SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee Report

2010-2011

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.

Nancy Whitt

Clerk, SAYMA M&N 2010-2011