



# THE IOWA FRIEND

January/February

2025

## THE YEAR OF THE BLOOM

BY MANNY GARCIA

As I've been praying about our collective work in IAYM ministry, a theme has been emerging for 2025: "Bloom Where You Are Planted." This idea really started to take shape back in September at a conference Matt Bishop and I attended on rural church planting. On the flight there, Matt and I were talking about church planting, and we both felt strongly that for our stream to thrive, we needed to be in the bigger cities – Des Moines, Ames, Iowa City – going where the most people are. While there's still some truth to that, the messages and stories shared at the conference really brought home the idea that God's Church and its mission are about bringing the fullness of God's kingdom to all people, and especially to those places where darkness and brokenness are most prevalent. For the Church to truly make the impact it was created for, we need local churches in rural places, in small towns, and in the "in between" spaces.

The great thing is, we're already in those places! Most of our churches are in small towns and rural areas. So, the question becomes: how do we really bloom where we are planted? How do we become the healthiest, most vibrant versions of ourselves so we can meet the challenges around us with the love and light of Jesus? How do we get out of our own way and stop overthinking things so we can see that, with Jesus, we truly have everything we need (Psalm 23)?

I know how easy it is to play the "if only" game. If only we had a better building, more people, more money, a worship band, a youth pastor, a lead pastor, younger families... the list goes on. I've been guilty of this in almost every ministry I've been a part of. But this year, I've decided I'm done playing that game. In 2025 and beyond, I want us to really see and use the incredible resources we already have within our community of Friends in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Within the IAYM One Church, with Jesus by our side, we have everything we need to fully live out our mission of exalting Christ, making disciples, and loving people.

As we head towards our Ministry Conference, the highlight of our One Church year, we'll be exploring this theme even more. My hope and prayer is that each of our churches, no matter the size, location, or resources, will come to realize that, with Jesus, they are uniquely equipped to meet the needs right where they are. Friends, I'd love for you to join me in praying that 2025 will be the year we truly bloom where we're planted. Let's not dwell on what we think we lack, but instead, let's focus on the abundance we already have within our community because we are better together and our God is generous. Let's make 2025 the year of the bloom!

AND GOD IS ABLE TO MAKE ALL GRACE ABOUND TO YOU,  
SO THAT HAVING ALL SUFFICIENCY IN ALL THINGS AT ALL  
TIMES, YOU MAY ABOUND IN EVERY GOOD WORK.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8

Schedule: (subject to change)

- Check-in: Friday, from 4:00-5:00 PM at the hotel.
- Dinner: Attendees are responsible for their own dinner.
- Workshop Sessions (at Earlham Friends):
  - Session One: Friday, 7:00 PM, followed by a Q&A
  - Sessions Two & Three: Saturday, 9:00 AM.
- Lunch (at Bear Creek Friends): Saturday at 12:30 PM.
  - A free-will offering will be collected.
- General Body Business: Saturday afternoon, 1:30 PM.

Registration opens February 1st!

The workshop is \$20, payable at the door.

There are a block of rooms reserved at the Springhill Suites in West Des Moines at a discounted rate. You can find more information as well as the registration on our website!



MARCH 21-22, 2025

## SPRING BODY AND LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

BEAR CREEK & EARLHAM  
FRIENDS CHURCHES



We're thrilled to welcome Chris as the leader of this year's leadership workshops. His extensive experience in small, rural church ministry will provide invaluable insights for all attendees.

Chris is the pastor of The Road Community Church, a small multisite church in Southeast Michigan. His book, *Small Church BIG Deal* was published in 2019 after leading the *Small Church BIG Deal* conference for 5 years. His passion is leadership multiplication and multiplying the ministry of the local church, no matter what size. He has spoken at conferences, to pastor groups and given seminars on small church topics and also spoken at youth summer camps. He can be reached at [chrisvitarelli@gmail.com](mailto:chrisvitarelli@gmail.com).



# 2025 ANNUAL QUAKER MEN FAMILY BANQUET & AUCTION

**RSVP BY FEBRUARY 17TH**  
to Tom Palmer at 641-638-0680  
or [tapalmer203@hotmail.com](mailto:tapalmer203@hotmail.com)

**2.22.25 | William Penn University, MTC | 10:30am**

Quaker Men will meet at 10:30am, and there will be a short devotional and presentation from Sarah Fitch and Patty Munson for those not attending the meeting. The banquet will follow, where Don and Patty Munson will be presenting on their ministry at Camp Quaker Heights and the WPU Ministry Team will lead in worship. The Auction will take place after the meal.

**ALL DONATIONS ARE WELCOME!**  
**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE, PLEASE BRING A PIE, CRAFTS, OR OTHER ITEM TO BE AUCTIONED!**

Offering will go to Camp Quaker Heights, and the Auction will go to Friends Disaster Relief.

**\$20 at the Door**  
(\$22 for rsvp's after Feb 17th)

## WINTER RETREAT



**FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1**  
**CAMP QUAKER HEIGHTS**  
**6TH - 12TH GRADE**

GET REGISTERED AT  
[IAYMYOUTH.ORG/FROSTBIT.HTML](http://IAYMYOUTH.ORG/FROSTBIT.HTML)

## 2025 CALENDAR

**JAN**

**FEB**

22 | Quaker Men  
Family Banquet  
  
28-Mar 1 | Frostbit  
Youth Winter  
Retreat at CQH

**MAR**

21-22 | Spring Body  
and Leadership  
Workshop  
at Bear Creek and  
Earlham Friends

**APRIL**

12 | USFW  
Spring Fling  
at CQH

**MAY**

3 | CQH Work Day  
  
17 | CQH Work Day &  
Cookie Day  
  
25 | Ministry Conf.  
Registration Sunday

**JUNE**

10-15 | HS Camp  
16-20 | MS Camp  
20-22 | Little Fry  
24-27 | EL Camp

**JULY**

24-27 | IAYM  
Ministry Conference

**AUG**

**SEPT**

12-13 | CQH Work  
Day  
  
13-14 | Young Adult  
Retreat at CQH

**OCT**

TBD | Pastor's  
Retreat

**NOV**

TBD | Board on  
Coordination

**DEC**



## IAYM OFFICE HOURS



Monday | Closed

Tuesday | 9am-4pm

Wednesday | 9am-12pm

Thursday | 9am-4pm

Friday | By Appointment



DELLA STANLEY-GREEN (MODERATOR)  
QUAKER LEADERSHIP CENTER DIRECTOR  
EARLHAM SCHOOL OF RELIGION



PAM HISCOCK BRAMAN  
GENESIS CONFERENCE SUPERINTENDENT  
FREE METHODIST CHURCH



SYLVIA GRAVES BEANE  
FORMER GENERAL SECRETARY  
FRIENDS UNITED MEETING

# 2025 WPU BEANE LECTURE

## A Panel Discussion on the Challenges of The Religious Leadership of Women

Tuesday, March 25, 2025 | 11:15 AM - 12:00pm | Chief Mahaska Room |  
Atkins Student Union | William Penn University, Oskaloosa, IA

# INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION



## FIRST ANNUAL YAYA SILENT AUCTION

Ministry Conference 2025

REMEMBER THE IMPACT THAT CAMP AND OTHER  
IAYM YOUTH PROGRAMS HAD ON YOUR LIFE?  
YOUR GENEROSITY CAN HELP KEEP THE COST OF  
THESE LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCES AFFORDABLE.

We invite you to consider donating an item or service to go towards  
reducing the cost of 2026 programming for students.

Possible Donations include Weekend Getaways, Unique Experiences,  
Gift Baskets, Event Tickets, Professional Services, and more!

For more information or to donate, please contact [sarah@iaym.org](mailto:sarah@iaym.org).



Everence

The Renewed Hope Home Furnishings ministry of Grinnell Friends was recently featured in a video from Everence, a partner of Iowa Yearly Meeting. Renewed Hope has benefited from a grant from the Everence Sharing Fund. When Everence members use a product or service, a portion of the fees generated is used to fund these grants, which will total nearly \$1 million in 2024. This includes a portion of the premium for individual Medicare Supplement policies and annuities and the fees for their management of IAYM's Friends Development Fund and IAYM's retirement plan offered through Friends United Meeting.

Through insurance, investment, charitable and banking services, Everence supports both individuals, congregations, businesses and other organizations in their desires to integrate their faith and values with their decisions about money. For more information, contact Lyle Miller at (574) 202-3121 or [lyle.miller@everence.com](mailto:lyle.miller@everence.com). If your congregation would like to explore accessing Sharing Fund grants, contact Lyle as well.



Find out more about  
Renewed Hope  
Home Furnishings at  
[renewedhope.grinnellfriends.org/](http://renewedhope.grinnellfriends.org/)