

MEETING HISTORIES

IN THE AREA OF

CHICAGO

GENERAL MEETING

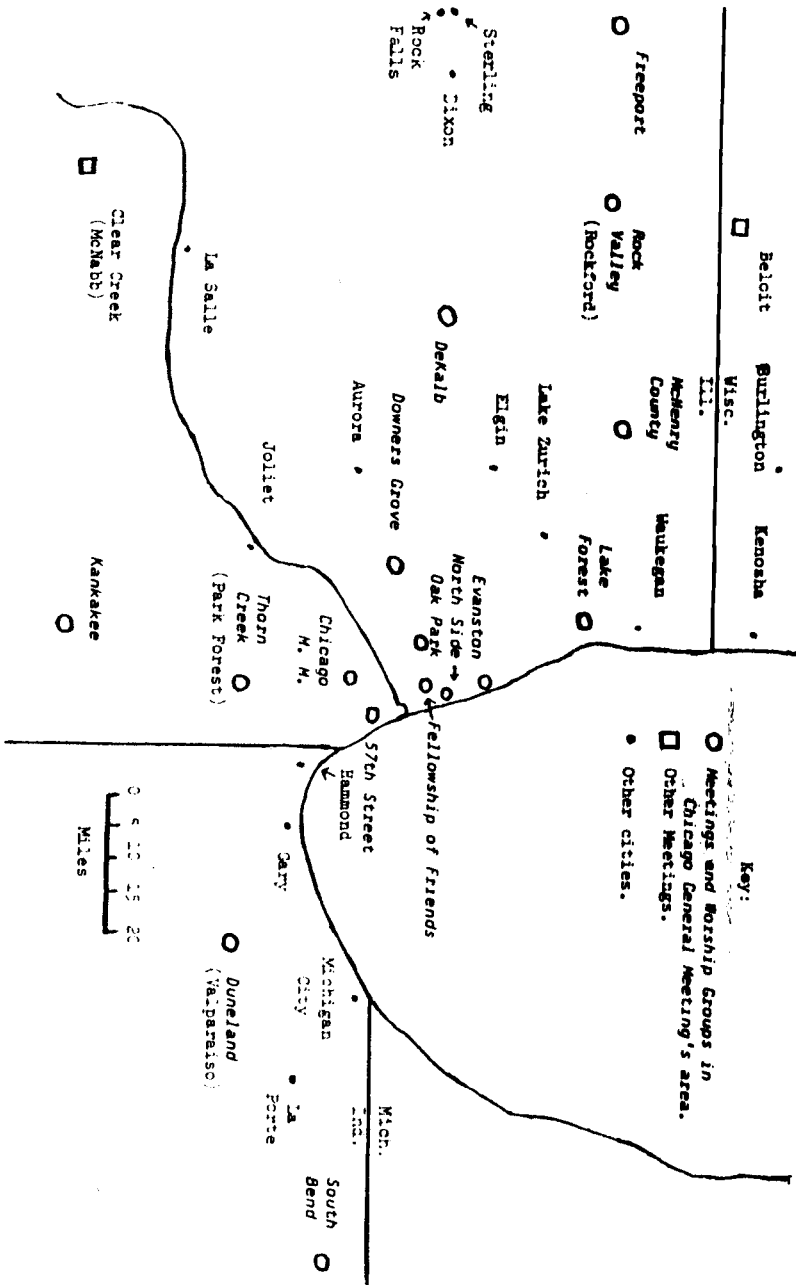


STUDIES IN

QUAKERISM 17

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INTRODUCTION

This collection of Meeting histories is sponsored by Chicago General Meeting. It comes at a time when the founders of many of the Meetings are no longer with us, and therefore helps replace the oral traditions they could supply. Thus it makes available to newer members and attenders the "roots" of their own Meeting. It also enables us to be more aware of the accomplishments and history of other Meetings in our area, useful both for comparison and for communication with those from the other Meetings. And it can be useful to interest and orient new attenders to our Meetings, providing views of other Meetings than the one they attend.

As an extension of Friends' testimony for simplicity, most chapters in this pamphlet use a few simplified spellings:-

"ough, augh" words, as recommended by the Simplified Spelling Society; also "eigh" words; most "-ed" words pronounst "t" are spelt "-t".

These changes affect less than one per cent of the words you read.

Progressiv Publishr; 401 E 32, # 1002,
Chicago IL 60616. ISBN 0-89670-020-2

MEETING HISTORIES In Chicago General Meeting

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CHICAGO MONTHLY MEETING

Elizabeth Comstock, Quaker abolitionist and prison visitor from near Adrian MI, "The Elizabeth Fry of America", with Charles and Rhoda Coffin of Richmond IN, visited Chicago in March 1864 to investigate conditions among the 1,700 Confederate prisoners of war held at Camp Douglas on the lake front.

Elizabeth called a meeting of members of all branches of Friends living in the city. She spent most of a year working among Friends and doing charitable work. Friends began regular meetings in second month 1864, twice a week in the First Methodist Church at Washington and Clark Streets. About 40 Friends were in the city then.

In 1867 Elizabeth Comstock returned with a delegation of Friends, to give three days of instruction in "the duties of elders and overseers". Then Chicago Monthly Meeting was established April 17, 1867. The first Meeting House, at 216 East 26th Street, was built in 1869, two years before the Chicago Fire, and was used as a relief station after it. In 1898 they built a new church in "the southern part of the city" at 44th and Indiana, for \$16,620. That building is still used as a church. In 1904 there were 237 members, of whom 91 were non-resident.

From 1913 thru the 1930's members had been moving from the locale of the Meeting House. Pastoral visitors were then hired to aid members and elders in visiting the members. Herman Newman, Homer Coppock, Arnold Vaught, and Milton Hadley served the Meeting thus.

Membership in 1927 was 216, of whom 25 were under age 13. Seven families transferred to 57th Street Meeting when it was established

In 1931, and another seven set up Evanston Meeting in 1936. After sale of the Indiana Avenue building in 1936, Chicago Meeting rented the YWCA Gym at 66th and Blackstone, Tracy Lodge at 103rd and Hale, then the Chapel of the Morgan Park Methodist Church at 110th and Longwood.

In 1939, Milton Hadley secured recommendation of the Church Federation for an unchurched area in Morgan Park, and the vacant property at 10749 South Artesian Avenue was purchased for \$4,000 for the site of the Meeting House. Due to the war and inflation, it was not until 1949 that the Meeting House was built, at a cost of \$48,000 and dedicated. Trustees of the Meeting were Claude Wood, James Matchett, Ray Kimmel, Wyatt Miller, William Thiel, Homer Coppock, and Robert Pfeil. In 1952, pews and pianos were purchased; hymnals and pew cushions were donated as memorials.

In 1941 the Meeting turned from Pastoral Secretaries to full time pastoral leadership. Pastors and their wives serving the Meeting have been: Russell and Mary Rees 1941-1954, Robert Pfeil 1954-55, Lorton and Joyce Heusel 1955-58, John and Barbara Fletcher 1958-65, Don and Ellen Stanley 1965-70, Herbert and Martha Pottinggill 1970-77, Dorlan and Donna Bales 1977-80, Ron and Linda Selleck 1980-84, and P. V. and Mary Chandy 1984 to the present (1988).

Today Chicago Meeting is a semi-programmed meeting, which has something from several strands of Friends - silent worship, sharing as led by the Spirit of Christ from the body of the Meeting, a children's story, a short message from the pastor, hymn singing.

In 1954 a parsonage at 10729 S. Maplewood was purchased for \$17,000 and the former parsonage on California Avenue was sold for

\$11,800. In 1958 the residence north of the Meeting House was purchased for \$19,000 and named Friends House. Indebtedness was cleared by 1962. For several years Friends House was used for children's classes, nursery, Junior Monthly Meeting, and other children's activities, and committee or board meetings. Now it has become the residence for the pastor and his family. In 1986, a first floor bedroom and bath were added, thru individual subscriptions and Meeting funds.

Active adult resident members now number 39, of whom 9 were on the 1949 membership list. There are 14 resident juniors and 4 toddlers.

Quakerism is studied in adult, youth and children's classes, in workshops and thru reading volumes from the library. Social concerns - peace, justice, hunger, poverty, the homeless, Central America, Native Americans, the Middle East - are presented in adult class and Saturday or evening sessions, and in the Women's Society, using materials from AFSC, FCNL, and the Morgan Park Cluster of churches. Queries currently are addressed during the worship hour. Formal Bible study is offered during Sunday morning classes and a mid-week Bible study session.

The active Women's Society studies United Society of Friends Women materials, hosts a sewing group sending materials to Cook County and Oak Forest Hospitals, and are responsible for Meeting hospitality and housekeeping. It assists AFSC Material Aids, Rosebud Sioux Clothing, Cluster Food Pantry, Indian summer camp and Christmas programs.

During the 1960's the Meeting and many members supported the Conscientious Objector position. Some young people attend Quaker Haven Camp of Western Yearly Meeting each

summer.

Visitation of members has been supplanted by a centering of activities in the Meeting House rather than small groups meeting in homes. There is a present concern for a Meeting Youth Director versed in the beliefs and practices of Friends.

Gifts in the ministry have been encouraged and recognized. Since 1949, Western Yearly Meeting has recorded Lorton Heusel, John Fletcher, J. Victor Guthrie, Bainbridge Davis, Richard Ballard, Ron Selleck, and Linda Selleck as Ministers.

In our goals for Chicago Meeting we stress Quakerism as a Christian way of all of life that can be "caught" as well as "taught". We strive to be "patterns" and "examples". As Chicago Meeting approaches its 122nd anniversary, we recognize that this vision and challenge are now ours.

57TH STREET

Organized in 1930, 57th Street Meeting was the second "United Meeting", belonging to both Friends General Conference and Five Years (now Friends United) Meetings.

A predecessor, Central Executive Meeting of Illinois Yearly Meeting met as early as 1870, first in the Methodist block at Clark and Washington Streets, later in the Fine Arts Building, then to Hull House, on invitation from Jane Addams in 1925. Early attenders included Albert Dickenson, Isaiah Flitcraft, and Jonathan Plummer.

Concern for a Meeting near the University of Chicago was first voiced by Ruthanna Simms in 1913, and informal gatherings of Friends from both branches occurred as early as 1920. In 1928, 34 attended one of these gatherings.

In 1929, Friends agreed to joint use of the First Unitarian Church, then being constructed. Chicago Monthly Meeting recommended in October 1930 that a Meeting be established in the Hyde Park area. The group named their meeting room John Woolman Hall, and their Meeting from the street it opened onto.

Worship services began January 2, 1931 in this location. On May 31, the Monthly Meeting was formally set up by Chicago Quarterly Meeting, with 30 adults and 8 children transferring from Chicago Monthly Meeting.

On December 7, 1930, members of Central Executive Meeting, held at Hull House, accepted the invitation of Hyde Park Friends to join with them at the start of 1931. In 1931-32, the new Meeting ran a series of 20 forums on "Problems of City Living", with some by prominent people: 13 Friends, 7 non-members.

Discussion of having a Meeting Secretary

arose early. Tho it was thaut of as a part-time job, it was felt that "it takes full-time thinking on the part of the congregation". Jeanette Flitcraft Stetson was secretary to 1941. After a three year gap, others followed to 1979, then another gap. Among those who served as secretary were Larry Miller (1946-48), later General Secretary of Friends General Conference; Mary Cadbury, (1953-57) recently clerk of New York Yearly Meeting; Robert Hinshaw (1962-63), later President of Wilmington College; and Elizabeth Watson (1969-70).

In the early 1950's, the Meeting's Social Order Committee developept the idea of the Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference, to organize residents in the area and maintain a stable integrated community. Our member Julia Abramson, who had workt for the Rosenwald Foundation, raised the concern, and became the Conference's first Executive Director. Her 1959 book "A Neighborhood Finds Itself" tells the story. Its Board of Directors have included our members Walker Sandback, Samuel Iden, Gilbert White, and Kale Williams. Elizabeth Watson was a staff member around 1957.

Situated in an interracial area, the Meeting has attracted some Black members over the years. These included Clarence Cunningham in the 1940's, and Barrington Dunbar, Vera Green, Maxine Simmons Hawkins, Dorothy Rousseau Ginsburg, Charlotte Lofton, and Dean Chandler in the 1950's, 1960's and since.

Long term committee persons have included: Wilfred Jones as Treasurer 1942-67; Dorothy Troutman as Newsletter Editor 1965-87; Co-Clerks Harold Flitcraft and Garfield Cox 1931-39; Presiding Clerk Howard Marshall 1940-45, Eurah Marshall 1952-56, George Watson 1956-61; Librarians Erna Lowenberg 1944-55 and 56-57,

Dorothy Troutman 1957-65, Sabron Newton 1967-87+; Recording Clerk Alice Flitcraft 1940-45, Anne White 1960-61 and 1963-65.

Our most famous member, Paul Douglas, came to Chicago in 1920. Around 1940 he was Hyde Park's Alderman in the City Council. After conversion from pacifism and service in the Marines in World War II, he became U.S. Senator. Twice he offered to resign his membership, but his integrity and statesmanship (he was the first to publicize his finances), led the Meeting to decline his offer. He remained a member til his death in 1976.

After 16 years in John Woolman Hall, the Unitarian Church had grown to need that space. From 1947-49 Meeting was held at 3 pm in the Chapel, then 1949-1952 at International House.

In 1952, Quaker House at 5615 Woodlawn was purchast. Built as a doctor's residence and office in 1910, it became a fraternity house. The fraternity brothers took in a darker member, and the fraternity fathers expelled them and sold the building.

The 25th anniversary of 57th Street Meeting was observed at John Woolman Hall on January 8, 1956, with over 150 attending.

The history of the second 25 years of the Meeting covers three periods. The first, from 1955-1967, balanced internal religious concerns and social action. The second, 1968-1970, focused on social action. The third, since 1970, finds energy and passion for social action fading, internal problems dominate, and the Meeting looks back with envy to its past.

In the fall of 1961, members took in two refugee couples, twin sisters from the Netherlands married to men from the West Indies. In 1962, the Meeting collected voluntary "taxes" for the United Nations. A "Toys for Peace"

project was initiated. From 1966 on, activities for peace in Vietnam occurred. About then, the Meeting received a bequest in honor of Albert Dickenson, which has since been kept mostly in reserve, for special projects. In 1967-8 the Meeting financed a full time worker for the Chicago Area Draft Resisters.

Frenzied activity markt the period 1968-70. The Martin Luther King marches and accompanying riots, the Vietnam War, and the Chicago Democratic Convention were outstanding. During the King marches, Quaker House collected relief for the west side riot area. During the Democratic Convention, Quaker House housed some out of town resistance groups. Sanctuary was offered a soldier who had left the army for conscientious reasons. He later joined Meeting from Ft. Leavenworth prison.

After 1970, the Peace and Social Action committees were merged, and in 1975 laid down, tho later revived. Discussion groups on George Fox's Journal, retreats, and search groups were tried. Around 1974, with Donald Mertic as Executive of the Chicago AFSC office, about 20 Meeting members and attenders were staff or volunteers for AFSC.

57th Street is no longer the main unprogrammed Meeting in the Chicago area. Attendance had exceeded 90 during the Vietnam War era, but dropt to 30 or less by 1987, when three active families moved away.

In 1988, plans for revitalization were developpt by a newly active Outreach Committee, including hiring a paid Sunday School coordinator. Several members and attenders became active on AFSC committees. A midweek study group on Quakerism, and a Quaker Student Gathering were part of a new upswing.

DEKALB

In the 1960's, Friends who had moved to DeKalb from other places began gathering informally for Worship in each others' homes. Clifford Smith, with roots in Clear Creek Meeting, was a leader in getting Friends together, and in representing them in Yearly Meeting concerns. Goodwin and Virginia Peterson were also active in our Meeting early. Both families moved to Friends Southwest Center in Arizona. In 1969 we felt we were well enough established to apply for Preparative Meeting status under the care of Downers Grove Meeting.

During the Viet Nam War the Methodists and Roman Catholics provided most of the leadership for the peace movement in DeKalb, but our small group was active in supporting and participating in draft counseling, peace marches, and other activities. Our special concern was that those who opposed the war should have the opportunity to express their concern, and that their expression should be non-violent.

In Eleventh Month 1970 a group of Friends met with the president of Northern Illinois University to discuss non-violent responses to potential campus disorders. Northern Illinois and Kent State were very similar universities. The invasion of Cambodia and the Jackson State shootings triggered similar reactions in both places. Friends, and others who shared our views designated themselves "marshalls", wore arm bands, and directed participants along a route when over 2000 persons staged a peace march from Greek row to the central campus.

Some of the young people stood with arms outstretched before windows, so if anyone wanted to throw a stone at a window, they risked injuring a person as well as property.

The "marshalls" patrolled the campus area during several days of unrest. Some property damage did occur, but we are proud of our role in participating in the protests and in keeping them largely non-violent.

In one instance, some of the "marshalls" were arrested and taken to jail along with protesters who had engaged in violence. Friend Marion Dobbert went to the County Jail and explained the situation to the sheriff. He released those she identified as marshalls. During the previous election, Friends had agreed to actively support the then candidate for sheriff if he would work with us in allowing and protecting non-violent protests. He kept his word on this and other occasions.

During this period several high school youths who agreed with the peace testimony began attending Meeting for Worship and participating in Friends activities.

In 1973 it was felt that we had reached sufficient stability to move from Preparative to Monthly Meeting status. Donald Ary served as clerk for most of the years between 1970 and 1987. Since 1987, Richard Baer has been clerk.

DeKalb Meeting has not been as large or active as during the Viet Nam War years. We have continued to support AFSC, FCNL, and local groups involved in social and environmental concerns. Being in a University town, we have had, over the years, many members and attenders for only a year or two. Our Meeting has been greatly enriched by their presence.

For the past three years, we have been meeting for worship in the Gurler House, maintained by a local historical preservation group. It is nearly as old as Clear Creek Meeting House, and provides a most appropriate setting for Friends worship.

DOWNERS GROVE

In the fall of 1951, Barnard Walton was visiting and encouraging small groups of Friends. Harold and Alice Flitcraft contacted some Friends in the area and arranged a meeting at the home of the Senderlings. From Barnard's experience, we were able to see possible solutions to problems of starting a small Meeting in the western suburbs.

The two major problems were, where to meet, and how to organize a First Day School. To accomodate the latter, we selected the Avery Coonley School as the place to meet, which was used for over 10 years.

At the first business meeting, January 29, 1952, Burton and Naomi Holmes were asked to serve as co-clerks, and preparative Meeting status under 57th Street Meeting was requested, as a United Meeting. First members were Ethel and Eugene Dungan, Margaret Dupree, and Elizabeth Senderling.

In 1955, with a membership of 14 resident adults, Downers Grove became a Monthly Meeting. Two refugee families were sponsored in 1956 and 1959. In 1958, Grace Fogg began her campaign for a building fund for Illinois Yearly Meeting. In parts of the first 10 years, there were a sewing group, a reading group, and a meditation group.

In February of 1964, two acres with a house and garage were purchased at 5710 Lomond in Downers Grove. Membership was now 63. Ten years later it had grown to 100.

Annual "Religion in Life" weekends were begun around 1974, continuing for at least 10 years. Leaders included Louise Wilson, Joe and Teresina Havens, and George and Elizabeth Watson.

A vigorous Youth program and First Day School has been a feature of the 1970's and 1980's. In 1975-6 a Drama group of High Schoolers and Junior Hi's produced "Lord", a satire on commercialized religion. By 1981 there were 70 children in the Meeting, with several classes. Correspondence with children in the Meeting in Hastings England was conducted. And young people were appointed to Meeting committees.

In 1983, Young Friends met before Meeting for Worship, and again for evening pot luck and discussions; also for weekend "Quakes" and an annual camping trip to the Dunes. Joe and Faith Spear supplied guidance and inspiration for much of this activity.

Adults held a biweekly "macro-analysis" group in 1978, studying social issues and concerns. In 1980 adults met before Meeting to study and discuss Kenworthy's "Quakerism".

A Laotian refugee family was aided in 1981, and a Peace Booth maintained at the DuPage County Fair.

In the 1970's a sewing group met, later expanded to include other kinds of work. Around 1983, "Friendly Eights" were started, to help couples get better acquainted.

Quarterly "Family Days" were held in 1986, to promote interaction of all age levels. Some "threshing sessions" on the life of the Meeting were conducted. Membership had grown to 150.

DUNELANDS

Mark and Alexa Umbreit became interested in Friends thru Mark's work with American Friends Service Committee as a conscientious objector and his co-founding of Prisoner and Community Together (PACT) and its sponsorship by AFSC. Alton and Elida Earnhart of Porter, and Lyle and Catherine Warrick of Gary joined the Umbriets for worship at the AFSC office in Valparaiso in 1976.

Soon the group sponsored local activities for the Continental Walk for Peace and Justice. This encouraged local communities to celebrate the bicentennial by work on a local issue. Friends picked the proposed Bailly nuclear power plant, and established the Bailly Alliance, which worked much with organized labor. The Bailly plant was cancelled in August 1981.

With growth, the AFSC office became too small, and in 1979 the Meeting found space in the First United Methodist Church, where they still meet. Marlou Carlson early organized a First Day School, using most adult attenders on a rotating basis.

In 1979, decision was made to apply for membership as a Monthly Meeting in Illinois Yearly Meeting, and in August 1980 this was approved.

In recent years there has been singing for about 15 minutes, with the children joining in, as people gather for worship.

EVANSTON

On January 16, 1935, Chicago Monthly Meeting appointed an Extension Committee to consider sale of the Meeting House at 44th and Indiana Avenue, and the development of possibly two new Meetings - one in Evanston and one farther south in Chicago. On 12/18/35 the Trustees were empowered to negotiate to purchase the Evanston Christian Church, seating 250. It was purchased for \$8,125 in cash.

After much remodeling work, the new Meeting House was dedicated May 3, 1936, with Rufus Jones as guest of honor, with most members of Chicago and 57th Street Meetings attending, filling the room to capacity. The dinner after it was attended by 82 Friends.

On 6/17/36 the monthly Meeting was set up, with 47 members. Families represented were: Andrews, Beal, Comfort, Doan, Farr, Grawols, Hawkins, Hollett, Laughlin, Owens, Reynolds, Tolson, Watland, Whitacre, and Vickers.

Milton Hadley, pastor of Chicago Meeting, agreed to divide his time for a year between the two Meetings.

Early it was the feeling that we should go back to the grass roots of Quakerism and be an unprogrammed Meeting rather than become "just another church" in Evanston. From 1941-1971, Evanston Meeting employed Pastoral Secretaries rather than pastors. These were:

1941-1948 Ann Willis Stein
 1948-1956 Marie Ferguson Parker
 1956-1958 Norman MacGregor
 1958-1960 Alton Earnhart
 1960-1963 Charles and Lucille Thomas
 1963-1971 Welden and Annette Reynolds.

In 1971 the Meeting decided to do without a paid secretary.

The Meetinghouse was shared with Fisher Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1977, while they built a new church three blocks away. Friends met at 9:30 am during this period. In 1979-83 the Meetinghouse was shared with a Seventh Day Adventist group, til they acquired a new building.

In the late 1970's a High School group was active, a midweek worship group met on the Northwestern University campus, and there were 17 children in First Day School.

A Laotian refugee family was sponsored in 1980. Meeting members were active in the Evanston Ecumenical Action Council, and in Church Women United.

First Day School was revitalized in 1981, with classes after Meeting for Worship. Canby Jones and Robert Garris were leaders for weekend conferences in 1984. An adult study group was using Kenworthy's "Quakerism, A Study Guide". A bible study group, and a George Fox Reading Group were meeting.

After decades of work, the Women's Society decided in 1985 to end clothing distribution.

In recent years, several workshops with leaders from the New Foundation Fellowship have been held at Evanston Meetinghouse.

The 50th anniversary of the Meeting was celebrated June 15, 1986 with 80 people attending. These included six founding members, and former Meeting Secretary Marie Ferguson Parker and her sister Meta Ruth Ferguson. Gordon Browne, Executive Secretary of Friends World Committee, who had become a member of Friends in Evanston Meeting, gave the featured talk.

Joint efforts on peace issues, and on First Day School, with the Unitarian Church were tried in 1987. Membership of 136 remained about the same as in 1975.

FELLOWSHIP OF FRIENDS

Fellowship of Friends is located in the Cabrini-Green housing project on the near north side of Chicago, with 8,000 population in 3 by 5 blocks, largely single parent Black families, an area where several youth gangs are strong.

It was started in 1980 as a youth program by Steve and Marlene Pedigo. She was from a Quaker farm family near Grinnell Iowa, he from Milwaukee Wisconsin. They met as students at William Penn College in Iowa.

After graduation and marriage, they moved to Chicago for Steve to attend North Park Theological Seminary. In 1977, Marlene's Meeting recommended to Iowa Yearly Meeting (FUM) that both Steve and Marlene be recorded as ministers. To prepare for this, Marlene enrolled in an independent study program, on church history, theology, and practical ministry, including study of Quaker women.

In 1980 the Pedigos visited Friends United Meeting headquarters in Richmond IN, hoping for help in starting a Meeting based on their Youth ministry. This was approved at the fall Board meeting of FUM.

Their Bible study classes were moved to Sunday afternoon. Hymn singing was added, then a choir. Prayer time was lengthened into periods of open worship. Later sermons were added. These often stressed the importance of a deeper faith commitment, discipleship, evangelism, and what it means to be a Quaker.

By June of 1982, twenty attenders were ready for membership as Friends, and Chicago Monthly Meeting accepted them as members in a Preparative Meeting. Four years later the Meeting "graduated" to being a Monthly Meeting in Western Yearly Meeting.

Also in 1982, with a grade school age Young Friends group numbering 75, and at least 25 others active, "a place of our own" became an urgent need. After some discouraging explorations, they found that the Catholic Archdiocese had a building at Oak and Cambridge Streets in Cabrini, planned for demolition. Instead, it was deeded to the Fellowship of Friends and CYCLE, another Christian organization, and some of the budget for demolition was contributed toward renovation.

With volunteers from far and near, renovation was accomplished for less than \$50,000 instead of the estimated \$250,000. The building was dedicated in 1984 with Mayor Harold Washington speaking.

As the program grew into the new quarters, a spring leadership retreat was held. This led to weekly volunteer meetings, and an adult Bible study group, among other developments.

Some youth from Fellowship of Friends have gone each summer to camps in the country, including Quaker Haven in Indiana.

An apartment for Quaker Volunteer Witness use was secured, and several Quakers from Kansas and Maryland have lived in it while helping the work. In 1988, larger quarters were again needed.

Fellowship of Friends stresses work with individuals, leadership development, and confronting sin and evil thru the power of Christ's spirit.

A longer description of its work is found in the book New Church in the City (1988) by Marlene Pedigo, (101 pages, \$5.95), available from Friends United Press or the author.

FREEPORT

Around 1967 or 1970, Grace Mitchell had been reading books about Quakers, and contacted Erwin and Ellen Zipse, who had formerly attended Meeting at Woodstock, to form a worship group. She discovered Everett Liston, a member of 57th Street Meeting, using a Quaker book mark in the Freeport library. A Dr. Mosher, and the Rick Ellises completed the original group.

Erwin Zipse attended Rockford Meeting a few times, and drew Bill and Adah Manby from there to the Freeport group. Ginger Bright, and Harlan and Judy Corrie (from Cedarville, Jane Addams' home town) joined the group.

It has been informal, with business meetings "as needed". At present, about 8 attend. It is held in homes, rotating among 3 or 4 families. A simple dinner follows, provided by the host family. Meeting is started with a short reading, selected by the host family. From 0 to 5 people speak in Meeting. If some families are out of town, Meeting may be omitted some Sundays. Several attenders retain membership in Meetings elsewhere. Only one active attender now lives in Freeport.

KANKAKEE

The first meetings of the Kankakee worship group began in early 1982, when Friends Chip and Bridget Rorem, and Dave and Debbie Dyer began meeting in their homes. These continued for about a year, but gradually less frequently. Between the two families there were six children, most quite young. If one adult stayed with the children, that left only three for Meeting. Due to Dave's work (as sports editor for the Kankakee Journal) he was frequently absent. This left only two. Interest in meeting waned, then meetings discontinued.

The worship group revived in the spring of 1986 when Ellis Arseneau, a "convinced" Friend (who discovered that he had shared values and testimony with Friends for much of his life) expressed interest in meeting for worship with the Rorems and any others they could dig up. With help from Urbana-Champaign Meeting, the worship group began meeting on a "quasi-irregular" basis, first in the Arseneau home in Kankakee, since in the Rorem home in Essex. A member of the former Friends Church in Watseka, 30 miles south of Kankakee, laid down in 1982, has attended.

The Kankakee group has the sense that "meeting" need not be a formal, announced occasion, but may be an impromptu, unannounced gathering. In that same spirit, "worship" need not always be communal focusing of the spiritual, but the sharing of a meal and its ensuing conversation may be worship as well.

Area history records a handfull of Friends settled northwest of Bourbonnais in the 1850's, in an area known as "Friends Wood" today. They may never have had a Meeting.

LAKE FOREST

In 1951, Sylvia Shaw Judson, who had recently joined Friends, invited Anna Brinton from Pendle Hill, and 50 prospects, for Sunday tea, a talk by Anna Brinton, and a sample Meeting for Worship. Soon, a Tuesday evening Meeting was held, in the log cabin Sylvia Judson used as a sculpture studio. George Bent, of the Chicago office of the American Friends Service Committee, was helpful. Attendance ranged from five into the teens, so the group soon moved to a school library. Within a year they moved to Sunday mornings.

On 9/23/52 an organizing meeting was held, and the 8 attenders who belonged to Friends were askt to form an Independent Meeting, which was establisht 11/1/52, under the Fellowship Council. First officers were: Clerk, Ray Walker; Treasurer, Ruth Bates; Overseers and Ministry, Sylvia Judson, George Bent, David Stickney, and Emma Cadbury Burton. Other organizing members were Eleanor Bent, Aenid Hendricks, and Lindley Burton. In 1953, 8 new members joined, and in 1954, 10 more, the Walton's by transfer.

Meetings were held early in the Lake Forest Country Day School, then in Deerpath School. In 1963, the Meeting joined Illinois Yearly Meeting, specifying that it not be required to join either Chicago area quarterly meeting until these united - which occurred about 10 years later. In 1962, the Meeting was incorporated, there were 58 members, and the budget was over \$2,000. Students and faculty from Lake Forest College attended. Some European refugees had been sponsored.

In 1964, Sidney and Sylvia Judson Haskins offered an acre and a half as location for a

Meeting House, Lewis Walton and Bill Hasskarl prepared drawings, and the Building Fund passed \$22,000 towards the estimated cost of \$35,000. There had been serious reservations about building, several urging that the funds be used for relief of suffering. In time it was agreed that the meetinghouse could be used by others who, as Quakers profess about themselves, are trying to 'live in that spirit that takes away the occasion for all wars'.

In 1967 a brick building was constructed, with many members completing interior finish and building benches for the meeting room. There is regular weekday and week end use of the building by non-Quaker groups, and by Chicago area Friends organizations.

The Meeting has established several identities. It is clearly an unprogrammed, silent Meeting for Worship in the tradition of Friends General Conference. It is surely a 'liberal' meeting, with some 'mysticism' at its roots. It is not evangelical or prophetic. On issues it varies from progressive to conservative. The Meeting draws new members who are often interested only in Meeting for Worship and not in the Meeting's relationship to the Society of Friends, historically or now.

A bronze sculpture of Mary Dyer, Quaker witness for religious freedom, is in the entrance lobby. Sculptor and donor is our founding member Sylvia Shaw Judson Haskins (Johnathan Plummer Lecturer 1963). Mary Dyer's words are a reminder of the essential ordering of our lives: "My life not availeth me in comparison to the liberty of truth."

In recent years the Meeting has supported the new Meeting in McHenry County, maintained a public anti-war witness in the community, and held many discussions.

MCHEMRY COUNTY

McHenry County Friends Meeting started as an informal worship group in October 1970, with a core of three Quaker families - the Chester and Betty Keeney and Alan Bates families of Lake Forest Meeting, and the Alice and Bill Howenstine family of Evanston Meeting. These meetings for worship, followed by a discussion and pot luck meal, were held once a month in the homes of Friends. By 1972 as many as 30 to 50 adults and children were attending.

In early years, Lake Forest and Evanston Meetings provided strong support, with frequent intervisitation between them and the McHenry County group. By 1973, meetings for worship were increased to twice a month, and on February 10, 1974, 22 attenders decided to incorporate as an independent meeting, with a continued relationship with Lake Forest Meeting. Chester Keeney, April Hoffman, Ralph Halvorsen, and Alice Howenstine were appointed as first trustees, and Chester Keeney was the first clerk.

In subsequent years McHenry County Meeting became involved with wider groups of Friends, and in 1978 formally joined Illinois Yearly Meeting. More recently, thru the efforts of Gary Sandman and Richard Tabor, it helped develop Walden 4, an informal semi-annual weekend retreat serving Friends in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin.

The Meeting serves an area more than 50 miles in diameter, from Elgin and Hampshire in Kane County, Illinois to Lake Geneva and Burlington in Wisconsin, and including parts of Cook and Lake Counties, Illinois.

The Meeting serves a mobile population; the Keeney and Bates families, and other Friends and attenders have moved away, as new

members have joined the Meeting. The fluctuating number of children results in a First Day School in some years, and no classes in others. Attendance at meetings for worship also has varied greatly, averaging from 10 to 30 in different years.

In January 1985 meetings were increased from twice a month to weekly. By that autumn the monthly announcement of meeting locations had expanded into a small newsletter with information of general interest for members. In 1985 a Committee on Ministry and Oversight was first established.

The Meeting has been actively involved in a variety of peace, social, and environmental activities over the years - including draft counseling, Latin American refugees, recycling programs, local food and clothing programs, and contributions to a church and a Friends Meeting in inner-city Chicago.

Over the years, the Meeting has felt a special concern for Pleasant Valley Outdoor Center (PVOC), operated near Woodstock by the Community Renewal Society of Chicago. Since 1982 a Mennonite Volunteer Service Unit has operated at PVOC, with McHenry County Friends Meeting serving as the Support Committee.

In 1987, worship groups were started in Elgin IL and Burlington WI, later laid down. Now meetings for worship on Sundays are at 10:00 AM in different homes, in a pattern repeated each month. Meetings for business are held after a pot luck meal following meeting for worship on the first Sunday of the month.

Communications may be addressed to:

Alice Howenstine, Clerk,
McHenry County Friends Meeting,
4614 N. Pioneer Road, McHenry IL 60050.
Phone 815-385-8512.

North Side

In 1990, Northside Friends Meeting will reach its 20 year anniversary as a recorded and affiliated Meeting of Illinois Yearly Meeting. Two of Northside's founding members remain active in the Meeting, Ogden Hannaford and Susan Houston. Remembered tradition has Northside as a preparatory Meeting of 57th Street Meeting of Friends. Northside plans to draw together records for an in-depth history of the Meeting to celebrate its first 20 (official) years. A previously recorded history for Metropolitan General Meeting takes Northside's history back to 1962:

The exact date of the first Meeting for Worship, of the group which eventually became Northside Friends Meeting, is not known. It seems to have been some time in 1962. Even then, its regularity was noteworthy by its absence for some time. The records indicate that it was quite dormant for some extended period in 1964 and 1965. About First Month 1967, the group changed its worship time to Sunday morning, and shortly commenced to meet twice a month. In 1969, the group concluded that it needed the help and guidance of a Yearly Meeting, and commenced its consultations with Illinois Yearly Meeting, looking toward affiliation ... Formal application for recognition as a Monthly Meeting was made to the 1970 Yearly Meeting, which granted the requested status.

Northside Monthly Meeting has met in members homes on a regular schedule since it

began. Attendance varied over the years, averaging 8 to 15 in the first decade. Records indicate that periodically as Northside's attendance swells, concerns are raised if homes will continue to adequately house the Meeting. Attendance has grown over the years and currently averages between 15 and 20 on most Sundays. The quality of worship continues to be one of the most valued aspects of Friends lives at Northside. Northside Meeting has 17 founding members. Current membership, resident and non-resident numbers 33.

In the last few years, Northside has been active on several levels. The Meeting has grown to need greater structure. Committees are active in caring for the life of the meeting. While some community projects have been pursued, primary involvement in social concerns has been in support of the various individual members' commitment to a variety of social needs and the organizations set up to assist them.

The sense of a Meeting identity has solidified. Steps were taken to acquire a Meeting telephone in recent years, making Northside more accessible to new seekers and traveling Friends.

Meeting for Worship is at 10:30 am on Sunday mornings, with Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business following a break for coffee on the first Sunday of each month. For information about Northside Meeting and locations for worship, the number is: (312)-929-4245.

OAK PARK

The earliest records indicate that Oak Park Meeting was officially organized and received tax-exempt status January 10, 1943. Alice Flitcraft remembers the group meeting some years earlier as a result of a concern of Jeanette Flitcraft Stetson, daughter of Clement and Luella Flitcraft of Oak Park, all members of 57th Street Meeting. They met regularly at the Flitcraft home at 633 S. Maple Avenue as a Preparative Meeting of 57th Street Meeting. Besides the Flitcrafts some early attenders were Ralph Lane, Robert McGonagle, Frederick Babcock, Beulah Nelson, Daniel Dungen, Lloyd Wright, and Carolyn Wills. The latter had become interested in Friends in 1932 when she visited England and the home of William Penn, in whom she had a special interest since she was born in Pennsylvania.

Over the years, Oak Park Friends met for worship in a number of places including the home of Beulah Nelson, in a room in the Nineteenth Century Women's Club, the Y.M.C.A. and now at Hephzibah House at 946 North Boulevard, which is a children's care center.

Tho small in number, Oak Park Friends were active in Social Service, Peace, and Inter-Community projects. The Flitcraft home was a welcome refuge for "new Americans" who had fled from Europe, and for Japanese Americans who came from the detention centers. One room was set aside as a sewing room where women gathered weekly to sort, mend, and sew clothing which was shipt to the AFSC office in Philadelphia. Carolyn Wills went weekly to 57th Street to join others in teaching English to refugees.

In 1953, Beulah Nelson, who gave the Meeting much in service and spiritual insights,

became Clerk of Illinois Yearly Meeting. In 1981, Flora McKinney gave the IYM Plummer Lecture, entitled "Lest Ye Become".

Altho not a founding member, Maurice Crew served as clerk for 25 years. His vision and commitment kept the Meeting going. He attended first on Pearl Harbor day. Many First Days he was the only attender. Often only one or two others were present. He kept clear records of each First Day and always wrote the names of worshipping Friends.

Clerks following Maurice Crew were:

Howard McKinney 1977-79 and 1983-85
 Burke Shipley 1979-81 Annette Dowling 1985-87
 Kris Nelson 1981-83 Dianne Wepsic 1987-89

Small size was always a problem. In 1951 it was suggested that its members disband, and attend 57th Street Meeting. Instead it became a Preparative Meeting in 1953 for a while.

Members and attenders, some having moved away or dropt out, are: Anna Alexa, Colleen Berg, Ian & Louise Bower, Wallace Conrad, Beth and Mike Eddy, Elinor Fallert, Tom Forsyth, Jack Hendricks, Joyce Hopkins, Pam Koenig, Rosalind Larsen, Yonny Levi, Dick and Kris Nelson, Louise Rome, Donn & Mary Schneider, Burke Shipley, Jim Strait, Katherine & Robert Trezevant, Dianne Wepsic, and Dorothy Willey.

In spite of smallness, there have always been meaningful concerns. Friends continue to gather strength from the Meeting for Worship. As Carolyn Wills wrote in one State of Society report, "In the epistle to the Hebrews, it is written 'Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.' The Meeting for Worship is essential to Quakerism."

Written by Anna Alexa and Alice Flitcraft.

ROCK VALLEY

Early in 1951, Gertrude Hodgson, Hans and Doris Peters, Adah and William Manby, and Dorothy and Harvey Smith came to the Rockford area (2 social workers, 3 teachers, a farmer, an artist). They founded Rockford Meeting, first held on the "Faculty Porch" of Rockford College on Seminary Street. It became a Preparative Meeting under 57th Street Meeting in Chicago. In 1952 they attended Illinois yearly Meeting for the first time.

In the 1960's, Friends moved away and Rockford Meeting was laid down. One family traveled to Beloit WI to worship with Scott and Nancy Crom. More Quakers came to Rockford, and about 1966, Rockford Friends began meeting in the YWCA. In 1968, Rock Valley Monthly Meeting was admitted into Illinois Yearly Meeting, with Ralph Raymond of Dixon as clerk.

Rock Valley Meeting rented space in community centers and churches, lastly Christ the Carpenter United Methodist Church. On July 5, 1977, the Meeting received title to the 100 year old residence at 326 N. Avon Street, on Rockford's near West side. This was accomplished with a local fund drive, and grant and loan from Friends General Conference's Meeting House Fund.

We have remained a small but active Meeting. Many Friends have come and gone. In 1988 there are 7 adult resident members, and an equal number of faithful attenders.

Payments from 3 renters cover about half the house expenses. A capable part time custodian receives his rent for his work. Friends House is used by several community groups. Camaraderie Inc., co-founded by a Meeting member as a neighborhood arts group,

holds classes for children and adults in the basement, in painting, printing, pottery and design, aided by grants from the Illinois Arts Council. Members are active for 4 years in a Block Club, which recently received a grant to plant trees and flowers in a several block area. The house has helped start the Sinnissippi Alliance for the Environment (SAFE), Rockford Food Cooperative, and Rockford Peace and Justice Action Committee.

Maintenance of a meeting house has sometimes seemed a great burden for our small membership. Major house repairs have been accomplished. Our finances are marginally in the black. We are receiving growing community support. An outreach program in 1987 added a few attenders. Our Meeting seems to be in the right place at the right time.

Increasingly the meeting house becomes a "safe place" for Friends, friends, and the neighborhood. Clerk in 1988 is Robert L. Bell.

SOUTH BEND

We are actually a worship fellowship, but from the start we thought of ourselves as a Friends Meeting. The push to start our meeting came in the fall of 1978 from Christine Brownlie, who had moved to South Bend with her husband Peter (Unitarian preacher's kid) and two small children. They had attended Ann Arbor Meeting for eight years (and now live in Texas). Christine wrote to yearly and monthly meetings in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, inquiring of members who might have moved to our area. She also wrote AFSC, FGC etc. And she sponsored a short Quaker meeting for worship as part of one service at the Unitarian Church, which was without a minister for several months.

A second push came from Jeanette Burkett and Sharon Wildey, who had recently moved here from the unprogrammed meeting at Bloomington Indiana. They put a notice in the South Bend Tribune that they were starting a Friends Meeting, which we saw and we immediately merged. Jeanette also negotiated with the telephone company over a two month period to get listing of "Quakers-Friends" in the phone book with the home phone of one of our contact persons. We knew this could be done since New Orleans Meeting had a listing of "Friend Quaker" in their phone book for many years. We also listed in Friends Journal, the FWCC Friends Directory, and joined the United Religious Community (URC) with a listing. (URC includes Jewish, Catholic, Protestant and any other congregation or group that wishes to join.)

At first we met in a home, with baby sitting next door. Later we used class rooms

Peterson, then in Homewood, joined, and in 1973, Thorn Creek organized itself as a Monthly Meeting, making use of a room at the Crete Trust and Savings Bank.

Thorn Creek was granted recognition by Chicago General Meeting, but Illinois Yearly Meeting placed Thorn Creek under the care of Downers Grove for a year. In 1974 Thorn Creek Monthly Meeting was accepted into Illinois YM.

There have been many meeting places. Many people have come in and out of the Meeting. Bill and Louise Higgenbottom, Mary Malone, and Tom Dobbert were very active in the early days. Friends from other Meetings moved into the area. Paul and Kate Buckley, Arlene Casey, Marcella Lehman, and Barbara Conant and her children, to name a few.

Some members have been active in Chicago General Meeting and the Walden Four gathering. Paul Buckley is currently clerk of Illinois Yearly Meeting, and Barbara Stapleton has been Registrar and Reading Clerk of I.Y.M. Thru work on the Advancement Committee, Thorn Creek people have visited substantially all the Meetings in Illinois Yearly Meeting.

Activities of the Meeting and its members have included: Wednesday nite worship and discussion; a milk project for one of the schools; Thanksgiving dinners for a retirement home; contributions to the Mennonite Sanctuary project, to two Roman Catholic Shelters; work with the Nuclear Freeze project; and close cooperation with Valparaiso Meeting in its early days.

Altho Thorn Creek has always believed in encouraging formal membership in the Religious Society of Friends as a mark of dedication to Quaker principles, the service done both to and thru the Meeting by persons not quite ready must be gratefully acknowledged.

CHICAGO GENERAL MEETING

In 1873, Chicago Monthly Meeting became part of Ash Grove Quarter of Western Yearly Meeting. This was named for a short-lived Meeting several miles northwest of Cissna Park IL, west of Watseka. In 1881 the name was changed to Chicago Quarterly Meeting, other member Meetings were at Watseka and Western Springs, the latter laid down in 1907, its 36 members becoming non-resident members of Chicago Meeting.

In 1877, Central Executive Meeting of Illinois Yearly Meeting was established as one of four Meetings in Blue River Quarter, which extended to Salem Indiana, 40 miles from Louisville KY. In 1938, a first joint session of the two Quarterly Meetings was tried at 57th Street Meeting. In 1952, Blue River Quarter, which included all of Illinois Yearly Meeting, was divided in two, the northern off-shoot being named Fox Valley Quarter. With four Meetings belonging to both Chicago and Fox Valley Quarters in 1952, joint Quarterly Meeting sessions increast from one a year to two or three.

In 1959, a Unity Committee of Chicago and Fox Valley Quarters was formed. It sent a questionnaire to their member Meetings. As a result, the two Quarters decided, in May 1961, to operate with a single set of officers. The separate business meetings with differeing Clerks, which had obtained for joint meetings were thus simplified into one.

In 1960, Northern Half Yearly Meeting of Illinois Yearly Meeting was set up, and Madison and Milwaukee Meetings transferred to it.

Northwest Area Meeting. Handling of funds between Monthly Meetings and Western Yearly Meeting was ended in 1969, as part of Western's streamlining of procedures.

The two Quarterly Meetings were formally merged as Chicago General Meeting in 1970, with three rather than four sessions a year, usually the first Saturday in February, May, and November. Its Standing Committee meets in late afternoon of the first Monday in even months, at the AFSC office.

Chicago General Meeting is unique in that two Meetings, Chicago and Fellowship, belong only to Western Yearly Meeting (Friends United Meeting); three, Downers Grove, Evanston, and 57th Street belong both to FUM and to Illinois Yearly Meeting (Friends General Conference), while the remaining Monthly Meetings belong only to Illinois Yearly Meeting (FGC).

WALDEN

In 1981, Meetings and worship groups in McHenry County, Rockford, Freeport, DeKalb, and sometimes Beloit WI began holding semi-annual gatherings, usually in October and April. For the last several years, these have been held at YMCA Camp Winnebago, two miles north of Rockford. Some attenders come from Chicago area Meetings also.

SOUTHEAST GATHERING

From about 1983 thru 1986, Duneland, South Bend, and Thorn Creek Meetings have met together for worship twice a year at the Bailly Homestead at the National Lakeshore. This is followed by a "Meeting for Eating" (potluck) and hikes or swims.

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE Chicago Office

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) was formed in 1917 in Philadelphia, to assist conscientious objectors to World War I, and to send relief workers abroad. In 1920, work in this country began.

After several years of urging by Chicago area Friends, and the holding of some AFSC International Relations Institutes in the area, a midwest office was established in 1935, with Alfred Cope of 57th Street Meeting as executive secretary. This was suspended in 1938, and Alfred and Ruth Cope went to Spain for AFSC work with children during the Spanish Civil War. This program had been recommended by Sylvester Jones after a 1936 field trip there, and Wilfred Jones directed that work starting in 1937.

In 1939, Robert and Martha Balderston went to Germany to investigate the refugee situation for AFSC. Martha later served in the refugee hostel at Scattergood School in Iowa, as did Doris Peters.

Many other Chicago area Friends have served abroad for AFSC, including: (57th Street) Mildred Mahoney (France), Edward and Esther Meyerding (Austria), Harry and Julia Abramson (India); (Lake Forest) David and Mary Stickney (Vietnam);

Others have led AFSC work camps and other projects in this country. A sewing room for relief clothing was operated at Quaker House for many years, with Eurah Marshall devoting much effort to its operations.

In the 1950's, John Willard was executive secretary for many years, followed by Harold Flitcraft for almost a year. Then Kale Williams served from 1958-1972.

In the 1950's, AFSC used the second floor of Quaker House for two years for an Internes in Community Service project. It maintained a Project House, first on the north side (1952-59), then the west side of Chicago (3543 W. Jackson). This was a residence for urban service workers, and a base for organizing activity in the neighborhood, especially during its change from white to black residents.

The Southern Christian Leadership Council and Martin Luther King Jr. were active in Chicago, 1965-67, with marches for open housing. AFSC assisted with these, and Kale Williams took part in the "summit" meeting in 1966 which opened up housing integration.

From 1972-1978, Donald Mertic of 57th Street Meeting was executive secretary. One emphasis in this era was on community action. Handbooks on student rights, and for senior citizens were published. The "Alternative Schools Network" was established, which still continues. An ex-offenders project was started at Michigan City IN Prison, now an independent organization. Dunelands Meeting grew out of this project. About a third of staff were Quakers in this period.

Following a brief tenure of Troy Chapman as Executive Secretary, Janet Harrington-Kuller served from 1979-1985. Steps toward uniting the Chicago and Dayton Regions of AFSC were started in this period.

Structure

Chicago AFSC office is part of the Great Lakes Region, which has other area offices in Dayton OH and Ann Arbor MI, and field offices in Akron OH, Indianapolis, and Kentucky. The Great Lakes Executive Committee of 20 members from all areas meets four times a year.

The Chicago Area Coordinating Committee, of 15 to 20 members representing Friends Meetings in Illinois and Milwaukee and Madison WI, and 3 at-large members, meets 5 times a year, and oversees the work in the area.

Programs

All program committees meet 5 or 6 times a year. They work with staff in developing goals and action steps, overseeing staff in following the goals, developing new action steps each year, and reviewing the programs during the 3 to 5 year program cycle. These program cycles are approved by the Great Lakes Regional Executive Committee.

Disarmament Committee has 8 members, a staff of three, and a 4 year program cycle approved June 1987. It does research, lectures, and organizes against U. S. intervention in the Third World, first strike nuclear weapons, and Star Wars.

Human Rights/Proyecto Resistencia Committee: 8 members, staff of 3, a 5 year program cycle approved April 1987. It participates in the Chicago Religious Task Force on Central America. It aids Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees with legal and humanitarian aid, and educates the public about problems of Central American refugees.

Middle East Committee: 7 members, one staff, 4 year cycle approved April 1987. It works for a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and a reorientation of U. S. Middle East policies toward peace and justice for all sides.

Youth and Militarism Committee: 7 members, one staff, a 3 year program cycle approved January 1987. It develops positive youth role models and leadership skills among black youth, and educates on effects of militarism on youth here and people elsewhere. It centers in Kenwood.

Proyecto Urayoan Committee: 7 members, one staff, a 3 year cycle approved January 1987. It counsels in Chicago's Latino community on registration, draft, and military service, and tries to counter the influence of ROTC. It is located in the Logan Square area.

Creative Response to Conflict Committee: 6 members, no staff. All volunteer program which raises its own funds. It conducts workshops for parents, students and teachers on positive alternate ways to resolve classroom conflict.

Administrative Committees

Nominating Committee: 7 members. Nominates people to program and other committees.

Personnel Committee: 6 members. Reviews performance of each staff member each year, and handles other personnel matters not delegated to the Regional Executive.

Committee members in the Chicago area total 71 people. About half, 35 are Quakers.

Annual budget of the Chicago office is about \$ 390,000.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

One measure of the vitality and outreach of a religious movement is its membership trends. These follow by several years the outreach efforts and mobility effects that are major direct influences on membership.

	Total Membership			
Meeting:	1987	1980	1970	1960
Chicago	97	105	126	165
Downers Grove	150	134	100	120
Evanston	136	138	170	166
Fellowship of Friends	33	-	-	-
57th Street	152	178	275	262
Lake Forest	116	122	92	41
McHenry County	26	31	-	-
North Side	32	25	17	-
Oak Park	24	48	13	17
Thorn Creek	18	39	-	-
Totals, 6 counties	784	820	793	771
DeKalb	14	10	16	-
Dunelands	8	7	-	-
Freeport	6	6	-	-
Kankakee	3	-	-	-
Rock Valley	22	26	38	16
South Bend	5	-	-	-
Total, outlying	58	49	54	16
Grand Total, CGM	842	869	847	787
Friends per 10,000 population:				
6 counties		1.20	1.17	1.28
outlying areas		0.33	0.37	0.08.

Some of the 1960 and outlying Meeting figures had to be estimated.

The ratio of Friends to population indicates how much "leaven" we can be. Our national average is 5 per 10,000 - so we are far below that in the Chicago area. In Connecticut, Friends were absent for about 50 years to 1930, but have grown to 2.4 per 10,000. Both New York and New England Yearly Meetings, who have Meetings in that state, have had field secretaries for decades.

Adult Resident Members

Meeting	1987	1980	1970	1960
Chicago	31	27	60	90
Downers Grove	60	52	49	54
Evanston	46	46	45	67
Fellowship of Friends	30	-	-	-
57th Street	42	44	70	136
Lake Forest	46	46	39	30
McHenry County	22	14	-	-
Northside	18	17	17	-
Oak Park	16	18	8	12
Thorn Creek	12	17	-	-
Total, 6 counties	323	271	288	389
DeKalb	9	5	10	-
Dunelands	7	7	-	-
Freeport	5	5	-	-
Kankakee	3	-	-	-
Rock Valley	7	12	20	10
South Bend	5	-	-	-
Total, Outlying	36	29	30	10
Grand Totals	359	310	318	399

The number of adult resident members is more relevant than total membership for our ability to work on spiritual and social concerns. These figures are less than half (except in 1960) of total members.

Here we see a decline of about one fourth from 1960 to 1980, and a 1/7th recovery since then, about half the earlier loss.

The three largest Meetings in 1960 have all lost substantial proportions of their adult resident members (1/3 to 2/3), only partly offset by the growth of 9 new Meetings and worship groups.

ADDRESSES

Chicago Monthly Meeting, 10749 S. Artesian,
Chicago IL 60655. 11 AM. (312) 445-8949

57th Street Friends Meeting. 10:30 AM. 5615 S.
Woodlawn, Chicago IL 60637 (312) 288-3066.

DeKalb Friends Meeting. 10:30 AM. Gurler House,
3rd & Pine, DeKalb. c/o Richard Baer, 622
Hillcrest Dr., Sycamore IL 60178. (815)
895-5379.

Downers Grove Meeting. 10:30 AM. 5710 Lomond,
Downers Grove IL 60516. (312) 968-3861.

Dunelands Friends Meeting. 10:30 AM. At United
Methodist Church, 103 N. Franklin,
Valparaiso IN 46383. (219) 462-9997.

Evanston Meeting. 10 AM. 1010 Greenleaf,
Evanston IL 60202. (312) 864-8511

Chicago Fellowship of Friends. 12 Noon. 515 W.
Oak, Chicago IL 60655. (312) 944-4493.

Freeport Friends Worship Group. In homes. c/o
Judy Corrie, P. O. Box 58, Cedarville IL
61013. (815) 563-4932.

Kankakee Friends Worship Group. c/o Chip &
Bridget Rorem, 117 N. Linden, Essex IL
60953. (815) 365-2802.

Lake Forest Friends Meeting. West Old Elm
Road, P. O. Box 95, Lake Forest IL 60045.
(312) 234-8410.

McHenry County Friends Meeting. In homes, 10
AM. c/o Alice Howenstine, 4614 N. Pioneer
Road, McHenry IL 60050. (815) 385-8512.

North Side Friends Meeting. In homes, 10:30
AM. For location, (312) 761-8896.

Oak Park Monthly Meeting. 10:30 AM. Hepzibah
House, 946 North Blvd., Oak Park IL
60302. (312) - 366-2092.

Rock Valley Friends Meeting. 10:30 AM. 326 N.
Avon, Rockford IL 61103. (815) 962-7373.

South Bend Worship Group. 10:30 AM.
c/o Mary Nurenburg, 60255 Myrtle Road,
South Bend IN 46614. (219) 232-5729.

Thorn Creek Monthly Meeting. 10:30 AM. c/o
James Garretson, 3420 Western, Park Forest
IL 60466. (312) 747-1296.

Chicago General Meeting. First Saturday in
February, May, and November: location
rotates. Standing Committee meets first
Monday in even months, late afternoon at
AFSC office.

Chicago Office, American Friends Service
Committee, 59 E. Van Buren, Suite 1400,
Chicago IL 61605, (312) 427-2533.