

SAYMA Representative Meeting Minutes  
September 15, 2007  
Representative Meeting #118 (Fall)  
Chattanooga Friends Meeting – Chattanooga, TN.

**118-01 Opening worship**

Friends gathered at 9:30 am for a period of waiting worship.

**118-02 Introductions**

Introductions were made. Following introductions members of yearly meeting planning committee withdrew for their sessions. The clerk asked that we hold the yearly meeting planning committee in the Light for their deliberations. A list of all in attendance follows these minutes as Attachment 1.

**118-03 Agenda Review**

**Minute 118-03-01:** Friends approved the proposed agenda as amended.

**118-04 Calendar – Fall and Winter 2008.**

The clerk reviewed the calendar for 2007-2008. The 12/1/07 meeting will be held at West Knoxville, the 4/5/08 meeting will be held in Atlanta. Yearly Meeting will be 6/11-15/07 at Warren Wilson College. Representative Meetings scheduled for 9/6/08 and 12/6/08 are currently open. The clerk review the rotation from previous years, suggesting the desire to remain central to the yearly meeting, but not to unduly burden meetings assuming responsibility for hosting our gatherings.

**Minute 118-04-01:** We reviewed the approved calendar and meeting locations. We will ask Birmingham MM to consider hosting the December 2008 representative meeting; the clerk will ask Berea MM to consider September 2008.

**118-05 Treasurer's Report.**

In the absence of the treasurer, Deanna Nipp-Kientz, assistant treasurer, reported. SAYMA has experienced a surplus of revenue for fiscal year 2007 due to increased assessment income and decreased expenditures. (Report Attached).

Friends asked questions about Junior Yearly Meeting fees and the allocation of expenses for office expenditures and the directory. A question was asked about the existence of a reserve fund for SAYMA and how such funds were reported. Several Friends suggested that Finance Committee establish a designated reserve fund to insure our financial solvency.

**Minute 118-05-01:** We reviewed the Treasurer's report for Fiscal Year 2007. Questions were raised about the allocation of specific expenses. We ask the finance committee to explore this. We also ask finance committee to consider the establishment of a designated reserve fund.

**Minute 118-05-02:** We accept the treasurer's report of September 9, 2007.

#### **118-06 Approval of YM Minute - #37-54.**

The clerk noted that the gathered body had not formally approved the final minute of the Yearly Meeting session. She asked Representative Meeting to approve the final minute.

**Minute 118-06-01:** Friends approve Words of Thanks for Penelope Wright as recorded in Yearly meeting minutes 37-54.

#### **118-07 Administrative Assistant Report.**

Liz Perch reported that she had electronic copies of the SAYMA directory available as well as limited print copies of the directory and positions of responsibility. A new census form has been developed and will be circulated in First month 2008. The new census form has been modified to incorporate concerns noted with last year's form. The new form will include questions about average attendance at worship and business meeting as well as average number of children in first day school and nursery. It is hoped that the new census will provide better information to explore similarities between meetings. A new directory will be developed and should be available by April 2008 Representative Meeting. The clerk expressed appreciation for the work of the Administrative Assistant.

#### **118-08 FWCC Announcements.**

On behalf of Tim Lamm, SAYMA FWCC representative, the clerk announced that FWCC would be holding a Southeastern Regional Gathering at Madge Saunders conference Center near Ocho Rios, Jamaica, January 3-6, 2008. It is open to all friends. The announcement will be posted on the FWCC web site. Registration material will be available in early October. SAYMA Friends are encouraged to attend.

#### **118-09 Report of FWCC Triennial, Dublin, Ireland.**

Sallie Prugh reported on her attendance at the FWCC Triennial.

**Minute 118-09-01:** Sallie Prugh reported on the FWCC Triennial held over 9 days in Dublin, Ireland on the theme of prophetic voices. 320 Quakers from 41 countries gathered representing the broad diversity of Friends. Friends plan to meet again in a world gathering in Nairobi, Kenya in 2012. She was enthusiastic about the experience and commends it to others. Sallie showed enthusiasm about the presence to young adult friends at the triennial and will continue to be involved in efforts to include young adult friends in the section of the Americas.

Sallie is prepared to communicate her experience through the newsletter, yearly meeting opportunities and monthly meeting requests.

### **118-10 Handbook Committee**

Sharon Annis reported for the Handbook Committee.

**Minute 118-10-01 :** Sharon Annis reviewed the history of the handbook. The handbook provides practical information for the operations of yearly meeting. She has draft copies available and asks for the assistance of representative meeting in reviewing and correcting the draft. She outlined plans to bring a recommendation for adoption to representative meeting in spring 2008. She welcomes volunteers interested in assisting with this project.

Following this report, the meeting arose for committee meeting and lunch.

### **118-11 Reading of Epistle.**

The epistle from Intermountain Yearly Meeting 2007 was read. Intermountain Yearly Meeting met June 10-17, 2007 at Ghost Ranch, New Mexico.

### **118-12 Nominating Committee.**

Errol Hess reported for the Nominating Committee (Report Attached). Nominating brought the names of persons interested in serving as representatives to wider Quaker organizations. This led to a concern regarding our representatives to Wider Quaker Organizations and other positions of responsibility. Several individuals have volunteered to fill positions to which SAYMA is entitled, but we have declined to fill out of a concern for providing financial support for those we designate as our representatives. Errol reported that the issue is cost. Several friends suggested that we appoint alternate for these representative positions, who could represent SAYMA should our designated representative be unavailable. It was suggested that we gather information on the number and terms of representatives that WQOs are requesting from us. Using this information we can discern how we are led. Pending this report, the body agreed to approve one alternate position.

**Minute 118-12-01:** Friends discussed the idea of naming a formal alternate position for organizations to which we name representatives. In addition, it was suggested that we put term length to all positions approved by the yearly meeting, beginning with new appointees we approve.

**Minute 118-12-02:** We ask Liz Perch to research among wider Quaker Organizations regarding the representatives to which we are entitled and the obligations that are expected from each. We ask Finance Committee to consider the current obligations and how enlarging our representatives' pool would affect this.

There are questions about the current membership and terms of members of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. The nominating committee will explore this question.

**Minute 118-12-03:** At the suggestion of the nominating committee, we appoint these Friend(s) to service to the committee(s), post(s), and terms listed:

1. Maureen Flannery (Berea MM), alternate, AFSC Corporation
2. Chris Berg (Greenville MM), Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, Worship Coordinator, 6/07-6/09
3. Steve Livingston, Clerk Peace and Social Concerns, 6/07-6/09
4. Joan Conger (Athens MM), FLGBTQC representative, alternate 07-08

Errol noted the yearly meeting has current openings for 1) archivist/historian; 2) members of personnel committee and; 3) representative to AFSC (SERO). In June 2008 several critical openings will need to be filled: 1) Clerk; 2) Assistant Clerk; 3) Assistant Treasurer and; 4) 2 Yearly Meeting Registrars. Several other positions will be open in 2008. Friends are encouraged to recommend nominees to the committee and to encourage meeting members to consider their leadings for these positions of service.

### **118-13 Ministry & Nurture Committee.**

In the absence of Bob McGahey, Judy Guerry presented his report. (Report Attached). The committee has been joined by five new members, doubling their membership. The committee supports Mark Wutka's leading to grow in his ministry and commends his name to the FGC Traveling Ministries Program for possible participation in an Emerging Gifts of Ministry Consultation to be held in November. The committee also supports the desire of Doug Price (Sevier County Worship Group) to travel in ministry to share his experience developing worship groups.

Ministry & Nurture, in consultation with Finance, recommend to representative body that the yearly allocation to the Spiritual Development Fund be increased to \$1000. This will permit the fund to grow and provide greater support for SAYMA friends. Discussion followed.

**Minute 118-13-01:** We approve changing the annual allocation to spiritual development fund to \$1000, to accumulate to a maximum of \$5000.

### **118-14 Finance/Budget.**

Susan Phelan reviewed the proposed 2008 budget (Attached). As SAYMA has changed the fiscal year to October, the budget presented at yearly meeting is preliminary in nature and minor changes are often necessary. Finance feels a commitment to remain close to the preliminary budget with any substantial changes being left to the gathered body at yearly meeting.

Three adjustments have been made to the preliminary budget presented in June. Ministry and Nurture has been allocated an additional \$300, the Spiritual Development

Fund has been increased to \$1000 and the Released Friends Fund has been increased to \$1000 for a total change of \$1100.

Discussion followed. A question was raised regarding the history and purpose of the Released Friend Fund. The clerk noted that it was created in 1970, but the actual minute establishing the fund is missing. The purpose of the fund was to support individuals who are traveling in the ministry and was established shortly after the FGC field secretary position was laid down. The process requires that Yearly Meeting recommend an individual to ministry and nurture after an individual had been recommended by their monthly meeting. It was noted that Faith and Practice sales were unrealistic given the current small supply. To offset this projected income, several Friends suggested increasing projected contributions.

**Minute 118-14-01:** Friends approve the FY 2008 budget as presented by the finance committee, removing \$250 from F&P sales and increasing projected contributions by \$250.

The 2007 surplus and account balance reports show that SAYMA now has around \$20K in unbudgeted funds. This raises a number of possibilities including the development of reserve account, investment income, one-time disbursements, support for additional representatives or other ideas. In order to consider these questions and develop recommendations, Finance Committee requests the advice of representatives and committees.

**Minute 118-14-02:** Friends received the report that finance committee is examining our total funds picture. The Finance clerk noted that we currently carry approximately \$20K in unallocated funds. Friends are asked for their advice on how to prudently use and manage these funds.

**Minute 118-14-03:** We ask the finance committee and the Yearly meeting clerk to develop queries for monthly meetings and committee clerks soliciting their deliberations as to what is needful at this time in light of the surplus. Discussion included suggestions such as supporting the young adult community and presence in our yearly meeting, supplementing the released friend fund and establishing a healthy reserve fund.

### **118-15 Reading.**

Dearly beloved Friends, these things we do not lay upon you as a rule or form to walk by, but that all, with the measure of light which is pure and holy, may be guided: as so in the light walking and abiding, these may be fulfilled in the Spirit, not in the letter, for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life. Letter from the meeting of Elders of Balby, 1656.

**Minute 118-15-01:** The clerk read an extract from the Letter from the meeting of Elders of Balby (1656) and Friends considered it in silence.

## **118-16 -Faith and Practice Revision.**

The clerk reminded the body that Swannanoa Valley Friends had brought a minuted concern regarding a change to our Faith and Practice (Attached). This concern raises the issue of process regarding the concern of a constituent meeting raised at a time when the Faith and Practice Revision Committee is reviewing the entire guide. The Faith and Practice Revision Committee was appointed ten years after the approval of Faith and Practice and have been working to facilitate the yearly meeting's discernment. The Swannanoa minute raises the question if right order is to consider their concern within the Revision Committee process or to establish a separate examining committee. Both processes are provided for in our Faith and Practice. Faith and Practice provides for an annual call at the beginning of yearly meeting for minuted proposed changes to Faith and Practice. This process was not followed in 2007. Representative Body was asked to discern the right order for handling the concern given the current situation.

Bob Welsh (Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting) was asked to summarize the concern. Bob reported that the meeting had four single sex couples in the meeting; one couple had been married under the care of the meeting. In the last year three heterosexual couples had been married in the meeting. This had highlighted the disparity of treatment between the two kinds of couples. In the discernment of the meeting, both sets of couples are treated equally, but the state requires them to be treated disparately. The meeting no longer believes it is in keeping with integrity to support disparate treatment and have minuted their refusal to participate in the state sanctioning of any form of marriage. A minute has been developed by the meeting and has been circulated to SAYMA meetings. Swannanoa now has the concern that their practice be in right order with Faith and Practice and suggested a rewording of the applicable section of Faith and Practice. Bob read the minute from Swannanoa Valley.

Discussion followed. Several members of the current Faith and Practice Revision Committee spoke.

**Minute 118-16-01:** Friends receive the minute of Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting on the testimony of equality as it relates to the description of marriage practices in our Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice. As this minute concerns a section of our Faith and Practice currently under revision, we do not consider a separate examining committee necessary at this time. We ask the Faith and Practice Revision Committee to consider the Swannanoa Valley concern in their proposed revisions to this section. We encourage Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting to continue to share their minute with other SAYMA Friends as they are led.

## **118-17 Yearly Meeting Planning Committee (YMPC)**

Erika Phelps reported for the committee. The proposed theme for the 2008 yearly meeting is "Out of the harbor, our voyages of faith." The committee proposes that one evening will feature presentations by five generations of SAYMA Friends sharing their spiritual voyages. On another evening one SAYMA Friend will be asked to address the theme with a combination of seriousness and silliness. On Saturday evening, the Hibbard

Thatcher memorial dance and talent show will be held. YAF's will be asked to provide friendly transportation.

**Minute 118-17-01:** Friends approve "Out of the harbor, our voyages of faith" as the theme for our 2008 Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and are excited by the multi-generational approach envisioned by the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee. Friends are encouraged to suggest Friends from different generations from within our yearly meeting to present their spiritual voyages at a plenary session. The Wider Quaker Organizations invited visitors in 2008 will be Friends World Committee for Consultation, Friends Committee on Outworld Relations, American Friends Service Committee -Southeast Regional Office (AFSC-SERO) and Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW).

**118-18 Minute of Thanks.** Out of worship Friends spoke their thanks for the hospitality of Chattanooga Friends.

**Minute 118-18-01:** Friends extend their loving thanks to Chattanooga Friends for their hospitality and the loving care they extended to support our deliberations. Thanks were expressed for the delicious lunch, the cloth napkins, and the beautiful grounds. We experienced our deliberations as under the care of a supportive and caring monthly meeting.

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Kristi Estes, Clerk  
(archive copy signed)

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Bill Holland, Recording Clerk  
(archive copy signed)

## Attachment 1

### Attendance

1. Sharon Annis – Knoxville
2. Chris Berg – Greenville
3. Pam Beziat – Nashville
4. Joan Conger - Athens
5. Barbara Ester –Asheville
6. Kristi Estes – Memphis
7. Nancy Evans Nothhelfer – Swannanoa Valley
8. Margaret Farmer – Asheville
9. Stephen M. Feely – Chattanooga
10. Peter Furst Birmingham
11. Judy Guerry – Huntsville
12. Errol Hess - Foxfire
13. Bill Holland – Atlanta
14. Missy Ivey – West Knoxville
15. Chuck Jones – Chattanooga
16. Steve Livingston – Asheville
17. Kathleen Mavournin - West. Knoxville
18. Carol Nickle - Knoxville
19. Deanna Nipp-Kientz – Cookeville
20. Liz Perch – Savannah Worship Group
21. Erika Phelps – West Knoxville
22. Sharon Phelps – West Knoxville
23. Sallie Prugh – Columbia
24. Charles Schade – Charleston, W. Virginia
25. Barbara Seal – Gwinnett Preparative Meeting
26. Lee Ann Swarm West Knoxville
27. Bob Welsh – Swannanoa Valley
28. Bill Wolfe – Nashville
29. Mark Wutka – Atlanta
30. Ceal Wutka – Atlanta

Attachment 2

SAYMA MINISTRY AND NURTURE REPORT SEPT 15, 2007

We welcome our new members: Perry Treadwell, Margaret Farmer, Edie Patrick, Tim Lamm and Jane Goldthwaite, effectively doubling our membership. Thank God for this.

We are in unity with the clearness committee of Atlanta MM in supporting Mark Wutka's leading to attend the FGC Traveling Ministries consultation, "Nurturing Emerging Gifts in the Ministry" in November.

Doug Price of Sevier County Worship Group has offered to travel with a special concern for worship groups, sharing Sevier County's successful experience in building a thriving group. We are very happy to receive this help from Doug, since the health and nurture of worship groups is one of our key concerns.

ACTION ITEM: SAYMA M AND N requests a change in the yearly allocation to the Spiritual Development Fund from \$500 to \$1000. We are committed to expanding support for leadings that might augment requests from the fund. In the last three years, we have had disbursements of \$2000 ('05), \$100 ('06), and thus far this year we have spent or committed \$960, so we are steadily drawing down the reserves in the fund, now at \$522. The treasurer supports our request.

Our next meeting is in Charleston October 20, with a full agenda. The following quarter, we will meet with Royal. We appreciate your support.

Respectfully for the Committee,

Bob McGahey

## ATTACHMENT 3

Nominating Committee Report to Sept 15 Representative Meeting by Errol Hess

Athens Monthly Meeting appointed Joan Conger as their SAYMA Representative. The meeting recommended that Joan Conger be appointed as SAYMA representative to FLGBTQC. We do have an open slot for FLGBTQC.

Maureen Flannery (Berea) expressed willingness to become SAYMA representative to the AFSC Corporation. I vaguely recall that we have the option of appointing a third rep to the Corporation. If so, do we wish to fill it?

Looking at the “Complete Roster of Officers and Committees,” Chris Berg's term as worship coordinator on the YM Planning Committee is 6/07—6/09.

The following positions remain unfilled:

Archivist/Historian  
3 Personnel Committee members (are these active openings?)  
AFSC/SERO  
FLGBTQC

### Critical Openings as of 6/08

Clerk  
Assistant Clerk  
Assistant Treasurer (Deanna will move to Treasurer in June)  
2 Registrars

### Other 08 openings

All but 2 of Nominating Committee (a Naming Committee responsibility)  
2 SAYF Steering Committee members, including Supervisor of SAYF AA (recommended from within SAYF)  
Bookstore and Assistant Bookstore  
Local Arrangements (? Steve is uncertain he can continue.)  
AFSC Corporation  
FCNL  
FGC  
FWCC  
Friends Peace Teams  
Quaker Earthcare Witness  
RSWR  
Wm. Penn House  
Handbook Ad Hoc

## Attachment 4

## FY 2008 PROPOSED BUDGET

**Proposed at Yearly Meeting 2007  
October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008**

	<b>Budget</b>	Actual	<b>Budget</b>	Actual
	<b>FY 2007</b>	FY2007	<b>FY 2008</b>	FY 2008
Income				
Assessments*	<b>\$40,000</b>	\$35,005.00	<b>\$40,910</b>	
Bank Interest	<b>\$300</b>	\$710.21	<b>\$900</b>	
Contributions	<b>\$3,300</b>	\$100.00	<b>\$3,260</b>	
F&P Sales	<b>\$250</b>	\$32.11	<b>\$250</b>	
Newsletter				
SAYF Receipts				
YM Total Receipts	<b>\$29,000</b>	\$17,698.00	<b>\$29,000</b>	\$0.00
YM Receipts	<b>\$26,000</b>	\$17,698.00	<b>\$26,000</b>	
YM Scholarship Donations	<b>\$1,000</b>		<b>\$1,000</b>	
YM Book Sales	<b>\$2,000</b>		<b>\$2,000</b>	
Total Income	<b>\$72,850</b>	\$53,545.32	<b>\$74,320</b>	\$0.00
SAYMA OPERATIONAL EXPENSES				
Yearly Meeting	<b>\$26,900</b>	\$22,991.04	<b>\$26,900</b>	\$0.00
Yrly Meeting - Facilities	<b>\$20,000</b>	\$17,000.00	<b>\$20,000</b>	
Prtnng/Mail/Phone/Minutes/Misc	<b>\$900</b>	\$3,191.04	<b>\$900</b>	
Junior Yearly Meeting -- JYM	<b>\$3,000</b>	\$2,800.00	<b>\$3,000</b>	\$0.00
<i>Coordinator</i>	<b>\$1,800</b>	\$1,800.00	<b>\$1,800</b>	
<i>Ass't Coordinator</i>	<b>\$1,000</b>	\$1,000.00	<b>\$1,000</b>	
<i>Supplies/Sitters/Misc</i>	<b>\$200</b>		<b>\$200</b>	
Scholarship WQO Reps	<b>\$1,000</b>		<b>\$1,000</b>	
YM Bookstore	<b>\$2,000</b>		<b>\$2,000</b>	
SAYF Operational Transfers	<b>\$3,000</b>	\$1,000.00	<b>\$3,000</b>	
Delegate Expenses	<b>\$6,900</b>	\$1,941.80	<b>\$6,900</b>	\$0.00
Rep Mtgs	<b>\$300</b>	\$50.00	<b>\$300</b>	
Del to WQOs	<b>\$6,600</b>	\$1,891.80	<b>\$6,600</b>	
Committees	<b>\$1,500</b>	\$442.74	<b>\$1,800</b>	\$0.00
Ministry and Nurture	<b>\$700</b>	\$412.52	<b>\$1,000</b>	
Ecological Concerns	<b>\$300</b>		<b>\$300</b>	
Faith and Practice	<b>\$400</b>	\$30.22	<b>\$400</b>	
Nominating	<b>\$100</b>		<b>\$100</b>	
SAYMA Liability Insurance	<b>\$700</b>	\$715.00	<b>\$700</b>	
SAYMA Personnel	<b>\$20,300</b>	\$13,339.81	<b>\$20,970</b>	
SAYMA Staff Training	<b>\$100</b>		<b>\$100</b>	
SAYMA Office Administration	<b>\$3,500</b>	\$1,458.73	<b>\$3,500</b>	\$0.00
Phone, Internet & Office Expenses		\$257.79		
Postage		\$190.76		

Duplication		\$210.49		
Misc. Office		\$799.69		
SAYMA Newsletter	<b>\$1,300</b>		<b>\$1,300</b>	
SAYMA Directory	<b>\$600</b>		<b>\$600</b>	
SAYMA Treasurer	<b>\$250</b>	\$243.55	<b>\$250</b>	
SAYMA F&P	<b>\$100</b>		<b>\$100</b>	
SAYMA Other Expenses	<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$0</b>	
Total Operational Disbursements	<b>\$65,150</b>	\$42,133	<b>\$66,120</b>	\$0
<b>YEARLY MEETING PROJECTS</b>				
Transfers To Funds	<b>\$2,400</b>	\$2,400.00	<b>\$3,700</b>	\$0.00
Spiritual Development Fund	<b>\$500</b>	\$500.00	<b>\$1,000</b>	
Released Friend Fund	<b>\$200</b>	\$200.00	<b>\$1,000</b>	
FWCC - 3rd Wld Del	<b>\$650</b>	\$650.00	<b>\$650</b>	
FWCC Triennial Fund	<b>\$700</b>	\$700.00	<b>\$700</b>	
Youth Enrichment Fund	<b>\$250</b>	\$250.00	<b>\$250</b>	
Young Adult Friends Scholarships	<b>\$100</b>	\$100.00	<b>\$100</b>	
Contributions Wider Quaker Org	<b>\$5,300</b>	\$5,300.00	<b>\$5,300</b>	\$0.00
<i>AFSC</i>	<b>\$600</b>	\$600.00	<b>\$600</b>	
<i>FCNL</i>	<b>\$600</b>	\$600.00	<b>\$600</b>	
<i>FGC</i>	<b>\$600</b>	\$600.00	<b>\$600</b>	
<i>FWCC</i>	<b>\$600</b>	\$600.00	<b>\$600</b>	
<i>Right Sharing of World Resources</i>	<b>\$600</b>	\$600.00	<b>\$600</b>	
<i>Quaker House</i>	<b>\$600</b>	\$600.00	<b>\$600</b>	
<i>Friends for LGBTQ Concerns</i>	<b>\$200</b>	\$200.00	<b>\$200</b>	
<i>Quaker Earthcare Witness</i>	<b>\$600</b>	\$600.00	<b>\$600</b>	
<i>Friends Peace Teams</i>	<b>\$200</b>	\$200.00	<b>\$200</b>	
<i>Wm Penn House</i>	<b>\$200</b>	\$200.00	<b>\$200</b>	
<i>Friends Journal</i>	<b>\$200</b>	\$200.00	<b>\$200</b>	
<i>Guilford College Archiving</i>	<b>\$100</b>	\$100.00	<b>\$100</b>	
<i>Rural Southern Voice for Peace</i>	<b>\$200</b>	\$200.00	<b>\$200</b>	
Other				
Total Projects	<b>\$7,700</b>	\$7,700.00	<b>\$9,000</b>	\$0.00
Total Disbursements	<b>\$72,850</b>	\$49,832.67	<b>\$75,120</b>	\$0.00
Surplus (Deficit)	<b>\$0</b>	\$3,712.65	<b>(\$800)</b>	\$0.00

\* based a \$60.00 assessment per member and regular attender

## Attachment 6

### Swannanoa Proposal

#### Proposal Presented by Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting Representative to Faith and Practice Revision Committee

As you know, Swannanoa Valley Meeting has arrived at the conviction that we must give equal treatment to all couples who apply to be married under our care. This puts us in direct conflict with the wording of the first two paragraphs of the Planning for the Wedding section on page 26 of our current Faith and Practice. Therefore we are ready to propose a revision of that section.

If the phrase “arranges to meet legal requirements” were omitted from the first paragraph of the Planning for the Wedding section, then the paragraph (given below) which we have approved could simply replace the second paragraph (which starts with “The oversight committee must know the legal requirements . . . .”)

Here’s the relevant excerpt from the minutes of our August 5, 2007, Meeting for Business. Meeting was asked to approve a draft that I had written with the help of Steve Houseworth and Mel and Beth Keiser.

The Meeting approved the proposed revision to the section on marriage in the SAYMA Faith and Practice with two minor corrections (two instances where “which” should be changed to “that”). Bob Welsh will forward our proposal on to SAYMA. The revision reads as follows:

#### *Planning for the Wedding*

Regarding legal aspects of marriages under their care, Meetings within SAYMA are in differing stages of clearness. Underlying these differences is the fact that SAYMA Friends live in states that deny the institution of marriage to same-gender couples. Some Meetings choose to work with heterosexual couples to complete state-approved forms that give legal status to their marriage. Other Meetings, guided by the testimony on Equality, find that they cannot cooperate with the state in the licensing of *any* marriage under their care. These Meetings offer to heterosexual couples only what may be legally offered to their same-gender counter parts: a Quaker marriage. In these cases, heterosexual couples are aware that they must go before a magistrate or similar state-approved official to obtain a marriage license that the state will recognize.

Let me know if you or the committee have any questions about this proposed revision.

Thanks, Bob Welsh [for Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting]