

SAYMA Representative Meeting Minutes
Third Month 12, 2011
Representative Meeting #126 (Spring)
Atlanta Friends Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia

126-01: Opening Worship and Meeting for Remembrance.

Friends gathered on a beautiful spring morning with an extended period of expectant worship. Out of worship Friends reflected on the lives and example of SAYMA Friends who have passed away in the last year. Friends Dorothy Tredennick (Berea) and Ceal Wutka (Atlanta) were described in loving memory.

126-02: Greetings and Introductions

Those present introduced themselves, their purpose attending the meeting and their monthly meeting affiliation [**Attachment 1 – Attendance List**]. Following introductions, the Yearly Meeting planning committee withdrew for their deliberations.

126-03: Treasurer's Report

Deanna Nipp-Kientz reminded Friends that the primary source of income for the Yearly Meeting derives from the assessment contributions for members and regular attenders received from constituent monthly meetings and worship groups. Income through March 5 was \$12,409 with disbursements of \$21,463. There is \$17,571 in the checking account and \$40,232 in two savings accounts. Deducting assets in special funds leaves the Yearly Meeting with net assets of \$32,579. Our income year to date is less than three of the previous five years but is a ten percent increase over last year. The cost of living increase for employees was approved for the year. Yearly Meeting employees receive a monthly payment in lieu of a benefits package. Contributions for Wider Quaker Organization have not yet been disbursed. SAYF is submitting regular reports. The debit card arrangement for the administrative assistance is working well. [**Attachment 2 – Treasurer's Report.**]

Concern was raised over the balance of income and disbursements. The finance committee surveyed monthly meetings last year and plans to do so again this year. The Treasurer expressed concern over the combination of declining revenue and the commitment to support Wider Quaker Organizations and spending to support travel to WQO.

The clerk asked representatives to encourage their meetings and worship groups to make contributions on a quarterly basis to help stabilize the income flow.

Friends reflected on the income situation. One meeting found the census process useful in discerning membership. Friends were encouraged to be in communication with the Finance Committee to assist them in their planning and budget preparation.

A question was raised about the Released Friend Fund. The Ministry and Nurture Committee administers the fund. The current goal is to increase the fund to a level that will support a Friend who has a leading to engage in a substantial ministry to be released for a period up to six months.

126-03-01: We accept the Treasurer's report of March 5, 2011.

126-04: Junior Yearly Meeting Report

Tim Lamm reported that Beth Myers and Jonathan Schinhofen will coordinate the Junior Yearly Meeting program this year.

126-05: Southern Appalachian Friend Report

Kathleen Mavournin reported the next issue of SAF will be published shortly. The deadline for submissions is March 15. This will be the last issue of her term and concludes two consecutive terms as editor. Kathleen expressed appreciation to the Yearly Meeting for the opportunity to serve as editor of Southern Appalachian Friend.

126-06: 2011 Junior Yearly Meeting Plans

Beth Myers reported that she and her partner Jonathan Schinhofen coordinated Yearly Meeting last year and will be doing so again this year. They are working to incorporate feedback they received last year into this year's planning. The theme this year is "Building Beyond Our Community." An additional staff person will be assisting this year. The plan is to split the young friends into two age-graded groups. Friends were asked to encourage families with young friends to attend Yearly Meeting and participate in the program.

126-07: Administrative Assistant's Report

Liz Perch reported she has worked for various Friends organizations for over 20 years. Liz has assumed responsibility for coordinating the collecting registration information for representative meeting. Liz circulated copies of the draft SAYMA 2010 Census [**Attachment 3 – SAYMA Census**]. Liz found calling monthly meeting contacts assisted in the most complete census in recent years. A complete report should be available by Yearly Meeting.

The clerk of Atlanta Meeting described the process by which Atlanta meeting completed the census form. The decline in Brevard Meeting's membership was noted with concern. A friend encouraged the Ministry and Nurture Committee to review the data for our information. Several Friends expressed concern over the time spent to collect the data and encouraged us to explore ways to reduce the burden.

The census report will be sent to FWCC by June 1, attached to the representative meeting minutes and reported at Yearly Meeting.

Liz reported that the request for directory updates will be sent out shortly. The request will be delivered to each monthly meeting clerk and contact person. A draft of the directory will be available at Yearly Meeting for review and correction. Final copies will be available in both print and electronic form. It will again be emphasized that the list is for internal SAYMA use and not for public dissemination or unauthorized uses. As part of our membership as a constituent meeting of FGC, the mailing list from the directory is shared with FGC twice a year. No other requests are granted without the

authorization of Yearly Meeting or representative meeting.

126-08: Web Administrator's Report

Hank Fay reported the revision of the web site has not yet been completed. At this point the plan is to establish a non-profit Google site in the next week. This new web format will permit committees to have separate pages and engage in threaded discussions. If needed an orientation and training session will be scheduled at Yearly Meeting.

The clerk reported that the current web site is more up to date. Items to be added to the web site should be sent to Tim Lamm or Hank Fay.

A Friend encouraged us to explore other web-based methods of community building such as Facebook and LinkedIn.

Break for Lunch

126-09: Thanks to Atlanta Meeting

We thank Atlanta Friends Meeting for their generous and welcoming hospitality, meeting space and the delicious lunch.

12610: Friends World Committee for Consultation

Sallie Prugh reported that the FWCC Section of the Americas annual meeting will be held later this month. Afterwards, a Salt and Light gathering will be held as a way of preparing Friends for the FWCC world gathering in 2012. A regional Salt and Light Gathering was held in October at West Knoxville with over 20 Friends attending. SAYMA has provided financial assistance through a fund that supports Jamaican Friends' attendance at regional gatherings. FWCC is leading an initiative on Friends testimonies and Global Change. A global change workshop will be held at Yearly Meeting.

The World Conference of Friends will be held April 2012 in Kenya. Geeta McGahey has been selected to serve as our Yearly Meeting's delegate. It is hoped that 1000 Quakers will gather for a week. Information for Friends interested in attending can be found on the FWCC website. (www.saltandlight2012.org)

126-11: Ecological Concerns Network

Roy Taylor reported for the SAYMA ECN. ECN is the Yearly Meeting body that facilitates deliberations within the Yearly Meeting over our relationship with nature and the natural world. ECN encourages Friends to live up to the testimonies. Our practices of overconsumption threaten the natural world. Roy encouraged Friends to use the Six Queries on Global Change in their meetings to reflect on practice [**Attachment 4 – Six Queries on Global Change**].

126-12: Ad hoc Naming Committee to Identify Clerk of Nominating Committee.

Sallie Prugh reported that the ad hoc Naming Committee appointed Ninth Month 2010 recommends Jim Cavener to serve as the clerk of the SAYMA Nominating Committee.

126-12-01: On the recommendation of the Naming Committee, we gratefully approve Jim Cavener to serve as Clerk of Nominating Committee.

126-13: American Friends Service Committee Corporation.

Free Polazzo reported on his service as the SAYMA representative to the AFSC Corporation. The AFSC Corporation is currently composed of 175 members approximately half of whom are directly appointed by Yearly Meetings, the other half at-large members nominated by the AFSC Nominating Committee. The AFSC Corporation meets annually.

AFSC has had a difficult year with large staff reductions necessitated by a dramatic drop in revenue. A new General Secretary has been appointed.

At the March 4-5, 2011 meeting, the AFSC Corporation was asked to approve a series of changes to AFSC's structure. Proposals concerned the size of the board, the level of regional participation and the Quaker composition of the Board.

AFSC is recruiting for a new staff person to coordinate the organization's relationship with Friends. A new book on African-American Quaker Spirituality has been published with AFSC assistance.

Free encouraged Friends to visit the AFSC website (www.afsc.org) to explore potential connections with Friends.

Friends expressed appreciation for Free's service on the AFSC Corporation and for raising questions related to the relationship between Friends and AFSC.

A written report prepared by Charles Schade and Free Polazzo provides additional detail [**Attachment 5 – ASFC Corporation Report**].

126-14: Faith & Practice Revision Committee.

Kathleen Mavournin reported the Faith and Practice Revision Committee will bring three proposals for consideration to the 2011 yearly sessions: a revised section on Education, a new section on Harmony with Nature and another new section on Meeting for Threshing.

In addition, the committee recommends the reading list be removed from Faith and Practice and placed on the website where it can be revised regularly. The committee further recommend that the queries also be removed from Faith and Practice and be placed on the website. This latter recommendation rises from the committee's discernment that the queries should be used for spiritual reflection. A new group may work on revising the queries in a new cycle of deliberations.

The committee's proposals have been sent to meetings and are posted on the SAYMA website.

If the committee's proposals are approved, the Faith and Practice should be available for distribution at the Fall 2011 Representative Meeting.

Friends encouraged the committee to consider ebooks and print on demand as alternative ways to publish the Faith and Practice.

There was concern expressed by several Friends that the proposals as revised did not reflect important concerns articulated in several meetings formal and informal comments. A Friend asked if comments submitted to the committee might be circulated to assist the Yearly Meeting's deliberations. Members of the committee present expressed reluctance to share comments submitted as this has not been the practice of the committee.

Some members of the revision committee long for closure and an end to this cycle of deliberation. Friends recognized that the final authority lies with the Yearly Meeting as a gathered body listening for the Spirit's guidance.

126-14-01: Friends gathered expressed their deep appreciation for the work of the Faith and Practice Revision Committee over the past decade.

126-15: Nominating Committee.

Jim Cavener reported that the Nominating Committee is working to develop the slate of nominees for committees and representatives for presentation at the 2011 Yearly Meeting Sessions. This year approximately half of the Yearly Meeting positions will become vacant. The committee is actively working to identify an Assistant Clerk (who also serves as clerk of the Personnel Committee). In addition a new Recording Clerk is needed, Yearly Meeting appointees to Ministry and Nurture are needed as well as several members of Finance Committee. Jim reviewed additional openings and opportunities.

The committee is deliberating on filling the Yearly Meeting's representatives to Wider Quaker Organizations. They are considering making a broad appeal to the members of the Yearly Meeting to consider service as a WQO representative.

The Clerk encouraged representatives to suggest names to the Nominating Committee and encourage the service of interested Friends.

126-16: Finance Committee.

Susan Phelan reported the Finance Committee presently has no way of projecting revenue on which to base the draft budget for 2012. The Assistant Treasurer hopes to develop some graphic trend data to assist us in better understanding our situation. We are not receiving the designated individual contributions that we had hoped to receive. The Finance Committee has a body of work, but the work of development is not within the purview of Finance and a standing Development Committee might be worth exploring.

A Friend asked if an increase in assessment was being considered. The Finance Committee is not yet ready to make a recommendation, but welcome comments to aid in their deliberations.

126-17: Personnel Committee.

Dennis Gregg reported that the Personnel Committee has recently become aware that the Yearly Meeting has not insured that our employees completed I-9 immigration form. While some Quaker organizations have spent considerable time on this issue, SAYMA has not decided either way, and our failure to complete the forms is not the result of a decision but an oversight. Both FGC and AFSC, after a period of refusal, recently decided to comply with I-9 requirement. The Personnel Committee requests guidance from Representative Meeting as to how the Yearly Meeting wishes to proceed. Dennis outlined several options.

A Friend reminded us of the process of bringing a social concern to the Yearly Meeting. In this process, concerns arise at the monthly meeting level and are brought for discernment to the Yearly Meeting level. He encouraged the Personnel Committee to suggest a process.

The Clerk suggested the formation of an ad hoc group to work with Personnel Committee to develop a proposal for consideration by Yearly Meeting. Jere Licciardello, Brian Yaffe and Hank Fay offered to serve. Additional Friends will be considered.

126-18: Outreach Committee.

Dennis Gregg reported the committee has been actively discussing ways to explain Quakerism in the region. A Google group is providing an dynamic forum for discussion. Building on the Quaker Quest approach, the committee supports the idea of inreach – knowing who we are – as an important way for us to reach out and explain Quakerism. A workshop will be held at Yearly Meeting on outreach.

126-19: Yearly Meeting Planning Committee.

Carol Ciscel reported Yearly Meeting Planning Committee has met twice since the fall representative meeting. Yearly Meeting Planning has been working to create a balanced budget for the 2011 Yearly Meeting sessions. The committee hopes to keep the registration fees at 2011 levels. To do so, the daily campus fee of \$6.00 per person/per day must be collected from all Friends who participate.

The committee hopes to send out the 2011 advance program within the next couple of weeks. The program will be sent to the clerk of each monthly meetings and posted on the website.

The committee is working to incorporate suggestions submitted following last year's sessions. This year the talent show will be separated from the dance.

The committee asks the name of the new position approved at RM125 (125-18-02) be changed to Layout Editor for Yearly Meeting Printed Programs.

John Potter reported on the Adult Program. He reported that Jane Snyder, a FWCC representative, has been invited to speak on Thursday Night. Elaine Crauderueff, FGC Quaker Quest Coordinator, will speak to the Friday night session.

126-20: Fall 2011 Representative Meeting.

The Clerk reported several Meetings have offered to host the Fall 2011 Representative Meeting.

126-20-01: We accept the invitation of the Memphis Friends Meeting to host the Fall 2011 Representative Meeting on September 10, 2011.

The Spring 2012 meeting date and place will be determined at Yearly Meeting. Several meetings were suggested and the Clerk will explore these. We were encouraged to avoid conflicting with the Palmetto Friends Gathering.

126-21 Next Meeting

If it is in accord with Divine will, our next meeting will be held at Memphis Friends Meeting September 10, 2011.

126-22: Closing Worship.

We closed our deliberations with a period of waiting worship.

Tim Lamm, Clerk
(Archive copy signed)

Bill Holland, Recording Clerk
(Archive copy signed)

Attachments:

1. Attendance List
2. Treasurer's Report
3. SAYMA Census
4. Six Queries on Global Change
5. AFSC Corporation Report