

May 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

Recalling Personal Highlights of Service

By General Superintendent—Thomas Showalter

At the end of one’s term of service, there is often a time of recalling memories. We see that at the end of a calendar year, for example, or when a change of leadership takes place. As I approach the end of my service in Iowa Yearly Meeting, I would like to look back at some of, what I believe, are important “highlights” from the reports to the Body of IAYM and what I would consider personal highlights of the work done since 2015:

I want all pastors and participants in IAYM to know that I am here to serve Jesus Christ and to serve the local meetings to become healthy and mission-minded extensions of the Body of Christ. This happens as we establish healthy relationships within the Yearly Meeting, within our local meetings, and within our communities. There are needs all around us and I pray that we would see these needs, make connections, and meet the needs of those around us as we become "light in dark places." (July 2016).

As I observe the current condition of Friends nationwide, I see a lot of transition taking place. Some yearly meetings are splitting, some are reorganizing, some are going through leadership transitions, and others are making evaluations. In my last report to BOC, I declared the importance of knowing our foundation, our associations, and our direction. We cannot be deterred because the ramifications may be too difficult or the potential repercussions too great. We serve a great God who deserves our pursuit of holiness. We can trust Him to lead and guide us as we seek Him for wisdom, discernment, and clarity of our call. (March 2017)

At the recent Triennial, many of the General Board members reported that their yearly meetings are refining their Faith & Practice or Disciplines. There is a "stirring" among Friends to examine their beliefs and practices. As a relative newcomer to IAYM and as I consider what we believe, with whom we associate, and what will be our direction...If Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches can revive the mission of the church to make disciples, we will see unprecedented progress. How can I say this? This mission has been endorsed and handed to us by none other than the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ. When we obediently follow His plan for His church, we can trust we will see His hand at work in our midst. (July 2017)

I strongly advocate for any organization to know its reason for existence, its mission, purpose, and the vision it is pursuing. In Mission Drift, the authors state, "Knowing who you are is the first line of defense against drifting away from your purpose; it allows you to determine if change and adjustments are equipping you to better accomplish your mission or slowly moving you away from your foundation." (Oct 2017)

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- May 15: Tom’s last day
- May 22nd: **Cookie Day @ CQH**
- **Summer Camps @ CQH:**
 - June 11-13 Little Fry
 - June 13-17 Jr. High
 - June 18-23 Sr. High
 - June 24-27 Elementary
- **FUM Virtual Triennials:**
 - June 17-19th
- July 29th-31st: **Annual Ministry Conference** of IAYM. To be held at William Penn University in Oskaloosa
- September 10-12th: **Family Camp @ CQH**
- October 1-3: **Man Camp @ CQH**



May Mission Board Emphasis Camp Scholarships for Mesquakie Youth



On behalf of the Missions Board, we would like to encourage you to consider a Camp Scholarship for Mesquakie Youth.

In spite of the challenges of this past year (one of which was not being able to meet regularly in person) Mac and Berny have been working to stay connected with the youth who have been a part of their program. They have been delivering lessons, crafts and snacks to the youth and are hopeful that they will have 6 to 8 young people who may be interested in attending Camp Quaker Heights this year.



Mac shared that the camp experience for our Meskwaki friends is a large act of bravery. They seem to be content keeping amongst themselves within their community. Going to camp is truly stepping out of their comfort zone but when they attend, lives are changed. By providing the funds for them to attend camp, we can help them move out of their comfort zone and build their self-confidence as they interact with others and grow deeper in their relationship with God.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to provide the opportunity for Mesquakie Friends youth with a chance to experience the love and grace of God in a new way? Imagine how their lives might be changed as they learn of the promises found in Joshua 1:9 --that might help them understand that the Lord God is with them wherever they go. That they can be strong and courageous because of God's promise to never leave them. Perhaps they might come to know that nothing can separate them from God's love. (Romans 8:38-39) How awesome would that be?

Those are just two of the many promises that they can learn about at camp as they are surrounded by people who love Jesus.

Prayerfully consider this opportunity to send our Mesquakie youth to camp. Cost per camper is \$240 for Middle School students and \$300.00 for High School students.

Thank you in advance for your prayers and support. Lynn Blanchard



Scholarships (or partial scholarships) can be sent to:
Mesquakie Friends Church
PO Box 163
Tama, IA 52339

Please put "Camp Scholarship" in the memo.

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I am committed to assisting IAYM in determining, specifying, and articulating (our mission). Then, my goal will be to challenge each meeting, pastor, board, and committee to pursue God's agenda by pursuing His mission. We cannot allow anything to distract us from that pursuit. (March 2018)

The mission statement being submitted for approval through the M&C Board is: **'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).'** In the book Mission Drift, the authors state, "It is the responsibility of leaders to remain faithful in safeguarding the mission of their organizations" (Mission Drift, p.64). As I approach three years in this position in IAYM, my message has been that we must know who we are, what we believe, and with whom we associate. Then our destination will be much clearer. (July 2018)

Our mission states: "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). We have God's Word, our Discipline, our great Quaker heritage, and a recently adopted mission statement. Our task is to measure all we do by these objective standards. (July 2019)

2020 was a difficult year for everyone, but the difficulty for our family began in 2019 when my father died, my daughter, Grace, was diagnosed with an auto-immune illness, and by year's end, I had been diagnosed with atrial fibrillation. Although the support of IAYM has been much appreciated, no substitute can be made for our family in times of trial. (March 2021)

Thank you, Iowa Yearly Meeting, for the support that has been offered to our family as we have been serving here in Iowa. We have gained many new friends and I never like to say goodbye, but would like to think of it as "See you later."



Friends United Meeting is beginning to make plans for Oscar Mmbali, FUM's pastoral minister in Belize, to visit the United States in June. This is an uncommon opportunity for

Friends to invite Oscar to your Meeting or church in person, learn about his vital work in Belize to mentor leaders and nurture the new church, discover ways to support his ministry account, and pray for him.

Oscar's travel plans are taking shape. He will be visiting Friends in the Midwest from June 4–20, and visiting in the mid-Atlantic from June 21–28. His current schedule is as follows, although dates may be subject to rearrangement.

- June 4-5: Available
 - June 6: Plainfield Friends
 - June 7-11: Available
 - June 12-13: Wilmington Yearly Meeting
 - June 14-20: Available
 - June 21-28: Baltimore Yearly Meeting
- Please contact Karla Jay at karlaj@fum.org, if you would like to invite Oscar to visit your Meeting or church.

This coming August, you are invited on a weekend missions trip. The trip will be two full days of immersion in God's word and God's world in downtown Minneapolis. We will explore the thread of God's heart for the world in Scripture and also get out of our comfort zone to explore and get to know two of the many rich cultures in the Twin Cities.

Here are the details:

What: Engage Global <https://engageglobal.net/>

Time: From 3 pm, Friday, August 20th through 2 pm, Sunday, August 22nd (travel time not included)

Cost: \$225/participant

Group Size Limit: 10-20



Schedule: Bible sessions, learning about tribal & Muslim peoples, ethnic meals, visiting cultural markets and meeting people from another culture, worship, prayer, and discussion.

The weekend will be fast, but the impact long-term as we seek to explore God's word and experience God's world. The goal of this global Christian training is to be a resource for the church, to help inspire and equip the church in becoming active participants in the global mission God has given us.

If you are interested in joining this mission trip, email Nathan Martin at nathan.martin@omfmail.com.

Yours in Christ, Nathan Martin

Marshalltown Friends are searching for a part-time pastor. Salary and hours to be negotiated. Please send letter of application and resume to one of the following:

Steve Kennedy
301 South 16th Ave.,
Marshalltown, IA 50158
Or via email at
sdmkkennedy@yahoo.com



2021 CAMP DATES

JUNE 11-13 - LITTLE FRY CAMP

JUNE 13-17 - MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP

JUNE 18-23 - HIGH SCHOOL CAMP

JUNE 24-27 - ELEMENTARY CAMP



2021 Virtual Triennial Gathering

During the March 2021 sessions of the Friends United Meeting General Board, the Board decided to convene an

FUM Triennial Session from 17-19 June, 2021.

Friends will gather around FUM's 2021 **theme of Hope and Light.**

The three-day event will celebrate the collaborative work Friends are doing across the globe, as well as attend to both Triennial and General Board business.

Go to Friends United Meeting's website to see more information!

During the month of May, we invite the Friends community to pray for Ramallah Friends School (RFS). Last year RFS celebrated its 150th anniversary.

Today, with over 1450 students, pre-kindergarten to twelfth grade, studying on two campuses, Ramallah Friends School maintains itself as an educational leader in Palestine, providing a world-class education that is grounded in Quaker traditions and values. Please pray:

- For the community as they continue to respond to the crises of Covid-19.
- For our students as they complete their academic year.
- For our graduates as they prepared to graduate and leave the school.
- For our teachers who have valiantly responded to the crises of the pandemic and have remained highly committed to their students.
- For the principals, administration, and board as they strive to respond to the financial stresses and academic challenges confronting the school.
- For Adrian Moody and his wife Gill as they leave the RFS community.
- For Rania Maayeh as the incoming Head of School.

Give Thanks:

- For God's ongoing protection and support during the pandemic.
- For passionately dedicated staff, administration, and board members.
- For the accomplishments of our students.
- For parents who have adapted to changes.
- For the generous support of Friends and alumni who give unstintingly to support the work of Ramallah Friends School.

Silira Muganda is home and recovering from her surgery. The pathology was negative for cancer. She was in good spirits. Silira said that it would be OK to share with the Yearly Meeting and have them continue to pray for recovery.

The Muganda's are currently serving at the International Friends Meeting in Minneapolis.