

**Minutes of the Eighth Annual Meeting of the
Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association**

(the 20th Annual Gathering of the Association)

The eighth annual meeting of SAYMA was held at Lutheridge Conference Center, Arden, North Carolina, from 18-21 May, 1978. There were four sessions of Yearly Meeting for Business and three sessions of Representative Meeting. Representative Meeting sessions are 30 A, B and C.

Yearly Meeting for Business, Session A

(3:10 p.m., May 19, 1978)

1. This session of Yearly Meeting was convened by the Clerk, Brian Yaffe. After a moment of silence, he read a message from Erica F. Vere, Clerk, Meeting for Sufferings, London Yearly Meeting (See Attachment 1).
2. The following State of the Meeting reports were presented:
 - a. Chattanooga (See Attachment 2)
 - b. Celo (See Attachment 3)
 - c. West Knoxville (See Attachment 4)
 - d. Jump Off—Nelson Fuson reported on Dorothy Hutchinson's health.
 - e. Columbin (See Attachment 5)
3. Book reports by Monette Redslob were given. Friends were encouraged to visit the book table.
4. Treasurer's Report—The Treasurer's Report was given. Approval was deferred for a later Yearly Meeting session. Two requests were made for unbudgeted funds. First, for aid in sending children to Camp Celo and second, for a contribution to Quaker House at Fayetteville, North Carolina.

These two requests for financial assistance were referred to the Representative Meeting.

5. Dwight Ferguson presented a letter addressed to President Carter regarding the special United Nations Session on Disarmament (May 23-June 28, 1978). Consideration for approval of the letter was deferred until a later Yearly Meeting session.
6. A report on Quaker House in Fayetteville, North Carolina, was presented by Lee Kleiss. Action on the report, which described the financial situation and counseling activities of Quaker House, was referred to Representative Meeting.
7. Betty Johnson reported that President Carter will be in Oak Ridge, Tennessee to reconsider the Breeder Reactor. Betty said there would be a "Halt the Breeder" Rally in conjunction with President Carter's visit.

Vic Vaughn spoke in favor of the Breeder Reactor and announced the showing of two educational films on Saturday. The films cover the topics of nuclear radiation and the transportation of nuclear fuels.

8. Advancement Committee—The Clerk read the Advancement Committee report from Marian Fuson. (See Attachment 6)
9. Lucretia Evans presented the Recorder-Historian-Archivist report. There are a total of 644 members and attenders of the ten Monthly Meetings and seven Preparative Meetings and Worship Groups in or affiliated with SAYMA. For a copy of the full report, write to the Clerk.
10. "Wilmington Ten"—Lee Kleiss asked Friends to send letters to Governor Hunt and President Carter asking for release of the "Wilmington Ten." Also letters of encouragement should be sent to Ben Chavis, McCain Prison, Department of Corrections, Raleigh, North Carolina.
11. Sam Morris expressed a concern that SAYMA was meeting in a state (North Carolina) that had not ratified the ERA.

12. Steve Meredith requested that SAYMA endorse a rally for Human Rights to be held in Atlanta in response to Anita Bryant's visit there. Interested Friends will meet with Steve to draft a letter of concern.

13. Jack Kaiser and Dick Haughton presented the Friends World Committee for Consultation report. (See Attachment 7)

14. SAYMA expressed appreciation to Jack Kaiser for his six years of service to Friends World Committee for Consultation and his energy in representing SAYMA at FWCC.

15. Yearly Meeting approved sending a list of persons attending SAYMA Yearly Meeting to FWCC. The list will be used for purposes of fund raising.

16. Niranjan Kaul of the General Conference of Friends in India brought greetings to SAYMA. He spoke of his concern to establish a Quaker Center for Worship, Study and Service in Agra, India.

17. American Friends Service Committee—Ruth Szitty presented her report of AFSC's Southeastern Region. (See Attachment 8).

Yearly Meeting for Business, Session B

(7:10 p.m., May 19, 1978)

18. Yearly Meeting approved the Minutes of Session A held May 19.

19. Mary Esther McWhirter gave a report on the Cancelled Stamp Project of the FWCC.

20. Nelson Fuson reported that Pendle Hill material is available on future programs.

21. Dot Barrus reported on the Arthur Morgan School at Celo.

22. Eugenia Perkins gave a report on the Right Sharing of World Resources Committee of FWCC.

Yearly Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m., May 19.

Yearly Meeting for Business, Session C

(May 20, 1978, 2:40 p.m.)

23. Reports were presented by the following Meetings:
 - a. Nashville (See Attachment 9)
 - b. Pine Mountain—Burton Rogers reported that the Meeting is somewhat inactive at this time. He recalled his experience with the Southcentral Conference of Friends, held at Fisk University in 1943, under the leadership of the late Edward Palmer. Burton spoke gratefully of the late Water Haase and his wife, Ruth. He asked SAYMA to remember these Friends who were instrumental in the founding of SAYMA.
 - c. Asheville—George Oldham commented on the role of the Meeting in counseling members in the area of marital problems. (See Attachment 10)
 - d. Charleston, West Virginia (See Attachment 11)
 - e. Birmingham. (See Attachment 12)
 - f. Atlanta (See Attachment 13)
 - g. Berea (See Attachment 14)
 - h. Tri-Cities (See Attachment 15)

i. Memphis—Memphis is a Preparative Meeting under the care of Nashville Monthly Meeting. Katrina Mason reported that membership is a problem. Discussion concerning advancement is taking place. Memphis Friends participated in a nuclear energy protest recently. Four persons from Memphis have applied for membership in the Nashville Meeting.

24. AFSC Report—Will Hartzell voiced appreciation for the work of Ruth Szitty and other SAYMA members. He discussed the following projects:

- a. Involvement of SAYMA members in AFSC activities.
- b. Shipment of wheat to Viet Nam and food to Laos by AFSC and other peace groups.
- c. Sending 10,000 pounds of clothing to Botswana refugee camps.
- d. Creation of an Arab-Israeli Assistance Fund for victims of that conflict.

There was discussion of the role of AFSC in liberation movements. AFSC does not support the use of armed conflict in the pursuit of liberation, and encourages the use of non-violent solutions.

The presence of U.S. companies in South Africa was mentioned. One way to respond to the problem in South Africa is to divest oneself of these holdings. An appeal is being made by AFSC to U.S. companies that they divest themselves of investments in South Africa.

25. Elliott and Lila Cornell were recognized by the Clerk. Lila welcomed SAYMA into Friends General Conference and urged Friends to participate in the activities of AFSC. The FGC Gathering will be held July 1-8, 1978 at Ithaca, New York.

26. Rob Callard of Charleston Meeting presented a petition for the release of Gary Hendrix from the Ashland, Kentucky prison. The petition was approved by Yearly Meeting. (See Attachment 6).

27. Carlos Alexander presented a concern for the Fayette-Haywood Workcamps. These workcamps assist poor people with legal problems and provide a range of self-help programs.

Yearly Meeting is asked to become a sponsor of the Workcamps. After discussion of such sponsorship by SAYMA, the question was deferred to Meeting for Business on Sunday, May 21.

28. Larry Ingle gave a report for Elizabeth Briggs on the "Guide to Our Practice" Committee (See Attachment 17).

29. Dwight Ferguson read the draft of a letter on disarmament. The letter would go to President Carter, Ambassador Andrew Young and other appropriate leaders. It was suggested that Chip Poston and Dwight work together on a letter concerning the U.N. Disarmament Conference. The letter will be presented at the Yearly Meeting session on Sunday, May 21.

30. Yearly Meeting approved the following Minute:

SAYMA is united in its common desire to work for disarmament. In view of the unique opportunity provided by the current U.N. Disarmament Conference, we urge each Monthly Meeting to express support for disarmament to: President Carter, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, and U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young.

31. Sam Morris presented a proposed Minute that SAYMA Yearly Meeting be held only in a state that has ratified the ERA. Consensus was not reached on this and it was deferred to the Yearly Meeting session scheduled for Sunday.

Yearly Meeting for Business, Session D

(9:00 a.m., Sunday, May 21, 1978)

32. Judy Geary reported on the Boone, North Carolina Worship Group. Meetings average six regular attenders. The Worship Group may not meet regularly this summer due to the departure of several attenders for the summer.

33. The Clerk reported that he was unable to obtain additional statements regarding the Fayette-Haywood Workcamps beyond those available at Business Meeting May 20. Yearly Meeting did not approve sponsorship of the Fayette-Haywood Workcamps.

34. Yearly Meeting approved the 1977 financial report given by Vic vaughen. Yearly Meeting also approved a SAYMA budget for 1978. 1979

35. Yearly Meeting approved the following Minute of support presented by Steve Meredith:

Friends have a long history of showing a concern for and support of civil and human rights for all. Within the past year or so it has become increasingly evident to many Americans that such rights have been abridged as they relate to those of the homosexual or gay orientation. City civil rights ordinances have been repealed in three large cities within the past year and the trend continues.

In the tradition of Friends, we would simply ask that all concerned with such issues be guided in their vote by a loving God and a shared spiritual and human fellowship.

SAYMA as a consequence feels it appropriate at this time to make the following statement on this issue:

We reemphasize our support for the civil and human rights of all persons regardless of sexual orientation. We deplore deliberate attempts by any group or individual to promote hatred, prejudice or the denial of basic rights to any minority group.

Our concern and endeavor will continue to be that "justice for all" not become an empty phrase for some in our time.

36. The Clerk read a proposed Minute concerning holding SAYMA Yearly Meeting in states that have not approved the ERA. Yearly Meeting discussed whether a boycott would be the most appropriate action to take, whether this type of action might reach into other areas of social concern (strip mining, military expenditures, etc.) and whether such a boycott would result in SAYMA's not having a practical place to hold Yearly Meeting in 1979.

37. Yearly Meeting approved support for the ratification of the ERA.

38. Nelson Fuson presented the report from the Nominating Committee (See Attachment 18).

Friends approved the report as read. Yearly Meeting approved adding a Youth Program Coordinator to the list of SAYMA officers. The Nominating Committee will include this office as a new responsibility for them.

39. There was a discussion concerning attendance at FWCC to be held in Switzerland in August, 1979. Yearly Meeting approved a line item in the SAYMA budget to cover appropriations for funds to send a SAYMA delegate to this FWCC Triennial Conference. Jack and Peg Kaiser and Steve Meredith will represent SAYMA at the Conference.

40. Friends brought up the topic of the ERA again as many were not satisfied with the earlier decision (Minute No. 36). A committee of concerned Friends will meet to develop a variety of alternatives for support of the ERA, including the option of a boycott.

41. A Children's report was presented and accepted with approval by the Yearly Meeting.

42. Dwight Ferguson read a letter addressed to President Carter concerning the U.N. Conference on Disarmament. Copies will be sent to Secretary of State Vance and National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski (See Attachment 19).

43. Rob Callard read the epistle written by the Epistle Committee. The epistle was approved. (See Attachment 20).

44. The topic of actions in support of the ERA was brought up again. The Clerk read a list of options for Yearly Meeting to consider. The issue of using a boycott action was brought up again. Friends labored over reasons for and against use of a boycott.

Yearly Meeting approved considering all efforts at aiding in the ratification of the ERA, including the use of a boycott.

The ERA Committee will meet and report to Representative Meeting when they are ready to do so. The ERA Committee consists of Pam Callard, Salli Kimberli, Sam Morris, Vic Vaughen and Joan Thompson.

Yearly Meeting ended with a moment of silence. Meeting for Worship followed.

Attachment 1

To Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Assoc.

Dear Friends,

Friends in London Yearly Meeting send you warm greetings for your 1978 gathering. We have read reports of your meetings with great interest and have followed the development of your thoughts in 1976 on authority to their practical application in 1977.

Christ's authority guides us all into better interaction in community, to a growth in membership, and to a heightened strength in the spirit which in turn leads us to explore new frontiers. The liveliness and depth of your meetings must help all to a deeper insight into the complexities of modern life, and into our responsibility for the right sharing of all the material and spiritual resources of the world. Perhaps this will lead us to a complete acceptance of Christ's will so that we can say with a full heart "Teach us, Good Lord, to serve thee as thou deservest; to give and not to count the cost, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do thy will."

On behalf of London Yearly Meeting.

Erica F. Vere

Clerk

Meeting for Sufferings

Attachment 2

State of the Meeting Report: Chattanooga

The life of Chattanooga Monthly Meeting over the past year is a reflection of much more than its static membership roll implies. For one thing, the character of our membership has changed--it is becoming younger. Some older attenders have, for various good and sufficient reasons, stopped coming to Meeting, but younger seekers and Friends, including a couple with two young children--our first in some years!-- have come to us. Although younger attenders are often more transient, we have found that they add to the depth of our worship together and to the activity that should characterize a Quaker group. And perhaps they learn from the experiences of those of us who are older.

The biggest event of our year was the September 25 Meeting to celebrate West Knoxville's granting our charter as a Monthly Meeting. Fifty-five members, seekers, and visitors joined in this occasion as both young and older speakers delivered messages of congratulation and advice.

As for programs, our forum discussion, centering for most of the year on "No Time But This Present", has usually proven quite provocative and valuable. Friendly Discussions, the Meeting's effort to organize evening programs for university students nearby, has not been as lively this year because interest has sagged. Members did man a booth at last year's local fair, but no visible results have been observed. A Religious Education Committee was appointed, and the Meeting has begun a small First-day school program.

After securing a telephone listing and receiving a call from a woman asking for assistance in purchasing shoes for her two children, the Meeting struggled to formulate and finally adopted a policy to deal with such requests. The Meeting also appointed a Social Concerns Committee that will be responsible for, among other things, the Peace Fair. The Meeting's most recent concern has been in lending both financial and physical assistance to Achievement Training Opportunities, a new program in Chattanooga to help ex-prisoners reintegrate into society.

More and more, the center of the Meeting's life has become, as it must, the Meeting for Worship. Our worship has come to be marked by a depth and a unity that transcend mere words and call into existence a commitment of each other as Friends. Over the year, most attenders have felt led at one time or another to speak words that reflect our central belief that "Christ has come to reach his people himself." So meaningful has our worship become that some Friends worry that we have not found a satisfactory way to share our valued Light with those outside.

Still, there remain areas in which Chattanooga Meeting needs to grow. We failed last year to meet our modest budget, we are sometimes impatient that we can not do everything some of us would like, some Friends who have become active in our Meeting seem reluctant to transfer their memberships, and we face the usual problems of a group consisting of volunteers. Because we want to do more than simply muddle through, the coming year will probably find us facing such issues head on.

Approved for submission to Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association, May 19, 1978

Attachment 3

State of the Meeting Report: Celso

That cause can neither be lost nor stayed
Which takes the course of what God has made
And is not trusting in walls and towers
But slowly growing from seeds to flowers

Celso Friends Meeting is in a state of growth. The past year has brought us tiny new buds in the births of four infants and tender young saplings in our vibrant, exciting group of children. Membership doubled with the addition of four families and one individual--and most likely our attenders double the size again.

There by itself like a tree it shows;
That high it reaches as deep it grows
And when the storms are its branches shaking,
It deeper root in the soil is taking.

We have tried to reach high as we opened ourselves to one another through creative listening and our discussion group. Participation in monthly pot-lucks, experimental worship with music and time for individual sharing at the close of Sunday worship have all helped to deepen our worship and strengthen our community.

Some of our branches have been shaken by misunderstandings and personal conflicts. As we worked through these struggles our roots have deepened.

Each noble service that we have wrought
Was first conceived as a fruitful thought;
Each worthy cause with a future glorious,
By quietly growing becomes victorious.

Our service has ranged from responding to the need of a local family whose home was destroyed by fire to support of more global human concerns such as the New Call to Peacemaking and Mobilization for Survival. Our physical setting gives an impression of insulation from the rest of the world. In reality we have a strong awareness of the world's problems and needs and a commitment which results in an outward expression of inward truth. We've not yet become victorious!

Be then no more by a storm dismayed,
For by it the full-grown seeds are laid;
And though the tree by its might it shatters,
What then, if thousands of seeds it scatters?

We are aware that if we continually strive to open our roots to the wind and rain as well as the sun, our tree will produce ripe fruit and indeed scatter seeds. This is the challenge we face as we attempt to live our lives centered in wholeness.

Attachment 4

State of the Meeting Report: West Knoxville

This was a year of change for many of us. As change is always accompanied by some stress, the Meeting was called on repeatedly as an anchoring place for friendship, joy and solace. The response, whether through individual members, small groups, or the Meeting, was always steady and supportive. We are grateful for this blessing. We gained no new local members this year and deeply regret the resignation of one local member, which caused a great deal of soul-searching. Illness befell several members; the death of Olive Peirce, a founding member, saddened us. A few of us intentionally adopted simpler life-styles. The Meeting as a centering place of the Spirit has remained strong and perhaps gained in strength through the year. Many of us have drawn repeatedly from that strength, yet the store of strength has never diminished, but only increased.

Among the more joyous changes during the year were seven marriages of couples closely connected with our Meeting. We rejoice with all of the happy persons involved. We were more actively involved with three of the weddings, two held during the summer in our outdoor meeting area and one in December in our meeting house. Each of these were under the care of our Meeting.

On September 25 Chattanooga Meeting held a Celebration in recognition of its becoming a Monthly Meeting in SAYMA. Our Meeting was pleased to have a part in this joyous celebration, the culmination of years during which Chattanooga Meeting was a SAYMA worship group, and of months during which it was a Preparative Meeting of our West Knoxville Monthly Meeting. We had a sense of satisfaction when four Chattanooga members of our Meeting transferred to become charter members of the new Chattanooga Monthly Meeting.

In October Elizabeth Briggs conducted an introduction to the Intensive Journal Workshop, held in part at our Meeting House, for about twenty-five attenders from the SAYMA area.

Starting in February 1977 our Women's Sharing Group focussed attention on sewing and knitting for the American Friends Service Committee, High Point office. Spurred on by one of our attenders who had been actively sewing for the AFSC before this date, the project has been and continues to be of benefit to us as givers, as well as to the recipients in building links of friendship and compassion with such as the refugees from apartheid in South Africa and Rhodesia. From February 1977 to February 1978 over 435 garments were sent from our Meeting.

The AFSC-East Tennessee Peace Education Committee has continued to work on the many possibilities for action which are a part of the AFSC Regional Peace Education Program: Simple living focus, Rhodesia-South Africa apartheid program, Caribbean program, Mobilization for Survival, Plutonium Path, Women's program, etc.

Through the efforts of one member in particular the Friendly Eights groups have been formed to help us in the Meeting come to know each other better in our home settings.

We have only to look each week at our young people to see how rapidly they are growing individually in age and size and all round development, from our senior highers down to the babies of whom we have two new ones this year. Our young people continue to seek and learn under the guidance of their devoted adult leaders, and we elder ones continue to learn from our younger people.

On March 5, 1978 Douglas Price stepped down as Clerk because he felt his future was too uncertain to lend the necessary stability to the position. Lucretia Evans assumed the duties of Clerk and was joyfully received into that position by the Meeting, as was Hershall Macon who agreed to serve as Recording Clerk, replacing Lucretia Evans.

During the year our Nominating Committee developed for the Meeting a Statement of Practice, and a description of the responsibilities of the officers and committees of the West Knoxville Meeting. The results should prove to be of great value to us. The Nominating Committee undertook to learn from all local members and attenders their particular Meeting-connected interests and skills. These would be considered before asking persons about their willingness to be nominated for the various offices and committees.

All in the Meeting continue to view the national and world situations with concern, expressed in various ways both individually and through our Meeting contributions. Some have turned more inward, feeling that individual changes within can do more to change the world than political activity. But we appear to live in hope always, and in confidence that the Spirit will work its magic not only in us, but on all who will but listen.

Vital statistics: At mid-year we had twenty-five local adult members, thirty-one distant, four local youth members, one distant; and approximately eleven attenders in each age category. Average attendance at meeting for worship is about twenty.

Attachment 5

State of the Meeting Report: Columbia

Columbia Meeting has grown in the past year, with from twelve to twenty attending meeting for worship; and we are beginning to wonder how soon we will outgrow our new meeting place at Children Unlimited. Some former attenders have begun to attend again, and there are two new members. First-day School classes are sporadic. Teenagers attend rarely now, but our younger children are again coming fairly often.

Worship time was moved to 10:30 to allow time for weekly refreshments and informal sharing after meeting, followed by a half hour discussion on topics of concern to attenders. A majority of those present usually remain for discussions and for business meetings. Members are active outside the Meeting in work with children, with prisoners and the retarded, with the Columbia Peace Committee, and in efforts to disseminate information about the dangers of nuclear fuels. Several Friends are involved in Yearly Meeting or Friends General Conference activities.

Visitors have included Paul and Esther Goulding, Chip Poston, J. Floyd Moore of Guilford College, and Howard McClain of the South Carolina Christian Action Council. One high school student was so impressed with Chip Poston's journal that she arranged for him to speak to her history class.

The most exciting event of the year was undoubtedly the marriage, in March, of Leslie Todd and David Pitre, new members of the Meeting. The simple and moving ceremony was the first wedding held under the care of a South Carolina

Meeting in more than 150 years, and was appropriately noted by the local press with a long and only slightly inaccurate article! Leslie, who with Dave began attending meeting last summer, says that since they first came she feels distinct changes in the Meeting, that there is more warmth and sharing. Columbia Friends agree that there is a growing sense of community and mutual support in the Meeting, which deepens worship, and continues to sustain Friends in the times they are apart.

Attachment 6

Advancement Committee Report

by Marian D. Fuson, Advancement Committee Clerk

There are to my knowledge four Friends who have expressed interest in working on Advancement as a function of SAYMA: Larry Ingle, Karen LaFollette, Katrina Mason and Marian Fuson. Asheville Meeting has indicated (through its Clerk) interest if the functions of the Committee can be spelled out. The Clerk of this Committee sees the function limited by the difficulties of getting time to meet as a Committee. Perhaps Friends will have suggestions for solving that problem.

The Committee members have functioned as follows:

Memphis Worship Group asked Nashville Monthly Meeting for preparative meeting status under the care of Nashville Monthly Meeting. Katrina Mason and four other Nashville Friends became a Committee to look into four requests for membership from among those in the Memphis group, and to bring to Nashville Monthly Meeting a recommendation of meeting status for Memphis. There have been three visits with the Memphis group by the Committee thus far and more are projected. Nashville Monthly Meeting has approved granting Preparative Meeting status under its care to the Memphis group.

Johnson City/Kingsport, too, has a worship group that is seeking a relationship with SAYMA. Marian and Nelson Fuson visited them and joined in their worship on the Sunday following SAYMA Representative Meeting No. 29 at Celso in February, 1978. Karen LaFollette, who holds her membership in Nashville Monthly Meeting, has agreed to keep the Clerk of SAYMA's Advancement Committee informed as to the expressed needs of the Johnson City/Kingsport group. West Knoxville Monthly Meeting has also been in correspondence with this new group.

Boone, North Carolina Worship Group sent a representative to attend the SAYMA Representative Meeting No. 29 at Celso in February 1978. The next day the Gearys of Boone went over to Johnson City to worship with these Friends and the Fusons. The Gearys are also members of Nashville Monthly Meeting.

Tupelo, Mississippi. A number of Friends in SAYMA received letters from Jimmy and Karen Clifton asking for literature on Friends and for contact with Friends groups. This couple had joined Augusta, Georgia Friends Meeting in 1976, they reported to me. They moved to Tupelo, Jimmy Clifton's home area, where they decided to start their "own unaffiliated meeting." They hope to visit Birmingham Meeting and to keep in touch with SAYMA. We have sent them the name and address of the Memphis Preparative Meeting Clerk, Eleanor Bowman. We have also sent them some Quaker pamphlets. Perhaps they will be present at SAYMA's 1978 Yearly Meeting.

The Clerk of SAYMA's Advancement Committee welcomes information of initiatives taken by other SAYMA Monthly Meetings with Friends or with worship groups they hear about near them. Please write or call Marian D. Fuson, 1803 Morena Street, Nashville, TN 37208 (615)-329-0823.

Attachment 7

Friends World Committee—1977

The September 22-24, 1977 meeting of the Friends World Committee was held in Providence, R.I. The heavy agenda was,

of course, topped with a review and evaluation of the Wichita Conference held in cooperation with Friends General Conference. A report has been printed and circulated. Besides individual standing committee meetings, the executive committee meeting covered such items as: (a) temporary nominating committee (b) staff changes (Margaret Durgin, Charlotte Tinker, Gail Weinstein) and the pending retirement of Hannah Stapler and Herbert Hadley (c) a lengthy report and discussion on a Quaker Youth Exchange between Africa and North America (d) reports on African Section seminar on non-violence, Right Sharing of World Resources, visitation highlights, 75th anniversary of Central America Yearly Meeting, financing Faith and Life publications, Quaker Center for Prisoner Support Activities, Friends Committee on Economic Responsibility, New Call to Peacemaking.

At this meeting, the nominating committee, since all nominations begin January 1, asked me to continue as clerk of the Long Range Planning Committee and Vice-Clerk of the Executive Committee as well as serve on the Visitation Committee. Realizing that I would not be a representative after April of 1978, I tendered my resignation from FWCC to take effect after the annual meeting in November of 1977. I requested that the nominating committee try to fill my clerkship immediately so I could work with the new clerk of Long Range Planning for a smooth take-over.

The annual meeting held November 18-20 in Minneapolis was, as always, a review and report of the 1977 functioning of FWCC. Committee reports, including nominating, took a good portion of the time. After reports from Mid-West Committee, Epistle Committee, Visitation Committee, Finance Committee and Right Sharing of World Resources, points of business on the Brussels Concern, Africa Section, Quaker Youth Exchange, International Quaker Aid, Triennial Meeting of 1979 were carried on.

Elmer Brown had accepted the clerkship of Long Range Planning and, together, we chaired a Saturday meeting of the committee and effected, I hope, a good transition. I have, personally, enjoyed my relationship with FWCC and I hope that I have been some benefit to those I have worked with. Whether I have benefited SAYMA, I truly do not know.

Jack Kaiser

Attachment 8

American Friends Service Committee—Southeastern Region

by Ruth O. Szittya

The opportunity to represent SAYMA this past year on the Regional Executive Committee of AFSC is one for which I'm grateful. It has been an inspiring and educational experience to observe the extensive, careful and expert planning that goes into the development of the many programs undertaken by the regional office in High Point. The work of the AFSC is Quakerism in action. As a Friends' organization, it is rooted in a commitment to service, to social justice, to non-violence, and to respect and equal opportunity for all human beings. These are basic Quaker beliefs, and the beliefs as well as AFSC work, are shared by many non-Friends.

AFSC has, from its beginning, tried to practice non-discrimination. It has included men, women, Friends, non-Friends, and representatives of minority groups in all phases of its programs—staff, committees, and employees. But now attention has been drawn to subtle patterns of discrimination within the organization, and AFSC has initiated a five-year Affirmative Action Program with annual evaluations and the use of quotas to insure genuine equality of opportunity in employment and in all AFSC activities.

There has also been some soul-searching concerning the organization and structure of AFSC nationwide, and an attempt to introduce more efficient administrative techniques. This is necessary because of inadequate income sharing experienced by

the different regional, divisional and administrative components. In future the regions and the national office will work more closely together.

For several years AFSC has been working on a Florida Housing Project to provide rental housing for low income farm workers and migrants. It has cooperated in getting the project started, trained leaders locally, educated them as to resources available, including government aid, and then gradually turned control over to the local community to continue when they are able. Villa Alegre, a subdivision of 40 rental homes in Bowling Green, is scheduled for occupancy in May. Hardee Rental Homes, Inc. and Sebring Housing Research and Development, Inc. have been helped to receive loans from Farmers Home Administration. AFSC has also helped to put these self-help projects in touch with Florida Rural Legal Services, the Agriculture and Labor Department programs, and others, and is about ready to phase out this program and begin another—possibly in community organization training services to farmworker communities.

Also in the works is a Florida program to deal with the problems of undocumented workers in conjunction with the nationwide immigration policy. A series of meetings has been held between AFSC and areas groups on both sides of the border, including the Mexican Friends Service Committee, to plan a project dealing with the conditions and issues of poverty, unemployment, illegal immigration and related problems.

A different sort of project in Jackson, Mississippi, is the Mississippi Surveillance Project, which is making that community aware of the problem of political surveillance in Mississippi.

In North Carolina a program in economic justice is growing out of a specific concern for the plight of industrial workers in the south. Attention has focused on textile workers, while recognizing that the problems of exploitation, low wages, health and safety, discrimination and the suppression of the right to organize exist in many other industries. AFSC does not envision a role in union organizing, but does support the rights of workers to control their own lives within the context of a social order in which no one is exploited for the profit or pleasure of another.

This new program will be community-based and concentrate on grassroots organizing. It will serve the working poor, focusing on one of the following: high school students in the work force; women in industry; minorities; underemployed and those on public assistance who seek to be part of the labor force. Possible choices of a community for the project include Laurinburg, Lincolnton, High Point and Greenville, South Carolina.

Attachment 9

State of the Meeting Report: Nashville

The Nashville Friends Meeting is healthy, active and ever changing. We have held celebrations in the Fall at Christmas and this Spring to build and strengthen our bonds of community. The high light of the year was the retreat in October to Camp Dog Wood where the agenda item was learning to love one another. Kit Potter, Hibbard Thatcher and Lucy Randles made this year a success.

The Ministry and Membership Committee had six well attended mid-week discussions during the Fall on Quaker thought and beliefs for the newcomers to Friends. The major activity in this committee has been the Friends in Memphis and their application for Preparative Meeting status under the care of our Monthly Meeting. Ten of the Memphis group have visited Nashville and a subcommittee from Nashville of four plus one alternate have visited twice in Memphis. Their Preparative Meeting request was approved with gratitude that an association of Friends is again forming in Memphis. We will have one wedding this year under the joint care of Clear Creek Meeting in Richmond, Indiana. Bob Lough and Beckey Mullin will unite their lives on 5/28/78.

The Social Order Meeting has led us in B-1 Bomber protests, US-South Africa Tennis Match protests and a Plutonium Path teach-in. The major event of the year was the Southern Conference on World Affairs, 3/31 to 4/2. Betty Johnson as convener, three additional Friends from the Meeting and other Nashville residents worked for nine months on the preparations. Most of us were involved during the weekend of the very successful and social consciousness raising conference. Out of this weekend a new caucus of concerned Nashvillians is growing and this is heartening to us. There will be another SCWA conference in Nashville next year. Come and see if you want it to come to your area.

The children's program grows with the younger Friends. We have three age divisions. The adult leadership for these groups changes about every two months. Children over nine have been attending one hour of worship one time a month with a couple of vocal contributions to the worship. The disturbances of latecomers during the early part of worship is something that we seek to improve on. The hour discussion following the worship is a valuable time for learning of the multiple dimensions of each other.

Yearly Statistics: Members-29; Attenders-33; Children-19.

Attachment 10

State of the Meeting Report: Asheville

Many of the Meeting's concerns and activities have centered in younger Friends. Six young Friends have been welcomed into membership. There has been one wedding of young Friends under the care of the Meeting with another one scheduled at the end of May. Young Friends have been active in many social concerns. They have called upon the Meeting for guidance when they have experienced marital problems. The Meeting has not attempted to offer professional guidance but rather has offered loving support during such difficult times.

There has been a growing association with the Appalachian Center for Spiritual Growth in Asheville. The Meeting and the Center have co-sponsored speakers on many topics that are of concern to Quakers such as Dave McReynolds on Mobilization for Survival and Igor Rodenko on Perspective on Non-violence. Currently Asheville Meeting is exploring the possibility of renting space in the Center for its Meeting for Worship and First-day School.

Asheville Meeting became concerned that its weekly forums, held at 10 a.m. followed by Meeting for Worship were encroaching on the time of Meeting for Worship. Meeting for Worship now is called for 10 a.m., followed by a forum. This arrangement seems to be satisfactory. Included in the forums were a book review of "Quaker Saints", report from AFSC Haverford Conference on Religion and Psychology, Wichita Conference, Conference on Gerald Heard at Quaker Lake, Conference on Movement for a New Society, Japanese Peace Walk, Local Prison Ministry, Religion in Poland and Russia, Quakers and Energy, Conservation, Earth Changes, Peace Tax Fund, Quaker Concept of Sin, Use of the Silence, Spiritual Message of Friends, Birthings, Community of the Ark, etc. "The Last Slide Show", an anti-weapons program, was presented as a forum.

Participation in the anti-nuclear protest at Barnwell, South Carolina, a minute sent to the U.S. Attorney General calling for justice for the Wilmington Ten, mailing of postal cards for establishment of a World Peace Tax Fund, a call for a boycott of Nestles Products, letters protesting a funding cut for Day Care Centers in Western North Carolina, participation in the annual AFSC luncheon meeting in Tryon, North Carolina, were some actions taken by Asheville Friends during the past year.

Our First-day School has developed more structure but needs fuller Meeting participation. The Tryon Worship Group has been in decline with fewer in attendance. Younger Friends feel a need for guidance in Quakerism—its beliefs and practices. There continues to be much loving concern among Asheville Friends that should help the Meeting in its search for the Truth.

Attachment 11

State of the Meeting Report: Charleston

Puttering along would be a good description of Charleston Friends Meeting this year. Individually we've been involved in a variety of projects, but only a few as a Meeting.

The retreat at Ashland, Kentucky federal prison, reported elsewhere, was probably the high point of the year. The sixty or seventy who gathered had an enlightening experience.

A learning experience of a different kind came with our move into new Meeting quarters. Our Meeting place for fifteen years or more, the local YWCA, decided it could no longer keep its doors open to us on First-days because of the energy crisis. Casting about, we lit upon a former Catholic convent, now re-opened by the Cenacle Sisters as a Retreat House. Only a block from our former Meeting place, it opened wide to us as an ecumenical gesture, allowing us to use its spacious basement, complete with kitchen facilities. The friendliness of the sisters and the openness of our discussions with them have led to deeper insights into both religious viewpoints.

Friends, Catholics, and several other denominations joined together this year to speak to our state legislature on a bill to reinstate the death penalty, a bane we've been without for a decade and more. The concerted effort stopped the bill in committee. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

Our Meeting was further pulled together by visits from a number of friends: Chip Poston, the indefatigable; Mel Zuck passing through on Thanksgiving week; and the WRL, making a special presentation for us.

Individual friends in Meeting travelled to Wichita and Pendle Hill, produced two films (one on strip-mining, the other on retarded adults), helped to start a food co-op, researched the state's marriage laws pertaining to Friends, gathered documents on the history of our Meeting from FWCC, and added two babies to our midst.

The Ashland, Kentucky Worship Group, which we visit monthly, has undergone some changes. The "Meeting House" itself has been transformed from a "youthful offender" facility to an "adult" prison, primarily because the youths got older. Unfortunately this change has been attended by increased "security"—more controlled movement, more thorough searches, etc.—which seems to inhibit the number of attenders at Meeting from the inside. The mainstay is still Gary Hendrix, with only two or three other attenders. Several regulars at Meeting were transferred to other prisons or released (one became a member of the Society before his release). Outside attendance, on the other hand, has done very well. Regular weekly visitation has been maintained by several local ministers, members of the Wider Quaker Fellowship, who are able to have far closer contact with the prison than we. An interesting note: one of the ministers and his wife, Unitarians, have applied for membership in our Meeting.

So Charleston Friends Meeting continues tenaciously, as it has for twenty-six years, serving both Friends and the community.

Attachment 12

State of the Meeting Report: Birmingham

Friends of the Birmingham Meeting have been concerned with the following during the year:

1. Community. A deeply felt need for a closer, richer sense of community has been met to a large degree by our willingness to share our lives with each other during coffee and informal discussion times following Meeting for Worship, by informal meetings and brown bag suppers, by First-day discussions on the meaning of community, and by our remembering each other with phone calls and visits for sharing of meeting and personal concerns during the week.

II. Meeting development. Our committees are becoming more active. Though we do have established committees to which Friends are assigned, attendance at committee meetings is fluid, and all concerned with the topics under discussion feel free to attend any meeting.

A. The Committee for Worship and Ministry has met fairly regularly. The primary concern of that committee has been the quality of the spiritual life of our meeting. There has been some debate over whether our social concerns are taking precedence over our spiritual concerns, and while we are not quite together in our thoughts on this matter, we are encouraged by our ability to discuss it openly and without rancor.

B. Education Committee. Friends have been taking turns conducting the children's programs. Our First-day attendance in the children's class varies from Sunday to Sunday—sometimes we have only one child, sometimes as many as eight. Arrangements have been made for a once-a-month joint First-day session of children and adults. The adult program is still evolving. We have had trouble maintaining an extended discussion over a single topic because of erratic attendance of members.

C. Meeting House Committee. The Committee has made a specific recommendation to establish a meeting house fund. While there is consensus that we badly need a meeting house, there has been some disagreement over the manner of establishing a special fund for that purpose, and this matter is still under discussion.

D. Social Concerns. The Meeting has written several letters to President Carter and Alabama Congressmen concerning peace issues. In addition we are part of the Interreligious Urgent Action Network of Amnesty International and we write letters once a month on behalf of political prisoners in various countries. Individual Friends have been very active in civil rights meetings in Gadsden, in the Johnny Harris case, the Stevens union efforts, the Jefferson County Hunger Coalition, and the Food Stamp Association. We have also met the needs of individuals in our community as they have arisen. These needs have included money for a young woman whose husband has leukemia, a special meeting for comfort for a New York Friend whose mother is ill in a Birmingham nursing home, a letter to a Florida Meeting on behalf of a family whose house has burned, and plans to visit prisoners at Atmore Prison to look into charges of brutal treatment of prisoners.

Our Meeting is facing several tough issues now. As Friends have moved, we have grown smaller, though we have acquired some new attenders. There is some dissension over where we should be heading as a Meeting, over which problems require our earliest and most intensive attention. On the other hand, we are attempting to be open to the ideas, concerns and needs of each other, and we are growing emotionally, mentally, and spiritually as a result.

Attachment 13

State of the Meeting Report: Atlanta

MEETING FOR WORSHIP: The tone of the Atlanta Friends Meeting this year reflects a sense of activity, purpose and change. Although a few families who had been active no longer attend, several new families have begun to attend and to take part in the Meeting. Five people joined the Meeting this year, and two people had their membership transferred to the Meeting. Our Yearly Meeting assessment figures are based on 58 members (including eight distant members) and 46 active attenders. There are 20 children and youth who are either members or active attenders.

Fewer people are speaking during Meeting for Worship, with most of the speaking coming in the last half. Generally, there seems to be a growing sense of self-confidence, which is reflected less in verbal messages than in action on behalf of Quaker concerns.

COMMITTEES: The Social Concerns Committee has been active in Prison Visitation and in witness against the death penalty. It has initiated many forms of outreach, involving the Women's Pre-Release Center, correspondence with prisoners on Death Row, and providing hospitality at Quaker House for several prisoners' relatives here for visitation. In addition, the Atlanta Friends National Legislative Committee has involved itself in activities following the FCNL national priorities. The group has concentrated on disarmament, both nuclear proliferation and arms limitation; on cutting military spending; on strengthening world institutions (the Atlanta group invited Sam Levering for a Law of the Sea Convention); and in supporting the Panama Canal Treaty.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: What are our financial obligations to the Meeting? The activities of most any complexly structured group, especially a religiously oriented one, can be viewed from many perspectives—spiritual, emotional, social, intellectual, service, administrative, financial to name a few. While people will understandably be primarily interested in those aspects that meet personal need or provide opportunities for service to others, we all need reminding that all these several aspects require appropriate attention to insure effective functioning and satisfaction of participants. Thus, commensurate with their abilities, the full participation of all members and attenders is needed in providing the financial support needed for facilities, equipment, supplies and so on, that make our spiritual and outreach activities effective.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: The primary responsibility of the Religious Education Committee is to secure teachers for each age level and to make sure the program runs smoothly in our First-day School. As always, it is an extremely hard task to enlist the help of adults as teachers. Invariably we come close to beginning a quarter with one or more positions still to be filled. With a final plea, someone usually steps in at the last minute. We have excellent materials available from FGC/FUM, sources which are used only occasionally. Our adults seem to prefer planning their own lessons and capturing what interests their students express on an individual Sunday. Once teachers begin, we find a wide variety of experiences and creative projects are taking place. In the spring of 1977 we had an average attendance of 50 in the four groups (not including the nursery). In the summer we averaged 10-12, and combined all grade levels for fellowship and crafts. In the fall we have had a drop in attendance, with the average being 12-15. Our Committee consists of many non-attending adults, and the responsibilities have fallen on two or three members. We have used about one third of our budgeted \$400.00.

HOUSE AND GROUNDS: How do Friends care for their Meeting House? Do all take part in the routine care and upkeep of the house and grounds? Are Friends alert to make improvements and to change? Are adequate plans made for the future? Is the Meeting House fully utilized throughout the week and is there sufficient room for all activities? How can we keep the house open to all who wish to use it and still maintain necessary security? For the past year the House and Grounds Committee has been satisfied to "maintain" the property. Although we have considered ways to better utilize our facilities, no major repairs or renovations were undertaken. Three work-days were held, at which time we painted, repaired furniture and cleaned up. We greatly appreciate the fine service of Larry Erb, whose initiative and hard work are well known to the Meeting. We also appreciate the efforts of many others who helped throughout the year.

THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE has continued to maintain the circulation of Quaker House's library collection. Several changes were made in the circulation process, including the extension of check-out time to one month. The Committee is also attempting to locate a Quaker library or other appropriate institution which

will accept two collections of old Quaker books originally donated to Atlanta Meeting. Because of the books' age and deteriorating condition, the Meeting felt they could be better kept by a library or archives.

THE ADULT DISCUSSION COMMITTEE found its duties somewhat changeable during the year, in response to requests from the Meeting. Hour-long discussions were set up to follow Meeting for Worship based on the needs that were felt. In addition, there were several evening discussions, with potluck dinner. Topics included the following: acceptability of Meeting House facilities; social concerns projects; Friends' attitudes toward family life; simplicity; homosexuality; alternate celebrations; and various ways of preparing for Meeting for Worship.

In addition to the activity of the standing committees, a great deal of the Meeting's functioning is done by the use of volunteers. These responsibilities include child care, coffee preparation, greeting on Sunday, and closing the Meeting for Worship. The Meeting continues to benefit from the efforts of Nita Hinely, our secretary, and Larry Erb, our resident and maintenance man.

INDIVIDUAL CONCERNS: Several people in our Meeting take an active part in various Quaker concerns, such as environmental protection, concern for prisoners, various neighborhood organizations, along with the regional board of AFSC. In addition, many members are active in concerns such as teaching Spanish-speaking people English, tutoring prisoners at the Work-Release Center so they can pass the GED, working to assure battered women that they will be protected, and that they will have a place to stay.

MEETING OUTREACH: Several members of Meeting have served as representatives to and officers in SAYMA, as well as functioning as delegates from Yearly Meeting to other Quaker organizations, such as AFSC, FCNL, and FWCC. We also have a representative on the Metropolitan Christian Council of Churches. Several people from Meeting attended the Conference of the Americas in Wichita, Kansas this year.

MEETING FOR BUSINESS is fairly well attended. The agenda, though lengthy at times, is completed. A consensus was reached to conduct Meeting for Business in a more worshipful manner, and to phrase and state each minute as it is being discussed. Each minute should be read to see if consensus has been achieved before going on to the next item of business.

An ad hoc committee was formed to assess the impact of the facilities on the Meeting. Several options for plans of growth and change were offered, but the Business Meeting was unable to reach any consensus. The matter is still being considered.

The Meeting's ongoing sponsorship of East African student James Makhoka has concluded with his graduation from Albany State. He has received a scholarship for graduate studies at Northwestern.

After several years of oversight, the Birmingham Worship Group was recognized as a Monthly Meeting in February 1977. Friends from Atlanta participated in the Meeting for Worship and the celebration held in Birmingham on February 13, 1977.

GROUPS: Members are active in the following groups, which meet on a regular basis: Women's Group; Men's Group; Simple Living Group; Book Discussion Group.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR 1977

American Friends Service Committee Special Meeting was held at Quaker House January 12th with Russell Johnson.

SAYMA Representative Meeting was held January 29th, at Quaker House.

Friends Committee on National Legislation regional meeting at Georgian Terrace Hotel was held in Atlanta September 16-18. Special Concerns and FOR sponsored Joseph Abileah, renowned Israeli lecturer and Secretary of the Society for Middle East Confederation in November.

Craft fair and garage sale was December 3 and 4 at Quaker House. A big success.

Teach In for Mobilization for Survival at Georgia State, November 11 and 12.

In November there was a meeting with John Phillips (Princeton student who designed an atom bomb).

New Members: Joan King and George Cox and Nick Butterfield. Transfers of Memberships: Robert and Mary Zimmerman and Steve Meredith.

Memorial Service for Harry Boyte in March.

Births: Mark Skellie born August 11, 1977 and Amanda Hough born October 21, 1977.

Women's Work Release Center Picnic at the Center with Friends participating, in July. Several Friends in the Meeting have been involved with this project. There have been other projects involved with prisons.

Sue May is director of the Battered Women's Project and Center. There have been a number of Simple Living Workshops during this year.

A Men's Group was formed and is quite active. They meet on Sunday evenings at Quaker House.

The Women's Group continues (formed six years ago). The meetings are once a month in someone's home.

The Peace Committee is an active group and involves people in the Meeting at various times.

The Meeting has housed a number of guests during the year. The Forum Committee presented several interesting discussions on Sunday after Meeting for Worship. Topics have ranged from Quaker history to worship to homosexuality.

Workdays were fairly well attended.

1977 was a good year...may 1978 be an even better one.

Questions we have asked:

Is the Meeting evolving as a religious community?

Is the Meeting encouraging an aspect of love among us?

Is there a potential for religious growth in the Meeting?

Do we put as much energy into the life of our Meeting as we do for our own favorite avocation?

Do we share in the responsibility of preparation for Meeting for Worship?

Is it possible to maintain a sense of community, given the reality of a constant change of regular attenders?

What is it that distinguishes Quaker Meeting from other groups that are based on interpersonal relationships and social action?

Is our Meeting strong enough to withstand the loss of several families who have been very active in the Meeting?

Are we ritualizing our desire to hold others in the light during Meeting for Worship?

Is the Meeting for Business able to make practical decisions, such as those dealing with possible remodeling?

How effectively do we communicate our religious beliefs to our children through this Meeting?

Does our procedure for arriving at consensus achieve true consensus?

Attachment 14

State of the Meeting Report: Berea

The concerns of our Meeting are best shown by its activities. Over the past year, we have arranged public meetings for David McReynolds of the WRL, Martha Henderson of AFSC-Dayton, and Chip Poston of Asheville Meeting, each giving an individual perspective on world disarmament. We have had evening discussions on the New Call to Peacemaking, devotional literature, and on our relation to other churches in the community. A discussion on preparation for death and burial has led to continued action by Ministry and Counsel. The Meeting bought books for a Berea Macro-analysis Seminar, provided postage for postcards supporting the Panama Canal Treaties, and heard the Gaileys share their experiences at the Intensive Journal Workshop in Knoxville. We also sent two Berea College

students to Nashville to attend the Southern Conference on World Affairs.

Berea Friends Meeting continues to be a small group with limited facilities. We number around 35 regular members and attenders and have an annual budget of about \$700.00, \$300.00 of which goes to SAYMA. We are pleased to have participation from people of both ends of the age spectrum, but we have few families or people aged 30-50. Also, socially we are mainly white, anglo-saxon, middle-class, and college educated, which limits both our understanding and our influence in the community.

This was the first year for our committee on Ministry and Counsel. Set up to oversee the spiritual life of the Meeting, the committee has acted perceptively and constructively to meet needs of some individuals in the Meeting. It has not met as often as we expected, however.

The center of our Meeting is the weekly meeting for worship. We tend to find fellowship primarily outside the Meeting. Some hold dual membership with another church. But we all are united in seeking Truth through silence. Perhaps our greatest concern is how to make the worship experience more meaningful. We have had few meetings which seemed to be really "gathered," and vocal ministry is often missed. Ministry and Counsel will try to help us with this concern in the coming months. Wanting worship to be a more continual part of our lives, some of us have begun meeting for worship at midweek, as well as on first day.

In conclusion, we hold to our belief that they who seek Truth shall find it, and be amazed by it.

Attachment 15

State of the Meeting Report: Tri-Cities

Warm fellowship, lively discussions, rich periods of silent worship---these are the characteristics of the Tri-Cities Worship Group which we cherish and nurture. The worship group was formed in the fall of 1976 when a family with Quaker background advertised in a local newspaper for Friends who were interested in joining together for silent worship. The two families who responded had no previous experience with Quakers, but had been seeking new religious forms and commitments. One had looked up "Quakerism" in an encyclopedia and had felt an instant kinship with the description found therein.

Since that time, though two new families are attending the worship group and one family has moved on in their search, the numbers remain about the same. We are a small group---six adults and three children (two young Friends and a toddler). Meeting is held at attender's homes, varying on a month to month basis. At 9:30 each Sunday, we begin a discussion which, about an hour later, melts into silent worship. Ministry out of the silence is sparse though meaningful. During discussion we have explored Quaker history and testimonies and undertaken Bible study.

We were immensely enriched as a group by visits from Mel and Priscilla Zuck, representing the AFSC, and Marian and Nelson Fuson, wearing multiple Quaker hats. Though outreach and social concern has been limited in the past to local programs and needs, we are now exploring a closer relationship with wider Quaker organizations---especially the AFSC and FCNL.

Perhaps the greatest need of a young, small worship group such as ours is stability---a sense of rootedness. We look to the future with a kind of cautious anticipation of growth---individual and collective---in the Spirit. There are times, though few, when the question mark of our existence becomes evident. We feel young, vulnerable, and inexperienced in our ability to listen to that of God in ourselves and others. We would indeed feel encouraged and uplifted by the presence of visiting Friends in our midst.

Attachment 16

Petition for release of Gary Hendrix from prison

Copies to President Carter, Prison Visitation Service in Philadelphia, and to Gary Hendrix

The Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, in session at Lutheridge, N.C., May 18-21, 1978, requests the United States Government, and in particular the United States Marine Corps, to consider seriously the immediate release of Gary Hendrix. He is presently incarcerated at Federal Correctional Institution at Ashland, Kentucky.

Recognizing the serious nature of the crime of which he was convicted and was, in fact, guilty, nevertheless, any possible interests of justice have been met by his eight-year imprisonment.

Rehabilitation has been successfully achieved by Gary Hendrix himself. He is a good and moral member of our Society. He has dedicated himself to the non-violent resolution of conflict and has taught this view to others in prison.

Further imprisonment would be detrimental both to him and to society. We urge his release.

Attachment 17

Report of Committee on Book of Discipline

Consolidating what has been done, we find that the Guide to Our Practice is distinctly underway, parts of it actually having been committed to paper. We see the greatest needs at present to be discussion of and movement toward consensus on membership; on ministry, counsel, and oversight; and on marriage, including the Meeting's response to dissolving marriages and remarriages. We plan a working weekend in West Knoxville July 14-16 and will ask for responses from Meetings on these questions before that time. Elizabeth Briggs will communicate with Meeting representatives within the next few weeks on this.

At present we feel the best way to proceed is to formulate, drawing from experience in the Meetings, parts of the guide for consideration by the Meetings; feeling that it is easier to respond to a written statement than to draw these from scratch, we will prepare working drafts as we go. This way the Discipline can build over a period of time.

It would be good for each Meeting to have at least one person working with the committee; at present Chattanooga, West Knoxville, Nashville, Columbia, Celo and Charleston have specific people who have this responsibility. Others who would like to work with us should communicate with Elizabeth Briggs. Please. Those who are past or present members of Ministry and Counsel are especially encouraged.

Attachment 18

Nominating Committee Report

- Clerk--Brian Yaffe
- Assistant Clerk--Salli Kimberly
- Treasurer--Jack Kaiser
- Recording Clerk--Sue Williams
- Assistant Recording Clerk--Leonard Vaughen
- Newsletter Editor--Doris Fern
- Recorder/Historian/Archivist--Mary Sanders
- Manager-Yearly Meeting Bookstore--Monette Redslob
- Senior High Clerk--
- Junior High Clerk--
- Advancement--Marian Fuson
- Arrangements--
- Guide to Our Practice--Elizabeth Briggs
- Nominating--Nelson Fuson
- Program--Mike Mykel
- AFSC/SERO--Ruth Szittyta (77-80)
- FCNL--Dwight Ferguson (76-79)
- FCNL--Bob Oldham (78-81)
- FWCC--Steve Meredith (78-81)

Epistle Committee--Rob Callard, Carol Lamm, Burton Rogers
Friends Journal reporter--Nancy Whitt

Suggestions: Youth Program Coordinator--position to be added to Nominating Committee responsibility

Attachment 19

6/15/78

President of the United States of America

Jimmy Carter
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Jimmy Carter:

We of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association wish to commend you for your efforts in bringing about the first United Nations General Assembly on Disarmament.

Some dramatic break through on disarmament is a real possibility if we, the most powerful nation, take specific steps toward disarmament. We urge that you address the United Nations General Assembly and announce the following disarmament initiatives:

1. A cessation of the production, testing and stockpiling of all nuclear weapons.
2. A pledge to work for the outlawing of all nuclear weapons as a crime against humanity.
3. A clear intention to work toward a world order capable of resolving international disputes by peaceful means and eliminating the need for armaments.

In the Spirit,

Brian Yaffe

Clerk-Southern Appalachian
Yearly Meeting and Association

c.c. Ambassador Andrew Young
Secretary of State Cyrus Vance
National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski

Attachment 20

To Friends Everywhere:

"Quakerism of the Future" was the chosen theme as Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting gathered at Lutheridge Conference Center, Arden, North Carolina, from May 18 to 21, 1978. Our first order of business, however, was Quakerism of the past and present as we warmly greeted our past acquaintances and made new friends. From seven states Friends, some as far as 700 miles apart, drew close.

None of us came so far, though, as Niranjana Kaul, traveling through the United States on behalf of the proposed Quaker Center at Agra, India. His presence reminded us of the international responsibilities of Friends. Toward fulfilling those responsibilities, a letter was drafted urging Monthly Meetings to support the United Nations Conference on Disarmament being held in New York this summer.

Local responsibilities were also our concern. A Minute was sent to President Carter urging him to release Gary Hendrix, the leader of the Worship Group at Ashland Federal Correctional Institution. Other Minutes were approved supporting the rights of all people regardless of sexual orientation and in support of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution guaranteeing equal rights to all without regard to sex.

The conjunction of science and religion was the major concern of John Yungblut in his talks to us on mysticism, sex and the human psyche, and Quakerism of the future. Drawing on Teilhard de Chardin and Carl Jung, he spoke of the need to re-evaluate our beliefs in the light of present-day understanding of evolution and psychology, to reach upward in spiritual growth toward the mystical union of self with God.

Our concern at this Yearly Meeting could be best expressed by William James, speaking of Quakerism: "In a day of shams, it was a religion of veracity rooted in spiritual inwardness."