

SAYMA Representative Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2007
Representative Meeting #119 (Winter)
Knoxville Friends Meeting Knoxville, TN

119-01 Meeting for Worship.

The meeting gathered for a period of expectant waiting.

119-02 Opening Reading

The clerk introduced the reading by referring to the Biblical story of Mary and Martha. The work of Martha, the work of the committees, provides the support to permit our gathering. It is by Martha's help that Mary is praised. She expressed her appreciation for the many Martha's that permit the yearly meeting to function.

A brother came to visit Abba Silvanus at Mount Sinai. When he saw the brothers working hard, he said to the old man: Do not work for the food that perishes. For Mary has chosen the good part. Then the old man called his disciple: Zachary, give this brother a book and put him in an empty cell. Now, when it was three o'clock, the brother kept looking out the door, to see whether someone would come to call him for the meal. But nobody called him, so he got up, went to see the old man, and asked: Abba, didn't the brothers eat today? The old man said: Of course we did. Then he said: why didn't you call me? The old man replied: You are a spiritual person and do not need that kind of food, but since we are earthly, we want to eat, and that's why we work. Indeed, you have chosen the good part, reading all day long, and not wanting to eat earthly food. When the brother heard this, he repented and said: Mary certainly needed Martha, and it is really by Martha's help that Mary is praised. (Pg 42-43, *Desert Wisdom: Sayings from the Desert Fathers* by Yushi Nomura. Image Books, 1984.)

119-03 Introductions

Those present introduced themselves, their purpose attending the meeting and their monthly meeting affiliation. (Listed in Attachment 1)

119-04 Announcements

Liz Perch displayed a quilt she had received from Corvallis MM in Oregon. She reported that the quilt had been constructed by Barbara Ester of our yearly meeting and represents the meetings of SAYMA through pictures. Barbara was unable to remember the year it was constructed, but remembered eating mangos from Florida while constructing the quilt at an FGC gathering at least 10 years ago.

119-04-01 Minute of Thanks. Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting gathered in representation session Twelfth Month extends its loving thanks to Covallis

Friends for their return of the quilt to SAYMA. We will treasure the quilt and remember the loving care in which it has been held.

Kathleen Mavournin reported that the SAYMA newsletter deadline will be December 20.

Bob Welsh reported that Swannanoa Monthly Meeting is dealing with a problem concerning property taxes. He asked for the advice and experience of others present.

Ceal Wutka offered a brochure on a new program of the School of the Spirit to begin next year.

West Knoxville Peace and Social Concerns committee is organizing a local interfaith group for truth in recruiting and counter-recruiting. They hope to get into local schools. They invite interested SAYMA Friends to a presentation by Hector Black at noon on December 15. Hector will discuss how the Cookeville group got into a local school. A second meeting is tentatively planned for February 23 to train counselors. Young Friends are particularly invited.

Following announcements members of yearly meeting planning committee withdrew for their sessions.

119-05 Agenda presented

Minute 119-05-01: Friends approved the proposed agenda as amended.

119-06 Calendar

The Clerk announced the next representative meeting will be held April 5, 2008 in Atlanta. Yearly Meeting is scheduled for June 11-15, 2008 at Warren Wilson College, with sessions beginning June 12. The September 6, 2008 representative meeting location is still to be determined. The December 6, 2008 date is being considered by Birmingham. Following this report, Chattanooga tentatively offered to host September meeting pending local consultations.

119-07 Treasurer's Report

Deanna Nipp-Kientz, Assistant Treasurer, presented the report of the Treasurer (Attachment 8). SAYMA currently holds \$18K in checking and \$32K in two saving accounts. Based on initial account balances SAYMA has funds to meet our anticipated obligations.

A Friend asked about reasons for the year-to-year variation in assessment income. Another friend noted that assessment income fluctuates between fiscal years depending on the timing of meeting and worship group payments.

The Final report of 2007 expenses and revenue was presented. SAYMA ended the year

with a \$5,200 surplus due to larger than expected assessment contributions and individual contributions. Office expenses, WQO expenses and SAYF expense were lower than expected. Expenses for yearly meeting sessions were slightly over revenue. The Final account balance for 2007 indicates that SAYMA has increased total funds available and net assets from 2006.

A Friend asked about the use of Spiritual Development fund for delegates to the world gathering of Quakers and FWCC El Salvador in previous years. Friends raised concerns regarding the use of the Spiritual Development Fund language

Minute 119-07-01 We ask Finance committee to research or, if needed, develop a clearer definition of the purpose and oversight of the various set aside funds. We ask Finance Committee to report back to representative meeting with recommendations. This may indicate whether a general scholarship fund is necessary.

A Friend asked about the Yearly Meeting Scholarship donations funds and how these were accrued and expended. The clerk reported that the funds are accrued by donations made by registrants and disbursed in response to scholarship requests.

A Friend noted that the Youth Enrichment Fund has a balance and asked how it is used. The clerk reported that the fund was originally established to support attendance at Youth Quake, which has since been laid down. The fund was renamed the Youth Enrichment Fund. The Yearly meeting is consulting with SAYF on recommendations on the future use of this fund. The Finance Committee has received SAYF's recommendations and is considering them.

Financial questions raised at last representative meeting have not yet been answered.

Deanne asked if there is a central repository for yearly meeting decisions regarding the oversight and purpose of funds. This is being worked on through the handbook.

119-07-02. We accept the treasurer's report of November 27, 2007.

119-08 Finance Committee

Kendall Ivie reported that the finance committee will meet early in 2008 to work on the SAYMA reserves request (per minutes of September 2007 Representative Meeting) and to frame the inquiry to the monthly meetings asking for suggestions regarding other uses of the unbudgeted money in the SAYMA account (also from September reps meeting).

119-09 Administrative Assistant Report

Liz Perch reported that in the period from October 1 to December 1 she has logged 36 hours of work for SAYMA. She is available to work an average of 53 hours a month and awaits additional assignments. She reported that in addition to her SAYMA

responsibilities, she is now on a 12-month contract with Philadelphia Yearly Meeting planning a multi-faith peace conference in early 2009. She does not anticipate that this will conflict with her SAYMA responsibilities

After the first of the year each MM/WG will receive an electronic census report form with hardcopy sent to each clerk. The census form has been revised from previous years. MM/WG are asked to estimate an average attendance. Meetings are encouraged to anticipate this request by beginning count attendance periodically. A Friend asked if an estimate of business meeting attendance would be also requested, it will.

After the first of the year, the process of updating the yearly meeting directory will begin. The directory will be available at the April meeting. Both hardcopy and electronic versions will be available.

Liz presented a table she has compiled (Attachment 7) of number of representatives to which SAYMA is entitled, the cost of participation and responsibilities to Wider Quaker Organizations.

A Friend asked that we research the number of actual representatives we have appointed. Several organizations do not have formal representatives appointed by the yearly meeting. In addition, several organizations recruit Friends directly and these are not included in SAYMA's count.

The clerk clarified SAYMA participation in FLGBTQC. Originally we had one contact person, this has unintentionally evolved over the last several years to two representatives and an alternate.

Liz plans to take a week-long vacation in February. Liz welcomes assuming additional yearly meeting responsibilities.

119-10 Sharing Newsletters

Chuck Jones reported that he serves as the newsletter editor for the Chattanooga Friends Meeting Newsletter and offered to distribute the newsletter electronically to other SAYMA friends. Several friends were supportive of the idea. Suggestions were made to use the list serve or representative contact list for distribution. Liz Perch offered to assist.

119-11 Holding in the Light Absent Members

The clerk asked the gathered body to hold Steve Livingston and Sally Prugh in the light for health difficulties that prevented their joining our sessions.

The committee rose for committee meetings and lunch.

119-12 Ministry and Nurture Committee Report

Mary Kedl reported for the committee (Attachment 3). The committee met October 20 in Charleston, West Virginia. Reports were received from SAYMA Monthly Meetings. Scholarships from the Spiritual Development Funds were awarded to Adrienne Lowe for her work at Earlham School of Religion, Laura Norlin for a Traveling Ministry Consultation and School of the Spirit, and Mark Wutka also for the Traveling Ministry Consultation.

Ministry and Nurture raised concerns regarding the potentially exclusionary nature of the language used in framing the consultation and asked that those awarded financial assistance report back to the yearly meeting.

The next Ministry and Nurture meeting will be held February 16, 2008.

The representative from Charleston Meeting expressed appreciation for the members of Ministry and Nurture who had attended his meeting after their sessions.

119-13 Traveling Ministries Consultation Report

The Traveling Ministries Program and the Youth Ministry Program of FGC held a consultation on emerging gifts of ministry in 11th month 9-11. Mark Wutka and Laura Norlin attended after a clearness process. Kristi Estes was also invited to attend.

Mark Wutka described his experience [Attachment 4]. The consultation was for Friends with emerging gifts of gospel ministry. Fifty-six Friends of all ages from 18 yearly meetings attended. Even the ministry of an infant was held up with a Friend noting, "I love to feel where the babbles come from." The idea of the consultation was to bring those young in the ministry together with seasoned Friends. Mark described Gospel ministry as living in the reality that the kingdom of God is here and immediately available. Eight seasoned ministers served as resources for the gathering. Large group sessions focused on ministry and the role of eldering. The resource leaders supported small groups sessions. Issues discussed including language and the process of traveling in the ministry. Mark shared reflections on themes including faith and faithfulness and hope for the Society of Friends. Underlying all was a deep love and a desire that we ground anything we do in love. Mark expressed appreciation for the support he has received from both his monthly meeting and yearly meeting.

Kristi Estes read the Epistle from the Consultation (Attachment 9).

A Friend asked about the imagery of turning the soil and how those traveling in the ministry faithfully carried out their ministry. Was the gospel ministry only a ministry of word or work? Another Friend clarified the turning was being faithful to the message the minister was given and not judged by the immediate results. A Friend noted that many Friends never deliver vocal ministry, but their service and gifts powerfully supports the ministry of the whole meeting. A Friend cautioned that we not rate the various

ministries, urging us to be faithful to what we are given to do.

119-14 William Penn House Representative Request

The clerk read a request she received from Errol Hess (attachment 2). Errol requested that SAYMA provide financial aid of \$300 annually as support for SAYMA youth to attend an annual Quaker Youth Seminar and/FCNL lobbying weekend. Errol, as representative to William Penn House, offered to administer the process. The clerk recommended that we draw funds from the Youth Enrichment Fund to support Errol's request. After discussion we approved:

119-14-01 Minute: SAYMA authorizes Errol Hess to draw up to \$300 from the Youth Enrichment Fund for 2008 to support the attendance of SAYMA youth at the annual Quaker Youth and/or lobbying day. We encourage Errol as William Penn House representative to publicize the availability of this opportunity within SAYMA and to monthly meetings.

Friends are encouraged to share information about this opportunity with young Friends in their meetings.

119-15 Faith and Practice Revision Committee

Jonathan Schinhofen reported for the committee. The proposed revisions to Faith and Practice were circulated to monthly meetings and worship groups in early November. Minuted comments seasoned in Monthly Meetings are to be communicated to the clerk of the committee by January 31, 2008.

The new proposed revisions reflect the concerns that have been raised regarding the involvement of the state in marriages undertaken by Meetings. In addition, changes to the table of contents are proposed.

The Faith and Practice revision committee urges meetings to deeply discern their concerns regarding the revisions so that yearly meeting sessions will lead to unity.

The clerk asked the body's recommendation on how to assist the yearly meeting in our discernment of the broader issues of our understanding of marriage and related issues raised by, but not a part of, the proposed marriage revisions to Faith and Practice. Some of these issues included the perception of heterosexual couples on the value of their marriages, and issues related to the separation of church and state. Several Friends encouraged that an opportunity be provided at yearly meeting for discussion as a corporate body to consider Friends current understanding of marriage.

Minute 119-15-01: We ask the clerk to work with the yearly meeting planning committee to schedule time at the 2008 sessions for a discussion/threshing session on emerging issues around marriage.

119-15 Nominations clarification and announcement

In the absence of a Nominating Committee report, the YM clerk reminded us that we currently have openings for Archivist Historian, Personnel Committee and Representative to AFSC-SERO. In addition, as of the rise of our 2008 sessions openings remain for Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Assistant Treasurer and 2 YM registrars.

The clerk raised the question of FLGBTQC representation that has grown over the last several years. It is recommended that we allow the current representatives to serve out their terms, but return to a single representative with one alternate at that time. FLGBTQC involves both the FGC Gathering and a mid-Winter gathering and may involve an expense to us. The section of the handbook on representatives to WQO was read which includes our expectations of our representatives. The clerk will research yearly meeting decisions regarding our support for the representation to FLGBTQC.

119-16 AFSC Corporation Representative Report

Charles Schade on the AFSC Corporation Meeting. The Meeting was held in Philadelphia November 1-2, 2007 (Attachment 6). The AFSC Corporation serves as the legal owner of the organization. The principal work of the Corporation is to appoint the Board of the Directors. A highlight of this year's meeting was the recognition of the 90th anniversary of the service committee's founding. Representatives from both programmed and unprogrammed yearly meetings were present and worship was held in both forms. Charles provided an overview of the gathering.

119-17 FGC Central Committee Representative

Joan Barnette reported on the FGC Central Committee Meeting held October 2007 (Attachment 5). Joan highlighted various aspects of the FGC program including Quaker Books, Advancement and Outreach, Religious Education, and Youth Ministries. Joan reported that both Religious Education and Youth Ministries are planning consultations next year and encouraged SAYMA Friends to attend. New groups are exploring affiliation with FGC. FGC has undertaken a capital campaign to fund an endowment. The 2008 gathering will be held in Johnstown, PA. Joan will be serving on the publication committee. Joan was very enthusiastic about the experience and encouraged SAYMA Friends to draw on the resources provided by FGC.

Other Friends with FGC experience shared Joan's excitement about the organization and the growth that service with it engenders.

119-18 Discussion of Representative Meeting Schedule

The clerk introduced the discussion by asking for open discernment of the question of laying down the December Representative Meeting. No decision is sought at this session. She reflected that in the past the representative body met three times a year, which had included a meeting at the rise of Yearly Meeting. Presently, the representative

body meets three times, quarterly. The December meeting has historically made relatively few decisions and the agenda is often very light. The clerk asked that the body consider if changing the schedule to omit the December session would allow us to complete our business in two sessions a year. The clerk's judgment was that a final decision would require the action of the gathered body at Yearly Meeting.

One scenario would be to hold representative meeting at the end of September and again in early March. Some of the advantages might include greater participation, less burden on centrally located meetings and decreased use of resources. In addition, weather in December can create dangerous travel conditions. Both the last clerk and current clerk support the possibility.

Several other considerations were made. It was noted that ad hoc meetings could be called as necessary. The recommendation would require preplanning by the clerk to anticipate and request authorization for action on unfinished business. Concern was raised if the two sessions permitted sufficient time to deal with the issues. Another Friends suggested that omitting the December meeting might permit other SAYMA programming, such as a thematic gathering, to be undertaken. Several Friends spoke to the advantages of the December meeting including the opportunity to see each other and to share how the truth prospers in our monthly meeting.

The clerk proposed summarizing the consideration for further discernment. She will circulate these on the list serve in advance of the next Representative Meeting for further seasoning.

119-19 Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Report

Barbara Ester reported for the committee. She reminded us that the theme of the gathering would be "Out of the harbor, our voyages of faith." A Thursday night program is planned which will include several SAYMA Friends of different ages. Kathleen Maourvin has been invited to be the speaker on Friday evening through storytelling. Saturday night will include a combination of music and dancing with some involvement of YAF (Young Adult Friends) to be determined. The planning committee has considered the queries and is establishing deadlines.

Yearly meeting planning committee has begun considering the request of Representative body for the threshing session on marriage issues. YMPC with the Representative body discussed scheduling options. A Friend encouraged that we schedule the event at a time without competing sessions. A threshing session should include a broad cross-section of SAYMA Friends and not just those who have established positions or concerns about the issue. The current challenge is to find a balance between our agenda and other yearly meeting activities.

The clerk and yearly meeting planning committee will continue to work on this with the consideration that we not interfere with the current workshop schedule.

Chris Berg asked for volunteers to serve as worship group facilitators. He requested that representatives announce this a monthly meeting.

Those interested in presenting a workshop should contact John Potter for a workshop proposal form.

119-20 Closing Minute of Thanks. Out of worship Friends spoke their thanks for the hospitality of West Knoxville Friends.

Minute 119-20-01. SAYMA Representative body and Yearly Meeting Planning committee offer our deep thanks for the kind and generous hospitality and support provided by West Knoxville Friends for our deliberations today. Your beautiful meetinghouse, the warmth of your loving support and tender care, the marvelous food you provided and the warm beds are deeply appreciated. We marvel at the many “Martha’s” who provided the spiritual sustenance to make our day productive and pleasant. Hospitality is a gift that we are pleased and grateful to receive. We rejoice in your Meeting and your flourishing spirit.

Kristi Estes, Clerk
(archive copy signed)

Bill Holland, Recording Clerk
(archive copy signed)

Attachment 1 - Attendance at Representative Meeting

1. Sharon Annis - West Knoxville
2. Joan Barnette – West Knoxville
3. Pam Beziat – Nashville
4. Chris Berg – Greenville
5. Barbara Ester – Asheville
6. Kristi Estes – Memphis
7. Bill Holland – Atlanta
8. Kendall Ivie – West Knoxville
9. Missy Ivie – West Knoxville
10. Chuck Jones - Chattanooga
11. Mary Kedl - West Knoxville
12. Kathleen Mavournin - West Knoxville
13. Carol Nickle – West Knoxville
14. Deanna Nipp-Kientz - Cookeville
15. Nancy Evans Nothhelfer – Swannanoa valley
16. Liz Perch – CPMM/Admin Asst
17. John Potter – Nashville
18. Charles Schade – Charleston
19. Jonathan Schinoffen – Berea
20. Bob Welsh - Swannanoa Valley
21. Bill Wolfe – Nashville
22. Mark Wutka – Atlanta
23. Ceal Wutka – Atlanta

Attachment 2 - Request from William Penn House Representative

Errol Hess [correspondence to the clerk, for Representative Meeting],

Now would be the perfect time to raise this, since there are so few items at Dec. Rep meeting

It is in my appointment as William Penn House Representative.

At the November WPH National Consultative Committee meeting, we discussed ways to get more yearly meeting involvement in WPH youth programs. Each year WPH presents a Quaker Youth Seminar for high school aged young Friends. The seminar is on a topic, such as the testimonies, and examines that topic's relevance to current Quaker youth. We have witnessed young Friends who participate in these seminars become young adult leaders in their Yearly Meetings and wider Quaker organizations. The seminar cost for youth is \$50 plus travel and includes lodging and meals and various activities in the metro area.

The same result is true of young Friends who attend the Young Adult lobbying weekend, co-sponsored by WPH and FCNL. William Penn House charges nothing for the lodging and breakfasts, which are its part of the event.

I recommend that SAYMA offer \$300 annually to provide travel money so SAYMA youth can attend either or both of these two events.

Attachment 3- SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee Report

SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee
October 20, 2007 CHARLESTON, WVA

1. Reports from SAYMA Friends Meetings. Edie Patrick reporting from Foxfire; Perry Treadwell from Gwinnett Preparative Meeting and Atlanta Meeting; Judy Guerry from Huntsville Meeting; Nancy Whitt from Birmingham Meeting; Bob McGahey reporting from New Moon (laid down), Celo, Greenville, Clemson and Brevard.
2. Request for M&N funds. THE SEPTEMBER 2007 SAYMA Rep. Meeting turned down an M&N request to combine the Released Friend Fund and the Spiritual Development Fund, but granted OUR request to raise the annual SAYMA CONTRIBUTION TO THE Spiritual Development Fund to \$1,000. There is \$1822 currently available in this fund. Requests granted:
 - a. Adrienne Lowe, \$300 to help with living expenses at Earlham School of Religion.
Laura Norlin, \$160 for attendance at the SAYMA Consultation for Traveling Ministry and Youth Ministry provided by FGC NOVEMBER 2007.
Mark Wutka, \$210 for attendance at the SAYMA Consultation for Traveling Ministry and Youth Ministry provided by FGC.
Laura Norlin, \$325 to help with tuition at School of the Spirit.

Note: SAYMA M&N requests that Mark and Laura report back to us their experience of the consultation. M&N has some concerns regarding the wording of the communication by the Consultation and asks: Does the wording of the invitation use exclusive language for some Friends? What is the meaning of “gospel ministry” among contemporary Friends? We ask how planners of the consultation define “gospel ministry” and whether they have taken care to be inclusive of all Friends, including Universalist Friends, in their vision of extending the traveling ministry committee’s work.

Charleston Meeting. Plans were to host a SECOND HOUR Sunday following Meeting for Worship, DISCUSSING the role of the M&N committee IN small meetings. Discussion ensued of various functions of M&N committees in meetings of those present.

THE BULK OF THE COMMITTEE’S TIME WAS SPENT DISCUSSING THE STATE OF THE SPIRIT IN SOME OF OUR MEETINGS EXPRESSING DIFFICULTIES. WE PRAY THAT THEY CAN RESOLVE THEIR ISSUES AND FIND PEACE. WE ARE USING THE RESOURCES OF OUR COMMITTEE, AS WELL AS REQUESTING THE HELP OF THE WIDER QUAKER FELLOWSHIP IN THIS PROCESS.

February 16, 2008 meeting of SAYMA M&N at Royal Meeting in Blount County, Alabama. Judy Guerry will coordinate arrangements.

Respectively Submitted,
Nancy Whitt, Recording Clerk
Bob McGahey, Clerk

Attachment 4 - Report of Mark Wutka from FGC Consultation on Gospel Ministry

FGC Consultation on Gospel Ministry

On the weekend of November 9-11, I attended a consultation for Friends with emerging gifts of gospel ministry in Pittsburgh, PA, sponsored by the FGC Youth Ministries and Traveling Ministries committees. There were 56 Friends from 18 yearly meetings with a variety of ages from teen on up, plus the 5-month-old daughter of one of the participants whose joyous babbling and cooing inspired a paraphrase of John Woolman: "I love to feel where the babbles come from". There were three Friends from SAYMA: me, Kristi Estes (Memphis) and Laura Norlin (member of Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, but sojourning in Atlanta).

The idea of the consultation was to get people who are young in the ministry (which doesn't necessarily mean young in age) together with Friends who are seasoned in gospel ministry. It reminded me of the verse from Proverbs: *As iron sharpens iron, so a person sharpens his friend.* There were 8 seasoned ministers, who were referred to as "resources": Elisabeth Dearborn, Brian Drayton, Jan Hoffman, Mary Lord, Connie McPeak Green, Bob Schmitt, Deborah Shaw, and Lloyd Lee Wilson. We had several large group sessions where we discussed various issues related to ministry. It seemed like we spent a lot of time talking about elders and the ways we support ministry. After hearing how others have receive little support from the meetings, I was particularly grateful for the support of both my monthly meeting and my yearly meeting. SAYMA paid for my transportation, while Atlanta Friends Meeting provided a clearness committee and also an ongoing support committee. In small group sessions, we had a more intimate forum in which to ask questions. In my group, we discussed issues like the language we use, and also how we go about traveling in the ministry. Brian Drayton, author of "On Living With a Concern for Gospel Ministry", was my small group leader. The issue of language has been an important one for me, because I do find that I use one set of words when I am among Conservative Friends, and another set when I among SAYMA Friends. I don't do it consciously, it's just that different words come to me. I got a chance to talk to Deborah Fisch about this a little while we were waiting at the airport, and she pointed out that God speaks to us in a language that we understand, why shouldn't we speak to each other in a language we can understand.

A few days after the consultation, I wrote some reflections on my blog, and I would like to share some of them:

Faith and *faithfulness* kept coming back to me at this consultation. Faith was something I struggled with, really starting in my late teens. My understanding of "faith" was that I had to believe certain facts like "Jesus died for my sins", and it didn't seem to make much sense. For me, faith is now much more of a trust issue now - that I trust God to guide me, and help me. It is living my life under the assumption that "that of God" within me is something I can sense, and listen to, and that if I do so, I will be doing the right thing. And that is where faithfulness comes in - that I *do* try to sense, and listen, and do. There was much faith and faithfulness at the consultation, some of which was shown in words,

but much more in actions.

I also found in the consultation a great feeling of *hope* for the Religious Society of Friends. I heard one seasoned minister speak of his hopefulness for the next generation of ministers within his yearly meeting. Liz Oppenheimer spoke of how some of us may just be called to turn the soil, rather than planting the seed, and for me, the hope in this is that there will be others to come along and plant the seed, or water the soil, or tend to the branches. I found it very encouraging to be among so many Friends with a concern for tending to the spiritual health of the Religious Society of Friends.

Underlying everything was a deep *love* and a reminder that whatever we do, however we serve, we must do it out of love. My traveling minute to the consultation quoted John Woolman with *love was the first motion, and then a concern arose*. I need that reminder constantly to let love be the first motion, then as concerns do arise, I can have faith that God will show me what to do (if I am to do anything) and the hope that one day love will be the first motion for everyone.

And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love.

But the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NET)

Attachment 5 - Report of FGC Representative

Report to SAYMA on FGC Central Committee Meeting
October 25-28, 2007

SAYMA was represented at the FGC Central Committee by Kristi Estes, Elaine Ruscetta, and Joan Barnette. We were greeted warmly upon arrival at the Church of the Brethren conference center in New Windsor, Maryland, where food was plentiful, pie was ubiquitous, and beds were densely populated (they made us double up.) In my room we had a rollicking good time because I had the best roommates ever, one of whom was our own Liz Perch. The scheduled was tightly packed, leaving little time for browsing in the bookstore and shopping in the Brethren's fabulous fair trade import craft shop, yet we managed to add weight to our luggage for the trip home.

New members benefited from an excellent orientation that introduced us to the executive director and committee chairs. We discovered the many services provided to meetings and yearly meetings by FGC besides the annual Gathering and the bookstore. Afterwards, new members visited committees and chose their area of service.

The Advancement and Outreach Committee, which brought us QuakerFinder.org, is now offering Quaker Quest, an exciting new form of outreach originating with British Friends. The A&O Committee offers many resources to promote meeting vitality including Inreach-Outreach Workshops for meetings, an Inreach-Outreach Packet for Small Meetings, and other resources which can be downloaded from their website. Requests for affiliation have been received from Wyoming Friends Meeting, a group of five widely scattered worship groups who gather five times a year, and from InterMountain Yearly Meeting in the southwest.

Quakerbooks has new titles and a revised website featuring author interviews and book reviews. FGC is committed to the continued support of the bookstore despite a financial loss of about \$89,000 last year, as its value as a ministry to meetings and individual Friends is recognized.

The Religious Education Committee works in age focus groups to develop curriculum materials for various ages. They cooperate with the Youth Ministries Committee to offer FAP workshops, with A&O on various projects including Quaker Quest, and are working with the Committee for Ministry on Racism to plan a 2009 conference. REI, a quadrennial conference for parents and religious educators, will be August 14-17, 2008 at Bradford Woods in Martinsville, Indiana.

The Youth Ministries Committee is actively and enthusiastically promoting greater participation by youth in Friends' activities and organizations. With the RE Committee, they will sponsor a workshop on safety for youth workers in spring 2008. They are working with the Committee for Ministry on Racism to develop a conference for early 2009. The committee has developed a website and encourages interaction

between young Friends separated by distance as well as intergenerational communication.

The FGC office space in Philadelphia has been renovated and is now more comfortable, attractive, welcoming and efficient.

The Committee on Scouting is working to develop Quaker religious awards for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls in the United States and Canada, to assist Quaker scouts to network, and to represent Friends' interests to the scouting organizations.

FGC has initiated a campaign, *Stoking the Spiritual Fires of Quakerism*, to raise \$7.2 million to establish an endowment in order to support the continuation and expansion of its many ministries. 100% participation has been attained by the campaign steering committee, the executive committee, and FGC staff members, raising over \$2.2 million. Solicitations have been sent out to Central Committee members. Yearly meetings, monthly meetings and individual Friends will be approached in turn.

This report only touches on a small portion of the work being done by dedicated and talented FGC committee members on our behalf. It is a privilege to work with these Friends. We encourage Friends to explore the resources FGC has to offer their meetings.

2008 Gathering will be held in Johnstown, Pa., June 28-July 5. The 2009 Gathering will be in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Report submitted by Joan Barnette, with thanks to SAYMA for offering me the opportunity to participate.

Attachment 6 - Report of AFSC Corporation Representative

American Friends Service Committee Corporation Meeting November 1-2, 2007

I attended the American Friends Service Committee Corporation meeting as SAYMA's representative in Philadelphia November 1 and 2. The Corporation is the legal entity which "owns" the Service Committee under Pennsylvania law. The main official duties of the Corporation are appointing a smaller Board of Directors, which meets quarterly. The Board actually governs the organization. The Corporation's other duties are communication (between AFSC and Friends, especially yearly meetings) and counsel, the latter conducted through Friends processes both formally and informally.

At the initial meeting, I was struck by the breadth of the representation. There were about 20 yearly meetings represented; most were unprogrammed, but there were pastoral and evangelical Friends in the mix. Because this was a year of celebration of the AFSC's 90th birthday, there were special events and presentations. The sense of excitement spilled over into meeting for worship, which was among the most vocal I've ever attended. Worship was programmed the second day.

The business consisted of reports by Board Clerk Paul Lacey and General Secretary Mary Ellen McNish. Both talks were largely retrospective and celebratory of the AFSC's 90th birthday. They also announced the start of a major campaign to increase AFSC's endowment, *Spirited Engagement*. SAYMA might be pleased to know that activities of the West Virginia Economic Justice Project (Mid Atlantic Region, closely affiliated with Charleston Friends Meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committee) were highlighted in Mary Ellen's talk.

The Standing Nominating Committee presented names for Board members, which were approved, as were the Naming Committee's recommendations for new Nominating Committee members. The Treasurer's report indicated that AFSC is a fiscally healthy, \$40 million/year organization. Most (44%) of AFSC's funds are spend on regional programs within the US, with 27% going to international programs. Fundraising costs amount to 9% of the total.

Friday, November 2 featured an evening presentation of a video, "Spirited Engagement: Quaker Values in Action" and a touching performance by Sweet Honey in the Rock to kick off the campaign. Saturday afternoon was the annual public gathering, featuring a talk by Joan Countryman, first head of the Oprah Winfrey sponsored girls' school in South Africa.

Charles Schade
Charleston WV
SAYMA Corporation Member

Attachment 7 Representative Info for Wider Quaker Organizations

Representative info for WIDER QUAKER ORGANIZATIONS

| Organization | Number of Reps | Meetings/expenses | Notes |
|---|---------------------|--|--|
| American Friends Service Committee | 4 | Annual Corporation meeting. AFSC covers room and meals during meeting; travel and incidentals are the responsibility of the reps | Seven members of SAYMA are at large members of the AFSC corporation at this time, including four members of the Board. |
| AFSC-Southeastern Regional Office | 2 | Four meetings per year. Travel expenses | “SERO has a budget to cover the travel expenses for those who need it. “ |
| FLGBTQC | -- | | No practice of representatives. SAYMA “reps” get expenses to midwinter paid? |
| Friends Committee on National Legislation | 6 | Annual Meeting. Registration this year is \$285, which includes all meals except one dinner. Also hotel expenses—meeting hotel is \$150/night, single or shared (3 nights) | Some Friends stay in less expensive accommodations, but then must have transportation to the conference center. |
| Friends General Conference | 4 | Central Committee: Registration/Room & Meals @\$280, plus travel. Central Committee members are expected to serve on a program or administrative committee. This committee may have 1 to 4 meetings throughout the year. | One member of SAYMA will serve on Executive Committee, which meets in January and May. SAYMA has several co-opted members of Central Committee in addition to its three reps. |
| Friends Peace Teams | 1-2 | Up to 2 face to face meetings at year; registration fee of \$60-100, plus travel. Some phone meetings | FPT asks reps to serve a 3 year term with suggested up to 2 renewals. |
| Friends World Committee for Consultation | 4 (2 for triennial) | Annual meeting in March. Also regional meetings. Housing, meals and registration run \$200-450 for each meeting, plus travel | If a rep is involved in committee work, there may be additional meetings. |
| Quaker Earthcare Witness | 2 | 2 meetings per year, usually @\$250 for registration/room/meals plus travel. | |
| Quaker House | 1 or more | Usually 5 meetings a year in Fayetteville. Travel costs. | |
| Right Sharing of World Resources | -- | | “As an independent, Quaker organization we do not have formal representation from yearly meetings to our Board. We are always, of course, interested in receiving the names of persons who feel called to RSWR and board service, and would gladly receive such names. However, they would not be representing SAYMA.” |
| William Penn House | 1-2 | One meeting per year, coordinated with FCNL—many meetings have reps that double up to save travel costs. Hospitality provided at WPH | |

Attachment 9 - Epistle of FGC Traveling Ministries Consultation of Friends with Emerging Gifts of Gospel Ministry

Eleventh Month 11, 2007

“We are to use our gifts in accordance to the amount of faith that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God’s message, we should do it according to the faith we have; if it is to serve, we should serve; if it is to teach, we should teach; if it is to encourage others, we should do so.” Romans 12: 6-7

Dear Friends,

We send loving greetings to you our monthly and yearly meetings, from the Gilmary Retreat Center near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We have gathered at the invitation of the Friends General Conference Youth Ministries & Traveling Ministries Committees for a consultation of Friends with emerging gifts of gospel ministry. We have been richly blessed by God during our time together and we write to thank you, our meetings, for lifting up our names as Friends with emerging gifts of gospel ministry, and helping provide us with spiritual and other support so we could be a part of this. We also want to share some of what we have learned and the joys we have experienced in our time together.

As a group of 56 younger and older adults (and to our great delight one five-month-old) from 18 different yearly meetings, we have shared in worship, small groups, one-to-one conversations, and meals. Eight Friends, seasoned in gospel ministry, served as resource people during the consultation. They shared of their journeys in the ministry, including the challenges they have faced and how their meetings, and in some instances, support/accountability committees, have helped them be faithful in the Work of the Spirit.

We have felt blessed to have Opportunities to meet face to face with each other. Although we are in varying places in our spiritual journeys as ministers and elders, and come from small and large, rural and urban meetings and worship groups, we have found we all labor together in a common Work of Divine Love.

We have heard Gospel ministry described as that which brings us closer to God, and we have been reminded that the Good News we are invited to share has not changed from the time of early Friends: the kingdom of God is still at hand, Christ still comes to teach his people himself, and we are still a people waiting to be gathered. We have also been reminded that all spiritual gifts, including those we might be stewarding, are gifts of and for the Body – our meetings, yearly meetings, and this aching world.

We have found we share a Love for God, the Religious Society of Friends, and our dear meetings, and a call to help others come closer to that Love. We have learned we also share a common hunger for accountability, affirmation, and

support from our meetings. We have talked about the need for recognizing and naming gifts of the Spirit; the work of nominating and ministry & counsel committees; and clearness committees and anchor/accountability/oversight committees. We have considered ways we can give each other support and have touched the Bedrock of support.

As we have sought together to discern answers to various queries, we have often found that the words of early Friends, the Hebrew scriptures, the teachings of Jesus, and the letters of the apostles give us counsel, comfort and clearness. We have tenderly ministered to each other and come under the weight of the Work we are called to do. We understand that we have been invited to be faithful witness of God's Love to the world. It can seem overwhelming, but we are clear that we must begin by being convicted by Truth in our own hearts and lives, and by being willing to let God change us. Then we, as Friends, will have a mighty witness in a world desperate to know God's liberating Love. Breath by breath, step by step, with God's help we can bear witness to the power of Truth and Life and Love.

We closed our time together in worship, renewed of Spirit and more clear about the Work we have been called to take up together. We hope Way opens for our paths to continue to cross, and we hold each other and you, our beloved meetings, in the tender Love of Christ.

With love and on behalf of the Friends gathered here this weekend,
Becky Phipps, clerk
The Traveling Ministries Committee of Friends General Conference

Attachment 10 - Foxfire State of the Meeting Report

Foxfire Friends Meeting of the Holston Valley
State of the Meeting Report
May, 2007

As soon as we lost a visiting Friend to Illinois, we gained a visiting Buddhist. We don't seem to grow in size, but we do seem to be holding our own. Two of our attenders have become members.

After four years as the sole occupants of Bob and Beth Keiter's garage apartment/studio, we moved our meeting back to the Catholic student Center near the campus of ETSU. We had hoped that our "own" place would help us grow, but that didn't happen.

Spiritually we seem to be unsettled as well. We shall be doing the Friendly thing and examine with care the expectations and assumptions and frustrations that have surfaced since our move.

In our adult religious education we have been studying the Tao Te Ching.

Our Meeting continues to be involved in local area peace activities.