

South Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
June 7-10, 2007
Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina
37th Annual Meeting

Thursday, June 7, 2007

37-1 Reading

I watched him for a long time. He was so busily engaged in his task that he did not notice my approach until he heard my voice. Then he raised himself erect with all the slow dignity of a man who had exhausted the cup of haste to the very dregs. He was an old man—as I discovered before our conversation was over, a full eighty-one years. Further talk between us revealed that he was planting a small grove of pecan trees. The little treelets were not more than two and a half or three feet in height. My curiosity was unbounded.

“Why did you not select larger trees so as to increase the possibility of your living to see them bear at least one cup of nuts?”

He fixed his eyes directly on my face, with no particular point of focus, but with a gaze that took in the totality of my features. Finally he said, “These small trees are cheaper and I have very little money.”

“So you do not expect to live to see the trees reach sufficient maturity to bear fruit?”

“No, but is that important? All my life I have eaten fruit from trees that I did not plant, why should I not plant trees to bear fruit for those who may enjoy them long after I am gone? Besides, the man who plants because he will reap the harvest has no faith in life.” Howard Thurman, *Deep is the Hunger*, 1951, 2000, Friends United Press

37-2 Welcome

37-3 Roll Call

Present: Anneewakee Creek WG, Asheville MM, Atlanta MM, Birmingham MM, Boone MM, Brevard MM, Celo MM, Charleston MM, Chattanooga MM, Columbia MM, Cookeville MM, Crossville MM, Foxfire MM, Greenville MM, Huntsville MM, Memphis MM, Nashville MM, West Knoxville MM

Not Present: Athens MM, Berea MM, Canton WG, Clemson WG, Crossville MM, Gwinnett PM, Murfreesboro WG, Oxford MM, Royal WG, Sevier Co. WG, Sewanee WG, Swannanoa Valley MM

Individual attenders to Yearly Meeting are listed in **Appendix A**. *[printed copies only]*

37-4 Introductions

Jane Berger (NYYM): Jane will be doing a workshop tomorrow. She is clerk of Advancement and Outreach Committee for FGC. Jane is here at the request of the Jan Hoffman (NEYM) is the plenary speaker tomorrow evening.

David McGinnis: A letter of Introduction from Friendship Friends Meeting in Greensboro, NC was read. David will be sharing in his gifts of dance leadership.

Jackie Speicher, from Richmond, IN, is the Field Representative from Right Sharing of World Resources. SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee to do a workshop concerning advancement and outreach with the yearly meeting.

Peterson Toscano is the plenary speaker for this evening. Peterson is from Hartford Monthly Meeting (NEYM) and is active bringing his witness and message to Friends from all over.

Liz Weltman, from Friends Committee on National Legislation in Washington, DC works with the Native American program with FCNL.

37-5 Announcements

Steve Livingston, site coordinator from Asheville MM, gave announcements.

37-6 Agenda Review

The clerk noted that committee reports and reports from monthly meetings and wider Quaker organizations are available in the binders and will not be read in the face of the meeting unless there is an action item.

The agenda was presented to the meeting. Friends approved the agenda.

37-8 Epistle Committee

The Epistle Committee meets throughout the weekend and brings forth an epistle that communicates to the rest of the Quaker world the work that was done during the yearly meeting. Three Friends volunteered for this task:

Joel Shimberg, Foxfire MM

Sharon Annis, West Knoxville MM

Free Polazzo, Anneewakee Creek WG

Friends approved.

37-9 Naming Committee

The clerk brought forth 3 names to serve on the Naming Committee:

Connie Lamont, Birmingham MM

Larry Ingle, Chattanooga MM

Hannah McDermott, Atlanta MM

Friends approved the three proposed names.

37-10 Calendar

June 7-10, 2007, Yearly Meeting in Warren Wilson

September 15, Rep Meeting in Chattanooga

December 1st, Rep Meeting in Knoxville

April 5, 2008, Rep Meeting in Atlanta

June 11-15, 2008, Yearly Meeting in Warren Wilson

September 6, 2008, Rep Meeting

December 6, 2008, Rep Meeting

It was proposed to the Yearly Meeting that we set our Yearly Meeting dates for 2009 at Warren Wilson College.

Someone communicated that there was a possibility that Warren Wilson may not be available in 2009. There was discussion regarding this. Friends will be in dialogue with Warren Wilson regarding that possibility.

Friends approved requesting the scheduling of yearly meeting from June 10-14 in 2009 at Warren Wilson College.

A Friend from Chattanooga proposed that when the site committee is reappointed that the yearly meeting consider building a yearly meeting retreat facility with the knowledge that several monthly meetings have extra land.

Friends approved.

37-11 Administrative Assistant Report

The Administrative Assistant reported that she would like to have more work. She requests that if committees and monthly meetings have work that needs to be done – especially those involving spreadsheets and databases – to ask her.

She announced that an updated SAYMA directory was completed. Several paper copies are available, but SAYMA would prefer distributing it electronically. Friends interested in receiving it on CD need to contact the administrative assistant. Friends are reminded that the directory is to be used for Yearly Meeting business only.

SAYMA reported to FWCC 1,058 members of the Yearly Meeting. This includes preparative and worship group meeting attenders but not Friends who are members of other yearly meetings. The census is attached to the minutes from Spring 2007 Representative Meeting.

Monthly Meetings are reminded to talk to Liz Perch over the weekend to help her update each Monthly Meeting's roster of the positions of responsibility.

Friends expressed their appreciation for her work.

37-12 Nominating Committee Report

Kathleen Mavournin was nominated to be editor of Southern Appalachian Friend
Roy Taylor was nominated to continue as the Quaker Earthcare Representative
Gerry Rudolph was nominated to be the Quaker House Representative
Carol Nickle was nominated to be the Adult Program Coordinator for Yearly Meeting 2008.

There are many openings at the yearly meeting level. Critical positions include: Clerk of the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, Assistant Treasurer, and Recording Clerk. Friends were all given a handout listing the open positions and encouraged to discern whether they or another Friend had way open to take on a responsibility. Friends are asked to communicate with the nominating committee their discernment as soon as possible.

Friends accepted this report.

37-13 Readings Oxford Friends Meeting Report, Crossville Monthly Meeting

Friends held in the light Oxford Friends Meeting as its State of the Meeting report was read. Oxford Friends Meeting has had several great losses – a dearly beloved Friend to death, a place to worship, a clerk, and several other Friends to other life choices and circumstances. Many of the remaining Friends are seriously ill. There have been new growths as well – including a new space to worship, an open Quaker group meeting over lunch at the University of Mississippi campus, and a new family coming into membership.

Friends also held in the light Crossville Monthly Meeting as its State of the Meeting report was read. They are concerned for their furtherance with a heavy decline in membership and participation due to death and infirmity. The meeting has still been able to create a worship sharing group and to be involved in the sponsorship of another Central American trip.

37-14 Faith and Practice Revision Proposals

Proposed changes to Faith and Practice are in **Appendix B**.

A Friend spoke of the importance that the changes we make to our Faith and Practice speak to the Truth as best we know it for the time being.

37-14a: The proposed changes as regards the Table of Contents for Part IV: Testifying to the Life of the Spirit was not approved. Friends will revisit this later.

A Friend spoke to her understanding that Friends testimonies come from a deep place and speak to the work of the Spirit, and to the importance of them not being proscribed in a certain way but flexible so Spirit can interpret them in relevant ways to future issues and generations

A Friend gave a concern regarding the wording within the current Faith and Practice as regards who specifically can have their marriage taken under the care of the Meeting. Friends were reminded by the clerk that concerns regarding the current Faith and Practice that are not within the proposed revisions be brought to the Faith and Practice revision committee through the procedures outlined in the Guide.

37-14b: Changes were proposed to remove the gender specificity of the document to make it more general and inclusive (i.e. removing wife/husband language with wife/husband/partner). **Friends approved all proposed changes related to gender specificity. Friends also approved making the references within the certificate and wedding vows inclusive to same gender unions.**

37-14c: A Friend from Swannanoa Monthly Meeting spoke about her Monthly Meeting's leading that they are not able to fulfill the legal requirements of marrying the couple since legally not all couples are allowed to marry. She said that she could not in good faith approve a revision to the Planning the Wedding section that mandated clearness and oversight committees to fulfill "legal requirements."

It was proposed that the wording for section 3 be: “may arrange to meet legal requirements” instead of “arranged to meeting legal requirements.”

There was much discussion.

As Friends responded to this item, the clerk and recording clerk stepped aside; assistant clerk Sallie Prugh agreed to clerk and Penelope Wright agreed to serve as recording clerk.

A Friend reminded us that we are the constituted body of the yearly meeting and as such have the capacity to discern how we would proceed with this matter without this being seasoned in the monthly meetings.

Having heard Friends express their concerns around the place of monthly meetings regarding the legal aspects of marriage, the sense of the clerk is that we do not have unity.

We recognize that legal issues are a separate issue from reconciling the language of the sample certificate with the earlier non-gender specific language in this section.

Faith and Practice Revision will look again at the language in “Planning for the Wedding” so that it reflects current practice. We ask Swannanoa Monthly Meeting to submit their minute around legal issues within marriage to SAYMA’s Ministry and Nurture Committee for their consideration.

Friday, June 8 2007

37-15 Reading

I find that I have little to say about techniques of ministry; instead, I am led to speak, as I often have before, about the ground out of which all ministry flows. It is good to remember that all ministry is one, and should flow from the same source. This is true of what we call ministry in a meeting for worship just as it should be true of everything which happens in a meeting – for worship – for business, for in that meeting we are ministering through our decisions either to ourselves or to the world beyond us....

So can we, on our comfortable padded benches, stay in that centered place, knowing that the more of us who can stay faithfully grounded in God, the easier it will be for others to find it – and to stay in it also. In this state we can spend hours in a business meeting without tiring or losing our patience, resting in this sea of divine Light and love which washes through all people present....

Sometimes we are led to speak, to minister out of this ground we have been describing. And let us remember that in Quaker theory – and I hope in Quaker practice – all speaking in a business meeting arises out of this ground, and can therefore be called ministry. We know that the true inward motion to speak often lies far beneath our first instinct to respond to an issue. So it is well to wait, to go deeper.

Yet Truth is quick, and the longer we have been experienced in waiting, the more quickly we can learn to recognize the true motion even in an instant, so that we can

respond to the Spirit's timing and not our own." William Taber, "Ministering in the Meeting for Business," Friends Journal, March 1988.

37-16 Roll Call

Present: Anneewakee Creek WG, Asheville MM, Atlanta MM, Berea MM, Birmingham MM, Boone MM, Brevard MM, Canton WG, Celo MM, Charleston MM, Columbia MM, Cookeville MM, Crossville MM, Foxfire MM, Greenville MM, Huntsville MM, Memphis MM, Nashville MM, Swannanoa Valley MM, West Knoxville MM

Not Present: Athens MM, Clemson WG, Crossville MM, Gwinnett PM, Murfreesboro WG, Oxford MM, Royal WG, Sevier Co. WG, Sewanee WG,

37-17 Introductions

Paul Buckley: Earlham School of Religion Representative. Paul is a member of North Meadow Circle of Friends Monthly Meeting, OVYM. The clerk read a letter of introduction from ESR.

Peterson Toscano: The clerk read a traveling minute from Hartford Monthly Meeting regarding his gifts of communication, humor, compassion, and integrity, and his leading to travel in the ministry. This is certified by the quarterly meeting and the yearly meeting.

Jacqueline Stillwell: The clerk read a letter of introduction from FGC Traveling Ministries Program. A member of Monadnock Monthly Meeting (NEYM), she comes as an FGC yearly meeting visitor.

Howard and Paula Cell: Members of Germantown Monthly Meeting in Philadelphia, they are attending SAYMA on behalf of AFSC.

37-18 Announcements

Warren Wilson College agrees to host our yearly meeting gathering from June 10-14 in 2009.

37-19 State of the Cookeville Friends Meeting

A Friend read the Cookeville State of the Meeting report, their first as a monthly meeting. They spoke of the deepness of their worship, their third Quakerism 101 class, their work educating about alternatives to the military in the local high school, their weekly peace vigil, and their visits to the local Dismas house. The meeting has grown substantially in numbers and a 1st day school has been created. They spoke of how the ministry within meeting for worship has informed and inspired their work in the wider world.

37-20 Ministry and Nurture Report

A member of Ministry Nurture shared their report. It is attached as Appendix C. Monthly Meetings please take note that State of the Meeting reports will be due before May 1st of 2008 in order to allow for time before the Yearly Meeting for the Ministry and Nurture committee to hold the meetings in the light.

The Released Friend Fund was established in order to support Friends with leadings that require financial support. Ministry and Nurture recommends that the

Released Friend and Spiritual Development Funds be combined in order to create a Spiritual Development and Witness Fund. Requests to be considered from the Fund would need to be made in writing to Ministry and Nurture.

Youth Quake Fund line item. The Ministry and Nurture committee recommends that this line item be renamed the Youth Spiritual Development and Witness Fund. The administration of this fund is yet to be determined.

There will be no action on these recommendations at this time pending input from Finance Committee, SAYF, and Young Adult Friends.

Action Item:

Nashville Monthly Meeting asks SAYMA to join them in welcoming Cookeville into the Yearly Meeting. **Friends approved and celebrated the affiliation of Cookeville Monthly Meeting into the Yearly Meeting.**

37-22 Nominations

Kristi Estes was nominated to be Clerk for one additional year.
Allen Robinson was nominated to be a representative to FLGBTQC.
Allen Robinson was nominated to be on Faith and Practice Revision Committee.
Kathleen Mavournin was nominated to be editor of Southern Appalachian Friend.
Roy Taylor was nominated to continue as the Quaker Earthcare Representative.
Gerry Rudolph was nominated to be the Quaker House Representative.
Carol Nickle was nominated to be the Adult Program Coordinator.

Friends Approved these nominations.

Friends were reminded of the open positions.

37-23 Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report is attached as Appendix D.

There is a \$3,712.65 surplus at this time.

Friends should note that representatives to Wider Quaker Organizations may request reimbursements for travel.

A friend noted how blessed she was to be part of an organization where the Treasurer says "spend more money" and the Administrative Assistant says "give me more work."

A Friend also encouraged Friends that do spend money on behalf of the Yearly Meeting or provide in kind donations that do not require reimbursement to still record them and to send this information to the Treasurer.

Friends accepted this report.

37-24 AFSC Presentation – Howard Cell

Howard Cell spoke about the work of the American Friends Service Committee. He spoke of the General Secretary's visit to Tehran, Iran, the 90th anniversary of the AFSC, and the 60th anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize to the Religious Society of Friends for their humanitarian work following World War II.

The June and July 2007 editions of *Friends Journal* contain several essays reflecting on the work of the AFSC.

The AFSC encourages Friends to join them in a renewed commitment to make the world a more just and peaceful place – locally, regionally, and globally. Friends may go to www.afsc.org or apply to their monthly newsletter to learn how they can get involved in AFSC's work.

The speaker reminded Friends of the 4 million displaced Iraqi citizens who are refugees from the war. Two million have been able to leave the country, but of the two million still displaced within the country, 40-50,000 more are leaving every month.

37-25 Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) Presentation – Nancy Nothhelfer

The representative from AVP USA, a member of Swannanoa Monthly Meeting, explained that AVP USA is one center of a global enterprise. AVP is in 40 countries and 40 states. AVP started in 1975 in Greenhaven Prison in New York. A group of inmates were concerned about the lower age of people getting into prison and wanted to do something for the youth. They contacted the local Friends Meeting for assistance and the Friends helped the prisoners create a program to assist them in learning nonviolence skills.

There are three phases to the AVP training: Basic, 2nd level, and Facilitator training. These are all 3-day experiential workshops. They take place in prisons, schools, and in the wider community.

AVP New York has also started creating programs for post-release prisoners.

AFSC created a prevention program for students called HIP: Help Increase the Peace using the AVP model.

AVP is also doing work globally in South Africa (2,000 workshops in one year), Australia, Britain, New Zealand, Bolivia, Cuba, and through the African Great Lakes initiative. The African Great Lakes initiative has been in progress for years – trying to heal the rifts still present post-genocide. Over 1400 community judges in Rwanda have been trained by AVP. AVP has also been working with mixed groups of genocide survivors and genocide perpetrators.

37-26 Finance Committee

The finance clerk reminded us that what we do with our money embodies part of who we are as a community.

One of the proposed changes from the 2007 to the 2008 budget relates to the Released Friend Fund. Finance Committee proposes to increase the amount of money in the Released Friend Fund to more rapidly build the Fund to be able to support a Friend to be released in the work. They have proposed to increase the funding from \$200 to \$700 a year. The Finance Committee also encourages Friends to make contributions directly to that fund.

The Finance Committee does not see an administrative issue with the Ministry and Nurture committee's recommendation to combine the Release Friend and Spiritual Development Funds, but is concerned with the merger since there are two specific purposes for the different funds.

The Personnel Committee has submitted an increase to the salaries of SAYMA personnel to reflect Cost of Living Allowances and one merit increase.

The Finance Committee is not seeking to change the line item that funds travel for representatives to Wider Quaker Organizations.

The final SAYMA 2008 budget will be addressed for approval in September of 2007.

37-27 Faith and Practice

Friends approved the reading of the minute 37-14 from yesterday as regards the Faith and Practice revisions.

Friends noted there is still confusion regarding the clear procedure for seasoning the minute from Swannanoa Valley.

37-28 Epistle Committee

Sally MacEwen and Jennifer Snow Wolf agreed to be on the Epistle Committee. Free Palazo asked to be excused from the committee.

Friends Approved.

Saturday, June 9, 2007

37-29 Welcome

The clerk spoke of how God gives us so many gifts and how God often uses us as gifts. You may not want to say that you are God's gift to us, but there's something in you that is God's gift to us. Each part of our agenda is an opportunity to receive such gifts. When the Faith and Practice committee brings its work to us, gives it and lets go, we are thankful. I ask us not to challenge another's gift when it is brought to us in the Light, but to accept it in the Spirit in which it's been given. Not all gifts are ready to be used, but we are still called to listen and discern.

37-30 Introductions

No new introductions.

37-31 Roll Call

In addition to the previous attenders, Canton WG and Gwinnett Preparative Meeting were present today.

37-32 Reading - Memphis Friends Meeting State of the Meeting Report

Memphis wrote of the life of the Spirit in their community and how, though they falter at times, things bloom. The meeting has nurtured a prayer study group, a monthly midweek worship group, and a first day school for preschoolers and young friends. The Meeting is experiencing a deepening of the spiritual walk of individuals and a rich participation of its members in social justice and other spirit-led concerns. They are seeing a deepening of their roots and are thankful for that.

37-33 Nominations

Recording Clerk – Bill Holland, Atlanta

Assistant Treasurer – Deanna Nipp-Kuntz, Cookeville

Finance Committee – Kendall Ivy, West Knoxville and Carol Lamb, Berea
Ministry and Nurture – Jane Goldthwaith, Celso
SAYF Steering Committee – Dick Houghton, Nashville
Faith and Practice Revision Committee – Edie Patrick, Foxfire
Jonathon Shoenhofen, Berea
Co-Clerk SAYF Steering Committee – Cathy Watkins, Athens

Friends Approved these Nominations

37-34 Finance

The yearly meeting clerk spoke of how concerns that are not resolved regarding procedure will be addressed by the Clerk’s Committee before the next Representative Meeting in order to allow seasoning to take place. [*Clerk’s comment – This is concerning clarifying procedures that relate to the timing of Budget approval, as well as how best to consider specific rising concerns such as Swannanoa Valley MM’s concern about their minute on legal marriage.*]

The Finance Committee reported that it has developed a standardized form in order to request reimbursements from SAYMA. The form will be available on-line and is available now through contacting the Treasurer.

The preliminary budget was presented for a second reading.

The clerk of finance reminded us that money is surplus labor. It’s important for us to think of how we look at how we use this form of stored energy and to keep this query in mind as we look at our budget: “Is this how we want to spend our energy?”

The preliminary budget was approved.

Friends expressed their thanks for the clerk of Finance and his faithfulness in his work.

Friends approved.

37-35 Faith and Practice

The yearly meeting clerk asked Friends to discern while listening to the Faith and Practice proposed revisions what is a flower that is ready to bloom and what needs more tending or waiting.

Proposed changes were presented as in **Appendix B**.

37-35a: Proposed in “Becoming a Preparative Meeting”:

A. Editing and combining sentences in order to create more simplicity and flow without changing meaning.

B. Added sentence: “queries for prospective monthly meetings are in the query section of this Guide; it can be helpful for the preparative meeting and the overseeing meeting to consider these together.”

C. Change: “closest monthly meeting” was changed to “an existing SAYMA monthly meeting, usually the same one that cared for it as a worship group.”

Friends approved changes to this section as proposed.

37-35b: “Becoming a Monthly Meeting”

A. Bottom sentence was moved into 2nd paragraph and modified to read “Both groups have found it helpful at this stage to consider together the queries for prospective monthly meetings found in the query section of this Guide.”

B. Edit: “After approval a date for a formal celebration of affiliation is set for a time when SAYMA representatives will be able to attend.”

C. Clarification of practice: “If the meeting approves, the preparative meeting will be notified by letter of its new status as a monthly meeting.” [The monthly meeting certifies a new monthly Meeting, and affiliation with the yearly meeting comes after that.]

Friends approved these changes as proposed.

37-35c: This testimony on Integrity is newly presented for inclusion in SAYMA Faith and Practice.

A Friend spoke of his sense that the work was excellent.

A Friend proposed eliminating the phrase “and other degrading practices” within the 3rd paragraph and including the word “for” in front of “their opposition.” One Friend proposed the change of the word “equality” for the word “diversity” as describes marriage. There were other changes offered.

The proposed new sentence is: “Currently, SAYMA Friends risk harsh criticism and loss of income for their activities for social and racial justice, for marriage equality (or equality in marriage or diversity in marriage or equality for sexual orientations in marriage), and for their opposition to war, violence, torture (or not torture), and patriarchy.”

Another Friend proposed a change in the last sentence to read “...Friends depend upon one another as we seek integrity” (replacing “discern together the meaning of” with “seek” or with “in finding and living out this testimony in our lives.”)

Friends approved the inclusion of this testimony in SAYMA Faith and Practice, asking the revision committee to consider the concerns raised and to make final changes to those two sentences as led.

37-35d: Simplicity

A. Change the words “has required” in the 3rd paragraph to “has led”

B. Change “...the inner light leads to a removal...” to “...the inner light calls for recognition and removal....”

Friends approved these revisions as minuted.

37-36 Right Sharing of World Resources Presentation – Jackie Speicher

The presenter spoke of her gratitude of working for this organization. RSWR is a micro-enterprise Friends organization with a 40-year history of helping people in developing countries create better lives for themselves. Reaching 1000 women and men a year in countries all over the world – from India to Sierra Leone to the Philippines – it enables people to be able to improve the lifestyles of their families.

The work of RSWR makes a difference on the levels of malnutrition, self-esteem, education, spousal abuse and financial stability within the families it serves. In one case study where Dalit women in India were given microenterprise loans from RSWR, they were invited for the first time to political decision making meetings and to social functions that were inter-caste.

All RSWR projects are required to be organic and local, and many of the women and men participating are now engaged in teaching the skills that they have learned to their neighbors.

The first mission of RSWR is to address the burdens of poverty in the developing world. The second mission is to address the burden of affluence in the developed world. RSWR offers resources and programs for Friends and Meetings on how to live more simply and to better assist people in the developing world.

37-37 Rural Southern Voice for Peace (RSVP) - Herb Walters

The primary work of RSVP is the Listening Project. Deeply connected within Friends practices, the Listening Project works to create spaces within difficult situations (i.e. drug abuse, welfare reform, war, and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina) for there to be deep listening. The Gulf Coast Listening project, involving Columbia Friends Meeting, Birmingham Friends Meeting, the Atlanta Institute for Survival and Beyond, and New Orleans Friends Meeting, helped give voice to the people affected by Hurricane Katrina. The Listening Project empowered evacuees to come together and raise key issues within the wider public and media.

The Listening Project is working with other organizations to create leaders in the facilitated dialogue process – especially as concern the issues of race and inequality within our society.

The other project of RSVP is the Christian Stewardship Project, addressing the care for the environment. RSVP is working to train groups in three counties to interview leaders in evangelical and conservative churches and assist them in exploring: 1) what their churches barriers are to engaging in Earth Care, and 2) how their congregation is led to care for the Earth at this point. RSVP sees this as a model that they would like to see happening in other parts of the country.

The website is: www.listeningproject.org.

37-38 Electronic Communications Committee Report.

The SAYMA clerk read the ECC report regarding the SAYMA listserv. It is be attached in Appendix C.

Proposed Procedures:

“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 individual(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 Nurture Committee for them to respond as they are led.”

These proposed procedures and the proposed laying down of the committee will be discussed tomorrow.

37-39 Ecological Concerns Network/ Quaker Earthcare Witness Report

Roy Taylor, the SAYMA representative to QEW and co-clerk of ECN reported. He spoke of how the RSoF as a whole has become more aware of Earthcare concerns due to the needs of this time. ECN is continuing to try to establish relationships with each of the monthly meetings. ECN seeks a contact person within each SAYMA monthly meeting to both hold ECN’s concerns in the light and to bring them to light.

QEW is seeking to provide more resources to monthly meetings and is considering creating QEW regions in order to look at regional aspects of Earthcare concerns. One proposed region would connect SAYMA with Southeast Yearly Meeting, South Central Yearly Meeting, and Piedmont Friends Fellowship. The next QEW retreat in planning is in the fall of 2008 within the Metro Atlanta area. Friends are invited to discern how they might be led to participate.

37-40 Announcements

Julia Sibley-Jones is no longer going to be SAYMA’s FGC representative since she has taken a position as FGC’s major gifts and planned giving manager. Julia encouraged Friends to consider being one of SAYMA’s representatives to FGC since it can be a personally transformative experience.

Mary Anne Downey was introduced as a member of the board of Friends Journal.

Sunday, June 10, 2007

37-41 Welcome

“The moving finger of God upon human history points ever in the same direction. There must be community.” Howard Thurman, *Spiritual Literacy*, page 471

37-42 Reading

The clerk read the epistle from Denmark’s 128th Yearly Meeting.

37-43 Nominations

Finance Committee Clerk – Susan Phelan, Hunstville
FNCL Representative – Charlie Wilton, Berea
Finance Committee Member – LeeAnn Swarm, West Knoxville
Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Clerk – Barbara Esther, Asheville
Faith and Practice Revision Committee - Ted Edgerton, Boone
Workshop Coordinator - John Potter, Nashville
Worship Coordinator – Chris Berg, Greenville
Peace and Social Concerns Committee -- Joan Barnett, West Knoxville
FGC representative – Joan Barnett, West Knoxville
Ecological Concerns Network Co-Clerk -- Carol Ciscel, Memphis
Ministry and Nurture Committee -- Margaret Farmer
AFSC Corporation – Charles Shea, Charleston
FGC Representative – Kristi Estes, Memphis
Ministry and Nurture Clerk – Bob McGahey, Celo will extend one year into 2008.

Friends approved these nominations.

37-44 Naming Committee

Naming Committee recommended Megan Potter from Nashville Monthly Meeting and Erica Phelps from West Knoxville Meeting to SAYMA Nominating Committee.

Friends Approved.

37-45 Electronic Communications Committee Report

The clerk re-read the proposed procedure for responses to expressions of disagreement on the listserv that are not in accordance with SAYMA guidelines. See minute 37-38 for the text of this procedure.

A Friend shared a concern that specifying what the monthly meeting was to do when this situation arises could be restrictive. The Friend recommended that the first sentence of the second paragraph of the procedure be re-written to read: “If anyone finds that the guidelines reminder has not stopped inappropriate postings, he/she can communicate with the monthly meeting and ask them to sit with the Friend of concern.”

With this correction, Friends approved.

Friends approved the laying down of the Electronic Communications Committee with gratitude.

37-47 Roll Call

There were no additions to the previously listed attendees.

37-48 Epistles

Junior Yearly Meeting Epistles: JYM reported that there are many, many things that they have been nourished by: the children within JYM, the volunteers that supported the program, and the parents that have contributed to building this community this weekend. The coordinators spoke of how they believe that JYM has really taken flight this year – with the younger friends doing everything from helping prepare for the weekend to creating the weekend’s rules.

Young Friends spoke and shared about how they enjoyed their time together with their friends and how they really enjoyed the rope bridge and learning how to balance rocks on end. The brought a mural reflecting their roots and fruits to share with Friends.

A coordinator shared that one source of joy for her was to see the big kids of JYM take such loving and tender care of the toddlers throughout their time together. She said, “There are challenges of having children of different ages, but the community is wonderful. In the intergenerational games, it is wonderful to see the teenagers include the elementary school students.”

The JYM closed by singing a song about worms in honor of the Right Sharing of World Resources worm project.

37-49 South Appalachian Young Friends Epistle: Young Friends gave a presentation of what they’ve been doing throughout the year, including yearly meeting. They said that the style of their presentation was influenced by Peterson Toscano and his identity monologues. Their report is attached in **Appendix F**. Please read every paragraph with a different accent (Southern, Italian, Scottish, Jewish, French, BBC) and incorporate finger snaps in-between in order to get the full experience.

37-50 Young Adult Friends Epistle:

The Young Adult Friends epistle is attached as **Appendix F**

37-51 Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association Epistle

The proposed epistle was presented by the Epistle committee. Friends expressed thanks to the Epistle Committee: Sharon Annis, Sally McEwen, Joel Shimberg, and Jennifer Snow Wolff, for their faithfulness. Discussion led to some changes and the approved version is attached as **Appendix F**.

37-52 Registrar’s Report

The registrar reported that there were 247 participants in yearly meeting - 179 adults, 68 children (46 SAYFers and 22 in Junior Yearly Meeting.) There was \$914 contributed for scholarships, and \$1497.50 in scholarships granted. The Registrar gives thanks for Friends’ patience at the Registrar’s table.

37-53 Minute of Thanks to Warren Wilson

The clerk will compose a letter of thanks to Warren Wilson College. Friends approved.

37-54 Words of Thanks for Penelope Wright.

The Meeting moved into worship, invited to speak words of gratitude for the service of Penelope Wright, who is moving from Nashville, TN to Vermont. This will be composed into a letter of thanks by the recording clerk and clerk.

“Penelope has been an unintentional spiritual mentor to me since I first came to SAYMA. She had gone to School of the Spirit, and I had felt a pull to that myself. I was always able to talk to her, and she always listened. When my own clearness committee was formed, and they asked what outside support I had, Penelope’s name came to me. When I returned from my first residency with the School, she emailed me. She remembered that I had gone and returned and wanted me to tell her everything about it. I wrote her a book, and it was a very short time until she responded. I will not say goodbye because I know we will be crossing paths and I will continue to have her support.” – Ceal Wutka, Atlanta Friends Meeting

“As I sat in worship today, there was a point during our meeting where I was strongly aware of the Holy Spirit gathering in this room, and it was as the young people were congregating to give their epistles before they started to speak. Years ago there was a time in this yearly meeting where the future of the SAYF program was in question. I want to thank Penny for the love and the deep support she gave that program. I had a sense right before all of those young people got up to spoke that we are a Gathered People. Without her work, we would not be.” -- Margaret Farmer, Asheville Monthly Meeting

“By her witness here, Penelope has modeled for me the discipline it takes to make a gift into an offering.” Chris Berg, Greenville

“I never really had a mentor before Penny. I didn’t know she was until we were pretty far into it, and I never really had spiritual friends before this year, and now I’m finding many and Penny is one of them. Penny and I used to ride together to Faith and Practice Meetings. She was growing spiritually and I was growing spiritually, and we shared a particular burst of that. She was the one who said, ‘Would you think about being assistant clerk?’ ‘I said, I’m hardly a yearly meeting Friend.’ She didn’t stop with that. She asked me again. God uses Penelope to call me.” – Kristi Estes, Memphis Friends Meeting

“When I was clerk of Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, I would have been very hesitant on taking on that position if it hadn’t been for Penelope being the Adult Program Coordinator. She brought to that position wisdom and creativity in all the decisions we had to make. After that, Penelope became clerk of Yearly Meeting and set high standards in clerking it in the manner of a Meeting for Worship. I think we owe her a lot for those contributions.” – Tim Lamm, Berea Friends Meeting

“There are two things I’d like to thank Penelope for. First, for her example as clerk, which I think has been seen not only in yearly meeting but I know in monthly meetings as well as people who’ve been here have watched her and gone back to their

monthly meeting, having learned better how to be a clerk. Secondly, for her example of holding a meeting for business and meeting for worship in the Light and making it a place of worship. I see her from this table holding the meeting in the Light, and I see how she has taught and helped other people do that. I see Julia Sibley-Jones and other members doing that here, and I think her example has sparked that in other individuals.”
– Sallie Prugh, Columbia friends

“Thank you, thank you, bless you, thank you, thank you, bless you,” – song shared by Connie LaMonte, Birmingham

“I was introduced to Penny through somebody who we knew in Cookeville who spoke simply. I was so blessed to live with her and Peter through graduate school and learn more about living simply. She’s taught me about community and about participation in community and how important that is as Quakers. I also have seen the house plans for the house in Vermont, and I know there’s a spare bedroom. I know we will all eventually find out how to find the key. I am so blessed that we have known her and will continue to know her as a part of our community. Our doors will be open to her as hers will continue to be open to us.” Lissa West Friedman, Cookeville Monthly Meeting

“As a member of SAYMA’s Ministry and Nurture Committee, I express gratitude that Penelope has chosen to use her gifts and her seasonings in all the different flavors and forms to work with us on that committee and to add a depth of experience and commitment of that work – particularly for doing the hard work of recording clerk with us. I am so thankful for her personally for accompanying me on part of my journey in ways that were very, very supportive. I am thankful for the question, “Have you been faithful” being the primary question and her commitment to her own on-going Spiritual journey. I’m grateful to Spirit for whom it all comes.” – Judy Guerry, Huntsville

“I am so thankful for Penelope - for all the work she’s done to take the blinders from over her eyes....She’s taken the harder path. Out of that choosing I have been so blessed. She was one of the first persons who when I moved to Nashville chose to really see me, not for my age or gender. She has taught me more of what faithfulness means – too sit with me, to hold me in the light, to hold me in love.” - -Christina, VanRegenmorter, Nashville

Penelope’s response from the worship: “Tim spoke of an owing on your part, and I want to reassure you that the balance sheet is balanced. If any part of how God has used me has been of benefit to you, it wouldn’t have been possible without you. You have nurtured me. You have held me accountable, for which I am inordinately grateful. You have given me a most incredible school of the Spirit that has ushered me along the way – places for testing, places for service, places for love. Many people have said to me, ‘What will SAYMA do without you?’ SAYMA will thrive whether I am there or not, and I will too have thrived for having had the opportunity and the blessings of being among you for many years – from baby Quakerdom to adolescent and maybe even growing up to be an adult.”

[The above minute was not officially approved as we continued directly into an open Meeting for Worship and closed. The quotes were reviewed by most of the speakers for accuracy. Approval will be brought before the next Representative Meeting]

Appendices Attached

A: Attenders List (*print distribution only*)

B: Faith and Practice proposed revisions

C: Committee Reports

D: Financial Reports

E: Representatives Reports

F: Epistles

G: State of the Meeting Reports

H: Nominating Committee Report and Complete Roster of Officers and Committees

Kristi Estes, Clerk

(Archive copy signed)

Christina VanRegenmorter, Recording Clerk

(Archive copy signed)