshipping behind prison walls. Some of the most gathered worship that I experienced this past year has been with our Quaker prison worship groups. I participated in planning and facilitating a retreat for small meetings and worship groups held at Powell House. I helped plan and facilitate a public event held at 15th Street Meeting. I visited monthly meetings and worship groups. I would love to get out into the field more and visit even more monthly meetings and worship groups. What I love more than anything is advancement and outreach. I want to organize more public events for Friends.

I would be remiss if I ended my report without acknowledging all of the help and support that I receive from my staff colleagues and from countless NYYM volunteers.

Aging Resources Consultation and Help (ARCH) staff

As your ARCH Program celebrates seven years of serving the body of New York Yearly Meeting as we all face aging concerns and concerns of our differently-abled Friends, we have had a year of exciting milestones and anticipated changes.

Visitor Network. The core of our program is our network of over 120 volunteer Visitors. This year those volunteers delivered meals, worshiped at the bedside, organized caregiver support groups, advocated for accessibility in their meeting-houses, facilitated filing of advanced care directives, and much more. Your ARCH coordinators support this work by organizing the initial training for Visitors, offering individual support and referrals to Visitors, and providing opportunities for further enrichment and training.

Visitor Training. A delightfully intergenerational and lively training weekend retreat was held in Syracuse in the spring of 2015. Another is now scheduled for the fall of 2015 in Ocean Grove, NJ. Participants and facilitators grew in their understanding of what “old” and “disabled” mean for each of us individually, and for our meetings. We gained a deeper understanding of specific needs, concerns and the gifts of those we call elderly, seniors, disabled, or old.

Visitor Training 2. We packed Powell House this fall with a weekend retreat for seasoned ARCH Visitors. Your ARCH Visitor network was renewed and re-invigorated with opportunities to reflect and share about their work and their meetings. Visitors gained new skills in the areas of pastoral care for those living with Alzheimer’s and for coping with hearing loss. Perhaps most importantly, each visitor developed and facilitated a “mini” three-minute workshop for the group on a topic of their choice, resulting in increased facilitation skills and a sense of confidence in sharing their expertise.

Workshops: Workshops related to aging issues have been an important ARCH offering and outreach from the beginning. The most popular workshop to date has been Quaker Values and End-of-Life Decision Making. Everyone over 18 years old needs to have their advance directives, a Healthcare Proxy and Living Will, and this workshop is an intergenerational experience and a very meaningful discussion of Quaker values. ARCH

has created a new advance directive document incorporating Quaker values for use in workshops and for individuals.

Life Stories work is a fun and important focus for older adults that can readily be shared and enjoyed by young teens and adults of any age. A common outcome of the Life Story workshop is growth in personal understanding and some clarity about the journey others have made through life.

ARCH staff and Visitors are pleased to consider workshop topics to accommodate the interests of Quaker gatherings.

Outreach. Friends Foundation for the Aging has been excited about the ARCH program and has for several years thought that ours is a strategy that might work for other yearly meetings. Consequently ARCH has been making outreach presentations: 12/14 at Sandy Spring Meeting, MD, Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM); 2/15 to Bloomington Meeting; and 4/15 to Patapsco Meeting, BYM. These have been one-and-a-half-day sessions, working with the meeting, ministry and pastoral care, or board of directors, in addition to offering a workshop to members, such as “Spiritual Opportunities of Aging” and “Anger and Forgiveness.” Also, New England Yearly Meeting is in the planning stages of a program they’ve named “SAGE: Support Across Generations for the Elderly.” ARCH has been part of conference calls and will continue to assist them in getting SAGE up and running.

Aging in Prison. ARCH staff and members of our Committee on Aging Concerns have made several visits to prison worship groups to listen and learn from the aging concerns of our incarcerated Friends. In response to the growing epidemic of aging incarcerated people in our area, ARCH is teaming up with prison visitors to offer visits to incarcerated friends regarding their own aging or their concerns for their family members outside. One incarcerated Friend was granted compassionate release near the end of his life, and an ARCH Visitor was able to facilitate his admission to a hospice residence where he worked, when no other nursing home or facility would agree to admit him.

Transition. At the end of 2015 we will say goodbye to one of our founding coordinators, Barbara Spring. While the entire ARCH network will miss her expertise, energy, and integrity, we

see an opportunity to reimagine our staff arrangement. Administrative tasks will be consolidated with a director position, one person to go to with your referrals and inquiries, and to mind the details of our budget and scheduling. New local coordinator positions will be distributed geographically around our Yearly Meeting to cut down on travel time, and to provide better insight and cohesion for groups of Visitors closer to home.

Your ARCH staff gratefully serve our whole body, young and old, with the support of the Friends Foundation for the Aging. The ARCH program is guided by the Committee on Aging Concerns, who's report is on page 81. In the years to come we anticipate deepening our worshipful service and continuing to grow in community.

Callie Janoff, Anita Paul, and Barbara Spring, coordinators

Records Committee

Friends Historical Library (FHL) reports that 11 meetings have deposited records between 2011 and 2014. Additionally, records were deposited by the yearly meeting office and one yearly meeting committee. Other older records have been acquired through purchase or donation.

We encourage the deposit of new records. Two-year (or longer) compilations may be sent to Friends Historical Library for storage, preservation and access. They are also able to accept electronic records. They have specific standards for electronic records deposits. We can get details if meetings are interested. Please be aware that the Quaker Cloud does not have an automatic transfer of records to FHL; plan to transfer any records stored there to FHL separately.

We had a conversation this year with Ancestry.com. They are very interested in our records as an addition to the other Quaker collections that they have added in the last year. This conversation is still in its early phases, but we would be interested in Friends responses to the possibility of our older records (perhaps up to 70 years ago) being in Ancestry.com.

Our records are our stories; our journey with God/Light/Spirit as we move forward together. Records are fragile and easily lost. We have the tools to care for them—please use them.

Bridget Bower, clerk

Sessions Committee

320 Years, One Faith.

Three hundred and twenty years ago, New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends was born, and George Fox asked that we gather each year to know one another. Sessions Committee came along at some point to take care of the “nuts and bolts” of such gatherings, and over the course of 2014, we met three times. The basics of those sessions are: Spring Sessions, held in Rochester NY, brought together 130 participants, including four young Friends and four little ones; Summer Sessions, held at Silver Bay Association, was attended by approximately 500 people, 125 who were part of Junior Yearly Meeting; and Fall Sessions in New York City drew the most participants in the last twenty years—198 people attended, including 26 young Friends and two little ones! But our gatherings are more than numbers and nuts-n-bolts – we gather in worship, in sunshine, in hugs, and in unity.

We would like to especially thank again our host regions and committees who have so ably created youth programs for our Spring and Fall Sessions. To think that only a few short years ago, there was nothing offered for our young friends, and now, each Session brings a new and amazingly crafted program for all ages. This work is by definition “tricky,” since attendance is as unpredictable as the weather that sometimes affects our sessions, but the people who come to work with our youth do so with a joy and dedication that is truly inspiring.

60 Years, One Meeting.

In 1955, the two factions of the Yearly Meeting came together and worked to rejoin into one New York Yearly Meeting. Since that year, our Summer Sessions have been held at Silver Bay Association. However, Sessions Committee is actively seeking a more central and possibly more reasonably priced location to meet. So far, the venues contacted are either unable to take on another large conference in the summer, unable to accommodate the number of participants NYYM Summer Sessions typically garners, or do not meet our requirement of affordability. Still, we persevere. If you know of a location we should query, please contact our clerk!

Today, One Vision.

Like most NYYM committees, we have only just begun to plumb the depths of the approved Leadings and Priorities, discovering how they affect and focus our work, but as George Fox directed us all, gathering together to know one another and see each other's faces can only serve to strengthen our Faith, our meetings, and our witness to the world. Sessions Committee chose this year's theme in support of the Leadings and Priorities, and we will continue to do so over the coming years. We may be concerned with the nuts and bolts, but we are Friends first, and our work means nothing without your presence and the guidance of the Divine, which we seek always to discern.

Roseann Press, clerk

Supervisory Committee for the general secretary

The Supervisory Committee for the general secretary (SCGS) has met regularly this year, both in person and by teleconference. The committee typically meets with the general secretary for a period of time, followed by an executive session without the general secretary present. In addition, a designated member of the committee is responsible for checking in with the general secretary on a monthly basis (by phone), for any updates that may be important.

The SCGS carries out a range of supervisory activities, providing guidance and support to the general secretary and evaluating his performance. As part of the evaluation process, we ask the general secretary for a self-evaluation. We invite monthly meeting and yearly meeting committee clerks to share observations about their interactions with the general secretary throughout the year.

In the late fall, the committee reaches out formally to monthly meetings and to committee clerks for observations, affirmations and concerns regarding the general secretary's work, and then compiles and synthesizes those responses into a draft document that is shared with the general secretary. The document is compared with the priorities and work plan that have been jointly developed by the committee and the general secretary working in collaboration, and a final draft is written

and approved. The SCGS keeps this document on file and shares it with the clerk of the Personnel Committee, who maintains the Yearly Meeting's personnel files.

The priorities and work plan for the new year grow from the past year's evaluation document, and from the stated priorities of the Yearly Meeting. The committee regularly supports the general secretary in evaluating how best to prioritize his work in line with the annual objectives and in view of emerging demands on his time.

Spee Braun, clerk

Trustees, Lindley Murray Fund

At our annual meeting early this year, the Trustees considered fourteen applications for awards from the Fund's 2014 income. Although some of the projects were new, all of the applying organizations had received awards in previous years. With the applications, we also considered letters of thanks for the prior year's awards and accounts of how last year's grant was used. Each application was evaluated with respect to how it fit the mission of the Lindley Murray Fund (see last year's report and the Yearly Meeting *Handbook*).

The amounts listed below were awarded to projects or ongoing work of the following thirteen organizations:

American Friends Service Committee	2,800
Alternatives to Violence Project-NY	1,450
Amerinda	1,500
Creative Response to Conflict	1,000
Friends Committee on Nat'l Legislation	2,000
Friends General Conference	3,900
<i>Friends Journal</i>	2,700
Indian Affairs Committee	1,450
Long Island Council of Churches	1,800
Oakwood Friends School	6,000
Powell House	2,50
Redemption Center	1,000
Youth Service Opportunities Program	<u>1,775</u>
	\$ 29,,925

The total was \$850 less than was available for disbursement last year. An additional disbursement of \$2,426 was made to

the NY Female Association (of New York Quarterly Meeting), in accord with the arrangement that 7.5% of the Fund's income is allocated to the Association.

At our regular annual meeting and at a subsequent special gathering Trustees discussed how we might change the format of our work. Further research is needed regarding the terms of the original trust and its amendments. With proper legal process we believe the "trustees" could become committee members for the disbursement of funds, and that the fund might even be consolidated with a simplified grouping of other NYYM endowment funds.

Mary Hannon Williams, treasurer of the NYYM Trustees, met with those of us who could attend the special meeting on March 29. For now we will continue receiving applications and discerning the best use of funds, but we are open to the possibility of changing our role if there is consolidation or realignment of endowment funds as Mary Williams analyzes the ways that NYYM supports causes in complementary or overlapping ways. This is a long range project.

Applications for next year's awards are due by December 15, 2015.

John Cooley, convener

NYYM Trustees

The Yearly Meeting Trustees handle all business matters relating to property transactions, including specific management of bequests and deeds of trusts received by the Yearly Meeting in a fiduciary capacity. The Yearly Meeting Trustees manage the assets of several trust funds which, for the most part, consist of a number of bequests or gifts made to the Yearly Meeting over the past 300 years.

The Trustees met several times since Summer Sessions 2014. We approved new Corporation By-Laws and Financial Guidelines, initiated more stringent grantee accountability requirements, and are working on other items needed for the combined audit.

The Trustees' Financial Report to the Yearly Meeting is posted to the Yearly Meeting's website quarterly and the complete list

of Trusts with short descriptions may also be found there.

We continue to discuss how we can be more transparent and use the Funds in our care more efficiently and in support of Yearly Meeting priorities.

*Linda S. Houser, clerk (President)
New York Yearly Meeting Trustees*

NYYM Trustees Financial Report

Regularly Distributed Funds	YE 2014 Value	2014 Distribution
NYYM Operating Budget		
Cheeseman Memorial	\$18,048	\$707.52
Helene E. Kenmore	28,614	1,121.69
Stamford-Greenwich	97,808	3,682.46
Treasurer's	240,908	9,443.70
<i>Total</i>	\$385,378	\$14,955.37
Advancement Committee Funds		
Martin Leach	72,193	2,830.00
Women's	\$10,829	424.52
<i>Total</i>	\$83,022	\$3,254.52
Indian Affairs (sub-fund in Sharing Fund)		
Enzo Ferrante	12,431	487.32
Levinus Painter Scholarship	8,169	320.22
Mae D. Barton	\$70,821	\$2,776.22
<i>Total</i>	\$91,421	\$3,583.76
Mosher Committee		
Henry H. Mosher	\$94,573	\$3,707.32
World Ministries (sub-fund in Sharing Fund)		
Agnes Lawrence	\$209,360	8,207.00
Dikran B. Donchian Mission	108,290	4,245.00
Ella J. Chapman	50,535	1,981.00
Ellen Collins Missionary	72,193	2,830.00
Ellen L. Congdon	28,877	1,132.00
Loder Chapel	7,219	283.00
Mary F. Thomas	12,995	509.40
Smyrna Meeting	5,198	203.76
Sutton-Haviland	\$3,610	\$141.52
<i>Total</i>	\$498,277	\$19,532.68

Fund	YE 2014 Value	2014 Distribution
Powell House		
Ella L. Burdge	\$60,173	\$2,358.79
Emma Cheeseman Bruns	128,215	5,026.08
Maria W. Barton	93,273	3,656.36
<i>Total</i>	\$281,661	\$11,041.23
Friends Historical Library		
Irving B. Rymph	\$140,416	\$5,504.34
John B. Cox Memorial	24,560	962.77
<i>Total</i>	\$164,976	\$6,467.11
Manasquan Monthly Meeting		
Ella J. Burdge	\$60,173	\$2,358.79
Oakwood Scholarship		
Dikran B. Donchian	\$36,097	\$1,415.00
Educational	178,317	6,990.12
George H. Carpenter	165,972	6,506.18
Henry Y. Ostrander	14,005	549.04
High Point	87,498	3,429.98
Lotta Merrill Scholarship	16,388	642.42
Simeon Loder	83,022	3,254.52
<i>Total</i>	\$581,299	\$22,787.24
Oakwood Administrative		
Edward B. Underhill	\$3,610	141.52
Ellen Collins	108,290	4,245.00
Grace & Freeman Shepherd	71,471	2,801.72
John G. Lane	721,931	28,300.00
Loder-Clark	36,097	1,415.00
Oakwood Endowment	72,193	2,830.00
Oakwood Biblical	5,775	226.40
Skaneateles	28,877	1,132.00
Slocum Howland	72,193	2,830.00
<i>Total</i>	\$1,120,437	\$43,921.64
Friends Foundation for the Aging		
Margaret B. Dietrich	\$122,151	\$4,788.36

Fund	YE 2014 Value	2014 Distribution
Nine Partners Quarterly Meeting		
Albert B. Merritt	\$6,714	\$263.18
Highland Mills	6,425	251.86
Milton Meeting	27,289	1,069.76
Magill	2,738	107.35
<i>Total</i>	<u>\$43,166</u>	<u>\$1,692.15</u>
Total Regularly Distributed	\$3,526,535	\$138,090.17

DIVIDENDS HELD PENDING REQUESTS (Retained Income Funds)

Fund	YE 2014 Value	2014 Distribution	Retained Income
Donor Restricted Requested by Named Approvers			
Brinkerhoff	\$17,615	\$1,250.00	\$210.89
Lindley Murray	831,197	33,275.00	32,352.28
Lockport	20,311	1,250.00	715.10
Mahlon York	243,074	9,975.00	7,128.82
Sharing Endowment	543,237	10,000.00	17,591.24
Stevens	153,187	6,000.00	13,505.82
Sufferings	23,732	0.00	11,288.40
Total Named Approvers	<u>\$1,832,354</u>	<u>\$61,750.00</u>	<u>\$82,792.56</u>
Donor Restricted Approved by Trustees			
Caleb Sutton	\$8,013	\$1,250.00	\$1,308.82
Edward Underhill-Yorktown	25,048	0.00	4,066.24
Jesse P. Haines	40,153	5,000.00	3,891.26
Monkton Ridge	43,309	748.00	14,123.02
Morris Cemetery	14,816	0.00	18,605.52
Nathaniel Smith	15,882	0.00	777.15
Sophia M. Beers	6,496	0.00	884.89
Total Trustee Approved	<u>\$153,718</u>	<u>\$6,998.00</u>	<u>\$43,656.91</u>

Fund	YE 2014 Value	2014 Distribution	Retained Income
Approved by Trustees with No Donor Restrictions			
General Fund	\$14,532	\$0.00	\$5,905.68
Florence Stevens	144,709	0.00	20,871.86
<i>Total Unrestricted</i>	\$159,241	\$0.00	\$26,777.55
Total Retained Income	\$2,145,313	\$68,748.00	\$153,227.01
TOTAL NYYM FUNDS	\$5,671,848	\$17,882.35	

Trust Expense	2014 Disbursed	Ending Balance
Trustee Administration	\$17,882.35	6,504.12

NURTURE SECTION

Nurture Coordinating Committee

The Youth Committee (in collaboration with the Powell House Youth Program Directors) this year has made progress in engaging Yearly Meeting Friends of all ages in conversations and hands-on practice around creating multi-generational faith communities. The Youth Weekend in the fall of 2014 was well attended and brought new ideas. In March, the Youth Institute was able to train some Friends in Faith & Play (a storytelling First Day School practice) and offered workshops on a number of topics of interest to those working with youth and others to create strong spiritually supportive meeting communities. A Nurture weekend planned for the fall of 2015 will continue the focus on integrating children into the spiritual life of the meeting.

Programming to encourage youth to participate in Spring and Fall Sessions needs more attention. We plan to work with Youth Committee, JYM Committee, yearly meeting leadership, and Sessions Committee to strengthen the planning so as to increase the relevance of the activities and therefore attendance.

At Summer Sessions 2014 drug and alcohol abuse was significantly reduced. It seems that JYMers and young adults took responsibility for making this happen. We will work to continue this trend.

The Resource Library is now under the care of Bulls Head-Oswego Meeting, and is being catalogued. Over the coming year, NCC will be working to make this resource more accessible to monthly meetings.

By the time this report is published, NCC will have responded to a minute from Brooklyn Meeting asking for further consideration of NYYM's support of FUM while the personnel policy discriminating against non-celibate LGBT volunteers and staff remains in place. While NCC is in sympathy with the concern, we feel that Brooklyn would need to bring their minute to New York Quarterly Meeting for further seasoning.

It has been determined that the financial resources in the Young Friends In Residence (YFIR) Fund came largely from

New York Yearly Meeting, and NCC has let the NYYM Treasurer know that, because no similar program is contemplated in the near future, these funds should revert back to NYYM.

The NCC web page still needs work—another challenge for the coming year!

Deborah Wood, clerk

Committee on Aging Concerns

The main function of the Committee on Aging Concerns is to oversee and support the ARCH program, and the report by the ARCH staff on page 68 describes well their very good work.

To perform its important role, the Committee meets regularly at Summer, Fall, and Spring Sessions, in a 24-hour retreat every September, and on conference calls at least twice between Sessions. Meanwhile each staff member has had a Committee liaison who provides regular support.

Committee members, like the staff members, are eyes and ears of the ARCH program, sending feedback from their monthly and regional meetings and providing insights from other NYYM committees and from personal and professional experiences.

As ARCH moves through a significant change in the way the staff is structured and functions, our Committee will work closely with the NYYM's Personnel Committee to make sure ARCH staff policies are consistent with those applying to all NYYM staff and that appropriate and effective methods for support and evaluation are in place.

Our Committee helps shape and review ARCH's annual grant request to the Friends Foundation for the Aging and is now also working closely with the general secretary, the Development Committee, and other relevant NYYM entities to identify funds beyond the annual grant from Friends Foundation for the Aging. We see our efforts as a way to assist—and in no way compete with—other NYYM development efforts.

Meanwhile Committee members continue to attend ARCH workshops as elders or active participants, recommend ARCH services to their meetings, and apply ARCH practices as they are led.

Dare Thompson, clerk

Epistle Committee

During 2014 Summer Sessions the Epistle Committee prepared the outgoing Epistle from New York Yearly Meeting to Friends everywhere.

The Committee also selected Epistles from among those received from other yearly meetings to be read at 2014 Fall Sessions and 2015 Summer Sessions.

The main task of the Committee is to prepare the outgoing Epistle. The work is done during Summer Sessions, beginning on the third day and focusing on the fourth and fifth days when the Epistle is presented, revised, 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.

Elizabeth Gordon, Colleen Hardiman, Kate Moss

Friends General Conference representatives

No report submitted

Friends United Meeting Representatives

Service on the FUM General Board has changed markedly over the past few years. Meetings used to be tense, fraught, and guarded. They are now open, worshipful, and often light hearted. The board works hard to assist FUM staff in leading a large organization serving Friends on a global scale. FUM is actively supporting Friends ministries in East Africa, Palestine, Cuba, and Belize. The North American board now meets twice a year, instead of the previous three times. Most of those meetings are in Richmond, Indiana. However, next June we will meet in Cuba for the first time, and about every three years, we meet in East Africa with the African board.

During the day of discernment following the 40 Days of Prayer practice, there was a loud and clear call for FUM to fully support a renewed North American ministry. FUM's North American Ministries committee had already been sponsoring workshops across this continent, focused on nurturing monthly

meetings and churches. That work continues, and the board has also taken up the challenge of envisioning what might constitute a North American ministry which gives meaningful support to the life of the Spirit across FUM's diverse constituency. We have begun that discernment with remarkable candor and faithfulness.

FUM has also been engaged in a capital campaign to try to create a sustainable financial base and organizational structure to do the work we are called to do. We have already raised \$777,000 of the \$3,000,000 goal. Many of the ministerial accounts of various international field staff which were in substantial arrears have now been paid off, and in general, the financial position of the organization is very healthy.

The position of Kenyan National Friends Education Secretary, held by Zaddok Malesi, to which NYYM gave meaningful support, had to be laid down due to lack of funds. Most of these funds had come from North America and Europe. But now, Kenyan yearly meetings and schools have made a commitment to revive the position, and are raising the funds to do so. Zaddok had been the point person for the implementation of the peace curriculum in high schools across Kenya. It is hoped that that work may now continue.

FUM is a global organization, dealing with substantial economic, cultural, and theological differences across our diverse constituencies. As we continue to move farther and farther from the colonial model of being in relationship across such boundaries, we wrestle with what it really means to be a global organization living out our testimony of equality. It is a breathtaking opportunity to try to live out the Blessed Community, the "Kingdom of God," here on earth. As such, it is both a challenge and a joy to be a part of that experiment.

*In Service, Beverly Archibald, Margaret Mulindi,
Christopher Sammond*

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Committee

"The purpose of the Friends World Committee for Consultation is to encourage fellowship *among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends.*"

It is a time of excitement for Friends involved with Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) as we explore and experience our physical and spiritual connections to other branches of Quakers.

In the summer of 2014, Isabella Aguirre (Purchase Meeting) represented New York Yearly Meeting on the month-long Quaker Youth Pilgrimage visiting Evangelical Friends communities in Peru and Bolivia. The 26 pilgrims were from Bolivia, Cuba, Guatemala, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Mexico, Peru, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The bilingual leaders were from Bolivia, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Within their own group, their epistle tells how they made real the purpose of FWCC: The pilgrimage makes us understand that it is God's purpose that we are not alone. Whether our worship is programmed for a whole morning one day a week, or an unprogrammed spiritual moment that lets the silence work and enables us to listen to the voice of God or sometimes a semi-programmed union of the two, we are united in faith to praise God.

The 2015 FWCC -Section of the Americas was held in March near Mexico City. It is no more difficult for our representatives to travel there than to the west coast and it is easier for Friends from Central and South America to obtain visas. NYYM was represented by Sylke Jackson, Gloria Thompson and Emily Provance. The report from that gathering says: Friends from 31 yearly meetings across five branches were woven together at the Meeting of FWCC's Americas Section. ... Friends worshiped in multiple styles, shared experiences and prayer in small, diverse home groups, heard reports on FWCC work in the last two years, and approved sweeping programmatic changes during bilingual business to prepare FWCC for the years ahead, in accordance with the new strategic plan for 2015-2020: Weaving the Tapestry.

Committee members have made personal connections with Friends in Cuba and the Casa de Los Amigos in Mexico City that we would like to deepen and encourage inter-visitation. NYYM reps also made connections with El Salvador Yearly Meeting (Evangelical) and would encourage anyone interested in sojourning among Central American Friends to contact the

committee to explore the possibilities. Gloria Thompson continues serving as the Northeast Region co-clerk for FWCC and is named to the Section of the Americas executive committee.

In 2016, the FWCC will have a world-wide International Representatives Meeting in Peru. NYYM will name four representatives to this gathering (held every four years now). In keeping with FWCC's theme of developing leadership, we plan for two of our representatives to be under 35 and two to be first time attenders at a world-wide gathering.

Michael Clark, clerk

Junior Yearly Meeting Committee

The Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Committee, is responsible for Junior Yearly Meeting, the program for Friends under the age of 18 attending Summer Sessions. The JYM coordinators in 2014, Dawn Pozzi and Melanie Claire Mallison, organized a spirit-filled program for 125 youth with the remarkable assistance of 23 volunteers.

The day-to-day work at Silver Bay (and the planning ahead time) is done by coordinators appointed by the committee and the 20-30 adults they recruit who volunteer to help. JYM youth and adult facilitators actively participated in many ways in Summer Sessions in 2014. As they have done for decades, they helped organize and put on events to raise money—\$7287, for the Sharing Fund and Powell House. The high school group was led by teenage clerks, who now routinely attend a clerking workshop in the winter and plan their session at the JYM planning weekend in the spring. The high school students started their morning in worship sharing groups with the adults.

JYM's 2014 summer session included some changes, with fewer volunteers for each age group, some increased focus on interaction with the greater summer session community, and continued focus on developing Quaker process within the youth sessions. The recent practice of JYM joining the entire NYYM at the end of morning session, which we had folded into our practices after some difficulty over several years, was stopped in 2014. We would like to know if this practice will be brought back. A new practice was started, in which Sylke Jackson acted

as liaison between the business meeting and JYM groups; each day, she reported to the older groups the events of the business meeting and the Summer Session community. This was so well received that we added the position to the JYM committee, with Sylke filling that role.

In the JYM committee meetings there is ongoing dialogue and listening about the impact of the program, integration of spirit and Quaker themes, and alcohol and drug use. We have added a financial clerk position to our committee, thankfully filled by Margie Morgan-Davie, to respond to a request from Nurture Committee to have a process and oversight in place to anticipate and account for expenditures. We talk about how to structure age groups and recruit volunteers. There is some sense that Friends want to continue spirit-led change of JYM in some ways.

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

Oakwood Friends School

We are embarking on a period of transition at Oakwood Friends School, and it is in that spirit that we write this report. Since its founding in 1796, Oakwood has undertaken two major campus moves, survived at least two significant fires, endured multiple wars, all while educating and graduating thousands of students. Over the span of more than two centuries, Oakwood has been guided by many leaders, at the administrative level and within the Board of Managers. Yet throughout its history, the school has remained firmly committed to its founding values of inclusive community and rigorous education grounded in the life of the spirit.

Last fall, Peter Baily shared with us his plans to conclude his tenure as Head of School, effective this summer. In August, he will be called to new work in the wider realm of independent education, as executive director of the association of independent schools of Maryland and Washington, DC. Responding to this news, the Board of Managers appointed Chad Cianfrani to serve as interim head during the 2015-16 academic year. Simultaneously, the Board formed a search committee to select a new

permanent head, who will take office in the summer of 2016. Chad Cianfrani has served Oakwood ably for the past ten years, as teacher, coach, dorm parent, advisor, and, most recently, as Assistant Head for Operations and Technology.

In his message to the school community last fall, Peter wrote, “In the fifteen years that I have spent at Oakwood, I have been privileged to work with curious, kind, engaging and witty students, utterly dedicated and skilled colleagues, and a Board of Managers that has been unfailingly wise, supportive, and hard-working. Our alumni around the country and around the world have confirmed for me again and again the life-changing power that Oakwood has had, generation after generation. In the passage of these years, we have admitted hundreds of new students, sent hundreds of graduates off to college and to the wider world, and our community has been blessed at every turn by the rich diversity that our students and their families have brought to us. Our loyal alumni, parents, friends, and Friends have contributed significant resources to the annual operating budget, to fund campus enhancements, and to support major renovation projects. New York Yearly Meeting has provided a tangible link to our Quaker heritage and our spiritual core. Our students and faculty have distinguished themselves in extraordinary ways, in the arts, on the athletic field, and in the classroom and laboratory. Their commitment to serve others is a part of the fabric of their lives. We have celebrated faculty weddings and we have welcomed thirty-five faculty babies into our community. We have experienced profound moments of grief together, and I will always be grateful that we were in Oakwood’s meeting room, in extended worship, as the events of 9/11 tragically unfolded. Just as we have supported one another in times of sadness, we have felt times of unfettered joy, and we have laughed together, a lot.”

As we conclude this school year, we have completed several important campus renovation projects, funded by generous friends and alumni of the school. The first floor of the Main Building, circa 1924, has been transformed into a light, energy-efficient, accessible space for three art studios, a student lounge, and several offices. On the north façade, we have added an outdoor porch, patio, and garden, adjoining a grassy quad

that's perfect for casual outdoor games. We re-designed the west wing of Lane Auditorium, built in 1920, and created a gracious theater lobby and an airy new music room above it. Finally, this summer, we are beginning work on an array of solar panels that will ultimately provide the bulk of our year-round electrical needs.

As we move through this period of exciting transition and growth, we are especially mindful of all of you who support Oakwood Friends School, 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. Thank you for holding us in the Light.

Peter F. Baily, Head of School

Libby Levinson Moroff '54, President, Board of Managers

Elsie K. Powell House, Inc.

Powell House is the retreat and conference center of New York Yearly Meeting. Its mission is to foster the spiritual growth of Friends and others and to strengthen the application of Friends testimonies in the world.

In 2014-2015, Powell House continued its work in support of its mission by offering youth and adult programming; providing space for NYYM activities such as JYM Planning, ARCH Visitor Training, and Coordinating Committee meetings; providing support to a Meeting for Discernment; and hosting eight monthly meeting retreats and seven Friends school retreats. In March 2015, Powell House hosted the first Youth Institute, a joint venture between the NYYM Youth Committee and the Powell House Youth Directors, designed to broaden and deepen connections among Friends and uplift a holistic, multigenerational approach to youth programming. The Powell House property and buildings are in good shape and withstood a cold, snowy winter with minimal need for repairs. Financially, the year ended solidly in the black.

In 2014-2015, Powell House reviewed its programming in light of the NYYM Statement of Leadings and Priorities and found continuing relevance in old favorites – Arthur Larra-bee’s clerking Weekend; Creativity and Spirituality, which for the third year filled both houses with a joyful, multigenerational gathering; a silent retreat – as well as new weekends including Holding the Meeting, Pastoral Care, and The Sacred Journey. The intergenerational Spring and Fall Work Weekends, Messiah Sing, and New Year’s were full and lively. In all, total attendance at Powell House adult and intergenerational programs was 710 adults and 138 children, a 30% increase over the previous year. 95% of the attenders were from NYYM, with many of the rest coming from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and New England Yearly Meeting.

Powell House’s Youth Program served 266 youth and adults, including attenders coming from 29 different monthly meetings in NYYM. On average, participants attended three weekends during the year. The Youth Program expanded this year by sending a contingent of high school students to the Climate March in New York City and adding a weekend for senior high school students and young adults, designed to help bridge the transition to adulthood. This summer, a service trip to El Salvador is planned.

The Powell House Committee has started the process of hiring a new Executive Director. After twenty-two years of faithful service, Ann Davidson will be retiring in June 2016. Applications for the position are being solicited and a Search Committee has been formed, jointly comprised of members of the Powell House Committee and the larger NYYM community. In addition, the Powell House Committee continues its stewardship of the buildings and grounds by developing a list of necessary capital projects and strategizing how to fund them.

Powell House continues to seek the best way forward in support of its mission to foster the spiritual growth of Friends and others and to strengthen the application of Friends testimonies in the world. In 2014-2015, we were heartened by the NYYM community’s response to these efforts, including the increase in financial support from NYYM and the increased attendance at adult and youth weekends. In January 2015, the

NYYM general secretary brought the Powell House Committee a message he had received over the course of the night before. The message voiced support and love, and encouraged us to more deeply explore the possibilities inherent in the treasure that is Powell House. At this time of transition, Powell House is in a secure place with stable finances and meaningful programming. The challenge going forward will be to explore without fear the next stage of our existence, in order to ensure that Powell House continues to provide those who come here opportunities for transformation and a place to deepen their relationship to Spirit and to one another.

Elizabeth K. Powers, President of the Corporation

Powell House Financial Report, 2014

**Statement of Financial Position
As of March 31, 2015 and 2014**

	March 31, 2015 (unaudited)	March 31, 2014 (audited)
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts/Investments	\$ 1,149,269	\$ 1,040,513
Accounts Receivable	(29,134)	1,009
Other Current Assets	<u>(2,324)</u>	<u>82</u>
Total Current Assets	1,117,811	1,041,604
Fixed Assets	<u>1,718,108</u>	<u>956,843</u>
Total Assets	\$ 2,835,919	\$ 1,998,447
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 3,156	\$ 6,056
Other Current Liabilities	<u>(362)</u>	<u>22,675</u>
Total Current Liabilities	2,794	28,731
Total Liabilities	2,794	28,731
Total Net Assets	2,833,125	1,969,716
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$ 2,835,919	\$ 1,998,447

Statement of Activities
For the years ending March 31, 2015 and 2014

	March 31, 2015 (unaudited)	March 31, 2014 (audited)
INCOME		
Contributions	\$ 66,545	\$ 76,075
Guest fees	309,929	286,305
Investment income	29,791	18,817
New York Yearly Meeting	65,240	70,319
Rental income	7,200	3,320
Other revenue	<u>996</u>	<u>3,345</u>
Total income	\$ 479,701	\$ 458,181
EXPENSES		
Administration & Office Expenses	\$ 29,149	\$ 33,391
Adult & Youth Program Direct Costs	20,534	18,830
Annuities	0	730
Buildings & Grounds	69,311	78,075
Fundraising	3,146	3,367
Housekeeping & Food	42,017	31,569
Personnel	291,745	283,253
Total Cash Expenses	\$ 455,902	449,215
NET CASH INCOME	\$ 23,789	\$ 8,966

Young Adult Concerns Committee

The Young Adult Concerns Committee has met (electronically) fairly regularly over the past year on a bi-weekly schedule such that each month one meeting focuses on committee business and the second on spiritual nurture.

Though we enjoy and benefit from our time together, the committee as a whole has lacked energy, as evidenced in no one stepping up to be clerk or recording clerk, and our not organizing any formal gathering of the committee outside of YM sessions and events. Nevertheless we feel we have contributed as Young Friends to the energy of various initiatives such as mini-retreats around the yearly meeting and our contribution to the “Spirit Leading our Work” multi-committee retreat weekend. These

opportunities have enabled us to expand our connections with one another, with YAF, and with the larger body of Friends in New York. For this, we are grateful.

We have missed Gabi's presence during her maternity and subsequent leaves.

Our challenge may be similar to that of the larger Yearly Meeting: we have a deep sense of the value of Friends and Quakerism in our lives, and yet the business and tasks of day-to-day life make it difficult to participate more fully in a corporate spiritual practice.

Alanna Badgley, co-clerk

Young Friends in Residence Committee

No report submitted.

Youth Committee

The Youth Committee continued working on its charges to:

- 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.
- articulate to the Yearly Meeting as a whole the comprehensive needs and goals concerning youth.

The Youth Committee met with representatives of the Yearly Meeting Personnel Committee at 2014 fall sessions and prior to 2015 spring sessions to provide input on the proposed youth field secretary position. If that position is funded, the Youth Committee looks forward to nurturing a close collaboration between the youth field secretary, the Powell House programs (family and youth), JYM, the young adult field secretary, and the Youth Committee itself as they all work together to support local meetings and to connect families with children to other families, to local meetings, and to the wider Quaker community.

The Powell House youth directors worked closely with the Youth Committee to hold the first Youth Institute in March

2015. The objectives of the institute were to offer take-home skills, broaden and deepen connections among Friends, and to uplift a holistic, multigenerational approach to youth programming. These were joyously and wonderfully met by 40 people from 22 monthly meetings of New York, New England, and Philadelphia Yearly Meetings. A summary report of that first institute is included as part of this report.

Moving forward, the Youth Committee offers to coordinate Youth Institutes in other regions of the yearly meeting. We intend to bring together people interested in creating multigenerational meetings that joyfully include and call to friends of all ages. While some workshops could be replicated, each Institute will be different in structure and content, based on the needs and interests of that region and the available facilitators. The goal is to draw out the collective wisdom and experiences in our yearly meeting and to support each other. The Committee looks forward to the proposed youth field secretary being an integral part of coordinating and promoting the Youth Institutes.

We encourage meetings to contact the Youth Committee if you would like to have a youth institute in your area.

Mark LaRiviere, clerk,

Youth Institute Summary Report

March 27-29, 2015

Powell House Conference and Retreat Center

On March 27-29, the Youth Committee, in conjunction with the Powell House Youth Directors, held it's first Youth Institute. The objectives of the Institute were to offer take home-skills, to broaden and deepen connections among Friends, and to uplift a holistic, multigenerational approach to youth programming. These were joyously and wonderfully met over the intense day and a half we were together.

The Institute was intentionally held simultaneously with the Friends General Conference Faith and Play training workshop led by Melinda Bradley to make optimal use of the Powell House facilities and to allow for those working with youth to intermingle during meals and free times. Between the two programs there were 40 participants from 22 monthly meetings and three

yearly meetings. Twenty-five percent of the participants were under 25 years old and about fifteen percent were mid-sixties and up. Thirty participants, including all of the younger friends, were in the Youth Institute.

Plenary sessions of the Youth Institute consisted of worship through community building activities and games intermingled with small group discussions. Friday evening, friends spoke of why they were Quakers, what they experienced in meeting for worship, and at its best, what they experienced in their faith community. They then shared why they wanted children to participate in Quaker meeting and what they hoped children would experience in worship and with their faith community. Saturday morning began by looking at what people need to be whole and then sharing what meetings were doing well for their children. Saturday evening we focused in self-selected small groups on four questions that arose during the day:

- How do you make the intergenerational activities (worship/religious education/gatherings) work?
- How can small rural meetings attract folks under 50 and young families? What kinds of outreach to the community can we do that would let folks know who we are and that we exist?
- Re-thinking our definition of good kids and bad kids. What do they need from us? What can we learn from them?
- Following a review of the advices and queries around sexuality and teens in three different yearly meeting Faith and Practices this question arose: Do we encourage teens to explore transient but interesting and satisfying sexual encounters or do we encourage them to reserve sex for committed relationships?

We offered six 90-minute workshops during the day on Saturday:

- Creativity and Spirituality
- Spiritual Development in Youth
- Using Games in Spiritual Work
- Teens and Quakerism Today
- Exploring Sex and Gender Issues
- Service/Learning Projects: Identifying and Leading

The workshops were facilitated by Friends from around New York Yearly Meeting with significant experience in working with youth (or being youth). They were highly interactive and experiential, raising many good questions and forging strong bonds between participants. Additionally there were a number of resource lists and informational materials prepared and disseminated.

Sunday morning we looked at next steps specifically around future Youth Institutes. Participants completed a survey to identify potential topics, formats and locales. The Youth Committee will use this information to help design future events. See Appendix A for a list of suggested topics to delve into. We closed the Institute with a moving experimental worship session that morphed into traditional open worship.

Appendix A: Suggested Topics for Further Consideration

From the March 27-29, 2015 Youth Institute

- Intergenerational Play
- Engaging the entire meeting in multigenerational religious education and worship
- Integrating children into worship
- Integrating older youth into committee work in a meaningful way
- Experimental worship
- Helping people of all ages explore and express their faith
- Attracting and keeping young folks and families.
- How to reach critical mass in First Day School
- Learning and Practicing the actual teaching of First Day School curriculum
- Creating engaging, exciting Quaker curriculum
- How to use art in spiritual education
- Incorporating the out-of-doors in youth work
- Fostering activism
- Sex and gender, sexuality and teens
- Good kids/bad kids, accepting different kinds of kids
- Thoughts about working with youth

- Quaker feminists and activists
- Quaker teens and current events
- Going off to college and finding other Quaker meetings
- Quaker Quest-type program for young adults
- Training on how to be a Quaker mentor to youth
- Coming of age process
- Quaker parenting
- Quaker nurture of kids in the modern world (sexuality, angst, social media, alcohol, violence in video games etc.
- How to have mental health discussions with teens
- Spiritual growth in youth
- Growing joy together
- Safety issues
- Music, youth, and spirituality
- Youth discernment/conflict resolution
- Developing youth leadership skills

WITNESS SECTION

Witness Coordinating Committee

The Message

Silence, they say, is the voice of complicity.

But silence is impossible.

Silence screams.

Silence is a message,
just as doing nothing is an act.

Let who you are ring out & resonate
in every word & deed.

Yes, become who you are.

There's no sidestepping your own being

or your own responsibility.

What you do is who you are.

You are your own comeuppance.

You become your own message.

You are the message.

In the Spirit of Crazy Horse,
Leonard Peltier

In its minute on Leadings and Priorities, the Yearly Meeting approved the statement “We envision a Yearly Meeting that supports and amplifies our witness. Meetings and Friends look to the Yearly Meeting to be an active presence in the broader society for Friends’ faith, values, ministry and witness.” Witness Section is that part of the Yearly Meeting specifically charged with “the responsibility to be an active voice for Friends’ faith, values, ministry, and witness in the world, and to support Friends’ active witness.” During the year 2014, constituent committees of the Witness Section and the Witness Coordinating Committee as a whole have supported Friends’ witness in a number of ways.

A minute originally proposed by the Indian Affairs Committee calling for the release from prison of Leonard Peltier was brought forward by Witness Coordinating Committee (WCC) and approved by the body in November (minute 2014-11-15).

The coordinating committee has been working on a minute in support of the Humane Alternatives to Long Term (HALT)

Solitary Confinement Act, which would reform the use of solitary confinement in New York State and local correctional facilities. The minute was originally drafted by Morningside Meeting and endorsed by New York Quarterly Meeting; Witness Coordinating Committee approved bringing this minute to the body for approval. Because of needed wording revision, it was presented at Spring Sessions 2015 and was approved.

Another action supported by WCC and presented at Spring Sessions 2015 was a request that the Yearly Meeting sponsor the White Privilege Conference scheduled for 2016.

Witness Coordinating Committee approved a \$3,000 contribution to the conference from the coordinating committee, including \$1500 pledged by the Black Concerns Committee. This was also approved by the body.

Another part of the Leadings and Priorities reads, “We envision a yearly meeting that is accountable and transparent... We envision a yearly meeting whose structure and operations are well understood by all Friends, and that is a faithful expression of the leadings of those Friends that make up the Yearly Meeting.” The Witness section is responsible for raising and distributing money for the Sharing Fund; in addition, some Witness committees are charged with distribution of funds arising as income from bequests. The finances of the Sharing Fund itself have not been entirely transparent, even to the members of the coordinating committee, and we have spent time and effort to understand the finances and to develop policy for their administration.

One portion of the Sharing Fund is set aside to support the witness of local meetings; this line is called the Witness Activities Fund (WAF). In 2014, the following grants were made from the WAF:

4. \$1615.34 to support travel to El Salvador by two AVP facilitators in support of the developing AVP network in that country.
5. \$2,000 to Brooklyn Friends Meeting to help support a Sharing the River of Life Teach-In on honoring Native treaties and protecting the Earth. It took place at Brooklyn Meeting on April 25-26, 2014 and was co-sponsored by the Two-Row Wampum Renewal Campaign, Brooklyn

Friends School, Brooklyn Friends Meeting, and others.

6. \$138.29 to Ithaca Meeting for their support of a “Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change” workshop on June 20, to explore indigenous issues and concerns.
7. \$175 to Scarsdale Meeting to hold an AVP mini workshop in White Plains to introduce AVP to the wider community.
8. \$2264 in support of a charter bus from Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting to the People’s Climate March in New York City; renting the bus enabled members of that regional meeting to attend their gathering on Saturday, ride the bus overnight, and participate in the march on Sunday.
9. \$800 in support of a charter bus from Powell House to permit youth attending a conference the weekend of the Climate March to attend the march as a group.

All local meetings are encouraged to develop their own witness activities and, if funds are needed to help implement those activities, to apply to the Witness Activities Fund for support.

Another line recently added to the Sharing Fund budget is called “Witness to the World.” Its purpose is to increase the amounts our yearly meeting is able to contribute to non-Quaker organizations whose missions we support, such as the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund, the National Religious Campaign against Torture, and the New York and New Jersey Councils of Churches. It is also used to support such Quaker organizations as American Friends Service Committee, Bolivian Quaker Education Fund, Friends Peace Teams, Quaker Earth-care Witness, and William Penn House.

Mary Eagleson, clerk

Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), Inc.

The Alternatives to Violence Project has been called the quint-essential Quaker outreach program. AVP workshops create a communal safe space for people to open to Spirit and conscience and that openness invites transformation that can lead to healing on all levels—physical, emotional, spiritual—in both the individual and the community. AVP is based on the recognition

that there is a Transforming Power (Spirit, God) that exists in us and can work through us. In workshops, we actively affirm the good in ourselves and others. Equality, integrity, and community are lived in workshops and form the foundation for exploring peaceful solutions to conflict. We practice active listening and seeking true consensus.

Through AVP, we bring Light and Love and Truth to ourselves and others, as well as whole communities that are often suffering from oppression and neglect. We are blessed to bear witness to transformation and healing in ourselves and in others.

At the advanced level, we are growing the breadth of special topic workshops that allow for more in-depth exploration of a particular focus. In 2014 we offered Level 2 workshops on domestic violence, reliability, accountability, parenting from inside prison, anger, forgiveness, re-entry from prison back to community, relationships, manly awareness, and trauma resiliency.

AVP New York's work in 2014

We held 172 full (18-28 hour) workshops in 2014. Two hundred nineteen incarcerated facilitators served either on-team or on support for at least one workshop and 110 outside (civilian) facilitators served on-team, up from 87 in 2013.

The number of hours our volunteers put in is impressive. Inside facilitators volunteered more than 17,050 hours and outside facilitators more than 8,440 hours to hold more than 3,910 in-session workshop hours with 2,096 participants in full (18 hour minimum) workshops and 662 participants in mini workshops.

We added a third Landing Strip in 2014. We now meet every Wednesday at the Redemption Center in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn. We continue to meet twice monthly in Manhattan and monthly in Rochester to offer a welcoming hand to people coming home from prison as well as to people in the community who are interested in AVP.

Our Work in Prisons.

We held 156 full workshops inside fifteen prisons including two for hearing-impaired participants (Wende CF) and six in Spanish (Sing Sing CF) with 1,902 participants. Three all-facili-

tator workshops focused on strengthening our facilitation skills and addressing conflict on-team. We trained 166 new apprentice facilitators inside the walls.

We are back at Elmira Prison! Due to personnel changes, DOCCS discontinued our program at Elmira in 2012. We were re-instated and in 2014 offered eight workshops and expect to grow to twelve this year.

Our annual Forum Day was held at Groveland this year and seventeen inside facilitators joined with thirteen outside facilitators from across the state. Inside facilitators planned the day and tried out some new exercises. Our spring newsletter featured Groveland facilitators.

Our Work in Communities.

We held 15 full (18 hour minimum) workshops with 151 adults and 31 youth and trained 26 adults and 16 youth apprentice facilitators. We also held six mini workshops with 93 youth and twelve mini workshops with 74 adults. These totals include workshops held in schools.

In Brooklyn, we held a basic workshop with seven, mostly homeless participants at the East New York Urban Project, and in Flushing (Queens) we held a basic workshop with nine participants representative of this ethnically-diverse community.

In the Catskill Area Council, we held one full Level 1 (basic) workshop at a Methodist church and a mini with Safe Against Violence volunteers.

In Rochester, we held a full, second-level special topic workshop on racial justice with thirteen participants.

In the Mid-Hudson Area Council, we held one training for facilitators (Level 3) workshop, graduating twelve apprentice facilitators and two, two-hour mini workshops with thirty-six participants.

In Buffalo, we held a full Level 1 workshop with thirteen participants from Buffalo Peacemakers Gang Intervention and Outreach and three, twelve-hour mini workshops with thirty-five participants.

The Westchester Area Council held six full workshops with seventy-four participants in Purchase, White Plains, Scarsdale, and Yonkers. Fourteen completed all three levels of workshop and became apprentice facilitators. We also held a facilitator

reunion day to hone our skills and share new exercises.

In Albany we held one Level 1 workshop with eight participants.

Our Work in Schools.

We held two full workshops and six mini (12 hour) workshops with youth; all were associated with schools.

At Oakwood Friends School, we held two Level 1 workshops with thirty-one high school students from the REAL Skills after-school program.

In Buffalo, the Niagara Frontier Area Council held a mini with twelve St. Joseph’s Collegiate Institute sophomores.

At Franklin School we held five mini workshops—two Level 1, two Level 2, and one training for facilitators workshop with 81 student participants. Sixteen students completed all three levels. We also held four mini workshops with forty-five teachers, administrators, and staff at Franklin.

In Mount Vernon Schools we held twenty-four one-hour introductory sessions with approximately 480 middle and high school students.

Our Gratitude.

Many thanks to all who do this work and who make this work possible.

Shirley Way, Office Coordinator

*Alternatives to Violence Project, Inc. (AVP-NY)
Financial Report, 2013*

INCOME

Direct public support

Contributions—individual	\$18,936.90
Contributions—churches/meetings	1,635.00
Area Councils revenue	<u>180.00</u>
<i>Total direct public support</i>	<i>20,751.90</i>

Indirect public support	
Contributions—NYYM	
Sharing Fund	5,509.78
Lindley Murray	<u>1,779.00</u>
<i>Total contributions—NYYM</i>	<u>7,288.78</u>
<i>Total indirect public support</i>	<i>7,288.78</i>
Program service revenue	
Manual sales	2,485.45
Annual meeting fees	1,612.00
Dividends & interest-securities	13,719.94
Miscellaneous revenue	<u>2,551.14</u>
<i>Total program service revenue</i>	<u>20,368.53</u>
Total income	\$ 48,409.21

EXPENSE

Program services	
Certificates & TP cards	\$ 1,235.00
Annual meeting expenses	1,612.00
Landing Strip—NYC	830.02
Landing Strip—Rochester	132.99
Manuals	1,446.72
Newsletter	2,521.59
Scholarships	1,446.00
Volunteer expenses	472.77
Workshop expenses	298.17
Fundraising expenses	1,329.43
Promotional materials	305.43
Retreats	<u>- 4.80</u>
<i>Total program services</i>	<i>\$ 11,625.32</i>
Management & general expenses	
Payroll expenses	22,142.48
Payroll service fees	371.72
Investment fees	50.00
Supplies	432.58
Telephone & telecommunications	995.10
Website	300.00
Printing & copying	0.00

Postage	581.44
Postmaster	80.00
Bank Service Charges	10.00
Rent	1,500.50
Travel & meetings expenses	49.00
Insurance—Liability	667.79
Insurance—Workman’s Comp	268.00
Filing fees—NY State	75.00
Equipment purchases	<u>328.00</u>
<i>Total management & general expenses</i>	<u>27,811.61</u>
Total expense	<u>\$ 39,436.93</u>
Net ordinary income	\$ 8,972.28
Unrealized gain/loss	<u>- 861.92</u>
Net income	<u><u>\$8,110.36</u></u>

American Friends Service Committee Northeast Region

The AFSC Northeast Region has programs from Maine to Pennsylvania that focus on Immigrant Rights, Healing Justice, Economic Justice, and Peace. All of the regional programs are directly connected to AFSC’s national efforts in support of these issues.

In New York and New Jersey, AFSC programs concentrate on Healing Justice and Immigrant Rights.

Healing Justice

In New York and New Jersey, the Healing Justice and Prison Watch programs empower individuals harmed by criminal justice policies and violence to heal and transform the conditions under which they live. The programs recognize and advance the worth and dignity of all people in and around the criminal justice system. Program staff disseminate public information on human rights abuses and healing opportunities; respond to needs of incarcerated people and those harmed by criminal acts; influence individual administrators and policy makers; and provide expertise to coalitions, advocacy groups, community organizations, students, writers, and the media.

AFSC's Prison Watch Program, based in Newark, monitors human rights abuses in U.S. federal and state prisons. In particular, the program promotes national and international attention to the practices of isolation and torture.

The Campaign to End the New Jim Crow, led by AFSC in New York City, advocates for a paradigm shift in the use of incarceration and the continued punishment imposed by the collateral consequences of conviction and imprisonment. The campaign provides support to communities of color who are disproportionately impacted by incarceration.

AFSC's Hope Lives for Lifers Project, also based in New York, works with young men, ages 16-24, who are serving long sentences, including those sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. AFSC helps them in their quest for freedom and in their efforts to leave prison stronger and ready to reintegrate into their communities.

This year both Healing Justice programs have provided education and outreach to thousands of individuals on the issues raised by mass incarceration and conditions of confinement, and have provided support and organizing tools to people in prison to help them advocate for themselves.

Immigrant Rights

The overarching goal of the Immigrant Rights Program (IRP) in Newark is to achieve policies that respect the rights and dignity of all immigrants, including a fair and humane national immigration policy. The Immigrant Rights Program's successful integration of legal services, advocacy, and organizing has made a dramatic difference in the lives of immigrants in New Jersey and beyond by ensuring that immigrant voices are heard in policy debates, by assisting immigrants with challenging immigration cases, and by changing the narrative about immigration issues to influence policy. AFSC offers legal services to immigrants who are in detention, facing deportation, seeking to reunite with families, or in need of protection. AFSC also organizes in immigrant communities, training emerging leaders and ensuring that those people most affected by immigration policy are advocates for change.

This year AFSC's Immigrant Rights Program expanded its legal services work to include a pilot "universal representation"

program that ensures that all low-income immigrants who are detained in New Jersey and facing deportation hearings before the Elizabeth Immigration Court receive legal representation. The new program has greatly increased AFSC's capacity to represent detained immigrants.

At the same time, AFSC continues its work in opposition to immigration detention, organizing campaigns and providing support to individuals whose lives have been impacted by the detention and deportation systems.

Intern Program

The New York and Newark offices host an internship program each summer. Through the support of a generous donor we are able to offer stipends to these interns. AFSC also receives interns and volunteers throughout the school year. In the summer of 2015, AFSC is hosting thirteen interns between New York and New Jersey.

Other Regional Work

AFSC's work outside New York and New Jersey includes longstanding work on economic justice, peace, and healing justice. Staff work on trauma healing and reconciliation with Native Americans in Maine, provide opportunities for young people to engage in advocacy and organizing efforts on issues of their choosing, support coalition work in their communities toward social justice, and relate with Quaker meetings on issues of concern.

New Programs

In New Hampshire, AFSC staff are actively involved in the Presidential Primary Campaign, training people on bird-dogging techniques to share AFSC positions on important issues. The theme of AFSC's work in New Hampshire (and Iowa) is Governing Under the Influence, as staff expose the growing corporate influence on elections and legislative policies.

AFSC staff is working to develop a Youth Leadership Institute in Philadelphia, the first AFSC program in the city in decades. Northeast Region staff members are partnering with staff in Philadelphia to develop the program plan, with hopes to launch in January 2016.

Amy Gottlieb, Associate Regional Director, Northeast Region

Barrington Dunbar Fund for Black Development

As a follow-up to the adoption of New York Yearly Meeting's statement of leadings and priorities, the Barrington Dunbar Fund for Black Development sent an invitation to apply for funds to all monthly meetings in NYYM. The response was overwhelming. We received more requests than we could fund. What follows are some of our giving highlights:

Breathing Space, 89 Dryer Road, Hurleyville, NY 12747, is a healing community designed to create a safe place for people returning home from prison. Our grant was for barn improvements to expand temporary housing and space for Alternatives to Violence Project workshops. For more information visit breathingspaceny.org.

College & Community Fellowship, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115, supports higher education for formerly incarcerated women. Our grant was for college scholarships. For more information visit collegeandcommunity.org.

Earthcare Mid-Atlantic Regional Transition Hub, Kingston, New York 12401. Our grant was for the development of prototypes for urban agriculture training for people returning home from prison. For more information visit midatlantic-transition.org.

The Sarah Powell Huntington House, New York, NY 10009, is a homeless shelter for formerly incarcerated women and their children. The staff works with families to secure safe and stable housing, support school enrollment, seek employment, and find healthcare providers. Children receive tutoring and homework help. Our grant was for educational supplies. For more information visit wpaonline.org.

Operation Unite cultivates well-rounded, progressive youth by providing programs that foster a sense of direction, self-esteem, and social consciousness. They sponsor the Hudson Black Arts and Cultural Festival, Youth Government Days, and provide scholarships for students living in Columbia and Greene Counties. Hudson Meeting, 343 Union Street, Hudson, NY 12534, also contributes to this program. For more information contact Hudson Meeting.

Peconic Bay Executive Meeting, Wainscott Chapel, 65 Main Street, Wainscott, NY 11975. Our grant was for their Latina Student Scholarship Fund. For more information contact peconicbayfriendsmeeting.org.

The Redemption Center, 186 Herkimer Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233, provides a supportive atmosphere for individuals being discharged from correctional facilities, substance abuse treatment centers, and the shelter system who want to reconstruct and improve their lives. Our grant was for repairs for their new Ozone Park, Queens Center. For more information contact theredemptioncenter.net.

Rural & Migrant Ministry has offices in Poughkeepsie, NY 12602; Lyons, NY 14489; and Ithaca, NY 14850. They support programs for migrant farmworkers and the rural poor. Our grant was for their summer camp for rural and migrant children. For more information visit ruralmigrantministry.org.

The Paul Schreurs Memorial Program Fund, 1 James L. Gibbs Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850, provides educational opportunities for youth who, without assistance, might be unable to pursue their education beyond high school. Our grant was for their disadvantaged students' college tour. This program is also supported by Ithaca Meeting.

Wind of the Spirit, 120 Speedwell Ave. Morristown, NJ 07960, is an organization of faith for immigrants and non-immigrants who honor a tradition of hospitality for those who need it, without discrimination of race, immigration status, religion, or sexual orientation. Wind is active in various low income communities in New Jersey. Our grant was for subsidizing their Alternative to Violence Project workshops.

Youth Service Opportunities Project (YSOP) conducts overnight workcamps that engage youth and college students in meaningful service experiences. Participants learn about the lives of those most neglected by our society. Our grant was earmarked for participants from East Harlem, NY.

Youth scholarships – the committee is very concerned about racial diversity in Quaker schools. We awarded funds to disadvantaged Black and Latino students attending Brooklyn Friends, Friends Seminary, Oakwood Friends, and Westbury

Friends schools. We also provided scholarships participants of color for the Powell House Youth Program.

Helen Garay Toppins, clerk

Black Concerns Committee

Black Lives Matter

The Friends Committee for Black Concerns (FCBC), the successor to our Yearly Meeting's Race Relations Committee, is charged with broadening and deepening communication among all ethnic groups; developing among Friends a keener awareness of the violence of racism; stimulating involvement of Friends in today's racial crisis; encouraging Friends to work to overcome the handicaps of the past; increasing awareness among Friends of the history and contributions of people of African descent both within and outside of the Religious Society of Friends; and to support, enhance, and deepen the multiracial character of the family of Friends. It is a huge charge given to a small committee.

During Black History Month we co-sponsored a public event with Fifteenth Street Meeting. Muriel Tillinghast, a former Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) field secretary, coordinated civil rights groups in Mississippi during Freedom Summer. She led a conversation on race and movement by connecting the lessons she learned in Mississippi to today's racial challenges. FCBC would like to co-sponsor public events with other meetings. Please let us know if you are interested in doing so.

We promoted Friends' attendance at the 2015 White Privilege Conference (WPC), which was held in Kentucky. We are encouraging New York Yearly Meeting Friends to attend next year's White Privilege Conference, which will be held in Philadelphia April 14-17, 2016. The Black Concerns Committee has earmarked a substantial part of our budget to provide for scholarships and travel support.

Many Friends have asked us exactly what the WPC is. It is not a conference designed to attack or degrade white folks. It is not a conference designed to rally white supremacist groups. The conference examines concepts of privilege and oppres-

sion and offers solutions and strategies to work toward a more equitable world. The organizers are committed to a philosophy of “understanding, respecting and connecting.” WPC brings together high school and college students, teachers, university faculty, nonprofit staff, activists, social workers and counselors, healthcare workers, and members of the spiritual community and corporate arena. Annually, more than 1,500 people attend from more than 35 states, Australia, Bermuda, Canada, and Germany. Participants may obtain Continuing Education Credits, 1-3 hours of academic credit at either the undergraduate or graduate level, or earn a graduate certificate in Diversity and Social Justice. If you are interested in attending the WPC with other Friends from NYYM please let us know.

The committee continues to encourage Friends to participate in anti-racism training and workshops and we offer financial support to sponsor Friends’ attendance. We highly recommend the Undoing Racism Workshops given by The People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond. Their workshops focus on understanding what racism is, where it comes from, how it functions, why it persists, and how it can be undone. They use a systemic approach that emphasizes learning from history, developing leadership, maintaining accountability to communities, creating networks, undoing internalized racial oppression, and understanding the role of organizational gatekeeping as a mechanism for perpetuating racism. We also recommend workshops offered by the Center for the Study of White American Culture—What White People Can Do About Racism and Raising Anti-racist White Children. If you are interested in any anti-racism training, please let us know.

We gave financial support to the NAACP for their work in Ferguson, MO, and to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund for protection of voting rights. We also supported the AFSC Liberation Summer Camp, the United Negro College Fund, and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. We continue to provide scholarships for young people of color attending Powell House youth programs.

Naceo Giles, clerk

Bolivian Quaker Education Fund

During the fall of 2014, the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund (GQEF) Board met for our annual face-to-face meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, hosted by Barbara Stanford and the St. Louis Meeting. We were joined by Alicia Lucasi, who had journeyed from La Paz to represent the staff in Bolivia. Our hosts were wonderfully welcoming, especially while being in the middle of providing support to Ferguson protesters and gearing up for their cold-weather work serving the homeless in their area.

The meetings reflected the experience we have gained over more than a decade in effectively running a small education-based Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), as well as the challenges of budgets and fundraising among Friends, many of whom already support a great number of wonderful Quaker projects and initiatives.

The program continues to support between forty and fifty scholars at the university level. 2014 saw the number of individual and meeting sponsors grow to cover most scholarships.

In January some cracks and settling at the student residence in Sorata reached a point where engineers judged part of the buildings to be unsafe. Consequently that aspect of our program has been put on hold until the end of the rainy season, when substantial soil tests can be done to evaluate the problem. We hope the residence can open again for the second semester.

We look to expand our connections in the Quaker world and are encouraged by the participation of Friends on our Board and committees from yearly meetings across the country and even as far away as Ireland. Nevertheless, NYYM Friends remain well represented among those carrying important aspects of organizational leadership and work.

The effects of supporting higher-level education on the lives of young Bolivian Friends continues to inspire us as we hear stories of opened doors, of individuals growing into skills and confidence, and opportunities gained that were not available in even the very recent past. We delight in the friendships formed as volunteers get to know students and their families and sponsors learn of students' struggles and successes.

BQEF appreciates NYYM's and particularly World Ministries Committee's support and encouragement as we continue to uphold the organization's mission of education and nurturing cross-cultural friendships.

Jens Braun, NYYM Representative to BQEF

Committee on Conscientious Objection to Paying for War

The 2014-15 year was one in which our Conscientious Objection to Paying for War Committee focused on program and goals, however modest, rather than structure. The Committee continues to have far too few members. Even some Friends who are firmly committed to supporting conscientious objection and seriously concerned by taxes for war have declined to be appointed, as they work on other compelling aspects of peace. Yet we remain keenly aware of—and deeply inspired by—the Yearly Meeting's overwhelming leading several years ago to stand and work for conscience in the face of our nation's demands to pay for war.

Our active members and attenders have consulted among ourselves and with other resource people regarding developments in the advocacy of a federal Peace Tax Fund—including through an April letter writing campaign, and have individually aided conscience witness efforts, including supporting one person's tax witness, advising on a NYYM amicus brief for free exercise of religion in the face of restrictive local regulation, and leading a session for the subject for one of our Yearly Meeting regional gatherings.

The two presently active members of the committee share the role of contact person. The committee has held no meetings and has spent no money. We anticipate continuing and developing our work. But we also understand that there may soon be a proposal to re-structure the Witness section's Peace and Justice activity, which may lead to our absorption into a larger committee or some other change in our status as the Yearly Meeting continues to implement its priorities.

For the Committee, Jens Braun and Andy von Salis

Earthcare Working Group

The priorities identified by the NYYM Priorities Working Group (PWG), gathered from the corporate body, are intended to strengthen the Yearly Meeting and its constituent meetings. The Earthcare Working Group (EWG) discerned ways in which Friends can minister to the Earth as they support the Yearly Meeting's priorities. EWG modeled witness to our unity with and concern for the protection of the Earth through the implementation of the priorities. In so doing, our intent is to motivate and inspire spiritual deepening within the corporate body of NYYM through the expansion of its concern to encompass all of Creation.

Priority: We Envision a Yearly Meeting Deeply Grounded in the Practice of Our Faith. Considering the testimonies in relation to earthcare, the EWG asked monthly meetings, "How does climate change relate to Friends' testimony on Equality?" Earthcare Connectors who traveled under the weight of the Earthcare concern listened deeply to Friends throughout the yearly meeting and recognized a deep, universally shared concern for vulnerable populations. This shared concern highlighted the intersection of earthcare with other witness concerns. Those who are most vulnerable to social injustice, racism, mass incarceration etc., are also affected disproportionately by climate change and economic contraction. They bear the preponderance of the burdens and enjoy little or no benefits of environmental policy. The EWG therefore plans to explore further and raise awareness among Friends of the benefits of collaboration among witness committees, specifically in the area of eco-justice, where Friends' universal concerns for vulnerable populations overlap.

Priority: We Envision a Yearly Meeting Gathered Together into One Body. Six earthcare ministry "Connector Friends" traveled to local meetings and appropriate Quaker convocations under the weight of the earthcare concern to listen deeply and engage Friends, monthly meetings, and others in conversations about the environment. The EWG also conducted an April 2014 earthcare workshop at Powell House that combined the Pachamama Alliance's Awakening the Dreamer Symposium and the Transition Towns movement's training for local resil-

ience, building against the backdrop of climate change resource depletion and economic instability. Funds were allocated to offer financial assistance to participants.

Priority: We Envision Strong, Vital Monthly Meetings. EWG compiled environmentally conscious practices, Earthcare Resources, and Eco-spirit Mindful Living Suggestions lists for dissemination to local meetings online and at Earthcare Connectors talks.

Priority: We Envision a Yearly Meeting that Witnesses to the World on Our Behalf. The Earthcare Working Group supported: 1) NYYM's corporate mobilization, catalyzed by the New York Metropolitan meetings, of hundreds of Friends to take part in the largest and most diverse climate-related demonstration in history on Sunday, September 21, 2014 in New York City. The People's Climate March was timed to coincide with a gathering of world leaders for the United Nations Climate Summit 2014 intended to "galvanize and catalyze global climate action." The Quaker presence in the March was publicly recognized and strong; and, 2) the spiritual witness of Friends in the promotion of a talk by anti-hydrofracking activist Sandra Steingraber during fall sessions 2014.

Patricia Chernoff & Pamela Boyce Simms, co-clerks

European American Quakers Working to End Racism Working Group

EAQWER, a small but active working group of white anti-racist Friends, spent its fourth year under the care of Witness Coordinating Committee.

At Summer Sessions we offered a Racial Listening Project, inviting Friends to tell us their story. Several took advantage of the opportunity. We supported the Racial Healing Worship sponsored by the Task Group on Racism. We asked all worship sharing groups to focus one day on the query: How is Spirit leading you to bring about racial justice and reconciliation? Our member Mary Pugh Clark made three visits to Junior Yearly Meeting to discuss racism with middle and high schoolers. We provided a display table with books on race relations and white privilege.

At our three annual weekend meetings, we continued working on personal issues of internalized dominance patterns and white privilege. We discussed Cornel West's *Race Matters*, noting how much is unchanged since the book was published over 20 years ago. During one meeting we were very privileged to host Buffy Curtis, Liseli Haines, and three members of the Abenaki Nation who had all taken part in the Two-Row Wampum Renewal Campaign in August 2013. The five paddlers movingly shared their experience of the two cultures working in harmony, the power of nature, and the importance of the Good Mind.

In response to Friends General Conference's invitation to NYYM to join the host team for the 2016 White Privilege Conference, we named Robin Alpern to serve as a liaison. Robin attended planning meetings in Philadelphia. At Spring Sessions, EAQWER presented a request on behalf of the Witness Coordinating Committee that NYYM join the team; this was approved.

EAQWER views the involvement of NYYM in the White Privilege Conference as one way to follow up on the Apology to Afro-Descendants. We consider it is important, even our responsibility, to keep this topic, "the next steps following the apology," in front of us and consider it in our actions. We informally supported Brooklyn Meeting in its spring 2015 program to consider the Apology and discern a way forward toward ending racism.

In April-May, EAQWER provided scholarship funds supporting Robin Alpern to attend the five-day conference at Pendle Hill on Ending Mass Incarceration and the New Jim Crow.

We continue to have representatives at Witness Coordinating Committee and liaisons to Indian Affairs, the Task Group on Racism, and Black Concerns Committee. We added a liaison to the Prisons Committee.

In considering our budget request for 2015, we noted how EAQWER's plans serve the implementation of the Leadings and Priorities:

Our work helps fulfill two of the leadings and priorities in particular. With respect to gathering the Yearly Meeting into one body EAQWER is called to support our community to acknowledge racial divisions and to heal them. We work to remove barri-

ers to the full participation and inclusion of Friends of color. We labor with ourselves and all European American Friends to overcome white privilege and internalized superiority patterns, so we too may be fully gathered into the Yearly Meeting.

Our working group attempts to inform and inspire our community to witness for racial justice. We study the roots of racism and its current manifestations and dynamics. We then design projects and activities to support NYYM to speak out and act against racial oppression.

Expenditures 2014-15:

Program:

Honoraria to Two-Row paddlers	75
NYYM resource Library to be spent on anti-racist books	75
Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOON)	100
Southern Poverty Law Center	55
White Privilege Conference	55
Pendle Hill Conference	<u>250</u>
Total	\$610

Administrative:

Total travel	\$132.05
Grand total:	\$ 742.05

Robin Alpern, for the Working Group

Friends Committee on National Legislation representatives

Since 1943, Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) has carried Quaker witness to Capitol Hill. Delegates bring the concerns and testimonies of Friends to bear on policy decisions. Governed by a General Committee of 184 Quakers representing 25 yearly meetings and 7 Quaker organizations. FCNL has 17 registered lobbyists. In 2014, Friends in FCNL made 750 personal visits to congressional offices in DC and in local districts.

In November, 2014 Cynthia Schlegel, NYYM’s newest delegate, and I carpooled to Washington DC for the FCNL Annual Meeting, Policy Institute, and Lobby Day. Parker Palmer was the keynote speaker. Senator Chris Murphy (CT)

was awarded the Ed Snyder Award for his leadership on calling for cuts in the military budget and Rep Rush Holt (D-NJ) who is retiring shared his thoughts on “where do we go from here?” to close the conference. During the lobby day Cynthia met with the New York Congressional delegation. I met with the Connecticut delegation, including Rep Jim Himes from the 4th District of Connecticut. All delegates were asked to encourage our representatives to speak out in favor of the ongoing negotiations with Iran. I brought Matt Donahue, an Iraq War veteran and FCNL staff member, to meet Rep Jim Himes from Connecticut’s 4th District. Matt spoke in a compelling way about how often the US government has put young men and women in harm’s way without a mission that makes sense to those risking their lives on behalf of our nation. He advocated for diplomacy instead of sword rattling while Jim and I listened. Subsequently, Jim did issue a statement in favor of diplomacy in a moderately worded public statement.

At the annual meeting the priorities for the 114th Congress (2015-2016) were approved. They can be found at fcnl.org/priorities. In the spring FCNL convened a spring lobby weekend attended by 300 students. FCNL runs an active Young Fellows (internship) program and has established a new Advocacy Corp program for young people to organize in their own communities. See futureadvocate.org to learn more.

We encourage all Friends to consider joining our delegation or speaking out on the issues cited in the priorities or writing a letter to the editor. The ongoing work of FCNL staff includes:

- 1) Mass Incarceration: Support of the Sentencing Act bipartisan legislation (S.502/HR.920) that would cut by half the length of mandatory sentences, give judges discretion on sentences for many drug offenses, and allow thousands of federal prisoners to seek fairer sentences.

- 2) Prevent Violent Conflict through reversing years of under-funding of diplomacy in comparison to the outsized military budget.

- 3) Peacebuilding—working with Quakers in Burundi to prevent violence surrounding the 2015 elections. Thanks, in part, to FCNL’s efforts the Obama administrations Atrocities Prevention Board is also focused on preventing violence in Burundi.

4) Repeal the Pentagon's 1033 Program—Get Tanks off Main Street. The transfer of military equipment to police departments is both a symptom and a cause of the militarized approach to policing in communities like Ferguson, Missouri.

5) Disarmament of Nuclear Weapons: Eliminate funding for the B-61 nuclear bomber, oppose efforts to undermine the new START Treaty with Russia, and adequately fund programs to secure nuclear materials all over the world.

6) Native American Advocacy: Working to support the revival of native languages, provide increased funding for the education of Native children, acknowledge the governing authority of tribal councils, and protect sacred sites from the intrusion of commercial interests.

There is much work to be done

Diane Keefe, clerk

Friends Peace Teams representatives

After more than 20 years of providing nurturing care for Friends engaged in grassroots peace work in communities riddled with severe violence around the world, we are pleased to report that we continue to abide by our Quaker beliefs, to live into our values, and to use the very peace tools we offer in all our workshops to govern our organization in the manner of Friends. We are working on increasing publicity and our outreach to Friends communities, on enhancing our communications to share news of our work more widely, on bolstering our infrastructure without increasing “non-program” expenses, and on seeking and welcoming new members to the Friends Peace Teams Council, our governing body. We are especially pleased to welcome Kirsten Mandala from Portland, Oregon as our new, part-time Communications Specialist to work on our websites and opportunities via social media.

The major happening with the African Great Lakes Initiative of Friends Peace Teams (AGLI) this past year has been the great interest from other larger organizations in using the Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) program in other settings. Catholic Relief Services in the Central African Republic (CAR) invited two AGLI HROC delegations to introduce the

program there. They were so pleased with the program that they hired our HROC-Burundi program manager, Florence Ntakuti-mana, full-time to put the HROC program in CAR on a firm footing. Then the Church of the Brethren in Northern Nigeria, where Boko Haram is creating chaos, sent four people to our August HROC International Training in Rwanda and then three more for the February Training. The Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) (which is four times the size of AFSC) has taken up the program with the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria, while a MCC volunteer has received a nice grant from MCC to introduce and expand the program in eastern Congo. In Kenya, great progress has been made in reconciliation on Mt Elgon after the conflict there and the introduction of AVP in the Kakuma Refugee camp. HROC-Burundi has received a number of grants towards making the upcoming Burundi elections peaceful. After 12 years, AVP in Rwanda has finally received permission to do AVP in their prisons, and 10 workshops have been done so far.

Peacebuilding en las Américas (PLA) supports Alternatives to Violence Project and Community Based Trauma Healing workshops with nine programs: five in Colombia, two in Honduras, and one each in Guatemala and El Salvador. The programs reach many young people, people who have been or are resisting becoming forcibly displaced by violence, domestic abuse victims, and the large numbers of people struggling to survive in an atmosphere of insecurity and violence caused by criminal and drug gangs and political instability. In Honduras the group in La Ceiba have trained the first inmate AVP facilitators who will work alongside Mennonite and other volunteers to live more nonviolently inside the El Porvenir National Prison. The three Central American programs are working with AVP International to do pilot workshops with personnel from Plan International, a huge international child sponsorship program. If these workshops become integrated in Plan's work, it could extend AVP to 68 countries. (Other pilots are being held in Nigeria and Rwanda.) Colombian programs now include AVP work with a congregation of Franciscan nuns who work throughout the country. PLA has hired a Communications Editor to help us develop web and print materials for information and outreach.

The Asia/West Pacific Initiative (AWP) has been very active with grassroots peacebuilding in Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Palestine and Israel, and South Korea. New and active Friends in Australia have been supportive with energy and generous with resources. There is a powerful new video created about the power of visiting (Silaturahmi) and the value of being a listening presence in communities struggling with decades of common violence. Nadine Hoover visited Quaker AVPers in South Korea and served on a team for a trauma healing workshop that was well received. Nick Rozard’s work on inexpensive, locally-produced water filters is going well. An invitation to exhibit the artwork from *The Power of Goodness*, a book of 25 stories of nonviolence and reconciliation around the world, was sent to selected prominent museums worldwide inviting them to schedule a premier exhibition of this children’s artwork from Chechnya, Russia, Europe, and North America. Joe Di Garbo and Nadine will support Miriam Abu Turk in Hebron and her team in apprentice facilitating the AVP Trauma Healing Workshop in Ramallah. Our persistent question of whether Palestinians and Israelis can be brought together for peace work is leading to some interesting possibilities that our peace team will continue to explore.

Shirley Way, representative

Friends Peace Teams Financial Report, 2015

**Statement of Activities
Year Ending October 31, 2014**

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Support			
African Great Lakes Initiative	\$ 285,492	41,249	326,741
Asia West Pacific Initiative	26,645	970	27,615
Peacebuilding en las Americas Initiative	26,,941	8,367	35,308
Net assets released from restrictions (Note E)	16,772	(16,772)	—
<i>Total Support</i>	<i>355,850</i>	<i>33,814</i>	<i>389,664</i>

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
Revenues and Gains			
Investment Income	92	–	92
Contributions	18,098	–	18,098
Meeting Income	13,234	–	13,234
Peace Quest	6,177	–	6,177
<i>Total Revenues and Gains</i>	<i>37,601</i>	<i>–</i>	<i>37,601</i>
Total Support, Revenues and Gains	393,451	33,814	427,265
Expenses			
Program Services			
African Great Lakes Initiative	295,433	–	295,433
Asia West Pacific Initiative	25,737	–	25,737
Peacebuilding en las			
Americas Initiative	48,887	–	48,887
<i>Total Program Services</i>	<i>370,057</i>	<i>–</i>	<i>370,057</i>
Supporting Activities			
Management and General	26,498	–	295,433
Fundraising	4,953	–	4,953
Total Expenses	401,508	–	401,508
Changes in Net Assets	(8,057)	33,814	25,757
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	23,063	24,708	47,771
Net Assets, End of Year	15,006	58,522	73,528

Indian Affairs Committee

This past year has opened doors to change and possibility. The committee is open to how we may be led along new paths while maintaining the partnerships and ties we have worked hard to nurture.

The Two-Row Wampum Renewal Campaign has been laid down, and no further activities are planned in connection with this campaign. There may be other paddling journeys, but they will not be organized on such a comprehensive scale and may only include paddlers from Native Nations. We need to find new leadings and ways of expressing the energy and enthusiasm generated by that epic journey.

One exciting possibility is the “Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change” interactive workshop developed by Colorado Friend Paula Palmer with the support of Boulder Friends Meeting.

Paula has been traveling to facilitate this workshop and has presented it at Friends General Conference Gathering and other venues. Members of the committee were inspired to participate in these workshop presentations and have felt called to help facilitate them. These workshops could be part of outreach to local and regional meetings, bringing to Friends new insights and the conviction that we must move forward in ways that bring about a “right relationship” with Native peoples.

We have maintained our long-standing partnerships with these Native initiatives within the Yearly Meeting geography: Akwesasne Freedom School, The Akwesasne Task Force on the Environment, The American Indian Community House, Kanatsiohare:ke Mohawk Community, and the Ndakinna Center. In May, we will be the guests of Kanatsiohare:ke for our second Indian Affairs Committee retreat. At this retreat, we will seek new leadings and ways to move forward. These might include new directions or taking more active roles in the work our Native allies are doing, such as assisting the Task Force with their environmental efforts, volunteering at the Freedom School’s annual Quilt Auction, doing service work for Kanatsiohare:ke’s annual Strawberry Festival, or assisting the Ndakinna Education Center with their many programs.

Last year’s Lindley Murray Fund Grant was earmarked for a new youth mentoring program through the American Indian Community House (AICH) in Manhattan. AICH had to move to a new location, and the mentoring program could not take place this year. The grant did make other summer youth programs possible, including day workshops teaching survival skills and living in harmony with the land, health and fitness activities, and a family community camping trip that included bike rides, night hikes, and a general focus on health. We hope their mentoring program can come to fruition in the near future. This year’s Lindley Murray Grant will be given to the Ndakinna Education Center’s Abenaki Language Preservation Project.

To date, the committee’s work has led us to partner more strongly with Haudenosaunee Nations in the eastern areas of New York. We would like to extend our partnerships to include the more western areas and find connections with the Cayuga Nation and the Seneca Nation. Blossom Garden Friends School

has a long-standing connection with the Seneca people, and this Quaker connection may help us move in this new direction. We might also find ways to form connections with the Lenape-Ramapough Nation in New Jersey, the Shinnecock Nation on Long Island, and Native peoples in western Connecticut.

The Committee was led to bring forward a minute calling for the release of Leonard Peltier. This minute was approved by the gathered body of the Yearly Meeting and sent to President Obama as well as shared more widely. We hope Mr. Obama will grant Leonard Peltier a pardon and thus secure his release from prison and his return to his family. There are many unjustly incarcerated people and Mr. Peltier's unjust conviction and incarceration have become a rallying point both against unjust incarceration and against unjust treatment of Native Americans.

We cannot lay aside our work to undo the pernicious influence of the Doctrine of Discovery, particularly in view of recent actions taken to grant mining operations on sacred Apache lands, to move the XL Pipeline forward across lands sacred to the Lakota and other Nations—ongoing environmental injustices and transgressions against the sovereignty of Native Nations.

We continue to offer the Marjorie Sexton Scholarship to a student at Onondaga Community College and modest stipends to Native students from a wide variety of Nations. These small stipends create a web of connection and a network of possible future collaboration.

We are inspired to move into the new year with enthusiasm and hope, and we have a strong commitment to learn from the wisdom of Native elders and allies. We invite all interested to join us!

Susan Wolf & Emily Boardman, co-clerks

Latin American Concerns

The subject of Latin American Concerns is huge, far greater than any one person can faithfully encompass. Free Trade Agreements, immigration laws, official language laws, the various military interventions by the US and other countries in

South and Central America, Haiti, Cuba, and other Caribbean countries, Canada as it concerns French-Speaking Canadians inside and outside Quebec, as well as the US itself, which can be considered a Latin American country—all of these aspects only begin to outline the scope of these concerns.

While I am not an expert in any of these subjects I continue to care about the people whose lives are affected and disrupted by these and related concerns.

I receive updates on Haiti from Mark Schuller who worshiped with Flushing Meeting when he lived in New York and has been traveling to Haiti and writing about Haiti for a number of years. I pass these updates along to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Morningside Meeting, which carries a continuing concern for the People of Haiti. I would be happy to share these updates with anyone who is interested in receiving them. I also welcome requests for information, programs, and collaboration by NYYM Friends and committees where our concerns overlap. I continue to believe in having a presence in the Yearly Meeting with these concerns.

Naomi Paz Greenberg, resource person

National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund & Peace Tax Foundation

No report submitted.

National Religious Campaign against Torture

No report submitted

New Jersey Council of Churches

The board of the New Jersey Council of Churches (NJCC) meets twice a year, weather permitting, at their office in Trenton, New Jersey. The office has one paid employee who coordinates board and committee meetings as well as sharing relevant information to members via email.

Each member of the board is involved in Christian ministry either professionally or as dedicated volunteers, as pastors, teachers, counselors, and administrators.

At this time, efforts are directed towards improving services to inner city adults and youth living in low-income or poverty situations.

A good deal of energy has been directed towards improving and reducing the length of stay in solitary confinement within the NJ Department of Corrections.

Each year the NJCC hosts several informative conferences and lectures open to the public as well as members.

Kate Lawson, Representative to the Governing Board

New York State Council of Churches

No report submitted.

Prisons Committee

The Light behind the Walls

The work of the Prisons Committee is grounded in our faith that there is that of God in each person, that gives to each of us the possibility of change and transformation as we listen to that still, small voice. To witness to that possibility to people who are incarcerated in prisons is to give them the opportunity to see themselves in a different light and to communicate the opportunity to change through spiritual growth. This helps us ground ourselves in the practice of our faith.

This year we have continued to supply worship groups with copies of *Faith & Practice* and other materials, which the Worship Groups use to inform themselves more deeply about the Religious Society of Friends. Several of the worship groups have held Days of Reflection, retreats or quarterly meetings this year, when they have had the opportunity to reflect on the relevance of our testimonies and other topics. We work to support a greater grounding in our faith. (Priority 1 of the approved Statement of Leadings and Priorities)

This year we have seen some shrinkage in the number of worship groups, and attendance has been down in most of them. Both the Eastern and Sullivan Worship Groups have been laid down. A number of factors have contributed to this. Some men have been released and some have died. There have been many transfers to other correctional facilities. Some of the men who have been transferred have requested a Quaker meeting, but in one case, the Clinton Correctional Facility has turned the request down. At all three meetings of the Prisons Commit-

tee this year, volunteers have expressed frustration with the difficulties various worship groups have been having with the Department of Corrections. Retreats, quarterly meetings and Days of Reflection have been disallowed. It has been difficult to get volunteer paperwork processed. A meeting with the Department of Corrections is needed and we hope that such a meeting will take place in 2015, which we hope will strengthen these worship groups.

In June this year we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Auburn Prison Preparative Meeting. The event brought together many Friends from around the Yearly Meeting who had participated in the Meeting during its history. The men spoke of the Meeting as one of the few places where they are treated as human beings.

These prison worship groups serve many of the same functions as a monthly meeting. They introduce attenders to Quakerism, conduct Quaker studies, and participate in business meetings. As these worship groups are often under the care of regional and monthly meetings, serving these worship groups serves the monthly meetings. Over the years Friends from prison worship groups have been accepted into monthly meeting membership while still incarcerated. Some have been active members upon release. By assisting these groups to become strong and vital, the NYYM Prisons Committee strengthens monthly meetings. Money to support travel of volunteers and special speakers to various Worship Groups contributes to the vitality of the groups. (Priority 2)

Men in prison are often isolated, receiving no visits or letters for years at a time. Some of the money in our budget goes for Christmas and birthday cards and motto calendars. These are sent both to men in the worship groups and to anyone who has formerly been part of a worship group. Men are often transferred to facilities that do not have a worship group. The cards, calendars, and food that the Prisons Committee may provide for special events are a form of nurture for people who have received very little care. In a number of cases the cards and calendars may be the only mail someone who is incarcerated receives. It is important to the men that they are remembered and cared for. Providing the sense that they are “seen” conveys

our faith in the growth and change we hope to support. We hope to maintain a sense of connection and where possible establish new worship groups. In addition, money is set aside to help the formerly incarcerated attend NYYM to give them the opportunity to participate in the body. (Priority 3)

Because many members of the Yearly Meeting have been involved in prison work of various kinds, we are aware of the problems associated with incarceration and re-entry. For that reason we have contributed to organizations that work on these issues or assist the formerly incarcerated with re-entry. We have contributed to the Redemption Center, run by a former member of one of our worship groups, and which is a facility to which some members of our prison worship groups are released. At our table at Summer Sessions, we provided material on some of the issues that are the result of mass incarceration. We have had discussions on the solitary confinement minute. In these ways we hope to witness our faith to the world. (Priority 5)

Angel Ramos, for the Prisons Committee

Right Sharing of World Resources

The year 2014 was one of transition for Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR). With the resignation in April of our general secretary, Betty Tonsing, we returned to search mode. Sylvia Graves once again graciously stepped in as interim general secretary while the search committee carried out its work. A key to its successful completion was the realization that the pool of potential candidates would be much larger if the new general secretary were not required to move to Richmond, Indiana, where the office is located.

In December, the board approved the appointment of Jacqueline (Jackie) Stillwell, a Friend from New Hampshire, who has been an avid supporter of RSWR since her teenage years. Jackie understands Friends; she is currently completing her term as clerk of New England Yearly Meeting. She was previously the executive director of the Meeting School, and brings from that experience and others an understanding of fundraising, which RSWR so critically needs. She will travel frequently to Richmond, but otherwise will work remotely. The other members of the staff, Todd Knight and Sarah Northrop,

live in Richmond and the office will remain there.

It is of course disruptive to lose a general secretary, but the interim months were not time wasted. When an organization has a strong leader as its executive, the board may be content to follow that person's lead. In the absence of our general secretary, the board of RSWR has settled in to its proper function, developing policy and devising fundraising plans.

Within New York Yearly Meeting, there is a faithful contingent of RSWR supporters. Any of those Friends who would be interested in forming a working group to make RSWR better known among us are warmly invited to get in touch with our "point person," Mary Eagleson.

Distributions from the Sharing Fund paid to RSWR during the year 2014 were \$2461.88. This is a little less than half the cost of a typical grant to a grassroots NGO in India, Kenya, or Sierra Leone.

As Friends are aware, Sierra Leone is one of the three West African nations hard hit by the ebola epidemic. There was so much illness, and so many deaths, that the nation's food supply has been compromised. Working with our partner organization in that country, the YMCA of Sierra Leone, RSWR first assisted with efforts to contain the spread of the disease through dissemination of information; now, we hope to increase the number of grants we can make to help people replant and rebuild. Towards that end, the Witness Coordinating Committee has set aside \$1,000 and the World Ministries Committee has pledged \$1,000 in additional contributions, earmarked for use in Sierra Leone.

These funds were received by RSWR at a critical time. The board very much wanted to fund more than the usual number of grants to projects in Sierra Leone, but was aware that there are costs of supporting a project in addition to the amount of the grant sent to them. To be successful, groups of desperately poor women need support in the form of visitation and training by our field representatives, and the cost of this work is accounted for separately from the grant amounts. The extra \$2,000 provided by New York Yearly Meeting made up for most of the additional support costs and the board did approve eight projects in Sierra Leone, rather than the two or three it has approved in the past.

Mary Eagleson, RSWR resource person

Rural and Migrant Ministry

Rural and Migrant Ministry (RMM) has several well-established projects that promote youth empowerment. Youth Arts Group (YAG) is described in its mission statement as a culturally diverse group in which high school-age individuals come together with a determination to create change in their lives and communities. The Youth Economic Group (YEG) based in Liberty has the goal of encouraging young people to work cooperatively in creating economic opportunities that result in positive change in their lives. In the Poughkeepsie area there is a summer camp program and there is a newer smaller day camp in Sodus.

Other efforts of Rural and Migrant Ministry are directed toward increasing the awareness of issues related to migrant workers among state legislators and within faith communities. The organization has hardworking and dedicated staff members and volunteers.

In my two years of association with RMM, I have been uncomfortable with some areas of incompatibility between their organizational procedures and Quaker process. More significantly, I have also seen that a commitment to existing programs coupled with financial limitations makes it unlikely that the organization will be able to expand in the near future to embrace the issues of farm workers in central New York to which I personally am committed. I therefore made the personal decision to resign as liaison between NYYM and RMM and as a board member of RMM.

In spite of my personal decision, I would like to be sure that NYYM Friends are aware that Rural and Migrant Ministries does fill a role in New York State and among religious communities that I do not believe is being filled by any other organization active in multiple areas of the state.

Jane Simkin, representative

William Penn House

No report submitted

Committee on World Ministries

The World Ministries Committee (WMC) is a grant-making committee that has as its “ministry” the ability to bring about changes in the world by funding the leadings of NYYM Friends through the work of dedicated local meetings and Quaker organizations. With funds from bequests and the Sharing Fund, WMC has been active since 1889 in supporting projects worldwide that encourage peace, education, trauma healing, and assistance with emergencies.

Grant applications are received throughout the year via email to the clerk. The committee meets twice a year, or more often if warranted, via teleconference, usually in late May or June and again in late November. Prior to the teleconference, the grant applications are disseminated electronically for review to all committee members.

Each application must have a budget, a general timetable for implementation of the project, and also a NYYM member (or members) who will take responsibility for oversight to insure that the funds will be used within the parameters of the grant request. The committee also requires a brief report after nine months on the project.

If approved, grant requests are also based on the amount of funds available to the committee at the time of the teleconference.

This fiscal year, WMC approved grants to:

Orchard Park Friends Meeting – textbooks and shipping for Crossroads Springs Friends School, Hamasi, Kenya

Brooklyn Friends School – for a teaching project with donated laptops at Kisangura Friends School in Tanzania

Schenectady Meeting – for famine relief, distributed by Friends in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Bolivian Quaker Education Fund – Newton Garver Scholarship Fund, for scholarships for two students for one year each

Youth Service Opportunities Program – for the Fellows Program

FWCC-Section of Americas – to assist with training and support of traveling ministers in Central and South America

Friends Peace Teams-Asia West Pacific – four scholarships for preschool teachers who use AVP in their school and parenting education

Friends United Meeting – sponsorship of three rural Kenyan girls from Turkana and Samburu to attend secondary school

Friends United Meeting – workshops with AGLI (African Gr Lakes Initiative); partial support for the ministry of Friends Church Peace Team Program Coordinator

Cuba Yearly Meeting – grant administered by FUM; rebuilding and repair of Quaker meetinghouse in Holguin, Cuba for permanent Institute of Peace (materials only)

Cuba Yearly Meeting/Cuba Institute of Peace – administered by Friends United Meeting; courses at Cuba Institute of Peace about Quakerism for ministers in Cuba

Right Sharing of World Resources – for their cooperative work with “team partners” in Sierra Leone to help fight the Ebola epidemic

We who serve on WMC feel blessed that we have the ability to enable Friends to do this work by spreading “Quaker love in the wider world” to those who need our help. It is to that end that NYYM Friends are encouraged to apply for grant funds. We feel strongly that in this ministry, within our limited means, WMC does make a difference!

Requirements for grant proposals are posted on nyym.org and inquiries to the clerk are always welcome. Email to: 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, the clerks of the four coordinating committees, and the general secretary. The Yearly Meeting clerk serves as clerk of the Liaison Committee. 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, the Yearly Meeting reading clerks, and a representative from Junior Yearly Meeting. The Liaison

Committee is responsible for planning Coordinating Committee weekend, usually held in late January at Powell House.

The Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Yearly Meeting and Yearly Meeting clerk as needed. The Committee continues its practice of meeting 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.

Throughout the year the Liaison Committee discussed the ongoing business of the Yearly Meeting with particular attention to the work of committees under the various sections (General Services, Ministry, Nurture, and Witness). At Fall Sessions 2014 the Committee brought forward a minute clarifying the role of the Yearly meeting clerk and general secretary when acting upon matters in between business sessions. Over the course of the year the Committee has labored under the weight of a concern for implementing the Statement of Leadings and Priorities approved at Summer Sessions 2014. With the laying down of the Priorities Working Group at Spring Sessions 2015, the Liaison Committee has taken on the work of coordinating this work at the level of the Yearly Meeting organization and currently is in the midst of discerning way forward.

Jeffrey L. Hitchcock, clerk of New York Yearly Meeting