

Indiana Yearly Meeting Outgoing Epistle, 2025

Friends gathered at Quaker Haven Camp for the 205th Annual Session of Indiana Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, July 24 – 26, 2025, with a theme of **Rejoice**. The weather was hot, with rain off and on. The yearly meeting opened with General Superintendent Pat Byers using the scripture from Philippians 4:4-7.

Sessions began with a service on Thursday evening with 104 Friends in attendance. David Phillips of Wabash Friends gave an inspiring talk about anchoring in God's loving presence, churning through thankful prayer and remembering, and trusting in God that renews faith.

One hundred eighty-three Friends registered for our sessions. Average attendance was approximately 94 for business sessions and 89 for worship services. One hundred forty-nine attended the mission luncheon on Saturday at which Arun Massey from India spoke about *Caring Hands* mission work of providing safety, hope, and anew life to women and children trapped in temple prostitution. The offering at the luncheon was designated for mission work in India. One hundred forty-five registered for the Feast of Faith.

The Advancement Committee reported fundraising for the 2026 budget raised over \$119,000. There were more donors this year than in the past, ~~although the goal of \$130,000 was not met.~~ The treasurer reported that IYM is in good financial position.

Workshops offered were:

- Can Fundraising Be Fun (Joyful for Christian Pastors and Leaders?)
- Creating a Sending Culture
- Preaching with Technology – Friends Preaching Initiative
- How I Pray for My Husband
- Friends Refugee Ministries led by Alinoti Malebo, former refugee in Africa
- MinistrySafe
- Arun Massey – Missions in a Sensitive Part of the World

Quaker Haven Camp, founded by IYM Friends, is celebrating its 100 years of ministry on August 23, 2025. The Senior 2 camp was ~~ere~~ full, evidence of the need for more beds. There were a total in all camps this summer of 634.

In his report, General Superintendent Pat Byers talked about the Hoosier Church Initiative Lilly grant, and how it has created an opening to ask some necessary questions as we move forward as a yearly meeting.

Susan Morris, Hardins Creek minister, spoke on Friday evening about **Rejoicing** in spite of trials, ~~telling of her son being an unknown and missing person in Florida in 2020.~~

Worship music was led by Jewlia Austin, a Worship Arts major at Grace College, with a small team of musicians on Thursday and Friday evenings, and for the Feast of Faith on Saturday.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Smith, Clerk of Communications and Publications

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