

**Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association**  
**June 12-15, 2008**  
**Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina**  
**38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

**Thursday, June 12, 2008**

**38-01 Opening Worship**

The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association began with an extended period of waiting worship.

**38-02 Reading**

“...What matters is living our lives in the power of love and not worrying too much about the results. In doing this, the means become part of the end. Hence we lose the sense of helplessness and futility in the face of the world’s crushing problems. We also lose the craving for success, always focusing on the goal to the exclusion of the way of getting there. We must literally not take too much thought for the morrow but throw ourselves wholeheartedly into the present. That is the beauty of the way of love, it cannot be planned and its end cannot be foretold.” [Wolf Mendl in *Faith and Practice of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends*, 1985, p. 188]

**38-03 Roll Call**

The roll call of monthly meetings and worship groups was conducted. A list of Yearly Meeting attenders is appended as **Attachment A**. State of the Meeting Reports are appended as **Attachment B**.

**38-04 Introductions**

Jackie Stillwell from New England Yearly Meeting is serving as the FGC visitor this year.

Margaret Fraser of Swarthmore Monthly Meeting (PYM) serves as executive secretary Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC), Section of Americas.

Larry Jalowiec, Richland Monthly Meeting (PYM), serves as Director of Advancement for Friends Journal.

Liz Perch, Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting (PYM), serves as SAYMA’s Administrative Assistant.

Rose Ketterer of Newton Monthly Meeting, is visiting our gathering.

**38-05 Agenda review.**

Kristi Estes presented the proposed agenda.

38-05-01 On the recommendation of the clerk, Friends approved the proposed agenda.

**38-06: Call for Faith and Practice Revisions.**

Kristi Estes called for the presentation of any minuted concerns from monthly meeting for revisions to faith and practice. No concerns were presented.

**38-07 Epistle Committee.**

The Clerk asked members of the body to volunteer for the Epistle Committee. One Friend volunteered.

38-06-01 Chris Berg was approved a member of the Epistle Committee.

Additional members will be sought at a later session.

### **38-08 Naming Committee**

Kristi Estes reminded the body of our practice of naming an ad hoc group to nominate the nominating committee. She recommended forward three Friends.

38-08-01 On the recommendation of the clerk, Sallie Prugh, Carol Ciscel and Mary Ann Downey are asked to serve on the Naming Committee. Sallie will serve as the convener for the committee. Friends approved.

### **38-09 Calendar Proposal**

Kristi Estes presented a proposal on behalf of Representative Meeting to change the annual schedule of meetings. The December Representative meeting will be omitted. The September meeting will be moved later in September and the spring meeting will be held earlier. It has been the experience of representative body that the December meeting has a light agenda. In addition, concerns have been raised about the burden of hosting the representative body and reducing the ecological impact of travel. Representative body has considered this proposal and recommends this change.

Concern were raised over schedule conflicts with other Quaker events, particularly the March 7, 2009 date. In general, the proposal works well with the budget year for SAYMA. The Yearly Meeting planning committee may still hold its meetings in December.

38-09-01 Friends approve the modification to the Yearly Meeting and Representative Meeting schedule. We will meet the following times.

September 27, 2008 Representative Meeting

December 2008 No meeting

March 2009 Representative Meeting, date to be determined.

June 10-14, 2009 Yearly Meeting

September 26, 2009 Representative Meeting

December 2009 No meeting

Recognizing a conflict with the March 7 date, another date around this time will be determined.

### **38-10 Administrative Assistant Report.**

Liz Perch reported that in addition to her SAYMA work, she is organizing an ecumenical peace conference for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Liz reports she has purchased a scooter, which provides her the “most fun she has had with clothes on since she was 14.” She reassured the Yearly Meeting she wears a helmet.

Liz encouraged Yearly Meeting committees and officers to call upon her for assistance and support. She has developed databases for the Yearly Meeting that may be useful to committees. The Yearly Meeting census has been compiled and she encouraged Friends to review the picture it provides of our Yearly Meeting [Attachment H]. Our Yearly Meeting membership is currently 1044, an increase of 11 over last year. Liz thanked the Yearly Meeting for supporting her attendance at an FGC traveling ministries consultation. She feels her work is a ministry and brings her great joy.

Members of Ministry and Nurture and Faith and Practice Revision Committees expressed their appreciation for the assistance Liz has provided.

### **38-11 Nominating Committee Report**

Errol Hess brought forward nominees to Yearly Meeting positions and identified positions that remain unfilled. Members of the body were encouraged to discern their leadings and assist nominating committee in identifying those with gifts. Proposed nominations will be brought forward on Friday for approval.

### **38-12 Faith and Practice Revision Committee**

Free Polazzo reported that the revision committee has posted a version of SAYMA Faith and Practice on the web site which reflects all changes approved by Yearly Meeting through our 37<sup>th</sup> annual session.

Free reviewed the revision recommendations proposed by the committee to be considered at this Yearly Meeting session. On Friday the Revision Committee will bring forward proposed revisions to the Equality and Children sections. On Saturday proposed revisions to the section on Government and the order of topics for Section IV will be considered.

Members of the committee reviewed the recommended changes. The committee is undertaking an additional revision to the marriage planning section of the Faith and Practice and anticipates bringing a recommendation at our sessions next year.

### **38-13 Threshing Session.**

Kristi Estes reviewed plans for the threshing session on marriage. While we will not be considering changes to the marriage section of Faith and Practice this year, this will be an opportunity for Friends to share. Bob McGahey will clerk and Liz Perch will record. The threshing session comes at the recommendation of the representative meeting and will serve as an opportunity to hear each other around concerns on marriage equality. Anyone attending is asked to attend for the entire session and not enter the session late.

### **38-14 Treasurer's Report**

David Ciscel reported that the Yearly Meeting expenses and revenue are in good shape. The quarterly payment of assessments is assisting with cash flow. Expenditures are less than anticipated. Representatives to wider Quaker organizations are encouraged to submit their travel expenses. Personnel costs are within budget. David raised concerns over the lack of benefits for employees and our lack of insurance protection for our officers. SAYF is in good shape.

David reviewed budget report and account balances. He encouraged representatives and committees to use the resources budgeted for their service.

38-14-01 Friends accept the Treasurer's Report of June 7, 2008 as presented [**Attachment F**].

### **38-15 Wider Quaker Organizations: Friends Committee on Outworld Relations**

Phil Neal reported on Friends Committee on Outworld Relations (FCOR) and distributed his written report [**Attachment D**]. He expressed appreciation to the Yearly Meeting for the opportunity to report. Phil expressed his view that Friends are uniquely qualified to anticipate the challenges our world may face should we be visited by extraterrestrials. Friends commitment to peace and deep listening would be assets in meeting the challenge of engaging with beings from outside our world. He asked, "What will it take for Friends to awaken to the reality?"

### **38-16 Yearly Meeting Site Coordinator**

Steve Livingston provided an overview of the facilities we are using during our Yearly Meeting sessions and the services available to us. He highlighted challenges of heating and cooling.

Steve reported that he has experienced difficulty scheduling the college facilities this year. He suggested we renew our efforts to investigate alternate locations for 2010. His report is attached [**Attachment C**]

Kristi reviewed our history of site selection and the difficulty we have finding suitable locations. She noted we do not presently have a site selection committee. We are scheduled to meet at Warren Wilson for our sessions in 2009. Friends made suggestions about other possible locations. Several Friends encouraged clarifying our relationship with the college in writing. Other Friends recommended reserving dates for 2010 at the college, meeting with the college leaders and specifying our requirements.

38-16-01 We approve reconstituting the site selection committee to work with the Administrative Assistant. Ceal Wutka, Kathleen Mavournin, and Errol Hess are approved. We ask for them to consider Yearly Meeting sites for 2010 and beyond.

38-16-02 We encourage the formation of an ad hoc site arrangements committee to consider our needs at Warren Wilson College and to present our requirements to the College. We ask the clerk to develop a proposal for such a committee and report back to us.

### **38-17 Peace Conference Nominees**

Kristi Estes reported that our Yearly Meeting has been invited to send a delegate to an ecumenical peace conference to be held in Philadelphia January 13-17, 2009 and read the letter of invitation. The conference, "Heeding God's call: a gathering on peace," will bring together communities of faith from across the United States. The purpose of the gathering is to "strengthen our witness and work for peace in the world by inspiring hope, raising voices, taking action." The organizers hope that 300 delegates from peace churches will be joined by 300 delegates from other denominations. This will be considered at a later session.

### **Friday, June 13, 2008**

### **38-18 Opening worship**

Our meeting settled and entered a period of waiting worship.

### **38-19 Reading**

"As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful." Colossians 3:12-15

### **38-20 Introductions**

We welcomed visitors to our gathering.

Ruah Sweanerfelt, NEYM, serves as General Secretary of Quaker Earthcare Witness and will be reporting to us later in our sessions.

Kristin Richardson is Director of Friends Relations for AFSC.

### **38-21 Wider Quaker Organization: *Friends Journal***

Mary Ann Downey (Atlanta Monthly Meeting) is ending nine years of service on the Board of *Friends Journal* and reflected on her service. She shared her sense of the Journal as a vehicle of God's presence speaking through Friends and *Friends Journal*. In the future, the Journal has a vision of placing the archives of the Journal on the website. She encouraged Friends to visit the website, subscribe, donate and speak with representatives of the Journal present at the gathering.

### **38-22 Epistle Committee**

Kristi Estes called for additional members for the Epistle Committee.

38-22-01 Friends approve Gita Larson and Joan Barnett as members of the Epistle Committee.

### **38-23 Faith and Practice Revision Proposals: Equality and Children**

Ted Edgerton presented the proposed revision to the Equality section to The Guide to Our Faith and Practice.

38-23-01 Friends approve the proposed section on Equality as presented. The section as approved will be appended to the minutes. [Appendix G.1]

Jonathan Schinhofen read the proposed revision to the section on Children. A friend encouraged us to consider children as participants in our present life as well as the future. Another friend encouraged us to consider that children are the “word made manifest through us.”

38-23-02 Friends approve the section on Children with the following change in the third sentence of the last paragraph “However, in nurturing our children and youth, we provide for them a more hopeful life, and together we shape the Religious Society of Friends and witness to the wider world.” [Appendix G.2]

### **38-24 Nominating committee**

Erroll Hess encouraged Friends to listen for the still voice within. He reviewed opportunities for service that remain unfilled.

38-24-01 On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Friends approve the following individuals to positions and terms of service:

Treasurer	Deanna Nipp Kientz	08-10
Ecological Concerns Network, co-clerk	Roy Taylor	08-10
Ministry and Nurture Clerk	Judy Guerry	08-10
Friends Peace Team Representative,	Sharon Phelps	08-10
Quaker Earthcare Witness Representative,	David Ciscel	08-10
FWCC Representative	Tim Lamm	08-11
FWCC Representative	Sallie Prugh	08-11
FLGBTQC Alternate	Joan Conger	08-11
AFSC Corporation Representative	Free Polazzo	08-10
Archivist	Kristi Estes	08-10
Clerk	Dennis Gregg	08-10
Assistant Clerk	Kristi Estes	08-09
FGC Representative	Maia Hallward	08-11

### **38-25 Finance Committee Report**

Susan Phelen, Clerk of Finance, distributed the preliminary SAYMA budget. The Finance Committee has been considering the level of reserves, cost of living adjustments for personnel, the level of funding for Wider Quaker Organizations, and continued growth of the Released Friends Fund. The committee has been working with the Administrative Assistant to review financial operations. For next year, the Finance Committee recommends increasing funding for Wider Quaker Organizations, the Released Friend Fund and the Spiritual Nurture Fund. An increase in cost of living has been budgeted. The committee is considering increasing travel reimbursement levels. The current proposal reflects a deficit, but the Finance Committee anticipates a surplus in the current fiscal year. Members of the Finance Committee welcome discussion with Friends in advance of the presentation of the final budget recommendation tomorrow. In preparation for the 09-10 budget, the committee hopes to work more closely with committees in the budget planning process.

A Friend raised a concern regarding compensation for Junior Yearly Meeting staff and asked that an increase be considered. Another Friend raised concern regarding anticipated income. Another Friend challenged us to be less conservative in our budget projections.

### **38-26 Wider Quaker Organization: Quaker Earthcare Witness.**

Ruah Swennerfelt, General Secretary of Quaker Earthcare Witness, was welcomed. QEW was founded in 1987. The work of QEW is guided by a steering committee composed of representatives from 18 Yearly

Meetings. QEW believes caring for the earth is foundational for the work Friends undertake. Current projects include community work in Latin America, presence at the FGC Gathering, visitation and workshops to YM/MM and publications including the *Befriending Creation* newsletter. In addition, QEW provides assistance for Quaker men to receive vasectomies and will be distributing condoms at the FGC gathering with accompanying material. QEW has funds available for local groups to undertake projects. QEW actively works with other WQO's including FCNL, Friends Journal and FUM to increase their sensitivity and awareness of earth issues. They are increasing their outreach to FUM and Evangelical Friends.

The QEW annual meeting will be held in October 2008 in the Atlanta Area and Friends are encouraged to attend.

### **38-27 Wider Quaker Organization: AFSC-SERO**

Betty Knott, Regional Executive Director of the AFSC Southeastern Regional Office, provided an update. Betty reported the year has been a period of transition and change in the office. Several staff are leaving and job announcements will be posted shortly. On a regional level, offices are being consolidated into multi-person offices. In North Carolina, projects are being based in Greensboro to work on peace and immigrant issues in the Carolinas. The Miami office has extended its work into the Haitian community, focusing on conflict resolution in the community. Continued post Katrina work is now focused on New Orleans to assist with housing, health care and education. AFSC work in New Orleans is focused on children and youth, particularly the school to prison pipeline. Work is now focused on building peer group support and ending zero tolerance policies. AFSC is working in partnership with the Southern Poverty Law Center and ACLU. In Atlanta work is focused on Peace including Truth in Recruiting. The AFSC office in Atlanta will be moving and has identified another location. Plans to green the building are being considered.

### **38-28 Announcements**

The assistant clerk read the announcements submitted.

### **Saturday, June 14, 2008**

### **38-29 Opening worship**

The clerk encouraged the body as we labor with the work of the day to pay attention to the beauty around us.

### **38-30 Reading**

"I therefore, . . ., beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling."

*Ephesians 4:1-4*

### **38-31 Roll Call**

The roll call of meeting and worship groups was conducted.

### **38-32 Introductions**

Nick Bower is representing FCNL.

Betty Knott serves as AFSC's Southeast Regional Director.

Dave McInnes, Greensboro will be our dance leader on Saturday night.

Margaret Fraser, is representing FWCC at our gathering.

Sheela Ripoley is visiting us from Charlotte, North Carolina, Monthly Meeting

### **38-33 Wider Quaker Organizations: Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)**

Margaret Fraser, Friends World Committee for Consultation, gave voice to our perplexity when it comes to understanding how other Friends can call themselves Friends. She pointed out the tendency among Friends, to avoid fighting, but to be tempted to flight. She challenged us to a third way, a practice of respectful engagement, which we use in other settings. There is always a temptation to take sides and be in judgment. Quakers are probably the broadest church in the known world, ranging from fundamentalist/evangelicals to hyphenated Quakers. Our challenge today is how we can respectfully engage this diversity. The upcoming peace conference assembling the historic peace churches is in our tradition of speaking to the world, but she challenged us to build peace across the Quaker spectrum in order to maintain our moral legitimacy. FWCC will be having an annual gathering next year in Oregon, which will be an occasion bringing Friends from around the world. In 2010, the Section of Americans will be holding an annual gathering in Honduras and a young adult conference will be held in El Salvador. In 2012, the plan is for a world gathering in Kenya. These occasions bring together the whole diversity of the Quaker world. Margaret challenged us to provide support for our members, especially young adults, to attend and to support others to attend.

### **38-34 Agenda Review**

38-35-01 Friends approve the revised agenda.

### **38-35 Ministry and Nurture Committee**

Bob McGahey read the 2008 report of the Ministry and Nurture Committee [**Attachment C**].

Ministry and Nurture Committee is planning on preparing a State of the Society report beginning in 2009. This report is intended to be a seasoned reflection on the monthly meeting reports. Ministry and Nurture asked that the deadline for submitting State of the Meeting reports approved by monthly meeting be moved to April 7 from the current May 1 deadline. Friends encouraged us to make the reports current, vital and interesting. Other Friends reminded us of the need for corporate discipline and honor the deadlines we set for ourselves.

38-35-01 We ask that Monthly Meetings and Worship Group submit their State of the Meeting reports by April 7.

38-35-02 We accept the 2008 Ministry and Nurture Committee Report

We were reminded that the Anneewakee Creek Worship Group has been laid down.

### **38-36 Nominating Committee**

38-36-01 On the recommendation of Nominating Committee, we approve the following individuals to positions and terms of service:.

SAYF Steering Committee co-clerk	Laura Norlin	08-10
SAYF Steering Committee	Ceal Wutka	08-10
SAYF Steering Committee	Mark Wutka	08-10
Co-registrar	Adrienne Weir	08-10
Co-registrar	Annie Black	08-10
Bookstore	Chris Berg	08-10
YM Planning Committee	Margaret Hahn	08-
Worship Coordinator		
Web Support Manager	Kendall Ivey	08-
Peace and Social Concerns	Joan Barnett	07-09
William Penn House	Charlie Wilton	08-11
Personnel Committee Clerk	Kristi Estes	08-10

**38-37 Faith and Practice Proposal: Government.**

Barbara Ester reviewed the proposed revisions to the section on government, highlighting additions and modifications.

Several Friends expressed concern over a sentence that addressed reproductive issues. The sentence “Friends also support the making of decisions on reproduction and family planning by individuals, based on accepted medical practice and unhindered by legal proscriptions.” After discussion, it was discerned there was no unity on this section and consideration of the proposed section will be laid over to another time.

**38-38 Finance Committee**

Susan Phelen reported that the Finance Committee is reviewing our current budget surplus and the purpose and allocation of funds. Susan reported that the Finance Committee has prepared two budgets a “Plan B” barebones budget and “Plan C” charitable budget. Susan presented the “plan C” charitable budget. Plan C increases revenue projections, increases M&N budget, raises the spiritual development fund to \$1500, and young adult Friends scholarship to \$200. This reduces a projected initial deficit to \$4,549. The more restrictive budget keeps the funding at the 2008 level and deficit of 3,449. SAYMA presently has \$33,000 in reserves and the finance committee recommends \$25,000 in reserves be maintained to provide support for SAYMA operations. The treasurer supported the acceptance of a deficit in light of previous years experience. The Finance Committee report is attached [**Attachment F**]

38-38-01 We approve Budget C as our provisional budget for 2008-2009 [**Attachment F.3**].

Representative body will make the final approval of the budget in September.

**38-39 Ad Hoc Committee on Site Arrangements**

The clerk announced that an Ad hoc Committee on Site Arrangements has been formed. David Ciscel (Clerk), and Bob Welch have been asked to serve. Liz Perch will be consulted. The committee is charged to communicate with Warren Wilson college our specific conference needs and negotiate as needed to ensure our site arrangements are adequate.

**38-40 Announcements**

Announcements were read

**Sunday, June 15, 2008**

**38-41 Welcome**

The Clerk encouraged us to think of our gathering not as a meeting for business, but as a meeting for faithfulness. It is an opportunity for us to figure out what we are called to together and then to do it. We encourage each other, hold each other accountable for faithfulness and grow in the Spirit together. She encouraged us to be faithful together.

**38-42 Nominations**

Errol Hess presented recommendations.

38-42-01 On the recommendation of the nominating committee, we approve Friends for the following positions and terms:

Site Selection	Linda Trask	08-
SAYF Steering Committee	Karen Gold	08-10
SAYF Steering Committee	Chuck Jones	08-10
SAYF Steering Committee	Rose Black	08-10
Assistant Book Store	Sue Gerdes	08-10



Right Sharing Contact- Person	Rose Black	08-10
Ministry and Nurture, Meeting Appointee	Beth Ensign	

### **38-43 Naming Committee.**

Mary Ann Downey reported for the Naming Committee and presented their recommendations. Three Friends are recommended for the Nominating Committee.

35-43-01 On the recommendation of the Naming Committee, we approve the following Friends to serve on the Nominating Committee for a two-year term:

Sallie Prugh (Clerk), 08-10.

Mark Wutka, 08-10.

Carol Ciscel, 08-10.

The Naming Committee is laid down with thanks.

### **38-44 Registrar Report**

Pam Beziat reported. In attendance at SAYMA yearly gathering this year were 246 Friends of which there were 178 adults (18 of which were YAF), 19 Junior Yearly Meeting, and 49 SAYF. We distributed \$991.50 in scholarships and received contributions of \$1111.50 for scholarships with additional contributions made on site.

### **38-45 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Peace Conference.**

Kristi Estes described an ecumenical peace conference being sponsored by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. We are asked to send one delegate to the conference.

38-45-01 Friends approve sending a delegate to the Peace Conference.

38-45-02 We ask Nominating Committee to recommend an individual to serve as SAYMA's delegate to the Peace Conference. We encourage the Nominating Committee to give priority to a Young Adult Friend/Young Friend. We ask that this recommendation be brought to the September 2008 Representative Meeting for approval.

### **38-46 Epistle: Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM)**

Ten young Friends presented their epistle through song, poetry and artwork. Friends were inspired to join in singing "We're all family under one sun." A young Friend explained that the Tibetan peace flags young Friends had created "carry prayers around the world." Another young Friend explained candles made "to shine the light of peace." One young Friend loved playing in the stream, another was bored, and a third liked the rope bridge. A JYM leader expressed appreciation for the JYM community built through the weekend and the support of volunteers that makes the work possible. The presentation ended with a peace poem created by JYM [Attachment E.1].

Thanks to Heidimarie and Stephen Huber-Freely for their leadership of the JYM this year.

### **38-47 Epistle: Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF)**

The SAYF epistle was read. The epistle in verse form reviewed the year's activity of SAYF. [Attachment E.2]

### **38-48 Epistle: Young Adult Friends (YAF)**

Young Adult Friends delivered their epistle in dramatic form highlighting this year's experience of YAF. [This is attached as Attachment E.3]

### **38-49 Announcements**

Sallie Prugh read announcements.

### **38-50 Site Arrangements.**

Bob Welch reported on his visit with a representative of Warren Wilson College. Bob was assured that SAYMA is welcomed for a long-term presence at the college but other groups are also interested in using the college space and we may face some conflicts. Bob recommended that we make a reservation for 2010 with Warren Wilson College for the second week in June 9-13.

38-50-01 Friends approve reserving Warren Wilson College as the site for our 2010 gathering, June 9-13.

Liz Perch and David Ciscel are working on a letter to the college outlining our space requirements for 2009 and 2010. Friends expressed concern for accessibility and hoped this would be addressed.

Kristi asked the site arrangement committee to report back to representative meeting as needed.

### **38-51 Peace and Social Concerns.**

Steve Livingston read a written report from the Peace and Social Concerns Committee [**Attachment C**].

Steve presented a minute opposing torture drafted by the committee for Yearly Meeting consideration. The proposed minute is based on minutes that have been developed by five of our meetings. The purpose of the minute is to describe the sense of our Yearly Meeting. In addition, it serves as a call to action. A friend expressed concern that the draft does not outline specific actions we are to undertake, nor to whom we are to address our actions. Several Friends expressed appreciation for the minute. Other Friends particularly appreciated the inclusion of the perpetrators and of torture in the home. Another friend highlighted the involvement of SAYMA Friends who are part of a network of opposition to torture. Friends were encouraged to join these activities and use the language of the minute in communications with media outlets and public figures.

38-51-01 On the recommendation of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, we approve the following minute on torture.

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) believes there is “that of God in every person.” This divine light, a universal principle of goodness and love, exists in all people, regardless of religion or geography.

Torture – in wars, in prisons, and in homes – diminishes this divine light in the victim and the perpetrator, and those who have knowledge of it. In situations where torture is used, one individual has power and the other is powerless. The misuse of this power against a defenseless person to cause pain, humiliation, fear and suffering is the ultimate denial of our common humanity, degrading and dehumanizing both the tortured and the torturer.

We Quakers of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association join with our fellow citizens who are taking action to bring the practice of torture to an end. Our condemnation of torture is not based on any political opinion or on the laws or treaties of any nations, but on the Golden Rule, the standard for moral behavior established by religious and secular communities across history and around the world

### **38-52 Epistle: Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting**

Chris Berg presented the proposed Epistle [**Attachment E.4**]

38-52-01. Friends approve the 2008 Yearly Meeting Epistle with thanks to the Epistle Committee.

### **38-53 Faith and Practice: Order of Topics in Section IV**

38-53-01 On the recommendation of the Faith and Practice Revision Committee, we approve the proposed revision of format and order of topics in Section IV in future printings of the guide.  
[Attachment G.3.]

### **38-54 Thanks to Warren Wilson College**

We appreciate:

- the emphasis on the ecological dimensions of daily life including composting and organic farming. It speaks to our testimonies of simplicity and stewardship
- the good delicious food that is so well balanced and healthy
- the vegetarian entrees
- the ice cream
- the silent mattresses
- the beautifully cared for grounds
- the example the college provides to young people by empowering young people to work to support the college
- the green orientation and appropriate technology that is demonstrated
- the simplicity of the buildings
- the farm, the farm animals, the awakening rooster cries in the morning, the baby pigs
- the well prepared and cleaned rooms were welcoming
- the little places of beauty scattered through the campus
- the cat in Witherspoon
- the friendliness and positive attitude of the food service and cleaning staff
- and thanks to the college liaison, John Verner, for his efforts to accommodate us in difficult circumstances.

### **38-55 Gratitude and appreciation for Kristi Estes and her service as Clerk.**

Bob Welch articulated a minute for our meeting in appreciation for Kristi and her leadership

38-55-01 Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting thanks Kristi Estes for her skillful caring leadership, good humor and the spiritual depth she has shared during her four years' service as Clerk of our gathering.

### **38-56 Closing Worship**

We closed our sessions with an extended period of waiting worship.

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Kristi Estes, Clerk  
*(Archive copy signed)*

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Bill Holland, Recording Clerk  
*(Archive copy signed)*

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