

FAITHFULNESS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

By Manny Garcia
General Superintendent

JULY/AUGUST 2023

The Iowa Friend

As we grow closer to being together as an IAYM body for our Annual Sessions & Ministry Conference I pray that each of you will make it a priority to be present with others as we gather for worship, fellowship, equipping, and empowerment. We are not the same without each member of our body represented. I realize that attending larger gatherings like this requires a sacrifice of time and resources. In a word, it requires faithfulness. Faithfulness is a term that should apply to us as Christians. Faithfulness to God, to His kingdom, and to one another as fellow members of the body of Christ. I say should because as I reflect on current trends and patterns, it seems like an embellishment to say that the average member of any given faith community is truly faithful. I mean, it has always been pretty common for people to take a Sunday or two off a year in order to travel, hunt, go camping, or attend a sporting event, and I am not advocating against that rhythm at all. It becomes a problem, however, when those few Sundays a year become a couple of Sundays a month. Today a “regular attender” is someone who gathers for corporate worship at least half of the time. To call that level of commitment faithful would be more than a stretch of the word.

Add in the Made to Order culture we live in, and things can really get out of hand. When we want food, we want it hot, fresh, and now! If we want to watch a movie and Netflix takes longer than a minute to load, our patience grows thin. We live in a society that nearly caters to our every desire. At the push of a button we can order food, cool or heat our homes, or connect to someone across the street or across the world. All of this convenience increases our cultural sense of entitlement. We start to believe that we deserve to have what we want when we want it. And when we do not get what we want, we choose another app, another store, or another brand. Dangerously, this consumeristic entitlement has crept into local expressions of the body of Christ. This is not a completely new phenomenon as there have always been people in search of the “greener grass,” but it is becoming more common, and it is detrimental to the growth and function of the Church.

There are numerous passages about how we are called to build unity, overcome divisions, heal past hurts, seek forgiveness, build up the body, love one another, encourage one another, forgive one another, and to have fellowship with one another. I cannot find any scriptures that recommend leaving when things get challenging or opting out because we want to do something else or simply don't have the energy to engage. I know that this flies in the face of the cultural mandate to “get my way,” but isn't the church supposed to challenge and change the trends that pull us away from experiencing the life Jesus modeled and invites us to participate in?

As someone who dearly loves the church and has been blessed immensely by expressions of faithfulness over the years, it breaks my heart to experience such a tragic time in American Christianity. Pray for the church. Pray for those who have left. Pray for those who are less involved than they used to be. Be present and make meeting together with other believers a priority. If there is conflict or hard feelings between you and others, seek reconciliation. If you have been hurt by people in the church, I am so sorry to you, but please do not allow that pain to keep you from being fully present with the rest of the body of Christ. You are needed and valued.

My prayer for IAYM is that we see an increase in faithfulness both locally and regionally. My dream is that relationships will grow stronger, past hurts will be healed, strained relationships will experience reconciliation, and we will commit to meeting together in unity, to worship, give thanks, and to grow in Christlikeness for God's glory and for the sake of others. Friends, in order for IAYM to be the expression of the Body of Christ God is inviting us to be, we need each other. Each of you is necessary, valued, and invited to join the journey God has us on. As you know, we have a limited number of opportunities to gather as One Church each year, and I pray that you will take the time to discern your attendance and, as you feel led, that you will make every effort to be a part of our gathering this July 27-30.

**AND LET US CONSIDER
HOW WE MAY SPUR
ONE ANOTHER ON
TOWARD LOVE AND
GOOD DEEDS, NOT
GIVING UP MEETING
TOGETHER, AS SOME
ARE IN THE HABIT OF
DOING, BUT
ENCOURAGING ONE
ANOTHER—AND ALL
THE MORE AS YOU SEE
THE DAY
APPROACHING.**

HEBREWS 10:25-26



Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends
iaym.org



MINISTRY CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

JULY/AUGUST 2023

LOVE BIG, BE WELL | WINN COLLIER

Winn will share insights and discussion over his book, *Love Big, Be Well: Letters to a Small Town Church*.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION | EMMA CHASE

Emma will lean on her graphic design and promotions background and her experience as a church office manager to share helpful tips on putting together church newsletters, bulletins, and other communications for churches of all sizes.

HOSPITABLE CHURCH SAFETY | KEVIN LEE

Kevin has a background in church ministry and law enforcement and will lead a discussion on how churches can enhance safety while maintaining hospitality and approachability.

POSITIVE SOLUTIONS FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN THE CHURCH | DAVID MABRY

Dr. Mabry offers biblically-based solutions for navigating the inevitable. Through healthy relationships and strategies for harmony through disagreements, church leaders can successfully disciple and guide people who are walking this journey of life together.

THE CHRISTIAN HEART OF QUAKERISM | KEVIN MORTIMER

1650s Friends were convinced that they were experiencing original and final Christianity. This workshop will explore the "True Christian Divinity" that early Friends discovered in contrast with historic Roman Catholic Christianity, and later, Reformed Christianity.

RECOVERING ABUNDANCE | ANDY STANTON-HENRY

Stanton-Henry explores 12 civic-spiritual practices, rooted in Jesus' miracle among the multitude, to combat spiritual decline and revitalize rural congregations through the creative work of "ordinary leaders."

HEALTHY FINANCES FOR NORMAL PEOPLE | LYLE MILLER

Stanton-Henry explores 12 civic-spiritual practices, rooted in Jesus' miracle among the multitude, to combat spiritual decline and revitalize rural congregations through the creative work of "ordinary leaders."

Time to Dine

IOWA YEARLY MEETING 2023



REGISTER
NOW!

REGISTRATION
HAS BEEN
EXTENDED
UNTIL JULY 14

SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 27

Registration at IAYM Office	3:30pm
Cookout at Friends Park	5:00pm
Opening Session at CAF	6:30pm
Sweet Corn Serenade in Downtown Oskaloosa	until 9:00pm

Friday, July 28

Breakfast at Dana M. Atkins	7-8am
Devotional at MTC	8:15am
General Body of Reps at MTC	8:30-11:45am
Lunch at Dana M. Atkins	12-1pm
Round Table Discussions with IAYM Boards	1:15-3:30pm
USFW Celebration of Service & Quaker Men Gathering	4-5:30pm
USFW Missions Banquet	5:30-7:30pm

Saturday, July 29

Breakfast at Dana M. Atkins	7-8am
Memorial Service at MTC	8:15am
M&C Body of Reps at MTC	9:15-10:15am
General Body of Reps at MTC	10:30-11:45am
Lunch at Dana M. Atkins	12-1pm
Workshops at MTC	1:15-4:30pm
Dinner at Dana M. Atkins	5-6pm
Worship at CAF	6:30-8pm
Reception	
Sponsored by Everence	8-9pm

Sunday, July 30

Move out of Dorms (checkout table at CAF)	by 9:00am
Breakfast at CAF	9:15-10:15am
IAYM One Church Worship Experience	10:30am

IAYM ANNUAL SESSIONS AND MINISTRY CONFERENCE

It's not too late to join us for this year's Annual Sessions and Ministry Conference! On the website you can find more information concerning registration, our speaker, childcare, and more!

This year we have shifted the days forward in order to accommodate families work schedules and encourage all to attend! With that, not only will our USFW Missions Banquet take place on Friday night, but it allows for our weekend to go through Sunday morning.

Please make sure you stick around for our One Church Worship Experience as we wrap up our time together with our closing session. We are encouraging all to participate, whether you are gathering with us in person or online as a church! Let us know if you need help getting your church ready to stream this service! We will see you soon!

Contact Sarah at sarah@iaym.org with any questions.



MISSIONS UPDATE: FUM SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

By Lloyd Stangeland

Several years ago Friends United Meeting began the task of long term financial planning. The FUM General Board formed the Long Term Financial Planning Committee to explore past giving trends and to project future trends. This committee discovered that giving from North American Friends is decreasing, but the ministry needs are not. The FUM General Board created the Sustainability Committee to develop business and investment projects and explore alternative ways to supplement programs and priorities of FUM. The committee consists of four members from North America, four from Kenya and one from Jamaica.

The first project we completed was to finish the Loosuk Empowerment Centre in Samburu by bringing electricity to the building. This makes it possible for the Samburu Friends Mission to rent stalls to small businesses to provide financial support to the mission.

In late September, the Ambwere family, a Quaker family in Kenya offered to lease their 800 acre farm to FUM. The farm is located near Kitale, Kenya in an area which is very well suited for growing many crops including maize (white corn).

An early priority was to appoint a Farm Management Committee. Several Quakers in the Kitale area who have experience and expertise in large scale agriculture, management and finance have taken on the challenge of overseeing the farm. They hired a farm manager, negotiated the lease and developed a plan in place to protect the land and improve its productivity. The land has been producing sugar cane for the last six years. We were advised by experts in the area that growing commercial maize to be used for food and processing would be the best way to bring

the soil to its full productivity. A large mill in the area has offered to purchase all of the maize we can raise on the farm this year at a price that will be profitable. Plowing and other soil preparation were completed and planting began in March. The crop is doing well with the corn shooting tassels in late June. We expect a good crop of maize that will be harvested in October.

FUM borrowed money from various Friends groups to finance this project. Iowa Yearly Meeting is participating through a loan from the IAYM Trustees.

The next project the FUM Sustainability Committee is exploring is raising tilapia in fish ponds owned by Lugari Yearly Meeting. They have constructed 14 fish ponds and have a good supply of fresh water from a spring on the farm. A fishery specialist is available to manage the project and provide technical expertise. There is a fish processing plant nearby that is interested in purchasing all of the tilapia we can raise. We will begin with two ponds and if that is successful we will expand the project. We plan to do this work in cooperation with other Friends groups in Kenya.

All of these projects help create jobs for people in the area. There is a need for more food and quality protein in East Africa. As we produce food and make money to support FUM ministries in East Africa we are also benefiting the local economies. If you would like more information please contact Lloyd Stangeland. We welcome donations and may need additional loans for future projects.

IAYM FAMILY CAMP '23

CAMP QUAKER HEIGHTS ELDORA, IOWA

September 15-17

FRIENDS SUMMIT 2023

December 28, 2023 - January 1, 2024 | Houston, TX

USFW Women in Ministry Conference

August 19, 2023 | 9:30AM - 3:30PM

Waycross Evangelical Church
7733 W River Rd.
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

Entry into the Conference is \$15

Pastor Judy Easley-Marshall
Host: Pastor Judith Wamalwa
Speaker: Charlotte Stangeland