June 10, 2004 - Fifth Day (Thursday) 2:00 p.m.

34 - 1 Opening
After a period of worship, Sharon Annis, clerk, welcomed Friends to the 34th Yearly Meeting sessions. She told Friends that we will be using readers during our meeting for business sessions, and they will be reading from the State of the Meeting reports.

34 - 2 Introduction of Visitors
Richard and Mary Barnes, Pendle Hill
Julie Harlow, representing Friends House Moscow, from California
Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch, Traveling Ministries Program
Deborah Shaw, traveling companion through Traveling Ministries Program
Ken Miller, Friends General Conference, Friends Meetinghouse Fund
David Eley, Austin, TX

34 - 3 Roll Call of Meetings, Attenders List
Administrative Assistant Mary Calhoun read the roll of meetings and worship groups. The following were represented at the beginning of this session:
Atlanta, Berea, Birmingham, Brevard, Celo, Chattanooga, Cookeville PM, Foxfire, Memphis, Nashville, New Moon WG, Royal WG, Swannanoa Valley, West Knoxville.
A list of yearly meeting attenders is included as Appendix A. Separate lists are not included for particular yearly meeting sessions.

34 - 4 State of the Meeting Reports
Assistant Clerk Kristi Estes read the reports from Annewakee Creek Worship Group and Asheville Friends Meeting. State of the Meeting reports are included as Appendix B.

34 - 5 Epistle Committee Formation
The clerk asked for volunteers for the epistle committee. Marmon Thompson volunteered. Additional volunteers will be sought in later sessions.

34 - 6 Nominating Committee Report
Penelope Wright, clerk of the Nominating Committee, presented the committee's initial report.
Clerk -- Kristi Estes, 2004 - 2006
Ecological Concerns Network -- Carol Gray, co-clerk, 2004 - 2006
Faith & Practice Committee -- Kristi Estes and Errol Hess have asked to be released from this committee. Melissa Meyer and Free Polazzo added to the committee. (Open terms)
Finance Committee -- Susan Cozzens 2004 - 2006
Ministry & Nurture Committee -- Bob McGahey, interim clerk through Fall Rep Meeting Nominating Committee -- Clerk, Sharon Annis 2004 - 2006;
members -- Perry Treadwell 2001 - 2006, Jane Goldthwait 2001 - 2006,
Penelope Wright 2001 - 2006
Personnel Committee -- member (supervisor of Administrative Assistant, ex officio), Kristi Estes
SAYF Steering Committee -- Kathleen Mavournin, third term 2000 - 2006
Yearly Meeting Planning Committee -- clerk, Errol Hess
    Adult Program -- Kim Carlyle
    Local Arrangements -- Bob Welsh
    Bookstore Coordinator -- Deanna Nipp
    Assistant Bookstore -- Edie Patrick

Tim Lamm will continue as a volunteer web manager.
AFSC SERO -- Ginny Bauman 2004 - 2005
Friends General Conference -- second 3-year term, Penelope Wright 2001 - 2007
Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer Concerns --
    Annie Black 2002 - 2006
Friends World Committee for Consultation -- representative - Hannah MacDermott 2004 - 2007
Friends Peace Team -- Bob Welsh, representative 2002 - 2006
Quaker Earth Witness -- Joyce Rouse, representative 2004 - 2006
Kitenet List-server [Electronic Communications] ad hoc committee -- Bill Reynolds, Clerk;
    Sharon Phelps, member

Minute -- Each of the above names was approved as presented.

34 - 7  Faith and Practice Revision Committee
Geeta McGahey, clerk, presented the committee's report:
The Faith and Practice Review Committee has had ten meetings over two years. We
presented the further draft changes to part I and all of Part II to Representative Meeting in
September for discernment by the monthly meetings. We received responses from Anneewakee WG,
Asheville MM, Athens MM, Berea MM, Birmingham MM, Boone MM, Brevard MM, Celo MM,
Charleston MM, Columbia MM, Crossville MM, Foxfire MM, Greenville MM, Huntsville MM,
Memphis MM, Nashville MM, Oxford MM, Swannanoa MM, and West Knoxville MM.
The suggested changes were extensive and thoughtful. We were only able to finish through
the Function of Representative Meeting Section Part II. The document you have has many of them
incorporated. With the amount of feedback generated from MM, it is impossible to take input from
individuals, but each meeting should give them an opportunity to have their input incorporated, after
seasoning in the deliberations of the MM.
We are happy to report that Free Polazzo will be able to rejoin the committee this year. I
have heard that we may have two resignations from this committee, but have not received any
personal input. In light of this, we asked Nominating Committee to seek out 1 or 2 more Friends to
serve with us.
The time frame outlined in the current F&P for review and revision of the document (every
decade from 2000) appears to be unreasonable, based on our experience with this first decade
revision. Action: Recommend that it should be ten years after the completion of the previous
review.
The link from "Documents" on SAYMA's web page to the current Faith and Practice (as
changes are approved they will be inserted), the link to our "working" document, and the link to the
proposed changes to Part I and II have been working well. Thank you, Tim Lamm.
The ad hoc committee (with representation including members from M&N and F&P
Revision) to draft text that describes rightly ordered process for worship group/monthly meeting
relationships, and the process for a monthly meeting becoming a member of SAYMA, has met once.
A draft has been given to M&N, and after their seasoning will be prepared by the ad Hoc Committee
for seasoning by MMs, and then back to F&P to include in next year's Yearly Meeting discernment.

SAYMA #34, 2004
At the April Rep meeting, it was decided that the name change was not the purview of the committee, but that discernment will continue through another process. Therefore it will not be before you today. It would have been helpful in preparing this report to have those minutes available.

We listened to comments last year and will continue a reading list, but also have a resource list. We welcome suggestions of resources submitted electronically to Geeta McGahey by 15th Day Seventh Month.

**Action: The attached proposed revisions, which have been circulated among Friends for the past nine months and available on the SAYMA website, Documents section, are submitted for approval.**

Our next meeting will be 23rd Day, Seventh Month. We have found that two-day meetings allow us to increase our work significantly. We also met at Spring Rep meeting and have been pleased to decrease vehicle miles by this and sharing rides. We will submit the work on Part II after incorporating the meetings' revisions; next year hope to finish Part IV, the Reading List and Resources, and Queries for presentation to September Rep Meeting. We anticipate the final work will be ready by September 2005.

She then read the introduction to the proposed changes. The proposals will be brought up for approval in a later session.

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**34 - 8 Ecological Concerns Network**

Susan Carlyle, clerk, presented the following report:

By way of introduction, SAYMA's Ecological Concerns Network provides assistance, including spiritual and consultative support, to Friends in Yearly Meeting who are following their leadings to work on ecological concerns. It also works to raise the level of awareness among SAYMA Friends of ecological concerns.

This year, our emphasis has been in several directions.

-- Meetings and worship groups were encouraged to lead discussions considering the Earth Charter. This dissemination of information has been a project of ECN for the past 18 months. Some of our network people visited meetings and worship groups to lead these discussions. A minute for endorsement of the Earth Charter will be presented at Yearly Meeting, June 2004.

-- At the request of three monthly meetings, ECN Friends visited these meetings and led discussions on the topic of “peace on earth is peace with earth.” We would like to visit all of SAYMA's meetings and worship groups. Please consider inviting us for forums or second hour discussions.

-- Three people in the network worked together and submitted queries to the Faith and Practice Revision Committee. Three others are currently working on an Earthcare testimony as well.

-- We continue to work on encouraging conservation of resources by facilitating a car-pooling mechanism for our Representative Meetings and Yearly Meeting.

-- We make available, at Yearly Meeting, compact fluorescent light bulbs and information about their use.

-- We are writing articles for the YM Newsletter about the use of post consumer recycled content paper and about paper reduction in general. We have asked yearly meeting to consider using only 100% pcr processed chlorine free paper. Samples of this kind of paper, as well as some tree free paper, are available to see and feel at our display here at YM.

-- This year, ECN is giving 100% organic cloth napkins to those people who wish to use them instead of paper napkins for meals.
-- We continue the monthly email newsletter distribution of ECN Connections.

There are 53 people connected to the network at present.

Susan Carlyle then presented the proposed minute about the Earth Charter:

**Proposed Minute**

We of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association of the
Religious Society of Friends (SAYMA) find the Earth Charter to be consistent
with Quaker testimonies.

We affirm its substance and encourage its application at all levels of
social organization (local, global, public, private, and corporate).

We endorse the Earth Charter as a guide consistent with our faith for
spiritual practice and for social action.

By endorsing the Earth Charter, SAYMA signifies its commitment to the
spirit and aims of the document and will continue its work on the
implementation of its principles.

Discussion focused on what it means for the yearly meeting to unite on a minute such as this one. What
difference will it make to how we live our lives? To allow more time for consideration of these questions
and of this minute, we will consider this minute again at a later session. (Clerk note: Due to time
constraints we were unable to return to this recommendation. It will come before Representative Meeting
9th month 2004.)

**34 - 9 Report from Web Manager**

Tim Lamm, SAYMA web manager, presented the following report:

**Report to Yearly Meeting 2004 from Web Manager**

The Yearly Meeting web site, [www.sayma.org](http://www.sayma.org), is first of all a medium for increasing
communication among the individuals and meetings within SAYMA, and secondly a means of
outreach to everyone in our region. Each monthly meeting and worship group in the Yearly Meeting
has a page which announces the time and place of their meetings and can include a map, contact
information and a link to their own web site, if any. The on-line documents page is a library of
minutes from Yearly Meeting and Representative Meeting sessions, the *Guide to Our Faith and
Practice*, and other documents. The web site publishes program and registration information about
Yearly Meeting events. There is a calendar of events and links to other web sites for SAYF, FGC,
and other Quaker organizations.

Over the past year, I have worked to bring this information up to date and keep it current. In
the future I hope the web site will see more use for internal SAYMA affairs, for example, by
publishing the *Southern Appalachian Friend* newsletter and providing a central workspace where
Yearly Meeting committees can post documents and announcements.

As Web Manager, I also maintain a set of e-mail addresses—one for each Monthly Meeting
and Worship Group and a number of Yearly Meeting position of responsibility. A major problem
has been the quantity of junk mail that the addressees receive, due to the public nature of the address.

In order to mitigate the junk mail problem and also to open up more possibilities for
interactive web sites, I have recently changed service plans with our web hosting provider, Interland,
Inc., of Atlanta. The new service options will include a spam filter, support for Microsoft web page
technology (ASP.NET) and database support. The web site costs $17.95 per month for hosting and
$35 per year to reserve our domain name “sayma.org.”

I would like to thank my support committee—Ceal Wutka, Kendall Ivie and Sharon
Phelps—for their interest and advice over the year. One task for next year is to write up a statement
of web policies. I’m also hoping that next year we can do on-line registration for Yearly Meeting!
Minutes Recommended by Representative Meeting for Yearly Meeting Consideration

Proposed Minute of Support for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Priscilla Adams

May God's Loving spirit uphold you as you and Priscilla Adams continue faithful in your peace witness towards the United States Government. We are especially mindful of Priscilla's leading to withhold war taxes. And we are holding her and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting in the Light. Please let us know in what practical ways we may be of help to you all at this difficult and challenging time.

Minute -- Friends approve the proposed minute. It will be sent to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Priscilla Adams by the clerk.

Proposed Minute regarding SAYMA's Peace and Social Concerns Committee

We recognize that from time to time, the Spirit moves Friends and monthly meetings to articulate a concern that may rise to the level of action. In order to serve the Yearly Meeting and its members, the Peace and Social Concerns committee will:

1. Nurture minutes of concern from monthly meetings, and facilitate their seasoning by the members of the yearly meeting;
2. Actively solicit feedback from the monthly meetings;
3. Assist in presentation of seasoned minutes to the Yearly Meeting;
4. Foster communication and interaction among the monthly meetings in SAYMA about our concerns and actions;
5. Operate as part of the whole by coordination with other committees working within SAYMA; and,
6. Report to Yearly Meeting and Representative Meeting.

Guidelines for the work of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee:

1. The Peace and Social Concerns Committee is not expected to generate minutes of concern.
2. The committee may be called to present a minute once it has been seasoned, or it may be called to shepherd and support the presentation of a minute.
3. The committee may help friends discern or understand the importance or impact of a minute, or actions that may arise from the minute.
4. The committee's work is based on holding in the Light the concerns and proposals that are brought to it.
5. The Committee may facilitate the seasoning of a minute by encouraging opportunities for all monthly meetings to examine proposals and concerns in the Light.

Minute -- Friends approve this recommendation with an addition in the first charge so it will read: "1. Nurture minutes in the area of peace and social concerns from monthly meetings, and facilitate their seasoning by the members of the yearly meeting." The next meeting for business session will consider specific recommendations about the membership of this committee.

Announcements

-- Joan Williams asked North Carolina voters to sign a petition that will appear in newspaper ads calling for a moratorium of the death penalty in North Carolina.
-- Meal times are incorrect in the program. Breakfast is from 7:30-8:30 and supper is from 5:00-6:00.
-- Copies can be made in the print shop on campus but it will close for the weekend at 4:00 p.m. on Friday.

Closing

Session ended with a moment of silence.
June 11, 2004 - Sixth Day (Friday) - 8:30 a.m.

34 - 13 Opening
After a period of worship, Clerk Sharon Annis read the following:

There are varieties of Gifts, but the same Spirit. There are varieties of service, but the same Lord. There are many forms of work, but all of them, in all men, are the work of the same God. In each of us the Spirit is manifested in one particular way, for some useful purpose. One man, through the Spirit, has the gift of wise speech, while another, by the power of the same Spirit, can put the deepest knowledge into words. Another, by the same Spirit, is granted faith; another, by the same Spirit, gifts of healing, and another miraculous powers; another has the gift of prophecy, and another has the ability to distinguish true spirits from false; yet another had the gift of prophetic utterance of different kinds, and another the ability to interpret it. But all these gifts are the work of one and the same Spirit, distributing them separately to each individual at will. (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

34 - 14 Introduction of Visitors
Roland Krieger, General Secretary, Right Sharing of World Resources
Mary Ellen McNish, General Secretary, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Executive Director
Peggie Baxter, AFSC Southeast Regional Office (SERO), Director, Emergency Material Assistance Program, Highpoint, NC
Samir Moukaddam, Program Director, Middle East Peace Education, AFSC SERO, Atlanta, GA

34 - 15 Reading
Young Adult Friends Galen Labotka and Christine VanRegenmorter read the State of the Meeting reports from Charleston, West Virginia, Chattanooga, Tennessee, Cookeville, Tennessee, and Crossville, Tennessee.

34 - 16 Site Selection Committee
Larry Ingle spoke to the difficulty in finding a site for yearly meeting further west. The committee has visited Shorter College in Rome, GA and has found out that the site is available for our use next year on a good weekend. The campus is compact and relatively flat. The facilities would meet our needs and the prices are somewhat less than at Warren Wilson. Friends asked questions about the available facilities and the committee will get additional information and bring it to a later session.

34 – 17 Treasurer's Report
David Ciscel presented the treasurer's report. It is in Appendix C.
Minute -- Friends accept the report.

34 - 18 Epistle Committee
Mary Ann Downey and Steve Livingston volunteered to join Marmon Thompson on the epistle committee.

34 - 19 Ad Hoc Committee on WG/PM/MM/YM Relationship
Kristi Estes presented the following report:

The recommendations from this ad hoc committee will go to Ministry and Nurture for further consideration, then back to the Ad Hoc Committee, then to Monthly Meetings for review and comments. Revised recommendations will then be sent to the Faith and Practice Revision Committee. Proposed changes will then be brought to the Yearly Meeting by the Faith and Practice Committee. Recommendations from Ad Hoc Committee are in Appendix C.

SAYMA #34, 2004
Personnel Committee
Kristi Estes, clerk of the personnel committee, reported for the Personnel committee:

As reported at the Spring Representative Meeting, the Personnel Committee has met several times this year. The committee has created an updated job description for the SAYMA Administrative Assistant position and reviewed the time necessary for performing this job. It is our judgment that the job currently requires more than quarter time. We recommend that the job description be changed to a 1/3 time position and the salary be adjusted accordingly. We also recommend that each employee (the SAYMA and SAYF Administrative Assistants) be given a cost of living adjustment for the current year.

The current job description for the administrative assistant's position will be posted in the hall so Friends can review it. The committee's recommendation for the change in time from one-quarter time to one-third time in the administrative assistant's position will be considered in a later session. See Appendix C

Minute -- Friends accept the report.

Announcements
-- Mary Ann Downey is on the Friends Journal board and announced that Friends Journal won an award for the issue on diversity and the first place award for the best article went to the article on hearing loss that was in that issue. She has copies of the Journal to distribute and special deals for new subscribers.
-- Joyce Rouse sang an announcement recruiting performers for the talent show.
-- Dorothy Day is here as a yearly meeting visitor with the Friends General Conference yearly meeting visitors committee.

Reports from Wider Quaker Organizations
AFSC  Deborah Johnson introduced Mary Ellen McNish, the general secretary of AFSC.

Mary Ellen spoke to us about the current work of AFSC and some growing pains there. As a result of many retreats and consultations, in the next five years AFSC will be focusing on two main areas: on peace and on migration and human mobility. The report of the SAYMA representative to AFSC is attached in Appendix C.

Friends Peace Teams  Bob Welsh presented the following report:
Friends Peace Teams is celebrating its tenth anniversary by growing and changing. This year we incorporated as a non-profit corporation and separated form Baltimore Yearly Meeting, which had been our fiscal sponsor. We have also filed for 501c3 tax exempt status. We have begun a process of revising our structure and development goals in consultation with Steve Baumgartner, an experienced Quaker consultant, fund-raiser and organizational specialist, and the Executive Director of Pendle Hill.

In FPT's work in the U.S., which focuses on providing resources on peacemaking to Monthly Meetings, Rosa Packard of New York Yearly Meeting has provided strong leadership. The basic theme of this work is to elevate the role of conscience among Friends. Are we giving support in our Meetings to Friends whose conscience leads them to take courageous steps into the challenging field of peacemaking? Friends Peace Teams hopes to provide Meetings with encouragement and with resources to say YES to this Query.

The work of the African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) continues to be the most exciting aspect of Friends Peace Team work. I am attaching to this report the recent letter of David Zarembka which describes the workshops which AGLI and Rwanda Yearly Meeting are sponsoring, some of them offering desperately needed AVP training and others in the area of trauma healing and reconciliation. (Letter is attached in Appendix C.)

Work camps have been an outgrowth of the friendships with Friends in the East African
region. In summer of 2003 there were successful work camps in Uganda and Burundi. Schoolrooms and homes for returning refugees of conflict were built, and international and local participants made friends and practiced peace-building skills. Several African work camps are planned for 2003.

FPT’s experience in Colombia has involved a great deal of listening and friendship. An exploratory team of Friends went to Colombia in 2002, and FPT returned there in 2003 to train 19 Colombians as Alternatives to Violence facilitators. Reports show that FPT visits there have strengthened friendship and spiritual support with friends of peace in Colombia’s difficult environment.

In 2003 a Re-Entry Manual was written for use of North American FPT participants and their Clearness and Support committees in the home Meetings. This manual gives recognition and tools to meet the spiritual challenges when Friends span communities in peacemaking efforts. The re-entry part of the peace team experience, often a time for learning and healing, is now more fully addressed.

Right Sharing of World Resources
Geeta McGahey introduced Roland Kreager, the general secretary.

Right Sharing has been in existence for 35 years and has been independent for 5 years. He made three main points. Capacity building has been a focus for right sharing as it develops as an independent group. Another focus has been the intentional outreach to Friends in the developing world, particularly among Quakers in Kenya. A third focus is on bringing Right Sharing home and talking to U.S. Quakers about the difference Right Sharing can make to us. It is possible for a group or individuals to contribute to a specific project and know that their funds will go to that project.

June 12, 2004 - Sixth Day (Saturday), 9:30 a.m.

34 - 23 Opening
After a period of worship, Clerk Sharon Annis made some announcements: the job descriptions for yearly meeting employees have been posted at the front table and comments are invited.

34 - 24 Visitors and Alternatives to Violence
Visitors
Clemence Mershon, FWCC visitor from Lake Erie Yearly meeting
Ruby Bray, Wilmington North Carolina Friends Meeting

Alternatives to Violence Project
Ruby Bray, spoke to us about AVP. She has personally worked in a variety of prisons and jails. At about the same time she started that work, a group of men in a jail in New York asked Quakers for help in dealing with violence. A couple of years ago she heard the leading to return to prison work. She learned about AVP and is going through the training to become an AVP facilitator and trainer. Areas of concern include prevention in the community, change in the regulation of prisons, and work with law enforcement and the judicial system with the goal of incarceration being the last resource. Finally, work with people returning to the community from incarceration is vital in preventing recidivism. AVP is one way to address these needs. She will offer an introductory AVP training on Halloween weekend in Wilmington.

34 - 25 State of the Meeting Reports
Nick Kurtz and Nicole Rennie read the state of the meeting reports from Greenville Monthly Meeting, Royal Worship Group, Sevier County Worship Group, and Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting.
Census and Roll Call
Mary Calhoun read the roll call of meetings and worship groups. The following groups were represented at the beginning of this session: Annewakee Creek WG, Asheville, Atlanta, Berea, Birmingham, Brevard, Celo, Chattanooga, Clemson WG, Columbia, Cookeville PM, Foxfire, Greenville, Huntsville, Memphis, Nashville, New Moon WG, Swannanoa Valley, West Knoxville.

Census
Mary reported on the June 2004 census. The census is attached in Appendix C. All but two monthly meetings and five worship groups made reports. 1271 members and attenders were reported. There were 7 births and adoptions, 8 deaths, 12 transfers of membership in and eight transfers out. 22 attenders became members and 42 people became regular attenders with 32 previous attenders no longer attending.

Faith and Practice Revision Committee
Minute -- Friends approve the proposed revisions for Part I with the clarification that FWCC is the registered Friends representative to The Quaker UN office. Part Two was approved through Positions of Responsibility with the change of the word "deal"to "work"at the bottom of page four and with the exception of the paragraphs now labeled SAYMA representative and Other SAYMA Service and other positions. These paragraphs are sent back to the Faith and Practice Revision committee to consider the role of the monthly meeting in the formation of the SAYF steering committee and to clarify this section. The section on monthly meeting committees in part two was approved with the following change in the Finance Committee description: "The Finance committee with the collaboration of the treasurer prepares the budget, reviews and audits the financial records and considers unbudgeted requests." In the last paragraph on page 10 the last sentence will read: "All other persons serving in yearly meeting positions of responsibility participate in representative meeting." The yearly meeting section starting on page 9 of the appendix and through the first paragraph on Functions of Representative Meeting is approved with the change of the first two sentences in this section to "composed of its constituent monthly meetings, preparative meetings, and worship groups. All members and attenders of these bodies have both the privilege and responsibility to participate in keeping the affairs of the yearly meeting in good order."

Finance Committee
Finance Committee clerk Chris Berg presented the following report:

The Finance Committee recommends that the SAYMA fiscal year be revised. It is proposed that the current year be extended through the ninth month, thirtieth day, and that subsequent years begin on the first day of tenth month and run for twelve months to September 30 of the succeeding year. The reasons for the change are: 1) to permit the presentation of a final budget for the coming year to a September representatives meeting in a context of greater fiscal certainty. 2.) To permit transfers of the treasurer office to be handled at a time which conflicts less with closure of books for a year.

To this end, the Finance Committee is offering for your consideration a guide budget for fiscal year 2005, beginning the first of tenth month, 2004. It is planned to resubmit this budget with any necessary modifications to the September representative meeting. If this change is approved, the treasurer proposes to extend the current (fiscal 2004) budget from the end of sixth month to the end of ninth month. Ongoing line items would be adjusted to add a 25% proportion, with the exception of Personnel, which is to be adjusted at the beginning of seventh month, as follows:

As recommended by the Personnel Committee, the Finance Committee is proposing to adjust the personnel line item to pay the SAYMA Administrative Assistant on a one-third time basis.
beginning the first of seventh month. The Finance Committee also proposes to adjust compensation for the cost of living by 2.5% on that date for both administrative assistants.

The budget being presented reflects expected receipts based on our $55 assessment. As shown on the spreadsheet, this would yield a roughly $4000 anticipated deficit. We do not recommend a precise assessment for fiscal 2005 at this time, but will bring that recommendation to the September representative meeting.

**Minute** -- Friends accept the report and approve the recommendation to change SAYMA’s fiscal year as outlined in the report.

**June 13, 2004, First Day, 9:30 a.m.**

**34 - 29 SAYF, JYM, and YAF Epistles**

**Southern Appalachian Young Friends Epistle** The SAYF epistle was read by Liza Kurtz, James Bartow, and Elaine Ruscetta:

Southern Appalachian Young Friends is a group of teens ages 12 - 18 who gather periodically for weekend retreats in various locations around the Southeast. We Rock ... and that’s about all you need to know. So what do we do on these retreats? We’ll tell you.

August: We went back to Wren's beautiful house in Black Mountain, NC for a joint steering, oversight and nurturing committee retreat to start off the year. One of our numerous accomplishments was to establish a clerk discernment process.

September: In September, Friends gathered at Chapel Hill for a retreat on diversity. Activities included trust and diversity games, a thought-provoking question series and a dance.

October: We went to South Carolina on October for our annual Penn Center Work Camp. Aside from doing our usual service projects we went to the beach and had a potluck with the wider community.

November: In November we gathered in West Knoxville for a retreat on the theme of mindfulness. Activities included a fun workshop, a silent lunch, and a healing circle. Friends also decorated the meetinghouse with favorite quotations.

January: Asheville hosted the January retreat with a theme of fellowship. Many group games were played and led by members of the Asheville meeting.

February: The steering, oversight, and nurturing committees met at Kathleen Mavournin's house for our mid-year meetings. We formulated an official method (or madness) for recording minutes and making them available at retreats.

March: Friends gathered in Chapel Hill in March to discuss health, both physical and spiritual. Activities included a workshop and two silent walks through the woods. We also had a blast roller skating on Saturday night.

April: The final retreat before SAYMA took place in West Knoxville, focusing on the theme of creativity. Relating to the theme were a service project for hospice, a workshop on pottery making, and a worship-sharing on creativity. We also had kabobs for dinner on Saturday. Yum!

SAYMA: Finally, we gathered this weekend at Warren Wilson College to enjoy an extra-long retreat with the wider community a.k.a. you fabulous folks! We spent part of the weekend holding in the light a Young Friend who lost a family member. We participated in workshops, went swimming, and had an uplifting and saddening graduation ceremony.

Thanks to everyone who made this possible! We love the SAYF community and hope you'll continue to help us support it!

**Junior Yearly Meeting Epistle** The Junior Yearly Meeting epistle was presented by the entire group.

The things we liked that we did this weekend were: we played kick the can, made candles, made two candles and one that was really fat, made a monkey bridge, listened to stories especially
Jack and the devil, went and crossed the bridge, went swimming, made a wax kabob by scrapping wax, we are going to play soccer (finally), making the bridge, liked the talent show and being in it.

Young Adult Friends Epistle  YAF Nicole Rennie presented the epistle and the entire group sang the last section of their epistle.

34 - 30  Site Selection Committee
Larry Ingle reported that they contacted Shorter College and got additional information. Single rooms are available, arrangements can be made for cooking for the simple living group, children under 6 will costs $5 per day for a room, there are camping facilities nearby but not on the college grounds. Room and board fees are less than here at Warren Wilson. They have assured us that all Friends will be welcome there, there is space for the children's program, and the campus is flatter and more compact. The committee recommends that our YM sessions be held there on June 9-12, 2005 and the following year.

.Minute -- Friends accept the recommendation of the committee to go to Shorter College for the next year and potentially the next year.

34 - 31  Finance Committee
The committee noted that it appears that no addition in the assessment will be needed for the next fiscal year.

.Minute -- Friends approve a $200 contribution to Williams Penn House. With that addition, Friends also approve the proposed budget for the new twelve-month fiscal year starting in October 2004. The assessment will not change before next yearly meeting.

34 - 32  Nominating Committee
Penelope Wright presented these additional nominations:
Personnel Committee -- member, Anne Welsh
SAYF Oversight Committee -- member, Margaret Farmer
SAYF Steering Committee -- co-clerk, Kathleen Mavournin 2004 - 2006;
   members -- Joy Gosset, Adrienne Labotka
YM Planning Committee--
   Local arrangements -- Bob Welsh is released from local arrangements
   Bookstore -- Deanna Nip, extended to 2006
   YAF rep -- Christina VanRegenmorter
FCNL -- Carol Nickle
Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Queer Concerns -- Gary Briggs, co-rep
Still pending --
   Assistant clerk        SAYF Steering committee, additional members
   F&P member            Ministry and Nurture clerk
   FCNL                 Co-registrar
   FWCC

.Minute -- Friends approved each of these nominations as they were presented.
A question was raised about whether we should decide the question of representation to William Penn House now rather than defer it to the nominating committee, and whether we no longer trust the spirit to make decisions in the meeting for business rather than referring all decisions to committees. It was noted that we have not received a request for a representative to William Penn House.

.Minute -- It is the sense of the meeting that we ask that the Nominating Committee consider the question of a representative to William Penn House and bring a recommendation to representative meeting. We appreciate the willingness of Errol Hess to serve as that representative. The Meeting will
continue to try to respond to concerns as they are raised in a spirit-led fashion and determine if they need to be referred to committee or whether they will be considered by the meeting as a whole. The entire roster of those in yearly meeting positions of responsibility is attached as Appendix E.

**34 - 33 Additional Business**

Reports submitted to yearly meeting but not presented in session

*Minute* -- Reports that have not yet been shared will be attached as Appendix D.

Bob McGahey announced that Ministry and Nurture will be having a retreat on October 2-3, and invited those so led to attend the retreat.

**34 - 34 SAYMA Epistle**

Steve Livingston read the proposed epistle:

> To Friends Everywhere:

Mountain roads slowed us down and helped us come Spirit-led to the annual Gathering of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA). We gathered in the Swannanoa River valley at Warren Wilson College, June 10-13, 2004, to consider the theme “Feeding the Flames of Faith: Integrating Spirit and Action”. The Western North Carolina mountains greeted us with lovely weather: huge clouds, wide blue sky, and warm temperatures.

Attendance at the Gathering numbered around 240, about the same as in other recent years. This reflects the population of our yearly meeting, which has remained quite stable, showing an increase of about three percent this year over last year’s census. Our yearly meeting is blessed with 33 monthly meetings and worship groups spread over a wide geographical area, including Charleston WV, Berea KY, Boone NC, Columbia SC, Atlanta GA, Oxford MS, and Memphis TN.

As we came together from our far-flung homes, we renewed old acquaintances and made new ones over excellent meals, much of the food organically grown right here on the Warren Wilson campus. The agenda allowed for quiet fellowship during the breaks between scheduled activities.

In the evening plenary sessions, we heard from two SAYMA Friends on Thursday and three on Friday, describing how their spiritual journeys have led them to action. Our worship sharing centered on queries about how we integrate our spiritual lives and activism. The more intimate setting enabled each of us to speak and listen on a deeper level about our personal journeys of faith and action.

On Saturday night we enjoyed a different kind of sharing, with an intergenerational "talent show". Friends sang, played piano and guitar, told stories and jokes, laughed, clapped, cheered, and congratulated one another. A highlight was the "monkey bridge", a rope and wood rigging that required the cooperation of a whole team of volunteers.

Most of the seventeen workshops were led by SAYMA Friends, with four being led by invited guests, from American Friends Service Committee, Friends General Conference Traveling Ministry Program, Quaker House, and Right Sharing of World Resources. Some of the workshops were more presentational in nature, but among the best attended were two very participatory workshops: "Headless Experiments for Worship and Action" and "Make a Joyful Noise: Singing out of the Quaker Hymnal."

Yearly Meeting provided many opportunities for gathered worship after the manner of Friends, with early morning worship in an open pavilion, and a regular hour of worship each day. Another highlight of this year’s Gathering was the Meeting for Remembrance of Friends whose lives have touched ours in profound ways. Our worship helped us prepare for the work that was set before us in our daily meeting for business sessions.

Rather than hearing all of the State of the Society Reports at once, we heard two to four
reports at each of the first three business sessions, some of which were read by SAYMA teens and young adults. We were inspired by reports from some of the wider Quaker organizations in which SAYMA Friends are active, including American Friends Service Committee, Right Sharing, Alternatives to Violence Program, Friends Journal, and Friends Peace Teams. Our meetings for business were not without difficulty and we did occasionally engage in “word smithing,” but for the most part we accomplished our work in good Quaker order, finding the sense of the meeting in many cases and referring back to committee those matters we were not able to settle.

The workshops, worship, and presentations of the Yearly Meeting gave us all additional resources and renewed energy to continue our Spirit-led work in our Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups, communities, and personal lives.

Minute -- Friends accepted the epistle as read with thanks.
Our epistle will be translated into Spanish and will be distributed widely.

34 - 35 Nominating Committee
Penelope Wright presented the following name:
Co-registrar -- Ceal Wutka

Minute -- This nomination was approved.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee:
Minute -- Friends ask that the Nominating Committee name up to seven members to the Peace and Social Concerns committee including the clerk and co-clerk of that committee. Missy Ivie asked to be recorded as standing aside from this decision.

34 - 36 Registrar's Report
Beth Myers:
This year total attendance was 249.
Junior Yearly Meeting -- 21 in attendance
Southern Appalachian Young Friends -- 30
Young Adult Friends -- 15
People attended from 23 monthly meetings and worship groups.

34 - 37 Approval of Minutes
Friends approved these minutes throughout the course of the Yearly Meeting, subject to final editing by the clerk and the recording clerk.

___________________________  ______________________________
Kristi Estes, Clerk  Lee Ann Swarm, Recording Clerk
(archive copy signed)  (archive copy signed)
Appendix B: State of the Meeting Reports

Anneewakee Creek Worship Group
Asheville Monthly Meeting *
Athens Monthly Meeting
Atlanta Monthly Meeting
Berea Monthly Meeting *
Birmingham Monthly Meeting *
Brevard Monthly Meeting
Celo Monthly Meeting *
Charleston Monthly Meeting *
Chattanooga Monthly Meeting *
Columbia Monthly Meeting *
Cookeville Preparative Meeting *
Crossville Monthly Meeting *
Foxfire Monthly Meeting
Greenville Monthly Meeting *
Huntsville Monthly Meeting *
Memphis Monthly Meeting *
Nashville Monthly Meeting
New Moon Worship Group *
Oxford Monthly Meeting
Royal Worship Group *
Sevier County Monthly Meeting *
Swannanoa Valley Monthly Meeting *
West Knoxville Monthly Meeting *

* available in hard copy only
ANNEEWAKEE CREEK FRIENDS WORSHIP GROUP
State of the Worship Group Report

Our small worship group is nearly six years old and is in process of growing. With financial help and spiritual support from Friends in Atlanta Meeting, we have found a new site for worship and will hold our first meeting there on 7-18-04.

We will be moving to 2078 Fairburn Road, #10 (in the Yoga room at the “I AM Wonderful” Health and Nutrition Store). The store is located just 1/3 of a mile South of I-20 in Douglasville, Ga. in the first small strip mall on the left. We will have a large sign out front, mostly paid for by Atlanta Friends. The room where we will meet is quiet and peaceful with a wonderful hand-painted mural on the wall. Atlanta Meeting has donated chairs as they are replacing them with new ones in their meeting room. The owner of “I Am Wonderful”, Karla Olterman, is quite enthusiastic and supportive and we look forward to a cordial relationship. One of our occasional attenders works for the local newspaper and will write and publish a press release a couple of weeks before we begin meeting in our new space. We also registered for the URL: acfwg.org and designed a web site with information about Friends. Directions to our meeting will be on the world wide web by the time the FGC Gathering begins.

Sue May of Atlanta Friends Meeting came and explained how building enhancements at the FCNL offices in Washington, DC would increase Friends presence in the nation's capital. At the end of the presentation we made a donation to the Friends Committee for National Legislation. We have continued our ongoing support of the local domestic violence shelter in coordination with the local Unitarian-Universalist congregation. We have distributed “War Is Not The Answer” signs and bumper stickers around the county.

Some of the other social concerns to which attenders have contributed time and money are the local hospice program, a Simplicity Study Group that meets in the local Borders Bookstore, and an Atlanta chapter of a nationwide group of business persons advocating and implementing socially responsible business practices. Support went to a men’s program to stop domestic violence, to a local fibromyalgia support group, and to national and international programs and projects developed and run by individual Friends. We supported former AFSC-SERO’s Middle East Program Director, Ilise Cohen in establishing a new program to bring people from different cultures and political affiliations together to work on projects which will increase justice and peace in the world.

Please hold us in the Light of the Holy Spirit as we move forward.

Janet Minshall for Anneewakee Creek Friends Worship Group
6-8-04

Asheville Monthly Meeting

SAYMA Yearly Meeting 2004 — Appendix B: State of the Meeting Reports “21”
(available in hard copy only)
Asheville Monthly Meeting
(cont'd.)
(available in hard copy only)
State of the Meeting Report
Athens (Georgia) Religious Society of Friends
Monthly Meeting of S.A.Y.M.A.
Sixth Month, 2004 (year 2003-2004)

Athens Friends Meeting continued to actively participate in worship, service, action and discussion throughout the year. We are grateful for the service of our co-clerks Betsey Collins and Deb Weiler. Weekly attendance at meeting for worship continues to range from 7 to 15. We are trying a new schedule, with discussion or business meetings held during first hour, followed by a break, and worship held during second hour. Our First Day School has been inactive this year. We have three youths who attend SAYF retreats regularly.

We welcomed Charlie Rowland into membership last June. Recently, he has begun to organize our archives. Jack and Bobbie Coker transferred their membership from Lanthorn Monthly Meeting (Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting) to Athens Monthly Meeting. These new members already seem like they have been with us for much longer and we appreciate their steady light. We have welcomed several new, regular attenders also. Several homeless advocates, who choose to live with the homeless, trying to provide a supportive atmosphere, joined us in worship throughout the fall. Their presence led us to explore some of the issues related to homelessness.

We held discussions and worship sharing on a variety of topics including: accepting our various faith-perspectives; mindfulness; Friend's Peace Teams; First Day School; SAYMA's Faith & Practice; Hiroshima and Nagasaki; prayer; separation of church and state; early spiritual development; alternative transportation; the Earth Charter; the writings of Eckhart Tolle; prisoner rehabilitation, and the Central American Free Trade Association (CAFTA).

As has become our custom, we held a candle-lighting worship on Christmas Eve. For Easter, we broke with tradition, and held worship in a shelter house at a local park in response to several years of rain on our outdoor worship. We provided presents for a family with whom we have a long relationship. We wrapped their presents at our Christmas potluck and party. We also provided funding for Christmas presents for children of Athens Justice Project’s clients. We held a Winter Solstice Celebration for the first time this year.

The meeting participated in a variety of events in Athens. We continued to co-host a neighborhood ice cream social with Oconee Methodist Church, our landlords. This year we collected and gave away children's books at the ice cream social. We hosted programs for the Center for Development in Central America (CDCA) in August and April. We provided literature tables at the World Trade Film Forum and at the Athens Human Rights Festival. At the Human Rights Festival, one of our members gave a talk about the draft, registration, and military recruitment. Meeting members assisted with the 4- and 5-year old Montessori public school classroom taught by one of our...
members. A garage sale was held to raise funds for classroom supplies.

Athens Friends joined with several groups to publicly demonstrate our support for global peace and justice. Members attended walks, vigils, and informative talks. We collaborated with the Athens Global Justice Collective, Women in Black, and Citizens not Suspects. We joined Common Ground, a local progressive networking organization. The meeting co-hosted a local showing of the “Global Village or Global Pillage” video with the Presbyterian Student Center. We provided a letter explaining Friends beliefs regarding rehabilitation to the State Board of Pardons and Parole in response to a request to support the parole of a prisoner with whom we have corresponded for many years.

We have begun disbursing charitable contributions twice annually rather than maintaining a large savings, however, we have accounts designated for contributions for meeting house savings. Meeting house savings are invested in The Center for Development in Central America, and will also be invested in the Friends Meeting House Fund.
Atlanta Friends Meeting
Spiritual State of the Meeting, 2003

America, the richest and most powerful nation in the world, can well lead the way in [a] revolution of values. There is nothing, except a tragic death wish, to prevent us from reordering our priorities, so that the pursuit of peace will take precedence over the pursuit of war. There is nothing to keep us from molding a recalcitrant status quo with bruised hands until we have fashioned it into a brotherhood. … War is not the answer.
- Dr. Martin Luther King, in “Beyond Vietnam: A Time to Break Silence"

On March 20, 2003, the United States military began bombing Iraq. The Atlanta peace movement had had its instructions in place for several days: “Meet at Five Points. Bring signs, banners, candles, and your resistance!” I made my way from the MARTA station to the demonstration with an exceedingly heavy heart, and tears in my eyes (tears that are there again as I write these words, not erased by the year that has passed). My country had defied the United Nations, a massive international peace movement, and our own steadfast peace testimony, by starting a war. The facts were beyond my belief then, and now. The scene was surreal, as young protesters from movements less than a year old stopped traffic on Peachtree and chanted anti-Bush slogans.

Scattered among the crowd were our Atlanta Friends Meeting and AFSC activists, distributing “War is Not the Answer” signs. In the crowd were five stalwarts, including two from the Meeting, who had been arrested at Senator Zell Miller’s office for asking to discuss the war with him.

Elizabeth and Courtney Siceloff were there, Elizabeth in her wheelchair, with Courtney faithfully pushing it. As I begin this report of the spiritual state of Atlanta Friends Meeting in 2003, their image stays before me. Brighter than any candle, this couple shone that day with faith in the power that takes away the occasion of all war. Sixty-plus years of work for peace and social justice had not tired them, but rather given them more determination, energy, and life. They personified the peace testimony, as they had for decades. No mere invasion could stop their work.

True to the same Spirit, Atlanta Meeting members this year have helped consolidate the momentum of the peace movement, planting the seeds of a new Georgia Peace and Justice Coalition in the ground plowed by anti-war work. In Atlanta now, “Every Church (is) a Peace Church” -- the name of a new coalition of black and white churches in the area.

Elizabeth Siceloff could not have had a better memorial than this newly invigorated movement. When she died in early June, the Meeting community gathered with her family, still full of the love she had given them. The Meetinghouse could not hold the memorial service, which moved to a larger space. We were grateful that Courtney and Elizabeth had recorded their stories on videotape, as part of a Meeting project. Courtney has now relocated to East Lake Commons, among many Friends.

In October, we experienced a second deep loss, when Ed Turner was killed suddenly in a car accident. Ed was a truly original personality. We knew him for his steady kindness and quiet consideration, but learned at his memorial service about his mathematical abilities, his sense of humor, and his international travels. The places Elizabeth and Ed once occupied in the Meeting Room still feel empty.
Meeting for Worship has been physically and spiritually full. In 2003, the Meeting attracted many new attenders, people seeking a spiritual home to deal with the turmoil around them. We successfully encouraged families to join Meeting during the first fifteen minutes of worship. In August, we hosted the Fellowship of Friends of African descent, welcoming Quakers from many parts of the United States. We began a process of reconciliation with the Anneewakee Worship Group, and are considering a quarterly meeting to create a greater sense of community among Friends in north Georgia.

The Ad Hoc Group was formed at the May, 2002, Business Meeting, to address the needs of an employee who had resigned and the racism within the meeting that led to the resignation. They are seeking a path by which the Meeting community may acknowledge and abandon attitudes that keep us from answering that of God in every person. The Group asks the Meeting to hold them in the Light as they continue to search for a way forward toward that goal.

The committee formerly known as “Oversight” changed its name to “Administration Committee” this year with the blessing of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. Administration Committee took seriously its duty to examine the personal racism in the lives of individual members as well as in its approach to committee business this past year, in hiring, leases, confronting instances of racism and racial insensitivity in the Meetinghouse, bringing questions of racism to the broader Meeting community, and setting aside a time in each of its meetings to examine committee process with respect to racial sensitivity.

The Meeting provided assistance for several efforts at our sister community, El Sitio, El Salvador, this year. Two activities supported by the annual collaboration of the Meeting were $500 to pay teachers for the upper grades in the school and $1100 for the initial phases of an effort of CRC to improve organization among youth, from 15 to 25 years old, in its communities. A $5000 small loan fund created a number of years ago for women began to function this year as well. In addition, members and friends of the Meeting pledged a total of over $25,000 to establish a loan fund for University students for the next 3-5 years.

Average weekly attendance for First Day School is 23 children per week, not counting the high school class. The basic curriculum structure for the classes are as follows: Upper Elementary and Junior High are building their curriculum around the New Testament. Lower Elementary is focusing on Quaker values and diversity. The primary curriculum centers around Quaker values with lesson stories coming from the New Testament and children's literature with no more than 50% of stories derived from the New Testament.

The 2003 Gathered Meeting Retreat in March was an opportunity for attenders to explore Quaker testimonies throughout a weekend of mini-workshops facilitated by Meeting members. The mini-workshops, simplicity, peace, integrity, community and equality (S.P.I.C.E.), began with a seven- to ten-minute videotape segment of meeting elders talking about their lives as Friends and each of the testimonies.

The Library added to its collection several more items devoted to the history or sociology of race relations in the United States. A new subcommittee of the Meetinghouse Committee cleaned out the kitchen. Other Friends posted an art exhibit in the Greeting Room.

Ministry and Worship worked on a number of approaches to deepening the quality and spirit of worship throughout the year. The perennial issues of latecomers, inappropriate messages and inaudible messages were approached with varying degrees of success. M&W
spent much of the year on the issue of racism within the Meeting. They discussed the queries presented by ORAIARH, as well as the continuum on the inclusive church.

With commitment from the Social Concerns Committee, in 2003 the Atlanta Friends Meeting was involved in several initiatives trying to bring peace and justice to the Atlanta area, our nation and the world. In early 2003 we continued to distribute "War Is Not the Answer" yard signs. Work in making people of all races welcome in the Meeting included ORAIARH's weekly anti-racism meetings and table of information, monthly meetings on "Raising Non-Racist Children," and promotion of and participation in initiatives led by Concerned Black Clergy and the Georgia Citizen's Coalition on Hunger, including the Grady Coalition and Poor People's Day at the Capitol. In the area of care of the earth, members of meeting helped to initiate Georgia Interfaith Power & Light (GIPL) to encourage faith groups to work on green power production.

The Young Friends program continued with activities oriented towards both service and community-building that brought 6th through 12th-graders together after meeting and at other times during the week. Examples of activities include cleaning up Meetinghouse grounds and lunch and pool-playing at Twain's. The year ended with a "lock-in" at the Meetinghouse during which about eight young Friends made dinner and shared it with residents of a homeless shelter.

Friends contributed generously to the Meeting during 2003, and we were able to approve all budget requests for 2004.

In 2003 we welcomed nine people into membership in the Atlanta Meeting. Daphne Clement, Julie Hirneisen-Sarosy, Cam McWhirter and Alex Horsley transferred from other Friends Meetings. Amy Pritchett, Scott King, Joe Parko, Erika Fitz and Elaine Ruscetta joined as new members. We were saddened by the deaths of two members, Elizabeth Siceloff and Ed Turner, during the year. David Thurman and Duncan Teague married under the care of the Meeting. As of Twelfth Month 31, 2003, Atlanta Friends Meeting has 128 active members, 107 in the Atlanta area and 21 outside the Atlanta area, plus many active attenders.

We are a vibrant, diverse spiritual community, moving in the Light into 2004.

-- Susan Cozzens, Clerk
Berea Monthly Meeting

(available in hard copy only)
Birmingham Monthly Meeting

(available in hard copy only)
Birmingham Monthly Meeting

(cont'd.)

(available in hard copy only)
Birmingham Monthly Meeting

(cont'd.)

(available in hard copy only)
BREVARD (NC) FRIENDS MEETING:
Report to SAYMA Yearly Meeting:  June 10, 2004

Members: 15 Adults   Attenders: 20   Average attendance at Worship: 15

Our Meeting continues to be small: 15 members (4 non-resident), 13 regular attenders, and 7 less regular.  While our energies are limited, making it difficult to carry on as many activities as we would like, our core of members and attenders is a dedicated, conscientious group.  Our Meetings for Worship are good and meaningful, but visitors from other Meetings could be helpful in enriching our worship experience. We continue to seek ways to enlarge, and diversify, our numbers.

We were saddened by the death of member Betty Neale on January 26, 2004.  Betty joined our Meeting in 1995, was Recording Clerk for 3 years, compiled a booklet of autobiographical sketches of members/attenders, kept a photo display of members, and graced our Meeting with her quiet presence.

We regret that Lury Ignizio withdrew her membership, and that of her five children, due to their inability to attend or to be active in our Meeting.

We have added no new members, but are delighted to have several new attenders.

Activities beyond Meeting for Worship, and bi-monthly Meetings for Business include: monthly “Meetings for Eating”; bi-weekly Adult Forum, using Pendle Hill Pamphlets Spiritual Discernment by Patricia Loring, Mysticism and the Experience of Love by Howard Thurman, and the book Plain Living, by Catherine Whitmire; and two Friendly Eights groups which meet occasionally.  Our only committee to meet regularly is Ministry & Oversight.

Our Meeting Newsletter, written by Jesse Mock after each Meeting for Business, keeps everyone in touch.  In addition, we strive to stay connected through e-mail, telephone, and one-on-one visits.

Events of particular note:

- Post two directional signs for the Meeting, which are placed only on Sundays.
- Donated $3,000, from the Donna Waterman Fund, to the FCNL Building Campaign.
- Hosted Wes Cheney, traveling minister, biking to Ft. Benning protests against “Sch. Of Americas”.
- Gave physical and financial support to Mercy Seat, our local housing for the homeless.
- Continue assisting Center for Dialogue, Sharing House, and Adopt-a-Family programs.
- Studied, and endorsed, The Earth Charter.
- Worshipped with 11 other faith groups at Thanksgiving, Week of Christian Unity, and Lent.
On the occasion of the 15th anniversary celebration of the Center for Dialogue (which our Meeting initiated), members Jesse and Dorothy Mock were presented with Transylvania County's first "Architects of a Peaceful Community" award. Friends heartily approve this award!

Our Meeting does not have a local "Quaker" project as such, but our members are engaged in war protests, work against the death penalty, writing/calling state and national legislators, and working with other local groups in addition to those mentioned above.

Grace, Peace, and Love

[Approved, Meeting for Business, May 16, 2004]
Celo Monthly Meeting

(available in hard copy only)
Charleston Monthly Meeting

(available in hard copy only)
Chattanooga Monthly Meeting

(available in hard copy only)
Chattanooga Monthly Meeting

(cont'd.)

(available in hard copy only)
Columbia Monthly Meeting

(available in hard copy only)
Cookeville Preparative Meeting

(available in hard copy only)
Crossville Monthly Meeting

(available in hard copy only)
Our visibility in the neighborhood grows. Our grounds have undergone improvements with new flowers and trees and a tree house is in progress. A new neighborhood association has its meetings in our building. One member drafted a handout about Friends and our Meeting for those who attend neighborhood meetings. This handout was helpful in giving a talk about Quakers to a Methodist women's group. Our meetinghouse was also used for an overnight SAYMA committee meeting.

We also painted a large cloth banner that reads: “Another Quaker Voice for Peace—Foxfire Friends Meeting, Johnson City, TN”; several f/Friends marched with the banner at a peace march in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. in Abingdon, VA. We also used the banner for a March 20th peace rally in Asheville.

We have a new “Orthopraxis” board to help both older and newer Friends and attenders learn about Quaker practice.

We have written a “Standards of Government Minute" which we asked the Yearly Meeting to consider. The Yearly Meeting then distributed it to the monthly meetings in SAYMA.

Foxfire Friends attended a Friday service and shared a Ramadan meal with members of the local Islamic center. This gave us an opportunity to share traditions from our faiths.

Our Peace and Social Concerns committee has been more active this year. We continue to write letters to government officials and newspapers on fifth Sundays. We have spent time discussing the Earth Charter and are making commitments to live it out in our personal daily lives.

We have had contact with distant members David and Grace Rubenstein and Errol Hess and continue to reach out to them and their families. We have also welcomed a returning former attender and her children.

Approved 5-2-04
Greenville Monthly Meeting

(available in hard copy only)
Huntsville Monthly Meeting

(available in hard copy only)
Memphis Monthly Meeting

(available in hard copy only)
Memphis Monthly Meeting

(cont'd.)

(available in hard copy only)
Memphis Monthly Meeting

(cont'd.)

(available in hard copy only)
2004 State of the Meeting Report
Nashville Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quaker)

Responding to the query, "How does the Spirit fare among us?" Friends spent a Second Hour discerning the following answer.

This year has been one in which both the human and physical parts of our Meeting have felt abundantly filled with the Spirit. It seems as if the openness of our new worship space has opened our hearts to deeper and more varied messages of and from God. Our several year search for a new meeting house was carried to fruition by our faithful listening - to each other and to what Spirit would have us do. Many of us were disappointed when the first possibility was not to be. Little did we know that at the time we were relinquishing that possibility, we were being provided with what we sought. From the first time Friends entered what became our new location, we experienced the power and presence of the Divine in this building. Not without hitches, way opened and we sold our old house and purchased the new in good Quaker practice - no bargaining, but stating and accepting our published price.

At one time in our discernment process Friends expressed the concern that undertaking such a project would sap our community energy, we find ourselves relieved and encouraged that that was not the case! In a flurry of activity we packed up the old house and moved it all into storage at the new one. For just one month, while the demolition of the modifications made by the previous owner was completed, we worshipped in homes. Our first Meeting for Worship in the new house was filled with joy and gratitude, despite being in the midst of sawdust piles, scaffolding, plastic sheathing and new paint odors. Many Friends rallied to participate in weekly "Sweat" and Painting Parties as we finished up behind the contractors; painted walls, clambered up ladders and scaffolding to paint 15 foot high crown molding and install new insulation in the open raftered ceiling. Under the leadership of the focused and careful House and Grounds Committee we shored up the "sanctuary" floor before the laying of the new Brazilian sustainable eucalyptus floor. Such cooperation and community we had rarely seen! Great conversations about life and faith abounded. Even before the first phase of work had been completed we were realizing some of the vision that drove the move as more families joined us in worship and we began our participation in neighborhood projects.

With the new openness that has brought about increased attendance, we have found the need for more intentional educational opportunities. In response, a brochure was developed for visitors and a course of introduction to Quakerism has been well and eagerly attended by new and long time seekers. At the same time we have been able to sustain cherished events such as our annual Fall Weekend and our third annual Regional Gathering of Friends. This year we extended the latter to include other meetings in our area and all of us were richly blessed by a return visit by Michael Wajda and Alison Levie of the Friends General Conference Traveling Ministries Program as they led us in deep discernment about our spiritual lives. We have noticed that worship on First Days after such gatherings is noticeably deeper and richer.

We have labored with balancing the press of life outside Meeting with fulfilling the responsibilities of being participants in a faith community that is dependent on volunteers for its existence. Some Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business have been sparsely attended,
yet we have been led by those in positions of responsibility in staying centered on what God would have us do as all ages of Friends have been faithful in attending to committee work and community commitments. Our younger Friends have made it easier for the older Friends to attend business meetings as they provided light lunches for us. In return we supported their collection, purchase and distribution of warm hats, gloves etc for the homeless in Nashville. The Meeting as a whole has gotten under the weight of carrying out the work of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee by our participation in the Shalom Community, Tying Nashville Together and Nashville Peace and Justice Center. We have delighted in being able to host our yearly meeting representative meeting and an FGC committee meeting - rising to the challenge of providing meals for many with only the most rudimentary of kitchens. With the generous donation of Friends' musical talents and organizational skills, we organized and put on a smashing Open House attended by about 200 neighbors and friends. A veritable stone soup of tasty delicacies fed our guests.

We can name many ways in which we care for each other - among these are writing letters of introduction for those traveling, letters in support of citizenship application, supporting the recognized ministry of a member; providing scholarship for Friends seeking experience of a wider Quaker experience; holding one another in prayer and maintaining a hardship fund. Nevertheless, we recognize that there is more we can to do in welcoming and including newcomers and those who feel marginalized. Having approved a statement of purpose, we are challenged to live into it, to uphold our integrity as we live up to the measure of Light each has been given. Now that our space has been blessed by the music at the Open House, we find ourselves yearning for more music on a more regular basis.

As we move into a new year, we look to the Divine for guidance in some particular challenges facing our meeting. We pray that we are faithful in listening with hearts and minds for that Divine voice in all aspects of our lives and can find the way to step up to that which is asked of us. We pray that we can first seek out that of God in others and see what love can do when faced with persons and policies with which we disagree.

Approved at Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Fifth Month, 2004
New Moon Worship Group

(available in hard copy only)
Dear SAYMA Friends,

Greetings from [one of] your newest, and most far-flung monthly meetings! We regret that we did not get our State of the Meeting report ready in time to submit to Yearly Meeting (sometimes the urgent business of the moment overshadows these kind of important tasks).

In lieu of such a report, Mary Calhoun suggested a simple “Letter to Yearly Meeting” might be in order, and we do wish to be included in these year’s business minutes. We will share some of the important milestones of the past nineteen months since we first became a monthly meeting, as well as our corporate sense of our meeting’s spiritual growth.

Our meeting “birthday” was in November 2002, and we have informally celebrated the event with Friends from Memphis, our caring meeting, who have worshipped with us on more than one occasion. We also welcomed several SAYMA representatives who were traveling through our region. Several members and attenders have gone to the past two Yearly Meetings, and we are looking forward to making at least one Quarterly Meeting in the next year. We were privileged to have a Friend from Russia join us in worship earlier this year, and have hosted two special educational tours out of the Atlanta AFSC office (one featuring Filipino human rights activist Bal, and the other Katie Brownrigg from the African Peace Education Program).

Though isolated geographically, we are definitely tied into the wider community, both through the work of several of our members and attenders in areas of global slavery, international law relating to national security and environmental issues, work with AFSC’s Campaign of Conscience in Iraq, Heifer Project International and other such concerns. Our meeting as a whole has contributed time and money to host educational and fundraising events related to the above-mentioned causes. Several from our meeting have been very active in organizing anti-war vigils, joining with other churches and community groups.

On the local level, our meeting has made a strong commitment in time and money to two complimentary organizations: Interfaith Compassion Ministries (ICM) and The Amos Network. The first, ICM, is a coalition of both African American and white churches providing emergency food, housing and other kinds of critical support. The Amos Network goes beyond charity to address the root causes of poverty and racism present in our city and county. We are heartened by the participation of both large and small African American and white congregations, as well as the local mosque, in the Amos Network.

Because we meet in the home of two of our members (who fortuitously had built a major addition to their home in Oxford just as our worship group was forming), we do not have rent or mortgage bills, and can give away a large portion of our small budget! Our meetings for worship have grown to include some twenty-eight adults and children, though in the summer these numbers are smaller. Two area newspapers have done “meet the Quaker” type feature articles on...
our meeting and we continue to welcome newcomers on a weekly basis. We are grateful for the literature from the Quaker Bookstore and make extensive use of materials produced by London Yearly Meeting as well (where two of our current members were active before coming to the U.S.). We have also counted several [well-behaved] dogs as regular “attenders” and all of us mourned the death of our original “Quaker dog” Charlie. [note from clerk – the meeting really wanted me to include this part about the dogs!]

Perhaps the area we have expended the most thought and prayer, time and money, has been our Children's Meeting. We have grown from providing merely “babysitting” services, to the active involvement of many of our adults in presenting a wide variety of interactive lessons. Our meeting as a whole now sees the care of our children as the job of all of us. We have held special meetings periodically to evaluate the children's program, review new Quaker curricula, and brainstorm on ways to enrich our own time with the children. All our children currently sit with us in silent worship for the first 5-10 minutes of meeting, and then go out with the leader of the day. One of the highlights of each week is the time when the children come back at rise of meeting and share with the whole meeting what they learned, the crafts they made, or [quite often] the wonderful skits, puppet shows, or songs they have rehearsed. We have actually learned quite a bit of Quaker history from teaching Children's meeting ourselves, or enjoying the children's plays.

We are known as the silent meeting by our Memphis Friends – which means we are still learning about spoken ministry. As one way to grow in this area, we held our first worship sharing this year. Many of us participated in worship sharing when we went on retreat with Memphis Monthly Meeting, and this inspired us to do it on our own. We have had periodic meetings for learning on simplicity, the peace testimony, and “leadings.” We began to minute in the manner of Friends our meetings for worship for business even when we were still a worship group, and we have found this particular Quaker discipline extremely helpful in making our corporate decisions. Next to care of the children, learning about the Quaker “sense of the meeting” for corporate decisions in business meeting has been a priority. We are fortunate that our assistant clerk served as clerk for another monthly meeting prior to joining us in Oxford. We continue to read the very helpful literature on this topic.

We had our first marriage under the care of the meeting this June. Apart from the folks who became members when our meeting was founded, we have welcomed three additional Friends into the Society (one a teenager), and thus held three clearness for membership meetings.

Spiritually, we have found ourselves called to support one another through a number of serious illnesses (a large number, for such a small group) and two other major life decisions. Such energy focused inwardly has occupied a lot of our time. This has been balanced by our community and global commitments, but we feel the tension and stress of this. We find that our “meeting for cookies” (as our coffee hour has been affectionately named) a consistent opportunity for spiritual discussion and support, as well as great good humor. The close ties that are possible in a small meeting have enabled us to weather times of conflict and misunderstanding. We have
also learned the hard way to avoid the use of email for any serious discussion – we now insist on meeting face to face. We use email to send out notices of events and circulate business minutes, but restrict it to that use.

In a special called meeting for worship for business, the clerk asked those gathered to sum up how our meeting has grown, and what our challenges are right now. Hearing how deeply people felt connected to our meeting in a fairly short period of time was cause for rejoicing. We recalled a comment from a visiting Friend that our meeting for worship “makes me realize why I became a Quaker.” We have honored silent worship, and treasured our uncommon spoken ministries – perhaps a different balance will emerge between the silence and speaking in the next phase of our growth.

Our meeting sees itself as one that takes very seriously the query: What does it mean to be a Quaker meeting today? We have been low-key in our outreach, and feel ready to take new steps for greater visibility. We are sensitive, on the one hand, to a lack of diversity (in terms of race and class) in our meeting, but blessed with a diversity of faith backgrounds (Jewish and Buddhist to name two). In writing our own “Welcome for Oxford Friends Meeting" brochure we came to realize that we want to balance acknowledgment of Quakerism’s Christian roots with the diversity of spiritual paths our members and attenders now walk! This seems especially important to our meeting because of our location in the Deep South, where the dominant culture is conservative (theologically and politically) Christianity.

We recall various challenges that we have successfully handled corporately, and now look forward to being a caring meeting for a potential worship group in Starkville. We are also planning a meeting for learning on death and dying “the Quaker way.”

To sum it up, we have coalesced from a group of interested individuals to a real community. What happens next will be exciting and challenging, confusing and enlightening – of that we have no doubt!
Royal Worship Group

(available in hard copy only)
Sevier County Monthly Meeting

(available in hard copy only)
Swannanoa Valley Monthly Meeting

(available in hard copy only)
West Knoxville Monthly Meeting

(available in hard copy only)
Appendix C: General

Financial
   Treasurer's Report
   SAYMA End of Fiscal Year Account Balances Report
   SAYMA Fiscal Year 2004 Budget — Approved 6/7/2003

Report:  Ad Hoc Committee on
   Worship Group/Preparative Meeting/Monthly Meeting/Yearly Meeting Relationship

Personnel Committee Report

American Friends Service Committee, Corporation Representative Report

Letter of David Zarembka (Friends Peace Teams)

SAYMA June 2004 Census

Approved Changes to Faith and Practice
Treasurer's Report
June 8, 2004

(available in hard copy only)
SAYMA Account Balances Report

(available in hard copy only)
SAYMA Fiscal Year 2004 Budget — Approved 6/7/2003

(available in hard copy only)
Discernment of Ad Hoc Committee
Worship Group/Preparative Meeting/Monthly Meeting/Yearly Meeting Relationship

(available in hard copy only)
Discernment of Ad Hoc Committee
Worship Group/Preparative Meeting/Monthly Meeting/Yearly Meeting Relationship

(cont'd.)

(available in hard copy only)
Personnel Committee Report
Yearly Meeting 2004

(available in hard copy only)
SAYMA Job Description
Job Title: Administrative Assistant for SAYMA

(available in hard copy only)
SAYMA Job Description
Job Title: Administrative Assistant for SAYMA

(cont'd.)

(available in hard copy only)
American Friends Service Committee
Annual Meeting of the Corporation
October 31 - November 1, 2003

(available in hard copy only)
Letter of David Zarembka

(unavailable at time of publication)
### SAYMA June 2004 Census -- Report to the YM

#### MM, PM, or WG

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#### Question 1

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<th>8</th>
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#### New, starting with this report -- all groups report on preceding calendar year.

Information reported to YM in June will yield the total we send to FWCC in September.

#### Key:

- Y = Yes
- X = info
- N = No
- ? = don't know
- = not applicable

### Totals, Question 4

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04Jun_ymRept_CLgttr_(w)\_xls
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<td>&lt;&lt; From State of Meeting Rept. Estimate &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>Don't count members of another YM, or reg att; total for mtg is approx. &gt;&gt;</td>
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<td>&gt;&gt; one who comes to mtg often, participates on a cttee, contributes financially</td>
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<td>&gt;&gt; attenders - regular; visitors - (self-explanatory)</td>
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<td>51</td>
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<td>&gt;&gt; 4i - we don't track, but several; 4j - several due to school</td>
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<td>&gt;&gt; <em>regular attender</em> -- someone who comes to worship 1-2 times a month</td>
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<td>&gt;&gt; we do have actual members wo go through the process...in F&amp;P, but on a daily basis, we make no distinctions</td>
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<td>&gt;&gt; Anyone who comes regularly! Including 6 members of W Knoxville MM.</td>
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PART 1 CONTINUING QUAKER HISTORY

[page 3, 2nd paragraph, last sentence]

…Before long, most yearly meetings witnessed similar splits, some complicated by court battles and physical struggles over property.

Other divisions resulted from the westward movement after the Civil War. Some Friends found themselves caught up in the frontier revivals that obliterated denominational differences in the western territory. Most western meetings began to adopt practices characteristic of Protestant churches - paid pastors, programmed services, hymn singing, even creeds. Many Friends from this newer tradition joined to form Five Years Meeting, now Friends United Meeting (FUM), centered in the Midwest. Another division occurred when John Wilbur led those uneasy with such developments to form Conservative yearly meetings, nonevangelical and unprogrammed.

[refer to pages 19-20, "Wider Quaker Organizations" for original text on AFSC, FCNL and FWCC that was moved to this section]

In spite of such divisive tendencies, at the time of World War I Friends joined to create the American Friends Service Committee as an outlet for wartime service for Quaker conscientious objectors and as an instrument of relief to victims of the war. As time went on, the Service Committee won wide recognition and support for its relief work and its activities in the fields of race relations, public education, and overseas development; in 1947, with its British counterpart, the Friends Service Council, it received the Nobel Peace Prize.
A similar war-spawned organization, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, opened its doors in 1943 as the first religious lobbying group in Washington. Even before this date, representatives from meetings around the world organized the Friends World Committee for Consultation. Such cooperation has continued, helped along by the formation of one Philadelphia Yearly Meeting unifying the Hicksite and Orthodox groups in 1955.

As Americans became more mobile in the years after World War II, Friends from diverse backgrounds worshipped together, rediscovered their common heritage, and proceeded to form meetings where few Quakers had been before or in areas their spiritual ancestors had long since left behind. Of such were the Friends who formed the germ of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association, and they have been joined by many others discovering Friends for the first time and finding in its tradition a spiritual life that speaks to their condition.

British counterpart, the Friends Service Council, received the Nobel Peace Prize in the name on behalf of Friends.

In the 1930s, representatives from meetings around the world organized the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) to address the concerns and needs of Friends throughout the world. FWCC now concentrates on bringing together Friends from different countries and varying traditions. Its American Section oversaw initial development of some of SAYMA’s early meetings. It partially supports the Quaker United Nations Office. Cooperation has continued, demonstrated by the uniting of several Yearly Meetings that included both Hicksite and Orthodox elements.

Out of faithfulness to the Friends Peace Testimony in the midst of World War II, the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) opened its doors as the first religious lobbying group in Washington. FCNL seeks to bring the concerns, experiences, and testimonies of Friends to bear on policy decisions in the nation’s capital. Cooperating with this effort is the William Penn House, a site for seminars and conferences in Washington, where Friends gather to address the many concerns they have for their society and the world.

The deepening awareness of the need for Friends to act corporately in the world has continued to spawn new organizations. Quaker House is a military counseling resource center. Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR) addresses the interrelated problems of poverty and materialism. Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) (formerly Friends Committee on Unity with Nature) works to integrate concern for Gd’s Creation into the beliefs and practices of the Religious Society of Friends. Friends Peace Teams is an outreach of our peacemaking. Some organizations carry out our testimonies of community and equality such as Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC) and Friends of Color.

As Americans became more mobile in the mid twentieth century, Friends from diverse backgrounds worshipped together, rediscovered their common heritage, and proceeded to form meetings where few Quakers had been before, or in areas their spiritual ancestors had long since left behind. Of such were the Friends who formed the germ of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association, and they have been joined by many others discovering Friends for the first time and finding in its tradition a spiritual life that speaks to their condition. Participation in such wider Quaker organizations is one way of nurturing SAYMA’s ties to its heritage and expressing its faith, as well as maintaining relations with Friends and their concerns.
PART TWO: NURTURING THE LIFE OF THE SPIRIT

Meeting for Worship

…Others may know of Quakers because of their social activity…

Meeting for Business

When it appears to the clerk that unity has been attained…

Monthly Meeting

The monthly meeting is the fundamental unit of the Religious Society of Friends, a community taking thought for outward society and for one another. It receives and records members; it extends to them spiritual care and, if necessary, material aid. The authority to take action regarding membership lies only in the monthly meeting. The monthly meeting provides for the oversight of marriages and assists bereaved members and attenders at the time of death or misfortune. It collects funds required to carry on the work of the meeting. It provides for the holding of titles to property and for the administration of trust funds. Where necessary, the monthly meeting deals in a spirit of love with those who fail to live in accordance with Friends’ testimonies. Members are encouraged to share their concerns with the monthly meeting, which is free to undertake any action and to assume any function that is consistent with Quaker principles and not specifically the responsibility of some other meeting.

Members and regular attenders of all ages are encouraged to participate in every aspect of meeting life. Meeting life encompasses the care of the spiritual well being of the community through:

- Attendance at meetings for worship and attention to business;
- Participation in the preparation of the annual state of the meeting report responding to the query “How is the spirit faring amongst you?”;
- Sharing their spiritual gifts and talents by service in positions of responsibility, on committees, and through their financial contributions;
- Extending welcoming hospitality to visitors;
- Corporately discerning matters related to membership;
- Lifting up individual concerns for consideration and possible action;
- Providing for the oversight of marriages;
- Assisting bereaved members and attenders at the time of death or misfortune (see those sections of the Guide).

A monthly meeting may find it necessary to work in a spirit of restoring love with those whose actions are not in accordance with Friends’ testimonies and ways as revealed through corporate discernment. After corporate discernment, the
Members and regular attenders of all ages are encouraged to participate in every aspect of meeting life. Friends who assume responsibility for meeting action or business are urged to perform their tasks with care and dispatch.

Following is a list of officers for various meeting functions. Not all will be needed by all meetings, and some meetings will have others for special purposes. Meetings may wish to specify that certain officers be members of the meeting. Responsibilities will be shared more equitably among Friends if terms of office and tenure in them is limited. Meetings may vary in how they set these limitations, but it is recommended that tenure for most officers be limited to two years.

The clerk presides at the business sessions of the meeting and carries out the instructions of the meeting on all matters pertaining to the accomplishment of its business. The clerk’s responsibilities include seeing that business meetings are held on a regular schedule and, when necessary, seeing that special sessions are called with reasonable notice, and that meetings for worship are opened and closed; seeing that all officers and committees carry out their tasks, calling for periodic reports, and seeing that appropriate committees are alerted to the special needs of the meeting community (the clerk may attend any committee meeting or function); preparing the annual state of the meeting report for yearly meeting; handling matters related to the transfer of membership, marriages, and funerals and memorial meetings (see those sections of the Guide); seeing that visitors to meetings for worship are greeted and introduced.

Following is a list of positions of responsibility and committees for typical meeting functions. Not all will be needed by all meetings, and some meetings will have others for special purposes.

Positions of Responsibility

Friends who assume responsibility for meeting action or business are urged to perform their tasks with care and dispatch. Meetings may wish to specify that certain officers be members of the meeting. Responsibilities will be shared more equitably among Friends if terms of service in them are limited. Meetings may vary in how they set these limitations, but it is recommended that tenure for most officers be limited to two years.

Clerk – the Nominating Committee seeks out a person with the capacity for a spirit-led leadership, who has good organizational and communication skills. The clerk serves the meeting by:

- Presiding at regular and called meetings for Worship with Attention to Business;
- Discerning and stating the sense of the meeting;
- Assuring that the work of the meeting and decisions of the meeting for business are carried out;
- Supporting those in positions of responsibility and committees carrying out their task;
- Interacting with the outside community as a person of authority.
An assistant clerk acts in the absence of the clerk as mutually agreeable. Trustees are usually appointed by meetings that own property. They may be authorized to carry out the intent of the meeting in the purchase and development of real property, and they should be responsible for advising the meeting about real property, designated gifts and funds given by donors or testators. They should be knowledgeable about the legal requirements of the state in which the meeting is located.

Upon receiving gifts, trustees and the meeting will take special care to see that gifts which are accepted are applied to the purposes and uses designated by the donors or testators, and that the purposes and conditions of gifts are in harmony with Friends’ testimonies. If such purposes become obsolete or difficult or impossible of fulfillment, the trustees charged with them may ask the meeting for advice as to procedure.

The treasurer is responsible for the custody and disbursement of the funds of the meeting, in accordance with its directions. The treasurer is responsible for:
- Assisting in preparing a yearly budget and presenting it to the meeting for action; where there is no finance committee the Treasurer prepares and submits the budget;
- Accepting donations (cash, checks, and other tangibles) and keeping necessary records;
- Presenting monthly or interim reports of income and expenses;
- Storing records and transactions of the meeting’s financial business;
- Making disbursements as directed by the meeting. The meeting’s financial records should be audited at the close of each fiscal year.

The recording clerk and the recorder (in some meetings combined) are responsible for the official record of business and special meetings and of historical data such as births, deaths, marriages, divorces, changes in membership, and contact information.

The recording clerk should be able to communicate effectively in writing and who understands the collaborative nature of preparing minutes that clearly and precisely reflect the decisions reached by the meeting. This person is responsible for recording the proceedings of regular and called meetings for business.

The recorder is responsible for long-term record keeping. Responsibilities include:
- Keeping an updated data base of meeting members and attenders and circulating it to all members and regular attenders;
- Keeping current the meeting’s Membership Book, with full record of births, deaths, marriages, divorces, and changes in membership;
- Preparing an annual census for Yearly Meeting;
- Seeing to the long-term safekeeping of meeting records.
SAYMA Contact: The meeting’s representative to SAYMA serves on the representative committee of the yearly meeting. Responsibilities include attending SAYMA representative committee meetings and yearly meeting sessions, reporting monthly meeting concerns to SAYMA and SAYMA concerns to monthly meeting. Meetings will vary as to whether the SAYMA representative also serves as the contact for other SAYMA functions. It may, however, find it helpful, and less burdensome on that one person, to appoint others to serve on SAYMA’s nominating or other committees and as a reporter to the SAYMA newsletter editor.

Committees

House and Grounds Committee members are responsible for seeing that the meetinghouse and surrounding grounds are kept neat and clean and that periodic maintenance is performed. They are responsible for arranging meeting work days, at which major cleaning and maintenance projects will be performed, and for the purchase of supplies for house maintenance. At least two members, one for house and one for grounds, should be considered.

Although needed primarily by meetings which have meetinghouses, a committee for maintenance of the space used by the meeting may also be useful to meetings renting or borrowing their place to meet. Depending on its size and needs, a meeting may want to hire someone for routine care and maintenance.

The section on SAYMA Representatives and Service is being reworked by the Committee

Committees

The Committee on Ministry and Nurture (Care, Counsel, or Oversight) is responsible for…

The House and Grounds Committee

- Sees that the meetinghouse and surrounding grounds are kept neat and clean and that periodic maintenance is performed;
- Arranges meeting work days, for major cleaning and maintenance projects;
- Purchases supplies for house maintenance;
- Projects major building or maintenance projects.

A committee for maintenance of the space used by the meeting may also be useful to meetings that rent or borrow their place to meet. Depending on its size and needs, a meeting may want to hire someone for routine care and maintenance.
The Nomination Committee recommends to the monthly meeting persons who are willing and able to serve in the various meeting capacities. Its report is to be presented at the business meeting the month before change of officers. When seeking nominees, the committee will discuss with members and attendees their interest in serving and attempt to match a person’s interest with meeting needs. Youth as well as adults will be considered for committee membership.

The First Day School or Religious Education Committee develops and plans a religious education for the youth and for the adults of the meeting. It advises as to the literature and materials to be studied at the different levels of the meeting, and should include at least two persons, one to coordinate youth programs and one to coordinate the adult program.

The adult First Day School or Forum should supplement and continue the spirit of the meeting for worship. A theme or subject chosen annually would give continuity and encourage thought and participation.

[SAYMA contact moved to section on Officers and Representatives]

Other committees. Meetings may have a variety of other officers and committees for special purposes: librarian, newsletter editor, representatives to regional FCNL or AFSC meetings, paid secretarial help, paid staff for social concerns or a peace enter, committees for peace education, social concerns, music, welcoming, long-range planning, and so forth.

The Nominating Committee recommends to the monthly meeting names of persons to serve in the various meeting capacities. Its recommendations are to be presented at the meeting for business the month before the changes take place. The committee will seek to match a person’s gifts with meeting needs and discern with members and attenders their clearness in serving. Youth as well as adults can be considered for committee service.

The Religious Education Committee’s work supplements and deepens the spirit of the meeting for worship and enhances spiritual growth for individuals and the meeting community. The First Day School or Religious Education program may plan and implement a religious education program for both the youth and adults of the meeting or may have a separate adult religious education committee. Adults’ needs may be addressed through planning a variety of programs. Series for newcomers are an important way of integrating new attenders into the monthly meeting. Careful selection of literature and materials to carry out the plans is helpful. Selection of topics can be enhanced by good communication with other committees and officers.

Care of the children of the meeting may include a separate coordinator and basic child care. In smaller meetings the First Day School Committee may be composed of teachers, and adult education may be sponsored by Ministry and Nurture.

The Finance Committee with the collaboration of the Treasurer prepares the budget, reviews and audits financial records, and considers unbudgeted requests.

Other committees - Meetings may have a variety of other committees for specific purposes, for example library, music, peace education, and ecological and social concerns.
THE YEARLY MEETING

The Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association is composed of the members of its constituent monthly meetings, preparative meetings, worship groups and isolated Friends in the region who have identified themselves as a part of the Association. The yearly meeting is the responsibility of all constituent members. All Friends are encouraged to participate in yearly meeting sessions.

Functions of the yearly meeting

The yearly meeting brings Friends in the Southern Appalachian region together in a fellowship to transact business and to undertake matters of concern that can be managed more effectively by the yearly meeting than by individual monthly meetings.

Among the specific functions of the yearly meeting are the following:

1. recognizing constituent monthly meetings and offering them general care and oversight;
2. receiving State of the Meeting reports from monthly meetings;
3. helping worship groups develop into monthly meetings;
4. counseling with meetings regarding their strengths and weaknesses;
5. where necessary, laying down nonviable meetings, and providing for the orderly transfer of memberships and disposition of real property;
6. setting an annual budget for yearly meeting expenses and raising the budget through assessments of monthly meetings;
7. sharing in the policy making and work of wider Quaker organizations to which it belongs;
8. corresponding with its membership through a yearly meeting newsletter and with other yearly meetings through its annual epistle;
9. receiving epistles from other yearly meetings and traveling minutes from Friends of other yearly meetings;
10. and preparing and keeping up to date the Guide to Our Faith and Our Practice.

PROPOSED REVISIONS

THE YEARLY MEETING

The Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association is composed of its constituent monthly meetings, preparative meetings, and worship groups. All members and attenders of these bodies have both the privilege and responsibility to participate in keeping the affairs of the yearly meeting in good order.

The yearly meeting exists to support its constituents as they seek, in the manner of Friends, to live out their lives according to God’s leadings. In order to do so, annual sessions are held where matters of business are considered in worship. Much of the work of the yearly meeting is conducted by a variety of committees, which are established and laid down as need arises. Monthly meetings may bring a concern or matter of business to the appropriate committee, which can season it and may bring forward a recommendation for corporate discernment at yearly meeting sessions. If there is not a committee that can address the concern, monthly meetings may convey their seasoned concerns directly to the clerk of the yearly meeting. Yearly meeting sessions also provide time for personal and corporate growth in the Spirit through a variety of activities.

Functions of the yearly meeting

- Welcome and recognize constituent monthly meetings;
- Offer and provide on-going care and guidance to monthly meetings;
- Receive annual State of the Meeting reports from monthly meetings, preparative meetings and worship groups;
- Provide assistance and support to monthly meetings that have worship groups under their care;
- When necessary, lay down nonviable meetings, and providing for the orderly transfer of memberships and disposition of real property;
- Set an annual budget for yearly meeting expenses and events. The funds for the budget are raised through yearly meeting assessments paid by monthly meetings.
- Hear reports and recommendations of yearly meeting committees and representatives to wider Quaker organizations;
- Participate in the policy making and ministry of wider Quaker organizations in which we hold membership and to which we appoint representatives;
- Approves and disseminates minutes of social concern;
- Maintain a yearly meeting newsletter and other mechanisms for communication within the yearly meeting;
- Correspond with the wider Quaker world through the annual epistle;
- Receive and hear the epistles sent from other Quaker yearly meetings and organizations;
[page 16]

[The paragraph on the administrative handbook will be moved to follow the Function of representative meeting. It will be updated in the next revision and is not included in these proposals.]

[page 17]

**Representative meeting** carries out the ongoing work of the yearly meeting and acts in the name of the yearly meeting between sessions. It consists of one representative from each constituent monthly meeting, preparative meeting, and worship group. The officers and committee clerks of the yearly meeting are ex-officio members of the representative meeting. The clerk, assistant clerk, and recording clerk of yearly meeting also serve the same functions for representative meeting. It meets regularly in the fall, in the late winter, and at the annual gathering.

---

**APPROVED REVISIONS**

- Receive and respond to traveling minutes carried by traveling Friends;
- Maintain the *Guide to Our Faith and Our Practice*. Revisions are approved by the whole yearly meeting;
- Nurture Young Friends.

---

**Function of Representative Meeting**

Between yearly meeting sessions, representative meeting carries on the work of the yearly meeting. Each monthly meeting, preparative meeting and worship group is asked to appoint one representative to attend these meetings, participate in the deliberations and report back to the home meeting.

[The proposed second paragraph on membership was referred back to committee for more clarity]
Appendix D: Reports Not Presented in Session

Southern Appalachian Friend Editors' Report

Ministry and Nurture Committee Report

Friends Committee on National Legislation, Representative's Report

Quaker Earthcare Witness (was FCUN), Representative's Report

Friends General Conference, Representative's Report

Quaker House, Representative's Report

Right Sharing of World Resources, Organization Report
Southern Appalachian Friend -- Editors Report

(available in hard copy only)
2003-2004 Ministry and Nurture Committee Report  
Presented to SAYMA June 13, 2004

In this last twelve months SAYMA M&N Committee met at winter and spring representative meetings. We also met in August 2003 in Chattanooga for discernment on Faith and Practice revisions. We continue to labor on Faith and Practice concerns but feel that we are making steady progress in this work, as well as our work on the relevant Handbook sections.

We took the following additional actions this year in support of our Yearly Meeting gathering:

- Provided worship-sharing facilitators
- Provided worship-sharing queries
- Accepted on-going responsibility for facilitators and query development in future years
- Provided a nurture center
- Requested the budget for and provided a workshop on the work of Ministry and Nurture committees, and invited a facilitator from the FGC Travelling Ministries Program. They sent us Jean-Marie Prestwidge Barch in this role, with Deborah Shaw traveling as her companion.

Other activities of this committee include:

- Sent representatives to the Ad Hoc Committee for Worship Groups
- Planning a new-Quakers seekers workshop for regional attendance
- Contacting and/or visiting most of SAYMA's worship groups
- Considering guidelines for and utilization of the State of the Meeting reports. We will send our queries for next year's reports.
- We have approved funds in support of an active SAYMA Friend attending School of the Spirit this next two-year session.
- We are planning a retreat for those people who want to work to support the spiritual growth and nurture of SAYMA. The retreat dates are tentatively set for Oct. 2-3, 2004. If you are led to participate, please contact Turtle MacDermott. (macdermott@mindspring.com)

Kathy Burke and I, as outgoing clerks of Ministry and Nurture Committee, would like to express our gratitude for the dedication and hard work of all the committee participants this year. We earnestly hope that this energy can continue and grow in the year to come.

Respectfully submitted
Kit Potter, Recording Clerk
FCNL Annual Meeting Report

(available in hard copy only)
FCNL Annual Meeting
Representative's Report

(cont'd)

(available in hard copy only)
Quaker Earthcare Witness
Representative’s Report

(available in hard copy only)
Friends General Conference
Representatives' Report

(available in hard copy only)
Friends General Conference
Representatives' Report

(cont'd.)

(available in hard copy only)
Quaker House
Representative's Report

(available in hard copy only)
Quaker House
Representative's Report

(cont'd.)

(available in hard copy only)
Right Sharing of World Resources
Report

(available in hard copy only)
Appendix E: Positions of Responsibility Roster

(Begins on next page...)
### SAYMA Positions of Responsibility

**Note:** This roster is a work in progress. If you need newer info, please contact the SAYMA office at 276-627-5852, POB 2191, Abingdon VA 24212, **AdminAsst@sayma.org**. If you see what looks like an error, please contact the clerk of Nominating Committee, **Nominating@sayma.org**, to check the information.

**Note:** Ad Hoc committees are approved by yearly meeting; members are discerned by the SAYMA clerk & approved by yearly meeting.

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| SAF Newsletter      | Editors      | ~ | ~ | Susan & Kim Carlyle | NMoon/Swan |

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<td>Tim Lamm</td>
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<td>AFSC Corp</td>
<td>2+2+2</td>
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