

# Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative

## Annual Report from Yearly Meeting Clerk

9/24/2016

Dear Friends,

The beginning of autumn heralds time for the clerk's annual fall letter, bearing useful information for you monthly meetings to use from our Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) 139th annual session. As you'll read in the beautiful "Epistle to Friends Everywhere" and Junior Yearly Meeting Epistle, this was a warm and special time together. Our theme was *"Be Not Afraid, I Am with You"*, and both the IYMC Friends and the guest speakers who shaped the offerings on this theme each evening gave us different paths into understanding this central tenet of our faith. The efforts to improve the sound system over these past years in the meeting house culminated in new microphones that worked beautifully! (One of our guests wanted to learn more about our sound system so he could take the information back to his home meeting!)

The information your monthly meeting needs for this upcoming year are in the included committee reports and you now have it before the printed minutes are available.

### **Scattergood Reports:**

Both the School and the School Committee were especially excited to talk about what is going on at Scattergood School and Farm. Has it ever been clearer just how valuable and important it is to help shape inquiring and compassionate souls who are unafraid to think critically? Our yearly meeting is small, but the opportunity to make a lasting impact for the good in the world through education is anything but. The Scattergood Academic, Head, Farm, and School Committee Reports are included with this letter.

### **Peace and Social Concerns:**

As in years past, the Peace and Social Concerns Committee did a lot of work on our behalf, and the yearly meeting wrestled with what they brought before us in two sessions. Included with this letter are Peace & Social Concerns Report as well as two minutes that were brought forth and approved by the yearly meeting.

The yearly meeting also requested the ym clerk send different versions of letters to our Congressional Representatives regarding proposed House (H.R. 3713 & H.R. 759) and Senate (S.2123) legislation on sentencing reform. Those letters were sent. Copies of the letters and the information about whether who was or was not a co-sponsor of the legislation was recently sent out to everyone receiving this letter. (the "mm clerks and contacts list")

In the interest of trying to make this long letter as short as possible, I am not including those letters again. If anyone would like to get another copy of the earlier e-mail with the letters and information, just ask and I will be glad to re-send it.

**Some new things to notice in other reports:**

**"Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Possibilities" ad hoc committee:**

Finding ways to deepen the connections between members and the yearly meeting, and making participation in ym possible for anyone who is interested is a goal shared by many of us. We approved forming an ad hoc "Possibilities Committee", convened by Carole Winkleblack, to look into these matters. In the Representative's Report, you will read that each monthly meeting will be asked for one person to serve on this committee. Please be thinking about this so you will be ready when Carole contacts you.

We are also looking to see if there are ways to simplify some of our business. In response to the first, you will read in the Nominating Report, that we have approved making our Nominating committee a "standing committee", convened by A.M. Fink, and able to do its work throughout the year, as need arises.

**In this letter are the following to be shared with your monthly meetings. All are included as separate attachments for ease of forwarding and printing in multiple copies for use as you need and use them:**

- The approved roster of Yearly Meeting Committees and representatives to wider Quaker organizations. This is in the **Nominating Report**. Please make sure that members of your meeting know what committees they have been appointed to so they can fully participate in the work of the Yearly Meeting.
- The approved budget for FY 16/17 and the apportionments for the monthly meetings. This is in the **Representatives report**. Monthly meetings are asked to pay their apportionments monthly, quarterly, or twice a year instead of waiting until next year to send the total. Scattergood Friends School and representatives to wider Quaker bodies are dependent on us having enough in our accounts to cover our promised support.
- Our **Epistle to Friends Everywhere** and the **Epistle from our Young Friends** who were so lovingly cared for by Thomas Greenler.
- The closing minute of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative, as a simple way to share our experience of the YM in session.

Our Midyear Meeting will be held at Bear Creek on 3/25-26th 2017.

Next year's annual sessions will be held 7/25 to 7/30/ 2017.

In the meantime, while separated by physical distance, we remain together in faith.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions that I can help with.

I look forward to seeing you Bear Creek, Third Month.

love,

Deborah Dakin, clerk