

Appendix C: Committee Reports

Ecological Concerns Network
Electronic Communications Committee
Handbook Committee
Ministry and Nurture Committee
Nominating Committee (*in text of minutes*)
Personnel Committee
SAYF Steering Committee

Ecological Concerns Network

MISSION STATEMENT

SAYMA Ecological Concerns Network will provide assistance, including spiritual and consultative support, to Friends in Yearly Meeting who are following their leadings to work on ecological concerns. It will also work to raise the level of awareness of ecological concerns among SAYMA Friends.

This has been a year of change and paradox. The interest in ecological concerns and climate change has been increasing throughout the general public. The release of the movie “An Inconvenient Truth” last summer and the distribution and showings last fall, sponsored by many local meetings, helped bring this to the forefront of conversations. The national press has finally decided that these issues speak to enough of us that this spring one could go to a news stand and see multiple magazine covers touting the ‘Green’ movement. While as a committee of SAYMA, this year we have not accomplished as much as we could. I take responsibility for this. (Work obligations, both professional and for QEW increased beyond expectations.)

Great opportunities are on the horizon. Work has been accomplished laying the groundwork for these opportunities. Through the assistance of QEW the regional Yearly Meeting earthcare representatives of SAYMA, SEYM, Piedmont Friends Fellowship, PFF have started to work together to develop communications and activities for the Southeast. QEW’s retreat in Fall of 2008 will be held in the Atlanta area and we are planning how we can work together for presentations during this event and are hoping ECN and SAYMA will be participating that weekend. Another part of this work is the reaching out to Young Adult Friends seeking their participation in earthcare work.

Bob McGahey has brought us the opportunity to be a part of a national conversation about the use of nuclear power as part of the solution to green house gas emissions and global warming. This is a controversial topic with very polarized sides to the issue. It is great to be able to have our community through ECN be a part of the discussion.

Electronic Communications Committee

SAYMA's Electronic Communications Ad Hoc Committee Report to Yearly Meeting – 9, sixth Month, 2007–Part 1

1. The SAYMA Electronic Communications Ad Hoc Committee recommends Yearly Meeting approve the following procedures for responding to problems that could occur on the two open listservs that are designated the “SAYMA DISCUSS” listserv and the “SAYMA ANNOUNCE” listserv:

Expressions of disagreements posted on the listserv are always appropriate if the words and “tone” of expression are in line with the Yearly Meeting’s listserv guidelines. [see guidelines for SAYMA’s listserv below.] If any member of the listserv finds that a post seems substantially to violate the guidelines, she/he may ask the listserv administrator (who is always, until further notice, the SAYMA Administrative Assistant) to post the guidelines on the listserv as a reminder for all subscribers without indicating it for any particular individuals(s). No one should individually send a copy of the guidelines to any others’ individual email boxes. We believe that, in most cases of inappropriate postings, the situation will be resolved when everyone is simply reminded of, and thinks about, the guidelines.

If anyone finds that the guidelines reminder has not stopped inappropriate postings, he/she can directly request the Ministry and Council Committee of the Monthly Meeting with which the person of concern is affiliated to provide Friendly eldering with that person. SAYMA’s Administrative Assistant can help facilitate the process by providing contact information about individuals.

If the above interventions have all been done and a problem still persists, the problem should be brought to the attention of SAYMA’s Ministry and Nurture committee for them to respond as they are led.

SAYMA’s LISTSERV GUIDELINES:

“Please compose your postings to this list to reflect the fundamental Quaker value that “there is that of God in Everyone”. When responding to another post, respond to that of God in the author or subject of that post. This means express your perspective sincerely without passing judgment on the other’s motives, character, intelligence or integrity. It is good to allow time to pass for seasoning your thoughts before posting a response. Please also be moderate in your quantify of postings in order to avoid overwhelming subscribers.” (Approved in Yearly Meeting business session, Sixth Month, 2007)

SAYMA's Electronic Communications Ad Hoc Committee Report to Yearly Meeting–9, Sixth Month, 2007,Part 2

2. We recommend that our current web manager write a job description for the web manager position. It should include how the web manager is selected, term of office, and responsibilities. We recommend it be inserted in SAYMA’s Handbook. [Note: After this recommendation was approved by committee, the clerk learned that the Handbook

committee had already initiated the process and the web manager had agreed to do the composing.]

3. ECC wants everyone to know that SAYMA committees and other groups within SAYMA can have their own pages on the website. Some committees already have them. These pages are available for information about committees' work and other activities of widespread interest within SAYMA. If a SAYMA committee or group wishes to create a page or link on the website, contact the SAYMA Web Manager to initiate the process.

4. Based on relatively light current usage of the listservs, the ECC does NOT recommend attempting to institute any additional electronic communication technologies such as bulletin boards, web forums, newsgroups, etc.

5. The committee finds that the existing current protections of individual identities within SAYMA's electronic communications is sufficient and no further action on this is required.

6. This report and recommendations by the SAYMA Electronic Communications Ad Hoc Committee is the culmination and completion of more than three years work by the committee. We find that we have no further business to conduct. We ask that the Yearly Meeting lay the Electronic Communications Ad Hoc committee down.

Handbook Committee

The Handbook was originally started in 1994 with a revised Draft copy available in 1996. It was used sporadically over the insuring years but never approved for final use. In 2003 a new committee was formed to review the draft and update it with the procedures that were currently in use. At the same time, with the Guide to our Faith and Practice being revised there were many areas of the Handbook that needed revision.

The committee collected comments and suggestions from individuals who were currently in positions of responsibility or who has previously held these positions.

As a result of this work, the current Draft Handbook is presented as an amalgamation of all of this work

There is some duplication included from our Faith and Practice as an aid to using the Handbook. It is by no means a substitute or replacement to the Faith and Practice but a practical supplement to getting the work done.

The plan is to provide next year's individuals with positions of responsibility with either a paper copy or CD to use and revise as needed. The committee will receive these suggestions during the year and prepare both a final Handbook and recommended procedure for keeping it up to date at the Spring Representatives Meeting and at Yearly Meeting 2008.

Because the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee is so large and the work often has to be adjusting to both place and time, there are two guidelines presented in the draft for this committee to use and review during this next year. It is hoped that we will then be able to combine all of this work into one overall guideline for this committee.

In the original draft there was an extensive History of the handbook's development which has been removed but kept for reference as needed. Currently there are four sections to the Handbook: Introduction, Structure of Yearly Meeting, Yearly Meeting Planning Committee and policies/procedures/forms.

References: Draft Handbook 1996

Guide to our Faith and Practice (currently in revision)

Handbook of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Atlanta Monthly Meeting Handbook

West Knoxville Monthly Meeting guide to our Practice

Ministry and Nurture Committee

Ministry and Nurture has had a fulfilling year of service, both to our constituent meetings and to the wider Friends community. We continue to joyfully embrace our new model of meeting quarterly at the behest of SAYMA meetings and worship groups. This year we met at Huntsville, Asheville, and Columbia. After three years of this model, we have met at nine meeting locations; one of these was with three worship groups in the greater Atlanta area. We are scheduled to meet with Charleston in the fall and Royal worship group in January. Our May 2008 meeting is an open venue; however, we look forward to reading your next-year's state of the meeting reports then, which are due May 1. Please take note of this new procedure, which will help us take the pulse of Yearly Meeting.

We took part in two consultations during 2006-07, one with FGC Traveling Ministries, on fostering the gifts of emerging ministries in the fall, the other on FGC Advancement and Outreach in the spring, both at the Gilmary Retreat Center outside of Pittsburgh. At each of these, SAYMA was praised for its contributions to the consultation. Some of you will share the fruits of the Emerging Ministries conference in Hannah McDermott's workshop this weekend. At the A and O consultation, our committee's new procedure of traveling to meet at constituent meeting venues was lifted up as a model for the Society of Friends.

We have one action item for you to consider today, namely to merge two funds, one used regularly, the other in disuse since 2001:

Released Friend Fund

Representatives Meeting has asked us to consider Finance Committee's request about the disposition of this fund. In our understanding the Released Friend Fund was established in order to support Friends who seek to carry out a leading that would require them to suspend service in their home monthly and the yearly meeting. The last time a request for funds was made was approximately 6 years

ago. Additionally the amount accrued constitutes too small an amount to be effective financial support.

We recommend that the funds from Released Friend Fund be combined with the Spiritual Development fund and the fund renamed Spiritual Development and Witness Fund. This fund would be available to Friends who have discerned a leading with their monthly meeting to participate in educational, service or witness opportunities. Application is to be made in writing to M&N who will consider the request. Once M&N has approved the request and upon completion of the opportunity M&N requests a written report from the recipient of the grant.

In addition, we approved the following minute. YouthQuake Fund:

After consideration of the request of Representative Meeting, to sit with Finance Committee's question about the status of the YouthQuake line item, we are led to suggest that the line item be retained but renamed Youth Spiritual Development and Witness Fund. Its purpose would be similar to the Spiritual Development and Witness Fund. How this fund would be administered is unclear and needs to be discerned by yearly meeting in collaboration with SAYF Steering Committee and the Young Adult Friends.

We look forward to serving SAYMA during the upcoming year. Have a full-hearted, spirit-filled Gathering.

for the committee, Bob McGahey, clerk

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee met at Yearly Meeting, 2006, and at the Representative Meeting in the 9th Month, the 12th month of 2006 and the 4th month of 2007. Our former administrative assistant resigned after Yearly Meeting. We accepted applications and conducted interviews during the 7th and 8th months, and at Representative Meeting in the 9th Month offered the position. We met briefly to introduce the new administrative assistant to the committee at the 12th month Meeting.

The SAYF steering committee recommended that the SAYF administrative assistant receive a merit increase. After discussion and reviewing her evaluation the committee recommended at 5% merit raise.

The committee also recommended a cost of living increase of 3.3% which is the Social Security COLA.

These salary recommendations were discussed with the Finance Committee and they stated they would put these increases in the proposed budget to bring to Yearly Meeting, 2007.

of YFs 45
of FAPs 12

Activities included: a Meeting for Laughter/Healing, a movie and discussion and a dance.

5. W. Knoxville TN Retreat March 9-11, 2007

Theme: Service Project

of YFs 36
of FAPs 8

Activities included: spending an entire day doing many outdoor projects at Resurrection House, a home for troubled teens in Knoxville, TN.

6. Nashville, TN Retreat April 27-29, 2007

Theme: Memories

of YFs 35
of FAPs 7

Activities included: collage making, and a trip to Centennial Park for games, fun and relaxation.

Nurturing/Steering/Oversight Committees Retreats

**1. Black Mountain, NC
Hendrickson Home
August 25 – 27, 2006**

of Nurturing Committee Members 14
of Steering Committee Members 8 (and 1 guest from Asheville Meeting)

We developed a plan to improve our internal communications, reviewed our finances, discussed FAP issues and FAP training, reviewed the draft SAYF handbook and considered various issues concerning the health and safety of YFs at retreats.

**2. Watkinsville, GA
Fisher-Watkins Home
February 23-25, 2007**

of Nurturing Committee Members 15
of Steering Committee Members 7

We planned for SAYF at Yearly Meeting and developed our calendar of retreats for the 2007 -2008 year. We discussed 3 concerns that had come from parents and concerned adults during the past year and developed processes to address those concerns. We completed the annual evaluation for the SAYF administrative assistant and reviewed it with her. We refined our guideline concerning SAYF graduates attending SAYF retreats.