

Indiana Yearly Meeting Outgoing Epistle

Friends gathered for the 200th 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 16th consecutive year to hold this event at Quaker Haven. The weather was beautiful, sunshine, and mid 80's for the high and low 60's at night. An average attendance included 83 for business sessions, 90 for worship services, reservations for the Mission Luncheon were 122 and reservations for the Feast of Faith were 135.

The Advancement Committee reported that \$92,928.50 has been raised for the 2021 budget. God continues to bless IYM even in the midst of a pandemic. The Committee will begin working on the 2022 fund raising.

This year's theme was "Knowing Jesus." Michael Card shared his insight on getting to know Jesus through the four gospels. Jesus performed miracles then, and He still is doing them to this day. Sometimes we just don't recognize them. He urged us to always be ready to see the miracles, the big and small ones, in our own lives.

Workshops held this year were:

- *Spiritual Life at White's, presented by White's Residential & Family Services*
- *Barclay College-The 21st Century, presented by Barclay College*
- *What's Happening in FUM? presented by Friends United Meeting*
- *Battling Addiction from a Christian Perspective, presented by Christian Service Committee*
- *Child Protection Standards, and how to implement them in your church, presented by IYM Christian Education Committee*
- *How Old were Jesus' Disciples? presented by Kaleo Academy*

Our speaker for the Missionary Luncheon was Dan Cammack, director of Evangelical Friends Mission. The purpose of EFM is to fuel a worldwide movement of people who seek first the Kingdom of God.

Indiana Yearly Meeting would like to welcome our new General Superintendent, Pat Byers, who will assume this role in January. IYM will not be seeking a new full-time Assistant General Superintendent but will be looking for two part-time positions for the year 2021 to address finance and youth and camping responsibilities.

Two ministers were recorded at the 2020 Session, Phil Abram of Van Wert First Friends and Rob Schwarze of Hemlock Friends.

Our statistical report shows a small decrease in total membership, worship attendance and Sunday School attendance. We also believe that God will increase these numbers in 2020 by reaching people through social media and other ways.

We welcomed our friends from our Worship Groups: African Friends Church of Louisville and Iglesia Amigos. Other visitors were from Western Yearly Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting, Barclay College, Friends United Meeting, Mesquakie Friends Center, and White's Residential & Family Services.

Fellowship was enjoyed at the Thursday night "popcorn by the lake," Friday night dinner by the lake, the ice cream social, and the Saturday night Feast of Faith banquet. As this yearly meeting session comes to a close, we praise God for His faithfulness even in the middle of a pandemic.

Without Him there would be no reason for our existence. We look forward to meeting again next year!