

Representative Meeting #115 (Fall)

September 9, 2006

Berea Friends Meeting , Berea, KY

115-1 Reading

Epistle to Friends Everywhere,

The ache of continuing war and of human need is in us and will not go away. Against the winds of frustration and hopelessness, we shield the flame of concern and hope that burns within us.

Then, to our mountain top came the Involvement of Listening..."There is that near you which will guide you. Oh wait for it, and be faithful to it." Douglas Steere brought us these words of Isaac Pennington, and he brought us himself. We know in Douglas and Dorothy Steere, whole lives of service, whole lives of witness, and in them we glimpse the secret power that is waiting and listening.

Can the guide we seek, and the power we seek, be near at hand? Can they be as near as a small group of Friends Gathered for worship? Still may the silence find us, gathered, waiting, listening.

From the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association, 14 May 1972, gathered at Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, NC. George White, clerk, Jack Kaiser, Jocelyn King, Winston King and Bob Welsh, YM Epistle Committee

115-2 Introductions

See **Attachment A** for list of Attenders.

115-3 Request for Endorsement

Several Members of Humboldt Friends Meeting in Humboldt, California are seeking visitation rights to Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility. Humboldt Friends ask for signatures to register this concern with our government, and as support for their leading to seek visitation. Their sign-on letter was made available to Friends present.

115-4 Agenda Review - Friends approved the agenda.

115-5 Calendar

December 2, 2006 Asheville, Rep Meeting #116

April 14, 2007 Nashville, Rep Meeting #117

June 6-10, 2007 Warren Wilson College, Yearly Meeting

Sept. 15, 2007 Chattanooga, Rep Meeting #118

December 1, 2007 ? Knoxville?

April 7?, 2008 Atlanta?

Friends approved the proposed calendar.

115-6 Treasurer's Report

Dennis Greg, for the treasurer, presented the budget. He explained the state of the YM budget. The 2006 budget, almost at the end of the FY 2006 budget year, is in good standing. There is a positive balance of \$15,000 over expenditures for 2006. The entire Treasurer's report is in **Attachment B**.

There was discussion regarding the spending of FWCC Triennial Funds. Funds available for the 2007 Triennial may be spent down to zero. The representatives will decide between themselves the expenditures within this budget and the number of attendees.

The finance committee will re-create a reimbursement form for delegates to record the total expenses related to being a delegate and in-kind contributions. This form will be available on the sayma.org website.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Friends approved this report.

115-7 Finance Committee Report

The finance committee presented the proposed budget for 2007. This is the second reading. The first was given at Yearly Meeting.

There was a request from a SAYMA member on the board of Friends Journal to add a donation to Friends Journal annually. It was noted that we have two SAYMA Friends on the board. 1/3 of the cost of Friends Journal is subscriptions, 1/2 is advertising, and the rest is contributions. \$200 was proposed to give to Friends Journal. In order to create a balanced budget, the bank interest line item will be increased by \$200. This more accurately reflects the amount of money expected to come in from interest.

Friends approved the proposed budget and the suggested changes.

The approved budget is attached with the Treasurer's Report in **Attachment B**.

A Friend gave a query for consideration: "How do we discern what is the right amount of contribution when we are deciding what to contribute to Wider Quaker Organizations?"

115-8 Opening to Afternoon Session

Friends read the epistle from the New England Yearly Meeting of Friends. It is attached as **Appendix C**.

115-9 Ministry and Nurture Update

M&N will continue to have its meetings quarterly. Its next meeting will be Sept 22-24 in Huntsville, Alabama. They will provide at least one representative during SAYMA representative meetings to hold the meeting in the light and to report on their proceedings.

115-10 Naming Committee

An omission from the yearly meeting recommendations was brought forward by the clerk. Judy Guerry from Huntsville was recommended to be named to the Nominating Committee.

Friends Approved.

115-11 Nominating Committee

There are positions vacant. Nominating Committee asks representatives to go back to their monthly meetings and talk to members of their meetings regarding their ability and desire to serve.

- The newsletter editor position is vacant. The newsletter is currently in print and electronic format. The position can be done completely at home. There are no face to face meetings required – only a mailing address and internet access.
- Another open position is the Assistant Treasurer, a position that includes a year as the Assistant and then a term as the Treasurer. Following training, the assistant Treasurer would only be required to be at representative and yearly meetings (four meetings a year).
- Ministry and Nurture still needs three SAYMA-appointed member positions to be filled. M&N meets quarterly.
- Peace and Social Concerns has several open positions. They meet quarterly. Their next meeting will be 10/28 in Chattanooga. It will most likely begin at noon with a shared meal and run no later than 4pm.
- Personnel Committee has a position open. They meet at Representative Meetings, as needed.
- FLGBTQC has a position open. They meet twice a year.
- Faith and Practice Revision Committee has several openings. Faith and Practice Revision Committee meets several times a year for at least two overnights.
- FCNL YAF representative position is open. This has one or two meetings annually.
- The AFSC SERO representative position also has an opening. They have at least quarterly meetings. AFSC SERO is based in Atlanta.

The two most crucial positions are the newsletter position and the assistant treasurer position. These vital positions have responsibilities associated that will not be fulfilled until there are people forthcoming.

Kathleen Mavournin was nominated for the Faith and Practice Revision Committee.

Errol Hess was nominated for worship coordinator for yearly meeting planning committee.

These nominations were approved.

115-12 Web Manager

The SAYMA website is at www.sayma.org. This is a way for people in positions of responsibilities within committees to communicate with the wider body of SAYMA. Committees are encouraged to send documents to the webmaster for posting. Recent archival minutes are also accessible on the internet. Every monthly meeting and worship group has a page on the SAYMA website. Monthly meetings with their own websites are encouraged to send their links to the webmaster. Send additions to: webmaster@sayma.org.

There was a note of praise to Tim Lamm for his work on the SAYMA website and prompt response to communication.

115-13 Ad Hoc Logo Committee Report

The SAYMA logo is available in multiple formats. There is also SAYMA stationary available. If you need a customized version of the logo, contact Carol Lamm who can make revisions and send them. Carol's email address is clamm@chpl.net.

The Ad Hoc Logo committee asks to be laid down. Thanks were given to the committee, and the committee was laid down.

We encourage the use of the logo for outreach and ask the yearly meeting planning committee, the co-registrar, the SAYMA administrative assistant, and individual meetings to integrate this logo into their materials (i.e. pamphlets, newsletters, name tags, financial requests).

There was a request for further consideration of how to use this strong visual symbol in our work and outreach.

The Meeting Approved.

115-14 Ecological Concerns Network

ECN is continuing in further development of their contacts within each monthly meeting. They are seeking active representatives within each monthly meeting in order to disburse information regarding earthcare and ecological concerns.

ECN is in the beginning stages of developing a web presence on www.sayma.org. They are soliciting stories of Green Friends (who live sustainably, have skills in eco-building, et cetera). They also wish to create a resource directory of Quaker and non-Quaker ecological organizations and are seeking short explanatory paragraphs with links. Stories of Green Friends and information for the resource directory should be sent to: wrlldpeas@mindspring.com.

They will be holding a retreat in March in the Cookeville area. The theme of the annual retreat will be "My Intentions for the Earth." The retreat will explore how people can live out their ecological intentions.

Friends approved.

115-15 Faith and Practice Revision Committee

Faith and Practice Revision committee has sent out another mailing to monthly meetings. Monthly meetings are encouraged to review these proposed revisions and respond.

A rewritten section on "Becoming a Monthly Meeting" has been included in the packet. The sample marriage certificate in the Faith and Practice has also been revised and needs to be reviewed. Some of the sections were rewritten and some were not. Please review closely.

Concerned members within Swannanoa Valley Meeting distributed a handout for Friends to consider, questioning whether Friends Meetings should sign state documents of legal marriage for heterosexuals, recognizing that these documents exclude same sex couples from legal marriage. They ask Friends to weigh these concerns.

The sections on government and community have also been revised.

The committee decided not to revise the sexuality section. There were questions regarding the status of the new Earthcare section. The committee is continuing their work on this section and hopes for input through discussion during Yearly Meeting 2007.

Monthly meetings have until the end of December to review these revisions. All feedback must be sent to Free Polazzo by January 9th.

Friends Approved.

115-16 Personnel Committee

The search committee for a new administrative assistant has interviewed 4 people. Two people have taken other jobs. The committee is still considering the other two applicants. The personnel committee understands their charge to include both the hiring and firing of personnel (referencing minute 39-13, YM 1999). They are hoping in the next month to hire an administrative assistant. There are some issues that need to be resolved before proceeding. If these issues cannot be settled to their satisfaction (i.e., out of region applicants), they will re-open the position.

Friends Approved.

115-17 Quaker Initiative to End Torture

Kristi Estes reported on the QUIT conference. Concerns were given regarding secret prisons, extraordinary rendition (kidnapping of people to detain them), and the violations to the Geneva Conventions. Geneva Conventions apply to prisoners of war and to civilians. The current US administration has used a category of "enemy combatants" in order to attempt to side-step these requirements. The administration has also used the term "military commissions," possibly in an attempt to side-step the War Crimes Act and to avoid fair and open trials. These examples were made to bring attention to the need for us to educate ourselves, the difficulty understanding

the details, and the great resource that FCNL can provide us in this area. On their website, www.fcnl.org, there are posts of current action alerts and background information on this issue.

Judy Guerry reported from her experience at the conference. She spoke about the connections between domestic violence (terror and torture in the home) and state violence (terror and torture through the state). She quoted John Calvi, "We need to allow this work to change us – to open up to the work and keep going when it gets difficult, keeping our feet flat on the floor." She spoke of how healing from trauma can happen, but there are three requirements: 1) safety, 2) a reconstruction of the trauma story – a voicing of the truth of one's experience, and 3) a chance for the survivor to connect or reconnect with community.

Friends encouraged monthly meetings to review FCNL's work on torture and to start working on these issues one piece at a time. The website, www.quit-torture-now.org, contains reports from Meetings around the country on their work to end torture. June 1-3, 2007 is the next QUIT conference at Guilford. Friends are also encouraged to attend the School of Americas Protest the weekend of November 17th at Columbus, Georgia. For more information, go to www.soaw.org. Hopefully, there will be a Quaker meet-up at the SOA protest this year. For more information, contact vanregenmorterc@yahoo.com.

Friends Approved.

115-18 Electronic Communications Ad Hoc Committee

The ECC presented the proposed web site policies. No revisions were given.

See Attachment D: Proposed Web Site Policies. Friends Approved these policies.

The ECC also presented their report to the representative Meeting. It is in **Attachment E**. The ECC requested the Yearly Meeting to go forward and implement the three different listserves, using the content guidelines approved in Sixth Month. **Friends approved as proposed.**

There will be no specific oversight policy in use at this time. This practice will be reviewed through June 2007. At that time, the ad hoc committee will see whether they will be able to be laid down.

Friends approved.

115-19 New Requests – New Orleans

The clerk of New Orleans Friends Meeting is requesting AFSC SERO to open an office in New Orleans for aid in the period of recovery. They believe that AFSC could serve as a disinterested party to help bring diverse constituencies together for conversation, connection, and rebuilding. They are asking that SAYMA pass a minute of support for a New Orleans Field Office and to give that to AFSC SERO.

The clerk of SAYMA will further research what the ramifications of a New Orleans Field Office of AFSC would mean and what support that SAYMA could give in the facilitation of this very difficult decision.

SAYMA supports the work of New Orleans Friends Meeting to revitalize their city and asks New Orleans Meeting to inform them of other ways that they could be of service.

Friends Approved.

115-19 Yearly Meeting Planning Committee

Theme for 2007 Yearly Meeting: **Nourished By Our Roots: Bursting Forth With Fruits.**

Several possibilities for speakers were discussed. In response to our evaluations, we are seeking to provide a spiritual experience from a speaker who will speak from their own experience. This will be the plenary for Friday evening.

Thursday evening we are hoping to have a plenary that will be more entertaining as well as educational. A possible comedian will be contacted.

Saturday night we will take a break from a talent show. Possibilities are folk dancing preceded by a show of music. We will do some talent acts providing they have been pre-approved by their Monthly Meeting.

We received a request from Free Polazzo that this committee arrange time for Friends to discuss the various aspects of Earthcare that would be included in the Faith and Practice. The committee decided this might best be put into a workshop slot on the schedule.

The schedule as it appears in the centerfold in the final booklet, will be sent out this year in the advance materials.

Conference Central: The displays and bookstores will exchange places in Gladfelter, giving more opportunity to view the displays. Coffee and tea will be available throughout the day. This means folks can sit, chat and view displays over refreshment. A message board will also be provided.

Worship: Worship sharing will be available two days, Friday and Saturday. We will check with Wren Hendrickson to see if these sessions were valued by the SAYFers.

Errol held a brainstorming session to gain ideas for queries and he will present possibilities in December.

Ceal will place yearly meeting information on the web through Tim Lamm, as the information is available.

Carol Ciscel went over the budget with the committee.

We discussed ways to reach everyone about Yearly Meeting. We feel that the representatives from the individual meetings need to see that all members/attenders have access to the information.

115-20 Closing Minute

Friends gave thanks for the warm hospitality provided by the members of Berea Friends Meeting. They spoke of the changes that they have seen from two years ago when this building was a rented place. They spoke of how this place feels nestled – in the hay fields, in the trees – and how they felt rooted here. They gave thanks for the gracious home hospitality they received –and of how good it was to wake up to homemade blueberry pancakes, corn muffins, and the trees all around.

A friend spoke of how hospitality lays a foundation for good relationships and good work, and a friend spoke in praise of laughter, and about how delightful it was to talk and laugh for hours.

A friend said, “there’s something about those hand decorated plates that makes you feel like you are visiting somebody’s home.”

Another friend shared his gratitude after arriving so late last night due to a flat tire on the road to be so warmly welcomed by his family’s host.

Friends also gave thanks for representative meeting and the opportunity to spend time with each other with the laughter of children in the background.

Friends Approved.

Kristi Estes, Clerk
(Archive copy signed)

Christina Van Regenmorter, Recording Clerk
(Archive copy signed)

Attachment A -List of Attenders

Asheville – Barbara Esther, Steve Livingston
Atlanta – Ceal, Wutka, Mark Wutka
Berea – Carol Lamm, Tim Lamm, Jonathan Schinhofen
Canton WG – Roy Taylor
Charleston – Charles Schade
Chattanooga – Heidimarie Huber-Feely, Stephen Huber-Feely, Bill Reynolds
Columbia – Sallie Prugh
Cookeville – Ralph Bowden, Margaret Haun
Crossville – Dennis Gregg
Greenville – Chris Berg, Errol Hess
Huntsville – Judy Guerry, Susan Phelan
Memphis – Carol Ciscel, David Ciscel, Kristi Estes
Nashville – Pam Beziat, Christina VanRegenmorter, Bill Wolfe
Swannanoa Valley – Bob Welsh
West Knoxville – Missy Ivie, Carol Nickle, Rick Phelps, Sharon Phelps

Attachment B

This report brings SAYMA almost to the end of the FY 2006 budget year. This year's budget is based on a \$60 assessment.

Attached, please find three documents: (1) the FY 2006 budget report, (2) the FY 2006 Account Balances report and (3) the FY 2007 budget.

FY 2006 Budget Report

Budget issues to report include:

1. The FY 2006 budget is attached.
 - a. Planned 2007 contributions and expenditures are \$69,850, based a \$60.00 per member and attender assessment of SAYMA Monthly Meetings. Contributions have been \$77,384.09 and expenditures have been \$62,204.17 for a positive balance of \$15,179.92
 - b. SAYMA has received assessments of \$37,724.00, slightly less than the expected \$40,000. But because many Meetings are now sending their assessments in quarterly payments, the flow of income is very steady.
 - c. Voluntary contributions are a significant part of SAYMA's fiscal stability. There were \$11,121.00 in voluntary contributions to the 2006 budget.
 - d. Office expenditures include the purchase of new computer system for SAYMA. Also note that SAYMA has reduced personnel expenditures since we have operated without an Administrative Assistant since July 1, 2006.
 - e. YM receipts were \$27,829.63, including \$2,435.63 from the bookstore. The cost of YM was \$28,704.20, including \$2,318.67 from the bookstore. Overall, YM was slightly out of balance: -874.57. Data on YM scholarships are not available.

2. Assessments from Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups since the 2006 Yearly Meeting were received from: Foxfire Friends Meeting, Chattanooga Friends Meeting, Gwinnett Friends Meeting, Swannanona Valley Friends Meeting, Huntsville Friends Meeting, Greenville Friends Meeting, Berea Friends Meeting, Atlanta Friends Meeting, Athens Religious Society of Friends, Brevard Friends Meeting, West Knoxville Friends Meeting, Memphis Friends Meeting, Oxford Quaker Meeting.
3. Notes from the FY 2006 Account Balances sheet. SAYMA has set aside funds of \$9,840 for eight different funds. These funds include the funds transferred from the new FY 2006 budget. We have spent \$2,050 from these funds during this fiscal year. SAYMA has \$21,017 in two savings accounts at Self-Help Credit Union to cover these claims. At the Treasurer's request, Self-Help has begun crediting interest to the saving accounts rather than sending SAYMA an interest check every month. We currently have \$17,629 in checking with Bank of America. Currently, SAYMA has available net assets of \$28,805.
4. It appears that SAYMA is on track to meet its budget this year with a surplus if income and expenditures continue for the rest of the fiscal year.
5. Fiscal 2007 will begin on October 1, 2006. YM approved a \$72,650 budget.

SAYMA Account Balances Report -- Fiscal 2006
Tuesday, September 05, 2006

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	6/30/2002	6/7/2003	6/30/2004	9/30/2005	9/6/2006
ASSETS					
Bank Accounts					
Checking (Bank of America)	\$5,399	\$5,529	\$18,694	\$9,167	\$17,629
Money Market (Self Help)	\$10,960	\$5,900	\$14,229	\$9,514	\$15,963
Savings (Self Help CD)*	\$7,934	\$8,244	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,054
SAYF Checking (off books in 2004)	\$1,413	\$784			
Total Available Funds	\$25,706	\$20,457	\$32,923	\$23,681	\$38,645
Set Aside Budgeted Funds					
FWCC Third World Delegate	\$1,300	\$0	\$650	\$1,300	\$0
FWCC Triennial Delegates	\$1,905	\$2,115	\$667	\$1,667	\$2,367
Released Friend	\$1,850	\$2,250	\$2,650	\$3,050	\$3,150
Spiritual Development	\$1,282	\$1,782	\$2,082	\$582	\$982
Youth Quake	\$1,095	\$1,345	\$1,595	\$1,645	\$1,895
Young Adult Friends Scholarship				\$500	\$600
Accumulated Funds					
YM Scholarship	\$502	\$502	\$502	\$596	\$596
SAYF Scholarship Fund		\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
Claims against Available Funds	\$7,934	\$8,244	\$8,396	\$9,590	\$9,840
Net Assets	\$17,773	\$12,213	\$24,527	\$14,091	\$28,805
Fund Expenses in Fiscal Year					
FWCC Triennial Delegate			(\$2,447)		
Spiritual Development Fund			(\$200)		
Net 2005 YM Scholarship Fund				\$94.00	
Spiritual Development Fund -- 2 Delegates to World Gathering of Quaker Youth				(\$2,000.00)	
Spritual Development Fund -- FWCC El Salvador 5/9/2006					(\$100)
FWCC Third World Delegate 7/5/2006					(\$1,950)
Total			(\$2,647)	(\$1,906)	(\$2,050)
*FY 2006 Interest (\$616.41) reported on budget page. Future interest income will be reported in this column.					

**SAYMA Fiscal Year 2007 -- Approved with changes and corrections at Yearly Meeting June 2006
October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007**

	Budget FY 2006	Actual** FY2006	Budget FY 2007	Actual FY 2007
Income				
Assessments*	\$40,000	\$37,724.00	\$40,000	
Bank Interest	\$100	\$616.41	\$100	
Contributions	\$500	\$11,121.00	\$3,300	
F&P Sales	\$250	\$93.05	\$250	
Newsletter				
SAYF Receipts	\$0			
YM Total Receipts	\$29,000	\$27,829.63	\$29,000	\$0.00
YM Receipts	\$26,000	\$25,394.00	\$26,000	
YM Scholarship Donations	\$1,000		\$1,000	
YM Book Sales	\$2,000	\$2,435.63	\$2,000	
Total Income	\$69,850	\$77,384.09	\$72,650	\$0.00
SAYMA OPERATIONAL EXPENSES				
Yearly Meeting	\$26,900	\$28,704.20	\$26,900	\$0.00
Yrly Meeting - Facilities	\$20,000	\$21,119.00	\$20,000	
Prtng/Mail/Phone/Minutes/Misc	\$900	\$2,243.26	\$900	
Junior Yearly Meeting -- JYM	\$3,000	\$3,023.27	\$3,000	\$0.00
<i>Coordinator</i>	\$1,800	\$1,800.00	\$1,800	
<i>Ass't Coordinator</i>	\$1,000	\$1,000.00	\$1,000	
<i>Supplies/Sitters/Misc</i>	\$200	\$223.27	\$200	
Scholarship WQO Reps	\$1,000		\$1,000	
YM Bookstore	\$2,000	\$2,318.67	\$2,000	
SAYF Operational Transfers	\$3,000	\$2,250.00	\$3,000	
Delegate Expenses	\$6,900	\$2,852.65	\$6,900	\$0.00
Rep Mtgs	\$300		\$300	
Del to WQOs	\$6,600	\$2,852.65	\$6,600	
Committees	\$1,300	\$287.63	\$1,500	\$0.00
Ministry and Nurture	\$700	\$12.00	\$700	
Ecological Concerns	\$300	\$60.00	\$300	
Faith and Practice	\$200	\$215.63	\$400	
Nominating	\$100		\$100	
SAYMA Liability Insurance	\$800	\$621.00	\$700	
SAYMA Personnel	\$19,500	\$15,911.70	\$20,300	
SAYMA Staff Training	\$0		\$100	
SAYMA Office Administration	\$3,500	\$4,382.01	\$3,500	\$0.00
Phone, Internet & Office Expenses		\$1,113.79		
Postage		\$403.68		
Duplication		\$1,119.24		
Misc. Office		\$1,745.30		
SAYMA Newsletter	\$1,300	\$1,132.57	\$1,300	
SAYMA Directory	\$600		\$600	
SAYMA Treasurer	\$200	\$223.98	\$250	
SAYMA F&P	\$100	\$88.43	\$100	
SAYMA Other Expenses	\$0		\$0	
Total Operational Disbursements	\$64,100	\$56,454.17	\$65,150	\$0
YEARLY MEETING PROJECTS				
Transfers To Funds	\$2,300	\$2,300.00	\$2,400	\$0.00
Spiritual Development Fund	\$500	\$500.00	\$500	
Released Friend Fund	\$100	\$100.00	\$200	
FWCC - 3rd Wild Del	\$650	\$650.00	\$650	
FWCC Triennial Fund	\$700	\$700.00	\$700	
YouthQuake	\$250	\$250.00	\$250	
Young Adult Friends Scholarships	\$100	\$100.00	\$100	
Contributions Wider Quaker Org	\$3,450	\$3,450.00	\$5,100	\$0.00
AFSC	\$400	\$400.00	\$600	
FCNL	\$400	\$400.00	\$600	
FGC	\$400	\$400.00	\$600	
FWCC	\$400	\$400.00	\$600	
Right Sharing of World Res	\$400	\$400.00	\$600	
Quaker House	\$400	\$400.00	\$600	
Friends for LGBTQ Concerns	\$100	\$100.00	\$200	
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$400	\$400.00	\$600	
Friends Peace Teams	\$150	\$150.00	\$200	
Wm Penn House	\$100	\$100.00	\$200	
Guilford College Archiving	\$100	\$100.00	\$100	
Rural Southern Voice for Peace	\$200	\$200.00	\$200	
Other				
Total Projects	\$5,750	\$5,750.00	\$7,500	\$0.00
Total Disbursements	\$69,850	\$62,204.17	\$72,650	\$0.00
Surplus (Deficit)	\$0	\$15,179.92	\$0	\$0.00

* based a \$60.00 assessment per member and regular attender
** to September 6, 2006

Attachment C - 2006 New England Yearly Meeting Epistle

Beloved Friends Everywhere,
New England Yearly Meeting of Friends gathered for its 346th Annual Sessions from August 5 to 10, 2006, in Smithfield, RI under the theme *Holy Obedience, from Worship to Witness*.

We were reminded that our worship and our witness are one. Corporate worship is the union of the love of God with the love of neighbor. Our obedience to God requires surrender of our individual wills and preferences, as well as intense listening to God and to one another. Throughout this week, we have felt the love of God over all, blessing us many times with the grace of confession, submission, and integrity.

This discipline comes into specific focus in our long-term work of rewriting our *Faith and Practice*. We pray to yield our individual perspectives, to be led to precious words that can pull us to a place where we can stand together beyond words.

We rejoice in the hard and faithful work of many Friends among us, including our continuing struggles against racism and homophobia; beginning a new Quaker initiative against torture; learning to care for our beautiful and diverse ecosystem.

We held a special "Meeting for worship for Yearning," a time for grieving and prayer and weeping and discernment, in our deep distress about the state of our country and the world: wars, arms, occupations, torture, destruction of the natural world, debt, abuse of authority, economic and physical violence in our cities and abroad. We grieve how war tarnishes the soul of our nation, the make of war, though most of the violence is elsewhere. We pray to God, the compassionate, the merciful, to renew us in that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars, to restore us and our society to our rightful mind.

We mourn the loss of many beloved Friends whose service and gifts have so enriched our lives and our meetings. We rejoice in a rising generation of youth who bring us gifts of joy and hope and fun; love and truth-telling; fresh insights and challenges. Young adults who attended the 2005 world Gathering of Young Friends presented us with rich new advices, including: "Have joyful worship. Do not always be somber," "Love boldly, share deeply," and "Forgive and forgive and forgive."

We feel divided among many diverse theological understandings and we struggle with issues of race, sexual orientation, and social class. These challenges arose very sharply during our business session on the last evening. In one case, a committee included in their oral report that they perceived racism in an incident within our Yearly Meeting; Friends disagreed as to whether that perception was accurate and how the matter should be recorded in our minutes. In the second case, a substantial number of Friends asked to be recorded as standing aside from approval of the budget because it includes our regular contribution to Friends United Meeting, which has a personnel policy which many Friends in this Yearly Meeting strongly oppose.

Across such differences we seek to speak truth with integrity and gentleness, and to listen with open, grateful hearts to words that may seem wounding, critical, or alienating. We know that what binds us together as one family is stronger than what divides us. Through speaking and listening we seek to love, to forgive, and to grow toward deeper unity.

Obedience is not simple. Our spiritual work is to listen and learn and love with undefended openness, to find together how to love deeply enough to hear challenges and hard truths and to obey the divine will. Then, grounded in this community of shared obedience, may we go out into the world ready to undertake the wide variety of work to which God calls us.

God gives us breath and bread each day. God holds us always, even when we forget, and strengthens us with courage and love. We cannot find words enough to express our gratitude.

Attachment D -- Proposed Web Site Policies

Proposed Web Site Policies

Ninth Month, 2006

Purpose:

The purposes of the SAYMA Web Site (www.sayma.org) are:

- * To share information among SAYMA Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups and attendees about organizational matters;
- * To reach out to potential attendees by providing information about how to contact SAYMA Friends and locate SAYMA Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups;
- * To inform the world at large about SAYMA activities.

Content:

The SAYMA Web Site will publish items of general interest to SAYMA Friends submitted by Monthly Meetings, Worship Groups, Yearly Meeting committees, *groups within SAYMA*, or people in positions of responsibility for the Yearly Meeting.

Specific content will include:

- * An annual calendar of Yearly Meeting events;
- * An archive of minutes of Representative Meeting and Yearly Meeting business sessions (not including the attendee lists) and other documents in the official record of the Yearly Meeting;
- * A list of people in positions of responsibilities, including contact information;

- * Information and registration materials (possibly including on-line registration pages) for Representative Meetings and Yearly Meeting gatherings;
- * *Guide to Our Faith and Practice* working documents and drafts;
- * Announcements of workshops, retreats, etc., sponsored by member groups and open to all;
- * Information about SAYF and SAYF retreats;
- * Issues of *Southern Appalachian Friend* newsletter and subscription information;
- * The Yearly Meeting Handbook (when available);
- * Information about other Yearly Meeting programs;
- * Links to other Quaker organizations, including FGC, FCNL, FWCC, and AFSC.

To facilitate Yearly Meeting committee work, the web manager may provide private, password-protected web space for committees to keep working documents. *Groups within SAYMA who would like a link or a presence on the website are encouraged to contact the web manager.*

Monthly Meeting/Worship Group Pages:

The web site will have a page for each monthly meeting and worship group officially affiliated with SAYMA. These pages will contain:

- * The name and status (i.e. Monthly Meeting, Preparative Meeting, Worship Group) of the meeting;
- * The place and times of meeting;
- * Directions to the meeting or a link to a map;
- * A link to the meeting's own web site (if any);
- * Contact information provided by the meeting;
- * An email link of the form <meeting name>@sayma.org.

Email sent to the above email address will be forwarded automatically to the email contact person designated by the meeting. If the meeting does not designate an email contact person, such messages will go to the web manager.

It will be the responsibility of the individual meetings to keep their information up to date by notifying the SAYMA web manager of changes.

Guidelines for Documents:

Documents for publication on the SAYMA Web Site must be submitted in digital form and ready for publication. Acceptable formats are:

- * Microsoft Word, Excel, or Publisher;
- * Corel WordPerfect or Quattro Pro;
- * *Open Office Writer, Calc, or Impress;*
- * Adobe Acrobat PDF;
- * Rich Text Format (RTF);

- * HTML

The web manager may correct spelling, grammatical or obvious factual errors, but should not be expected to do major editing of submitted documents.

Documents will be posted in one or more of these formats (at the discretion of the web manager):

- * PDF;
- * RTF;
- * HTML

The web manager will make a reasonable effort to insure that the on-line document is as much like the original as possible, but sometimes changes in format are necessary.

For best results, documents to be posted on the web should have a simple layout with at least 1 inch margins and at most two font families. Common font families, such as Times New Roman and Arial, work best.

Privacy and Security:

Personal information such as names, postal addresses and email addresses will not be published on the SAYMA web site without the person's knowledge and consent.

The web manager will choose technologies that reduce the likelihood that individuals will be subjected to spam, crank phone calls, or other unwanted communication as a result of web site content.

Attachment E – Electronic Communications Report

SAYMA ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS AD HOC COMMITTEE (ECC)

9-9-06 REPORT TO REPRESENTATIVE MEETING -- BEREA

I. RE: the new listservs:

1. Our Listserv provider has set up the three new listservs --- With your approval they will be launched next week. [Note: 10-14-06, Apparently due to a break down in electronic communications between the committee clerk and the Listserv provider, the new listservs have not yet been launched. I will work on solving that problem.]

>>>Just to remind everyone the three new listservs that will replace our current single one are:

A. SAYMA IMP^{AO} Bulletin Service - This listserv will continue to post the YM's Administrative Office bulletins specifically and exclusively about the business and work of SAYMA. Only the office administrator will post to this listserv. Friends may submit items of YM business and work to the Administrative Assistant for posting.

B. General Interests Announcements - This listserv is for all subscribers to post announcements about events, information, opinion and information about action opportunities related to Friends' concerns. Appropriate responses to announcements on this listserv are supposed to be limited to questions of clarification about details, planning information such as time, place, topic and contact information.

C. SAYMA DISCUSSION LISTSERVE "This list is for the SAYMA community to discuss general issues of concern to Quakers."

2. The launch of the three listservs will occur in the following manner - (unless there is something that I did not understand in the communications from our listserv provider.)

(a) Everyone who is currently subscribed to the single SAYMA listserv will automatically be subscribed to ALL three of the new listservs. (b) Feedback to the committee has informed us that there are quite a number of current listserv subscribers who do not want to receive at least one of the new ones. The welcome posting to each of the three new listservs will provide a link or email address for everyone who wants to quickly unsubscribe to whichever one(s) they choose while remaining automatically subscribed to the other listservs they want.

3. The Electronic Communications ad hoc committee presented to YM in Sixth Month some proposals about a way to oversee and have some control of the discussion listserv in particular by having some Friends do "eldering" of individuals if they continue to post inappropriate messages. YM did not approve of these proposals. The committee has discussed the issues of concerns about elderring or moderating the discussion and general announcements listservs that were expressed during YM. We recommend that YM go ahead and implement the three listservs under the content guidelines approved in Sixth Month. We request that Rep Meeting permit ECC to wait and watch until YM 2007 to see whether a clear need for oversight arises with the expectation that the listservs will be self-moderating.

II. RE: the SAYMA website

The original proposed Website Policies was distributed in the first business session at this year's YM. We did not complete the preparation of the slightly modified draft in time to bring it before the YM by the closing session. We announced then that everyone would have the opportunity to see the full, slightly modified proposal on the website soon. It was posted I think in less than three weeks after the close of YM. And everyone was invited to tell their Representative or a member of the ECC about any concerns or issues they might have with the proposal. In addition I posted the proposal on our listserv twice since YM. The single feedback I received was a question about the role the Representative Meeting has in the YM's approval process regarding this proposal. That concern apparently was resolved with the communication I had with that individual. So I can report to you that way appears open for Rep Meeting to approve this proposal.