

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
Representative Meeting 142
Third Month 16, 2019
Asheville Friends Meeting, Asheville, North Carolina

142-01 Opening Worship and Reading

After a period of worship the clerk, Barbara Esther, read the following:

. . . God has many faces and many names. There is one name of God - spelled in Hebrew with the letters yod-hey-vev-hey and meaning "being/becoming" - that may not be uttered. In its place, practicing Jews say "Adonai." . . . God also has feminine names. One beautiful name, El Shaddai, which appears in Genesis, is often thought of as masculine: God as guardian. But, in fact, shad means "breast" and refers to nurturing feminine qualities. Another name is HaRahaman, the Compassionate One, which comes from the word rechem, meaning "womb." In this view, God is what birthed us into being, the source of all life. When we feel most separate, most alienated, most alone, remembering that every one of us began in our mother's womb helps us know that we are connected and can feel each other's pain.

From Rabbi Rachel Timoner *The Holiness Hidden Within the World*
"The Sun" Interview On Rediscovering Judaism October 2018

142-02 Introductions/Welcome [Attachment A: Attendance]

A Quaker visitor from La Paz, Bolivia, Hector Castro Cruz, who will be attending the FWCC Section meeting in Kansas City as a representative, addressed Friends with the interpretation assistance of Adrienne Weir from Asheville Meeting. He described their style of worship and service at his Bolivian Quaker meeting; related a story about the different tools a carpenter uses and the product which can result from one doing its part; and read a passage from the Bible. He spoke of the importance of unity and said a prayer for the group.

Barbara Esther, clerk of SAYMA, talked about the importance of keeping in mind the central purpose of gathering as a yearly meeting, which *is* to seek the sense of Spirit. She reviewed the following process reminders for Quakers participating in a Meeting for Worship for the conduct of business:

- Wait to be recognized by the clerk before speaking. Introduce yourself by name and meeting, address remarks to the clerk, and address reports to the representative body.
- Listen with tenderness to each other. Allow some time to reflect when you hear something you don't agree with or don't understand.
- Take responsibility for your own state of mind. As needed – Return to worship or ask the clerk to allow us to recenter. Return to worship as a community. Take a walk to restore calm in yourself. Take a short break to reground – walk with Spirit, without talking.
- Suspend an item of business if we are unable to go beyond disagreement.
- Be willing to let go of the idea of finishing an item of business if we aren't ready to see way forward.

- Be ready to be surprised by a leading of Spirit that is revealed.

Finding, listening to that of God in each other is more important than completing the agenda.

The clerk said she would be giving four words or phrases during the meeting, and Friends would be invited to gather in small groups to define those words in a limited amount of time. Following a sharing of the groups' definitions, the clerk would read Joseph Barndt's definition from his book, *Becoming an Anti-Racist Church, Journeying Toward Wholeness*.

142-03 Agenda Review

The clerk gave the first word, culture, and Friends split into small groups to write their own definitions. Barndt's definition: Culture - Values, worldview, ideas, beliefs, behaviors, language, art, literature, religion, rituals, holidays, food, clothing, dance . . . , collective lifestyle . . . "way of life."

The clerk then reviewed the agenda, commenting that there were probably many more items listed than would be presented. She had not received many reports, so listed every committee in order that no one would be accidentally omitted. Friends accepted the agenda.

142-04 Report from the Administrative Assistant - Susan Phelan (Huntsville Area FM) [Attachment B: Administrative Assistant's Report]

Susan encouraged Friends to pick up their name tags or create one. She gave her report, noting that she is settling in as Administrative Assistant.

142-05 Registration for SAYMA Representative Meeting

The clerk asked Friends for feedback regarding registration for the SAYMA Representative Meeting, and whether the protocol should be changed from current practice. One Friend said that clerks of committees and representatives of WQO were somewhat out of the loop. She also said that people who didn't hold an official position didn't receive the information, and they may have a concern and/or would like to attend the meeting. The administrative assistant sent registration information to all meeting clerks, clerks of SAYMA committees and those in positions of responsibility, such as treasurer. The clerk will send an advance draft of the agenda in future. This agenda, of course will rely on timely submission of reports to be considered. Friends seemed in agreement that the registration information should be on the SAYMA website. Friends are reminded that Representative Meeting is composed of representatives of monthly meetings and worship groups and the people in positions of responsibility, but that all Friends are welcome to register and join that core group to do the work of the yearly meeting between the annual meetings.

142-06 SAYF Support Committee - Chuck Jones (Chattanooga FM) [Attachment C: SAYF Support Committee]

Chuck reported that the minutes of SAYMA Meeting for Business in June of 2018, did not reflect approval of the charge of the committee. The charge and description of the committee is included in his report.

Minute 142-06-01: Friends approved the committee charge for the SAYF (Southern Appalachian Young Friends) Support Committee.

Chuck presented the SAYF Support Committee report. There was some discussion about how someone becomes a FAN (Friendly Adult Presence) for SAYF, as well as discussion about teens who attend SAYF whose parents are not involved with the monthly meeting. It was noted that references and the recommendation of the monthly meeting was required of potential FANs, along with a routine background check. Friends are reminded that these background checks need to be renewed every five years. Ron McDonald clerk of SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee commented that they often had members with backgrounds in counseling in that committee who could be called on if needed.

142-07 Finance Committee Report – Carol Lamm in Charles Schade’s absence (Berea FM) [Attachment D: Finance Committee’s Report]

Carol Lamm gave the finance committee report. She reported that they had recovered the funds that Boone Friends, a meeting that was laid down at SAYMA this past summer, had in their bank accounts. Funds that do not receive activity for a particular amount of time can be taken by the state. The remaining member of Boone Friends approves the finance committee’s proposal for use of the recovered Boone Monthly Meeting funds. In discussion, the Finance Committee’s proposal was amended to substitute Preparative Meeting for Monthly Meeting.

**Minute 142-07-01 Friends approved the following minute:
Boone Friends Meeting having been laid down according to SAYMA minute 48-21, and Boone Friends Meeting’s funds of \$2,677.08 having been recovered on SAYMA’s behalf as directed in that same minute, the finance committee recommends that these funds be put into a Boone Set-aside Fund until March 16, 2024. If at that date there is a Worship Group in the Boone area under the care of a SAYMA Monthly Meeting, the Boone Set-aside Fund will be extended to allow time for the possible development of a Monthly Meeting associated with SAYMA. If there is no Worship Group in the Boone area under the care of a SAYMA Monthly Meeting as of March 16, 2024, the treasurer will close the Boone Set-aside Fund and return the money to the SAYMA General Fund.**

If the Boone Set-aside Fund still exists and a new Preparative Meeting associated with SAYMA is established in the Boone area before March 16, 2029, the clerk of SAYMA Ministry and Nurture is authorized to direct the disbursement of the funds to the new Preparative Meeting in the Boone area. If no Preparative Meeting associated with SAYMA is established in the Boone area before March 16, 2029, the

SAYMA treasurer will close the Boone Set-aside Fund and return the money to the SAYMA General Fund.

**142-08 Ad Hoc WQO Funding Committee report - Geeta McGahey (Celo FM)
[Attachment E: Ad Hoc WQO Funding Committee]**

Geeta gave the Ad Hoc WQO Funding Committee report. At YM in 2018, Friends agreed that FGC and FWCC, as “umbrella organizations” for SAYMA, would be funded separately from other WQOs at a “fixed annual rate” to be proposed by the finance committee. The ad hoc committee subsequently recommended sending \$750 to FGC and \$1,000 to FWCC, a proposal which the finance committee endorsed. The ad hoc committee further recommended a FY19 budget amendment to raise the total WQO contributions, including the umbrella organizations, from \$5,000 to \$6,000. She stated that a report to committee clerks and SAYMA representatives had been sent out in October 2018 where she asked monthly meetings to discuss the recommendations the ad hoc committee was making for the 2019 budget for WQOs. The recommendations are included in her report. The committee’s current proposal assigns percentages for how much money should be given to each WQO from the funds remaining after the umbrella organizations are paid.

Geeta explained that some WQO organizations were receiving a lower percentage than others because SAYMA representatives were either inactive, the relationship was not strong, or the organizations were not in as much need. The ad hoc committee used criteria approved at YM 2018 to evaluate how much to send to WQOs – these criteria are included in the report as well. Some Friends expressed concern that AFSC either was not considered an umbrella organization and/or only received five percent. Other Friends stated that if people considered AFSC important they could either personally contribute or their monthly meeting could. Friends also questioned the consideration of FWCC as an umbrella organization, and some felt that FCNL should receive a higher percentage.

Geeta explained in more detail the criteria for the WQO funding. AFSC, she explained, has a huge constituency that gives funding and they have their own fundraising department so SAYMA’s funds have less impact than funds given to an organization such as Quaker House which is much smaller with fewer people donating. Therefore, the committee was proposing a higher percentage to Quaker House than AFSC. She also explained that FWCC was an important outreach to establishing relationships and communication with international Friends.

One Friend suggested that time not be spent quibbling over percentages for each organization, and instead concentrate on giving to as many Quaker organizations as possible. Other Friends were concerned that FWCC was receiving more money than FGC, especially since FGC struggles with funds and has no endowments. Other Friends expressed concern with the message that was being sent to the LGBTQ community by not funding FCLGBTQ Concerns.

The clerk stated that there seemed to be many questions about the recommendations from the ad hoc committee, and Friends may not feel ready to lay down the work and accept the recommendations. Geeta said she sensed that Friends liked the tiered percentage system, though there was disagreement with how the percentages were allocated. She said that funding for 2019

needed to be disbursed, so she suggested that \$750 be given to FWCC as well as FGC, and that the extra \$250 be split between FCNL and AFSC. They would then each be funded at 10 percent. It was decided that Friends would review minutes on these monetary recommendations after lunch during the treasurer's report.

142-09 Second definition: Cultural Racism

Small groups of Friends wrote definitions for Cultural Racism. Barndt's definition: Cultural Racism - Domination of one racially defined culture over others. "When a racially defined societal group uses systemic power to establish its cultural way of life as dominant and superior and simultaneously imposes its way of life onto other racially defined societal groups, destroying, distorting, discounting, and discrediting their cultures, while appropriating aspects of their cultures without accountability to those groups." Quote from Crossroads Ministry Friends broke for lunch.

142-10 Third definition: Anti-racist Identity

Small groups of Friends wrote definitions for Anti-racist Identity. Barndt's definition: Anti-Racist Identity - Anti-racist is a new name for a person or community that develops an analysis of systemic racism, becomes committed to dismantling racism, and will not rest until ultimately escaping from the prison of racism . . . Anti-racism is long-term work that has been carried out by anti-racist people in our society for centuries and needs to be continued until the prison of racism has been completely eliminated. Anti-racism is not a negative but a very positive identity.

142-11 Ministry and Nurture – Ron McDonald (Nashville FM)

The Ministry and Nurture committee gave \$1,000 from the Spiritual Development Fund to Warren Wilson students to attend a FCNL Spring Lobbying Weekend from March 23 - 26. The committee is also facilitating a clerking workshop on April 5-6 at West Knoxville. Arthur Larrabee will be the workshop leader of "Quaker Decision Making and Clerking: Serving the Community with Joy and Confidence." The fee is \$25 - \$100 on a sliding scale. The deadline to register is Monday, March 18. The Ministry and Nurture Committee is hoping representatives of every SAYMA monthly meeting attend, to create stronger Quaker leadership.

142-12 Naming Committee – Patti Hughes (Asheville FM)

The committee is looking for a younger Friend to serve on the Nominating Committee. They have asked someone to serve and are waiting to hear from them. John Adams from Atlanta Meeting has resigned from the committee so they are looking for another member as well.

142-13 Nominating Committee – Kendall Ivie (West Knoxville FM)

Kendall brought Jennifer Dickie's name forward to be approved for the SAYF Support Committee. She will be the SAYF Steering Committee representative on the committee.

Minute 142-13-01 Friends approved Jennifer Dickie as a member of the SAYF Support Committee.

The clerk asked Nominating Committee to disseminate a list of open positions to Friends before Yearly Meeting in June. The clerk also brought up the question of the Southern Appalachian Friend, SAYMA's newsletter, which has not been published for a while because of the lack of an editor. One Friend suggested that they do an online version instead of print which also has more flexibility and more options. The Outreach Committee was suggested as a group to assist in thinking through the future of Southern Appalachian Friend. Friends also discussed paying someone to be the editor.

142-14 Web Support Committee – Robyn Josephs (Swannanoa Valley) [Attachment F: Social Media Policy]

Robyn Josephs said she and Charlie Wilton would be discussing a possible new name for the committee, such as Communications Committee, and also a new charge. She feels that it's important for the committee to have a broader focus than web support.

Robyn expressed concern about SAYMA's current social media presence and pointed out that the SAYMA Google group does not have a moderator. Robyn herself moderates the Facebook page. She encouraged SAYMA to have a social media policy. She recommended first that any social media presence of SAYMA should have a designated moderator, and secondly that the Web Support Committee, which may be renamed the Communication Committee, bring a policy to the yearly meeting for approval. Robyn's draft of a potential social media policy is attached to the minutes.

One Friend suggested that the committee use the draft social media policy as a guide for decision-making until a final draft is approved at Yearly Meeting.

Another Friend said they had a different opinion on the matter, since the people who were present in the room were older and white. She asked to take some time on the social media policy and bring other viewpoints in, such as the teenagers and SAYMA-URJ. One Friend suggested holding a workshop or interest group at SAYMA around the subject.

The Ministry and Nurture and Web Support Committee will work together on the draft social media policy and consult with other appropriate SAYMA committees and individuals. We thank Robyn for sharing this concern.

142-15 SAYMA-URJ - John Adams (Atlanta FM) [Attachment G: SAYMA-URJ Committee]

John, interim clerk of SAYMA-URJ, reported they had a great time working together as a committee. They met with some people from Black Lives Matter. They have also met with Friends from the New York Yearly Meeting who are establishing a black cultural center. Their report is attached.

142-16 Treasurer’s Report - Carol Lamm (Berea FM) [Attachment H: Treasurer’s Report]

Carol gave her report along with the End of the Year report for FY 2018, and the budget and first five months of expenses for FY 2019. All are attached.

Carol then proposed FY19 budget revisions based on the morning discussion about WQO funding. The total amount of funding for WQOs would be increased in the budget from \$5,000 to \$6,000. The recommended funding amounts for WQOs are as follows:

| | | |
|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Membership Organizations | | |
| FWCC | 750.00 | |
| FGC | 750.00 | |
| Subtotal Membership Organizations | 1,500.00 | |
| | | |
| Other WQOs | | |
| QEW | 630.00 | 14.00% |
| Quaker House | 630.00 | 14.00% |
| QVS | 630.00 | 14.00% |
| RSWR | 630.00 | 14.00% |
| Friends Peace Team | 405.00 | 9.00% |
| Wm Penn | 405.00 | 9.00% |
| FCNL | 450.00 | 10.00% |
| AFSC | 450.00 | 10.00% |
| Bolivian Quaker Ed | 180.00 | 4.00% |
| Friends Journal | 45.00 | 1.00% |
| FLGBTQ | 45.00 | 1.00% |
| xxx | | |
| Subtotal Other WQOs | 4,500.00 | 100.00% |
| | | |
| Total | 6,000.00 | |

Minute 142-16-01: Friends approved the revised funding amounts for WQOs for FY 2019 as listed above.

Friends will decide the recommended funding amounts for FY2020 at Yearly Meeting.

Wood Bouldin from the Ad Hoc WQO Funding Committee reviewed how the committee developed their criteria for contributions to WQOs. He stated that the criteria and procedure could be changed, but what was important was having a process – outside of the finance committee -- to decide how WQOs are funded. He said decisions could be made in an ongoing process, through the appointing of an ad hoc committee every year or creating a standing committee to make annual decisions.

The clerk suggested that the ad hoc WQO Funding Committee come up with a recommendation for how these funding decisions will be made in the future. This recommendation would then go to yearly meeting for approval.

142-17 Report from the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee - Carol Nickle (West Knoxville FM) [Attachment I: Yearly Meeting Planning Committee]

Carol gave the report for the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee. The committee met in January as well as at both Representative Meetings. The yearly meeting will take place from June 13-16, 2019, with the theme, Seek the Light, Act Boldly. All the dorms will be open for Yearly Meeting, though the pool is being worked on and will not be available.

Carol asked that Yearly Meeting act on the minute that had been passed a year ago to create a site-selection committee to check out other locations for SAYMA. This would be a location geared towards a more positive location for people of color, more central to the monthly meetings, and welcoming to all gender identifications. One Friend asked that late night worship spaces be set aside specifically for people of color, the LGBTQ community, etc. She also suggested that SAYMA Faith and Practice be passed out to first-time attenders to ground them in the community. This year the registration form provides a space for specifying any desired evening worship group.

Friends were asked to update contact information through our SAYMA AA, Susan Phelan, to make sure the meetings receive information.

142-18 Ad Hoc Faith and Practice Committee – Free Polazzo (Atlanta FM) [Attachment J: Ad Hoc Faith and Practice Committee]

Free gave the report for the Ad Hoc Faith and Practice Committee. The report emphasized that the queries being developed are about how we Practice our Faith. We are reminded that the Guide itself was approved without revised queries in 2012 and is printed with a blue cover. It is also available online on the SAYMA website.

142-19 Announcements

Friend Rommie Barrus died peacefully in her sleep last week. A memorial is to be held on Thursday, March 21, 2019 at the Celo Meetinghouse with gathering at 6 pm and the meeting of remembrance at 7 pm. Notice was received from her brother, Gib Barrus.

Friend Perry Treadwell died in the Fall of 2018. More information regarding Friend Perry's life will be shared at SAYMA in June during our meeting for remembrance, since he was active in our yearly meeting.

Atlanta Friends were deeply saddened by the death of Dr. Bill Jenkins who passed away in February. Many people in other meetings of SAYMA may have known him. A Quaker Memorial Service will be held on March 23 at Atlanta Friends Meeting. Bill devoted himself for four decades to the twin causes of eliminating racial/ethnic health disparities and expanding opportunities for racial/ethnic minorities to enter and succeed in careers in biostatistics and epidemiology. In addition to the positive impact he had as an advocate for the health care of African Americans, Bill Jenkins was known for his approachability, warmth, wisdom, and good humor. His smile could light a room.

Chuck Jones informed us of the death of Paul Watson, a long time member of Chattanooga FM. He was a psychology professor at UTC and had the most amazing messages. He was active in Ministry Oversight. Chuck later informed the administrative assistant that the Chattanooga FM lost Florence Tucker earlier in the year. Florence was 97 years old, and was a long-time attender except for the last 10 years. She had been an English teacher in a local middle school.

Our SAYF Administrative Assistant, Autumn Woodward and her husband Ty Hallock announced the birth of their son, Liam.

A special gift was given to bring children and youth to the FGC Gathering. Children under five are free. It will be in Grinnell, Iowa on the week of the 4th of July. The ad hoc committee for people of European descent to support the work of SAYMA URJ has not been established yet. Barbara has spoken to Friends about suggestions for the committee.

The workshop, Quaker Decision Making and Clerking: Serving the Community with Joy and Confidence, by Arthur Larrabee will be held from April 5-6 at West Knoxville Meeting. The deadline to register is Monday, March 18.

142-20 Fourth definition: Anti-racist Leadership

Friends divided into small groups to write a definition for Anti-racist Leadership. Barndt's definition: Anti-Racist Leadership - Developing of new leadership, especially among young people . . . an unequivocal qualification for all new leadership must be anti-racism training, acceptance of the common analysis, and a commitment to join the long-term process of shaping within the church [meeting] an anti-racist identity.

142-21 Report from SAYMA's FCNL Representatives [Attachment K: FCNL Representatives Report]

Report is attached, on the participation of all four of SAYMA's representatives in the November 2018, meeting and a request for monthly meeting responses by April 26, 2019, regarding the policy statement of FCNL.

142-22 Minute of thanks to Asheville Friends Meeting

SAYMA Friends thank the Asheville Friends Meeting for their gracious and welcoming hospitality. The hosts who provided food and lodging for those Friends who traveled far distances, the delicious lunch, and the provision of space for the meeting on Saturday were all greatly appreciated.

142-23 Closing Worship

Friends ended our time together in silent worship.

Barbara Esther, Clerk
(archive copies signed)

Beth Myers, Recording Clerk
(archive copies signed)

Attachments

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| Attachment A: | Attendance |
| Attachment B: | Administrative Assistant's Report |
| Attachment C: | SAYF Support Committee Report |
| Attachment D: | Finance Committee's Report |
| Attachment E: | Ad Hoc WQO Funding Committee Report |
| Attachment F: | Draft of Social Media Policy |
| Attachment G: | SAYMA URJ Committee Report |
| Attachment H: | Treasurer's Report |
| Attachment I: | Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Report |
| Attachment J: | Ad Hoc Faith and Practice Committee Report |
| Attachment K: | FCNL Representatives Report |

Attachment A: Attendance

List of attendees in archived print copy only

Attachment B: Administrative Assistant's Report

Administrative Assistant Report Spring Representatives Meeting 142

March 16, 2019 Asheville NC,

SAYMA's new administrative assistant is settling into her role, learning a number of activities and tasks with a little help from her Friends.

A few unexpected health adventures during this time impacted the timing on some of the winter/spring responsibilities, but hopefully we are back on track and important data collection responses such as the new census, won't be too delayed.

In addition to the ongoing responsibilities with check deposits, email communications, SAYMA mail, and various requests from individuals, the administrative assistant speaks to the SAYMA clerk weekly. She also has a lot of discussion via email and telephone with the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee and the Finance Committee during the period between fall and spring representative meetings. She also worked with Asheville Friends, YMPC, and Ministry and Nature to set up surveys and online registration forms.

The administrative assistant's responsibilities from now to Yearly Meeting will keep her busy. Friends can expect to receive pleas for directory updates, continued calls for State of the Meeting Reports and the census, and a number of communications related to Yearly Meeting registration. There are reports to compile, registration details to confirm, and a number of experiences and activities carefully detailed in the notes Liz Dykes left me.

All in all, the administrative assistant is settling into the job, and looks forward with confidence, albeit nervously, for her part in the whirlwind of Yearly Meeting planning and execution.

Attachment C: SAYF Support Committee

SAYF Support Committee Meeting Report

On Saturday, February 23, 2019, Sig Christensen and Chuck Jones (clerk) met with the SAYF Steering Committee at their Winter Nurturer's Retreat at the West Knoxville Meeting house.

SAYF Support Committee Responsibilities

The purpose of the SAYF Support Committee is to support the SAYF program and provide a conduit for SAYF adults, teens and FANS, and the SAYMA community at large to express their concerns and needs regarding the program. The committee will work closely with the SAYF Steering Committee to facilitate smooth functioning of the program, recruitment of adult volunteers and teen participants, and other administrative tasks.

The Committee will consist of 4 to 6 members, one of whom will be selected from the SAYF Steering Committee. The committee will:

1. Collaborate with SAYF Steering Committee to review and revise program guidelines and policies on a continual basis.
2. Review serious behavior issues that may occur from either teen participants or adult volunteers and determine appropriate sanctions, with the goal of restorative justice and healing.
3. Assist SAYF Steering Committee with recruitment of adult volunteers.
4. Arrange relevant trainings for both the steering committee members and adult volunteers.
5. Assist the SAYF community with issues of inclusion, particularly for teens and families of color.

What is written above the line is a description written by SAYMA of the responsibilities of the SAYF Support Committee, currently made up of Chuck Jones (clerk), Sig Christensen, and Robin Wells. Robin has asked to be relinquished of her duties. The committee's description calls for a membership of 4-6, one of whom is from the SAYF Steering Committee. We talked to Jennifer Dickie on Saturday, February 23rd at the SAYF Nurturer's Retreat, and she agreed to serve on our committee. She is a member of the Steering Committee. It would be good to find another member or two. We ask the Nominating Committee to approve Jennifer Dickie's membership.

Sig and Chuck met with the SAYF Steering Committee and shared worship and meals with the nurturers on Saturday the 23rd of February. During our meeting, we addressed all of the responsibilities numbered in the description above. This was the first time our committee has met with the SAYF Steering Committee. It was quite productive.

Attachment D: Finance Committee Report

Finance Committee Report Representative Meeting 142 16 March 2019

Since the last Representative Meeting, the Finance Committee has met once by teleconference. This report presents completed committee work and work in progress. This report contains two items for action under “Completed Work.” Finance Committee welcomes Friends’ questions and comments.

Completed work

1. Boone Monthly Meeting funds recovery. SAYMA laid down the Boone meeting during the 2018 annual session. The Treasurer filed the required documents requesting the State of North Carolina release Boone bank account funds to SAYMA, and they are now in SAYMA’s bank account. Finance Committee, acting on the request of the last remaining member of the former monthly meeting, proposes the following minute to manage that money:

Boone Friends Meeting having been laid down according to SAYMA minute 48-21, and Boone Friends Meeting’s funds of \$2,677.08 having been recovered on SAYMA’s behalf as directed in that same minute, the finance committee recommends that these funds be put into a Boone Set-aside Fund until March 16, 2024. If at that date there is a Worship Group in the Boone area under the care of a SAYMA Monthly Meeting, the Boone Set-aside Fund will be extended to allow time for the possible development of a Monthly Meeting associated with SAYMA. If there is no Worship Group in the Boone area under the care of a SAYMA Monthly Meeting as of March 16, 2024, the treasurer will close the Boone Set-aside Fund and return the money to the SAYMA General Fund.

If the Boone Set-aside Fund still exists and a new Monthly Meeting associated with SAYMA is established in the Boone area before March 16, 2029, the clerk of SAYMA Ministry and Nurture is authorized to direct the disbursement of the funds to the new Monthly Meeting in the Boone area. If no Monthly Meeting associated with SAYMA is established in the Boone area before March 16, 2029, the SAYMA treasurer will close the Boone Set-aside Fund and return the money to the SAYMA General Fund.

2. Wider Quaker Organization Funding Committee Report. The Committee received and reviewed the report of the ad hoc WQO Funding Committee. Finance Committee recommends SAYMA approve the report and accept the funding recommendations contained in it. Based on the WQO Committee’s recommended percentage distribution and Finance Committee’s assessment of our current financial situation, Finance Committee proposes the following revision to the Fiscal Year 2019 SAYMA budget:

| "Umbrella" organizations | | FY 2019 Proposed | FY 2018 | Change FY19-18 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| FWCC | | 1,000.00 | 300.00 | 700.00 |
| FGC | | 750.00 | 300.00 | 450.00 |
| Subtotal | | 1,750.00 | 600.00 | |
| | | | | |
| Contributions | Percent of Total | FY 2019 Proposed | FY 2018 | Change FY19-18 |
| QEW | 15% | 637.50 | 300.00 | 337.50 |
| Quaker House | 15% | 637.50 | 450.00 | 187.50 |
| QVS | 15% | 637.50 | 450.00 | 187.50 |
| RSWR | 15% | 637.50 | 300.00 | 337.50 |
| Friends Peace Team | 10% | 425.00 | 300.00 | 125.00 |
| William Penn | 10% | 425.00 | 300.00 | 125.00 |
| FCNL | 10% | 425.00 | 300.00 | 125.00 |
| AFSC | 5% | 212.50 | 300.00 | -87.50 |
| Bolivian Quaker Ed | 5% | 212.50 | 300.00 | -87.50 |
| Friends Journal | | 0.00 | 300.00 | -300.00 |
| FCLGBTQ Concerns | | 0.00 | 300.00 | -300.00 |
| Subtotal | | 4,250.00 | 3,600.00 | |
| | | | | |
| Total Umbrella & Contribs | | 6,000.00 | 4,200.00 | 1,800.00 |
| | | | | |
| Budget adopted at YM 48 | | 5,000.00 | | |
| | | | | |
| Net change to budget | | 1,000.00 | | |

Work in progress

1. Financial procedures for Yearly Meeting. Working with the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee (YMPC), we have developed procedures and forms for handling and accounting for funds received at Yearly Meeting. We will implement the new procedures at Yearly Meeting 2019. We are also collaborating with the YMPC to develop a budget estimate and adjust fees as needed.

2. Alternate investment venues for SAYMA funds. Given recent increases in federal interest rates, we investigated whether investing our savings in different vehicles or different institutions would increase our income. Assuming we want to stay in fixed income investments (e.g., bank accounts, certificates of deposit), the answer is “not much,” at present. Furthermore, the institution where we have our savings is a socially responsible credit union, offering tangible

benefits to the communities where our money is invested. Finance Committee will repeat this inquiry at least annually to assure reasonable returns on SAYMA's modest savings.

3. Implementation of assessment changes. We recently surveyed meetings about how they plan to implement assessment changes SAYMA approved last Yearly Meeting. Only 11 meetings responded to the survey, but they accounted for 84% of SAYMA's assessment revenue. Half of them plan to implement the new assessment immediately, and the remainder will use alternative systems to calculate their assessments. Overall, implementation of the new assessment system could result in a small reduction in assessment revenue to SAYMA. In conjunction with the 2018 census, monthly meetings that are let to pay on a different basis from SAYMA's recommendation are asked to inform the SAYMA treasurer of how the MM's basis differs from the recommended basis, and of the amount it expects to pay for the coming year. Finance Committee will continue to monitor assessment revenue to build accurate projections for future budgets.

4. FY 2020 budget preparation. The Treasurer has sent inquiries to committee clerks and others in positions of responsibility asking for budget requests for next year. Finance Committee will consider the first draft of the budget at its next meeting in late April or early May. Friends not in specific positions of responsibility with concerns or suggestions about how SAYMA should use its financial resources doing God's work are invited to communicate with the Treasurer or the Clerk of Finance Committee before our next meeting.

5. The Treasurer and Administrative Assistant have confirmed that SAYMA has the required employer records for tax purposes, and have set up files in the Huntsville office.
Ad Hoc Committee Report on

Attachment E - Ad Hoc Committee on Wider Quaker Organization Funding

Report of Ad Hoc WQO Funding Committee 15th Day 9th Month 2018, 8th day 3rd Month 2019

Geeta McGahey, clerk, Charles Wilton, Wood Boulton, Christina Repoley

In attendance Charles Schade, Finance Committee clerk

At the first meeting we proposed and sent out to all representatives and to all monthly meetings the recommendation that:

New proposed organizations should be minuted by monthly meetings, considered at annual sessions. Use WQO criteria to justify.

For the 2019 budget revision our Umbrella organizations: FWCC receive \$1000 and FGC \$750. We will continue ongoing discernment of our funding obligations. We also suggest that no more than \$750 come out of this years budgeted amount and \$1000 be additional money. This was approved by Finance committee and is presented in the Treasurer's revised budget.

For the 2019 budget revision we used the following funding criteria which were looked at in composite:

- 1 How big is the WQO constituency?
2. Do they provide direct services to SAYM or our monthly meetings?
3. How active is their SAYMA representative? (e.g. travels to meetings, submits reports, is aware of their financial situation, etc?)
4. What is the degree to which their work fits within a social issue important to SAYMA?
5. What is the effectiveness of the organization?
6. What is the impact of our contribution?

At our March 2019 meeting, on using the fourth question, we found it unclear and not an appropriate one for the representative to discern. An alternative wording might be to ask how the WQO fulfils the spirit of Quakerism, or responds to Quaker testimonies. Are they lifting up issues important to Quakers? We will Invite friends to our meeting at YM to further this.

We removed the following suggested criteria and the reasons were circulated and are still available

Do they have a one-time critical funding need?

What is the degree to which their work fits within the mission of SAYMA?

What is the degree to which their work fits within the Yearly Meeting theme?

Requests to get information about the organizations were sent in winter 2018 . The responses and reports to YM were used along with the criteria to make the following recommendations. We divided the organizations into three tiers. We did not fund Friends for LGBTQ concerns and Friends Journal because they did not meet enough of the criteria or provide information.

We propose that QVS needs a contact, representative, possibly board member. We also are working to secure from FGC and FWCC our proportionate allocation

In February 2019 we requested information from representatives for the 2020 budget, which we reviewed at our March meeting. The following table contains our proposed revisions to the 2019 budget and the percentages for the 2020 budgets. The actual amounts will be determined when the finance committee presents the budget.

| | FY19 | FY!9 | FY 18 | change | FY 20 |
|--------------------------------|------------|----------|-------|--------|-------|
| Umbrella organizations | | | | | |
| FWCC | | 1,000.00 | 300 | 700 | 1000 |
| FGC | | 750.00 | 300 | 450 | 750 |
| Subtotal | | 17500 | 600 | 1150 | |
| | | | | | |
| Contributions | | | | | |
| | Percentage | | | | % |
| AFSC | 5% | 213.00 | 300 | -88 | 5% |
| Bolivian Quaker Ed | 5% | 213.00 | 300 | -88 | 0 |
| FCNL | 10% | 425.00 | 300 | 1 | 10% |
| Friends Peace Team | 10% | 425.00 | 300 | 125 | 18% |
| QEW | 15% | 638.00 | 300 | 338 | 18% |
| Quaker House | 15% | 638.00 | 450 | 188 | 18% |
| QVS | 15% | 638.00 | 450 | 188 | 18% |
| RSWR | 15% | 638.00 | 300 | 338 | 6% |
| William Penn | 10% | 425.00 | 300 | 125 | 6% |
| Subtotal | | 4,250.00 | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Total Umbrella & Contributions | | 6,000.00 | 4200 | 1800 | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Budget adopted at YM 48 | | 5,000.00 | | | |
| | | | | | |
| Net change to be proposed | | 1,000.00 | | | |

We removed Bolivian Quaker Education, Friends Journal, and FCLGBTQ Concerns because no representative or contact gave us reports. William Penn House and RSWR were dropped to the lowest tier because there was no report but members of the committee were aware of the good work these organizations do. We will speak to nominating about making sure the reps are aware of the importance of their reports.

Both the Finance Committee and this Ad Hoc committee believe that it servers a useful purpose in SAYMA. At our meeting at Representatives meeting we invite the clerk and other Friends to join in discernment whether it should remain an ad hoc committee, appointed by the clerk springing into existence each year, then disappearing or become a standing committee with a n agenda throughout the year, e.g., maintaining contact with representatives, briefing them on their responsibilities.

Feb – Get information from Representatives and Contacts

March – Committee meets to discern percentages

March Rep meeting –Present the revised criteria, the 2019 revised budget allocations for approval, the 2020 budget allocations as first read.

YM – Approve budget with the numbers

Prayerfully submitted, Geeta McGahey, clerk

Attachment F: Draft of Social Media Policy, Web Support Committee

Social media can be a powerful, positive tool for the building of community among Friends, seekers and friends of Friends. SAYMA has created social media guidelines that seek to create a beneficial experience for as many participants as possible on SAYMA's social media platforms. The content on our social media accounts is intended for people of all ages, and we hope these guidelines empower community members like you to create this welcoming space with us.

SAYMA encourages the sharing of news, events, comments, questions and feedback from online community participants on SAYMA's social media sites to broadly enrich our shared spiritual community. Currently, SAYMA shares content and seeks to collaborate with users to create community through SAYMA accounts on Facebook and Google groups.

On SAYMA's social media sites:

- DO engage with the community, share and comment on posts, and tag your F/friends!
- DO ask questions and give answers to other participants—while being respectful of our differing experiences and opinions.
- DO stay on topic: For example, if the discussion is about worship, then talk about worship.
- DO lift one another up—we encourage you to answer that of God/Spirit in one another!

Further, before posting commentary or questions in response to social media postings or other Friends comments on SAYMA's sites, we ask you to consider the following queries:

- 1) Is my comment truthful?
- 2) Is my comment beneficial to this discussion thread and the community?
- 3) If I am holding a concern that I wish to lift up, will my comment offer constructive criticism with a possible solution?
- 4) If I wish to share a comment about a particular person or organization, do my words convey love and respect? If it is a difficult or private issue, should I communicate directly via phone, email or instant messenger with this person/organization about this issue prior to (or instead of) posting online?

SAYMA takes seriously our responsibility to co-create a healthy online community for all Friends and friends of Friends.

All SAYMA SM forums will appoint an Administrator/Moderator to maintain this policy in any SM platform associated with SAYMA.

SAYMA will remove posts and commentary on Facebook and Google groups that contain:

- Spam

- Crude or explicit language
- Hate speech
- Content that is harassing, discriminatory, or triggering (including descriptions, images, or videos of explicit and gratuitous violence)
- Information that is not compatible with the Quaker testimony of integrity (such as news stories with sources that cannot be verified)
- Personally identifiable information for another person (including name, address, phone number, or email)
- Comments that harass or attempt to direct harm at a particular individual, organization, or group

Participants who feel led to share commentary that conflicts with some or all of these guidelines despite written warnings from SAYMA will be banned or blocked from all of SAYMA's social media platforms. To help promote a social media experience that is beneficial for all users, commentary that violates Facebook user agreement will be reported to the respective platform.

Users who wish to appeal a ban/ask for clearness about the ban on Facebook or Google Groups may submit their request via email to (?).SAYMA reserves the right to not reinstate access at our discretion.

By using SAYMA social media platforms, you are agreeing to these community guidelines.

Attachment G: SAYMA-URJ Committee Report

SAYMA-URJ Report

March 2019

The following report includes the SAYMA-URJ (Uplifting Racial Justice) Mission, Vision and Goals that were approved by SAYMA in 2018. When Lisa Bennett laid down the clerking of the committee not long after SAYMA 2018 (which followed Sharon's clerkship of the ad-hoc committee that the SAYMA clerk laid down saying there was need for new energy on the committee). At SAYMA Rep meeting in Berea (Sept. 15, 2018), John was asked if he would take on clerkship of SAYMA-URJ until a clerk could be identified.

In order to generate interest in serving on the SAYMA-URJ Committee, Atlanta Friends of Color organized a Friends of Color lunch gathering on Feb. 24. Fifteen Friends of Color attended this gathering and three additional FOC signed up to support the committee and learn more so they could consider serving on the committee. Of the three (Sophia, Rebecca Grant and Ivie Osaghe), Ivie was able to attend today's SAYMA Rep meeting. FOC of AFM have agreed to take on this challenge of getting and keeping SAYMA-URJ active. There are a total of 40 FOC who are regular or periodic attendees at AFM and no other meeting in SAYMA, to our knowledge has more than one FOC who is a regular attender. There is great energy among Atlanta FOC. In fact, they would like to gather monthly instead of quarterly as initially proposed.

We would like to attend (or bring in) some anti-racist training resources such as Crossroads and have a FOC retreat. Therefore a budget (somewhere between 5 and 8,000 - we can work on an actual budget) needs to be approved to accomplish those things. We may also need to have Atlanta FOC visit other meetings in the SAYMA region to encourage FOC in that area to attend or talk to white Friends about ways to make the meeting more welcoming to FOC who check us out with hopes they will consider returning.

What we need from all of the other SAYMA meetings:

1. Identify Friends of Color at your meeting and send those names and contact info to us.
2. Meet with Sharon Smith who has expressed concern that her concerns and passions have been ignored by SAYMA and Asheville Meeting. (*Should she be welcomed to serve on the committee?*)
3. Give us until SAYMA 2019 to bring forth a new committee knowing it may be all Atlanta Friends.

SAYMA-URJ Mission: To help SAYMA become a welcoming place for Friends of color. The committee will do this by providing a place for Friends of color to bring issues and concerns regarding racism within their monthly meetings and SAYMA, to find **support and advocacy**. The committee will also work to raise awareness about White Supremacy aka racism within SAYMA, by compiling and disseminating educational resources.

SAYMA-URJ Vision: SAYMA/URJ envisions a Yearly Meeting community, where every Friend of color feels welcome. We see a SAYMA community where that of God within every Friend of color is affirmed, his or her unique history, spiritual journey and lived truth is respected, where our messages and concerns, are heard and treated with due consideration. We see a Yearly Meeting where we can build close spiritual Friendships, appreciation, love and support for the charges we carry as people of color, within and outside of the RSoF.

Some further thoughts:

“Addressing racism makes many white people feel anger, fear and guilt, which leads to denial, minimization and defensiveness.” ~ Robin di Angelo

“Meanwhile, racism inevitably touches everyone...No one can escape the messages of white superiority. The reflex to shut down conversations about racism helps to keep it alive.” ~ Robin di Angelo

Any Truth and Reconciliation process—any Restorative Justice process—requires:

1. Learning the TRUTH about our nation’s racial history.
2. Listening to the voices of those most affected (people of color).
3. Challenging racism and racism denial in white circles and institutions--which the RSoF is.
4. Preparing for public action.

There does not appear to be a Quaker process for resolving racial conflict among Quakers!!! Racial problems continually come up, yet there is no appropriately Quaker process for addressing, let alone resolving them.

Therefore, SAYMA-URJ is uniquely positioned, as the sole anti-racism group among Friends everywhere, made up only of Friends of color, to provide guidance and leadership on this front.

Goals SAYMA-URJ approved:

Goals: (The following goals were compiled by canvassing SAYMA FOC. We asked what they felt they needed to feel safe and welcome among Friends.)

1. Help navigating Quaker culture and process--like a FOC welcome committee, a printed guide to Quaker culture for newcomers and/or assigned mentors.
2. Opportunities to connect with other FOC to build a community of support, share experiences and get **emotional and tactical support from other FOC.**

3. Commitment to addressing the concerns of FOC/Respond to said concerns in a timely manner, with **sincere listening not avoidance, “management” and “process violence.”**
4. Develop a conflict resolution/reconciliation process that does **not expect victims to facilitate or take responsibility for what happened to them. Just stop blaming victims for their own oppression.**
5. Hire skilled facilitators for private FOC only sessions, to **help FOC understand and heal from generational racial trauma and to develop personal and group empowerment.**
6. Arrange dismantling racism workshops for everyone in SAYMA, beginning with the Yearly Meeting leadership: All the clerks, the Planning Committee, Ministry and Nurture, the Education Committee and the Finance Committee.

Attachment H: Treasurer's Report

SAYMA Treasurer's Report March 9, 2019 Carol Lamm, Treasurer

SAYMA's fiscal year is October 1 – September 30. The attached reports wrap up the year ended September 30, 2018 (FY18) and show the first five months of the current year (FY19).

Roger Wise, my predecessor as treasurer, gave a report at September 2018 rep meeting that covered FY18 through August 31, 2018. The attached reports cover all of FY18.

There are two reports: 1. **SAYMA General Fund Income and Expenses (Inc Stmt)**. The columns

show actual income and expenses in SAYMA's General Fund for FY18; the approved budget for FY19; the actual income and expenses from October 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019; and the percent of the annual budget received or spent to date.

2. **SAYMA Balance Sheet**. This report shows balances at the end of FY18 and as of February 28, 2019.

Notable FY19 points as of February 28: 1. **Assessment income from monthly meetings is off to a good start**. Inc

Stmt, row 6. Though we are only 42% of the way into the current year, assessments are at 46%.

2. **\$2,677 from Boone MM bank account was recovered**. Inc Stmt, row 7. See related recommendation from finance committee.

3. **Closed Suntrust bank account**. Bal Sheet, row 4.

4. **Third World Delegates contribution to FWCC**. Bal Sheet, row 21. Over the past few years, the set-aside fund for this purpose grew to \$1,600, which was sent to FWCC to support Latin American delegate participation in the upcoming Section of the Americas gathering.

We have begun **budgeting for FY20**. I requested input by February 28 from all SAYMA committee clerks and others who are in positions of responsibility that may entail General Fund expenses, including transfers to set-aside funds overseen by committees. I have heard from some but not all. Please get in touch ASAP if you want to have input before I send a draft to the finance committee.

SAYMA Balance Sheet

| 1 | | | As of 9/30/2018 | | As of 2/28/2019 |
|----|---------------------------------|--|-----------------|--------|-----------------|
| 2 | Assets | | | | |
| 3 | Checking - Bank Am | | 12,492 | | 27,702 |
| 4 | Checking - Suntrust | | 5,485 | | 0 |
| 5 | Money Mkt Acct | | 32,577 | | 32,819 |
| 6 | Checking - PNC Bank | | 22,284 | | 21,801 |
| 7 | xxx | | | | |
| 8 | Total Assets | | | 72,838 | 82,323 |
| 9 | | | | | |
| 10 | Liabilities | | | 0 | 0 |
| 11 | | | | | |
| 12 | Equity | | | | |
| 13 | Earmarked Donations | | | | |
| 14 | Contrib - URJ | | 2,271 | | 2,271 |
| 15 | xxx | | | | |
| 16 | Total Funds Earmarked by Donors | | | 2,271 | 2,271 |
| 17 | | | | | |
| 18 | Funds Designated by SAYMA | | | | |
| 19 | Reserves ¹ | | 17,949 | | 18,806 |
| 20 | Set-aside Funds | | | | |
| 21 | Fund - FWCC 3rd World Deleg | | 1,600 | | 0 |
| 22 | Fund - Released Friend | | 10,165 | | 10,165 |
| 23 | Fund - Spiritual Development | | 3,730 | | 4,440 |
| 24 | Fund - Uplifting Racial Justice | | 16,000 | | 16,000 |
| 25 | Fund - YAF Scholarship | | 1,365 | | 1,365 |
| 26 | Fund - Youth Enrichment | | 2,696 | | 2,696 |
| 27 | xxx | | | | |
| 28 | Total Set-aside Funds | | 35,556 | | 34,666 |
| 29 | | | | | |
| 30 | Total Funds Designated by SAYMA | | | 53,505 | 53,472 |
| 31 | | | | | |
| 32 | Remaining Undesignated Equity | | | 17,062 | 26,580 |
| 33 | | | | | |
| 34 | Total Liabilities and Equity | | | 72,838 | 82,323 |
| 35 | | | | | |

¹ Reserves are set at 40% of FY Operating Expenses. This excludes Yearly Meeting expenses, transfers to set-aside funds and WQO donations. Tapping this account would indicate a distressed financial condition.

| SAYMA General Fund Income and Expenses | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| FY18, FY19 Budget and FY19 Actual First Five Months | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | |
| 2 | | Actual FY18 | Budget FY19 | 5 Months (42%) | |
| 3 | | 10/1/17 - | 10/1/18 - | 10/1/2018 - | % |
| 4 | | 9/30/18 | 9/30/19 | 2/28/19 | to date |
| 5 | Income | | | | |
| 6 | Assessments | \$ 48,829 | \$ 52,563 | \$ 24,097 | 46% |
| 7 | Contributions – General (\$50) + Boone (\$2677) | 1,040 | 1,810 | 2,727 | 151% |
| 8 | Interest - Money Mkt | 454 | 420 | 242 | 58% |
| 9 | Publication Sales | 59 | 47 | 80 | 170% |
| 10 | YM Income | <u>45,201</u> | <u>55,900</u> | <u>-</u> | 0% |
| 11 | Total Income | \$ 95,583 | \$ 110,740 | \$ 27,146 | 25% |
| 12 | | | | | |
| 13 | Expenses | | | | |
| 14 | SAYMA Operations | | | | |
| 15 | Liability Insurance | \$ 1,593 | \$ 1,504 | \$ 1,418 | 94% |
| 16 | Office Admin | 5,172 | 3,435 | 847 | 25% |
| 17 | Personnel | 29,972 | 30,876 | 11,064 | 36% |
| 18 | Publications Expenses | | | | |
| 19 | Pub Exp - Directory | | | | |
| 20 | Pub Exp - Faith & Practice | | | 193 | |
| 21 | Pub Exp - Newsletter | | 1,200 | - | 0% |
| 22 | Pub Exp - Web & Hosting Srvc | | 200 | - | 0% |
| 23 | SAYF Operational Transfers | 2,000 | 2,000 | - | 0% |
| 24 | SAYMA Committees | 1,023 | 2,000 | - | 0% |
| 25 | Travel Reimbursements | | | | |
| 26 | Travel - Rep Meetings | 73 | 500 | - | 0% |
| 27 | Travel - WQO Delegates | 5,032 | 4,800 | 2,750 | 57% |
| 28 | Set-aside Fund Annual Allotments | | | | |
| 29 | FWCC 3rd World Delg Annl Exp | - | | | |
| 30 | Released Friend Annl Exp | - | | | |
| 31 | Spiritual Development Fund | 1,500 | 500 | 500 | 100% |
| 32 | Uplifting Racial Justice Fund | 16,000 | | | |
| 33 | YAF Scholarships Annl Exp | | | | |
| 34 | Youth Enrichment Fund Annl Exp | | | | |
| 35 | Transfer to (from) Reserve | (434) | | 857 | |
| 36 | Yearly Meeting | 44,714 | 58,637 | - | 0% |
| 48 | WQO Annual Contributions | <u>4,200</u> | <u>5,000</u> | <u>-</u> | 0% |
| 49 | Total Expenses | \$ 110,845 | \$ 110,652 | \$ 17,629 | 16% |
| 50 | | | | | |
| 51 | Net Income | <u>\$ (15,262)</u> | <u>\$ 88</u> | <u>\$ 9,517</u> | |

Attachment I: Yearly Meeting Planning Committee

Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Report to SAYMA Representatives Meeting March 16, 2019

The Yearly Meeting Planning Committee (YMPC) met on January 12, 2019 at the Chattanooga Friends Meeting house and on March 16 at Asheville Friends Meeting house to continue our plans and preparation for SAYMA's Yearly Meeting (YM) scheduled for June 13-16, 2019. Our theme is **Seek the Light – Act Boldly**. This report summarizes both the January and March meetings. Both meetings began with silent worship, after which Friends shared joys, concerns, and observations since our last meeting.

In January we began our meeting with the following excerpt from Quaker Faith and Practice, Britain Yearly Meeting: Social Responsibility, 23.04:

The duty of the Society of Friends is to be the voice of the oppressed but (also) to be conscious that we ourselves are part of that oppression. Uncomfortably we stand with one foot in the kingdom of this world and with the other in the Eternal Kingdom. Seldom can we keep the inward and outward working of love in balance, let alone the consciousness of living both in time and in eternity, in timelessness. Let us not be beguiled into thinking that political action is all that is asked of us, nor that our personal relationship with God excuses us from actively confronting the evil in this world. The political and social struggles must be waged, but a person is more and needs more than politics, else we are in danger of gaining the whole world but losing our souls.

Eva I Pinthus, 1987

Advance Program and Registration Form: The Advance Program and Registration Form will be distributed to monthly meetings and worship groups on April 2, 2019 and will be on the SAYMA web site.

Credit Cards: Credit card payments for YM registration and the bookstore are processed through Pay Pal. Because of the concern that Pay Pal discriminates against Palestinians in the occupied territories, an ad hoc committee will research this issue and report to the YMPC at its wrap up meeting at the rise of Yearly Meeting.

Workshops: Good News! This year we have received enough workshop proposals to offer a good variety of workshops but not so many proposals that we had reject some or move them to another time during YM. Several comments received in the evaluations of YM 2018 asked for more workshops relating to spirituality and/or Quaker values. It appears that the workshops this year will respond to those comments. Several comments in the 2018 evaluations also expressed happiness that we had several

singing/music workshops. This year it looks like YM will not offer as many of those as last year. We invite you to informally gather for singing, playing music, and dancing. The Yearly Meeting Planning Committee has no authority over the proposals submitted. Individuals or groups submit workshop proposals based upon their own leadings. Up to 12 workshops (based upon Warren Wilson space available) are offered each day, Friday and Saturday afternoons. Thank you to all of you who are presenting workshops!

Friday Afternoon: Play Boldly/ Rest Boldly: The past several years we have moved some workshops and had other activities or meetings scheduled between workshops and dinner on Friday. In the 2018 evaluations several Friends requested more free time. This year we are trying a more unstructured Friday from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m. There will be a large sheet on the bulletin board outside the dining room for anyone who would like to get a group together for an activity or meeting to list it, including where to gather so Friends can join in. We anticipate that Warren Wilson will offer a tour of the farm, and we hope for kite making as always. Feel free and encouraged to get Friends together to worship, hike, sit, talk, sing, or whatever.

Bookstore: Contact Judy Geary, judithgeary@msn.com, with titles of books that you would like to have in the SAYMA Yearly Meeting bookstore. Deadline is April 1, 2019.

WORSHIP:

Worship Sharing Queries: Much of our January meeting was spent working on the queries for YM small worship sharing groups. We brought forth queries through worship sharing. Then the queries were posted on the wall for us all to see. We discussed them and grouped them into Friday, Saturday, or either. We returned to our discernment with several breaks during which we conducted other needed business. At the final hour during our January meeting, we selected the queries. They were then sent to SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee and to John Adams of the Uplifting Racial Justice Committee for further seasoning. The queries for small group worship sharing, finalized at our March meeting, are:

Friday: When I seek the Light, where do I find it?

How do I discern when a call to bold action comes from the Light?

What joys or disappointments or concerns have I experienced when attempting to act boldly?

Saturday: What injustices in the world are calling me to act boldly?

How do I practice compassion in my bold actions?

How has bold action affected my meeting community?

How does privilege inform the ways I choose to act?

Late Night Worship Groups: We have historically offered late night worship for two groups: men and women. We have received requests to expand the groups to include

others such as people of color, LBGTQ, gender neutral, etc. We have discussed this at length. Look for a survey link on late night worship groups in the Advance Program. Based upon the responses to the survey, we will attempt to offer groups that Friends request.

Evening Plenaries: John Adams from Atlanta Friends Meeting will bring our message for the Thursday plenary. On Friday Quaker Voluntary Service, featuring both alumni and current servers, will present a panel on impact and stories of discernment. We are looking forward to enriching plenaries that will challenge us to **Seek the Light – Act Boldly.**

Saturday Night: The talent show with dancing to follow will be entertaining and fun for all.

Chat n’ Chew: On Thursday and Friday nights, Chat n’ Chew happens in Lower Gladfelter immediately after the evening plenary. On Saturday night, it is in Bryson Gym after the Talent Show and before the dance. For the last 7 years, the same monthly meetings have hosted Chat n’ Chew (and two of them longer than that!). We are very grateful to Asheville, Swannanoa, Berea and Chattanooga. It is time to give them a break. We need monthly meetings to host the Chat n’ Chews this year. Refreshments can be simple, for the emphasis should be on Chat – an opportunity to talk with each other and visit informally. We don’t need elaborate Chews – store bought chips, cookies, etc., is plenty with a little lemonade or water to wash them down. PLEASE consider this opportunity to give to Yearly Meeting, perhaps your meeting could join with another for one evening. Let Shannon Roberts Smith, Adult Program Coordinator, know if your meeting will help out by hosting a Chat n’ Chew. Shannon’s email address is smileyslr.roberts@gmail.com.

Warren Wilson Facility: We labored over the labeling of bathrooms in dorms, having received several requests for revised labeling. Please mark on your registration form your preference as to bathrooms.

All Day Coffee Pot: Because of lack of resources and volunteers, there will be no all-day coffee pot at Yearly Meeting this year. If a monthly meeting, worship group, or individual is willing to assume this responsibility, contact Carol Nickle, carolsnickle@att.net.

Getting People There: We discussed ways to compensate for the lack of Southern Appalachian Friend. Please talk up YM 2019 every week (every day) in your meetings, Register and come to YM, and support attenders at YM, financially and otherwise.

1st Time Attenders: In the comments to the 2018 Evaluations a few Friends requested a booklet for 1st time attenders. We sent emails to all 2018 1st time attenders for suggestions and opinions. Based upon the responses, we decided there was not enough interest or need for a booklet. We will have volunteers available near the registration table to help 1st time attenders. We will also have 2 designated tables at

lunch on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. If you have other suggestions for welcoming 1st time attenders at YM, contact Judy Geary or Carol Nickle (see their email addresses above in this report).

SAYF: SAYF will have the intergenerational games and the fish bowl again this year. We encourage participation by SAYF in workshops and all of Yearly Meeting as possible.

YAFs: We appreciate and benefit from the participation of a representative from Young Adult Friends on YMPC. YAF led worship sharing open to all the SAYMA community will be on Saturday afternoon.

Junior Yearly Meeting: The comments in the evaluations of YM 2018 gave high praise to the JYM and Playcare staff and volunteers. Congratulations on a fantastic job with our young Quakers, the future of SAYMA. More volunteers are needed, so get/renew your background clearance and sign up! To renew or sign up initially, email Susan Phelan (email address below). Playcare needs an additional staff person, which has resulted in a slight increase in registration fee for Yearly Meeting (from \$55.00 to \$57.00).

BUDGET for YM 2019: The YMPC maintains a budget for Yearly Meeting separate from the SAYMA budget. Yearly Meeting is expected to break even. Some years there has been a surplus and some years a deficit. We hope that this year there will be a surplus or break even. YMPC appreciates the assistance and understanding of the SAYMA Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and SAYMA Finance Committee. The budget approved for YM 2019 is attached.

Minute requesting Ad Hoc Site Selection Committee: The Yearly Meeting Planning Committee brought the following Minute to the March 2018 SAYMA Representatives Meeting.

Minute: The Yearly Meeting Planning Committee asks SAYMA to form a site-selection ad hoc committee to consider other sites for Yearly Meeting. We have heard concerns for a site that is affirming of people of color, centrally located to SAYMA monthly meetings, and continues to be welcoming to people across the gender spectrum.

This Minute has not been acted upon. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee requests that this Minute be considered at Yearly Meeting this June 2019.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Background checks for volunteers with young Friends need to be renewed every 5 years. If you were approved in 2014, you need to renew. Contact SAYMA Administrative Assistant, Susan Phelan, saymaoffice@gmail.com or addminasst@sayma.org.

Please let Susan Phelan know of any Meeting clerk changes or SAYMA rep changes! Additional volunteers are needed to serve as FANs with SAYF and as helpers with JYM and Playcare.

Additional volunteers are needed at the registration table at YM 2019. Please let Nominating Committee know if you might clerk YMPC! Talk with Carol Nickle if you have questions about the position.

MINUTE OF THANKS:

SAYMA YMPC is very grateful to Chattanooga Friends Meeting for cheerfully hosting our January 12, 2019, meeting. Your hospitality is much appreciated. We enjoyed your delicious breakfast, hearty lunch, and getting to know you better. Many Thanks!

Submitted by carol nickle, YMPC clerk

Proposed 2019 Yearly Meeting Budget

INCOME

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Registration Fees (less waivers) | \$9,100 | |
| Donations | \$2,200 | |
| <i>Income for Yearly Meeting</i> | | \$11,300 |
| Rooms | \$22,750 | |
| Meals | \$12,700 | |
| Facility | \$4,850 | |
| <i>Hospitality Charges</i> | | \$40,300 |
| Total Income for YM | | \$51,600 |

EXPENSES

| | | |
|---|----------|-----------------|
| Rooms | \$22,750 | |
| Meals | \$12,700 | |
| Facility | \$4,850 | |
| <i>Hospitality Reimbursement WW College</i> | | \$40,300 |
| Scholarships | \$1,800 | |
| Junior Yearly Meeting | \$5,700 | |
| Speaker | \$0 | |
| Services | \$1,350 | |
| Print and Supplies | \$1,300 | |
| Credit Card Fees | \$750 | |
| <i>YM Program Expenses</i> | | \$10,900 |
| Total Expenses for YM | | \$51,200 |
| NET | | \$400 |

Attachment J: Ad Hoc Faith and Practice Committee Report

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Revise the Guide to our Faith and Practice March 16, 2019

Where We Are!

The committee will finish reviewing the Asheville's Minute this month and will begin the review of the Atlanta Minute after that. It is the last minute on our agenda. After that we will review our "Seasoning Pot" where we have listed some of the more "global" concerns that needed us to hear from all who were moved by the Spirit to respond.

Answers to questions asked by our YM Clerk about our work.

1. Has your committee met to work in some way? Yes! How did you meet?

The Ad Hoc Committee to Revise the Guide to our Faith & Practice has been meeting 2 times a month on Saturday afternoons for about 2.5 hours since before the Berea Rep. Mtg. We are using phones via freeconference.com and find that we can do Spirit-led work on revising the Queries. We have the advantage of have been meeting in person 3 times a year for several years before this practice was adopted and it also helps that we have a very stable committee. Our committee also follows a clearly defined process that requires deliverable results to be presented to SAYMA and its monthly meetings.

2. Are the goals of your committee clear? Yes!

Were you able to accomplish those goals over the months since we last met in Berea? Yes!

Our goal is to revise SAYMA's Queries found in our Guide to our Faith and Practice. They have never been revised since they were adopted in 1990. Our core belief in continuing revelation asks us to consider how changes in the life of our membership and our meetings would be aided by revising our queries. .

While we are not ready to present our revisions to SAYMA's meetings, we are nearing the end of our review of the minutes received from many of SAYMA'S monthly meetings in response to our first revision. Each Meeting's minute has helped us to better understand what revisions were needed. Currently we are nearly finished reviewing the Minute from Asheville Meeting (which we happily received on Dec. 31, 2018). Next on our agenda is to review the minute sent by Atlanta Meeting. Yet this is not all we have left to do.

The last mountain we have to climb is a 3-page document listing concerns identified while reviewing SAYMA's Monthly Meetings' Minutes. Our committee decided early on that some issues would be better addressed if we waited until we had finished reviewing all the minutes submitted to us. We put those concerns into what we call a "seasoning pot" and will be examining them after YM 2019 is over.

Our goal, once the Queries are "seasoned" is to have the committee's revision completed and distributed in time for the 2020 Yearly Meeting to consider them.

3. Do you have concerns that you want to share?

A few Friends have expressed their concern that we are taking too long to complete the review of the Guide. The committee asks Friends to note that the revised "Guide to our Faith and Practice" was published in 2012 and can be found in the "blue" covered book as well as a PDF on the SAYMA website.

Note that SAYMA's queries have never been revised since the first edition was published in 1990. While the Guide itself has been revised by the Yearly Meeting several times before this committee began our work, the appendix containing the queries have not. This means that over 30 years have passed since the YM approved the queries found in the current edition of the Guide's appendix. Many questions as well as the how we ask them have changed since 1990. Other reasons for the "lengthy" process:

A: Much has happened within SAYMA's Monthly Meetings and in the communities where we live that were not reflected in the 1990 version of the queries.

B: We have also found that many Queries were actually Advices. Many of our Monthly Meetings objected to the tone and content of those Advices. This made for more work for our committee.

C: Recommendations for changing the Guide now require that they be in the form of Minutes approved by Monthly Meetings. This discernment of the Spirit has required more time for discernment, especially in our larger meetings.

D: The YM is larger than we were in 1990, both is number of meetings and number of Friends. E: SAYMA is also more diverse than in 1990. This new Light needs to be recognized in our queries.

Having the Queries speak with "one voice" about our many Spiritual Journeys means this committee needs time to discern how to resolve conflicts about what is SAYMA's journey.

We find that our discernment includes recognizing those Friends who are focused on one concern and wish to have their piece of the puzzle highlighted. We want to be compassionate about these requests for "more queries" while recognizing that we generally try to focus on the larger concerns that may already include those specific concerns.

It has become clear to me that our Faith and Practice may not need "more" concerns as much as it asks us to have the COURAGE it takes to Practice our Faith in our daily lives. Our Faith cannot survive by being a "Quiet" place for those with privileges not shared by all. It is the Practice that seems to be the nut that we are trying to crack. The Queries are more about how we Practice, Practice, Practice our Faith than the Guide itself talks about. It is how we follow the processes outlined in the Guide that can decide whether we find the clarity we seek about where we are led. The Queries allows Friends to share how we are living our Faith so that others may find a way that can open for them.

Finally, note that we are working to describe what SAYMA SAYS to each other and to the world about our condition in the beginning of the 21st century. As one of the newest Yearly Meetings and as one of the only located in the Appalachian South, our Queries from the Spirit will be the same in some ways and very different in other ways from those of other Yearly Meetings' Guides

We ask SAYMA Friends continue to hold our committee in the Light as we wrestle with revising SAYMA's Queries.

Submitted by Free Polazzo, Committee Clerk Mach 16, 2019 (Revised March 25)

Attachment K: FCNL Representatives Report

Friends Committee on National Legislation
Report to SAYMA Rep Meeting 142
March 16, 2019

In November, all four of SAYMA's representatives to FCNL attended and participated in the annual meeting and Quaker Public Policy Institute. This was a milestone meeting as 2018 marked 75 years of continuous Quaker witness and advocacy on Capitol Hill. We will be delivering a full report to SAYMA's annual gathering in June, but wanted to let meetings know about some important news.

At our business meeting, we approved legislative priorities for the 116th Congress. This process began in our monthly meetings one year ago, and lays the path for FCNL's professional staff and volunteer activists through the current session of Congress. These priorities can be found online here: <https://www.fcnl.org/documents/775>

This year we will be updating *The World We Seek: Statement of Legislative Policy*, last revised in 2013, and again, we seek input from every monthly meeting within SAYMA. Materials have been sent out to meeting clerks and contacts and are also available online at <https://www.fcnl.org/policystatement>. **Your meeting's feedback is needed by April 26.**

Respectfully submitted,
Deni Elliott, Lewisburg, WV
Jane Hiles, Birmingham, AL
Bill Reynolds, Chattanooga, TN
Charlie Wilton, Berea, KY