

Shaping the Future of IYM sessions have had excellent attendance and participation. A summary of input received in these sessions will soon be available. A report from the Work Group that has planned and presented these sessions will be made to Representative Council in April. Yearly Meeting Sessions this summer will include opportunity to discuss recommendations that will arise out of this process. Please be sure that your meeting is represented at the April 12 Representative Council at Westfield, and plan now to attend yearly meeting sessions July 24-27 at Quaker Haven Camp.

Sandra Bone, RN from Wabash Friends, and **Jill Steinke**, MSN-RN from Anderson First Friends, completed Marion General Hospital's Parish Nurse Program. Marion General Hospital donated First Aid kits and medical equipment valued at over \$400 to each of the churches as well as materials promoting general health.

Anderson First Friends recently recognized Mary Dunbar, Mary Clark, Jim Clark, and Sharon Stewart for reading the entire Bible in 2013.

Charlottesville Friends took in seven new members on Feb 23. That's a 54% increase in membership in one day. What other meetings have encouraged regular attenders to join as members?

Dewart Lake Friends and Quaker Haven Camp invite you to a Passover Seder meal at the camp dining hall on Wednesday, April 9 at 6:00 pm. The full meal will be prepared by Quaker Haven's food service and the Seder will be led by Alan Bond, a representative of Jews for Jesus. The cost of the meal is \$12 for adults and \$6.50 for children age four to 11 (under four are free). Call the camp at (574) 834-4193 for reservations no later than Monday, April 7.

Farmland Friends invites you to Movie Night every Fri at 7 pm. There is even an intermission with snacks and drinks. Call 765-433-4104 to find out what is playing.

Statistical Reports are needed by March 5. Your assessment for 2015 will be based on the active members recorded for 2013. If we do not have your Membership Statistical Report by March 5, we will have to base your assessment on the last report on file.

Camp Sunday!!! Would you like to host a Camp Sunday at your monthly meeting in Mar, Apr or May? Aaron Hughs has openings in those three months and would love to come and talk about the upcoming camping season during your service. He can speak, show the promo video and even lead in worship, playing some camp favorites and also some of the newer worship songs the campers love. For a list of open Sundays, contact Aaron at the IYM office today.

CAMP COUNSELORS!!! Guess what folks? It's that time of the year when we start filling all the Counselor and Counselor-In-Training spots. We have an exciting and awesome program planned for this summer but we need you to help as Counselors and young adults (age 15½+) to be Counselors-In-Training. For more information on how you can be a Counselor or CIT, contact Aaron Hughs at the IYM Office and look for the applications on the IYM website (www.iym.org) in the coming weeks.

ATTENTION: DAY AWAY RETREATS COMING THIS SPRING! March 29 and April 5 will be the dates for the MEI sponsored Day Away Retreats. "Renew a Steadfast Spirit within Me!" will be the topic. Dana Howard Russo will be leading worship. Maple Run will host the March 29 retreat and Cadiz Friends will host the April 5 retreat. The cost is only \$10.00 per Meeting with lunch included. The registration form and more information is at <http://www.iym.org/>.

Quaker Haven's Spring Break & Clean: Mar 30-Apr 3 and Apr 6-10 Families are invited to volunteer during spring break. Projects will be done six hours a day and planned activities each night with times of worship and devotions. Lodging and meals are provided. If you can only come for 2 or 4 days that's great! Call the camp office at 574-834-4193 to register.

Quaker Haven Camp is offering a weekend retreat, "Spiritual Leadership for Spiritual Growth," to assist M&O members in understanding the role of

elders. It will be Apr 4 & 5. Speakers are Brent Bill and Della Stanley-Green. Cost of \$70 includes the Fri evening snack, Sat breakfast & lunch, and lodging as well as a fee to help cover the retreat expenses. Registration deadline is Mar 26. Call the camp at (574)834-4193 to register.

FUM Ministry – The SEEDS project was formed in 2010 for the purpose of providing support for Kenyan projects from Kenyan sources of income. The SEEDS goals include providing sustainable funding to train teachers to use the Peace Curriculum in their classrooms, support for the AMO Education Secretary and continuing support for improving Quaker schools in Kenya. Thank you for your prayer and support for SEEDS and the Peace Curriculum.

Friends United Meeting (FUM) is an association of around 30 yearly meetings that cooperate together in missions and service. IYM has had a key role in FUM and its work from its inception. This summer (June 11-15) we will have the opportunity to host the Triennial sessions of FUM, which is a great honor and a huge task. The last time we hosted a Triennial was 1996. Featured speakers this year will include Colin Saxton, Richard Foster and James Bryan Smith. The registration form for the 2014 FUM Triennial Sessions is now available online at <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1373417>

Postponed: "Fundraising from the Heart" Retreat scheduled Feb 28-Mar 1 has been postponed to a later date due to weather and other events. More information about the new dates and program details later.

Hiring 2014 Summer Staff: Quaker Haven Camp will be hiring for positions in the kitchen, grounds keeping, and life guard duties. Application and reference forms are at <http://info@quakerhaven.com>.

Good Morning!

I would like to encourage every church in Indiana Yearly Meeting to never hire another pastor, and release any pastor currently working for you. (Please don't stop reading here!) Don't get me wrong, I'm a huge advocate for pastoral ministry, but we Friends have a different way of understanding pastoring. It is not a vocation to be chosen, it's a calling to be obeyed. Early Friends recoiled against what they called the "hireling" ministry. Although Friends in IYM adopted the pastoral system well over a century ago, we continue to view it differently than others.

Instead of "hiring" pastors to work for us, we believe it is more appropriate to "release" pastors to be able to do the work that God has called them to do. To the untrained eye, this subtle difference may be imperceptible, but it reflects a huge variation in the way pastors are regarded. A hired pastor is primarily accountable to the will of those who pay for his or her services. Released pastors may provide those exact same services to a church they are committed to serve, but are primarily accountable to the God who called them

into ministry. When I was a pastor I often said I wasn't paid to preach, but was paid so I could preach.

IYM encourages "pastoral agreements" between pastors and congregations, but not "employment contracts." Pastors are not hired hands, paid to do the dirty work that we are unwilling to do. They are men and women called of God to preach the word, and exercise a variety of pastoral gifts. How is your congregation releasing pastoral ministry in your meeting?

Doug Shoemaker

Communicator

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February 26, 2014

IYM Upcoming Calendar

3/1 *Easter Blitz Workshop; West River, 9:00 am*
3/2 *Fundraiser meal for Hispanic ministry; Maple Run, 4:30 pm*
3/2 *"Shaping the Future of IYM"; Maple Run, 6:00 pm (English & Spanish sessions)*
3/3 *Program Committee; IYM Office, 6:30 pm*
3/8 *Committee Day; Upland, 9:00 am*
3/8 *Stewardship & Finance Committee; Upland, 10:30 am*
3/10 *Executive Committee Meeting; IYM Office, 6:30 pm*
3/11 *Westfield Area Pastors; Westfield, 9:30 am*
3/12 *Van Wert Area Pastors; TBA, 12:30 pm*
3/13 *Faith & Practice Committee; IYM Office, 6:30 pm*
3/18 *Recording Committee Meeting; Upland, 5:30 pm*
3/19 *Marion Area Pastors; TBA, 9:30 am*
3/29 *MEI Day Away Retreat; Maple Run, 9:30 am*
4/5 *MEI Day Away Retreat; Cadiz, 9:30 am*
4/9 *Passover Seder Meal; Quaker Haven Camp, 6:00 pm*
4/12 *Representative Council; Westfield, 9:00 am*