

OVERVIEW OF

FRIENDS IN the OHIO VALLEY

Friends have been in the Ohio Valley for over 200 years. Some Friends migrated from the east early in the 19th century, but mass migration, sometimes of entire Quaker communities, from slave-holding states in the south to the free states of Ohio and Indiana took place in the years leading up to, and during, the Civil War.

Over the last two centuries meetings in the Ohio Valley have sent out large numbers of missionaries worldwide, and many yearly meetings in the US and throughout the world can trace their roots back to this area. Seven yearly meetings are represented in the state of Ohio, and five are in Indiana. In alphabetical order, these are: Central YM; Evangelical Friends Church – Eastern Region; Illinois YM; Indiana YM; Lake Erie YM; Ohio YM; Ohio Valley YM; Western YM and Wilmington YM.

While the practicalities of travel and communications have determined some of the yearly meeting boundaries, theology and tradition have played a strong role in the diversity, and in some communities there are meetings and churches affiliated to different yearly meetings.

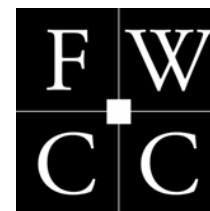
In 1827-1828 a number of meetings left Indiana YM to form Indiana YM (Hicksite), now Ohio Valley YM which retained unprogrammed worship and is affiliated to Friends General Conference. The evangelical revival swept through the Midwest and out of that, some 'Orthodox' meetings (now called 'Conservative') retained unprogrammed worship and traditional organization, and others embraced

Embraced revival-style worship and an emphasis on missions. Continued westward migration increased the number of Friends and the geographical spread of meetings, so for practical reasons Western YM, encompassing meetings in western Indiana and Illinois, was set off from Indiana YM in 1858. While originally supporting their own missionaries, both yearly meetings now support Friends United Meeting's global ministries.

The Holiness movement in the early twentieth century led to the departure of a group based in Westfield, Indiana to form Central YM. Though small in number in the US, this group sent the original Friends missionaries to Bolivia, where two Holiness YMs now have a combined membership of more than 20,000.

The Midwest is rich in Friends' organizations. These include Friends Disaster Service, Friends United Meeting, Right Sharing of World Resources, Earlham, Malone and Wilmington Colleges, Earlham School of Religion, Union Bible College, several Friends schools and a number of retirement and elder care facilities. Western and Indiana YMs own Quaker Haven Camp in northern Indiana.

The 2008 FWCC Annual Meeting is hosted by Ohio Valley YM Friends. Ohio Valley YM includes eighteen monthly meetings and two worship groups in southwest Ohio, northern Kentucky and much of Indiana. Some of OVYM's outreach ministries include Friends Music Camp, and the Lauramoore Home and Quaker Heights, two senior care facilities. Friends from many of the neighboring yearly meetings will join with Ohio Valley Friends to welcome everyone to the FWCC Annual Meeting in Brown County, Indiana.



Friends World Committee
for Consultation
SECTION OF THE AMERICAS

Comité Mundial de Consulta
de los Amigos
SECCIÓN DE LAS AMÉRICAS



2008 ANNUAL MEETING

Morgantown, Indiana

April 3-6, 2008

“So then, let us be always seeking the ways which lead to peace and the ways in which we can support one another.”

Romans 14:19

Hosted by Friends in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, the 2008 Section of the Americas Annual Meeting will be held at Waycross Episcopal Camp and Conference Center in Morgantown, Indiana, about 20 miles northeast of Bloomington in Brown County.

The Annual Meeting is the business meeting of Friends representing affiliated yearly meetings in the Americas and other interested Friends. It is also an opportunity for worship and fellowship with the wider Quaker world. Thus, business sessions, worship groups, regional meetings and workshops are open to all.

The keynote address will be offered by Rachel Stacy of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Rachel served on the 2005 World Gathering of Young Friends planning committee, and was one of the editors of *Whispers of Faith: Young Friends Share their Experiences of Quakerism*, published in 2005.

Annual Meeting at a Glance

TUESDAY April 1

All day COAL Executive Meeting
at Cincinnati Friends Meeting

WEDNESDAY April 2

All day COAL General Assembly

evening **Committee Meetings:**
Annual Meeting Planning
Bilingual Communications
Executive

THURSDAY April 3

Committee Meetings

Morning & Development
Afternoon Finance
Nominating
Personnel
Quaker Youth Pilgrimage
Site Selection
Visitation Planning
Wider Quaker Fellowship
Youth

Afternoon Introduction to FWCC for
Friends new to FWCC

Evening Opening Session
Small worship groups meet
Late night interest groups

FRIDAY April 4

Morning Worship and Business Session I

Afternoon Regional Meetings
Workshops
Small Worship Groups

Evening Local Friends Program
Late Night interest groups

SATURDAY April 5

Friends Committee on Scouting meets

Morning Worship and Business Session II

Afternoon Regional Meetings
Workshops
Small Worship Groups

Evening Keynote Address

SUNDAY April 6

Morning Packing
AM Planning Committee meets
Worship and Business Session III
Closing Worship

Afternoon Executive Committee,
Committee Clerks, and
Staff meet

Several post-Annual Meeting optional excursions are being planned by local Friends. For details please refer to the Information Sheet.

HOW TO REGISTER

- All registration will be handled only through the Conference Managers, TCM, by mail or online at www.fwccamericas.org. The FWCC office does not accept reservations or payments.
- Pre-registration requested.
- The Conference Managers will try to assist those seeking roommates. The cut-off date for notifying them of your interest in being assigned a roommate is March 10, 2008.
- Cancellations after March 24, 2008 must be in writing only and will result in a \$100 charge.
- Please read the separate Information Sheet for things you should know before you register.
- Please direct all questions on registration or arrangements to Dave and Kathy of The Conference Managers, at:
The Conference Managers
P.O. Box 7276
Bismarck, ND 58507-7276
(888) 310-8900 toll free within the USA

REGISTRATION DEADLINE for both mail-in and online registration:
Monday, **MARCH 10, 2008**

DOCUMENTS IN ADVANCE

All advance reports and other documents will be available on the FWCC website:

www.fwccamericas.org

approximately one month prior to the meeting. If you need paper documents sent to you, please indicate this when you register.