

March 7th, 2007

Dear SAYMA Friends,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Free Polazzo*

On behalf of the SAYMA Faith and Practice Revision Committee:

Barbara Esther, Recording Co-Clerk, Asheville Friends Meeting

Missy Ivie, West Knoxville Friends Meeting

Geeta McGahey, Recording Co-Clerk Celo Friends Meeting

Melissa Meyers, Boone Friends Meeting

Free Polazzo, Clerk, Anneewakee Creek Friends Worship Group, Atlanta Friends Meeting