

February 2021

The Iowa Friend

“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).”

Iowa Yearly Meeting

To all our members and friends of Friends Church:

As I write this, it’s predawn, with cold and winter expected to return over the next day or two. The weather seems to match the mood of people these days – feeling their way through the dark and eagerly awaiting clearer skies to come.

As a crossword puzzle fan, I have learned the old-fashioned word, “asea,” commonly defined as the “feeling of confusion, being adled and adrift.” While many words have been used to describe the year that just passed, that word might best summarize the general mood of crazy 2020. We’ve seen that churches, just like individuals, can experience seasons of trial and tribulation. I believe that was the experience of Friends. Personal and interpersonal conflict, loss and pain seemed to rear its ugly head over and over again. Reoccurring trouble set many of us back on our heels and made us wonder if being a member of a church is worth it.

I believe that many American evangelicals are asking this very question today. The coronavirus simply brought to a head a nagging feeling that many have had lurking in the corner of their heart: Why go to church and expose myself to pain and difficulty when I can sit at home safely and listen to church from afar? If you are in that boat, move over! You’re not alone.

God’s people have had “asea” experiences throughout history. Isaiah 42:16 records God’s great promise to those feeling adrift. “I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.”

Can we agree together to pray for our collective God-given guidance for the year ahead? For smooth paths to open up before us in this new year? And for any darkness that surrounds us to be dispelled by His purifying light? Let’s pray that 2021 is a year of healing and restoration, for our own sakes and the greater society at large. Blessings to you and your entire family this year!

Fighting the good fight with you, Pastor Nancy Bontempo

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World Café Multiplication Discussion via Zoom. Date to be determined.

- February 28th: Winter Retreat for Jr./Sr. High Youth hosted at Seven Oaks Recreational Center in Boone, IA
- March 20th: Spring Body of Representatives via Zoom
- April 16-20, 2021: **Pastor's Retreat & Conference** Our plan is to have Sonlife's Joel Zaborowski back to lead the Sonlife Retreat "Repair & Prepare"
- **Summer Camps @ CQH:**
June 11-13 Little Fry
June 13-17 Jr. High
June 18-23 Sr. High
June 24-27 Elementary
- July 29th-31st: Annual Ministry Conference of IAYM. To be held at William Penn University in Oskaloosa

February's IAYM Mission Board Emphasis

*WPU
Campus
Ministry*



William Penn campus ministry's overarching goal is to increase spiritual life on campus. This goal is achieved by fostering relationships with students and pouring into them with the various events held weekly.

Intervarsity is a ministry that has been at Penn for a few years, this ministry serves as a space where students receive coaching and guidance on how to start mini ministries on campus (I.e. Bible studies in dorms or on sports team).

FCA (fellowship of Christian athletes) is a ministry primarily focused on athletes but is also all-inclusive regardless if one is an athlete or not; FCA pours into students by teaching biblical worldview and perspectives that are applicable on sports teams and personal life.

Weekday worship (WDW) is another ministry geared toward Penn faculty but is open to students, much like FCA WDW looks to pour into those who attend with biblical worldview and perspectives.

Covid has presented many challenges, in particular the implementation of remote options for some of our weekly events via zoom. Pre-pandemic all of our ministries were in-person but now some of our events have moved entirely online. Despite all that has transpired campus ministry has still been able to thrive and pour into the campus. All glory to God!

Campus Ministry Graduate Assistants: Jacob Taylor, Enoch Okyere

William Penn University began the Spring 2021 semester this week (January 12th) with face-to-face instruction. Gateway testing for COVID-19 was required for all students prior to attending classes. "It has taken a coordinated, team effort, but thanks to our dedicated staff and four Abbott ID Now rapid testing machines, we have been able to ensure all students have been tested," said President John Ottosson.

Further precautions, such as a mask mandate and daily required health screenings have enabled William Penn University to resume in-person classes since Fall 2020. The testing machines on campus allow for any necessary screening to be done throughout the semester. With rapid testing results, WPU's COVID response team is able to take swift action when contact tracing is required.

"We know from years of experience and research that interactive classroom learning is the best way to help our students learn and develop. WPU professors are some of the best in the Midwest at connecting students and developing their potential. With care and caution we are welcoming students back to campus in face-to-face classes," said Dr. Noel Stahle, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Researching Our History:

Our Yearly Meeting office houses the historical records of our Quaker Churches of Iowa Yearly Meeting along with all our Yearly Meeting Minutes. A recent inquiry to research an event in 1962 led to a nice conversation and a testimony of our youth programming. Here is Ken Morlan's testimony from that event:

As a junior in high school in 1962, I attended youth group at the Scranton Friends Church. Though I was involved with the youth group I had little interest other than the social part of spending time with other youth my age. I had many family connections in the church so youth group was an extension of our family in many ways. When our youth leader invited the youth to attend the state Friends Youth Retreat in 1962, several of us in our youth group decided to go to the retreat. My main reason for agreeing to attend the retreat was to meet other youth from around the state.

This was a new experience for me since I had not done much of anything like this before. I remember that the theme of the retreat had to do with missions and I especially interested in the testimony of one girl from another country who gave her testimony at the retreat.

There were several times when we were asked if we wanted to ask Jesus into our hearts and dedicate our lives to God. I

had heard this type of message before, but this time the Holy Spirit really spoke to me. When the altar call was given I felt that I should go forward, but I didn't. I left the retreat not making a decision for Christ which resulted in me going home quite miserable. I had enjoyed the retreat, but because of failing to make a decision I was extremely convicted that I needed to do such. The next day after getting home I went to my bedroom and decided that it was time to make the decision to ask God to forgive me of my sins and ask Christ into my life. From that time on my life wouldn't be perfect, but my life seemed to be guided and directed by God. As with most people there have been ups and downs in my 75 years of life, but what a blessing to have God as my "Cornerstone" and the most important aspect of my life.

This is the excerpt from the 1962 Minute Book of Iowa Yearly Meeting:

"Our spring conference was a time of challenge to our youth to consider the call of missions for their lives. Our theme "Something to Die For" was ably presented by those who have had or are looking forward to service on our mission fields. One Hundred forty-six high school students registered for the weekend." Eugene and Frances Wolfley's ministry in Jamaica was the missionary focus for that event.

Ken also commented that he was a 1972 graduate of William Penn University.

IAYM Youth and Young Adult Board presents....

Winter Retreat

Sunday, February 28 / 10am—4pm

Seven Oaks Recreation in Boone, IA

For Middle School & High School Students

\$50 Registration/person

due by February 14th

ONE free chaperone admission

for every FIVE paid students

Visit IAYM.org/youth ministries to get more information!

Schedule for the day:

10 am Worship with Matt Smith

11 am Lunch

12 pm—4 pm Tubing





MISSION BOARD'S ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Iowa Yearly Meeting Mission's Board is offering a college scholarship of up to \$1000 for the 2021-22 academic school year. **The deadline is 3/1/21**

Seminary Scholarship

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends has a limited amount of funds available for **seminary (Masters or Doctoral program) studies.**

Applications should be received by **May 1, 2021** for the next school year or four months before courses begin.

Kenneth & Betty Palmer Scholarship

The purpose of the Kenneth & Betty Palmer Scholarship Endowment is to assist students who are members of the Friends Church and who are involved in graduate studies (Masters or Doctoral program) in preparation for or furthering their ministry. This includes, but is not necessary limited to, pastoral ministry, missionary service, Christian Education and youth ministry.

For more information/ applications for these scholarships, please contact the yearly meeting office via email

office@iaym.org

Or mail your request to PO Box 657, Oskaloosa, IA 52577

The Stewardship board extends appreciation to the IAYM churches who faithfully provided the funds in support of the 2020 IAYM budget. In addition, we share appreciation and thanksgiving for the individuals who independently contributed funds totaling over \$4000.

The unusual year created by the Coronavirus pandemic, negatively impacted ministry activity and significant budgeted monies were not spent.

Three months of the 2021 budget is currently in held reserve (retained earnings). A transfer of \$19,000 of net income from 2020 was made to the Vision Fund.

The Stewardship Committee approved distributions totaling \$11,000 from the Vision Fund (carry over from 2019 funds) to the following:

- a. Friends Bringing Hope: Led by Karen Bauer, FBH organizes annual work teams partnering with a Kenyan Quaker organization to build homes for widows.
- b. Kaleo Academy: A ministry sponsored by Barclay College that focuses on student discipleship; several IAYM youth have been involved in the past.
- c. Retired Minister/Missionaries: provides an annual payout from endowed funds to those on the IAYM retired list. This year the payout will be approximately \$1500 per person/family.

We discussed the idea of guidelines for Vision Fund distribution. We have agreed to be broadly guided by the IAYM mission statement which focuses on discipleship. Our desire is to assist IAYM in making and training, supporting disciples. In other words, we desire that our board assist IAYM in advancing its stated mission.*

Churches/individuals are encouraged to consider submission of project ideas for potential funding from the IAYM Vision Fund. Consideration for project funding will generally be made at the end of each quarter. Such submissions should show clear rationale in the advancement of the IAYM mission (see guideline above).

We encourage IAYM churches to consider encouraging their youth to apply for participation in the Kaleo student discipleship program. Info and online application forms are available at <https://www.barclaycollege.edu/kaleo/students/theology-camp/>. Applications are due May 31. The program begins with the Theology Camp (July 18-24) and continues online for ten months.

*Finally, here are thoughts previously included in IAYM Stewardship Committee minutes adapted from *Good News People* authored by Harold Percy. *Local churches appear to be broadly guided by either an attitude of maintenance or an attitude of mission. Too many churches allow the resources available to limit mission. In contrast, mission-minded churches find ways to excite members to give the needed funds to meet the mission. The Stewardship Committee has a responsibility to encourage the latter attitude (IAYM Discipline Chapter VII Sec C).*



In Memory



Bob Watson passed away from Covid on January 13, he is now with our Lord and Ethel. There will be a family service at the burial this summer in Oskaloosa IA. No other service is planned.