

Nominating Committee report April 2024

Since the Yearly Meeting gathering in June, we have been meeting twice a month to try to fill four of the most important positions of responsibility that we have in our Yearly Meeting, our next clerk of yearly meeting, our treasurer, and the clerk of our yearly meeting planning committee. This process is usually deep and centering work where as a committee we worshipfully try to find the best person for a position. In order to get to know our community of individuals better we have begun the process of reaching out to young adult friends, SAYF, the URJ committee, and those people who attend yearly meeting sessions or clerk monthly meetings.

The current Treasurer of SAYMA took the position temporarily and we have been unable to find a new person for the job. As a committee we would like to add our voices to the finance committee and ask that SAYMA hire a bookkeeper to make being our treasurer a little easier.

We have had several meetings centered on bringing Star Smith forward as one of our three representatives to FWCC. We received a letter from the recently formed Friends of Color conflict transformation group asking us to do just that. In our committee work we encountered some of the conflict that SAYMA as a body is experiencing. We could not reach unity. Some of us are hopeful that we have built enough trust together that we can truly transform this conflict by listening to each other, learning from each other, and above all, listening to Spirit and remaining open to that transformation.

Listed below are our current slate of nominations to bring forward for your approval:

Alexis Hammett (Nashville Monthly Meeting), for Junior Yearly Meeting planning committee, 2024-2026. Alexis is the mother of two children and helped plan the recent retreat for JYM in Nashville. She brings new energy and experience to the committee.

Margaret Farmer (Asheville Friends Meeting), continuing as our representative to Friends General Conference, 2024-2027. Margaret has been faithfully doing this work for three years and would like to continue deepening this ministry. She brings many gifts to FGC, and brings back to us the information we need.

Lissa Place (Atlanta Monthly Meeting), as clerk of SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee, 2024-2026. Lissa has been attending the SAYMA M & N committee for several months. She has valuable clerking experience and knowledge of how racism works in the United States.

Diane Rowley (Atlanta Monthly Meeting), as a representative to the American Friends Service Committee, 2024-2027. Diane has been led to work with AFSC and has been serving for three years on one of the AFSC governance committees. She is also co-chair of the Black Thriving Initiative, a new working group that supports AFSC staff here in the US and abroad. She will be a great conduit of communication between that work for AFSC and SAYMA.

Kendall Ivie
Annie Black
Mark Gooch
Julia Ewen
Morgan Murray
Chuck Jones
Pat Gailey