

SAYMA 1976

The Sixth Annual
SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN YEARLY MEETING
of the
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

and

The Eighteenth Annual Gathering
of the
SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS

10-13 June, 1976
Maryville College
Maryville, Tennessee

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SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN YEARLY MEETING
AND ASSOCIATION
of the
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

E P I S T L E

To Friends Everywhere:

Each time we gather, our Yearly Meeting has a slightly different flavor, and this year was no exception! Certainly Canby Jones' presentations to SAYMA were insightful because each of his four messages contained clear testimonies to the interior authority by which he obviously lives. In the sharing groups which followed we struggled with creativity, wisdom, and servanthood, asking "What is Authentic Authority for Quakerism Today?" We grappled with our need to recognize authority and discourage strains of rebelliousness. Often we overlook the Biblical source of our faith and the example of Jesus is sometimes elusive. This weekend we have re-examined scripture and we have considered the servanthood authority of Jesus. We have found a measure of commonality and unity through our seeking.

As we dealt with issues concerning the death penalty, the new monthly meetings joining SAYMA, and our relations with Friends General Conference and Friends United Meeting, we find ourselves asking "by what authority do we speak?" We trust SAYMA will not reach a consensus until our authority is indeed authentic.

Approved by SAYMA
on 13 June 1976

Epistle Drafting Committee
Sallie Gailey
Steve Meredith
Bob Lough

SAYMA address: 301 Hayes Street, Crossville, TN 38555 USA

(This Yearly Meeting includes some Monthly Meetings and worship groups in the following states: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia.)

PROGRAM SYNOPSIS
SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN YEARLY MEETING

held at Maryville College
Maryville, Tennessee
10 - 13 June 1976

THEME: Sources of Authority for Friends

RESOURCE LEADER: T. Canby Jones, Wilmington College

Thursday, 10 June

3:00 pm Registration and Recreation
4:00 pm Representative Meeting Number 22
7:00 pm Welcoming, Introductions and Announcements
8:00 pm Canby Jones Address - 1; & Young Friends Session - 1
9:00 pm Sharing Groups - 1
10:00 pm Evening Meeting for Worship

Friday, 11 June

8:30 am Morning Meeting for Worship
9:00 am Planning for recreation, hikes and trips of various kinds, taking lunch along
2:00 pm Representative Meeting Number 22, concluded
3:00 pm Yearly Meeting Reports and Concerns; & Young Friends Session - 2
7:00 pm Welcoming latecomers and Introductions
7:30 pm Canby Jones Address - 2; & Young Friends Session - 3
8:30 pm Sharing Groups - 2
10:00 pm Evening Meeting for Worship

Saturday, 12 June

8:30 am Morning Meeting for Worship
9:00 am Canby Jones Address - 3; & Young Friends Session - 4
10:30 am Sharing Groups - 3
1:00 pm The Sixth Annual Yearly Meeting for Business
3:30 pm Recreation
7:30 pm Canby Jones Address - 4 for both adults & Young Friends
9:00 pm Folk Dancing and Singing
10:30 pm Evening Meeting for Worship

Sunday, 13 June

8:00 am Conclusion of the 6th Annual Yearly Meeting for Business
9:00 am Monthly Meeting's State-of-the-Meeting Reports
9:30 am Reports from 'Wider Quaker' Organizations
10:15 am Reports from SAYMA Young Friends Groups
11:15 am Closing Meeting for Worship
1:30 pm Representative Meeting Number 23

SAYMA OFFICERS, DELEGATES AND REPRESENTATIVES for 1976-77 (as of 23 June 76)

<u>Office</u>	<u>Person</u>	<u>Monthly Meeting</u>
Clerk	Nelson Fuson . . .	Nashville
Assistant Clerk	Brian Yaffe . . .	Celo
Treasurer	Vic Vaughen . . .	West Knoxville
Co-Recording Clerk	Sue Williams . . .	Atlanta
Co-Recording Clerk	John Geary . . .	Celo/Chatt./Nashv.
Transcribing Clerk	Marion Wentwig . . .	Chattanooga
Newsletter Editor (S.A.F.)	Doris Fern . . .	Columbia
Recorder/Historian/Archivist	Lucretia Evans . . .	West Knoxville
Senior High Young Friends Clerk	Leonard Vaughen . . .	West Knoxville
Junior High Young Friends Clerk	Sally Mykel . . .	Atlanta

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairperson</u>	<u>Meeting</u>
Advancement	Tom Kenworthy . . .	Atlanta
Arrangements		
Guide to our Practice (Bk of Disc)	Brian Yaffe . . .	Celo
Nominating	Brian Yaffe . . .	Celo
Program	Richard Houghton . . .	Nashville

Delegates & Representatives to Wider Quaker Organizations

AFSC/SERO Exec. Comm. (1976-77)	Perry Treadwell . . .	Atlanta
FCNI General Committee (1974-77)	Hugh LaFollette . . .	B'ham/Nashville
FCNL General Committee (1975-78)	Francis Coyle . . .	Asheville
FCNL General Committee (1976-79)	Dwight Ferguson . . .	Atlanta
Fr. for Human Justice (1975-78)	Ski Hilenski . . .	West Knoxville
FWCC General Committee (1974-77)	Jack Kaiser . . .	Atlanta
FWCC General Committee (1975-78)	Richard Houghton . . .	Nashville
FWCC Triennial Mtg in 1976	Richard Houghton . . .	Nashville
William Penn House . . . (one of the FCNL Delegates)		
FCCP (one of the FCNL Delegates)		
Conf. Friends in the Americas '77	George Parker . . .	Berea
Conf. Friends in the Americas '77	Bette Evans(Alt.) . . .	West Knoxville

<u>Meeting</u> (or Worship Group)	<u>Clerk</u> (or Convener)	<u>Representative</u> to SAYMA RM	<u>Representative</u> to SAYMA Nom.Comm.
Asheville NC	George/Martha Oldham	Douglas Grant . . .	Philip Neal
Atlanta GA	Suzan Kenworthy . . .	Mike Mykel . . .	Mike Mykel
Berea KY	George Parker . . .	Beth Ann Tolden	Beth Ann Tilden
Birmingham AL	Joe Jenkins . . .	Paul Franklin . . .	
Celo NC	Brian Yaffe . . .	Judi McGahey . . .	Bob Barrus
Charleston WV	Pam Cellard . . .	Steve/Susie Wellons	
Chattanooga TN	Larry Ingle . . .	Mary Sanders . . .	Larry Ingle
Columbia SC	Syd Craig . . .	Syd Craig	
JumpOff/Sewanee TN	Dorothy Hutchinson . . .	Mary Jo/Claude Sutcliffe	
Pine Mountain KY	Burton Rogers . . .	Burton Rogers	
Nashville TN	Bob Lough . . .	Abbie Steele . . .	Larry Rubin
West Knoxville TN	Ski Hilenski . . .	Salli Kimberly . . .	Hershal Macon

MINUTES of the SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING of the SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN
YEARLY MEETING AND ASSOCIATION (the 18th Annual Gathering of the Associat'n)

The sixth annual meeting of SAYMA was held at Maryville College, Maryville, TN, from 10-13 June 1976. SAYMA business meetings began with the meeting on concerns on 11 June, with the Yearly Meeting for business on 12 and 13 June. Representative Meetings bracketed the Yearly Meeting, with RM-22 on 10 and 11 June and RM-23 on 13 June just before departure.

A. YEARLY MEETING REPORTS AND CONCERNS (Friday afternoon, 11 June 1976)

1. The first business session of SAYMA was convened by Assistant Clerk Chris Newland at 3 pm in the Fine Arts Music Hall at Maryville College.
2. Retirement Community Land Trust; Gayle Isensee discussed the possibility of individual vs. joint ownership of a retirement community supported by SAYMA and/or SEYM. She urged Friends to help by offering their land holdings for the use of such a community. The matter was referred to SAYMA RM.
3. Married Couples Enrichment Weekend: Bob & Dot Barrus will conduct this weekend workshop for eight couples at Camp Celo, 10-12 Sept '76.
4. Governmental Surveillance: Mel Zuck, AFSC, recommended that individual Friends in selected local communities band together to send for their government files (FBI, CIA, local police) and enter into litigation at the local level when appropriate. Such groups should discover if the local community has a "Red Squad" and should work for local review boards. The AFSC will be able to assist with literature & personnel.
5. Death Penalty: Ken Snyder reported that a US Supreme Court decision on new capital punishment laws is now pending. He requested SAYMA and individual Friends to write to the sympathetic governor of NC urging him to commute the death sentences of the 109 men in NC now on death row. An appropriate letter would be written by a committee and submitted to SAYMA Business Meeting for approval on First Day morning, 13 June.
6. Friends' Work in Prisons: Paul Goulding, FGC, reported that several Friends Meetings, sensitivity and non-violent training sessions have been established by Friends in a number of prisons (e.g., Augurn, NY, and Petersburg, VA). After becoming Friends or actively sympathetic to Friends' ideas, some prisoners have unfortunately been termed "troublemakers" by prison authorities and have been transferred to other prisons. In particular, some Petersburg VA Fed. Penitentiary prisoners have been transferred first to Jacksonville, Fla., then to Ashland, KY prisons. He urged Friends to keep in contact with these new Quaker prisoners who are being removed from the reach of caring Friends Meetings. Pam and Rob Callard stated that the Charleston WVe Monthly Meeting would try to coordinate Quaker work at the Ashland, KY prison. They asked for help in this endeavor.
7. Tax Exempt Church Property: Dick Houghton reported that Nashville MM refuses to pay the federal excise tax (instituted to support the U.S. military intervention in Indo-China) on the MM telephone, but the MM has at the same time declined to take a religious tax exemption on the meeting house property since the MM benefits from the community services (water, sewage, police, streets) which the tax provides. Nashville MM challenges other Meetings, and Nashville area churches as well, to do likewise.

- 6.
8. **FCNL 5-YEAR POLICY REVIEW:** Dwight Ferguson announced that FCNL would be revising its priorities in support or in opposition to specific legislative bills. He asked for individual assistance in reviewing the rough draft of new material.
 9. **UNDER-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES:** Larry Ingle suggested that SLYM be concerned with the kind of role Friends should play in the economic development of other countries, e.g., Partners in Productivity and the 1% Fund of English Friends. Dick Houghton, as the FWC Triennial Conference delegate urged Friends to share their views on this matter with him.
 10. **AFFILIATION WITH FGC:** Paul Goulding described the work of FGC. The assessed cost to SLYM would be about \$600. a year, with an additional travel cost for two delegates. It was agreed that possible affiliation with FGC and/or FUM be a priority at the next RM.
 11. **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM N.C. FUM:** The "Lord of Peace" drama to be presented near Burlington this summer. Young Friends Camp at Quaker Lake. Interested persons should contact David Brown at Guilford College re Friends retirement center at Guilford College.

B. SLYM MEETING FOR BUSINESS (Saturday, June 12, 1976) FIRST SESSION

12. This business session was convened by the clerk, Nelson Fuson, at 3:00 pm in the Fine Arts Music Hall. After a moment of silence the clerk read an epistle to SLYM from the Australian Yearly Meeting.
13. Bob Lough, Steve Meredith, and a third person, to be chosen by the committee, were asked to write an epistle for the YM.
14. Doris Fern would report on YM in the Newsletter. Hershel Macon and Salli Kimberly were requested to write an article for FRIENDS JOURNAL about the 1976 SLYM Yearly Meeting.
15. The minutes of SLYM 1975 were approved.
16. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** See attached. The 1976-77 budget was approved as submitted. Don Newton reported that the attendance (142 persons registered) was the lowest since 1968 (excluding last year's YM at Berea College, which was a special situation). Fewer young people attended this year.
17. **STATISTICAL REPORT OF RECORDER:** Lu Evans. See attached.
18. **PROGRAM and ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEES:** No report.
19. **ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE:** See attached.

Columbia, S.C. was welcomed as a monthly meeting affiliated with SLYM. The fall RM will be held at Columbia in conjunction with Columbia's celebration of its charter meeting.

Charleston, West Virginia, was welcomed and its application for membership as a monthly meeting was approved. A discussion followed concerning the RM's advice that Charleston heed Friends' business meeting practices. The YM was satisfied that the advice was understood and looked forward to joining Charleston in a celebration meeting. The report of the Advancement Committee was accepted with appreciation for the care in which it was prepared.

20. DISCIPLINE AND PRACTICE: Brian Yaffe's report reiterated the article in the SAYIA newsletter. Brian emphasized the fact that a final guide would take several years.
21. NOMINATING COMMITTEE: See attached. The report was approved with special appreciation for the work of Don Newton, SAYIA's treasurer of twelve years.
22. YM AFFILIATION WITH FGC: Marion Fuson's recommendation, that top priority be given at the fall RM to the discussion of possible affiliation with FGC, was considered and approved, with the IMs, in the meanwhile, discussing the matter and authorizing their representatives to bring the sense of their meetings to the fall RM. The treasurer was asked to get an estimate of the cost for delegates.

C. SAYIA MEETING FOR BUSINESS (Sunday morning, June 13, 1976) SECOND SESSION

23. The clerk, Nelson Fuson, opened the meeting with a period of silence.
24. There was approval of the RM taking action on the allocation of the extra funds that are in the treasury.
25. DEATH PENALTY: See attached minute. It was recommended that IMs use this minute in any way they deem appropriate. The YM further resolved to send this minute, with a covering letter, to the governors of the various states in which SAYIA has constituent meetings. Notification of this action would be released to the two main wire services. The minute would also be sent to South Central Yearly Meeting for use in their deliberations. The Junior and Senior High YM voiced their support for these actions.
26. Special appreciation was voiced for the child care program during YM.
27. FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE: See attached. (Mary Ester McWhirter and Dick Houghton)
28. FCNL: Marion Fuson recommended that each IM develop a notebook to be able to refer back to literature that comes from FCNL.
29. AFSC: Mel Zuck thanked SAYIA for its financial support and said AFSC was saving money by not responding by mail. He told of the greater emphasis on decentralizing the Peace Education Program. A new, part-time person, concerned with Middle East issues, has been added to the staff. He appreciated the work of the Abrahamsons in bringing the AFSC closer to the IMs and noted that the tendency toward using fewer expatriot staff was good for the overseas program but it allowed fewer opportunities for Friends to participate in service work.
30. Young Friends Report: See attached.

D. STATE OF THE MEETING REPORTS

The State of the Meeting Reports which were distributed at YM are not reprinted here.

Asheville: See attached.
 Atlanta: Handed out at YM
 Berea: Handed out at YM
 Birmingham: See attached
 Colo: Handed out at YM
 Charleston: See attached
 Chattanooga: Handed out at YM
 Columbia: Handed out at YM
 Jump Off: See attached
 Nashville: Handed out at YM
 Pine Mountain: Handed out at YM
 W. Knoxville: See attached

31. ASHEVILLE

Social concerns have had a high priority during 1975-76.

A group of five went to High Point to take part in a discussion of plans for the Continental Walk for Disarmament and Social Justice, an AFSC sponsored project. A follow-up took place on this at Warren Wilson College a few weeks later.

After a Peace and Social Concerns Committee was approved by the Meeting, a number of other concerns were considered for group or individual action. One was an investigation of youth unemployment in Asheville with solutions dependent on the findings. Another was a support group for the prisoners at Craggy (State) Prison involving visitation and support of a prisoners' union.

More recently, the Committee has concentrated on a neighborhood improvement project in an area of Asheville where several of our members live. The neighborhood is interracial. Some community action programs are already in existence there. Preliminary plans for a home improvement association have been drawn up by a bi-racial committee. Loan possibilities were discussed with a city official. Hopefully this organization will bring about a better sense of community, some employment of youth, with some spin-offs such as day care centers. These social concerns have come out of committee and forum discussions. They have received loving support from the Meeting as a whole.

The Meeting has enjoyed the active participation in its affairs of a number of new members and attenders. Forums each Sunday before worship take up a variety of subjects such as: non-violence, relationship of sex and war, Quaker organizations, Elias Hicks, experience sharing.

The Columbia S.C. Friends Group was organized as a Preparatory Meeting under the care of Asheville Meeting, following action taken by a Clearness Committee of Yearly Meeting, composed of representatives of Colo and Asheville Meetings and the YM Clerk. Our Meeting has been happy to have this relationship with Columbia Friends. Asheville Friends are trying to listen and act as they see the Light. They are grateful for their fellowship together.

During the past year the Birmingham Meeting has achieved some stability and unity of purpose. After trying several locations for our meetings, the group decided to meet in member's homes on a rotational basis. This plan has been successful and coupled with a monthly newsletter posting meeting places for each Sunday has raised average attendance. Further, this program has created greater interest in Friend's activities.

There are thirty-eight names on our membership list and our average attendance for 1976 has been eleven. Five of our people maintain membership in the Atlanta Meeting and one in the Nashville Meeting.

Election of officers, appointment of reporting representatives to regional and national committees and the establishing of basic operational committees has provided the unity of effort needed to make our meeting interesting and alive. Our overseer meeting, Atlanta, has been notified of our desire to become an official meeting. They have responded by sending a list of queries for answering. The Committee of Overseers, with Hoyer Collinson as Chairperson, is in the process of preparing our answers. In the meantime, our members have been going through a process of self-examination to determine our qualifications to join the Religious Society of Friends. During our fellowship time various members have reported on Friends' history and spirituality. The desire to be more knowledgeable in these areas inspired the establishment of a study group under the leadership of Mark Lindsay to fully explore these subjects in greater depth.

Recognizing the importance of the religious education of our children has led to the election of a Committee on Education under the Chairpersonship of Rick Michaels. This committee's first responsibility is to provide care for our children during meetings and to make long-range plans to establish a First Day School.

We are grateful for the understanding and cooperation of many individuals, groups, committees and meetings who have been petitioned with many requests for information during our continuing search for identity within the framework of the Religious Society of Friends.

It is our hope that the Birmingham Friends Meeting will obtain certification by the end of 1976.

Respectfully submitted to SAYEM by:

Clerk, Joe Jenkins Recorder and Historian,
Nancy Whitt

Treasurer,
Linda Michaels

33. CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston Meeting, unofficial but active since the 1940's, was officially constituted in April 1966 under the care of the FWCC New Meetings Committee. Although it went through an inactive period in the early 1970's, it is now very active. The usual attendance at Meetings for Worship on Sunday morning is about 15. Situated midway between about five Yearly Meetings, and about 300 to 400 miles from them, it has been slow to seek out a Yearly Meeting affiliation. During the past two years, however, it has become interested in SAYM and active negotiations are now going on between Charleston and SAYM, as is evidenced by the visits this spring. The Meeting serves the Charleston community through individual efforts of Members: work on prisoner help, prison reform, legislation, AFSC-type camps, experiments in community, work in women's rights movement, court cases (especially juvenile justice), writing letters to legislators and newspapers, work on peace education in Kanawha Valley, etc.

(This report by Nelson Fuson is based upon notes excerpted from a five-page set of answers to queries posed to Charleston Friends Meeting by the SAYM Visitation Committee, 5/30/76.)

34. JUMP OFF/SEWANEE, TENN.

Feb. 7, 1976

The attendance of the Jump-Off/Sewanee Worship Group has stabilized at about 12 persons per week, though it serves a total of about 20 people. Of these, three are members and the rest are attenders. Two have expressed a desire to become members. Since about half of the attenders are university-related, attendance fluctuates with the vacation schedule of the university. After a trend toward very little institutionalization, the group has decided to start having Monthly Meetings again, partly in response to an attender's desire for more discussion.

One concern of the group has been provision of child care in order to maximize the number of people who can attend.

In response to a letter from one of our former members, David McNeeley, a special concern for the plight of the Haitian refugees has grown up. Actions to date have included letter writing and contacting religious leaders in Florida.

We greatly regret to report that our beloved Dorothy Hutchinson has suffered another stroke. We are caring for Cranford Hutchinson while we wait to see how Dorothy's health progresses. Although reports were not good at first, it now appears that Dorothy is improving.

Marion McClure

35. PINE MOUNTAIN, Ky.

The Pine Mountain Meeting is not meeting regularly and has not met these past two years. We are presently in a phase where those formerly interested have moved away from our area. Travel conditions and communication problems make it too difficult to plan and announce regular meetings, and then hold to these commitments. As in the past, we expect the time to come again when there may be enough interested persons to attempt further gatherings from time to time.

Burton Rogers

At the risk of being called Pollyanna, we would have to describe the state of the Meeting as one of rosy good health. We have felt nurtured and drawn together as our worship deepens and new insights and openings blend with old and new people. All appear to look forward to Meeting each First Day and to depart only with regret.

Each First Day brings two or three new faces to Meeting for Worship and, more often than not, they stay over for Adult Class at 11:00. To say the Adult Class has been lively understates the case. Interspersed with hours left open for spontaneous sharing, and the queries, different members/attenders have led discussions focused on these subjects: Women in Media, Gun Control, Right Sharing of World Resources, Nuclear Waste Disposal, The Grand Inquisitor, First Day School, Women Abroad, "Affiliation", Energy Crisis, B-1 Bomber, and The Book of John. We have been blessed with visits from Terry Provance, National Coordinator of the B-1 Bomber effort and Mel Zuck of A.F.S.C., and from representatives of the Chattanooga Preparatory Meeting. About 25 members and attenders have stayed for Adult Class in recent weeks.

In order to broaden and deepen our friendship, we held a mini-retreat at the home of Elizabeth and Gary Briggs on November 8th. Friends were moved as each spoke in turn of someone whose example had particularly touched their lives.

Our Women's Sharing Group has been meeting monthly in homes and continues to make Friends aware that others share the same problems, successes, frustrations, and joys.

The Young Friends delighted us all in November with a film they produced themselves titled "Halloween Highlights." They also made some twenty signs to be posted on Meeting property which announce: "Church Property: No Hunting Please." They are now preparing, both for the fun and for the sharing, to interview members individually about their backgrounds and interests, and to publish short biographies in the Newsletter.

Pre-schoolers continue "in the care of the Meeting," getting to know non-parental adults as friends, and learning through example more than tutelage what it is to be a Friend. They have also secured a new swing set.

Finally, mention must be made of the unheralded efforts of Jean Merritt and Don Newton, of Hershel and Lela Macdon, who have kept the Meeting House polished to a rare shine, emblematic of the spirit that we all share throughout the week as well as when together in worship and play.

37. DEATH PENALTY MINUTE

The Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) approved the following minute at its Annual Meeting, 13 June 1976, at Maryville, Tennessee:

"While holding a sincere concern for those who are victims of crime, Friends since colonial times have been opposed to capital punishment. We believe that a deep reverence for human life is a stronger, more positive deterrent to crime than thousands of executions. Moreover, we believe that the sanctioning by the State of the taking of life has a debasing effect on our communities, produces the very brutality which it seeks to prevent, and by acting in the name of the people, casts man in the role of the Ultimate Judge who determines the time at which his fellowmen shall cease to exist in this world. Furthermore, our guiding principle in this critical matter is our acknowledgement that the sanctity of human life is a fundamental of Christian society and can in no circumstances be set aside by man.

"Friends are concerned with capital punishment wherever it is still considered to be an appropriate instrument of justice. As citizens of the southern United States, we feel especially called upon to speak to the conditions in our immediate region. Believing that if the State regards human life as inviolable our people will do likewise, we, therefore, urge the Governors of the southern United States to commute the sentences of those men and women who now sit on Death Row awaiting execution.

"Just as an individual Friend struggles within himself to seek, to better understand, and to be in harmony with his measure of truth, we call upon each Governor to struggle within himself to determine the most moral, compassionate, and appropriate alternative to execution."

38. YOUNG FRIENDS REPORT June 13, 1976

Jr.-Sr. High Business Meeting: "We support a minute voicing opposition to Capital Punishment. We prefer Warren Wilson College to Maryville College. We are happy to start on Thursday. We seek leadership to spend more time with us.

The Sr. High youth, under the leadership of George and Susan Oberst, contemplated relationships with God and worship in Meeting. Nelson Fuson and Carby Jones shared their insights with us. We also studied responsibilities and values."

Jr. High clerk: Sally Nykel Sr. High clerk: Leonard Vaughen

39. SAYIA NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

12 June 1976

The Nominating Committee recommends the following new persons to fill yearly meeting offices which are becoming vacant in June 1976:

- Assistant clerk Brian Yaffe -Celo
- Treasurer Vic Vaughn -W. Knoxville
- Newsletter Editor Doris Form -Columbia
- Transcribing clerk. Marion Mentwig -Chattanooga
- Co-Recording clerks Sue Williams -Atlanta
John Geary -Celo
- Program Comm. Chairman Dick Houghton -Nashville
- Nominating Comm. Chairman Brian Yaffe -Celo
- Arrangements Comm. Chairman (pending decision on location
of VII 1977)
- AFSC/SERO Perry Treadwell (1976-77)
-Atlanta
- FCNL Dwight Ferguson (1976-79)
-Atlanta
- FWC Triennial Conference Dick Houghton -Nashville
- Western Hemisphere Conf. of Friends George Parker; Bette Evans as
June-July 1977 (Sera) alternate -
West Knoxville

40. ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

June 1976

For several years SAYIA has spoken of having an advancement committee without actually being able to establish one. The number of situations now being presented for resolution require a committee response. So far, we have established an ad hoc committee to respond to each situation. An attempt is being made to create an advancement committee to help develop policies and to attend to individual circumstances as well.

A special committee was established to handle the request from Columbia, S.C. Meeting to become a Monthly Meeting. Earlier this year the Representative Committee approved the report of the special committee that this request be approved by the Yearly Meeting in session unless some reversal occurred. In preparation for this final action I suggested the SAYIA clerk review the minutes received from Columbia since December of 1975, since the main apprehension was that the Meeting might not function well without Doris Form's leadership.

The Charleston, W.Va. Meeting has requested affiliation as a Monthly Meeting. A special committee was established under the chairmanship of Doris Form, who was to be living in that area for six months, to evaluate this request. As in the case of the Columbia Meeting, the evaluation included visitation and the Meeting's response to queries developed by SAYIA for this purpose. The committee feels that in spite of irregularities in their methods of transacting business, Charleston Meeting is a responsible and dynamic group, with strength and potential. It is suggested that they be welcomed as a monthly meeting within SAYIA, with a strong recommendation that they henceforth conduct their business in conformity with Friends' practice.

40. ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)

Chattanooga, Tenn. Meeting has requested recognition as a Monthly Meeting. The Meeting has been asked to consider the SAYIA queries on meeting advancement and West Knoxville Meeting has been asked to look into this matter.

The Birmingham, Ala. Meeting has also asked again for Monthly Meeting status from its sponsor Meeting, Atlanta. Atlanta has established a special committee to respond to this request and has sent Birmingham copies of the SAYIA advancement queries. SAYIA officers have sent Joe Jenkins, the new Birmingham clerk, summaries of the history of the relationship between that Meeting and SAYIA in response to his request for this information.

A small meeting has met in Macon, Ga. for nearly two years. It receives stimulation from the Atlanta Meeting though no formal relationship has been requested.

George Parker, Berea, is keeping in touch with several other Friends Meetings in Kentucky that have expressed some interest in possible affiliation with SAYIA. A cordial gathering was held recently among Friends from the Berea, Lexington and Louisville Meetings.

The Charleston W. Va. Meeting gathered Friends from around West Virginia several months ago for a fellowship with assistance from SAYIA. Plans were laid to continue this association. (Report from Thomas L. Kenworthy)

41. FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION REPORT June 1976

For over three centuries Quakers have continued to heed George Fox's admonition to "go through the world and be valiant for the Truth upon the earth." Travelling over land and seas they have succeeded in carrying the Quaker message to every continent. Today, Quakerism has adherents in 36 nations adding up to these statistics: Africa, 35,661; Asia, 2,553; Australia, 1,775; Europe, 23,262; North America, 118,902; Central and South America, 15,810....a total, only a handful of persons, 197,963. These statistics show how scattered we are, but we also have differences in culture, language, national allegiance and interpretation of Quakerism itself. Regardless, it is a world-wide family and must have intercommunications across national and ideological lines. Many Quaker organizations, educational institutions and study centers offer this communication but only to a segment or segments of the Religious Society of Friends. To fill this gap, to be a universal channel of communications, the Friends World Committee for Consultation was formed in 1937. It is broken into sections (European, American, African, etc.). Representatives from most of the world's Yearly Meetings make up the governing body of each. It is these representatives that make it function and although a Yearly Meeting may get little direct benefit, it is the ultimate responsibility of Yearly Meetings to see that such organizations have the people power to function. All representatives to FWCC have various responsibilities within the framework and all must do as much as possible toward the continuing operation.

41. FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION REPORT (CONTINUED)

I have been on various sub-committees during the past years but since being made clerk of the Long Range Planning Committee, that is my only sub-committee duty. I am, however, also a vice-clerk of the Section of the Americas and a member of the executive committee. Let me emphasize, again, that every representative must give as much of himself as possible to keep this one and only umbrella organization functioning.

We have four gathered meetings a year; February, April, September, and November. Since last Yearly Meeting these have been held in Oskaloosa, Iowa; Puncie, Indiana; Atlanta, Georgia; Philadelphia, Pa. The ever expanding programs and projects are implemented by the sub-committees, executive committee and staff, and in brief review they encompass myriad facets of Quaker concerns.

The Quaker United Nations Program, launched in 1947 when FWCC acquired the required non-governmental consultative status, together with AFSC and FSC of London, has been witness to the Friends historic testimonies concerning peacemaking and peacekeeping. International Quaker Aid - transmitted through FWCC channels - extends assistance to Friends' projects in selected countries where special circumstances require personnel and funds beyond the ability of local Friends to provide.

Right Sharing of World Resources is not only a central concern at international sessions of FWCC but also the theme of special consultations arranged by the Section of the Americas. FWCC continues to encourage the living out of the Friends' testimony for simplicity, the release of financial resources, the contribution of personal service and efforts to influence public policy in the development field. Financial contributions assist self-help efforts in many parts of the world.

Quaker Youth Pilgrimages, held every two years, bring together 14 young Friends of the Americas with a like number of foreign young Friends for two weeks of study in George Fox country and then a foreign service project. Talk to Mark Bailey about it. He was our Yearly Meeting young Friend selected to go in 1975.

Visitation continues to be a primary means of welding together the 198,000 members of the Religious Society of Friends into a worldwide family. Expanding and intensifying this Quaker practice is one of FWCC's major tasks. The spiritually sensitive Quaker guest who helps a Meeting enlarge its vision and renew its dedication is always welcome.

Wider Quaker Fellowship has members, from many parts of the world who retain their present religious affiliations and at the same time keep in contact with on-going Quaker life and thought through thrice-yearly mailings of literature by and about Friends.

Mission and Service is a gallant effort to encourage Friends of all persuasions to seek new opportunities for cooperative programs between those Yearly Meetings who serve through missionary work and those who work through service organizations without offense to the faith and conscience of one another.

E. ADDENDA (CONTINUED)

41. FRIENDS WORLD COMMITTEE FOR CONSULTATION REPORT (CONCLUDED)

Conferences range from World Conferences of Friends every fifteen years, to Triennial FWCC Conferences (this year being held in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada), to the greatly accepted Faith and Life Conferences, the regional and continent-wide gatherings of Friends affiliated with all the different strands of Quakerism. The FWCC provides a neutral setting in which men and women feel free to articulate theological differences, identify commonly-held beliefs and discover wider spiritual horizons.

Many publications are under the auspices of FWCC and can be ordered by Meetings and Meeting members from the Philadelphia office. The newest are Friends in the Americas by Francis Hall, Deepening of Quaker Faith and Practice by Rachel DuBois, New Call to Peacemaking by Robert Rumsey. And to strengthen your faith, Fruit of the Vine, a devotional booklet with the writings of 13 Quakers of varying theological backgrounds. This three-month guide contains Bible-based meditations reflecting both the unity and the diversity of American Quakerism.

Periodicals such as Right Sharing News, Korca News and FWCC Newsletter can also be ordered.

FWCC looks ahead and hopes you will, too. If you are travelling through Philadelphia in this Bi-Centennial year, stop and visit the Fourth and Arch Street Meeting House for an impressive display of Quaker History in America. Remember the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage of 1977 and the Conference of Friends in America in Wichita, Kansas, June 25 through July 1, 1977. All Friends of all ages are invited.

(Report from Jack Kaiser)

42. ADDRESS LIST OF ATTENDERS

- Anekudzi, Felix A., 2804 Acklen Ave., Nashville, TN 37212 - - 269-0225
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E. ADDENDA (CONTINUED) ADDRESS LIST (

17.

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B. ADDENDA (CONTINUED) ADDRESS LIST OF ATTENDERS

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