Ministry and Nurture Committee members met twice this year, at Nashville Meeting in November 2011 and at Chattanooga Meeting in May 2012. We rejoiced in our time together and in spending time with the host Meetings.

A major event was the workshop organized by Kristi Estes, "Deepening the Spiritual Life of Our Meetings," at the Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center in Cullman, Alabama. Eighteen Friends from 8 Monthly Meetings and one remote Friend living in Jackson, Mississippi participated in fellowship and experiential learning on forming spiritually based Clearness Committees.

We began our Meetings with stories of our personal and Meeting spiritual journeys.

Below are listed some of our concerns and activities for this year.

1. We granted Gita McGahey $100 for her trip to Kenya where she was to offer medical care and to attend the FWCC Triennial.
2. We discussed membership and the term "Birthright Friend," generally agreeing that the term "Birthright Friend" sets a hierarchy and that young persons should be encouraged to become full adult members in their own right at the appropriate age. We noted that SAYMA uses the term "associate member" rather than "junior member, "and M&N members feel it is important to record young persons as associate members.
3. We discussed Outreach. Some Friends spoke positively of their Meetings' experience with Quaker Quest, but that outreach according to QQ is expensive and requires more time and energy than is available.
4. We discussed financial concerns of one SAYMA Meeting
5. We considered ideas for SAYMA workshops that would consider confidentiality versus gossip and the care and proper use of Monthly Meetings' money.
6. We were delighted and appreciative of the hard work of the committee that is publishing the new SAYMA FAITH and PRACTICE.
7. We chose greeters and Holders for Business Meetings.
8. We supported Kristi Estes in her willingness to coordinate another retreat/consultation in the East similar to that offered this past year in Cullman. The tentative focus is on New Attenders. We hope one newer Friend and one more seasoned Friend would attend the workshop/retreat.
9. We expressed concern that last year's State of the Yearly Meeting Report was not presented during Meetings for Business at SAYMA and suggest that a copy be emailed to each Monthly Meeting for distribution to Friends at their Meetings. We hope that this will encourage awareness of what goes on regionally to local Friends, many of whom are unable to attend SAYMA.
10. We prayerfully read each State of the Monthly Meeting report and drew inspiration from each. Out of these reports we compiled the State of the Yearly Meeting Reports.
11. Nancy Whitt is coming to the end of her term as Clerk of Ministry and Nurture; the possibility of Co-Clerks was discussed briefly.
12. We discussed intervisitation and nurturing the next generations of Friends, suggesting we ask Young Friends what they need from us.
13. We agreed to discuss whether or not two meetings a year of the committee are needed and the committee will discuss this concern after SAYMA.

Nancy Whitt
Clerk of Ministry and Nurture