

Ohio Yearly Meeting
c/o Olney Friends School
61830 Sandy Ridge Road
Barnesville, Ohio 43713

To Friends Everywhere:

Ohio Yearly Meeting has met for 143 years within the Stillwater Meetinghouse in the beautiful rolling hills of southern Ohio. We wait in the stillness to find an inward felt awareness of Christ's Spirit within. While we rejoice in the amazing outward beauty of this campus where at least 29 species of birds have been spotted and a herd of goats graze in a nearby pasture, our inward eyes are centered on the unfathomable, eternal world.

We are a double gathering this year after the pandemic: the familiar gathering of ourselves on Stillwater worship grounds among the comforting hills, and the new and unfamiliar gathering of ourselves online from the worship spaces of our many homes across miles and oceans. As we learn to bring these two parts of us together for Yearly Meeting sessions, we ask, What is the tie that binds, that makes us one? Again and again, we hear and feel it is the Living Christ who gathers us into one community, one communion of Love.

At Yearly Meeting, Ohio Conservative Friends begin each morning session with Bible reading, where as in meeting for worship, we gather and wait in the presence of Jesus Christ. At first people read scripture silently from wherever they are led to start. As different individuals feel led to read various passages aloud, they do so without comment. Christ who inspired the writers of Scripture guides our reading. Whether from the road to Emmaus (Luke) or the road to Ethiopia (Acts) Christ comes to teach, to edify, and to train us in righteousness (2 Timothy).

Later in the mornings we have conducted business either as a Yearly Meeting, or as the Yearly Meeting for Ministry and Oversight. Our afternoons have included more Yearly Meeting business. All such times of business begin with meaningful times of worship, which are frequently favored with Gospel ministry.

Two of our evenings were devoted to worship. Another evening we explored what it means to be a friend. Much discussion continued throughout the week involving teens, as well as older Friends about how being a friend applies to being a Friend. On a third evening the Friends Center held an open house for the Taber Room expansion of the Friends Center, which we have been led to build for those known and unknown to us who seek to gather with us and the living Teacher.

Our prayers are for all people as well as those Christ has brought to us for nurturing healing and epistle.

On behalf of Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends,

Seth Hinshaw
Interim Clerk

[Charles Thomas, Jr. has been appointed our new Yearly Meeting Clerk for 2022]