

Community Companion

Quaker House:
3960 Winding Way, Cincinnati, OH 45229-1950
(513) 861-4353

<https://www.quakercloud.org/cloud/community-friends-meeting>



Photo by
Eugenia
Mills.
Meeting
house
with solar
panels

Volume 22, Issue 3 March, 2016

Presiding Clerk:

Lisa Cayard

Interim Assistant Clerk:

Mary Anne Curtiss

Recording Clerk:

Paul Buckley

Assistant recording clerk:

Rachel Gill

Treasurer:

Lynn Funck

Ministry and Counsel:

Ken Bordwell

Lisa Cayard (ex officio)

Frank Huss

Deborah Jordan

Tim Leonard

Sunny Rhein (SA)

John Sniegocki

SA= special assignment

Newsletter:

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Submissions for the April newsletter due by: Monday,
March 28, 2016 to Jean Crocker-Lakness

Calendar

All events and meetings take place at the Meeting House unless otherwise noted.

**Singing 9:45 am, Meeting
for Worship 10 am**

Second Hour or Carry in Potluck @ 11:40 am

Midweek Meeting for worship Thursdays at 7pm

March 6 Carry In Potluck Meal after Meeting for Worship
FUN Committee appreciates and encourages locally grown food when possible.
Communitycommittee asks that if you bring something that needs to be heated before eating, please
attach brief instructions to your container. Also, it's helpful to mention the name & ingredients of the
dish - thanks!

March 12 Climate change workshop 1:00-4:30. See page 4

March 13 Second Hour: Meeting for Worship with attention to Business

March 20 extended worship starting at 8AM.

March 20 Second Hour: Outreach Committee: Who we Are and What we Offer

March 27 Second Hour: Intergenerational Activity-Easter Egg Hunt

Looking ahead: Registration for FGC's Gathering opens on April 1. See page 3 for more info

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Caretakers: John Sniegocki and Elizabeth Groppe Childcare: Rachel Piepsny

Third Query from OYVM Book of Discipline, 1978: Social Relations; Universal Love

Are love and unity fostered among you? Do you manifest a forgiving spirit and a care for the
reputation of others? If differences threaten harmony among your members, is prompt action taken in a
spirit of meekness and love? Do you visit one another frequently? Do you keep in touch with inactive and
distant members?

February 14, 2016 Business Meeting summary submitted by Paul Buckley

Seventeen Friends opened the business meeting with a period of worship during which the presiding clerk read from Britain Yearly Meeting's *Quaker Faith and Practice*:

In our meetings for worship we seek through the stillness to know God's will for ourselves and for the gathered group. Our meetings for...business are also meetings for worship based on silence, and they carry the same expectation that God's guidance can be discerned if we are truly listening together and to each other... We have a common purpose in seeking God's will through waiting and listening, believing that every activity of life should be subject to divine guidance.

The **Treasurer** presented a report for January 2016. Expenses are a bit low so far this year, but income was only half of what is needed each month. The General Fund has a current balance of \$2,138.70. That is 5% of the budgeted expenses on hand – a bit below the target of 6%.

In 2015, the **Cannon Fund Report** disbursed \$3,200 for Peace & Social Concerns and \$3,140 for Spiritual Enrichment. An additional \$3,275 in discretionary funds were given out. This left \$383.43 undisbursed. The current balance in the Cannon Fund is \$125,167.94.

The trustees have allocated a total of \$6,773.88 this year – \$2,257.96 for each purpose. One trustee explained the formula for how they decide how much of the fund they will give away each year.

It was observed that some of the grants were made to members who are less active in the meeting, but there was consensus that making grants to young people and others who may not be as active as we hope are a good use of the funds and a way to help with members' spiritual development.

Twenty-one people are registered for the Friends General Conference **Long Range Conference Planning Committee Meeting**. Both Community Friends and Eastern Hills have stepped up to provide what is needed. Cincinnati Friends Meeting has also offered to help. We are touched by Friends generosity in opening their homes to traveling Friends.

The **Religious Development Committee** is looking for help with childcare during the Xavier University spring break in the last week of March. If you know anyone who is available please let them know.

During Quarterly Meeting on February 21, they are planning to take the children to the Art Museum and possibly Krohn Conservatory or the zoo.

Nominating Committee met for the first time this year and was mainly concerned with assigning responsibility for the committees to committee members. They anticipate some openings in committees for next year. Ministry & Counsel is still looking for one more member for Nominating Committee.

Stewardship Committee reported income in January is about half of what is needed each month, which raises concern on the committee. A fair share letter to members may be considered if income does not increase.

The committee looked at two of the smaller restricted funds:

- **Prison Ministry Fund:** Two committee members will talk to the donor's widower about how to use the remaining funds.
- **Youth Ministry to Those in Need Fund:** Any remaining balance was clearly designated by its donor to go to General Fund when it is laid down, so this will be done.

Three committee members are working on a letter asking friends to consider Community Friends Meeting in their wills. A draft for a new Community Friends gift policy is under review, including how to handle larger gifts and gifts in different forms. There is \$621 left in the **Teen Trip Fund**. Stewardship Committee asked the business meeting to consider if that money should be rolled over into the Cannon Fund or given to the OVYM Teen Fund. The OVYM Treasurer confirmed that the yearly meeting could accept a restricted donation for their Teen Fund. Some Friends spoke in favor of allocating the funds to the Cannon Fund where it could be used for our members, including future teens and current young adults, to make Quaker related trips. Other Friends spoke in favor of making sure the money goes toward teen trips by giving it to OVYM. The meeting **approved** giving the \$621 to the OVYM Teen Fund.

It was suggested that the Stewardship Committee consider an audit at this time of year.

The **House & Grounds Committee** has purchased and installed a new dishwasher, a portable audio recording system, and three new phones. The recording system will be stored with the video equipment. Friends expressed gratitude for their hard work and for the new dishwasher.

The **Adult Religious Education Committee** will have a joint project with Outreach Committee to provide before meeting events. The **Ministry & Counsel Committee's** review of the extended worship on January 3rd was positive. It will be tried, as an experiment, each third Sunday from 8am to 11am through June. The next would be February 21. The meeting was concerned that this will not be a good date due to several committee meetings being held during that time,

Summary of minutes from 2/14/16, continued

Ministry and Counsel Committee report continued.

Miami Quarterly being held here that day, and that it was not announced after Meeting for Worship this morning. The next extended worship will be March 20, starting at 8AM.

The committee has begun work on the state of the meeting report. Committee clerks are asked to provide input on the activities of their committee in 2015.

The committee recommended approval of two Youth Memberships. Both requests were joyfully **approved**. A welcoming committee for our newest members was named.

The seven members did not respond to a final inquiry letter sent over a year ago. The committee recommended that they be removed from membership in Community Friends. It was noted that although these Friends were not active they may still have Community Friends in their hearts and that occasionally inactive Friends or their family still make donations to the meeting. OVYM sets our suggested contribution based on the number of members on our books so we do have a financial reason to trim inactive members. This action was **approved** with two members standing aside.

The committee recommended approving a request to transfer two memberships and two youth memberships to Miami Monthly Meeting in Waynesville, Ohio. The request caused sadness and led to a period of tender reflection. It was with heavy hearts that we **approved** this request.

The **Outreach Working Group** facilitated a second hour last month and will have a second hour next month, as well. They will coordinate their proposed 9AM Sunday sessions with the Adult Religious Education Committee.

Eastern Hills and Cincinnati Friends Meetings have yet to bring the question of co-hosting **Diversity Event** to a business meeting, although it seems likely both will approve that and provide some financial support.

A member who has been instrumental in these events the last two years expects to be visiting with his children and grandchildren in August and will not be able to take the lead in all the last minute work that will need to be done then. Either another person will need to take on that role or we need to move the date of the event.

At its January 20th meeting, the **Peace & Social Concerns Committee** selected a new clerk. The goal for this meeting was to evaluate the committee's direction going forward.

The committee has decided to focus on supporting the individual activities of each committee member while it discerns its broader direction for the year moving forward. Emphasis is on: AMOS, Kiros, FCNL, lobbying efforts, early childhood pre-school initiatives, prison ministry needs and Health Care for All Ohioans.

Report on the OVYM Executive Meeting

- The Treasurer's Report was unremarkable. The Audit Committee reviewed the books and found them in order.
- The Teen and Middle Youth Committees will be seeking a Youth Secretary, probably a half time position, who will be a combined teen and middle youth staff person.
- Religious Nurture & Education Committee is planning a retreat on April 23 at Quaker Hill in Richmond. The theme will be "Bringing Newcomers and Elders Together."
- The OVYM Nominating Committee is barely functioning with only one current member. A task force was appointed to address this problem. If anyone feels led to serve, please contact Deborah Jordan for more information.
- The 196th annual sessions will be July 27-31 at Earlham College. The theme is "One in Spirit: Becoming a More Inclusive Religious Society." Workshops will be Friday and Saturday. Two plenary speakers have been selected.
- We are looking forward to sharing the campus with Friends Music Camp for the first time.

FGC's Gathering for more info visit <http://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering>

The Gathering this year is July 3- July 9 at the College of Saint Benedict, St. Joseph, MN (near St. Cloud, MN)

St. Joseph MN, site of the 2016 Gathering campus, is in the center of Minnesota, on the upper reaches of the mighty Mississippi River. It is at the confluence of the Great Plains, the Northern Central Hardwood Forests and the Northern Boreal Forests. There are many local parks and nature reserves for swimming, hiking, canoeing, even horseback riding.

Early Registration is April 1-10, 2016. All full-time registrations completed with this period will have equal access to workshops and housing options, and priority consideration for financial assistance.

2016 Theme: be humble, Be Faithful, BE BOLD



Join us for

Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream

Attend a free workshop created by the Pachamama Alliance (pachamama.org) —the community that's committed to bringing forth an environmentally sustainable, spiritually fulfilling, socially just human presence on this planet.

- Learn where we are as a human family and how we got here.
- Discover your role in creating a sustainable future.
- Connect with like-minded, openhearted people.

Sponsored by Unity with Nature Committee, Community Friends Meeting

Facilitated by Gail Miller and Sally Sherman of Pachamama Alliance of Cincinnati Area

Date: Saturday, March 12, 2016

Time: 1:00pm to 4:30pm

(Donations welcome)

Location: Community Friends Meeting, 3960 Winding Way, Cincinnati, OH. 45229

RSVP: by March 7th to Bill Cahalan at earthawaken2@yahoo.com or [513 251-2558](tel:5132512558)