

The Iowa Friend

Change is Difficult!

By: Tom Showalter, General Superintendent

February 2020

The following are portions of the General Superintendent report to BOC and part of Advance Reports for Spring Body

Change is difficult! Each New Year, we set our resolutions as we contemplate the things we wish to change. As the general superintendent, I have been reflecting on the past year in Iowa Yearly Meeting (IAYM). There are several elements that I have observed and wish to share. As I visit the local meetings, I hear a clear commitment to Christ-centered and biblically based teaching. Additionally, I hear much discussion and have heard numerous messages from the pulpit based upon the 4-Chair discipleship model. I am encouraged that our local meetings are interested in discipling people.

Personal Life

Within my job description under the “Personal Life” section, it states that I am to “*maintain a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and exemplify that relationship in daily life.*” *I realize I am unable to do my job without this reliance upon Jesus Christ who stated, “Apart from me, you can do nothing.”* I maintain regular morning times of quiet, reading, and prayer. I hope that my encounters with others would reflect “that relationship in daily life.”

In December, I had a mysterious allergic reaction and during the subsequent visit to the doctor, I was diagnosed with a heart arrhythmia. It soon became apparent that I would need to make some changes. Since the diagnosis, I have lost close to twenty pounds and reduced my caffeine intake by half. The third necessary adjustment is to reduce stress... A cardioversion will be scheduled as soon as schedules permit; this will restore a proper rhythm to the heart.

Last June, my daughter Grace became ill. After many weeks of doctor visits to Iowa City, Grace was diagnosed with a general Auto Immune disease that appears to be the early stages of Lupus. On a positive note, we are thankful to the Lord for His shown mercy in this process and also for your prayers. She had infusion treatments and will not return to her doctors for a number of months.

Last year I committed to visiting every meeting for their worship time. I fulfilled that goal, and actually attended forty-two worship services within IAYM churches...

Positional Summary

As a pastor and as superintendent, I have found that leadership within the Friends domain is very challenging. Leaders within IAYM are to represent the entirety of IAYM and not their personal or local meeting preferences. As I have visited each of our churches, I see the challenges being faced, the concerns expressed, and struggles shared. Also as part of my job description, it states, “*The General Superintendent shall provide visionary leadership in the task of advancing the IAYM vision.*” After adopting the mission statement within the Body of Representatives, I have used that magnificent statement as the rubric for my interactions, challenge, and encouragement to all pastors and meetings...Without an understanding of the mission statement for the Yearly Meeting and the local church, direction toward a desired outcome cannot be given. I cannot overstate the importance of understanding the mission and the implications to IAYM...it is the target for which we are to shoot in all decisions within Iowa Yearly Meeting, but also within the local church, BOC, and other boards!

When I began in this position over four years ago (Oct. 2015), I discovered responses from a World Café that helped shape my vision for my work. Three Questions were asked: “What key elements (core values) will carry IAYM churches through the next decade?” “What are the most crucial needs of IAYM churches in order to carry out the key elements through the next decade and beyond?,” and “...how would you address the needs of IAYM during the next decade?” The responses from the Body of Representatives to these questions have become the focus for my efforts these past several years. Many responses expressed a need for resources and/or teaching about accountability, mentoring, and discipleship. As a result, I felt that a connection with the Sonlife or-

IAYM Missions Board

Let's Write a Different Story

(Submitted by Katy Moran, Kaleo Academy Project Manager)

Look around your congregation this next Sunday morning, what observations do you make? What type of people are filling the seats at IAYM churches on a Sunday morning? Statistically speaking, you probably will not find many young adults (18-29 yr. olds) sitting in any church on a Sunday morning. "Multiple studies highlight that 40-50 percent of youth group seniors – like the young people in your church – drift from God and the faith community after they graduate from high school." (Growing Young, p.17) So if you do have any young people, picture half of them abandoning the faith within the next couple years. These are alarming statistics that some churches know all too well. And the respond tends to always be: "How can we get the young people back to Church?" I want to suggest to you that we reframe that question a bit and ask instead "How can we be a church and a denomination that young people want to be a part of?"

Kaleo Academy was started four years ago when Barclay College received a generous gift from the Eli Lilly Endowment to start a theological leadership institute for high school students. We believe that the evangelical Friends Church, with our beautiful testimonies and Gospel-centered faith, can write a different story; we can change those statistics. Our goal is to help evangelical Friends Churches intentionally build up the next generation of leaders for the Friends Church, to equip adults and churches to walk alongside students, and to be a denomination that invests and encourages young leaders to love and lead the Friends Church forward. We do this through a multiple step program designed to invest in young leaders, adult mentors, sending churches, and parents.

Kaleo Academy Program:

Theology Camp

A one-week intensive on the campus of Barclay College (June 14-20, 2020).

Mentoring

An adult mentor who agrees to attend Theology Camp and go on this journey with each young leader while receiving training and support from Kaleo Academy.

Online Classes

A 10-month online learning community following Theology Camp with the goal of mak-

ing the tools and training received at Theology Camp practical in the context of each community with the specific skills and calling of each young leader.

Released Project

A service-learning project of 50+ hrs. completed by each young leader before the end of the program. This is an opportunity to put into practice the tools and skills learned within the local faith community.

Church & Parent Engagement

Ongoing opportunities for training and equipping of the churches that send young leaders to Kaleo and their parents through the Fuller Youth Institute's *Growing Young* and *Growing With* material.

Kaleo Academy is the **only** training program being offered exclusively to youth from evangelical Friends Yearly Meetings/Regions with the purpose of developing leaders for the evangelical Friends Church. We are currently running our third cohort through the program. So far, we have had 45 students and mentors participate, coming from 10 different evangelical Yearly Meetings/Regions in the U.S., Mexico, Nepal and Bangladesh with Friends speaking English, Spanish, Bengali and Hindi. Our Kaleo Academy team has consisted of over 35 college student leaders, teachers from Barclay College, Northwest YM, Rocky Mountain YM, Mid-America, Eastern Region, Iowa YM, Indiana YM, and missionaries in Cambodia and Rwanda. Our Kaleo Academy staff have traveled and given presentations and trainings to thousands in almost every evangelical Yearly Meeting/Region in the U.S. with both English and Spanish speaking Friends. This last year we have successfully had all our curriculum and teaching translated and interpreted into Spanish.

We are now accepting nominations and applications for this next year's cohort. We have had five young leaders from IAYM participate in Kaleo Academy and we hope for many more. Begin to pray for young leaders to rise up in *your* congregation; young people who are beginning to demonstrate leadership skills and have a vision and passion for *your* church and to serve God. Then go to those young people and name



Robert A. Roe, 81, of Clemons, IA formerly of Coralville, passed away peacefully on Friday, January 24, 2020 at his residence.

Robert was born on November 12, 1938 to Earl and Irma (Miller) Roe in Des Moines, IA. He went to Hubbard High School, worked with his dad in a garage, and worked as an aircraft electrician. Robert was stationed at the Edwards Air Force Base in the Mojave Desert, CA for 4 years where he got his diploma and met his true love, Jeanette. He was united in marriage to Jeanette Yunker on March 8, 1958 in North Hollywood, CA. Robert was employed with Iowa Illinois Gas & Electric as a lineman. He volunteered in the Sunshine Acres children home in Mesa AZ, and in House of Compassion in Marshalltown, IA. Robert enjoyed creative writing and activities such as racquetball and shuffleboard. He enjoyed riding his motorcycle. Robert will be remembered for his sense of humor, his stories, and the gentle manner in which he graciously treated people. He spent a large part of his retirement residing in Mesa, AZ and Clemons, IA. Robert attended the Bangor Liberty Friends Church. He cherished nothing more in this world than his faith, his wife, his family, close friends and especially his grandchildren.

Robert is survived by his wife Jeanette of 61 years, his four children, Alan (Michelle Nagle) Roe of Iowa City, IA, Melody (Abi) Salimi of Marietta, GA, Kathy (Mark) Whitear of Granite Falls, MN and Janet (Dennis) Klein of Clemons, IA; eleven grandchildren, eight great grandchildren, his sister and brother-in-law Beverly (Otto) Young. He preceded in death by his parents Earl and Irma Roe, and his sister Betty May Roja.

Love is patient, love is kind. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres

Fortune-telling or Prophecy – What is the difference?

Many people today, especially youth and young adults, are fascinated by magic, fortune-telling and psychic phenomena. They do not understand the difference between hearing God and being a fortune-teller. **Michelle Seidler** is someone who clearly understands the difference. At one time she made her living as a Psychic. After coming to know the Lord and discovering God's purpose for her life, she served as part of the leadership team at International House of Prayer in Kansas City for several years. Currently she teaches and travels in the U.S. and the Ukraine. She has also authored the autobiographical book, *Psychic to Prophet*. *Michelle is passionate about helping people receive God's wisdom for their lives and encounter Jesus in the Word.*

Michelle will be at LeGrand Friends Church March 20-22. Her daughter and son-in-law, Kasey & Joel Dobbins will be with her. We invite you to join us and bring others with you who need to understand how to hear God for their lives.



Psychic to Prophet

7:00 p.m. Friday, March 20
with Michelle Seidler

Michelle will share her journey from her misunderstood childhood to life as a Psychic to finally coming to know the Lord and discovering God's purpose for her life. She will give insight about the differences between Psychics and hearing God.

Hearing God Training

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Saturday, March 21

Spend the day with Michelle and her team and learn to more accurately hear God for your life. The team will help us learn to see Jesus through the Word, and behold and encounter Him in a deeper way.

Lunch provided -Please let us know you are planning to be here for lunch so we can prepare enough food. Contact Church office: lfc@iowatelecom.net

There will be a free will offering.

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those gifts you see in them and encourage them to participate in Kaleo Academy as a way to respond to those gifts and callings God has placed on their life. We hope IAYM churches can change those statistics and be places that young people love and lead. You can get more information about Kaleo Academy and apply at: <https://www.barclaycollege.edu/kaleo/> or contact me to nominate a young leader in your church at: katy.moran@barclaycollege.edu.

Our dear friend and Kaleo teacher Chuck Orwiler, a retired Friends Pastor from Rocky Mountain YM sent us this quote about Kaleo:

I am so grateful for the youth leadership development in Kaleo. Having been involved in church ministry for over forty years I have been consistently disappointed in the lack of leadership development in youth ministry. We care deeply for our youth, but don't take them seriously as players in our community faith life. Kaleo takes our youth seriously. It is a joy and privilege to teach a substantial topic with students and their mentors who are eager to personally engage the topic. The curriculum, the theology camp, the 10-month program, the mentor-student pairings, and the excellent preparation and presentation combine to raise the bar way up for youth leadership training in the Friends Church. I sincerely pray the program can continue and its fruit build our future.

(Powell, Kara Eckmann. *Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church*. Baker Books, a Division of Baker Publishing Group, 2016.

Powell, Kara Eckmann, and Steven Argue. *Growing with: Every Parent's Guide to Helping Teenagers and Young Adults Thrive in Their Faith, Family, and Future*. Baker Books, 2019.)

IAYM Stewardship Board/FDF Board

Generous Congregations

"Generous Congregations Workshop
for March 14.

At William Penn University

The Generous Congregations workshop is designed to awaken an ongoing spirit of generosity in congregations. We strongly urge stewardship committee members of local meetings to attend. Of course, any member or attender will benefit from additional education related to stewardship of financial resources--especially those who wish to leave legacy gifts to family members, Quaker related ministries (such as the local meeting, IAYM, FUM) or other religious or secular entities.

The cost of the Generous Congregations workshop is \$50 per church (up to five representatives per church).

The Stewardship Board will cover the full cost of the first ten attending churches.

This workshop is scheduled for March 14, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Lunch will be provided by Everence.

Note: The offer to cover the workshop cost will be limited to those individuals representing the first ten meetings registering (up to five people per church) prior to Feb 29.

Call the IAYM office (641-673-9717) to confirm attendance at this workshop/event.

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ganization and their resources would provide desired information. Additionally, I have shared a 4-Chair workshop at a number of our churches (and am willing to come to other local meetings).

Other responses from the World Café were about a focus on Scripture, Jesus Christ, and allowing the Holy Spirit to lead the actions of the meetings. This resulted in the formulation of a mission statement and core values that reflect these values.

Other World Café responses that stood out to me were shared concerns about our struggling churches. As a result, I have attempted to visit each church, stay connected to our pastors, and maintain ongoing communication with both pastors and other leaders within the meetings. Patterns, habits, and procedures are not established overnight, and will not come without changing course.

For Your Information:

- Barclay College is seeking to establish a nursing program. Each Barclay Board member is asked to make the financial need known. If you are interested in financially helping Barclay College start a nursing program, please contact me and I will assist you in making those arrangements.

QUAKER MEN EARLY BIRD SESSION 10AM ON FEBRUARY 22, 2020

FEATURING (via Skype):



John Muhanji

(Director of the Africa Ministries Office of Friends United Meeting,
based in Kisumu, Kenya)

Robert Wafula

(Principal of Friends Theological College - Kenya)



QUAKER MEN FAMILY BANQUET

DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2020 AT NOON

Location: William Penn University @ the MTC building

BBQ LUNCH: cost \$17 (early purchase) or \$20 (at the door)

GUEST SPEAKER: VAN HARDEN OF WHO RADIO

PIE AUCTION FOLLOWS SPEAKER

Reservations to Wes Blanchard

email: wesblanch1@msn.com Call: 515-771-6036



THE IOWA FRIEND

P.O. Box 657
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phone (641) 673-9717
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Nonprofit Organization
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“The Body of IAYM exists to exalt Jesus Christ by becoming fruitful disciple-makers and expressing God's love by serving all people (John 15:1-17).”

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- Feb 22, 2020: **Quaker Men's Winter Banquet** with Van Harden (from WHO radio) as speaker
 - March 14: Generous Congregations Workshop @ WPU
 - March 28: **Spring Body Meeting** @ Grinnell Friends Church
 - March 30-April 3: **Beane Lecture & Pastor's Short Course**
 - April 4: **Camp Work Day**
 - **April 25:** **USFW Spring Fling @ HCNP**
 - May 16: **Camp Cookie Prep Day!**
 - **Camp Dates 2020:**

Little Fry June 12-14	Elementary June 25-28
Middle School June 14-18	High School June 19-24
 - July 12-18, 2020: **FUM Triennial** in Kisumu, Kenya
 - September 11-13: **Family Camp** @ Camp Quaker Heights
 - October 2-4: **Man Camp** @ Camp Quaker Heights

