

THE IOWA FRIEND

Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends

Communication

In October, I shared the following with the Board on Coordination (BOC). This is not the total report, but just the beginning. I want our meetings, members, and pastors to know my heart for the ministry of Iowa Yearly Meeting. What follows is a portion of my October report:

"This is what I have adopted as my positional purpose statement:

The Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Superintendent is a Pastor to Pastors and serves the people of the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends churches. The objective is to assist, encourage, and challenge participants to become healthy and effective Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) and Great Commandment Meetings (Matthew 22:37-40) by corporately praying for the Lord of the Harvest to send forth workers into His harvest field (Luke 10:2).

Specifically, this is what is stated in my job description:

*"The General Superintendent shall serve Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (IAYM) and its interests under the advice and counsel of the Board on Coordination. The General Superintendent shall provide **visionary leadership** in the task of advancing the IAYM vision:*

'Spreading like prairie grass to make the love of Jesus Christ known in the Heartland and beyond.'"

Position Responsibilities

Communication

In the above statement, the phrase "visionary leadership" is used. Later under the sub-heading of *Communication*, the statement is made that the General Superintendent is to have the following communication responsibilities: *"Communicate the IAYM vision to the Yearly Meeting constituency; provide current ministry updates and information to the Yearly Meeting constituency."* After a year in this position, interacting with the people of IAYM, and learning about the current conditions and procedural protocols, I would like to suggest a course of action using the terms "Foundations, Associations, and Direction."

In regards to "Foundation," it is my recommendation that we specify who we are as Friends and what we do as the Body of Christ as outlined in Scripture. To do so would require a look at the history of the Church and the Friends movement, and then evaluate our current practices to see if the two agree. Part of the plan would be to eventually fine-tune The Discipline to reflect our beliefs and practice. I am aware of other Friends' yearly meetings who are undergoing a reorganization and refinement of their current practice to reflect their pursuit of the fulfillment of their mission.

Once our identity and practices are established, the next step is to evaluate our associations. To be most effective, we will need to align ourselves with the organizations and groups, which most closely share a similar purpose, theology, and mission as do Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches... I think we should consider having something in place that continually (or annually) reminds us who we are and what we believe. When that is established, we will be able to spend more time fulfilling the mission of the Church rather than engaging in a tug-of-war over who we are, what we believe, or with what we associate.

Once our Foundation and Associations are determined, we are ideally situated to intentionally and passionately pursue our mission. I want to have conversation about reestablishing and, if need be, reorganize our quarterly meetings to be more effective in fulfilling the purpose of such meetings.

As a regular practice, we need to assess, evaluate, and redirect our efforts to pursue the mission of the church both locally and corporately."

As we begin a new year, may we contemplate the effects of our personal maturity and how it affects our local meetings. I read a quote that stated, "If everyone in my local meeting did church like me, how healthy would it be?" Who we are, our level of maturity, and how we exercise our faith will affect our local meeting. Is that influence positive or negative?

May 2017 be a year of revival for Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends Churches. Let's pray it so!

Amen! ~ Tom Showalter, Superintendent

New building purchased for Belize ministry

Friends United Meeting has successfully negotiated the purchase of new property on the Southside of Belize City. At the juncture of a Southside residential area and an industrial port neighborhood, the new property has two structures totaling over 8,800 square feet of interior space, and **will house an expanded school, a worship space, a community center, staff housing, and offices.** With the appointment of Oscar Mmbali as pastoral minister for Belize, foundational pieces of FUM's vision for an expanded ministry in Belize are moving into place. Praise God that after at least three years of searching for suitable property within the Southside neighborhood, God has provided just the right space for a flourishing Friends ministry!



Friends United Meeting is pleased to announce the appointment of Oscar Siema Mmbali to serve as the first pastoral minister for the Friends work in Belize. Oscar is a member of Nairobi Yearly Meeting, in Kenya. He first learned of FUM's work in Belize in 2004 through reading articles in *Quaker Life* magazine while a student at Friends Theological College (FTC), and has felt a persistent call to serve in Belize ever since. He trained for pastoral ministry at FTC and St Paul's University, and worked with Nairobi YM as a pastor and as a church planter among the Maasai. He is currently living in Bangkok, Thailand, where he is completing his PhD in International Development and working as a researcher for Transparency Thailand. He also volunteers as a chaplain for the Kenyan embassy in Thailand, visiting Kenyan nationals who are imprisoned, in detention centers, or are victims of trafficking.

The role of pastoral minister for the Friends work in Belize was created last year, and Oscar will be the first to undertake the work. The new position will build upon FUM's decades-long successful program with at-risk youth in the Southside neighborhood of Belize City. The pastoral minister is asked to build relationships with youth, families, and the entire community; to offer pastoral counseling, chaplaincy, and discipleship; and to engage in personal, highly-relational neighborhood evangelism.

Over the next several months, Oscar will focus on raising support for his ministry, with the goal of raising a significant percentage in Kenya. Equipping and sending their first international FUM field staff will be a milestone achievement for Kenyan Friends.

As we ended the Africa pastors conference on December 31st at Lugulu girls high school; the conference prayed for the first African missionary going to Belize to plant the friends Church. Oscar Mmbali was prayed for him and endorsed by the pastors as he prepares to go for this mission.



50 Days of Prayer for Revival

All the churches of Iowa Yearly Meeting are urged to join in 50 Days of Prayer from February 4 to March 25.

This united prayer effort is sponsored by IAYM Ministry and Counsel.

Concert of Prayer – February 4

The 50 Days of Prayer for Revival will start with a Concert of Prayer on **Saturday, February 4 at 2:00 p.m.** There will be five locations and churches may choose the location closest to them. During that meeting the five locations will connect by Internet for corporate prayer.

Locations:

Fairfield
Earlham
LeGrand
Lynnville
Indianola Library
(207 North B St.)
Light of the Lakes

Daily Prayer – Weekly Small Groups

During the seven weeks following February 4, everyone is encouraged to commit to pray daily for revival. A daily prayer guide, *Pursuing Pentecost*, is available to help guide those prayer times. Churches are also encouraged to organize small groups to meet weekly to pray together. There are questions in the prayer guide for group discussion and suggestions for group prayer. There will also be 5-minute video clips available to start the weekly prayer meetings. The video clips include a short testimony and someone leading in prayer for the theme of that week.

The four themes are intimacy with God, purity, unity and power of the Holy Spirit.

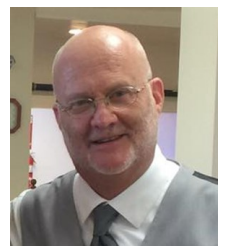
A Facebook page is being developed to allow people across the Yearly Meeting to connect with prayer requests, answers to prayer, or updates on what God is doing in your meeting.

More information about these resources will soon be sent to the churches or you may contact Charlotte Stangeland with questions, stangelandchar@gmail.com.

Concluding Meeting @ LeGrand Friends

The 50 Days of Prayer will conclude with a special revival meeting on Saturday, **March 25**. This holy convocation will be held following Spring Body of Representatives at **approximately 2:00-4:00 p.m.** at Mesquakie Friends Church. All churches are encouraged to gather together at this time and hear what the Lord will say to us through a special speaker and gifted musicians.

We hope all Iowa Yearly Meeting Churches are prayerfully considering how you will participate. We now have confirmation that **Steve Pedigo will be the speaker for the March 25 meeting**. Steve and Marlene led an inner-city ministry in Chicago for 30 years and he is currently pastor at Westfield Friends in Indiana. Steve has a masters' degree from Asbury Seminar and Ph.D from North Park Seminary in Chicago. He is passionate about the life transforming power of Jesus Christ.



News from the IAYM Board Christian Social Concerns Committee

Who is on the committee? James Tower, Hannah Maselli, Lyn Kinney, Paul Kessler, Phyllis Phipps, Kathi Berry and Charlene Martin

What is the group's purpose?

1. To be a resource for the members of the Iowa Yearly Meeting
2. To be pro-active in identifying issues of importance to our members
3. To disseminate information to the Monthly Meetings
4. To try and have all of our responses be impartial, yet be inclusive of the views of Iowa Yearly Meeting as set forth in the Discipline and based on the Christian ideals of Jesus Christ
5. Assist churches to identify needs in their communities and perform community resource mapping.

Our Focus this year:

Theme of the Year "Loving our Captive Neighbor" Isaiah 58:6-9

Selected priority: To partner with the Wings of Refuge in helpful ways

We have already had a Monthly Meeting invite the human trafficking victim advocacy group Wings of Refuge to their church and give a presentation at their Mission Sunday. This resulted in the program receiving funds to support their mission and also members becoming involved in programming and advisory roles. If you want the Wings of Refuge to attend your monthly meeting you can contact Kelly Butcher at "kellyb@wingsofrefugeia.net"

Other topics beyond human trafficking that you will be receiving information about in the future are: Handicap Accessibility in our Monthly Meetings, Conscientious Objection/Peace Testimony, Hunger in Our Midst, Political Lobbying as a Christian, Environmental Issues (Quaker Earth Care Witness)

We have a blog!! Fields of Justice.org

There will be articles and a list of resources available. Please take time to access this blog. We hope to post articles every two weeks with current issues and updates. If you are interested in submitting an article, please e-mail James Tower at james@cafchurch.org or Hannah Maselli at hannahmaselli@gmail.com

Most importantly we need your prayers!!! But we also need your financial support as currently we don't have any money budgeted for the Christian Social Concerns Committee. If we look back on our history of Quakers, what was their involvement in the past?

IAYM: Blizzard Blast. '17
Feb 17(6pm)-Feb 18 (6am)
 Start at Marshalltown Friends Church and pick-up at YMCA

For more info and to Register online visit IAYM.org/Events.

Want a break from shoveling snow and go swimming in March?

An all night JH event (5th-8th grades) full of fun, games, food, and most importantly, worship. Spend time getting to know new friends, getting together with old friends in a fun safe environment.

Cost is only \$25 per person! Must register online by Feb 12th or \$30 after that. For more information, ask your youth director or e-mail Jacob Pribble or Kris Smitherman.

jacpribble@gmail.com
kris.smitherman@gmail.com

2016 Shenanigans




Derek Robinson
from the band
Tuesday Nights
from William Penn
University

Iowa Yearly Meeting Young Adult Retreat '17

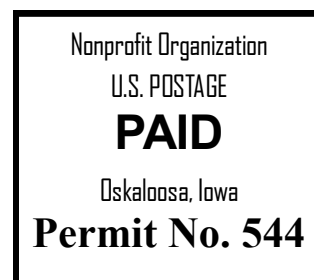
Feb 10-12 \$60/person by Jan 27th, \$65 after 14975 Nature Rd. West Union, IA 52175
 For more info and to register: [IAYM.org/ events](http://IAYM.org/events)

This is a time of retreat, getting away from the normal, to seek God and His touch on your life. It is a chance to **Awaken** to His voice and what He has called you to. To step up and answer, take action and know Jesus. We will be staying at a huge cabin (see picture below of the group) in West Union. Bring some stuff to play in the snow, a Bible and something to write down what God is speaking to you.



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THE IOWA FRIEND
P.O. Box 657
Oskaloosa, IA 52577
phone (641) 673-9717
e-mail office@iaym.org
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Upcoming Events

Winter Banquet Hosted by QuakerMen of Iowa

Saturday, February 25th is the date set for the Winter Banquet. The new president of the QuakerMen, Randall Nichols, has communicated that the speaker will be Mike Cowan of Portland Oregon.

There will be more information coming out soon regarding costs and program.

The location will be at our usual spot at William Penn University @ the Musco Technology Center

SPRING FLING for USFW

SAVE the DATE

Saturday, April 29, 2017 from 10am - 2pm at Lynnville Friends Church. More information coming soon.

February 2017

10—12 Young Adult Winter Retreat
17—18 Jr High Blizzard Blast
25th Winter Banquet hosted by Quakermen of Iowa

March 11, 2017 BOC meeting

@ College Avenue Friends Oskaloosa IA

March 2017

10-12 Ignite Retreat H.S. & Teen leaders
25th Spring Body of Representatives
@ Mesquakie Friends Center Tama, IA

Summer Friends Camp @ CQH June 2017

2-4 Young Adult Weekender
9-11 Little Fry
11-16 Jr/Sr High Camp
18-22 Elementary Camp
25-July 1 Kaleo Academy @ Barclay College

July 2017

12-16 FUM Triennials
26—29th Annual Ministry Conference
@ William Penn University—Oskaloosa, IA