

# SAYMA Earthcare Action Network

Report to Yearly Meeting, June 2015

The original mission of our group was to awaken passion around climate change as the issue of the time. Now more than 10 years later, the issue has become even more urgent. There are some among us who feel it is also now appropriate to add to our mission the work of facing the impact of what is happening and preparing to give support and healing to those adversely affected by the changes currently taking place.

Since Yearly Meeting last summer, our committee has met by conference call approximately every month. We've done a lot to improve our systems for communicating with each other and inviting other SAYMA Friends into this important work:

We have a **Google Group** that is available to whomever is interested in joining the conversation and perhaps getting involved in the work that the SAYMA Earthcare group will be doing. The list is used to send newsletters, event listings, articles, etc. Anyone who is interested can get on the list via a link on the SAYMA web site.

**Facebook page.** This is one more place that people can find us. It's a place for conversation and sharing-everyone is able to contribute freely to the discussion, share and comment on links of interest to SAYMA friends concerned about Earthcare.

We have a **new page on the SAYMA web site**. It can be accessed by clicking on the "Earthcare" tab from the home page. Items of current interest and inspiration are on the home page. There is also a calendar where we share upcoming events, a stories tab where we are posting stories of what's going on in SAYMA related to Earthcare, and a Resources tab where there's a list of suggested reading and other resources. If you have suggested content for our web page, please send it to [earthcare@sayma.org](mailto:earthcare@sayma.org).

**Monthly Meeting Contacts.** We have a subgroup of the Google group composed of Earthcare contacts for each of the Monthly Meetings. These are the people who have agreed to pass information along to their Meetings. We hope they will also pass information back to the Earthcare Action Network. It's fine if there is more than one contact person per Meeting. Most of the Monthly Meeting contacts have already been identified, but we are still looking for representatives from a few Meetings.

**Retreat:** This spring we held a retreat at the West Knoxville Meeting house. 12 people attended from Asheville, Canton/Atlanta, Celo, and Swannanoa Valley. There was also a member of the South Eastern Yearly Meeting in attendance. We did the good work of connecting with each other and our feelings about the challenges our planet is facing, then moved into the beginnings of a brainstorming process for how we want to move forward.

The process of clarifying our vision and goals will continue at this yearly meeting and we hope to emerge with a strategy for the rest of 2015 and into the future.

**Current membership** in this committee is as follows:

CLERK Lisa Rose 13-15 Swannanoa (NC) (willing to continue)  
MEMBER Pat Johnson 13-15 Asheville (NC) (willing to continue)  
MEMBER Kathy Johnson 13-15 Atlanta (GA) (uncertain about continuing)  
MEMBER Roy Taylor 14-16 Atlanta (GA)  
MEMBER Bob McGahey 13-15 Celo (NC) (willing to continue)  
MEMBER Kendall Ivie West. Knoxville (NC)

*Respectfully submitted by Lisa Rose June 2015*