

## YAF Business Meeting Minutes

SAYMA 2012

### Agenda:

1. SAYF Graduation
2. Epistle
3. Worship Sharing
4. Nominating Committee

#### I. SAYF Graduation

- Friends determined that we wished the SAYF graduation to be peaceful and kind, rather than the more hazing ritual of previous years.
- Friends determined that the YAF section of the SAYF graduation ceremony would go as follows:
  1. YAFs arrive at the SAYF graduation at 11:45 and sit on the hill next to the gazebo. After 45 minutes to an hour, we would begin moving closer to the gazebo itself as a peaceful way of reminding the SAYFers that we were waiting.
  2. When the ceremony finished, the YAFs would approach the seniors each holding a lit candle and a ring of clovers to place on their heads. We would then lead them behind the gazebo and place blindfolds on them.
  3. As there were fewer SAYF graduates than YAFs, it is safe for each graduate to have one YAF lead him/her on a trust walk to the pond.
  4. We would walk the graduates to a stone house beside the pond, take off their blindfolds, and have a worship sharing to the query: "How does spirituality guide you through transitions? How do you guide yourself through transitions?"
  5. We would then return to the pond and sit next to it. There we would have a love feast where noone can feed themselves. The food will be bought by Ellen and Rachel before the ceremony and set up by Judy and Bethany while the other YAFs participate in the worship sharing.
  6. The YAFs and graduates will return to the YAF dorm (ANTC) and collect the contact information of the old and new YAFs.
  7. The SAYFers and Rachel will return to the SAYF dorm (Vining) and the YAFs will go to sleep.

## II. Epistle

- The following is the YAF Epistle for SAYMA 2012. It was written and read by Samuel Leeman-Munk:
  - “Alright, this is the year it's going to work. Why this year? Why is this the year we'll put together a robust, healthy YAF group? Well, for one thing, we had more YAFs in our group this time than any time in recent memory - as many as seventeen YAFs attended SAYMA this year. Not to mention seven recent SAYF graduates whom we hope will remain in our community in the coming year. On top of that, seven members from the greater community attended our worship sharing with us, where we talked about community and God's calling. Numbers alone don't make a cohesive group if you can't hold them together through the long haul, however, so this year we as YAFs will keep in touch, taking the occasional opportunity to remind ourselves that we are part of a community. I've been told we have a Facebook group, so I'll be spending the coming year trying to find this Facebook group, and possibly making another one. My sister Rachel, in the meantime, will be working on a website to give us an online presence. Our YAF magazine, that on our first attempt last year received a whopping one submission from our very own industrious Willa Mae, will get one more go - this time Casey promises to really hold our feet to the fire - In a Quakerly way of course - so we will be sure to have that magazine full of content for its upcoming first publication. One thing that we know you all have been clamoring for is participation in the greater community. This year we continued our participation in SAYF's eye-opening fishbowl and notoriously rambunctious wink game. Rachel spent the entire weekend with the SAYF community as a FAP. But that's not all. We are pleased to announce that this year, drumroll please, we have two YAFs scheduled to be on the nominating committee, Judy and Bethany. Bethany will be especially busy this year, also a member of the outreach committee and nominated for the planning committee with Rachel as well. All in all, I'd say things are looking pretty good for the YAF community.”

## III. Worship Sharing

- Friends settled into silence and spoke out of the silence their ideas for the query for the YAF led worship sharing. These are the queries that came out of that silence:
  - Within our yearly meeting, how do we feel unified as a community when we come from such different places?

- Why do we feel so drawn together as a community? What makes us feel that way?
  - What communities are in your life, and how do they affect your path through life?
  - When you're around certain people, what activities help you find and answer God in other people?
  - What do we do as friends and YAFs to strengthen and nurture each other throughout these changes?
  - How can we work with the extended community to handle the trauma experienced on the Earth right now?
  - How can we use our inner light to brighten the dark spots in ourselves and our community?
  - As young adults, we often feel alone because we are forging our paths. How do we respond to God's calling and what do we do when we don't hear that guidance?
  - What can we do as a YAF community to better serve others? What do we have to uniquely offer and what can we do to bring that to the community?
  - How do you define community?
- Friends chose the following three queries for the YAF lead worship sharing at SAYMA 2012:
    1. How do you define community?
    2. How can we use our inner light to brighten the dark spots in ourselves and our community?
    3. How do we respond to God's calling and what do we do when we don't hear that guidance?

#### IV. Nominating and Planning Committee

- In order to provide more YAF involvement within the wider SAYMA community, the following members of the YAF community will be participating in SAYMA committees in the coming year:
  - Nominating Committee: Judy Scoville and Bethany Vega
  - Planning Committee: Rachel Leeman-Munk and Bethany Vega
  - Outreach Committee: Bethany Vega
- Friends on the Nominating and Planning Committees plan to have at least one of the YAF members participate in the meetings on September 8<sup>th</sup> (Chatanooga) and March 9<sup>th</sup> (Columbia, SC). Rachel may participate in these meetings over Skype.