

**South Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association**  
**June 7-10, 2007**  
**Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina**  
**37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

**Thursday, June 7, 2007**

**37-1 Reading**

*I watched him for a long time. He was so busily engaged in his task that he did not notice my approach until he heard my voice. Then he raised himself erect with all the slow dignity of a man who had exhausted the cup of haste to the very dregs. He was an old man—as I discovered before our conversation was over, a full eighty-one years. Further talk between us revealed that he was planting a small grove of pecan trees. The little treelets were not more than two and a half or three feet in height. My curiosity was unbounded.*

*“Why did you not select larger trees so as to increase the possibility of your living to see them bear at least one cup of nuts?”*

*He fixed his eyes directly on my face, with no particular point of focus, but with a gaze that took in the totality of my features. Finally he said, “These small trees are cheaper and I have very little money.”*

*“So you do not expect to live to see the trees reach sufficient maturity to bear fruit?”*

*“No, but is that important? All my life I have eaten fruit from trees that I did not plant, why should I not plant trees to bear fruit for those who may enjoy them long after I am gone? Besides, the man who plants because he will reap the harvest has no faith in life.”* Howard Thurman, *Deep is the Hunger*, 1951, 2000, Friends United Press

**37-2 Welcome**

**37-3 Roll Call**

Present: Anneewakee Creek WG, Asheville MM, Atlanta MM, Birmingham MM, Boone MM, Brevard MM, Celo MM, Charleston MM, Chattanooga MM, Columbia MM, Cookeville MM, Crossville MM, Foxfire MM, Greenville MM, Huntsville MM, Memphis MM, Nashville MM, West Knoxville MM

Not Present: Athens MM, Berea MM, Canton WG, Clemson WG, Crossville MM, Gwinnett PM, Murfreesboro WG, Oxford MM, Royal WG, Sevier Co. WG, Sewanee WG, Swannanoa Valley MM

Individual attenders to Yearly Meeting are listed in **Appendix A**. *[printed copies only]*

**37-4 Introductions**

Jane Berger (NYYM): Jane will be doing a workshop tomorrow. She is clerk of Advancement and Outreach Committee for FGC. Jane is here at the request of the Jan Hoffman (NEYM) is the plenary speaker tomorrow evening.

David McGinnis: A letter of Introduction from Friendship Friends Meeting in Greensboro, NC was read. David will be sharing in his gifts of dance leadership.

Jackie Speicher, from Richmond, IN, is the Field Representative from Right Sharing of World Resources. SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee to do a workshop concerning advancement and outreach with the yearly meeting.

Peterson Toscano is the plenary speaker for this evening. Peterson is from Hartford Monthly Meeting (NEYM) and is active bringing his witness and message to Friends from all over.

Liz Weltman, from Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington, DC works with the Native American program with FCNL.

### **37-5 Announcements**

Steve Livingston, site coordinator from Asheville MM, gave announcements.

### **37-6 Agenda Review**

The clerk noted that committee reports and reports from monthly meetings and wider Quaker organizations are available in the binders and will not be read in the face of the meeting unless there is an action item.

The agenda was presented to the meeting. Friends approved the agenda.

### **37-8 Epistle Committee**

The Epistle Committee meets throughout the weekend and brings forth an epistle that communicates to the rest of the Quaker world the work that was done during the yearly meeting. Three Friends volunteered for this task:

Joel Shimberg, Foxfire MM

Sharon Annis, West Knoxville MM

Free Polazzo, Anneewakee Creek WG

Friends approved.

### **37-9 Naming Committee**

The clerk brought forth 3 names to serve on the Naming Committee:

Connie Lamont, Birmingham MM

Larry Ingle, Chattanooga MM

Hannah McDermott, Atlanta MM

Friends approved the three proposed names.

### **37-10 Calendar**

June 7-10, 2007, Yearly Meeting in Warren Wilson

September 15, Rep Meeting in Chattanooga

December 1<sup>st</sup>, Rep Meeting in Knoxville

April 5, 2008, Rep Meeting in Atlanta

June 11-15, 2008, Yearly Meeting in Warren Wilson

September 6, 2008, Rep Meeting

December 6, 2008, Rep Meeting

It was proposed to the Yearly Meeting that we set our Yearly Meeting dates for 2009 at Warren Wilson College.

Someone communicated that there was a possibility that Warren Wilson may not be available in 2009. There was discussion regarding this. Friends will be in dialogue with Warren Wilson regarding that possibility.

**Friends approved requesting the scheduling of yearly meeting from June 10-14 in 2009 at Warren Wilson College.**

A Friend from Chattanooga proposed that when the site committee is reappointed that the yearly meeting consider building a yearly meeting retreat facility with the knowledge that several monthly meetings have extra land.

Friends approved.

### **37-11 Administrative Assistant Report**

The Administrative Assistant reported that she would like to have more work. She requests that if committees and monthly meetings have work that needs to be done – especially those involving spreadsheets and databases – to ask her.

She announced that an updated SAYMA directory was completed. Several paper copies are available, but SAYMA would prefer distributing it electronically. Friends interested in receiving it on CD need to contact the administrative assistant. Friends are reminded that the directory is to be used for Yearly Meeting business only.

SAYMA reported to FWCC 1,058 members of the Yearly Meeting. This includes preparative and worship group meeting attenders but not Friends who are members of other yearly meetings. The census is attached to the minutes from Spring 2007 Representative Meeting.

Monthly Meetings are reminded to talk to Liz Perch over the weekend to help her update each Monthly Meeting's roster of the positions of responsibility.

Friends expressed their appreciation for her work.

### **37-12 Nominating Committee Report**

Kathleen Mavournin was nominated to be editor of Southern Appalachian Friend  
Roy Taylor was nominated to continue as the Quaker Earthcare Representative  
Gerry Rudolph was nominated to be the Quaker House Representative  
Carol Nickle was nominated to be the Adult Program Coordinator for Yearly Meeting 2008.

There are many openings at the yearly meeting level. Critical positions include: Clerk of the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, Assistant Treasurer, and Recording Clerk. Friends were all given a handout listing the open positions and encouraged to discern whether they or another Friend had way open to take on a responsibility. Friends are asked to communicate with the nominating committee their discernment as soon as possible.

Friends accepted this report.

### **37-13 Readings Oxford Friends Meeting Report, Crossville Monthly Meeting**

Friends held in the light Oxford Friends Meeting as its State of the Meeting report was read. Oxford Friends Meeting has had several great losses – a dearly beloved Friend to death, a place to worship, a clerk, and several other Friends to other life choices and circumstances. Many of the remaining Friends are seriously ill. There have been new growths as well – including a new space to worship, an open Quaker group meeting over lunch at the University of Mississippi campus, and a new family coming into membership.

Friends also held in the light Crossville Monthly Meeting as its State of the Meeting report was read. They are concerned for their furtherance with a heavy decline in membership and participation due to death and infirmity. The meeting has still been able to create a worship sharing group and to be involved in the sponsorship of another Central American trip.

### **37-14 Faith and Practice Revision Proposals**

Proposed changes to Faith and Practice are in **Appendix B**.

A Friend spoke of the importance that the changes we make to our Faith and Practice speak to the Truth as best we know it for the time being.

**37-14a:** The proposed changes as regards the Table of Contents for Part IV: Testifying to the Life of the Spirit was not approved. Friends will revisit this later.

A Friend spoke to her understanding that Friends testimonies come from a deep place and speak to the work of the Spirit, and to the importance of them not being proscribed in a certain way but flexible so Spirit can interpret them in relevant ways to future issues and generations

A Friend gave a concern regarding the wording within the current Faith and Practice as regards who specifically can have their marriage taken under the care of the Meeting. Friends were reminded by the clerk that concerns regarding the current Faith and Practice that are not within the proposed revisions be brought to the Faith and Practice revision committee through the procedures outlined in the Guide.

**37-14b:** Changes were proposed to remove the gender specificity of the document to make it more general and inclusive (i.e. removing wife/husband language with wife/husband/partner). **Friends approved all proposed changes related to gender specificity. Friends also approved making the references within the certificate and wedding vows inclusive to same gender unions.**

**37-14c:** A Friend from Swannanoa Monthly Meeting spoke about her Monthly Meeting's leading that they are not able to fulfill the legal requirements of marrying the couple since legally not all couples are allowed to marry. She said that she could not in good faith approve a revision to the Planning the Wedding section that mandated clearness and oversight committees to fulfill "legal requirements."

It was proposed that the wording for section 3 be: “may arrange to meet legal requirements” instead of “arranged to meeting legal requirements.”

There was much discussion.

As Friends responded to this item, the clerk and recording clerk stepped aside; assistant clerk Sallie Prugh agreed to clerk and Penelope Wright agreed to serve as recording clerk.

A Friend reminded us that we are the constituted body of the yearly meeting and as such have the capacity to discern how we would proceed with this matter without this being seasoned in the monthly meetings.

Having heard Friends express their concerns around the place of monthly meetings regarding the legal aspects of marriage, the sense of the clerk is that we do not have unity.

We recognize that legal issues are a separate issue from reconciling the language of the sample certificate with the earlier non-gender specific language in this section.

Faith and Practice Revision will look again at the language in “Planning for the Wedding” so that it reflects current practice. We ask Swannanoa Monthly Meeting to submit their minute around legal issues within marriage to SAYMA’s Ministry and Nurture Committee for their consideration.

## **Friday, June 8 2007**

### **37-15 Reading**

*I find that I have little to say about techniques of ministry; instead, I am led to speak, as I often have before, about the ground out of which all ministry flows. It is good to remember that all ministry is one, and should flow from the same source. This is true of what we call ministry in a meeting for worship just as it should be true of everything which happens in a meeting – for worship – for business, for in that meeting we are ministering through our decisions either to ourselves or to the world beyond us....*

*So can we, on our comfortable padded benches, stay in that centered place, knowing that the more of us who can stay faithfully grounded in God, the easier it will be for others to find it – and to stay in it also. In this state we can spend hours in a business meeting without tiring or losing our patience, resting in this sea of divine Light and love which washes through all people present....*

*Sometimes we are led to speak, to minister out of this ground we have been describing. And let us remember that in Quaker theory – and I hope in Quaker practice – all speaking in a business meeting arises out of this ground, and can therefore be called ministry. We know that the true inward motion to speak often lies far beneath our first instinct to respond to an issue. So it is well to wait, to go deeper.*

*Yet Truth is quick, and the longer we have been experienced in waiting, the more quickly we can learn to recognize the true motion even in an instant, so that we can*

*respond to the Spirit's timing and not our own." William Taber, "Ministering in the Meeting for Business," Friends Journal, March 1988.*

### **37-16 Roll Call**

Present: Anneewakee Creek WG, Asheville MM, Atlanta MM, Berea MM, Birmingham MM, Boone MM, Brevard MM, Canton WG, Celo MM, Charleston MM, Columbia MM, Cookeville MM, Crossville MM, Foxfire MM, Greenville MM, Huntsville MM, Memphis MM, Nashville MM, Swannanoa Valley MM, West Knoxville MM

Not Present: Athens MM, Clemson WG, Crossville MM, Gwinnett PM, Murfreesboro WG, Oxford MM, Royal WG, Sevier Co. WG, Sewanee WG,

### **37-17 Introductions**

Paul Buckley: Earlham School of Religion Representative. Paul is a member of North Meadow Circle of Friends Monthly Meeting, OVYM. The clerk read a letter of introduction from ESR.

Peterson Toscano: The clerk read a traveling minute from Hartford Monthly Meeting regarding his gifts of communication, humor, compassion, and integrity, and his leading to travel in the ministry. This is certified by the quarterly meeting and the yearly meeting.

Jacqueline Stillwell: The clerk read a letter of introduction from FGC Traveling Ministries Program. A member of Monadnock Monthly Meeting (NEYM), she comes as an FGC yearly meeting visitor.

Howard and Paula Cell: Members of Germantown Monthly Meeting in Philadelphia, they are attending SAYMA on behalf of AFSC.

### **37-18 Announcements**

Warren Wilson College agrees to host our yearly meeting gathering from June 10-14 in 2009.

### **37-19 State of the Cookeville Friends Meeting**

A Friend read the Cookeville State of the Meeting report, their first as a monthly meeting. They spoke of the deepness of their worship, their third Quakerism 101 class, their work educating about alternatives to the military in the local high school, their weekly peace vigil, and their visits to the local Dismas house. The meeting has grown substantially in numbers and a 1<sup>st</sup> day school has been created. They spoke of how the ministry within meeting for worship has informed and inspired their work in the wider world.

### **37-20 Ministry and Nurture Report**

A member of Ministry Nurture shared their report. It is attached as Appendix C. Monthly Meetings please take note that State of the Meeting reports will be due before May 1<sup>st</sup> of 2008 in order to allow for time before the Yearly Meeting for the Ministry and Nurture committee to hold the meetings in the light.

The Released Friend Fund was established in order to support Friends with leadings that require financial support. Ministry and Nurture recommends that the

Released Friend and Spiritual Development Funds be combined in order to create a Spiritual Development and Witness Fund. Requests to be considered from the Fund would need to be made in writing to Ministry and Nurture.

Youth Quake Fund line item. The Ministry and Nurture committee recommends that this line item be renamed the Youth Spiritual Development and Witness Fund. The administration of this fund is yet to be determined.

There will be no action on these recommendations at this time pending input from Finance Committee, SAYF, and Young Adult Friends.

Action Item:

Nashville Monthly Meeting asks SAYMA to join them in welcoming Cookeville into the Yearly Meeting. **Friends approved and celebrated the affiliation of Cookeville Monthly Meeting into the Yearly Meeting.**

### **37-22 Nominations**

Kristi Estes was nominated to be Clerk for one additional year.  
Allen Robinson was nominated to be a representative to FLGBTQC.  
Allen Robinson was nominated to be on Faith and Practice Revision Committee.  
Kathleen Mavournin was nominated to be editor of Southern Appalachian Friend.  
Roy Taylor was nominated to continue as the Quaker Earthcare Representative.  
Gerry Rudolph was nominated to be the Quaker House Representative.  
Carol Nickle was nominated to be the Adult Program Coordinator.

**Friends Approved these nominations.**

Friends were reminded of the open positions.

### **37-23 Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report is attached as Appendix D.

There is a \$3,712.65 surplus at this time.

Friends should note that representatives to Wider Quaker Organizations may request reimbursements for travel.

A friend noted how blessed she was to be part of an organization where the Treasurer says "spend more money" and the Administrative Assistant says "give me more work."

A Friend also encouraged Friends that do spend money on behalf of the Yearly Meeting or provide in kind donations that do not require reimbursement to still record them and to send this information to the Treasurer.

Friends accepted this report.

### **37-24 AFSC Presentation – Howard Cell**

Howard Cell spoke about the work of the American Friends Service Committee. He spoke of the General Secretary's visit to Tehran, Iran, the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AFSC, and the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize to the Religious Society of Friends for their humanitarian work following World War II.

The June and July 2007 editions of *Friends Journal* contain several essays reflecting on the work of the AFSC.

The AFSC encourages Friends to join them in a renewed commitment to make the world a more just and peaceful place – locally, regionally, and globally. Friends may go to [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org) or apply to their monthly newsletter to learn how they can get involved in AFSC's work.

The speaker reminded Friends of the 4 million displaced Iraqi citizens who are refugees from the war. Two million have been able to leave the country, but of the two million still displaced within the country, 40-50,000 more are leaving every month.

### **37-25 Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) Presentation – Nancy Nothhelfer**

The representative from AVP USA, a member of Swannanoa Monthly Meeting, explained that AVP USA is one center of a global enterprise. AVP is in 40 countries and 40 states. AVP started in 1975 in Greenhaven Prison in New York. A group of inmates were concerned about the lower age of people getting into prison and wanted to do something for the youth. They contacted the local Friends Meeting for assistance and the Friends helped the prisoners create a program to assist them in learning nonviolence skills.

There are three phases to the AVP training: Basic, 2<sup>nd</sup> level, and Facilitator training. These are all 3-day experiential workshops. They take place in prisons, schools, and in the wider community.

AVP New York has also started creating programs for post-release prisoners.

AFSC created a prevention program for students called HIP: Help Increase the Peace using the AVP model.

AVP is also doing work globally in South Africa (2,000 workshops in one year), Australia, Britain, New Zealand, Bolivia, Cuba, and through the African Great Lakes initiative. The African Great Lakes initiative has been in progress for years – trying to heal the rifts still present post-genocide. Over 1400 community judges in Rwanda have been trained by AVP. AVP has also been working with mixed groups of genocide survivors and genocide perpetrators.

### **37-26 Finance Committee**

The finance clerk reminded us that what we do with our money embodies part of who we are as a community.

One of the proposed changes from the 2007 to the 2008 budget relates to the Released Friend Fund. Finance Committee proposes to increase the amount of money in the Released Friend Fund to more rapidly build the Fund to be able to support a Friend to be released in the work. They have proposed to increase the funding from \$200 to \$700 a year. The Finance Committee also encourages Friends to make contributions directly to that fund.

The Finance Committee does not see an administrative issue with the Ministry and Nurture committee's recommendation to combine the Release Friend and Spiritual Development Funds, but is concerned with the merger since there are two specific purposes for the different funds.

The Personnel Committee has submitted an increase to the salaries of SAYMA personnel to reflect Cost of Living Allowances and one merit increase.



The Finance Committee is not seeking to change the line item that funds travel for representatives to Wider Quaker Organizations.

The final SAYMA 2008 budget will be addressed for approval in September of 2007.

### **37-27 Faith and Practice**

Friends approved the reading of the minute 37-14 from yesterday as regards the Faith and Practice revisions.

Friends noted there is still confusion regarding the clear procedure for seasoning the minute from Swannanoa Valley.

### **37-28 Epistle Committee**

Sally MacEwen and Jennifer Snow Wolf agreed to be on the Epistle Committee. Free Palazo asked to be excused from the committee.

Friends Approved.

## **Saturday, June 9, 2007**

### **37-29 Welcome**

The clerk spoke of how God gives us so many gifts and how God often uses us as gifts. You may not want to say that you are God's gift to us, but there's something in you that is God's gift to us. Each part of our agenda is an opportunity to receive such gifts. When the Faith and Practice committee brings its work to us, gives it and lets go, we are thankful. I ask us not to challenge another's gift when it is brought to us in the Light, but to accept it in the Spirit in which it's been given. Not all gifts are ready to be used, but we are still called to listen and discern.

### **37-30 Introductions**

No new introductions.

### **37-31 Roll Call**

In addition to the previous attenders, Canton WG and Gwinnett Preparative Meeting were present today.

### **37-32 Reading - Memphis Friends Meeting State of the Meeting Report**

Memphis wrote of the life of the Spirit in their community and how, though they falter at times, things bloom. The meeting has nurtured a prayer study group, a monthly midweek worship group, and a first day school for preschoolers and young friends. The Meeting is experiencing a deepening of the spiritual walk of individuals and a rich participation of its members in social justice and other spirit-led concerns. They are seeing a deepening of their roots and are thankful for that.

### **37-33 Nominations**

Recording Clerk – Bill Holland, Atlanta

Assistant Treasurer – Deanna Nipp-Kuntz, Cookeville

Finance Committee – Kendall Ivy, West Knoxville and Carol Lamb, Berea  
Ministry and Nurture – Jane Goldthwaith, Celso  
SAYF Steering Committee – Dick Houghton, Nashville  
Faith and Practice Revision Committee – Edie Patrick, Foxfire  
Jonathon Shoenhofen, Berea  
Co-Clerk SAYF Steering Committee – Cathy Watkins, Athens

Friends Approved these Nominations

### **37-34 Finance**

The yearly meeting clerk spoke of how concerns that are not resolved regarding procedure will be addressed by the Clerk’s Committee before the next Representative Meeting in order to allow seasoning to take place. [*Clerk’s comment – This is concerning clarifying procedures that relate to the timing of Budget approval, as well as how best to consider specific rising concerns such as Swannanoa Valley MM’s concern about their minute on legal marriage.*]

The Finance Committee reported that it has developed a standardized form in order to request reimbursements from SAYMA. The form will be available on-line and is available now through contacting the Treasurer.

The preliminary budget was presented for a second reading.

The clerk of finance reminded us that money is surplus labor. It’s important for us to think of how we look at how we use this form of stored energy and to keep this query in mind as we look at our budget: “Is this how we want to spend our energy?”

The preliminary budget was approved.

Friends expressed their thanks for the clerk of Finance and his faithfulness in his work.

### **Friends approved.**

### **37-35 Faith and Practice**

The yearly meeting clerk asked Friends to discern while listening to the Faith and Practice proposed revisions what is a flower that is ready to bloom and what needs more tending or waiting.

Proposed changes were presented as in **Appendix B**.

37-35a: Proposed in “Becoming a Preparative Meeting”:

A. Editing and combining sentences in order to create more simplicity and flow without changing meaning.

B. Added sentence: “queries for prospective monthly meetings are in the query section of this Guide; it can be helpful for the preparative meeting and the overseeing meeting to consider these together.”

C. Change: “closest monthly meeting” was changed to “an existing SAYMA monthly meeting, usually the same one that cared for it as a worship group.”

Friends approved changes to this section as proposed.

**37-35b: “Becoming a Monthly Meeting”**

A. Bottom sentence was moved into 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph and modified to read “Both groups have found it helpful at this stage to consider together the queries for prospective monthly meetings found in the query section of this Guide.”

B. Edit: “After approval a date for a formal celebration of affiliation is set for a time when SAYMA representatives will be able to attend.”

C. Clarification of practice: “If the meeting approves, the preparative meeting will be notified by letter of its new status as a monthly meeting.” [The monthly meeting certifies a new monthly Meeting, and affiliation with the yearly meeting comes after that.]

Friends approved these changes as proposed.

**37-35c:** This testimony on Integrity is newly presented for inclusion in SAYMA Faith and Practice.

A Friend spoke of his sense that the work was excellent.

A Friend proposed eliminating the phrase “and other degrading practices” within the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph and including the word “for” in front of “their opposition.” One Friend proposed the change of the word “equality” for the word “diversity” as describes marriage. There were other changes offered.

The proposed new sentence is: “Currently, SAYMA Friends risk harsh criticism and loss of income for their activities for social and racial justice, for marriage equality (or equality in marriage or diversity in marriage or equality for sexual orientations in marriage), and for their opposition to war, violence, torture (or not torture), and patriarchy.”

Another Friend proposed a change in the last sentence to read “...Friends depend upon one another as we seek integrity” (replacing “discern together the meaning of” with “seek” or with “in finding and living out this testimony in our lives.”)

**Friends approved** the inclusion of this testimony in SAYMA Faith and Practice, asking the revision committee to consider the concerns raised and to make final changes to those two sentences as led.

**37-35d:** Simplicity

A. Change the words “has required” in the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph to “has led”

B. Change “...the inner light leads to a removal...” to “...the inner light calls for recognition and removal....”

**Friends approved these revisions as minuted.**

### **37-36 Right Sharing of World Resources Presentation – Jackie Speicher**

The presenter spoke of her gratitude of working for this organization. RSWR is a micro-enterprise Friends organization with a 40-year history of helping people in developing countries create better lives for themselves. Reaching 1000 women and men a year in countries all over the world – from India to Sierra Leone to the Philippines – it enables people to be able to improve the lifestyles of their families.

The work of RSWR makes a difference on the levels of malnutrition, self-esteem, education, spousal abuse and financial stability within the families it serves. In one case study where Dalit women in India were given microenterprise loans from RSWR, they were invited for the first time to political decision making meetings and to social functions that were inter-caste.

All RSWR projects are required to be organic and local, and many of the women and men participating are now engaged in teaching the skills that they have learned to their neighbors.

The first mission of RSWR is to address the burdens of poverty in the developing world. The second mission is to address the burden of affluence in the developed world. RSWR offers resources and programs for Friends and Meetings on how to live more simply and to better assist people in the developing world.

### **37-37 Rural Southern Voice for Peace (RSVP) - Herb Walters**

The primary work of RSVP is the Listening Project. Deeply connected within Friends practices, the Listening Project works to create spaces within difficult situations (i.e. drug abuse, welfare reform, war, and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina) for there to be deep listening. The Gulf Coast Listening project, involving Columbia Friends Meeting, Birmingham Friends Meeting, the Atlanta Institute for Survival and Beyond, and New Orleans Friends Meeting, helped give voice to the people affected by Hurricane Katrina. The Listening Project empowered evacuees to come together and raise key issues within the wider public and media.

The Listening Project is working with other organizations to create leaders in the facilitated dialogue process – especially as concern the issues of race and inequality within our society.

The other project of RSVP is the Christian Stewardship Project, addressing the care for the environment. RSVP is working to train groups in three counties to interview leaders in evangelical and conservative churches and assist them in exploring: 1) what their churches barriers are to engaging in Earth Care, and 2) how their congregation is led to care for the Earth at this point. RSVP sees this as a model that they would like to see happening in other parts of the country.

The website is: [www.listeningproject.org](http://www.listeningproject.org).

### **37-38 Electronic Communications Committee Report.**

The SAYMA clerk read the ECC report regarding the SAYMA listserv. It is be attached in Appendix C.

Proposed Procedures:

“Expressions of disagreements posted on the listserv are always appropriate if the words and “tone” of expression are in line with the Yearly Meeting’s listserv guidelines. [ see guidelines for SAYMA’s listserv below] If any member of the listserv finds that a post seems substantially to violate the guidelines, she/he may ask the listserv administrator (who is always, until further notice, the SAYMA Administrative Assistant) to post the guidelines on the listserv as a reminder for all subscribers without indicating it for any particular individual(s). No one should individually send a copy of the guidelines to any others’ individual email boxes. We believe that, in most cases of inappropriate postings, the situation will be resolved when everyone is simply reminded of, and thinks about, the guidelines.”

“If anyone finds that the guidelines reminder has not stopped inappropriate postings, he/she can directly request the Ministry and Council committee of the Monthly Meeting with which the person of concern is affiliated to provide Friendly eldering with that person. SAYMA’s Administrative Assistant can help facilitate the process by providing contact information about individuals.”

“If the above interventions have all been done and a problem still persists, the problem should be brought to the attention of SAYMA’s Ministry Nurture Committee for them to respond as they are led.”

These proposed procedures and the proposed laying down of the committee will be discussed tomorrow.

### **37-39 Ecological Concerns Network/ Quaker Earthcare Witness Report**

Roy Taylor, the SAYMA representative to QEW and co-clerk of ECN reported. He spoke of how the RSoF as a whole has become more aware of Earthcare concerns due to the needs of this time. ECN is continuing to try to establish relationships with each of the monthly meetings. ECN seeks a contact person within each SAYMA monthly meeting to both hold ECN’s concerns in the light and to bring them to light.

QEW is seeking to provide more resources to monthly meetings and is considering creating QEW regions in order to look at regional aspects of Earthcare concerns. One proposed region would connect SAYMA with Southeast Yearly Meeting, South Central Yearly Meeting, and Piedmont Friends Fellowship. The next QEW retreat in planning is in the fall of 2008 within the Metro Atlanta area. Friends are invited to discern how they might be led to participate.

### **37-40 Announcements**

Julia Sibley-Jones is no longer going to be SAYMA’s FGC representative since she has taken a position as FGC’s major gifts and planned giving manager. Julia encouraged Friends to consider being one of SAYMA’s representatives to FGC since it can be a personally transformative experience.

Mary Anne Downey was introduced as a member of the board of Friends Journal.

## **Sunday, June 10, 2007**

### **37-41 Welcome**

“The moving finger of God upon human history points ever in the same direction. There must be community.” Howard Thurman, *Spiritual Literacy*, page 471

### **37-42 Reading**

The clerk read the epistle from Denmark’s 128th Yearly Meeting.

### **37-43 Nominations**

Finance Committee Clerk – Susan Phelan, Hunstville  
FNCL Representative – Charlie Wilton, Berea  
Finance Committee Member – LeeAnn Swarm, West Knoxville  
Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Clerk – Barbara Esther, Asheville  
Faith and Practice Revision Committee - Ted Edgerton, Boone  
Workshop Coordinator - John Potter, Nashville  
Worship Coordinator – Chris Berg, Greenville  
Peace and Social Concerns Committee -- Joan Barnett, West Knoxville  
FGC representative – Joan Barnett, West Knoxville  
Ecological Concerns Network Co-Clerk -- Carol Ciscel, Memphis  
Ministry and Nurture Committee -- Margaret Farmer  
AFSC Corporation – Charles Shea, Charleston  
FGC Representative – Kristi Estes, Memphis  
Ministry and Nurture Clerk – Bob McGahey, Celo will extend one year into 2008.

Friends approved these nominations.

### **37-44 Naming Committee**

Naming Committee recommended Megan Potter from Nashville Monthly Meeting and Erica Phelps from West Knoxville Meeting to SAYMA Nominating Committee.

Friends Approved.

### **37-45 Electronic Communications Committee Report**

The clerk re-read the proposed procedure for responses to expressions of disagreement on the listserv that are not in accordance with SAYMA guidelines. See minute 37-38 for the text of this procedure.

A Friend shared a concern that specifying what the monthly meeting was to do when this situation arises could be restrictive. The Friend recommended that the first sentence of the second paragraph of the procedure be re-written to read: “If anyone finds that the guidelines reminder has not stopped inappropriate postings, he/she can communicate with the monthly meeting and ask them to sit with the Friend of concern.”

With this correction, Friends approved.

Friends approved the laying down of the Electronic Communications Committee with gratitude.

### **37-47 Roll Call**

There were no additions to the previously listed attendees.

### **37-48 Epistles**

**Junior Yearly Meeting Epistles:** JYM reported that there are many, many things that they have been nourished by: the children within JYM, the volunteers that supported the program, and the parents that have contributed to building this community this weekend. The coordinators spoke of how they believe that JYM has really taken flight this year – with the younger friends doing everything from helping prepare for the weekend to creating the weekend’s rules.

Young Friends spoke and shared about how they enjoyed their time together with their friends and how they really enjoyed the rope bridge and learning how to balance rocks on end. The brought a mural reflecting their roots and fruits to share with Friends.

A coordinator shared that one source of joy for her was to see the big kids of JYM take such loving and tender care of the toddlers throughout their time together. She said, “There are challenges of having children of different ages, but the community is wonderful. In the intergenerational games, it is wonderful to see the teenagers include the elementary school students.”

The JYM closed by singing a song about worms in honor of the Right Sharing of World Resources worm project.

**37-49 South Appalachian Young Friends Epistle:** Young Friends gave a presentation of what they’ve been doing throughout the year, including yearly meeting. They said that the style of their presentation was influenced by Peterson Toscano and his identity monologues. Their report is attached in **Appendix F**. Please read every paragraph with a different accent (Southern, Italian, Scottish, Jewish, French, BBC) and incorporate finger snaps in-between in order to get the full experience.

### **37-50 Young Adult Friends Epistle:**

The Young Adult Friends epistle is attached as **Appendix F**

### **37-51 Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association Epistle**

The proposed epistle was presented by the Epistle committee. Friends expressed thanks to the Epistle Committee: Sharon Annis, Sally McEwen, Joel Shimberg, and Jennifer Snow Wolff, for their faithfulness. Discussion led to some changes and the approved version is attached as **Appendix F**.

### **37-52 Registrar’s Report**

The registrar reported that there were 247 participants in yearly meeting - 179 adults, 68 children (46 SAYFers and 22 in Junior Yearly Meeting.) There was \$914 contributed for scholarships, and \$1497.50 in scholarships granted. The Registrar gives thanks for Friends’ patience at the Registrar’s table.

### **37-53 Minute of Thanks to Warren Wilson**

The clerk will compose a letter of thanks to Warren Wilson College. Friends approved.

### **37-54 Words of Thanks for Penelope Wright.**

The Meeting moved into worship, invited to speak words of gratitude for the service of Penelope Wright, who is moving from Nashville, TN to Vermont. This will be composed into a letter of thanks by the recording clerk and clerk.

“Penelope has been an unintentional spiritual mentor to me since I first came to SAYMA. She had gone to School of the Spirit, and I had felt a pull to that myself. I was always able to talk to her, and she always listened. When my own clearness committee was formed, and they asked what outside support I had, Penelope’s name came to me. When I returned from my first residency with the School, she emailed me. She remembered that I had gone and returned and wanted me to tell her everything about it. I wrote her a book, and it was a very short time until she responded. I will not say goodbye because I know we will be crossing paths and I will continue to have her support.” – Ceal Wutka, Atlanta Friends Meeting

“As I sat in worship today, there was a point during our meeting where I was strongly aware of the Holy Spirit gathering in this room, and it was as the young people were congregating to give their epistles before they started to speak. Years ago there was a time in this yearly meeting where the future of the SAYF program was in question. I want to thank Penny for the love and the deep support she gave that program. I had a sense right before all of those young people got up to spoke that we are a Gathered People. Without her work, we would not be.” -- Margaret Farmer, Asheville Monthly Meeting

“By her witness here, Penelope has modeled for me the discipline it takes to make a gift into an offering.” Chris Berg, Greenville

“I never really had a mentor before Penny. I didn’t know she was until we were pretty far into it, and I never really had spiritual friends before this year, and now I’m finding many and Penny is one of them. Penny and I used to ride together to Faith and Practice Meetings. She was growing spiritually and I was growing spiritually, and we shared a particular burst of that. She was the one who said, ‘Would you think about being assistant clerk?’ ‘I said, I’m hardly a yearly meeting Friend.’ She didn’t stop with that. She asked me again. God uses Penelope to call me.” – Kristi Estes, Memphis Friends Meeting

“When I was clerk of Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, I would have been very hesitant on taking on that position if it hadn’t been for Penelope being the Adult Program Coordinator. She brought to that position wisdom and creativity in all the decisions we had to make. After that, Penelope became clerk of Yearly Meeting and set high standards in clerking it in the manner of a Meeting for Worship. I think we owe her a lot for those contributions.” – Tim Lamm, Berea Friends Meeting

“There are two things I’d like to thank Penelope for. First, for her example as clerk, which I think has been seen not only in yearly meeting but I know in monthly meetings as well as people who’ve been here have watched her and gone back to their



monthly meeting, having learned better how to be a clerk. Secondly, for her example of holding a meeting for business and meeting for worship in the Light and making it a place of worship. I see her from this table holding the meeting in the Light, and I see how she has taught and helped other people do that. I see Julia Sibley-Jones and other members doing that here, and I think her example has sparked that in other individuals.”  
– Sallie Prugh, Columbia friends

“Thank you, thank you, bless you, thank you, thank you, bless you,” – song shared by Connie LaMonte, Birmingham

“I was introduced to Penny through somebody who we knew in Cookeville who spoke simply. I was so blessed to live with her and Peter through graduate school and learn more about living simply. She’s taught me about community and about participation in community and how important that is as Quakers. I also have seen the house plans for the house in Vermont, and I know there’s a spare bedroom. I know we will all eventually find out how to find the key. I am so blessed that we have known her and will continue to know her as a part of our community. Our doors will be open to her as hers will continue to be open to us.” Lissa West Friedman, Cookeville Monthly Meeting

“As a member of SAYMA’s Ministry and Nurture Committee, I express gratitude that Penelope has chosen to use her gifts and her seasonings in all the different flavors and forms to work with us on that committee and to add a depth of experience and commitment of that work – particularly for doing the hard work of recording clerk with us. I am so thankful for her personally for accompanying me on part of my journey in ways that were very, very supportive. I am thankful for the question, “Have you been faithful” being the primary question and her commitment to her own on-going Spiritual journey. I’m grateful to Spirit for whom it all comes.” – Judy Guerry, Huntsville

“I am so thankful for Penelope - for all the work she’s done to take the blinders from over her eyes....She’s taken the harder path. Out of that choosing I have been so blessed. She was one of the first persons who when I moved to Nashville chose to really see me, not for my age or gender. She has taught me more of what faithfulness means – too sit with me, to hold me in the light, to hold me in love.” - -Christina, VanRegenmorter, Nashville

Penelope’s response from the worship: “Tim spoke of an owing on your part, and I want to reassure you that the balance sheet is balanced. If any part of how God has used me has been of benefit to you, it wouldn’t have been possible without you. You have nurtured me. You have held me accountable, for which I am inordinately grateful. You have given me a most incredible school of the Spirit that has ushered me along the way – places for testing, places for service, places for love. Many people have said to me, ‘What will SAYMA do without you?’ SAYMA will thrive whether I am there or not, and I will too have thrived for having had the opportunity and the blessings of being among you for many years – from baby Quakerdom to adolescent and maybe even growing up to be an adult.”

**[ The above minute was not officially approved as we continued directly into an open Meeting for Worship and closed. The quotes were reviewed by most of the speakers for accuracy. Approval will be brought before the next Representative Meeting]**

Appendices Attached

A: Attenders List (*print distribution only*)

B: Faith and Practice proposed revisions

C: Committee Reports

D: Financial Reports

E: Representatives Reports

F: Epistles

G: State of the Meeting Reports

H: Nominating Committee Report and Complete Roster of Officers and Committees

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Kristi Estes, Clerk

*(Archive copy signed)*

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Christina VanRegenmorter, Recording Clerk

*(Archive copy signed)*

## Appendix B: Faith and Practice Proposed Revisions

June 7, 2007

Dear SAYMA Friends,

The committee to revise Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association's (SAYMA) Guide to our Faith and our Practice will present the following proposed revisions for approval at the yearly meeting to be held from June 7<sup>th</sup> thru June 10<sup>th</sup> 2007 at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, North Carolina. These recommendations have been sent to all SAYMA's monthly meetings, preparative meetings and worship groups in early March, 2007. These recommendations are revisions of what was sent out in August of 2006 to the constituent meetings of SAYMA. The committee incorporated the minuted recommendations from over half of the monthly meetings in SAYMA that responded to that mailing. Thank you Friends.

From Part III, "Proceeding in the Life of the Spirit", we present new text for the sections on **Becoming a Preparative Meeting** and **Becoming a Monthly Meeting** that conform to the text approved for the "Becoming Worship Group" section at Yearly Meeting in 2006. We **revised the sample marriage certificate** in the Procedure for Marriage section to reflect the option of either same sex or different sex marriage as is already stated in the rest of the marriage section.

From Part IV, "Testifying to the Life of the Spirit" we are offer a **new section on Integrity, revision** to the section on **The Meeting Community (renamed "Community")** and a **revision** to the section on **Government**. We decided not to recommend changes to the section on Sexuality, as so many meetings liked what we already had.

We are also resubmitting the testimony of **Simplicity** that was not presented to the Yearly Meeting business session last year, so that all the items which still need to be approved by the YM that are outstanding can be seen in one place.

There are three sections that we have **NOT SUBMITTED** that were reviewed by SAYMA's monthly meetings last year. These are the section on **Education** and the section on **Nurture of Children** and the section on **Equality**. They will be submitted to the Yearly Meeting in 2008.

During the Faith and Practice revision Committee meeting number 19, held in February 2006, the committee approved the following minute to help clarify Part IV, **Testifying to the Life of the Spirit**, so that the more traditional testimonies would be grouped together under the heading of **Traditional Quaker Testimonies** and the balance of the sections would be included in this chapter under the category "**Areas of Strong Witness in our Daily Life**":

**We will ask the Yearly Meeting to approve this, as well.**

*Minute #18* "We approve the following for printing in the revised guide; Part IV, Testifying to the Life of the Spirit: Title, Introduction, Traditional Quaker Testimonies: Integrity, Peace, Simplicity, Equality, Community; and other Areas of Strong Witness in Our Daily Life: Government, Children, Education, Sexuality."

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Free Polazzo*

On behalf of the SAYMA Faith and Practice Revision Committee:

Barbara Esther, Recording Co-Clerk, Asheville Friends Meeting  
Kathleen Mavournin, Editor, West Knoxville Friends Meeting  
Missy Ivie, West Knoxville Friends Meeting  
Geeta McGahey, Recording Co-Clerk Celo Friends Meeting  
Melissa Meyer, Boone Friends Meeting  
Free Polazzo, Clerk, Anneewakee Creek Friends Worship Group, Atlanta Friends Meeting

[There was no original text for the Integrity testimony.]

[Proposed new text]      **INTEGRITY**

*"Swear not at all... let your 'yes' be 'yes' and your 'no' be 'no.'"*  
(Matthew 5:34, 37)

*"If our inward leading is to be "doers of the truth", then integrity needs to be at the center of our being, at the center of our consciousness, and at the center of our outward witness."      Wilmer Cooper, "The Testimony of Integrity"; 1991*

Integrity means wholeness. For Friends, this wholeness is rooted in Truth and available to those willing to open every aspect of life to that transforming influence. One of the original names of Quakers, "Friends of Truth", implies Friends' understanding that the light of Truth reaches into every corner of our lives. These private understandings through corporate discernment were and are later affirmed by the collective wisdom of the meeting community. Integrity remains central to the public and personal witness of Friends and speaks of our willingness to seek and respond to divine guidance in all activities.

Integrity requires consistency of action and straightforward, honest speech. "Do all aspects of your life bear the same witness?" is a modern query, yet reflects an approach harkening back to the earliest years of the

Religious Society of Friends. From the beginning, Friends have sought a unity in their private way of acting, their public stance and their relation to the natural world, seeking to live under divine guidance.

Integrity requires a willingness to live a life that testifies to the divine reality, even in harsh, threatening, and uncomfortable situations.

Historically, Friends commitment to integrity led to imprisonment for refusal to swear oaths and to ostracism for refusing to say "sir" or "madam" or doff one's hat to those who thought themselves deserving of these honors, even parents. Currently, SAYMA Friends risk harsh criticism and loss of income for their activities for social and racial justice, diversity in marriage and their opposition to war, violence, patriarchy and other degrading practices.

Integrity for Friends is grounded in relationship to Spirit as Ultimate Reality, which is larger than our egos. The testimony of integrity is not simply telling the truth; it is speaking and acting in and from the divine in each situation. It means awakening to God as the center of one's life rather than being dominated by one's desires, anxieties, vanities, possessions or the esteem of others. Never perfect, but learning from our mistakes, Friends depend upon one another as we discern together the meaning of integrity.

[Original text] **Simplicity**

*Simplicity frees one of the clutter that interferes with communion with God.*

Martin Cobin, **The Value System of Friends**, Southern Appalachian Association of Friends, Crossville, Tennessee (May 1-3, 1970)

To the earliest Friends, simplicity meant freeing oneself of all that was unnecessary and worldly. Just as all ritual, program, and clerical functions were seen as a hindrance to worship, so elaborate and insincere speech, as well as ornamentation of dress, were seen as distractions to the right ordering of life. Adding an economic reason for simplicity, William Penn said that "the very trimmings of the vain would clothe all the naked ones."

Simplicity leads us to be honest and straightforward in mind, tongue, and heart. It can assist Friends in focusing on the essentials of life, in being open spiritually, and in following the path of love. For some Friends, this commitment has required a radical break with the conventional way of life in our materialistic age. For all of us, seeking the inner light leads to a removal of distractions and an ordering of priorities so that we may be more open to leadings of the Spirit.

Simplicity need not mean stark denial but can create joy and beauty in our lives. In use of time, habits of consumption, sharing of world resources, and indeed every

aspect of daily life, simplicity is central for us because it both mirrors and deepens spiritual centeredness.

[Proposed revision] **SIMPLICITY**

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consumption, sharing of world resources, and indeed every aspect of daily life, simplicity is central for us because it both mirrors and deepens spiritual centeredness.

[Original text] **Equality**

*There is a principle which is pure, placed in the human mind, which in different places and ages hath had different names. it is, however, pure and proceeds from God. It is deep and inward, confined to no forms of religion nor excluded from any where the heart stands in perfect sincerity. In whomsoever this takes root and grows, of what nation soever, they become [brothers and sisters] in the best sense.*

John Woolman, "Considerations on Keeping Negroes," **Works** (1774)

Friends believe that all people have the capacity to bear and respond to the Light and that all forms of human relations should reflect this spiritual truth. Deeply concerned that every individual, as a beloved child of God, be respected and afforded equal access to social opportunities, Friends believe that we are called to work toward an end to prejudice and oppression.

Each of us has God-given gifts that express themselves in different ways. Friends believe that the way in which God's gifts are realized may be shaped by the world in which we live. Our ability to both bear and respond to the Light can be affected by social prejudices that dim awareness of God's leadings.

A commitment to equality, the first of Friends social testimonies, led early Friends to affirm that no person is superior to another because of birth, wealth, or formal

education. They rejected the use of honorific titles, provided expanded leadership roles for women in their communities, and eschewed "hat honor", removing one's hat as a sign of deference. They retained the traditional "thee" and "thou" to avoid the emerging seventeenth century usage of granting an undue distinction to an individual with a plural "you". Modern Friends have expanded our awareness of what equality demands, in its continued application in our daily lives.

[Proposed revision] **EQUALITY**

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Friends believe that all people have the capacity to bear and respond to the Light and that all forms of human relations should reflect this spiritual truth. Each of us has God-given gifts. Each of us can grow in tenderness. Our differences provide openings that allow God's grace to shine through us in unique ways.

A commitment to equality, the earliest of Friends' social testimonies, was partly an assault on pride. In keeping with the teaching of the New Testament, early Friends held the radical belief that God could speak to every person, regardless of gender, race, class, age, or formal education. This led Friends to eliminate behaviors that granted superiority based on social status or wealth. They rejected the use of honorific titles, provided expanded leadership roles for women in their communities, and eschewed "hat honor," removing one's hat as a sign of deference. They

retained the traditional "thee" and "thou" to avoid the emerging seventeenth century usage of granting an undue distinction to an upper-class individual with a plural "you." For these beliefs, they sometimes paid with their property, and sometimes with their lives.

Our ability to both bear and respond to the Light can be affected by social prejudices that dim awareness of God's leadings. Friends believe that we are called to work to end to prejudice and oppression.

Modern Friends have wrestled with our awareness of what equality demands in its continued application in our daily lives. In order for individuals to follow their leadings, and exercise their God-given gifts, social and physical barriers often must be broken down. In the last two centuries, many Friends have worked and are working toward honoring and expanding the rights of women and people of color.

In seeking to apply this testimony, Friends have often been in the forefront of social change. Recognition of inherent worth in all people despite individual or group differences has often caused Friends to live and act contrary to accepted societal norms, rejecting stereotyping, discrimination, and artificial barriers that separate people from one another. Equality has been the foundation of Friends approach to each other and the world.



[Proposed revision] **EQUALITY** continued

We believe all are equally empowered by God and encourage all to speak for themselves, expressing their own experiences and goals. We must speak the truth to others as it is revealed to us, and we must listen for truth that is in them, lest we miss it. Understanding other's perspectives can change us and inform the actions we take to work toward equality. In our continuing spiritual search, we are open to revising our approach to social change as new insights arise.

We seek a world free of oppression, where laws and customs foster human dignity. We encourage all people to realize their full potential as human beings bearing the light of God.

[Original text] **The Meeting Community**

*As many candles, lighted and put in one place, do greatly augment the light, and make it more to shine forth, so when many are gathered together in the same life there is more of the glory of God. Robert Barclay (1678)*

Friends are bound together in community by a continual process of common seeking and experience of the Light within. The community provides spiritual and emotional nurture. It also stimulates our thinking and challenges us to put into practice our convictions. In the meeting, we share fundamental ideals and values, and the meeting affirms and inspires us.

Within this fellowship, divergent leadings are often present. Friends seek a balance between the needs of the individual and those of the group. Open recognition of and respect for differences, forthright sharing, and sincere reflection can lead individuals to new insight and strengthen the meeting as a whole. It is possible to resolve differences either directly by the individuals involved or with the meeting's assistance. Unity emerges not only from agreement but also from a common search for the truth conducted in a spirit of loving concern.

Friends strive to be sensitive to others' spiritual and material needs. Both requesting and giving assistance are essential aspects of Friends' life together, and taking a

warm, personal interest in one another's welfare strengthens the meeting and the individuals alike. Friends also provide spiritual support by holding in the Light those experiencing special hardship or joy. In mutual service and support, we express our love for God and reflect God's gifts to us.

[Proposed Revision] **COMMUNITY**

*"As many candles, lighted and put in one place, do greatly augment the light, and make it more to shine forth, so when many are gathered together in the same life there is more of the glory of God." Robert Barclay (1678)*

*"When we focus on our oneness and unity in the Love that is God, it's tempting to believe that we will all live happily ever after together, with never an unkind word or misunderstanding, much less legitimate complaints, anger or real nastiness. The challenge of course is to hold up and live out the vision while acknowledging and accepting the reality of our own flawed humanity and that of those we live with." Patricia Loring, Listening Spirituality: Corporate Practice Among Friends, p. 37*

Friends of all ages are bound together in community by our shared seeking of the Light. Our life together provides an opportunity to listen more deeply and to look more truthfully at how we live in the world. The meeting community affirms, inspires, and holds us accountable in our faithfulness to God's leadings.

Open recognition of and respect for differences, forthright sharing, and sincere corporate reflection, can lead to new insights and strengthen the meeting as a whole. Unresolved conflicts damage community. Friends should be encouraged to resolve conflicts in a direct loving manner. Help may be sought from or offered by the meeting or other resources. Harmony emerges not merely from coming

to understanding and resolution but also from the mutual search for the truth conducted in a spirit of tender listening and care. Unity is not sameness of belief, but the oneness of people drawn together in love and concern for each other, grounded in the Spirit.

Ministering to each other's spiritual and material needs builds and strengthens community. Both requesting and giving assistance are essential aspects of Friends' life together, and taking a warm, personal

[Original text] **The Meeting Community** continued

All forms of sharing - spiritual, economic, domestic, co-operative service - enhance meeting unity. These experiences within the meeting enable Friends to envision new possibilities for community living and suggest practical ways to build community beyond the meeting.

Yearly meetings and other gatherings are opportunities for Friends from different areas to nurture spiritual growth and fellowship. The scattered company of SAYMA seeks to build the living community of the Spirit.

[Proposed Revision] **COMMUNITY** continued

interest in one another's welfare strengthens the meeting and the individuals alike. Friends also provide spiritual support by holding in the Light those experiencing special hardship or joy. When we join in service and support, whether in our home communities, the wider community or the world, we are expressing our love for God and one another.

Friends seek to ground and learn to practice their testimony on community first in their Monthly Meeting and then in wider Quaker connections. Yearly Meeting sessions and committee work, inter-meeting visitation, regional gatherings and visiting other monthly and yearly meetings are opportunities for Friends to find nurture, spiritual growth and fellowship. The widely scattered SAYMA family seeks to build a living community of the Spirit.

The interconnectedness of all life has called and continues to call Friends to serve the broader community. Understanding of God's love does not stop at the meetinghouse door. Friends strive to build the blessed community everywhere they go. Peace, equality, integrity, simplicity and community mean little unless they are practiced in relation to all others.

[Original text] **Government**

*The power and dominion of the conscience are the province of God, [who] alone can properly instruct and govern it. No one whatsoever may lawfully force the conscience of others regardless of the authority or office he [or she] bears in the government of this world.*  
Robert Barclay, **Apology** (1676)

American government, endorsing the principles of equality, freedom, and justice, emerged from an intellectual and political climate influenced significantly by Friends. Today, though governmental policies and decisions often pose difficult problems for Friends, we affirm our corporate and individual commitment to influence governmental actions through thoughtful witness or considered resistance.

Conscientious Friends take this commitment in various directions: some work within government, some work to influence public officials or actions, some withdraw from participation, some resist or oppose government claims.

Recognizing that the exercise of authority intensifies the spiritual struggle for those who work within government, we seek unity in the Truth with those we want to influence and believe that this unity may be reached if we remain faithful in our witness. As human beings, all of us sometimes find compromise expedient, even necessary; but the decisions of government officials affect far more lives

than their own. We therefore seek to encourage and call them to the standard of Truth in their actions.

Friends often are led to withhold their assent from harmful governmental policies and to work to change them through individual action, meeting action, and support for the Friends Committee on

[Proposed revision] **GOVERNMENT**

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Some Friends are led to withhold their assent or resist harmful governmental policies and many work to change them through individual or meeting action or support for Wider Quaker Organizations. Individual Friends often communicate with governmental representatives to encourage positive legislation and support candidates who uphold the values expressed in Quaker testimonies.

Recognizing that the responsibilities of authority sometimes create spiritual dilemmas for those in government, we seek unity in Truth with those we want to influence and believe that this unity may be reached if we

remain faithful in our witness. We therefore seek to encourage government officials to listen actively to a diversity of voices and negotiate to find mutually helpful solutions. As human beings, all of us sometimes find compromise expedient, even necessary; but the decisions of government officials affect far more lives than their own. We therefore seek to encourage them and call

[Original text] **Government** continued

National Legislation. Many Friends communicate frequently with governmental representatives to encourage their support for positive legislation, and many work to elect candidates who hold positions acceptable to Friends.

As a body, the Religious Society of Friends has never recognized the claims of government as absolutes, for we seek to live the truth beyond human institutions. Friends traditionally have refrained from swearing oaths - instead, we affirm the truth. We encourage mediation and negotiation rather than litigation to resolve disputes. Friends have supported conscientious objection to military service. Individual Friends have felt it right, under the leadings of the Spirit, to develop these positions and have challenged the corporate body of Friends to consider new testimonies, such as resisting war taxation and noncooperation with certain governmental policies. In such cases, Friends' steadfast and faithful witness has an influence that often transcends its initial effect.

While we work to see our principles reflected in governmental decisions and actions, we realize that government even at its best can only provide a framework to foster justice, peace, and respect for human differences. These ideals become reality only when

individuals, under the conviction of love, daily live the life of the peaceable kingdom.

[Proposed revision] **GOVERNMENT** continued

them to the standard of Truth in their actions.

When Friends discern discordance between conscience and governmental action, we are called to act on behalf of justice and peace, even when that means questioning or disobeying worldly government. Historically, when conscience has demanded it, Friends have often opposed governmental authority. From refusing to swear an oath in a court of law to hiding people escaped from slavery in our homes to providing sanctuary to undocumented immigrants, Friends have a long tradition of civil disobedience.

We encourage mediation and negotiation to resolve disputes. Friends support conscientious objection to military service. Individual Friends under the leadings of the Spirit have challenged the corporate body of Friends to consider witnesses such as war tax resistance and opposition to patriarchy, as well as support for marriage equality and fair immigration policies. Friends also support the making of decisions on reproduction and family planning by individuals, based on accepted medical practice and unhindered by legal proscriptions. To be true to our experience of the Spirit, Friends do not hold any human institution to be higher than corporately discerned Truth.

Friends' steadfast and faithful efforts often have an influence that transcends initial expectations.

While we work to see our principles reflected in governmental decisions and actions, we realize that government at its best can only provide a framework to foster justice, peace, and respect for human differences. These ideals become reality only when individuals, under the conviction of love, live daily the life of the peaceable community.



[Original text]

**SECTION 3: PROCEEDING IN THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT**

**Planning for the wedding**

The oversight committee, together with the couple, arranges to meet legal requirements and to accomplish the marriage with simplicity and reverence. The reception, if any, is also part of their responsibility.

The oversight committee must know the legal requirements where the marriage will occur. It is the couple's responsibility to secure the marriage license or other legal form to be filed, by the committee, with the county clerk or similar officer after the marriage has taken place. Some localities have a special form for the Religious Society of Friends, but if not the committee can usually change the standard wording to comply with Friends' procedures. An approved meeting member must sign to represent the meeting, and others to fill the required number of witnesses.

The marriage certificate shall be prepared, well in advance, in a form similar to the following but carefully worded to incorporate the particular declarations that will be spoken by the couple and have been previously agreed upon with the committee for clearness:

Whereas, A. B., of \_\_\_\_\_, son of C. B. and H.B., of \_\_\_\_\_, and D. E., of \_\_\_\_\_, daughter of F. E. and M. E., of \_\_\_\_\_, having declared their intentions of marriage with each other to \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends held at \_\_\_\_\_, their proposed marriage was allowed by the meeting.

Now this is to certify to whom it may concern, that for the

[Proposed revision]

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The oversight committee, together with the couple, arranges to meet legal requirements and to accomplish the marriage with simplicity and reverence. The reception, if any, is also part of their responsibility.

The oversight committee must know the legal requirements where the marriage will occur. It is the couple's responsibility to secure the marriage license or other legal form to be filed, by the committee, with the county clerk or similar officer after the marriage has taken place. Some localities have a special form for the Religious Society of Friends, but if not the committee can usually change the standard wording to comply with Friends' procedures. An approved meeting member must sign to represent the meeting, and others sign to fill the required number of witnesses.

The marriage certificate shall be prepared, well in advance, in a form similar to the following but carefully worded to incorporate the particular declarations that will be spoken by the couple and have been previously agreed upon with the committee for clearness:

Whereas, A. B., of \_\_\_\_\_, child/son/daughter of C. B. and H.B., of \_\_\_\_\_, and D. E., of \_\_\_\_\_, child/son/daughter of F. E. and M. E., of \_\_\_\_\_, having declared their intentions of marriage with each other to \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends held at \_\_\_\_\_, their proposed marriage was allowed by the meeting.

[Original text] **Wedding** continued

accomplishment of their intentions, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of the \_\_\_\_\_ month, in the year of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_, they, A. B. and D. E., appeared in a meeting for worship of the Religious Society of Friends, held at \_\_\_\_\_, and A. B. taking D. E. by the hand did on this solemn occasion declare that he took her, D. E., to be his wife, promising with divine assistance to be unto her a loving and faithful husband so long as they both shall live; and then in the same assembly D. E. did in like manner declare that she took him, A. B., to be her husband, promising with Divine assistance to be unto him a loving and faithful wife so long as they both shall live. And moreover they, A. B. and D.E. \*, [she, according to the custom of marriage, assuming the surname of her husband\*] did, as further confirmation thereof, then and there, to this certificate set their hands.

A.B. \_\_\_\_\_

D.E.B. \_\_\_\_\_

And we, having been present at the marriage, have as witnesses hereunto set our hands.

\*This phrase is omitted when the woman does not assume her husband's surname.

Many choose to hand-letter their certificates on parchment or fine paper. Certificates also may be purchased from Friends Yearly Meeting Office, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA.

The oversight committee and the couple to be married should designate in advance persons to carry out the following responsibilities: explaining meeting for worship and Friends' wedding procedures; reading the certificate after the couple signs;

[Proposed revision] **Wedding** continued

Now this is to certify to whom it may concern, that for the accomplishment of their intentions, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of the \_\_\_\_\_ month, in the year \_\_\_\_\_, they, A. B. and D. E., appeared in a meeting for worship of the Religious Society of Friends, held at \_\_\_\_\_, A. B. and D. E., taking each other by the hand, did on this solemn occasion declare that they promise with divine assistance to be unto each other loving and faithful wife/husband/ partners so long as they both shall live. And moreover they, A. B. and D.E. \*, did, as further confirmation thereof, then and there, to this certificate set their hands.

A.B. \_\_\_\_\_

D.E. \_\_\_\_\_

And we, having been present at the marriage, have as witnesses hereunto set our hands.

\*A phrase may be added when one or both of a couple chooses to change his and/or her name.

Many choose to hand-letter their certificates on parchment or fine paper.

The oversight committee and the couple to be married should designate in advance persons to carry out the

following responsibilities: explaining meeting for worship and Friends' wedding procedures; reading the certificate after the couple signs; closing the meeting; inviting those present to sign the certificate as witnesses.

[Original text] **Wedding** continued

closing the meeting; inviting those present to sign the certificate as witnesses.

### **The wedding itself**

At the time appointed, the meeting for worship on the occasion of marriage gathers in silence. For the benefit of non-Friends, the person appointed explains the meaning of the worship and the procedure to follow, unless the invitations have already done so.

After a suitable time, as they are moved, the couple will rise and, taking each other by the hand, declare in words to this effect:

In the presence of God and these our friends I take thee \_\_\_\_\_ to be my wife [husband], promising with Divine assistance to be unto thee a loving and faithful husband [wife] so long as we both shall live.

The couple will then sign the marriage certificate, and the appointed Friend will read it aloud.

In the period of worship to follow, any may speak as they are moved. After the rise of the meeting, everyone present is invited to sign the marriage certificate.

[Proposed revision] **Wedding** continued

### **The wedding itself**

At the time appointed, the meeting for worship on the occasion of marriage gathers in silence. For the benefit of non-Friends, the person appointed explains the meaning of the worship and the procedure to follow, unless the invitations have already done so.

After a suitable time, as they are moved, the couple will rise and, taking each other by the hand, declare in words to this effect:

In the presence of *God* and these our friends I take thee \_\_\_\_\_ to be my wife/husband/partner, promising with Divine assistance to be unto thee a loving and faithful wife/husband/partner so long as we both shall live.

The couple will then sign the marriage certificate, and the appointed Friend will read it aloud.

In the period of worship to follow, any may speak as they are moved. After the rise of the meeting, everyone present is invited to sign the marriage certificate.

### **SECTION 3: PROCEEDING IN THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT**

#### **Becoming a preparative meeting**

A worship group which has achieved a measure of stability in attendance and worship and which desires to organize and conduct its business in the manner of Friends may become a preparative meeting. A preparative meeting is organized in the manner of a monthly meeting, performing all functions of a monthly meeting except major procedures such as overseeing marriages or taking new members into the Religious Society of Friends.

A preparative meeting places itself under the care of the closest monthly meeting, which is able to give it the spiritual support and the organizational help it needs. The monthly meeting oversees the procedural functions of the preparative meeting and gives it the same spiritual support and material encouragement it has given the worship group. The monthly meeting which has the care of a preparative meeting should have a committee whose responsibility is to see that needs of the preparative meeting are met and to oversee the progress of the meeting. The preparative meeting should report regularly to the monthly meeting. In the absence of a monthly meeting able to oversee a preparative meeting, the preparative meeting may be placed under the care of SAYMA, which may appoint an

oversight committee to proceed in place of the corresponding monthly meeting committee.

A preparative meeting may continue indefinitely in that status; however, it will probably look forward to growth and development which will lead it to become a monthly meeting.

Attenders of the preparative meeting who wish to become members

[Proposed revision]

### **SECTION 3: PROCEEDING IN THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT**

#### **Becoming a preparative meeting**

A worship group which has achieved a measure of stability in attendance and worship and which desires to organize and conduct its business in the manner of Friends may become a preparative meeting. A preparative meeting is organized in the manner of a monthly meeting, performing all functions of a monthly meeting except major procedures such as overseeing marriages or taking new members into the Religious Society of Friends. Attenders of the preparative meeting who wish to become members of the Religious Society of Friends must apply through a monthly meeting.

A preparative meeting places itself under the care of an existing SAYMA monthly meeting, usually the same one that cared for it as a worship group. The monthly meeting which has the care of a preparative meeting should have a committee whose responsibility is to see that organizational help, spiritual support, and material needs of the preparative meeting are met. Queries for prospective monthly meetings are in the query section of this Guide; it can be helpful for the preparative meeting and the overseeing meeting to consider these together. The

preparative meeting should report regularly to the monthly meeting's meeting for business.

3. A preparative meeting may continue indefinitely in that status. Over the course of months or years, however, spiritual growth and development may lead a preparative meeting to become a monthly meeting.

[Original text]      **Preparative & Monthly Meetings**  
continued

of the Religious Society of Friends must apply through a monthly meeting.

#### **Becoming a monthly meeting**

When Friends attending a preparative meeting have a sense of their readiness to form a monthly meeting, they may apply by letter for certification from the monthly meeting overseeing them. The letter should include as fully as possible a sense of the spiritual readiness of the meeting, as well as an analysis of its organizational ability to fulfill the functions of a monthly meeting and a sense of its purpose and place within its own geographical community.

Upon receipt of the letter, the oversight committee appointed by the monthly meeting may meet with the preparative meeting for a period of one to three months to

observe its meetings for business, to discuss any concerns arising from the letter or from other matters, and to share in the spiritual life of the meeting. When the oversight committee concurs in the preparative meeting's readiness for certification, it will recommend to its own monthly meeting that the meeting be certified. If the meeting concurs, the preparative meeting will be notified by letter.

A new monthly meeting wanting to be affiliated with SAYMA must request the sponsoring meeting to recommend to the Yearly Meeting business session that formal recognition be granted. A date for the formal certification will then be set, and all monthly meetings, preparative meetings, and worship groups in SAYMA will be notified and invited to send representatives to share in the certification proceedings. If the preparative meeting has been under

[Proposed revision] **Preparative & Monthly Meetings**  
continued

### **Becoming a monthly meeting**

When Friends attending a preparative meeting have a sense of their readiness to form a monthly meeting, they may apply by letter for certification from the monthly meeting overseeing them. The letter should include as fully as possible a sense of the spiritual readiness of the meeting, as well as an analysis of its organizational ability to fulfill

the functions of a monthly meeting and a sense of its purpose and place within its own geographical community.

Upon receipt of the letter, the oversight committee from the monthly meeting may meet with the preparative meeting for a period of one to three months to observe its meetings for business, to discuss any concerns arising from the letter or from other matters, and to share in the spiritual life of the meeting. Both groups have found it helpful at this stage to consider together the queries for prospective monthly meetings found in the query section of this Guide. When the oversight committee concurs in the preparative meeting's readiness for certification, it recommends to its own monthly meeting for business that the new meeting be certified. If that meeting approves, the preparative meeting will be notified by letter of its new status as a monthly meeting.

A new monthly meeting wanting to affiliate with SAYMA must request the sponsoring meeting to recommend to the Yearly Meeting annual session that formal recognition be granted. After approval, a date for a formal celebration of affiliation is set for a time when SAYMA representatives will be able to attend. Monthly Meetings, Preparative Meetings, and Worship Groups in SAYMA are then notified and invited to send representatives to share in the celebration.



[Original text] **Preparative & Monthly Meetings**  
continued

the care of the yearly meeting, the yearly meeting oversight committee may recommend certification for the

approval of the representative meeting for the yearly meeting.

Queries for a preparative meeting wishing to become a monthly meeting may be found in the query section of this **Guide**.

## Appendix C: Committee Reports

**Ecological Concerns Network**  
**Electronic Communications Committee**  
**Handbook Committee**  
**Ministry and Nurture Committee**  
**Nominating Committee (*in text of minutes*)**  
**Personnel Committee**  
**SAYF Steering Committee**

### **Ecological Concerns Network**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

SAYMA Ecological Concerns Network will provide assistance, including spiritual and consultative support, to Friends in Yearly Meeting who are following their leadings to work on ecological concerns. It will also work to raise the level of awareness of ecological concerns among SAYMA Friends.

This has been a year of change and paradox. The interest in ecological concerns and climate change has been increasing throughout the general public. The release of the movie “An Inconvenient Truth” last summer and the distribution and showings last fall, sponsored by many local meetings, helped bring this to the forefront of conversations. The national press has finally decided that these issues speak to enough of us that this spring one could go to a news stand and see multiple magazine covers touting the ‘Green’ movement. While as a committee of SAYMA, this year we have not accomplished as much as we could. I take responsibility for this. (Work obligations, both professional and for QEW increased beyond expectations.)

Great opportunities are on the horizon. Work has been accomplished laying the groundwork for these opportunities. Through the assistance of QEW the regional Yearly Meeting earthcare representatives of SAYMA, SEYM, Piedmont Friends Fellowship, PFF have started to work together to develop communications and activities for the Southeast. QEW’s retreat in Fall of 2008 will be held in the Atlanta area and we are planning how we can work together for presentations during this event and are hoping ECN and SAYMA will be participating that weekend. Another part of this work is the reaching out to Young Adult Friends seeking their participation in earthcare work.

Bob McGahey has brought us the opportunity to be a part of a national conversation about the use of nuclear power as part of the solution to green house gas emissions and global warming. This is a controversial topic with very polarized sides to the issue. It is great to be able to have our community through ECN be a part of the discussion.

## **Electronic Communications Committee**

### **SAYMA's Electronic Communications Ad Hoc Committee Report to Yearly Meeting – 9, sixth Month, 2007–Part 1**

1. The SAYMA Electronic Communications Ad Hoc Committee recommends Yearly Meeting approve the following procedures for responding to problems that could occur on the two open listservs that are designated the “SAYMA DISCUSS” listserv and the “SAYMA ANNOUNCE” listserv:

Expressions of disagreements posted on the listserv are always appropriate if the words and “tone” of expression are in line with the Yearly Meeting’s listserv guidelines. [see guidelines for SAYMA’s listserv below.] If any member of the listserv finds that a post seems substantially to violate the guidelines, she/he may ask the listserv administrator (who is always, until further notice, the SAYMA Administrative Assistant) to post the guidelines on the listserv as a reminder for all subscribers without indicating it for any particular individuals(s). No one should individually send a copy of the guidelines to any others’ individual email boxes. We believe that, in most cases of inappropriate postings, the situation will be resolved when everyone is simply reminded of, and thinks about, the guidelines.

If anyone finds that the guidelines reminder has not stopped inappropriate postings, he/she can directly request the Ministry and Council Committee of the Monthly Meeting with which the person of concern is affiliated to provide Friendly eldering with that person. SAYMA’s Administrative Assistant can help facilitate the process by providing contact information about individuals.

If the above interventions have all been done and a problem still persists, the problem should be brought to the attention of SAYMA’s Ministry and Nurture committee for them to respond as they are led.

#### **SAYMA’s LISTSERV GUIDELINES:**

“Please compose your postings to this list to reflect the fundamental Quaker value that “there is that of God in Everyone”. When responding to another post, respond to that of God in the author or subject of that post. This means express your perspective sincerely without passing judgment on the other’s motives, character, intelligence or integrity. It is good to allow time to pass for seasoning your thoughts before posting a response. Please also be moderate in your quantify of postings in order to avoid overwhelming subscribers.” (Approved in Yearly Meeting business session, Sixth Month, 2007)

### **SAYMA's Electronic Communications Ad Hoc Committee Report to Yearly Meeting–9, Sixth Month, 2007,Part 2**

2. We recommend that our current web manager write a job description for the web manager position. It should include how the web manager is selected, term of office, and responsibilities. We recommend it be inserted in SAYMA’s Handbook. [Note: After this recommendation was approved by committee, the clerk learned that the Handbook

committee had already initiated the process and the web manager had agreed to do the composing.]

3. ECC wants everyone to know that SAYMA committees and other groups within SAYMA can have their own pages on the website. Some committees already have them. These pages are available for information about committees' work and other activities of widespread interest within SAYMA. If a SAYMA committee or group wishes to create a page or link on the website, contact the SAYMA Web Manager to initiate the process.

4. Based on relatively light current usage of the listservs, the ECC does NOT recommend attempting to institute any additional electronic communication technologies such as bulletin boards, web forums, newsgroups, etc.

5. The committee finds that the existing current protections of individual identities within SAYMA's electronic communications is sufficient and no further action on this is required.

6. This report and recommendations by the SAYMA Electronic Communications Ad Hoc Committee is the culmination and completion of more than three years work by the committee. We find that we have no further business to conduct. We ask that the Yearly Meeting lay the Electronic Communications Ad Hoc committee down.

### **Handbook Committee**

The Handbook was originally started in 1994 with a revised Draft copy available in 1996. It was used sporadically over the insuring years but never approved for final use. In 2003 a new committee was formed to review the draft and update it with the procedures that were currently in use. At the same time, with the Guide to our Faith and Practice being revised there were many areas of the Handbook that needed revision.

The committee collected comments and suggestions from individuals who were currently in positions of responsibility or who has previously held these positions.

As a result of this work, the current Draft Handbook is presented as an amalgamation of all of this work

There is some duplication included from our Faith and Practice as an aid to using the Handbook. It is by no means a substitute or replacement to the Faith and Practice but a practical supplement to getting the work done.

The plan is to provide next year's individuals with positions of responsibility with either a paper copy or CD to use and revise as needed. The committee will receive these suggestions during the year and prepare both a final Handbook and recommended procedure for keeping it up to date at the Spring Representatives Meeting and at Yearly Meeting 2008.

Because the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee is so large and the work often has to be adjusting to both place and time, there are two guidelines presented in the draft for this committee to use and review during this next year. It is hoped that we will then be able to combine all of this work into one overall guideline for this committee.

In the original draft there was an extensive History of the handbook's development which has been removed but kept for reference as needed. Currently there are four sections to the Handbook: Introduction, Structure of Yearly Meeting, Yearly Meeting Planning Committee and policies/procedures/forms.

References: Draft Handbook 1996

Guide to our Faith and Practice (currently in revision)

Handbook of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Atlanta Monthly Meeting Handbook

West Knoxville Monthly Meeting guide to our Practice

### **Ministry and Nurture Committee**

Ministry and Nurture has had a fulfilling year of service, both to our constituent meetings and to the wider Friends community. We continue to joyfully embrace our new model of meeting quarterly at the behest of SAYMA meetings and worship groups. This year we met at Huntsville, Asheville, and Columbia. After three years of this model, we have met at nine meeting locations; one of these was with three worship groups in the greater Atlanta area. We are scheduled to meet with Charleston in the fall and Royal worship group in January. Our May 2008 meeting is an open venue; however, we look forward to reading your next-year's state of the meeting reports then, which are due May 1. Please take note of this new procedure, which will help us take the pulse of Yearly Meeting.

We took part in two consultations during 2006-07, one with FGC Traveling Ministries, on fostering the gifts of emerging ministries in the fall, the other on FGC Advancement and Outreach in the spring, both at the Gilmary Retreat Center outside of Pittsburgh. At each of these, SAYMA was praised for its contributions to the consultation. Some of you will share the fruits of the Emerging Ministries conference in Hannah McDermott's workshop this weekend. At the A and O consultation, our committee's new procedure of traveling to meet at constituent meeting venues was lifted up as a model for the Society of Friends.

We have one action item for you to consider today, namely to merge two funds, one used regularly, the other in disuse since 2001:

#### **Released Friend Fund**

Representatives Meeting has asked us to consider Finance Committee's request about the disposition of this fund. In our understanding the Released Friend Fund was established in order to support Friends who seek to carry out a leading that would require them to suspend service in their home monthly and the yearly meeting. The last time a request for funds was made was approximately 6 years

ago. Additionally the amount accrued constitutes too small an amount to be effective financial support.

**We recommend that the funds from Released Friend Fund be combined with the Spiritual Development fund and the fund renamed Spiritual Development and Witness Fund. This fund would be available to Friends who have discerned a leading with their monthly meeting to participate in educational, service or witness opportunities. Application is to be made in writing to M&N who will consider the request. Once M&N has approved the request and upon completion of the opportunity M&N requests a written report from the recipient of the grant.**

In addition, we approved the following minute. YouthQuake Fund:

After consideration of the request of Representative Meeting, to sit with Finance Committee's question about the status of the YouthQuake line item, we are led to suggest that the line item be retained but renamed Youth Spiritual Development and Witness Fund. Its purpose would be similar to the Spiritual Development and Witness Fund. How this fund would be administered is unclear and needs to be discerned by yearly meeting in collaboration with SAYF Steering Committee and the Young Adult Friends.

We look forward to serving SAYMA during the upcoming year. Have a full-hearted, spirit-filled Gathering.

for the committee, Bob McGahey, clerk

### **Personnel Committee**

The Personnel Committee met at Yearly Meeting, 2006, and at the Representative Meeting in the 9<sup>th</sup> Month, the 12<sup>th</sup> month of 2006 and the 4<sup>th</sup> month of 2007. Our former administrative assistant resigned after Yearly Meeting. We accepted applications and conducted interviews during the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> months, and at Representative Meeting in the 9<sup>th</sup> Month offered the position. We met briefly to introduce the new administrative assistant to the committee at the 12<sup>th</sup> month Meeting.

The SAYF steering committee recommended that the SAYF administrative assistant receive a merit increase. After discussion and reviewing her evaluation the committee recommended at 5% merit raise.

The committee also recommended a cost of living increase of 3.3% which is the Social Security COLA.

These salary recommendations were discussed with the Finance Committee and they stated they would put these increases in the proposed budget to bring to Yearly Meeting, 2007.



# of YFs 45  
# of FAPs 12

Activities included: a Meeting for Laughter/Healing, a movie and discussion and a dance.

**5. W. Knoxville TN Retreat March 9-11, 2007**

Theme: Service Project

# of YFs 36  
# of FAPs 8

Activities included: spending an entire day doing many outdoor projects at Resurrection House, a home for troubled teens in Knoxville, TN.

**6. Nashville, TN Retreat April 27-29, 2007**

Theme: Memories

# of YFs 35  
# of FAPs 7

Activities included: collage making, and a trip to Centennial Park for games, fun and relaxation.

**Nurturing/Steering/Oversight Committees Retreats**

**1. Black Mountain, NC  
Hendrickson Home  
August 25 – 27, 2006**

# of Nurturing Committee Members 14  
# of Steering Committee Members 8 (and 1 guest from Asheville Meeting)

We developed a plan to improve our internal communications, reviewed our finances, discussed FAP issues and FAP training, reviewed the draft SAYF handbook and considered various issues concerning the health and safety of YFs at retreats.

**2. Watkinsville, GA  
Fisher-Watkins Home  
February 23-25, 2007**

# of Nurturing Committee Members 15  
# of Steering Committee Members 7

We planned for SAYF at Yearly Meeting and developed our calendar of retreats for the 2007 -2008 year. We discussed 3 concerns that had come from parents and concerned adults during the past year and developed processes to address those concerns. We completed the annual evaluation for the SAYF administrative assistant and reviewed it with her. We refined our guideline concerning SAYF graduates attending SAYF retreats.



## Appendix D: Financial Reports

Treasurer's 2007 Yearly Meeting Report  
Prepared Sunday, June 03, 2007

Our 2007 fiscal year budget runs from October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007.  
Issues to report include:

1. The fiscal 2007 budget is in good shape. Quarterly payments by Monthly Meetings have decreased slightly from last year. There have been no large special contributions by individual SAYMA Quakers. At the time of YM, we have received \$34,839.11 in contributions. SAYMA total revenues were \$53,545.32 and our expenditures have been \$49,832.67 – a surplus of \$3,712.65
2. The FY 2007 budget expenditures are reviewed below:
  - a. Office expenditures are continuing to be modest.
  - b. This budget report does not include all of the revenues or charges for Yearly Meeting. YM is expected to cost about \$29,000 this year due to rising costs and outside speakers.
  - c. SAYMA is spending far less this year for delegates to WQOs (\$1,892 from a budget of \$6,600).
  - d. SAYMA has paid all of its yearly contributions to WQOs (\$5,300).
  - e. SAYMA contributions to SAYF for the fiscal year are currently \$1,000.00 from our fiscal year budget of \$3,000.00
3. Personnel expenses are within budget under the current budget. We have two part-time employees in SAYMA. The administrative assistant position is a 1/3 time position; the SAYF Coordinator is ¼ time position. Cost of Living raises will be provided to both employees at the beginning of FY 2008. Our employees receive a monthly payment in lieu of a benefit package.
4. SAYMA has a property/liability insurance policy through GuideOne Insurance. It covers property and general liability.
5. Assessments for FY 2007 remain at \$60.00 per member/attender.
6. Notes from the Account Balances sheet. SAYMA has set aside funds of \$10,822. SAYMA has \$26,894 in two savings accounts to cover these claims. Currently, we have net financial assets of \$31,361, including cash in checking. There have been three claims against the Funds in fiscal 2007.
7. SAYMA is currently able to meet its budget obligations. SAYMA has increased its financial surplus for difficult times.
8. SAYF finances appear to be in good shape at the end of the first half of the fiscal year (3/31/2007). SAYF had total expenditures of \$3,149.48. SAYF had \$3,585.00 in revenue. On March 31, 2007, SAYF had a checking account balance of \$1,403.10 and a Scholarship balance of \$219.19. Since that report, SAYMA has been sent SAYF \$1,000 of its budget request. The SAYF Coordinator provides the SAYMA Treasurer with regular and accurate financial reports.

Treasurer's Address:  
David H. Ciscel  
1950 Nelson Ave.  
Memphis, TN 38104  
[ciscel@bellsouth.net](mailto:ciscel@bellsouth.net)

SAYMA Fiscal Year 2007  
 Approved at Yearly Meeting June 2006, Amended at September 2006 Representative Meeting  
 October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007  
 Prepared for Yearly Meeting on June 3, 2007

	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
	FY 2006	FY2006	FY 2007	FY 2007
<b>Income</b>				
Assessments*	\$40,000	\$37,724.00	\$40,000	\$35,005.00
Bank Interest	\$100	\$784.07	\$300	\$710.21
Contributions	\$500	\$11,121.00	\$3,300	\$100.00
F&P Sales	\$250	\$93.05	\$250	\$32.11
Newsletter				
SAYF Receipts	\$0			
YM Total Receipts	\$29,000	\$27,829.63	\$29,000	\$17,698.00
YM Receipts	\$26,000	\$24,627.00	\$26,000	\$17,698.00
YM Scholarship Donations	\$1,000	\$767.00	\$1,000	
YM Book Sales	\$2,000	\$2,435.63	\$2,000	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$69,850</b>	<b>\$77,551.75</b>	<b>\$72,850</b>	<b>\$53,545.32</b>
<b>SAYMA OPERATIONAL EXPENSES</b>				
Yearly Meeting	\$26,900	\$28,704.20	\$26,900	\$22,991.04
Yrly Meeting - Facilities	\$20,000	\$21,119.00	\$20,000	\$17,000.00
Prntg/Mail/Phone/Minutes/Misc	\$900	\$2,243.26	\$900	\$3,191.04
Junior Yearly Meeting -- JYM	\$3,000	\$3,023.27	\$3,000	\$2,800.00
<i>Coordinator</i>	\$1,800	\$1,800.00	\$1,800	\$1,800.00
<i>Ass't Coordinator</i>	\$1,000	\$1,000.00	\$1,000	\$1,000.00
<i>Supplies/Sitters/Misc</i>	\$200	\$223.27	\$200	
Scholarship WQO Reps	\$1,000		\$1,000	
YM Bookstore	\$2,000	\$2,318.67	\$2,000	
SAYF Operational Transfers	\$3,000	\$2,250.00	\$3,000	\$1,000.00
Delegate Expenses	\$6,900	\$3,730.87	\$6,900	\$1,941.80
Rep Mtgs	\$300		\$300	\$50.00
Del to WQOs	\$6,600	\$3,730.87	\$6,600	\$1,891.80
Committees	\$1,300	\$287.63	\$1,500	\$442.74
Ministry and Nurture	\$700	\$12.00	\$700	\$412.52
Ecological Concerns	\$300	\$60.00	\$300	
Faith and Practice	\$200	\$215.63	\$400	\$30.22
Nominating	\$100		\$100	
SAYMA Liability Insurance	\$800	\$621.00	\$700	\$715.00
SAYMA Personnel	\$19,500	\$16,635.43	\$20,300	\$13,339.81
SAYMA Staff Training	\$0		\$100	
SAYMA Office Administration	\$3,500	\$4,388.01	\$3,500	\$1,458.73
Phone, Internet & Office Expenses		\$1,113.79		\$257.79
Postage		\$403.68		\$190.76
Duplication		\$1,119.24		\$210.49
Misc. Office		\$1,751.30		\$799.69
SAYMA Newsletter	\$1,300	\$1,132.57	\$1,300	
SAYMA Directory	\$600		\$600	
SAYMA Treasurer	\$200	\$223.98	\$250	\$243.55
SAYMA F&P	\$100	\$88.43	\$100	
SAYMA Other Expenses	\$0		\$0	
<b>Total Operational Disbursements</b>	<b>\$64,100</b>	<b>\$58,062.12</b>	<b>\$65,150</b>	<b>\$42,133</b>
<b>YEARLY MEETING PROJECTS</b>				
Transfers To Funds	\$2,300	\$2,300.00	\$2,400	\$2,400.00
Spiritual Development Fund	\$500	\$500.00	\$500	\$500.00
Released Friend Fund	\$100	\$100.00	\$200	\$200.00
FWCC - 3rd Wid Del	\$650	\$650.00	\$650	\$650.00
FWCC Triennial Fund	\$700	\$700.00	\$700	\$700.00
YouthQuake	\$250	\$250.00	\$250	\$250.00
Young Adult Friends Scholarships	\$100	\$100.00	\$100	\$100.00
Contributions Wider Quaker Org	\$3,450	\$3,450.00	\$5,300	\$5,300.00
AFSC	\$400	\$400.00	\$600	\$600.00
FCNL	\$400	\$400.00	\$600	\$600.00
FGC	\$400	\$400.00	\$600	\$600.00
FWCC	\$400	\$400.00	\$600	\$600.00
Right Sharing of World Resources	\$400	\$400.00	\$600	\$600.00
Quaker House	\$400	\$400.00	\$600	\$600.00
Friends for LGBTQ Concerns	\$100	\$100.00	\$200	\$200.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$400	\$400.00	\$600	\$600.00
Friends Peace Teams	\$150	\$150.00	\$200	\$200.00
Wm Penn House	\$100	\$100.00	\$200	\$200.00
Friends Journal			\$200	\$200.00
Guilford College Archiving	\$100	\$100.00	\$100	\$100.00
Rural Southern Voice for Peace	\$200	\$200.00	\$200	\$200.00
Other				
Total Projects	\$5,750	\$5,750.00	\$7,700	\$7,700.00
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$69,850</b>	<b>\$63,812.12</b>	<b>\$72,850</b>	<b>\$49,832.67</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$13,739.63</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,712.65</b>

\* based a \$60.00 assessment per member and regular attender

SAYMA Account Balances Report -- Fiscal 2007  
Prepared for Yearly Meeting on June 3, 2007

	2003 6/7/2003	2004 6/30/2004	2005 9/30/2005	2006 9/30/2006	2007 4/11/2007
<b>Assets</b>					
Bank Accounts					
Checking (Bank of America)	\$5,529	\$18,694	\$9,167	\$17,299	\$15,289
Money Market (Self Help)*	\$5,900	\$14,229	\$9,514	\$16,086	\$21,640
Savings (Self Help CD)*	\$8,244	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,098	\$5,254
SAYF Checking (off books in 2004)	\$784				
<b>Total Available Funds</b>	<b>\$20,457</b>	<b>\$32,923</b>	<b>\$23,681</b>	<b>\$38,483</b>	<b>\$42,183</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Set Aside Budgeted Funds					
FWCC Third World Delegate	\$0	\$650	\$1,300	\$0	\$650
FWCC Triennial Delegates	\$2,115	\$667	\$1,667	\$2,367	\$2,242
Released Friend	\$2,250	\$2,650	\$3,050	\$3,150	\$3,350
Spiritual Development	\$1,782	\$2,082	\$582	\$982	\$822
Youth Quake	\$1,345	\$1,595	\$1,645	\$1,895	\$2,145
Young Adult Friends Scholarship			\$500	\$600	\$700
Accumulated Funds					
YM Scholarship	\$502	\$502	\$596	\$663	\$663
SAYF Scholarship Fund	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
<b>Claims against Available Funds</b>	<b>\$8,244</b>	<b>\$8,396</b>	<b>\$9,590</b>	<b>\$9,907</b>	<b>\$10,822</b>
<b>Net Assets = Assets - Liabilities</b>	<b>\$12,213</b>	<b>\$24,527</b>	<b>\$14,091</b>	<b>\$28,575</b>	<b>\$31,361</b>
Fund Expenses in Fiscal Year					
FWCC Triennial Delegate		(\$2,447)			
Spiritual Development Fund		(\$200)			
Net 2005 YM Scholarship Fund			\$94.00		
Spiritual Development Fund -- 2 Delegates to World Gathering of			(\$2,000.00)		
Spiritual Development Fund -- FWCC El Salvador 5/9/2006				(\$100)	
FWCC Third World Delegate 7/5/2006				(\$1,950)	
Spiritual Development Fund -- School of the Spirit 3/6/2007					(\$500.00)
FWCC Triennial Fund -- 2007 Meeting 4/25/2007					(\$825.00)
Spiritual Development Fund -- QUIT Conference 5/14/2007					(\$160.00)
<b>Total</b>		<b>(\$2,647)</b>	<b>(\$1,906)</b>	<b>(\$2,050)</b>	<b>(\$1,485.00)</b>

\*FY2007 interest flow reported on the budget page. Totals on this page reflect interest earned also.

**SAYF Financial Report**  
**October 1, 2006 - March 31, 2007**

	10/01 -12/31/06	1/1/07-3/31/07	TOTALS
<b>INCOME:</b>			
<b>Donations:</b>			
Atlanta Friends Meeting		\$ 310.00	\$ 310.00
<b>Total:</b>			<b>\$ 310.00</b>
<b>Retreats:</b>			
Chapel Hill (09/06)	\$ 625.00		\$ 625.00
Knoxville (10/06)	\$ 725.00		\$ 725.00
Asheville (11/06)		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Atlanta (01/07)		\$ 925.00	\$ 925.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 3,275.00</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			<b>\$ 3,585.00</b>

<b>In Kind Donations*:</b>			
Millie Gimmell(Knox. Food)	\$ 237.00		\$ 237.00
Food cost Donation (Knox.)	\$ 9.70		\$ 9.70
Mark Wutka (Atlanta Food)		\$ 195.70	\$ 195.70
Food cost donation (Knox 3/07)		\$14.90	\$14.90
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$ 457.30</b>

\* Other donations include use of Meetinghouses and 2 potluck suppers by Knox. Mtg. members

<b>EXPENSES:</b>	10/1-12/31/06	1/1-3/31/07	YTD
<b>Retreats:</b>			
Chapel Hill (09/06)*	\$334.54		\$334.54
Knoxville (10/06)**	\$239.67		\$239.67
Asheville (11/06)	\$350.00	\$631.24	\$981.24
Atlanta (01/07)**	\$29.75	\$704.72	\$734.47
Knoxville (03/07)		\$55.27	\$55.27
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$2,345.19</b>

\* total retreat cost 433.44 Other charges recorded in previous fiscal year

\*\* See in kind donations listed on previous page

<b>Worship Journals:</b>			
Chapel Hill	\$93.74		\$93.74
Knoxville	\$76.91		\$76.91
Asheville	\$125.56		\$125.56
Atlanta		\$115.01	\$115.01
NC/SC (02/07)		\$34.19	\$34.19
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>\$445.41</b>
<b>Other Expenses:</b>			
Nurturing &Steering Comm. food (02/07)		\$318.55	\$318.55
Parent Letter (03/07)		\$23.40	\$23.40
Office Supplies		\$16.93	\$16.93
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>\$358.88</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>			<b>\$ 3,149.48</b>

## Appendix E: Representative Reports

**American Friends Service Committee**  
**Friends Committee on National Legislation**  
**Friends General Conference**  
**Friends Peace Teams**  
**Friends World Committee on Consultation**  
**Quaker Earthcare Witness**

### **American Friends Service Committee**

The American Friends Service Committee's annual corporation meeting is a mixture of information, inspiration and dialogue with representatives of Quakers from across the nation. Staff and board leaders report to the group and corporation members share their perspectives. In November 2006, Carol Lamm of Berea Monthly Meeting represented SAYMA at the AFSC Corporation meeting. A number of other SAYMA Friends were present as board members or representing programs of AFSC-SERO (South East Region Office).

Some of AFSC's international peace efforts were highlighted at the meeting. The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), which AFSC staffs in cooperation with the Friends World Committee for Consultation, has been involved in advocacy among UN member nations and staff around under-attended crises. Of particular concern has been the situation in northern Uganda, a disaster on the scale of Darfur, with twice the death rate, but less international attention.

QUNO was also a key player in setting up a small meeting of U.S. religious leaders with Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad when he visited the U.S. last fall. After plans for a large public meeting fell through, Mennonites, who have maintained a seminary exchange program with Iran for years, proposed "a quiet meeting at Quaker House." Ahmadinejad accepted, although in the end the meeting occurred at a hotel. AFSC was represented by Mary Ellen McNish. The group challenged Ahmadinejad on some of his more outrageous positions, but the tone was notably different from the confrontational atmosphere of his only other meeting in the U.S., with the National Press Club. In subsequent briefings in Washington, Congressional leaders encouraged the religious leaders to maintain dialogue with Iran at a time when political leaders cannot. The 2006 meeting led to a visit to Iran by a delegation of U.S. religious leaders, including both AFSC and FCNL representatives, early in 2007.

In addition to such high-profile peace work, AFSC continues many quieter efforts. In Korea, for instance, following the collapse of Korea's food system after the break-up of the USSR, AFSC has been working with four large cooperative farms. Innovations such as green manures and in-field threshers have led to significant improvements in yields and in the health of farm families. AFSC

sponsors several Korean agricultural delegations each year on visits to other countries to learn about farming methods they might apply in Korea.

AFSC is turning 90 this year and is celebrating, among other ways, by kicking off a large fundraising campaign. AFSC's planning giving staff report that people who put AFSC in their wills live longer than any actuarial tables predict.

### **Friends Committee on National Legislation**

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) educates and lobbies Congress on Quaker issues of national interest. FCNL staff and volunteers work energetically to bring Quaker values to the forefront of our country's domestic and national/international policies. Bettina Wolff and I represented SAYMA at the FCNL annual meeting November 9-12,2006. The theme, "Building a Living Peace: Beyond the Absence of War," was carried throughout the plenary sessions, workshops, and worship groups. We approved a list of priorities for FCNL's work with the upcoming Congress. These priorities are listed on the FCNL website at [www.FCNL.org](http://www.FCNL.org).

Participating in FCNL work and the annual meeting is spiritually nurturing and fun. Ruth Flowers, who spoke at a plenary session on FCNL Today, shared a reflection from an outside attendee at one of FCNL's strategy sessions. He said, "We've demonstrated that we have the capacity for democratic change." We can all be a part of this change by reading the FCNL newsletters to become informed, taking action by contacting our representatives, and spreading the word about FCNL.

Thank-you for allowing me to represent SAYMA at FCNL. I have gone off the FCNL Policy Committee, but have now been appointed to the Field Committee. Please let me know who your FCNL meeting contact is, and bring to me any FCNL ideas or concerns.

Carol Nickle

### **Friends General Conference**

Our numbers have been reduced this year by the hiring of Julia Sibley-Jones by Friends General Conference's Development Program. Elaine Ruscetta has had a very full year at college, but participates in the work of the Long Range Conference Planning Committee which has as its focus the support of the planning of the annual Gathering and other smaller conferences.

My service as your representative comes to an end with Central Committee in October. I thank you for the opportunity to serve you and the wider world of Friends in this manner. It has been a fulfilling and deeply spiritual time for me. My work within FGC has been primarily serving on the Ministry and Nurture Committee, although I also serve on Traveling Ministries Committee as

an appointee from M&N. Coinciding with the completion of my appointment from you is the completion of my appointment by Central Committee as clerk of M&N. As I look back on those years, I see that M&N has deepened its commitment to caring for the spiritual well being of Central Committee, mostly during our annual meeting but also through various means of spiritual support of other committees within Central Committee. One of my joys in this work has been the coming to fruition of a dream held by three members of M&N when I joined that committee in 1998 – as an ex-officio member by virtue of being your yearly meeting clerk. We three were all yearly meeting clerks and we yearned for an opportunity to meet with other clerks to hear how they went about that ministry. In April 2005 and again this April, our committee sponsored a consultation for yearly meeting clerks. They were well attended and fruitful and with this year's consultation we were able to extend an invitation to yearly meetings not affiliated with FGC – reaching across the divides of Quakerism.

Central Committee and its committees have been energized by the emerging and expanding programs of Youth Ministries; Advancement and Outreach and the Committee on Ministry for Racism with ever deepening and widening impact on our meetings. The Traveling Ministries Program celebrated its eighth year of service and continues to be called upon regularly by monthly meetings for visits by those traveling with ministry. Our programs are growing as are many of our monthly and yearly meetings. We have seen a rise in consideration of what Quakerism is today. Although FGC is not a policy making body for its member yearly and monthly meetings, we have been able to provide opportunities for conversations around this question among our members and other Friends.

The Monthly Meeting Contact program in which a meeting names a Friend to be a recipient for quarterly information packets about various aspects of committee work seems to have brought about more direct conversation between meetings and FGC. We encourage more meetings to participate.

An exciting change for [www.Quakerfinder.org](http://www.Quakerfinder.org) is the inclusion of pastored Quaker meetings from FGC and Friends United Meetings. This work is under the care of Advancement and Outreach Committee. We are blessed to have the clerk of that committee, Jane Berger with us this year as our Ministry and Nurture Committee's sponsored workshop leader. Jane quakes with enthusiasm about this work and I hope you have an opportunity to attend her workshop or talk with her.

Not only does this yearly meeting session mark the close of my service as your representative to FGC but also my presence among you as I move to Vermont, to live among my ancestors. Thank you for the bountiful gifts of the spirit you have bestowed on me.

In the Love and Light that unites, Penelope Wright

## **Friends Peace Teams**

Friends Peace Teams is a Spirit-led organization working around the world to develop long-term relationships with communities in conflict to create programs for peacebuilding, healing and reconciliation. FPT' programs build on extensive Quaker experience combining practical and spiritual aspects of conflict resolution.

Our staff and team members come from many countries. In starting a new project, we collaborate with established programs in the community in order to create culturally appropriate programs. We use Quaker process for clearness, support and oversight to strengthen the spiritual basis of peace team work by Quakers and non-Quakers alike.

We have learned how to work with local partnerships to adapt proven alternatives to violence and trauma-healing techniques to create sustained, community peacebuilding and reconciliation programs. Programs in Africa (Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, and the Congo) and in Colombia address the causes as well as the effects of costly long-term wars in those countries. New areas of work in 2007 are Central America and Indonesia (Aceh and Northern Sumatra).

In partnership with Quakers and others in the region, the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) has developed an innovative program of Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities based upon focused trauma-healing work in specific communities at risk. This program is well-developed in Burundi and Rwanda, and is being piloted in Uganda, Kenya and the Congo. The Alternatives to Violence Project's nonviolent conflict resolution skills have been taught to hundreds of Africans and there are strong AVP programs in all the countries in which we work. As increasing violence is erupting in Kenya [other areas?] we are involved in emergency efforts of Friends and others to respond.

"In this workshop, I have discovered that there are many kinds of trauma. Before I was thinking that only having lost family members is traumatizing. But now I have seen that the wrongdoer can be traumatized by the horrible things she/he did." –Genocide survivor.

In Colombia, the Latin America-Caribbean Program has helped form an AVP program that plans over 50 workshops this year alone. FPT supports work in Bogotá and on the northern coast, where many displaced people, demobilized combatants (from the Army, guerrilla and paramilitary groups) and young Conscientious Objectors struggle to find more peaceful ways to survive. This year, community-based trauma healing work modeled on the work of African partners will be added to their efforts.

"The situation in Colombia makes peacebuilding (and, within that process, reconciliation) very challenging. At the same time, working to help strengthen a



commitment to a nonviolent lifestyle is hard, but it is possible. We know that AVP provides individuals with strategies to peacefully resolve conflict.”—Colombian AVP Facilitator

Our new areas of work in Central America and Indonesia will bring us new challenges and new partners with whom to work. In Central America, the legacy of civil war has added to the continued poverty and injustice that sparked the conflicts. Weapons abound and crime, gang violence and continued political problems have compelled Quakers and others to seek new solutions. We plan on introducing and supporting the development of AVP and, after piloting it in Colombia, community-based trauma healing and reconciliation work in the region.

“We try to train our children to live peaceful lives, but they are poorly prepared to live in a world of violence. We need to give them tools to survive and to transform our country.”—Guatemalan Quaker

In Indonesia, the work of a Friend and her Monthly and Yearly Meetings are already bearing fruit in an AVP program, educational programs for children based on Muslim peace principles, and the Conscience Studio, a project whereby Indonesians and people from the US can exchange their thoughts about peacemaking and conscientious living. Added to the trauma of a long civil war have been the effects of natural disasters (the 2004 tsunami and recent widespread flooding) and reconstruction and trauma healing is also a priority of this initiative. FPT is blessed to take this work under its care.  
[Indonesian quote]

We need your help to continue this vital Quaker work. Your prayers support us and your contributions sustain it. Because we rely on the work of our partners, our budgets are quite frugal, but our work is expanding rapidly. Please send tax-deductible donations to our office:

Friends Peace Teams  
1001 Park Avenue  
St. Louis MO USA 63104  
Telephone: 314-621-7262  
e-mail: [fptquakers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fptquakers@sbcglobal.net)  
Website: [www.friendspeaceteams.org](http://www.friendspeaceteams.org)

Written by Val Liveoak  
Submitted by Sharon Phelps

### **Friends World Committee on Consultation**

In Ninth Month, 2006, the Southeastern Region of FWCC Section of the Americas met in Jamestown, North Carolina. Jamestown Monthly Meeting (FUM) hosted us. The gathering focused on the issue of torture and the work of Friends Committee on National Legislation. Bill Jeffries spoke about peace

education and the ways FCNL engages Quakers in the legislative process in Washington. Debbie Parker spoke about the Consultation on Torture (QUIT) co-sponsored by FWCC and affect that government-sponsored torture has had on the indigenous communities in Central America. Paul Mitchell talked about his experiences while in the military and refuted the arguments that the Bush administration has put forward to justify the use of torture.

We had the opportunity to visit one of several sites of Quaker and American history in the area. On First Day we many of us attended Jamestown Meeting. About 25 Friends attended the gathering from Baltimore Yearly Meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative and FUM, SAYMA and Southeastern Yearly Meeting. All were grateful for the chance to get together and for the depth of discussion and profound worship.

In Third Month, 2007, the Annual Meeting of FWCC Section of the Americas was held at the Moses Brown School in Providence, Rhode Island, hosted by New England Yearly Meeting. The theme of the meeting was 2 Corinthians 9:8: "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance so that by always having enough of everything, you may be able to share abundantly...." Approximately 150 Quakers from all branches of Quakerdom attended the meeting. One representative each from Mexico, Guatemala, Bolivia and El Salvador was present. (Every other year a small representation of Latin American Friends attends the annual meeting so that they can afford to gather closer to home for meetings and workshops.)

The business of the annual meeting focused on nominating individuals for positions and committees, discussing the budget and the capital fund drive, and hearing from committees. There were two controversial issues. One was the request of two organizations to affiliate with FWCC. One member yearly meeting had reservations about the affiliations, and the requests were taken back to the executive committee. The other was a request by the Ad Hoc Peace Committee to become a standing committee. This suggestion had not been presented to the executive committee, so this was also referred the executive committee for study.

In the report of the FWCC World Office, it was announced that they will recommend to the Triennial Gathering in Ireland (8th Month 2007) that there not be a Triennial in 2010 but a World Gathering in 2012.

Tim Lamm, SAYMA rep, was approved as the Clerk of the Southeastern Region of the Section of the Americas. Sallie Prugh, SAYMA rep, was approved as a member of the Youth Committee. At the regional caucus, we discussed the plans for a regional gathering in Jamaica in January 2008.

One evening Bernard Lafayette, Director of Peace and Nonviolence Studies at the University of Rhode Island, spoke about his experiences in the civil rights movement of the 60's and 70's. Another evening, individuals from New England

Yearly Meeting and the Moses Brown School talked about the history of Quakers in Rhode Island and other parts of New England.

There were many opportunities for worship. Three worship sharing sessions focused on the passage from Corinthians. One morning there was a prepared message, one morning silent worship, and one morning worship lead by the individuals from Latin America. There were many opportunities to sing in English and Spanish at the beginning of worship and during worship. Often the Spirit moved strongly among us.

One of the joys of the meeting was the late winter snowfall, which started when we were all gathered. It covered the ground and transformed the school into a wonderland. It was cold but not freezing, so we were able to walk along the paths and enjoy the beauty.

We look forward to the Section of the Americas meeting again next year in Ohio and to the opportunity to attend the Triennial in Ireland in August.

---Submitted by Sallie Prugh and Tim Lamm

### **Quaker Earthcare Witness**

Report: This was my first year as SAYMA Representative on the Steering Committee of Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW). I attended and participated in the meeting during April 2007 at Cenacle House in Chicago, IL. This was basically a socialization meeting for me. While I had been active in subcommittee of QEW, The Friends Testimonies and Economics Project for several years, I had not been active or supported QEW.

The meeting Chicago was attended by 30-40 Friends from yearly meetings across the USA and Canada. A large portion of the conference was concerned with Meeting for Business. I was pleased to review to the financial status of the organization. I attended the Finance Committee meetings during breakout times. QEW seems to be based on a solid financial setting and its finances seem to be in order.

In addition to attending to business, we heard several presentations. The memorable presentations were Angela Manno's video and presentation, Conscious Evolution: The World at One, a long video-based presentation on ecological destruction by the Pachamama Alliance, and a video of a march and lecture by Bib McKibben of Vermont (author of Deep Economy).

I have made one presentation on QEW activities to Memphis Friends Meeting. I am available to make presentations to other monthly meetings.

David H Ciscel, Memphis Friends Meeting

## Appendix F: Epistles

### **SAYMA Yearly Meeting Epistle**

### **SAYF—Southern Appalachian Young Friends Epistle**

### **YAF—Young Adult Friends Epistle**

### **Junior Yearly Meeting** (*included in minutes*)

#### **SAYMA Epistle**

To Friends Far and Wide:

The 2007 Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association began at noon on Thursday, June 7 and ran through Sunday, June 10.

Once again we enjoyed the hospitality and beautiful surroundings of Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, North Carolina, the state whose first organized religion was the Religious Society of Friends.

Two Hundred and Forty-Six members and attenders in its Monthly Meetings, Preparatory Meetings, and worship groups attended this year's meeting, including 45 Young Friends (ages 12-18), and 22 Junior Friends (ages 0-12), and 15 Young Adult Friends (ages 18-35), each with their own program as well as opportunities to share other yearly meeting activities and opportunities to work with youth in other groups. Twenty-five SAYMA meetings and worship groups were present, and there were six representatives from meetings beyond our borders.

Three evening plenaries, open to all ages, developed our theme of "Nourished by Our Roots, Bursting Forth with Fruits." Peterson Toscano, an openly gay, Christ-centered Friend from New England Yearly Meeting, presented his message with dramatic humor on the first night. On Friday night, Jan Hoffman from New England Yearly Meeting used personal stories of growth and sharing to give her message. The third plenary was actually a tribute to Hibbard Thatcher, a Celebration Dance, reviving a past practice. This replaced a talent show presentation of the "fruits" of attenders, which was sorely missed.

Opportunities were offered each day for worship sharing on the queries, "What are the roots of your Quakerism (both Quaker and non-Quaker)?" and, "How is your Quakerism expressed in your life?" The Young Adult Friends redubbed the message of the queries, "Fruit Loops" as fruits and roots continually feed each other. Indeed, by the end of the Celebration dance, led by Friend David McGinnis, we were all pretty loopy!

In Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, a new edition of our Faith and Practice continued to be reviewed after a year of seasoning in the monthly meetings. A new section on the testimony of Integrity was added. Concerns were raised around the place of monthly meetings regarding the legal aspects of marriage. The section on planning a marriage was held over for more seasoning. Work was also done on Electronic Communications, and that Ad Hoc committee was laid down.

To inspire deeper consideration of our theme, workshops open to all were offered in everything from Old English dancing to fundraising to how to eliminate torture to nurturing individual ministry. By stretching the length and reducing the number of workshops, we achieved a more relaxed atmosphere.

Young Friends again enjoyed each other's fellowship and developed their leadership gifts in Quaker practice. Young Adult Friends helped run Meeting for Business and are included on committees. A desire was expressed for more connections among young Friends of all ages. Six high school seniors were "carried off" by the Young Adult Friends to initiate them into the next age group.

This year's Yearly Meeting again reflected growth in the Spirit. Discussions seemed to grow deeper organically, and people took advantage of the extra time to have spontaneous, serious discussions with serious disagreements on serious subjects, showing a willingness to be vulnerable and open to the Spirit in themselves and others.

### **SAYF Epistle**

Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) had another successful year. We hosted 7 retreats during the past year. We have averaged 37 Young Friends (YF) per retreat with 77 different teens coming to at least one retreat during the past year. This, once again, is an increase from the previous year. Some Young Friends attended all retreats and others attended one. All retreats this year were held at Meetinghouses.

In addition to our retreats we hosted two joint Nurturing and Steering Committee retreats.

#### SAYF Retreats:

1. Chapel Hill, NC Retreat September 29-October 1, 2006  
Theme: Community Building  
31 Yfs (Young Friends)  
6 FAPs (Friendly Adult Presences)  
Activities included: yoga, trust experiences, a workshop on communicating boundaries, and a 3-legged scavenger hunt.
2. West Knoxville, TN Retreat October 20-22, 2006  
Theme: Creativity, Spirit and Self-Expression  
32 YFs  
9 FAPs  
Activities included creative self-expression through drawing, collage, music and haiku.
3. Asheville, NC Retreat November 17-19, 2006  
Theme: Caring for Self, Others and the Environment  
43 YFs  
11 FAPs  
Activities included a massage workshop, a listening circles activity, a service project doing ground maintenance at the Meetinghouse and a contra dance in the evening.
4. Atlanta, GA Retreat January 12-14, 2007  
Theme: Fun, with hippies, dinosaurs, fairy Princesses and Spirituality  
45 YFs  
12 FAPs

- Activities included: a Meeting for Laughter/Healing, a movie and discussion and a dance.
5. West Knoxville, TN Retreat March 9-11, 2007  
 Theme: Service Project  
 36 YFs  
 8 FAPs  
 Activities included: spending an entire day doing many outdoor projects at Resurrection House, a home for troubled teen in Knoxville.
  6. Nashville, TN Retreat April 27-29, 2007  
 Theme: Memories  
 35 YFs  
 7 FAPs  
 Activities included: collage making, and a trip to Centennial Park for games, fun and relaxation.
  7. SAYMA Yearly Meeting  
 46 YFs, including 6 seniors

**Young Adult Friends Epistle**

<p>This year we had:          NO Retreats. We had only one lonely retreat.</p> <p>NO Talent. There was no talent show this year.</p> <p>NO Representation, Schedule, or Presence in the Program. We were quite unorganized.</p> <p>NO Unity. Half of us lived in one dorm, half in another.</p> <p>NO Contact. We did not have a complete list of names or email addresses.</p> <p>NO Failure. We led two very well-attended worship sharings with thought-provoking queries.</p> <p>NO Laziness. We served the Yearly Meeting in many roles Including Night Shepherds and FAPs for SAYF, Recording Clerk,</p>	<p>Next year we plan to:          KNOW retreats. We have three retreats planned in Atlanta, Maryville, and Asheville</p> <p>KNOW talent. We plan to propose a YAF-led talent Show.</p> <p>KNOW representation, a schedule, and the program. We have four representatives for the next year and will participate in creating the schedule and program.</p> <p>KNOW unity. Next year we will all participate in the Simple Living Option and thus have more time together.</p> <p>KNOW Contact. We are creating an email listserve and will ask Monthly Meetings to give us lists of Y Afs in their Meetings.</p> <p>KNOW Success. We plan to do the same next year.</p> <p>KNOW Service. We hope to continue to increase our service to the Yearly Meeting.</p>
--	--

Naming Committee, workshop  
Leaders, microphone skippers,  
Assistants to clerk's table,  
Cupcake and pico de gallo creators,  
SAYF graduate kidnapers, and  
Lowering the "Mean" age of the  
Yearly Meeting to a "Friendlier Age."

NO Money. Self Explanatory.    KNOW Money. We have \$21. Yippee!

## Appendix G: State of the Meeting Reports

Athens Friends Meeting  
Atlanta Friends Meeting  
Berea Friends Meeting  
Birmingham Friends Meeting  
Brevard Friends Meeting  
Celo Monthly Meeting  
Charleston Friends Meeting  
Chattanooga Friends Meeting  
Columbia Friends Meeting

Cookeville Monthly Meeting  
Crossville Friends Meeting  
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Memphis Friends Meeting  
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West Knoxville Friends Meeting

### **Athens Friends Meeting**

Athens Friends held a discussion about the state of our meeting and our hopes for the meeting's future. Because many of our members and attenders are associated with the University of Georgia, attenders and attendance fluctuates from year to year. We have accustomed ourselves to welcoming new friends, and saying good-bye to others. We feel our Meeting provides new attenders and sojourning F/friends a ready meeting-home. The Meeting enjoys the gifts of both short-term and long-term attenders. We currently have a diverse and enriching mix of age, experience, and interests.

Also arising from our discussion about the state of the meeting was the feeling that, based on our welcoming nature, social activism and silent worship, that the meeting has developed the potentiality for a dynamic worship and action next year. This potentiality could manifest between the spiritual awareness (based on readings, discussions, and messages) and social activism as a meeting.

We prepared and distributed several Sunday Sack Suppers at Our Daily Bread, the soup kitchen at the adjacent Methodist Church. We have conducted several neighborhood clean-ups. Athens Friends had a table stocked with literature, bracelets and bumper stickers at the annual Human Rights Festival. We support several local non-profits which provide financial assistance or services for local families in need. We have also supported our own members through times of illness and accidents. We organized and participated in anti-war/peace rallies, marches and vigils throughout the year, including a multi-congregational petitioning & crane folding event. Several members are constant witnesses for peace, vigiling weekly with Women in Black. Two members traveled to Washington D.C. this spring to protest the war with Iraq.

Concern for undocumented immigrants has arisen throughout the year, as Georgia struggles with raids and deportations, and the U.S. considers legislative reform. Several members joined with AFSC for a march in Atlanta. Our discussions resulted in a letter to the editor of the Athens Banner-Herald. Middle-east peace has also been a topic of discussion, again with support from AFSC resources. We post FCNL action alerts on our listserv.

Our First-day school is attended by several pre-schoolers. Our one active teen participates in SAYF. We are grateful that this yearly meeting program is available to teens in our small meeting. We held a candlelight Christmas Eve worship and an Easter worship and potluck at a member's lakeside home. Due to low summer attendance, we did not conduct meeting for business during the summer months of 2006, and plan a similar schedule for 2007. We resume regular monthly meetings for business in August.

This year, we welcomed Jennifer Rhode into membership. Jennifer has served as our newsletter publisher/minute-taker. She plans to remain a member of Athens MM, but is moving to Asheville, NC this summer. This season also brings the loss of long-



term member and treasurer, Judy Meyer, who has retired, and, with husband Gene Helfman, is moving to Washington State. We will deeply miss all three F/friends, but look forward to their visits and correspondence.

### **Atlanta Friends Meeting**

Atlanta Friends Meeting is a large, diverse meeting with 139 active local members and 17 members who do not live locally any more. In 2006, the Meeting welcomed twelve new members into the community, Anne Stansell, Muireann Brennan, Nan O'Connor, Steve Collins, Steve McLaughlin, Karen Head, Judith Greenberg and Heather Jeziorowski. Linda Hoopes, John McCutcheon, Carolyn Coburn-Allen and Richard Allen transferred memberships from other meetings. David Dault resigned as part of his leading to enter the ministry. Six babies and toddlers were welcomed at a First Day School program. Anne Boswell and David Foley were joined under the care of the Meeting. We held meetings for memorial for two friends, Carol Cummings and Anita McCain.

As a large meeting, our attention is spread among a variety of issues and how to balance them. While some Friends are most concerned with social action, others stress personal spiritual growth. While some are more Christocentric in the belief system which makes them Quakers, others are more universalist. We work constantly to maintain respect for everyone in the community and to provide support and outlet for the many Friendly gifts among us. We know that we need to appreciate the diversity within our own meeting and realize that there are individuals and groups within the meeting who have not felt fully supported. We also need greater awareness of ministry in the wider community of Friends beyond our meeting while we work to ensure that our outreach and community service hold to Quaker standards and are led by our beliefs.

Atlanta Friends continue to nurture vocal ministry that is grounded on a deep spiritual foundation and that is not politically motivated or polarizing. Ministry and Worship is addressing the spiritual growth and maturation of the meeting by supporting a well-attended Adult First Day class each week before meeting for worship, regular forums after meeting on topics such as worship, beliefs, membership, a Spiritual Nurture Group and, a monthly welcome dinner. In 2006, the annual Gathered Meeting Retreat was guided by Rubye Howard Braye from the Wilmington Monthly Meeting of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). The retreat sought answers to war as an individual and faith issue, asking how to take away the occasion for war.

The Meeting is delighted to support the growth of Gwinnett Preparatory Meeting as it moves towards becoming a monthly meeting. A committee of Atlanta Friends works with Gwinnett, and our Advancement Committee also supports the Anneewakee Creek Friends and the Canton Friends Worship Groups.

War and other sorts of violence toward human beings and the environment weighed much upon our hearts this year. Social Concerns Committee sponsored three well attended educational meetings along with discussing several topics both in committee and on the AFM on-line discussion list. The Meeting also approved minutes opposed to war and funding for war. Funds were provided to encourage eight Friends in their individual leadings and to support several non-Quaker organizations. Attention was also given to concerns about local poverty and the environment, including public films, information and discussion. One special project is our work with our sister community in El Salvador.

Nominating Committee recognizes that its work has become year-round. One of its most important goals is to clarify the Meeting's committee structure, especially to newcomers so that they can become more involved in the community.

With new co-clerks of First Day School, the meeting is taking an inventory of its curriculum, looking especially at how to develop a curriculum that increases young Friends' understanding of their Quaker heritage. Numbers of children have dwindled somewhat, but we continue to be blessed in the richness that young people bring. With the hiring of a new program director, our middle and senior high school students remain active in Southern Appalachian Young Friends retreats and activities, while a loyal group of students participates in discussion during their First Day School class. Our young adult friends have formed an active social and spiritual community with those from other meetings, and we seek as a meeting to include them in our committees and other work. We are aware that we sometimes forget the years after high school are a time when spiritual support is important and we should be more intentional in finding ways to find those in need and stay in touch with them.

We are aware of racism and classism within our community and remain committed to being more welcoming to people of color or of lower economic status. A set of queries developed by Our Roles as Individuals in Our Racial History is considered by each committee each year. The Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting continues to offer a variety of activities, including a Listening Ear available for individuals after meeting and a number of forums. CURAFM also surveyed attendees concerning how welcoming our community is and reported the results to Meeting for Business.

Considerable energy was also put into our first major renovation of our building, which was built in 1991. Priorities included making the building more energy efficient and a welcoming space for outside groups to rent. The Administration Committee and the Resident Manager shepherded this work and also spent time on a variety of tasks aimed at making the building and grounds useful and caring for our daily operations through a Living Wage policy and attention to good practice with employees. To better enhance the quality of worship for the hearing-impaired, we installed a sound system in the Meeting Room.

Financially, the meeting remains secure. Funds for the building are close to being raised. Each year seems to find it more difficult to get annual donations to match budgeted revenues on a month-to-month basis, and various remedies have been presented to get people to give to the operating budget. Finance Committee worked especially hard to streamline the books and reduce expenditures. While we seek to increase income in a variety of ways, we cannot but be pleased with the love and support, financial and spiritual, that our members and attendees offer the Meeting, the community and the wider world.

### **Berea Friends Meeting**

Berea Friends Meeting is currently experiencing perhaps the most dynamic period in the recent life of the meeting. Ownership of our own meetinghouse continues to create new positions, new challenges, and new opportunities. We have had the opportunity to welcome many individuals to our meeting this past year, and our average attendance has continued to swell. Berea Friends continue to discuss how to balance our administrative needs with our concern for spiritual life.

Our landscaping committee has been busy this past year, keeping in mind the testimony of simplicity so the upkeep will take minimal time. The major project has been a Peace Garden, designed by one of our members, with a variety of trees, plantings, and benches. The meeting purchased a Peace Pole, which will be placed in the front of our Meetinghouse this spring.

Last summer a Quakers family moved from Massachusetts to Berea. In December of last year we were glad to welcome Tracy Hodge and Charlie Wilton as new members. Their three children, including two daughters adopted from India, have been a wonderful addition to our children's program. This fall we also welcomed Hank Fay, who now is in the process of transferring his membership from his Florida meeting. In the next few months we will bid farewell to long-time member Dee Nelson when she moves to a Quaker retirement community outside Philadelphia.

We have appreciated the richness and diversity many new attenders have brought to our meetings for worship. First Day worship is often blessed with spoken messages, much sharing happens in the circle that follows worship, and activities like our Friday Soup Suppers continue to flourish.

We have recently added an outreach committee and a grounds coordinator. The concern that we have too many positions and committees for our small meeting comes up often, and we spent some time during our annual Membership Review in February contemplating queries about balance in our individual and meeting life.

Berea College student attenders started a mid-week Quaker worship group on campus last fall. They recently received approval as a campus group, and our meeting continues to offer support to them. Friends are hopeful that that attendance at this meeting by students and members of the meeting will increase in time.

This year Berea Friends acquired a new website, BereaFriendsMeeting.org, and a new sound system to assist Friends with hearing difficulties. We enjoyed the opportunity to host a SAYMA representative meeting in September. Later in the fall, our meetinghouse was the venue for a film festival on Oil Use and Energy Alternatives using films from Friends General Conference.

Ownership of our meetinghouse gave Berea Friends a new issue to address: whether we should pay property tax. After some discussion Friends decided to apply for property tax exemption and to use the amount that we would have paid to support local services. Each fiscal year, one-third of the total will be donated to the county for general expenses; one-third will be contributed to a specific local governmental program (for example, this year for children's programming at the public library), and one-third will be allocated for improvements that will make our meetinghouse a useful resource to the community.

Berea Friends Meeting currently has 58 members, and our average attendance on First Days is around 25 people. We have 13 children in our midst, ranging in age from 16 months to 12 years. Three Berea teens are active in the SAYF program.

### **Birmingham Friends Meeting**

Birmingham Friends felt the Spirit move among us this year, drawing us closer together as a community as we celebrated our children, explored our group commitments, and reached out into the wider Birmingham and national community.

We especially delight in the intellectual, physical and spiritual growth of our children. We often have visitors whom we welcome and we have our regular attenders. Emma and Henry, two of our 'birthright' children, Will, a new Friend from Alaska, and Emma's friend, Lincoln, are now bright young seekers who challenge us to learn and listen more profoundly than ever. They help us care for Margaret, our introspective young artist, and Joe, her extrovert brother who is enthusiastic about games, the outdoors and snacks. Emma's friends and neighbors attended a special blessing for her brother Aubrey, now a year old and a happy, loving toddler learning new skills by the hour. The children have created a peace box for the meeting, which encourages us to remember our concerns for peace, the environment, animals and children around the

world. Older Friends are re-painting the children's room and Margaret and Joe's mother will draw a mural on the wall. (She is also designing BFM t-shirts.) We held our annual Easter egg hunt, which demands lots of creativity in dyeing, hiding and finding the real eggs. Recognizing that children are not only our joy, but our responsibility, we commit ourselves to rotating childcare primarily, but not totally, among the non-parents of our children, so that they become more integrated into the meeting and so that their parents may have at least an hour of silence a week. A challenge is that with our rotation of teachers, it is difficult to keep up with a consistent children's curriculum. Also, traditionally children have sometimes come into the adult worship hour and sometimes not. We are now bringing them in at the beginning of the worship hour.

We have also committed ourselves to developing that of God within ourselves and our meeting. We have shared insights and responses, bringing us closer together, as we've discussed our way through Catherine Whitmire's *Plain Living* during our second hours. Sharing our insights leads us to know each other in "that which is eternal," though some of us admit that it's easier for us to discuss ideas than deeply felt experiential insights. Some of our interesting intellectual discussions focused on creeds, using a Pendle Hill pamphlet and other Friends' writings. Several of us shared the joyful trip to Cookeville's celebration of its monthly meeting certification, we went down memory lane with one Friend, who became a member of BFM this year and put together a scrapbook for the meeting, our monthly simple suppers give us a chance to just plain socialize, and we value the coffee time between meeting for worship and second hour. We have explored our own racism in a series of evening meetings; we had our first front porch sale, which did not yield much money, but did allow us to give away a lot of stuff. The women's group is becoming a deeply supportive community as we've watched videos that encourage us to recall our experiences of childhood, family, growing older and other life challenges. We also have a section on our website with individual Friends' statements of "Why I became a Quaker." We are challenged by Friends loss of family members and other concerns in our personal lives, by our Friends with special needs, and our recognition that sometimes we lack time or energy to do "enough" and have to forgive ourselves and each other. We were energized in a major way by Jane Berger's "Inreach/Outreach" workshop, which was something of a spiritual revival for us. Jane and her traveling companion, Zach, provided a format for energetic discussions on who we are as a Friends meeting and what we have to share with others. We not only gained spiritual insight and a special communion with each other, but we now have practical means of sharing more of ourselves with visitors to our community and with potential attenders from the Birmingham community. Our spiritual challenge is to build on this energy and these insights.

Finally, we feel the Spirit move as we reach outside our small meeting to share the Light with and to find it within others. BFM has become very active in the community, working with interfaith groups, peace groups, and individuals. One way we introduce ourselves is through the use of our meeting house by likeminded groups. We have worked hard as part of our commitment to peace and justice with other groups in our area. We have recently joined Greater Birmingham Ministries, which works with the poor and with civil rights groups to foster community and understanding. We are founding members of the Alabama Faith Council, a group made up of Christians, Jews, and Muslims (as well as Unitarians and Universalist Quakers) to work together for social justice concerns such as fair taxation, universal kindergarten for four-year-olds, and other issues fostering justice. We also support Alabama Arise, a group that focuses on state legislation affecting the poor, and state constitution reform. We not only support these organizations, but have invited representatives to speak to us and attend worship, so that we become part of each others' community. We received a moving lesson on

forgiveness and peace when we were visited and shown a film by the founder of the My Lai Peace Project. We have also been inspired by the reciprocal visits with the Muslim community, who have joined us in an Interfaith Peace Film Project. Friends helped organize and participated in the Katrina Listening Project, which allowed families to share their stories and know they were heard. The Project enriched the listeners and allowed some of the stories to reach a wide audience through media coverage. Friends continue to aid one family who still suffers from the effects of the uprooting and trauma of Katrina. We continue to develop our relationship with Avondale, an inner-city grammar school in our neighborhood. Friends helped build a playground and we donate our "property tax" to the P.T.A. each year. Some Friends are building a relationship with other Birmingham Peace groups at various rallies concerning, peace, torture and military violence and we participate in various "walks" that raise community consciousness of peace, hunger and social justice concerns. We are embarking on sponsorship of the AFSC's Eyes Wide Open Project.

We feel the Spirit moving as our small meeting manages to attend to so much—we need the joy and simplicity of the children and our meeting's inward times to carry us as we truly do seek to walk cheerfully over the earth answering that of God in everyone. Our challenge is to be mindful of that Spirit and to remain centered upon it as we go through our busy days.

### **Brevard Friends Meeting**

Members: 17    Regular Attenders: 14    Average attendance at Worship: 17

SAYMA's Ministry and Nurture Committee suggests this report include a response to the query, "How does the Spirit fare in our Meeting?" Based on the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:16), "By their fruits you shall know them", and the Apostle Paul's assertion (Galatians 5:22,23) that "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control", then we are bold to say, "The Spirit fares well in our Meeting! There is an atmosphere of affirmation of one another as fellow seekers, a tolerance of different points of view, and an energy of support that emanates from each person to all others who participate in the life of the Meeting. This is evident in Meeting for Worship, Adult Forum, Friendly-Eights, committee work, potluck dinners, and in the numerous ways care and nurture are given from one to one another.

Ministry beyond the Meeting is carried out by members and attenders individually, or in small groups, and not by the Meeting as a whole in terms of an identifiable Quaker project. This ministry takes the form of volunteer work, vigils, participation at public meetings, letters to the editor, and the giving of financial resources as reflected in our budget. Locally we specifically support the work of Sharing House, Center for Dialogue, The Children's Center, and the Bread of Life. Beyond the community we support these Quaker organizations: AFSC, FCNL, FGC, FWCC, Quaker House at Ft. Bragg, NC, and SAYMA.

We regret that our members/attenders are mostly in the "above 65" age-group, with only several middle-aged adults, and no children attending regularly. This reduces both our diversity, and diminishes our energy, but we are still able to maintain a positive and joyful sense of Meeting.

With mixed feelings, we have ended our relationship with the Boys and Girls Club, precipitated by its need for us to carry liability insurance. We have begun meeting at the College Walk retirement center which, for some, reinforces our image of being "an old folks Meeting", so we are committed to seek a meeting place which might prove to

be more welcoming to a wider group of seekers. We do have a sense of gratitude, however, that we are not burdened with the demands of owning property!

Our Meeting rejoiced in celebrating the marriage under the care of the Meeting of members Wendell Holland and Barbara Chamides. We are in the preparatory stages of caring for the marriage of member Lee Scott to Bud Ackerman.

We are pleased that Richard Zelman and Wendell Holland transferred their memberships to us from Flagstaff, AZ, and Charlotte, NC Monthly Meetings.

We have been saddened, and diminished, by the deaths of member Jesse Mock and attender John Freeman. Jesse was one of our founding members, served as Clerk several years, and edited our newsletter. John was a regular attender for many years. Although we deeply miss their physical presence, their spiritual presence is always with us.

In closing, we affirm that “ Faith, Hope, and Love abide, but the greatest of these is Love.”

### **Celo Monthly Meeting**

Celo Friends Meeting continues as a vibrant spiritual heart of our community. Our time together in worship is deeply meditative and largely quiet. Spoken ministry is often around concerns Friends bring that are on their hearts. In the past year recurring concern has been expressed for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and for the issue of climate change and environmental degradation due to human misuse of the planet.

There is a core group of 40 -45 members and attenders who constitute the strength of our Meeting. Of that number 20-25 are usually in attendance on any given First Day. With the addition of visitors and others we often crowd our small converted goat barn. Changes in the past year include two new members, one death and one birth. Going through the exercise of taking the census of the Meeting was revealing. Many people who seldom attend, and hadn't joined us for worship in months or years, when asked if they were ready to be dropped from our list, really wanted to be kept in touch, even if this only means they get an occasional email announcement. Though most of these folks join us to worship rarely, if there is something to celebrate in our community such as birth, death or marriage, the Meeting often provides the structure for that event.

A tangible sign of the importance of the Meeting to our wider community has been the support for construction of our new worship space. This support has been both financial and as volunteer labor. We hope to be in the final year of construction of our new meeting house. This has been a multi-phase process that really began 11 years ago with the replacement of our caretaker residence with a new residence and fellowship space. The work on this final phase has been a combination of hired and volunteer labor that has included harvesting timber and stone from our surrounding land. We have also received volunteer help from other Friends in SAYMA as well as contributions from other Meetings, individual Friends, and a grant from FGC New Meetinghouse Fund. As Friends we know the spirit resides in our hearts and not in our buildings, yet we are gratified to see our new meeting house rise as a direct result of our community working together.

The adult education committee has maintained an ongoing Tuesday night worship sharing group. These gatherings have focused on different readings. Friends who participate have found this important to deepening their spiritual life .

Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee largely remains a committee in waiting. Noting that many of our members are integrating peace and social concerns work into their personal lives or through other organizational efforts, the committee has

not felt it important to organize any new activities until a member or members come with a concern.

Our Meeting is blessed with many families with young children. We have an active and engaging First Day School program. A significant part of this has been a children's Meeting for Worship. One or more elders join children and some parents from the Meeting, leaving regular worship when the children do. They engage in a silent worship specifically with and for the children. This has developed into a very meaningful part of the first day experience both for the children and for the adults who join them

### **Charleston Friends Meeting**

The seasons of another year have come and gone, and the seasons of many of our lives are changing. Charleston Friends grow slowly but steadily in the Light that is granted to them. Our worship is sometimes centered and Spirit-filled, sometimes more contemplative and quiet. Perhaps a few, perhaps a roomful, we wait in silence on the Lord, as Friends have done for almost 400 years. Vocal ministry may be grounded in scripture, or may represent a response to a Friend's prayers or concerns, even when that prayer has yet to be uttered.

Although our number has changed little, we have continued to welcome new attenders and Friends, even as others have moved away or found other faith communities. Our small size means we have to be junior partners in most peace and social justice activities, and we can't do everything we might wish to do. One example this year involved SAYMA's Ministry and Nurture Committee, which we very much wanted to host, but we were unable to assure that enough Friends would be in town to offer hospitality on the selected weekends.

In addition to First Day worship, Charleston Friends conduct Worship Sharing sessions, usually on the 5th weekend of a month. We have been considering queries from SAYMA on witness, and will soon begin working on queries from Friends General Conference. We have also an adult religious education program that is studying Margaret Snyder's *Bringing Religious Education Home*. This excellent short publication is subtitled *Welcome to the Religious Society of Friends*, but we have found it stimulating for newcomers and long time members. We also have mid week Bible study twice each month. Occasionally, we worship outdoors in a local forest park, sharing breakfast beforehand and conversation afterward.

Meeting supported two Friends' participation in Pendle Hill programs this year. One attender joined other white people working to end racism, and a second learned about the skills of clerking. Both have become resources to our meeting, enriching our community with the insights of the wider community of Friends.

Charleston Friends continue a small program of social ministry. We host a breakfast for women and children at a local shelter before Christmas, and adopt a family for Christmas. We also have a dinner in midwinter for residents of the local men's shelter. Friends enthusiastically cook and serve, and are enriched by the fellowship in the communities we serve. We also act as a support group for the West Virginia Economic Justice Project, a program operated by the American Friends Service Committee. We are amazed by the staff's resilience, resourcefulness, and good humor in the face of constant challenges. The Project hosted a meeting on Seasoning, Implementing, and Networking with West Virginia community program staff, Mid Atlantic Region Staff, and staff of other projects. Project staff help organize peace activities through the Patriots for Peace organization, educate the public on social welfare and health services issues through op-ed writing and a thought-provoking web log ([www.goatrobe.blogspot.com](http://www.goatrobe.blogspot.com)), help individuals navigate the social services bureaucracy

and sound the alarm when they run into illogical barriers, and build coalitions of progressive thinkers within the state. They are an information resource on social policy. We are pleased that a meeting member, who has been part of the project's support network for about ten years, now serves on the AFSC board.

Loss and grief have shadowed Charleston Friends this year, with illness and death of parents, personal struggles, and health issues that are predictable as we continue to season. We are saddened by separation from children, who go from college to work to graduate studies, most often in other states, like many other West Virginia sons and daughters who leave because of the state's limited economy.

It is a delight when young Friends return, even briefly. We rejoice that Meeting has been asked to take the wedding of the daughter of two members under its care later in the summer, and we feel blessed that others of the Meeting's children are finding life partners and vocations.

Thanks to a technologically experienced Friend, Charleston now has a website ([charlestonwv.quaker.org](http://charlestonwv.quaker.org)). Our visibility has increased, resulting in several visitors. We are linked to SAYMA. A further outreach effort may come to fruition later this year; Meeting is compiling a list of important Quaker literature, which we plan to donate to the local library.

West Virginia area Friends plan a fall gathering September 15-16. Because of our unique location, we expect Friends from at least 3 yearly meetings. We would be honored to introduce SAYMA Friends to this small but vital link in the Quaker chain.

### **Chattanooga Friends Meeting**

Chattanooga Friends Meeting has had an amazing influx of new attenders for its size since a year ago. In only about the last six months of 2006, eleven! new people started attending regularly. That is an amazing number for Chattanooga Meeting because those eleven now make up about half of the total number of our current regular attenders. We have put in a lot of effort at trying to make every new attender feel warmly welcomed. We have also done a lot at trying to help them become oriented to and integrated into the meeting's faith community and practices. We feel so far we have done a fairly credible job in that but realize we have not been perfect. We are committed to continuing efforts at nurturing the sense of a "well knit" community among people who are, as a group, at fairly widely different places on their journey with the Religious Society of Friends. We continue to give inquiring new attenders packets of introductory pamphlets on Quaker topics. In addition, A Guide to Our Faith and Practice is provided to all who choose to take one. Currently, we are re-evaluating our small library collection to determine which volumes are needed to offer a broader choice of Quaker writings. Also copies of the Friends Journal are available to all interested persons. Use of these resources is not restricted only to new attenders; long-time attenders and members also have the opportunity to learn from them. Early in 2007 we joyfully welcomed into formal membership one who has attended regularly for a few years. Meeting has been served by co-clerks for a year now. It seems to be working well for the Meeting as well as for the two co-clerks themselves.

First Day Meetings for Worship continue to be the core and bedrock of the life of Chattanooga Meeting. Several are faithful in regular attendance while many others attend when they are not detained by other demands on their First Day mornings or by out of town travels. The quality of silent worship continues consistently strong and spiritually strengthening for the worshippers. We continue to work on self discipline and discernment of Spirit-led messages in Meetings for Worship. This effort is bearing



rewarding fruit. We have also nurtured improved quality of discourse and process in meetings with attention to business. Good fruit is coming from this effort also.

The number of children attending First Day school has increased two-fold this year from approximately 5 to 11, due to the attendance of three new young families. First Day school students range in age from preschool to eighth grade. We grew from one class to two classes in order to meet the different needs of the older and younger children and recruited additional teachers. Now many more members of our community are involved in First Day School leadership and teaching. Although attendance by the children is somewhat sporadic, Meeting has undertaken fulfillment of its sense of responsibility to provide a First Day School program for the children every single First Day. Each First Day during the announcement period following Meeting for Worship, the young people of the First Day school tell the adults about their activities and learning in their classes while the adults were in worship. The major focuses of study in First Day School over the past year included our responsibility for the environment and the study of other religions. First Day School exchanged visits with the youth at the Unitarian Church. We developed and presented a puppet show about Quakers. We also decorated tiles with symbols from different religions and placed them in our flower garden. Fairly often the children have created art and crafts items that they give to all of the adults in attendance. These small tokens have a wonderfully large impact on drawing the generations together. One of our long-term attenders took on baking fresh cookies before Meetings for Worship and serves them after worship. His intention is to foster warm memories of First Days at the Meeting.

Education and spiritual nurturing continue to be an important focus in the life of the Meeting. Adult education, as well as First Day school, has flourished with broad support by many of the Meeting. Adult education and spiritual nurturing have taken a variety of forms at Chattanooga Friends Meeting. At the center of our efforts is the Second Hour program each First Day. First and fifth First Days of a month are routinely reserved for discussion, study, and worship sharing on a broad variety of topics relevant to the religious Society of Friends' faith and practices. We have an ongoing Bible study/discussion nearly every fourth First Day. In the last year we inaugurated a Quaker "Then and Now" program. During months with five First Days, we offer a Second Hour lecture/ discussion on the historical perspective of a Quaker topic, the "Then." This is followed on the fifth First Day that month with worship sharing or discussion on the current practices relating to that topic, the "Now." We have studied the Quaker testimonies of Peace and Simplicity and Quaker unprogrammed worship using that format. Other topics we have discussed in other Second Hour formats include violence and Quakerly responses to violence, outreach to the greater Chattanooga community, membership in the Religious Society of Friends, Quakerly responses to the Bush administration's actions in Iraq, proposed revisions to SAYMA's A Guide to Our Faith and Our Practice.

Recently, a Second Hour focused on the topics of Meeting membership and attendership. One goal addressed there was to reinforce commitment to the testimony of community. We have renewed our practice of contacting those whom we have not seen or heard from for some length of time, letting them know we are thinking about them and miss them.

Of special interest and focus to our community this year has been the peace testimony. We created our first standing "Peace Committee" to nurture Meeting's expressed desire to strengthen our understanding and practice of the peace testimony. The process nurtured both individual spiritual growth and growth for the Meeting as a community. Chattanooga Friends drew closer together in their exploration of this topic. Two second Hour discussions dedicated to the discussion of the documentary movie

Bowling for Columbine and violence in America drew the greatest participation this year. In addition, the testimony of peace was the topic in focus for two other Second Hour meetings, one on the cultivation of peace within and the second on questions about possible Quakerly responses to the Bush administration. The Meeting also drew together in making a special event held on a Saturday night. We had Hector and Susie Black at the Meetinghouse with Hector giving a very inspiring talk on his and Susie's testimony of dedication to trying to live a life of peacemaking. This was an event of powerful spiritual nurturing for the Meeting (and for the visitors from the wider Chattanooga community.)

We affirm that well seasoned members are our most valuable resource for Quaker education and spiritual guidance. A good number of experienced and weighty Friends among us are living models of Quaker principles and faith. In addition to the strength of our "elders," less experienced members and attenders have been encouraged and called upon to participate fully in all aspects of the Meeting's life, including positions of Meeting responsibility. We have been largely successful in providing opportunities, guidance, and support for growth in all aspects of Meeting life to all who have been coming regularly.

Our Ministry & Oversight committee has coordinated clearness committees to provide spiritual support to those struggling with issues ranging from divorce to radical life changes to parenting under extremely difficult circumstances. A healthy cross-section of our members and attenders have served on clearness committees this year. Both those who served and those who were seeking have experienced spiritual nurturance and growth by participation in the clearness committees.

As a whole, our meeting is more inwardly focused than outwardly involved. We have gathered often for social activities and celebrations in addition to worship: monthly "potluck" lunches after Meeting for Worship, visited in homes for viewing Bowling for Columbine, quarterly women's potluck suppers in each other's homes, a retirement party, some birthdays, a send-off for the Ingles on their departure to a three-month sojourn as Resident Friends at Pendle Hill outside of Philadelphia, PA. This is not to say that many individuals do not pursue issues of peace and social justice. Activities supported by members and attenders include the Interfaith Hospitality Network for homeless families, the annual Thanksgiving Day morning walk to raise funds for services to homeless families and individuals of greater Chattanooga and the annual Peace March in support of ending the war in Iraq. In response to FCNL's call for a "Nationwide 9/11 Call for Freedom from Fear" by having a "Virtual Lobby Day" on 9-11-06, we sent a small delegation to meet with our Congressional Representative's staff in Chattanooga that day. We also sent letters to other local faith communities encouraging them to do the same. At the same time, a Letter to the Editor of our local paper in protest of the war was published on behalf of the Meeting. And we started using Fair Trade coffee exclusively at the Meetinghouse.

We went through a fairly thorough threshing on the question of "outreach" for making the Meeting's presence known in the greater Chattanooga community. We now have a few self-made bumperstickers with our contact information on a few of our bumpers. We had a letter to the editor in the local newspaper signed "for Chattanooga Friends Meeting." We advertised and personally invited others to our special event with Hector and Susie Black. In some small measure we have promoted extending invitations to people that we know to join us in worship on First Day mornings. Perhaps during the next year we will be able to raise the level of our outreach efforts. Approved at regular monthly meeting for worship with attention to business, Thirteenth Day, Fifth Month 2007

## **Columbia Friends Meeting**

One of the strengths of Columbia Friends Meeting rests in a small, but close knit group of young friends who, with the encouragement of their parents, are an integral part of the Meeting and add spiritual depth as well as fun. With them we visited Charlotte (NC) Friends Meeting, have fed the homeless through the Food Not Bombs program, studied the environment, learned new hymns, and sold crafts to support different AFSC projects.

The latest project was a giant board game in which each team goes forward or backward a designated number of steps depending on whether a game card reflected a Quaker value or not. We shared in writing the cards. The winning team reaches the Inner Light. This game is funny and fun, and we laughed at our failings and our strengths as evidenced in the game cards.

For the last several years a young friend has been a member of the Ministry and Nurture Committee. The one new member of our Meeting in the past year is a young Friend who started college in the fall.

We have had several new attenders at Meeting. Some of them live a distance from Columbia, and come only occasionally. Others have been coming regularly and are active in the life of the Meeting.

It was our turn to host Palmetto Friends Gathering in Columbia this year. 41 Quakers from South Carolina Gathered at the YMCA Camp. We invited the archivist from Guilford to speak to us about the history of Quakers in the Carolina's. This was fascinating. Members of Five Rivers Meeting from Horry County prepared a lunch made from locally grown food products. It was a delicious meal, and reminded us that locally grown food is available, delicious and using it protects the environment.

One of the members has created a web site for Palmetto Friends ([palmettofriends.org](http://palmettofriends.org)) and each Meeting has a link. There are pod casts of recent presentations of Palmetto Friends Gathering and Columbia Friends Meeting as well as interviews with young Friends.

Three members of the Meeting continue to do prison visitation at the federal prison in Edgefield County. Another attender has created libraries for children in small towns in Central America and has involved the Meeting in this activity.

The Meeting is exploring again the desire for a Meeting House. Two committees have been set up, one to look at possible locations and the other to look at the financial issues connected with having a more identifiable home. The desire for a Meeting House seems to be stronger this time and although concerns still remain it feels as if we are being led towards revealing who we are in a place that allows us to blossom.

Our discussions after Meeting for worship are usually excellent and well planned. We have had a series of Bible Studies that are fascinating and well attended. We have had programs about social issues and about wider Quaker organizations (AFSC, FCNL, FWCC, etc). We have had programs on health care.

There are several members of the Columbia Friends Meeting who are active in Wider Quaker Organizations: AFSC, FGC, Quaker House, SAYMA, and FWCC.

Our Meeting is challenged because its size and its resources are smaller than its vision. We dream of doing many things but we haven't found a way to do them yet. We continue to struggle with the budget trying to balance our need to nurture ourselves and to share with the world. We fear that we would not be able to afford a Meeting House when we often do not end the year with enough money to cover our expenditures. Because we are so small, it is a challenge to care for individuals with illness or other crisis's. We do our best to meet the needs.

We usually have about 20-25 people at Meeting for Worship on First Day including 5 -6 young Friends. The Silence is very deep. Vocal ministry in our discussion groups is Spirit led. We wonder how we can encourage and nurture this ministry in Meeting for Worship. Meeting for Worship for the Conduct of Business is very sparsely attended. Often there are only 5-6 individuals who participate. The active committees are Ministry and Nurture, First Day School and the Meeting House Committees. Peace and Social Concerns Committee is not active.

### **Cookeville Monthly Meeting**

The Cookeville Friends Meeting, after many years of being a Worship Group and two years of being a Preparative Meeting, has become a monthly meeting, which was celebrated March 10, 2007. We were blessed by attenders at that celebration from Birmingham, Crossville, Chattanooga, Huntsville, Knoxville, Memphis, Murfreesboro, and Nashville. A big thanks to Crossville and Nashville Meetings for their years of care and guidance. We welcomed out first members, Hector and Susie Black, who wrote to transfer their membership from the Crossville meeting, and look forward to many more members.

We find the hour of silent worship to be a very important part of our week; we are drawn to attend this worship. This hour of silence is more than being silent and allowing room for God to speak to us; some of us feel there are invisible spiritual beings in attendance, which deepen the sense of the mystery of the silence.

We are beginning to experiment with our format for Meeting with a Concern for Business in order to deepen our worship and make better use of our time. We recently tried 45 minutes of worship followed immediately by the meeting for business, with refreshments and socializing put off to afterwards.

We enjoyed our annual retreat last fall (October, 2006). Our theme was fun and fellowship. As usual it was a spiritual and centering time of reflection and community strengthening. We hosted our third Quakerism 101 six-week session last winter (January and February, 2007), using Michael Birkel's book, Silence and Witness, as a text.

We have restarted, as of February, 2007, a weekly (First Day, 1-2 p.m.) Peace Vigil at the Putnam County Courthouse. Veterans for Peace and others have joined us. We appear to have much more support with the public now than we did during the build up to the Iraq war.

The monthly witness at Putnam County high schools to inform students of alternatives to military service continues. At the invitation of a teacher, a Friend spoke to four classes at McGavock High School in Nashville recently. We have found that personal stories about experiences in the military mean the most to the students.

We have begun visiting the Cookeville Dismas House, a local re-entry program for recently released prisoners. We provide evening dinners once a month. Our visits are intended to encourage the residents in trying to improve their lives, and to deepen our understanding of people whose lives are different from ours. A few of us are continuing meeting with others to witness against capital punishment.

The Meeting has grown substantially in numbers during the past year. We have had occasion to implement our First Day school; a family with three boys has been attending this year.

A Friend presented a session in our second hour discussion recently on “Envisioning a Well World.” We have had a couple additional second hours on this topic, and have decided to eventually hold meetings open to the public on how to deal with global warming, sustainability, appropriate technology, and similar issues.

A Friend spoke in the silent worship recently about how important is Jesus’ teaching (Matthew, 25:34-40) about helping the hungry, sick, imprisoned and so forth, ending with “Verily, verily I say unto you, inasmuch as you have done it to the least of these your brethren, so you have done it to Me.” There can be no better Biblical support for a central Friends’ belief that there is that of God in every human being.

### **Crossville Friends Meeting**

We are deeply concerned about the future of the Crossville Monthly Meeting. While it continues to provide a critical spiritual experience for its members, the number of members and attenders continues to decline. Age and infirmity has reduced the attendance and the participation of most of our older members and despite many efforts, new members and attenders are not coming forth. Our one new member from 2006 moved away. Most First days, there are only four or five of us in attendance.

Despite our diminished numbers, there were some definite high points in the year. A worship-sharing group was established in the fall and continues on Wednesday evenings with six participants, only one of whom is a member of our Monthly Meeting. While it is not strictly a Quaker worship group, it has provided much spiritual support and insights.

The Meeting again sponsored a Central America trip, with member Toby Rogers bringing another school bus to Nicaragua. The majority of the financial support for the trip came from a Presbyterian church in Knoxville, but we consider ourselves blessed to be able to participate in this long-term project of support and service.

### **Greenville Friends Meeting**

We have continued to grow in the life of the Spirit during the past year. We celebrated the life of one of our members who died in January, but also found comfort in the fact that we have had three new attenders during the past year. We have also made a number of changes that have maintained the good order of our Meeting.

GMM’s Activities: The Clemson Preparatory Meeting remains under our care, and we are encouraged by its perseverance in the face of challenges. The Clemson group remains quite small, and two of its six regular attenders have faced ongoing health problems. The Clemson group recently changed its worship time to Sunday afternoons in order to better accommodate its members/attenders’ schedules. One of our attenders has been attending the Clemson meetings every Sunday, and has provided First Day

instruction for its two children. We had the opportunity to have a joint Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship at Clemson, which nurtured both groups.

We have continued our mid-week Worship Group at Furman University, gathering each Wednesday from 12:00-12:30 in the Chapel of the university. A few visiting students have been welcomed to the Furman Worship Group since September. We anticipate spending the summer in an attempt to discern whether to lay down this worship group, given the sparse attendance over the past year.

Five of our members/attenders visited the Brevard Friends Meeting in October, and we enjoyed potluck fellowship afterward. We hope to strengthen this bond with our local Friends by having more joint gatherings.

One of our members continues to be engaged in exciting overseas activities. He teaches English in a school in Mexico, and also performs volunteer work for the Vineyard Mission. We hope that he will be able to attend Meeting for Worship during his summer vacation here in the U.S., providing us with additional information about opportunities to assist those who face hardship and poverty in the region where he teaches.

GMM representatives also continue to attend programs organized by the Palmetto Friends Group (PFG) and SAYMA. We coordinated the book exhibit at this year's meeting of the former, and enjoyed both the fellowship and intellectual stimulation that resulted from this undertaking. We recognize that we would benefit by more involvement in PFG and SAYMA committees and programs.

In September, we reached consensus on changing our meeting place and time. We now meet on Sunday mornings at 11:00 on the bottom floor of the Daniel Chapel at Furman University. Our members/attenders feel that this has been a beneficial change; we believe that two Furman students have become regular attenders due to this change in time and venue.

We are grateful for the gracious support and hospitality that continues to be provided to us by the Chaplin's Office at Furman University; the Chaplain, Vaughn Crowe-Tipton, has made the Chapel's facilities available to us for mid-week Meeting, as well as for the trial run of our Meetings for Worship on Sunday mornings in August and September. We were also able to hold a Worship Sharing to commemorate the fifth anniversary of 9/11 and a Memorial Meeting for Worship for Norman Goerlich on April 28 in the Chapel.

GMM's Giving Opportunities: We continue to have a representative on the Board of Directors of the Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (a local group that focuses on the needs of homeless families); he has also been recently appointed to the board of the area's Interfaith Forum. We continue to support Quaker House (located in Fayetteville, NC) and its witness of the peace testimony of the Religious Society of Friends. We also provided assistance in the form of a contribution to the fund established in memory of the children who perished during the Amish school shooting in the fall. We are currently investigating how we might become involved in Childspring International, an Atlanta-based organization that arranges health-care in the U.S. for children from other countries.

GMM's Fellowship: GMM continues to rejoice in mutual fellowship. We enjoy socializing after meeting with refreshments and conversation. We were especially heartened to be able to hold one of our Meetings for Worship at the home of an attender during the Christmas holidays.

As we noted in last year's report, we possess much talent and potential for spiritual growth and leadership. We pray for opportunities to serve God and our community, and to continue to find joy in the Light and among ourselves.

## **Memphis Friends Meeting**

There is an orchid in our meeting room given by a founding member and well-tended by a quiet, steady Friend. It surprises us each year with new shoots which bloom beautifully in variations on a pattern. How similarly the Spirit lives in our meeting community. As we tend more intentionally to the nurturing of new leadings and leadership, though we falter at times, things bloom!

Smaller groups within our meeting blossomed this year—a prayer study group who also do tai chi together, and a monthly midweek worship group (in its second year) which have nourished our spirits and deepened our relationships. In addition, the meeting has been able to give substantial support to one friend with serious legal problems, perhaps, in part, due to more trust and commitment among us.

Our preschoolers to teens are exuberant and growing. A welcome quilt which one young Friend suggested making hangs in our meeting room. Young Friends planned a meeting for worship for the celebration of children which included silent worship, walking the labyrinth, bubbles, balloons and musical instruments. For Earth Day, they suggested we dress as animals and plants and have a parade. Their enthusiastic fundraising for Heifer Project culminated in a visit by duck, chickens and Nan Johnson of Oxford Meeting who has lots of experience with Heifer Project. One young Friend who is a Boy Scout is exploring his Quaker roots and faith by working on the Spirit of Truth religious emblem. We have a small group of dedicated adults who keep First Day school going, but how does a meeting help develop youth leaders? Four high school students no longer attend regularly, but we have maintained some connections with them. Now we have a new crop of preteens moving into the teen years, and so we begin again.

Business Meeting where we weed and prune the garden is attended by a regular core with occasional attendance of more people. The meeting has spent time on outreach to area colleges and homebound friends, on hospitality and a pamphlet on membership, on gender equality issues in the state of TN with one member led to participate in lobbying our representatives, on energy issues resulting in a meeting project to reduce energy consumption, and on planning for a celebration of 50 years of Quaker presence in Memphis next September. Friends endorsed the Campaign to Repeal the Torture Law and provided scholarship money for this year's QUIT conference. We have labored, at times painfully, and will continue to labor to reach unity on two issues: --the hiring guidelines of FUM and our relationship to Ramallah Friends School through FUM, and --a request to have one Friend's gifts of ministry recorded. Happily, we were able to make some decisions on how to spend a budget surplus.

One Friend who published a book on the spirituality of community life this year comments that the deepening of community strengthens individuals to take the Spirit of that community outside itself. We are experiencing this as individuals follow their leadings and plant seeds in various ways. Friends give service to SAYMA in major roles; others serve on boards such as the MidSouth Peace and Justice Center and Friends Journal. Two Friends published articles in the 'Money' issue of Friends Journal; one taught Quaker Spirituality for the

School of Servant Leadership here; one taught an undergraduate course in ecological economics. Friends also have been involved in QUIT, FLGBTQC, Initiative:Fairness, TN Equality Day, School of the Americas protest, our local interfaith social service agency MIFA, Emmanuel House, Sisters of Charity Shelter and the MidSouth Interfaith Network for Economic Justice. One Friend has kept the weekly statistics of casualties of the Iraq war in the meeting house window for four years.

Our meetings for learning are rich and draw on many talents and interests. We are doing well using our newsletter and listserv to communicate with each other. We nurture connections with Oxford, Starkville, Mountain View and Little Rock Friends in formal and informal ways, including our annual retreat which was a joint effort of Oxford, Starkville and Memphis this time. We host traveling Friends. Our numbers stay fairly steady as people continue to move into and away from Memphis. This year we said goodbye to Larry and Carolyn Jordan after many years. They transferred their residence to Washington, DC and their membership to Falmouth, MA Meeting (Sandwich Monthly Meeting) and we look forward to a report from them on their trip to South Africa and Zimbabwe where they were hosted by various f/Friends. Their departure may have led to somewhat fewer spoken messages; however, worship remains at our center and grounds us, ebbing and flowing with silence and spoken ministry. Long time attendee Marjean Liggett became a member this year. Shari Snively of California serving as a Navy counselor and Bill Metz of Oregon caring for his mother each sojourned with us for several months. We welcome Jim and Janet Felty and their children Jeremy and John. We value new leadership offered by Pat Jessup and Andre Spies.

One of our first State of the Meeting reports used the image of the meeting trying to lift a delicate vase up onto a mantle. Now we have a plant on the mantle which surprises us each year, and continues to deepen its roots.

### **Nashville Friends Meeting**

Third Month query: "Are you sensitive to the spiritual and temporal needs of those making up the meeting community? Do you respond to needs of older, distant, or lonely members and attenders with love and mutual care?" *SAYMA Guide to Our Faith and Our Practice, 1998*

Our Ministry and Counsel Committee recommended that our in-coming clerk attend a clerking workshop held at Pendle Hill. Dick Houghton joined forty-one Friends from FGC meetings/ worship groups and enjoyed the leadership and enthusiasm of Arthur Larrabee sharing with them his collected materials entitled "Clerking: Serving the Community with Joy and Confidence." Dick returned with several possible new directions for the Meeting. Beginning with Eighth Month's monthly meeting for worship with attention to business, we approved, for a six-months trial basis, changing our format so that we blend business into worship. As modified after our trial period, each third First Day we begin centering worship at 10:00. At 10:30, we consider the query for the month for 20 minutes with the younger F/friends present. After that the children go to their First Day classes and we move into business agenda for approximately 60-80 minutes, or until the Spirit releases us. Most Friends and attenders have responded



positively to the changes. Committee clerks are gratified that attendance of at least three times more of our community means deeper participation in this aspect of the life of our meeting.

High school Young Friends, whose numbers have increased up to twenty this year, have become more active in the life of the meeting too. Some attend meeting for worship with attention to business and several actively participate on committees. As part of their curriculum on social issues, they led the meeting in gathering together a truck load of furnishing for a refugee family. Ten or more Young Friends find deep support and joy by traveling to SAYF retreats during the year. We were honored to have one of our Young Friends appointed to represent SAYMA at a Friends General Conference sponsored consultation on advancement and outreach.

Adult Second Hour planning and leadership has provided us with many rich and well attended offerings that help us know each other more deeply. Ministry and Counsel Committee continues to sponsor two Quakerism classes each year, nourishing and nurturing new and long time Friends alike.

In living the query printed at the top of this page, we support multiple clearness and support committees for individuals of our community. Clearness for membership, marriage and life decisions are among the issues heard. Dealing with long term illness, oversight of ministry and general life situations occupy those serving on support committees.

Ministry and Counsel continues to faithfully endeavor to nurture the spiritual life of the meeting. It has taken on responsibility for closing worship. At the rise of worship a committee member serves as "Quaker in the Corner"- available to hear questions and concerns of members and attenders. Additionally, we completed a new brochure that addresses how to become more active in the life of the meeting. After a two year process, meeting approved "Guidelines to Becoming a Member".

Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee has been very active in helping Friends live into our commitment to peace and social justice. Our annual Fall Retreat focused on Friends' concern to end government use of torture. Kristi Estes of Memphis Meeting shared her work with QUIT, Quaker Initiative to End Torture. Consequently some Nashville Friends will be at the second QUIT Conference in June at Guilford College. Continuing their work of last year, Peace and Social Concerns has held more workshops for training leaders for Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). Our meeting now has four qualified leaders who provided our sixth Regional Gathering an opportunity to experience AVP exercises. In Twelfth Month, the committee sponsored a workshop on "What we can do for peace," with Chuck Fager. It was well attended and we were challenged to think, 'outside the box'. The meeting approved a request for a minute stating that "Nashville Friends Meeting opposes the increase in troop strength and spending for the war in Iraq" This minute was given to participants in the Occupation Project so they could present it to our representative and senators as an expression of our concerns.

Penelope Wright has grown to be a treasured Spirit-led Friend in our meeting. In Fifth Month 2006, she completed the two year, School of the Spirit for Spiritual Nurturers program (under the care of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting). As Spirit leads Penelope and Peter to return to roots in Vermont, we are aware that we will need to grow in several ways as a Meeting in order to fill many of the ways she has served among us.

A great event for Nashville Meeting resulted from M&C's nurture of a worship group that came of age. The Cookeville Preparative Meeting put on a celebration of becoming a monthly meeting Eleventh Day of Third Month. We had a wonderful gathering as 50 Friends from near and far joined together to record the creation of the

newest monthly meeting in SAYMA. Sadly we also approved the request of Clarksville Worship Group to be laid down.

Last fiscal year, our Finance Committee was challenged and worked hard. Donations came in lower than projected to meet the budget, causing us to forfeit our non-Quaker contributions. Although we are managing to meet our loan obligations, we are being very careful about our spending and seek ways to meet our deficit. We have had one fund raising event that raised \$2,000 to help alleviate the financial situation.

Hibbard Thatcher's passing was memorialized by F/friends and family with outstanding messages, singing and dancing, 9<sup>th</sup> day of Ninth Month 2006. Hibbard was a founder and a foundation spirit of Nashville Meeting. While his presence is missed, his contributions and wisdom remain with us.

Nashville census for 2006-2007:		
Members: 59	Attendees: 42	Attendees Under 18 years old: 34
Babies born:		Opal, daughter of Cher and Eric Smith
New members:		Bill Wolfe, Deanna Nipp-Kientz, Mary McKinney
Transferred members Out:		Willard Vaughan and Diane Coleman
Death of a member:		Hibbard Thatcher 8/5/06

### **Oxford Friends Meeting**

As we sat together with the query, "How has the Spirit fared among us?" it was not long before each person's response echoed the one before: "Massive changes" and "Great losses." We have felt assaulted by the challenges to our individual and collective spirits,

Our greatest loss was that of one of our founding members, Win Jordan, at whose home we have been worshipping since the very beginning in 2000. Though physically diminished and absent for long stretches of time due to a series of debilitating illnesses, Win was always present for us spiritually, and active in our Ministry and Nurture committee until just a few weeks before his death. His death in March was marked by the opportunity to celebrate his life with the whole University of Mississippi at which he had taught for decades. According to his wishes, and that of his wife, Cora, also a member, we were able to have an unprogrammed meeting for worship on campus, attended by faculty, staff, current and former students and everyone from our meeting. This was the first Quaker meeting for the huge majority of people attending, yet the silence and the words were just what Win would have appreciated and valued.

Prior to Win's death, we needed to find a new place to meet. We had met at the Jordan's since the very beginning (2000) as a worship group so it was difficult to leave. A long-term location was not readily available. Part of the time we met at a local university's student union; our most spiritually fulfilling times were those occasions when we met in the home of one of our families.

We have finally settled on a new meeting home in the building of a social service agency serving women and children at risk of domestic violence and teen mothers. We are pleased to have a fine space for children's meeting (though we only have one 3 year old on a regular basis) and a great kitchen for our much beloved (and sorely missed over the past few months) "meeting for cookies" after

worship. The agency does not ask for rent, but we have made material donations and plan to do more for them in lieu of cash. They have been extraordinarily accommodating!

In the past year, we have also lost a great number of long time adult members/attenders and children for many different reasons including: divorce and moving to a new state, life-threatening illnesses; increased job pressures; and to dissatisfaction with lack of a teen program (though we struggled mightily to meet the needs of older children there were too few to create a program). One person noted that she had never seen such a large percentage of seriously ill people in such a small group over such a long period of time. Another person characterized us as down to “a saving remnant.”

We also lost our clerk, who over a period of six months was more and more absent due to various concerns. Ministry and Nurture committee stepped in to serve as collective clerk, since there was no one who felt called to fill this position. In the process, however, we saw, in hindsight, that the Spirit sometimes got shoved aside as we struggled to get through agenda items in meeting for worship with attention to business.

As our numbers diminished, our participation in the community of Oxford also suffered. In both time and money, we had to pull back our offerings to two significant programs. However, we did establish a Quaker group on the University of Mississippi campus, holding open lunch meetings every Wednesday. Various members and attenders would stop by, but we did not attract any newcomers or inquirers. This option offered those who for whatever reason could not attend on Sundays to stay in touch with meeting. We plan to continue this, even though numbers are small.

One member has faithfully attended the Starkville, MS Quaker group. We want to nurture a deeper spiritual connection.

We have appreciated the support of our original caring meeting in Memphis, especially from those who planned our joint retreat this past year at a state park, and from Kristi Estes, who attended the service to celebrate the life of Win Jordan. One of our members was able to worship with them and present a special children’s program on Heifer International. These things have nurtured our spirit/Spirit, as has a small study group based on the book, “Listening Spirituality” by Patricia Loring. When a couple with two young children, long-time attenders, chose this unsettling and sad season in our meeting to become members, we were very blessed. It was Win’s last act, just before his death, to serve on their clearness committee, so these new Friends mark a significant turning point in our life together, even as they celebrated the birth of their second child.

As we pondered the query, “How has the Spirit fare?” the sense of the meeting was that it is still far from clear what will emerge from all these losses and changes. We don’t know yet how we will grow – we do want our meetings for worship to be more centered than they have been, and want more communication among the folks who are now attending (usually between 5 and 8 adults, some of whom are still dealing with major personal losses unrelated to meeting). Nothing has come clear yet, though we are taking the opportunity to

get to know one another better in informal ways (potlucks, trips). We are looking to deepening our worship as the key way to discern how next the Spirit will move among us!

### **Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting**

The State of Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting is vibrant. We now our own Meetinghouse, having purchasing it from Common Light, with whose programming we will continue to have a cooperative relationship .The vitality of the Meeting flourishes with new members, transfers and attenders enriching our sense of community and making us very optimistic about our future.

We have increased our sense of being a spiritual community through new care circles, monthly potluck suppers, and participation in Forums that take place almost weekly. These forums are often led by our own members and have opened up for us new areas of spiritual awareness and community service for all of us. This sense of community has made our well-attended Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business function smoothly, bringing us more closely together as we attempt to adhere to proper Quaker procedure in managing the life of the Meeting.

A sign of our harmony has been the ease with which we agreed upon a statement regarding Equality in Marriage. We have released to the press and to other Quaker organizations a statement that Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting will no longer act as an agent of the state in the matter of marriages, so long as there continues to be legal inequality regarding same gender marriage. SVFM hopes other Meetings will join us in this witness.

In other areas of Peace and Social Concerns, our members and attenders continue to be active on a variety of fronts and to share their activities and concerns with the Meeting. From efforts to assist the poor in our own community, to organized opposition to the death penalty, to phone calls to our representatives and senators on FCNL concerns, to efforts to address injustice and poverty in Guatemala, Palestine and the African Great Lakes, to participation in local and regional efforts to reduce energy use and increase recycling and conservation of our natural resources. This has been a productive and hopeful year for our Meeting.

Our First Day School has grown during the year from two regulars to five. In our forty-five minute First Day school period we are developing three areas of emphasis during the coming year - stories from Quaker history, with applications to what Meeting members area doing currently, stories from the Old Testament, and insights into ways of understanding and worshiping God.

We have enjoyed the participation of a core group of Warren Wilson College students, who have also begun a mid-week meeting on their own campus. Sensing a need to introduce new persons to the history of Quakerism, we completed a six week session on Quakerism 101, which proved beneficial to both new attenders and long time members.

While continuing to be discouraged about the state of our nation and world, we are thankful for the oasis of peace our beloved Meeting for Worship provides for us.

### **West Knoxville Friends Meeting**

Over the last year we have seen a number of changes to our meeting. Several of our members or attenders have been involved in hurtful or difficult personal situations. We have tried to respond in supportive ways but have struggled to find the best

responses. We worry that we might be a better source of help and support if our community could be more close-knit. We also worry about interfering too much. Nevertheless, many of us do feel a strong sense of connection and turn to each other as we look for ways to work together and reach out to each other as need arises.

We see our spiritual life in these outward manifestations of individual struggles and in our community response. We also see our spiritual life in the way we make connections from the big ideas of our testimonies and beliefs to moments of daily living and details of meeting life. The practical aspects of caring for our burial grounds, maintaining our building and grounds, caring for our youngest Friends and reaching out to newcomers are all a reflection of our spiritual life together.

We were saddened by the loss of several individuals from our meeting this year due to moves, changes in individual lives and some personal difficulties. We are finding joy in welcoming a new member, getting to know newer attenders including a student from Afghanistan, planning a wedding under the care of the meeting, and working together on committees and in meeting for worship with attention to business.

The core of our life together continues to be meeting for worship where we gather in that place beyond words and cherish our time together.

**Appendix H**  
**Nominating Committee Report and Complete Roster of Officers and Committees**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Length</b>	<b>From-To</b>	<b>Name</b>	
Clerk's Advisory	Clerk	4	6/04-6/08	Kristi Estes	Memphis
	Assistant Clerk	3	6/05-6/08	Sallie Prugh	Columbia
	Recording Clerk	2	6/07-6/09	Bill Holland	Atlanta
	Treasurer	2+2+1	6/03-6/08	David Ciscel	Memphis
	Assistant Treas.	2	6/07-6/09	Deanna Nipp-Kientz	Nashville
	Archivist/Historian			VACANT	
Ecological Concerns Network	Co-Clerk	2	6/07-6/09	Roy Taylor	Canton
	Co-Clerk	2	6/07-6/09	Carol Ciscel	Memphis
Finance Committee	Clerk	2	6/07-6/09	Susan Phelan	Huntsville
	Treasurer	2+2+1	6/03-6/08	David Ciscel	Memphis
	Member	2	6/07-6/09	Kendall Ivey	West Knoxville
	Member	2	6/07-6/09	Carol Lamm	Berea
	Member	2	6/07-6/09	Lee Ann Swarm	West Knoxville
Ministry and Nurture Committee	Clerk	2+2	6/05-6/09	Bob McGahey	Celo
	Member	2	6/07-6/09	Margaret Farmer	
	Member	2	6/07-6/09	Jane Goldthwaite	Celo
	Member	2	6/07-6/09	Edie Patrick	Foxfire
Nominating Committee	Clerk	2	6/06-6/08	Errol Hess	Foxfire
	Member	2	6/06-6/08	Barbara Esther	Asheville
	Member	2	6/06-6/08	Sara Rose	Royal
	Member	2	6/06-6/08	Annie Black	Cookeville
	Member	2	6/06-6/08	Judy Geary	Huntsville
	Member	2	6/06-6/08	Dennis Gregg	Crossville
	Member	2	6/07-6/09	Erika Phelps	West Knoxville
	Member (YAF)	2	6/07-6/09	Megan Potter	Nashville
Peace and Social Concerns Committee	Clerk	2	6/07-6/09	Steve Livingston	
	Member	2	6/07-6/09	Joan Barnette	West Knoxville
	Member	2	6/07-6/09		
	Member	2	6/07-6/09		
	Member	2	6/07-6/09		
Personnel Committee	Clerk	2	6/05-6/08	Sallie Prugh	Columbia
	Member				
	Member				
	Member				
	Supervisor of AA	2	6/04-6/08	Kristi Estes	Memphis
	Supervisor of SAYF AA	2	6/06-6/08	Mark Wutka	
SAF Newsletter	Editor	2	6/07-6/09	Kathleen Mavournin	West Knoxville
SAYF Steering Committee	Co-Clerk	2	6/07-6/09	Cathi Watkins	Athens
	Co-Clerk	3	6/05-6/08	Mark Wutka	Atlanta
	Member	2	6/06-6/08	Laura Norlin	Atlanta
	Member	2	6/06-6/08	Mark Lamay	West Knoxville
	Member	2	6/07-6/09	Dick Houghton	Nashville

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Length</b>	<b>From-To</b>	<b>Name</b>	
Site Selection					
Web Support	Manager		Volunteer	Tim Lamm	Berea
	Clerk		Volunteer	Jim McKeever	Nashville
YM Planning Committee	Clerk	2	6/07-6/09	Barbara Esther	Asheville
	Adult Program	2+2	6/07-6/09	Carol Nickle	West Knoxville
	Workshops	2	6/07-6/09	John Potter	Nashville
	Co-Registrar	2	6/06-6/08	Pam Beziat	Nashville
	Co-Registrar	2	6/06-6/08	Sharon Phelps	West Knoxville
	Bookstore	2	6/06-6/08	Kay Hogan Smith	Birmingham
	Asst. Bookstore	2	6/06-6/08	Missy Ivie	West Knoxville
	Local Arrangements	2	6/07-6/09	Steve Livingston	Ashville
	JYM Coordinator	2	6/07-6/09	Steve Huber-Feely	Chattanooga
	JYM Coordinator	2	6/07-6/09	Heidemarie Huber-Feely	Chattanooga
	YAF Rep	2	6/07-6/09	Erika Phelps	Knoxville
	Worship			Chris Berg	Greenville
SAYMA Wider Quaker Organization Reps	AFSC Corporation	2	6/06-6/08	Harry Rogers	Columbia
		2	6/07-6/09	Charles Schade	Charleston
	AFSC/SERO	2	6/07-6/09	Geeta McGahey	Celo
		2	6/07-6/09		
	FCNL	3+3	6/01-6/08	Carol Nickle	West Knoxville
		3	6/06-6/09	Bettina Wolfe	Asheville
		3	6/07-6/10	Charlie Wilton	Berea
	FGC	3	6/05-6/08	Elaine Ruscetta	Atlanta
		3	6/07-6/10	Kristi Estes	Memphis
		3	6/07-6/10	Joan Barrette	West Knoxville
	FLGBTQC			Gary Briggs	Asheville
	FWCC	3	6/05-6/08	Tim Lamm	Berea
		3	12/05-6/08	Sallie Prugh	Columbia
		3	6/06-6/09	Kathleen Mavournin	West Knoxville
	Friends Peace Teams	2	6/06-6/08	Sharon Phelps	West Knoxville
	Quaker Earthcare Witness	2	6/06-6/08	David Ciscel	Memphis
2		6/07-6/09	Roy Taylor	Canton	
Quaker House	3	6/07-6/10	Jerry Rudolph		
RSWR	2	6/05-6/08	Jennifer Walker	Asheville	
Wm. Penn House	3	9/04-6/08	Errol Hess	Foxfire	
Advancement Committee Ad Hoc	Clerk		6/04-?	Sharon Annis	West Knoxville
	Member		6/04-?	Hazel Hall	Cookeville
	Member		6/04-?	Free Polazzo	Annewakee
	Member		6/04-?	Turtle McDermott	West Knoxville

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Length</b>	<b>From-To</b>	<b>Name</b>	
Faith & Practice Revision Committee	Clerk		6/04-?	Free Polazzo	Annewakee
	Member		6/01-?	Geeta McGahey	Celo
	Member		6/01-?	Missy Ivey	West Knoxville
	Member		6/04-?	Melissa Meyer	Boone
	Member		6/04-?	Barbara Esther	Asheville
	Member		6/07-?	Kathleen Mavournin	West Knoxville
	Member		6/07-?	Alan Robinson	Asheville
	Member		6/07-?	Edie Patrick	Foxfire
	Member		6/07-?	Ted Edgerton	Boone
	Member		6/07-?	Jonathan Schinhofen	Berea
Handbook Ad Hoc	Clerk		6/06-?	Sharon Annis	West Knoxville
	Member		6/02-?	Missy Ivie	West Knoxville
	Member				
	Member <i>ex officio</i>			Kristi Estes	Memphis
JYM Program	Convenor		6/02-?	Sharon Annis	West Knoxville
	Convenor		6/02-?	Ron McDonald	Memphis
	Member		2/05-?	Robin Wells	Asheville
	Member		6/04-?	Jane Goldthwait	Celo
	Member		6/04-?	Beth Meyers	Berea
	Member				