

SAYMA Representative Meeting #104 (Winter)
Knoxville, Tennessee
December 7, 2002 10 am

1. Opening

After a period of silence, Clerk Sharon Annis welcomed Friends and read the following excerpt from an epistle from George Fox to Friends in Jamaica:

[Yearly meeting is] for Friends to see one another, know how the affairs of truth prosper, and how Friends do grow in the Truth of God to the comfort and joy of one another in it. . . . And if there should be any difference among Friends it should be ended at yearly meeting so that all things may be kept in Peace and Love, dwelling in the Wisdom of God.

2. SAYMA Publications

Administrative Assistant Mary Calhoun announced that the following documents are available from the SAYMA office at no cost to those who need them to carry out their responsibilities, or, in the case of *Faith and Practice*, to those appointed to positions of responsibility:

SAYMA Positions of Responsibility Roster
A Guide to Our Faith and Our Practice, updated (yellow cover) version
SAYMA Directory

Copies are also available for sale.

3. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee

Tim Lamm, Clerk of the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, reported on the planning committee's work to date. The committee has reviewed last year's evaluations. A particular concern is finding a good balance of time between meeting for business and other activities.

The committee proposed the following theme for the upcoming yearly meeting program: *Flames of faith from embers of tradition: How our traditions inspire our practice*. The committee proposed inviting Lloyd Lee Wilson, a North Carolina Conservative Friend, to speak on Thursday and Friday evenings. Friends approved the theme and speaker. Sharon Annis will see that a list of Lloyd Lee Wilson's books is put on the SAYMA web site and publicized on the SAYMA listserv.

Tim Lamm also brought forward the name of Deanna Nipp from Cookeville to serve as the bookstore coordinator. Friends approved. Another person to help with this task is still being sought.

4. Handbook Committee Clerk

The clerk announced that Barbara Esther of Asheville has agreed to serve as the clerk of the Ad Hoc Handbook Committee. Mary Calhoun has also joined this committee in her role as administrative assistant.

5. Introductions

Before breaking for committee meetings, the clerk asked Friends present to introduce themselves. A list of Friends in attendance is attached as Appendix A.

6. Re-opening

Following a period of silence, the clerk read the following selection by Lloyd Lee Wilson.

Accountability means to watch over each other for good . . . that each may be well grounded in Christ. If we are deeply sincere in our search for union with God, we will welcome being watched over by others on the same faith journey. "Do we watch over one another for good?" is one query of the Ministry & Oversight Committee of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). There is a framework within which accountability is practiced. There is the individual's accountability to God, to the monthly meeting, and to the yearly meeting. There is the accountability of the monthly meeting to God and to its members and the yearly meeting. There is the accountability of the yearly meeting to God, its member monthly meetings, and its individual members. These are all aided in interpretation by our historic Friends traditions. Individuals grow in grace through the corporate faith tradition. The Friends tradition grows in faith as individuals and monthly meetings inform it. This is a living process we call continuing revelation. We commit to embracing our faith.

7. Faith and Practice Revision Committee Report

Kristi Estes presented the following report from the Faith and Practice Revision Committee.

Six committee members met in October in Chattanooga to continue our work on revisions. Web access to the current edition of *Faith and Practice* is available on www.main.nc.us/friends/faith_and_practice/entire.htm. We are working to establish links to the SAYMA website and access to the working document and proposed changes.

We would like to remind Meetings to review proposed changes that were handed out at the last Representative Meeting. Please return comments before the first of the year. We would also like to remind Ministry and Nurture and Peace and Social Concerns to submit any suggested titles for the reading list of F&P before the first of the year.

Some issues we are currently addressing, as they are referenced in the F&P, are the establishment of new Meetings, descriptions of Yearly Meeting committees (such as M&N and P&SC), and which sections are more appropriate for the Handbook.

The newest editions are the yellow copies, available from the SAYMA office.

In response to a question, Kristi explained that the committee will send future versions of proposed changes in electronic and easy-to-copy versions.

8. Logo Committee

Carol Lamm presented the following report for the Ad Hoc Logo Committee.

In September, the logo committee reported on our discernment session at Yearly Meeting and the fact that we had selected Jennifer Snow Wolff to be our artist. At that time, representatives requested more information about the committee's financial arrangement with Jennifer. The arrangement is:

\$50 for work done prior to September (e-mail contact with committee, participation at YM, initial ideas)
\$100 for sketches. We expect about three rounds of sketches and feedback.
\$100 at the point that the final design is selected.

\$50 final payment for a disk with variations appropriate for different uses (letterhead, newsletter, YM program, etc.) and guidelines for use of the logo in a variety of situations.

We continue to move more slowly than we had planned, but we are moving. In mid-November Jennifer sent the first round of sketches and committee members and others have sent in feedback. Within the next couple of weeks this feedback will be organized and sent to Jennifer. We encourage Friends present at rep meeting to look at the designs and give us more feedback to include in this first response.

We expect to go through a couple more rounds of design and feedback before selecting a design to present to rep meeting for approval—we now hope in April! Friends who would like to join in the process of reviewing designs are more than welcome. Contact Carol Lamm, clamm@chpl.net, 859 986-9256, 110 Hanson St., Berea, KY 40403.

9. Finance Committee

Chris Berg presented the following report for the Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee asks the SAYMA representatives for approval to out-source payroll and related tax submissions to federal and state taxing authorities. Chris Berg will check for an appropriate source in Asheville; Kendall Ivie in Knoxville; Dick Houghton in Nashville; and Peter Reilly in Berea. Committee members will compare costs and services offered and make the final selection as soon as possible in the new year (2003). Estimated annual cost is \$600 or less.

Friends approved the Finance Committee proceeding to identify and hire a provider of payroll services to begin as of January 1, 2003.

10. FGC Traveling Ministries Consultation

Judy Guerry, Huntsville Area Friends Meeting, reported on her attendance at the Friends General Conference Traveling Ministries Consultation of Affiliated Yearly Meetings. Her report is attached as Appendix B.

11. Ecological Concerns Network

Susan Carlyle presented the following report for the Ecological Concerns Network.

1. We are requesting that SAYMA add a second representative from SAYMA to Friends Committee on Unity with Nature. This would provide better representation of SAYMA's active environmental witness to the national organization; it would provide better continuity with staggered terms; and it would allow FCUN to name an official representative to Friends Committee on National Legislation and other Friends organizations. While funding for this second FCUN rep would be appreciated, it would not be absolutely necessary at this time- but the representation is important.

2. Kim Carlyle is interested in coordinating a visitation project within SAYMA representing concerns of both the Ecological Concerns Network and FCUN. It will be focused on the relationship among Friends faith, the peace testimony and our witness for earth care. Interested listeners or visitors are invited to contact Kim.

3. The ECN will be working on promoting the Earth Charter within SAYMA with the eventual goal of having SAYMA sign on to it.

4. The ECN Monthly newsletter has been without an editor for several months. Susan Carlyle will revive it and send it out on a quarterly basis.

5. Bill Reynolds will be starting up the Compact Fluorescent Bulb campaign in early 2003. The goal is simply to have as many homes within SAYMA replace as many as possible incandescent bulbs with cfl's.

6. We will continue our efforts toward the "greening of SAYMA" with the possible sale of compact fluorescent bulbs and solar clothes dryers at our gathering in June. Bill Reynolds will coordinate a car pooling effort-- similar to that which was quite successful at the December rep meeting-- to reach Warren Wilson College. We will also continue those successful efforts for resource reduction from last year's gathering.

12. SAYMA Delegates to Consultations

The clerk reported on follow-up to decisions at September representative meeting regarding SAYMA representatives to events sponsored by wider Quaker organizations. Judy Guerry represented SAYMA at the Friends General Conference Traveling Ministries Consultation of Affiliated Yearly Meetings, as reported above.

For the Friends World Committee for Consultation consultation on peace, January 16-18, SAYMA's representatives will be Kim Carlyle, Debra Johnson and Hannah MacDermott. That same weekend, Bert Skellie will represent SAYMA at a Friends General Conference gathering on racism. The clerk is still trying to identify a person of color as the second delegate, as FGC has requested. We have few Friends of color among our number, which is a matter for further reflection. Another issue to consider is whether SAYMA's traditional expectation that delegates to such events make themselves available to travel among our Meetings or report in other face-to-face ways may be a barrier to finding representatives and may need to be reconsidered.

13. Response to Minute on Israel and Palestine

The clerk read two letters received in response to SAYMA's minute on Israel and Palestine. The letters are attached as Appendix C.

14. Oxford Monthly Meeting

Kristi Estes read a minute from Memphis Monthly Meeting recognizing a new monthly meeting in Oxford, Mississippi.

The Memphis Friends Meeting approves the certification of the Oxford Quaker Meeting as a Monthly Meeting. We realize that Oxford's inclusion in SAYMA may present a challenge geographically for the yearly meeting. We are enthusiastic about the presence of a close monthly meeting and feel that we can be mutually supportive in creating a Quaker witness in our area.

Kristi raised the question of whether a new monthly meeting established in right order under the care of an existing SAYMA monthly meeting is automatically a member of SAYMA or should apply to be part of SAYMA. She reviewed variations in guidance between SAYMA's *Guide to Our Faith and Our Practice* and Friends General Conference's *A New Friends Gathering: An Outline of Stepping Stones Toward Becoming a Friends Meeting* about how new monthly meetings become part of yearly meetings. Friends present shared memories of various routes by which monthly meetings have become part of SAYMA.

Representative meeting agreed to invite Oxford Monthly Meeting to request membership in SAYMA. Friends expressed their appreciation to Memphis Monthly Meeting for nurturing Oxford Friends to this point, and our joy at having a new monthly meeting on our border.

Friends noted that this discussion leaves a number of points undecided and does not answer all the questions that might be addressed by a revision to *Faith and Practice*. In particular, the implications of revising SAYMA's geographic boundaries may call for yearly meeting attention.

15. Southern Appalachian Young Friends

Kathleen Mavournin, Co-Clerk of the Southern Appalachian Young Friends Steering Committee, gave a report on the SAYF program. Her report is attached as Appendix D.

16. Yearly Meeting Planning Committee

Tim Lamm reported for the committee planning for yearly meeting, June 5-8 at Warren Wilson College. The committee is proposing to start yearly meeting earlier this year, with a Thursday afternoon workshop. Each day will begin and end with a plenary worship session. Meeting for business sessions have been scheduled for a total of 8.5 hours compared to about 7 hours in recent years. Following the evening plenary, a variety of activities will be available. The committee is aiming to revive the practice of featuring a few wider Quaker organizations each year, through workshop time and/or a presentation to meeting for business. This year's organizations will be Friends Committee on National Legislation, Quaker House (Fayetteville) and Friends Peace Teams. Other organizations are welcome to send representatives but will not have workshop or presentation time.

On the budget, the committee plans to cover on-site expenses (registration, housing and meals) for representatives from the three featured wider Quaker organizations, plus Friends General Conference, from registration proceeds. The committee also plans to pay on-site expenses for six full-time Friendly Adult Presences for the SAYF program from registration proceeds. Registration fees will be waived for children under 12, and the room rate will be raised to \$30 per room per night to make up the difference. However, the registration fees will not be sufficient to cover stipends for junior yearly meeting resource staff.

Workshop proposals will be due February 15. An advance mailing will go out February 1. Registration materials should be mailed out by April 18. There will be a late fee for registration after May 20.

Sharon Annis reported that the Ad Hoc Junior Yearly Meeting Committee is planning the JYM program for yearly meeting 2003. Representatives agreed that the committee may spend up to \$2000 on resource staff on a one-time basis if needed, with the understanding the ad hoc committee will bring a proposal for future years to yearly meeting. Questions arose about the membership of the committee, which has met once. Sharon Annis will re-confirm the membership of the committee.

17. Missing Reports

The Friends World Committee for Consultation report that was missing from the yearly meeting 2002 minutes and the Ad Hoc Logo Committee report that was missing from the September representative meeting minutes are attached as Appendices E and F, respectively.

18. Ministry and Nurture Committee

Kathy Burke presented the following report for the Ministry and Nurture Committee.

We reviewed the work done by a subcommittee on worship groups December 6, 2002, in response to a request by Larry Ingle of Chattanooga. We plan to continue to address several aspects of this issue.

We plan to offer suggestions to the Faith and Practice Committee for a new section on the SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee, as well as changes in the section on Worship Groups. We will also offer concrete procedural suggestions to the Handbook Committee. Some of these suggestions have been seasoned in several of our sessions and are close to ready for presentation.

Only 4 representatives were present for our afternoon session; feeling that such small numbers make it difficult for us to progress, we planned a letter asking Monthly Meetings to assure more representation to our committee.

Areas of concern for the future include:

- Visitation among Friends
- Copy for new SAYMA Handbook
- Relationships between Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups
- Variety of ways M&N functions are addressed by Monthly Meetings

- **Future Representative Meetings**

The clerk announced the following dates for future representative meetings:

April 4-5, 2003, tentatively in Asheville, North Carolina

September 5-6, 2003 confirmed in Columbia, South Carolina

December 5-6, 2003 confirmed in Atlanta, Georgia

The clerk noted that the yearly meeting's committees are carrying an increasing portion of the work of the yearly meeting. At times, concurrent meetings of committees reduce the attendance at representative meeting per se. She spoke to the importance of monthly meetings sending representatives to representative meeting.

20. Appreciation for West Knoxville Friends

The meeting closed with worship. Friends expressed appreciation for warm hospitality and a sense of community as West Knoxville Friends welcomed travelers in the midst of their other meeting activities.

- **Approval of Minutes**

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

Sharon Annis, Clerk
(archive copy signed)

Carol Lamm, Recording Clerk
(archive copy signed)

Appendix A

Attendees

(not posted to website)

Appendix B

J. Guerry's Report about the FGC Traveling Ministries Consultation of Affiliated Yearly Meetings held at Bethany Hills Camp near Nashville, Tennessee November 15-17, 2002

This consultation sponsored by the FGC Traveling Ministries Program (TMP) focused on “calling forth and nurturing gifts of ministry” among Friends. I served as a SAYMA representative. Sharon Annis, the other scheduled SAYMA representative, was unable to attend, due to illness. Sharon responded to the queries that the Traveling Ministries staff provided prior to the consultation. Penelope Wright and I provided input/edits to the responses to the queries. Penelope also participated in the consultation. Attached to this report is the summary report prepared by the coordinator of the Traveling Ministries Program, Deborah Fisch and Michael Gibson, FGC RE coordinator, with help and input from Marty Grundy, clerk of the Traveling Ministries Program.

Here are the queries, followed by the responses from SAYMA (in italics):

How are gifts of ministry acknowledged in your monthly meetings and yearly meeting? Is there a common practice or does each meeting make up its own process?

There is no common practice of responding to individual gifts within our monthly meetings or the yearly meeting. We are just beginning to work on understanding that acknowledgment of gifts of ministry might even be something that a monthly meeting should be concerned with and doing.

If a Friend feels led to travel in the ministry what is the process being used? If there is none, what would a Friend in your yearly meeting do who felt such a call?

If individual Friends feel called to a concern or ministry, they will usually ask for a clearness committee of their monthly meeting. This process works differently within each monthly meeting. Some will provide a traveling letter for the individual and others will provide a letter of support. Some provide ongoing caring/clearness committee support. If there is further support, it is on a limited and individual meeting basis. The yearly meeting has no formal mechanism. In the past, individuals have come to the ministry and nurture committee, and they have requested a letter for the individual from the yearly meeting for support.

How are Friends who feel called to ministry being nurtured and supported? How do your local meetings deal with their members who are called to a ministry, or to travel among Friends? In what ways does your yearly meeting support the monthly meetings in this ongoing nurture?

Currently there is no formal support for the few people who are currently traveling. Three individuals have requested a support committee from their monthly meetings. The others are operating independently.

How are Friends who are engaged in ministry or traveling in the ministry held accountable? Is there a common understanding and practice among monthly meetings, or not? How does your yearly meeting understand, support, and encourage ongoing accountability?

Accountability has not been addressed at the yearly meeting level and only occasionally in monthly meetings. We have had two individuals give reports to our yearly meeting ministry and nurture committee, but this was not formally requested.

Do your monthly meetings understand and value the gifts of elders? How are the holders of these gifts discerned, nurtured, and held accountable?

There is a very limited understanding of eldering within our monthly meetings. The majority of its use has been in the negative—rather than as a gift of nurture, role model, spiritual guide and support. As a consequence, there is little discernment, nurturing, or being held accountable actively happening in our monthly meetings.

As part of the process of the consultation, the responses from the participating yearly meetings were placed in the center of pieces of newsprint. Participants were invited to reflect on the various responses and to write questions and comments. Here are the questions and comments that were written about SAYMA's responses to the queries (in no particular order):

“Just answering the questions shows you are on the right path of thinking. Keep up the good work.”

“What do you see as SAYMA's greatest need in this area? How can we help you?”

“How can we cultivate eldering as encouragement, recognition of growth, caring, nurturing, love—and still use the name Eldering—so as to reclaim its original intent? Perhaps to intentionally call out acts of loving eldering as they occur would be a place to start.”

“How might we develop a broad sense of the parameters of what we want to be accountable about? In other words, how might our meetings learn to discern what is ‘acceptable,’ ‘faithful,’ etc., and what is perhaps not?”

“Are there Friends and/or meetings in SAYMA for whom the existing processes do not seem to be working well?”

“Has your M&N Committee tackled the issue of discerning gifts present in your YM Friends? Have you garnered response?”

“How would SAYMA be changed in the availability of Friends to enter into deeper relationships with God if these practices were to be changed? Does the recognizing of gifts of ministry & eldering alter relationships within the meeting and/or between the meeting and God?”

“Regarding question number 5's response, I would be very surprised if there really was ‘little discernment, nurturing or accountability’ happening in your meetings. Perhaps the MMs have just not looked at these issues. If there is love in your meetings, then some of these things would have to be present.”

“Would your YM in session (through interest groups, workshops or speakers) or your M&N committee be interested in beginning to consider the roles of our meetings in nurturing gifts of the Spirit and holding each other accountable in love (in relation to elders)?”

“It is a great help for those traveling with a concern to feel the support of (and responsibility toward) an entire yearly meeting, even if it is only the endorsement of a traveling minute, and the responsibility of a report.”

“What do Friends in SAYMA yearn for? What gifts are you thankful for? What lacks do you desire to fill? Would organized support for ministry among you call forth the power of the Holy Spirit to satisfy your souls?”

In closing, I am grateful to have participated in this consultation. I intend to continue to reflect about this consultation and to share about it through M&N Committee and SAYMA representatives' meeting, as well as within my monthly meeting, Huntsville Area Friends Meeting. I plan to use the queries that emerged out of our worship sharing and discussions as part of my report about the consultation. Some of those queries include:

Do our meetings have ways to help members and attenders begin to recognize and nurture gifts of the Spirit?

Do the nominating committees of our monthly and yearly meetings understand that one of their primary charges is to look at gifts of members and attenders and help them take on jobs within committees that may help those gifts grow?

How can our yearly meetings help the monthly meetings reclaim the process behind some of the traditional work of ministers and elders?

How can we make it easier for those feeling led to ministry of any kind to approach our meetings for clearness and support?

Appendix C

[letter #1 from Israel & Palestine]

[letter #2 from Israel & Palestine]

Appendix D

SAYF Retreats - Autumn, 2002

SAYF is flourishing. We held a joint meeting of the Steering Committee (adults) and Nurturing Committee (teens) in August for planning and policy development.

Nurturing/Steering Committees Meeting, Atlanta GA	16-18 of Eighth Month
# of Nurturing Committee Members	6
# of Steering Committee Members	6

Three retreats were held this fall.

Chapel Hill Retreat	20-22 of Ninth Month
# of SAYFers	29
# of Full time FAPs	5
# of Part time FAPs	2
# of FAPITs	1

Theme: Service Project: Eno River Cleanup;
also a workshop on labyrinths

Penn Center Retreat	18-20 of Tenth Month
# of SAYFers	25
# of Full time FAPs	4
# of Part time FAPs	3
# of FAPITs	4
# of FADs	7

Theme: Service project: Clean up at Penn Center;
Also a trip to the beach; Community Supper & Talent Show

W. Knoxville Retreat	8-10 of Eleventh Month
# of SAYFers	33
# of Full time FAPs	6
# of Part time FAPs	7 (6 were night FAPs)
# of FAPITs	2
# of FADs	3

Theme: Fun and Dance - Tai Chi and Yoga workshops, Contra dance

A total of 51 different teens attended at least one of the these 3 retreats.
Average attendance over the three retreats was 29 SAYFers.

[FAP=Friendly Adult Presence; FAPIT= FAP in Training; FAD=Friendly Adult Driver]

Appendix E

[FWCC report missing from YM 2002 minutes]
[*unavailable at printing time*]

Appendix F

Ad Hoc SAYMA Logo Committee Report to September 7, 2002 Representative Meeting

Background

The logo committee was appointed at December 2001 Rep Meeting after the clerk pointed out that several images had been used to represent SAYMA over the years, but none had ever been formally adopted. At April 2002 Rep Meeting, the committee presented a process and timetable for developing the logo. Rep Meeting approved the proposed process, with the advice that the process might turn out to be as valuable as the final product. Rep Meeting also approved spending up to \$300, including possibly paying an artist.

Selection of Artist

Two artists with SAYMA connections submitted impressive, professional portfolios, which the logo committee reviewed at yearly meeting. We selected Jennifer Snow Wolff to be the artist.

Logo Display

At yearly meeting, the logo committee put up a display explaining the logo development process. The display included samples of logos from other Quaker organizations as well as images that had been used to represent SAYMA in the past. Friends were invited to share their thoughts about the samples by writing on the display. Many Friends participated, representing a variety of opinions and in several cases contributing sketches of their own.

Logo Discernment Meeting

At yearly meeting, the committee sponsored a 90-minute special meeting with two purposes:

- To identify the primary audience or audiences for the SAYMA logo.

- To discern elements of the message that a SAYMA logo should communicate.

Two of our three committee members, our artist, and nine other SAYMA Friends participated in the discernment meeting. Most if not all of the participants had had previous experience either with the development of logos for organizations, producing graphic art, or both. All of them agreed to serve as responders to sketches as Jennifer produces them.

The group answered the questions as follows:

- Primary audience: Quakers. (Epistles, correspondence with other yearly meetings and wider Quaker organizations, internal SAYMA communications.)

- Secondary audiences: Government officials, newspaper editors or journalists—those to whom minutes of concern might be sent.