

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association  
June 9-12, 2011  
Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina  
41st Annual Meeting

**Thursday, June 9, 2011**

41-01: Opening Worship

We gathered for the 41<sup>st</sup> annual gathering of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association with an extended period of waiting worship. With the skies thundering around us, we received vocal ministry challenging us to gather together in this holy space sensitive to the Spirit's presence and shine forth.

41-02: Welcome and Reading.

Tim Lamm welcomed Friends to our sessions. The clerk reminded us we gather in the Spirit's presence as we conduct our meeting together. Tim shared with Friends the epistle we have received from Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative). The epistle reminds us that "Miracles occur everyday" and that "holiness is both a personal and collective calling."

A section of the meeting room has been set aside for members of Ministry and Nurture Committee and other Friends who are called to a special ministry of holding our sessions in prayer

41-03: Introductions Roll Call

The roll call of meeting was held. Friends were asked to indicate their presence when their meeting or worship group was called. We recognized and welcomed visitors. A full list of those attending the Yearly Meeting is appended as Attachment A.

Tim read the travelling minute we have received from Friends General Conference for Elaine Craudereuff (Radnor Friends Meeting, PYM). Elaine is an FGC staff member and will provide us with information on Quaker Quest. The clerk will endorse the minute.

Jane and Joe Snyder (Multnomah Meeting, North Pacific Yearly Meeting) were recognized. Jane is the new clerk of the FWCC-Section of the Americas.

41-04: Agenda Review

Tim Lamm called Friends attention to the proposed agenda for our business sessions printed in the yearly meeting materials. He highlighted several changes

41-04-01: On the recommendation of the Clerk, we approve the proposed agenda as revised.

The clerk requested Friends wishing to have announcements shared with the body submit them in writing to the clerk's table. The clerk asked that those wishing to speak wait until recognized by the clerk.

41-05: Epistle Committee

The clerk called for Friends to serve on the 2011 Epistle Committee. The purpose of the Epistle Committee is to summarize the spirit and essence of our gathering. The epistle is shared widely among Friends to communicate the spirit of our gathering for Truth's sake.

41-05-01: We approve Sharon Annis and Brian Yafee for the Epistle Committee. We will seek additional volunteers at later sessions.

#### 41-06: Representative Meeting Calendar

The clerk announced next Representative Meeting will be held September 10, 2011 and hosted by Memphis Monthly Meeting. The clerk proposed that the Spring representative meeting be held March 10, 2012 at Celo Friends Meeting.

41-06-01 On the recommendation of the clerk, the Spring 2012 Representative Meeting will be held March 10, 2012 at Celo Friends Meeting. If the meeting is cancelled due to inclement weather, we will meet on March 17.

The date and place for the fall 2012 Representative Meeting will be determined at the September 2011 Representative Meeting.

#### 41-07: Treasurer's Report

Deanna Nipp-Kientz reminded Friends our current fiscal year runs from Oct 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011. Our present budget is based on a \$60 assessment. The final budget was approved at the September 2010 Representative Meeting. SAYMA finances are sound with \$38,840 in our checking account and \$40,354 spread between a saving and cd accounts. The total income year to date has been \$44,937 with disbursements of \$31,501. Our assessment income is down. Our expenses for travel for Wider Quaker Organization representatives are approximately one-third of the budgeted amounts. Our staff has received a cost of living increase for the year. We have sent one-half of the budgeted contributions to wider Quaker organizations in keeping with the Finance Committee's plan and we will determine the remaining amount during our sessions.

SAYF is regularly submitting their quarterly financial reports. A SAYF YM scholarship account has been transferred to a new SAYMA Youth Enrichment Fund.

The Treasurer asked for the meeting's guidance on the disbursement of contributions to Wider Quaker Organizations. The budget approved at the Fall 2010 representative meeting included the recommendation that our WQO contributions be disbursed in two waves, with disbursement of the second wave contingent on our fund availability at the time of yearly meeting. The Treasurer provided estimates of income and expenses for the remainder of the fiscal year. The gathered body was asked for its discernment on the matter of disbursing WQO contributions in light of other commitments.

41-07-01: We approve disbursing the second half of our contributions to Wider Quaker Organizations as included in the current year budget.

41-07-02: We accept the Treasurer's Report with thanks. (Attachment B)

#### 41-08: Administrative Assistant Report

Liz Perch distributed copies of the final 2010 SAYMA census. (Attachment C) She commended meetings and worship groups for submitting complete census reports. A draft copy of the 2012 directory is available at yearly meeting central. Liz encouraged Friends to review the listings and make changes as needed. Copies of the final directory will be available after yearly meeting. The directory will be available on request as an electronic file, CD or print version. Liz

has received and is using a debit card for SAYMA business. She reports the card is working very well and she thanked the yearly meeting for their trust.

Liz answered questions regarding the census. Some meetings have adopted new methods of counting their members and attenders and this has resulted in changes. Several Friends expressed concern over changing methods of counting. The clerk hopes to make the expectations clearer by revising the census form for next year.

41-08-01: We thank Liz Perch for her continued service.

#### 41-09 Nominating Committee

Jim Cavener reported for the committee.

41-09-01: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee we approve the following Friends to the positions and terms

Ministry and Nurture	Errol Hess (Clinton WG)	2 years
Finance Committee	Alan Robinson (Asheville)	3 years
Finance Committee	David Ciscel (Memphis)	3 years
Finance Committee Clerk	Linda Trask (Nashville)	3 years
YM Planning Committee, Layout Editor	John Potter (Nashville)	2 years
YM Planning Committee, Asst Bookstore Manager	Jerry Liccardello (Chattanooga)	2 years
YM Planning Committee, Clerk	Carol Ciscel (Memphis)	2 years
FGC Representative	Kristi Estes (Oxford)	3 years
	Stoph Hallward (Atlanta)	
Quaker Earthcare Witness Representative	David Ciscel (Memphis)	3 years
	Roy Taylor (Canton)	
FLGBTQC Representative	Linda Trask (Nashville)	3 years

Jim reviewed vacant positions and asked members to assist in the discernment of Friends who might be called to service. We are seeking nominees for the Assistant Clerk, Recording Clerk, SAYF Steering Committee members, Junior Yearly Oversight Committee and Southern Appalachian Friend Editor.

The Yearly Meeting Planning Committee needs several additional friends to serve as adult program coordinator, workshop coordinator, and registrar.

Representatives to Wider Quaker organizations are also needed. Friends are encouraged to identify members in their meetings who might be interested. Representatives to William Penn House, AFSC-SERO, FWCC, Quaker House (Fayetteville), and Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR).

Jim also highlighted several committees and asked the meeting guidance if Nominating needs to continue working to identify Friends to serve on the Ecological Concerns Network, Site Selection Committee and Handbook Committee. We were reminded the Handbook Committee is an ad hoc committee that does not require the assistance of Nominating. Jim expressed thanks for this information.

#### 41-10 Appointment of Naming Committee

The purpose of the Naming Committee is to recommend Friends to serve on the Nominating Committee. Service on the Naming Committee is limited to the duration of the yearly meeting, at which time it is laid down. The clerk called for volunteers from the floor of the meeting. The clerk will announce the names of members of the committee later in our sessions.

#### 41-11 Faith and Practice Revision Committee.

The clerk reminded Friends of the process for approving revisions to our Faith and Practice. Our hope is that the Faith and Practice document reflects the current experience and practice of Friends in SAYMA. We view our Faith and Practice as a living document.

Revisions may be made to the Faith and Practice by two methods. First, a constituent monthly meeting may submit specific minuted recommendations for changes. In this case, an Examining Committee is appointed and the change discerned through the Yearly Meeting. Second, the Yearly Meeting periodically appoints a Revision Committee to review the entire guide and make recommendations for modification.

The clerk called for minuted requests from monthly meeting for revisions to the guide. No revisions were received.

Free Polazzo presented the proposed new section on Meeting for Threshing. Free expressed thanks to the monthly meetings serious consideration of the proposed guidelines.

Several Friends expressed the appreciation of their monthly meeting for the committee's work on this section.

The gathered body reviewed the document. Several changes were suggested and approved:  
41-11-01: We approve inserting "or applicable counterpart" in paragraph 2 after Committee for Ministry and Nurture.

41-11-02: We approve inserting in paragraph 3 after the last sentence "make a report to the meeting for business."

41-11-03: We approve modifying guideline 1 of the Guidelines section to include "personal experience or perspective."

41-11-04: On the recommendation of the Faith and Practice Revision Committee, we approve the Meeting for Threshing as revised.

#### 41-12: Personnel Committee

Dennis Gregg reported the Personnel Committee is continuing its work. The annual personnel evaluations have been conducted by supervisors and reflect the great service of our staff. In the last year, the Personnel Committee discovered that we were not maintaining I-9 forms on our employees. This does not appear to have been a deliberate policy intention but an administrative oversight. An ad hoc committee was formed at representative meeting to consider this matter. The ad hoc committee recommended the forms be completed. The I-9 forms have now been completed and are being maintained in our files.

#### 41-13: Ad hoc Committee on I-9 Concerns

Dennis Gregg described the work of the ad hoc Committee on I-9 concerns. The I-9 issue considered by the ad hoc committee has raised other issues related to immigration and welcoming

the stranger. The ad hoc committee has developed a minute for consideration of the yearly meeting. Berea and Crossville meetings have considered a proposed minute on the issue based on a minute approved by Intermountain Yearly Meeting. Dennis presented a proposed minute on immigration for consideration by the yearly meeting. (Attachment D)

Concern was raised over how the minute might be used. We were encouraged to have a plan for sharing the minute widely to elected representatives, media outlets and with similar organizations. A member of the Ministry and Nurture Committee reflected that our State of the Meeting Reports reflect broad concern in the yearly meeting about immigration. We were encouraged to send the proposed minute to constituent monthly meetings for seasoning. Dennis reminded us that proposed policies vary among states so details will vary, but the issue is important for us to witness to as people of faith.

We will consider the minute and how we are led at a later session.

#### 41-14: Announcements

The clerk read announcements.

## **Friday, June 10, 2011**

### 41-15: Gathering Worship

On this foggy sixth day morning, we gathered with a period of waiting worship.

### 41-16: Reading/Welcome

Tim Lamm read from the epistle from Australia Yearly Meeting in which they shared their experience of extended deliberations held in a spirit of respect and tender hearts.

### 41-17: Introductions/Roll Call

The clerk recognized Friends who were attending our yearly meeting for the first time. Pat Wixom from Illinois Yearly Meeting was introduced.

The roll call of SAYMA meetings and worship groups were read and Friends associated with those meetings indicated their presence.

Errol Hess reported he attends Clinton, SC Worship Group under the care of Greenville Meeting.

### 41-18: Business Procedures

The clerk reviewed the business for the day and reminded friends of our meeting procedures.

### 41-19: Finance Committee

Susan Phelan presented the draft FY 2011-2012 budget. Susan reviewed the history of SAYMA Finances. In recent years, SAYMA had accumulated a substantial surplus in a variety of funds. We have implemented a plan to reduce these funds and put the money to work. Over the last several years these surplus funds have enabled us to increase our donations to wider Quaker organizations, support internal funds and enabled committee work. We have now reduced the funds to the recommended level. During the same period, the income received from assessments has declined for a variety of reasons.

The Finance Committee based the 2011-12 budget on projections we will receive the same level of assessment income as we received in the 2010-2011 year. A balanced budget will require substantially reducing our contributions to wider Quaker Organizations and most discretionary budget lines.

Concern was raised about the proposed reduction in newsletter funds. Several monthly meetings have requested fewer newsletters, and there is the option of printing the electronic version available on the website which will reduce the cost to the yearly meeting.

We were encouraged to find other ways to increase income for the yearly meeting. It was suggested a Development Committee be formed. The clerk invited Friends interested in development to meet with him to brainstorm ideas. An ad hoc committee might be formed to continue this work.

A variety of ideas were discussed including increasing individual contributions, taking the concern to our meetings and reviewing our local budgets.

A concern was raised over the allocation of funds that have been dedicated to the World Conference Fund and a proposal made to allocate surplus funds that may remain after the 2012 event. We will season this proposal further.

The clerk reminded Friends that that we will approve the preliminary budget during later sessions. The final budget will be approved at the Fall Representative meeting.

41-20: Nominating Committee

Jim Cavener reported the Nominating Committee continues to work energetically during our sessions.

41-20-01: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee we approve friends to the following positions and terms:

FLGBTQC alternate	Kate Caldwell (West Knoxville)*	3 years
FWCC representative	Linda Trask (Nashville)	3 years
Ministry and Nurture	Sharon Annis (West Knoxville)	2 years
Ministry and Nurture	Becky Ingle (Chattanooga)	2 years

41-21: Faith and Practice Revision Committee: Harmony with Nature

Alan Robinson reviewed the proposed new section to our Faith and Practice on Harmony with Nature. He reported that the Harmony with Nature proposal received considerable comment from monthly meetings. Alan encouraged Friends to approach this as our first effort to articulate our understandings, recognizing that living through this concern will lead to new insights as we grow in experience.

Several Friends expressed appreciation for the work of the committee. A Friend challenged us to articulate our prophetic voice and more clearly describe what we are doing. Alan highlighted that our Yearly Meeting is evolving in its understanding with a broad diversity of opinion on actions. Some Friends felt strongly we should adopt the document as a first step, others felt we lack unity as a meeting and need to continue our work. Several Friends suggested the committee might develop a series of key questions or queries might help the yearly meeting articulate our understanding.

Members of the Faith and Practice Revision Committee reminded us that the purpose of the document is to describe our experience as SAYMA Friends. We are growing in experience.

We reviewed the proposed document.

41-21-01: We approve the three quotations that introduce the section.

Friends raised a variety of concerns over paragraph one. It was suggested the committee might revise sentence one and two of the section. In the first section both the urgency of the global crisis and our personal culpability were raised as important insights. In the last sentence of the section the description of the Divine was raised.

No concerns were raised over paragraph two.

In paragraph three, it was suggested that we insert “more than ever,” in the first sentence after today to highlight the urgency of the challenge. A friend challenged us on the accuracy of our “being patterns and examples of sustainability.”

In paragraph four, several Friends were concerned over the wording of the second sentence, particular our participation in the harmful consequences. It was suggested that we “confess” our culpability for the harmful consequences.

A friend suggested that an introductory statement highlighting the profound crisis we are facing might help frame the intention of the document.

The clerk asked the Faith and Practice Revision Committee to consider the comments and, if appropriate, bring a revised proposal for consideration later in our sessions. The committee invites interested members of the body to join them for the discussion. We were encouraged to consider ways to approve the document before our next yearly meeting sessions.

#### 41-22: Wider Quaker Organization: FWCC

The clerk introduced Ray Treadway of Friendship MM, NCYM (Conservative). Ray is the outgoing clerk of the FWCC-Section of the Americas. Ray expressed appreciation to the yearly meeting for its support and interest in the work of FWCC. Ray described the purpose and current work of FWCC.

The purpose of Friends World Committee on Consultation is to answer God's call to universal love by bringing diverse Friends together to express our common heritage and message to the world. FWCC originated out of efforts to heal the splits among Friends and bring Friends together. FWCC now has geographically-based sections that cover the entire world and encompasses the full range of contemporary Quaker experience. There is a world office of FWCC based in London that provides oversight for the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO). The world organization sponsors consultations and gatherings of Friends. The world organization has been providing leadership to challenge friends about the impact of global changes. A series of local groups have been convened to distill Friends perspectives on global changes. These local groups have sent reports of their gathering to the world office with the goal of creating a minute that reflects our current experience of Friends across the globe.

FWCC has moved away from triennials due to expense and logistical challenges but continues to periodically convene world-wide gatherings.

Ray expressed appreciation for the service of our SAYMA representatives, Tim Lamm and Sallie Prugh, in carrying forth the work of the FWCC-Section of the Americas. He welcomed our newly appointed representatives. Ray announced the Section of the Americas has a new secretary, Robin Mohr. Robin is a member of San Francisco Monthly Meeting (Pacific Yearly Meeting). Robin is fluent in Spanish and has been a leader of the Convergent Friends groups. Robin will provide exciting new leadership building stronger connections with Latin American Friends. The Section is encouraging local FWCC gatherings of involve more Friends. One such event was recently held in West Knoxville.

FWCC sponsors the Wider Quaker Fellowship to "feed the souls" of those interested in the insights of Quakerism. It provides support for isolated friends and friends of Friends. A new website provides a wide range of information.

FWCC provides information about Quakers and produces both online and print resources on Friends. The Quaker Youth Pilgrimage will be held in England in 2012. Ray encouraged the yearly meeting to identify young Friends to attend.

FWCC provides grants to Friends who are travelling in the ministry.

The clerk encouraged Friends to meet with Ray individually to explore FWCC and to hear about his experiences over the last 15 years.



#### 41-23: Quaker House

Chuck Fager announced he would end his tenure as director of Quaker House in November 2012. A search for a new director has been initiated. Chuck encouraged interested Friends to explore their leadings for this service.

Chuck highlighted the challenges for today. The peace movement is dead, while wars continue to be waged and US war budget continues to expand. At the same time, the economic downturn is affecting all groups wishing to pose an alternative, including our meetings. The income for Quaker House has been affected.

Quaker House hosted a conference highlighting the human cost of the war machine on American society. A booklet has been produced. Chuck encouraged Friends to review the materials he has in the display space.

Chuck called Friends' attention to our member H. Larry Ingle and acknowledged his important service to the Society of Friends as an active historian and faithful participant in our life. In recognition of Larry's service, Chuck announced the publication of the volume *Keeping Us Honest: Stirring the Pot*. *Keeping us Honest* includes articles by colleagues and friends expressing appreciation and providing insights into Larry's contributions, character and history. Among more serious reflections included are responses to the queries "What does the H stand for?" and "How did Larry and Becky get together?" Copies of the book will be available in the bookstore.

Chuck presented Larry with a copy of the new publication.

## **Saturday, June 11, 2011**

### 41-24: Gathering worship

We gathered on this cool summer morning with a period of centering silence.

### 41-25: Reading / Welcome

The clerk welcomed Friends to our sessions. Tim read from the epistle of Netherlands Yearly Meeting. Dutch friends reflected that when facing the challenge of global changes we are frequently overwhelmed. Friends are called to be ourselves and not overreach.

### 41-26: Introductions / Roll Call.

We recognized visitors to our yearly meeting sessions.

Susan Corson-Finnerty, Germantown MM Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, represents *Friends Journal*. Susan is the retiring publisher and executive editor of *Friends Journal*.

Gabriel Ehri is the incoming executive director of *Friends Journal*.

Ray Treadway, Friendship MM NCYM-C is representing FWCC-Section of the Americas.

Carol Treadway, Friendship MM NCYM-C is representing the School of the Spirit.

The roll call of SAYMA meetings and worship groups was read.

The clerk read the travel minute for Jane and Joe Snyder of Multnomah MM North Pacific YM. The clerk will endorse the minute.

The clerk welcomed all visiting Friends and thanked them for their presence.

### 41-27: Business Procedure and Agenda

The clerk reminded friends of our procedures for business. He reviewed the agenda for the day.

### 41-28: Epistle Committee

The clerk called for additional participants to serve on the Epistle Committee. A member of the Epistle Committee announced a third person has already agreed to serve.

### 41-29: Ad hoc Committee on Immigration

Dennis Gregg reviewed the history of the proposed minute on immigration concerns first considered in our Thursday sessions. It was suggested that references to particular pieces of state legislation should reflect bills originating in the region. Several Friends highlighted the urgency and timeliness of the issue, other Friends felt careful discernment of our monthly meetings was required and encouraged us to wait a year. We were encouraged to formulate a plan of action and reflect on our own complicity.

41-29-01: On the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Immigration, we approve the Minute on Immigration as revised and encourage its broad dissemination. (Attachment D) We ask our monthly meetings and worship groups to take action on this issue.

41-29-02: We ask the Peace and Social Concerns Committee to carry forward the concern. We ask the committee to assist the yearly meeting and our constituent monthly meetings to develop ideas and actions.

Geeta McGahey, Charles Schade and Steve Livingston asked to be recorded as standing aside.

#### 41-30: Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) Steering Committee

Wren Hendrickson (Chapel Hill MM), co-clerk of the SAYF Steering Committee, provided a report on SAYF. Wren introduced Therese Hildebrand who serves as the staff person for the SAYF. The SAYF program is for 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade young friends who meet in 7 retreats a year. The goal of the SAYF program is to provide a program that trains young Friends in spirituality, practice and leadership. The wide age range served by the program provides opportunities for growth and spiritual formation.

SAYF needs additional adult support. The Steering Committee composed of 7-8 adult Friends provides support and guidance for the retreats and provides transportation. The Nurturing Committee is composed of SAYF Friends who plan and run retreats. Retreats are held at central locations in the yearly meeting (Knoxville, Asheville, and Atlanta) to enable participation. Wren testified to the powerful spiritual treasures that adults could glean through the experience of working closely with teenagers. The uplifting opportunity to being in contact with idealistic, committed young Quakers provides nourishment to adults as well as the young Friends. She encouraged adult members of the gathered body to take advantage of the opportunities. Adults can volunteer for one time. She encouraged those with young children to become involved and particularly highlighted what younger adult Friends can bring.

Therese Hildebrand expressed her thanks to Swannonoa Meeting and other meetings that open their meetinghouses to SAYF retreats even when they have few young Friends in their own meetings.

#### 41-31: Wider Quaker Organization Presentation: AFSC/SERO

The clerk introduced Alice Lovelace representing the AFSC Southeast Region Office. Alice is the Associate Regional Director of the Southeast Region Office. Alice highlighted the range of AFSC work in the southeast.

The North Carolina Program of AFSC-SERO is active. The North Carolina program works on a range of issues. Recently the program has focused on immigration issues. The program works with many community partners including several monthly meetings. The program has developed educational materials to assist groups exploring immigration. The program has sponsored public exhibition on the human cost of the war.

SERO work in Florida also is working on immigration. AFSC participated in a coalition of groups who worked to defeat legislation penalizing undocumented workers. Florida work is also focused on assisting the Haitian community. An AFSC staff person works with public communication, legal assistance and rights of workers.

SERO work in Atlanta includes providing workshops for young people envisioning the future. Staff has also provided training in non-violent action. In response to the Arab Spring popular uprising, Middle Eastern communities in Atlanta have contacted the regional office for assistance. The windows and mirrors exhibit will be held in Atlanta, as well as a public event on Islamophobia. In addition to these issues, AFSC's Atlanta office also works on immigration, economic justice and educational access.

The New Orleans AFSC office works on economic justice and peace building. Two underserved and neglected communities have become the focus of AFSC's economic justice work. AFSC staff have been instrumental link the communities to resources and to broader coalitions to strengthen their power. AFSC is working through peer-training to do violence reduction work with young people.

Alice invited Friends to visit the AFSC display and share material with meetings. A website is available. Alice will meet interested Friends over lunch.

Geeta McGahey serves as the SAYMA representative to the AFSC-SERO office. She serves on the Regional Executive Committee. She encouraged donations.

#### 41-32: AFSC and Quakers

Free Polazzo serves as one of our representative to the AFSC Corporation. Free has asked AFSC for a report of the number of members of Friends currently working for AFSC and asked the yearly meeting to support his concern through a minute. Concern was raised for the purpose and intent of gathering the information. The importance of the service of non-Friends was highlighted. The active role of many Friends in the organization was emphasized.

41-32-01: We recognize that the American Friends Service Committee brings together many committed individuals who serve in a variety of volunteer and staff positions. We treasure their service. We believe that maintaining the Quaker character of the organization requires some level of active staff and volunteer presence by committed Quakers. We ask the AFSC develop a report giving the number and percentage of AFSC staff who are active members of the Religious Society of Friends, broken down by region.

#### 41-33: Naming Committee

The clerk announced that Kristi Estes, Bert Skellie and Sharon Annis will serve as the Naming Committee to recommend members of Nominating Committee

#### 41-34: Faith and Practice Revision Committee: Harmony with Nature.

Barbara Ester reported the committee met with additional interested members of the body to review the proposed section on Harmony with Nature in light of concerns raised during our Friday sessions. Barbara presented an amended proposal. We reviewed the new language.

41-34-01: On the recommendation of the Faith and Practice Revision Committee, we approve the 6/10/11 revision of the Harmony with Nature section. (Attachment E)

#### 41-35: Faith and Practice Revision Committee: Education

Barbara Ester highlighted the common themes and threads linking the current and proposed text.

41-35-01: On the recommendation of the Faith and Practice Revision Committee, we approve the proposed revision of the Education Section of our Faith and Practice.

#### 41-36: Announcements

Committee meetings and special gatherings were announced.

## **Sunday, June 12, 2011**

### 41-37: Opening Worship.

We gathered on this Sunday morning with a period of gathering worship.

### 41-38: Welcome and Business Procedures

The clerk welcomed Friends to our final session. He reminded Friends of our meeting procedures. The clerk reviewed the agenda for our final session.

### 41-39: Roll Call.

We conducted the final roll call of meeting and worship group.

### 41-40: Finance Committee 2011-2012 Preliminary Budget

The Clerk reminded Friends the preliminary budget was presented earlier in our sessions. The final budget will be approved at the fall Representative Meeting.

Susan Phelan reported the Finance Committee anticipates that individual contributions will be important to maintaining the level of funding and support our operation. She encouraged individuals to contribute to the work of SAYMA.

Much appreciation was expressed for the work of Susan Phelan.

41-40-01: On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, we approve the 2011-2012 Preliminary Budget as presented. (Attachment F)

### 41-41: Ad hoc Development Committee

The clerk announced the appointment of an Ad Hoc Development Committee. Brian Yaffe, Bob Welsh, and Lee Ann Swarm have agreed to serve. The initial goal of the committee is to take leadership raising the \$4000 of individual contributions budgeted for the 2011-2012

### 41-42: Peace and Social Concerns Recommendation

Dennis Gregg presented a proposal for amending the responsibilities for the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. We reviewed the current charge to the committee and discussed affirming and expanding its current responsibilities.

41-42-01: We affirm the role of the Peace and Social Concerns to facilitate yearly meeting concerns. We expect the committee to take leadership to encourage the implementation of minutes approved by the yearly meeting. We ask the Peace and Social Concerns Committee to convene gatherings of concerned Friends twice a year to follow-up on concerns.

Concern was expressed that convening gathering may have budget implications. We were reminded that the final budget has not yet been approved and additional items might be included. In addition, local meetings may be excited to support these gatherings through individual and meeting resources. Dennis asked individuals interested in serving on the committee to contact him.

### 41-43: Nominating Committee

Jim Cavener presented the Nominating Committee recommendations.

41-43-01: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, we approve the Friends to the following positions and terms.

Assistant Clerk	Carol Nickel (West Knoxville)	2 years
Recording Clerk	Adrienne Weir (Asheville)	2 years
Personnel Committee, Clerk	Carol Nickle (West Knoxville)	1 year
Personnel Committee	Susan Phelan (Huntsville)	2 years
Finance Committee	Leann Swarm (West Knoxville)	3 years
	Kendall Ivie (West Knoxville)	
SAYF Steering Committee member	Mary Linda McKinney (Nashville)	2 years
	Therese Hildebrand – ex officio	
	Berea	
	Martin Gonzalez (Durham)	
YMPC, Workshops	Bill Wolfe (Nashville)	2 years
YMPC, Local Arrangements	Bob Welsh (Swannanoa Valley)	2 years
YMPC, Adult Program	Larry Osborne (West Knoxville)	2 years
Ecological Concerns Network (co-clerks)	Pat Williams (Atlanta)	2 years
	Chris Berg (Greenville)	
Southern Appalachian Friend, Editor	Beth Ensign (Atlanta)	2 years

41-43-02: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, we approve the following Friends to serve as our Representatives to Wider Quaker Organizations:

AFSC, SERO	Geeta McGahey (Celo)	2 years
Quaker House	Larry Osbourne (Knoxville)	3 years
RSWR	Karen Morris (Atlanta)	3 years
William Penn House	Jane Hiles (Birmingham)	3 years
FLGBTQC Representative	Kate Caldwell (West Knoxville)	3 years

#### 41-44: Naming Committee

Bert Skellie reported for the committee. Jim Cavener, Kit Potter, Dennis Gregg, Beth Ensign, David Ciscel will be continuing on the Nominating Committee. The committee recommended three additional appointments to the nominating committee.

41-44-01: On the recommendation of the Naming Committee, we approve the following Friends to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Hank Fay (Berea)	2 years
Missy Ivie (West Knoxville)	2 years
Laura Maynard Lane (Asheville)	2 years

#### 41-45: Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Epistle.

Beth Myers read the JYM Epistle. The JYM presented a mural to yearly meeting. JYM members' comments included: Make friendships strong, meet new people, and people with frownie faces make smiley faces. JYM have worked in gardens, explored the stream, and learned drumming.

Fifteen children attended the JYM gathering. Each child was introduced and their particular gifts were recognized. Beth expressed appreciation for the support of Bob Welsh and Joe Snyder.

41-45-01: We thank Beth Myers and Jonathan Shinhofen for their service.

41-45-02: We accept the Epistle of JYM with thanks and appreciation (Attached).

41-46: Thanks for Service

41-45-01: SAYMA recognizes and thanks the dedicated service of the many offices, committee members and representatives who are ending their terms.

41-47: SAYF Epistle.

Three SAYF participants reviewed the last year. Six retreats have been held over the last year with an average attendance of 38 and a total of over 70 friends. The final seventh retreat is being held at our gathering. Two joint Nurturing and Steering Committee retreats have been held. Retreats have included physical activities, story-telling, service, meeting for worship, and discussions. Retreats were held at the following meetings: Asheville (twice), Atlanta (twice), Chattanooga, and West Knoxville. SAYF friends asked for a period of silent reflection on the life of Ceal Wutka. Ceal was remembered for her dedicated service to the program. The two Nurturing Committees meetings were held one at Swannanoa and another at West Knoxville. The purpose of the retreat was reflecting on maintaining and supporting the life of the community.

We recognized the members of the Nurturing Committee and SAYF Steering Committee.

The clerk expressed his thanks and appreciation to the SAYF program members and the adult facilitators.

41-48: Young Adult Friends (YAF).

Eight young adult friends introduced themselves to the gathered body. Young adult friends have met over the yearly meeting sessions. The group is working to develop connections and structure. A new organizational structure has been developed that recognizes that young adults are in a time of transition, making continuity of leadership difficult. Both clerk and recording clerk are appointed ad hoc at each meeting, while the YAF liaison with the SAYMA community and the treasurer will be continuing positions. Over the weekend, members of YAF have worked with SAYF through both intergenerational fish bowl and trust activities. Several YAFs have worked as FAPs, who are becoming known as YAPs. YAFers held a post-graduation event for graduating SAFers to bring them into the new community. Several YAFers participated in the simple living options. YAF is working to build connections with young adult Friends in SAYMA meetings and informational material is being created. A web presence is being expanded and the list-serve is being re-established. YAF hopes to hold a retreat in December. YAF members expressed appreciation to the yearly meeting and welcomed opportunities for connection.

41-49: Older Adult Friends (OAF) Epistle

Kate Caldwell presented the epistle. Appreciation was expressed for the work of the committee.

41-49-01: We gratefully accept the epistle as revised. (Attachment J)

41-49-02: We thank the Epistle Committee for their work.

#### 41-50: Registrar Report

Sallie Prugh (Columbia MM) presented the report. A total of 230 persons registered, 154 adults, 46 SAYFers, 15 children and 8 YAFs. The pace of registration for yearly meeting made coordination with the college difficult. Eighty-three percent of registrations were received between May 13 and May 20, requiring long hours of data entry for the registrars and staff to insure Friends' needs were communicated to the college in a timely manner. The Planning Committee will seek to address this next year. Approximately \$1000 was received to support scholarships.

41-50-01: We thank our registrars for their work. There were strong expressions of appreciation for the work of our registrars. Friends expressed appreciation for the smooth registration process.

#### 41-51: Site Selection Report

The clerk reported that we have reserved the dates June 7-10, 2012 for our 2012 annual gathering.

41-51-01: We approve hold our 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sessions at Warren Wilson College, June 7-10, 2012.

A changing academic schedule at Warren Wilson College may make our regular weekend in 2013 no longer available.

#### 41-52: Outreach Committee

Dennis Gregg reported the ad hoc Outreach Committee is working to develop materials to assist monthly meetings.

Dennis Gregg presented a proposal to change the status of the Outreach Committee from an ad hoc committee to a standing committee. It has been the committee's experience over the last two years that there is a list of activities that are needed in the yearly meeting and more continuity would be desirable.

Dennis described a series of activities for which the committee might provide leadership, including in-reach and outreach activities.

There was broad support for the committee, but concern expressed over the specific charge and activities that committee will undertake.

41-52-01: We approve the concept of creating a standing Outreach Committee and ask that a proposal defining the charge and structure of the committee be brought to the September representative meeting.

#### 41-53: Clerk's report

The clerk announced that the sections of Faith and Practice approved at our sessions will be incorporated into the approved document on the website. Plans for printing the document will be considered at Representative Meeting.

#### 41-54: Faith and Practice Revision Committee

Free Polazzo announced that the Faith and Practice Revision Committee will be working to revise the query section. He also reported that Taimi Olsen has joined the Faith and Practice



Revision Committee. Free highlighted the work of Missy Ivie who has served on the Faith and Practice Revision Committee for 10 years.

41-54-01: We thank Missy Ivie for her dedicated and continuing service on the Faith and Practice Revision Committee over the last 10 years.

41-55: Thanks to Warren Wilson and Planning Committee.

The clerk expressed thanks to the Warren Wilson staff for their many efforts to provide for us this week. He thanked Carol Ciscel and members of the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee for their work planning for our sessions.

41-56: Next Meeting

If it is accord with Divine Will, our next yearly meeting sessions will be held at Warren Wilson College, June 7-10, 2012.

41-57: Closing Worship.

We closed our time together with an extended period of waiting worship.

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Tim Lamm, Clerk  
(Archive copy signed)

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Bill Holland, Recording Clerk  
(Archive copy signed)

Attachments:

- A. Attendance (print copies only)
- B. Treasurer's report
- C. 2010 SAYMA Census
- D. Minute on Immigration
- E. Faith and Practice Revision
- F. Proposed Budget
- G. State of the Meeting Reports
- H. Committee Reports
- I. WQO Representatives' Reports
- J. Epistles
- K. Nominating Committee Report and Complete Roster of Officers and Committees

## **Attachment A: Attendance**

The attendance list appears only in printed hard copies of the minutes



## **Attachment B: Treasurer's Report**

Deanna Nipp-Kientz, Treasurer, & Alan Robinson, Assistant Treasurer

Prepared May 30, 2011

Our 2011 fiscal year budget runs from October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011.

This year's Budget is based on a \$60 assessment. Attached please find (1) the budget report and (2) the account balances report as of May 28, 2011.

Issues to report include:

1. The FY2011 budget as approved at the September 2010 Representative Meeting is attached. SAYMA's finances are sound with \$38,840 in the checking account and a total of \$40,354 in the two Self Help Credit Union savings accounts. Total income is \$44,937 and disbursements are \$31,501. The total income figure includes \$18,679 already deposited for YM registrations.
2. Income in FY 2011. Assessments received total \$25,822, still down significantly from the figures seen before FY 2010. Interest rates and income for our two savings accounts continue at lowered rates. SAYMA has received \$107 in individual contributions.
3. Operational Expenses in FY 2011. SAYF has asked for a transfer of \$1000 of the funds budgeted for them. A little less than one-third of the funds for travel for delegates to WQO's have been expended. A total of \$308 has been used in the work of SAYMA committees. Cost of living raises of 2.6% were provided to employees at the beginning of FY 2011. Our employees receive a monthly payment in lieu of a benefit package.
4. Yearly Meeting Projects in FY 2011. In accordance with the proposal of the Finance Committee for the 2011 Budget, one-half of each contribution to Wider Quaker Organizations budgeted for FY 2011 has been sent and the treasurer will send the amount determined by Yearly Meeting for phase two of this project. Transfers have been made to SAYMA's Set Aside Budgeted Funds and Accumulated Funds. As shown on the Account Balances Report, \$900 has been expended from the FWCC World Conference Fund and \$650 has been expended from the Spiritual Development Fund.
5. Account Balances Report for FY 2011. SAYMA has net assets of \$55,070 as of the date of this report.
6. SAYF sends regular quarterly reports on their finances to the Treasurer. For the first two quarters of FY 2011:
  - a. SAYF had income of \$3115.00.
  - b. SAYF had expenditures of \$3,977.32.
  - c. As of March 31, SAYF had \$1,009.16 in its checking account and a total of \$550 had been awarded in SAYF retreat scholarships. The \$124.08 in its YM scholarship account was transferred to the SAYMA Youth Enrichment Fund approved at the Representative Meeting in September 2010. The SAYF Coordinator is paid through SAYMA and appears under the personnel costs on the budget report. SAYF has requested \$1000 of the funds budgeted for their program this year.

Treasurer's Address: Deanna Nipp-Kientz 47 N. Maple Ave. Cookeville, TN 38501 [aCertainGirl@charter.net](mailto:aCertainGirl@charter.net)

**SAYMA Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Report**  
**Budget Approved at Representative Meeting September 11, 2010**  
**to cover October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011**  
**Report Prepared May 28, 2011**

	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
	FY 2010	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2011
<b>Income</b>				
Assessments*	\$42,000	\$39,532.50	\$33,500	\$25,822.50
Bank Interest	\$700	\$594.83	\$500	\$328.83
Contributions	\$500	\$639.00	\$4,000	\$107.00
F&P Sales	\$250		\$1,500	
Newsletter				
SAYF Receipts				
<b>YM Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$29,000</b>	<b>\$28,258.73</b>	<b>\$31,600</b>	<b>\$18,679.10</b>
YM Receipts	\$26,000	\$25,225.42	\$28,600	\$17,797.60
YM Scholarship Donations	\$1,000	\$1,399.50	\$1,000	\$881.50
YM Book Sales	\$2,000	\$1,633.81	\$2,000	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$72,450</b>	<b>\$69,025.06</b>	<b>\$71,100</b>	<b>\$44,937.43</b>
<b>SAYMA OPERATIONAL EXPENSES</b>				
<b>Yearly Meeting</b>	<b>\$29,600</b>	<b>\$30,535.00</b>	<b>\$31,600</b>	<b>\$658.81</b>
Yrly Meeting - Facilities	\$22,000	\$24,115.34	\$24,000	
Prtng/Mail/Phone/Minutes/Misc	\$1,500	\$1,593.37	\$1,500	\$658.81
Junior Yearly Meeting -- JYM	\$3,100	\$3,204.57	\$3,100	\$0.00
<i>Coordinator</i>	\$1,800	\$1,250.00	\$1,800	
<i>Ass't Coordinator</i>	\$1,000	\$1,250.00	\$1,000	
<i>Supplies/Sitters/Misc</i>	\$300	\$704.57	\$300	
Scholarship WQO Reps	\$1,000	\$0.00	\$1,000	\$0.00
YM Bookstore	\$2,000	\$1,621.72	\$2,000	
SAYF Operational Transfers	\$3,000	\$2,500.00	\$2,100	\$1,000.00
<b>Delegate Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,900</b>	<b>\$4,587.84</b>	<b>\$6,500</b>	<b>\$2,616.73</b>
Rep Mtgs	\$300		\$100	
Del to WQOs	\$6,600	\$4,587.84	\$6,400	\$2,616.73
<b>Committees</b>	<b>\$2,100</b>	<b>\$686.80</b>	<b>\$1,550</b>	<b>\$308.77</b>
Ministry and Nurture	\$1,200		\$1,000	
Ecological Concerns	\$300		\$150	
Faith and Practice	\$400	\$686.80	\$300	\$292.10
Finance Committee	\$100		\$50	
Nominating	\$100		\$50	\$16.67
SAYMA Liability Insurance	\$700	\$591.00	\$700	\$621.00
SAYMA Personnel	\$21,809	\$21,621.81	\$22,376	\$15,247.97
SAYMA Staff Training	\$100		\$0	
SAYMA Office Administration	\$2,900	\$2,518.65	\$2,400	\$1,376.45
Phone, Internet & Office Expenses		\$959.04		\$455.40
Postage		\$42.20		\$89.39
Duplication		\$18.55		\$3.42
Misc. Office & Travel		\$1,498.86		\$828.24
SAYMA Newsletter	\$1,300	\$1,317.51	\$1,000	\$699.34
SAYMA Directory	\$600	\$50.13	\$300	
SAYMA Treasurer	\$600	\$432.00	\$550	\$372.87
SAYMA F&P	\$100		\$1,500	
SAYMA Other Expenses	\$0		\$0	
<b>Total Operational Disbursements</b>	<b>\$69,709</b>	<b>\$64,840.74</b>	<b>\$70,576</b>	<b>\$22,901.94</b>
<b>YEARLY MEETING PROJECTS</b>				
<b>Transfers To Funds</b>	<b>\$5,600</b>	<b>\$5,600.00</b>	<b>\$5,600</b>	<b>\$5,600.00</b>
Spiritual Development Fund	\$1,500	\$1,500.00	\$1,500	\$1,500.00
Released Friend Fund	\$1,500	\$1,500.00	\$1,500	\$1,500.00
FWCC - 3rd World Delegate	\$1,325	\$1,325.00	\$1,325	\$1,325.00
FWCC World Conference Fund	\$825	\$825.00	\$825	\$825.00
Youth Enrichment Fund	\$250	\$250.00	\$250	\$250.00
Young Adult Friends Scholarships	\$200	\$200.00	\$200	\$200.00
<b>Contributions Wider Quaker Org</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$6,000.00</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>
AFSC	\$700	\$700.00	\$700	\$350.00
FCNL	\$700	\$700.00	\$700	\$350.00
FGC	\$700	\$700.00	\$700	\$350.00
FWCC	\$700	\$700.00	\$700	\$350.00
Right Sharing of World Resources	\$700	\$700.00	\$700	\$350.00
Quaker House	\$700	\$700.00	\$700	\$350.00
Friends for LGBTQ Concerns	\$200	\$200.00	\$200	\$100.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$700	\$700.00	\$700	\$350.00
Friends Peace Teams	\$200	\$200.00	\$200	\$100.00
Wm Penn House	\$200	\$200.00	\$200	\$100.00
Friends Journal	\$200	\$200.00	\$200	\$100.00
Guilford College Archiving	\$100	\$100.00	\$100	\$50.00
Rural Southern Voice for Peace	\$200	\$200.00	\$200	\$100.00
Other		\$200.00		
<b>Total Projects</b>	<b>\$11,600</b>	<b>\$11,800.00</b>	<b>\$11,600</b>	<b>\$8,600.00</b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$81,309</b>	<b>\$76,640.74</b>	<b>\$82,176</b>	<b>\$31,501.94</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$8,859)</b>	<b>(\$7,615.68)</b>	<b>(\$11,076)</b>	<b>\$13,435.49</b>

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

SAYMA Account Balances Report -- Fiscal 2011  
May 28, 2011

	2007 9/30/2007	2008 9/30/2008	2009 9/30/2009	2010 9/30/2010	2011 5/28/2011
<b>Assets</b>					
Bank Accounts					
Checking (Bank of America)	\$17,660	\$15,013	\$25,658	\$21,683	\$38,840
Money Market (Self Help)*	\$21,978	\$22,640	\$23,013	\$23,287	\$23,424
Savings (Self Help CD)*	\$10,386	\$15,933	\$16,463	\$16,779	\$16,930
<b>Total Available Funds</b>	<b>\$50,024</b>	<b>\$53,587</b>	<b>\$65,134</b>	<b>\$61,749</b>	<b>\$79,194</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Set Aside Budgeted Funds					
FWCC Third World Delegate	\$650	\$1,300	\$1,950	\$3,275	\$4,600
FWCC World Conference Fund after 2008 (FWCC Triennial Fund through 2008)	\$1,067	\$1,767	\$2,467	\$3,292	\$3,217
Released Friend	\$3,350	\$4,350	\$5,850	\$7,350	\$8,850
Spiritual Development	\$822	\$327	\$1,627	\$2,127	\$2,977
Youth Enrichment Fund	\$2,145	\$2,395	\$2,645	\$2,921	\$3,171
Young Adult Friends Scholarships	\$700	\$800	\$1,000	\$1,109	\$1,309
Accumulated Funds					
YM Scholarship	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Claims against Available Funds</b>	<b>\$8,734</b>	<b>\$10,939</b>	<b>\$15,539</b>	<b>\$20,074</b>	<b>\$24,124</b>
<b>Net Assets = Assets - Liabilities</b>	<b>\$41,290</b>	<b>\$42,648</b>	<b>\$49,595</b>	<b>\$41,675</b>	<b>\$55,070</b>
<b>Fund Expenses in Fiscal Year</b>					
Spiritual Development Fund -- School of the Spirit 3/6/2007	(\$500)				
FWCC Triennial Fund -- 2007 Meeting 4/25/2007	(\$825)				
Spiritual Development Fund -- QUIT Conference 5/14/2007	(\$160)				
YM Scholarship Fund -- YM 2007 Deficit 7/1/2007	(\$663)				
FWCC Triennial Fund -- 2007 Meeting 7/1/2007	(\$1,175)				
Spiritual Dev. Fund -- FGC Consultation 11/7/2007		(\$160)			
Spiritual Dev. Fund -- Earham Scholarship 11/7/2007		(\$300)			
Spiritual Dev. Fund -- FGC Consultation 11/7/2007		(\$210)			
Spiritual Dev. Fund -- Registr for Philadelphia YM 2/5/2008		(\$325)			
Spiritual Dev. Fund -- Earham Scholarship 3/31/2008		(\$500)			
Spiritual Dev. Fund -- Earham Scholarship 8/1/2009			(\$200)		
Spiritual Dev. Fund -- School of the Spirit 11/12/2009				(\$500)	
Spiritual Dev. Fund -- School of the Spirit 11/12/2009				(\$200)	
Spiritual Dev. Fund -- Earham Scholarship 1/16/2010				(\$300)	
Young Adult Friends Scholarship--SAYMA YM 6/19/10				(\$91)	
Youth Enrichment Fund -- SAYF travel to SEYM (9/21/2010)				(\$348)	
Spiritual Dev. Fund--FGC Traveling Ministries Prog. (12/15/10)					(\$450)
FWCC World Conference Fund (5/21/11)					(\$900)
Spiritual Dev. Fund--Yearly Meeting Clerks Retreat (5/24/11)					(\$200)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(\$3,323)</b>	<b>(\$1,495)</b>	<b>(\$200)</b>	<b>(\$1,439)</b>	<b>(\$1,550)</b>

\*FY2011 interest reported on the budget page. Totals on this page reflect interest earned also.

## Attachment C: Census

	Asst pers'n of <sup>1</sup>	Asst pers'n of <sup>2</sup>	Atlan ter <sup>3</sup>	Ber lin	Bir min gton	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn			
																															Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn	Bro ok lyn
<b>1.a. Recorded members</b>																																	
Adults under 18	28	232	36	7	0	50	31	17	33	20	3	5	7	7	8	28	48	8	44	58													
<b>Subtotal: Members</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>54</b>												
<b>1.b. Attenders</b>																																	
Members of another SANYMA meeting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Members in another Yearly Meeting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Not members of RCOP under 18	0	20	15	6	50	38	12	14	8	3	12	5	12	20	55	5	51	26															
<b>Subtotal: Attenders</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>TOTAL: Individuals to report to SANYMA</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1604</b>											
Adults considered inactive	62	20	1	0	4	4																											179
<b>Report to FWCC (Includes PMWG attendees; NOT members of other YMs)</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>1651</b>											
Reported to FWCC last year	44	28	298	84	25	0	58	78	14	58	46	4	11	7	51	17	80	158	18	83	80	1113											
<b>Change</b>	<b>-12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-65</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-52</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-15</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>-81</b>											
<b>Members who:</b>																																	
Attend Worship Group under the care of your meeting	n/a	n/a	80	59	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Attend another SANYMA Worship Group	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Attend another SANYMA Meeting	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Attend in another Yearly Meeting	n/a	n/a	0	4	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Attend in another religious tradition	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attend rarely/not at all/don't know	n/a	n/a	11	93	21	1	5	5	3	6	0	0	3	2	4	4	6	0	11	29													
<b>2. Attendance counts</b>																																	
a. Adult members attending bible	9	130	58	6	12	16	10	12	7	8	2	8	4	2	23	20	2	12	14														
b. Member children attending MWR/FCS	2	28	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
c. Adult attendees at MWR	28		8	7	8	13	18	9	11	8	4	8	4	10	20	1	20	12															
d. non-Attendee children attending MWR/FCS	2		1	0	3	5	3	5	3	0	3	3	5	5	5	0	5	2															
Visitors in a typical month	2	18	4	3	2	3	2	1	2	0	1	3	1	1	8	0	5	5															
Adult members attend MWR for Business	8	30	4	6	4	3	8	8	6	2	3	4	4	2	10	2	12	10															
Attendees/Visitors at MWR for Business		1	4	6	5	2	5	6	5	9	4	2	2	8	15	2	12	5															
<b>3. Count of Events</b>																																	
a. Marriages/commitment ceremonies of members/attenders under care of meeting	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0											
b. Marriages/commitment ceremonies of members/attenders NOT under care of meeting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0										
c. Marriages/commitment ceremonies under care of meeting, non members/attenders	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0										
d. Births/adoptions	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0											
e. Deaths	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0											
f. Transfers in	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0											
g. Transfers out/withdrawals	1	0	2	4	0	2	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0											
h. New members	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0											
i. New attendees	28	8	80	80	10	12	11	14	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11											
j. Stopped attending	n/a	n/a	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0											

<sup>1</sup>Meeting does not distinguish members/attenders.

<sup>2</sup>Atlanta reports "140 active plus 31 active but out of area and 82 inactive" and "We report a number of 170 for our SANYMA Assessment (this includes people who contribute financially and by volunteering.)"

## **Attachment D: Minute on Immigration**

As a faith community committed to welcoming the stranger, we are dismayed and saddened by the failure to find a way forward to craft an immigration system that respects the fundamental rights and dignity of all. We recognize that inaction at the national level has created a vacuum into which states have stepped to create their own immigration laws.

As Friends, we believe that there is that of God in everyone, regardless of citizenship or legal status. Our testimony of community challenges us to live with all of our neighbors in a way that encourages trust, love, and security. Our testimony of equality leads us to value each person as an individual and to respect the human rights and dignity of all persons. Our testimony of peace guides us to take nonviolent action to resolve conflicts in a way that brings us together and promotes justice.

Since Arizona Senate Bill 1070 was passed in 2010, many of the states in our region have introduced and/or passed similar bills that divide our communities and criminalize immigrants. These kinds of unjust laws create a climate of fear for those whose area of residence, line of work, complexion, spoken language or accent is deemed suspicious, even if they are citizens or legal foreign residents or visitors. When state legislation is passed that compels people to hide their identity from authorities, they must live in fear that they will be separated from their families, that they will become victims of crime, that they and their children will not receive an education, be exploited at their workplaces, and that they will lose their livelihoods and their homes.

We bear witness to our friends and neighbors in our community who suffer division in their families, exploitation in the workplace, and the daily fear of deportation. We bear witness to the thousands of deaths on the border and the destruction of border communities and the environment. The estimated twelve million persons living and working in the United States without papers are essential parts of our communities and economy, yet the system for regularizing their status is woefully insufficient. Criminalizing immigrants and those who care for them, as in the Arizona bill and those in our region, does not address the real challenges our country faces with immigration reform and resolution of the humanitarian crisis that results from the broken system.

We, as people of faith, are called not only to resist unjust laws and to work to change them, but to take the initiative to act in accordance with higher laws. We call upon Friends everywhere to urge our elected representatives at the Federal level to respond to President Obama's recent call for comprehensive immigration reform and urge our U.S. members of Congress to take immediate action on humane immigration reform.

We call upon ourselves to act with integrity in response to these challenges and we rededicate ourselves to loving our neighbors, to doing justice, and to walking humbly in the spirit of love.

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*Note: This minute is based upon and borrows from a minute approved by IMYM on Sixth Month 2010*



## **Attachment E: Faith and Practice Revision**

### IV.B.5 Harmony with Nature – revised 6/10/11

1. Friends' concern for the earth is a spirit-led extension of established Quaker testimonies in response to our persistent and, now global, overuse and disruption of Earth's ecological systems. This concern is rooted in a profound awareness of and love for the Divine indwelling within the material world.
2. Friends have long recognized that there is a relationship between human misery and habits of consumption and production. Through the work of early visionaries such as John Woolman and Elias Hicks, Friends came to understand that the way they lived had an impact on the lives of others, even if those who suffered were far away and unknown to them.
3. Today, more than ever, we are challenged to expand our understanding of the interconnection of all living things and the delicate balance required to sustain the community of life. Human aspirations for peace and justice depend upon the earth's ecological integrity. When Friends are patterns and examples of sustainability, we promote these aspirations. We thus support those engaged in transforming our treatment of the earth. All generations deserve to experience a sense of wonder, an intimate connection with the grand diversity of life and an appreciation of their interrelationship with all life processes.
4. SAYMA Friends respond in a variety of ways to the challenges of sustainable living. Many of us know we must reduce and work to eliminate the harmful consequences of our activities; use of energy, housing choices, modes and distances of travel, diet and other consumption habits. We are called to have courage and find more effective ways to live harmoniously as part of the natural world.

# Attachment F: Proposed Budget

<b>SAYMA Fiscal Year 2012</b> <b>FY 2012 DRAFT BUDGET</b> <b>October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012</b> <b>Presented on June 10, 2011</b>								
							Proposed	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget
	FY 2008	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
<b>Income</b>								
Assessments*	\$41,700	\$40,850.00	\$47,000	\$51,157.50	\$47,000	\$35,683	\$33,500	\$33,500
Bank Interest	\$1,200	\$1,080.76	\$900	\$808.91	\$700	\$552	\$500	\$500
Contributions	\$3,720	\$149.51	\$3,260	\$0.00	\$500	\$679	\$4,000	\$4,019
F&P Sales	\$0	\$25.05	\$250	\$0.00	\$250		\$1,500	\$1,500
SAYF Receipts		\$300.00	\$0	\$0.00				
YM Total Receipts	\$29,000	\$31,843.66	\$29,000	\$28,699.06	\$29,000	\$28,894	\$31,600	\$31,600
YM Receipts	\$26,000	\$29,539.14	\$26,000	\$21,430.37	\$26,000	\$25,660	\$28,600	\$28,600
YM Scholarship Donations**	\$3,000	\$90.00	\$3,000	\$7,979.63	\$3,000	\$3,400	\$3,000	\$3,000
YM Book Sales	\$2,000	\$2,214.52	\$2,000	\$2,289.06	\$2,000	\$1,634	\$2,000	\$2,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$75,120</b>	<b>\$74,045.95</b>	<b>\$75,410</b>	<b>\$80,665.47</b>	<b>\$77,450</b>	<b>\$64,887</b>	<b>\$73,100</b>	<b>\$71,119</b>
<b>SAYMA OPERATIONAL EXPENSES</b>								
Yearly Meeting	\$26,900	\$30,347.26	\$28,900	\$29,255	\$29,600	\$38,535	\$31,600	\$31,600
Yrb Meeting - Facilities	\$20,000	\$24,390.78	\$22,000	\$21,730.93	\$22,000	\$24,135	\$24,000	\$24,000
Print/Mail/Phone/Minutes/Misc	\$900	\$867.67	\$900	\$7,069.84	\$1,400	\$1,593	\$1,500	\$1,500
Junior Yearly Meeting - JYM	\$3,000	\$3,043.01	\$3,000	\$7,966.17	\$3,100	\$3,205	\$3,100	\$3,100
Coordinator	\$1,800	\$1,800.00	\$1,800	\$1,800.00	\$1,800	\$1,250	\$1,800	\$1,800
Asst Coordinator	\$1,000	\$1,000.00	\$1,000	\$1,000.00	\$1,000	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$1,000
Supplies/Supplies/Misc	\$200	\$243.01	\$200	\$166.17	\$300	\$705	\$300	\$300
Scholarship WQO Reps**	\$1,000		\$1,000	\$486.87	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
YM Bookstore	\$2,000	\$2,045.80	\$2,000	\$2,001.28	\$2,000	\$1,622	\$2,000	\$2,000
SAYF Operational Transfers	\$3,000	\$2,300.00	\$3,000	\$2,000.00	\$3,000	\$2,500	\$2,100	\$2,000
Delegate Expenses	\$6,900	\$4,400.73	\$6,900	\$5,077.53	\$6,900	\$4,588	\$6,500	\$5,000
Exp Misc	\$300		\$300	\$0.00	\$300	\$0	\$300	\$300
Del to WQOs	\$6,600	\$4,400.73	\$6,600	\$5,077.53	\$6,600	\$4,588	\$6,400	\$4,900
Committees	\$1,800	\$1,220.42	\$2,000	\$73.44	\$2,100	\$687	\$1,550	\$700
Ministry and Nurture	\$1,000	\$972.17	\$1,200	\$0.00	\$1,200	\$0	\$1,000	\$500
Ecological Concerns	\$300		\$300	\$0.00	\$300	\$0	\$150	\$50
Faith and Practice	\$400	\$248.25	\$400	\$73.44	\$400	\$687	\$300	\$50
Finance Committee			\$0	\$0.00	\$100	\$0	\$50	\$50
Nominating	\$100		\$100	\$0.00	\$100	\$0	\$50	\$50
SAYMA Liability Insurance	\$700	\$534.00	\$700	\$522.00	\$700	\$591	\$700	\$700
SAYMA Personnel	\$20,970	\$20,438.34	\$21,809	\$21,816.78	\$21,809	\$21,622	\$22,376	\$22,379
SAYMA Staff Training	\$100		\$100	\$0.00	\$100	\$0	\$0	\$0
SAYMA Office Administration	\$3,500	\$3,393.34	\$3,500	\$2,458.94	\$2,900	\$2,899	\$2,400	\$2,000
Phone, Internet & Office Expenses		\$774.23		\$575.40		\$929		
Postage		\$519.73		\$133.14		\$42		
Duplication		\$645.15		\$114.75		\$19		
Misc Office		\$1,453.23		\$1,617.65		\$1,069		
SAYMA Newsletter	\$1,000	\$539.41	\$1,300	\$1,135.94	\$1,300	\$1,318	\$1,000	\$500
SAYMA Directory	\$500	\$308.01	\$600	\$206.43	\$600	\$50	\$300	\$150
SAYMA Treasurer	\$250	\$72.62	\$250	\$506.84	\$600	\$432	\$550	\$550
SAYMA F&P	\$100		\$100	\$1.00	\$100	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500
SAYMA Other Expenses	\$0	\$95.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Operational Disbursements</b>	<b>\$66,120</b>	<b>\$65,249</b>	<b>\$69,199</b>	<b>\$63,003</b>	<b>\$69,709</b>	<b>\$64,381</b>	<b>\$70,876</b>	<b>\$67,479</b>
<b>YEARLY MEETING PRODUCTS</b>								
Transfers To Funds	\$3,700	\$3,700.00	\$4,800	\$4,800.00	\$5,600	\$5,600	\$5,600	\$2,070
Spiritual Development Fund	\$1,000	\$1,000.00	\$1,500	\$1,500.00	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$315
Released Friend Fund	\$1,000	\$1,000.00	\$1,500	\$1,500.00	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$300
FBCC - Jed Wild Del	\$650	\$650.00	\$650	\$650.00	\$1,325	\$1,325	\$1,325	\$650
FBCC World Conference Fund	\$700	\$700.00	\$700	\$700.00	\$825	\$825	\$825	\$700
Youth Enrichment Fund	\$250	\$250.00	\$250	\$250.00	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$50
Young Adult Friends Scholarships	\$300	\$100.00	\$200	\$200.00	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$55
Contributions Wider Quaker Org	\$5,000	\$5,300.00	\$6,000	\$6,000.00	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$1,570
AFSC	\$600	\$600.00	\$700	\$700.00	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$170
FCNI	\$600	\$600.00	\$700	\$700.00	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$170
FGC	\$600	\$600.00	\$700	\$700.00	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$170
FBCC	\$600	\$600.00	\$700	\$700.00	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$170
Right Sharing of World Resources	\$600	\$600.00	\$700	\$700.00	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$170
Quaker House	\$600	\$600.00	\$700	\$700.00	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$170
Friends for LGBTQ Concerns	\$200	\$200.00	\$200	\$200.00	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$70
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$600	\$600.00	\$700	\$700.00	\$700	\$700	\$700	\$170
Friends Peace Teams	\$200	\$200.00	\$200	\$200.00	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$70
Win Penn House	\$200	\$200.00	\$200	\$200.00	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$70
Friends Journal	\$200	\$200.00	\$200	\$200.00	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$70
Guildford College Archiving	\$300	\$100.00	\$100	\$100.00	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$50
Rural Southern Voice for Peace	\$200	\$200.00	\$200	\$200.00	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$50
Other				\$200		\$200		
<b>Total Projects</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>	<b>\$9,000.00</b>	<b>\$10,800</b>	<b>\$10,800.00</b>	<b>\$11,600</b>	<b>\$11,800</b>	<b>\$11,600</b>	<b>\$3,640</b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$75,120</b>	<b>\$72,349.33</b>	<b>\$79,999</b>	<b>\$73,804.09</b>	<b>\$81,309</b>	<b>\$76,181</b>	<b>\$82,476</b>	<b>\$71,119</b>
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,796.62</b>	<b>(\$4,589)</b>	<b>\$6,861.38</b>	<b>(\$3,859)</b>	<b>(\$13,294)</b>	<b>(\$11,376)</b>	<b>\$0</b>

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

\*\* Not actually counted separately from fees paid to college.

A

## Attachment G: State of the Meeting Reports

- Asheville Friends Meeting
- Athens Friends Meeting
- Atlanta Friends Meeting
- Berea Friends Meeting
- Birmingham Friends Meeting
- Boone Friends Meeting
- Brevard Friends Meeting
- Celo Monthly Meeting
- Charleston Friends Meeting
- Chattanooga Friends Meeting
- Columbia Friends Meeting
- Cookeville Monthly Meeting
- Crossville Friends Meeting
- Greenville Monthly Meeting
- Huntsville Area Friends Meeting
- Memphis Friends Meeting
- Nashville Friends Meeting
- Oxford Friends Meeting
- Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting
- West Knoxville Friends Meeting

### Asheville Friends Meeting

How has Spirit fared among us this year?

Spirit is present in our worship.

We have many opportunities for worship. In addition to meeting for worship on first day, we have a weekly midweek meeting for worship and an extended worship experience once a month. We have tried to maintain a spirit of worship in our meetings for business though we often feel the tension between the spaciousness that worship requires of us, and the need to proceed through an agenda. Our young people maintain a time to discuss their joys and sorrows and hold each other in the Light. Their teachers have been amazed by the depth and sincerity of their sharing. We rejoice in watching their spiritual growth. We feel that all of us, adults and children alike, are maturing in our spirituality.

We have had less vocal ministry during worship this year but many have found the silence more centered and the messages given deeper and more meaningful. We have continued the practice, begun in 2009, of having refreshments following meeting for worship and this gives us a chance, not only to get to know each other better, but to extend the ministry of the meeting into our socializing.

Among many spiritual enrichment programs offered this year, a session with Dan Snyder on *Inward Activism, Outward Prayer* stands out as do the several sessions of Quakerism 101.

Spirit is knitting us together as a community.

A number of members have remarked that they feel a greater sense of closeness as a community and a shared sense of identity as Quakers. We have both mourned and celebrated together. In January we held a memorial service for Gary Briggs, who served many roles in our Meeting as well as being active in FLGBTQC and SAYF.

We have celebrated the marriage of Laura Maynard and Doug Lane, as well as the transfer of membership of Edie Patrick.

We celebrated the life of Phil Neal, one of the founding members of our meeting, as he transferred his membership in order to worship closer to home. A joint potluck meal with Swananoa Valley Friends Meeting was well attended and, hopefully, will become an annual tradition.

We have an annual celebration of our youth which in good Quaker style, always ends with a cook out.

In addition we have hosted a number of Quaker groups, including 2 SAYF retreats, SAYMA Ministry and Nurture, and Faith and Practice revision committee meetings.

Spirit calls us to reach out to others.

We have a steady stream of visitors to our meeting house, often people who are seeking a spiritual home and we have tried to be more welcoming to those who visit our community.

In addition our Meeting rents to a number of kindred organizations that use our space during the week. In April we cosponsored a with the Ethical Culture Society and the Bahai community a Stand Against Racism. We have worked with People of Faith for Just Relationships to petition Asheville city council to extend partner benefits to city employees who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgenderd.

We cooperate with other faiths to provide breakfast to the hungry at Prichard Park once a quarter.

Maintaining spiritual strength in hard times.

Our numbers have shrunk in recent years. In addition, our members have suffered the effects of an economic recession. Both these factors have stressed our budget. All our committees are mindful of being good stewards of the Meetings resources. We are aware that where our treasure is there will out heart be also as we strive to maintain good stewardship of our Meeting's resources.

We have had a number of candid discussions around our SAYMA assessment, our contributions to local nonprofit organizations, the care and maintenance of our Meeting house and property, and the financial arrangements we have with our renters.

As individuals and as a community we have struggled with how much we can give. But as one member said "When times are difficult and we give out of faith in the future, it strengthens us spiritually, and when we react with fear and worry, we are weakened spiritually."

We are grateful for the opportunities that Spirit has provided for us to worship, to build community, and to serve others. We eagerly anticipate what new tasks Spirit may call us to in the coming year.

### **Athens Friends Meeting**

Attendance this year ranged between 5 and 22, with our average attendance being 11 each Sunday. We range in age from toddler to retired. We celebrate new regular attenders and miss regular attenders who have moved away from Athens.

We are enjoying the most significant physical change for the meeting in a long time: Our move into our new space that we share with Casa de Amistad, a local group that provides social services and educational opportunities for local Hispanics. Since moving we've had many new visitors, usually a few each month. New bold signage on our local road helps new Friends looking for the group find us easily.

### Worship

The act of worship is a reflection of our desire to act in a positive way in general in all of our actions as a meeting. The focus of worship is development of spirit, emotional strength and empathy. First day school is committed to exploring what it means to be Quaker historically and currently.

The worship service is focused on providing a comfortable, accessible and welcoming environment for participants. It includes a variety of seating set in a circle with subdued lighting replacing the built in drop ceiling fluorescent lights. Visitors are quickly welcomed and engaged in conversation with regular attenders.

First day schoolers are encouraged to choose topics of interest to them. Volunteers to educate them are determined at monthly business meetings. At the end of meeting, first day schoolers return to report on what they have learned.

This is also the time, after the formal worship, when the meeting briefly discusses thoughts they did not share during the worship service. The meeting then breaks for tea, coffee and, if we are lucky, goodies from the 'Quaker Baker,' before second hour or business meeting.

Worship is a place for personal spiritual renewal within a close group. The meeting environment is that of one large family. We draw strength from hearing about each others' spiritual journeys. We draw strength by seeing examples of the lives people in Meeting lead. It is with this strength we reach out to our broader Quaker and local communities and strengthen our individual lives.

### Budget & Business

We have a monthly Meeting for Worship for Business when we cover monthly financial information, upcoming events, and future goals, following a Spiritual mindset. Our Business often grows from topics we are presented with at second hour discussions. We sometimes struggle to make decisions in a timely manner.

We do not have formal standing committees. Instead, volunteer committees are assembled on a project-by-project basis. We have found this to be an effective way to organize our small group while achieving a maximum number of goals. Volunteer committees in 2010 were active in working together for moving the Meeting, membership, clearness, education, and a wedding.

### Community and Outreach

Mindfulness among ourselves and within the broader community is a top concern for

Friends of the Meeting. Among ourselves, we share thoughts and abilities. One of the most effective means of sharing our thoughts is through the Athens Quaker listserv. Even Quakers who once lived in Athens and attended Meeting here appreciate the kindness and intimacy of the messages sent by means of our listserv after they have moved away. The listserv also is an effective tool for organizing our various projects and activities.

Our off-line social activities are organized simply, so the Meeting finds rewarding ways to bond and share. Birthday celebrations with cakes are very popular. Letters of care to sick and grieving Friends are important to us. We have potluck dinners and other get-togethers for enjoying each others' company and getting to know one another better. We even had a wedding this year!

We support a variety of groups in the broader community. We share housing and events with Casa de Amistad. Friends participate in a variety of local organizations committed to social justice including Women in Black, Hope for Babies Care for Kids, AIDS Athens, Whatever It Takes, and Reading for the Blind and Dyslexic. As a group, we hosted guests from the Center for Development in Central America, Faces of the Homeless, and Whatever It Takes, a local holistic approach to K-12 education in Athens.

Beyond Athens Meeting, we have sent representatives to SAYMA and Quakers in Pastoral Care and Counseling (QPCC). One Athens Friend developed online registration for QPCC for the first time this year. Two Athens Friends serve on QPCC's steering committee as well. Athens Meeting was represented at the Friends General Conference Gathering and by three members at a retreat with the Atlanta Meeting, including two of our youths attending a Quaker youth activity. Lastly, our meeting is considering Quaker Quest, a process we started a couple of years ago with a weekend seminar. Our space limitations and the recent move put the project on the back burner. Now we are ready to broach the subject again.

We always welcome visitors to the Meeting and are saving for an even more welcoming Meeting House. We have also supported numerous other Quaker organizations financially.

#### Conclusion

Athens Quakers are feeling good about the State of the Athens Meeting. We feel we are treating people in a manner that is Quakerly and that our goals, hopes and dreams come from the truths we experience individually and as a group. We feel Meeting generally facilitates the goals of its members and that a spirit of cooperation blesses us in our Quaker practice. Mindfulness brings strong witness of our Quaker practice to everyday life and enriches our time together. We let our lives speak; live as Spirit leads us; and let this be the connection when we reach out to others.

#### **Atlanta Friends Meeting**

Our Meeting is thriving. Although there are certainly concerns which need further attention, the connectedness of our community, our collective spiritual engagement, and our work outside the Meeting are all strong.

Meeting for Worship has continued to be well-attended, with over 100 adults attending on most First Days. Although Meeting for Worship provided spiritual refreshment and was not frequently beset by seemingly inappropriate messages there is a sense that our worship was often not as deep and centered as many wanted. Late arrivals and early departures seemed more common than ever. This issue may have been due in part to the number of attenders and visitors who were relatively new to Quakerism, as well as the difficulty of adequately addressing all of the spiritual needs of our large and diverse Meeting. Some continued to gather regularly for worship at the Meeting House on many weekday mornings and on the evening of fourth day, as well as at several weekly Meetings for Worship offsite. During 2010 Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business reflected an increased sense of worship.

The Ministry and Worship Committee organized several well attended programs. These included Silence and Speech (a forum for worship sharing about centering and vocal ministry) and a day retreat and a forum on Quakerism 201, Finding Our Way Once We Discovered the Path, led by Jay Marshall, Dean of the Earlham School of Religion. The Committee also distributed cards reminding attenders that their timely arrival at our Meeting for Worship can strengthen the quality of our worship together.

Other groups of Meeting attenders participated in additional spiritual enrichment programs, including a Spiritual Nurture group, The Circle, and two marriage enrichment groups. Adult Religious Education classes continue to meet weekly, as does a Bible Study group and a Hymn Singing group. Mary Ann Downey and Christina Repoley served as facilitators for a successful Gathered Meeting Retreat. In addition, many in the Meeting have become comfortable with both using and serving on clearness, anchor, and support committees and are increasingly turning to these processes for guidance and support.

At a worship-filled planning day the Religious Education Committee chose its school year theme of “Quaker Practice: You Belong”. In adopting this theme the committee noted that a significant number of Young Friends in our Meeting were coping with divorcing parents or refugee status. Approximately 25-30 young Friends attended First Day School each week, on average. Most classes continued to use the Godly Play® curriculum. Green Friends continued to teach a monthly class on the gifts of nature. Young Friends raised money for causes important to them, with the Middle School Friends hosting a second Holiday Bazaar. At the suggestion of the Religious Education Committee, Young Friends began remaining in Meeting for Worship for the full hour on Fifth First Days so that our community could enjoy multigenerational worship. One multigenerational Meeting included a story on Quaker worship from the Godly Play® curriculum.

The Youth Program Coordinator and the Young Friends Support Committee continued to offer youth programs for the Meeting. Our involvement in the SAYF program also grew, as several new Middle School friends from Atlanta Meeting began participating. Attenders of the January Atlanta SAYF retreat provided community service support for the Hosea Feed the Hungry and Homeless program despite the very bad weather.

The Burundi Friends' participation in our community continued to enrich us and lead us to many openings. Meeting members provided financial support for the construction of a Burundi Friends Church in Cene, Burundi, and then joyfully received pictures of Friends in Cene and the developing construction. The continuing plight of attendees' family members stranded in a refugee camp in Tanzania caused us grave concern. This perilous situation prompted one member to press local and national agencies to assist us in bringing these family members safely to the United States. The Refugee Support (Friendly 8) group provided 3-4 drivers every Sunday to assure rides to Worship for Burundi Friends. In addition, individuals have provided intensive assistance and guidance to Burundi Friends regarding jobs and education, have provided English lessons, and have joined with Burundi Friends to welcome three new babies into the community. American and African individuals from the meeting have supported the Urban Farm, coordinated by Refugee Family Services. In the fall, Burundi farmers practiced their produce-selling skills at a weekly Sunday morning market held within the meetinghouse.

Atlanta Friends Meeting was active in anti-racism efforts throughout the year. ORAIARH held 2 workshops on white privilege: one for Atlanta Friends Meeting and one for SAYMA. We improved follow-up by doing an anonymous online survey after the AFM workshop. ORAIARH members also wrote book reviews for the newsletter, staffed a weekly literature table, and continued to support each other in working against racism in ourselves and our communities. Several AFM members attended the worship in the manner of Friends at Morehouse College. CURAFM offered 4 workshops at AFM on sections of "Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice".

The Refugee Support Group and ORAIARH/CURAFM worked together to coordinate the week-long speaking tour of David Zarembka (coordinator of African Great Lakes Initiative of the Friends Peace Teams) and his wife, Gladys Kamonya. The speaking tour included presentations at a variety of venues and a radio broadcast, as well as meetings with representatives of the Carter Center, the King Center, and U.S. Senator Isakson.

Friends played the role of citizen lobbyists on a number of issues this year, some at the suggestion of FCNL, others as members of various advocacy organizations. Elected officials heard from us on health care for all, immigration reform, prison reform, energy and environmental concerns, ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the cluster bomb treaty, the New START treaty, gay rights, and decreasing the military budget. Friends made calls, sent emails and postcards, signed petitions, and witnessed at vigils and demonstrations. Some paid visits to state and national offices. One member continued his long term participation in a Monthly Peace Vigil in Douglas County, Georgia, as well as his advocacy for peace and racial justice in local political and advocacy organizations there.

Social Concerns had a reawakening of the Spirit in 2010, both within and beyond the walls of the Meeting House. As in prior years the Committee supported a wide range of Quaker and non-Quaker activities, sending funds as far away as a public school in Chicago and the El Sitio community in El Salvador. Social Concerns also took a hard look at its purpose and structure. To open the way, the committee held a threshing session and brainstorming sessions. These culminated in a "Gathering" that brought all the social concerns activities at AFM into the spotlight, with the hope of generating



new leadings, participation and energy. With new co-clerks for 2011 and a more streamlined structure, the Committee plans to continue its regular work while creating a better vehicle for living in Spirit and Truth.

The Green Friends organized a well-attended study group focusing on the Quaker-authored book, "Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy," with the help of Judy Lumb. They also organized an outreach meeting of climate activists in preparation for the 350.org worldwide October events. They installed a rain barrel and several energy conservation displays at the Meeting House. A number of them attended a large Interfaith worship/rally in Atlanta and they lobbied on behalf of legislation seeking to limit carbon emissions.

There were exciting developments this year at the Ferguson Cabin. The Cabin Committee completed site preparation and foundation work for a long-planned addition to the site: a cabin that has plumbing and that is suitable for use all year round. The Committee found renewed commitment toward its service through its hopes for the future and its members' growing friendships with each other.

From a financial standpoint, contributions lagged well behind budget and expenses until the final weeks of the year, when a last minute surge in donations allowed us to unexpectedly finish the year in the black. The Educational Scholarship Committee awarded eight \$500 scholarships for the 2010-2011 school year to young adults associated with the Meeting.

During 2010 the Meeting often had difficulty recruiting enough volunteers to cover all the tasks that it felt needed to be done. This seems to have been a product of the number of projects underway and the sizeable number of children and other individuals in the Meeting who needed community support rather than any lack of vitality in the Meeting. In filling these volunteer posts the Meeting must strive to remember both that, ideally, service comes from a place of spiritual leading rather than guilt and that spiritual gifts can spring from the performance of seemingly mundane tasks.

Another continuing challenge for the Meeting has been assuring that new attenders are truly welcomed and folded promptly into the Meeting community. Some can feel overwhelmed by the size of the Meeting. The number of visitors who come and go make it difficult to keep track of people who have started attending regularly, much less to aid them in making the transition from newcomer to member of the community. The Meeting held Newcomer Dinners every month in an effort to welcome new attenders. Although the Meeting has a lengthy Handbook intended to orient all attenders to its procedures new attenders often discover some of our customs only when they are informed they have violated one of them. This can leave them feeling alienated. It can also be challenging to distinguish between situations in which an attender has decided to pursue their spiritual path elsewhere and those in which attendance has ceased because of a problem which calls for the assistance of the Meeting community. The Meeting continues to seek more effective ways of fulfilling these duties.

The Meeting's office ran efficiently in 2010, providing vital logistical support for the Meeting and responding promptly to inquiries from prospective and existing tenants. The Office Manager's skill in addressing rental and usage inquiries has meant that the building is used more and

that our rental income has significantly increased. The welcoming spirit of the Friend in Residence has also fostered greater use of the building. During this year he organized a forum on Quakers & Islam, in partnership with Khalid Siddiq, Director of Atlanta's Al-Farooq Mosque. He also became fully involved in the work of several committees.

The Meeting House was kept in good repair. The Meeting promptly and successfully addressed problems ranging from a large hole in the parking lot to mysterious bad odors to an uneven front walkway. Repeated efforts to provide sufficient nighttime lighting around the front entrance without wasting electricity were successfully concluded this year. Funds and effort invested in energy efficiency improvements in prior years began to bear fruit in the form of lower utility bills. The grounds have gotten increasingly appealing. Ever-changing rows of blossoms and well-tended bushes greet us.

The Meeting mourned the death of Jane Welborn. It welcomed new members Caroline Noyes and Al Natanagara and transferring member Marthajane Robinson. It held the marriage of Barbara Seal and Don Schreiber under its care. Two members, Loretta Lucy Miller and Anthony Smith, transferred their membership to other Meetings.

### **Berea Friends Meeting**

Berea Friends Meeting finds itself both waxing and waning. In terms of active adult members, formal members of the meeting, donations to the meeting, and outreach to the world, we are smaller and less active. Fewer Friends fill the positions of responsibility within the meeting and our spiritual focus is increasingly inward. We have had to make severe cuts to our annual budget including elimination of all contributions to wider Quaker organizations. Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee and Outreach Committee are inactive.

At the same time, we are experiencing perhaps the largest overall attendance that we have ever seen – especially among teens, and new attenders frequently join us. Our adult discussion sessions (changed from a “Second Hour” to a “First Hour” timeslot) are experiencing healthy attendance and participation, and provide fertile soil in preparation for Worship.

With our membership in flux, we are aware of the dynamic that those who are leaving are members of long experience and service while new arrivals generally lack that experience or level of involvement. We are striving to include them fully in the life of the meeting.

At a retreat for reflection and planning held in February, Friends expressed their vision of the meeting and how it can grow and develop in the coming years. We also identified what we treasure and what we hope to accomplish.

We value many aspects of our meeting: the opportunity to worship on a consistent basis in a space where mind and body can be still, a home where we can experience a Quaker identity, a safe, welcoming community committed to listening and seeking unity, and our vibrant youth program which models problem solving and respect for self and others.

We seek to work together toward goals illumined by The Light and support and nurture each other in that work, share the value of spiritual listening with those outside the community, and to be examples of what we believe by living what we believe.

### **Birmingham Friends Meeting**

Birmingham Friends Meeting continues to be a small but active presence in our community. Membership and attendance has been similar to previous years, with around a dozen Friends gathering for Meeting for Worship each week. Several Members and regular attenders have moved from the area or from the Meeting. As a small Meeting these losses are intensely felt. We struggle with issues such as spoken ministry, reaching out to attenders and providing care to those who need it. At the same time, we try to nurture the gifts that each person brings to the Meeting and to the community.

Each week, Friends gather for Meeting for Worship and a Second Hour of programming. Second Hour provides a time for Friends to educate themselves through readings and discussion of various topics. Some of the topics this year included Celebrating the Quaker Way, The Existential Theology of Nikos Kazantzakis, The Quakers: A Very Short Introduction by Ben Pink Dandelion along with a number of articles from Friends Journal. We were particularly excited to read an article written by BFM member Shaun Chavis in the April issue of FJ.

Other Second Hours focused on social concerns. These programs included a visit by Alabama Arise, a group dedicated to improving the lives of people in poverty by changing public policy. Birmingham Friends Meeting is a member congregation of Alabama Arise. Later in the year, the Meeting was visited by Patricia Todd, state representative for the district where the meetinghouse is located.

Outside of First Day, the Meeting continued to hold monthly simple suppers in people's homes. During the summer, a Friendly Films series was held at a member's home. At Christmas Friends collected gifts for families through Greater Birmingham Ministries. These activities were an important time of fellowship and fun.

This year there were few young Friends in BFM. One young attender left to join another church which meant the two consistent attenders are far apart in age with different needs in First Day School. In spite of this, the Meeting has worked to keep these children involved through discussions and intergenerational activities. Recent attendance by several young adult Friends has raised questions about how to meet their needs.

While small in numbers, Birmingham Friends work to make their presence felt within the Birmingham community. A new outreach effort involved posters based on some used in England. We hope it will create interest in our Meeting. Friends continue to serve on the board at Greater Birmingham Ministries which works to change those systems that contribute to keeping people in poverty as well as trying to meet the needs of Birmingham's urban poor. Members work to further interfaith understanding by serving on the Alabama Faith Council and to seek peaceful alternatives in concert with Birmingham Peace Project. As a supporting member of Alabama Arise, BFM supports tax and state constitution reform in the state. Other ongoing concerns include working to

end the death penalty, supporting the lesbian and gay communities by sponsoring a table at the annual PrideFest and presenting a donation of our property tax equivalent to the neighborhood Avondale School PTA and Tax Exempt Avondale. Friends had enjoyed serving meals through The Table and were sorry to see it close. Members also participated in Wider Quaker Organizations such as SAYMA, FCNL, AFSC and Friends Journal.

This year a number of Friends have struggled with health and family issues. This means that some of our most faithful members and attenders have needed to draw back from Meeting responsibilities to care for themselves and their loved ones. We have held these Friends in the Light and tried to assist them in any way possible.

As this report shows, Birmingham Friends spend a great deal of time nurturing the outside community. In the coming year, we hope to spend time on the life of the Meeting. We ask for support in the work ahead.

### **Boone Friends Meeting**

The pivot point in the life of the meeting in the past year has been changing the meeting time and place. Attendance had declined to an expectation of only one or two attenders at each meeting. In September of 2010, contact was made with Richard Anderson, presiding officer for the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Boone. Boone Friends have met with the UUs and shared space with them in the past and it was a positive experience, but their group has grown until time and space was a problem. We were welcomed into the space, though available times were limited. We are now meeting at the UU Fellowship at 1 pm on Firstdays. We have created a website with meeting information. Attendance has increased to five to six regulars, plus visitors and students. We have convened a Peace and Social Justice Committee that is currently concentrating on employment in the area and ways to improve the lives of the poor.

[Http://boonefriendsmeeting.tripod.com](http://boonefriendsmeeting.tripod.com)

### **Brevard Friends Meeting**

As in years past we meet every First Day at College Walk Retirement Center. We continue to support Sharing House, Bread of Life, and The Haven. Several of our attenders were present when The Haven celebrated the ground breaking for the new facility, a shelter for homeless people in Transylvania County. Last year we donated \$5,000 toward this project from our undesignated funds.

Various Friends continue with long-term activity in community organizations such as Koinonia, Center for Dialogue, Children's Center, Bread of Life, and Transylvania Animal Alliance Group (TAAG). Other Friends are active in international organizations such as National Peace Foundation and the International Peace and Cooperation Center (Justice for Palestinians), and the Peace Vigil at the courthouse.

Adult Forum continues to be an important spiritual and intellectual focus for our Meeting. We have adopted a format of free-form discussions instead of structured reading, in which all in

attendance are free to raise whatever topic interests them. The Adult Forum has been very ably co-clerked, which has contributed to the success of this format.

As an example of what we do, one member and his wife suffered a break-in at their home while they were asleep. This event triggered three or four sessions of very deep and far-ranging discussions about the application of Quaker testimony, values, and lifestyle to the vagaries of everyday life. The spiritual enhancement flowing from these discussions (while perhaps not conventional) was profound and especially beneficial to the member in question. As one forum participant phrased it, "It was an example of our Meeting for worship with concern for life."

An important aspect of our meeting has always been and continues to be pastoral care. Members and attenders are conscious of each other's needs and offer assistance when appropriate. Meeting has been exemplary in its spirit-led care for those who have had health issues and other needs. We continue to enjoy our superlative newsletter, thanks to the editor and many contributors.

This past year we have experienced no weddings, no births, and no deaths. There have been several incidences of poor health among our community, and this has impacted our average attendance. We continue to seek to be a viable meeting for all ages.

In summary, we continue to feel that our Meeting provides a hospitable space and a rich, spiritual experience for all members and attenders.

### **Celo Monthly Meeting**

Every meeting has its own personality or unique profile. Celo Friends Meeting has been described by some as a community church meaning that its Quaker identity is one of universality. On every First Day we welcome all to gather and worship in the silence followed by potluck and fellowship.

Celo is a faith community that overlaps many other local communities. We are made up of farmers; healers; carpenters; musicians; visual artists; teachers; Christians, Jews, Buddhists and Hindus; Arthur Morgan Middle School; Camp Celo; and the Celo land trust community in which Celo Friends Meeting is located. Our members and attenders are nurtured and spiritually sustained by these other communities as well as by our corporate worship on First Day. This means that even though our meetings for worship are often spirit led and the potlucks very satisfying gastronomically and socially, Quakerism and our Meeting is not the center of the lives of many of our members and attenders. This is in contrast to other local churches whose members attend church three times a week.

The universality of Celo Friends Meeting attracts people who would be put off by a Christ centered meeting, often because they grew up with a negative form of Christianity. The down side is that some Friends who are Christ centered feel the need to go outside the meeting to participate in the activities of other local churches. A few members have joined other churches.

Celo is a small meeting and some members fill many roles in order to cover all the jobs of the Meeting. Nominating committee reviews all positions every two years and works to fill openings in

the interim. We have found it valuable to use “spiritual discernment within the nominating process” as described in a Friend’s Journal article of October 2005.

Ministry and Care is a small committee and the only one that meets on a regular basis. As a result this committee deals with matters that would normally be under the care of other committees such as Peace and Social Concerns or Adult Religious Education. Our practice of presenting a query once a month during meeting for worship often leads to vocal ministry and a deepening of worship. Our goal is to develop a theme over many months, leading us to a deeper awareness of Quakerism and its relevance in our lives.

Ministry and Care had a one day retreat for the purpose of discerning the direction and focus of our committee. This was not accomplished, but the time was well spent, because we left feeling more centered and connected to one another.

Ministry and Care has been considering ways to participate in a program that on Fridays sends food home with needy school children who otherwise would have nothing to eat over the weekend.

We have provided outreach and financial support for two young women in their studies, one a high school student and the other a college student. Through the generosity of a member we have been able to provide scholarship help for children of the meeting to attend Arthur Morgan School

Our new meetinghouse continues to offer opportunities for community building. We have discussed making it available for memorials and other celebrations. It was used this year for one community wedding. We are grateful to our members who take it on themselves to beautify the meetinghouse with cleaning, planting, and yard work. Adding radiators to the heating system seems to have finally made the difference in being comfortable on the coldest days. We continue to consider uses for the goat barn that had served as our meetinghouse before. It currently needs roof repair.

This past January, in our meetinghouse, there was a return performance by Free Planet Radio, a professional jazz trio based in Asheville. Their first appearance in 2010 was approved only after a lengthy discernment process revolving around the appropriate use of the meetinghouse and responsibility for paying the players. The performance was very successful, not only in numbers, but because of the mutual appreciation on the part of the performers and the audience. This second performance was received as enthusiastically. As in the first, it was framed in silence.

The Children’s Garden Preschool continues to use Margithouse, our fellowship building, as a classroom during the week. Their rent helps cover the expense of utilities.

A member of our meeting, throughout the season, has been our “soup angel.” He provided one soup for vegetarians and one for omnivores every First Day throughout the winter months. We very much enjoyed his soups ranging from onion to mac & cheese, but even more so his spirit of generosity. The fellowship over this shared lunch is an important part of each First Day.

Average attendance on First Day is about thirty. About half are members and half regular attenders. We regularly have visitors especially in the summer when the campers from Camp Celo join us for hymn singing and the first part of silent worship.

Our meeting has a gift for reaching out to those with personal crisis. This year there were health issues and a death. We also celebrated two births. Our babies gladden our hearts when they enter the meetinghouse in the arms of their parents. Sometimes we wish that their parents would allow them to stay throughout meeting and not be concerned about their vocalizing.

We continue to provide childcare for toddlers but have not had an active First Day School this year. This is due to a lack of school age children in the meeting and our long time teacher/coordinator being away for the year. The exception to this was a delightful Christmas play The Story of Holly and Ivy organized by meeting attenders and including many children from the wider community. We are considering other seasonal events as a way to attract young people to the meeting.

We are grateful to our treasurer for managing meeting finances. Contributions come in a range of sizes but seem to keep up with expenses, SAYMA assessment, and allow us to contribute, as a meeting, to a number of local causes and wider Quaker organizations.

Thank you for this opportunity to consider all the ways we have been blessed this year.

### **Charleston Friends Meeting**

How has the Meeting lived its testimonies in the preceding year?

Prior to considering this query, Charleston Friends have not formally listed testimonies we try to follow corporately or as individuals. Through the years, we have discussed historical Friends testimonies and challenged ourselves in each area. We reflected on corporate and individual practice of each testimony found in SAYMA's Faith and Practice in preparing this report. This report focuses on the life of the meeting in 2010, but because of its summative nature, probably reflects things that happened before.

Simplicity. Charleston is a small meeting. To some extent, that enforces a discipline of simplicity. Most of our business takes place in a committee of the whole. Our committees are either ad hoc or consist of a clerk with others joining as led. We meet in space provided by a community organization we support, freeing ourselves from the need to tend to a meeting house. Many of our members have adopted low impact life styles, such as: using public transportation and bicycles; heating with wood; living on the land or gardening for food; reusing clothes, cars, books, and furniture; and conserving energy from fossil fuels. Not all of these save time, but they do release us from the pursuit of physical things and provide occasions for spiritual growth.

Peace. Our meeting has a busy Peace and Social Justice Committee which has offered advice and support to a local American Friends Service Committee economic justice project since its inception more than 20 years ago. With other peace churches we pray for peace and reconciliation in the world, as we recognize the difficulty we all have in adhering to Christ's command that we love our enemies.

On a more practical level, we try to express our desire for peace through social service, supporting local men's and women's shelters with home-prepared meals, participating in an adopt-a-family event, and providing contributions to a soup kitchen and community service groups. We also

support the work of the American Friends Service Committee and Friends Committee on National Legislation for peace and justice through financial contributions and participation in priority development. In 2010, approximately 2/3 of our modest budget was spent on donations for work in peace and social justice.

**Integrity.** Integrity speaks to consistency of our actions; not merely self-consistency, but consistency with Divine leadings. Some historical Friends' behaviors, such as use of plain talk, may appear quaint in today's world, and Charleston Friends generally do not adhere to them. Others such as a standard of truth in dealings with all people, treating everyone with the same respect, and refraining from judicial oaths may be of greater importance now than ever. Although we have not considered integrity corporately through discussion or worship sharing, some Friends have encountered situations testing integrity, and Meeting has supported them with ministry and Friendly presence. Fair treatment in the workplace, fair business dealings with others, respect and tolerance for non-Christian religions, and avoidance of military references in speech are some integrity issues we have encountered.

Charleston Friends do not have unity of practice on every matter related to integrity. This diversity encourages us to examine our own lives, that we may "Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations wherever you come; that [y]our carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people..."

**Community.** Charleston Friends have deepened the Meeting community this year through sharing meals, friendship, celebrations, and books, including a book club and Bible study group. With a small meeting, we are generally aware of important events in the lives of our members, and celebrate them with great joy. One Friend retired from his worldly occupation this year, and we rejoice in his renewed opportunity to serve others. We welcomed a one Meeting member's grandchild to the world, and were blessed with visits from grandchildren born previously. We take special joy in the presence of parents and other family who visit Friends and bring their gifts to worship and other Friends events.

Communities are not immune to times of difficulty and sorrow. We hold one another in the light when illness, family difficulties, or other challenges arise. In the past year we have mourned loss of relatives, prayed for young Friends struggling to build a new family, and supported one another in illness.

We take pleasure in opportunities to support individual Friends in their wider Quaker work and their individual spiritual journeys, both with words of encouragement and financial assistance as needed. Each year, we host or participate in a West Virginia Gathering of Friends; this year's theme was "Culture, Character, and Communication."

**Equality.** Charleston meeting's members and attenders are mostly older, white, U.S.-born individuals. Although that is consistent with the age demographics of our community, we do not fully reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of our city and state. We cannot say for certain how we might react if our testimony on equality were tested, any more than a conscientious objector can predict his or her response to hypothetical situations. We have studied the history of slavery and



racial discrimination in the United States as a possible means of preventing its re-emergence. We have stood with groups facing discrimination, most recently Muslims proposing to build a center in New York. We remember Martin Luther King each year with study and prayer. While recognizing that there are many people injured by illegal immigration and the economic forces that produce it, we support basic human rights of those who have risked their lives to be in our country.

How has the Meeting supported “that of God” in each other over the course of the year?

This has been a year of spiritual growth for all of us. Arrival of new Friends and return of Friends of different faith traditions have allowed us to recognize our differences and appreciate them. Some of us are refugees from prescriptive denominations, whose views may be Biblically-inspired but whose practices may cause pain. Such individuals may look for help from the Spirit while avoiding religious expression that brings memories of judgmental behavior. Others have a more Christ-centered view and have personal experience of Jesus as teacher and guide. We differ in how we interpret the Bible and in the weight we give to other sources of inspiration. In discussion, worship sharing, and Bible study, we have been able to share our heartfelt beliefs without fear of disapproval or ridicule. Scriptures and experiences of earlier Friends have served as a valuable starting point for this sharing. By listening carefully, we have learned how the Spirit moves in the hearts of those who use different words than we to describe their religious experience. Meeting for worship is richer for the diversity of background and belief, ministry is more frequent, and Friends who are away for a time are more sorely missed.

### **Chattanooga Friends Meeting**

Chattanooga Friends Meeting, 2010 was a time of contraction and expansion, inward growth but reduced attendance, renewed commitment and increased financial contributions—a year of paradox, much like we’ve found human life often is.

Last year we reported on our hope for physical expansion of our meetinghouse, necessitated by a surge of increased attendance; this year we found it best to put those hopes on the back burner, the plans watched but the flame turned down substantially. Attendance has slacked off, somewhat, down from near 30 to closer to 20. Yet, paradoxically, with authorization of monthly deduction from personal accounts at the bank, our monthly contributions have inched upward. Our 75-year old meetinghouse must be closely watched, but it is in strikingly good shape—and we have only two workdays a year! Young Friends ended their year-long commitment to editing our newsletter, with all of us infused with new vigor by introduction of new teen-created features, such as “Ask an elder,” “Cool Quaker of the Month,” and “Chatterbox.” Young Friends also nudged us to consider a minute on gay and lesbian marriages, on which we easily united in January. Overcoming doubts about how such a large group could stay comfortably in our meetinghouse, we successfully hosted SAYF in November and joined them for a potluck meal. Our young friends look forward to SAYF retreats. We have 4 young friends on the SAYF Nurturing Committee and 1 adult on the SAYF Steering Committee. We also had a series on “Centering Prayer.” We sent a representative to Swannanoa for SAYMA’s Ministry and Nurture Consultation, and he returned inspired and made plans to inspire us all.

A local black organization presented us with a plaque applauding Friends and their contributions to race relations over the years; we responded by inviting representatives to meet with us to discuss why they thought we deserved such an honor and later they came to worship and to eat with us during our regular monthly potluck. We sent letters to local mosques after the Ft. Hood, Texas, shootings and provided support to the Muslim soldier at Ft. Campbell who had applied for CO status. We cosponsored the local appearance of Mark Braverman, a Jewish activist who challenges Zionism, advocating a single, secular state in Israel. We also mounted a three-part meeting-wide discussion on “Coming of Age on the question of race.”

With the usual Second-hour discussions, potlucks, and cook-outs, we have tried to maintain a spirit of openness and caring, as we struggle to cope with the demands the times place on what our forbears in the 17th century called “The People of God, in scorn called “Quakers.”

### **Columbia Friends Meeting**

Columbia Friends Meeting has experienced turmoil during 2010.

We continue to look for a permanent location for the meeting. In trying to find an appropriate place there was an effort to buy land on which to build. The clerk could not agree with a plan that was proposed, stood aside, stepped down from the clerkship, and has not been attending the meeting. The process of trying to find the sense of the meeting in moving forward with this proposal was stressful. We continue to hope that this friend will be led to return to our meeting. We were unable to purchase that land because of zoning problems and so we have started searching again. By the end of the year there was an active Building Committee and the sense of the meeting is that we must find new space.

Between July and December we did not have a clerk. Individuals who had been clerks in the past alternated in clerking Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Various individuals led the rise of Meeting for Worship. The Ministry and Nurture Committee continued to meet to support the meeting and individuals in need of nurture.

A nominating committee was put together, and, amazingly, many Friends were led to be on committees even though fewer people attended meeting. It was decided to reactivate the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, the finance committee remains strong and active, and more people joined the Building Committee. There were two people who volunteered to be treasurer. Someone volunteered to be clerk.

Two families no longer attending the meeting changed First Day school from a high of 13 young friends to 5 (ages 2-17). This makes planning for meaningful Quaker education difficult. However, there are devoted older friends who provide supervision for the little ones and planned activities for the older ones including sessions on Quaker faith and practice, a book Hopes Edge about mindful consumption, stories from the Bible and preparation of food for Food Not Bombs one first day each month.

In the past year there have been a several new attenders and they have leapt into the life of the meeting and added both spiritual as well as practical support. One new attender is an amazing story teller and has added joy to our second hour and has encouraged all of us to tell our stories.

We continue to play a role in the community. One Friend organized a dinner and an opportunity to learn about immigration reform (Breaking Bread and Barriers). This was attended by about 150 community members, including immigrants who shared their stories. Several Friends participate in a “Women in Black” protest every Wednesday. There is continued visitation to the federal prison in Edgefield. We continue to support the local food bank with donated food and volunteering and participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring. We are constituent members of the SC Christian Action Council and support their work in peace and social justice advocacy. (We are the smallest constituent member – AME, Episcopalian, Methodist, etc, but we have an equal voice.) Several Friends are involved with the Carolina Peace Resource Center.

We now have about 15-20 attenders at meeting for worship. It is usually spirit filled. Vocal ministry has been meaningful. Our second hour programs are also filled with discussion and increased knowledge of both our world and our faith.

The mother of a Friend, who lived with her family for several years and who had been in failing health, died this year. Although Quaker worship was not her practice, she in her 90’s came to worship with us when she was able. She said, “You can worship God anywhere.” The meeting held a meeting for worship for her memory in an outdoor setting near a lake which was deeply moving.

Several Friends are involved with wider Quaker Organizations – FWCC, FCNL, Quaker House, SAYMA and Palmetto Friends Gathering. These associations have strengthened our meeting.

We realized that it was very difficult to discern a budget without knowing our income. We had several years when our reserves were dangerously low near the end of the year. We knew that we always got more money toward the end of the year, but the treasurer was concerned. We decided, although this was not traditionally thought of as Quaker practice, to request that those who felt comfortable send the treasurer a pledge for their giving for the following year. The meeting approved this plan.

We have had some trials and concerns this year, but we have come through them. It almost seemed that in having to take more responsibility for the life of the meeting, we have grown closer as a community and a stronger spiritual force.

### **Cookeville Monthly Meeting**

Attendance at Cookeville Monthly Meeting is steady, about 9-10 people, occasionally supplemented by visitors or guests. We enjoy our second hour of discussion as well as Meeting With a Concern for Business, which all of us usually attend. Studying George Fox’s Book of Miracles has been one of our ongoing second hour topics. We have found this book a great stimulus to discussion of many deeper issues.

Spirit is felt when we hold people in the Light, and when we go out in the community we feel the spirit of our group supporting us. This support is evident in shared values, holding a safe place to speak out and be ourselves, the power of worshipping together, and the strength gained to bear witness to these values in the world when we feel led, in large and small ways. In Worship we seem to be more comfortable with the silence than the witness and have room to grow in vocal ministry.

Our witness to the wider world is expressed in our material and spiritual support of anti death penalty work, peace work, our attendance and work in SAYMA, as well as more individual witnesses. As our small community ages we are becoming even more concerned with outreach and have several plans that we are in the process of carrying out. We are sponsoring a peace essay contest at our local high schools, which we hope will spark interest in Quakers and promote discussion of nonviolence and peaceful alternatives.

We continue to explore the deeper meaning of our shared belief in the principles of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, and equality. We struggle to find “that of God” in everyone. We have a strong desire to support and contribute to our Meeting, each in our own way.

### **Crossville Friends Meeting**

Our small Meeting continues to maintain itself as a spiritual home for our members and attenders. We continue to try various outreach efforts such as a presentation on our clerk’s trip to Palestine and Israel but with limited success in attracting new people to our Meeting. We have contributed several articles about our Meeting to the local newspaper and we continue to maintain our website at [www.crossvillefriends.org](http://www.crossvillefriends.org). Recently, we had two visitors to Meeting who had found us on the web.

We were very happy to have a birthright Friend, Mark Richie, begin attending our Meeting this year. His grounding in Quakerism, particularly his experiences growing up in Philadelphia Meeting, has added to our understanding of Quakerism. Our long-time member and former clerk, Gladys Draudt, has had some health issues lately including a recently fractured pelvis and has been unable to attend Meeting for Worship. We continue to hold Gladys in the Light and our members, particularly Jeff Strain and Susan Stark, visit her regularly. Also, Jeff and Susan are in the process of transferring their membership from Clear Creek, IN Meeting to Crossville Meeting. We purchased a Peace Pole and plan to dedicate it to the memory of our departed members, Phil and Winnie Thomforde.

Our Meeting for Worship is providing spiritual nurture for our members and attenders. Our discussion period after Meeting for Worship has served to deepen our understanding of Christianity and Quakerism during this past year. Earlier in the year, we listened to a series of ten taped 30-minute lectures by Professor Luke Timothy Johnson of Emory University. His lectures covered Christianity's birth and expansion across the Mediterranean world, the development of its doctrine, its transformation after Christianity became the imperial religion of Rome, and tensions within Christianity today. After each lecture, we had a full discussion of the material presented. More recently, we just concluded a discussion of the book “An Introduction to Quakerism” by Professor Ben Pink Dandelion of England. We found this book to be most useful in terms of understanding the beginnings of Quakerism and its subsequent division into its various branches such as the evangelical, conservative and liberal branches. This book led to some very meaningful discussions about the

nature and meaning of Quakerism throughout its history and around the world. We have found our discussion time after Meeting for Worship to be a very good way to deepen our understanding of each other and of our shared Quaker faith.

Members and attenders of our Meeting are involved in various ministries in our community such as environmental education, working in a food bank, serving as a scout leader, disseminating information on various issues, and working for peace with Cumberland Countians for Peace and Justice. Our members have also participated with other churches in events such as the Hiroshima remembrance day, a Good Friday program that related the stations of the cross to social justice issues, and MLK birthday programs. Our Meeting is small but we continue our Quaker witness here in Crossville.

Mindful of the current economic, social and physical turmoil in the world, our Meeting is trying to discern how to respond to various issues from the local to the international level. In particular, the still unfolding nuclear disaster in Japan and our close proximity to the Oak Ridge nuclear weapons plant, are leading us to focus on what we can do to promote a nuclear-free world.

### **Greenville Monthly Meeting**

Greenville Monthly meeting continues to meet at the chapel on the Furman campus weekly with a typical attendance of 5-10. There have not been any births, deaths, or marriages within the meeting; however the loss of loved ones has been keenly felt by certain ones among us.

Friends in Clinton have continued a small informal worship group once a month.

First Day School continues to grow. The group of 6 regularly attending children, ages 4 to 9, now convenes the first and last First Days of each month. Interest grows in wider meeting participation with “helpers” in First Day school from among meeting members. The families also stay in regular contact with each other and get together for play-dates when they can.

Attendance at Palmetto Friends Gathering at the YMCA camp near Columbia by several members was very strengthening for our meeting—especially for the children.

Financial and spiritual support was given to a Furman student, Jacob Fraher, who is doing extraordinary work with children in the slums of Nairobi. We also continue to focus our financial support to organizations in which meeting members are involved.

A website was launched, in order to facilitate communications among GMM members and attenders, and make GMM more visible and accessible to the local/regional community. This will augment the personal Quaker presence each of us brings to our lives among co-workers, friends, and strangers too.

### **Huntsville Area Friends Meeting**

The Huntsville Area Friends Meeting (HAFM) has provided spiritual community in the manner of Friends over the past year to approximately 10 -15 persons who have been regular attenders/

members, plus several other persons who have worshiped with us intermittently. This report reflects the calendar year January – December 2010.

HAFM had been seeking a new meeting space for a number of months, with much discussion about our needs and hopes for the new space. In March 2010, a location was identified and Friends met several weeks in the new location before approving the move. Friends officially began leasing the duplex in a residential section of town on April 1, 2010. Our meeting site at 1507 B Wells Avenue is the first time Friends have had a meeting space that is completely and solely ours 24/7.

Our new meeting space includes a full kitchen, a large meeting space, and two additional rooms, which are used as a First Day School and library. We have hosted several potlucks there, and will host our Fifth Sunday “Meeting For Eating” gatherings as potlucks now rather than visits to local restaurants.

The most notable development from our new space has been the growth of our First Day School. We regularly have 5 children now from 3 families attending First Day School at least once a month. A fourth family with a child participates in activities outside of First Day School, so community is extending beyond our Meeting House. To enrich our First Day School, HAFM collaborated with Pendle Hill to send one of our First Day School teachers to a weekend workshop “Faith & Play” in October. HAFM is looking at ways to incorporate First Day School into the wider meeting with second hour activities for adults related to the FDS curriculum.

To increase the vitality of the meeting, HAFM offered varying second hour topics, with individuals in the meeting facilitating each session. We completed our study of Marsha Holliday’s Exploring Quakerism: A Study Guide, and also worked with Bill Tabor’s Pendle Hill pamphlet, Four Doors to Quaker Worship.

HAFM continues to develop its website content at [www.huntsvillefriends.org](http://www.huntsvillefriends.org). Several visitors have located the meeting through the website. Our Facebook page has not been very productive, and has not been an important part of our outreach efforts in 2010.

We have had several new attenders over the year, and several visitors to the Meeting. Outreach continues to be a concern, and HAFM has not yet implemented some of the many ideas that have been discussed.

Other highlights from our Meeting activities include:

Participating in SAYMA , e.g., Yearly Meeting, and representatives’ meetings.

Outreach by the M&N committee to send cards/phone to members who are ill, experiencing difficult times, or who have been unable to attend meeting on a regular basis.

Continued financial support of local charitable organizations to include (1) First Stop, an Interfaith Mission Service program benefiting homeless persons; (2) the Community Free Clinic, a volunteer-staffed chronic and acute care clinic for patients who have no health insurance of any kind; and (3) Crisis Services of North Alabama, a multi-service agency for individuals and families in crisis comprised of seven major programs, including comprehensive services to victims of domestic

violence both in- and out-of-shelter, HelpLine/HelpNet, providing information and referrals to social services, government agencies and volunteer opportunities.

Continued support of wider Quaker organizations, including AFSC, FCNL, Quaker Earthcare Witness, and Friends Council on Education.

Working with the broader community's Interfaith Poverty and Policy Group

Continuing to learn more about individual and group practices that emphasize healthy Earth-care

Individual activities that reflect Quaker testimonies or provide outreach include:

Founding partner of Oxford House which provides supportive, affordable housing for individuals recovering from chemical dependency in Madison County.

Singing in a local chorus (Huntsville Feminist Chorus), which lifts up themes of "thinking globally and acting locally," related to environmental, human rights, and other peace/social justice concerns

Participating in local peace demonstrations

Working to provide safe and healthy environments for victims of domestic violence, and working with others to eradicate violence in our society.

### **Memphis Friends Meeting**

Memphis Friends began the process of writing this report by reflecting on how we have expressed our five testimonies during the past year. Many Friends participated in this exercise and we felt the Spirit moving amongst us. Friends were very happy with how fluid the meeting has become and how well we work and play together. There are a number of small groups within the larger meeting now, all of them open and welcoming. There's a Sunday night Quaker reading discussion group; M&N and other standing committees; Candlelight worship once a month; and young adult Friends are talking about forming a group of their own. Outside of meeting there is a group that studies Tai Chi and others who go to contra dances together

We feel that we have become much more mindful of each other's gifts and are learning how to encourage each other to follow the Light within, stoking the flames of creativity in each of us. We are learning the dance of Quaker meeting, moving more easily and fluidly from leadership roles to being good followers and then back again – "till by turning and turning, we come round right." We are becoming more aware of how simplicity of Spirit allows us to let go of ego and come to unity through speaking our minds and trusting to the discernment of the meeting. Being able to turn over whatever we feel strongly about to Quaker process always leads us to a better place.

We have supported one another through some very difficult times. One member is particularly grateful for the on-going support offered by the meeting since her husband suffered a life-changing accident over a year ago. Another member is pleased with how the meeting has supported her in her charter-school classroom. Yet another said he appreciates the support of the meeting with the peace and ecological causes he works on. Other Friends also noted the support they have received for the projects and causes for which they carry a concern.

We have reached out to the wider Quaker world as well. A Memphis Friend serves on the board of Friends Journal, another on the advisory committee for FCNL, and a third is on the steering committee for QEW. Our meetinghouse has allowed us to host overnight guests. Through-out the year we have welcomed visitors from FGC and SAYMA, as well as some members and attenders who've moved out of town and are back for a short stay. A family who works in Senegal with the U.S.A.I.D. program came to Memphis for the birth of a baby and worshipped with us while they were here. The Memphis School of Servant Leadership has held a number of classes at the meetinghouse and the Samaritan Counseling Center has begun to hold their staff meetings here. Last summer, we hosted two Friends from Chattanooga while they ran a week-long cosmic camp for our First Day School children and several invited young friends. All of these activities have enriched our meeting and deepened our sense of community.

We are on a sound financial footing. We have brought all of the building's mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems up to code and have been granted a Certificate of Occupancy. We installed a new, 95% efficient furnace in the main part of the house last fall, and there's more work of that kind to do in the coming year. As for the meetinghouse itself, we are happy with the way its layout and decor reflects our testimony of simplicity. We've had wonderful gardens, and, as with the house, we are challenged to find our leadings and our limitations.

Two Friends traveled to Pendle Hill last fall and returned with faith and play stories for First Day School. Our First Day School children engage in worship sharing regularly and have held their own business meetings. Just recently they decided to collect quarters to purchase bees and chicks through the Heifer Project. We've begun a joyful practice of singing with our First Day School Children every First Sunday at the end of worship. Friends take turns choosing the songs and leading the singing.

We are blessed with increased attendance and increased diversity – we have more young people (in their 20s and 30s) than ever before. This year we have accepted six attenders into membership in the meeting. Some visitors have joined us for worship after seeing our new sign on Walnut Grove Road. Others came because they met and talked with one of us. Others knew they wanted to find a Quaker meeting and looked us up. Our own individual paths often allow us to reach out to new attenders and we reflected on how widening those paths could lead to increased diversity in the meeting and perhaps restore some racial diversity. One Friend said, "I detect no trace of trying to be anything other than what we are – but fully that." We feel that those who have self-knowledge and who are comfortable with themselves draw others to them quite naturally as we have all been drawn to this vibrant and creative community of Quakers.

### **Nashville Friends Meeting**

Note: Instead of reporting by committee, we have chosen several of the queries provided by the yearly meeting to guide our report to the wider body of Friends.

Query: How has the Spirit within your Meeting been shared with the wider community beyond the walls of your Meetinghouse?



Our young adult recent attendees are sharing about us and are spreading the word. We have a number of new attendees and members from all ages that are a very welcome addition to our community. In our recent Quakerism 101, we had 30 people attend the first meeting, even though it was at 9am.

Friends in our Meeting have been faithful with the local community Neighbor's Reaching Out association.

Our Meetinghouse serves the broader community by hosting an interfaith breakfast, donating books to the Scarritt-Bennett Center Wisdom House, and hosting visiting Friends. We also are hosting a neighborhood group of at-risk young women who come for mentoring. We have several committed members working with this group.

Our Meeting has an active Alternatives to Violence Project group, and members are visiting people in prisons and mentoring parolees. Members in the AVP group are also working with a local non-profit to help write grants that would fund programs for women getting out of jail.

We make our space available to community and cultural organizations for a nominal fee. That interaction has attracted more people to our meetings.

While our Meeting supported a worship group in Columbia, TN last year, it is now currently inactive.

Query: How fares Spirit in your Meeting during the last year, answering this question in three categories: Meeting for Worship, Meeting for Business, and Committee Work?

#### 1. Meeting for Business

We have managed generally to maintain an atmosphere of worshipful attention during business meeting. We haven't had a lot of contentious issues come up. We have had a couple of little wrinkles, but we were able to effectively deal with these. In general, we find an easy unity around the normal routine of our business. We have managed to maintain or increase attendance in the actual business part of meeting – having around 30 attendees. This is about 3 times the number we had before we switched to having meeting for business as a normal, integral part of our meeting during worship. We have heard new people express approval and interest for how we handle business meetings. We have an active House and Grounds committee, and donations to the Meeting have matched our fiscal needs. We are pleased to report that we have paid back all of the loans incurred for the purchase of our building and are now saving money for a kitchen.

#### 2. Meeting for Worship

We decided to spend 6 weeks having semi-programmed worship focused on the testimonies. We invited members of the meeting to think about the testimonies before the up coming first day meeting, and some weeks 1 or 2 prepared a short message in advance. In each of the 6 First Days, there were also many other messages that rose out of the silence. Friends appreciated the very rich vocal ministry from many members and attendees of our meeting during the meetings. Many Friends thought this was a helpful practice for us to think more deeply as a community about our

testimonies. Some Friends, including Ministry and Council members, noted that this practice has increased the variety and depth of vocal ministry, even afterwards. Some newer attendees found it a very helpful way to feel more connected to other Friends. Several individuals had reservations about this but found the 6-weeks were deepening and very valuable. Several individuals would have liked more silence, particularly in between messages.

### 3. Committee Work

There is active participation in clearness committees and care committees by active members and attendees of the meeting. We had the opportunity to host two weddings under the care of our Meeting in 2010 and celebrated other weddings held in the manner of Friends but not under our care. Ministry and Council, which has members this year from every age bracket, has been meeting regularly and is grateful for the help and participation of the broader membership in doing the meeting's work. Friends are very good at responding to short-term needs. However, for standing committees and long-term work, there is a hope for more accountability and follow through, both individually and corporately. A lot of the on-going work of the Meeting's committees is done by a small group of very reliable and trusted friends. There has been some effort done to broaden the number of Friends engaged in this type of support of the Meeting, but more needs to be done to engage new Friends, mentor them in the work of the life of the meeting, and support them in leadership positions.

Our Adult Education Committee continues its work to provide a second-hour program that balances exploration of Friends history and theology with community building and social action. Last spring, we were blessed by the presence of Larry and Becky Ingle, from Chattanooga Friends Meeting, who led a conversation on the life and teaching of George Fox and major currents in Quaker history. Other topics have ranged from Christian thought on atonement and salvation to the role of the media in promoting America's wars. On a lighter note, on several days, we have enjoyed intergenerational fellowship with Scrabble and other board games.

Our Children's Education committee nurtures the spiritual life of our children, families, and the meeting as a whole. First Day School convened in two age groups in the fall, and, with growing attendance, three groups in the spring. The teens studied the Bible in the fall. They also led the entire First Day School in a service project for Afghanistan and Haiti. Youngest Friends created and performed a play, continued Bible study using Godly Play and Faith & Play curricula, and tended the garden at the Quaker cottage. During Quakerism 101, a parallel study of Friends history and how to live out Friends' testimonies in daily life was convened with Young Friends. The meeting is very appreciative to all who contribute their time and talent to nurture Young Friends.

Query: How has the Meeting lived its testimonies in the preceding year?

We make a conscious effort to incorporate the testimonies in our business, our worship, in our treatment of each other. We struggle with our cultural biases. As a group, we try to be aware of these struggles. We occasionally find the need to gently elder each other. There is enormous room for improving our actual living the testimonies in the wider world as a community. A number of individuals from the meeting are actively engaged in actions that come out of the testimonies. These

areas include: improving policies nationally and statewide for people with mental illness, caring for the environment, caring for the sick and dying, teaching young children, working to improve public schools, advocating to abolish the death penalty, visiting inmates in prison, mentoring at-risk youth, mentoring people on parole, attending School of the Spirit, working with the Yearly Meeting, and many other activities. As a meeting, we supported a Mosque in Murfreesboro that was experiencing hostility and wrote a letter to Governor Bredesen thanking him for commuting the death sentence of a prisoner. We also coordinated moral and financial support for a Muslim conscientious objector at Fort Campbell & hosted him at our Fall Retreat.

Query: How has the Meeting supported “that of God” in each other over the course of the year?

We have all felt the yearning and have acted on our desires to know one another better as a community and as individuals. By doing so, we have been able to know one another better in God. We are so grateful for the number of people feeling comfortable asking for clearness committees. There is more work to do, and we hope to learn more in the coming years about how to live into the Beloved Community.

#### Our Numbers

Members: 46	New Members: 2	Attendees: 78	Attendees under 18: 19
Babies born: 1	Weddings: 2	Death: 1	Transfers in: 0
Transfers out: 2	Average attendance at Meeting for Worship: 40		

### **Oxford Friends Meeting**

2010 concluded with a great transition for the meeting. The death in early 2011 of founding member and co-clerk Cora Jordan was devastating as she was not only a great leader, but also a core component of the spirituality of the meeting. However, as the meeting mourned her passing, it was also extending its presence out to the community and reconnecting with old members. The life of the meeting for much of 2010 revolved around her increasing disability. She was fortunate in having a small group of young adults, including non-Quakers, who made her house a center of their activities and gave her a great deal of pleasure, as well as support, during her final year.

However, throughout this period, seeds of rebirth were planted for new hopes in 2011. A young Friend recently married under the care of a Friends meeting in New York state, moved to Oxford and began participating in the life of the meeting. Cora and the meeting helped her transition to Oxford, and she (and her husband) have been active supporters of the meeting since. Also, several attenders who had previously fallen off in their attendance, became extremely supportive of the meeting in early 2011 after coming together at Cora Jordan’s memorial service. The meeting is still small but is currently vigorous, since those who returned are now committed to the meeting in a way that was not the case before.

Leadership The meeting has continued to have only two offices, clerk and treasurer. During 2010 the co-clerks were Cora Jordan and Pam Coe. Pam Coe was treasurer with Cora Jordan as co-signer on the bank account. At the first Meeting for Business after Cora’s death, two new officers were

selected. Elizabeth Ewing is the new co-clerk with Pam Coe and Michael Ewing is the new treasurer, with Pam Coe as co-signer.

Starkville monthly meeting Since Starkville preparatory meeting became a monthly meeting in December 2008, we have remained in close contact with them, although Pam Coe has been unable to attend frequently.

Participation in the community We have remained active in Interfaith Compassion Ministry (ICM), with three volunteers, one of them a member of the ICM board of directors. All of the volunteers have continued to support ICM financially, and in 2011 the meeting has encouraged members and attenders to support ICM by establishing a Win and Cora Jordan memorial fund (the meeting's monthly contribution to ICM). Support of the AMOS network has waned during 2010, but the new officers will address this need at a future meeting for business.

Individuals in the meeting have continued to maintain a ministry for a death row inmate at the Mississippi state penitentiary. During the fall of 2010 the meeting agreed to support an effort to encourage the governor to declare a moratorium on the death penalty in the state of Mississippi. Cora Jordan spent a great deal of time on this effort, and, when she entered the hospital in December, she expressed great regret that she would have to give up the work while she was hospitalized. The meeting as a whole stands firm in opposition to the death penalty.

### **Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting**

A feeling of vitality and spiritual connection in our meeting feeds many in their daily lives. Members and attenders feel nurtured, inspired, strengthened, encouraged and called to more responsibility and service as a result of attending our meeting.

The Meeting Community: There is a wealth of spontaneous support for one another. It seems there has been some healing of past wounds. Many express feeling more a part of the community and being nourished by it. Spiritual Friendship Circles and the transportation and visitation team have expanded our mutual support. While pleased, we remain open for opportunities to connect with and minister to one another. An example of that ministry to our own community was the recent memorial service celebrating the inspiring life of Olga Ahrens, a beloved founding member who died February 23, 2011.

Our building and grounds committee focused primarily on a memory garden. The vegetable and flower garden continues to produce spring, summer, and fall, and to be an example of sound use of resources. It is also an integral part of first day school.

Our first day school is thriving with eight to twelve children between the ages of two and ten participating. We have enjoyed many high-spirited sharings after worship when the children enter the center of our circle and give their report. Three capable teachers each teach from their own gifts. As first day school expands, we continue to pay attention to how best to support parents in their ability to participate in other aspects of the life of the meeting.

The number of adults attending and becoming members is also growing at a healthy pace, often filling our meeting room close to capacity. We have increased our understanding of Quaker principles through forums. The library has sorted out materials that might be of special interest to new members and others new to Quakerism. However, more education on Quakerism is desired by some.

The meeting is financially sound. We have taken over full financial responsibility for all building expenses from Common Light Meetingplace. Discussion is ongoing concerning the use of financial resources and our secular and spiritual relationship to money.

We note that most of our work is accomplished by a committed group and wish to find ways to invite all members and attenders to share in it.

Meeting for Worship: Meeting for worship nourishes us profoundly. Vocal ministry is often rich. While some wish for more messages, all relish the silence. The depth of our silence appears to have been enhanced by creating a separate entry area which allows silence to be held within the meeting room. Having children return from First Day School immediately at the rise of meeting preserves the continuity of worship and includes the young ones during afterthoughts, joys and concerns, introductions of visitors, and announcements given at the close of meeting.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business: The spiritual grounding of meeting for business business grows, but is perhaps one of our bigger challenges. Business still seems conducted more by reason than by Spirit. We are educating ourselves in Quaker discernment, encouraging any who gather in our name to avail themselves of this rich tradition. This year we began to clarify Quaker procedure of how a sense of the meeting is gathered and the levels at which Friends can object to an emerging sense of the meeting.

We reached a sense of the meeting on three aspects of membership. We revised our 2005 Guidelines for Adult Membership, strengthening the caring aspect and clarifying the responsibilities (financial and leadership) of members for the meeting's institution. We clarified children's membership, wherein children can be recorded as members by a parental member or if old enough can request membership. We have committed ourselves to communicate with children members approaching young adulthood and ask them if they want to continue membership in our meeting and take on adult responsibilities. Regarding transfer of membership, we now require a Clearness process, which will foster greater knowing of applicant by our meeting and of our meeting by the applicant, thus providing more of a basis for welcome into our community.

The Wider Community: Through Peace and Social Concerns Committee, we reached out at Christmas to some residents of a neighboring assisted living community. During the holidays we supported a family that was a victim of racial harassment. As an outgrowth of forums on the plight of illegal immigrants in WNC, we helped two local young women, children of undocumented immigrants, pursue higher education at the community college and a private college. As the economy has worsened, we have increased our financial support to those in need both from meeting and private resources. Once each month, Peace and Social Concerns Committee sponsors a forum or

a Lunch and Lobbying event where Friends and families enjoy a simple meal together, then write to their representatives on timely issues.

Hosting a retreat for SAYMA Ministry and Counsel members on “Deepening the Spiritual Life of Our Meetings” (led by Mary Ann Downey), our Meeting welcomed the opportunity for deep reflection and community building. We are encouraging members and attenders to become more involved in SAYMA and the wider Quaker fellowship.

We are truly blessed.

### **West Knoxville Friends Meeting**

This year has been full of both struggles and celebrations for our spiritual community.

Our Meeting has shrunk in size. However, we often have visitors, and we are grateful for those who have become active.

We have been led to discern as a community the work of our committees and how to be good stewards of our financial resources. Our committees have reported to the Meeting on their work this past year by responding to the following queries:

How has and does your committee participate in/contribute to the spiritual life of the meeting?

Describe your committee’s work this past year, including your accomplishments and disappointments.

These reports and our consideration of the queries from the SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee contributed to this State of the Meeting Report.

Through second hour discussions using Douglas Steere’s “Speaking Out of the Silence,” we have examined our vocal ministry, and we have continued our inward journey. We have not begun the Quaker Quest outreach. We deepened our sense of community with a retreat day at the Meeting House, including an Enneagram workshop. We have had two silent retreats and are planning a retreat weekend this spring.

The December 2009 miracle that enabled us to meet our spending plan as to Quaker and non-Quaker organizations did not occur this December. Consequently, we could not give to any non-Quaker organizations and could only partially give to Quaker organizations. The discernment process that this shortfall has necessitated continues to bring us closer together as a community. We are also working on tightening our financial accountability.

We continue to support Compassionate Ministries Uganda, a mission started with help of Friends at WKFM. CMU experienced a tragedy with the sudden death of its director.

We celebrate new families attending WKFM with their children. Religious Education includes curriculum from FGC. Our newest attender, Luna Nash, was Knoxville’s first baby in 2011, thanks to a New Year’s Eve party at Friends. (We’ll tell more!)

We celebrate the contributions of Friends, inside and outside of our committee structure. We painted the interior of our Meeting House, just in time to host the FWCC Section of the Americas Southeast Region Gathering. The Gathering was very enriching.

We have reached out to the wider community. Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee formed the Knoxville Interfaith Committee on Conscience & War, which seeks to promote awareness of alternatives to military. We are hosting an evening with Tim Barner from FCNL for the broader community. Our new Web Site increases our visibility. In many ways, we feel that ours is a Meeting in transition.

## **Attachment H: Committee Reports**

- Finance Committee
- Ministry and Nurture Committee (and State of the Society Report)
- Personnel Committee
- SAYF (Southern Appalachian Young Friends)
- Web Committee
- YAF Committee (Young Adult Friends)

### **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee met on May 14 to prepare the draft FY 2011-2012 budget for yearly meeting.

As discussed at YM in June 2010, the budget for the current year FY2010-11 was the last budget that the committee would present to intentionally reduce the surplus money that had built up before 2007. The planned reduction was achieved by a combination of increased funding to SAYMA internal funds such as Spiritual Development and Released Friends, and increases to return funding to wider Quaker organizations that had been reduced in earlier years. The committee continues to recommend a reserve of \$20,000-\$25,000 for emergency funds or dissolution of the organization.

Assessments to SAYMA from monthly meetings have been substantially less than anticipated in FY2010 and to date in 2011. Discussion with various monthly meetings indicated that assessment contributions were reduced for various reasons, such as declines in the number of individuals counted in assessments, and a reduction in the contributions coming to the monthly meetings from their members and regular attenders.

Given the reality of SAYMA's projected revenue for FY2011-12, the Finance Committee recommends across the board cuts in the discretionary funding, that is, the funding of SAYMA internal funds, committee work, delegate travel support, and contributions to wider Quaker organizations. The committee will also highlight the need for individual contributions to SAYMA, and ask Friends to help share that information with their monthly meetings. The committee acknowledged that promoting the value of SAYMA to monthly meetings is a shared responsibility of all Friends.

The committee discussed recommending an increase in assessment from \$60 to a higher figure, but will not make that recommendation at this time given the continued economic downturn and comments from a number of monthly meetings.

The committee hopes that presenting a balanced budget will invite conversation from Friends about declining revenue and best use of SAYMA funds to accomplish SAYMA's work.

### **Ministry and Nurture Committee**

SAYMA Ministry and Nurture committee members met twice during the past year. We were hosted by Nashville Meeting in November and by Berea Meeting in May. We were grateful for the loving



care provided by Friends in both Meetings. It was a pleasure to be in the homes of Friends, where we get to know each other more deeply, and to meet other Friends at potlucks and meeting for worship.

Concerns of SAYMA M&N for the year included:

Discussions of Meeting concerns including a discussion of how to write letters of transfer and traveling minutes; how various meetings have dealt with attenders who are known sex offenders, and updates on our own monthly meetings. Another concern addressed was how isolated Friends who are not close to meeting might be affiliated with SAYMA.

Retreats, including Kristi Estes' reports on retreats planned by SAYMA M&N. Retreats have been held at Black Mountain and Tallahassee Florida, both of which included Friends from other YMs and those who have not been regular attenders at Quaker worship. The next retreat is planned for October 28-30 at Cullman, Alabama. Two Friends from each Monthly Meeting will be encouraged to attend, focusing upon those with a leading toward Ministry and Nurture.

The Spiritual Development Fund and the Ministry and Nurture budget, including a discussion of what funds are used for what purposes. We approved funding for Tim Lamm's attendance at FGC's retreat for Clerks in Chicago and to Kristi Estes for her work in traveling ministry. Funding for retreat leaders' travel and an honorarium was also approved.

Yearly Meeting activities, including approving Worship-Sharing queries and prayerful presences as holders and greeters at YM meetings for worship with a concern for business.

A Travel Minute, which was approved for Kristi Estes as she travels nationally for FGC as well as among SAYMA Friends.

The State of the Society Report, which comes out of a prayerful reading of State of the Meeting reports prepared by Monthly Meetings of SAYMA. Broad themes we discerned include: Loss, but not Diminishment; Service in interfaith organizations and WQOs; Community; Community Outreach; Children's Attendance and Programs; Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business

Membership in SAYMA M&N, which is very small. M&N encourages monthly meetings to send representatives to Ministry and Nurture committee meetings to enrich our meetings, share in our labors, and to bring concerns and achievements representative of all meetings of SAYMA.

#### State of the Society Report 2010-2011

Friends on the Ministry and Nurture Committee prayerfully read twenty monthly meeting reports in order to discern how the Spirit has moved through our Society this past year. We were moved ourselves as we experienced the deep, thoughtful process of Friends as they prepared their reports.

The Committee discerned four major themes running through the reports.

Friends Meetings experienced losses throughout the year, but there is no sense of diminishment. The losses included the deaths of seasoned Friends who were core members of their meetings. The recession has affected meeting incomes and budget needs. Individual meeting needs and gifts to

Wider Quaker Organizations were sometimes affected. Several meetings experienced losses in membership. With these losses frequently came gains, including increased commitments of members, increased financial commitments, and plans for growth. Some meetings were able to meet their budgets, and one meeting reports that though the meeting is small, to some extent that enforces a discipline of simplicity. Meetings noted that in times of loss and trouble, seeds of rebirth have been planted.

Friends are dedicated to service, both among other Friends and to the community. Meetings participate in relief and social justice efforts within their home towns and nationally. In addition to Friends collectively participating in projects, individual Friends service efforts are supported. Service includes interfaith work, anti-death penalty work, and work on ant-racism and immigration issues. Friends visit places of worship led by those of other faiths and write letters on their behalf. Work especially has extended to Muslims and Hispanics this year in light of strong prejudices expressed informally and through legislation. One meeting had a community dinner concerning immigration reform which 150 people attended; another supported two undocumented local college students. Friends have also worked with the LGBT community in lobbying for equality.

Friends are concerned with building community within their own meetings and as outreach into their surrounding communities. In some cases a few people do much of the work and find it a challenge to bring in new people to share in the labors. However, Friends have planted gardens, participated in retreats and friendship circles, and have been creative in their building of friendships within their meetings. There have been Friendly film series, foodie discussions, and simple suppers. In fact, many of the community events show Friends' creative ways of bringing food into their community building; in addition to the Soup Angel of one meeting, others have Meetings for Eating and Sandwich Sundays. Friends have also seen the need for visitation, and one meeting has a transportation and visitation team. Finally, Friends find great joy in caring for the inexperienced and in introducing new attenders and members into the spirit and the processes of meeting life.

As for community outreach, Friends have found such things as developing websites, relocations to a more visible and hospitable meeting place, and working on community concerns with African Americans, Muslims, Conscientious Objectors, LGBT persons and Hispanics increases visibility and helps with growth, in addition to the opportunities given for service.

Friends find great joy as well as promise in our children. Some meetings have as few as one child; the majority of them have two or three; some meetings have many. There are vibrant youth groups among some meetings. Several use the Godly Play curriculum both for children and as intergenerational opportunities. Young Friends appreciate SAYF. With few children, some meetings have First Day School two times a month. Recognizing the importance of the spiritual development of our children, each meeting works to include them in as many ways as resources allow, frequently stretching themselves in creative ways to ensure this development.

SAYMA Ministry and Nurture committee members know "experimentally" that the Spirit has moved among SAYMA Meetings in deep and creative ways this past year, as it moved through us as we pondered the monthly meeting reports. We are grateful to all SAYMA Friend for this gift of the

Spirit to us. We encourage all Friends to read the individual reports to truly experience the depth of the Spirit's work on our Society.

### **Personnel Committee**

SAYMA's Personnel Committee performed its normal duties of staff oversight during the past year for our two part-time staff - Liz Perch, Administrative Assistant, and Terese Hildebrand, SAYF Coordinator. One issue that came up that required special attention was that we became aware that SAYMA did not have completed I-9 forms on file for its staff. The I-9 is the U.S. government form that documents that the employee is a U.S. citizen or has the legal right to work in the U.S. An Ad Hoc Committee on Immigration was created at Spring Representatives Meeting to discern the way forward. This Committee, after much deliberation, primarily through email, recommended to the Personnel Committee that we work with our two staff to bring SAYMA into compliance with the law. This has been done. The Ad Hoc Committee is bringing forth a Minute on Immigration.

### **SAYF (Southern Appalachian Young Friends)**

Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) hosted 7 retreats during the past year. Six have been completed and the 7<sup>th</sup> occurs in June at our SAYMA gathering. For the 6 completed retreats, we have averaged 38 Young Friends (YF) per retreat with 75 different teens coming to at least one retreat during the past year. Some Young Friends attended all 6 retreats and others attended one. Details of each retreat are summarized below. All six retreats this year were hosted at Meetinghouses....and we are deeply appreciative to Friends for allowing us to use their facilities.

We also held two joint Nurturing and Steering Committee retreats, again using Meetinghouses, and those too are detailed below.

#### **SAYF Retreats:**

##### **1. Asheville Meetinghouse Retreat**

**September 10-12, 2010**

Theme: Community Building

# of YFs 44

# of full-time FAPs\* 10

(\*Friendly Adult Presence)

Activities included: a white water rafting trip, making pet rocks, Worship Sharing

##### **2. Atlanta Meetinghouse Retreat**

**October 15-17, 2010**

Theme: Building a Stronger Foundation With the Wider Community

# of YFs 32

# of full-time FAPs : 9

Activities included: Worship Dialogue with guests from the Buddhist Community. Rock Wall climbing activity, and workshop choices including yoga, meditation, arts & crafts and Acting Improv.

##### **3. Chattanooga Meetinghouse Retreat**

**November 5-7, 2010**

Theme: Building Community Through Creativity

# of YFs 23

# of full-time FAPs: 7

Activities included: service projects making rain barrels, and dog biscuits for the Animal Shelter, a skits activity and workshop choices of yoga or drumming.

#### **4. Atlanta Meetinghouse Retreat**

**January 14-16, 2011**

Theme: Double rainbows

# of YFs 38

# of FAPs: 7

Activities included: Service project with local HOSEA group setting up chairs and table for a dinner to serve 3000 homeless people on MLK day; workshop choices on monkey chanting, drumming or racism.

#### **5. Asheville Meetinghouse Retreat**

**March 25-27, 2011**

Theme: Inclusivity

# of YFs: 51

# of full time FAPs: 8

Activities included: workshop with local Jovenes group discussing realities facing undocumented persons in the US; attended Catholic mass at the Basilica; toured Asheville.

#### **6. W. Knoxville Meetinghouse Retreat**

**April 15-17, 2011**

Theme: Celebrating Our Stories

# of YFs: 37

# of full time FAPs: 6 1/2 (1 FAP there till midday Saturday).

Activities included: 4 hour workshop with story teller; collage making; meeting for healing with attention to telling Ceal Wutka stories; small graduation ceremony; community discussion about the purpose and importance of SAYF guidelines and values.

### **Nurturing/Steering/Oversight Committees Retreats**

#### **1. Swannanoa Meetinghouse.**

**August 20-22, 2010**

# of Nurturing Committee Members 12

# of Steering Committee Members 6

We reviewed what went well with SAYF at Yearly Meeting in June and noted changes that we wished to make for the upcoming year. We reviewed the annual letter that we send to parents and made many changes to it. We updated the first aid kit. We spent considerable discerning how to incorporate more service projects into our retreats.

#### **2. Knoxville, TN**

**W. Knoxville Meetinghouse**

**February 25-27, 2011**

# of Nurturing Committee Members 17  
# of Steering Committee Members 4 and 1 guest

We developed our calendar of retreats for the 2011-2012 year. We looked at incidents that occurred during previous retreats trying to discern what we can learn from those incidents and what changes (if any) needed to be made. We discussed confusions that arise about who can attend SAYF and agreed to have just a grade requirement and eliminate the age requirement. Anyone who is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or higher (or a rising 7<sup>th</sup> grader at YM) can come to SAYF.

### **Web Committee**

After some initial confusion about accounts and passwords, Tim Lamm straightened all that out, and I was able to access and update the current website as needed.

With the accounts straightened out, I was able to apply for a Google Apps for Non-Profits.

We are currently stalled, as we need any piece of paper we might have, like the original EIN application, that indicates the SIC code under which we registered. In order to register, and to receive the automatic 501c3 rights (without the certificate 501c3 certificate, which we don't have and don't need per IRS ruling), we must have used the appropriate SIC code: when we find, or get a copy of, that paperwork, we will get the Google Apps for Non-Profits product and be able to begin moving our web-site over, setting up committee work, and so forth.

When the rush of SAYMA is over, I will ask our Administrative Assistant, Liz Perch, to contact the IRS in order to obtain a copy of our EIN.

### **YAF (Young Adult Friends) Committee**

This year the young adult friends made the decision to restructure our leadership infrastructure. We recognized that one of the defining characteristics of our members is being in transition and decided to adopt a more flexible system. Instead of having a single clerk each year, we will select clerks each retreat from the people who are able to make it. Treasurer and the SAYMA representative are exceptions, and this year we selected Rachel Leeman-Munk as treasurer and Brittany Steffey as SAYMA representative.

This year we had no retreats as we were still in a period of growth. Due to logistic challenges of bringing people together during the aforementioned transition period of our members, We have decided to have one non-SAYMA retreat in the winter when people are likely to be home on holiday rather than our previous fruitless attempts at seasonal meetings.

To increase attendance at said meetings in coming years, we will focus outreach toward individuals graduating from SAYF as well as young adult members not yet acquainted with SAYMA yearly meeting. To this end we will have a YAF Journal as well as expanding our Internet presence by expanding the listserv and creating a forum and chatroom.

We recognize the greater SAYMA community's desire for our increased integration, and we hope to be able to have greater involvement and cooperation with the wider community as our group becomes more stable.

## **Attachment I: Wider Quaker Organization Reports**

- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
- Friends Committee for National Legislation
- Friends General Conference (FGC)
- Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas
- Right Sharing of World Resources
- William Penn House

### **American Friends Service Committee**

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) serves as a focus for Quakers in the United States to work to end war by removing the causes of war. Recent work includes educational programs on the human cost of war in Afghanistan and projects to prevent discrimination against immigrants, promote human rights through education and establishment of human rights cities, achieve economic justice through education and action, and preserve vital governmental safety net programs.

The Corporation is the group of Friends who theoretically “own” the Service Committee. According to tradition, it is responsible for appointing the Board and Nominating Committee, providing counsel to the AFSC, and communicating with Yearly Meetings. Slightly more than half of the Corporation’s members (such your representatives) are appointed by Yearly Meetings, subject to acceptance by the Corporation.

Summary of Corporation Actions in 2011: At the annual meeting March 4-5, we were introduced to AFSC’s new General Secretary, Shan Cretin. We also had a new Clerk, Arlene Kelly. This year the Corporation agreed to reduce the size of the AFSC Board to no more than 25 members. It failed to reach agreement on reduction in size of the Corporation, or on revision in the role of the corporation.

A complete report of the Corporation meeting is in our interim report submitted to the March Representative Meeting (Below).

Pending issues: The financial difficulties of the past three years have led to streamlining and downsizing throughout the AFSC. One issue under consideration by a national Working Group is U.S. Organizational Structure, which includes the number and configuration of regions. Another is right-sizing the Corporation and bringing its actual and stated responsibilities into synch. In April, the Board Executive Committee (BEC) asked the AFSC Friends Relations (AFR) Committee to focus on the Corporation in terms of its role in outreach to Friends, reporting to the January 2012 BEC meeting and 2012 Corporation meeting. Recently, the General Secretary announced the appointment of Lucy Duncan to the new Friends Liaison position, which is intended to support enhanced dialog among Friends and the AFSC.

Availability of AFSC Staff and Corporation Members for Dialog: This year, Alice Lovelace, SERO Associate Director, is visiting SAYMA. She and your Corporation members look forward to talking with Friends during this annual session about the Service Committee’s programs and opportunities

for Friends to be involved in them. There is also a display table with information you can take home as well as more details at [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org).

### Report from Corporation Meeting

The AFSC Corporation met in Philadelphia March 4-5 at Friends Center. This year's meeting occurred in a time of modest optimism due to the appointment of a new General Secretary and the belief that the financial issues that impacted the organization severely the last two years have stabilized.

**Worship:** The Corporation held extended silent worship before each day's business sessions. The first was unprogrammed and largely silent. It was satisfying but might have been better placed before the second day, when time for silent reflection seemed needed. The second was semi-programmed and featured a non sermon presented by Max Carter, a Friend gifted in ministry and insight. He spoke of the life of Allen Jay, a 19<sup>th</sup> century Quaker preacher who sought unity and understanding among the branches of Friends and developed many Friends schools throughout the United States. His autobiography has just been published by Friends United Press (Autobiography of Allen Jay, Edited by Joshua Brown, Introduction by Thomas Hamm; <http://shop.fum.org>).

**Business Sessions:** The main items on the agenda were: (1) The appointment of members at large and Yearly Meeting Appointees; (2) Various nomination actions; (3) Reports of the Clerk and General Secretary; (4) Reduction in the Board size; (5) Consideration of the role and size of the Corporation; (6) Report of the Finance Committee and Treasurer; and (7) Program presentation and reception.

1. Appointments. Oddly, though the bylaws say that Yearly Meetings appoint representatives, the Corporation is asked to "affirm" the appointments and to "approve" appointment of at-large members (MAL). It's slightly odd because there is no distinction made between Friends who are already members of the Corporation, and therefore are entitled to approve members, and those who are new appointees. So when the Clerk asks approval, it's not clear who is approving whom. If it were anything other than proforma it would be problematic, but as it stands it's just pointless.
2. Nomination actions. This was also proforma, reports of the naming committee for one year's batch of nominating committee members, and appointments of a naming committee for the subsequent year. One wonders why the members at large are so much more heavily represented on the Board than Yearly Meeting Appointees (YMA), and it starts here. There need not be a conscious bias at any step of the process, but only the greater familiarity with MAL, who are often appointed for many consecutive years, versus the uncertainty of who is likely to be returning from Yearly Meetings. Couple that with the need to come up with a slate of candidates and to meet complicated affirmative action guidelines and the outcome is predictable. There is little occasion for effective involvement by YMA, especially relatively new ones.



3. Reports of the Clerk and General Secretary. Arlene Kelly's report as Clerk was brief and low key. She appeared to be trying to set a tone for the decision making to follow, and since we actually made some decisions, her efforts may have borne fruit. Shan Cretin, the incoming General Secretary, was also trying to set a tone, asking for trust from all so that the AFSC's organizational structure could be simplified. She described the AFSC as "An inclusive Quaker organization whose mission is to build peace." Some will question how "Quaker" the AFSC is today, but Shan's commitment to greater and more meaningful involvement of Quakers in the organization's life seemed clear.

Shan describes the AFSC's work as (1) Building the next generation of peacemakers; (2) Demonstrating the power of every community to create solutions to the challenges it faces; and (3) Addressing violence in the immigration and justice systems. That cross-programmatic view runs smack into an organization with numerous programs and program governance shared between a central and regional offices. It will be interesting to see how she sorts it out.

She said her challenges are to (1) Maintain vibrant programs; (2) Increase income; (3) Revitalize AFSC's connection with Friends; and (4) Shape efficient and responsive governance and management structure. It probably would have been unQuakerly to stand and cheer at the last two points; SAYMA Friends may be glad to hear of them. Among other things, Shan intends to communicate with Friends, create volunteer opportunities, create and post volunteer job descriptions, and appoint a Friends Liaison (see attached).

4. Reduction in Board Size. The 2009 proposal to reduce the size of the AFSC Board of Directors from over 40 to "no fewer than 25" underwent extensive seasoning through a working group that brought a report recommending a size of exactly 25, and eliminating most ex officio positions (i.e., all of the regional directors and the international program director). Having taken this leap halfway to better governance, the working group then decided to mandate that at least one Board Member be a clerk of a Regional Executive Committee and one be Clerk of the International Program Committee. The problem is that either or both of these might not be Friends, so they then carved an exception to the rule that Board members be Friends. This was the "*Members at large*" section:

"The Standing Nominating Committee shall nominate persons to serve as at Large members of the Board. Each person nominated to the Board shall be a member of the Corporation, with possible exceptions such that no more than **three at Large Board members** who are not members of the Corporation and who have extensive experience with the American Friend Service Committee are allowed to serving at any one time. To the extent feasible, terms of office shall be balanced so that approximately one-third of the Board is appointed each year for a term of three years."

Not all Friends were happy with the proposal. A few Friends felt that 25 was too few and the Board would lose valuable perspective (board effectiveness studies notwithstanding). Others

complained about the loss of input from the regions and disruption of communication. A larger number appeared to want a board smaller than 25, noting that 25 was too large to be effective. When the dust settled, the Corporation did adopt a size of up to 25 members, evolving down to it by 2014. The two special positions were maintained along with the loophole.

5. Corporation Role and Size. One of your appointees also served on the Working Group on Role and Size of the Corporation, which brought three alternatives (1) Eliminate the Corporation and have an appropriate committee assume its communication role; (2) Reduce the size of the Corporation and somehow improve the annual Corporation meeting; (3) Increase the involvement of the Corporation in governance through policy direction. In small group discussions to season the recommendations, it became evident that few liked options 1 or 3, and that many thought option 2 a non-starter because of the continued proforma role in governance, though something like it seemed to have most support. However, there was insufficient time allocated for completion of discussion, and the fate of the recommendations on Corporation size and rule remains in limbo.

One or more yearly meetings might want to take action on this issue by reviewing the Working Group options and minuting its recommendation, for the Corporation surely needs to be something other than an annual annoyance to staff. This is not to say that the decisions made at the meeting weren't appropriate or useful, but only that the Corporation makes decisions infrequently, and that without a more vital role it might be better to hand the decision making to the Board.

Both the General Secretary and the Clerk of the Friends Relations Committee view this as an unsolved problem, and the General Secretary seems to think that properly restructured the Corporation might be a vital link between meetings and the AFSC.

6. Report of the Finance Committee and Treasurer. These reports did appear to confirm that the AFSC's finances are stabilizing at a lower level. We've dropped from a \$50 million to an \$30 million annual budget, with commensurate reductions in staffing. There are still restructuring steps needed, such as reshaping the regions. These are in progress. The new General Secretary will have a full plate.
7. Program presentation and reception.
  - a. There was a presentation by the Youth Program and many U Tube videos were shown with young people praising AFSC and how they know understand how peace and justice work hand in hand and that violence is not the answer.
  - b. The reception for former and current AFSC staff and committee people was well attended and many great stories were told and new friendships were made over the food and coffee. We all felt good about helping to maintain and support this wonderful organization.

**Comment:** It is too soon to tell if the AFSC is turning a corner and moving towards increased engagement with Friends. It is also too soon to know if its new General Secretary's vision will translate into effective action. At this point, it appears that a number of sincere individuals are working to change the organization in directions that will strengthen its ties with Friends and its expression of Quaker belief through service—including service by Quakers. We wish them well.

## **Friends Committee on National Legislation**

*SAYMA representatives to the General Committee of the Friends Committee on National Legislation for 2011 are Kelly Schoolmeester ([jetgolfer@gmail.com](mailto:jetgolfer@gmail.com)), Joe Parko ([Jparko90@charter.net](mailto:Jparko90@charter.net)) and Jane Hiles ([njhiles@samford.edu](mailto:njhiles@samford.edu)). This year's work with FCNL has been deeply inspiring and, even in these fraught times, hopeful. So here's what you need to know about FCNL. . . .*

FCNL makes a difference. Despite a political mood in Congress too often antagonistic to our basic tenets, FCNL can point to important policy successes, such as the 2010 establishment of the \$50 million Complex Crises Fund, which provides the State Department and the US Agency for International Development with unprogrammed funding to address “emerging or unforeseen crises,” allowing our government to move quickly and to invest in diplomacy and negotiation rather than war. President Obama has requested \$75 million for this fund in FY 2012. These funds have been used in Kenya to encourage peaceful implementation of the new constitution in areas of the nation that were most affected by post-election violence in 2007. In Sri Lanka the fund has enabled 55,000 displaced war refugees to return and once again earn a living from agriculture. (See the FCNL table for other successes.)

SAYMA FCNL Representatives have been engaged with FCNL in a variety of ways this past year. Kelly Schoolmeester was named to the Policy Committee of FCNL. Joe Parko's work this year with FCNL has centered on the military budget and securing funding for the Complex Crises Fund. He has lobbied members of Congress representing the SAYMA region and talked on the phone with staff in a dozen congressional offices about FCNL's stance on these issues. He has also written and published several articles on these issues. (One is attached.) In addition to lobbying activities with a particular concern for immigration and budget issues, Jane Hiles contacted meetings to encourage wider SAYMA participation in the FCNL priorities-setting process in spring of 2010; she has worked with Carol Nickle to organize the FCNL table and interest group lunch for this gathering, and she has been named to the FCNL Field Committee for 2012.

FCNL wants your input. In advance of the annual meeting, there was a concerted effort to increase input from Monthly Meetings on FCNL's legislative priorities for the 112th Congress (2011-12). General Committee members contacted Monthly Meetings in their region to encourage meetings to name FCNL contacts and to solicit minuted lists of suggested priorities due in April, 2010. A total of 270 Quaker Meetings and Churches around the country responded to FCNL, and these minutes went to the Policy Committee to launch the process. Any SAYMA Monthly Meeting without an FCNL Contact to keep the meeting apprised of FCNL communications and efforts is encouraged to name one. Friends can either correspond directly with FCNL to report their contact's name and email

address, or they may contact Jane Hiles and I will be glad to pass the information along so that all SAYMA MMs can participate in this important part of FCNL's discernment process.

FCNL's Legislative Priorities respond to Friends' concerns. At the annual meeting in early November, 2010, the discernment process for legislative priorities continued with worship sharing, small group meetings devoted to specific issues, and meetings of the whole for worship with attention to business. It is miraculous to see the Quaker process lead to unity such a large and diverse body of Friends, and the resulting Legislative Priorities are inspiring, from the call to "build government civilian capacity for peaceful prevention and resolution of deadly conflict" to the one to "support the restoration of full civil liberties and habeas corpus protections for all persons" and to "oppose torture and secret prisons" to the call for "U.S. leadership in promoting social equity, ecological sustainability, and environmental justice through domestic action, diplomacy, compliance with multilateral environmental agreements, and cooperation with organizations such as the United Nations to diminish resource scarcity as a cause of war." (See attachment of Legislative Priorities for the 112th Congress.)

FCNL needs your support. Like so many other Quaker organizations, FCNL is feeling the effects of the recession. General Committee members recently received a request for additional contributions to meet a June budget shortfall. Friends are encouraged to support FCNL as they are led and able, knowing that their support is truly needed and efficacious. This is a time in which there is much need for FCNL's voice.

FCNL has room to grow. Outgoing Executive Secretary Joe Volk reminded us in his plenary address that we should not be complacent about where FCNL is today: "In a country of 300 million people, we cannot be satisfied with 60,000 community-based lobbyists and 10,000 donors.

#### FCNL Priorities for the 112th Congress

Approved November 14, 2010

The Religious Society of Friends from its earliest days has recognized life to be a sacred stewardship. Under the leading of God's Spirit, Friends have helped bring the light of social change to the darkness that was slavery, the oppression of women and minorities, and the longstanding suffering inflicted on the world by violent conflict. The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) has spent two-thirds of a century laying the firm foundation for our nonpartisan witness on Capitol Hill. FCNL has drawn upon the spiritual experience of Friends and has regularly sought the consultation of Quaker meetings, churches, and organizations around the country to discern priorities for the lobbying and public education work to be carried out during each session of Congress.

The faith that continues to sustain us and give us hope motivates us to bring light to the challenges facing humanity in the 21st century. FCNL will work to redefine the human and national security of the United States to include freedom from deadly conflict, freedom from abuse by powerful and wealthy corporations and individuals, meeting basic human needs in the face of the current economic turmoil, and protection of the Earth's air, water, and land on which all life depends.

Pressing issues of energy and environment relate not only to climate change, but also to war, military spending, the nation's budget, and the capacity and willingness of the United States to meet domestic human needs and invest in the well-being of vulnerable populations abroad.

The following priorities will guide our legislative work and public education during the 112th Congress (2011-2012).

*I. We seek a world free of war and the threat of war.*

Build U.S. government civilian capacity for peaceful prevention and resolution of deadly conflict. Support the United Nations and multilateral problem solving.

Encourage respect for human rights, and international law, including treaties.

Promote nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation, including ratification of the pending New START Treaty and progress on other strategic arms reduction.

Seek U.S. ratification of and compliance with bans on nuclear testing, cluster munitions, and land mines.

Work for demilitarization of U.S. foreign policy and aid programs. Urge reductions in the overall military budget and in worldwide U.S. military operations. Emphasize multilateral aid, civilian peacebuilding, and regional and international diplomacy, especially in relation to Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

While pressing for removal of U.S. bases and combat forces from Iraq and Afghanistan, promote fulfillment of U.S. moral and legal obligations for reconstruction.

Urge vigorous U.S. leadership, in partnership with the international community, to help resolve the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and end the enforced isolation of Gaza.

*II. We seek a society with equity and justice for all.*

Support legislation to curb the undue influence of money and corporate power in our political system.

Support comprehensive immigration reform that respects the rights and dignity of all immigrants; demonstrates compassion for families; provides practical pathways to legal residency and citizenship; and recognizes the important contributions of foreign workers in our economy and the need for effective application of wage, hour, and workplace safety laws for all workers. Urge Congress to use civilian governmental agencies, rather than military personnel, to manage U.S. borders.

Support the restoration of full civil liberties and habeas corpus protections for all persons. Oppose torture and secret prisons. Urge that those accused of terrorism be prosecuted in civilian courts.

Promote and preserve tribal sovereignty of indigenous peoples within the United States. Support legislation that respects their rights, clarifies jurisdictional conflicts, promotes the well-being of all Native Americans, and honors treaty commitments.

*III. We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled.*

Promote human security and the common good through a living wage, job creation (especially “green” jobs), access to retraining and good public education, and improved affordable health care for all without discrimination. Defend safety-net programs for those in need. Support this effort through progressive taxation and cuts in military spending.

*IV. We seek an earth restored.*

Support bold and immediate measures to counter global climate change and assist threatened human populations at home and abroad. Pursue a fundamental shift in U.S. energy policy from extractive practices toward accelerated development of sustainable, less damaging energy sources with attention to the impacts on communities and livelihoods. Promote deep, quick, and fair reductions in U.S. greenhouse gas emissions as part of a sensible path to a low- carbon future.

Encourage U.S. leadership in promoting social equity, ecological sustainability, and environmental justice through domestic action, diplomacy, compliance with multilateral environmental agreements, and cooperation with organizations such as the United Nations to diminish resource scarcity as a cause of war.

\*\*\*\*

As way opens, FCNL will continue Friends' long-standing witness for rights of conscience, and end to institutional racism, criminal justice reform that includes principles of restorative justice and the abolition of the death penalty, and will support legislation that promotes sustainable agriculture and protects the environment and public health from the impacts of contamination, pollution, and inequitable distribution of natural resources, and promotes energy conservation and efficiency and public transportation.

FCNL's work will be based on legislative opportunity, specific expertise and leadings, and available resources. FCNL's Policy Statement gives it the flexibility to respond to crises and important legislative opportunities.

In establishing these priorities for the 112th Congress, we are encouraged by the past successes of FCNL's efforts to influence federal policy and by the strong community of Friends and other likeminded people engaged in this work. As we work to find solutions to these complex problems, Friends continue to seek Divine guidance, renewed strength, and hope.

These priorities are drawn from FCNL's Policy Statement: <http://www.fcnl.org/priorities/policy.htm>

## **Friends General Conference (FGC)**

2010-11 has been an eventful year for FGC. During the course of the previous year a small group of dedicated volunteers met intensively to envision an alternative structure for the organization, and at the October 2010 Central Committee, that new structure was approved by the body. Perhaps the most notable change for the organization was the end of most standing program committees and a shift to the Committee for Nurturing Ministries, which currently has three major sub-committees: transforming, deepening, and widening. These three subcommittees carry on the priority work of the previous committees (Youth Ministries, Committee for Ministry on Racism, Advancement and Outreach, Ministry and Worship) but are new entities whose work will primarily be carried out by small working groups designated to particular tasks. These working groups are open to friends not on the relatively small subcommittees, including those not on Central Committee. This shift means that not all Friends on Central Committee will be on a committee, as there are no longer self-selecting committees as there were in the past. FGC hopes the new structure will allow more coordination among projects and more synergy among committees as well.

Another major shift that you may have noticed is a new FGC logo. The communications advisory board gathered input from a number of sources regarding possible logo choices; the new FGC logo is of a blowing seed and is part of a new face of FGC that is being developed to better coordinate the web and print presence of FGC to be not only a common, recognizable logo, but also to better communicate with Friends and Seekers. To that end, FGC is working on developing a new website that will be more interactive, easier to navigate, and will better serve yearly and monthly meetings, individuals, and seekers.

Maia finished up her term as co-clerk of the Youth Ministries committee in October 2010 as the committee was one of those laid down for the new structure. Several projects of that committee continue, including a Toolkit for Building Intergenerational Community, called "Build It" and a November 2010 consultation on intervisitation among young adult friends. Maia convened a working group for the Transforming subcommittee of CMR that explored the possibility of establishing an incubation relationship between FGC and the Quaker Voluntary Service program. After much discernment, CMR and Executive Committee have decided that this is not the right time for such a partnership, particularly at a time when FGC is seeking to trim back and prioritize its key projects with an eye for managing its financial resources in these continued difficult times.

Perhaps one of the biggest news items for those outside of FGC is the appointment of Barry Crosno as the new General Secretary, taking over from Bruce Birchard who retires in July 2011. Barry has been active in FGC Central Committee and Development Committee and has most recently worked at Pendle Hill. Barry's experience with Quaker Quest in particular will serve the organization well.

Kristi Estes has been involved with the FGC through their newly organized Committee on Nurturing Ministries. Many of the ministries of FGC were formed into a new structure to create a more coordinated and efficient way to work. Kristi clerks a subcommittee on Deepening. In this ministry

she has organized and/or facilitated gatherings for Yearly Meeting clerks (which Tim Lamm attended), regional retreats for ministers and elders, and worked with Traveling Ministries. The reorganization and prioritizing that happened this year took a lot of energy. The committee members, staff and volunteers are all looking forward to digging into the work and creating resources, networks and relationships that will be really helpful to Monthly and Yearly Meetings.

### **Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas**

One of the major efforts of FWCC-SOA during the past year has been on having “Salt and Light” events. These events reflect the theme of the World Gathering of Friends in Kenya in April 2012 “Being Salt and Light: Friends living the kingdom of God in a broken world”. Knowing that only 1000 Quakers worldwide would attend the World Gathering, the “Salt and Light” events would allow Quakers in the Section to participate even if they are not able to go to Kenya. A “Salt and Light” event was held in Knoxville hosted by West Knoxville Friends Meeting and SAYMA in October, 2010.

There were 16 events during the autumn of 2010, and more have been held this spring including one after the 2011 Annual Meeting which was held in Philadelphia. The Salt and Light event was led by David Wolfe and Linda Kusse-Wolfe of Great Plains Yearly Meeting. They reported on their time in Iran where they were official Christians in a government-run Interfaith Institute.

Because of this year’s emphasis on “Salt and Light” events the annual meeting itself was mainly a business meeting as required by the by-laws. There was much discussion about how the annual meeting would be held next year. It was decided that it would be at the World Gathering at the times that the sections meet. It was hoped that there would be a greater representation from Latin America. There was, of course, time for worship, singing, and fellowship. There was Celebration Service for Margaret Fraser who has resigned as executive secretary of the Section.

The other major activity of the FWCC is the Global Change initiative. This is a consultation among Quakers to see if there is a unique perspective that Quakers have in regards to the changes in our world, climate, economic, political, etc. Six queries were written for Quakers to address in cluster meetings, gatherings of Quakers all over the world. The responses are to be compiled and then presented at the world gathering.

There are many changes in FWCC, in part because of changes in personnel and in part because of financial constraints, but FWCC continues to be an organization that welcomes Quakers who practice in different ways and who live in different parts of the world and represents Quakers to the wider world. This year the annual meeting approved the affiliation of Iglesia Evangelica Union Boliviana Amigos. FWCC-SOA helped plan and participated in the Latin American Peace Conference of the Historic Peace Churches in November, 2010 in the Dominican Republic. This was part of the World Conference of Churches program “The Decade to Overcome Violence”.



Tim Lamm continues as Clerk of the Southeast Region and Sallie Prugh was nominated as the Clerk of the Annual Meeting Planning Committee.

### **Right Sharing of World Resources**

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

Through the faithful support of our many donors, RSWR highlights the following accomplishments in 2010:

- \$251,222 in grants was provided to 56 projects: 10 in Sierra Leone, 12 in Kenya, and 34 in India. 12 (21%) of the funded groups are Quaker.
- Put in place a field staff person in each of the three areas in which we work. Field staff perform four key functions: Interpret RSWR to organizations interested in pursuing funding; Provide program development training to new and small NGOs, some of which may pursue RSWR funding; Perform the in-person site visits required of all proposals being considered for funding; Provide post-funding training and support to approved projects.

Dr. R. Kannan began his service in south India in June 2008. Samson Ababu began his service among Friends in Kenya in October 2009. Harold Johnson's service in Sierra Leone was approved in October 2010, and began January 2011.

- Achieved 50% of the capital campaign goal, a significant achievement in light of the 2008-2009 recession. Though the campaign is not completed, having been extended one year to conclude in December 2011, we already are benefitting from it:

→ With the assistance of an organizational development consultant, the RSWR board of trustees has undergone an extensive development process, empowering itself to lead RSWR into a new generation of ministry.

→ The field staff work in Africa (Kenya and Sierra Leone) was begun.

→ A communications consultant is working with RSWR to develop an electronic communications strategy and implementation plan, resulting in an updated website, and regular Facebook and blog postings.

In 2010 RSWR's income was 106% of budget, and 4% above expenses.

- Income of \$519,475. 75% came from individual households, 9% from monthly meetings and churches, 3% from yearly meetings, 4% from special events (Simple Meals etc), 1% from interest, 7% restricted to program expense, and 25% from the capital campaign (as noted above).

- Expenses of \$497,150. 81.9% of these expenses were for program, 6.7% for administration and 11.4% for fundraising.

### **William Penn House**

William Penn House is a hospitality center on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, rooted and grounded in Quaker faith and practice.

#### Mission Statement:

William Penn House is a Quaker center on Capitol Hill that engages people from all walks of life with issues of peace, reconciliation, social and economic justice, and environmental awareness, through inward reflection, hands-on experience, education, and community building. We support and celebrate those who “speak truth to power” and seeks to make visible the Quaker values of peace, community, simplicity, equality and truth.

#### Program Components:

Sponsoring programs focused on peace and peace education, Quaker spirituality, social and economic justice, race relations, environmental concerns, community needs, homelessness, and the HIV-AIDS crisis.

Offering one-day, weekend or week-long service-learning programs for youth and young adults through Washington Quaker Workcamps, where direct service to the poor, disenfranchised, and marginalized is combined with education, opportunities for individual and group reflection, and advocacy.

Connecting groups that come to Washington to learn about government and government policy with local institutions and resource people.

Promoting dialogue, reconciliation and community building around painful and divisive issues and concerns.

Serving as a resource center and meeting place for Quakers, both locally and nationally.

Providing hospitality and overnight accommodations for travelers from around the world in a simple, affordable community-based setting.

Income is generated from lodging, providing simple accommodations for those seeking a better world; from Workcamp and program participants; and from travelers who visit Washington to see the museums, monuments, memorials and the corridors of power. About 18% of income is from donors (including SAYMA) who value having a Quaker presence on Capitol Hill.

WPH seeks to be the embodiment of the Quaker principals of Simplicity, Equality, Community, Integrity and Harmony or Peace. The goal is not to proselytize but to bring people together, to share common goals and aspirations to find that oneness that we all share. Core values include the belief that there is Divinity in each of us and that how we live our lives is as important as what we believe.

Radical Hospitality, in the words of St. Benedict, is “to invite all people into your house as if they were Christ.” The purpose of William Penn House is to practice Radical Hospitality. To do this allows others to speak their truth. It is not about denouncing someone else’s truth or arguing with them, but appreciating them. There are other arenas for persuasion, debate and advocacy. The William Penn House is a special place, a dynamic response to the question of what does God require of us in response to the stranger, the other, the traveler.

At William Penn House leadership is shared based on ability not age. By being open to the gifts of others all are enriched and challenged to be more than the sum of our parts. Young people are given roles in leadership and in the challenges inherent in a vital faith. Younger Friends are asked to serve and given meaningful work and respect their decisions and approaches. The average age of staff is less than 34 years old and 6 of the 16 board members are 30 years old or younger.

Washington Quaker Workcamps has over 20 years of service in Washington DC, and has expanded to providing service in West Virginia, New Orleans and, starting this year, Pine Ridge, SD. WPH has a special passion and commitment to youth and young adults. Quaker Workcamps are important as an expression of pacifism - a deep commitment to providing service through compassion, love and bearing witness. Workcamps are not limited to issues traditionally identified with Friends, since all issues are viewed as interconnected and having common root causes. WPH programs nurture the participants to look deeply and reflectively at the issues, and to explore individual and group actions to break the cycles.

William Penn House, in partnership with Western Quaker Workcamps, has embarked on a new program that builds on past programs, building community partners and envisioning the future. From July 26 to August 8 2010, a group of 12 people spent time on Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. This Reservation is home to the Oglala Lakota Nation. The participants developed a strong sense of community, through shared meals, sweat with and stories. It is this community bond that strengthens participants to face bigger challenges while eroding the barriers of separation and difference.

William Penn House has found that bearing witness and building relationships can be a force for community transformation. It is a process that is perhaps one of the greatest gifts that Quakerism can bring to the world – as expressed in the words of George Fox (“There is that of God in All”) and William Penn (“Let us try then what love can do”).

In this fiscal year (which ended June 30, 2010), William Penn House staff:

- ▶ Led 29 Workcamps with 468 participants.
- ▶ Hosted 13 Quaker Potlucks and Dialogues
- ▶ Led programs on international politics, developing personal relationships and AIDS/HIV issues.
- ▶ Hosted 7621 guests nights and breakfasts.
- ▶ Hosted 50 groups (37 groups also used the conference room, plus a weekly yoga class)
- ▶ Visited 7 yearly meetings and many monthly meetings

►Served on the Board of Pendle Hill, the Central Committee of Friends General Conference, Committees of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the Friends Meeting of Washington, and the planning committee for the conference for Young Adult Friends.

### **Executive Director's report for calendar year 2010**

In December 2010, I completed 10 years here in Washington at William Penn House. It has been an amazing decade and I have been enriched through the experience. This past year has been busy, eventful and continues with our seeking to live our lives with purpose using the Quaker testimonies as our guide.

We continue our commitment to nurturing the gifts and leadings of our staff. We are pleased that during 2010, the Hospitality Coordinator, Faith Kelley, and the Workcamps Coordinator, Greg Woods were both in their mid 20s. Both brought unique gifts and insights to their jobs as well as solid work ethics. We also recruited 5 young adults to serve on our Board of Directors. These young people are not ensnared with how things were but are motivated by how things can be. Through our internship program, we seek to provide genuine opportunities for growth and seasoning of these gifted young people. But with people at the start of their careers and through the very nature of internships, we experienced turnovers of staff. In 2010, Wambani Lusenaka of Kenya and Amanda Haase of Chicago completed their internships and returned or continued their graduate studies. Greg Woods also left for some reflection on his next challenge. After living for several months on his family's Missouri farm, Greg will be on the staff of Pendle Hill for the summer then will attend Princeton Theological School. Harry Catterson of Bucks County, PA, joined us as an intern.

Recognizing that the economy was uncertain, we reduced our staff to control our overhead. A couple of years ago we changed from a staff janitor to a cleaning service. Recently we switched our payroll to a payroll service. We delayed replacing departing staff.

We started the year with blizzard like conditions here and elsewhere. This led to many cancellations in February. With the soft economy our numbers of guests was slightly less than last year. We still had 7280 guests, including 61 groups. 358 young people participated in 18 Workcamps. Those Workcamps included two weeks in South Dakota with the Lakota Indians, a week in New Orleans and a week in a rural community in West Virginia. We continued our hosting of over 30 Wilmington College students participating in the FCNL Lobby Days. Our guests ranged from a troop of Brownies to senior citizens. We offer a unique and inexpensive place for individuals and groups to stay while visiting Washington.

We continue to develop the concept of Radical Hospitality where we offer a warm and open place for dialogue and conversation. Through open listening to others, we are affirmed in our belief that there is that of God in all and we can then set aside our tendency to believe that we are following the only spiritual path. Brad Ogilvie continues to provide a needed voice and leadership on all AIDS/HIV issues.

As summer approaches, we will be visiting different yearly meetings. We look forward to the opportunity to share with you.

Byron Sandford Executive Director

<b>Calendar Year 2010</b>				
<b>Income</b>			<b>Expense</b>	
79%	program	\$ 294,225	personnel	\$ 223,020
17%	donations	\$ 61,250	building	\$ 26,750
	investme	\$ 1,850	program	\$ 85,325
	other	\$ 13,300	admin	\$ 23,275
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 370,625</b>	fund	\$ 3,275
			other	\$ 4,038
			depreciation	\$ 8,000
			<b>Total</b>	
Occupancy	68%		<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 373,683</b>

<b>Balance Sheet</b>		as of 12/31/2010	
<b>Assets</b>			
	Checking and Cash on Hand	\$	10,000
	Investments	\$	147,500
	Other		
	Assets	\$	2,000
	Fixed Assets	\$	344,130
		Depreciation	\$ (302,375)
	<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>201,255</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
	Revolving debt	\$	850
	Personnel Reserves	\$	28,200
	Deferred		
	Revenue	\$	24,500
	Long Term Liens	\$	10,500
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>64,050</b>

## **Attachment J: Epistles**

To Friends Everywhere,

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting Association gathered once again at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, N.C. for our 41<sup>st</sup> session Sixth Month 9-12, 2011.

We were spoken to during our first Meeting for worship with a period of heavy thunder, lightening and rain, waking us to the power of the Divine that can move us in many ways. The sun returned as we began our discernment of the first of several issues that challenged us. A prophetic call during worship also reminded us that any action left unattended will disintegrate. Just because an intention appears to be rightly ordered, does not mean that it will take care of itself.

A new section of our Faith & Practice addressing our harmony with nature guided us to acknowledge our community's diverse ways of seeing God in the world and the struggles we face to adjust to the needs of our planet. We recognize that we are living in a period of dramatic global change that requires our constant attention and tender care.

A concern with our question of compliance with the government I-9 form led us to consider our response to "undocumented peoples" in our region. Even though the Minute on Immigration did not follow the usual practice of Minutes rising within Monthly Meetings to the Yearly Meeting level was of concern, we realize the call to action in our region is real and immediate.

Given the depth of feeling experienced while addressing the harmony with nature section of our Faith & Practice and the Minute on Immigration, Friends deepest feelings came to the surface. Our emotions opened us to receive the guidance of the Divine in coming to a sense of the meeting about the urgency of these topics.

Our plenary speakers, Jane Synder of FWCC and Elaine Crauderueff of Quaker Quest, shared with us ways to continue with our theme of "growing within, shining forth" as we return to our homes and Meetings. Representatives from Wider Quaker Organizations gave detailed reports of their work addressing issues of peace-building, immigration and economic justice in our region. They made us aware of the larger Society of Friends, as well as ways to share the "good news" at the local level. Cost of travel and the ecological impact of Yearly Meeting will continue to give us pause as we come together each year to nourish our spiritual lives in this gathered community.

We were offered a special moment of appreciation at the presentation of a book honoring the life and work of H. Larry Ingle, valued historian and member of this Yearly Meeting.

Friends were happy to see the return of old friends, the bright faces of our young people and an increase in the number of first time attenders. Each group brings their own unique flavor to our gathering. The time spent together is full. Worship and worship sharing is a special time to meet friends on a deeper level. Workshops inform and open us to new ideas. The talent show, evening of dancing and intergenerational games all contribute to the growth of the community. Fitting all that we wish or feel called to do is difficult. Just as we make choices in our daily life to balance work, service and play, careful discernment is needed to keep the Spirit of the Divine uppermost in our activities.

### **Junior Yearly Meeting Epistle**

The children of the Junior Yearly Meeting 2011 group had three and one-half very busy, fun-filled, meaningful days at our yearly meeting's –SAYMA's – annual get-together for business and retreat.

As the children considered their time here, they used the phrases, “made friendships stronger,” “met new people,” “had an awesome time,” “learned how to work together,” “learned how to make new friends,” and “people with frowny faces changes to smiling faces.”

Our theme was “Building Beyond the JYM Community,” and we worked to make connections with people and groups outside of ours.

Thursday was spent decorating our own nametags and water bottles and playing games to get to know each other.

On Friday morning we spent time working with Warren Wilson students in the garden, picking beans and pulling carrots, and tasting turnips, peppermint leaves and sweet peas. Many put peppermint leaves in their water bottles and at the carrots they picked.

Later Friday we made drums out of 5 gallon buckets and cellophane tape, and decorated them as well as our mural. Our mural is a gift to yearly meeting, as a part of building beyond our community. We also visited the creek where some of our older JYMers found some cool places.

On Saturday we learned how to drum together, and we made JYM t-shirts. We went to the pool afterwards.

All through the weekend, we made art, learned a lot of new games, heard stories from Joe, ate lots of bananas, and apples and pretzels and popcorn, played games with SAYF, and found lots of insects that were interesting and icky.

There were 15 children and all added a special note to our community. Fifteen-month-old Wren with his determination and chuckles; Nevin with his earnest questions and observations; Magdalena who found all of us every meal in the cafeteria and spread her good cheer everywhere; Ella, six going on 16, with her poise and cooperation; Marissa with her vast collections of everything and play dough art; Siddharthini with her sassy spirit; Julia with her sweet smiles and hugs; David with his monkey antics and interest in everything; Josh with his openness to try new things and curiosity; Jonas with his perceptiveness and wise watchfulness; Oscar with his enthusiasm and friendliness; Lhia with her dry wit and pragmatism; Julia with her helpfulness and sweetness; Sara Willa with her silliness and sense of fun; and Ayana with her quiet care of others. All were a joy. With sadness we say good-bye to Julia, Sara Willa and Ayana as they age out, be we know they will be an incredible asset to SAYF. And for the others we hope to see them again.

## Attachment K: Nominating Committee Report & Complete Roster of Officers and Committees

### Nominations for June 2011

New appointees appear in **boldface**. Blank lines indicate appointments needed.

Note: All terms are two years in length unless otherwise noted. Terms begin & end after YM each June.

#### Officers

CLERK	Tim Lamm	10—12	Berea
ASSISTANT CLERK	<b>Carol Nickle</b>	<b>11-12</b>	West Knoxville
RECORDING CLERK	<b>Adrienne Weir</b>	<b>11-13</b>	Asheville
TREASURER	Deanna Nipp-Kientz	08-12	Nash/Cookeville
ASST. TREASURER	Alan Robinson	10-12	Asheville

#### Standing Committees

##### Ministry & Nurture Committee

CLERK	Nancy Whitt	10-12	Birmingham
MEMBER	<b>Errol Hess</b>	<b>11-13</b>	<b>Clinton</b>
MEMBER	<b>Sharon Annis</b>	<b>11-13</b>	<b>West Knoxville</b>
MEMBER	<b>Becky Ingle</b>	<b>11-13</b>	<b>Chattanooga</b>
MEETING APPOINTEE	Mary Kedl		West Knoxville
MEETING APPOINTEE	Thais Carr		Nashville
MEETING APPOINTEE	Kristi Estes		Oxford
MEETING APPOINTEE	Jere Licciardello		Chattanooga
MEETING APPOINTEE			
MEETING APPOINTEE			

##### Finance Committee

CLERK	<b>Linda Trask</b>	<b>11-14</b>	Nashville
MEMBER	Leann Swarm	<b>09-14</b>	W.Knoxville
MEMBER	Kendall Ivie	<b>09-14</b>	W. Knoxville
MEMBER	<b>Alan Robinson</b>	<b>11-14</b>	Asheville
MEMBER	<b>David Ciscel</b>	<b>11-14</b>	Memphis

##### Personnel Committee

CLERK	<b>Carol Nickle</b>	<b>11-12</b>	West Knoxville
MEMBER	Free Polazzo	10-12	Atlanta
MEMBER	Sue Gerdes	10-12	Columbia
MEMBER	<b>Susan Phelan</b>	<b>11-13</b>	Huntsville
SUPERVISOR OF AdmAsst	Tim Lamm	10--12	Brerea
SUPERVIOSR SAYF AdAsst	Wren Hendrikson	10-12	Chapel Hill



**SAYF Steering Committee** *(Usually picked by the monthly meetings)*

CO-CLERK

CO-CLERK	Wren Hendrikson	10-12	Chapel Hill
MEMBER	<b>Mary Linda McKinney</b>	<b>11-13</b>	Nashville
MEMBER	Aaron Ruschetta	10-12	Atlanta
MEMBER	<b>Martin Gonzalez</b>	<b>11-13</b>	Durham
MEMBER			
MEMBER			
<i>ex officio</i>	<b>Therese Hildebrand</b>		Berea

**JYM oversight committee**

CONVENER	Elizabeth Hudson	10—12	Atlanta
CONVENER	Wendy Satterthwait	09-12	Berea
MEMBER			
MEMBER			
MEMBER			

**Yearly Meeting Planning Committee**

CLERK	Carol Ciscel	10—12	Memphis
ADULT PROGRAMS			
WORKSHOPS	<b>Bill Wolfe</b>	<b>11-13</b>	Nashville
CO-REGISTRAR	Laura Seeger	10-12	Chattanooga
CO-RESGISTRAR			
BOOKSTORE	Chris Berg	10—12	Greenville
ASST. BOOKSTORE	<b>Jere Licciardello</b>	<b>11-12</b>	<b>Chattanooga</b>
LOCAL ARRANGMNT	<b>Bob Welsh</b>	<b>09-12</b>	Swannanoa
JYM COORDINATOR	<b>Beth Myers &amp; Jonathan Schinhofen</b>	<b>09—13</b>	Berea
YAF REP			
WORSHIP CO-ORD.			
LAYOUT EDITOR	<b>John Potter</b>	<b>11-12</b>	Nashville

**Young Adult Friends**

CLERK	<b>Samuel Leeman-Munk</b>		<b>Chapel Hill</b>
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### **Nominating Committee** *(named by the naming committee at SAYMA)*

CLERK	Jim Cavener	10-12	Asheville
MEMBER	Hank Fay	<b>09--13</b>	Berea
MEMBER	Kit Potter	<b>09--13</b>	Nashville
MEMBER	Missy Ivie	<b>09--13</b>	W. Knoxville
MEMBER	Dennis Gregg	10—12	Crossville
MEMBER	David Ciscel	10—12	Memphis
MEMBER	Beth Ensign	10—12	Atlanta
MEMBER	<b>Laura Maynard Lane</b>	<b>11-13</b>	Asheville

### **Peace & Social Concerns Committee**

CLERK  
MEMBER  
MEMBER  
MEMBER

### **Ecological Concerns Network**

CO-CLERK	<b>Chris Berg</b>	<b>11-13</b>	Greenville
CO-CLERK	<b>Pat Williams</b>	<b>11-13</b>	Atlanta

### **Southern Appalachian Friend**

EDITOR	<b>Beth Ensign</b>	<b>11-13</b>	Atlanta
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### **Web Support**

MANAGER	Hank Fay	10—12	Berea
CLERK			

### **Archivist**

Archivist	Missy Ivie	10—12	West Knoxville
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## **Ad Hoc Committees**

### **Faith & Practice Revision**

CLERK	Free Polazzo	Began 01	Atlanta
MEMBER	Missy Ivie	Began 01	West Knoxville
MEMBER	Barbara Esther	Began 04	Asheville
MEMBER	Alan Robinson	Began 07	Asheville
MEMBER	Edie Patrick	Began 07	Asheville
MEMBER	Taimi Olsen	Began 11	Wes

**Handbook**

CLERK	Sharon Annis	06	West Knoxville
MEMBER	Missy Ivie	02	West Knoxville
MEMBER			

**Site Selection**

CLERK	Errol Hess		Clinton
MEMBER	Linda Trask		Nashville
MEMBER	Kathleen Mavournin		West Knoxville
MEMBER			

**Development**

CLERK			
MEMBER	Leeann Swarm		West Knoxville
MEMBER	Bob Welsh		Swannanoa
MEMBER	Brian Yaffe		Celo

**Representatives to Wider Quaker Organizations**

*Note: terms for AFSC and SERO are 2 years in length; all others are for 3 years.*

AFSC	Charles Schade (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)	10--12	Charleston
	Free Polazzo (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)	10-12	Atlanta
	Bob Welsh	Alternate	Swananoa
AFSC/SERO	Peter Furst	09—12	Birmingham
	<b>Geeta McGahey</b>	<b>09-13</b>	Celo
FCNL	Joe Parko	10--13	Crossville
	Kelly Schoolmeester (1 <sup>st</sup> term)	09—12	Columbia
	Jane Hiles	10—13	Birmingham
FGC	Gita Larson	10—13	Columbia (Asheville)
	<b>Kristi Estes</b>	<b>11-14</b>	<b>Oxford</b>
	<b>Stoph Hallward</b>	<b>11-14</b>	<b>Atlanta</b>
FLGBTQC	<b>Kate Caldwell</b>	<b>11-13</b>	West Knoxville
	Alternate		
FWCC	<b>Linda Trask</b>	<b>11-14</b>	<b>Nashville</b>
FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS			
QEW	<b>Roy Taylor</b>	<b>11-13</b>	Canton
	<b>David Ciscel</b>	<b>11-12</b>	Memphis
QUAKER HOUSE	<b>Larry Osbourne</b>	<b>11-13</b>	Knoxville
RSWR	<b>Karen Morris</b>	<b>09-12</b>	Atlanta
WM. PENN HOUSE	<b>Jane Hiles</b>	<b>11-13</b>	Birmingham