

NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING
FALL SESSIONS
(formerly known as Representative Meeting)
December 3–4, 2005
Albany Academy for Girls

Saturday, December 3, 2005

Linda Chidsey, Clerk
Ernestine Buscemi, Assistant Clerk
Lee Haring, Recording Clerk
Anne Wright, Reading Clerk

Friends gathered in worshipful silence. The clerk introduced those at the clerks' table. Dorothy Garner welcomed Friends on behalf of the widespread monthly meetings and worship groups comprising Northeastern Regional Meeting. The Reading Clerk read the roll call, and Friends stood as their meetings were called.

2005-12-1. Norma Ellis (Scarsdale) read the Epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting, held 30 July to 6th August 2005. As British Friends consider structural changes in their yearly meeting, they try to remember that God is at the center of their time together, that the challenges within and outside their meeting may cause discomfort, and that being a people of God is both rewarding and costly.

2005-12-2. Paula McClure (Montclair), Clerk of General Services, introduced the business of that section. Harold Risler (Buffalo) presented the treasurer's report (as of the end of October 2005), which was distributed to Friends as they arrived. Estimated contributions indicate that the meeting will have enough money to pay its bills this year.

2005-12-3. Paula introduced Thomas Martin (Wilton) to present the 2006 budget of \$544,220, which was printed in *Spark*, and to describe the budget-making process. This budget, he said, was again unbalanced, but is lower than the budget for 2005. After discussion by a number of Friends, who recounted the way their home meetings have considered their contributions, and their sense of the challenges facing the Yearly Meeting, Friends approved the proposed budget.

2005-12-4. Paula proposed covenant donations for the constituent meetings totaling \$490,400. These were accepted, as printed in *Spark*.

2005-12-5. Paula introduced Christopher Sammond (Bulls Head-Oswego) to present his general secretary's report. After a moment of silence, instead of reading his printed report (already distributed), Christopher spoke out of a present concern for "wrangling" in the yearly meeting, which he connected to our lack of growth. If wrangling takes up most of a community's energy, he said, none is left over for spiritual advance. To prevent unproductive interactions with one another, we need a vision of where we are going. Our call, he felt, is to create the Peaceable Kingdom, the Commonwealth of God. He concluded: "When the quality of our laboring with each other is more important than any decision we might reach; when the faithfulness of our leaders and of the body is so powerful that we are bound together by it into deep fellowship; when we can take up difficult and painful topics such as child sexual abuse, racism, abortion, or the budget with equanimity and care for one another, lest any one of us stumble; when love and truth are inexorably wed, permitting neither empty saccharine nor slicing arguments; when we lovingly speak difficult truths to one another instead of remaining mute; when we can listen with love and tenderness to someone we vehemently disagree with, seeking to hear that piece of the truth that is for us; then, Friends, then we will be close to living in the Peaceable Kingdom, the Commonwealth of God. Then we will have a taste of what Fox was referring to when he said the power of the Lord was over all, and we will become patterns and examples, a living testimony in the witness of our being. We will know peace, and we will be peace. We will spread peace through the power of our witness, and instead of trying to make peace in the world while wrangling with each other, our meeting shall be a wellspring of peace we share outward, and we shall know that power that takes away the occasion for all wars."

2005-12-6. One Friend wondered whether we could consider a retreat for the entire Yearly Meeting. Melanie-Claire Mallison (Ithaca) announced such a retreat, "Nurturing Our Yearly Meeting, Nurturing Our Selves," sponsored by the Nurture Coordinating Committee, to be held at Powell House on December 16-18.

2005-12-7. Paula introduced Julia Giordano (Bulls Head-Oswego), clerk of the Powell House Committee. Space needs for the Powell House weekend conferences have led Old Chatham Friends to make a commitment to building their own meeting house. If the Yearly Meeting approves, five acres of the Powell House property will be leased to Old Chatham Monthly Meeting for this purpose. Christine

(Spee) Braun (Old Chatham), clerk of Old Chatham Meeting, said that the growth of that meeting, especially its First-Day School, over recent years, and the need for increasing the meeting's visibility are reasons in favor of the building project. She asked Friends to hold Old Chatham Meeting in the light as the project goes forward. The lease is being considered by the Yearly Meeting Trustees, with encouragement from Friends present.

2005-12-8. Benjamin Frisch (Brooklyn) presented a minute of travel from New York Quarterly Meeting for S. Jean Smith (Manhattan), who will survey Lugulu and Kaimosi hospitals in Kenya, in preparation for the writing of grant proposals for their restoration and improvement. The clerk is directed to endorse this minute.

The minutes were read and approved.

Saturday, December 4, 2005

Linda Chidsey, Clerk
Ernestine Buscemi, Assistant Clerk
Karen Way, Recording Clerk
Rima Segal, Reading Clerk

2005-12-9. The meeting opened in worship.

2005-12-10. Roger Dreisbach-Williams (Rahway-Plainfield) read from the Epistle of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, 2005. Exploring their annual session theme of "Called To Be Merciful," Friends described the flow of divine love that creates Gospel Order and makes possible a merciful community. The call for mercy moved Friends to take action against torture, against the death penalty, and in favor of restorative justice, extending the hope of peace outward to the world and inward, toward divisions in the Quaker community

2005-12-11. After introducing those at the clerks' table, the Clerk turned over the task of clerking to Assistant Clerk Ernestine Buscemi (Morningside).

2005-12-12. Deborah Wood, clerk of the Coordinating Committee for Ministry and Counsel, introduced Christopher Sammond, who reported on the creation of a series of Powell House weekends titled "Drawing Out Gifts," designed to nurture gifts in Friends within New York Yearly Meeting. Four weekends are scheduled for 2006

and two for 2007. Friends are urged to identify and encourage those in their meetings who could benefit from these workshops.

2005-12-13. Deborah then introduced Joanna Komoska (Peconic Bay), clerk of the Committee on Conflict Transformation, who asked Cheshire Frager (Flushing) to describe a special five-day intensive workshop on conflict resolution being offered January 19–23. It is expected that participants in the workshop will form the base of a Yearly Meeting resource for spiritual resolution of problems within the Quaker community. Representatives from as many monthly meetings as possible are sought.

2005-12-14. Melanie-Claire Mallison (Ithaca), clerk of Nurture Coordinating Committee, introduced Alexander Haines-Stephan and Joanna Hoyt, who reported on the first World Gathering of Young Friends in twenty years, held on August 16–24, 2005, at Lancaster University, United Kingdom. Young people of very different Quaker traditions and politics found community there in a powerful working of the spirit. Alex Haines-Stephan reported on climbing Pendle Hill and read the Epistle written by the gathering. Alex challenged us to seek community with Friends who do not think or worship as we do, that we might feel as the young people felt, “open, amazed, stretched, and blessed.” Joanna Hoyt reported that her eyes and her heart had been opened. She encountered Friends with many different expectations, practices, and definitions of Quakerism, who were nevertheless able, at times, to feel the flowing of the Spirit that needs no words. Together they shared the deep experience of being united in striving to choose love, to live in faithfulness, and to be brave enough to be open to new leadings. Joanna concluded, “The harvest is only beginning.”

2005-12-15. Paula McClure of the Transition Working Group asked for approval for having the Worship and Action Group turn over the Peace Initiatives Fund to the Witness Activities Fund, in order to support the peace witness of monthly and regional meetings. The balance in the fund as of October 31, 2005, was \$2,512.57, with a few vouchers outstanding. Friends approved the transfer of the fund.

The Transition Working Group also affirmed the need for the various functions that the Worship and Action Group has filled within the Yearly Meeting. The TWG will bring recommendations to the Spring Sessions of the Yearly Meeting.

2005-12-16. Anita Paul (Schenectady) of Witness Coordinating

Committee announced that the 2006 goal for the Sharing Fund is \$50,000. This is \$5,000 more than previously gathered. Friends accepted the report.

2005-12-17. Anita then brought forth a minute originally proposed by the Committee for Right Sharing of World Resources and approved by Witness Coordinating Committee in October 2005.

New York Yearly Meeting commits itself, corporately and as individuals, to explore how we may facilitate meeting the minimum needs of all. We all have an impact. The products we choose to purchase, how we invest our money, and our lifestyles all play a role. We commit ourselves to doing research, educating ourselves, and sharing the results with each other so that we may all, as we feel led, be part of the solution.

After discussion, Friends approved asking Witness Coordinating Committee to send the minute to monthly and regional meetings for prayerful consideration. The committee hopes to receive responses from meetings regarding the minute, including thoughts on how to implement the commitment the minute describes.

Friends received minutes from Long Island Quarter, also related to meeting the minimum needs of all, as follows:

1. Long Island Quarterly Meeting approves the definition of meeting the minimum needs of all peoples to be adequate drinking water, nutrition, clothing, and housing, primary health care, and five years of primary education.
2. Long Island Quarterly Meeting approves the widest communication about the critical circumstances of the global poor and of minimum needs by the year 2003.
3. LIQM approves the efforts of Friends, working with other faith-based groups, to encourage the World Bank and the World Trade Organization to work toward meeting the minimum needs of all peoples, as defined in the first of these three minutes.

Witness Coordinating Committee will send the Long Island minutes to monthly meetings as well.

These minutes will be revisited at the Spring Sessions of New York Yearly Meeting.

2005-12-18. The reading clerk read an endorsement from a community in Indonesia to the travel minute for Nadine Hoover. Friends received the returned minute.

2005-12-19. The reading clerk also read endorsements from communities in Bolivia to the travel minute for Newton Garver. Friends received the returned minute.

2005-12-20. The following Friends were appointed to the services indicated. Delegates to Friends World Committee for Consultation Triennial, August 2007, Frederick Dettmer (Purchase), Judith Inskip (Purchase), Valerie Matthews (Shelter Island), Helen Garay Toppins (Morningside), 1st Alternate, Robert Baldrige (Fifteenth Street), 2nd Alternate, Radh Achuthan (Peconic Bay); National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund, Class of 2008, Jeffrey Bird (Summit); Friends Peace Teams, Class of 2008, Carolyn Keys (Montclair).

2005-12-21. The following Friends were released from the services indicated. Advancement:, Cinda Putman, Albany, Class of 2007; FWCC Committee, Alice Vedova, Ridgewood, Class of 2006; Peace Concerns, Thomas Rothschild, Brooklyn, Class of 2006; General Services Coordinating Committee, Mary Williams, Bulls Head-Oswego, Class of 2006.

2005-12-22. Milford Lester, clerk of Northeastern Regional Meeting, thanked Friends for attending, as well as those in Northeastern Regional Meeting who worked on Fall Sessions.

2005-12-23. Friends charged the Clerk and the general secretary to work in consultation with the Worship and Action group to create a public message regarding the abduction of four members of the Christian Peacemaker Team in Iraq, including Tom Fox, a member of Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

2005-12-24. The minutes of the session were read and approved.

2005-12-25. The meeting closed with worship.

**NEW YORK YEARLY MEETING
SPRING SESSION**

(formerly known as Representative Meeting)

April 1–2, 2006

Busch Campus, Rutgers University, Piscataway, New Jersey

Saturday, April 1, 2006

*Linda Chidsey, Clerk
Ernestine Buscemi, Assistant Clerk
Lee Haring, Recording Clerk
Anne Wright, Reading Clerk*

2006-04-1. Friends gathered in worship at 10:00 A.M.. The Clerk welcomed Friends, introduced those at the clerks' table, and explained adjustments to the schedule, which were intended to provide more spaciousness in our worship for business. The reading clerk called the roll, and Friends stood in response.

2006-04-2. Paula McClure (Montclair), clerk of General Services, presented the final Treasurer's Report for 2005. She pointed out that the Yearly Meeting in 2005 succeeded in holding down spending. In response to a question, Paula explained the present method of covenant donations to the Yearly Meeting, which are based on Friends' sense of commitment. Friends received the year-end report. Paula then presented the report for the first two months of 2006. Friends received this report.

2006-04-3. Paula introduced George McClure (Montclair), clerk of trustees, who in turn introduced James Oltman (Purchase) to present a recommendation of the trustees that Powell House be allowed to lease land to Old Chatham Monthly Meeting for the building of a meeting-house. Friends were reminded that the Powell House property was conveyed by deed from New York Yearly Meeting to Powell House. Under the terms of that deed, any conveyance of the kind proposed by Powell House and Old Chatham Monthly Meeting requires the specific approval of New York Yearly Meeting. The trustees recommend as follows.

The proposed ground lease between Powell House and Old Chatham Monthly Meeting is approved in principle, and the Yearly Meeting Trustees, when they are satisfied that appropriate minor changes in the terms of the lease have been made, are authorized to approve the lease on behalf of New York Yearly Meeting.

The lease provides that in the event of dispute or serious disagree-

ment between the parties, they may avail themselves of whatever dispute-mediation or -resolution procedures may be available from the Yearly Meeting. Friends approved the recommendation; the clerk expressed thanks to those who have worked toward this goal, and to God for blessings.

2006-04-4. Christopher Sammond, general secretary, spoke to his report, which was distributed in writing. He mentioned increases in membership and “a fresh wind of the Spirit blowing across this Yearly Meeting.” Changes in the last three issues in *Spark* have been well received by Friends; some meetings have asked to reprint articles and hand them out to newcomers. The changes call for more effort from staff and volunteers. Christopher asked that Friends spread the word about the changes in *Spark* and encourage Friends to use the articles. He then described the series of successful workshops in Drawing Out Gifts, held at Powell House, which have had substantial impact on our community without drawing much expense from our operating budget. The reception of the workshops indicates to him a spiritual hunger in the Yearly Meeting, a concern that is being addressed in the Coordinating Committee on Ministry and Counsel. Information on the allocation of staff time, which was not available today, will be presented at the Summer Sessions. Christopher ended his report by thanking Friends for their messages of condolence for loss in the immediate families of staff members.

2006-04-5. The reading clerk read a travel minute for Nadine Hoover from her home meeting, Alfred, which has been endorsed by Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting. Friends direct the Clerk to endorse this minute. Nadine advised Friends that a written form of the minute is available for distribution, accompanied by information about her recent travels in Indonesia with Deborah B. Wood (Purchase). Nadine described the need of teachers there for higher education; Deborah spoke to other educational needs of Indonesians, which call for ever more support.

2006-04-6. James Hamilton (Wilton), clerk of Peace Concerns, read a minute from that committee, requesting the Yearly Meeting to endorse the International Conscientious Objectors’ Conference, being planned for New York and Washington in May. Friends agree to endorse the events of that week and to have the name of the Yearly Meeting listed accordingly. Additional suggestions about participation and hospitality were given to James Hamilton.

Reading and approval of the minutes was deferred to the afternoon

session. Friends closed the meeting in worship.

Afternoon Session

Linda Chidsey, Clerk
Ernestine Buscemi, Assistant Clerk
Melanie-Claire Mallison, Recording Clerk
Rima Segal, Reading Clerk

2006-04-7. Friends gathered together in worship.

2006-04-8. The morning minutes were read and approved.

2006-04-9. Out of the open worship, Roger Dreisbach-Williams read a statement from Langley Hill Friends Meeting on the death of their friend Tom Fox while working with the Christian Peacemaker Teams in Iraq. Tom was a member of Langley Hill for over fifteen years, and his death has been especially difficult for the children of the Meeting, whom Tom loved working with. The Meeting supports Tom's own words of conviction, "We forgive those who consider us their enemies. Therefore any penalty should be in the spirit of restorative justice, rather than in the form of violent retribution." Encouraging us all to continue Tom's work, Langley Hill also asks that we remember that this personal loss has happened to thousands of Iraqis—painful losses we do not hear about. Everyone's story must be told.

Out of the silence Friends spoke to the life and witness of Tom Fox.

2006-04-10. James Hamilton, clerk of Peace Concerns Committee, reported on a request to New York Yearly Meeting to minute approval of the preparation and filing of an *amicus* brief in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (New York), in support of the appeal of *Daniel Jenkins* (an attender at Saranac Lake) v. *Commissioner of Internal Revenue*. His case bears on conscientious objection to military taxation. The Meeting approved the Yearly Meeting clerk, the clerk of the Witness Coordinating Committee, the clerk of Peace Concerns, and the clerk of the subcommittee on Conscientious Objection to Military Taxation working with Friend and attorney Tom Whyatt (Philipstown Worship Group) on filing such a brief.

2006-04-11. Karen Reixach (Rochester) presented the following minute from Alfred Monthly Meeting and approved by Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting, asking for New York Yearly Meeting's endorsement:

The Living Spirit works in the world to give life, joy, peace and prosperity through love, integrity and compassionate justice among people. We are united in this Power. We acknowledge that paying for war violates our religious conviction. We will seek ways to witness to this religious conviction in each of our communities.

The Yearly Meeting approves endorsing this minute and circulating it within the Yearly Meeting, to other Quaker bodies, and to our federal representatives. Individuals may feel led to include this minute with their tax forms.

Out of worship, Friends spoke of their gratefulness at being part of a faith community with such convictions.

2006-04-12. James Hamilton brought a request from Peace Concerns to endorse the anti-torture conference in June at Guilford College, and designate Anita Paul and Mara Komoska as the Yearly Meeting's representatives to the conference. Friends approved.

2006-04-13. The minutes were read and approved.

2006-04-14. The meeting closed with full and heartfelt worship.

Sunday, April 2, 2006

Plainfield Meetinghouse, Plainfield, New Jersey

Linda Chidsey, Clerk

Ernestine G. Buscemi, Assistant Clerk

Karen Way, Recording Clerk

Rima Segal, Reading Clerk

2006-04-15. The meeting opened with worship.

2006-04-16. Roger Dreisbach-Williams read an epistle from German Yearly Meeting, 2005, urging us to treasure the stories we tell each other about our life in the spirit. The 80-year history of the German Yearly Meeting, beginning with a Quaker office in Berlin, is one such story. Thus is spiritual community built, in shared narratives that preserve common experience, beyond individual lives.

2006-04-17. The Clerk introduced the Friends at the clerks' table and the business of the day, recalling us to the Spirit-filled inward space of the previous day's sessions.

2006-04-18. Ernestine Buscemi presented the report of the Transition Working Group, which offered two items. First, a draft of the *NYYM Clerk and Committee Guidelines* is now available in hard copy and on the Yearly Meeting Web site. Comments should be directed to Herbert Lape (Westbury), Melanie-Claire Mallison (Ithaca), or Deborah B. Wood (Purchase) no later than April 30.

Second, the Transition Working Group recommended placing the Worship and Action Working Group under the care of the Coordinating Committee on Ministry and Counsel. Friends received this report and approved the new placement of the Worship and Action Working Group.

2006-04-19. The Clerk read a recommendation from the Advancement Committee to release up to \$2,500 of Lockport-Brinckerhoff funds, for painting the Quaker Street meetinghouse. Friends approved

2006-04-20. The Clerk introduced Anita Paul, clerk of Witness Coordinating Committee, who read a minute on Meeting the Minimum Needs of All from Peconic Bay Monthly Meeting and Long Island Quarterly Meeting.

After the events of September 11, 2001, Friend Radh Achuthan (Peconic Bay) began to test a leading to travel to bring attention to the extent of global poverty, the connection between global poverty and world unrest, and the need for international organizations to address these issues. With travel minutes from his monthly and quarterly meetings and from Yearly Meeting, he began this work. During the past year, Peconic Bay Meeting, Long Island Quarterly Meeting, the Witness Coordinating Committee, and monthly meetings throughout our Yearly Meeting have labored over how to deepen and broaden the commitment to meeting the needs of all people. Friends approved the following minute:

Friends share a concern about meeting the minimum needs of all people, which we define to be: providing adequate drinking water, nutrition, clothing, housing, primary health care and five years of primary education, to be achieved by the year 2030. Friends are advised to raise the issue on all occasions where it is possible to influence individuals, groups, and organizations. We charge our Clerk and general secretary to make a special effort to speak about this issue with regional, national, and international groups. We encourage Radh Achuthan to continue his ministry on this issue under his existing travel minute.

Friends approved.

2006-04-21. The minutes of the Sunday business session were read and approved.

2006-04-22. Friends heard and accepted the following report on Friday evening's presentations. Nadine Hoover (Alfred) and Deborah B. Wood (Purchase) reported on their Quaker service in Indonesia. Nadine has worked in Indonesia since 1980, first as a Friends World College student, later as an international-development consultant. After the devastation of the tsunami in December 2004, Nadine went to Aceh to provide assistance to tsunami victims. From March through September 2005, she worked to organize AFSC's tsunami relief and recovery efforts. In October 2005, Friends decided to continue supporting her service in Indonesia directly, under a travel minute endorsed by NYYM to bring early childhood development and Alternatives to Violence training to people in North Sumatra and Aceh. She plans to travel in this ministry two times per year with adult and young adult companions.

Nadine Hoover has worked along the northeast shore of Aceh despite the active civil war, present there until the peace accord on August 15, 2005. Nadine noted that while the southwest shore was hit the worst by the tsunami, that region has also received the most aid. The northeast shore also suffered severe damage, but because of the civil war, Nadine has been the only foreigner assisting particular areas such as East Aceh. Over the past month, Nadine and Deb offered Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshops in Aceh. Deb worked to translate the lengthy English AVP manuals into more simple, straightforward English, which then in turn were more easily translated into Indonesian. She also provided invaluable feedback to new and old AVP facilitators.

Nadine shared with us what she has learned about preparing for such service. One must be faithful. A crisis of faith leads to service in which one helps in order to keep control, or stays busy in order not to feel exhaustion and despair, or tries to earn a sense of value through good works to ease a sense of worthlessness, or appeases a sense of guilt over one's wealth, or plays God oneself, since "The world is going to hell in a handbasket," and one knows, "If I were God, it would be better." She witnessed these motivations driving many individuals or even organizations, which cause a further sense of violation among the people already devastated by the war and tsunami.

To be prepared for service that is healing and peaceful, one must overcome these spiritual crises and be faithful. Experience the Spirit in every person and all creation in every moment. Experiment with the Spirit in one's own daily life, to come to know the divine person-

ally, in the hard times as well as the glory. Be willing to learn, change, and be teachable. Test one's sense of conscience and discernment, and act based on one's best sense of what is right. Realize world security depends on honesty and friendships. Spirit-led service to others is founded on realizing that all we have is a pure gift from God. We are responsible for using what we need to care for ourselves and then deliver the rest to others, as it was freely given for all of us.

Two comments, from people Nadine worked with at different times, point out how dramatically different life is in Aceh. Before the peace accord people told her, as she offered recovery assistance, "Don't build me a bathroom, because if you do, the military will take my house." And the woman whose house they used for the AVP workshops came up to her and said, "I know I was not to peek, but I couldn't help it—to have people from all over Aceh, Indonesia and the world gathered together in my home, and to hear them laughing—I had to see it, I had to peek." In the war it has been illegal for people to gather; that simple act of gathering was overwhelmingly joyous for her.

There are many opportunities to support Nadine in her work. Please send letters and pictures for the Indonesians, donations, and invitations for Nadine to visit or speak, to Alfred Friends Meeting, PO Box 773, Alfred NY 14802. Checks should be payable to Alfred Friends Meeting with a memo noting that it is for the Released Friend Fund.

2006-04-23. In the closing worship that followed, Friends spoke to powerful experience of unity in the Spirit in these sessions. One Friend described the weekend as "a Pentecostal moment, a time when we could see, hear, taste what the world is like in the Peaceable Kingdom." Another said, "We are a Resurrection people. While the prevailing language of society today is a language of sarcasm, irony, and despair, this is not our language. We are a people of hope."

2006 OPERATING BUDGET

General Services	2006 budget	2005 budget
Section expenses:		
Audit	3,000	3,000
General expense & travel	3,000	3,000
NYYM officers' expenses	2,500	2,500
Child Abuse/Sexual Harrassment Tng		4,000
Total section expenses	8,500	12,500
Committee expenses:		
Communications Committee	23,550	23,550
Junior Yearly Meeting	25,000	29,500
Nominating Committee		400
Records Committee—donation	3,000	3,500
Sessions Committee	12,200	12,600
Total committee expenses	63,750	69,550
Office operations:		
Administrative expenses	12,000	12,000
Computer consultation	1,000	2,000
Office equipment	1,800	1,500
Insurance	3,700	3,700
Rent at 15th St.	23,800	23,800
Office staff travel	8,500	8,500
Total office operations expenses	50,800	51,500
Personnel expenses:		
Hourly staff compensation	21,500	21,000
Staff employees salaries	168,400	162,250
Salary and wage-related expenses	47,000	42,275
Staff development	1,750	2,000
Volunteer support	1,000	1,000
Total personnel expenses	239,650	228,525
Bookkeeping services	26,400	26,400
Total General Services	389,100	388,475

Ministry and Counsel	2006 budget	2005 budget
Committee expenses:		
Conflict Transformation Committee	3,000	3,700
Ministry Task Group	0	750
Section expense & travel	2,250	2,000
Total committee expenses	5,250	5,700
Program expenses		
Bible study leader YM Silver Bay	1,000	1,550

Meeting program assistance	600	1,450
Prov. for Friends Traveling in the Ministry	6,500	3,000
Pastors Conference	1,500	1,150
Spiritual Nurturance Program	100	150
Total program expenses	9,700	7,300
Total Ministry and Counsel	14,950	13,750
Witness	2006 budget	2005 budget
Section expense	7,150	8,300
Sharing Fund Campaign expense	2,500	2,500
Allocation and Donation Wm Penn House	250	250
Total Witness Section	9,900	11,050
Nurture	2006 budget	2005 budget
Committees' expenses:		
Advancement	10,500	12,000
Disability Concerns		90
FWCC Committee	500	500
Women's Concerns (see resource line)		500
Young Adult Concerns	900	900
Total Committees' Expenses	11,900	13,990
YM appointees' expenses:		
Quaker EarthCare Witness—rep to brd.	800	800
FGC Central Committee—reps to brd.	3,000	2,700
FUM—reps to brd.	3,000	3,000
Provision, FUM reps to Triennial	650	650
Provision, FWCC Quadr reps to brd.	500	500
FWCC—Section meetings	1,800	1,800
Provision, FWCC Triennial sessions	1,700	1,700
YouthQuake planning/travel	1,500	1,000
Provision, YouthQuake attendees	1,500	2,000
Total YM appointees' expenses	14,450	14,150
Allocations and donations:		
Friends LGBTQ Concerns	150	0
Friends General Conference (FGC)	8,100	9,000
Friends Council on Education	150	90
Friends United Meeting (FUM)	8,100	9,000
FUM—Triennial Sessions	1,170	1,300
FUM Third World Board reps	150	270
Friends World Comm. for Consultation	4,000	4,500

N.J. Council of Churches	150	240
N.Y. State Community of Churches	150	450
Oakwood Friends School	12,000	11,875
Powell House	67,000	67,000
Quaker EarthCare Witness	150	200
YouthQuake	150	135
Total allocation & donations exp.	101,420	104,060
Section expense & travel	1,200	1,000
Women's Concerns Resource	400	0
Religious Education Resource Library	900	900
Total Nurture	130,270	134,100

EXPENSES CONSOLIDATION

	2006 budget	2005 budget
General Services	389,100	388,475
Ministry & Counsel	14,950	13,750
Nurture	130,270	134,100
Witness	9,900	11,050
TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET	544,220	547,375

REVENUES

Revenue Source	Expected 2006	Expected 2005
Unrestricted Income from Trustees	11,250	11,000
Income from other sources	5,000	5,000
Registration fees	25,000	20,000
Expected revenue subtotal	41,250	36,000
Expected Amount needed to be met by Quarterly/Regional Meetings	502,970	510,625
Total Income to balance (expected or actual)	544,220	547,375

YEARLY MEETING ON MINISTRY AND COUNSEL

The Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Counsel (YMMC) exercises general care of the ministry and spiritual life of the yearly meeting and receives and considers concerns of members or meetings regarding their spiritual needs. Its executive body is the Coordinating Committee for Ministry and Counsel (CCMC).

Faith and Practice

Coordinating Committee for Ministry and Counsel

CCMC met six times this year: during Yearly Meeting Sessions in July, in retreat on a Saturday in September, at Fall and Spring Sessions, in retreat the day before Coordinating Committee Weekend, and during Coordinating Committee Weekend. The “retreat” in the fall was taken up with business. However, the one before Coordinating Committee Weekend, led by John Perry and Ann Schillinger, provided an opportunity for the Committee to consider its role and for committee members to explore their contributions to the work of the Committee.

Our annual responsibilities include nurturing the spiritual life of the yearly meeting, administering the Stevens Fund, requesting State of the Meeting reports and preparing the State of Society report, coordinating one or more issues of *Spark* each year, and coordinating the worship experiences during Summer Sessions.

We have provided opportunities for Quarterly Meeting Ministry & Counsels to meet, share resources and ideas, and coordinate their efforts with CCMC. We are in the process of preparing a document with guidelines and suggestions for Quarterly/Regional Ministry and Counsels.

The Task Group on Ministry was laid down, trusting that other forms would be found to address the underlying need of providing ministry to the Yearly Meeting. The Task Group on Racism was formed to continue to address this concern that Friends had begun to look at during Summer Sessions last year.

The Conflict Transformation Committee was established three years ago for a trial period. CCMC considered the work the Committee has undertaken, and approved its becoming a standing committee under CCMC. In January, a five-day intensive workshop was held at Powell House to offer interested Friends tools for dealing with conflict in their meetings and regions.

Four Friends were recommended by their monthly meetings to be-

come recorded ministers in NYYM: James Atwell, Butternuts Monthly Meeting; Priscilla Berggren-Thomas, Poplar Ridge Meeting; Alice Houghtaling, Schenectady Meeting; and Anita Paul, Schenectady Meeting. The process is underway for James Atwell and Priscilla Berggren-Thomas. Recording Committees will be named at Summer Sessions for Alice Houghtaling and Anita Paul.

Friends continue to travel to and worship with monthly meetings under the auspices of CCMC. Carol Holmes, Denise Sherman, and David Herendeen have been doing this for several years. Herb Lape, Westbury Meeting, and Priscilla Berggren-Thomas, Poplar Ridge Meeting, were added to travel mainly in their own regions. The Traveling Friends Advisory Group is considering guidelines for these Friends, including having orientation and mentoring for new travelers, and distinguishing their work from those Friends traveling under a concern for Advancement or other concerns..

CCMC created a subcommittee which planned six Drawing Out Gifts weekends at Powell House, four this year and two more next year. The first two weekends have been held as this report is being written. The first, held in January and led by Christopher Sammond, was on recognizing, supporting, and nurturing emerging gifts among Friends. This event was oversubscribed, and this workshop will be offered a second time in Farmington-Scipio Region in June. In March, Elaine Emily of Pacific Yearly Meeting led a weekend on Serving as Elder: Grounding the Meeting. This one, too, was full. One more is scheduled before July on the topic of vocal ministry. Friends seem to be hungry for this type of spiritual nourishment.

A concern has arisen around ways of supporting and nurturing the spiritual growth that is beginning to be evident in NYYM. This will be a focus during the coming year.

Deborah Wood, clerk CCMC
Annie Bancroft, assistant clerk
Beatrice Beguin, assistant clerk
Rachel Ruth, recording clerk

STATE OF THE SOCIETY REPORT 2005

Summary of Monthly Meeting Reports

Introduction

The State of the Society Report is drawn from the State of the Meeting reports prepared by 53 (out of a possible 86) monthly meetings, preparative meetings, summer meetings and worship groups within New York Yearly Meeting.

Faith & Practice gives this guideline to meetings:

“The state of the meeting report should be a searching self-examination by the meeting and its members of their spiritual strengths and weaknesses and of the efforts made to foster growth in the spiritual life. Reports may cover the full range of interests and concerns but should emphasize those indicative of the spiritual health of the meeting.”

The Coordinating Committee for Ministry and Counsel provided the following query for reflection: “In what ways does your meeting for worship reflect the Spirit working in your lives?”

All responses were heartfelt and revealing.

As in the past, quotations are included without attribution to specific monthly meetings.

Overview

New York Yearly Meeting is a work-in-process. One meeting wrote:

“As we look to the past and the future we recognize that we are a very different meeting than we were 10 years ago and we continue to evolve. We are comfortable with this reality.”

For some meetings, the past year was hard: “... we recognize that we are struggling to define ourselves as a Meeting. We find that we have more work to do than people to do it and that we struggle with differences among ourselves in terms of the future of our Meeting...” and “... 2005 was a difficult year. The continued war, the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami, and the devastating earthquake in Pakistan all weigh on souls. We see so much injustice in our world and in our local communities and can feel how difficult it is for young people growing up today.”

Overall, however, there is the impression of joy, renewal, and growth as we open ourselves to the work of the Spirit. We uphold our gifts

with new excitement and awe, and we bring our work in the world to be strengthened through worship and community.

Renewal and growth

Friends spoke to the joy they experienced as they came together in deep worship or on energizing projects.

“[The meeting] is flourishing. This past year we have continued to grow and attract new attenders, many with children of all ages. Often, [our worship space] is filled to the brim. The First Day classrooms are overflowing with three lively groups.”

“Outreach to members was a focus this year. As a result of these efforts, we have seen new members in meeting along with a return of some of our long-time members. There is also a renewed interest in monthly meeting, Northeastern Regional Meeting, and the annual meeting at Silver Bay.”

“With continued effort, it no longer appears that the meeting will be laid down. We are very thankful to continue the longtime Quaker presence in this area.”

“While we could do much more to be fully present and faithful to the spiritual leading of God, we feel that we have made progress this year, which is reflected in a growing membership....”

“We rejoiced this year in three new members who joined the monthly meeting, and in three new regular attenders at one of the worship groups.”

The meeting “is living and rejoicing in the vibrant spirit of life which God has granted us. During the past year attendance at meeting for worship and meeting for business has grown, as has participation in activities such as adult classes, First Day school, and other activities which rise from our practice and worship as Friends. We are blessed to enjoy regular worship that is rich in meditative silence and enriched with vocal ministry as God inspires us to give needed messages. Following worship we invite afterthoughts and the First Day school shares their lesson with us, drawing us together even more.”

“New life and new energy also presents new opportunities. It challenges us to deepen our spiritual relationships and to examine ourselves as a welcoming meeting, to look at how we recognize and hold up each other’s gifts.”

Meeting for worship

Meeting for worship is clearly central to the life of our meetings. It plays the key role in nurturing and bringing together the community.

“Worship is the common thread of each First Day and each work session. It unifies the colorful threads of our separate lives and brings us together as a community.”

“We find that the meeting for worship draws us together and forms the core of our community, providing the heart to all of our other activities. We feel that meeting for worship gives us an opportunity to discern where the spirit is in the rest of our lives, beyond ego and self-interest.”

“In the Meeting for Worship, through the eyes of our hearts, we see and understand the workings of the Spirit. The form of worship of Friends, with its leading to follow the Light within, is a privilege and an oasis. We find that attending meeting gives us a reservoir of patience. It takes the desperation out of life and makes us more tolerant of difficulties and disappointments.”

However, one Friend reported: “Meeting for worship is not a haven for me, but rather a challenge. It is a reminder of what we are being called to do and perhaps not responding quite adequately to.”

Concern was expressed for those who could not be present in worship due to illness or some other infirmity. Gratitude was expressed for those that travel to visit such Friends. Efforts are being made to create a more inviting physical environment to those with limited mobility and hearing.

Some Friends are experimenting with ways to create a more fulfilling experience in meeting for worship. One meeting has a monthly programmed half hour that leads into worship. Other meetings have hymn singing or shared readings, or are exploring the use of worship sharing prior to settling into worship.

Discerning the call to vocal ministry, when and when not to speak, weighs on many Friends.

“More recently, we addressed vocal ministry, as our small weekly meetings tend not to be very vocal. We recognize that speaking to enliven the silence is not appropriate, nor is frequent vocal ministry necessarily a sign of spiritual health. In our discussions for this report, we sensed a resolution to this seeming dichotomy: The choice is not between vocal ministry and silence, but between active participation in worship and passivity. We strive to foster an active silence....”

“The regular companionship in silent worship deepens my connection to my inner self, to others and life. Somehow, in that subtle deepening of connection is Love and the presence.”

Friends also spoke movingly about the time immediately following worship.

“We share afterthoughts, joys and concerns, reports from First Day school and announcements. We learn from each other about personal challenges, affirming experiences, the creativity of the children’s

learning and opportunities to support wider community efforts to bring peace & justice.”

Meeting for worship with a concern for business

Only a few meetings report on the conduct of their meeting for worship with a concern for business.

“Meeting for worship with a concern for business appears to be more worshipful and less angry than it has been in years past. We treat each other with greater tenderness.”

“We feel the presence of Spirit reflected in our meeting for worship with a concern for business. One person even said she was ‘falling in love with the way Quakers do business meeting.’ Our clerk gently reminds us to stay in the Spirit, to work in ‘good order,’ to keep to the issue at hand, yet all different opinions are heard. We take the time to read each minute back to the meeting to make sure our words are a true report. We spent a good deal of time and effort, including several retreats, on revising the way our meeting’s committees operate.”

The process of dealing inclusively and caringly with property matters, whether through established or ad hoc committees, can deepen the monthly business meeting and is also reported to have a positive impact on the regular meeting for worship.

Conflict in Meeting

While conflict is rarely pleasant, Friends seem to be coming to the realization of how vital and, at times, necessary a role it plays within the meeting.

“Several Friends observed that the Meeting has a long history of avoiding or denying conflict. One stated that conflict is a part of life and we need learn to work through it. Another urged that we try to be more open in the future to honest dialogue about perceived slights or offenses and try to center our lives more deeply in Love and in the Spirit.”

“Friends’ insights included those of strengthening our spiritual lives, spiritual growth, and learning to labor with one another to handle our differences, as well as the knowledge that our actions and interactions have sometimes been unfortunate or have had led to irreconcilable differences. Some members/attenders have stopped coming, having had unpleasant interactional experiences, and/or having been led to withdraw while the meeting moved towards a more disciplined approach and away from their inclinations towards broader or other-defined kinds of faith. Friends mourn the loss of these individuals and believe there is a need for lines of communication to remain open not only to new attenders and members, who need nurturing, but also to

those who are not worshipping with us but are kindred spirits.”

Caring for each other (“inreach”)

If we build a deep sense of community in our meeting, we shall be trusting enough of each other to serve the needs of members and handle, on a timely basis, the seeds of disaffection. This means fostering strong listening skills and good communications. Retreats can play an important part in this.

“... we invited a facilitator from Friends General Conference to lead us [in a retreat] at the meetinghouse. Friends were drawn together by love, ‘there was trust,’ ‘a sacred experience,’ and ‘soul searching.’ We felt that our facilitator was clearly led by the Spirit, and was skillful at creating a safe space where people could express their hurts and conflicts with others, and be heard. She enabled light and sparkling energy to flow, which seemed to revitalize us and encourage us to think about the future in a more energetic way. For one Friend, the retreat awakened some old resentment, yet along with her discomfort, she felt that a new culture of communication was born. A desire was expressed for more of this kind of open communication on deeper issues.”

“Last March, we held a weekend retreat at the home of a Meeting family. This retreat, under the care of Friends General Conference’s Traveling Ministries Program, was facilitated by Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch with Miyo Moriuchi as her traveling companion. The exercises facilitated by Jean-Marie led us to a sense of richer spiritual connectedness. With the disciplined use of I-statements, we created a safe space where many felt easy to share their personal beliefs without fear of being misunderstood or offending others. The promises that each of us made to the Meeting in the last session helped to remind us of our personal growth into the future. The retreat was well attended, and was a positive experience, and seemed to provide a burst of energy to the Meeting.”

Meetings noted the importance of staying connected to the youth of the Meeting who are moving out into the world.

“High school graduates of the meeting were honored in June. Care packages were mailed to our college students prior to exam week. The meeting offered support and prayers for Jennifer Pronto, who undertook a trip to Costa Rica to study the role of organic farming methods in that country.”

“Inreach” includes calling out the gifts in others. The need to nurture these gifts in various Friends is recognized as being vital to our growth.

Caring for the world at large (“witness”)

The anguish of the world continues to trouble Friends. “The ongoing war continues to challenge us, so that any answer to ‘What are Quakers doing for peace?’ seems inadequate.” Nevertheless, many meetings spoke to the involvement, both individually and corporately, in the greater community. This includes work with Quaker affiliated programs as well as with programs that have no connection with Friends. From individual leadings to group projects, the notion that we need to take our witness to the wider community is clear and being acknowledged through our combined efforts. Friends also spoke of the various groups that make use of meeting house space.

“Many Friends are engaged in activities that reach out to the wider world. These activities include support for Viva La Casa, weekly peace vigils in Alfred and Olean, prison work, Alternatives to Violence workshops, trips to the School of the Americas, and the Quaker Missions stamp-collection project. The Meeting and the Alfred community support recovery work in Aceh, Indonesia. Nadine Hoover regularly travels to Indonesia, maintaining a personal connection, sending personal greetings, and distributing funds collected from people and organizations located throughout western and central New York.”

“This February we start building another Habitat home in Nassau County, Long Island. Not only do we support Habitat for Humanity financially, but also with sweat equity!”

“As always, Peace and Social Concerns did a wonderful job of giving to those in need over the holidays. 70 turkeys were delivered to the INN Soup Kitchen in Glen Cove for Thanksgiving. For Christmas, 110 bags of toys for all ages were given to the INN. Our meeting continues to prepare weekly dinners for the North Shore Sheltering Program.”

Friends also have spoken to their peace witness, within the meeting as well as in the community.

“Our Peace and Social Action Committee continued to be very active. Each month, we hosted a Peace Potluck for the community with a topic for each one. We sent a letter to the editors of several newspapers about issues relating to the government spying on Quakers—and we sent a letter to all of our law enforcement agencies calling on them to not spy on religious groups. Counterrecruitment continues in one local high school with plans to reach out to other schools as well. We approved and forwarded to the Region a minute calling on Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting to set up a war tax escrow account and have been facilitating meetings in the region on the topic. Friends have contributed to a local radio program. We participated extensively when Eyes Wide Open came to Ithaca and provided support for the St. Patrick’s Day Four [a group of local war resisters who participated

in civil disobedience].”

Prison worship groups

Five prison worship groups (and one preparative meeting) prepared reports. Each was a joyful voice. In these reports they express their appreciation for the love and support of Friends on the outside. They are particularly grateful for the visits from Friends who are not regular visitors to their groups.

“It is important to note that although our outside members are extraordinary role models for us, we are all equal and learn from one another. All of us realize how fortunate we are to have each other and it inspires us to keep coming back. We are truly blessed to have people in our lives that are willing to sacrifice to join us here.”

“We were blessed with a visit from a member of the Prisons Committee as well as the general secretary, Christopher Sammond. We spoke about restorative-justice and parole issues. We were made to feel that our opinions mattered and we appreciate that very much.”

“During the preceding year, our worship group has been blessed with the addition of three or four new attenders. Though we believe that the Spirit of Truth moves even among the smallest number of gathered Friends, we also believe that our small growth in ‘the expansion of our Quaker testimonies’ is a nurturing Light to persons in the wider prison population....”

The following remarks can resonate in all of us:

“During our 30-plus years as an established worship group, prison policies have alternated from left to right; civilian and residential Friends have come and gone; with the advent of newer worship groups, our membership has dwindled; the increasing accommodation of religion to the secular world, within and without this closed society, appears to threaten spiritual endeavor with irrelevance. Yet to our enduring worship group, the Quaker testimonies of Community, Equality, Integrity, Peace, and Simplicity remain a guiding Light to our efforts to nurture hope and faith in this alien setting. We pray that, to the degree that we succeed in this endeavor, will future worshipers here be inspired to use life’s adversities as an opportunity to make Friends.”

In a sense, we are all prisoners in an “alien setting.” Only the Spirit can free us.

The reports received speak to the strength of the Spirit working in New York Yearly Meeting. Established meetings are embracing change and growth. Fragile new life is springing up in many places. However, if our religious society is being called to some great new effort of witness or service, that call is generally not clearly articulated by our monthly meetings. Reading these reports, we become clear

that it is up to each of us, in community, to deepen our connection to the Spirit, to nurture and protect the new life that is given to us, and to discover how we are being called, as individuals and as a body, to heal a broken world.

Committee on Conflict Transformation

Silver Bay Sessions of 2006 will mark the third year since approval of a standing Committee on Conflict Transformation. During this time workshops from two hours to one and a half days have been created and held at monthly meetings and quarters, addressing Friends' conflicts in meeting life and learning skills to address them more lovingly. Knowing that conflict is an inevitable part of diversity, we continue to query, "How can we be faithful to the expression of our differences in ways that strengthen our community effort to seek the Truth that unites us and lies beyond differences?"

We have come to believe that our charge requires us to: (1) educate about Friends' processes and conflict transformational skills; (2) facilitate conflict transformation between individuals, and within committees and meetings; (3) maintain NYYM's history of successful conflict resolving methods; (4) establish communication structures that increase helpful sharing of ideas about conflict transformation throughout the Yearly Meeting; (5) create materials useful for the above.

We have developed and led workshops at monthly and quarterly meeting sites, a one-day workshop for NYYM staff, and a five-day Powell House intensive. We have begun to be invited to work with conflicts in NYYM as counsel and facilitators. We have created a bibliography and several guideline materials that are available on the NYYM Web site. We have provided study groups at Silver Bay each summer as well.

We asked and received approval to expand our Committee from six to eight members, and we plan to have eight active participants by the close of summer sessions. In addition, we have begun to develop a roster of NYYM Friends who have gone through the five-day intensive or have other experience and who have agreed to aid in the work of the committee. We hope to establish a blog where roster members can interact and read relevant material as it is posted.

The Committee works to be available to Friends through articles in *Spark*, through committee meetings at each of NYYM sessions, and through continuing workshops. Please join with us if you have

not done so before, and consider contacting us if you or your meeting might wish support.

*Joanna Komoska, clerk; Nat Corwin, Deborah Duckworth,
Cheshire Frager, Tom Rothschild, Sanford Segal*

Epistle Committee

The Epistle Committee receives epistles from yearly meetings around the globe, and some other groups, and selects a few that seem to speak to our condition, to be read at the beginnings of yearly, fall, and spring sessions of the Yearly Meeting. In addition, during our Yearly Meeting sessions at Silver Bay in July the committee meets daily to write an epistle that will be sent to all yearly meetings in the world, all the monthly meetings in the Yearly Meeting, and some other Quaker groups. The epistle we write attempts to provide some flavor of our experience of how God's spirit is moving among us during our sessions.

At yearly meeting sessions in July 2005 the committee read one epistle, that of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Called Session on Climate Change held in June 2005. (All epistles received during the year are placed in a binder near the Yearly Meeting conference office, and Friends are encouraged to take the time to read them.)

The writing of the epistle for Yearly Meeting sessions in July 2005 was one the most challenging this committee has experienced in recent years as it attempted to express the Yearly Meeting's process of grappling with its theme, "The Seed Cracked Open: Growing beyond Racism." Friday evening Yearly Meeting Friends struggled long into the night to approve the epistle, engaging "experimentally" in the beginning of the work that needs to be done in growing beyond racism.

During the coming year the committee "met" via e-mail to select epistles to be read during fall and spring sessions. At fall sessions in December the 2005 epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting was read to begin Saturday sessions and set the tone of listening and caring for one another. Excerpts from 2005 Baltimore Yearly Meeting epistle were read on Sunday morning.

At April 2006 spring sessions the 2005 epistle from German Yearly Meeting was read, as was a statement from Langley Hill Friends Meeting on the death of their friend Tom Fox while working with the Christian Peacemaker Teams in Iraq.

Patricia Sears and Nancy Britton, coclerks

Committee to Revise Faith and Practice

The Committee to Revise Faith and Practice has met this year with reduced numbers. We agreed on a revised wording for Query 9 and submitted it to the Coordinating Committee for Ministry and Counsel. We recently were able to submit the following wording to the Coordinating Committee for Ministry and Counsel. The new wording would be:

Do we participate actively and intelligently in the political life of our country? Are we conscientious in fulfilling all obligations of state and society that are not contrary to the leading of God? Do we do all in our power to secure civil rights for all? Do we emphasize the single standard of truth, and are we free from the use of oaths? Do we exert influence for such treatment of prisoners as may help reconstruct their lives? Do we work for the abolition of the death penalty? Do we do all we can to see that our governmental practices respect the divine potential within every person?

We also brought to the coordinating committee our concern over the difficulty of holding meetings, when so few members have participated. After consideration, the coordinating committee approved recommending to the Yearly Meeting the laying down of the Committee to Revise Faith and Practice. Subsequently, however, suggestions were received for modifying our Faith and Practice to reflect recent administrative changes, such as the renaming of representative meetings. Acting on these suggestions, if mandated by the Coordinating Committee on Ministry and Counsel, will require maintaining our committee.

Lee Haring, clerk

Council of Ministerial Advisors, New York State Department of Correctional Services

Inactive

Committee on Sufferings

The Committee for the Fund for Sufferings received no requests for assistance this year. Therefore, there was no need for us to meet.

Mary Williams, clerk

GENERAL SERVICES SECTION

General Services Coordinating Committee

This has been a year of reflection and planning for the General Services Coordinating Committee, with much of the work and decisions being done within the respective committees that are part of the coordinating committee. Working together constructively and thoughtfully in a spirit of worship, we have had wide-ranging discussions about finances, covering issues relating to reducing expenses, increasing income, and communicating with meetings and committees about the financial process, as well as coordinating reimbursements to individual members.

We have also had lengthy discussions about the work of the Sessions Committee: proposals for changing the date of the fall sessions, for changing the names of the sessions, for dividing the work of the Sessions Committee into two separate committees, for increasing fees. We have made suggestions to the General Secretary's Task Group for evaluating the position, not the incumbent, in the life of the Yearly Meeting. We further refined our policy on the use of the NYYM mailing list by other Quaker groups. Powell House, the McCutchen, Oakwood School, the Sharing Fund, and Friends General Conference will be able to use our mailing list twice each year for a charge of \$50 for each use; other Quaker groups may request use of the mailing list, with a sliding scale according to the purpose of the use ranging from \$100 to \$500, with decisions as to the use and the fee authorized to be made by the general secretary, the administrative secretary, and the clerk of GSCC in unity. We continue to be involved in the work of child safety through the Child Safety Task Group, working with Ministry and Counsel Coordinating Committee and the JYM Committee to form an Abuse Investigation Task Group at Silver Bay.

Further information about the work of the General Services committees may be found in their individual reports.

Paula R. McClure, clerk

Audit Committee

The Yearly Meeting audit process continued to make progress in 2005 and in the early part of 2006. The December 31, 2004 audited financial reports were produced around mid-year 2005, the earliest thus far.

The goal for this year is to have them ready for release by the time of Yearly Meeting summer sessions.

While our independent auditor continues to work with both the trustee-managed and the treasurer-managed accounts, the audit committee “took back” responsibility for review of the one remaining committee-managed account, the operating account of the Committee for the Expenditure of the H.H. Mosher Fund. This particular account’s small size and relatively uncomplicated operation lend themselves to the less formal and thus less costly review, rather than the formal audit performed on our other accounts.

Within the last year, attention continued to be given to voucher preparation, proper authorization, and other factors affecting the timeliness of payments, particularly those involving travel-related expenses.

Attention has also been given to the day-to-day accounting for temporarily restricted funds under the treasurer-managed accounts, with a view toward better integration of reporting for temporarily restricted with unrestricted funds.

The first group of appointees to the new Audit Committee will soon be reaching their term limits in this role. Our hope is that others will look upon upcoming vacancies on the audit committee as opportunities for growth, learning, and service.

Steven Ross, clerk

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee undertook to consider how its activities could best serve the Yearly Meeting, particularly how *Spark* might better serve as spark to the Spirit. In this light, the committee initiated topical issues of *Spark*, at the suggestion of Christopher Sammond. Among the issues published this past year was an issue focusing on Worship, which was received extremely positively. Many meetings have wanted to have copies on file for newcomers, and distribution of this issue has exceeded all others. Other topical issues, such as one on War Tax Resistance, have also been well-received. Other topics will be addressed in future issues. The committee is also looking for ways to involve young(er) Friends in *Spark*.

The committee’s oversight of the NYYM Web site, the Web-based newsletter *InfoShare*, and other electronic communications have continued as these media have expanded. Visits to the Web site are double to triple what they were only a few years ago, averaging more than 450

per day during the last year. The site received more than 670 visits per day during a recent month. *InfoShare*, which provides information at more frequent intervals than can be done with *Spark*, is a resource for meetings, committees, and individual Friends. Many meetings quote extensively from *InfoShare* in their newsletters.

The project of recording *Faith and Practice* as an audio CD has moved forward slowly, but studio time and space have been donated to NYYM and recording should begin shortly. We plan to record primarily the Faith section, including the Advices and Queries, plus a few sections from Practice (membership, conduct of business meeting).

The committee is considering creating a directory of all Quakers within NYYM to aid in the interconnecting of Quakers. Similar directories have been done by other yearly meetings.

The staff has put extraordinary effort into the topical issues of *Spark*, and we recognize that this has been responsible for much wonderful material that will serve to inspire us all. The other efforts of the committee and staff to improve communication among the many parts of NYYM have also borne valuable fruit.

Adam Segal-Isaacson, assistant clerk

Financial Services Committee

The task of the Committee is to frame a reasonable budget each year. First we ask for the expense requests of the four coordinating committees that include the expenses of their constituent committees. There is a careful and methodical review and analysis of these expense requests and the backup information for activities, programs, and tasks the expenditures represent. The next step is a discernment process of the expected covenant donations from the regional/quarterly meetings to support these expenses. With all this data recorded our goal is to balance the budget, that is, either increasing the income expectations and commitments or decreasing the expense requests, a collaborative process.

This is a long and vital process and our calendar goes as follows:

Date	Action
March 1	Notify clerks of the coordinating committees that Preliminary expense requests are due 6/1
June 1	Review preliminary expense budget
July 15	Prepare preliminary budget of expenses and expected income for Summer Sessions

August 1	Mail preliminary budget of expenses and expected income to regional/quarterly and monthly meetings with a letter of explanation and next steps in the budget framing process
September 15	Budget Saturday—review proposed expenses, discern covenant donations, <i>and</i> balance the budget
October 1	Proposed budget due for publication in the next issue of <i>Spark</i>
November 15	Submit proposed budget at Fall Sessions for the consideration of the body of Friends

Serving on Financial Services is a nuts-and-bolts experience of working with the numbers and can be an adventure with the Great Spirit as well. We need additional members serving on the Committee for effective stewardship of our resources. Follow the money for an in-depth understanding of how God is working through your yearly meeting.

Thomas Martin, clerk

General Secretary Job Description

Qualifications:

1. Must be a member of the Religious Society of Friends and be or become a member of a meeting within NYYM.
2. Have understanding of and experience with the dynamics of Friends' meetings.
3. Have the ability and willingness to work with Friends who have diverse interpretations of Quaker faith and practice and at the same time maintain one's own integrity and spiritual grounding.
4. Have the ability to organize and maintain a flexible work schedule which includes frequent weekend availability.
5. Possess personnel management skills. Be knowledgeable about the use of computer technology to enhance effectiveness and communications.
6. Possess strong interpersonal and conflict resolution skills.
7. Possess strong written and oral communications skills.

Responsibilities:

1. Visit monthly, quarterly, and regional meetings, seeking to connect our distant meetings with one another through sharing concerns and ministry.
2. Support and nurture emerging worship groups.
3. Work closely with the clerk of the Yearly Meeting and serve ex-

officio as a member of the Liaison Committee for the purpose of nurturing the life of the Yearly Meeting community.

4. In conjunction with the Yearly Meeting clerk, maintain a liaison with wider Friends' groups. When necessary and appropriate, interpret the Religious Society of Friends to the wider community in statements and actions, including speaking to the press, which articulate our historic peace testimony and are in keeping with *Faith and Practice*, other Friends' testimonies, and relevant Yearly Meeting minutes. Whenever possible, reference should be made to these sources.

5. Supervise and evaluate the work of the administrative secretary. The general secretary will be ultimately responsible for the overall good functioning of the Yearly Meeting office.

General Secretary's Report

It is hard to believe that my second year of serving this Yearly Meeting is already drawing to a close. As I look back on this past year, I am clear that I have done my best to be faithful. I feel blessed to witness the amount of work that God has done through me, and I am excited at the juncture the Yearly Meeting finds itself at this time. I feel we are poised for new growth, and need to be careful and attentive to the opportunity at hand. I look forward to being a part of that work in the year ahead.

Some of the particulars of this past year's work follow.

Supporting Spiritual Renewal

When I first came to serve this Yearly Meeting, many Friends expressed the hope that someone in this position would be a catalyst for spiritual renewal. A catalyst is something which increases the rate at which other elements burn without itself being used up in the process.

One way that I have understood my work over the past year has been as a lighter and tender of spiritual fires. I have helped to rekindle fires where they have gone out, thrown on extra fuel where they were already burning well, and raked coals together where they were scattered too broadly to stay alight by themselves. I am speaking, of course, of the fires in our hearts that burn with the Divine. In this way I do feel that I have served as a catalyst.

My work has many facets, but the underlying intent behind much of my work is to spark and nurture a grassroots spiritual renewal in the Yearly Meeting. It is my belief that other changes, such as vibrant advancement and outreach, grounded witness in the world, a deeper

sense of community, and an improved financial position, will all flow from that primary shift, if we are faithful. This focus echoes similar sentiments in the 1969 Committee of Renewal, the 1994 Ad Hoc Committee on Renewal, and the 2001 Final Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Function of New York Yearly Meeting. It would seem that this understanding has been with us a long time.

To spark and nurture such a grassroots spiritual renewal, I initiated and gave staff support to MCCC's Drawing Out Gifts series of workshops, supported many individuals in being faithful to their leadings, initiated and helped implement a shift in focus for *Spark* so that it can serve as a resource to individuals and monthly meetings, initiated exploration of how to better support spiritual nurture in the Yearly Meeting, and through writing, speaking and visitation sought to encourage Friends to deepen in our faith and practice.

Visitation

Since I started visitation eighteen months ago, I have made almost sixty visits to fifty different quarterly, regional, monthly meetings and worship groups. Every one of these visits is very different, and in each visit I seek to meet the community where it is and to listen carefully to how the Spirit is moving with them. In this process I may be attentive to them in other ways as well, but the core of it for me is deep listening.

I then take what I have been hearing from the many places I visit, and try to be a resource to the Yearly Meeting committees so that they can better know and meet the needs of the monthly meetings. I also serve as a bridge or a conduit in the other direction, interpreting the work of the committee structure to the monthly meetings, helping local Friends to connect with the resources of the Yearly Meeting, and recommending gifted Friends I meet in my travels for service on Yearly Meeting committees. I deeply enjoy my visitation work.

Support of the Committee Structure

I have spent the greatest portion of the time I can devote to committees in this past year working with the Advancement and Ministry and Counsel Coordinating Committees. As they are the Yearly Meeting structures most responsible for supporting and enhancing the spiritual life of our monthly meetings, I have sought to support them in their faithfulness to this work.

I have also participated in the work of the Transition Working Group, the Child Safety Task Group, the Traveling Friends Advisory Group, Sessions Committee, the Program Subcommittee, the Spring and Fall Sessions Subcommittee, JYM, the Communications Committee, and the Personnel Committee. I have provided many other committees

support and counsel upon request, as well.

Representing NYYM to the Wider Religious Society of Friends

I continue to attend the annual Superintendents and Secretaries Retreat, where leadership from FGC, FUM, and EFI yearly meetings, as well as Secretaries from organizations such as AFSC, FWCC, etc, meet to listen to each other and the Spirit as to how we can better work together to support the Religious Society of Friends. At times, issues threaten to divide us, and I see part of my work with this body as serving as a moderating influence, helping Friends from very different traditions and perspectives to hear each other better.

This past year I also attended the FUM Triennial and General Board meetings, as well as representing us on the North American Ministries Committee, and served on the search committee for the new North American Ministries staff person.

This is a turbulent time for FUM. In the past year, most of their top leadership has retired or resigned. I have tried to be as supportive of the organization as I can during these trying times.

I attended the 2005 FGC Gathering and will attend the 2006 Gathering, as well. I also attended the FGC Consultation on Traveling in the Ministry, where Friends from across the continent shared in their experiences of how best to support and ground Friends traveling in the ministry. This will be helpful in my role in supporting those NYYM Friends who are traveling, both under the auspices of MCCC, and those released to travel by their monthly meetings.

Christopher Sammond, general secretary

General Secretary's Task Group

Although this task group reports to General Services Coordinating Committee rather than to the Yearly Meeting body, it seems helpful to share what we do and how we are doing it with the body of the meeting. We have been working with the general secretary since his appointment in 2004, and we are charged to continue through the three-year period of his appointment.

During the first year, the task group served as a mentoring and support group to Christopher as he learned about the Yearly Meeting and what was needed, and we learned about Christopher and what he needed. We all needed to explore and to observe. We looked for feedback, mostly informal, from the monthly meetings, committees, and individuals who had had contact with Christopher. We endorsed

his leading to improve the spiritual health of the various meeting entities, and encouraged his activities.

During the second year, we started to respond to the charge we had been given of evaluating the position of general secretary to report in 2007 as well as continuing to advise and sometimes critique Christopher's functioning in that role. It is clear that the role is larger than any one person can carry with equal attention to all aspects, and we have been working with him to further prioritize his tasks.

This coming year we will place even more emphasis on feedback. We continue to need the help of all meeting members to provide input to us: How have you experienced the general secretary's work? What do you feel is most valuable and going well; what do you feel needs improvement? What do we need more of and what is still lacking? We encourage Friends to provide instances of noteworthy interactions with the general secretary.

Our task group consists of Ruth Ann Bradley, Julia Giordano, Lee Haring, Herb Lape, Lenore Ridgway (clerk). Steve Ross joins us as a support person and adviser to Christopher. Any of us welcome your thoughts, stories, and perceptions. You can contact any of us or send information to the clerk, Lenore Ridgway, 19 Johnston Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401, telephone 845-339-4927, e-mail friendlenore@cs.com. We will try to respond and we will use your input to help us build a picture of Yearly Meeting function with a general secretary.

Junior Yearly Meeting Committee

Each year parents, youth, and other Friends offer excellent suggestions for the JYM program that is held during the annual NYYM sessions in July.

In 2005 we offered a weeklong AVP program, during the morning program time, as an alternate option for Junior and Senior High JYMers.

In 2006 a Quakerism 101 program will be offered for High School Friends.

In 2005 the 10th, 11th, 12th grade Senior High group numbered over 60 youths. That was simply too large for the facilities and available volunteers. In 2006 the group will be split into 9th and 10th grades and 11th and 12th grades, allowing for smaller groups. We look forward to this opportunity for community building that was previously limited by group size.

Spring 2006 saw the first new addition to the JYM program. Vol-

unteers from JYM and Nurture Coordinating Committee had planned a program for the Spring Sessions. The participating young people attended a business session and a committee meeting. In a group they discussed what they had learned and shared a bit of supervised community time together.

Since its inception the Child Safety Task Group has worked closely with the JYM Committee. We believe that the task group was pleased and impressed with the JYM safety measures already in place.

Last year we added a specific Child Safety training program to our June planning weekend. Again in 2006 we will provide a presentation by a professional child safety trainer to our volunteers.

The JYM Committee and volunteers appreciate the opportunity to teach, to challenge, and to play.

We thank you for your financial and prayerful support.

Kathleen Lawson, clerk

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee continues to labor to bring forth appropriate names of Friends to serve on New York Yearly Meeting committees. The Committee has added two new members from a region of New York Yearly Meeting that had had no representatives for several years. It is a joy to have them with us, as they are able to suggest Friends from their region, which has been underrepresented on committees.

We continue to deal with the difficulties of overcommitted Friends and working shorthanded, as some regions continue to have no representatives on the Nominating Committee, or don't have their full complement. Committees are essential to the workings of New York Yearly Meeting. If you are not already serving on a Yearly Meeting committee, please consider doing so, and/or consider giving your name to your regional clerk to represent your region on the Nominating Committee.

The Committee would like to acknowledge Christopher Sammond for his efforts in finding Friends in the Yearly Meeting who have skills to contribute on committees.

Ronald Inskeep, clerk

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee has been working, this past year, closely with Christopher Sammond, our general secretary. Starting at Yearly Meeting, the input we received from Christopher guided us in salary recommendations for our staff. The committee has set maximum salary bands for each staff member, but also continues to work on future salary considerations.

The committee has been attentive to the changing responsibilities of our staff both in the Yearly Meeting office and in other work they are doing for the Yearly Meeting.

Close attention was given to the evaluation of our staff. The committee also minuted appreciation of their work:

The Personnel Committee recognizes the efforts that Helen Garay Toppins, Paul Busby, Walter Naegle, and Judith Inskeep have made to assist in integrating Christopher Sammond into New York Yearly Meeting. Over the past year they have added to their own duties with generosity and good grace to make Christopher feel at home here and to help him accomplish his work among us.

The committee has begun to participate, with a consortium of other Friends and Yearly Meetings, in discussions of setting up a Friends Health Plan for the staff. Steve Ross has been our liaison as the plan goes forward.

We continue to update our Personnel Policies, including the area of personnel leave days and a sabbatical policy.

It has been a busy and fruitful year for the committee as we continue to serve the Yearly Meeting.

George Rubin, clerk

Yearly Meeting Staff

Paul Busby, administrative associate

Last year in my staff report I wrote of the reinvigorated atmosphere I had experienced since Christopher Sammond came aboard as NYYM's general secretary. In word, action, and attitude, Christopher continues to remind me, as I wrote last year, "that this job is first of all one of spiritual service." On days when Christopher is in the office, we have staff worship, which I gratefully attend. A Friend from Mexico remarked, "You are very fortunate to have a job that you love

and that at the same time allows you to contribute to many Quakers, as individuals, groups, and organizations in their quest for a better world.” I am indeed fortunate. I hope that I sometimes live up to my friend’s description.

Last year I wrote, “This year my responsibilities for NYYM publications have expanded.” The same is true this year:

- I am now editor of *Spark*. Beginning with the November 2005 issue, each issue of *Spark* is devoted to a theme that speaks to the life of the monthly meetings. Several issues have had four additional pages. The themes so far have been Advancement; Conscientious Objection to Military Taxation; Worship; and Children and Youth. Producing these special issues entails more work—and a great sense of accomplishment. Future topics will include active peacemaking by Quakers, meetinghouse repair and restoration, simplicity, and other subjects.
- I have continued maintaining the Web site and expanding it, making it more and more useful for Friends, meetings, and seekers. I have been able to assist monthly meetings, regional meetings, and worship groups with their own Web sites, hosted on the Yearly Meeting site. On a recent day, we received more than 800 visits to the site. Friends, seekers, and others come to the site at an ever-increasing rate. The majority of the calls we receive from seekers come from those who first encountered us on the Web and are hungry for more. The Web address is www.nnym.org, and all Friends are encouraged to visit the site.
- *InfoShare* is now in its fifth year of publication. *InfoShare*, too, has been expanding. The June 2006 issue was 16 pages. (*InfoShare* is published on the NYYM Web site, but we send paper copies to those who request them.) This online publication provides a quick, easy, and informative resource for meetings and committees to share their news and for individuals to stay informed about current NYYM events and concerns.
- I also have primary responsibility for the *Advance Reports* and the Meetings section of the *Yearbook*.

This year again I had the responsibility—and the pleasure—of reading the State of Meeting reports as they came in and passing them on to the Friends who create the State of Society report. Once again, this was a blessing for me.

It is gratifying to be able to contribute to the Yearly Meeting in these ways, and I look forward to another year of service to Friends.

Judith Inskip, administrative assistant

Some days when I arrive at the office, I find a number of red dot labels affixed to papers on my desk. The message is “This is important! Please do it now!” Other days, there are none of these “red eyes,” which means I can pay attention to more routine tasks. If enough money has come in I prepare a deposit and make a bank trip. There is usually no lack of filing, file organizing, opening and routing the mail, answering the telephone, and clerical work in general. I’m getting better at making file folder labels in Word. I prepare Sharing Fund thank you’s and proofread *Spark*, *InfoShare*, and the *Yearbook*. Then there are the days that find me scrambling for committee-appointment information for the *Yearbook*.

I like seeing information sent in by monthly and regional meetings, such as new appointments and State of the Meeting reports, and from my office perspective I have gained a renewed conviction of the importance of submitting such information.

One day a week seems just about the right amount of time, and I’m pleased that there is no problem with changing days if I need to do so. I like our staff meetings, because I learn from hearing about the work of other staff members. Staff worship is a restful pause and a chance to remember why we are here. Serving the Yearly Meeting feels like a privilege.

Walter Naegle, administrative assistant

I think that the 2005–2006 year has been a productive one for me at the NYYM office.

My regular duties include maintaining the database, preparing payment vouchers, filing, processing Silver Bay registrations, sorting mail, preparing the annual statistical report, and answering telephones. I work closely with the monthly meeting recorders to ensure that our membership records are up-to-date. My work also includes sorting through older records and helping to determine which should be disposed of and which should be sent to the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College. In addition, I have been coordinating and preparing for a temporary relocation of the office (three months), while renovations are taking place in the Friends Seminary complex.

The move poses challenges for the organization, particularly as we begin preparation for the annual gathering at Silver Bay. Our leadership team is efficient and well-organized, and this will help to make a smooth transition possible.

Helen Garay Toppins, administrative secretary

Between supervising the Yearly Meeting office staff; organizing and prioritizing the work that needs to be done in the office; providing staff support for the general secretary; processing Yearly Meeting vouchers; proofreading *Spark* and *InfoShare*; helping to compile the *Yearbook*; being the staff liaison for Spring and Fall Sessions and the registrar for Silver Bay; responding to seekers who contact the Yearly Meeting office; and providing support for the Yearly Meeting clerk, section clerks, and committee clerks—you would think that I don't get around much anymore, but I do.

The support and nurture of the entire YM staff allows me to increasingly be able to get out of the office and into the field and do what I love best—advancement and outreach. I am not the only Friend who wants to disseminate widely an awareness of the faith, practice, and testimonies of Friends. When I coordinated our Quaker outreach efforts for the NYC Peace Festival and the Clearwater Hudson River Festival, I was overwhelmed by the show of support. A few dozen Friends volunteered! There is a real hunger within our Yearly Meeting to make our Quaker presence known to others. It filled me with joy to see how our outreach to seekers knitted Friends from different meetings as we all worked together on these advancement projects.

I really enjoy reading all the monthly meetings' newsletters and routing pertinent information to staff and Yearly Meeting clerks and to other monthly meetings.

I welcome invitations from monthly, quarterly, and prisons meetings to do workshops. I particularly want to do workshops concerning the testimonies of community, equality, integrity, and peace, but I will do whatever a meeting wants me to. The community-building sessions I led at our Attica and Auburn prison meetings fed my soul.

I also serve as the staff support person for the Young Adult Concerns Committee and the Circle of Young Friends. At my age I was honored to be asked to help facilitate the Powell House Young Adult conference scheduled for 2007.

My long-term goal is to facilitate Quaker open houses in areas where we do not have a formalized Quaker presence and to help start new worship groups. I had the satisfaction of helping to set up the Bronx Worship Group, and I pray that way opens so that I can follow my leading to help establish more worship groups.

Records Committee

The Records Committee has continued to encourage the monthly meetings, regional meetings, and committees of the Yearly Meeting to preserve their minutes on acid-free paper and deposit them in the Swarthmore Historical Library. Acid-free paper is available from the clerk. Acid-free glue is also available.

One of the questions that was asked is Why not just use electronic records? A copy of Christopher Densmore's paper on the value of records was sent to the individual. Changes in the formats of electronic storage are constant. Acid-free paper will last for the ages.

The Records Committee is aware that the need for better communication with the individual meetings is necessary. The awareness has influenced us to call a meeting in May with Farmington-Scipio, to be held at the time of their annual retreat. If this is successful, some of our meetings will be held at other regional meetings. A suggestion was also made that the Yearly Meeting try to make sure that each region has a member who will work with the monthly meetings on recordkeeping.

Our goal is to preserve records of the present and past for the future to enjoy. We hope that it will give future Friends a vision of the foundation upon which they work.

Emma C. Fleck, clerk

Sessions Committee

Theme for 2006 Annual Meeting of New York Yearly meeting of Friends:

Unleashing the Blessed Community

1. What are we seeking to create?
2. What are the fetters which bind us?
3. What would we be doing if we lived in the Peaceable Community?

As I once again, took on the role of clerk of the Sessions Committee I found that many new issues have arisen in the past years and there have been some changes in the way work is completed.

The financial challenges of the whole Yearly Meeting are beginning to register in the minds of the entire committee. Several suggestions to reduce costs and expenses have been made and accepted. However, we continue to receive requests for more and more events and special

equipment, which continue to increase costs. We are fortunate that Silver Bay does not charge us for individual meeting space and equipment as do some locations we use for the spring and fall gatherings.

The Spring and Fall Subcommittee is working efficiently and effectively, partly because it has an experienced clerk and members. I am concerned that the geographical changes that these meetings require will result in the limited availability of experienced volunteers. There is an effort to separate the subcommittee from the Sessions Committee. It is my opinion that until we have set locations for both events, and an accepted rotation of responsibilities, there needs to be a body to oversee the subcommittee's work.

During the past months the Sessions Committee has received reports from the Spring and Fall Subcommittee. So long as the work continues to be completed efficiently there will be no need for Sessions to intervene. But, as in the past, local systems may break down and it is on those occasions when the Sessions Committee can be available to step in and help.

We have approved a registration fee of \$20 for spring and fall sessions, with an additional charge of \$5 for late registrants. In special circumstances this additional charge can be waived.

It would be useful to keep detailed records of the costs of the spring and fall meetings to compare the various facilities and per capita costs to the YM budget for all three sessions.

The recommendation to look for speakers within our own Yearly Meeting has not been fully incorporated into our planning as yet. I anticipate that the Program Subcommittee will begin an ongoing effort that looks forward several years in advance. There has always been a problem coordinating the dates of the annual sessions with the schedules of those we wish to have as speakers. I am hopeful that in the coming year programs and general topics will be laid out three to five years in advance. This will take greater input from the individual coordinating committees to provide topics and speakers of value to all of us.

When the Sessions Committee works with Young Friends in coordination with JYM we expand the limits of our thinking. We have been able not only to think "outside the box" but also to experience the beauty and joy our young Friends share.

Kathleen Lawson, clerk

Transition Working Group

The Transition Working Group consists of the clerk of the Yearly Meeting, the assistant clerk (serving as clerk of the Transition Working Group), the general secretary, the four coordinating committee clerks or their representatives, and two members of the former Ad Hoc Committee on Committees. Our charge is to bring forward to Yearly Meeting, as led, minutes for changes in our committee structure, working from the 2004 recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Committees. We have met twice since last year, with one more meeting scheduled in June 2006.

Last year (2005) the Yearly Meeting approved the Committee Queries of Accountability. This annual review helps clerks of the coordinating committees to discern if the life and Spirit of the work being done by a committee is bearing fruit or whether is it time for new seeds to be planted.

We also brought forward Advices to Committee Clerks, which was not approved, as Friends felt there was a need for some fine-tuning. After listening to Friends at our interest group and those who chose to submit written suggestions, the Transition Working Group has incorporated revisions to pages 70–78 of the Yearly Meeting *Handbook*. A copy of the NYYM Clerk and Committee Guidelines was brought before the body in April 2006. With additions and corrections the Transition Working Group will submit that section of the Handbook for approval in July 2006.

The recommendation to place the Worship and Action Group under the care of the Coordinating Committee for Ministry and Counsel was approved in our April 2006 Sessions. The Transition Working Group felt the Coordinating Committee for Ministry and Counsel would assist with discernment and guidance for this ministry as people are called to this work.

When the Transition Working Group looked at how we might move forward on the recommendations of the Committee on Committees to lay down specific committees, we felt led to work with those coordinating committees first before making a recommendation to the body of Friends. We are cocreating a discernment process so as we move forward the fruits of the labor will be spirit filled and enriching to the body of the Yearly Meeting. The Transition Working Group is looking forward to bringing recommendations when seasoned and ready.

Our last item of business for this annual report concerns the Transition Working Group. When we were established the Ad Hoc Committee recommended that our working group be given three years or less to fulfill its charge. We have 1 1/2 years left to finish the work on

recommendations brought forward by the ad hoc committee, and with God's help it does not seem like an impossible goal. We are moving forward on our charge; we also move with God as our Guide. We do ask the body to continue to hold us in prayer as we listen and discern moving the Yearly Meeting forward to do God's work.

The Transition Working Group has been humbled by the Spirit as we work through our charge and find peace, joy, and laughter working with each other.

*Ernestine Buscemi, clerk
Transition Working Group*

TREASURER'S ACCOUNTS
Statement of Operations 1/1/05 to 12/31/05

	2005 Budget	2005 Actual
Disbursements and Transfers:		
General Services		
<i>Section expense</i>		
General expense & travel	3,000	1,984.45
NYYM Officer's Expense	2,500	1,933.84
Audit	3,000	3,050.00
Child abuse/sexual harassment tng	<u>4,000</u>	<u>239.40</u>
Total section expense	12,500	7,207.69
<i>Committees</i>		
Junior Yearly Meeting	29,500	27,734.28
Planning		1,886.03
Silver Bay		25,848.25
Communications	23,550	18,481.35
<i>Handbook</i>		0.00
Other		0.00
<i>Spark</i>		14,913.01
Web Site/ <i>Yearbook/Adv Reports</i>		3,568.34
Nominating	400	352.15
Records	3,500	3,500.00
Provision for Records Preservation	0	0.00
Contribution—Friends Historical Library	3,500	3,500.00
Sessions Committee	12,600	10,521.56
Representative Meetings		3,273.67
Yearly Meeting		6,193.24
Other		1,054.65
Total committee expense	69,550	60,589.34
<i>Office expense</i>		
Office operations		
Administrative expenses	12,000	11,471.04
Insurance	3,700	3,486.40
Rent & utilities 15th St.	23,800	24,070.21
Office staff travel	8,500	8,663.18
Computer consultation	2,000	0.00
Office equipment	1,500	1,918.63

Personnel		
Staff employee salaries	162,250	162,249.96
Hourly employee wages	21,000	22,309.23
Salary and wage related expenses	42,275	36,457.41
Staff development	2,000	1,106.75
Volunteer support	1,000	296.55
Bookkeeping service	<u>26,400</u>	<u>26,400.00</u>
Total office expense	306,425	298,429.36
Total General Services	388,475	366,226.39
Ministry & Counsel		
<i>Section expense</i>	2,000	2,948.41
Programs		
Bible Study leader at YM	1,550	509.25
Meeting program assistance	1,450	750.00
Ministry Task Group	750	750.00
Spiritual Nurturance Program	150	63.01
Provision for Friends Travel in Ministry	3,000	3,000.00
Pastor's Conference	1,150	400.00
Conflict Transformation	3,700	2,586.32
Epistle Committee	0	0
Faith & Practice	0	0
Rep to Council on Ministerial Advisors	0	0
Total program expense	<u>11,750</u>	<u>8,058.58</u>
Total Ministry & Counsel	13,750	11,006.99
Nurture		
<i>Section expense</i>	1,000	1,909.48
Religious Education Resource Library	900	0.00
Total section expense	1,900	1,909.48
Committees		
Advancement Committee	12,000	10,300.02
Disability Concerns	90	0.00
FWCC Committee	500	115.60
Religious Education	0	0.00
United Society Friends Women	0	0.00
Women's Concerns	500	227.07
Young Adult Concerns	<u>900</u>	<u>64.75</u>
Total committee expense	13,990	10,707.44

NYYM appointee expense

FCUN—Representative to Board	0	0.00
FGC Central Committee	2,700	1,501.75
Quaker Earthcare Witness	800	704.00
FUM Board Representatives	3,000	1,527.08
Provision for FUM Triennial Sessions	650	650.00
FWCC Section Meetings	1,800	972.70
Provision for FWCC Triennial Sessions	1,700	1,700.00
Provision for FWCC Quadrennial	500	500.00
YouthQuake planning / travel	1,000	669.80
Provision for YouthQuake attendees	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>
Total NYYM appointee expense	14,150	10,225.33

Allocations and Donations

Friends Council on Education	90	90.00
Friends General Conference	9,000	9,000.00
Friends United Meeting	9,000	9,000.00
FUM—Triennial Sessions 3rd World Rep	1,300	1,300.00
FUM 3rd World Board Reps	270	270.00
Friends Comm on Unity w/Nature	0	0.00
Friends World Committee	4,500	4,500.00
New Jersey Council of Churches	240	240.00
NYS Community of Churches	450	450.00
Oakwood School	11,875	11,875.00
Powell House	67,000	66,999.96
Quaker Earthcare Witness	200	200.00
William Penn House	250	250.00
YouthQuake	135	1,000.00
Total allocations and donations	<u>104,310</u>	<u>105,174.96</u>
Total Nurture	134,350	128,017.21

Witness

<i>Section expense</i>	10,800	1,970.36
Coordinating Committee expense		134.54
Sharing Fund Campaign overhead		1,835.82
<i>NYYM appointee expense</i>		0.00
Friends Peace Teams		1,200.00
Peace Tax Fund	<u> </u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total NYYM appointee expense		1,200.00
Program Expense		
Rural & Migrant Ministries		750.00
Provision for Peace Initiation	<u> </u>	<u>0.00</u>

Total program expense	0	750.00
<i>Committee expense</i>		
Barrington Dunbar		0.00
Black Concerns		83.50
Indian Affairs		283.26
Latin American Concerns		0.00
Peace Concerns		95.87
Prisons		0.00
Right Sharing		0.00
World Ministries		131.33
Total committee expense	<u>0</u>	<u>593.96</u>
Total Witness	10,800	4,514.32
Contingency	<u>0</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Disbursements	547,375	509,764.91
<i>Meetings</i>		
All Friends Regional	58,000	54,818.00
Butternuts Quarterly	8,000	7,890.00
Farmington Regional	70,000	67,273.00
Long Island Quarterly	70,000	64,862.75
New York Quarterly	80,600	79,568.00
Nine Partners Quarterly	32,000	37,076.40
Northeastern Regional	26,400	26,838.75
Purchase Quarterly	86,000	81,842.99
Shrewsbury & Plainfield HY	<u>45,000</u>	<u>48,457.50</u>
Total Meeting income	<u>476,000</u>	<u>468,627.39</u>
<i>Other Sources</i>		
Registration Fees	20,000	16,599.66
Staff Services	0	0.00
Trustees	11,000	10,715.22
All other	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,375.21</u>
Total other sources	<u>36,000</u>	<u>32,690.09</u>
Total receipts	512,000	501,317.48
Year 2005 opening balance		204,400.05
+ receipts		501,317.48
- disbursements		509,764.91
Closing balance		<u>195,952.62</u>
NET CHANGE		<u>- 8,447.43</u>

Note: F-S 2005 income includes \$1,530 for 2004
All Friends 2005 income includes \$4,700 for 2004

FUNDS REPORT (unaudited)

	Balance as of 1/1/05	Sharing Fund Campaign Income	Other Income	Dist.	Closing Balance 12/31/05
Sharing Fund					
AVP Donation	0.00	2,903.12	0.00	2,903.12	0.00
Barrington Dunbar	6,553.12	12,700.59	1,200.00	12,950.00	7,503.71
Friends for Black Concerns	3,209.37	4,263.55	750.00	4,554.77	3,668.15
Indian Affairs Committee	2,235.81	5,527.60	3,795.76	9,550.00	2,009.17
Latin American Concerns	1,161.66	3,371.04	0.00	4,357.50	175.20
Peace Concerns Committee	1,205.14	2,578.12	0.00	970.60	2,812.66
Prison Committee	1,737.85	4,313.55	150.00	3,228.40	2,973.00
Right Sharing	2,392.19	2,578.12	75.00	2,300.00	2,745.31
Witness Activities	1,182.44	4,263.55	3,525.15	3,175.00	5,796.14
World Ministries	<u>1,663.08</u>	<u>621.16</u>	<u>18,566.38</u>	<u>12,866.00</u>	<u>7,984.62</u>
Total Sharing Fund	21,340.66	43,120.40	28,062.29	56,855.39	35,667.96

Total Sharing Fund Income less Trustee income	48,351.05
2005 Sharing Fund Goal	70,000.00
Percentage of Goal	69.1%

FUNDS REPORT (unaudited)—cont.

	Balance as of 1/1/05	Transfers from Oper. Budget	Other Income	Dist.	Closing Balance 12/31/05
Other Funds					
Advancement — Lafayette	6,005.37	0.00	847.00	3,077.65	3,774.72
Advancement — Leach	4,110.08	0.00	2,690.00	1,522.69	5,277.39
Advancement — Women	1,696.73	0.00	403.50	1,800.00	300.23
<i>Faith & Practice</i> fund	5,092.98	0.00	1,058.30	3,487.15	2,664.13
Sufferings fund	9,700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,700.00
FWCC Triennial NYYM attendance	1,768.42	1,700.00	0.00	0.00	3,468.42
Gospel Order packets	286.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	286.69
Peace initiatives	6,354.97	0.00	0.00	6,354.97	0.00
FUM Triennial NYYM attendance	2,195.96	650.00	0.00	2,226.69	619.27
Records preservation	1,538.51	0.00	0.00	146.79	1,391.72
FWCC Quadrennial Operating	650.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	1,150.00
Friends Traveling in Ministry	5,289.58	3,025.00	3,600.00	10,416.50	1,498.08
YouthQuake attendees	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
Representative Meeting	0.00	0.00	4,961.49	4,961.49	0.00
Total other funds	<u>44,689.29</u>	<u>7,875.00</u>	<u>13,560.29</u>	<u>33,993.93</u>	<u>32,130.65</u>
Total funds	66,029.95	50,995.40	41,622.58	90,849.32	67,798.61

Trustees, Lindley Murray Fund

The Trustees of the Yearly Meeting, who now administer the funds, informed us that the amount we had to disburse was \$31,726.16. \$1,000.00 of that amount was returned to us by Chicago Fellowship of Friends, who informed us that their program has been laid down. The New York Female Association received 7.5% of \$30,726.16, or \$2,304.00.

Of the amount remaining, the following distributions were made:

AFSC (New York Metropolitan Region)	
Akwasasne Task Force for the Environment	1,500
Conflict Resolution Program, New York	1,500
Project Voice	1,500
Quaker United Nations Program	1,500
Alternatives to Violence Project	1,750
Barrington Dunbar Fund	100
Creative Response to Conflict	3,500
Friends Committee on National Legislation	1,700
Friends Educational Council Ltd	1,700
Friends General Conference	1,100
Friends United Meeting	1,100
<i>Friends Journal</i>	2,000
Long Island Council of Churches	
Women at the Well Project	1,250
NYYM Indian Affairs Committee	1,000
Oakwood Friends School	4,700
YSOP	2,100
Bolivian Quaker Education Fund	<u>1,400</u>
TOTAL	29,400

The Trustees were concerned that several organizations that had requested grants in the past did not respond to our request for proposals sent out last fall.

The Trustees welcome suggestions for other recipients. If you know of an organization that fits the criteria, please forward the contact name and address to the clerk by September 1, 2006.

Linda S. Houser, clerk

Trustees, New York Yearly Meeting

Below are the investment results for the Yearly Meeting Trustee Managed Funds held at TIAA-CREF Trust Co. Our funds there are held in five separate accounts. Four of them are invested in stocks (three domestic and one international) and one in bond funds (Federated Adjustable Rate and Vanguard GNMA). Below are our performance numbers for the four years since we adopted our current investment posture.

	2002	2003	2004	2005
New York Yearly Meeting	-11.3%	21.9%	10.0%	5.8%
NYYM Benchmark	- 9.2%	18.9%	8.3%	3.9%
Friends Fiduciary	-10.9%	21.0%	10.9%	7.3%
Standard & Poor's 500	-22.1%	28.7%	10.9%	4.9%
MCSI EAFE	20.3%	13.5%		
Lehman Bros Agg Bond Index	10.3%	4.1%	4.3%	2.4%

The Yearly Meeting's 2005 investment return (5.82%) is computed as follows: We add \$2.66, our dividend paid in 2005, to our 2005 year end net asset value per share of \$64.83 (not yet audited) and divide by our net asset value per share at year-end 2004 \$63.78 (audited). This year our fund participated in the stock market's rise, and with its 15% invested internationally fully contributing, beat the purely domestic market. For a conservatively managed fund, this is doing well.

Investment Management

In general terms the fund was invested in stocks, bonds, and cash, with more money in stocks than bonds. Our stocks are managed by four leading socially responsible investment managers: Ariel Capital Management, Boston Common Asset Management, BCAM International, and TIAA-CREF through their Social Choice Equity Fund. These are managers who satisfied our analysis of their past performance and who adhere to socially responsible principles. Bonds are invested in socially responsible bond funds: Federated Adjustable rate and Vanguard GNMA. These are picked by the investments committee. BCAM International is managed by Brandywine Asset Management as sub-advisor.

Shareholder Activities

Our shareholder activism is carried out by BCAM. Issues emphasized this year were the workplace, labor policies, indigenous people's rights, health care, environment and child sex tourism. Companies involved were Apple Computer, Burlington Resources, kCKVS, Dow Chemical, Exxon, Marriott, Novartis, Scotts and Wal-Mart.

The NYYM Benchmark for calculating our dividend is a weighted

average of 60% S&P 500 Index and 40% Lehman Brothers Aggregate Bond Index. It is intended to represent a typical balanced portfolio. We are not fully comparable because we are not exactly 60% stocks and 40% bonds. Also we invest only in socially responsible stocks and bonds and have to pay maintenance and custody fees. Our managers also invest in stocks that are not included in the indexes.

Friends Fiduciary is the well-known organization in Philadelphia that manages investments for Friends organizations. The S&P 500 is an unmanaged index of the common stocks of 500 major US corporations. MSCI-EAFE is the best known benchmark used to measure international equity performance. The Lehman Brothers Aggregate is an index of intermediate-term bonds.

All data assume dividends are reinvested. The investment return and principal value of an investment in the Unit Plan will fluctuate so that an investor's units, when redeemed, may realize more or less than their original cost.

George R. McClure, clerk

*NYYM Trustees Financial Report
Distribution of Funds for Year 2005*

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

Oakwood Scholarship	21,659.88
Oakwood Administrative	41,748.80
H.H. Mosher	3,523.90
Powell House	10,495.04
Advancement Committee	3,093.50
Nine Partners Quarterly Meeting	1,608.43
World Ministries	18,566.38
New York Yearly Meeting	10,715.22
Yearly Meeting Friends' Home	4,551.48
Manasquan Monthly Meeting	2,242.12
Indian Affairs Committee	2,943.26
Friends Historical Library	6,147.20
Funds under Management	
Scarsdale Monthly Meeting	994.21
New Brunswick Monthly Meeting	1,012.41
Montclair Monthly Meeting	18,219.91
Hartland MM - F-Scipio Region	1,351.93
Cornwall Monthly Meeting	4,220.54
Total	153,094.21

NYYM Retained Income Funds — 2005 Summary

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

Fund	Bal 1-1-05	Disbursements	Income	Bal 12-31-05
York	7,244.02	9,400.00	8,956.24	6,800.26
Smith	2,898.40	3,000.00	585.20	483.60
Lockport	2,968.14		748.36	3,716.50
Beers	1,796.76	1,525.00	239.36	511.12
Morris	16,965.68		545.88	17,511.56
Stevens	21,964.94	15,750.00	5,644.28	11,859.22
Brinkerhoff	2,280.02		649.04	2,929.06
Sutton	962.02	1,000.00	295.28	257.30
Haines	2,489.30	3,181.15	1,479.48	787.63
Ykt-Underhill	4,917.56	1,000.00	922.92	4,840.48
Monkton	8,816.86	598.50	1,595.76	9,814.12
Sufferings	1,673.20		874.40	2,547.60
Total	74,976.90	35,454.65	22,536.20	62,058.45
Funds under Management				
Lindley Murray	32,024.16	30,924.00	30,626.00	31,726.16
Unrestricted				
General	2,159.94	3,712.92	2,106.46	553.48
Trustees Administrative	4,367.26	10,170.00	10,743.69	4,940.95

NURTURE SECTION

Nurture Coordinating Committee

The Nurture Coordinating Committee continues to work to support the New York Yearly Meeting, its constituent monthly meetings, and the bodies of which NYYM is a member.

We held a retreat in December at Powell House, and opened it to everyone interested in the topic of nurturing our Yearly Meeting and our Selves. Twenty-seven Friends gathered to talk about and brainstorm over four foci: Nurturing Monthly Meetings, Leadings, Religious Education, and Youth. We came up with lots of ideas and advice and notes. (Find them all on the Web at nyym.org or ask me for a copy.) Out of the retreat has come a plan for a three-part series of conferences to be held at Powell House in 2007. The topics are not firm yet, but the intention is to support intergenerational gatherings, and Friends' leadings and gifts. As we process the many wonderful ideas that came from the retreat, more good efforts will be possible.

We continue to work with the final recommendations of the Religious Education Committee regarding the creation of a youth committee. Toward supporting youth work in the Yearly Meeting, we are hosting a study group for First Day school teachers—or those who would like to start a First Day school—to discuss curricula, concerns, joys, and challenges.

Finally, we also continue to work with the recommendations from the Committee on Committees. We have laid down the Disabilities Concerns Committee and the Women's Concerns Committee—turning both concerns over to resource persons under our care.

On a financial note, we must be honest. The cuts in our budget have had an unfortunate effect on our committees—most especially on the travel required to be properly represented with the Quaker bodies of which we are members. Provisions have proven not sufficient, and our representatives have had to rethink which events they can attend and how many can now go. Concern has also been expressed with the cuts in our donations, and I encourage Friends to donate to those Quaker groups to which they feel the most affinity. In the meantime, we must keep in mind that continuing to cut the budget costs us our presence in our own Yearly Meeting and in the world of Quakerism. There is no easy solution or answer, but we must be mindful of the Spirit, not just the dollars.

In peace and nurturance,

Melanie-Claire Mallison, clerk

Advancement Committee

The Advancement Committee experienced several dramatic changes this year. First was the departure of Jane Berger, who had been so instrumental to Advancement work in recent years. This was lessened by Vicki Cooley's willingness to come onto the Committee and bring her many years of experience as our new clerk—and then, of course, Vicki's death shortly after bravely clerking our Spring Sessions meeting.

Despite this upheaval, we've been busy this year carrying out our duties. One new program that we initiated is a youth internship that will take Margaret Obermayer to Long Island Quarterly Meeting for three weeks in May to help with youth and their program to "Strengthen Connections among Meetings." We hope this will be the first of many such programs to train youth in ministry and serve the renewal of monthly meetings.

Prompted by a minute from Westbury Meeting, we have also begun a process of evaluating the use of our operating budget funds exclusively for scholarships to Summer Sessions at Silver Bay, considering whether a portion of these would be better spent on other projects more centered in monthly meeting advancement and renewal.

We approved expenditures of \$1,500 to support advancement projects in worship groups. Requests should be made to the clerk of Advancement. We approved a request from Quaker Street Meeting for a grant for meetinghouse repair, to come from the Lockport-Brinkerhoff Fund, which is dedicated to such expenses.

We have heard reports from Helen Garay Toppins, administrative secretary, of staff advancement efforts in new areas that we pray will bear new fruit.

In addition to these new initiatives we continue to carry out our ongoing tasks of sponsoring an annual Retreat for Small Meetings and Worship Groups at Powell House, newcomer welcoming activities at Yearly Meeting sessions, revision and distribution of advancement literature to newcomers, and distribution of trust funds dedicated to our work.

Herb Lape, clerk

Committee on Disability Concerns

Laid down

Friends General Conference, Representatives

Exciting things are happening at FGC. The NYYM representatives to FGC's Central Committee were involved in a long-term planning process from which three major new initiatives have emerged. FGC is preparing to: (1) nurture a renewal of interest in young adult Friends that has been building in many of our meetings and in FGC; (2) increase our understanding of how the dynamics of race have an impact on our meeting communities and help meetings to move toward greater diversity and wholeness; and (3) expand its work with meetings to attract seekers and to welcome them into the love and power of the Spirit in Quaker worship, witness, and community.

Several NYYM representatives have focused effort on youth ministries. We are thrilled that after several years of prayerful discernment, in 2005 FGC created a Youth Ministries Committee. Three NYYM representatives helped carry the preliminary work leading to the formation of this committee. One noted: "The high point of my service has been working on the Ad Hoc Youth Ministries Discernment Committee to design a new Youth Ministries Program for FGC. At last year's consultation, we discovered the amazing power and joy that come with engaging in serious spiritual work on an intergenerational basis and the gaping wound that the near absence of young adult Friends is to our religious society. The experience has been life changing for me." Two NYYM Friends serve on the new Youth Ministries Committee.

Diversity of our membership continues to be a priority for us. For the past few years our goal has been to find young Friends to serve as NYYM representatives to FGC. I have been amazed at the interest and enthusiasm of those we have asked. We are pleased that among our contingent of NYYM representatives are now three Friends under 30. Because we are firmly committed to help support these Friends as needed, we have asked Nurture Coordinating Committee to budget adequate funds to help enable these Friends to participate. Service to FGC requires travel to three or more committee meetings a year as well as overnight accommodation at the four-day Central Committee meetings in October. It is also a continuing concern that we seek out representation from the pastoral meetings within NYYM, in order to have their needs and concerns expressed and heard.

Each member of Central Committee typically serves on one program or administrative committee of FGC. In addition to Youth Ministries, the NYYM representatives are members of the following committees: Advancement & Outreach, Christian and Interfaith Relations, Development, Executive, Long Range Conference Planning, Ministry and Nurture, Naming, Nominations, Publications and Distribution,

and Traveling Ministries. Information about FGC's many programs and its resources for meetings and individuals can be found at www.fgcquaker.org.

We continue to find ways to fulfill our charge as representatives to FGC. We began this past December to provide a book table at NYYM sessions. Though not as extensive as the book table at Silver Bay, it still offers a variety of excellent titles from the FGC bookstore for individuals and meetings. We would appreciate suggestions of additional titles. We hope to continue to be able to provide the table at both spring and winter sessions. We would like to hear from quarterly and regional meetings if they are interested in having this resource available at their gatherings.

The 2006 Annual Gathering of Friends in Tacoma, Washington, will be the first FGC Gathering ever on the Pacific Coast. When an expected registration of 1,000 to 1,200 became a mad flurry of close to 2,000 applications, the Long Range Conference Planning Committee and the FGC staff quickly found ways to accommodate a few hundred more Friends than originally planned. At least two NYYM representatives rolled up their sleeves to help process the flood of registrations. This will definitely not be the last Gathering on the West Coast.

The annual Gathering organized by FGC is diverse, interesting, and exciting. So, too, is the annual meeting of FGC's Central Committee, where about 160 Friends from the United States and Canada gather to set policy for FGC. Many of us feel that our lives have been immeasurably enriched by our experiences serving on Central Committee. "All around it has been a deepening spiritual time for me," a "very satisfying, Spirit-filled process." "It does take time and energy, but rewards are incredible." FGC is one dynamic, Spirit-led organization, where we represent NYYM as we learn, worship, and speak Truth. We feel blessed to have the opportunity to serve Friends by serving FGC.

Rick Townsend, clerk

Friends United Meeting, Representatives

The 2005–2006 year for Friends United Meeting has been one of profound challenge and change. At the July 2005 Triennial in Des Moines, Ben Richmond's service to FUM was honored as he finally and fully retired, having held almost every position on the staff over the years. What came as stunning news to Friends gathered in Iowa was Retha McCutchen's announcement that she, too, would retire as

general secretary of FUM effective in February 2006.

At the October board meeting, with a newly constituted board for the 2005–2008 triennium, it was decided that financial constraints required that the staff in Richmond, Indiana, be cut back to a four-day week. In addition, the position of editor of Friends United Press was eliminated and operations of the press were combined with the operation of *Quaker Life* magazine. Then, in December, Colin South, director of World Ministries, tendered his immediate resignation as well.

As a result, in a deeply prayerful and spirit-led general board meeting in February, with no replacements having been found for Retha, for Ben, or for Colin, and with the most senior staff person being Trish Edwards-Konic, the editor of *Quaker Life* and the press, the executive committee of the board took over operations of FUM. The board agreed that the staff had to be restored to a five-day work week but that *Quaker Life* would be cut back from publishing ten to six issues a year. In March, an interim acting general secretary was found in Sylvia Graves of Western Yearly Meeting. Sylvia has brought an optimistic spirit to the staff in the offices at Quaker Hill and is endeavoring to communicate in new ways with the general board.

While all of this has been taking place, ministry outside of North America continues in Ramallah, Belize, Jamaica, and Africa. Work and witness in Africa, in particular, seems to be thriving. John Muanji is collaborating with Jim and Eden Grace from New England Yearly Meeting to set up an FUM office in Kenya. Elsewhere in Kenya Patrick and Mary Kay Rehard-Nugent (present with us last year at Silver Bay) are educating Quakers at Friends Theological College. In addition, Mary Kay Rehard-Nugent has begun training as a medical doctor, deepening her commitment to service in Africa. Meanwhile, work goes forward on restoring and renewing Kaimosi Hospital (returned to FUM ownership by the Kenyans). When it is operational again, this hospital will be a major ministry, especially in the face of the AIDS crisis in Kenya.

Through turbulent times, the Friends United Meeting staff in Richmond, its overseas field staff, and its general board—a board of some theological diversity—are all earnestly seeking to be faithful to God’s leading.

*Carol Holmes, clerk
NYYM representatives to the FUM General Board*

Friends World Committee for Consultation

The Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) strives to increase the interaction and understanding of Friends around the world and to facilitate the exchange of ideas and concerns through regional conferences, youth pilgrimages, and visitations. The FWCC is divided into the Sections of the Americas (from the Arctic to the Antarctic), Africa, Asia-West Pacific, and Europe. The world office is in London and the Section of the Americas has its headquarters in Philadelphia.

This year's annual meeting of the Section of the Americas was attended by several NYYM representatives. It was held from March 15–19, 2006, in Chiquimula, Guatemala, and was the first such meeting to be held south of Mexico for decades, perhaps the first time ever. It was held there as part of an effort to make Latin Americans a more integral part of the work of the Section.

The business sessions were held at the resort hotel in Rio Hondo during mornings and afternoons, and the representatives were then bused to Chiquimula for events with our Guatemalan hosts. Note that for several Friends the most valuable part of the FWCC is the annual gathering at which one may meet many Friends, both old and new. The Northeast Region (consisting of Canadian, New England, New York, and Philadelphia Yearly Meetings) met to discuss plans for this fall's Gathering when New York will be hosting the Northeast Regional Gathering of the FWCC. It is to be held Oct. 13–15, 2006, at the Purchase meetinghouse. Friends are looking forward to hearing Dan Seeger, who will be the principal speaker at the Gathering. Dan is a former executive secretary of the New York Regional Office of the American Friends Service Committee and is now resident at Medford Leas.

Bernabé Yujra will be visiting the U.S. from June 20 through August 12 as the FWCC representative to both New York and New England Yearly Meetings' annual sessions, to allow him to talk with a variety of Friends about education in Bolivia. He works full time for the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund (BQEF).

More information is available by visiting the Section of the Americas Web site at www.fwccamericas.org and the World Office Web site at www.fwccworld.org.

Although we mourn the death of our committee member and wonderful F/friend Thor Rodin, we rejoice having known him and in being fortunate to have shared a portion of his life.

Larry Coulthurst, clerk

The McCutchen, Yearly Meeting Friends Home

No report available at press time.

Committee on the Expenditure of the H.H. Mosher Fund

In 2005 the Mosher Fund distributed more than \$10,000 worth of books through the book table including gifts that totaled more than \$4,700 in value. Gift books were given to 75 meetings, worship groups, and Friends organizations (Powell House, schools) and to 23 individuals. The Advancement Committee provided more than \$280 for books given to Junior Yearly Meeting graduates. As planned, the increase in value of gifts to meetings to \$60 per meeting, as well as the increased number of meetings participating, enabled us to draw down the excessively large balance of the Fund by approximately \$1,200.

We will continue to have a wide selection of books available for purchase at Yearly Meeting this year. Monthly meetings whose members attend may again select up to \$60 worth of books for meeting libraries. Additionally, as has been our practice in the past, one free book will be provided to Yearly Meeting staff members, recorded ministers, invited speakers, members of other yearly meetings attending NYYM for the first time, and Friends organizations. Organizations entitled to receive free books will include Powell House, the McCutchen Friends Home, the Anna Curtis Center, and the eight Friends schools situated within New York Yearly Meeting. Graduating members of JYM will also receive one free book, courtesy of the Advancement Committee.

The Committee is grateful for the opportunities and challenges involved in working with and distributing the large volume of books at the book table each year. Particularly enjoyable is the chance to speak and interact with those who stop by to visit and discuss the broad choice of available books.

Paul Sherman, clerk

New Jersey Council of Churches, Representatives

No report available at press time.

New York State Council of Churches Collegium

The Collegium, comprising the bishops or executives of member judicatories, is the governing body of the New York State Council of Churches. Since 1999 the clerk has been the Yearly Meeting representative to the Collegium. New York Yearly Meeting is the only historic peace church member of the Collegium, and for this reason brings a special gift to the body.

The Collegium met three times for business this past year and, as is our practice, the December meeting was preceded by a retreat. This year's focus was on our favorite scriptural passages relating to Advent, and in worship and sharing we experienced a time of deepening fellowship and spiritual refreshment.

In September of 2005, the Public Policy Commission of the NYS Council of Churches met to establish lobbying priorities for the coming year. It is these priorities members of the Collegium speak about during our lobbying visits to Albany and Washington. The theme of the work party was "Shalom," and I was asked to serve as chaplain, or "listening presence," leading opening worship, lifting up the spiritual and scriptural basis of the work, reflecting back to the group the movement of the Spirit among us.

March 27–30, 2006, Collegium members traveled to Washington, D.C., on a Peace and Poverty Mission to meet with New York delegates to Congress. This year's trip was dedicated to the memory of Tom Fox, Friend and Christian Peacemaker Teams member killed in Iraq. We took part in briefings on the war in Iraq, Iran, immigration, torture and human rights abuse, the federal budget, and revenue issues affecting people in poverty. In small groups we met with legislative assistants and counsels in ten offices. In addition, we met directly with Senator Hillary Clinton and Congress Representative Jerrold Nadler.

During our congressional visits we spoke our concern and dismay at the ongoing situation in Iraq and urged that there be a clear statement of the United States' long-term intentions as well as the development of an exit strategy. We inquired into the United States' intentions with regard to Iran. We expressed our grave concern regarding immigrant status and rights, as well as the administration's current position and practice of torture. We lifted up the federal budget as a moral document.

At our debriefing meeting the final day, members of the Collegium agreed to work toward the development of a Statement of Conscience.

Linda Chidsey, clerk, New York Yearly Meeting

Oakwood Friends School

Oakwood Friends School's year was characterized by an increasingly clear leading to envision our corporate future, brought about by community-wide responses to questions of how we can best meet our mission to "nurture the spirit, the scholar, the artist, and the athlete" in each of our students. This leading, guided by a core of Friends' principles, calls us to ask how we can broaden our outreach among students and families, support the needs of our evolving educational programs, and plan for the ways our campus facilities can enhance our work as a school.

Our Board of Managers focused on two important queries this year: How can our physical facilities better support our programs? and How can we invite our friends to join us in this crucial work? A campus master-planning process, spearheaded by the architectural firm of Voith and Mactavish in Philadelphia, is leading us to clearness with a model for campus design and phased development over the next decade. The master-plan process continues to involve broad participation by faculty, students, parents, and alumni, as we envision the educational program we will have in the future and the facilities that will support it. At the center of our vision is the Quaker mission of the school and the way it may open new paths to learning.

Oakwood continues to support the spiritual growth of our community in a variety of ways. Several of our faculty have taken advantage of Pendle Hill workshops for educators in Quaker schools. One group of students participated in the Quaker Youth Leadership gathering at Sandy Spring Friends School, in Maryland, and another participated in the Youth Service Opportunities Project in New York City. Our students and faculty again made use of programs at William Penn House in Washington, D.C., and Powell House here in New York. Led by the campus Friends Committee, we began the year with a ten-week cycle of student-faculty discussions of Quaker worship and practice. We have continued a periodic worship-sharing option during regular meeting for worship time throughout the year. And as our enrollment has grown to 180 students, we have also created the space for distinct upper- and middle-school worship periods. These smaller gatherings allow for greater depth and confidence in vocal ministry among our students.

School communities look both backward to their history and forward to their future. This past spring Oakwood welcomed more than 150 alumni back to the campus, including a significant contingent of those celebrating their 50th reunion. As always, their stories of life and work were inspiring to those of us who live and teach and study

here on a daily basis. A highlight was the annual social justice lecture in memory of Caroline Davis Gleiter, '51, delivered this year by Juan Williams, '74, on the topic *Eyes on the Prize: Then and Now*. At the end of Alumni Weekend, as always, a small group of us worshiped at Nine Partners Meeting in Millbrook, where the school began in 1796. Later in the spring, thirty-two new Oakwood alumni graduated in cool breezes under the copper beech tree, even as we began preparing to welcome new students to the school in September. Two new faculty babies were born this year, bringing joy to our campus life and reminding us of the promise of the future.

All those who support Oakwood Friends School participate in its life, however far they may be from the campus. We are reminded again that Oakwood's impact on young lives depends upon those who help to sustain and nurture the school's growth. 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 help support this special form of Quaker ministry.

*Peter F. Baily, head of school
Joseph Gosler, president, Board of Managers*

Elsie K. Powell House Inc.

The love that exists among Powell House staff and between them and the Powell House Committee passes to the conference participants and their facilitators, and in turn is received from them. This love has generated many unique ideas and programs, and last year was no exception.

The Youth Program added another wonderful year to its string. Through the generosity of a parent, a new fund for scholarships has been endowed. All of the Spring 2006 youth conferences had waiting lists by January! This has led to a reexamination of the wait-listing policy by the youth directors, who have tried to balance the opportunities instead of being entirely first-come, first-serve as a fairer way to spread the discomfort of being on the waiting list. One of the most provocative conferences was entitled "Sex and Religion" and explored how the religion we or our parents were brought up with has affected our view of sexuality. Many interesting discoveries were made, and that weekend was noteworthy for the deep and meaningful discussions that arose, both in and out of session. In another small group discussion, they focused more on sexuality by itself: What is it? Why is it important? How does it affect me?

Chris DeRoller led an interest group at Silver Bay to explore the possibility of beginning youth programs throughout the region similar to the Powell House youth program. A working group was then formed under the care of the Nurture Coordinating Committee to support this project. This project has been named PoGo.

Another new project beginning to take shape in the last year is a volunteer program. Volunteerism at Powell House takes many forms including painting, gardening, office work, tractor maintenance. Liseli Haines would love to sign you up!

At the New Year's Weekend we launched hot-air balloons in the snow at night and again in the morning in celebration of 2006. What a conference! We had wall-to-wall people here from toddlers on up. There was never a dull moment, and after the snow started on Saturday afternoon, the activities even increased!

Several adult conferences also had waiting lists, including notably the Drawing Out Gifts series and the Women's Intergenerational Conference. There seems to be a renaissance in adults' connecting spiritually to Powell House. All conferences that are of interest to the general public are now advertised through newspapers to the community.

Over a period of many years, the committee has worked to come to an understanding with Old Chatham Monthly Meeting so they can build a new meetinghouse for themselves on Powell House property. During this fiscal year, this work came to fruition, and we came to an agreement with Old Chatham Monthly Meeting on a 40-year lease for five acres of Powell House property. The lease was presented to the Trustees of the Yearly Meeting and approved with acclamation at Spring Sessions of the Yearly Meeting in April 2006.

Planning for a huge reunion for all Youth Program alumni, volunteers, and past staff in July is proceeding rapidly. About 350 are expected to attend.

The impetus toward a capital campaign, which has been germinating for several years, was given form and direction by the hiring of Sandra Beer to conduct a feasibility study, which is nearing completion. Sandra has led the committee and staff through several exercises to define our strengths and weaknesses. In addition we delineated the major long-term issues that Powell House needs to address and helped prioritize them with respect to staff, buildings and grounds, and fiscal stability. Some major issues that have emerged are the renovation of Anna Curtis Center, improvements in Pitt Hall, and increasing the endowment so that the income it generates will cover a greater portion of our operating budget and provide sorely needed resources for ongoing maintenance of the buildings and grounds. Sandra will also be serving as a resource person for all Powell House fundraising.

In part because of the generosity of a parent of a youth attender, we can begin planning a renovation of Anna Curtis Center. Ann hired Margaret Lew, a designer/builder from 15th Street Meeting, to work with us on the Anna Curtis Center renovations. Margaret, an MIT graduate, is herself a former youth attender at Powell House. She is a hands-on person and has met several times with groups of eight to ten composed of attenders, staff, and committee members. We are close to agreement on the plan she has prepared.

The labyrinth is gradually getting bricked in. As each circle is laid the route that we will joyfully walk becomes clearer.

Julia Giordano, clerk

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
for the fiscal year April 1, 2005–March 31, 2006

Ordinary Income/Expense
Income

Support & Revenue	4/1/05–3/31/06
Contributions–solicited	\$ 57,700
Contributions–unsolicited	36,902
Guest fees	196,882
Investment income	7,481
New York Yearly Meeting	68,019
Rental income	4,100
Other revenue	<u>6,326</u>
Total support & revenue	<u>377,410</u>
Total cost of goods sold	<u>2,646</u>
Gross profit	<u>374,764</u>

Expenses

Administration	25,637
Adult program	16,511
Buildings and grounds	51,229
Fundraising	7,005
Housekeeping	36,864
Office administration	10,115
Personnel	231,279
Youth program	3,232
Annuities payable	<u>1,130</u>
Total expense	<u>383,002</u>
Net ordinary income	<u>–8,238</u>

Other income

Capital campaign	<u>31,053</u>
Total other income	<u>31,053</u>

Other expense

Endowment loan payments	<u>3,050</u>
Total other expense	<u>3,050</u>
Net other income	<u>28,003</u>

Net income 19,765

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
for the years ended March 31, 2005 and 2006

	3/31/06	3/31/05
Assets		
Current Assets		
Total checking/savings	56,463	42,051
Total accounts receivable	-1,716	-656
Total other current assets	<u>13,192</u>	<u>7,247</u>
Total current assets	67,939	48,642
Total fixed assets	236,753	236,753
Total other assets	<u>496,388</u>	<u>496,388</u>
Total assets	<u>801,080</u>	<u>781,783</u>
Liabilities and equity		
Current Liabilities		
Total Accounts Payable	-25	6,689
Total Credit Cards	3,998	2,619
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>17,866</u>	<u>12,687</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>21,839</u>	<u>21,995</u>
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Equity	<u>779,240</u>	<u>759,789</u>
Total liabilities and equity	<u>801,079</u>	<u>781,784</u>

Note: Fiscal year changed from calendar year to fiscal year starting on April 1st.

Quaker Earthcare Witness (formerly *Friends Committee on Unity with Nature*)

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) is a spiritually centered movement of Quakers and like-minded people seeking ways to integrate concern for the environment with Friends' long-standing testimonies for simplicity, integrity, peace, and equality.

QEW was founded as Friends in Unity with Nature in 1987 by participants in a workshop at a Friends General Conference Gathering, in response to an inspiring plenary talk by Marshall Massey. QEW has grown to play a respected and influential role in the Religious Society of Friends.

Quaker Earthcare Witness Vision & Witness:

We are called to live in right relationship with all Creation, recognizing that the entire world is interconnected and is a manifestation of God. We work to integrate into the beliefs and practices of the Religious Society of Friends the Truth that God's Creation is to be respected, protected, and held in reverence in its own right, and the Truth that human aspirations for peace and justice depend upon restoring the Earth's ecological integrity. We promote these Truths by being patterns and examples, by communicating our message, and by providing spiritual and material support to those engaged in the compelling task of transforming our relationship to the Earth.

— Approved 5th Month 2003

QEW calls upon Friends everywhere to join in support of this group, and in continuing consideration of, and witness to, a corporate testimony on Earthcare as a spiritual concern. QEW encourages Friends to explore the spiritual roots of humanity's relationship to the earth. We seek a transformation in attitudes toward the Earth and all living beings. As time is limited to prevent further irreversible damage, we support informed, spirit-led action on all environmental issues: pollution, toxic wastes, conservation, recycling, energy use, global warming, loss of species and habitats, loss of arable lands, and population pressures.

QEW staff and supporters lead workshops, give talks, and staff the Earthcare Center at FGC Gatherings. We also have a presence at many yearly meeting sessions.

Quaker Earthcare Witness publishes *BeFriending Creation*, a bi-monthly newsletter; the *Quaker Eco-Bulletin*; and many other books and flyers, to aid grassroots networking among Friends.

The QEW Steering Committee is the governing body; half is made

up of representatives appointed by affiliated Quaker yearly meetings. The rest are at-large members, appointed to serve at the Annual Meeting from a slate prepared by the Nominating Committee. The Steering Committee currently meets twice a year, spring and fall, for the primary purpose of allowing Steering Committee members and members of their committees (including some who are not on the Steering Committee itself) to conduct face-to-face business. These gatherings also allow fruitful informal discussions and spirit-lifting programs and activities. The spring Steering Committee meeting is held in a permanent central location with good access to public transportation, currently Chicago, Illinois. The fall Steering Committee occurs in conjunction with the QEW Annual Meeting & Gathering, which is at different locations around the United States and Canada to heighten awareness of different regional ecological issues and develop relationships with Friends and Friends meetings in those areas.

There are three main groupings within the QEW Steering Committee: 1) Standing Committees who oversee organization functions; 2) Project Committees who oversee QEW-supported projects, including the Ann Kriebel/San Luis Project in Costa Rica, and 3) Interest Groups who focus on ecological issues where QEW has agreed corporately that it has a unique witness to offer as a spiritually-based organization. These groups include Sustainability: Faith & Practice and Quaker Earthcare Witness for National Legislation (QNL). (Other ecological issues, including energy, agriculture, genetic engineering, climate change, native wisdom, cosmology, etc. are being addressed informally by QEW members.) In between face-to-face meetings, these groups conduct their business by mail, e-mail, conference telephone calls, and other media.

Quaker Earthcare Witness is a major supporter of La Bella Farm, a sustainable agriculture project in Costa Rica, which involves caring for land that was threatened, while caring for people who had no land. We also sponsor annual exchange visits between Costa Rican and North American farmers.

The Sustainability: Faith and Action interest group has many ongoing efforts, currently including: publishing a Quaker Green Business Directory and establishing a fund (Men for Men) to assist Quaker men who otherwise would not be able to afford them to obtain vasectomies;

QEW is a member of Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), through the actions of the QEW for National Legislation (QNL), a working group of QEW. As a new member organization of FCNL, QEW has an excellent opportunity to influence FCNL's priorities.

QEW sends representatives to observe at the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (through the UN Department of Public Information). There will soon be an opening for another such representative. QEW has joined with other faith groups in a letter to publishers of religious materials, requesting that they limit their paper use to paper made from renewable sources, including recycled paper.

This year's annual meeting will be October 5–8, 2006, at Ghost Ranch in Abiquiu, New Mexico.

Liseli Haines, NYYM representative to QEW

Religious Education Committee

Laid down

United Society of Friends Women International

Inactive

Women's Concerns Committee

Laid down.

Young Adult Concerns Committee

No report available at press time.

YouthQuake Planning Committee

After much discernment, discussion, prayer, and deep listening, the members of the YouthQuake Planning Committee are led to hold a youth leader consultation this December in place of YouthQuake 2006. We hope that this consultation will be an opportunity to revitalize and

grow YouthQuake into the conference God envisions for our young Friends.

Coming to this decision was difficult and challenging for us. As we looked at who we were expecting to attend the originally planned gathering, we realized that the vast majority of youth would be coming from one tradition of Friends. We felt that this imbalance was inconsistent with the mission of YouthQuake and would put an undue burden on those young Friends from the other traditions. We deeply miss our sisters and brothers from the many yearly meetings who do not currently participate in YouthQuake. The planning committee feels called to bring together youth from throughout the Quaker family so that we may seek together God's will and work; we do not feel like we can do this with YouthQuake 2006. Through the guidance of YouthConsultation 2006, we hope to realize this mission of YouthQuake in the future.

YouthConsultation 2006 will occur December 27–31, 2006, in place of the original event. In the next few months, we will be inviting each yearly meeting in the United States to send key representatives to this gathering. We envision this small gathering, with no more than five representatives from any yearly meeting, as an opportunity for renewal, directed by people most concerned with young Friends. YouthConsultation 2006 will be an opportunity for Friends most deeply connected to the life of yearly meetings to come together and reenvision a vibrant, rich, diverse, and God-breathed YouthQuake.

We ask for your prayers, patience, and support as we continue to work toward a YouthQuake that will strengthen our ties as a family of Friends and enliven the Spirit of God in all of our youth.

The YouthQuake 2006 Planning Committee

In addition, from the minutes of Nurture Coordinating Committee, March 2006:

200603.01 YouthQuake Report:

Amy White read a letter from the YouthQuake Planning Committee concerning the decision to hold a Youth Consultation 2006 instead of a YouthQuake 2006 to discern ways to engage a more fully representative group of youth from all Quaker affiliations to participate in YouthQuake. Each yearly meeting will be invited to send five participants to this event. Amy requested NYYM fully support this event, including making the budgeted funds for YouthQuake2006 available for Youth Consultation 2006. Nurture Coordinating Committee approved this request.

submitted by Amy White

WITNESS SECTION

Witness Coordinating Committee

In 2005 the Sharing Fund had its best year ever, with donations totaling over \$46,000. The largest single source of that money is the Sharing Fun(d) Fair and Café Night. At the same time, individual donations increased from an average of \$25 to \$50. This is the most significant news of the Witness Coordinating Committee, since it is the sum total of the funds we have with which to do the work the Spirit calls us to. The goal for the following year was set at \$50,000.

Witness Activities Fund draws on 10% of the Sharing Fund income in order to make grants to monthly meetings for their local witness activities. In 2005 grants ranging from \$150 to \$500 were made to the following meetings:

- Shrewsbury for environmental literature for distribution
- Ridgewood for after-school and summer activities promoting youth service
- Albany and Mohawk Valley for peace camps
- Mohawk Valley for peace book covers
- Schenectady for peace flyers
- Old Chatham for a peace-and-justice film-and-discussion series
- Quaker Street for participation in a Quaker workcamp in China
- Ithaca for publicity for the Eyes Wide Open exhibit
- Adirondack for their peace vigil
- Manhattan for projects in Kenya

The focus person for death penalty issues informed us all of the NYS Assembly hearings against the death penalty, and the clerk of NYYM, the clerk of WCC, and several others gave testimony in favor of repeal. The Assembly has—so far—not reinstated the death penalty. WCC continues to experiment with the focus-person concept as a replacement for some committees and continues to note problem areas and to develop possible solutions. David Kacsynski, director of New Yorkers against the Death Penalty, led a study session at Summer Sessions and spoke at the business session later that evening.

The Latin American Concerns Committee was laid down at the 2005 summer business session. The new WCC practice of assigning each at-large member of the coordinating committee to be in touch with one or two committees has enabled WCC to have closer ties to the committees and an improved sense of how they function. It has

also given the committees someone to query and reflect with.

The financial clerk initiated a new format for financial recordkeeping and reporting to reduce the lack of documentation, especially when funds are for overseas activities.

WCC continued to nurture the Meeting the Minimum Needs of All initiative of Long Island Quarter, introducing it again at the fall business session and following up with a letter to all monthly meetings and worship groups inviting worshipful reflection on the subject.

Anita Paul, clerk

Witness Activities Fund 2005 Disbursements

Witness CC approved in June the following Witness Fund requests

Otisville Prison Theater Program (Chappaqua MM)	60
Albany Friends MM (Through Tryon Worship Group) water provided to youths playing basketball during the summer	300
Lincoln Middle School, Passaic NJ After-school and summer programs (Ridgewood MM)	500
7th Annual Peace Week (Albany MM)	600
Career and antirecruitment guide (Perry City MM)	500
Film Series—Peace & Justice topics (Old Chatham MM)	150
Peace Billboard Project (Old Chatham MM)	520

Approved in December:

Leaflet “Jesus Christ Forbids War” Project (Fifteenth Street MM)	300
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Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), Inc.

AVP had a terrific year in 2005, as a witness under the care of NYYM. As always the vast majority of the conflict-resolution workshops we facilitated were held in the prisons of the NYS Department of Correctional Services (DOCS). Our workshops there are quite challenging because of the severe scrutiny by security personnel that sometimes turns into roadblocks placed in our path. Our AVP skills serve us well as we work through these conflicts with DOCS. Our original mission has not changed: We empower and encourage individuals to make good choices that can change their lives, a welcome antidote to the dehumanizing routines, controls, and practices that the prison security personnel feel they must impose every moment of every day to “maintain discipline.”

The undergirding of AVP remains the reliance on transforming power (TP), which works through individuals who are open to it, to bring nonviolent resolution to conflict that might otherwise turn violent and counterproductive. For Quakers this presence has many names, such as the Inner Teacher, that of God, and the Inner Guide. We do our best to apply our Quaker spiritual practice(s) in this witness work, and the presence of TP informs and guides us all along the way. Fortunately Friends in local monthly meetings provide vital care and oversight for this challenging witness, and we relish having these Friends in the “AVP family.” We are thankful for the gifts and the legacy of our founders, the prisoners and the “outside” Quakers led by Larry Apsey and Lee Stern who established the first workshop in March 1975.

For 2005, our main achievement in addition to facilitating workshops was improving our communications within the AVP extended family, especially with returning prisoners being released back home. Landing Strip, our support group for released prisoners and “civilians,” just celebrated its tenth anniversary, still meets twice each month at 15 Rutherford Place, and continues to be an important experience for all who participate. The resumed face-to-face meetings with the DOCS leadership personnel in Albany this year helped to rebuild community bonds with them that are so crucial for the success of our workshops in the prisons. Debby Henry from DOCS/Albany was invited to sit in briefly in our Board Council circle to bring news of developments and opportunities and to address concerns.

There was also welcome news from the youth of NYYM. After two years of well-attended mini-workshops for Friends of all ages at the summer sessions at Silver Bay, none were offered in 2004. For 2005 youth specifically requested a multigenerational basic workshop

facilitated by a team of youth and adults. The positive feedback from this workshop from those youth warmed our hearts, and we are looking forward to another basic workshop this summer (2006) at Silver Bay, to be held each afternoon under the care of the AVP Committee of the Witness Coordinating Committee.

Our main goal next for 2006 is a startup special program of additional transitional services for the “inside” AVPer coming home. In November we launched a new project, Flight Path to Freedom (FPF), a year-long initiative headed by former prisoner and AVPer Henry Rivera as our part-time paid consultant. This new project ties in beautifully with Landing Strip, concentrating in eight distinct areas:

1. Establishing “linkages” (personal connections) for AVP with agencies and organizations that provide crucial transitional services so vital to returning prisoners: for housing, jobs, education, and other support groups.
2. Working with inside AVPers on their prerelease plans and preparations for coming home.
3. Working with inside AVPers in preparing for their parole board hearings.
4. Going in person with inside AVPers to their parole board hearings in a support role.
5. Working with AVP returnees to bring them to their first Landing Strip meeting.
6. Working with AVP returnees on their postrelease goals and action plans.
7. Placing AVP returnees on facilitating teams for community workshops.
8. Inviting ex-prisoners who are not AVPers to enroll in a basic workshop.

A Committee of Care for FPF volunteered to oversee and guide this demanding work with personal and hands-on support for Henry Rivera. There are quarterly goals on which Henry reports his progress at each Board Council meeting. We are using some of the funds from the generous bequest of Carmel Kussman’s estate to fund this new project.

The support for our facilitating teams requires only a remarkably modest amount of money, and we work hard to keep expenses down. We are thankful for the generous financial support from the NYYM Sharing Fund, from the Lindley Murray Fund, from monthly meetings and churches, and from the many individuals whom we fondly call Friends of AVP, which enabled us to provide 221 workshops in

2005 as follows:

- 97 Basic
- 66 Advanced
- 17 Training for Facilitators
- 9 Special Topic
- 17 Community
- 15 School

In 2005 we increased prison workshops by 10 percent compared to last year. We trained 166 new adult facilitators and 20 new youth facilitators, and we awarded more than 2,500 certificates to workshop graduates of basic and advanced workshops.

As always we extend a hearty invitation to all Friends us in AVP: Take an AVP workshop and experience what many believe is the “leading edge of Quakerism.”

Thomas Martin, clerk

*Alternatives to Violence Project, Inc. (AVP-NY),
Financial Report, 2005*

Endowment, non-restricted
(investments in socially responsible mutual funds)

Smith Barney (money market fund)	12/31/05	16,773
Pax World (regular mutual fund account)**	12/31/05	128,518
Total endowment		145,291

Cash, non-restricted (available in bank accounts)

Syracuse Coop Fed Credit Union	12/31/05	617
Union State Bank	12/31/05	11,120
Total in our bank accounts		11,737
Unrestricted operating balance		157,028

Liabilities
(bills to be paid, taxes due and funds we hold
for sister organizations)
All bills are paid

Funds we hold for our sister organizations

AVP-NYC (overdrawn from our checking account)	-76
Landing Strip (this balance is held in our investments)	7,917
Total Funds held for others	7,841
Total Liabilities	7,841
Net Worth (Assets less Liabilities)	149,187

Recap of AVP Expenses and Income for 2005 and 2004

	full yr 12/31/05	full yr 12/31/04	variance 05 vs 04
Income	34,849	26,218	8,631
Expenses	38,746	27,708	11,038
Favorable (Unfavorable)	(3,897)	(1,490)	(2,407)

Note: The start up expenses of Flight Path to Freedom for 2005 are \$3,640.
Net of that unbudgeted expense, we would be less than \$300 in the “red” for 2005.

American Friends Service Committee

**Representatives to National Corporation
Middle Atlantic Region
New York Metropolitan Regional Office
Upper New York State Area Program**

No reports available at press time.

Barrington Dunbar Fund for Black Development

Barrington Dunbar Fund continues its efforts to meet the needs of the many F(f)riends, schools, and groups in attaining their educational or organizational goals. We are elated when we are able to offer assistance no matter how small and saddened when we must say no. Many of our students are disadvantaged and help from any source is a huge step toward their goals. At the heart of the Barrington Dunbar Fund is the desire to serve. To this end we prayerfully consider each and every request, juggling the numbers in order to give to as many as we feasibly can. We are limited by the funds that are made available to us, but for the Barrington Dunbar Fund a little goes a long way and touches many, many lives.

Marvea Thompson, clerk

Barrington Dunbar Fund for Black Development 2005 Disbursements

Adelphi University	\$ 1,000
Camp Shane	700
Connecticut Friends School	500
Vaughn College of Aeronautics	1,000
Westbury Friends School	500
Westchester Community College	800
York College	1,600

Friends Committee for Black Concerns

Race, Love, and Justice

The Black Concerns Committee (formerly called the Race Relations Committee) charge is to broaden and deepen communication among all ethnic groups and to develop among Friends a keener awareness of the violence of racism both within and outside the Religious Society of Friends. There is still much that needs to be done. Last Yearly Meeting's theme on racism prompted sponsorship of a racial healing workshop for Friends of Color; a request for a Friends of Color space at this year's YM sessions; and an open letter from some Black Friends to NYYM. The open letter from Black Friends appeared in the September 2005 *Spark*, which can be found on NYYM's Web site and will be soon be published by Friends General Conference.

We sponsored the Healing Ourselves weekend for Friends of Color, in New York City. We plan to send NYYM participants to the next Healing Ourselves workshop for Friends of Color scheduled for September in NEYM and to the one that will be held in Philadelphia in 2007. We also approved providing travel support for White Friends Working against Racism, and the White Anti-racist Summit. In addition we sponsor attendance at Undoing Racism workshops. Dialogues at these events examine attitudes regarding personal and institutional racism. They are painful, helpful, and healing. Over the years we have found that Friends value the opportunity to openly discuss racism in a safe and spiritual space and that giving Friends opportunities to discuss racism in separate racial groups before coming together to dialogue deepens their interracial communications.

The Black Concerns Committee cosponsored the First Annual North American Conference for Racial Justice and Equality within the Religious Society of Friends. We promoted the conference throughout our Yearly Meeting and sent representatives to the planning committee meetings. Ninety-two Friends attended, including several from NYYM, who were sponsored by our committee. So many Friends tried to register for the conference that several had to be turned away. We will send representatives to planning committee meetings for the Second Annual North American Conference and we will also sponsor attendance by NYYM Friends.

We will continue to sponsor study and interest groups at Silver Bay, as they are always well attended. This year we will sponsor:

- Healing Ourselves for Friends of Color (Vanessa Julye)
- Joys & Challenges of Raising Children in Multiracial Families (Charley Flint & Norma Ellis)

- Race, Love, and Justice (Jeff Hitchcock)
- White Friends Sharing Feelings about Racism (Robin Alpern & Irma Guthrie)

We sent two Friends to a specialized training on anti-racist and anti-bias education and curriculum for youth. If you would like a copy of these materials please advise a member of our committee. After the training, selected materials received at the training were mailed to all Religious Education coordinators at monthly meetings in NYYM. The Nurture Coordinating Committee also added these materials to the NYYM Religious Education traveling library. We anticipate that there will be a growing desire for such materials and expertise among Friends.

We will support the William Penn House I Have a Dream youth seminar, which will be focused on the struggle for racial equality and against racism. The seminar is dedicated to broadening horizons and fostering friendships across racial and economic lines. The conference will include Quaker youth from around the country and inner city Washington, D.C., youth.

The Black Concerns Committee purchased materials in English and Spanish from the AFSC Youth & Militarism Program for distribution to inner city high schools. These materials educate students and their parents about the realities of signing up for military service. The committee also set aside money for inner city workshops about conscientious objection.

The Black Concerns Committee is also charged with providing funds to enable disadvantaged youth to attend Powell House conferences, national institutes, and workcamp programs and to help youth continue their education in school or college. We provided educational materials for incarcerated girls and textbooks for an Oakwood student whose father is a member of the Greenhaven Prison Worship Group. We also provided scholarship funds for Black youth attendance at JYM, as we have a vested interest in further integrating the JYM program.

In their book, *Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship*, Vanessa Julye and Donna McDaniel focus on the relationship of Quakers of European descent and African Americans in North America from precolonial times to the present. Their research has revealed ambivalence and ambiguity in Friends' relationships with African Americans throughout history. The Black Concerns Committee sponsored Donna and Vanessa's study group at Silver Bay and also provided for the dissemination of their materials. FGC assures us that the book will be published in 2007. We want to promote a book tour for Donna and Vanessa, and we hope that meetings will sponsor book signings. If you are interested in promoting the book please inform a member of

our committee.

The Black Concerns Committee welcomes the participation and support of concerned Friends in NYYM. If you are interested in working with the committee, contact any member of the committee.

For more detailed disbursement information contact the interim clerk.

Helen Garay Toppins, interim clerk

Bolivian Quaker Education Fund

For 2006 BQEF made the commitment to fund 36 scholarships to support postsecondary education for Bolivian Quaker students. The Board in the U.S. established that the scholarships are to be distributed to members of the various yearly meetings and equally to men and women, but beyond that the selection criteria are in the hands of the Scholarship Committee in La Paz. To assist in funding these scholarships we initiated the Sponsor-a-Scholar program, in which Bulls Head, Fredonia, and Rochester Meetings from NYYM are already participating. Furthermore funding has been expanded by a challenge fund that will match the amount of new or increased contributions.

With BQEF sponsorship, Emma Condori completed internships at Abington Friends and Westtown schools between December 15, 2005, and February 2, 2006. Emma, a young Quaker from a village on the Altiplano, is completing a degree in linguistics, while teaching English at Colegio Emma Canaday in La Paz and helping Bernabé Yujra in the BQE-Bo office, especially with the English programs.

In addition Bolivian Quaker Education was enhanced by Friends Council on Education (FCE) workshops in Spanish for Bolivian Quaker educators and AVP workshops in Spanish for teachers, pastors, and Friends; an internado (dormitory) for secondary students in Sorata; computer and language labs in three Bolivian Quaker schools; increased hours of instruction for English and computer studies; computers and Internet access for the scholars at the BQE-Bo office.

Newton Garver writes in the May newsletter, "This awesome growth is a clear sign that BQEF is a Spirit-led effort, answering to a need felt widely among Friends for ways to respond to third-world aspirations and to connect there with like-minded people. . . . The Bolivians with whom we connect are Quakers."

More details are available in the newsletter and on the Web site at www.bqef.org.

Jane Simkin, representative from NYYM to BQEF

Friends Committee on National Legislation, Representatives

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is the principal Friends lobbying organization in Washington, D.C. It seeks to follow the teachings of Jesus and the leadings of the Spirit while advocating for important Quaker concerns before Congress and the Executive Department.

During 2005, FCNL focused its work on the goals set forth in its *Statement of Legislative Priorities for the 109th Congress* (available at http://www.fcnl.org/legpolcy/priority_109th.htm). This work concentrated on seeking legislation that would begin the process of removing all U.S. military forces and bases from Iraq, while also assuring that the United States fulfilled its moral and legal obligations to reconstruct Iraq through appropriate multinational, national, and Iraqi agencies. FCNL also focused on advocating for legislation and executive action to restore and assure full civil liberties for all persons in the United States or under its jurisdiction. It sought to promote long-term protection of the environment and the elimination of a critical cause of violent conflict by lobbying for actions to reduce oil consumption and accelerate development and use of renewable energy sources. FCNL continued its longstanding active advocacy on Native American issues.

NYYM appoints six representatives to FCNL, whose principal responsibility is to attend the FCNL Annual Meeting in November. At the 2005 meeting, their participation, enhanced by the attendance of other Friends from New York Yearly Meeting, facilitated NYYM's voice being heard clearly.

Frederick Dettmer, for the FCNL representatives

Friends Peace Teams

Most of Friends Peace Teams' (FPT) program work last year has been our African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI). During 2005, AGLI sponsored a series of Healing and Rebuilding Our Community (HROC) workshops in four communities in Burundi. Each series consisted of six three-day workshops, one follow-up day, and a community celebration. As an outgrowth of the Mutaho series, eighteen participants as an act of reconciliation visited those imprisoned in Gitega for formulating the violence in 1993. A pre-workshop/post-workshop evaluation was made of participants of the Cagura series. In Rwanda, the HROC program was revitalized by the posting of Laura Shipler

Chico to the program at the Friends Peace House. This program has developed a draft manual for the HROC workshop, experimented with an advanced workshop, and trained 14 additional HROC facilitators, most of them women.

In Rwanda, the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) completed the 70 workshops supported by a grant from the United States Institute of Peace with the *gacaca* (village courts trying genocide suspects) judges. An assessment, "Peace Cannot Stay in Small Places," was written, produced, and distributed. With funding from the Drane Family Fund of the New Hampshire Foundation, a series of 20 AVP workshops in the "hot spot" district of Nyamata began in November. An AVP workshop was also conducted for the staff of a microcredit bank in Kigali. The seven-workshop AVP cycles to introduce AVP in new areas were also conducted for Mombasa, Kenya, and Bukavu, Congo. 14 AVP workshops were conducted by AVP-Kakamega (Kenya) for prison officials, youth, church members, students at Friends Theological College, and community leaders. AVP-Burundi conducted a workshop for HIV-positive women and community leaders in Kamenge with the Friends Women's Association.

In Burundi, AGLI supported the Friends Women's Association clinic in Kamenge, Bujumbura. Since it began in 2003, it has served 3,488 patients, including 117 HIV-positive clients and 13 orphans, provided HIV testing for 347, assisted 6 rape victims, offered family planning services to 107 families, provided food supplements and clothes to 67 HIV-positive patients, and distributed 3,444 condoms. AGLI conducted four workcamps in July in Bududa (Uganda), Lubao (Kenya), Kigali (Rwanda), and Kibimba (Burundi) with a total of 22 workcampers from the U.S. and Canada and 6 from other Africa countries, and an equivalent number of local African workcampers. Four more will be held this summer, and Friends are invited to join one of them. The Children of Hope orphan-sponsorship program connected with the Bududa workcamp supported 170 orphans. Adrien Niyongabo (Burundi), Cecile Nyiramana (Rwanda), and Laura Shipler Chico (stationed in Rwanda) made speaking tours to the United States. The first issue of *PeaceWays*, a magazine devoted to AGLI's work in the Great Lakes region of Africa, was published. Currently in press is a report on the Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities project, and Friends who would like to receive a copy may get an order form at the FPT display at Silver Bay. This project is the one Adrien Niyongabo, our visitor last year from Burundi, is working on.

In addition to the AGLI program, FPT continued its transition from a mostly volunteer organization to one having a staff as well. Our new Board of Directors includes nine Friends from the U.S. and Canada.

Through our Fund for the Future Campaign, we raised enough money for the first year of a staffed office. In March we hired Anna Sandidge, and we are opening a permanent office in the St. Louis Friends Meeting building.

We will continue the fundraising campaign until we have enough funds for at least a second year of office expenses, and we request the prayers and financial support of Friends in our effort. With the administrative support from our new office we anticipate being able to reanimate our work in Colombia and to begin to discern God's leadings to develop programs in other regions.

We sent a two-person team to Colombia in June to continue working with the AVP facilitators we had trained earlier. We will explore other areas of work and other partners for further work there. We also plan to explore work in Central America in the next year.

For more information, please visit our Web site: www.friendspace-teams.org or write to our new address, 1001 Park Ave., St. Louis MO 63104.

David Easter, representative

Committee on Indian Affairs

This year has been brightened by exciting events. We were again able to award the Marjorie Sexton Scholarship through the Onondaga Community College. The candidate chosen is Ashley Cook, a young woman from the Onondaga Nation. She is an excellent student, attending college for the first time. She faces the challenges of *spina bifida* and uses a wheelchair to make her life manageable. Members of our committee were able to meet with Ashley, her family, and Anita Murphy from Onondaga Community College. All joined for a festive lunch in at Chili's in Syracuse. We plan to make hosting each scholarship recipient a committee tradition. Anita Murphy told us that very few scholarship donors make the effort to add this personal connection.

This summer we will present our study group on the effects of industrial pollution on the Haudenosaunee lands and people, specifically problems resulting from industrial plants on the St. Lawrence River. We are sure this will be a meaningful contribution to the 2006 sessions. We contacted Tom Porter, a Mohawk elder, and he will join us to share his wisdom and insights. We hope at least one other Haudenosaunee resource person will be able to participate with us. We have requested related materials for the Mosher Fund book table,

and we will offer a film, *Drumbeat for Mother Earth*, which is related to our study group topic.

We are still holding our dream of hosting an intergenerational weekend at Powell House. It's quite a challenge to organize such an event when coordinating the schedules of several very busy people with the Powell House schedule!

We continue to strengthen our ties with Kanatsiohareke, with the Akwesasne Freedom School, and with the various nations. Our stipend program assists students from a wide variety of locations and nations in the Yearly Meeting area. Our steadfast support of AFSC's projects in the Akwesasne Region and the FCNL Native American Project help make their work possible. This year, we have decided to extend our support to the American Indian Community House (AICH) in Manhattan. AICH welcomes Native peoples from all nations and provides education, offers health services, holds celebrations, gives support to native artists, and is a welcoming presence amid the bustle of a large city. In strengthening our ties to AICH, we are extending our outreach to the southern tier of New York State.

We were thrilled to note the addition of a Haudenosaunee room to the Museum of the American Indian in lower Manhattan. The opening of this room was marked with a Haudenosaunee celebration. Various highly skilled craftspeople came to present their crafts, and everyone who attended learned a lot about Haudenosaunee culture and traditions. At the close of the celebration, we all joined together in a friendship dance.

By far the greatest challenge facing our Committee at present is finding willing hands to take up the work we do as seasoned members rotate out of service. Although the Committee affairs are in good order, they will not remain so if we cannot attract new members. We have spoken with the Indian Committee in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Their committee is quite large, and therefore they have more hands willing to take on tasks as needed. Our committee has several specific tasks that must be attended to throughout the year in order for the Committee to function. We plan to approach our Haudenosaunee friends for guidance in hosting a name dance in memory of Tom Fox at Silver Bay. We hope this will help us share our vision and our commitment to work in Indian affairs.

Susan Wolf, clerk

Committee on Indian Affairs Financial Report, 2005

From the Sharing Fund:

FCNL, Native American Project	800
AFSC, Northeast Region, Akwesasne Project	950
Blossom Garden Friends School	500
Kanatsiohareke	850
Akwesasne Freedom School	850
Stipends	3,600
17 Students from 9 different Nations studying at 15 different colleges in a variety of locations, with a wide selection of majors.	
Marjorie Sexton Scholarship	1,500
Awarded to Ashley Cook, Oneida, a student at Onondaga Community College	
Total	9,050

**Interfaith Steering Committee on
Faith Communities Call for Justice**

Inactive

Latin American Concerns Committee

Laid down

National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund

No report available at press time.

New York State Council of Churches

No report available at press time.

Peace Concerns Committee

. . . Especially in the aftermath of 9-11-01 those living in the imperial metropolis who identify with Jesus and the Gospels may well be questioning how they understand and appropriate this part of their cultural, scriptural heritage. . . . It should be possible . . . to discern more critically our own situation and roles in the current new world disorder established by the combination of American political power and the power of global capitalism. What implications Jesus and the Gospels might have . . . will become evident only through the collective deliberations and actions of communities located inside the society now at the apex of the new imperial disorder.

Richard A Horsley, Jesus and Empire, 149

For the community of Friends living in or near the imperial metropolis, collectively deliberating and acting to heal the effects of the “new world disorder,” it’s been a busy year.

A large part of the Committee’s work continues to address conscientious objection to military taxation (COMT). Following the Yearly Meeting’s historic approval of the Alfred Minute at Spring Sessions, which states that “paying for war violates our religious conviction,” the Subcommittee on COMT, clerked by Jens Braun, has helped prepare a press release and is meeting regularly to follow up on the approved minute.

Peace Concerns began the efforts to have Yearly Meeting file an amicus brief, in support of Daniel Jenkins’s witness as a conscientious objector to military taxation, in the federal court of appeals. The clerks of Witness, Peace Concerns, COMT, and Yearly Meeting have had an active role in drafting the brief, still in progress at the time of this report and intended to be filed in court sometime in May. The Committee also approved funding the printing and filing expenses of the amicus brief up to \$1,000.

Peace Concerns approved support, both financial and volunteer, of the events leading to International Conscientious Objectors’ Day 2006, being held this year in the USA, at New York and Washington, D.C., May 11–15. This endorsement was later approved by the Yearly

Meeting.

The Committee and Yearly Meeting also approved endorsement of the Quaker conference concerning torture to be held in June 2006 at Guilford College in Greensboro, N.C. The committee approved a grant to support the expenses of two NYYM representatives to the conference.

This year's study groups at Silver Bay will include Cultures of Peace, inspired by the book of the same name by Elise Boulding, and The Power of Conscience, considering accommodations of conscience, political engagement, and clarity of conviction.

The Children and the Media Project, concerned with positively countering the effects on children of violence in the culture, continues to receive the committee's interest and attention.

We continue to enjoy the presence of Bill Galvin of the Center on Conscience and War at Silver Bay and look forward to his return this July.

The Friends International Center in Ramallah, Palestine, active in community service, peacebuilding, and reconciliation, receives the ongoing support of the committee. A fundraising letter was sent to all monthly and regional meetings of NYYM.

Peace Concerns made donations to organizations including the Nonviolent Peaceforce, actively promoting nonviolent alternatives in places such as Sri Lanka, and the Center on Conscience and War.

For more detailed disbursement information contact the clerk.

Jim Hamilton, clerk

Prisons Committee

Light behind the Walls

The Prisons Committee is charged with:

- Prison ministry—providing spiritual development for Quaker prison meetings and isolated prisoners.
- Providing Quaker prison meetings with materials for meeting for worship and for Quaker study groups.
- Providing support for the activities of monthly meetings, Quaker prison meetings, isolated prisoners, and individual Friends in the field of criminal justice.
- Providing outreach and liaison with others in NYYM who are working for the improvement and humanization of criminal-justice systems, and with the authorities responsible for administering the system.
- Educating Friends, the general public, and public officials on criminal-justice issues.

When Steven Taylor-Roth became clerk of the Prisons Committee he encouraged Prisons Committee members and other concerned Friends to visit Quaker prison meetings. He advocated that we make visiting and worshipping with prison meetings top priority. Insiders and outsiders alike tell us that worship behind the walls is often a deep and spirit-led experience. If you feel led to visit a prison worship group, please contact a member of our committee. There is also a need to visit former members of prison meetings who have been transferred to facilities that do not have Quaker worship groups.

Unfortunately, some of our prison worship groups have been having problems with their call-out lists. The call-out list, composed by prison officials, lists the names of those allowed to attend worship. At times names that we thought should be on the list were not. We have also had problems with the three-times rule. This rule limits the number of times an incarcerated person may attend worship. In addition there have been times when we have experienced difficulty obtaining permission for Quaker visitation. We have also been experiencing a delay in being allowed to establish a new worship group at Fishkill. We are exploring ways that we can address these concerns with the Department of Corrections.

We will continue to provide prison meetings with Quaker materials. Our requests for Quaker materials written in Spanish are on the rise. If Friends know of any Quaker materials written in Spanish please inform the committee. The Wider Quaker Fellowship (WQF) is translating Quaker materials into Spanish and we have contributed money to this effort. WQF is also a vehicle of support for incarcerated members of

our prison worship groups. The material they offer provides a way of keeping current for Quakers behind the walls.

The Prisons Committee supports monthly meeting initiatives related to criminal justice. We approved giving money to Rockland Meeting's mentoring program. This program provides mentoring for soon-to-be-released, and recently released, men and women of the Rockland County Jail. We urge other meetings to request our help for their criminal-justice work.

We provided support for Prison Families. This group is run by family members of incarcerated people and provides information about jail, prison, parole, and physical- and mental-health issues for prison families, ex-prisoners, prisoners' children, people of conscience, educators, ministries, agencies, and social-change groups.

We also contributed to *On the Count*, a 90-minute interactive public-affairs talk show featuring interviews, news, analysis, and recommendations on criminal- and social-justice issues, with a focus on prisons. Eddie Ellis, executive producer/host is a former member of the Greenhaven Prison Meeting. The show is produced exclusively by people who were formerly incarcerated and offers a unique voice on justice issues, evolving from the perspective of people who have been most affected by the system and who understand it best from personal experience.

Today there are about 63,000 prisoners in NYS prisons, and most of them have children, but we hardly ever hear about what it is like for those children—at home, in school, in their communities, and in prison visiting rooms. Cicely Coleman, a young adult criminal-justice professional whose father was incarcerated for 25 years, brings the voices of those children to us. Cicely's trainings and presentations focus on helping parents, educators, human service providers, clergy, and community members better understand and support children of incarcerated parents. She also helps start support groups and visits those groups to talk to children of all ages. If you want to invite Cicely to talk to your meeting let us know. The Prisons Committee uses your Sharing Fund dollars to support Cicely's work.

The round trip for prison families leaving from Albany to upstate prisons takes seven to nine hours, for a six-hour visit. For families living in NYC, the first leg of the journey adds another three hours each way, so families must line up for a bus at 4 A.M. or earlier. The Children of Prisoners Initiative Group distributes activity books, crayons, games, snacks, juice, teddy bears, mouthwash, toothpaste, toiletries, Kleenex, baby wipes, diapers, and gum to families who are on buses going to upstate prisons. The Prisons Committee supports this work. The Prisons Committee used your Sharing Fund dollars to

help purchase these items. If your meeting would like to donate some of these items please let us know.

We also used your Sharing Fund dollars to support the Brooklyn residential juvenile detention center for teenage girls. The Prisons Committee provided the teenagers with preparation materials for the GED, SAT, and PSAT; journals; textbooks; and Christmas gifts.

The first meeting of the Correctional Association of New York was held in 1844 in response to concerns about brutal conditions in prisons and the lack of support services for former prisoners. The Association believes that the criminal-justice system, in general, and prison issues, in particular, are among the most pressing civil rights issues of our time. Through advocacy, public education, and developing and promoting workable alternative proposals, the Correctional Association seeks to create a more fair, efficient, and humane criminal-justice system and a more safe and just society. The Prisons Committee provided support for the Correctional Association.

Increasingly our prison meetings are concerned about release issues. “What happens when prisoners come home?” is a query that we often hear. Twenty-seven thousand people leave NYS prisons each year. We have been in consultation with Rima Vesely-Flad from the Interfaith Coalition of Advocates for Reentry and Employment (ICARE). She has been working on what faith communities can do in areas of employment, housing, education, healthcare, and voting, to promote the successful reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals. Rima will lead our Silver Bay study group, *When the Walls Come Tumbling Down*. Please join us in this important work.

For more detailed disbursement information contact the interim clerk.

Helen Garay Toppins, interim clerk

Committee for Right Sharing of World Resources

Starting in the fall of 2004, and continuing through August of 2005, the committee distributed compact fluorescent light bulbs to all the monthly meetings we could reach, with the request that they return a form indicating that they had discussed the issue of energy conservation in their meetinghouses and whether they would in future purchase CFLs to replace incandescent bulbs. To date, five meetings have responded, all positively.

Phil Harnden continues to publish the e-memo, with proofreading by Mary Eagleson.

Of the \$2,392.19 balance on January 1, 2005, \$600 was sent to the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund, and \$1,700 was sent to Right Sharing of World Resources, Inc. Sharing Fund income was \$2,396.72, leaving a balance of \$2,563.91 on December 31, 2005.

At its meeting on April 1, 2006, the committee considered the queries in the *Handbook* regarding functioning of the committee. There was agreement that the clerk has, in effect, been functioning as a focus person for some years, and that it might be reasonable to lay down the committee and to appoint a focus person to represent the concerns of Right Sharing in the Yearly Meeting. No action was taken, but the matter will be considered again at summer sessions at Silver Bay.

Mary Eagleson, clerk

Rural and Migrant Ministry

No report available at press time.

William Penn House

William Penn House (WPH) continues to be a valuable Quaker presence in our nation's capital.

Executive Director Byron Sandford says that WPH focuses on program, staff, and facilities and that "We need to be good stewards of all these." William Penn House has operated in the black for the past two years. It has an internship program that is intended to "educate young people about wider Quaker work."

WPH ran programs on Teachers of Peace and Education for Peace and Social Change twice during the year. It provides free lodging for

FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) lobbyists, and during the FCNL remodeling much of FCNL's programming was done there.

William Penn House hosted many community and interfaith groups. This is a partial list: United Friends School; Amnesty International; Girl Scouts; International Human Rights Seminar for Washington University; University of Bamberg (Germany); Norwood School; Wake Forest School of Divinity; New York University School of Social Work; FCNL Youth Lobby weekend; FCNL Policy Committee; International Honors Program; Congressional Hunger Fellows; United Church of Christ; Methodist Foundation for Social Action; and numerous others.

In July Washington Quaker Workcamps (WQW) became a program of William Penn House. WPH's Board now has overall responsibility for WQW, and the members of the former WQW Board continue to guide and oversee the projects, which work with homeless people.

Some thoughts for future programming: activist training; "Teaching Peace" for university professors; Quaker youth seminars; how Quaker testimonies can lead to policy change; and Quakers working with youth in yearly meetings.

William Penn House has established the William Penn Peace Prize to raise public awareness of effective and courageous peace and justice work. In 2006 the prize will be awarded for the first time, to an individual or entity that "walks the path of peace in a time of war."

During the past year the front garden was spruced up and a Peace Pole was installed, which says, MAY PEACE PREVAIL ON EARTH in eight languages.

William Penn House sponsors a monthly potluck, an opportunity for fellowship among Friends and friends of Friends; a silent vigil on Saturdays on the west lawn of the Capitol; and a daily morning worship group. WPH is also working with other Quaker groups to create our own (Quaker) health insurance.

*Ronald Inskeep, NYYM representative
National Consultative Committee*

Committee on World Ministries

The primary work of the Committee on World Ministries is to distribute funds received from the NYYM trustees and Sharing Fund to mission and service projects supported by NYYM Friends. The committee met in July and December 2005.

Committee members considered various requests for funding. The disbursements reflect the concerns expressed. We remain concerned about fiscal accountability, particularly when funds are sent out of country.

The committee continues to be comfortable funding the outreach of Schenectady Meeting to alleviate the food shortages in Zimbabwe. The committee also funded the provision of computers for the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund and the Orchard Park Monthly Meeting Crossroads Springs Project in Kenya.

The Youth Service Opportunities Project continues to grow in New York City and has expanded to Washington D.C. where it has an intern program.

The committee has also continued to support the Blossom Garden Book Project and Ichthys House in the United States; in Kenya, Lugulu Hospital, Turkana and Samburu Missions, the Lindi Friends School (Nairobi via AQUAVIS), and the African Great Lakes Initiative. FUM field staff also received support and we are grateful for their presence in Kisumu, Kenya as they support the projects in Kenya and serve as a fiscal monitor for contributions there.

Friends continue to support Jamaican Friends at the Lyndale and Swift Purscell Homes. The boys school in Belize also received support.

S. Jean Smith, clerk

Committee on World Ministries Financial Report, 2005

Balance:	\$ 1,663.08
Receipts:	
NYYM Trustees	19,187.54
Sharing Fund	<u>621.16</u>
Total	\$19,187.54
Disbursements	14,366.00
Balance	\$ 4,821.54

Disbursements:

Americas	
Blossom Garden Book Project	1,500.00
Youth Service Opportunities Program (YSOP)	3,000.00
Ichthys House	500.00
Belize	
Boys Continuation School	500.00
Jamaica	
Swift Purscell School	500.00
Lyndale School	500.00
Bolivia	
Bolivian Quaker Education Fund	1,866.00
Africa	
Zimbabwe Food Project through Schenectady	1,000.00
African Great Lakes Initiative through F.M.	500.00
Lugulu Hospital (Kenya)	500.00
Rural Service Programme in Kenya through	
Weare MM in New Hampshire	500.00
Orchard Park MM/Kenya	2,000.00
F.U.M. Office in Kenya	500.00
Turkana Mission	500.00
Sambura Mission	<u>500.00</u>
Total expenditures	\$14,366.00

Liaison Committee

The Liaison Committee comprises the Yearly Meeting clerk, the assistant clerk, the clerks of the four sections, and the clerk of Junior Yearly Meeting. Recording and reading clerks also serve, particularly with respect to preparation of business for Yearly Meeting sessions. The general secretary serves in an ex officio capacity.

The Liaison Committee works with the Yearly Meeting clerk to discern and prepare items of business coming forward for consideration by the Yearly Meeting. It supports coordinating committee clerks in their work, and it considers any issues that do not fall clearly within a single section of the Yearly Meeting. Liaison Committee is also responsible for the planning and care of Coordinating Committee weekend.

This year the Committee met twice—in February during Sessions Committee weekend and at Coordinating Committee weekend in March. Communication by phone, e-mail, and postal mail is ongoing between scheduled meetings. The Yearly Meeting clerk and assistant clerk attend coordinating committee and section committee meetings, when needed and as possible.

Liaison meets each morning during Yearly Meeting Summer Sessions for worship, the preparation of business, and the prayerful upholding of the Yearly Meeting and its sessions. Friends are requested to hold this committee in prayer in its work on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.

Linda B. Chidsey, clerk, New York Yearly Meeting