

**Yearly Meeting #31 of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina**

June 8, 2001 - Sixth Day (Friday) 1 pm

1. Opening

After a period of silence, Clerk Penelope Wright read the following lines, which she modified from a hymn:

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak
In living echoes of thy tone;
As thou has sought, so let me seek
The way to do thy work.
Worship in Song, #165

She welcomed Friends to the 31st annual session of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association.

2. Roll call

Assistant Clerk Sharon Annis read the roll of monthly meetings and worship groups. The following were represented at the beginning of this first session: Anneewakee, Asheville, Atlanta, Berea, Birmingham, Boone, Celso, Charleston, Chattanooga, Cleveland, Columbia, Cookeville, Foxfire, Greenville, Memphis, Nashville, New Moon, Royal, Swannanoa, West Knoxville.

A list of Yearly Meeting attenders is attached as Appendix A. Separate attendance lists are not included for particular Yearly Meeting sessions.

State of the Meeting Reports are attached in Appendix B.

3. Announcements

Administrative Assistant Mary Calhoun announced that copies of SAYMA's *Guide to Our Faith and Our Practice* and the handbook are available from the office for those with SAYMA positions of responsibility.

Margaret Cooley and Susan Carlyle made announcements regarding local arrangements and registration.

4. Welcome of visitors from other yearly meetings

Friends welcomed Arthur Larrabee, our evening speaker, from Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting; and Nancy Clark, Homewood Friends Monthly Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

5. Representatives to and from wider Quaker organizations

The clerk welcomed visitors from wider Quaker organizations, SAYMA representatives to those organizations and others from SAYMA who serve in the organizations. She read traveling minutes and letters of introductions for some of the visitors.

American Friends Service Committee

From SAYMA: Daryl Bergquist, Jonah McDonald, Sallie Prugh and Bill O'Connell

*Final and signed edition, published from the SAYMA office September 5, 2001
SAYMA #31, 2001*

Friends Committee on National Legislation

From SAYMA: Sue May (for Joe Taylor), Charles Cliver (not present) and Nancy Lee-Riffe (Board)

Friends General Conference

Visitors: David Wood, Virginia Wood and Deborah Fisch.

From SAYMA: John Geary, Sharon Annis and Penelope Wright (ex officio)

Friends Committee on Outworld Relations

Phil Neal, coordinator

Friends Committee on Unity with Nature

Visitor: Mary Gilbert

SAYMA representatives: Kim Carlyle and Susan Carlyle

Friends for Lesbian and Gay Concerns

SAYMA representative: Angela Love (not present)

Friends World Committee for Consultation

From SAYMA: Kathy Burke, Rachel Weir and Bill Holland

Friends Peace Team

From SAYMA: Kathleen Hardie

Quaker House (Fayetteville, NC)

From SAYMA: Harry Rogers

Right Sharing of World Resources

From SAYMA: Geeta McGahey (also on RSWR Board)

South East Region, American Friends Service Committee

Bert Skellie, interim director

>From SAYMA: Daryl Bergquist, Jeremiah Gold-Hopton, Free Polazzo (executive committee)

YouthQuake

From SAYMA: Priscilla Ewen

6. Epistles

The assistant clerk read an epistle from the Friends World Committee for Consultation London office and a request for assistance in finding a pastor from the Friends Meeting of Ballplay, Tellico Plains, Tennessee.

7. Appointment of Epistle Committee

The clerk reported that in April, representatives agreed that this year's epistle would be translated into Spanish in order to reach more Friends. At that time, several people volunteered to help with the translation. Since then, the clerk has received a suggestion that the epistle also be translated into French. Friends agreed that if a volunteer is available it would be good also to have a French translation.

No volunteers stepped forward, so the appointment of an epistle committee was postponed.

8. Nominating Committee preliminary report

Nominating Committee Clerk Lee Ann Swarm presented the following nominations for SAYMA positions:

Position	Person	From	To
Clerk	Sharon Annis	6/01	6/03
Treasurer	Kendall Ivie	6/99	6/02
Nominating Committee Clerk	Penelope Wright	6/01	6/03
Member, Nominating Committee	Jane Goldthwait	6/01	6/03
SAYF Steering Committee Co-Clerk	Margaret Farmer	6/99	6/02
SAYF Steering Committee Co-Clerk	Kathleen Mavournin	6/01	6/03
Member, SAYF Steering Committee	John Rennie	6/01	6/03
Member, SAYF Steering Committee	Bill O'Connell	6/01	6/03
AFSC Corporation Representative	Sallie Prugh	1/00	6/03
AFSC/SERO Executive Committee	Daryl Bergquist	6/00	6/02
FCNL Representative	Charles Cliver	6/98	6/04
FGC Representative	Penelope Wright	6/01	6/04
Friends Peace Teams	Kathleen Hardie	6/99	6/03

Friends approved these appointments.

Lee Ann Swarm raised the issue of the continuance of the Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) Oversight Committee. Over the past year, the Oversight Committee has not had work to do. However, the SAYF Steering Committee may in the future need assistance to address concerns of the sort for which the Oversight Committee was formed. Perhaps an alternate system, in which a clearness committee could be appointed when needed, is in order. Discussion of laying down the SAYF Oversight Committee was postponed until SAYF Oversight Committee members could be present.

Two individuals have represented SAYMA to YouthQuake. The Nominating Committee is inclined to fill this position if and when a volunteer is led to be involved, but to leave open the possibility of not filling the position.

Lee Ann Swarm listed positions that are still open and asked Friends to consider who might be called to serve in these positions. The Nominating Committee's charge was to return the following day with the rest of the slate.

Co-registrar Susan Carlyle described the responsibilities of the co-registrar, one of the open positions. She also suggested that a portion of the co-registrars' fees at Yearly Meeting be covered by SAYMA. After brief discussion, further consideration was postponed until the treasurer could be present to speak to the financial implications of this proposal.

9. Friends Committee on Unity with Nature (FCUN)

Kim Carlyle, SAYMA representative to FCUN, presented a report, which is attached in Appendix C.

10. American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Sallie Prugh and Jonah McDonald, SAYMA representatives to the AFSC Corporation, reported on their involvement with AFSC. Their written report is attached in Appendix D. Sallie has been paying special attention to AFSC's work between conflicting groups in Columbia. Jonah has been particularly interested in AFSC's developing Africa Initiative and in

AFSC's current peacemaking work involving clergy in Angola. AFSC has undertaken a visioning process that will address the relationship between AFSC and the Religious Society of Friends. Sallie encouraged Friends to give her input for an upcoming AFSC visioning session.

11. The Prayer of the Tortoise

The clerk read the following:

A little patience,
O God,
I am coming.
One must take nature as she is!
It was not I who made her!
I do not mean to criticize
this house on my back--
it has its points--
but you must admit, Lord,
it is heavy to carry!
Still,
Let us hope that this double enclosure,
my shell and my heart,
will never be quite shut to You.
Prayers from the Ark
Carmen Bernos de Gasztold

12. The Prayer of the Glowworm

Following a break, the clerk read the following:

Dear God,
Would You take Your light
A little farther away
from me?
I am a morsel
of cinder
and need Your night
for my heart to dare
to flicker out its feeble star:
its hope, to give to other hearts,
what can be stolen from all poverty
a gleam of joy.
Prayers from the Ark
Carmen Bernos de Gasztold

13. Announcement

Jessie Purvis made an announcement on behalf of Young Adult Friends.

14. Presentation of proposed minute on population

On behalf of Celo Monthly Meeting and Cookeville Worship Group, Geeta McGahey presented revisions to a minute on population that was approved at last yearly meeting, as follows:

Celo Monthly Meeting and Cookeville Worship Group have collaborated on a draft of proposed revisions to the population minute approved at Yearly Meeting 2000. We request approval of these revisions.

The draft minute (revisions bold):

In accordance with Friends testimonies of equality, simplicity, and harmony, we recognize the sacredness of all life, the interconnection of all living things, and the balance required to sustain an acceptable quality of life for all inhabitants of our planet. We are committed to providing all children with a safe, loving, nourishing, and habitable world in which to live.

In October 1999, world human population surpassed 6 billion, having doubled since 1960. At the present rate of growth, it is likely to double again within the new century. The effects of this rapid population growth exacerbated by excessive consumerism, threaten all of earth's creatures, placing insupportable demands on her finite resources, creating unmanageable problems of waste disposal, and intensifying environmental degradation.

While remaining sensitive to the needs and values of all cultures, we acknowledge our responsibility to become informed about world population growth and the concerns it raises. Through our leadings and sharings, we will seek knowledgeable, loving, and creative ways of working towards effective and realistic solutions. These include providing education on and means of contraception for both sexes, encouragement of adoption as an alternative to having biological children, and open support of those who choose not to procreate.

Recognizing that the countries of North America and Europe have caused and continue to cause the most serious environmental degradation, it is essential that we who have more than we need strive toward a simpler, less wasteful life-style.

We offer this minute in a spirit of concern that while population control may be less of an issue in our countries, we understand why larger families are important to others. We realize that for many countries without the safety network of social security and government aid programs, the large family is the primary care giver and protector of the poor.

Special emphasis must be given to measures to reduce poverty, provide security for people as they age, and empower women. Literacy, equal social status, and the general education of women to broaden their life choices are measures that not only improve their lives but also help delay childbirth and limit family size.

We urge our government to renew contributions to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, and we urge meetings to study further the problem of rapid population growth and to discern how we are to act on this concern as individuals and as meetings in our own communities, in our country, and in support of countries throughout the world.

We will work towards a more equitable sharing of the world's resources and towards systems that will aid those in need, with the assurance that this will reduce the need for large families.

Proposed changes: Asheville paragraph 5 changing population "control" to population "stabilization"

Diana Lalani of Cookeville Worship Group presented a suggested sentence that would further modify the minute. With the inclusion of this sentence, the second-to-the-last paragraph would read:

We urge our government to renew contributions to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities. As individual meetings we will study further the problems of rapid population growth, offer clearness to prospective parents, and set aside several opportunities a year to explore our own consumerist excesses, share problems, leadings, and possible solutions.

These proposals were presented as background for discussion at the following business session.

15. Lifting sanctions against Iraq

At Yearly Meeting 2000, Atlanta and Nashville Monthly Meetings each presented minutes regarding sanctions against Iraq for consideration by the Yearly Meeting. Monthly Meetings were asked to season the concern in preparation for a special interest group at Yearly Meeting 2001 that would draft a minute to be considered by the yearly meeting.

The clerk reported that she had heard from Berea Monthly Meeting, which is supportive of a minute opposing sanctions. Michael Harless reported that Boone Monthly Meeting has considered the issue and determined that as a monthly meeting it could not support a minute but would not stand in the way of a yearly meeting minute. Ron McDonald reported that Memphis Monthly Meeting is engaged in considering whether to permit an organization to set up an encampment on its lawn demonstrating the effects of the sanctions on Iraqi citizens.

Pam Beziat offered to convene a group to draft a minute for consideration at the next business session. Friends agreed that if this interest group does not succeed in drafting an acceptable minute, SAYMA will request that Nashville and Atlanta work together to develop a minute before fall representative meeting.

16. Death penalty

Yearly Meeting 2000 approved a statement reaffirming Friends' traditional opposition to the death penalty and supporting a moratorium on the death penalty as an interim step. Friends were encouraged to generate follow-up minutes as they were led. The clerk asked if Monthly Meetings had action to report.

Several Monthly Meetings reported on their actions on the death penalty. Actions included demonstrations of various sorts as well as the passage and publication of minutes. All who spoke affirmed the minute approved last year. The clerk suggested that Friends submit minutes and a record of other activities around the death penalty to the recording clerk, so that the extent of SAYMA Friends' work against the death penalty can be documented in the minutes of this yearly meeting. Friends agreed that monthly meetings should submit their records to the recording clerk within four weeks.

The question arose of whether SAYMA has ever approved a full-fledged minute on the death penalty. Archivist Bettina Wolff agreed to research this question.

17. Communication and accountability within SAYMA

In the course of discussion about gathering records of monthly meeting action against the death penalty, Friends proposed various methods of collecting such information. Friends agreed that within the coming year the Advisory Committee should consider ways that communication and accountability within the yearly meeting might be improved.

18. Relationship between AFSC and SAYMA

Recording Clerk Carol Lamm read the minutes of the June 7, 2001 called meeting for the consideration of formulating a minute concerning SAYMA's relationship with the American Friends Service Committee. After the reading, Friends who were present at that meeting approved the minutes, which are attached in Appendix C.

Materials cited in the June 7 minutes were made available for Friends to review in preparation for Saturday's meeting for business session. In addition, Courtney Siceloff distributed a proposed minute that he had composed.

19. Introduction of proposed minute on global climate change

Kim Carlyle explained that SAYMA's Ecological Concerns Network has been working over the course of the past year on a minute on global climate change. Their work has included presenting a draft to representative meeting and incorporating responses from monthly meetings. He presented the latest draft of the proposed minute to be considered at the following business session.

20. Introduction of proposed minute seeking peace between Israel and Palestine

Dennis Gregg presented a minute from Crossville Monthly Meeting regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The minute grew out of continuing communications of a member of Crossville Meeting with friends in the Middle East. The clerk read the minute, to be considered at the following business session. The minute is as follows:

The Crossville Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends has approved a minute calling on the U.S. Government to facilitate the peaceful resolution of the conflict between the Israeli and Palestinian governments.

The Meeting has received a report of a gathering held at the Friends Boys School in Ramallah, Palestine of about 100 United States citizens living in occupied Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza Strip which deplored the failure of our government to condemn the use of lethal weaponry against Palestinian civilians. The Meeting calls on the U.S. Government to take the lead in providing international protection for Palestinian civilians, to support the demand for an immediate international inquiry into the root causes of the conflict, to suspend arms shipments to Israel which are in violation of the U.S. Arms Export Control Act, and to terminate the transfer of U.S. funds to Israel (currently in the amount of over 6 billion dollars per year) for as long as Israel remains in violation of UN resolutions and international law.

The Meeting believes that a peaceful solution can and must be found and calls upon our government at whatever level is needed to facilitate a termination of hostilities and the establishment of peace between Israel and Palestine.

21. *Southern Appalachian Friend*

Kim Carlyle, as co-editor with Susan Carlyle of the *Southern Appalachian Friend* newsletter, asked that Friends send in news articles about Meetings or, if they just send minutes, at least highlight matters of importance that would be worth reporting in the newsletter. Letters to the editor, articles, illustrations and even corrections are welcome. The newsletter is printed on 100 per cent recycled, chlorine-free paper. Meetings should let the Carlyles know if they are not receiving the appropriate number of copies. The newsletter is published four times a year, approximately quarterly. The due date for submissions for the next issue is June 22.

22. YouthQuake

Priscilla Ewen presented a report on her involvement with YouthQuake. Her report is attached in Appendix D.

23. Personnel Committee

Assistant Clerk Sharon Annis reported that the Personnel Committee had hired Therese Hildebrand as the first administrative assistant for the SAYF program. The Personnel Committee's responsibility has been evolving as the staff grows. She encouraged Friends to support staff by responding to requests from the staff, such as requests for information.

24. Friends Peace Teams

Kathleen Hardie reported on the work of the Friends Peace Teams. Structurally a subcommittee of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committee, the organization works primarily through three avenues. FPT helps Friends get involved in on-the-ground work, such as the African Great Lakes Peace Initiative. FPT helps Quakers connect with partner organizations such as Christian Peacemaker Teams, Peace Brigades International and Quaker Volunteer Witness and Training. FPT also promotes the concept of every Meeting as a center for peace. Now that she had become familiar with the organization, she would like to be able to report to FPT on SAYMA meetings' peace work. She asked Friends to keep people in FPT and on the ground internationally in their prayers.

June 9, 2001 - Seventh Day (Saturday) 9:30 am

25. Opening

After a period of silence, the clerk sang:

Thank you for these Friends, Lord,
Thank you for these Friends,
These faithful,
These faithful,
These faithful Friends.

Julia Ewen beautifully told the story of the lost coin, spoke of the importance of feminine images in the Bible, especially in Jesus' teachings, and affirmed the value of every person in the community.

The clerk read:

This is my commandment,
That ye love one another, as I have loved you.
Greater love hath no one than this, that one lay down one's life for one's friends.
Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.
Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what the lord doeth; but I have called you friends.

John 15:12-15

She commented that this is what the Religious Society of Friends was at its inception. However time and culture have changed, we are the Religious Society of Friends. We are known by the witness of our faith.

26. Announcements

Administrative Assistant Mary Calhoun asked representatives to pick up directory correction materials at the rise of meeting.

Copies of *A Guide to Our Faith and Our Practice* will be available on First Day for \$2.00 per copy, cash and carry.

Bill Reynolds announced that free sample copies of *Friends Journal* are available here at Yearly Meeting.

Dennis Gregg shared the joyful news that his daughter Elizabeth will be one of three Friends Committee on National Legislation interns this coming year. He also invited Friends to talk with him about a new school in Crossville which he has been involved in founding.

Kathy Johnson announced a meeting of the Ecological Concerns Network to continue its discussion of the greening of SAYMA.

Sharon Annis announced a meeting regarding religious education and the possibility of establishing a SAYMA religious education committee.

Susan Carlyle made announcements regarding check-out and recognized volunteers who assisted the co-registrars.

Margaret Cooley announced mealtime meetings of the Friends Committee on Unity with Nature, Right Sharing of World Resources and Friends Committee on National Legislation. She also announced arrangements for an afternoon hike and intergenerational games.

Kit Potter announced a meeting of the Ministry and Nurture Committee.

27. Epistle Committee

The clerk read the following passage:

When work does not turn out as was expected or intended, do not let it depress you. If you are working from a right motive, and doing your best under the guidance of a loving Father in heaven, your work cannot be and is not a failure.

Joseph John Armistead, 1913

Quaker Faith and Practice: The Book of Christian Discipline of the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain, 20.04

The clerk then asked for volunteers for the Epistle Committee. Hibbard Thatcher, Diana Lalani and Mary Litch responded to the call and will serve as the Epistle Committee.

28. Southern Appalachian Young Friends Steering Committee

Margaret Farmer, co-clerk of the SAYF Steering Committee, reported that SAYF has had seven weekend retreats and two combined weekend meetings of the Steering, Nurturing and Oversight Committees and is currently holding a SAYF session at Yearly Meeting. It has been a good year. She is grateful for yesterday's appointment of Kathleen Mavournin as co-clerk of the steering committee; the hiring of an administrative assistant; the new members of the steering committee; and the work of the personnel committee in hiring the administrative assistant. She expressed thanks to Tim Lamm for maintaining the SAYF database, and to Kendall Ivie for putting SAYF retreat registration forms on the web site where late-planning teens can find them.

Friends minuted their appreciation of Margaret Farmer's hard work over the years.

29. Visitors

Daryl Bergquist introduced two staff members of the American Friends Service Committee South East Region staff: Benita Thompson, director of the Help Increase the Peace program, and Kara Vona, associate director of the HIP program. They were present at Yearly Meeting to present two HIP workshops.

30. Appointment of Faith and Practice Revision Committee

The clerk read the following sentence from SAYMA's *A Guide to Our Faith and Our Practice*:

In the year 2000 and each decade thereafter, Yearly Meeting shall consider whether it will appoint a revision committee to review the entire *Guide*.

Yearly Meeting 2000 appointed an examining committee to discern whether revisions are needed. Dick Houghton presented the report of that Examining Committee:

The following members of the Examining Committee met at the Nashville Friends Meeting House, 21 October 2000: Free Polazzo (convener), Penelope Wright, Janet

Minshall, Dennis Gregg, and Richard Houghton; Kathleen Hardie and Steve Meredith were absent.

Free was asked to clerk the committee. He accepted.

The charge of the committee was to consider whether the Yearly Meeting should appoint a revision committee to review the entire Guide.

After three hours of meeting there was agreement that we should recommend the appointment of a Revision Committee to focus primarily on updating and clarifying the organization of our Guide to Our Faith and Our Practice.

The attached pages [note: not included in the Yearly Meeting 2001 minutes] are the committee's offerings of 18 queries and suggestions to the Revision Committee when it begins its deliberations.

The clerk read the following portion from the *Guide*:

This [revision] committee, through prayerful consideration, shall weigh whether continuing corporate revelation requires any change. Examining and revision committees shall consist of five or more members, at least two of whom shall have served on a previous examining committee. The committees shall continue to serve until Yearly Meeting has approved their discontinuance.

In response to a request for a summary of the content of the changes to be considered, Examining Committee members explained that first of all, the *Guide* needs to be reprinted in a somewhat reorganized format simply to incorporate changes that the Yearly Meeting has made over the years. In addition, monthly meetings and individuals have raised concerns. A committee would consider the suggestions that have been made. Also, a number of committees have been formed but are not reflected in the *Guide*.

Friends approved the appointment of a Revision Committee. Geeta McGahey, Nancy Whitt, Free Polazzo, Larry Ingle, Penelope Wright and Missy Ivie volunteered to serve on the committee. Other Friends are welcome to join them. Free Polazzo agreed to convene the committee. The committee will determine how to function, including how much of the work can be done using the Internet.

31. Right Sharing of World Resources

Geeta McGahey presented highlights of a report on the Right Sharing of World Resources program, attached in Appendix D. She described her personal excitement as people she has worked with in India went through the grant process and received funding for their work. RSWR staff has grown both administratively and programmatically. A part-time education staff person will develop materials meetings can use.

32. Anti-racism workshop

Assistant Clerk Sharon Annis shared information on a fall anti-racism workshop at Pendle Hill. She then read some excerpts from monthly meeting State of the Meeting reports that she felt reflected common themes.

The clerk read a selection from the Atlanta State of the Meeting report on their program entitled Our Role As Individuals In America's Racial History (ORAIARH). She asked whether someone from SAYMA might be led to attend the Pendle Hill anti-racism workshop. Sallie Prugh reported that Gita Larson of Columbia Monthly Meeting, who has been active in anti-racism work, responded enthusiastically to the suggestion that she might attend. Geeta McGahey suggested Colin Sugioka of Celo Monthly Meeting, who carries a concern for anti-racism work and is geographically isolated from others doing this work. Evan Richardson suggested Joan MacKenzie of Asheville Monthly Meeting as another possible participant. At Yearly Meeting 2000, Joan MacKenzie was inspired by the Atlanta ORAIARH project and hopes to begin a similar program in Asheville Monthly Meeting as part of her commitment to anti-racism work.

Friends approved offering to send Gita Larson, Colin Sugioka and Joan MacKenzie to the Pendle Hill anti-racism workshop, with SAYMA paying half of the cost and suggesting that their respective monthly meetings pay the other half. The clerk requested the addresses of these Friends.

33. Treasurer's report

Treasurer Kendall Ivie presented the following report:

SAYMA currently has \$27,838 in available funds. SAYMA will end the fiscal year 2001 with approximately \$25,000 in available funds plus about \$5,800 in dedicated funds. See the Account Balances Report for details.

The 2001 SAYMA Yearly Meeting is expected to have income of \$23,500 and expenses of \$23,700 creating a loss for the Yearly Meeting of \$200.

For the fiscal 2001 year to date SAYMA has income of \$62,312 and expenses of \$50,209 leaving a net increase of \$12,103. Details of income and expense to date are included in the Fiscal Year 2002 Proposed Budget.

There are several reasons for the large surplus:

- 1) Delay in hiring SAYF Administrative Assistant
- 2) Budgeted benefits for paid staff not come to fruition
- 3) SAYF expended about \$4000 less than budgeted

The Treasurer requests that reimbursement requests be submitted in a timely manner.

The financial report, which includes current year-to-date income and expenses, account balances, and the proposed budget for the coming year, is attached in Appendix C.

Friends accepted the treasurer's report for the current fiscal year.

34. Budget for July 2001-June 2002

A Friend asked the rationale for proposing a \$200 contribution to Right Sharing of World Resources while other wider Quaker organizations receive \$800. Treasurer Kendall Ivie explained that as far as he could recall, the \$200 amount was set when RSWR became independent of Friends World Committee for Consultation, and the amount has not changed since then. Dennis Gregg, a former finance committee member and treasurer, provided the historical information that SAYMA used to contribute an amount equal to its interest income to RSWR.

Friends discussed the pros and cons of reducing the assessment from \$55 to \$50, as the treasurer had suggested might be possible. Some felt that a reduction would be helpful to monthly meetings. Others suggested that this is an opportunity to increase contributions to wider Quaker organizations, including raising RSWR to \$800, or for increasing scholarship assistance for attending Yearly Meeting. The fact that the finance committee has not functioned this year was a concern. It was suggested that before the Yearly Meeting considers a reduction in the assessment, the finance committee should carefully review anticipated expenses for coming years, since decisions made previously may have financial implications that have not yet been fully reflected in spending.

Approval of the budget was deferred until the following business session to allow Friends to reflect further on the issues raised.

35. Proposed minute on population

Friends considered the proposed minute on population presented during the previous business session. (See #14.) A concern was raised about the reference to the countries of North America and Europe causing environmental degradation without acknowledging the role of other countries such as Japan, Australia and New Zealand. It was proposed to change the relevant sentence to read:

Recognizing that the more prosperous countries have caused and continue to cause the most serious environmental degradation, it is essential that we who have more than we need strive toward a simpler, less wasteful life-style.

Several Friends expressed concern about the proposed revision from the Cookeville Worship Group because it committed monthly meetings to specific actions that the meetings have not agreed to. It was suggested that it would be more appropriate for SAYMA to encourage monthly meetings to take the actions. A concern was also expressed that in the idea of "offering clearness to prospective parents" there be no hint of pressure to limit family size to a specific number of children.

Friends asked that the population minute be seasoned further. Bob McGahey volunteered to convene this process.

36. Relationship between SAYMA and AFSC

The clerk reviewed the state of SAYMA's consideration of its relationship to the American Friends Service Committee. Three monthly meetings have brought forward minutes on the subject. A called meeting on Thursday to consider formulating a minute to propose to Yearly Meeting did not result in such a minute, although a minute proposed by an individual at the conclusion is included in the minutes of that meeting. Yesterday a second individual distributed a proposed minute. Subsequently another proposed minute has been developed by three individuals. The clerk advised that because these latest minutes had not been seasoned by monthly meetings, it would not be in right order to consider them at this yearly meeting. She asked Friends whether they wished to hear the latest minute, and Friends requested that she read it. This proposed minute was written by Bert Skellie and Courtney Siceloff of Atlanta Monthly Meeting and Becky Ingle of Chattanooga Monthly Meeting:

We treasure the important contributions of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) to bringing our testimonies into the world. As Friends, we seek to live up to the standards of Quaker testimonies and practices.

We commit ourselves to ensuring that our Quaker service organization, the AFSC, continues its long history of bearing witness to Quaker values. We will work to help AFSC maintain both internal operating processes and programs which are based on Spirit-led Quaker principles.

Larry Ingle spoke to the issue of right order, stating that in his understanding Friends gathered at Yearly Meeting can take action as they are led. Geeta McGahey spoke to the seasoning that had taken place over a period of years at both the monthly and yearly meeting levels on this issue, and her sense that adopting a minute such as the one proposed above would be an important step forward in healing and action.

Friends approved the proposed minute. It is reprinted in Appendix C.

Two Friends spoke of this minute serving not as an end but as the beginning of work that now needs to take place outside of yearly meeting sessions.

37. Southern Appalachian Young Friends Oversight Committee

Jeremiah Gold-Hopton presented the following report from the SAYF Oversight Committee:

We considered laying down the SAYF Oversight Committee. However we have decided to recommend that, for the time being, the SAYF Oversight Committee should remain as a standing Yearly Meeting committee. The Oversight Committee may call appropriate ad hoc committees to convene for specific tasks.

Pat Boggs, Sara Rose, and John Potter will continue to serve. Jeremiah Gold-Hopton is rolling off.

We see the need to support the transition to having an administrative assistant. There is continuing need for ENERGETIC! FAPs who like teenagers and are grounded in Quaker faith and practice. We also see a need for support from local meetings for local resource people and local arrangements.

We wish to applaud the work of the SAYF Steering Committee. It is our sense that they are doing THE most important in-reach and outreach for new and continuing Quakers that is being done in our Yearly Meeting today.

Friends approved the SAYF Oversight Committee report and the recommendations included in it.

38. Evaluation

Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Clerk Mary Ann Downey encouraged Friends to thank the members of the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee for their work and to fill out the evaluation forms provided. She also announced that copies of Arthur Larrabee's evening presentation are available.

39. Site Selection Committee

Larry Ingle reported that the Site Selection Committee is still working to find a site west of the mountains for Yearly Meeting 2002. The committee will report to fall representative meeting.

40. Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee Clerk Lee Ann Swarm reported that the committee had made substantial progress since yesterday's report. She announced positions that were still unfilled.

41. Closing

The clerk announced that, to her great regret, no more wider Quaker organization reports would be presented, due to the short amount of time remaining for business session. Written reports will be included in the minutes.

The clerk asked Friends to join her in singing the song that rose out of the silence at the beginning of the meeting.

June 10, 2001 - First Day (Sunday) 9:30 am

42. Opening

After a period of silence, the clerk read the following message from Deborah Fisch:

I realize that it is unorthodox to send a written communication to you. When making airline reservations I learned that it is not easy to get from Des Moines, Iowa, to Warren Wilson College. It necessitates not one but two plane changes, and therefore limits the flights I can take to make those connections. To get home today at a reasonable price I had to leave your sessions early (at 5 this morning). By now I hope I am somewhere between Charlotte and Kansas City, holding all of you in my heart as you conclude your annual sessions. I am sorry to be missing your final sessions, for I always find them to be a particularly sweet time. But I know even as the miles take me farther from you, there is that of God you have shared with me these last few days that will always be a part of me.

I didn't want to leave without saying thank you for the gracious welcome and gentle care you have gifted me with these last few days. I treasure the opportunities I had to share with many of you over meals, after sessions, and while walking from building to building. I will particularly remember your desire to stay the course and be faithful to your business process, the joy with which you received your plenary presenters, and the love that you shared with each other.

I am blessed to have the joy of traveling among Friends such as you, listening to how the Spirit is working in our meetings and hearing news and greetings of Friends. I want you to know that I will be faithful in sharing the gifts of the Divine that you have so graciously shared with me. A long time ago I read a simple sentence that I can now share with others as my experience too. "I knew not that of God in me until entwined with that of God in thee."

I hope to see many of you in a few weeks at FGC Gathering. Until the time our paths may cross again may our journeys continue to be blessed by God's grace and love.

The clerk read the following message from Arthur Larrabee:

I am sorry that I am not here to say good-bye in person. This would have been my preference. This has been a most wonderful visit for me. Thank you for your welcome and your hospitality. I have felt appreciated and honored by you collectively and individually and I shall treasure the memory of my sojourn among you.

I pray for God's blessings on the life and work of this Yearly Meeting.

Please come to visit in Philadelphia, and when you do, ask for me.

The clerk then recalled the passage from George Fox that Arthur Larrabee brought to us, with emphasis on the importance of the first part:

Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one.

George Fox, 1656

43. Proposed minute on Iraq

Pam Beziat presented the following proposed minute on Iraq. The minute was prepared by six Friends who met following the previous day's business session. They used input from Celo and Memphis Monthly Meetings as well as the minutes from Nashville and Atlanta Monthly Meetings brought to Yearly Meeting 2000.

Moved by our belief that every human life is sacred, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) of the Religious Society of Friends calls on elected officials to support the end of economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations on Iraq. Sanctions against Iraq have caused devastating effects on the life, health, and social structure of civilians. These sanctions constitute a violation of the fundamental principles of international law, the peacemaking principles and intent of the United Nations Charter, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The effects of the sanctions continue to be documented by organizations such as UNICEF and by the former U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq, Denis Halliday.

The governments of the United States and Iraq share responsibility for the political deadlock that has caused these deadly conditions to continue for ten years. We, as citizens of the United States, bear a grave responsibility for the actions of our government. It is urgent that an alternative solution be found that will end the United Nation's economic embargo. Broad economic sanctions against Iraq have shown themselves to be both immoral and ineffective and should be stopped.

A concern was raised that the minute does not explain what the alternative policies might be. Others suggested that the implication is clear enough that dialogue would be a next step, dialogue that will only be possible if restrictions on travel and other communication are lifted.

Friends approved the minute and directed that the clerk send the minute to elected representatives within SAYMA's geographical boundaries. The clerk asked for suggestions of other officials, news media or other organizations to which the minute might be sent. The minute is reprinted in Appendix C.

44. Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee Clerk Lee Ann Swarm presented the following nominations for SAYMA positions:

Position	Person	From	To
Assistant Clerk	John Geary	6/01	6/03
Member, Nominating Committee	Perry Treadwell	6/01	6/03
Member, Nominating Committee	Jess Purvis	6/01	6/03
Member, Personnel Committee	Judy Prince	6/01	6/03
Member, Personnel Committee	Lee Ann Swarm	6/01	6/03
Clerk, Finance Committee	Chris Berg	6/01	6/03
Member, Finance Committee	Peter Reilly	6/01	6/03

Member, Finance Committee	Dick Houghton	6/01	6/03
Co-Clerk, Ecological Concerns Network	Kim Carlyle	6-00	6/01
Co-Clerk, Ecological Concerns Network	Kathy Johnson	6/01	6/03
Co-Registrar	Carol Gray	6/01	6/03
AFSC SERO Executive Committee	Daryl Bergquist	6/00	6/02
Member, SAYF Oversight Committee	Pat Boggs	6/99	6/02
AFSC Corporation Alternate	Colin Sugioka	6/01	6/03
AFSC Corporation Alternate	Priscilla Ewen	6/01	6/03
FWCC Representative	Lauren Mitchell	6/02	6/04
Co-Clerk, YM Planning Committee and Ex-Officio Finance Committee Member	Bill Holland	6/01	6/02

Friends approved these appointments.

The Nominating Committee recommends that the Ministry and Nurture Co-Clerk be appointed by the committee. Friends approved.

William Penn House has requested a representative from SAYMA for its national consultative committee, and that SAYMA hear regular reports from William Penn House. The Nominating Committee recommends that Nancy Lee-Riffe fill this position, as she has done informally for the past two years. Next year it may be possible to appoint one of the SAYMA FCNL representatives to this position, since the national consultative committee meets immediately preceding meetings of the FCNL Board. Friends approved the appointment of Nancy Lee-Riffe to this position for one year, with the understanding that SAYMA's commitment to filling this position will be reviewed at next Yearly Meeting.

45. Global climate change

Assistant Clerk Sharon Annis re-read the proposed minute presented the previous day:

SAYMA Friends recognize that unprecedented rate of change in our global climate is causing rising global temperature, diminishing polar ice, changing local weather patterns, and increasing frequency of severe storms. We also recognize that human activity, largely the combustion of fossil fuels, is a major cause of these changes.

Further, this global climate change is destabilizing many of our planet's ecosystems, reducing their production of foods, medicines, and other products for humans, and accelerating species extinction.

Human refugees from droughts, floods, and rising sea levels, and the human suffering caused by crop failures and the spread of infectious diseases from warmer climates are stressing societies and governments, setting the stage for violence, oppression, and conflict. Our peace testimony leads us to find ways to remove these potential causes of war.

Friends' concerns for simplicity, right sharing of resources, and equality, and our recognition that the effects of global warming desecrate God's creation, lead us to issue an urgent call for Friends to make substantive changes in their lifestyles including:

- reducing use of fossil fuels--for transportation; home heating, air-conditioning, and lighting; and recreation--through conservation, efficiency, and use of alternative energy sources (human, solar, and wind power).

- reducing industrial combustion of fossil fuels through informed choices of products and services.
- working for public policy that:
 - ✓ supports international agreements to reduce heat-trapping gases
 - ✓ discourages use of carbon-based fuels and encourages use of renewable sources of energy
 - ✓ develops, supports, and promotes both local and long distance public transportation systems.

We urge Friends Meetings and individuals to act on these urgent concerns. We call on Monthly Meetings & Worship Groups to report on such actions at the next Yearly Meeting. We ask Friends to consider how to develop social supports that enable us to move into spiritually informed daily efforts to change our lives and act on our concerns.

A question was raised regarding the mechanism by which monthly meetings will report on their actions. The Ecological Concerns Network agreed to undertake the collection and presentation of this information. Friends approved the minute, which is reprinted in Appendix C.

46. Budget

Treasurer Kendall Ivie reported that two requests have been made for consideration by the finance committee: an increase for the Ecological Concerns Network from \$200 to \$600, and an increase from \$200 to \$800 in SAYMA's contribution to Right Sharing of World Resources.

It was suggested that if SAYMA has a surplus, an open invitation should be made to monthly meetings for suggestions on how to spend the surplus. The treasurer clarified that the proposed budget is not based on a reduced assessment, and it shows a net loss of \$8400 that would bring down the surplus by \$8400. Several Friends spoke of the need for an orderly consideration of a variety of budgetary issues by the finance committee before substantive changes are made.

The clerk and treasurer reviewed the appropriate time frame for suggestions for the coming year's budget. Requests should be made to the finance committee early in the calendar year so that the finance committee can prepare a proposed budget for presentation at spring representative meeting. However, since the finance committee did not function this past spring, Friends asked that the committee work over the summer in preparation for fall representative meeting. Monthly meetings and committees that have financial requests or suggestions should communicate with the finance committee. The finance committee can make recommendations to fall representative meeting, which has the authority to make adjustments to the budget.

A question about salary increases and benefits was raised. Sharon Annis, clerk of the personnel committee, explained that the committee is working on issues regarding staff hours and compensation.

A question was raised about why amounts are not included for Junior Yearly Meeting line items. The treasurer explained that all the expenses for Yearly Meeting have been combined, and that the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee will determine how the money will be broken down.

Friends approved the budget, with Free Polazzo recorded as standing aside because of lack of input from standing committees. The approved budget is included in Appendix C.

47. World Gathering of Young Adult Friends

Lauren Mitchell reported that at the most recent FWCC triennial, the idea arose of a third World Gathering of Young Adult Friends. The site is likely to be Ireland, sometime between 2004 and 2006. The planning group is looking for a coordinator or co-coordinators to pull off this event. She asked Friends for suggestions of individuals who might play this role, and for any other support Friends can offer.

48. Assessment

A question was raised as to the status of the assessment. The clerk advised that at this point the assessment has not changed, and that the assessment is one aspect of the financial matters that the finance committee should consider before fall representative meeting. Friends approved asking the finance committee to bring forward a recommendation regarding the assessment.

49. Registrar's report

Co-registrar Missy Ivie reported the following attendance statistics:

Total in attendance	248
Adults	185
Junior Yearly Meeting participants (children)	18
SAYF participants (teens)	45
SAYF Friendly Adult Presences (adults in dorm)	11
Young Adult Friends	5
Meetings and Worship Groups represented	33

A concern about the small number of children was raised, with the request that Friends consider why more families are not attending. Cost may be an issue, and if so, more scholarship assistance would be important.

50. Minute on Israeli and Palestinian conflict

The clerk asked whether Friends were ready to consider the minute presented Friday from Crossville Monthly Meeting seeking peace between Israel and Palestine.

After brief discussion, Friends approved asking monthly meetings to season the minute, and to forward their responses to Crossville Monthly Meeting. Friends expressed appreciation to Crossville for bringing this matter to our attention.

Dennis Gregg expressed his dissatisfaction that representative meeting did not consider this minute after it was submitted last fall, on the grounds that no individual could be present. He stated that Friends take written words seriously, and he felt this minute could have been considered as written.

51. Junior Yearly Meeting Epistle

Junior Yearly Meeting coordinator Georgi Schmitt presented the epistle below, as children joyfully displayed full-body silhouettes, action drawings with feelings, and a hand garland. They sang a song and closed by sharing their individual highlights: building boats, splat ball (baseball with oranges), kick the can with Phil (Neal), Quaker ball, juggling, candle making and calligraphy. Coordinator Georgi Schmitt thanked the Friendly adults who spent time with the children; many of these volunteers spent many hours with JYM.

Our theme was Friendship. The theme's connecting link to Yearly Meeting was the aspects of friendship that lead us to being whole.

Every morning started with Meeting for Worship followed by the "Squeeze Game." On Day One we discussed the appropriate or not appropriate squeeze after group prayer. Some comments by the children: "Sometimes it stops my prayer," and "It lets us know when we're finished."

During the course of our time together we: juggled, played games with Susan Penn and Virginia and David Wood, sang, listened to stories, swam, drew action body figures, outlined our friends, made candles and boats and then sailed the boats on the pond. Some of us did calligraphy. We all played Splat Ball and most joined in Quaker Ball.

Budding caring and friendships and discussions emerged as Nicholas took Irina's hand to help her stay with the group as they hiked to the farm. Children spoke of the death penalty: "I don't think the death penalty is right but I think it's better than dying in a cage." "We are friends because we stick together even when we're mad." Some of the highlights of the weekend were expressed by the children as part of the final session.

Spiritual balance, friendship and caring--all aspects of wholeness--all parts of Junior Yearly Meeting 2001.

Friends minuted their appreciation for Georgi Schmitt, who has brought the children her presence with song, storytelling and gentle manner for many years.

52. Southern Appalachian Young Friends Epistle

Trina Farmer and Jessica Anderson presented the following epistle:

This year has been a time of solid love and commitment. We began our journey in August with a Nurturing and Steering Committee retreat. Together we focused on the query "How can we encourage positive interactions within our community?"

Our next retreat, which was for all members of the SAYF group, was in September and was held in West Knoxville. We volunteered at a local homeless shelter and spend quiet time in outdoors worship sharing.

In October we gathered at Penn Center for our annual retreat of bonding with the islanders and helping them beautify their community areas. It was a weekend of enjoyable work followed by a potluck organized by the local people and a joint talent show.

In November we met in Asheville for a weekend of relaxation and self-expression. To achieve our goal, we bathed in natural hot springs and played games with the focus of self-expression.

Chapel Hill hosted our next retreat in January. Over the weekend we participated in workshops on human rights and interrupting violence.

Next the Nurturing and Steering Committees met in Columbia, South Carolina to discuss how the year was progressing and we planned our retreat schedule for the upcoming year.

In March we gathered in Asheville once again. This time we went to a shelter for battered women and children. There we cleared space for a garden and playground, painted a building and helped organize their thrift shop.

Our last retreat was in April at Hard Labor Creek State Park in Georgia. We enjoyed a weekend focused around conflict resolution. We had an afternoon of activities on the theme, then a heart circle and drum circle around a bonfire.

Now, here we are at SAYMA Yearly Meeting. Throughout this weekend we have joined the wider SAYMA community for workshops and inspirational speakers. In addition we had our own workshops on yoga and an energy workshop with John Calvi. We held a graduation ceremony for our seven seniors and together shared an emotional night of reminiscing and farewells.

Together we completed another successful year of spiritual growth and community. Thank you for supporting us in our efforts to grow with you all.

53. SAYMA Epistle

Friends approved the following epistle, presented by Mary Litch on behalf of the Epistle Committee:

To Friends everywhere:

We greet you from the lovely campus of Warren Wilson College near the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina where we held the 31st session of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA). Our theme this year was "Teach Us to Be Whole: Gather Us, Heal Us, Lead Us," which was reflected in many of our Yearly Meeting activities.

We opened Yearly Meeting on Sixth Month 7, 2001 with Meeting for Worship, followed by a special called meeting to explore the relationship between SAYMA and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). After heart-felt sharing and further deliberation in business sessions, we affirmed and renewed our commitment to our relationship with AFSC.

Other highlights of our time together included: hearing the State of the Meeting reports from meetings and worship groups large and small; engaging in workshops, where we learned to nurture ourselves, our relationships, our communities and our planet; and listening to Arthur Larrabee share his views of the first steps toward wholeness. We celebrated in song and dance, we reveled in the joyous message Earthmama (a.k.a. "Joyce Johnson Rouse") and built community by including many intergenerational activities. We are heartened by the presence of so many young people, toddlers to teens, and especially glad for the teens in the Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) program, who this year shared more Yearly Meeting joys and efforts with us.

We have the sense of growing as a Yearly Meeting into greater awareness of needs, both within and without, and of our challenge and opportunity to change our structure, our *Guide to Our Faith and Our Practice*, and our managing of funds.

As we look towards meeting west of the mountains next year, we savor Earthmama's statement: "These individual threads bind us together to strengthen community."

54. Young Adult Friends Epistle

Young Adult Friends made a dramatic presentation of their epistle which was warmly received by the rest of the meeting. The final highlight was the introduction of the seven SAYF graduates who have joined their number.

Note on YAF epistle: All underlined words have appropriately cheesy synergistic-type hand motions. Make up sufficient silliness accordingly.

Sign: Hold one hand up as if holding crystal ball over the head.

Long-range: Extend one arm out while keeping the other at rib-level.

Vision: Like "long-range," only at head level.

God: Hold both hands fingers upward, at head level, wiggling fingers.

Groove: Wiggle fingers on one hip.

Cows: Make Y-signs like horns.

Laboring: Hand on forehead--"Alas" gesture.

Our theme for this Yearly Meeting was "Where is everybody?" We had a vision of people, many people. But there were only five of us. Hi Jess! Hi Jonah! Hi Priscilla! Hi Lauren! Hi John! In addition to our small numbers, we also found ourselves laboring with exhaustion. Then we received a sign from God that to perk ourselves up, we should go to business meeting. Upon emerging from these meetings, we found new wholeness in our positions of service to the Yearly Meeting. Business meeting inspired us to hold more business meeting, of YAF-type business. And we received a of a Long-Range Vision from God! We were led to ask that age-old question: "Who the heck are we?" We knew we had to be something more than aging SAYFers who happen to kidnap people of a similar age. As we develop this identity, we wish to grow large enough to plan activities for Yearly Meeting in advance, while still continuing our involvement in the SAYMA community.

Then, we remembered that there were only five of us! So, we invented a short-term plan to be a vehicle to our Long-Range Vision from God! First, we obtained a "powerful" position on the Planning Committee which will enable us to advertise our Long-Range Vision from God better. To continue our evangelism, we will be writing an article for the *Southern Appalachian Friend* and hopefully creating some type of website to help facilitate our communication with Friends who were * cough * not here at this gathering. We again felt the press of exhaustion and off we went on a foot journey to groove with the cows. Seeing such intelligent beasts, we were inspired to deep philosophical conversations about education, meaning, and death. By Saturday night, we gathered a new group of converts--seven SAYF graduates. We celebrated our population growth and our Long-Range Vision from God with ice cream and donuts late into the night. In conclusion, we ask you to go tell it on the mountain and help spread our Long-Range

Vision from God to all of those unknown and possibly derelict YAFs who can help us construct our Beloved Community.

55. Farewell from the clerk

Outgoing clerk Penelope Wright read the following haiku:

As the year concludes--
wanderer's hat on my head,
sandals on my feet.

Basho

She then turned the meeting over to incoming clerk Sharon Annis.

56. Date of Yearly Meeting 2002

The clerk asked what dates the Site Selection Committee has under consideration for next year. Larry Ingle responded that they have been discussing June 6-8 with Bryan College, the site under consideration; the committee does not know if other dates are available.

A concern was raised that an early June date is problematic for high school students, especially graduating seniors who must choose between attending graduation or attending Yearly Meeting. Another Friend pointed out that proximity in time to the FGC Gathering can create difficulties for Friends who attend both.

Friends requested that the Site Selection Committee consider the third weekend in June as the first preference.

A Friend requested that SAYMA make such decisions earlier so that Friends can schedule their wider Quaker organization responsibilities around SAYMA's dates.

57. Representative Meetings

September representative meeting will be in Birmingham, September 8. Connie LaMonte announced a contra dance that evening that night in case Friends would like to work that into their plans.

December representative meeting will be either in Nashville or West Knoxville, depending on the location of Yearly Meeting 2002.

The clerk advised Friends that some committees may meet on Friday evenings before representative meeting.

58. Approval of minutes

Friends approved these minutes throughout the course of the Yearly Meeting, subject to final editing by the clerk and recording clerk.

59. Appreciation of outgoing clerk

Clerk Sharon Annis invited Friends to settle into silence and to speak out of the silence in appreciation of outgoing clerk Penelope Wright. She asked the recording clerk to note the messages so that they can be compiled in a minute by representative meeting. A rich time of sharing followed.

(archive copy signed)

Penelope Wright, Clerk

(archive copy signed)

Carol Lamm, Recording Clerk

Yearly Meeting #31 of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina
Appendices

Appendix A: Yearly Meeting Attenders

Appendix B: State of the Meeting Reports

Asheville
Atlanta
Berea
Birmingham
Boone
Brevard
Celo
Charleston
Chattanooga
Cleveland
Columbia
Crossville
Foxfire
Memphis
Nashville
New Moon Worship Group
Northwest Georgia Worship Group
Swannanoa
West Knoxville

Appendix C: General

Minutes of Called Meeting for Consideration of Formulating a Minute
Concerning SAYMA's Relationship with the American Friends Service
Committee (#18)
Minute Regarding the Relationship between SAYMA and AFSC (#36)
Minute Regarding Sanctions against Iraq (#43)
Minute Regarding Global Climate Change (#45)
Financial Statements and Budget (#33, #34 and #46)
Ecological Concerns Network Report

Appendix D: Wider Quaker Organization Reports

American Friends Service Committee
American Friends Service Committee -- South East Region
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Friends Committee on Outworld Relations
Friends Committee on Unity with Nature
Friends General Conference
Friends World Committee for Consultation
Right Sharing of World Resources
YouthQuake

Appendix B: State of the Meeting Reports

Asheville
Atlanta
Athens
Berea
Birmingham
Boone
Brevard
Celo
Charleston
Chattanooga
Cleveland
Columbia
Crossville
Foxfire
Memphis
Nashville
New Moon Worship Group
Northwest Georgia Worship Group
Swannanoa
West Knoxville

(Pagination may differ from printed copy.)

Asheville Friends Meeting State of the Meeting Report (1 of 2 pages)

Available in hard copy only.

Asheville Friends Meeting State of the Meeting Report (2 of 2 pages)

Available in hard copy only.

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT

“In the humble as well as the more conspicuous tasks, we confidently believe that strength will be given to each one of us, as we place ourselves at the disposal of God and respond to the promptings of the Spirit.” 1925. Christian Faith and Practice in the experience of the Society of Friends.

This year has been one of deep and tender searching on the issue of racism and inclusivity in our meeting. Based on a concern brought forward by the members of our discussion group, ORAIARH we embarked upon a process of personal and corporate reflection. Our process has been imperfect, courageous, Spirit-led, enlightening, liberating, sometimes giving rise to feelings of hurt, discomfort and tension. Yet we will continue this journey of blessed discovery because we are called by the Spirit to justice, and personal as well as corporate unity. As we move forward we grow spiritually stronger.

In this report on the spiritual state of Atlanta Friends Meeting, we record our work, achievements, seeking and leadings. They reflect this blessed community in action. We continue to welcome new members and attenders who find our worship and community a place to begin or continue their spiritual search. During 2000 Bill Jenkins, Brooke Hopkins, Leni Johnson, Marlene Johnson, and Nina Gooch were welcomed into membership. Angie Love, Loretta Lucy Miller, and Dale Chapman transferred their membership into our meeting. Rick Martinson and Beth Miller, as well as Dale Chapman and Will Wakeman were married under the care of the Meeting. Memorial services were held for John Ball and Pat Mullins. They will be greatly missed as will those Friends who have moved away. Elizabeth Enloe, Alex Horsley, and George and Neva Fisk transferred their memberships to other meetings. We currently have approximately 130 adult members and 29 associate members. There are about 171 attenders, 30 of whom are participants in First Day School. We list over 300 members and active attenders in our Directory, and welcome over 150 to Meeting for Worship on most First days.

Ministry and Worship Committee

Ministry and Worship Committee continues to work to define and refine ideas about the core essence of Quakerism and we seek to nurture a religious community, which provides a safe place to discuss differing and deeply held beliefs. We are delighted that the Meeting is growing and will continue to seek ways to make our large meeting an easy place to get to know people, that has a sense of unity and common purpose.

An important emphasis this year was the initiative to make the Meeting a more inclusive and welcoming to all those who desire to worship in the manner of Friends. Another concern was the Meeting's children, whether they were spending enough time in Meeting for Worship and learning enough about the core beliefs and practices of Friends.

Atlanta Friends were well represented at wider Quaker gatherings such as SAYMA and the FGC Gathering. Mary Ann Downey and Perry Treadwell continue their work in the Travelling Ministries Program of FGC.

Care and Counsel Committee

In 2000, the Care and Counsel Committee saw the Care Quilt give comfort to members/attenders. It was used by those who were ill, had surgery, or lost loved ones and was, most recently, with Pat Mullins when she died. To record the quilt's journeys, the committee has decided to purchase a journal. So that those who have had the quilt may write entries in the journal.

This last year saw an upsurge in requests for Clearness Committees, and we set up six or more of them. We also have engaged Ron Nuse as the Meeting Photographer, and he has begun to create and maintain a photographic record of the Meeting. Perhaps one day we will have a Meeting directory with member/attender photographs, which would make it much easier to connect names and faces.

Routine Care & Counsel Committee activities include having Rich Klima and others at the Greeting Table to provide information, giving candles to departing members/attenders, training First Day greeters, and writing articles about new members in the newsletter. In an attempt to make the community more aware of our availability to provide assistance with personal concerns, members of our committee began wearing purple name tags, and we were mentioned in the verbal and written announcements each First Day.

We have provided meals, transportation and written expressions of support in times of crisis, sadness or joy. Despite our efforts to meet the needs of the Meeting community, we have faced some challenges this year, including the fact that we had a limited number of volunteers while the need for meals and transportation increased. We, therefore, had to triage our requests based on the level of need.

A recent leading has been to give recognition to the many volunteers who help at Meeting in many ways. We plan to note volunteer contributions in the newsletter every month and give volunteers an annual dessert party. Finally, we have had a number of long-time members rotate off the committee and would love to have some new members join us.

Religious Education

Religious Education Committee has as usual spent a busy year overseeing the First Day School program for children and young people, arranging seasonal events, and trying to keep the Meeting as a whole informed and involved in the program. The main work of the committee is hands-on and various, from rocking babies to listening to the concerns of Young Friends in high school.

Beyond the immediacy of teaching, there were two main foci for the year: first, a continuing effort to provide lines of connection and support between RE and the rest of the Meeting; and second, to make the programs we oversee reflect and support ethnic and racial diversity.

Progress was made on a commitment to have volunteers in every classroom in order to ease the burden on teachers and to give those Friends who may not have many encounters with our young people, the chance to forge friendships across age lines. We operate with the assumption that the famous "it takes a village" maxim is true: it takes a Meeting to raise a child into spiritual maturity. It also takes children for a Meeting to have spiritual health. In May, the second annual Celebration of Children and Youth was held.

"Little Meeting," a small more-or-less silent worship welcoming to children, continued to grow in popularity. The Meeting as a whole also considered a proposal that originated in RE to have two regular Meetings for Worship on First Days to give families and teachers more options for attending Meeting for Worship as well as First Day School.

With regard to the effort to promote diversity, the committee spent several workdays in the summer clearing out old, often offensively white-only, materials. An Orientation Day was held in the fall, for families to get to know one another. Some new materials were purchased. A workshop on teaching and on

how to interrupt racism was planned. The committee members struggle with the effects of racism and white privilege on our program.

Young Friends Oversight Committee

The Young Friends Oversight Committee has had a very exciting year. With the departure of the previous Clerk of the Committee, Jennifer Dickey, who is greatly missed the Committee was faced with a vacuum in of adult leadership.

It became apparent that to continue having Young Friends events scheduled outside of First Day School, the Committee needed more adult participation. We began by addressing the issue of adult leadership and support at events that would insure the safety of our youth. As a result, we are now requiring that interested adults go through a screening process. Upon completion they become Friendly Adult Presences (FAP's). We now have eight (8) FAP's and several more are in process.

Our second challenge was to begin to schedule events. As we began this, we became aware of the overwhelming time that is required for the organization of such events. The result of our realization was the Meeting's approval of the appointment of a Youth Coordinator in Tenth Month, 2000. The Coordinator will be responsible for organizing a program for our young people. The Committee is now compiling a specific job description for the position.

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to Katie Smilie, a Committee member, who has enthusiastically taken on responsibility of planning and implementing a successful service project program for our youth.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee has identified two (2) major issues from a financial standpoint that are affecting the Meeting. Namely, the need for wider volunteer participation and the effect of an ever-larger Meeting. When volunteers are not available for certain duties within the meeting, we are forced to purchase more services.

Our wonderfully growing Meeting for Worship, First Day School, and Young Friends' programs reveal that we are running out of space. The Finance Committee has started to look seriously at long-range plans and the retirement of our mortgage this year provides a financial window of opportunity. We see the effect of a growing meeting in our budget with growth for 2001 projected at 20%. Our meeting facility is widely used by the community around us for which we are grateful. The price of this is an increased cost for management, cleaning, and repair of the Meeting House

Oversight Committee

The Oversight Committee has had the opportunity to deal with its usual tasks over the last year, including alarm systems, insurance, employee reviews and the renewal of leases. We have also overseen projects, which should not need our attention again for a few years, including the revision of the Resident Manager and Secretary job descriptions. In doing its work the Committee has had to face some of the effects of the growth of the Meeting, including the space needs of Religious Education. In response to this we have begun the process of long range planning.

Our most challenging and potentially rewarding work has been even less tangible. We have examined how racism affects the mission of our committee and the Meeting. We have explored our relations with

tenants and employees, and the Decatur Police Department. Most importantly, we have looked into our own hearts and actions to seek ways of eliminating our personal and corporate racism.

Meeting House Committee

The Meeting House Committee carried out permanent improvements and regular upkeep of the building and grounds, including the establishment of a new cleaning contract and completing the security/fire alarm system. A project to improve the acoustics in the greeting room has been initiated. The larger issue of expansion of the Meeting House has also been discussed particularly in relation to the needs of Religious Education for more classroom space.

Social Concerns Committee

During 2000, the Social Concerns Committee sought opportunities for the Meeting to serve the wider community through volunteer efforts, financial support of projects, and through support of the work of Quaker service organizations.

'Our Role As Individuals In America's Racial History' (ORAIARH) continued under the sponsorship of this committee for its third year. The Meeting approved a minute this year based on ORAIARH's recommendations relating to "becoming a safer and more welcoming spiritual home for all regardless of color and ethnicity." The minute called upon committees and groups in the meeting to use a set of queries to examine themselves and report their findings to the Monthly Meeting. The group also helped sponsor a workshop on personal racism for clerks of committees and other members and attenders. Another group, 'Overcoming Racism,' continued to discuss personal racism.

Green Friends, another group sponsored by Social Concerns Committee, held several workshops and presentations on simplicity, population and consumption issues. Our FCNL (Friends Committee for National Legislation) subcommittee sponsored a forum on priorities for lobbying and identified environmental concerns as a lead priority.

This year Social Concerns Committee brought minutes to the Monthly Meeting concerning environmental issues, the death penalty, and the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Despite all these activities, the Social Concerns Committee itself remains very small, with an average of no more than four members.

Central America Committee

The Central America Committee's main efforts have been directed toward events that will happen in 2001. Three adults from the Meeting will join us at the 10th anniversary celebration of our sister community, El Sitio, El Salvador, in Second Month, 2001. Some 10 young Friends are planning to visit the community during Christmas 2001. They have organized themselves into subcommittees to pursue fundraising, travel planning and education for the visit.

During our visit to El Sitio, we will discuss several planned projects that have been sponsored by the Meeting with local community leaders. Since the committee co-clerks will be moving to El Salvador in early spring, there is a need for additional leadership to help maintain our sister city relationship.

The committee has also cosponsored visiting speakers from Central America.

Fall Retreat Planning Committee

The 2000 Fall Retreat was held at Camp Daniel Morgan, Hard Labor Creek State Park over the weekend of Ninth Month 22 – 24, 2000. Thirty-four members, attenders and guests participated. Kim Carlyle of

Asheville Friends Meeting led a workshop entitled, "Peace, Social Concerns and Climate Change". Our own, Judith Streit led a workshop on the Bible, and Nicole Rennie facilitated a crafts activity. Other activities included boating, swimming, games, conversation, eating and a campfire.

Every year the financial goal of the committee is to balance our income primarily through participants' registration fees. In recent years there has been some concern about our ability to cover our expenses. However, often shortly before the retreat, enough registrations arrive to meet our goal, and we see this as an example of the Spirit working among us.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has achieved three significant goals this year. We have used a process of prayerful discernment to identify those friends that we will ask to serve, and this process has opened us to guidance from the Spirit. For the first time in our history, the Atlanta Friends Meeting has a Handbook that provides descriptions of responsibilities approved by the Meeting for all officers, staff, committees and representatives to other organizations. We realized the need to keep this information current and have accepted this on-going responsibility. We organized a committee fair to recognize those who serve the meeting, and to educate and involve those who are not yet serving. As the Meeting continues to grow in both the number of attenders and jobs to be filled; we are challenged to help those who are new to find the right place to be involved and to serve. Members of the committee need to represent the diversity of the meeting and work at learning the gifts newcomers bring.

Gathered Meeting Retreat Planning Committee

Twenty-four members and attenders participated in the 13th annual Gathered Meeting Retreat designed to nurture and deepen the spiritual life of our Meeting. The retreat, held over the weekend of Fourth Month 17 - 19, 2000 at the Calvin Conference Center, focused on The Fullness of Quaker Community and was facilitated by Margery Larrabee.

We are proud of having completed the guidelines for planning future retreats, and this achievement has been nothing less than energizing. We allowed ourselves to be led by the Spirit to select Marcelle Martin as our facilitator for the 2001 Retreat. This decision is a testament to our faith and cohesion as a group. With joy we embrace the challenges of identifying an elder for Marcelle, branching out in search of potential facilitators, responding to the ORAIARH queries, and our transition to a new committee co-clerk. With enthusiasm, we look forward to next year's retreat, having unlimited attendance, reaching out to first time attenders, and to providing a Religious Education series prior to the retreat. In all this we continue to realize that we are truly blessed.

Advancement Committee

The Meeting continued to support worship groups in North Georgia, Northwest Georgia, and in Macon. Several visits to these worship groups were made by members of the meeting, and a group from Macon attended Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Business here.

"In our Meetings, as members one of another, we must be alert to the changing situations that come to each of us. Responsibility for this ministry of love and service, rests with each one of us by action and in prayer." London Yearly Meeting, 1956. Christian Faith and Practice in the experience of the Society of Friends.

**Athens Religious Society of Friends
Annual Report for June 2000 – June 2001**

Available in hard copy only.

Berea Friends Meeting
Annual State of the Meeting Report
May 2001

How has the Light fared within Berea Friends this year? We continue to be a community strong in caring for each other, growing in our spiritual understanding, challenged to find our place as a Meeting in a world that sometimes overwhelms us with opportunities and obligations. Many of Berea Friends' areas of development this year grew from concerns that arose the previous year.

New attenders and even some long-time attenders and members felt their background in Quakerism was shallow. In recent years, scheduling "Quakerism 101" sessions in our second-hour First Day adult discussion sessions had not succeeded in responding to this need. Other Friends wished for more Bible study. This year we undertook four series of Wednesday night discussions that were well-organized, well-attended and much-appreciated. Each series lasted six or seven weeks. The first series in the fall was an introduction to Quakerism, using Wilmer Cooper's *A Living Faith*. Next came an Old Testament series, then a New Testament series focusing on I Corinthians. The last series drew on Quaker spiritual writings. With enthusiasm, we expect to continue a similar program in the coming year.

The previous year we had also identified concerns about our Meetings for Business, which Friends recognized were not as spiritually based as we knew they were meant to be. We invited Mary Ann Downey of Atlanta Friends Meeting to help us. On a snowy January Saturday, we spent half the day in our annual membership review, as Mary Ann led us in reflecting on our individual relationships with the Meeting. The other half of the day focused on improving our Meetings for Business. We find it a challenge to change our habits to make Meetings for Business more worshipful, with the attention to listening and waiting that worship requires. We are actively considering the adoption of guidelines for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Our committees have been more effective this year, in part because we have set aside several second hours on First Days for committee work. These sessions have made it easier for committees to meet, have facilitated the involvement of non-committee members in committee discussions, and have provided a ready opportunity for ad hoc threshing sessions on topics that need preparation for Meeting for Business. Taking Mary Ann's advice that committees should not just spell out options but should make definite proposals has also helped. Slowly, we are feeling the benefits in Monthly Meeting.

Our teen group lost another member to Quaker boarding school, leaving us with two active teens in Berea and much joy when vacations release the others to us. Our teens continue to be part of the Meeting's life, sustained by the dedicated presence of adult leaders, connections to the wider Quaker youth community (including Southern Appalachian Young Friends) and their own commitment, for all of which we are grateful.

Our concerns for meeting space intensified this year. We were reminded that the space we use is not our own when our children, who had had to move last spring from one space to another, had to move again this fall. We received a further jolt when we learned of our landlord's plans, which eventually fell through, to rent the space we use on Sundays to a youth program for the rest of the week. With visions of pool tables and foosball games in our meeting space, we found the energy to explore alternate space possibilities and, more importantly, the time to talk with each other in greater depth about the values that underlie choices about meeting space. Whether we move or stay put, we know that our community has to be grounded not by our physical location but in our relationships with each other and with the Spirit.

Birmingham Friends Meeting
State of the Meeting Report
May, 2001

This has been an active year for Birmingham Friends Meeting. Friends were involved in a number of social concerns and community activities. At the same time we struggle with the physical, financial and spiritual resources needed by our meetinghouse.

Some of the specific social concerns of the meeting have been focused on the abolition of the death penalty and improving prison conditions. The meeting held several Second Hour discussions on the death penalty. Through these sessions, we were led to create a banner that is hung in front of the Meetinghouse on days when there is an execution anywhere in the United States. The banner reads: "Today we mourn the execution of a fellow human being." The Birmingham News published our letter which included a statement against the death penalty and a request to other religious groups to join in this witness. Friends were visited by a former prisoner who was later found innocent of his crime. He described prison conditions and asked the meeting to work to improve these conditions.

In addition to these topics, Birmingham Friends have heard from Sis Levin whose husband, Jerry, was an Iranian hostage about their current peacemaking work. We have also held two Sunday afternoon anti-poverty workshops led by Jo Dohoney, head of the Alabama Poverty Project. Other Second Hours have focused on British Quaker Jim Pym's book Listening to the Light, a visit from Atlanta Friends Bill Holland and Mary Ann Downey that included Bill's pictures of British Quaker historical sites, and Amnesty International letter writing sessions.

Being owners of a meetinghouse has created challenges and blessings for the meeting. We struggle to rehab an older home in the city of Birmingham and have requested a mortgage from the Friends Meeting House Fund. Charles Hough from FMHF visited us this spring to talk with the meeting about this request. Our resident, Bill O'Connell, has come to know our neighbors including some of the young boys who help him in the garden. Friends have been involved in painting, house repairs, yardwork and other matters concerning the house and grounds. We have recently acquired air conditioning, an important step in preparing for Alabama summers. This attention to property maintenance has shifted the attention of the meeting. We hope that as we become more comfortable with this role we will return to a more spiritual focus.

The meeting has found that it is not immune from the violence in our culture. We experienced two break-ins and thefts of the resident's property. In another incident, a bullet was fired into an upstairs window. We pray for those involved in these incidents and for our resident who has been more directly affected by them.

The meetinghouse has allowed us to host community groups, such as the Humanistic Jewish Group, a dance group, and a group of girls from Girl's Inc. who used our children's room as a setting for a film they made. The meetinghouse and our large backyard were the site of our neighborhood carnival for children, which was organized by students from New Garden Friends School in Greensboro, NC. These students visited Birmingham as part of a civil rights tour of the Southeast during their spring break.

Birmingham Friends Meeting is blessed by attenders of all ages. Members of the meeting have formed a care team for Peg Hiles, one of our older Friends and the mother of another member. Care team members visit Peg regularly and have met with her hospice nurse. At the same time, the meeting finds that both of

their young Friends have turned two. Their presence brings a special energy to our gatherings and gives us all a reason to sing songs, create with play dough, become reacquainted with children's books and color.

Many Friends are involved in activities outside the meeting. Some meet with Pax Christi and visited their Passover Seder. Others attend a regular protest of sanctions against Iraq. Individual Friends are involved in work with quality end of life care, homelessness, literacy and other issues. While this work is outside the meeting, it continues to enrich our time together. The meeting tries to connect its members to issues within the community through regular social concerns e-mails.

At the same time, these activities often keep us from participating fully in the meeting. Monthly simple suppers have not been as well attended as in the past. Also, Ministry and Nurture has expressed concern that the quality of worship on Sundays has not been as deep as at times during the past; we have fewer spoken messages and fewer attenders. We will be working on these issues over the coming year through our Second Hours and by being more intentional about nurturing our community.

BOONE FRIENDS MEETING
STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT
JUNE 2001

Boone Friends have continued to meet at 305 Green Street. This is a private home, which we rent for our First Day services and every other Third day evening. We are now in the process of finding a new home. This house has been sold. One of our attenders has volunteered the use of a space in their home until a new meeting space is found.

The theme of this year's "Yearly Meeting" especially speaks to our meeting. This has been a year of gathering together, healing, and striving to become whole. After some of the issues we had to deal with the previous year, this has been a welcome experience. We have grown to know each other better and to love each other more.

Our attendance has remained consistent. We are most usually 10 to 15 attenders each week. We still get the occasional visitor.

The meeting came together and we have united on a minute opposing the death penalty. It has been sent to our representatives and local papers. We also created a brochure for our meeting. It gives a brief history of Quakers and about our style of worship. It is available for visitors and also as a hand out for various functions we have.

Our monthly Quaker forums continued to educate and enlighten us. We have had discussions on issues ranging from our Testimonies to Edgar Cayce. One of the events was viewing "Friendly Persuasion" which was very enjoyable and a different experience when viewed with a group of Friends.

Our "Meeting for Reading" group has continued to meet. This year we have read "The Powers that Be" by Walter Wink. By sharing our own experiences and histories, we deepen our understanding of each other, and our individual understandings of the Light within. We also have read Marty Grundy's "Tall Poppies" and the autobiographical journal "The Conversion of Margaret Lucas" by M. Lucas. In this we were reminded of where Friends have come from, and that we still have similarities today.

Boone Friends remain active in community service. We had a "Sale for Service" of home made items, made by our first day school class and attenders. Money raised was sent to our local Food Pantries. We were also active in our local Unity Festival. A coming together of the different faith communities in our area to share in a day of fun, entertainment and education.

Our membership has increased. One of our attenders joined our meeting. We have some attenders who hold membership in different friends meetings, some in SAYMA and some within other yearly meetings. Boone Friends still maintains affiliations with both SAYMA and with Piedmont Friends Fellowship.

Michael Harless
Clerk
Boone Friends Meeting

Brevard Friends Meeting State of the Meeting Report (1 page)

Available in hard copy only.

Celo Friends Meeting State of the Meeting Report (2 pages)

Available in hard copy only.

Celo Friends Meeting State of the Meeting Report (2 pages)

Available in hard copy only.

2001 State of Meeting Report Charleston, WV

Charleston Friends Meeting has had a year of transitions, with new attenders, visitors, and members, as well as departure of Friends for careers in other communities. Meeting was enriched by the presence of exchange students, who enlivened intergenerational activities. We celebrated the graduation of one young Friend from college and the engagement of another.

Meetings for worship are generally small and quiet. We meet in rented offices of a community development organization in the middle of bustling, multicultural area of the city. Ministry commonly follows scriptural themes or responds to the writing of early Friends.

As in previous years, Charleston meeting has organized a breakfast in a local women's and children's shelter, and a dinner at a men's shelter. The meeting community is grateful for the opportunity for direct service to persons in need. Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee has continued to share Friends principles vigorously and effectively with state legislators. Charleston Friends Meeting's support of the American Friends Service Committee's West Virginia Economic Justice Project is ongoing, as is our participation in interfaith organizations at the city and statewide level.

We have periodic adult discussions on topics as diverse as AIDS in Africa, Cuban policy, and Friends history. Meeting also sponsors an ongoing Bible study group, gathering twice monthly in Friends homes.

Charleston Friends organized the September 2000 West Virginia Friends Gathering. In February, we hosted a meeting of the Friends General Conference Traveling Ministry Oversight Committee. In both events, Charleston Friends enjoyed seeing Friends from afar and appreciated the spiritual and practical insights of visiting Friends.

We have struggled with loss of active families and had difficulty maintaining key functions of the Meeting. Such difficulties are not unusual in small, isolated meetings. Like Friends everywhere, Charleston Friends seek to live in the life of the Spirit, carrying Friends testimonies into daily work. Meeting serves as the base from which we gain refreshment, encouragement, and inspiration.

Chattanooga Monthly Meeting

Chattanooga Monthly Meeting completed a happy and smooth year, with many successes, blessings and additions to our ranks.

Members and regular attenders at meeting continued to average 15 -20 every First Day, including several new children. Our solid core of four girls for First Day School led the Meeting to acquire new First Day teaching literature, which it began using in early 2001. Teachers and students were pleased with the lesson plans, which concentrated on the Old Testament, and they are very excited about continuing the lessons throughout the year. Three babies soon will increase Chattanooga Meeting's First Day School rolls to seven children.

The Meeting also continues to have a solid core of members and regular attenders who contribute to the Meeting's health, spiritually, physically and financially. The Meeting continued expressing opposition to the death penalty, and also tried a regular discussion group to combat racism, that was laid down. It also began trying, in a small way, to ease the plight of the homeless, by affiliating with the Chattanooga Interfaith hospitality Network. The Meeting decided to continue that affiliation.

Members and attenders continued seeking the Spirit, as several of our number struggled with understanding the role God plays in our everyday lives, wondering why God allows the innocent to suffer from harm and pain. Other Friends were steadfast in supporting those who struggled, and all benefited from the quest. The Meeting also benefited, both individually and as a group, from a clerking workshop held at the Chattanooga Meeting House in the fall, which was attended by members and attenders of several other monthly meetings throughout the area.

Members and attenders participated in two workdays at the Meetinghouse, which resulted in the building of a new entrance into the Meetinghouse and a clean basement. The new entrance makes it much easier to walk into the Meetinghouse. The unfinished basement, and its debris, has been on the meeting's to-do list for a long time, and it was a great relief to have it clean.

The meeting's Community Garden was a success its first year, reaping community awareness and a city grant of \$1,200. As the year closed and planning for spring planting began, the Community Garden welcomed several new community gardeners, who have their own plots and who use organic gardening methods only.

Financially, Chattanooga Monthly meeting ended 2000 in a comfortable state, with a savings account for any Meetinghouse emergencies and without any outstanding debts.

Chattanooga Monthly Meeting is grateful for a full and abundantly blessed year, and we will continue to seek the leading of the Spirit, both inside the meeting house walls and outside, in our homes, jobs, schools and communities.

Cleveland Worship Group State of the Meeting Report (1 page)

Available in hard copy only.

**Julia Sibley, Clerk
Columbia Monthly Meeting
Religious Society of Friends
c/o 2317 Superior Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29205
803.931.0105**

**State of the Meeting Report
June 1, 2000 - May 31, 2001**

Columbia Monthly Meeting continues to be a vibrant, changing Meeting. This year has proven to be particularly exciting—with new people, more children and an ever-deepening desire for spiritual quest and connection.

The most important theme in Meeting life this year was our focus on First Day School and the way we relate to the **children** in our Meeting. We had 8-10 regularly attending children for First Day School ranging in age from 5-13. We restructured the format so that there is consistency in thematic material as well as in adult participation, particularly emphasizing the participation of members without children. This led to increased participation as well as a broadened sense of fellowship among the entire Meeting community. One wonderful experience was sending the Clerk of First Day School Committee to Pendle Hill for a conference on children's education. Challenges included working with the spread of ages, maturity levels, interests and focus; the persistent difficulty of keeping older children involved in Meeting; and, the balance of 'structure' and 'fun' in the First Day School curriculum. Events outside of First Day included a visit to the Animal Protection League, an older girls' pizza night, participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring national phone-bank, and hosting a Southern Appalachian Young Friends weekend retreat.

We continued to be very active in **social justice** issues. We wrote minutes addressing Video Poker Gambling and proposed state Lottery (with an accompanying Opinion piece in the *State* newspaper). We discussed the SAYMA minutes on population and global climate change (as well as being active in the South Carolina Interfaith Climate Change Campaign). We co-hosted a visit from the AFSC Middle East Peace Project and hosted/led two Help Increase the Peace (HIPP) trainings—both at schools which employ Meeting attenders. We continued to oppose the Death Penalty and Capital Punishment. Because of participation by our members/attenders, the Community Mediation Center in Columbia began using a Friends training manual with its volunteer mediators. The Meeting co-hosted a retreat of state-wide religious leaders discussing our responsibilities as people of faith addressing the issue of Race in South Carolina. We were involved in the Jubilee Justice movement to secure debt relief to struggling countries in the "Two-Thirds World." We continued to call for an abolition to nuclear weapons and hosted a prayer vigil in remembrance of the bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We held our annual "Alternative" 4th of July and New Year's Eve parties. One of our members was named the Volunteer of the Year by the Alston Wilkes Society for her work in mediation. The Prison Visitation Program increased and now has 5 people going monthly to visit, listen and care for 18 inmates in a Federal Prison in Edgefield. The more vocally-gifted among us sing monthly for residents in a local Mental Illness facility.

We conducted **Meetings for Clearness/Concern/Support**: for two Friends married under the care of Meeting who discerned the need to separate; for a Friend who questioned his involvement and place in our Meeting; for one of our Members who serves as Clerk of Palmetto Friends Gathering.

Members and Attenders organized many **gatherings** outside of First Day. We hosted two sessions of an Inquirer's class for new members/attenders. We had a book discussion group which will soon begin its second book (Patricia Loring's "Listening Spirituality" volume 2). A Mid-Week Worship Sharing group began and is thriving. We held the first of (what will be many) women's out nights (or, colloquially, "Chicks' Night Out). Four Friends hosted "Friendly Eights" on the same night in April at which each group addressed the concept of community. We were honored to host the Palmetto Friends Gathering in March.

This idea of **Community** permeated the entire year of Meeting life. We discussed what we think community is; there was a Community Group which met regularly for many months and contributed to the Meeting's discussions. This discussion of community informed our other discussions of spiritual depth and the meaning of the Friends community to each of us as individuals and to the sense of our identity as a religious community—as a "congregation." We instituted a regular forum (2nd and 4th First Days for adults, 1st First Days for children) for Friends to describe their individual spiritual journeys and/or how they experience worship. This helped us understand one another as individual Seekers and also as part of the larger whole of the Friends Meeting. We found ourselves using more Queries for our discussions and our tools for centering. Increasingly, we attempted to bring to light (Light) our underlying assumptions about Meeting, our community, raising children, worship and Quaker practice. We expanded our website (and Communications Committee) to address new methods of feeling connected—while at the same time searching for more ways to connect without computers. We grieved the loss of several Friends from our Meeting who moved/transferred membership; stopped attending; or, found other Quaker Meetings which spoke more perfectly to their conditions. A great loss to our community was the death of long-time attender, Ruth Kemp, member of Goose Creek (Virginia) Meeting. And, a great gain for our community was the increased attendance of her husband, Walter Kemp. Two wonderful Friends continued their ministry of bringing flowers for our Meetings for Worship.

Our **on-going discussions** included building/buying a Meeting House that would more perfectly serve our needs and through which we could be more active in the larger community. We continued to pursue the merits of aligning with North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) in addition to SAYMA. We still struggled with our "joyful tension" of our understanding of Friends as "Christ centered and as "Universalist," although we do not limit ourselves to these terms.

We continue to enjoy one another, to strive together toward a more perfect community, to work for peace, to pray for justice. We continue to love our fellowship, to seek our strength in our unique individual selves, to commit ourselves to each other in love. We look for a deeper sense of ourselves and of the Meeting in the coming year. We give thanks for our wider Quaker associations and for the joy of our contribution to the larger Religious Society of Friends.

Cookeville Worship Group State of the Meeting Report (1 page)

Available in hard copy only.

State of the Meeting Report - Crossville Monthly Meeting

1. Margaret Purchase was welcomed into the Society of Friends as a member of the Crossville Monthly Meeting.
2. During the past year, the meeting has undertaken the study of "Quakerism 101" using the curriculum and suggested materials developed by Shirley Dodson of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.
3. The Obed Headwaters School, under the leadership of Dennis Gregg, officially opened in January 2001. It is using the facilities of the Meetinghouse and grounds. It has six students in grades 8 and 9 and is organized to provide an alternative for students to the public schools. It will be open for 8-10th graders for the 2001-2002 school year.
4. The Meeting was greatly saddened by a number of deaths in the past year. Jane Mandel passed away on August 16, 2000. A memorial service was held under the care of the Meeting on October 21, 2000 in Pleasant Hill, TN. Her husband Bob continues to be confined in the Wharton Nursing Home there. Edward Rogers, who had only recently become a member of the Religious Society of Friends through our Meeting, passed away on August 26, 2000. A memorial service was held for him on August 29, 2000. During this past year, Dennis Gregg, one of our members lost both of his parents, his father Harry in August, 2000 and his mother Rosemary on June 1, 2001.
5. Elizabeth Gregg has been selected for a year's internship with FCNL in Washington, D.C. beginning in August. She graduated from Macalester College in St. Paul, MN in May.
6. The Meeting continues to be involved with the Youth Farm in Nicaragua. It purchased another quilt for the Meetinghouse wall and member Toby Rogers is again preparing to take a school bus during the summer of 2001 for their use filled with additional supplies. Other churches from Knoxville are providing the majority of funding for this trip.
7. Several statements by the Meeting have been released to local newspapers seeking an end to the US bombing and blockage in Iraq and urging a peaceful solution to the conflict in Israel and Palestine and for leadership by the United States towards this end as well as statements opposing the death penalty in the US.
8. The Meeting again celebrated the life of Mary Rhodes at an annual Easter weekend at the Cumberland Mountain State Park.
9. The Cookeville Worship Group is in the process of seeking its transfer from the oversight of the Crossville Monthly Meeting to the Nashville Monthly Meeting where several of the Cookeville members have recently relocated.
10. The Cumberland Countians for Peace and Justice of which the Meeting is a founding member continues to provide a forum for supporting peace and justice issues both locally and nationwide.

State of the Meeting Report
Foxfire Friends Meeting of the Holston Valley
Approved May 6, 2001

We held a series of Ministry and Nurture Meetings, including "Foxfire Day," to consider the state of the Meeting in a larger sense -- it was a clearness process for the whole meeting on its own viability in the face of individual needs and Meeting priorities. As a result, Foxfire Friends Meeting has moved to the Catholic Student Center in Johnson City, a block from the campus of East Tennessee State University. A small permanent wooden sign has brought us new attendees, including two wonderful children. We ask the Yearly Meeting to hold Foxfire in the light as we continue to encounter difficulties trying to build a new Meeting place and establish a comfortable time for our geographically dispersed group.

Three pairs of adults now take turns providing religious education and childcare. A monthly query provides the theme for the children's religious education. Our adult religious education has centered around Quaker heritage. We continue to work on the procedures section of our Statement of Practice (our "orthopraxis" in reference to SAYMA's Yearly Meeting printed program, June 2000).

State of the Meeting Memphis Friends Meeting

June 2001

This year, many of us have faced losses. As individuals and as a group, we've asked ourselves if we are succeeding in supporting each other in times of pain. We have not always known how to take support from the meeting nor how to give it. During one Business Meeting, a new Young Friend Bethany Harrison reminded us that despite our missteps and our misgivings, Quaker worship has led her to a new understanding of herself and given her a new model for what this world can be.

Many of us who attended the meeting's annual spring retreat found ourselves echoing Bethany's words. The theme of the retreat was the Meeting's connection to the larger community. When we reflected on the organizations to which we individually lend our energies, again and again we mentioned the meeting as our primary organization, the organization to which we give the most energy and from which we take an understanding that sheds Light on our daily interactions.

Unexpectedly, during the retreat we began to formulate a vision statement for our meeting. Through our newsletter, we are reflecting on this vision and revising it. In its current incarnation, the vision reads something like this:

- To provide a worship experience marked by silence and meditation
- To be a sanctuary for the acceptance of differences where Friends grow in love
- To live actively and intentionally together in the Light
- To work together to realize a society reflecting our shared values of peace, equality, simplicity, and integrity

In the spirit of this evolving vision, we offer a few highlights of our year:

Worship. This year the teens and preteens of the meeting - Jamal Fulton, David Bowman, Cate Bowman, Bethany Harrison, Ashleigh Phelps, and Jesse McDonald - helped plan our third Celebration of Children. With the guidance of potter Nancy White, the youth made a large bowl. Around the edges of the room, they taped the names of the children who've passed through our meeting. They asked each of us to bring something personal to place in the bowl at the center of the room during Meeting for Worship. The name of Sam Jordan was placed first in the bowl. Sam, the son of Carolyne and Larry Jordan, died unexpectedly August 8 of this year.

Sanctuary for the acceptance of differences. Susan Penn recalls the Celebration of Children as a gathered meeting. And she recalls another gathered meeting this year that did not take place in the meeting house. Rather, it took place during the Memphis visit of Matthew Shepard's mother. With little coordination on the part of the meeting, Friends converged to hear Judy Shepard speak. Our presence bore witness to our support of those among us and those in Memphis who are gay or lesbian. It was also a testimony to the quiet leadership which Kristi Estes has provided to our meeting as a reconciling congregation.

Living together in the Light. As in previous years, we have sought a more permanent home for our meeting house. This year we considered several locations. Each offered new opportunities. However, we did not reach consensus for any of the locations. When we accepted this, we felt a sense of peace. Now the way appears to be opening for us to remain in our current location but expand the area which we use. We look forward to providing a larger space for our young children who sometimes number as many as 10.

Working together to realize a society reflecting our shared values. Sometimes we work best when we are teaching our children. This year, under the leadership of Ron McDonald, the youth group held two events - the annual hiking trip in the Arkansas mountains and a discussion night about the movie

Ordinary People. Youth within the meeting were active in many more ways, though - marching with Friends in the MLK Day March, attending SAYF retreats in September and May, and participating in AFSC's Angola project. The meeting was able to send 53 hygiene kits to the AFSC. The youngest Friends are now completing a curriculum designed by Kristi Estes on the "escalator of conflict." Friends were also inspired by the visits of Parker Palmer and Nelson Mandela to Memphis.

Below are notes of some departures and arrivals to our meeting as well as notes on those we are holding in the Light. This year Mina Johnson transferred her membership to Albuquerque Meeting. Geoffrey Pratt transferred his membership to Nashville Meeting. Raj Ramanathapillai returned to Vancouver. The Kaiser-Pruitt family relocated to Baltimore where they now attend Baltimore Meeting. Janne Flisrand graduated with a master's in Anthropology from the University of Memphis and has returned to Minneapolis. Laura Bowman and her family will be moving soon to Atlanta.

Sam Jordan's death in August at the age of 31 has touched three meetings - Memphis, Pasadena, and Cambridge. A trust fund administered by the Boston Foundation has been established to continue the vision on which Sam had embarked in his life. Sam was an actor, a playwright, and member of the Screen Actors Guild. He also worked in support of the homeless and the hungry.

It seems we have had an unusual number of visitors this year including a number of Rhodes College students. We are pleased to welcome new member Debra Johnson, and regular new attenders, Neena Ledbetter and David Dawson.

As we reflect on this year, we hold Joanne Rhodes in the Light. This year Joanne suffered two blows - the discovery that she has MS and the kidnapping of her cat. We also hold in the Light Ruth Boaz, who is battling cancer.

We know that many in our midst are struggling with unspoken pain. We hope that in this coming year we will find ways to be of solace and strength to each other.

--Blake Burr-McNeal

Nashville Friends Meeting State of the Meeting 2000 – 2001

“In what ways are we gathered, healed, and led as a spiritual community” both queried and advised our Nashville Friends community. We are counseled not only to seek that inward Light but also to live that truth as Friends in the world. Much of our searching and listening this past year has gathered and strengthened our inward community. We have supported each other in individual and family health crises; cared for each other in memorial services and clearness committees; established a hardship fund for Nashville Meeting individuals in financial distress; supported through our outreach four middle Tennessee worship groups. The testimonies of peace and equality have led us to endorse both the Tennesseans for a Moratorium on Executions and a local living wage ordinance and to educate ourselves through national and local speakers (Peace Brigades International/Columbia and local tax reform). We have joined Tying Nashville Together (TNT), a broad-based citizens organization where people of faith and power come together to improve our community. Based on perceived needs, Friends have led and participated in a career life-planning workshop. We have enhanced our attendance at both worship and forums by altering our meeting times. We begin with singing at 9:30 AM, settle into worship at 10:00 and at the rise of meeting we break for a brief social time before convening our educational sessions on second and fourth First Days. We are experimenting with our young Friends joining our half hour Family Worship on the day we hold Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business. We continue to relish our potlucks held after worship on first Sundays and intergenerational activities on fifth Sundays. Finally, the Meeting House recently got a new gray metal roof. We are now advised by our query to be led by this spiritual energy to gather and heal our world. May Nashville Friends receive what has been abundantly given and share these gifts.

Our census calculation for 2000-2001 is:

Members: 46	Attenders: 40
Celebrations of Commitments before the Meeting:	Muriel Anderson and Matt Donovan
Marriage under the care of the Meeting:	Drew Foster and Connie Robertson
Babies born:	Oscar Travis and McAfee James Madding
New members:	Phil Fratesi
Transferred members:	Geoffrey Pratt from Memphis to Nashville Dorian Hastings from Nashville to New Orleans
Returned Friend:	Bonnie Favrot from Sandy Springs
Memorials:	Helen Koivula (Maaret Houghton’s mother) Patricia Nuckles (foster daughter of Hector and Susie Black)

Approved at Meeting for Business 20 May 2001

New Moon Friends Worship Group

The New Moon Friends Worship Group meets monthly at the Barnardsville United Methodist Church at 5 pm. Our meeting date is the First Day that is closest to the new moon. We have met twice so far with an average attendance of 9 people and are drawing people from Barnardsville, Weaverville and Mars Hill (all within 10 miles). The contact person for more information is Susan Carlyle at 828-626-2572 and scarlyle@juno.com .

Northwest Georgia Mountains Worship Group

The Northwest Georgia Mountains Worship Group follows the academic year and so we have suspended "Open House for Quaker Worship" until the last First Day in August. With the exception of Penny and myself, most of the few who worship with us are students from local colleges.

I believe you have all of the information with the exception of the 'burning' issues. We are trying very hard at this point in time not to burn anything, or get burnt by anything for that matter. If there are any issues it might be a few more routine attenders. We may end-up, however, being a wayfarers meeting, and that would be fine too.

Tom Baugh

SWANNANOVA VALLEY FRIENDS MEETING STATE OF THE MEETING REPORT, 2001

This has been a year of rejuvenation for Swannanoa Valley Friends. The depth and quality of our worship has buoyed us up. We have rejoiced at the increased number of children and young adults in our midst. We have also found a new physical home.

Having a highly visible and beautiful meeting place has renewed our corporate spirit. In September we began meeting at the Black Mountain Arts Center. The center is designed to promote art and community-building, and is located on the main street of Black Mountain. Our second-floor meeting room is airy and light, with a view of the nearby hills. First Day School meets downstairs. A closet off the room in which we worship currently houses our library collection. In December we invited meetings in the region to celebrate our new location. Ice and snow unfortunately kept all but two guests away. Nonetheless, we worshipped, sang, ate, and enjoyed ourselves immensely. We hope to repeat our invitation to area Friends when the weather is less threatening.

Our sandwich board sign on the sidewalk has drawn in numerous visitors, including three families with children. Many of the visitors have become regular participants in the meeting's life. Attendance has nearly doubled, and has reached more than 40 several times. Seven of these newer attenders participated in a Quakerism 101 course this spring. The curiosity and enthusiasm of our newcomers serves to re-energize our own spiritual and communal commitment.

If it is possible for an entire community to be head over heels, we have corporately fallen in love with our children. We are also smitten with their parents. In our new communal parenthood, we are convinced that our children are especially gifted and unique. This winter the First Day School class made pinecone birdfeeders for our yards. At Easter, they sponsored an egg hunt for the adults. And for Valentine's Day the children handed out homemade hearts to everyone in the meeting. Their true gifts to us, however, are their spontaneity and openness, which consistently teach us important lessons about generosity, wisdom and love.

Nurturing each other individually outside of worship remains a priority for many of us. As we grow, we seek new ways to connect with one another on a deeper basis. We continue small-group sharing after worship twice a month, and monthly potlucks in members' homes. On a pleasant January day, 18 of us took a picnic lunch and hiked up Lookout Trail in Montreat. We've enjoyed two other hikes since then. We are currently establishing a network of "Friendly Eats" to encourage monthly gatherings of smaller sizes. This past year we have accompanied attenders through professional difficulties, moves, divorce, illness, and the death of loved ones. We have also rejoiced in births, retirements, and new jobs. We look forward to the first wedding under the care of our meeting this fall.

A number of our members continue to tutor and facilitate programs at the local women's correctional center, and at the youth detention facility nearby. Not long ago, a 16-foot inward-arched prison fence was erected around the detention facility. Even more recently, its name was changed from the Juvenile Evaluation Center to the Swannanoa Valley Youth Academy. Our involvement bears witness to our concern about this apparent inconsistency, and to the increased frustration and disillusionment of both the youth and the staff. In November, our meeting also approved endorsing a resolution for a moratorium on the death penalty.

Donations have already exceeded this year's budget expectations, so we have set up a new scholarship fund for members and attenders to participate in Quaker-related conferences and study. We have also increased contributions to our building fund. Although we feel content and stable in our present location, many of our members remain committed to finding suitable land for a potential meeting house in the future. Adequate library and kitchen facilities, storage space, and space for committee meetings at times other than Sunday morning, are still lacking.

After worship not long ago, one of our youngsters demonstrated a Meeting Dance. She began running in a large circle on the golden wood floor. As she got faster, she moved in ever closer spirals until she was twirling about in the center of the room. Her little spinning figure cast out rays of light and joy. We, as a meeting, are twirling ever closer to our center. We trust that our presence in each other's lives and the lives of our broader community will radiate out the joyful light of our faith and love.

West Knoxville Friends Meeting State of the Meeting Report (1 page)

Available in hard copy only.

Appendix C: General

Minutes of Called Meeting for Consideration of Formulating a Minute Concerning SAYMA's Relationship with the American Friends Service Committee (**#18**)

Appendix 1 - Report of Worship Sharing Portion of SAYMA Called Meeting
June 7, 2001

Appendix 2 - QUAKER FAITH AND "THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE" by Chattanooga Friends Meeting, Winter and Spring, 2001

Minute Regarding the Relationship between SAYMA and AFSC (**#36**)

Minute Regarding Sanctions against Iraq (**#43**)

Minute Regarding Global Climate Change (**#45**)

Financial Statements and Budget (**#33, #34 and #46**)

Ecological Concerns Network Report

MINUTES
of
Called Meeting for Consideration of Formulating a Minute Concerning
SAYMA's Relationship with the American Friends Service Committee
at Yearly Meeting #31 of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina

1. After a period of silence, Clerk Penelope Wright read the following passage:

The strength of community is equally vital because it is only in a strong community that conflict can be faced and dealt with constructively. Strong communities are ones where the connections between various individuals are strong enough to withstand differences of opinion and where the caring is sufficient for those affected to be nurtured and supported. This is part of what it means to "fight gracefully" . . . one large part of the desire "not to make a fuss" is the fear that "other people will be hurt" either by what is said or by the mere existence of open conflict. But this is a huge assumption about the other people. Knowing each other better will help us to know when such an assumption is fair . . . This knowledge is one of the strands of a strong community.

Mind the Oneness
Robert Halliday

She spoke of her faith that SAYMA is a community where our connections and caring are strong enough that we can deal well with the conflicts we face.

2. The clerk reviewed the purpose of this called meeting, which was to formulate a minute on the relationship between SAYMA and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) to be considered in subsequent Yearly Meeting business sessions. The Clerk asked that Friends conduct the first part of this afternoon session in a worship sharing format. She then offered the first of two queries:

As a Friend, how personally fares the truth with thee about AFSC?

Friends spoke out of the silence in response to the query.

The clerk then read a second query for worship sharing:

As an individual, participating in the corporate life of a monthly meeting or worship group, what is your sense of that group's intention pertaining to AFSC?

A summary of responses to both queries appears as Appendix 1.

3. After a break, the clerk read the following passage from Lao-Tzu:

Consider the world light, and the spirit is not burdened; consider myriad things slight, and the mind is not confused. Consider life and death equal, and the intellect is not afraid; consider change as sameness, and clarity is not obscured.

She then recalled a presentation by Don Gann of the American Friends Service Committee in which he described the history of AFSC and how it has changed over time. She invited Friends to consider whether we might formulate a minute that could help AFSC make changes called for today.

Bert Skellie, interim regional director of the AFSC South East Region (SERO), expressed his agreement with the sense of the suggestion that AFSC operate using authentic Quaker faith and practice. He said that he had not realized, however, until he took on his current role how hurtful it can be to staff to feel criticized for not being Quaker enough. Though many of them are not Quakers, they have taken their jobs and stay in them with a strong commitment to doing things in Quaker ways.

Larry Ingle spoke to the problem of determining what the terms "authentic Quaker faith and practice" mean. Each of the words has different meanings to different people. A minority of AFSC staff members are Quaker, and this has implications for how AFSC represents Quakers and conducts its business. It is important for SAYMA to grapple with the question: "What is authentic Quaker faith?" He expressed his hope that SAYMA can make progress toward understanding the issue, or at least that SAYMA will keep grappling with it.

Harry Rogers said that the question of what is authentic Quaker faith and practice applies not just to AFSC but also to many other aspects of Quaker community. We need to consider authentic Quaker faith at all levels; we should not demand of AFSC what we cannot achieve in our own meetings.

Free Polazzo spoke about the difficulty of finding agreement among Quakers within AFSC, given the different values and subcultures represented by different Friends groups in the US. But "the service begins when the meeting ends," and AFSC does carry important work forward. Beyond internal issues, AFSC's work involves great challenges, including bringing together groups in conflict and working through difficult issues such as the meaning of nonviolence. Carrying out Friends' testimonies is stressful work. Money is not the most important thing Friends can give AFSC. AFSC needs Friends' spiritual energy. Staff who face conflict as they carry out Friends' testimonies need to know Friends support them.

Sue Snider spoke of her gratitude to early Friends who refused to develop a creed, believing that our understanding of God's will can change. She cautioned that an attempt to define authentic Quaker faith and practice would be unhelpfully divisive. There are many authentic forms of Quaker practice just as there are many forms of Quaker organization. We can celebrate a variety of activities and processes. AFSC proceeds as we do in our monthly meetings, by hearing and seasoning leadings brought to them. To attempt to define authentic Quaker faith and practice as if there were only one would be doing us all a disservice.

Brett Miller-White identified himself as an authentic Quaker, but only to himself. Except historically, he does not think the term "authentic Quaker faith and practice" can have a definition. The narrowest sense of the term is continuing revelation. He also spoke of the importance of honoring the past work of AFSC.

The Clerk read the following minute approved by Chattanooga Friends Meeting in June 1999:

Friends have considered Bill Holland's resignation and AFSC's actions that led up to it. We do not know everything about the matter so we seek clarification. We are so serious in our concern that we wish to withhold our \$100 annual contribution to AFSC until the matter is clarified.

Chattanooga Friends Meeting further proposes that SAYMA consider adopting the following minute:

In light of the serious indicators that the American Friends Service Committee has drifted away from Quaker principles in its internal operations, we will withhold financial contributions to AFSC until it has become fully clear to us that AFSC's internal operating processes are compatible with Spirit-led Quaker principles.

She read the following minute approved by Atlanta Friends Meeting in March 2000:

The Atlanta Meeting encourages SAYMA to continue funding of AFSC at \$800 or more per year, to select representatives to the SERO and national office to participate in the administration of the agency, as well as to convey concerns and support of SAYMA Meetings. We acknowledge and encourage the positive efforts that have been made by AFSC in response to concerns expressed by SAYMA. Likewise, we encourage SAYMA to participate more actively in the governance of AFSC, including filling SAYMA's vacancy on the Corporation.

She read the following minute approved by Columbia Friends Meeting in May 2001.

"The American Friends Service Committee is a practical expression of the faith of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Committed to the principles of nonviolence and justice, it seeks in its work and witness to draw on the transforming power of love, human and divine.

"We recognize that the leadings of the Spirit and the principles of truth found through Friends' experience and practice are not the exclusive possession of any group. Thus the AFSC draws into its work people of many faiths and backgrounds who share the values that animate its life and who bring to it a rich variety of experiences and spiritual values."

--From the Mission Statement of the American Friends Service Committee

We in the Columbia Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends affirm the mission of AFSC as reflected in this statement. As a meeting we have been active with AFSC. We have worked with the HIP project, have conducted listening projects, and have invited the Middle East Peace Education project staff to our meeting. We have had members and attenders on the SERO board, on national committees, and as members of the Corporation.

As within any organization that deals with issues of social injustice there has been conflict. Nevertheless, AFSC, both regionally and nationally, has been a support and an inspiration for our work in South Carolina. We encourage other meetings to support AFSC, to use the excellent resources they provide, and to become actively involved in joint projects with AFSC.

Kristi Estes asked whether there is unity around support for program work of AFSC. Larry Ingle pointed out that AFSC program work is varied. While he strongly embraces much of the work AFSC has done, he hesitates to make a general statement of support for all programs. His concern is to discuss authentic Quaker faith and practice, not to define common ground in a way that might avoid grappling with this issue.

Geeta McGahey suggested that one common ground among Friends of all persuasions is that our faith compels us to go into the world. AFSC has been a vehicle for taking our concerns into the world. In terms of our peace and social justice testimonies, AFSC has been a unique vehicle for Quakers.

Janet Minshall asked whether AFSC still provides an orientation program to staff. Bert Skellie reported that there is a one-week orientation for all staff. In his experience, staff are interested in learning about Quaker beliefs and processes during that orientation as well as subsequently. Janet suggested that SAYMA Friends might assist with AFSC staff orientation as a way to keep the conversation and education process going. In her experience, some staff make fun of Quakers and could benefit from more information.

Gerald Rudolph suggested that the concern about AFSC drifting away from Quakers could be addressed by monthly meetings reaching out to AFSC. He reported that Columbia Friends sometimes make fun of Quakers, too.

Bill Reynolds read the following excerpt from a 2001 statement from Chattanooga Friends Meeting regarding AFSC:

Our concerns about AFSC are rooted in concern about integrity of witness to Quaker faith, practice and testimonies. We are convinced that the Religious Society of Friends has borne through history, and continues to bear in the present, testimonies of unique focus and intensity, testimonies that society-at-large desperately needs to hear.

The complete statement is attached as Appendix 2.

Daryl Bergquist spoke of the difference support from Meetings could make for staff members. Perhaps meetings could "adopt" individual staff members and be a support group and a resource on Quakerism for them.

Brett Miller-White expressed his concern about an element of the Chattanooga statement that proposes removing the Quaker identity from AFSC. Bill Reynolds clarified that this idea was presented by way of suggestion and not as a focal point of the statement.

The clerk read the following seven goals stated by Mary Ellen McNish, the new executive director of AFSC, for her work:

1. Develop a clear collective vision of what the American Friends Service Committee aspires to achieve in the world.
2. Create and implement new and enhanced programs to fulfill the vision.
3. Align the structure and processes of the organization to assure that the vision of AFSC is achieved.
4. In partnership with the Clerk, create a high-impact governing board that is engaged in strategic decisions and activities to help the organization achieve its vision.
5. Position the American Friends Service Committee positively in the hearts and minds of the public.
6. Enhance AFSC's external reputation of respect and trust among funding institutions, partner organizations, other non-governmental organizations and within the Religious Society of Friends.
7. Raise the funds necessary to achieve our vision.

The clerk asked whether Friends felt that the goals addressed any of the concerns that had been raised. Geeta McGahey said she was disturbed that the first five items did not reference Quaker witness, giving her a new appreciation for the concern expressed by Chattanooga Friends.

Sallie Prugh, SAYMA representative to the AFSC Corporation, reported that she will be attending an AFSC visioning session next weekend. This will be an excellent opportunity to raise concerns such as the dearth of Quaker references in the goals statements, and she encouraged Friends to speak to her and Jonah McDonald about any such concerns.

Sue Snider called Friends' attention to queries prepared for the upcoming AFSC visioning session and read a few of the queries. She felt that the tone of the gathering will be set by the queries. Some of the queries are:

- Are you open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit?
- How is discernment different from a planning process?
- How can I contribute to the "gathering and grounding" necessary in this process?
- How can I prayerfully consider the leadings shared in this process of discernment?
- How can we continue to explore our leadings, individually and corporately?

Harry Rogers affirmed the importance of AFSC's witness in the world. AFSC is not about explaining what Quakers are, but about witnessing to Quaker testimonies.

Free Polazzo asked whether we are holding AFSC to a standard beyond what we expect of ourselves in our daily lives. He also expressed his continuing confusion about what the issues of concern to Chattanooga are, and his willingness to listen.

Becky Ingle clarified that Chattanooga Friends Meeting had been carrying concerns about AFSC before Bill Holland's resignation and subsequent critique of AFSC processes catalyzed their concerns, resulting in the meeting's June 1999 minute. Chattanooga Friends have felt AFSC has been growing away from Quaker faith and practice step by step. That drift and the integrity of witness to Quaker faith, practice and testimonies are the issues they wished to bring before SAYMA Friends.

Geeta McGahey proposed the following as a minute of SAYMA's position:

Friends treasure the important contribution of AFSC to Quaker outreach and bringing our testimonies into the world. Many SAYMA Friends strongly support both SERO and AFSC. Some SAYMA Friends are concerned that the overall long-term trend of AFSC is drifting, small step by small step, away from being centered in the core of Quaker faith, practice and testimonies.

We propose the following:

SAYMA Friends are united that we will focus our work as a Yearly Meeting to using all avenues possible to assure that the Quaker presence and religious grounding of AFSC be growing and vital.

Daryl Bergquist, who has served as a SAYMA representative to AFSC Corporation as well as to the SERO executive committee, expressed his experience that AFSC operates in a loving mode in accord

with Friends' processes, is desiring more connection with Friends in the SERO region, and if anything is moving toward rather than away from Quaker practices.

Recording Clerk Carol Lamm asked that Friends defer the approval of the minutes for this session until the Friday business session. She asked Friends who had spoken during the meeting, particularly during the worship sharing portion, to assist her in the interim by consulting with her on the written record of their contributions.

Appendix 1
Report of Worship Sharing Portion of SAYMA Called Meeting
June 7, 2001

Query #1: As a Friend, how personally fares the truth with thee about AFSC?

Responses:

Harry Rogers spoke about his experience with AFSC through Columbia Monthly Meeting. Over a nine-year period and a variety of projects, he has had a rich and rewarding experience and sees AFSC's work as an extension of his faith.

Brett Miller-White spoke about how AFSC has personally impacted his life. Highlights included work with migrant workers in Florida and with Haitians in Miami. Working overseas he came into contact with AFSC as one organization in a group of volunteer agencies in the mid-East. He found AFSC to have special skills in coalition with other groups. As a representative of Southeastern Yearly Meeting to Friends United Meeting, he was familiar with severe problems between some Friends and AFSC. For himself, however, AFSC fares well in terms of the truth it represents.

Free Polazzo spoke of faith in action through AFSC. It is hard to figure out what to do to live out our faith, but AFSC does manage to act. He appreciates the diversity of individuals involved in AFSC. In his experience, some Friends have trouble seeing his gifts. A non-Friend within AFSC saw a gift Free could use for service, and he is grateful for the way that AFSC has made room for what he can offer. AFSC has managed to make the circle bigger than many Friends groups do, and that makes more truth available.

Sue Snider spoke of her connections to AFSC. Since 1971, she has served at many levels within AFSC's governance structure. Recently Celo Monthly Meeting and AFSC have worked together developing a model of a way in which a regional office can work with Friends Meetings at a distance. AFSC provides an unique opportunity to work in a Quaker setting with significant numbers of people of color as well as people from other backgrounds. Within AFSC she has experienced deeply gathered meetings and some excellent clerking and has broadened her experience of the variety of Friends. She acknowledged imperfections in the organization but said that overall it is clear to her that the working of AFSC is a Friends process. It carries forward actions that we want to be part of but cannot all do individually.

Kay Parke reflected that in a loving family, children should be expected to grow up in their own way. Sometimes the parents are not happy with how the children develop as adults. Other members of the family can then help the children understand where they have gone astray, or perhaps the parents need to reconsider their positions. In any case, a loving family does not disown its children. AFSC is a child of the Quaker community, and it should not be disowned. Efforts should continue to see how AFSC can be corrected, or how other Quakers' perspectives can be corrected.

Geeta McGahey reported when she first came to Friends, she objected to AFSC because she felt no one should be paid to do Friends work. Her understanding has now matured as she sees that no one Meeting can provide Friends to do all the work that should be done, and that social justice work in particular requires the kind of substantial, sustained effort that AFSC provides. When she was in India recently, a man in his 80s who had had contact with Friends through AFSC many years ago made a special effort to meet her because she was a Friend. With all this said, she also cautioned that a majority viewpoint of support for AFSC not keep SAYMA Friends from grappling with a minority viewpoint. Chattanooga Monthly Meeting has brought us a minute that needs to be considered despite our various personal

positive experiences with AFSC. Out of caring for AFSC as well as individuals and Chattanooga Meeting, we must take Chattanooga's concerns seriously.

Query #2: As an individual, participating in the corporate life of a monthly meeting or worship group, what is your sense of that group's intention pertaining to AFSC?

Responses:

Bill Reynolds responded that Chattanooga Friends Meeting's intention is to call AFSC in all its practices and programs to be true to authentic Quaker faith and practice.

Sallie Prugh read the following minute from Columbia Friends Meeting:

"The American Friends Service Committee is a practical expression of the faith of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Committed to the principles of nonviolence and justice, it seeks in its work and witness to draw on the transforming power of love, human and divine.

"We recognize that the leadings of the Spirit and the principles of truth found through Friends' experience and practice are not the exclusive possession of any group. Thus the AFSC draws into its work people of many faiths and backgrounds who share the values that animate its life and who bring to it a rich variety of experiences and spiritual values."

--From the Mission Statement of the American Friends Service Committee

We in the Columbia Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends affirm the mission of AFSC as reflected in this statement. As a meeting we have been active with AFSC. We have worked with the HIP project, have conducted listening projects, and have invited the Middle East Peace Education project staff to our meeting. We have had members and attenders on the SERO board, on national committees, and as members of the Corporation.

As within any organization that deals with issues of social injustice there has been conflict. Nevertheless, AFSC, both regionally and nationally, has been a support and an inspiration for our work in South Carolina. We encourage other meetings to support AFSC, to use the excellent resources they provide, and to become actively involved in joint projects with AFSC.

Charles Schade stated that Charleston Friends Meeting has not spoken specifically of its intention regarding AFSC. However, actions may speak to intention. Charleston is far from the center of SAYMA and many other Quakers. Perhaps as a consequence, Charleston Friends cherish their connections to wider Quaker organizations. AFSC has provided an opportunity for Charleston Friends to be connected to a Quaker organization as well as serving the social justice needs of West Virginia. Though AFSC's West Virginia staff person is Episcopalian, he is a friend and a worthy exemplar of Quaker values. Charleston Friends try to uphold the example set by AFSC staff. A member of the Charleston Meeting lobbies the West Virginia state legislature on behalf of the Meeting and AFSC. Significant policies on welfare reform have been changed as a result. Recently AFSC research has brought to public attention disparities in incarceration rates of minority groups in West Virginia. He wondered what Charleston Friends would do if the Service committee weren't there. It is a cornerstone of social justice for their community. It is a rare progressive voice in West Virginia, a voice for tolerance and social justice. West Virginia Friends would need something else to take its place.

Courtney Siceloff described a forum held by Atlanta Friends Meeting regarding the American Friends Service Committee, which resulted in a minute supporting AFSC. Because the regional office is in Atlanta, a number of members and attenders are able to participate in AFSC program and committee work. Leadership within the South East Regional Office (SERO) has been a problem, and there has been an extended period without a permanent director, at least partly due to a true discernment process about who could fill the position. Two members of Atlanta Friends Meeting have served as interim directors, which is a measure of Atlanta Friends' commitment to AFSC. Atlanta Friends Meeting has a positive intent toward AFSC, including a strong sense of responsibility to AFSC.

Penelope Wright spoke on behalf of Nashville Friends Meeting. Although Nashville Friends have not developed a minute, perhaps their intentions can also be read in their actions. The meeting continues to support AFSC financially. Through working with AFSC, Nashville brought forward a minute on sanctions on Iraq. Several staff people from the SERO office have worked with Nashville on other issues, including a community-wide effort on the death penalty. The sense of Nashville Friends is that AFSC speaks for Friends in the international world where the meeting cannot send out an individual to minister. AFSC provides an opportunity for doing the work of our faith.

Harry Rogers spoke of feeling blessed that both Columbia Meeting and AFSC have supported his individual callings on nuclear abolition and racial intolerance. Monthly meetings need AFSC to help individuals carry out their callings.

Brett Miller-White reported that Swannanoa Valley Monthly Meeting has not felt a need to discuss AFSC. SAYMA is his sixth yearly meeting. All the other yearly meetings and the twelve monthly meetings of which he was a member supported AFSC financially and in one instance continued that support even as AFSC lost considerable financial support from some friends of Friends over mid-East issues.

Sharon Annis reported that most West Knoxville Friends feel little connection to AFSC. In the past, for a period of time West Knoxville Friends Meeting withheld contributions to AFSC because of dissent; the meeting subsequently resumed contributions. She contrasted the Friends Committee on National Legislation contact-person system to AFSC's lack of direct connection to Monthly Meetings and suggested that a request from the SERO office for contact persons from each Monthly Meeting might be helpful.

Kristi Estes reported that though Memphis Friends Meeting in the past has had many members involved individually with AFSC, as a meeting, Memphis Friends have not felt a strong connection. She suggested that a similar situation prevails widely within SAYMA: many of us have no sense of connection to AFSC, either positive or negative. When AFSC-SERO sent out a strategic planning survey a couple of years ago while she was serving on the executive committee, only a handful of SAYMA meetings returned the survey. Neither meetings nor SERO has reached out to the other effectively. She asked that we listen both to Friends with concerns and to those more closely involved with AFSC.

Geeta McGahey said that the Celo Friends Meeting peace and social justice committee grapples with how to be Quakers in the world. The meeting as a whole dutifully reflected when it was time to fill out SERO's strategic planning questionnaire. However, in general Celo Friends do not see themselves as part of the larger Quaker picture, and the connection to Quaker witness in the larger world is not alive. It is important that those of us who carry concerns continue to pray, that we use Quaker organizations as tools to enlarge our witness, and that we continue to seek to engage our whole meetings.

Appendix 2
QUAKER FAITH AND "THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE"
by Chattanooga Friends Meeting, Winter and Spring, 2001

Our concerns about AFSC are rooted in concern about integrity of witness to Quaker faith, practice and testimonies. We are convinced that the Religious Society of Friends has borne through history, and continues to bear in the present, testimonies of unique focus and intensity, testimonies that society-at-large desperately needs to hear. This does NOT mean that we view the past history of AFSC with condemnation. To the contrary, we acknowledge and appreciate AFSC's long history of bearing witness to Quaker values in answering that of God in everyone, attempting to remove "occasions" that lead to war and agape-love service. Further, we acknowledge and appreciate those aspects of AFSC's current programs that continue to bear the same witness. Our concern is about the overall, long-term trend of AFSC drifting, small step by small step, away from being centered in the core of Quaker faith, practice and testimonies.

Although we felt some concern about the trend within AFSC before, we were galvanized to speak out by the conditions surrounding Bill Holland's sudden resignation from his position as director of AFSC-SERO in 1998. Those conditions revealed actions within AFSC-SERO that bore a witness contrary to Quaker faith, practice and testimonies. At least one person was being treated as though there was not that of God in him. We recognize that anyone or a group takes a risk that such things will happen when he, or they, try to empower people who have long been socio-economically disenfranchised and are justifiably angry. But, when the actions occur within an organization bearing the name "Friends," it attaches to the name a witness contrary to our testimonies. It was out of these concerns that we approved and published the following worshipfully considered minutes:

From the Minutes of Chattanooga Friends Meeting 6, 6th month 1999:

After much thought, Friends approve the following:

Friends have considered Bill Holland's resignation and AFSC's actions that led up to it. We do not know everything about the matter so we seek clarification. We are so serious in our concern that we wish to withhold our \$100 annual contribution to AFSC until the matter is clarified.

Chattanooga Friends Meeting further Proposes that SAYMA consider adopting the following minute:

In light of the serious indicators that the American Friends Service Committee has drifted away from Quaker principles in its internal operations, we will withhold financial contributions to AFSC until it has become fully clear to us that AFSC's internal operating processes are compatible with Spirit-led Quaker principles.

This minute came to SAYMA too late for the 1999 yearly meeting because that Meeting's agenda had already been completely filled and set. The overall issue was discussed at SAYMA Representative Meeting in the fall of 1999. It was in that meeting that Bill Holland proposed his "50-50" reorganization of AFSC, a proposal designed to correct the internal drift away from Quaker faith and practice. (As far as we know, there has not been any further discussion of this proposal by anyone, anywhere, at all.) Consideration of the Chattanooga Meeting's proposed minute and the larger issue of SAYMA's relationship with AFSC fell off the end of yearly meeting's agenda in 2000 due to our time being all used up. This year it is set at the front of the agenda.

Subsequently, AFSC-SERO circulated a set of queries to SAYMA (and other yearly meetings) Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups asking for input about views and desired changes in AFSC-SERO. We sent in our deeply considered responses and waited to hear back from AFSC-SERO about them. AFSC-SERO's reply to our responses, summed up in a nutshell, explained that the characteristics of the organization, with a staff whose time is filled with work on the programs, is not able to be closely involved with monthly meetings. However, there was a line in that response that said three task groups are working on "various activities which would help respond to some of your queries." We received this response a full year ago. We have not heard anything since.

We have also noted that the very second paragraph of AFSC's Mission Statement as published in their website contains the following statement:

"..., the AFSC draws into its work people of many faiths and backgrounds who share the values that animate its life and who bring to it a rich variety of experiences and spiritual insights." (Underlining added)

The underlined phrases directly indicate that the operations of AFSC are NOT solely based on Quaker faith and practice.

In addition, in the first paragraph on the AFSC website's page titled "About AFSC," we find this statement:

"The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is a Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths...." (Underlining added)

Yes, and since it is fact that the majority of the people who run AFSC's programs are of faiths other than Quaker, is it legitimate to call it "a Quaker organization"? We feel it would be honest to call it "an interdenominational organization"?

Conclusion: The facts outlined above, along with other facts not outlined above, confirm for us the impression that AFSC remains fully set in its current operating style and is not interested in a dialogue for reform. It is a robust organization firmly committed to moving forward without modification of the characteristics it has evolved into at this point in time. We acknowledge that this is not all bad and that AFSC is continuing to accomplish positive goals in its work. However, due to the significant degree of disconnection from essential Quaker practice, a disconnection that we do not believe will be changed in the foreseeable future, and due to our concern that Quakerism's unique testimonies not be lost in a vague, glowing generality of social activism, we now suggest it is time for the word "Friends" in AFSC's name be removed or replaced. Perhaps, "American Faiths Service Committee" would be good.

Minute Regarding the Relationship between SAYMA and AFSC

We treasure the important contributions of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) to bringing our testimonies into the world. As Friends, we seek to live up to the standards of Quaker testimonies and practices.

We commit ourselves to ensuring that our Quaker service organization, the AFSC, continues its long history of bearing witness to Quaker values. We will work to help AFSC maintain both internal operating processes and programs which are based on Spirit-led Quaker principles.

*Approved by Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
Yearly Meeting 2001, Minute 36*

Minute Regarding Sanctions against Iraq

Moved by our belief that every human life is sacred, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) of the Religious Society of Friends calls on elected officials to support the end of economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations on Iraq. Sanctions against Iraq have caused devastating effects on the life, health, and social structure of civilians. These sanctions constitute a violation of the fundamental principles of international law, the peacemaking principles and intent of the United Nations Charter, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The effects of the sanctions continue to be documented by organizations such as UNICEF and by the former U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq, Denis Halliday.

The governments of the United States and Iraq share responsibility for the political deadlock that has caused these deadly conditions to continue for ten years. We, as citizens of the United States, bear a grave responsibility for the actions of our government. It is urgent that an alternative solution be found that will end the United Nation's economic embargo. Broad economic sanctions against Iraq have shown themselves to be both immoral and ineffective and should be stopped.

*Approved by Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
Yearly Meeting 2001, Minute 43*

Minute Regarding Global Climate Change

SAYMA Friends recognize that unprecedented rate of change in our global climate is causing rising global temperature, diminishing polar ice, changing local weather patterns, and increasing frequency of severe storms. We also recognize that human activity, largely the combustion of fossil fuels, is a major cause of these changes.

Further, this global climate change is destabilizing many of our planet's ecosystems, reducing their production of foods, medicines, and other products for humans, and accelerating species extinction.

Human refugees from droughts, floods, and rising sea levels, and the human suffering caused by crop failures and the spread of infectious diseases from warmer climates are stressing societies and governments, setting the stage for violence, oppression, and conflict. Our peace testimony leads us to find ways to remove these potential causes of war.

Friends' concerns for simplicity, right sharing of resources, and equality, and our recognition that the effects of global warming desecrate God's creation, lead us to issue an urgent call for Friends to make substantive changes in their lifestyles including:

- reducing use of fossil fuels--for transportation; home heating, air-conditioning, and lighting; and recreation--through conservation, efficiency, and use of alternative energy sources (human, solar, and wind power).
- reducing industrial combustion of fossil fuels through informed choices of products and services.
- working for public policy that:
 - ✓ supports international agreements to reduce heat-trapping gases
 - ✓ discourages use of carbon-based fuels and encourages use of renewable sources of energy
 - ✓ develops, supports, and promotes both local and long distance public transportation systems.

We urge Friends Meetings and individuals to act on these urgent concerns. We call on Monthly Meetings & Worship Groups to report on such actions at the next Yearly Meeting. We ask Friends to consider how to develop social supports that enable us to move into spiritually informed daily efforts to change our lives and act on our concerns.

*Approved by Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
Yearly Meeting 2001, Minute 45*

SAYMA Fiscal Year 2001 Budget Report and Fiscal Year 2002 Budget - Approved 6/10/01

	Actual FY2000	Budget FY2000	Actual-YTD FY2001	Budget FY2001	Budget FY2002
Income					
Assessments	\$25,379	\$28,510	\$32,159	\$32,500	\$32,500
Bank Interest	77	50	598	400	400
Contributions	6	500	600	100	100
F&P Sales	194	100	43	100	100
Newsletter	1,572	2,800			
SAYF Income	250	0	4,870	TBD	5,250
YM Receipts	20,361	20,000	23,182	25,550	25,000
YM Scholarship Donations	741		856		
YM Book Sales	<u>2,806</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>
Total Income	\$51,386	\$53,460	\$62,312	\$60,150	\$64,850
SAYMA OPERATIONAL EXPENSES					
Yearly Meeting			\$20,602		\$25,000
Yrly Meeting - Facilities	\$19,385	\$17,600		\$21,000	
Prtng/Mail/Phone/Minutes/Misc	2,078	350		1,400	
Junior Yearly Meeting	2,432	3,300		2,800	
Coordinator	1,700	1,700		1,700	
Ass't Coordinator	600	600		600	
Supplies/Sitters/Misc	132	1,000		500	
Scholarship WQO Reps	0	150		350	
YM Bookstore	2,861	1,500	0	1,500	1,500
SAYF Operation & Administration	2,295	3,760	766	4,725	5,000
SAYF Retreats			4,464	TBD	5,250
Delegate Expenses	3,993	4,150	4,472	4,650	5,650
Rep Mtgs	316	300	0	300	300
Del to WQOs	3,677	3,850	4,472	4,350	5,350
Committees					
Ministry and Nurture	0	300	0	300	300
Ecological Concerns			13	100	200
SAYMA Liability Insurance	0	250	0	400	400
SAYMA Personnel	6,052	6,100	7,596	15,000	15,000
SAYMA Staff Training			235	1,000	1,000
SAYMA Office Administration	4,046	3,200	2,080	3,000	3,000
Phone & Office Expenses		2,000		2,000	
Postage		500		500	
Penalties		200		0	
Misc. Office		500		500	
SAYMA Newsletter	0	2,000	1,195	2,000	2,000
SAYMA Directory	0	300		300	300
SAYMA F&P	<u>0</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>336</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Operational Disbursements	43,142	43,060	41,759	59,025	64,600

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

	Actual FY2000	Budget FY2000	Actual-YTD FY2001	Budget FY2001	Budget FY2002
YEARLY MEETING PROJECTS					
Transfers To Funds					
Spiritual Development Fund	250	250	500	500	500
Released Friend Fund	400	400	400	400	400
FWCC - 3rd Wld Del	650	650	650	650	650
FWCC Triennial Fund	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
YouthQuake	250	250	250	250	250
Contributions Wider Quaker Org	4,750	4,750	4,850	4,850	4,950
AFSC	800	800	800	800	800
FCNL	800	800	800	800	800
FGC	800	800	800	800	800
FWCC	800	800	800	800	800
Right Sharing of Wrlld Res	200	200	200	200	200
Quaker House	800	800	800	800	800
FLGC	200	200	200	200	200
FCUN	200	200	200	200	200
Friends Peace Teams	150	150	150	150	150
Wm Penn House			100	100	200
Rural Southern Voice for Peace	0	0	800	800	800
Other	0	100	0	100	100
Total Projects	<u>7,300</u>	<u>7,400</u>	<u>8,450</u>	<u>8,550</u>	<u>8,650</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>\$50,442</u>	<u>\$50,460</u>	<u>\$50,209</u>	<u>\$67,575</u>	<u>\$73,250</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$944</u>	<u>\$3,000</u>	<u>\$12,103</u>	<u>(\$7,425)</u>	<u>(\$8,400)</u>

**SAYMA Account Balances Report
As of 6/30/00 and 6/09/01**

Account	6/30/00 Balance	6/09/01 Balance
ASSETS		
Cash and Bank Accounts		
Checking	16,315.62	12,313.95
Money Market		13,453.79
SAYF Checking	<u>1,444.26</u>	<u>2,070.60</u>
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	17,759.88	27,838.34
Other Assets		
FWCC- 3 rd World Delegate	0.00	650.00
FWCC- Triennial Fund	879.00	904.50
Released Friend Fund	1,750.00	1,950.00
Spiritual Development Fund	582.00	782.00
YM Scholarship Fund	0.00	683.00
YouthQuake	<u>945.00</u>	<u>845.00</u>
TOTAL Other Assets	<u>4,156.00</u>	<u>5,814.50</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>21,915.88</u>	<u>33,652.84</u>
LIABILITIES		
Other Liabilities		
Payroll Liabilities	<u>-0.01</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL Other Liabilities	<u>-0.01</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>-0.01</u>	<u>0.00</u>
OVERALL TOTAL	<u>21,915.89</u>	<u>33,562.84</u>

YM Report for Ecological Concerns Network - 2001

Since the Ecological Concerns Network was approved as a Yearly Meeting committee last year, we have been active and collaborative in several ways. Through our monthly newsletter we have informed one another with original articles, announcements, book reviews, action alerts, and news of Friends' accomplishments and activities. The newsletter is distributed via e-mail and regular mail.

Our network now consists of more than 50 SAYMA Friends from 18 monthly meetings and worship groups. Sharing information has enabled us to participate together in workshops, in events, and action items. We have also collaborated to draft a minute on global climate change, which has been considered by monthly meetings and which is being presented for consideration by Yearly Meeting.

ECN is also collaborating with the SAYMA Site Selection and Planning committees to explore ways that we can help SAYMA Friends lighten their environmental impacts starting with Yearly Meeting 2002. We are considering use of paper, food, disposable products, and travel, and are open to other suggestions. Ideas will be communicated by various means to monthly meetings and worship groups.

Given the geographical challenges of our yearly meeting, we are pleased with the community that has developed with this network. We will continue to foster more interaction among SAYMA Friends by encouraging ECN members to offer workshops and forums for other monthly meetings and worship groups.

We would welcome participation in the Ecological Concerns Network by Friends in all monthly meetings and worship groups. Please contact Bill Reynolds, Kathy Johnson, or me to be included in SAYMA ECN.

Also, monthly meetings and worship groups are being asked by Friends Committee on National Legislation to consider the revision to the FCNL legislation statement Part IV, "We seek an earth restored..." Copies of the revision and the response form have been distributed by FCNL and are available through Carol Nickle (West Knoxville) of the FCNL Policy Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Carlyle

Appendix D: Wider Quaker Organization Reports

American Friends Service Committee

American Friends Service Committee -- South East Region

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Friends Committee on Outworld Relations

Friends Committee on Unity with Nature

Friends General Conference

Friends World Committee for Consultation

Right Sharing of World Resources

YouthQuake

Dear SAYMA Friends,

The 2000-2001 year for the American Friends Service Committee has been filled with excitement. There is a new Executive Director who has been working for almost a year. She is Mary Ellen McNish, a member of the Byberry, Pa. Monthly Meeting. Mary Ellen has worked for many non-profit organizations including the YWCA and Planned Parenthood. She has also been the Executive Director for Development at Cornell Medical College and New York Presbyterian Hospital and Hahneman Medical School and Hospital. Within Quaker circles Mary Ellen was the Assistant Presiding Clerk of Friends General Conference and Clerk of their Campaign Committee. She stated that every professional, personal and religious experience in her life had been preparing her for this role.

Since being appointed Executive Director, Mary Ellen has visited all of the Regional Offices and has visited many countries to begin to understand more fully the work of AFSC and the challenges facing the organization. To further the process of educating herself, she has attended many of the Yearly Meetings in order to meet and appreciate the concerns of Quakers regarding their service organization. Perhaps the most important innovation that Merry Ellen has enacted is a series of visioning retreats, one with the Board and 4 others in different areas of the country. The last one will be just outside of Atlanta the third weekend in June. These retreats will help establish a collective vision and allow the organization to focus its work.

Concerns which were brought to AFSC last year regarding diversity and the lack of Quaker process within the organization have been addressed by the AFSC Friends Relations Committee. The entire organization is concerned about these issues and will continue to address them. North Carolina Yearly Meeting which brought up these issues at the last Corporation Meeting (1999) felt comfortable with the progress being made. At the Meeting of the Corporation, it became obvious to Jonah and Sallie that Mary Ellen McNish and the leadership of the AFSC are very interested in reinvigorating channels of communication between Yearly Meetings and the Service Committee.

The AFSC also named Carlos Esteban Mejia director of the Emergency and Material Assistance Program. His goals for the program include connecting emergency aid and long term assistance as well as expanding volunteer opportunities. (It was interesting to note that although there have been fewer volunteer activities during the last several years, there is a summer program in Mexico for young people that has been in place for 62 years.)

At the international level the organization has started an African Initiative. Donald Gann, Clerk of the Board and the Corporation quoted Kofi Annan when he stated that a person could walk from one coast of Africa to the other without ever being in a country that was not a war. The initiative has just started, but it is hoped it will include education within this country as well as activities in Africa and coordination with other like minded service organizations. There is a relative large Quaker presence in Africa because of the Quakers in Kenya and because of the activities of the British Quaker Service Organization and other Quaker Organizations. In Angola, a civil war has been in progress for 40 years. We actually met with several leaders of the Angola peace movement at the Corporation Meeting. Over the past year, peace-building efforts and material relief in Angola have been two of the main goals of AFSC. There is much interest in the African initiative; however, commitments will not be made until the visioning process is complete.

The Middle East Program and Peace Building Unit has been working with greater urgency over the last several months. The AFSC has an on going presence in the Palestinian territories and continues to work

with and support Israeli and Palestinian peace organizations. SERO also has a Middle East Peace Education Program, which is actively seeking to educate Americans and to change US Policy regarding the sale of arms to the Middle East. SERO staff is willing to present information and discuss ways in which individuals in the US might become more active in supporting peace in this area.

Within SAYMA, SERO has been involved in supporting Help Increase the Peace (HIP) projects. There are many trained leaders who are actively working with Quaker and non-Quaker youth.

There is an on going concern that SERO still does not have a regional director. The search has been intense and there is hope that a new director will be appointed in the near future. The interim directors have provided direction and support to the staff.

Donald Gann who has been Clerk of the AFSC Board and Corporation will be stepping down next year. There is a search committee appointed by the Board. We hold them in the Light as they search for an individual who is led to serve in this important role.

Jonah McDonald and Sallie Prugh attended the Corporation Meeting in November. Jonah had attended before and Sallie was the “new person on the block” with lots to learn. It is an honor to represent SAYMA in the way. We look forward to continuing in this role. In addition, Jonah has been nominated to serve a two year term on the AFSC Executive Board. He is very excited to be taking a more intimate role within the Service Committee.

Peace,
Jonah McDonald
Sallie I. Prugh

Report to 2001 Yearly Meeting by SAYMA representatives to American Friends Service Committee, Southeastern Regional Office, Executive Committee (AFSC SERO EC)

Background:

"The American Friends Service Committee is a practical expression of the faith of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Committed to the principles of nonviolence and justice, it seeks in its work and witness to draw on the transforming power of love, human and divine."

from Organizational Principles and Guidelines for the AFSC 6/19/94.

AFSC is a Quaker organization which promotes peace and social justice and provides humanitarian assistance.

Structure:

The organizational structure of AFSC includes a national office in Philadelphia, international programs outside the United States and nine regions within the United States. Most of SAYMA lies within the AFSC Southeastern Region. For this region, the primary office is located in Atlanta, and additional program offices are located in Miami, Florida and in High Point, North Carolina.

All of the members of the AFSC (national) Corporation must be Friends. The Corporation, which meets each November, appoints the AFSC Board of Directors and has the overall responsibility for AFSC. SAYMA appoints representatives as members of the AFSC Corporation. About half of the members of the Corporation are yearly meeting representatives; the other half are "at large," nominated by the AFSC standing nominating committee.

SAYMA also appoints representatives to serve on the Executive Committee of the Southeastern Regional Office (SERO EC) which is empowered by the AFSC Board with responsibility for the AFSC work in this region. Additional SERO EC Quaker yearly meeting representatives are appointed by Southeastern Yearly Meeting and both the FUM and Conservative North Carolina Yearly Meetings. The Quaker yearly meeting representatives comprise nearly half of the SERO EC. The remainder of the EC includes Quakers among those who are nominated as "at large" members by the SERO EC Nominating Committee, or who are nominated as representatives by SERO program committees. (SERO program committees are composed of people, including Quakers, who implement SERO programs.) The SERO EC approves the regional budget, selects programs, and sets regional policy. The SERO EC has four weekend meetings per year which are attended by all committee members. Additional meetings of SERO EC sub-committee meetings are also arranged as needed. SERO EC members serve three-year terms with a limit of six continuous years of service.

This report was prepared by the latter group, the SAYMA representative members of the SERO Executive Committee: Jeremiah Gold-Hopton has been a SAYMA representative on the SERO EC since September 2000. Jeremiah is a member of the SERO Personnel Committee (which is a SERO EC subcommittee). Daryl Bergquist has been a SAYMA representative on the SERO EC since September 1996. Daryl has been SERO EC co-clerk and SERO representative on the AFSC (national) Board since September 1998.

Regional Programs:

The work of AFSC in SERO is carried out by 6 programs in three locations:

The Central American Political Asylum Program (CAPAP) has been providing legal assistance to El Salvadoran and Guatemalan immigrants since 1984. This past year CAPAP has begun to serve Haitian immigrants also. CAPAP is the region's largest program, employing seven staff. Much of CAPAP'S work is funded by grants. The office is located in Miami and serves South Florida. Amada Orendain has been the managing attorney of CAPAP for since 1993.

The Emergency and Material Assistance Program (EMAP) is the oldest program in SERO. The EMAP center in High Point, North Carolina, has been in operation for over 40 years as part of a the national AFSC program which began in 1917. While the EMAP program is continuing to provide clothing for international relief, it is shifting its emphasis to emergency or relief kits which help people survive a crisis. EMAP designs particular types of kits to meet specific needs by making a list of items to be included in each kit. Then, donations of kits containing these items are solicited from Friends Meetings and the wider community. Peggy Baxter has been the EMAP director since August 1999.

The Orita Program has been working with youth in the High Point, North Carolina area since 1995, and Orita interns are now leading workshops in Atlanta as well. (The name "Orita" is a word from the African Yorba language meaning "crossroads".) Orita offers a range of activities in conflict resolution, capacity-building, participatory skill development, consumer education, and entrepreneurial skills. Interns develop and implement programs at existing community projects. Orita's Literacy and Family Advocacy program empowers women through literacy education and leadership development to build better lives, healthier families, and stronger communities. By intensive networking, the Orita program helps organizations and people in the community work together to meet community needs. Ann Lennon has been the Orita director since 1994.

The SERO Middle East Peace Education Program (MEPEP) was started in 1976. This program, which is based in the Atlanta office, focuses primarily on the Israeli-Arab conflict, particularly in relation to Israel and the Palestinians. Recent work has also included education about the humanitarian crisis brought on by the economic sanctions on Iraq and concern for regional disarmament. The program works to build support for resolving conflicts nonviolently as well as to inform people of the historical, social, political, economic, and cultural situations in the Middle East. The ultimate goal of MEPEP is to build community that brings together people of different backgrounds to support peace efforts and promotes a deeper understanding of the conflicts, then leading towards comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Ilise Cohen has been MEPEP director since 1995.

The Southern Africa Peace Education Program (SAPEP) began in 1977 and is based in Atlanta. Since the end of apartheid, the SAPEP emphasis has been on the deep economic and social justice issues facing the people of southern Africa. The program educates and provides access to information for citizens in the southern U.S. about southern Africa and about what the desired role and policies of the US government is in southern Africa. The program encourages contacts between southern African peoples and American citizens, and the program works with African immigrant communities in the U.S. Current work includes two AFSC-wide projects: AFSC support of the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance; and the AFSC Africa Initiative. Tejan Muata began as the SAPEP director in May 2001.

The Help Increase the Peace (HIP) Program, which is SERO's newest program, is also based in Atlanta. The SERO HIP Program began in 1998 as an expansion of the growing nationwide AFSC HIP network.

HIP is a modification of the successful Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP) for prison inmates developed by Quakers in 1975. HIP uses the participatory group processes and philosophies of AVP in teaching conflict resolution skills to youth. HIP helps youth examine the root causes of violence in their lives and in their communities. HIP also promotes and facilitates tolerance, alternatives to violence, and community building for middle and high school aged youth. HIP currently has a grant for conducting an intensive two-year program with the students at Decatur High School (in metro Atlanta), and a grant for promoting HIP throughout Georgia for six months. Benita Thompson has been the HIP director since 2000.

Staff Changes:

The sudden death in April of Winston Borge has been a shock. As SERO's accountant and business manager, Winston touched each of our lives, and he knit the region together in many ways. For seven years, Winston kept SERO's finances in order, computers functioning, and morale up. Winston's smile and laughter enlivened us all. Winston and Ligia immigrated from Nicaragua to the U.S., where they were married and their children Lilliam and Winston, Jr. were born. Winston found solace in the mid-week Quaker worship at the Atlanta SERO office. He developed an appreciation for Friends practices and processes through serving on and working with AFSC committees. Memorial services for Winston were held at Atlanta Meeting, Southeastern Yearly Meeting, and this past weekend at the combined SERO staff and executive committee retreat. We celebrate his life, and we miss him.

On May 14, 2001, Tejan Muata began as Program Director for SERO's Southern Africa Peace Education Program. She has over 20 years of organizing, educational development, training and human rights experience both domestically and internationally. She spent 10 years with the Peace Corps in the Inter-American Region, and in Africa, including Burkina Faso and Togo. She has over 10 years experience working with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), including coordinating a Francophone training program and directing an HBCU Study Abroad Resource Network. As director of AFSC's only regional Southern Africa program, Tejan is taking a lead role in coordinating SERO's participation in the proposed AFSC Africa Initiative.

Marie-Georges Jean joined the Miami based Central American Political Asylum Program (CAPAP) in January. In her role as outreach representative, she is helping CAPAP serve Haitian immigrants. Originally from Port Au Prince, Haiti, Marie-Georges has been living in the U. S. for the past twenty years, and she has been working in immigration law for fifteen years.

Sandra Alvarado left the CAPAP staff at the end of May. For the past three years Sandra assisted elderly and disabled immigrants who needed medical waivers in order to obtain citizenship. She resigned from CAPAP in order to continue her education. Her commitment to serving others has been fostered through her work with AFSC. We are hoping she continues her connection with SERO by becoming the CAPAP program committee representative to the SERO Executive Committee.

Bryan Hudson joined the staff of the Help Increase the Peace (HIP) program at the beginning of 2001. She is serving for a six-month period as HIP outreach coordinator for Georgia. Bryan's work has been enhanced by her knowledge of Friends, her connections with Friends Meetings, and her previous experience as a HIP trainer, volunteer with the program, and clerk of the HIP program committee. The HIP Program is seeking funding to continue Bryan's work.

At the end of January, 2001, Frank Cummings ended his one year term as SERO's interim regional director and went to El Salvador. Frank brought stability, open communication, and healing to the region. Frank's position as interim regional director has been filled by Bert Skellie, who is another seasoned Friend from Atlanta Meeting. Bert has served as clerk of both SAYMA and of Atlanta Meeting. Bert is guiding the region through its period of transition until a long-term regional director is hired. We expect this transition to be completed by Fall 2001.

SERO Strategic Planning:

SERO engaged in a strategic planning process, which included soliciting input from various constituencies. This input included queries, which were sent to all the monthly meetings in the region. AFSC staff, committee members, and corporation members gathered for weekend meetings on November 19-20, 1999 and January 8-9, 2000 and developed a plan. Three areas were identified for immediate attention: Growing into a Healthy SERO Community, Building Programs for a Just World, and Cultivating Community Support. Task groups were formed to carry out the work in each of these areas. Each person who was present at the meeting joined one of these task groups.

The Growing into a Healthy SERO Community task group has undertaken a survey to gauge the current state of health of the region and to identify areas of current need. Although the results of the survey are not yet in, as your representatives we can tell you based on our observations and feelings that SERO has come a long way toward its goal of growing into a healthy community. When SERO staff and executive committee met the weekend before SAYMA at a conference center in Live Oak, Florida, we had a relaxed, and productive time together. We celebrated Winston Borge's life, and we shared our appreciation with Sandra Alvarado for her work with us. In an open and caring way, we discussed difficult issues such as the process of program termination and how to incorporate racial justice into our programs and into our lives. We enjoyed each other's company while we ate, played, worked and had unprogrammed Quaker meetings for worship together.

National and SERO staff and SERO committee members have worked together to revise SERO's Program Development and Evaluation Plans with the related goals both of helping current programs evolve in the direction of priorities based on SERO's strategic planning work and of making the manual clear and user-friendly. The process of the final writing of the first draft has been handed to the members of the SERO EC Program Committee. The EC Program Committee will season the document and present it to the SERO Executive Committee for review and final approval.

SERO staff and committee members have worked together to produce the SERO Star, a newsletter for the region's constituents. Copies of the first issue were sent to each monthly meeting in SERO, and many of SERO's donors. A second issue is in process. An ongoing SERO communication and fundraising committee has been established. This committee will include staff, EC members, and other people who have skills and interest in the work.

AFSC National:

SERO is part of the larger AFSC organization, so changes at the national level greatly affect the region. As the new General Secretary for AFSC, Mary Ellen McNish is leading the organization toward becoming more focused, efficient, and effective. She has reorganized the national office structure, by delegating responsibility and significantly reducing the number of staff members who report directly to her. This will enable her to be present in the wider world, including among Friends.

Mary Ellen is leading the organization in a series of Spirit-led visioning retreats in a process of discerning priorities and focus for AFSC. These sessions will occur at 5 different locations, including the weekend after SAYMA in Atlanta. Results of this process will come to the AFSC (national) Board at its September meeting for action. The AFSC Board will meet in a special session for board evaluation the day before its regular June meeting at Pendle Hill. Developing a stronger, more effective Board is one of Mary Ellen's priorities.

The AFSC Board has been working to build a more unified organization, where units and programs work together in a synergistic way, using the talents and experience of each to inform and assist the others, and to develop and realize more fully the immense potential of this Spirit-led Quaker organization. The Board has designated funds for the purpose of establishing short-term programs where different AFSC programs and units work together. The first program being developed under these guidelines is the Africa Initiative, in which SERO with our Southern Africa Peace Education Program may well be taking a leading role, including the possibility of hosting a national gathering for developing the program proposal.

Summary:

It is our sense that AFSC SERO is alive and well and doing good Quakerly work in the world. This sense is shared by all of the Quaker representatives to SERO (from SAYMA and other yearly meetings), even though many of us originally came to serve on the SERO Executive Committee because of the serious concerns which we had for the health of the organization, because of what we had heard among Friends about AFSC. It is with a great deal of pleasure and relief that we are able to give this report to you with this positive conclusion.

Daryl Bergquist and Jeremiah Gold-Hopton
6/6/01

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

At last annual meeting of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) in November, 2000, several former Representatives and staff of current Representatives complimented FCNL for our work. They appreciate having a lobby group that speaks not from self-interest but from a spiritual base. They encouraged us to keep working for peace and justice because there are too few voices advocating peace and justice in Washington.

What did FCNL work on last year? FCNL worked to promote global security, to shift budget priorities away from military spending and toward meeting human needs, to reduce the disparity between rich and poor, and to advocate on behalf of Native Americans.

Was there any progress? Yes. In particular Congress approved significant increases in spending for debt relief for the poorest countries and to support the struggle against AIDS and tuberculosis in Africa and elsewhere. Congress agreed to pay US dues to the UN in full for this year. Proposed funding cuts to children's health care were blocked. US nuclear weapons testing was temporarily stopped.

Is there more to do? There certainly is. At the meeting in November the hardest task we faced was narrowing down the list of priorities on which staff and activists should work. After much prayerful consideration in meeting for business and work by the program committee and others outside of the business sessions, we did set priorities for the next two years (2001-2002). That document is at the end of this report.

We need your help. FCNL needs Friends to educate themselves on the issues, to write, call and/or meet with their Representatives and Senators, and to support FCNL with monetary help. Charles Clive is helping on the Field Committee and would be interested in talking with Friends about lobbying their representatives. Joe Taylor is helping on the Development Committee and would be interested in talking to those who would like to help FCNL monetarily and in other ways. Or if you'd like to learn more about FCNL on your own, check out the web site www.fcnl.org. We have seen over the years that people in Washington can have a change of heart. But it takes each of us doing our part.

Charles Clive and Joe Taylor

Legislative Priorities for 107th Congress

The Friends Committee on National Legislation seeks to bring spiritual values to bear on public policy decisions. In a political atmosphere that has become increasingly partisan, we challenge ourselves to bring a witness of love to those we encounter in our political work. During the 107th Congress, we will promote dialogue and cooperation on the important issues facing our country. We hope that this dialogue will help create a greater sense of responsibility for good government. We will promote Quaker values of mutual respect, integrity, and a spirit of cooperation.

FCNL has selected the following priorities on which to work during the 107th Congress:

- Promote arms control and disarmament initiatives and oppose the expansion of military alliances

- Promote nonviolent dispute resolution and the peaceful prevention of armed conflict and genocide, through the United Nations and appropriate governmental and non-governmental organizations

- Shift budget priorities away from military spending and toward providing for human needs and a healthy environment at home and abroad

- Address economic, social, and racial disparity through such measures as adequate, comprehensive, and universal health care; progressive taxation; affirmative action; educational opportunities; a living wage; affordable housing; and assistance for and empowerment of the most vulnerable of society

- Reform the criminal justice system, emphasizing the principles of restorative justice and crime prevention, and eliminate the death penalty.

FCNL will continue Friends' long-standing witness for the rights of conscience, and our historic commitments to Native American advocacy and to ending institutional racism. FCNL also will respond to Friends' concerns about the environment, as way opens.

FCNL staff will work on these issues based on legislative opportunity, specific expertise and leadings, and time available. FCNL staff and Policy Committee have the flexibility, within the Statement of Legislative Policy, to respond to crises and important legislative opportunities.

The General Committee calls upon its members, other Friends, and like-minded people to work on these issues. In addition to the issues which FCNL has the resources to address, many other deeply-held concerns will continue to receive attention from individual Friends, Monthly Meetings and Churches, Yearly Meetings, and other Quaker organizations. As we work to find solutions to complex problems, Friends seek divine guidance and ask for renewed strength and hope.

Approved by the General Committee, November 12, 2000

Friends Committee on Outworld Relations (FCOR)
SECOND ANNUAL REPORT TO SAYMA JUNE 2001

Friends Committee on Outworld Relations (FCOR) continues to operate within SAYMA and FGC. The organization came into being in 1994, due to one Friend's conviction that our Earth has been visited for some time by extraterrestrial beings, with recent visits increasing in number and frequency. Coupled to this, other recent developments may compel us to face this reality, incorporating it as a significant factor in our thoughts and actions.

Credible people throughout the world continue to frequently report encountering these visitors and seeing their ships. Some of the encounters take the form of visits to the homes of certain humans, or apparent bodily transportation to another place, usually an ET ship. Sightings of the visitors' ships by airplane pilots - sometimes uncomfortably close - add to the evidence. Up to now, news media and government have pursued a policy of ignoring and denial, which is why many people do not believe the visitors are real. This state of affairs may change before long, as will be explained presently.

Shortage of personnel and lack of available time have caused FCOR to be rather inactive during the past year. However, the usual activities were pursued at the FGC Gathering at Rochester NY in the summer of 2000. A display table was set up, and a substantial amount of literature taken from it. The usual souvenir pins were offered, and about thirty sold. Six copies of Steven Greer's book were also sold: *Extraterrestrial Contact; The Evidence and Implications*. This is still offered as a meaningful statement of the present situation with the visitors. At Rochester, the usual signaling and watch demonstration could not be carried out because of the highly urbanized setting. The usual evening Interest Group was set up and conducted, attended by five people. FCOR considered the sparse attendance to be due at least in part to the remoteness of the assigned room.

After the FGC Gathering, two more issues of the FCOR Newsletter were published, and then a temporary suspension announced. Resumption is scheduled for June 2001. It is encouraging to note that the Quaker Collection of Haverford College Library is anxious to continue receiving the newsletter, interruption or no. FCOR will continue to mail the newsletter to about 60 readers, and will be glad to add more Friends to this list on request.

Another activity still in the future is an FCOR website. That, also, must await the availability of more work hours.

As this report is being written, unfolding events may justify FCOR in maintaining a holding pattern. On May 9, 2001, a press conference is scheduled at the National Press Club in Washington DC. This will be the culmination of a long effort by The Disclosure Project, a group assembled by Steven Greer, Director of the Center for Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence (CSETI), and author of the book just mentioned. This news conference will feature a number of former military people plus some civilians, including scientists, who in past years have worked in classified projects on crashed or downed ET ships and their unfortunate occupants. These people have decided to take the risk of reporting developments hitherto kept secret. The information to be divulged relates to back-engineered ET technology: anti-gravity, and unlimited energy obtained by non-polluting geomagnetic science. Advance reports from the Disclosure Project state that working models now exist that perform these functions. Assuming these declarations are true, Friends will see the advent of social and economic turmoil unlike any of past experience.

FCOR is already confronted with varying experiences and points of view of reputable UFOlogists. Doubt and tension may be standard fare for some time to come. One instance is the different point of view seen in the accounts of Steven Greer and John E. Mack, author of the recent book *Passport to The Cosmos*. Greer confidently builds his case on accounts of proactive outreach to visitors who offer warm friendship. John Mack, through his telling of hypnotic regression case histories, depicts a society of visitors who, while seeming to desire ultimate friendship and cooperation with humans, are unilateral and invasive in dealing with those humans they lay hold of, causing psychic trauma and upset. Some experiencers, however, change over later to a feeling of support and gratitude, with overtones of acquired environmental responsibility. Differences of this sort indicate clearly that FCOR must continue to seek out Truth.

Appended to this report is a book list that Friends may find useful. Informational material for table displays is also available, plus a small selection of videos to loan.

FCOR will continue to strive to be on hand and ready when Friends in large numbers recognize a need to address the challenge of citizenship in the Universe. If present developments take a favorable turn, that time could come soon.

Philip Neal, Coordinator, FCOR
2 Lookout Road
Asheville NC 28804
828-298-0944
fcor@main.nc.us

FCUN Representative Report to Yearly Meeting – 2001

Friends Committee on Unity with Nature has continued to evolve in the last year. In an effort to become more inclusive for the North American community of Friends, a re-structuring is taking place. The FCUN bylaws are being changed to expand the steering committee from 25 to 50 members. Yearly meeting representatives will automatically become members of the steering committee, and at-large members will be named as needed. The executive committee will also be expanded to include the committee clerks as well as the four officers. These and other changes will provide for better representation and an influx of fresh ideas and faces.

Quaker Eco-Witness, which was formed independently early last year, has become a project of FCUN. QEW has been working to inform Friends (from a Friends' perspective) of public policy issues related to the environment. This is being accomplished by regular issues of Quaker Eco-Bulletin and QEW News, and occasional Friendly Eco-Action Alerts. QEW now informs a national network of 350 Friends as well as the membership of FCUN. But QEW's main efforts have been to work within the Friends community in the U.S. and with Friends Committee on National Legislation to enable FCNL to include legislative priorities relating to "an earth restored...." We feel we have been successful in this effort. QEW coordinators participated in the FCNL annual meeting last November and helped determine priorities for the 107th Congress. For the first time, FCNL legislative priorities include the word, "environment." Not just once, but twice.

The FCUN Population Concerns Committee has been active with the release of new brochures on sexuality, abortion, and immigration, and has published a new book, "Population is People." This book is a collection of articles by many different Friends on various aspects of the population concern. It is available either from FCUN or the yearly meeting bookstore.

Finally, FCUN has a website. Please take some time to visit www.FCUN.org. And to become part of the QEW network, send a message to QEW@FCUN.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Carlyle
SAYMA FCUN Representative

Sixth Month, 2001
Friends General Conference Report to SAYMA

FGC is a Quaker Organization in the unprogrammed tradition of the Religious Society of Friends which primarily served affiliated yearly and monthly meetings. FGC is governed by a Central Committee composed of 170 Friends, one-half of whom are appointed by affiliated yearly and monthly meetings. Friends, FGC Committees, FGC Staff and others have participated in an exciting and meaningful year.

The FGC Nurturing Quakerism Campaign has raised about \$1.5 million toward its \$2.0 million goal. The Campaign is supporting the FGC Traveling Ministries Program, the new Young Quakes Conferences, an expanded FGC Regional Conferences Program, and other new services in religious education and publications, including FGC's presence on the World Wide Web. At its heart the Campaign is about strengthening meetings and following the leadings of the Spirit. Most of the funds received so far have come from individuals spread throughout FGC's fourteen affiliated yearly meetings. As of the end of last fiscal year, individual SAYMA Friends had made gifts totaling approximately \$50,000 to the FGC Campaign. FGC is now approaching monthly meetings for a one-time special gift to the Campaign, and such investments in the future of Quakerism can be spread over several years. FGC will be contacting all meetings within the next six months and we hope SAYMA meetings will respond with generous commitments to FGC's work

The Traveling Ministries Program--initiated in 1998--has become an extremely important and successful program of FGC. In 2 1/2 years, the TMP has coordinated visits to more than 100 monthly meetings and worship groups in North America and Canada--including meetings in every one of our fourteen affiliated yearly meetings and all three independent western unprogrammed yearly meetings. Almost all of these visits have been done by VOLUNTEERS. More than forty seasoned Friends have volunteered to be available to make such trips. A few have traveled for several weeks or more at a stretch, spending substantial time with a number of meetings and worship groups in a particular area. The TMP has also hosted a consultation on discerning and nurturing gifts of ministry for which affiliated yearly meetings appointed experienced Friends to attend, and a retreat for Friends who are traveling on behalf of FGC. Both of these events were held at a retreat center near Nashville, Tennessee, and Penelope Wright was instrumental in arranging for and supporting both.

FGC has expanded its work with young people. In October, the Religious Education Program will hold the third in a series of annual "Young Quakes Conferences." These provide an opportunity for serious study and discussion of both the Christian and universalist roots of contemporary unprogrammed Quakerism. The first was held in 1999 in Maryland, the second in 2000 in Illinois, and this year's will be in Burlington, New Jersey. FGC continues to provide very successful programs for young people at the Annual Gathering and also provides an annual week-end of training in clerking skills for several high school students as they prepare to clerk meetings for business in the Gathering's High School Program.

FGC is committed to working with meetings and individual Friends to consider ways in which we persist in racist attitudes and behaviors. During the past three years, FGC's Central Committee has devoted substantial time during its annual meeting to discussions and training sessions on racism and diversity within our Religious Society. At its meeting of Fourth Month 27-29, 2001, FGC's Executive Committee, responding to a report from its new Committee for Ministry on Racism, minuted in part: "We see FGC's work against racism as ministry--ministry to Friends and meetings. Our work will include preparing individually and corporately for this ministry, as well as carrying it out. At the center of our vision is divine love. We see our work, and the work of FGC, as healing and transforming in the deepest spiritual sense. FGC's work in this area should be characterized most by empowerment, not guilt..." Several FGC committees are involved in preparing work in this area.

In the past few years, FGC has created several new and improved vehicles for communicating with Friends and meetings. The FGC web site, at www.fgcquaker.org, is one of the best Quaker websites

available in North America. It includes extensive information, several hundred helpful articles and how-to guides that can be downloaded, printed and distributed in meetings, and on-line ordering service with the FGC Bookstore. The FGC Newsletter comes out three times per year; each issue focuses on a specific concern, and any Friend can subscribe for free.

With substantial grant income, the FGC Bookstore was able to purchase a powerful new computer/software system that has greatly simplified bookstore management and planning. With this new system and very capable Bookstore staff, almost all phone and on-line orders are turned around within 24 hours of receipt.

The "Quaker Press of FGC" is the new name for FGC's Publications Program. Several new books and pamphlets have been published. A new edition of the "Directory for Traveling Friends" is in the works.

Plans for the FGC Gathering in Blacksburg, Virginia, are nearing completion. Nearly 1900 Friends from all over North America, and ranging in age from birth through at least 90, are expected to participate in this week of learning, sharing, worshiping, playing and fellowship. Of this number, approximately 450 will be children and teens.

John Geary, S Representative to FGC

Major contributors: Bruce Birchard & Michael Wajda

Friends Word Committee for Consultation
20th Triennial Meeting
July 22-30, 2000
Geneva Point, New Hampshire

Friends: a people called to listen, gathered to seek, sent forth to serve

Friends, 260 in number from 40 countries, came to worship and share together. We listened to what our Friends from around the world had to share:

Our Russian Friend who is struggling to introduce the concept of God to a generation who have been raised atheist.

Our African Friends who each one had family members die of HIV/AIDS and know others who are living with this pandemic.

Our Guatemalan Friend who has begun radio broadcasts from a tower he and his Friends built.

Our Burundi Friend who needs help keeping their children from being sent to fight the wars of adults.

Our Ugandan Friend who is principal of a Friend's school of 1,800 students with 13 teachers.

But along with listening to the pain in the world we also heard of those who have willingly gone forth to serve:

The International Membership Committee now has in its care 57 individual members whom they keep in touch with mainly through correspondence and newsletters.

Philip Jenks who brought greetings to us on behalf of the 337 member communions of the World Council of Churches. Also our own Simon Lamb of Ireland who delivered the plenary address reminding us that listening has remained a major practice throughout Quaker history. He feels we cannot go out into service if we have not clearly heard the voice of God giving us direction but that listening without commitment can make us useless to God and to those God wishes us to serve.

Gwen Gosney-Erickson will act as an initial coordinator for a world gathering of young adult Friends being planned for 2003 and YM's are encouraged to appoint young adult Friends as representatives to FWCC.

We also held Interest Groups some of which led to action minutes brought forward on:

Peace Team work, population, Quaker work at the United Nations, clean water, human rights of children, year of Jubilee 2000, spiritual hands on healing among Friends, joining together to control the arms trade, and our relationship to science and technology.

The 21st Triennial will be held in January of 2004 in Auckland, New Zealand.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Burke and Rachel Weir, SAYMA representatives to FWCC

Right Sharing of World Resources is growing as an independent organization. It is exciting to be on the board as we work to strengthen the two arms of RSWR's ministry—our grant making and educational work—in the coming year. We recently revised our budget upward by \$50,000. The number of approved projects for 2001 is 47, totaling \$197,990. This is a 140% increase over the amount disbursed during RSWR's first year of autonomy. We will continue to approve grants at both spring and fall meetings. The increased resources have allowed the funding of additional self-help projects and program staff (necessitated by our increased work in the world). This spring two grants totaling \$5,750, for two special projects and grants, totaling \$98,075, for 24 new projects were approved. I have been working with activists in the Himalayas for the past three winters and was excited that I was able to help them write a meaningful proposal for the people with whom they have been working and then get approval for it. I hope to take a small group to visit this project and our more numerous projects in the South in December.

As much as anything, RSWR's work is to help us all consider life in a different way. It is our mission to point people toward the abundance of God's love, to consider the equitable use and distribution of world resources, and to build a new kind of community through a web of partnerships established around the world. We are working to be a vehicle by which Friends transform—not only their view of reality—but reality itself. An Education Coordinator will be engaged for 15 hours per week. The function of this position is to enhance the RSWR education ministry among Friends. An Administrative Assistant will be engaged for 7½ hours per week. The function of this position is to release the General Secretary for program development and fund raising activities. I, in addition to other board members, however, feel that activated volunteers are the backbone of both our education and fundraising.

Martin Kunz, a German Friend living in London, who is deeply involved with the Fair Trade movement in Europe, joined the spring board meeting in Evanston. RSWR is very interested in finding concrete ways to support and further the fair trade movement in the United States. At both board meetings we affirmed RSWR's interest in funding projects with Friends in Kenya. We are actively seeking a satisfactory link.

The RSWR website is now at <www.rswr.org>. Electronic communication should still be sent to rswr@earthlink.net. Our income from individuals and total income is slightly below a year ago, so if you haven't contributed seeing the surplus in the fall, now is the time so that we will be able to fund the additional level of projects at our meeting in October.

The Board engaged in a 3-hour visioning process. Many themes arose from this. The foremost was the particular mission of RSWR as a Quaker organization, mostly trying to focus on meetings, helping Quakers unite economic and spiritual values with regard to our relationship with people in the less developed world. Our education mission should focus on activating Quakers into the transformative relationship that occurs when we know and care about people beyond our borders in tangible ways – creating encounters and animation.

Geeta McGahey, RSWR board member and SAYMA contact

RSWR
3960 Winding Way 513.281.4401 -voice
Cincinnati, OH 45229-1950 513.281.4340 - fax
rswr@earthlink.net

God calls us to the right sharing of world resources, from the burdens of materialism and poverty into the abundance of God's love, to work for equity through partnerships with our sisters and brothers throughout the world.

YouthQuake Planning Committee Report, June 2001

Dear Friends,

My participation in the YouthQuake Planning Committee has been invaluable. I have learned a great deal about the skills needed, the tasks to be completed, and other essentials for planning a large conference. I was part of a unique and important spiritual community of Friends from widely different places on the spectrum. YouthQuake itself went swimmingly; long-time committee members said it was the best one they'd ever seen. Some committee members think it went so well because the attendance was smaller; others think it went well because each yearly meeting took great care in selecting Young Friends that were truly prepared and ready for this challenging conference. Our last meeting this March was spent evaluating YouthQuake 2000, as well as writing the mission statement for YouthQuake 2003 (a copy of this should have been sent to SAYMA along with an invitation to re-join the Planning Committee). The site for YouthQuake 2003 will be Estes Park, Colorado.

After my three-year experience with the Planning Committee, I am of two minds about whether SAYMA should re-join. If SAYMA wishes to send another representative, I would encourage it, especially if a Young Friend (maybe one even younger than me when I began on the committee at 17) is called in this direction. I think my singular presence as a younger person truly influenced the committee and the way things went at YouthQuake. There was more up-front, on-the-stage participation by young people than ever before because a more conscious effort was made by the Planning Committee. I do not believe another Yearly Meeting has the courage of SAYMA to let young people do this kind of thing; there is great distrust among many adults for Quaker youth. We can continue to be a leader among Friends in this way; it is truly important.

On the other hand, I can understand if SAYMA wishes to discontinue participation on the Planning Committee. It costs a great deal of money to send a representative. Registration and travel money for the Young Friends is also prohibitively expensive. There were three SAYMA folks at the last YouthQuake: Jess Purvis (adult), Rooney Lamm (Young Friend), and myself. The amount of money SAYMA has spent to get only one Young Friend to this event can be seen as poor stewardship of funds. SAYMA can continue to send participants to YouthQuake 2003 even if we choose not to send a representative to the Planning Committee. We will not be able to influence the planning of the event as a result, which is a loss. It is clear, however, that most of SAYF is not interested in such an extremely Christ-centered event. If SAYMA chooses not to send a representative to the YouthQuake Planning Committee, I encourage the Yearly Meeting to place their effort and resources in Young Quakes, an event begun whose seed was planted by Baltimore Meeting and is now under the care of the Religious Education Committee of the Friends General Conference. Young Quakes takes place this year on October 5-8 (Columbus Day Weekend); the registration fee is only around \$85 and it is located in New Jersey this year. Young Quakes is designed as a less shocking exploration of Quaker Christian roots. The Young Friends who attend are primarily FGC-types; some come to the event and decide not to go to YouthQuake, while others find their curiosity sparked and do attend YouthQuake. Perhaps this is where SAYMA's energy should be; it is a conference that can open people in SAYMA to exploring the Christian roots of Quakerism without being in quite so uncomfortable a setting.

I have truly appreciated the opportunity SAYMA has provided for me. I look forward to serving the Yearly Meeting in further ways.

-Priscilla Ewen
Atlanta Friends Meeting
Guilford College