2026

Great Plains Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Minutes of the One Hundred Nineteenth Annual Assembly
Fifth Day, Fifth Month, Twenty-eighth
2026
held at
University Friends Meeting
Wichita, Kansas

Contents

Great Plains Yearly Meeting Schedule - 2026 3

Agenda – Business Sessions 2

Thursday, May 28, 2026 3

GPYM 2026-01 Opening Business Session 3

GPYM 2026-02 State of Society Reports 4

GPYM 2026-03 Extracts & Epistle Committee 4

Friday - May 29, 2026 5

GPYM 2026-04 Morning Worship 5

GPYM 2026-05 Quaker Agency Round Table Discussion 5

GPYM 2026-06 Business Session 2 9

GPYM 2026-07 Treasurer and Finance Reports 9

GPYM 2026-08 Home Missions Reports 10

GPYM 2026-09 Nominating Committee Report 10

GPYM 2026-10 Statisticians Report and Minute Preparation Committee 11

GPYM 2026-11 Keynote speakers Max & Jane Carter 11

Saturday, May 30, 2026 14

GPYM 2026-12 Morning worship 14

GPYM 2026-13 Workshop 1 Susan Nahvi, FCNL 14

GPYM 2026-14 Workshop 2 Max & Jane Carter - Ramallah Friends School 15

GPYM 2026-15 Business Session 3 17

Extracts 19

Appendices 20

State of Society Reports 20

Agency Reports 30

Wichita Friends School, 2026 30

Quaker Agencies 32

GPYM Committee Reports 33

Treasurer's Report 33

Statistics Report 40

Nominating Committee Report 42

Epistle, 2026 43

Epistle, 2025 45

GPYM Committee Assignments, 2026-27 48

Friends in Attendance 50

Great Plains Yearly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends
One Hundred Nineteenth Annual Assembly
University Friends Meeting, Wichita, Kansas
May 28-30, 2026

Great Plains Yearly Meeting Schedule - 2026

Thursday – May 28
1:00 Ministry & Counsel
2:30 Joint Meeting of Finance & Home Missions
4:00 Nominating Committee
5:30 Supper
6:30 Welcome
Opening Worship
Business Session 1
8:00 Song Circle

Friday – May 29
8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Worship
9:30 Committee Meetings
10:45 Quaker Organization Roundtable
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Committee Meetings
2:00 Break
2:15 Business Session 2
3:45 Break
4:00 Memorial Service
5:00 Ministry & Counsel (if needed)
6:00 Supper
7:00 Keynote Speaker: Max Carter

Saturday – May 30
8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Worship
9:30 Break
9:45 Workshop 1 – Susan Nahvi, FCNL
11:00 Workshop 2 – Carters – Ramallah
12:15 Closing Business Session 3
1:00 Lunch

Agenda – Business Sessions

Business Session 1, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 28, 2026

- Welcome to Great Plains Yearly Meeting
- Welcome from University Friends
- Roll Call
- Welcome to Visitors, letters of introduction, traveling minutes
- Opening Worship
- State of Society Reports
- Central City Friends Meeting
- Heartland Friends Meeting
- Hominy Friends Meeting, including Council House and Tahlequah, Preparative Meetings
- Lubbock Friends of Christ
- Topeka Friends Meeting
- University Friends Meeting
- Invitation to serve on Epistle Committee
- Introduction to Theme: Max and Jane Carter

Business Session 2, 2:15 p.m. Friday, May 29, 2026

Ministry & Counsel Report

- Treasurer's Report
- Finance Committee report & Operating Fund budget proposal
- Home Missions Committee report & HM Fund budget proposal
- Nominating Committee report & proposed appointees
- Statistician's Report

Business Session 3, 12:15 p.m. Saturday, May 30, 2026

- Unfinished Business from Session 2, if any
- Greetings to Absent Friends
- Extracts
- Epistle
- Invitation to GPYM 2026

Thursday, May 28, 2026

GPYM 2026-01 Opening Business Session

Friends gathered for the first business session on Thursday evening following a delicious meal of lasagna, salad and various desserts provided by University Friends. The presiding clerk, Sara Scribner, welcomed us to the 119th annual sessions of GPYM. She introduced the clerks table and reminded us to sign the 'Big Book' and obtain a name tag. She expressed thanks to University Friends Meeting for hosting this year and thanks to everyone who helped bring the weekend together. Charity Sandstrom, pastor of University Friends, gave a welcome and logistical instructions for the building and thanks to LaVonna Loesch for heading up the volunteers to provide food, etc., for the weekend.

Roll Call of the meetings - Central City Friends - Steve McConnell, Grayce Mesner, Cliff Mesner; Heartland Friends - Laura Dungan, Aaron Fowler, Connie Adams; Hominy Friends - David Nagle, Beth Green-Nagle, Anika Nagle; Topeka Friends - none; University Friends - Greg Newby, Rhonda Newby, Charity Sandstrom, Ted Sandstrom, Ken Jack, Alison Jack, LaVonna Loesch, Molly Loesch, John Wine, Sue Wine, Jocelyn Mallonee, Cliff Loesch, Mary Hiebert, Paul Mallonee, Tanner Mallonee, Beth McDonald. Lubbock Friends - Sara Scribner.

Visitors - Susan Nahvi - FCNL representative; Michael Sherman representative of FUM North America/Caribbean; Lyle Miller - Everence representative; Max & Jane Carter - New Garden Friends, Greensboro NC. Margie Haworth-Davis - Clear Creek Friends, IL; John Krieg - AFSC representative from Des Moines IA.

We settled into open worship with a query *of 'How can we encourage one another in love during our time together'?*

GPYM 2026-02 State of Society Reports

State of Society reports were shared. Steve McConnell read Central City's report. Connie Adams read Heartland's report. David Nagle read the reports for Hominy MM, Council House, and Tahlequah preparative meetings. Beth Green-Nagle read Topeka's report. Molly Loesch read University Friend's report. We paused between each report to hold each meeting in prayerful support. Sara Scribner shared that Lubbock Friends of Christ is not currently active, and they are discerning their status.

GPYM 2026-03 Extracts & Epistle Committee

Sara invited friends to contribute to our Extracts. If you hear anything enlightening, humorous or interesting, write it down and give it to the recording clerk.

There is a need for an Epistle committee to write the message going out from this year's session. Charity Sandstrom volunteered and Laura Dungan also offered. If anyone else wants to help, let them know.

Max & Jane Carter introduced us to the theme of the weekend "Finding Peace in the Midst of Chaos." Max retired in 2015 as the William R. Rogers Director of Friends Center and Quaker Studies at Guilford College in North Carolina. They will be sharing their time in Ramallah and their work with FUM over the years. How they find hope in the chaos within their circumstances. They will share principles of their friends in Israel and Palestine and how they have informed them in their lives. They will also show slides and stories from a variety of their trips.

Following a period of open worship, David Nagle closed with a prayer.
We concluded our evening with a song circle led by Aaron Fowler and Laura Dungan. Friends enjoyed fellowship in song together before retiring for the evening.

Friday - May 29, 2026

GPYM 2026-04 Morning Worship

Friends gathered for worship led by LaVonna Loesch with the theme of 'Who is my Neighbor?' Matthew 22:36-39 was shared, followed by singing "In Christ there is no East or West". We settled into open worship with the queries *of Does your love change depending on who is before you? How do you live into an openness to transformation when it seems hard to love? How has Spirit helped you recognize those in need of love as your neighbor?*

GPYM 2026-05 Quaker Agency Round Table Discussion

Beth Green-Nagle facilitated a discussion with representatives from several Quaker agencies: Beth - representing FWCC, Anika Nagle representing Young Adult Friends, FWCC; Andy Stanton Henry- co-pastor at Lakeway Quaker meeting in east TN belonging to Wilmington Yearly Meeting and representing the Quaker Leadership Center, Earlham School of Religion; Michael Sherman of Winchester IN Friends - FUM North American/Caribbean Ministries coordinator; Susan Nahvi of Washington DC representing FCNL; Shelly Hoffman - Wichita Friends School Head of School; Carol Barta of Manhattan KS Friends Meeting representing Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW); John Krieg of Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting representing AFSC; Lyle Miller, Everence Stewardship Consultant.

What is the mission of your organization? Anika shared their desire to connect Young Adult friends from the Americas. Andy shared that they assist local meetings revitalize. Michael shared that FUM is to energize and equip Friends. Susan shared that FCNL's mission is to bring a Quaker voice to Capitol Hill and lobby for important issues in Washington DC. Peace, social justice, and environmental issues are key focuses. Shelly shared that Wichita Friends School's mission is to educate and care for children at their school which includes the use of Heartland Friends Meetinghouse. They use a SPICES curriculum and follow state education standards. Carol shared that QEW friends can make a difference on how we approach climate change and sustaining life on the planet. John shared that AFSC is almost 110 years old

and their theme is 'What Can Love Do?'. Beth shared that FWCC's mission is to connect Friends across culture and theology across the world. Lyle shared that Everence helps individuals and organizations be good stewards of their funds and help with money management as a spiritual practice.

What is a blessing your organization has experienced in the last year? Lyle shared about Heartland's sharing funds helping support a benevolent community. A matching funds program has been set up to help with emergencies. Anika shared that young Friends have been able to continue meeting with FWCC and participation is growing. Andy expressed appreciation for being able to attend things like GPYM. He has a heart for rural ministry and has a heart for the plains and has conversations with Quakers across the world. There's Life and Light all over the place we can look to for encouragement. Michael shared about the suspending of USAID which stopped funds to Ramallah Friends school. There was a project that was in the works and FUM received the money they had applied for in spite of that. He shared about a 24-year-old woman at Belize Friends school who could not read and write at the beginning of the school year, and she will graduate at the end of this school year to go out and get a job and function in the world. A girlchild education program in Turkana has graduated several girls. Susan shared a blessing of Friends changemaker weekend hosted by FCNL, an intentional intergenerational event ages 14-88, that had 270 participants in person to learn about the war with Iran and advocate no more spending on the war and no more war in Iran. They went on lobby visits on Capitol Hill and growing members of Congress are against the war. Shelly shared about abundant blessings of donor funds to support the school via fundraisers and grant writing. Full return of staff from the previous year provides continuity. The enrollment has more than doubled over the past 2 years. Carol shared that QEW received a grant of $92,000 this past year to create a voluntary service position to engage people in Philadelphia and California. John shared about AFSC's monthly vigils to peacefully protest. Friends from various meetings in Iowa have joined them in Des Moines for protests. Beth shared that with FWCC Section of Americas, linguistic justice and equality is important and they have interpretation workshops for education so everyone can understand

and participate. This makes decision making equitable for everyone. They are working on a Quaker glossary in Spanish, English and French and adding more going forward. Interpreter training was held this spring in Greensboro, NC and was very beneficial.

What is the responsibility of a representative to their organization? John shared that he is responsible to attend the annual meeting in Philadelphia, and be a liaison between the yearly meetings and AFSC. Carol shared that QEW representatives attend two meetings annually, one online and one in person in Iowa. They also communicate back to yearly meetings what is happening and to the community. Representatives are encouraged to serve on a committee. Susan shared that FCNL has an annual meeting in November that reps are encouraged to attend in person or online. Representatives serve as a connection between FCNL and the yearly meetings. Michael shared there are layered opportunities at FUM. The Triennial has 5 representatives to the event. The general board is appointed by each yearly meeting with two representatives from each yearly meeting. There is an executive board that handles immediate concerns and meets more often. There are three board meetings annually. Andy has a council that invites anyone to participate. Lyle shared that monthly meetings have stewardship advocates that work with Everence. FWCC representatives are Beth and Cliff Loesch, they connect with other Friends of the Americas. They will attend the annual meeting in 2027 in person in Indiana. The meeting in 2028 will be virtual. There are many committees: nominating, intervisitation, etc. to serve on.

What is a challenge you have faced this year that speaks to your mission? Lyle shared that recognizing the polarity of areas of society and how they think about money. How to integrate finances with their faith is a challenge. Anika shared that maintaining momentum between meeting with young adults and creating opportunities to gather together is a challenge. Andy shared that the biggest challenge has been learning how to function within an institution. There have been deep cuts to personnel at ESR, so it has affected their ministry, but they want to serve meetings and meeting leaders. The cuts at ESR have affected their fundraising. Michael shared that FUM has focused their energy

outside the US and they want to shift focus to North America in 2026. Being the recipient of the work instead of providing the support is a challenge. Busyness and a lack of connectivity has been a challenge according to some survey results they have gathered on a personal and meeting level. Susan shared that our theme this year was the threat to our democracy and the tensions in our world. They want to be a part of people's discernment going forward. There are so many different things to worry about. What can a person do as an individual to make a difference? Shelly shared that 95% of her work is joy. Her one challenge is finances. Their budget is very tight, and they work hard to keep things going. Carol shared that QEW challenges itself to start an Africa working group. They are opening a center in Kaimosi. There are mini grants available here and abroad. John from AFSC expressed his appreciation for the Carters being here to share about Palestine. Their Quaker Action publication is available, and the newest one is on the display table. They work with farmers in Gaza. There are 1,200 communities across the globe striving to be apartheid free. He has many resources about their focuses against genocide. Beth shared that FWCC's challenge is finding the right person for a particular job. They need a treasurer and she has been working on that as a member of the nominating committee.

<u>What is your organization focusing on this next year and how can people connect with it</u>? Lyle shared that Everence is trying to blend growth to serve more people, sustainability, and impact on the world by individuals and organizations investing responsibly to make an impact. Anika shared that the young adults are having an in person meeting during a future FWCC gathering. They want to find more people to participate and Friends 35 and under are invited. They would meet people from all the Americas. Andy shared that the Quaker Leadership Center is focusing on being practically spiritual and they have done various workshops and ministries. The Workshop of Ministry offers 14 different options throughout the year. Legacy Letters is another project they sponsor. They speak to older friends and encourage people to write letters to emerging ministers. Toolkits of resources are available for their workshop topics. They are on Facebook and YouTube. Michael shared that FUM's 'Encourage one Another in Love' campaign was started in January. They

started fundraising last fall and are at 75% of their goal. The Living Letter programs in Palestine, Cuba and Belize are ways to commit to FUM. To engage outside the US helps you understand better what it is to be a US citizen. Susan shared that FCNL is working on building inclusive democracy. As many people as possible from all walks of life need to be involved. They have advocacy teams that build relationships with Congress. She is hosting a workshop here tomorrow. Shelly is focused on building their school and asks for prayers for the whole school as support. QEW has a map online and asks monthly meetings to go online and share what they're doing. They are doing Moving Quaker Money- taking money from the stock market and investing it locally. September 19, 2026 is QEW' National Day of Action. John shared that AFSC has a handout of 5 ways to engage with them. Merging Leadings for Organizations is a tool to help to build leadership skills. July 4 is the nation's 250th birthday. AFSC is planning a Declaration of Resistance in Philadelphia under Love is Action. Beth shared that FWCC has an in-person section meeting March 2027, and are organizing regional events, hoping to raise money for the young adults to attend the meeting in 2027 from Central America who may not be able to attend without help.

GPYM 2026-06 Business Session 2

Some new friends have arrived: Andrew and Ashlyn Stanton Henry from IN, Carol Barta from Manhattan KS Monthly Meeting; Dan & Vonda Schuster from University Friends Meeting. Sara asked that an evaluation form be completed when you have time. There will be copies available on the registration table. Connie is happy to take your registration payments. Dorlan Bales' memorial service will be next Saturday, June 6, in North Newton KS, Bethel College Mennonite Church, 10:00am.

GPYM 2026-07 Treasurer and Finance Reports

Connie Adams presented the treasurer's report. The Operating fund and Home Mission fund are the accounts we have. The operating fund supports our Quaker agencies and travel support for FUM meetings. $9700 of our loan to Wichita Friends School was paid off by an anonymous donor. The printing and mailing of the minutes comes from the Operating fund. The Home Missions

funds come from our farm property in Nebraska. Gifts were sent to each monthly meeting for their needs from the Home Missions fund. Gifts were sent to Wichita Friends School for their solar panel installment loan. The Everence investments help us gain dividends to spend how we need. The statement will appear in the minutes.

Steve McConnell presented a proposed operating budget for next year. The budget was approved and will appear in the minutes.

GPYM 2026-08 Home Missions Reports

David Nagle reported for the Home Missions committee. University Friends Meeting is involved in Family Promise and is hosting twice this summer. Topeka Friends hosted Manhattan and Oread Friends for a gathering. Heartland Friends hosts Godly Play for WFS and Connie Adams facilitates. Laura Dungan was involved with a spiritual gathering of 2000 people in Colorado. They considered a budget to present to the Yearly Meeting. David will serve as clerk of this committee for the next year. He presented their budget for the next year. The budget was approved and will appear in minutes.

GPYM 2026-09 Nominating Committee Report

LaVonna Loesch presented the Nominating Committee report. Since the committee was composed of mother and daughter from the same meeting, she asks monthly meetings to encourage their members to consider being on this committee. To bring more equity, the continuing committee was encouraged to join the nominating committee this year to help with this task.
Clerks -

- Beth Green-Nagle - presiding clerk - approved
- Assistant Clerk - open
- Elders - advisory group to help the clerk navigate and support the needs of the clerk
- Recording Clerk - Cheryl Mallonee - approved

Continuing Committee - will remain as is, adding Sara Scribner as an at large member. Approved.
FCNL - Molly Loesch UFM - approved

AFSC – Steve McConnell – 1-year term (Note: Steve's appointment was approved by Continuing Committee via email in September 2026.)
QEW - Beth McDonald - 2-year term - approved
FWCC- Beth Green-Nagle
FUM - Charity Sandstrom
Trustees - 2027 - William McConnell (in discernment) approved
2028 - Cliff Loesch & David Ozaki
2029 - Steve McConnell & Angela Brown - approved

GPYM 2026-10 Statisticians Report and Minute Preparation Committee

Paul Mallonee presented the statistician's report. Our numbers dropped significantly due to UFM going through their records and purging non-active members from their rolls. The complete report will be in the minutes and on the website.
A committee is needed to get the minutes from this year's sessions compiled, proofread, and printed for this year's sessions. David Nagle and LaVonna Loesch will help with proofreading. Connie Adams will help as long as items are received by July. Vonda Schuster will help with compilation with Connie and Cheryl Mallonee.
Friends were asked to meet at 3:45 on the front steps for a group photo.
Break for supper

GPYM 2026-11 Keynote speakers Max & Jane Carter

Cliff Loesch introduced our speakers Max & Jane Carter. Max worked at Guilford College in Greensboro NC and is a Quaker scholar. He has a deep connection with Ramallah and the Friends school there and he and Jane have taken many groups over to visit over the years. They have a wealth of knowledge about Palestine, and we welcome what they have come to share.

Between the both of them they've made over 60 trips to Palestine over the years. The president of Earlham College, Landrum Bolling, did groundbreaking work on Peace in the Middle East. Seeking Peace in the midst of Chaos is our theme and it seems peace is more elusive. The middle east is mostly chaos right

now. How do you find that calm center in the midst and how do you continue the will to continue the work amongst the hopelessness?

They want to share some of the principles they've learned there and how to implement them. The main principle to understand is that there are two true narratives in Israel and Palestine, but they do not meet. One of the problems with the two narratives is that the other party is always the enemy. There are actually more than two narratives with so many parties involved. You need to understand and listen to each side.

A second principle is long hope and faith. How do you maintain hope but through faith? They have a sustaining faith that God has a plan and they express this with long hope. It may take generations for fruition.

A Samu - Steadfastness is a 3rd principle. Olive trees have lasted for hundreds of years and are symbols of their regeneration, steadfastness, and resilience.

A fourth principle is commitment to equity and justice. They want equal rights as human beings.

A fifth principle is the importance of connectivity. Answering that of God in each other. You need to spend time face-to-face to understand each other and the physical blockades of walls and fences make that very difficult.
Get up off your behind and react. Get up and act against injustice you see. Build zones of peace and start where you are. Enough zones met might connect with each other.

They shared a slide show outlining the West Bank. Ramallah is 9 miles north of Jerusalem. The map shows how much Israel controls vs. the Palestinians. The Palestinian areas are becoming reservations. Israel controls 61% of the land. Housing is very crowded and the only way to build is up. You can't advance in society unless you've had military service. There has been an explosion of settler violence on the West Bank and livestock has been stolen. The Key is a symbol of the Palestinian refugees as all they took was their key

when they were driven out in 1948 by Israel. There are 27-foot walls with guard towers with automated machine guns guarding the area. They work on AI facial recognition. Water tanks are on the roof of the buildings. They are allotted a certain amount per week or two. The water comes from an aquifer on the west bank. Israel settlements have slanted roofs and Palestinians have flat roofs.

Israel is excavating the city of David to find evidence of Jesus and is turning it into an archaeological park. This is destroying Palestinian homes and is Israel's attempt to make the village Jewish.

There are large gates to block off any city to the Palestinians. These are fairly new and have no rhyme or reason to when they'll be closed. There are red signs that warn of Palestinian authority and Israel citizens are forbidden from those areas. Transportation through checkpoints takes a very long time.

More than 30 journalists have been killed in the conflict and there are monuments in their memory in Ramallah. There is a Lutheran farm settlement that has been there for 4 generations, and they are trying to do what Jesus has taught them.

Nonviolent resistance is being taught and to live for your country, not die for it. They are developing a natural history museum.

There is a women's cooperative that provides all the meals for the schools and all the community support since the men were in prison. There is an institute out of Guilford college to get aid into Gaza.

They manage to live a very normal life in a very abnormal situation. They want to celebrate their culture and that is a way to demonstrate non-violently.

Beth Green-Nagle closed our evening with a prayer.

Saturday, May 30, 2026

GPYM 2026-12 Morning worship

Morning Worship was led by LaVonna Loesch. Peace From Within focusing on Philippians 4:4-9, was the theme.

We sang the chorus - Where the Spirit of the Lord Is, by Stephen Adams, followed by open worship focusing on the following queries: *As I encounter the world, recognizing that there is a neighbor at every turn, do I tap into the peace that offers to enrich our interactions? Is yielding to the sacred leading of Spirit with love a consideration as you navigate the world?*

GPYM 2026-13 Workshop 1 Susan Nahvi, FCNL

Susan encouraged us to sign her guest book in the resource room. She referred to our theme: Calm Amidst Chaos: Discerning Action for Peace. She asked what we were hoping to learn from the workshop today? Friends want to learn more about FCNL and where to focus their energies. They are a Quaker lobby for peace, justice, and environmental stewardship. They talk to Congress to pass laws to make changes and support advocates across the country. They work with learners of all ages, backgrounds, and beliefs, not just Quakers.

Some of their priorities are: Dismantle militarism at home and abroad; Demilitarize our borders and reform immigration policies to protect fundamental human rights; Eliminate poverty and healthcare inequity; Uphold community rights of indigenous peoples.

FCNL's legislative action in the 119th Congress of the 2nd Trump administration includes: not a penny more for war with Iran and war powers resolutions; Aid, not arms in Gaza, press to restore UNRWA funding; protect foreign assistance and increase funding for peacebuilding work. Advocacy work is causing a shift in the war powers resolutions votes in Congress right now. Peacebuilding is the answer, not war. Peacebuilding funding needs to increase to avoid all the conflicts. Even if Congress passes the war resolution

act to stop the war, the administration could not heed it. But the pass would give power to sue the government to stop.

Other focuses are: block funding for the anti-immigrant agenda; create a truth and healing commission on US Indian boarding schools and address the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women; protecting people from ICE at places of worship, hospitals, and other safe spaces. Quaker involvement in this is very important as they were involved with the boarding schools and understand the repair that needs to be done. The Not Invisible Act was passed with help from FCNL regarding the missing women. The Badges Act helps provide a database of Indigenous people, to help law enforcement when people go missing.

How do you get involved? There is a monthly newsletter and action alerts that pop up regarding votes happening on the Hill in DC. During Q&A we learned about the involvement of Quakers in boarding schools for Native Americans in OK and NE.

Ways forward are Action as Witness. What are the steady issues we need to continue working on? There are small ways to take action. Congress must block funding for war with Iran because: Escalation is costing civilian lives; Congress must reclaim its constitutional authority; the work is harming US security and the global economy; diplomacy is the only path to stability. Susan guided us in an exercise to write letters to our state representatives. Susan will take the letters back and Sidwell Friends School will help deliver the letters to Congress. She gave suggestions of types of letters to write for guidance: Identity/values as a Quaker or person of faith; a turning point moment; personal impact or why is this important to me?

GPYM 2026-14 Workshop 2 Max & Jane Carter - Ramallah Friends School

Jane shared a story about a wedding in 2002 of a student and ended up in a 3-week curfew in Ramallah.

How did Quakers get to Palestine? Back in 1868 there was a conference for Christian educators and Rufus Jones' parents were there and they discovered the town of Ramallah. A 14-year-old girl approached them and asked if they'd start a school for girls. She offered to teach if they opened the school. They did research in Lebanon & England and started the school in 1869. In 1888 a boarding school was established, then a boys school was started in 1901. A Pre-K through 12th grade IB program is there now. Max's great Aunt Annice started teaching there in 1929 in a brand new building and made all the uniforms for the girls from blue material. When Max had to find a place for 2 years of alternative service during the Vietnam War, he went to teach at Ramallah Friends School.

Construction had been stopped at the school due to the defunding of USAID. They were installing a cistern to collect water and that's illegal as all the water belongs to Israel. They are building an outdoor education place for the kids. They have very modern facilities, and he shared a picture of their computer lab. The former Girls School is now Pre-K through 6th grade, and the former Boys School now serves 7th through 12th grades. The schools are a mile apart and the church is in halfway between.

Tenth graders have to do a research project and present it. They have to speak in English and have a fair to share all their projects. One made a model of how human life might appear on Mars. There is a long waiting list to get in, and it is the best school in the region. It is very expensive tuition for the region and Muslims appreciate the Quaker school. It's hard for teachers and students to get to school sometimes due to all the checkpoints in the region. They had to do online school for a time in order to be safe. The school is an oasis for the kids. They have extra curriculars such as music.

There is a Friends school, Brummana High School, in Lebanon that is supported by British Friends following a Cambridge course of study, similar to the IB program. There is one Quaker teacher at this school. It is a very beautiful campus with lots of steps to get from each age group.

There hasn't been a Mideast Yearly Meeting gathering in many years as Lebanon cannot send invitations out to other countries. They were going to have one in April of this year finally, but it was cancelled due to the war. Israel has destroyed most of southern Lebanon, and they are in the north. The school is trying to house refugees from the area. They cannot connect with their cohorts in the region. The two strong Quaker schools cannot work together, so they depend on us to tell their stories.

She shared a favorite quote from Howard Zinn then opened up for Q&A. What do RFS graduates do after graduation? About half come to the US for further education. All of them go on to higher education. About 120 graduate each year. Only 8 came to the US last year and most go to Europe as it's cheaper and safer. Some stay local and continue there. There aren't as many opportunities in Palestine, so they don't often come back right away. Student visas don't allow them to stay away forever.

It is very difficult to travel in that region. Palestinians are required to re-register their land and some lack the paperwork to prove ownership, so that land will go to the Israelis. The economy is in shambles so the school is feeling the effects trickling down.

GPYM 2026-15 Business Session 3

Sara reminded us to sign the 'Big Book' and please complete an evaluation form.

Cliff Loesch reported for Ministry & Counsel. The book club will continue this year, starting in the fall. They are still discerning which book to use. There will be two zoom meetings in October & February for the purpose of keeping connected with each other. Charity Sandstrom will host a worship sharing formatted meeting on October 4, 2026, and David Nagle will host a Home Missions themed meeting on February 7, 2027. An hour and a half time frame, starting at 5:00pm on a Sunday should be sufficient. Cliff will be clerk of this committee for the next year.

Nominating Committee - LaVonna Loesch brought forth a supplemental report. Connie Adams has agreed to serve a one-year term on Trustees for 2027. This was approved.

A list of names was gathered to send greetings to friends absent from GPYM sessions this year: Angela Brown, Carole Revard, Don Reeves, Loring Henderson, Marilyn Pilkey, David Ozaki, Marjorie Van Buren, Jim Perkins, Eloise Brown, Lynn Zeleski, Joseph Nagle, Lisa, William & Louisa McConnell, and Selma Mesner. Sara would like a list of UFM folks who helped with the planning.

Sara shared some extracts that have been submitted. They will appear in the minutes.

The epistle prepared by Laura Dungan and Charity Sandstrom was read. This was approved with much appreciation.

Connie Adams invited GPYM to Heartland Friends Meeting, June 3-5, 2027. LaVonna announced that we should help take care of tidying up the meeting room before we leave. Lunch is downstairs and there are ‘to go’ containers available if you wish.

We closed our sessions with a period of open worship.

Extracts

Sara Scribner -"Do we have any volunteers who would like to serve on the Epistle Committee?"....SILENCE… "Friends, that is an invitation to serve!"
Connie Adams - "Do the GPYM Trustees have much to do?" Steve McConnell, speaking slowly and thoughtfully, "I don't recall a meeting in recent memory."
Max Carter - "This is the first time I have heard an epistle approved without wordsmithing." Sara Scribner - "And I expect he has heard a lot of epistles!"
Max Carter - "They (Friends in Palestine) find purpose, hope, steadfastness and resilience in the midst of chaos."
Max Carter - "In Palestine, the definition of a Christian is someone who can drink alcohol."
Paul Mallonee - "Quakers elder. They don't nag."

Appendices

State of Society Reports

Central City Friends Meeting
State of Society – May 2026

["In what ways do we support in our spiritual journey, in our search for God's will, and in our efforts to increase understanding of humanity's relationship to life on earth?" . . . I asked the group to talk about specific sources of support: Support committees, personal friends, Quakers from other meetings, spouses, informal relationships with elders, spiritual discussion groups, and more . . . Maybe that's what's important in the query. Not whether we support each other but specifically how, in order to remember all of the available tools in the toolbox.] --- excerpts of a letter from Emily Provance, New York Yearly Meeting, received at the Meeting House in April.

How do we support each other? And could we do more?

Greetings from Nebraska!

Central City Monthly Meeting (CCMM) continues to be a source of Light in Nebraska.

We continue to meet on third Sundays beginning at noon. We have an hour of silent worship followed by social time and discussion until 2 or perhaps later. We continue to be thankful for having internet connectivity to share the time with distant Friends.

We are pleased to have new attenders, Laurie Cicotello, Shaun Klee, and Jeffrey Nelson, joining us. We are thankful for the continuing presence of our core group. We commonly have a gathering of 6 – 8.

Following last year's Yearly Meeting, CCMM had a discussion around the situation in Palestine, based on the information shared by Cliff Loesch from his travels to Ramallah.

We celebrated the 100th birthday of Selma Mesner in November. The family put together an open house for her. Several members of the Meeting were able to attend and share the moment. Selma is in good health but wishes she could hear and see a little better! Lynn Zeleski often drops by after Meeting to visit.

In October(?), several members of the Meeting were able to join a march in support of our immigrant neighbors in Grand Island. The march was followed by powerful speeches from the community, including the Grand Island Chief of Police. Shows of support like this are important in these times of inhumane treatment and hatred aimed at the immigrant community. Jeffrey Nelson, who is an Episcopal priest, was a part of the organizing committee for the event.

In March, CCMM organized Quakers from Nebraska to gather at the state capitol in witness to the deliberations of the state legislature. The Nebraska Legislature follows many of the trends of conservative states to vilify downtrodden communities like the LGBTQ community.

We do support each other and the wider community, but we always need to strive to do more.

Peace and Blessings!
Steve McConnell, Treasurer, Central City Monthly Meeting

Heartland Friends Meeting
State of Society – May 2026

O Lord, awaken the consciousness of all peoples and their leaders; raise up men and women full of love and generosity who can speak and act for peace, and show new ways in which hatred can be left behind, wounds can be healed, and unity can be restored. --Henri J. Nouwen

We were saddened at Heartland Friends Unprogrammed Meeting in March by the passing of long-time member Dorlan Bales, who has deep ties to Heartland, University Friends, and GPYM. The legacy Dorlan left with us continues to strengthen and teach us.

Friends celebrated our first wedding "under the care of the Meeting" in August, and welcomed the couple as new members of Heartland with an after-Meeting party in March. In May, we gathered for another "new member" party, welcoming a Friend from Cincinnati.

Heartland Friends embraced several outreach efforts this year. We are now a member of *Justice Together*, a group of more than 40 Wichita-area faith congregations working toward grassroots change by lobbying our local elected officials to support and implement actions toward reduction of homelessness, safety, and accessibility to services for those who are unhoused, and reduction in gun violence.

This past March Heartland responded to FCNL's call for participation in discerning their next national lobbying priorities. As in the past, FCNL's request spawned a deep and vibrant discussion during our adult education hour. Led by Spirit a new witness is growing in our midst, with desire to speak to and effect change in our troubled times by delivering "Letters" to our elected representatives. A first Letter in Spring 2025 focused on immigration and ICE enforcement violations. A second Letter in April 2026 addressed the "cost of war" to U.S. military people and was delivered by a delegation of Heartland members, attenders, and friends to Senator Jerry Moran's Wichita staff. Our

desire is to continue this witness ministry, developing a dialog relationship with some of our local officials and members of Congress.

During the summer of 2025, Aaron and Laura traveled in ministry, visiting Friends meetings and worship groups in Newberg, OR; Jackson, WY; Central City, NE; and Fayetteville, AR. The opportunity to combine travel in ministry with Aaron's Summer Teaching Artist Library Tours is a blessing for all. This coming summer their travel plans include Quakers in Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Arkansas, and Kansas.

For several years we have been holding a long-time friend of some of our members (who lives in Portland, Oregon) in prayer for resolution of personal and financial crises that resulted from being scammed out of her life savings as she was caring for her dying husband. We are grateful for the opportunity of this personal ministry and thankful for the Everence Sharing Fund and their "matching" support of financial gifts given to this friend in her need.
While our well-built Meetinghouse was new in 2002, it is requiring us to do foundation work for flooding in our basement. We look forward to the upgrades and to having our space ready for use this summer.

We enjoy opportunities to welcome various groups to our Meetinghouse. We hosted Joe Jenks in concert in February, and the Great Plains Dulcimer Alliance workshop and concert in April. We anticipate having a home-school art class use our space next year. Each August we host the teachers and staff of Wichita Friends School for a beginning-of-the-year evening cook-out, and the students and staff continue to have their mid-week Wednesday morning Worship in Song and Waiting Silence in our meeting room. These are good opportunities to share our presence of Peace and Spirit with Friends and friends.

While we are a small Meeting, we are growing in numbers and cohesiveness. We are finding joy in the presence of a variety of young attenders who seem to deeply appreciate the quiet listening of unprogrammed worship and the opportunity to be in a welcoming community.

Hominy Monthly Meeting
2026 State of Society Report
You shall seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. – Jeremiah 29:13

We are encouraged by increased attendance and participation by former and new attenders. In a first for us, one Sunday during open worship a member got down on one knee and proposed. We were delighted that it was accepted. Several weeks later, Michael and Mel married immediately after our regular meeting for worship and our normal fellowship dinner was transformed into their reception. These weeks were a joyful time for us all. Our annual church benefit Wild Onion Dinner was the best in recent years as we enjoyed working together with common purpose.

We continue local outreach by participating in the Hominy Ministerial Alliance, including assistance with utility bills, Christ's Cupboard food pantry, holiday food baskets, as well as Lenten Luncheons and other community events. We have continued our occasional interchange with Osage Indian Baptist Church of Pawhuska as we both seek to increase the amount of Osage language we incorporate in our meetings for worship.

We have been blessed to have Green Country Friends (Tulsa, South Central Y.M.) worship with us on two fifth Sundays, including a fellowship dinner afterwards on both occasions. All visitors are welcome and we are strengthened by such times of fellowship and sharing.

Anika Nagle, Derrick Mammedaty and Kristofer Revard all graduated from high school just before last yearly meeting. Anika took classes at Northeastern State University this past year. Kristo is in constant demand as an Osage singer, including several stints as Head Singer. Allison Mammedaty graduated from Hominy High School last week (5/22). She enjoyed a surprise party in her honor held at the Meetinghouse just prior to Commencement exercises. Dorothy Manzer's children held her memorial dinner in our fellowship hall last

July at which time we dedicated a photo of her which now hangs on the north wall.

Hermes Sanchez, with help from David Nagle, Orion Bush and Kristo Revard, tore down the remaining plaster from the parsonage front room ceiling and put up and finished sheetrock. Hermes also painted the ceiling and it looks quite nice. The Mitsubishi mini-split HVAC system has been working well. We hope to add the third header to the kitchen soon to heat and cool the back part of the house. We also replaced the rotted siding on the bathroom exterior wall. We will also add gutter and downspout over that wall, and will trim out the energy efficient windows on the entire north wall.

We are exploring the possibility of Osage Nation fiber-optic internet service at the Meetinghouse. We also hope to have "FRIENDS" showing again soon in the half-circle sign space on the west exterior wall. Recently we received a donation from Clarence Cullimore of some Quaker books to add to our library. Finishing the Council House parsonage project has taken much longer than hoped, but we are now very close. Fayetteville Friends responded to an appeal and two Friends spent four hours cleaning the parsonage. We look forward to getting it rented out soon to provide the meeting with operating funds. Several new and a few former attenders are bringing new hope and vitality to weekly worship. We have been blessed by several visitors over the course of the year. We have begun to explore how we can best serve our community and build stronger relationships with the Seneca-Cayuga and Wyandotte Nations. New 8' benches enhance play areas as they provide places for adults to sit. We hope to find new backboards and hoops for the basketball court soon. A Cemetery Committee has been named to assist the Cemetery Manager.

Tahlequah Friends Fellowship continues to meet from 11-12 First-day mornings at the Wesley Foundation Student Center adjacent to the NSU campus. Midweek meeting for worship is hosted in the Nagle family living room from 7-8pm each Thursday. We have nice sidewalk signs which we set out for both meetings. We hope to engage in outreach to NSU students in the coming year.

On behalf of Hominy Monthly Meeting
Carole Revard, Presiding Clerk

Topeka Friends Meeting
Revised State of the Society Report 2025 to 2026

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed." Dwight D. Eisenhower

The past 12 months have been filled with hardships and blessings for the Topeka Friends Meeting. James continues to be incarcerated. He had another parole hearing in 2025. The meeting sent a letter in support of his parole but his application for parole was denied by the parole board.

Topeka Friends Meeting had a joint meeting for worship followed by a potluck with Manhattan Friends Meeting and Oread Friends Meeting on October 5, 2025. It is hoped that we can continue to maintain our ties with Manhattan and Oread.

Lynn died on October 11, 2025. The meeting held a memorial for Lynn on December 14, 2025. Lynn was a long-time member of the Topeka Friends Meeting and his wisdom and many insights will forever be missed.

It was announced that the Baha'is no longer felt safe using the meetinghouse due to the deterioration of the neighborhood and they have found another place to meet. The meeting decided that we could no longer afford to maintain the meetinghouse without the financial support of the Baha'is and a decision was made to sell the meetinghouse.

With a heavy heart we engaged a realtor to list the meetinghouse for sale. The Topeka Friends Meeting has been worshipping in the meetinghouse for over 30

years. A buyer made an offer on the meetinghouse which was less than the list price but the meeting decided to accept the offer because the offer came from a single mother and it meant that the owner would be living in the meetinghouse instead of it reverting back into a rental property. The closing date for the sale was set for March 10, 2026. The buyer was using a city program to purchase the meetinghouse. The program required that the city inspect the property and sign off on the sale. A structural engineer was engaged and found several issues related to the foundation of the meetinghouse that would need to be addressed before the city would approve the sale. We are still waiting to make the recommended repairs.

A business meeting was conducted on January 18, 2026. The furnace was turned off so that friends could hear the discussion better. Worship was canceled on January 25, 2026, due to snow and cold temperatures. On Jan 29, 2026, it was discovered that we forgot to turn the furnace back on after the business meeting on January 18, 2026, and that the pipes in the meetinghouse had frozen and that the meetinghouse sustained considerable water damage when the pipes thawed. The closing on the sale of the meetinghouse has been postponed indefinitely until the repairs can be completed.

The meeting began at Sara's house on February 1, 2026, and we have been worshiping there ever since. We are grateful to Sara for opening her home to us.

On April 15, 2026, the insurance company issued a letter denying our claim. The denial mentioned that our policy did not cover water damage and the negligence on our part for turning off the furnace. It was decided to sell the meetinghouse "as is," at a reduced price. A buyer was found and the closing was on May 8, 2026.

The meeting has arranged for the use of a building on the Unitarian's property. We expect that the first meeting for worship in the new meetinghouse will be Sunday, June 7th. The meeting mourns the loss of the old meetinghouse, but we are grateful for the use of Sara's house in the interim.

We have been blessed that three new attenders. Sara, Bill, and Alicia have been great additions to the life of the meeting. Gladys moved to Arizona in 2025, to live with her fiancé. They were married on November 1, 2025. The meeting misses her bright presence but rejoices in her happiness and wishes them all the best.

On behalf of Topeka Friends Meeting,
David Ozaki, Clerk

University Friends Meeting
State of Society Report, February 2026

University Friends, while fewer in number than we have been in the past, continues to be a group of faithful and resilient Friends. Pastor Charity Sandstrom nurtures and ministers to us in many wonderful ways. Her sermons in 2025 covered a range of topics including the Gospel of John, stewardship, justice, mercy, and humility. In the fall of 2025 we increased our awareness of ministries that share our values. We had guest speakers visit us from various local and national organizations like FCNL, Family Promise, and the Kansas Food Project. On World Quaker Day, Dan and Vonda Schuster presented an original dramatic scene, written by Vonda Schuster, centered on the theme of "Love Your Neighbor."

Cliff Loesch continues to be an active and valuable member of our fellowship. He visited Ramallah Friends School, and shared a presentation about life in Palestine during this time of conflict. Cliff is hosting a Zoom book club discussion (open to GPYM and others) of Sarah Ruden's Paul Among the People.

In 2026, Beth McDonald and Dan Schuster will continue operating as Co-Clerks of our monthly business meetings. Additionally, Cheryl Mallonee and Vonda Schuster will continue operating as Co-Recording Clerks of the

meeting. This arrangement has served our meeting well in the last two years with the clerks alternating monthly. It allows us flexibility and also the ability to grow as Friends as we work together to do the work we may not have been able to carry on our own.

University Friends also continues to strive to be good stewards of the large building we have. We continue to host several groups in our community. Mary Seat of Wisdom Academy uses our education building for classes during the week. We lease space on Saturdays to the Living Church of God, Wichita. We also host a local square dance group Good Time Squares each week, and the Wichita Shakespeare Company's two free inside Shakespeare-in-the-Park performances each summer. We returned to hosting Family Promise in the summer of 2025, and will host families again in summer 2026. We also continue our long-standing partnerships with the Scouts of America as well as All Nations Fellowship.

In 2025, we sold off two properties we owned - one home on University Ave and one home on Vine. The funds from the sale of these two properties will now be used for ministry in our community and abroad.

We continue to look for outreach opportunities in our immediate neighborhood. Events this last year included a Trunk or Treat event on Halloween (that was attended by about 500 in the neighborhood community), handing out popcorn at the Friends University Homecoming Parade, and a monthly movie night hosted in our Fellowship Hall. In 2025, we finished our community garden boxes on our front lawn that are now ready for occupying and cultivating. Additionally, we hosted a Holiday dinner in December with invites sent to the Friends University college students. We also have been collecting donation items (clothing, toiletries, etc.) to benefit various local organizations.
This May, we look forward to hosting Great Plains Yearly Meeting at University Friends.

God continues to bless us in so many wonderful ways and we are excited for the opportunities that await us.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth McDonald & Dan Schuster, Co-Clerks of University Friends Meeting

Agency Reports

Wichita Friends School, 2026

I am so happy to be able to attend in person the organizational round table at GPYM this summer. I enjoy learning about the broad ministries of Quakers in our country and across the world. Here are some updates about Wichita Friends School:

Our marketing efforts and a superb staff have allowed us to reach an all-time high for enrollment this year. We experienced the highest enrollment in 31 years this past Spring, and we are grateful. Two years ago growth prompted us to open another preschool classroom. We are on the verge of needing to open a second 4-year-old classroom, and have been preparing to meet this need if and when enrollment numbers make it necessary. Managing up-front preparation expense prior to having tuition income is challenging, but this is a good problem to have. At this point, I am not sure where the money will come from to add a fully equipped classroom, but I trust that a way will open if we are true to our mission and continue to have happy families. The more than doubling of our enrollment in the past five years is a testament to our staff and the care they give, and reflects our growing reputation on the west side of Wichita. Our sustainability relies on both increasing our numbers and on continued gifts from supportive Friends and friends.

Our solar panels, which GPYM Friends were a critical factor in attaining, have served us very well, keeping our energy bills very low which in turn saves us money each month. The entire solar project would not have been possible without GPYM's vision and support. We are so very grateful for this partnership. When I speak with people out in public and on tours of our

school, the solar panels always receive comments of praise for our care of our environment and long-term vision.

Our weekly Wednesday morning Worship continues to be a very positive experience with our students. We lock down the entire school to enable every staff member and all our students to walk through the field to Heartland Meetinghouse. Our Worship time is filled with singing, quiet between songs, focused energy, and peaceful Spirit.
I, personally, attend Heartland every so often on Sundays and deeply appreciate the waiting worship in their small community. Such a different energy than when WFS children fill every bench to capacity on Wednesdays! We are fortunate that Connie Adams and Aaron Fowler lead our worship. My heart is filled as little ones as young as 2 1/2 years are prompted to speak a "thankfulness" out of the Silence. It is very special to listen to what they share! I have mentioned this before -- if you are ever near Wichita on a Wednesday morning, you have an open invitation to join us in Worship at 9:30.

WFS staff continue to learn more about Quaker education each month at our professional development and we employ Drew Smith, Executive Director of the Friends Council on Education, for yearly training during our August in-service. We embed a small Quaker SPICES curriculum tailored for each classroom age-level throughout our daily and weekly teachings. Our school staff has even joined Heartland Friends Meeting on occasional Sundays for worship and has found that time very special for us to be immersed into the depth and beauty of unprogrammed Quaker worship. I will also add that our staff feel very welcomed and valued by Heartland members. Sharing the knowledge that we and our work are valued is very special.

For the first time since my arrival five years ago, 100% of our staff are returning this fall, which I am beyond thrilled about. This allows us so much continuity as a staff and for our children. I love our staff and appreciate the dedication they bring to the school. To say I am blessed by this staff is an understatement.

We continue to offer enrichment classes of Music, Art, PE, Sign Language, Library, Board Games, Worship, Godly Play, Spanish, and Baking to educate children about our world and life. We have a number of volunteers who help us offer all these opportunities for our students. Another great learning experience for our students is monthly field trips. These opportunities provide a broad array of experiential learning outside of the classroom. In a time in education when recess is being cut or eliminated, we continue to offer all students a 30-minute morning recess and a 30-minute afternoon recess. Additionally, our elementary students receive a 30-minute noon recess. Public schools near us may get 15-20 minutes combined per day. We fully recognize the need for children to move and develop community in free-play time. A special recess highlight is planting a vegetable and butterfly garden in the Spring and harvesting cucumbers, tomatoes, and peppers for our snacks in the Fall.

A special shout-out to GPYM for your continued support of Wichita Friends School! We deeply appreciate your financial gifts, the inclusion into your organization, and your prayers for our sustainability and the future of our school.

Sincerely, Shelly Hoffman, Head of School

Quaker Agencies

Quaker agency reports from AFSC, FCNL, and RSWR with their links to external websites may be found on our GPYM homepage under Yearly Meeting Gathering/2026 Advance Documents.

GPYM Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report

Operating Fund: From our operating fund we pay for our homepage, support agency and FUM representatives travel to meetings, send gifts to our Quaker agencies and FUM, pay for the printing and mailing of our YM minutes, pay for our web homepage, and support our yearly meeting annual sessions. Because over 70% of our Operating monies are designated to a specific purpose, this money is housed in an Everence moneymarket fund, where it is instantly accessible. Here are the main Operating Fund transactions in 2025-26:

We paid our 3-year subscription for our homepage @ $407.
We supported Charity's attendance at the FUM General Board @ $646.
We paid for the printing and mailing of our 2025 minutes @ $349.
We supported our Quaker Agencies and FUM for $925 total.
We have been receiving monthly payments from Wichita Friends School for the 2024 solar loan, $19,700 from the Operating Fund. We received a designated gift of $7,691.75 to pay off the solar loan carrying 4% interest.
We received several individual gifts from Friends totaling $1,300.
As of 5-28 we have received $1,890 in pay-as-led gifts for our yearly meeting gathering.

Once our YM gathering accounts are complete and everything is paid for, I will keep around $1,000 in the Operating checking account and transfer the rest to the Operating Moneymarket account to earn a bit more in dividends each month.

Home Missions Fund: Our Home Missions money comes primarily from our farm rental income. We own 53 acres of farmland in Nebraska. Steve McConnell is our resident agent and negotiates an annual contract with our tenant farmer. We've been receiving about $13,000 a year in rent and bonuses. Because of tariffs and world-wide shipping problems, we'll receive less this coming year.

Home Missions monies are restricted to evangelization and strengthening the Religious Society of Friends within the geographical scope of our yearly meeting. In 2025-26 our Home Missions funds:

Paid Merrick County, Nebraska property taxes @ $2,239.
Gave a $2,000 gift to Wichita Friends School.
Gave gifts to GPYM member monthly meetings and worship groups ranging from $100 to $1,000 for a total of $8,100.

Invested Funds:
In June of 2019 we invested $38,000 from our Home Missions fund in managed funds through Everence. Everence invests with ethics and positive values in mind. Our current balance is just over $71,000 – after making a $15,000 loan to Wichita Friends School in 2023 and withdrawing $8,000 to $10,000 during 2024 and 2025. At our sessions in 2024 Home Missions and Finance Committees made a decision to keep at least $60,000 in our investments portfolio, recognizing that we are benefiting from the interest, dividends, and capital gain we receive.

Everence's statement about their investment vision: We seek out companies that support positive values, such as respect for human dignity, responsible management, and environmental stewardship, while avoiding industries and activities like gambling, alcohol and tobacco production, and military contracting.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	**Great Plains Yearly Meeting of Friends Statement of Assets**						**5/28/2025**
2							
3			**Operating Accounts**				
4				Operating: Everence FCU Checking Account	4,505.94		
5				Operating: Everence FCU Money Market	22,590.06		
6				Savings-Everence FCU Membership	100.15		
7				*Receivables*			
8				*WFS Solar Loan ($19,700 total)*		*8,217.22*	
9			**Total Current Operating Funds**		**27,196.15**		
10			**Total Operating Assets (Current and Receivable)**			**35,413.37**	
11							
12			*Restrictions in Operating Funds*				
13				*FUM Triennial Travel Fund*			*1,200.00*
14				*FWCC WorldPlenaryAsst Travel Fund*	*2024 -- South Africa*		*200.00*
15				*FWCC WorldPlenaryReps Travel Fund*	*2024 -- South Africa*		*600.00*
16				*Hominy/Council House Wi-fi Fund*			*68.06*
17				*Student Loan Fund*			*9,014.87*
18				*Webb Fund*			*8,266.41*
19			*Total Restricted Operating Monies*				*19,349.34*
20			***Total Unrestricted Operating Funds***				***7,846.81***

21					
22	**Home Missions (HM) Accounts**				
23	HM Everence FCU Checking	2,403.27			
24	HM Praxis Indexed Money Market Fund	13,084.23	Initial Investment, June 2019:		31,000.00
25	HM Genesis Conservative Fund	11,202.04			1,000.00
26	HM Praxis Growth Index Fund	26,079.53			3,000.00
27	HM Praxis Value Index Fund	20,966.61			3,000.00
28	**Total Investments**	71,332.41			38,000.00
29	**Total Homes Missions Current Funds**	**73,735.68**			
30	*Receivable: WFS Solar Loan ($15,000 @ $125/mo)*	*11,875.00*			
31	**Total Homes Missions Assets (Current & Receivable)**		**85,610.68**		
32					
33	**Total GPYM Assets (Current & Receivables)**		**121,024.05**		
34	**Total GPYM Current Assets (less Receivables)**		**100,931.83**		
35					
36	**Fixed Assets**				
37	Stevens Farm Property (53.33 acres) valuation		281,155.00		
38	Central City Meetinghouse		50,000.00		
39	**TOTAL CURRENT AND FIXED ASSETS (less receivables)**		**432,086.83**		
40					

	A	B	C	D	E
1	**GPYM Budget Report, 7/16/2025**		**2025-26 Budget**	**2025-26 Income / Expenses**	**2026-27 Budget**
2	**Operating Income**	Inc: YM 'pay as led' (gifts)	1,000	1,890	1,000
3		Inc: YM Webb Fund transfer	1,550	-	-
4		Inc: HM Support for YM Gathering	3,000	-	-
5		Inc: Gifts from Individuals	300	1,300	1,300
6		Inc: Gifts from Monthly Meetings	2,500	1,100	1,500
7		Inc: WFS Solar Loan Payments (excl. from annual total)	2,002	9,444	2,002
8		**Total Operating Income:**	**8,350**	**4,290**	**3,800**
9	**YM Expense**	Exp: YM Meals: Groceries & Preparation	1,500	-	1,500
10		Exp: YM Sessions-Speaker/Elder	2,000	1,189	2,500
11		Exp: YM Sessions Programs/Supplies	100	-	100
12		Exp: YM Gratitude Gifts	-	-	-
13		Exp: YM Young Friend Ministry/Care	1,550	-	-
14	**Operating Expenses**	Exp: Operating Bank/Accounting	60	48	50
15		Exp: Operating Non-Profit Fee	30	-	30
16		Exp: Operating Postage	-	-	
17		Exp: Operating Technology (Zoom)	-	-	
18		Exp: Operating Web Home Page	300	436	-
19		Exp: Operating YM Minutes	2,000	252	350

20	Gifts: FUM/Quaker Agencies	Exp: Operating Gift: AFSC	100	100	100
21		Exp: Operating Gift: FCNL	100	100	100
22		Exp: Friends General Conference	50	50	50
23		Exp: Operating Gift: Friends United Meeting	350	350	350
24		Exp: Operating Gift: FWCC	125	125	125
25		Exp: Operating Gift: QEW	100	100	100
26		Exp: Operating Gift: RSWR	100	100	100
27	Quaker Agency & FUM Travel Expense	Exp: Operating Travel: AFSC	2,400	-	2,400
28		Exp: Operating Travel: FCNL		-	
29		Exp: Operating Travel: FUM GenBrd		646	
30		Exp: Operating Travel: FWCC Sec/Am		-	
31		Exp: Operating Travel: QEW		-	
32		Exp: Operating Travel: Other		-	-
33		Exp: Operating Travel: FUM Triennial	300	300	300
34		Exp: Operating Travel: FWCC World Gathering	100	100	100
35		Exp: Oprating Travel: FWCC World Gath Reps	300	300	300
36		**Total Operating Expenses:**	**11,565**	**4,196**	**8,555**
37		**Operating Income Less Expenses:**	**(3,215)**	**94**	**-**
38					

	A	B	C	D	E
1	GPYM Budget Report, 7/16/2025		2025-26 Budget	2025-26 Income / Expenses	2026-27 Budget
39	Home Missions Income	Inc: HM Farm Income	13,260	6,630	12,000
40		Inc: HM Gifts from Individuals	-	-	-
41		Inc: HM Gifts from Monthly Meetings	-	-	-
42		Inc: WFS Solar Loan Payments $125/mo (excl. from total)	1,500	1,375	1,500
43		**Total Home Missions Income:**	**13,260**	**6,630**	**12,000**
44	Home Missions Expenses	Exp: HM Farm Property Taxes	2,200	2,239	2,300
45		Exp: HM Gift: Wichita Friends School	2,000	2,000	2,000
46		Exp: HM Local Mtg Gift: Central City	1,000	1,000	1,000
47		Exp: HM Local Mtg Gift: Heartland	1,000	1,000	1,000
48		Exp: HM Local Mtg Gift: Hominy	1,000	1,000	1,000
49		Exp: HM Local Mtg Gift: Council House	1,000	1,000	1,000
50		Exp: Council House Playground	2,000	2,000	-
51		Exp: HM Local Mtg Gift: Tahlequah	100	100	100
52		Exp: HM Local Mtg Gift: Topeka	1,000	1,000	1,000
53		Exp: HM Local Mtg Gift: UFM	1,000	1,000	1,000
54		Exp: HM RegionI Gatherings/Events	-	-	
55		Exp: HM Traveling in Ministry	750	-	600
56		Exp: HM Postage/Banking	-	-	-
57		Exp: HM Yearly Meeting Sessions Support	3,000	-	-
58		**Total Home Missions Expenses:**	**16,050**	**12,339**	**11,000**

Statistics Report

GPYM 2025 Stats as presented at 2026 GPYM									
	Central City	*Council House	Heartland	†Hominy	*Tahlequah	Lubbock	Topeka	University	Total
Members last Year**	27	0	29	103	8	11	10	347	532
Number of additions	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Births	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Requests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of loses	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deaths	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	4
Requests	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Active Adult Members	4	0	23	10	0	0	10	45	92
Active Associate Members (youth)	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	5	13
Total active adults and youth	7	0	28	10	0	0	10	50	105
Inactive and or non-resident adults	16	0	8	63	0	11	0	2	100
Inactive and or non-resident associates	4	0	0	30	0	0	0	2	36
Total inactive or non-resident members	20	0	8	93	0	11	0	54	186
Grand total	27	0	36	103	8	11	10	104	291
Attenders	2	0	15	2	0	0	0	0	
Online Attenders	1			0				22	
Average monthly attendance	5	0	60	50	28	0	28	161	41.5

Monthly Meeting Date:						
Presiding Clerk	Lynn Zelesi	None	Connie Adams, Gail Kinzer, Jaylene Reed	Carole Reward	Carole Reward	Sara Scribner	David Ozaki	Dan Schuster and Beth McDonald	
Recorded Ministers		None	None	David E. Nagle	None	None	None	Donna Bales	
								Sheli Kadel	
								David Kingrey	
								Cliff Loesch	
								B.J Mills	
								Carol Mulikin	
								David Wolfe	
								Charity Sandstrom	
	3rd First Day		2nd First Day	1st First Day	1st First Day	As needed	2nd First Day	3rd First Day	

Nominating Committee Report

Clerks
Presiding Clerk – Beth Green-Nagle
Assistant Clerk – OPEN
Elders (Advisory Group) appointed by clerk – offering accountability, support, encouragement. Working with the clerk to develop a timeline, expectations, & duties.
Recording Clerk – Cheryl Mallonee

Continuing Committee
Officers & Clerks of Committees: Ministry & Counsel – Cliff Loesch; Nominating – LaVonna Loesch; Finance – Steve McConnell; Home Missions – David Nagle; Beth Green-Nagle -- Presiding Clerk, Cheryl Mallonee -- Recording Clerk, Connie Adams – Treasurer; Paul Malonee – Statistician; At Large – David Ozaki; At Large – Sara Scribner

Quaker Agencies & FUM Representatives
FCNL – Molly Loesch - University
FWCC – Beth Green-Nagle (2027 - 3 of 3 yrs) and Cliff Loesch (2027- 2 of 3 yrs)
AFSC – Steve McConnell – Central City
FUM – Charity Sandstrom term extended 2027
QEW – Beth McDonald – 2 yr term

Trustees (3 Year)
2027 – *William McConnell (in discernment),* Connie Adams
2028 - Cliff Loesch & David Ozaki
2029 – Steve McConnell, Angela Brown

Epistle, 2026

Greetings to Friends Worldwide!

Great Plains Yearly Meeting of Friends gathered May 28-30, 2026 in Wichita, Kansas hosted by University Friends Meeting. As we gathered in bonds of love through our worship, fellowship, singing, remembering, and decision-making, the rain that fell outside reminded us of what holds us in the seas of these turbulent times:

“And hold fast the hope which anchors the soul, which is sure and steadfast, that you may float above the world's sea; for your anchor holds sure and steadfast in the bottom, let the winds, storms, and raging waves rise never so high. And your star is fixed, by which you may steer to the eternal land of rest, and kingdom of God. ”
- George Fox, 1674, Epistle 314 to Friends in America

Our host, University Friends Meeting, provided for us a beautiful place to meet with organized rooms for hospitality and committees, Zoom access, and food that nourished us well. These preparations allowed us to connect and do our shared work with ease.

Our time together was marked with calls to love one another, to take action to make our love seen and heard by encouraging one another. We heard from a variety of organizations in our round table discussion on Friday morning that share our values - ethical investing (Everence), fostering leadership (Quaker Leadership Center), earthcare (Quaker Earthcare Witness), education (Wichita Friends School), service and unjust systems change (American Friends Service Committee), relationships across diverse global Friends (Friends World Committee for Consultation as well as Young Adult Friends Section of the Americas), influencing government policy (Friends Committee on National Legislation), global ministry among Friends (Friends United Meeting). We heard their greatest joys and biggest challenges, as well as how we can be involved through representation and support.

As we look back at our time together, two images stand out in our minds: the olive tree and the "key of return." These visuals come from our keynote speakers Jane and Max Carter. Together they shared their insights from more than sixty visits to Israel and Palestine. The olive tree represents *sumud*, an Arabic word holding the concept of constancy, because of its regeneration, steadfastness, and resilience. The picture of the "key of return" symbolizes the haste with which Palestinians fled their homes in 1948 taking only their house keys and their hope of return to a place of safety and belonging. Jane and Max's presentation emphasized the importance of humility and listening in gaining understanding of the ongoing conflict and injustice in Israel and Palestine.

As Max and Jane shared their experience and relationships among the Palestinian people, they noted the great tragedy of the vast divide and the stories both Israel and Palestine have created around them that demonizes the other - always the enemy. The power of listening is essential to bridge this divide. "Listen patiently and see the truth which other people's opinion may contain."

There is a long hope and faith where it may take generations to see the fruit. Commitment to equity and justice are necessary to navigate the difficulty of blockades of walls and fences separating different communities. Connectivity and seeing God in each other is needed to bring restoration.

We were encouraged to "Be active! Create zones of peace where you are so that those powerful energetic centers of Love can intersect with other ever-growing spheres of Love.

Our conversations in committees centered on how our monthly meetings can increase in vitality and interconnectedness. Each meeting has a unique connection to their community, and all are working to increase peace and justice in their neighborhoods and beyond through advocacy, letter-writing, and partnership with local organizations. We are working together to creatively provide opportunities for more engagement among our geographically distant

meetings. We have put two new meetings on the calendar for worship sharing and encouragement from Home Missions via Zoom. Our hope is to foster deepening relationships among our wider membership.

In closing, Resilience, Peace, Connectivity, Regeneration all begin in our own hearts. Great Plains Yearly Meeting would like to offer the following queries for loving consideration on our continued journey toward peace and justice in our world:
How am I resilient in my current surroundings? Family, Community, World?
Am I deeply listening to notice where I have isolated and built walls inside myself?
What is re-generating, re-growing, re-newing, re-storing within me, my faith community, and Great Plains Yearly Meeting?

With hope for a renewed peace,
Sara Scribner, Clerk, Great Plains Yearly Meeting

Epistle, 2025

Great Plains Yearly Meeting of Friends, Epistle
Building the Future as Way Opens

May 31, 2025

Dear Friends everywhere,

We send you greetings from the 118th Annual Sessions of Great Plains Yearly Meeting of Friends.

Friends gathered at Hominy Friends Meeting in Hominy, Oklahoma May 29 – 31st to do the work of God centered on our theme "Building the Future as Way Opens" (Isaiah 43:19). We joyfully welcomed visitors from Oread Friends Meeting of Lawrence, Kansas, as well as Karla Moran Jay, our keynote speaker

from Friends United Meeting Global Ministries, and Michael Jay who led Bible Study.

Since we are distant from each other, living in Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, we enjoyed hearing the State of Society reports and catching up on life in each monthly meeting during our opening session.

Our standing committees – Finance, Home Missions, and Ministry & Counsel – have worked deeply this year managing energy and assets for ministry of our yearly meeting and our monthly meetings and our relationships with the Quaker world-at-large.

Hominy Friends is a primarily Osage fellowship. When we gather in Hominy we are blessed with presentations about Osage culture. This year we enjoyed hearing Herman Sleeper from the Wahzhazhe Cultural Center speak about Osage history, traditions, games, and Osage regalia worn during the I'n-Lon-Schka, the annual ceremonial Osage dances held in June.

Karla Jay asked us to consider how God provides pathways for the future even when we find ourselves in the desert, just as God cared for Hagar and Ishmael and Israel in the desert. With the example of Jesus' temptation, she also challenged us individually and in our local and regional meetings to face the temptations of materialism, privilege, and power by instead choosing simplicity, humility, and service. As we face the injustice in our world, do we raise our voices in the wilderness? Do we resist the World's temptations and act with simplicity, humility, and service?

Friends enjoyed two workshops on Saturday morning.
We are grateful to Karla Jay for presenting on Friends United Meeting's Holistic Evangelism approach in their many ministries. We feel gratitude and excitement to learn about FUM's broad and diverse outreach in health care and medical services, food assistance, education at all levels, and worship across Africa, in Belize, in Ramallah, and in the U.S. God is at work opening way for Spirit across the earth through the programs and work of FUM.

Cliff Loesch presented a workshop about his Quaker Pastoral Visit to Ramallah Friends School in Palestine and Brummana Friends School near Beirut, Lebanon. The group of 8 Friends traveled to be a presence of ministry at Ramallah. Cliff's presentation greatly increased our understanding of the history that has led up to the current complexities of the Palestinian and Jewish relations and touched our hearts.

Anika Nagle accompanied Beth Green-Nagle to the FWCC Section of the Americas Conference in Arizona. Anika attended the Young Adult Friends (ages 18-35) gathering preceding the FWCC sessions that included young people from Mexico, Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru, Costa Rica, and the United States. The young Friends worshipped together, did a service project, visited the Botanical Gardens, and discussed next steps for revitalizing a young adult participation in the 2025 meeting of the FWCC Section of the Americas.

Gathering in the Indian Village of Hominy is always a delightful experience of Osage hospitality and traditional Osage food, especially fry-bread.

GPYM is a diverse yearly meeting, gathering pastored and non-pastored congregations, programmed and unprogrammed meetings, monthly meetings affiliated with FUM and with FGC, Osage and other Native American Friends and Friends of European-descent, city, and rural residents. In our cultural and religious diversity we are challenged to listen deeply to each other … to hold in trust and love perspectives and opinions that we may not fully understand. We wait patiently on Spirit to lead us in faith together.

May we continue to be led by Divine Wisdom in building our future as way opens.

In the Light of Christ,
Sara Scribner, Presiding Clerk, Great Plains Yearly Meeting of Friends

GPYM Committee Assignments, 2026-27

Ministry & Counsel (Cliff Loesch, clerk):
Terms expiring January 2027:
Cheryl Mallonee, University Friends Meeting (cemallonee@gmail.com)
Kyle Pepper, Hominy Friends Meeting
Will Johnson, Hominy Friends Meeting /Council House
Terms expiring January 2028:
Orion Bush, Hominy Friends Meeting
Terms expiring January 2029:
Carole Revard, Hominy Friends Meeting (carolerevard@aol.com)
Ex officio:
Cliff Loesch, University Friends Meeting (cliffloesch@gmail.com)
David Nagle, Hominy Friends Meeting (davnagle@juno.com)
Charity Sandstrom, University Friends Meeting
(universityfriendspastor@gmail.com)
Beth Green-Nagle, GPYM presiding clerk (bgreennagle@gmail.com)

Finance Committee (Steve McConnell, clerk):
Terms expiring January 2027:
Paul Mallonee, University Friends Meeting (pizzaguy@sprintmail.com)
Steve McConnell, Central City Friends Meeting
(veggieduderanch@yahoo.com)
Stan Johnson, Hominy Friends Meeting (Council House)
Terms expiring January 2028:
Carole Revard, Hominy Friends Meeting (carolerevard@aol.com)
John McKay, University Friends Meeting
Aaron Fowler, Heartland Friends Meeting (aaron@aaronfowler.org)
Ex officio:
Connie Adams, GPYM Treasurer (connieadams1637@gmail.com)

Home Missions Committee (David Nagle, clerk):
Terms expiring January 2027:
Sue Wine, University Friends Meeting (suewine427@gmail.com)

Mary Hiebert, University Friends Meeting (dietitian92@gmail.com)
Mel Kidder, Hominy Friends Meeting (subject to consent)
Terms expiring January 2028:
David Nagle, Hominy Friends Meeting (davnagle@juno.com)
Dennis Kidder, Hominy Friends Meeting
David Ozaki, Topeka Friends Meeting (do3943654@gmail.com)
Laura Dungan, Heartland Friends Meeting (lauradungan@gmail.com)
Steve McConnell, Central City Friends Meeting
(veggieduderanch@yahoo.com)
Ex officio:
Connie Adams, GPYM Treasurer (connieadams1637@gmail.com)
Beth Green-Nagle, GPYM presiding clerk (bgreennagle@gmail.com)

Nominating Committee (LaVonna Loesch, clerk):
Terms expiring January 2027:
LaVonna Loesch, University Friends Meeting (lavonna.loesch@gmail.com)
Will Johnson, Hominy Friends Meeting/Council House
Terms expiring January 2028:
Frankie Sue Johnson, Hominy Friends Meeting/Council House
Molly Loesch, University Friends Meeting
Terms expiring January 2029:
Angela Brown, Hominy Friends Meeting

Friends in Attendance

Connie Adams, Heartland Friends Meeting
Sulma Arias, People's Action
Carol Barta, QEW
Max & Jane Carter
Leigh Ann Dawley, University Friends Meeting
Laura Dungan, Heartland Friends Meeting
Megan Fair, Right Sharing of World Resources
Aaron Fowler, Heartland Friends Meeting
Louis Goseland, Justice Together
Renee Grandiflora, Oread Friends Meeting
Randy Hershey, Oread Friends Meeting
Mary Hiebert, University Friends Meeting
Shelly Hoffman (WFS), Wichita Friends School
Ken & Allison Jack, University Friends Meeting
Mark Flurry Kemper, University Friends Meeting
Jon Krieg (AFSC), AFSC, Des Moines
Cliff & LaVonna Loesch, University Friends Meeting
Molly Loesch, University Friends Meeting
Paul & Cheryl Mallonee, Jocelyn & Tanner, University Friends Meeting
Steve McConnell, Central City Friends Meeting
Beth McDonald, University Friends Meeting
Cliff Mesner, Central City Friends Meeting
Grayce Mesner
Lyle Miller, Everence
David & Anika Nagle & Beth Green-Nagle, Hominy Friends Meeting
Susan Nahvi, FCNL
Greg & Rhonda Newby, University Friends Meeting
Jim Perkins, Heartland Friends Meeting
Charity & Theodore Sandstrom, University Friends Meeting
Kat Sandstrom, University Friends Meeting
Dan & Vonda Schuster, University Friends Meeting
Sara Scribner
Matt Shaner, University Friends Meeting
Michael Sherman, FUM,Winchester Friends
Andy & Ashlyn Stanton-Henry, Quaker Leadership Center
Lisa & Natalie Tos-Brightup, Pine Valley Christian (Disciples of Christ)
John & Sue Wine, University Friends Meeting

Mailing Address:
Great Plains Yearly Meeting
c/o University Friends Church
1840 W University Ave
Wichita, KS 67213-3966

on the web:
greatplainsyearlymeeting.org
gpymcontact@gmail.com

on Facebook:
Great Plains Yearly Meeting

Presiding Clerk:
Beth Green-Nagle
bgreennagle@gmail.com