

Minutes

SAYMA Representative Meeting #108 Spring 2004

"Representatives" to "Representative Meeting"

*Representative Meeting acts in SAYMA's name between sessions.
Any f/Friend may participate; those gathered represent the yearly meeting.*

*Representatives are important channels of communication
between local f/Friends & SAYMA.*

Please note -- two copies of SAYMA minutes go to each meeting and worship group
Clerks/contacts receive one for their use; please tell local f/Friends when the minutes arrive.
SAYMA Reps receive one for their use and the use of local f/Friends; please help this copy
circulate among interested individuals. (If no Rep, this copy is sent to the clerk/contact.)

Thank you!

SAYMA - POB 2191 - Abingdon VA 24212 - AdminAsst@sayma.org - 276-628-5852 in-person Tu & Th 5-7:30 pm

PH.L.H.F.

Final and signed edition, published from SAYMA office Sept 10, 2004

**Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
Representative Meeting #108 (Spring)
Nashville Friends Meeting
Fourth Month, Third Day, 2004 -- 9:00 am**

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108 - 1 Opening

The Meeting opened with silent waiting. (Friends attending are listed in **Appendix A**)

The clerk, Sharon Annis, read from Preparation for Worship by Thomas Green (booklet, Quaker Home Service, 1983, p.1, originally published in 1952.)

The worship of God is the primary purpose of the religious life. A desire that God may be glorified on earth as He is in Heaven is what distinguished true Christian service from altruism. A passion for justice or the natural emotion of pity may inspire a social reformer, but the Christ like love of men which can outlive their indifference, ingratitude, and hostility has its roots in fellowship with God. If Worship is neglected or allowed to deteriorate in quality then the moral and humanitarian concerns of a religious society will eventually lose their vitality. 'Without me ye can do nothing.' Unless we are faithful in waiting upon God, guided by His Spirit and endowed with His power, we cannot hope to make headway in the struggle against the evils of our time. This truth has been repeated so often in Yearly Meetings that it is now almost a platitude among friends and scarcely disturbs us.

The second reading is a minute from the Committee on Ministry and Pastoral Care of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), approved August 1, 2003:

Friends have long understood the need to go back to the well and drink deeply, especially during periods of challenge or crisis. We try to practice this regularly in our Meetings for Worship and our Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business. We are asking for Friends to be equally mindful of the importance of going back to the well when we name ourselves. We are the Religious Society of Friends, also known as Quakers.

Unlike the early Friends, our religious views and practices today cannot be defined by a single faith and practice. Friends today are very diverse, but, at its best, our diversity has a common thread of spiritual striving to be whole as persons and as interconnected, interdependent communities. By remembering and telling other that we are a Religious society, it is easier to honor the sincerity of our personal faiths and practices. This is a necessary step toward making and maintaining peace among Friends, who span our geographic and theological universe, and an essential foundation for our work and testimonies for peace and justice in this troubled world.

We urge attenders, members, and organizations within Baltimore Yearly Meeting to be mindful of the benefits of using the fuller version of our name, The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and to use our full name whenever we name ourselves, whether using the spoken or written word. We urge Friends everywhere to embrace this practice.

108 - 2 Agenda

The agenda was presented and approved.

108 - 3 Announcements

Sharon Annis and Penelope Wright welcomed us to Representative Meeting and introduced us to the facilities.

108 - 4 Minutes of Concern

Foxfire meeting minutes on standards of government The general feeling from monthly meetings was that the minute produced interesting discussion but was not ready to take to yearly meeting.

***Minute** -- The minute will be referred back to Foxfire Meeting for whatever action they may choose to take.*

Atlanta Minute on support for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and war tax resistance Several monthly meetings minuted their own support for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and also indicated that the minute should come before our yearly meeting.

***Minute** -- We recommend that yearly meeting endorse Atlanta's minute.*

Minute regarding the Yearly Meeting Peace and Social Concerns committee Several monthly meetings supported the general purpose of the committee but made suggested changes in the organization and wording of the charges of the committee. The clerk read a new draft that incorporated recommendations from monthly meetings. Discussion clarified that this committee will not have a gate-keeping role, but will instead have a shepherding role.

***Minute** -- We recommend that the revised version be brought to Yearly Meeting for consideration. In addition, we recommend that the committee should consist of three to five core members with additions as needed.*

108 - 5 Treasurer's Report

David Ciscel presented the attached report. (**Appendix B**) The current deficit in the actual 2004 budget is due to the cash flow during the fiscal year. The budgeted deficit for 2004 would result in spending down our non-earmarked assets if income is also as projected. The treasurer reported that it is most helpful if monthly meeting make their assessment payments in several payments over the year and payments are most appreciated in the fall.

***Minute** -- Friends accepted the report with thanks.*

108 - 6 Ecological Concerns Network

Susan Carlyle presented the following proposed minute for consideration for presentation to Yearly Meeting:

For over a decade, diverse groups throughout the world have endeavored to create an Earth Charter that sets forth fundamental ethical principles for a sustainable way of life. The main commitments of the Charter are:

1. Respect the Earth and life in all its diversity.
2. Care for the community of life with understanding compassion, and love.
3. Build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable and peaceful.

The Earth Charter is a hopeful document. It seeks a way of life that includes the interconnections between peace, economic and social justice, and ecological integrity.

If all nations, government and non-government organizations, and faith communities endorsed the Earth Charter and implemented its principles, the world would be significantly improved in the areas that have been concerns of Friends for centuries.

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.

***Minute** -- Friends agreed to present this minute for consideration at Yearly Meeting.*

108 - 7 Faith and Practice Revision Committee

Kristi Estes submitted the report. (Appendix C)

Minute -- Friends accepted the report with thanks.

108 - 8 Name Change

Some Friends asked whether the question of a possible name change should be coming from the Faith and Practice Revision committee. Also, an opportunity to further consider the name change at an interest group at yearly meeting could be helpful.

Minute -- Friends asked that Faith and Practice no longer consider this issue. The question will be presented at a yearly meeting interest group and perhaps in other formats at yearly meeting. The clerk will find a facilitator for the interest group. Friends will be asked at a session of yearly meeting whether and how to proceed with consideration of a name change.

108 - 9 Finance Committee

Chris Berg presented the following report for the committee:

1. Liability Insurance: The treasurer will endeavor to get quotes for SAYF auto travel, incident coverage during Yearly Meeting, and bonding for the SAYMA treasurer.
2. Incorporation: The Finance Committee commits to serious investigation of incorporation of SAYMA as a not-for-profit corporation. The motivation is to seek relief from possible tax liability for proceeds as "profits" in years when not all our resources are expended. The major obstacle is the requirement to incorporate according to the laws of a particular state, which entails duties of responsiveness to mail or legal process at a recorded address.
3. Handbook Process: Finance Committee commits to drafting language regarding budget submissions and detail needs from SAYMA committees in an annual process, hopefully in a manner that generates a good draft budget for Spring Representative meeting.
4. Prompts: Finance Committee commits to prompt SAYMA committees and clerks for budget and related information in a timely manner.
5. Budget Details: A copy of the SAYMA Treasurer report will be made available to monthly meeting clerks or SAYMA representatives (as desired) as of late March of each year.

The following items are under consideration:

-- Rural Southern Voice for Peace. A recommendation to withhold payment made in December is confirmed and pending information still being expected.

-- Wider Quaker Organizations. Costs for these activities appear to be rising both for delegates and the needs of these organizations. Finance Committee anticipates requesting further funds in the upcoming 2005 budget.

-- Delegates to Representative Meeting will be provided with travel cost forms; cost reports are requested, whether or not reimbursement is sought.

Minute -- Friends accepted the report with thanks.

108 - 10 Announcement

The clerk announced that the Southeast Regional Office (SERO) of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) sent packets of information to be taken to the monthly meeting by their representatives.

108 - 11 Personnel Committee

Kristi Estes reported that the job description for the administrative assistant has been completed. The job and its duties have expanded since the establishment of the position. The committee is recommending to yearly meeting that the position become a one-third time position rather than a quarter-time position.

Minute -- *Friends accepted the report.*

108 - 12 Traveling Letters

The clerk presented a traveling letter from Celo Monthly Meeting for Bob McGahey, with the request that the Yearly Meeting write a companion traveling letter. Bob will be traveling to the Parliament of World Religions in Barcelona, Spain with his ministry with special concern for global ecology.

Minute -- *Friends approved this request.*

Celo Friends Meeting also requested the Yearly Meeting make a financial contribution to support the registration cost for Bob's trip.

Minute -- *Friends approve a \$100 contribution for the costs of his trip. We invite Bob to share insights from his trip with the yearly meeting.*

108 - 13 Logo Committee

Carol Lamm reported for the committee:

Jennifer Snow Wolff, our graphic artist, suffered a serious stroke a week ago. It is unlikely that she will be able to complete the work on the logo. We are beginning to explore our options for completing the logo by working with another artist. Transferring the work to another artist may require more funds. The logo committee will communicate with the finance committee if we determine more money is needed.

Minute -- *Friends accepted the report.*

108 - 14 Census Report

Mary Calhoun, the yearly meeting's administrative assistant, reminded us that census reports from monthly meetings have a firm deadline of the end of April. Monthly meeting representatives are asked to remind their monthly meetings of this task.

108 - 15 Correction of December Representative Meeting Minutes – Logo Committee

In review of the minutes from the December Representative Meeting Minutes, clarification of the minute regarding the logo committee's report was needed.

Clarification-Minute -- *Friends approved the recommended Logo design. The committee will work with the artist on final refinements without needing to return to meeting for business for further approval.*

108 - 16 Ministry and Nurture Committee

Kathy Burke reported for the committee:

1. Ministry and Nurture is sponsoring a yearly meeting workshop to be conducted by Jean Marie Barch of Friends General Conference's Traveling Ministry Program. "Midwives of Spirit-Lead Action" for those interested in serving in this capacity.
2. We reviewed Celo's discernment on Faith and Practice regarding the revision of the Ministry and Nurture section.
3. We will be having a nurture Center at Yearly Meeting again this year.

Minute -- *Friends accepted the report.*

108 - 17 Announcement

Bill Reynolds has agreed to clerk the ad hoc committee on our electronic communications.

108 - 18 Closing & Minute of Appreciation

Meeting closed with silent waiting.

***Minute** -- Friends are thankful for the hospitality shown by Nashville Friends and the opportunity to have our meeting in their new meetinghouse. We appreciate the overnight hospitality and the wonderful meal provided by Nashville Friends which has allowed us to concentrate our attention on the work of the Yearly Meeting. The Nashville Friends Meeting and Nashville Friends have always been a strong and welcoming part of our yearly meeting. We are glad that Nashville Friends have such a beautiful space in which to worship and from which to carry out their ministry. The loving transformation of this building into this meetinghouse is a symbol of hope for the future of our yearly meeting.*

Sharon Lee Annis, Clerk
(archive copy signed)

Lee Ann Swarm, Recording Clerk
(archive copy signed)

Appendix A
Attendees

Barbara Esther	Asheville
Ellen Johnson	Athens
Kathy Burke.....	Atlanta
Kathy Johnson	Atlanta
Jonah McDonald.....	Atlanta
Ronald Nuse	Atlanta
Carol Lamm.....	Berea
Mark Gooch.....	Birmingham
Judy Prince	Birmingham
Bob McGahey.....	Celo
Marmon Thompson	Celo
Nancy Beecher.....	Chattanooga
Bill Reynolds	Chattanooga
Hazel Hall.....	Cookeville
Deanna Nipp.....	Cookeville
Mary Calhoun.....	Foxfire
Christopher Berg	Greenville
David Ciscel	Memphis
Kristi Estes.....	Memphis
Neena Ledbetter.....	Memphis
Kit Potter	Nashville
Penelope Wright	Nashville
Susan Carlyle.....	New Moon, Swannanoa
Sharon Annis	West Knoxville
Barbara Conant.....	West Knoxville
Turtle MacDermott	West Knoxville
Lee Ann Swarm.....	West Knoxville

Appendix B
Treasurer's Report

(available in hard copy only)

Appendix B
Treasurer's Report
(cont'd)

(available in hard copy only)

Appendix C
Faith and Practice Revision Committee Report

(hard copy only)