

Indiana Yearly Meeting Outgoing Epistle

Friends gathered for the 199th Annual Session of Indiana Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends held on the peaceful Quaker Haven campgrounds at Dewart Lake, near Syracuse, IN. This was the 15th consecutive year to hold this event at Quaker Haven. The weather was beautiful, sunshine and mid 80's for the high, and the low was in the 60's. An average attendance included 130 for business sessions, 132 for worship services, reservations for the Mission Luncheon were 226, and reservations for the Feast of Faith were 220.

The Advancement Committee reported that \$133,478 have been raised for the 2020 budget. God continues to bless IYM. The Advancement Committee will begin working on the 2021 budget.

This year's theme was "Running on 'E'" – recognizing His Empowerment in the midst of my Emptiness, inspired by Luke 9:1-2. Amos Taylor, who is a former IYM pastor, was the key speaker focusing on identifying your mess to get to the source of the emptiness. Music ministry was provided by Zach and Courtney Kennedy, pastors of Bear Creek Friends. We were left with this thought: "If you're not changing it, you're choosing it."

Workshops held this year were:

"Not Your Father's Ministry & Oversight," led by Doug Shoemaker, General Superintendent

"Connecting to Your Community," led by Brock Meyer

"Our Unique Message as Friends," led by Greg Hinshaw

"Handing Over the Keys," led by Brooke Weir and Pat Byers, Assistant General Superintendent

The speakers for the Missionary Luncheon were Shawn and Katrina McConaughy, FUM Field Staff in East Africa. A collection was taken at the luncheon which will be used to support their work.

Indiana Yearly Meeting heard from the General Superintendent Search Committee about their work as they move forward to call a new General Superintendent by the end of 2020.

Six ministers were approved for Recording at the 2019 Session. They are:

1. Pat Byers, Wabash Friends
2. Gary Jones, Little Blue River Friends
3. Edie Keese-Henry, Hinkle Creek Friends
4. Zach Kennedy, Bear Creek Friends
5. Bob Lines, Kennard/Cadiz Friends
6. Ray Slick, Lynn/Rural Friends

It was reported that this was the largest class for recording since 1982.

Our statistical report showed increases in total membership, worship attendance, and Sunday School attendance. Our membership has grown by almost 10% since 2015.

We welcomed our friends from the Baltimore Yearly Meeting as well as the following Worship Groups: Iglesia Amigos of Indianapolis and the African Friends Church of Louisville, KY. Other visitors were from Barclay College; Friends Church of Nashville, TN; Mesquakie Friends Church of Tama, IA; and Everence Financial of Goshen, IN.

Fellowship was enjoyed at the Thursday night popcorn by the lake, Friends night dinner by the lake, the ice cream social sponsored by Barclay College, and the Saturday night "Feast of Faith" banquet. As this Yearly Meeting closes, we praise God again for his faithfulness. Without Him there would be no reason for our existence. We look forward to meeting again next year!

Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends