

Representative Council Highlights

*We heard about the growing influence of IYM among Friends across America

*Several IYM Friends have been meeting to discuss a possible new church plant

*The Trustees announced a new tenant in the yearly meeting-owned shopping center beginning December 1 which will maintain our 100% occupancy

*The Advancement Committee shared an uplifting video highlighting some of the exciting ministries in IYM. It can be viewed at: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/wr05pmerukt5zbq/Representative%20Council%202018%202.0.mp4?dl=0>

*The goal for fundraising for the 2020 budget has been set at \$135,000

*Bonuses for the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent were approved

*Exciting updates were shared about the influence of IYM in Turkana, in Tanzania, and at Friends Theological College in Kenya

*The missions committee is investigating a partnership that would help us be involved in outreach to one of the least-reached people groups.

Westfield Friends has called **Shane Brown** to serve as senior pastor beginning in January. **Tony Wheeler** will conclude his service as interim pastor at the end of this year.

Bear Creek Friends recently dedicated their 220 shoeboxes to contribute to Operation Christmas Child. The church is also actively planning for their annual Christmas party for the children of Randolph County who are in the foster-care system.

Knightstown Friends' pastor, Tim Basford, recently joined FUM General Secretary Kelly Kellum, North American Ministries Coordinator Ben Snyder, and a group of Living Letters Friends on a trip to visit Friends in Cuba, and they attended Cuba Yearly Meeting's 118th Anniversary Celebration.

Mooreland Friends youth pastor, Ross Smedley, took a group of youth, 6th grade and up, to the Fall Impact

Camp, November 2-4. They had a great time! Christmas shoe boxes were collected on Sunday, November 11, for Samaritan's Purse. The attendance was good for their Ham & Bean dinner and they thank everyone who contributed. They would also like to thank all veterans and praise God for their service to our country!

Sycamore Friends sent four volunteers to the recently held National Youth Workers Convention in St. Louis.

Wabash Friends Children's Christmas Program, "Sheep in Heavenly Peace," will be Saturday, December 1, and their Children's Christmas Painting Party will be on December 6.

The Walnut Ridge Friends Annual Christmas Bazaar will be held, Friday, November 30, 2:30 to 7:00 pm. They will have their well-known country candies, cookies, and pies along with Christmas crafts. Homemade hot soups will be served all day. Come out and enjoy! Proceeds go to missions. Email the following for more information: dannydavina1205@gmail.com or lmuegge@myninestar.net or 77lalbrecht@gmail.com

Contributions are being received for the 2020 budget. Thank you to those who have already made a pledge or sent a check. Your generosity enables the staff and valuable programs of our yearly meeting to help breathe life into churches.

Curriculum orders have been mailed and many congregations will be using the new IYM adult lessons beginning in December. We have learned that printing issues have resulted in a few defective booklets being distributed. If your congregation received any booklets with unreadable pages, please contact the IYM office for free replacements.

IYM Sunday will be observed on April 28, 2019. Please mark your church calendar and plan to feature the work and ministries we all share as part of Indiana Yearly Meeting on that day.

The Annual Pastors Christmas Dinner will be held Saturday, December 15, beginning at 5 pm. Pastors and

spouses are invited to this complimentary catered dinner that will be served at South Marion Friends. The evening will include a catered meal, great fellowship, and an enjoyable program. Call the yearly meeting office to make your reservations.

Mid-Winter Retreat for pastors and spouses is scheduled for February 15-17 at Hueston Woods Lodge and Conference Center near Oxford, Ohio. Churches are encouraged to release their pastor for the weekend, so he/she can attend.

Pastor reports have been sent out to pastors and recorded ministers and are to be completed and returned to the yearly meeting office by December 8. Check www.iym.org or email iyminfo@iym.org if you did not receive a copy of the report. Annual ministerial status cards will be mailed to pastors and ministers who send in a completed report.

FMT is for All Doing Ministry! Multiply your church's ministry by developing your people. Who in your church could benefit from the Friends Ministry Training? Think in terms of serving as Sunday School teachers, M&O members, committee clerks, etc. Gaining more understanding of the Bible and of the nature of pastoral ministry can help grow your church. Why? Because growing people attracts others who want to grow. Consider offering help with any who want to pursue FMT. Encourage them to begin enrollment now. Classes begin with **Orientation to Online Learning** on February 4. Then Paul Cochrane teaches **Old Testament Survey** from February 18 to March 31. This is followed by David Phillips' course, **Introduction to Pastoral Ministry** from April 1 to May 12. Enroll now for 2019. Contact Paul Cochrane at 260-274-2257 or email to paul.cochrane@barclaycollege.edu. You can also contact the IYM office for more information at iyminfo@iym.org or 800-292-5238.

Good Morning!

I recently heard a professor from a Christian College reflect on changes he has observed in the lives of incoming Freshmen. He suggested that first-year students are different from previous classes in at least three noticeable ways: they are less mature, less biblically literate, and carry much more emotional baggage. If this is true of students attending a Christian school, my guess is it's exponentially truer of the general population.

Most churches in Indiana Yearly Meeting would readily affirm their desire to grow in numbers. Have you ever considered what your congregation might look like if it

were growing? It's likely that your pews would be filled with people of all ages who carry a lot of baggage with less biblical knowledge and maturity. When I read Paul's New Testament letters to the Corinthian church, I see a church that seems to have all the above characteristics. Do you understand that praying for a New Testament church could very well result in one with all the problems of the church in Corinth?

I've been blessed to serve as pastor of churches that have experienced significant growth. My experience in

each case has been a sense that things were often out of control! I'm a guy who works hard to avoid conflict but have learned that to be a partner with what God wants to do among us will often result in conflict, and sometimes chaos, that must be managed. In short, growth might seem to mess up your church. Of course, decline messes up a church too. Do you prefer the more comfortable mess of decline, or the more challenging mess of growth?

-Doug Shoemaker

Communicator

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November 21, 2018

IYM Upcoming Calendar

- 11/19 Program Committee, IYM office, 6:30 pm
- 12/01 Committee Day, South Marion Friends, 9 am
- 12/15 Pastors Christmas Dinner, South Marion Friends, 5 pm
- 12/17 Investment Board, Muncie Red Lobster, 11 am
- 12/21—1/1 IYM office closed
- 01/05 Executive Committee Retreat, IYM office, 9:30 am
- 01/08 Advancement Committee, IYM office, 4 pm



Happy Thanksgiving