

Yearly Meeting Minute

Business sessions are an important part of yearly meeting sessions. Friends don't seek majority rule; we seek to discern the will of God as we gather together in meetings for worship with a concern for business. At times our business sessions include reports from our committees, officers, or affiliate organizations. At other times we prayerfully and carefully seek God's guidance for corporate decision-making. The role of the Presiding Clerk is to discern the sense of the meeting as we gather to recognize God's leading. Experience this July 25-28 at Quaker Haven Camp.

Westland Friends announces that Paul Bravard will officially start as their new lead pastor on August 1. Rod Abram will remain at Westland as pastor emeritus.

Amboy Friends recently served 516 meals in little over a week with their free meal program. This included their regular free meals plus special meals given during the flood relief time.

Arba Friends volunteers were able to help get four cabins sealed and varnished and get the boys bathhouse re-roofed (and had some fun too) at the 2013 Quaker Haven Work Weekend.

Farmland Friends will have a chicken/noodle meal, Saturday, July 6, 4:30-7:00 pm.

Back Creek Friends has held several events in the past few months including a Crock Pot Cooking Class, Introduction to Photography Class, 30-Day Cooking Class, Homemade Soap Making Class, and their First Annual Car and Motorcycle Show.

White River Friends will hold a "Fun in the 'Son' Concert," Saturday, July 20 at 12 pm. Come and enjoy good Christian music in the great outdoors.

Please pray for the VBS events that many of our meetings are having during this time of year. Each child is so important and must come to make Jesus their Lord and Savior. Please pray for these children and for the many volunteer workers.

The IYM Evangelism & Outreach Committee wants to encourage IYM churches to send their requests for grants in a week before Committee Days. Please send them to the new clerk, John Norris at jrnorris@norrisinsurance.com.

Quaker Haven is offering to host families and churches who would like to spend some time relaxing, playing, and growing together in a beautiful setting on the weekend of July 19-21. Your family can rent one of the private rooms in Friendship Lodge for \$50 a night (plus tax). You can reserve meals in the dining hall or do your own cooking. For more information, call the camp at 574-834-4193 ASAP.

Friends United Meeting has office space available: 12 ½' x 14 ½' office lower level, \$350 per month and includes all utilities except phone/internet. Call 765-962-7573 for information and ask for Barb or Colin.

FUM's Summer Mission goal is to raise \$20,000 to support Zadock Malesi's work in Kenyan schools. Last year the mission goal built classrooms. This year it is about building the future through peace efforts with youth. The mission project pursues peacemaking by supporting the 1200+ Quaker schools in Kenya. Through this endeavor, FUM hopes to nurture a new generation of young people committed to peace and Friends values through the work of Zadock, a specialist in the field of education who serves as a liaison between FUM and all of the Quaker schools in Kenya.

Joe Fick, staff person at Earlham Christian Fellowship, reports: *Thanks so much for your ongoing prayers and support for us and for my work with InterVarsity. Your partnership is making a real difference! God is doing amazing things in and through some Earlham students, and your partnership helps me to play my part. Thanks!*

Save These Dates

National Friends Church Multiplication Conference, May 7-9, 2014 on the campus of Barclay College, Haviland, KS. Watch for more information to come later.

Friends United Meeting will have a gathering, September 20-22, to explore what it means to practice ongoing care for and ministry to our youth and young adults. This retreat will feature times of worship, fellowship, speakers and workshops. Some highlights of the weekend will be:

- Experiencing Sabbath Rest — Colin Saxton
- Functioning as a Team — Dave Phillips
- Effective Youth Ministry — Tim Vestal
- Busyness & Overscheduling — Damon Seacott
- Technology & Youth Ministry — Micah Bales
- * Young Adult Ministries — Gabi Bailey

The cost for the weekend will be \$150, which includes meals and on-site lodging. Please save this date for this unique opportunity!

This week, the *Advance Report* is being sent to churches remaining in IYM, but if there are others who would like a copy, please contact the IYM office.

Good Morning,

American humorist Jack Handy, in his book, *Fuzzy Memories*, tells the story of a bully who demanded his lunch money every day when he was a child. Because Handy was smaller than the bully, he simply gave the bully his money. "Then I decided to fight back," Handy says. "I started taking karate lessons, but the instructor wanted \$5 a lesson. That was a lot of money. I found that it was cheaper to pay the bully, so I gave up karate." Greg Laurie has observed that, "Unfortunately, many Christians have the same attitude

about Satan and the temptations that come their way. It's simply easier to pay the bully than to learn how to fight him."

As Americans celebrate freedom this week, I wonder how many of us have genuinely experienced it. The gospels record the account of Jesus reading from the scroll of Isaiah at a Nazareth synagogue. After reading a section that included, "He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed..." he rolled up the scroll, took a seat and went on to

assert, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." Talk about a freedom fighter!

Some Christians downplay the biblical teachings about spiritual warfare and the existence of an adversary who is out to steal our freedom, kill our hearts and destroy our lives. It's no wonder that so many of us struggle, and even entire churches seem to be in bondage. It's simpler to pay the bully than to learn to fight him. Are you (and your church) experiencing spiritual freedom today?

—Doug Shoemaker

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IYM Upcoming Calendar

7/7-12 Senior High II Camp, Quaker Haven
7/21-24 Little Friends Camp, Quaker Haven
7/25-28 IYM Sessions, Quaker Haven

The IYM Trustees will meet on Tuesday, August 6, at the yearly meeting office for their organizational meeting. The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm.

USFWI-QMI Triennial 44th Triennial Sessions July 4-7

**Radisson Hotel,
Indianapolis Airport**

Evening sessions include Colin Saxton, FUM General Secretary, Cuban Ministries, and Ramallah Ministries as well as five Saturday workshops. Pat Shrock is the International President and welcomes you to attend! You may register online at www.usfwi.org or use the forms in *The Advocate*.