

**Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association**  
**June 10-13, 2010**  
**Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina**  
**40th Annual Meeting**

**Thursday, June 10, 2010**

**40-01 Opening Worship**

We gathered for the 40<sup>th</sup> annual gathering of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association with an extended period of waiting worship.

**40-02 Welcome/Reading.**

The clerk welcomed Friends to our 40<sup>th</sup> session. A section of the meeting room has been set aside for Friends from Ministry and Nurture and others who are called to a special ministry of holding our session in prayer.

**40-03 Introductions / Roll Call**

The roll call of meeting was held. Friends were asked to stand when their meeting or worship group was called. A full list of those attending the Yearly Meeting is appended (Attachment A).

**40-04 Agenda Review**

Dennis Gregg called Friends attention to the proposed agenda for our sessions printed in the yearly meeting materials.

40-04-01 On the recommendation of the Clerk, we approve the proposed agenda.

**40-05 Epistle Committee**

The Clerk called for friends led to serve on the 2010 Epistle Committee. The task of the Epistle Committee is to summarize the spirit and essence of our gathering in a written document.

40-05-01 We approve Sharon Annis and Errol Hess for the Epistle Committee. We will seek additional volunteers at later sessions.

**40-06 Representative Meeting Calendar**

The Clerk announced the next Representative Meeting will be held September 11 in West Knoxville. The date and place for the March 2011 meeting will be announced later.

**40-07 Nominating Committee.**

Sallie Prugh (Columbia) reported there are several openings remaining. Friends are asked to consider if they are led to provide service to the Yearly Meeting for the following positions: Assistant Treasurer (a two year term with the expectation that they will become Treasurer), Personnel Committee (additional members needed), Co-Conveners for Junior Yearly Meeting, Co-Registrar for Yearly Meeting, Co-clerk Ecological Concerns Network, Web support and Manager, Archivist, FCNL representative, and FWCC representative.

The full listing of openings will be posted. Sallie welcomed Friends to speak with her and other members of the nominating committee. The Clerk thanked the Nominating Committee for their hard work.

#### **40-08 Faith and Practice Revision Committee**

Kathleen Mavournin reported the Faith and Practice Revision Committee is bringing proposed revisions to the Community and Marriage sections of the SAYMA Faith and Practice. The Community section will be considered on sixth day. As the Marriage section has undergone a substantial revision since last Yearly Meeting a threshing session has been scheduled on sixth day to explore any concerns that may remain. The Marriage proposal will be considered on seventh day. Kathleen expressed appreciation to the committee and the Yearly Meeting for the continuing prayerful deliberation on how the spirit moves among us.

#### **40-09 Treasurer**

Deanna Nipp-Kientz reminded Friends that SAYMA's fiscal year begins October 1. We are presently in the third quarter of our 2010 budget. Generally SAYMA's finances are sound with \$18,514 in the checking account and \$39,830 in saving accounts. Total income year to date is \$24,902 and \$35,476 has been disbursed. Year to date income from assessments is down significantly from last year and as compared to previous years. SAYF has not yet drawn on their yearly meeting budgeted funds this year. SAYF has provided accounting for the funds they receive from other sources. Delegate travel funds are being used. Cost of living raises were not budgeted this fiscal year, as inflation was zero. All SAYMA contributions to WQO have been distributed and transfers to set aside funds have been made.

In response to questions, the Treasurer provided additional information. Based on previous year's experience, we expect meetings will provide additional assessment income, but some meetings have indicated that their contributions to SAYMA will be reduced this year. Many larger monthly meetings are sending in assessment payments on a quarterly basis. The Finance Committee will bring a proposed budget later in our sessions.

40-09-01. We accept the Treasurer's Report of June 1, 2010. (Attachment F)

The Clerk of Finance Committee welcomed friends to speak with her regarding the 2011 budget.

#### **40-10 Naming Committee**

The Clerk reminded Friends that the Naming Committee is appointed annually to nominate members of the Nominating Committee. Service is limited to the duration of the Yearly Meeting at which time it is laid down. There are presently four vacant positions on the Nominating Committee.

40-10-01 We approve Barbara Ester, Free Polazzo, and Jere Licciardello to the 2010 Naming Committee. We will seek additional Naming Committee members at a later session.

#### **40-11. FWCC Representatives**

Sallie Prugh and Tim Lamm reported on their service as SAYMA's representatives to the Friends World Committee on Consultation. Sallie and Tim attended the annual meeting of the Section of the Americas. The major issue was the vision for the organization. A series of suggestions were presented to the body including the idea of holding a smaller annual meeting and placing greater emphasis on regional gatherings. After discernment the gathered body approved that proposal.

A FWCC regional gathering will be held October 8-10, 2010 and hosted by SAYMA at West Knoxville Meeting. The FWCC regional gatherings provide an opportunity to meet Friends from the full range of traditions to build bridges among the groups. Tim encouraged SAYMA friends to attend the gathering. Additional information will be forthcoming.

The FWCC world office in London has a new initiative “Mending a Broken World” which seeks to identify specific Quaker responses to global changes including climate change, migration and economic changes.

The World Gathering of Friends will be held in August 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya. About a thousand Quakers from around the world will gather. SAYMA has been asked to appoint our delegates by the end of this year. Tim and Sallie are seeking to determine the number of delegates we may send to the gathering.

#### **40-12 Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)**

David Ciscel (Memphis) is SAYMA’s representative to QEW and serves as treasurer for the organization. QEW like many Wider Quaker Organizations has faced financial challenges in the last two years. QEW meets twice yearly. One meeting seeks to conduct business (30-35 attend) and a second is a general meeting (60-100 attend). The organization struggles to balance the need to reduce their collective carbon footprint with the need to bring together Friends for face-to-face meetings. The organization has attempted a variety of initiatives to reduce physical meetings. The challenge is the quality of the meetings.

QEW has a mini-grant program that provides up to \$250 to support a range of activities to green Friends. David encouraged Friends to learn more about QEW and become involved with the organization.

A Friend encouraged the organization to continue to provide leadership on developing ways that meetings can reduce our collective carbon impact. David was encouraged to consider purchasing carbon offsets and using retreat centers served by bus transportation.

#### **40-13 Friends General Conference Representative**

Kristi Estes (Oxford) serves as one of three SAYMA representatives to Friends General Conference. Ceal Wutka and Maia Carter Hallward (both Atlanta) also serve as representatives. FGC’s Central Committee meets annually in October and our representatives attend. Kristi described the variety of ways SAYMA members are involved with FGC. Maia serves on the Executive Committee and provides leadership on the Young Adult ministries. A new FGC publication on young Quakers has provided voice to Young Adult Friends. Ceal Wutka serves on the Ministry and Nurture Committee for FGC. Kristi described her service on the Travelling Ministry Committee. Travelling Ministries has undertaken an initiative to hold smaller regional meetings to share gifts and ministry that included a regional gathering in Asheville last year.

#### **40-14 AFSC Corporation Representative**

Charles Schade (Charleston) serves as one of two SAYMA representatives to the AFSC Corporation. The Corporation is a body of 150 Friends who hold legal responsibility for the AFSC under the laws of Pennsylvania. Their main responsibility is to annually appoint members of the AFSC Board of Directors. In addition to this responsibility, the Corporation provides a vehicle for communication between the Society of Friends and AFSC programs. The Corporation also provides advice and counsel, including spiritual guidance, to the AFSC. AFSC is considering how best to improve the communication and spiritual guidance from between the Society of Friends and the AFSC.

As a result of the financial challenges the organization has faced in the last several years, the organization is seeking ways to reorganize its work both domestically and internationally. The earthquake disaster in Haiti provided a challenge to the organization, as it had no staff on the ground. AFSC worked creatively through other partners to provide a Quaker presence.

The organization is going through a leadership change and a search committee will identify a new Executive Director shortly.

#### **40-15. Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP)**

Thais Carr (Nashville) serves as a facilitator for AVP. While AVP is not a Quaker organization per se, there is a strong Quaker presence and flavor to AVP. AVP began as a program in Green Haven Prison in New York to assist in ending the cycle of incarceration. The basic AVP workshop occurs over a weekend and works best when participation is voluntary. The central principle of AVP is transforming power that enables the transformation of conflict into something creative. Thais reviewed the core principles of AVP and compared them to central Quaker tenets.

Within SAYMA, the only AVP program is based in Nashville Meeting and is under the care of that meeting's Ministry and Counsel Committee. The main participants are Quakers. AVP workshops include active listening and respect for others as well as fun "light and livelys." Thais described how exciting the AVP experience has been for her and encouraged SAYMA Friends to become involved. She welcomed opportunities to conduct AVP workshop in the region. While facilitators are not paid, a small charge is required to cover expenses.

A visiting Friend highlighted the international work of AVP and the way AVP principles have been translated into other cultural settings.

#### **40-16 Administrative Assistant Report**

Liz Perch distributed copies of the SAYMA 2009 Census. She pointed out that she did not receive census reports from several meetings and as a result has used 2008 data for the report. For some Meetings, there is not a consistent method of counting members and attenders year to year. Based on the information available, SAYMA has 80 more yearly meeting members in 2009 than the previous year. (Attachment H)

Liz has compiled a draft of the 2010-2011 yearly meeting directory and asked Friends to review their meeting's listings during our sessions. Changes will be incorporated into an electronic document available on cd. Hard copies of the directory are also available on request.

The SAYMA office is running smoothly. Liz has obtained a Google phone number 865-272-9621 (865-2SAYMA1) permitting Liz to receive phone messages more easily. The new system will more easily insure the regular coverage of the phone.

Friends expressed appreciation for the service Liz provides to the Yearly Meeting. Liz's service to us provides relaxed confidence that the details of our Yearly Meeting operations will be attended to quickly and efficiently.

Liz is continuing to work on revising and reorganizing the Handbook.

#### **40-17 Announcements**

The Clerk and other Friends made announcements.

We recognized members of the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee and thanked them for their labors in preparation for our meeting.

**Friday, June 11, 2010**

**40-18 Reading / Welcome**

We recognized visitors and guests.

Jan Blogett is visiting our sessions as the FGC yearly meeting visitor. Jan is a member of Davidson Friends Meeting (PFF, NCYM-Conservative) and serves as clerk of her meeting. We will endorse Jan's travelling minute.

Stephanie Fromley Effinger is representing Earlham School of Religion (ESR) at our sessions. ESR is celebrating and reflecting on their fiftieth anniversary. The current issue of *Friends Journal* is devoted to articles discussing the history and vision of ESR. Several SAYMA Friends are attending ESR in a variety of capacities. Stephanie will meet with Friends over lunch.

Mary Ann Downey (Atlanta) serves on the Board of Advisors to the Earlham School of Religion and is available to talk with Friends about ESR. She noted that Adrienne Lowe of the Atlanta Friends Meeting has recently completed a Master of Arts from ESR.

Nancy Whitt (Birmingham) serves on the Board of Managers of *Friends Journal*. The Board is seeking new members and she invited interested Friends to speak with her.

Byron Sandford of Friends Meeting of Washington is representing the William Penn House at our sessions. Byron serves as Executive Director of William Penn House. He is accompanied by his spouse, Susan Griffin.

Chuck Jones serves on the Steering Committee for SAYF, and announced the SAYF evening activity will be a fishbowl exercise. The high school friends invite older adult friends (OAF'S) to participate in the fishbowl. Chuck has a slide show featuring SAYF activities that will be available.

**40-19 Epistle Committee**

The Clerk called for friends led to serve on the Epistle committee. As no one was led to this service, Friends approved on fifth day will develop the Epistle.

**40-20 Naming Committee**

The Clerk asks for additional members for the 2010 Naming Committee.

40-20-01: We approve Mary Ann Downey to serve on the 2010 Naming Committee.

**40-21 Representative Meeting**

The Clerk called for a meeting to host the March 2011 Representative Meeting. Atlanta and Chattanooga meetings will check their calendars and consider extending the invitation.

**40-22 Faith and Practice Revision: Community**

Free Polazzo represented the committee for the discussion of the proposed revisions to the Community Section of our Faith and Practice. An earlier version of the text was considered at our 2009 session. The committee has worked to address concerns raised last year and the new proposal has been circulated among meetings for comment.

A concern was raised over the revision's emphasis on community formation within the Friends community. Free pointed out that the section has been broadened from its earlier emphasis on Friends community exclusively to the broader community.

40-22-01: On the recommendation of the Faith and Practice Revision Committee, we approve the 2010 revision to the Community Section of SAYMA Faith and Practice. (Attachment G).  
We recognized members of the Faith and Practice Revision Committee and thank them for their service.

#### **40-23 Nominating Committee**

Sallie Prugh called Friends attention to important opportunities for service to the yearly meeting

We currently need an Assistant Treasurer, Two Personnel Committee, Two Junior Yearly Meeting Oversight Committee Convenors, Co-Registrar for yearly meeting, Assistant bookstore manager, Co-Clerk ECN, Web Manager, Archivist, FWCC Representative, and AFSC Corporation alternate.

40-23-01: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, we approve Friends for the following positions and terms:

|                                 |                             |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Clerk                           | Tim Lamm (Berea)            | 2010-2012 |
| Assistant Clerk                 | Dennis Gregg (Crossville)   | 2010-2011 |
| Clerk, Ministry & Nurture       | Nancy Whitt (Birmingham)    | 2010-2012 |
| Clerk, Personnel Committee      | Dennis Gregg (Crossville)   | 2010-2011 |
| Clerk, YM Planning              | Carol Ciscel (Memphis)      | 2010-2011 |
| YM Worship Coordinator          | Ceal Wutka (Atlanta)        | 2010-2012 |
| FGC Representative              | Gita Larson (Columbia)      | 2010-2013 |
| FGC Representative              | Ceal Wutka (Atlanta)        | 2010-2013 |
| AFSC Corporation Representative | Charles Schade (Charleston) | 2010-2013 |
| AFSC Corporation Representative | Free Polazzo (Atlanta)      | 2010-2013 |

#### **40-24 Ministry and Nurture Committee**

Judy Guerry invited members of the Ministry and Nurture Committee to stand and be recognized. Ministry and Nurture members have placed a heart sticker on their nametags and hope friends with concerns or questions will speak with them. The committee hopes to "walk cheerfully among SAYMA friends and speak to that of God in each person."

In the past year, the committee has joined with Birmingham, Memphis and Celo meeting for worship and sharing. They thank these meetings for their cheerful hospitality. The committee distributed queries to meeting and worship groups to assist in developing State of the Meeting reports. The committee has reflected on the State of the Meeting reports to identify themes. Based on these reflections, the committee has developed a 2010 State of the Yearly Meeting report. (Attached X) The report will be included in the SAYMA newsletter. The committee has supported Friends in their individual spiritual development. The committee is now working towards encouraging yearly meeting wide retreats for spiritual development and several retreats are planned in the next year with the leadership of Mary Ann Downey and Kristi Estes.

The committee is actively working to deepen worship and to offer expanded worship opportunities at our yearly meeting sessions.

Judy highlighted several themes the committee has discerned based on their review of the State of the Meeting reports. Concerns over size, diversity, handling diversity, deepening worship, and committee leadership were highlighted. These challenges have served to deepen the life of the meeting as well as posing continued threats to our spiritual life.

The committee has revised their committee description. Judy welcomed Friends interested in the work of Ministry and Nurture. She particularly welcomed men interested and led to service on the committee.

Kristi Estes described her work with Mary Ann Downey to organize two retreats for the yearly meeting over the next year. The goal of the retreats is to strengthen Ministry and Nurture committees throughout the yearly meeting. The first retreat will be held October 29-31 at Swannanoa Valley meeting. (Attached X) Each meeting is asked to send two members of their Ministry and Nurture Committee. A second retreat will be held in the spring in the western section of our Yearly Meeting. Kristi is also organizing a retreat on nurturing gifts of ministry to be held in Tallahassee with Southeastern Yearly Meeting. More information will be forthcoming. (Attachment C)

#### **40-25 Outreach Committee**

Dennis Gregg reported for the Committee. The ad hoc committee on Outreach was established at the Fall 2009 Representative meeting. The committee is in communication through a Google group and is exploring a variety of questions. The committee is offering a workshop at the yearly meeting that will explore outreach. It will look at what Meetings are doing in the way of Outreach, internal reflections on what brought each of us to Quakerism, the articulation of our spiritual life and overcoming the construction of the "other." Friends interested in participating can contact the Dennis Gregg or Hank Fay. A committee member challenged us to share our light.

#### **40-26 Finance Committee**

Susan Phelan (Huntsville) presented the proposed 2011 budget for discussion and a second report will be given on seventh day. The final budget will be approved at the fall Representative Meeting.

Earlier this year, the Finance Committee sent a communication to monthly meetings requesting income projections for the current fiscal year and for the 2011 year. Currently our contribution income is down 27%. The committee recommends that the yearly meeting maintain a \$25,000 reserve. This would permit a cushion for yearly meeting operation.

The Finance Committee began their 2011 budget preparation by projecting a 30% reduction in income. Based on this, if we continue to fund wider Quaker organizations and our internal funds we will have a \$19,000 deficit. The proposed budget includes a 2.6% cost of living increase for staff. Susan offered several additional alternatives for developing the budget including sequencing our contributions to internal funds and organizations to enable adjustments based on the revenue received. An across the board cut percentage reduction could be made for these same contributions. If income is better than anticipated, adjustments could be made.

A variety of reasons have been given by meetings for their reduced contributions. Some meetings have lost significant donors or membership. Some are changing their formula for calculating their assessments from the \$60 suggested. Other meetings are rethinking their priorities for funding.

We were encouraged to challenge ourselves to raise at least part of the \$19,000 and Finance Committee was asked to provide a fundraising goal. We were cautioned that a fundraising strategy must be developed to meet any fundraising goal. We were encouraged to ask individual Friends for money and to testify to the importance of the yearly meeting to our local meetings. We were encouraged to identify our important work and

to use all sources of funds, assessments, surplus and new revenue to balance the budget . Friends made several suggestions regarding the format and presentation of the budget materials. We were encouraged to think more concretely about our priorities to guide budget preparation rather than across the board reductions. We were reminded Friends provide primary financial support for Friends organizations.

The Finance Committee thanked the meeting for their discussion and will report on 7<sup>th</sup> day.

#### **40-27 Wider Quaker Organization: American Friends Service Committee**

Betty Knott, serving as the Regional Director of SERO of AFSC, was welcomed. Betty brought greetings from Dan Seeger a seasoned Friend serving as interim executive director of AFSC. Over the last year, ASFC had faced extreme financial stress resulting in a reduction of their budget by 50% and laying off of staff and laying down programs in order to live within their revenue. Based on these difficult decisions, the organization is better positioned to continue as a viable organization in the future. The AFSC board is meeting this weekend and expects to announce the appointment of a new Executive Director.

Despite these cuts, with the strong financial support of Friends of \$1 million, AFSC has mobilized energetically in response to the earthquake disaster in Haiti. AFSC sent in an assessment team to work with local groups and individuals in Haiti to identify where the service committee and its partners might best concentrate their efforts. AFSC has been in close consultation with the Haitian Diaspora on the future direction of Haitian society. In Miami, two Haitian AFSC staff members provide important avenues of communication and coordination. Present work primarily concentrates on two refugee camps to foster and rebuild community ties and stability.

Friends inquired about AFSC work in Gaza and Betty assured Friends of AFSC's commitment to the region, but highlighted continued difficulties being faced maintaining a program presence.

#### **40-28 Quaker House**

Chuck Fager, director of Quaker House, described the work of Quaker House that is celebrating 40 years of work. He thanked SAYMA for their financial support. Quaker House is working on truth in recruiting, a G.I. Rights hotline, and accountability for torture. New work is emerging on violence within the military. In addition, there is a continuing effort to develop and distribute materials engaging people in discussions of vital issues of peace and justice. Quaker House is working with Guilford College to develop a symposium next year on the state of the Military Industrial Complex.

Chuck also highlighted materials on Quakerism for young people including the pamphlet "What's the Password for Jesus?" and invited Friends to view his publications in the bookstore.

#### **40-29 Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC)**

Christina VanRegenmorter (Nashville) called Friends attention to her written report (Attachment D). The organization is doing well and she welcomes questions and participation. The 2011 FLGBTQC midwinter gathering will be held in the southeast and she encouraged interested Friends to attend.

#### **40-30 William Penn House**

Byron Sandford thanked SAYMA for our support of the work of William Penn House. On behalf of the William Penn House, Bryon presented Errol Hess with a framed print appreciation of his service to the organization. (Representative Report Attachment D)



**40-31 Friends Committee for National Legislation (FCNL)**

Katrina Schwartz is representing FCNL at our gathering. Katrina works for FCNL on the Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict project and is leading a workshop on Saturday. (Representative Report Attachment D)

**Saturday, June 12, 2010**

**40-32 Personnel Committee**

Tim Lamm reported the Personnel Committee is responsible for the oversight of paid staff and volunteers. As assistant clerk, Tim serves as clerk of the committee. The Personnel committee has not met in the last year, as current personnel policy appears satisfactory. Evaluations of both paid positions have been completed. We are blessed by our paid staff. The Personnel Committee will be meeting prior to fall representative meeting to review our cost of living and benefit packages.

**40-33 American Friends Service Committee, Southeast Regional Office (AFSC/SERO)**

Peter Furst (Birmingham) serves as one of our two representatives to the regional executive committee overseeing the work of the southeast region of AFSC. Peter described the work of the AFSC (SERO) office in Miami, New Orleans, North Carolina and Atlanta. Peter has submitted a written report and welcomed questions. (Report Attachment D)

A friend raised a concern for the growing presence of undocumented people in our region and called attention to AFSC's work on this issue. An AFSC staff person (Lori Fernald Khamala) is working on the issue in the region and is a resource for meetings in our region.

Our AFSC Corporation Representative encouraged local meetings to develop relationship with local AFSC staff to support concerns.

**40-34 Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR)**

Karen Morris (Atlanta) serves as our representative to RSWR. Karen read a report provided by Jennifer Walker, a RSWR Board member who was unable to attend our gathering. RSWR has been an independent Quaker project for 20 years since it devolved from FWCC. RSWR has been deeply involved in fostering small-scale sustainable development, empowering women. To accomplish this, RSWR provides small grants (less than \$5000 annually) to local projects. Local projects in India, Kenya and Sierra Leone were highlighted. RSWR is sustained by donations and contributions are welcomed. The written report is available. In addition, a display and educational material are present at our meeting. (Report Attachment D)

**40-35 Rural Southern voice for Peace (RSVP)**

Brian Yaffee (Celo) serves as a Board member of RSVP. An essential component of nonviolence is communication and RSVP is about fostering communication. A major program emphasis of RSVP is Listening Projects. Listening Projects have been developed around the world. Locally, RSVP has undertaken a listening project to address conflicts around the use of local natural resources. Key to the approach has been a process of identifying local strengths and fostering a vision of the future building on these strengths. Brian thanked SAYMA for its support of RSVP and welcomed questions

**40-36 Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF)**

Chuck Jones (Chattanooga) serves as co-clerk of the SAYF Steering Committee. SAYF has a strong and growing program bringing together high school friends in powerful and engaging ways. Seven retreats were held in the last year with an average of 43 young friends at each retreat. Retreats have been held in Atlanta, Asheville, West Knoxville, Berea, and the Arthur Morgan School. Two nurturing committee/steering committee were held during the year. The steering committee is made up of adults who provide transportation and assistance to the program. The nurturing committee is made up of young friends with the task of ensuring a welcoming and inclusive program. The planning committee involves local young friends and Friendly Adult Presence (FAP's) of the host meeting who plan the program. There is a regular process of reviewing and evaluating retreats, modifying the program as needed.

SAYF has provided a powerful model for Friends outside of SAYMA. Representatives of Southeastern Yearly Meeting interested in developing a similar program for their yearly meeting contacted SAYF. Several SAYF representatives from Atlanta meeting attended their annual sessions in March and were well received.

A question was raised over the role of service in the SAYF retreats. Finding an appropriate project during a weekend retreat for 50 young friends is challenging. A FAP (Friendly Adult Presence, an adult involved in supporting SAYF activities) welcomed Friends ideas for service projects. The representative from William Penn House described the work camps provided by his organization that might provide a resource for SAYF.

Several Friends expressed appreciation for the program and thanked those providing leadership. A detailed written report is attached. (Report Attachment C)

#### **40-37 Faith and Practice Revision Committee - Marriage**

Edie Patrick (Foxfire) reviewed changes recommended by the Faith and Practice Revision Committee to the Marriage proposal as a result of the threshing session. An additional change was suggested from the gathered body.

40-37-01 We approve changing “sample” in paragraph 10 line 5 to “traditional example”

A member of the Faith and Practice Revision Committee reported that the Administrative Assistant had undertaken a survey of state marriage regulations in the SAYMA region. The survey revealed that marriage regulations vary widely in the region and are changing quickly. In some cases, Quaker marriage procedures and forms are being changed or omitted. The language of the proposed document is intended to be sufficiently broad to permit the document to provide guidance in these changing times.

40-37-02: On the recommendation of the Faith and Practice Revision Committee, we approve the section Marriage Among Friends as revised. (Attached X)

Many expressions of appreciation, relief and celebration followed.

#### **40-38 Ecological Concerns Network**

Roy Taylor (Canton WG) highlighted challenges to the environment. He encouraged Friends to adopt small changes in our behavior as a practice for raising consciousness. Roy recommended Friends bring cups and napkins that can be reused. Roy emphasized Friends become involved in local issues to address land use, water use and other important issues. FWCC is planning a consultation on global change to determine how Friends worldwide are experiencing and responding to the challenges to the environment. To guide this consultation, six queries have been developed. Roy will insure these are distributed widely. ECN will be meeting after lunch. A written report is attached. (Report Attachment C)

We were encouraged to say yes to the positive developments that are taking place in our communities. A supportive encouraging thanks is an expression of gratitude and hope.

#### **40-39 2010 Budget Correction**

Deanna Nipp-Kientz made a correction to her report of fifth day. The correct amount for our net assets is \$37,950.

#### **40-40 Finance Committee**

The Clerk reminded friends that the final 2011 budget will be presented for approval at the fall Representative Meeting. The purpose of this session is for friends to provide broad guidance to the Finance Committee as they move forward to develop the final budget.

Susan Phelen reported the Finance Committee has received additional comments and suggestions since the initial presentation on sixth day. Projected 2011 assessment income is changed from \$29,400 to \$31,700, reflecting a new calculation based upon our actual income last year. Projected contribution income is changed from \$19,026 to \$5,000. This reflects the Finance Committee's fundraising goal for designated individual contributions. A plan has been developed to raise funds. Based on these changes, the Finance Committee projects income of \$67,050, resulting in a projected deficit of \$11,726.

The Finance Committee estimates that at the end of fiscal year 2010, SAYMA's net assets will be around \$40,000. Finance recommends drawing on the net assets up to \$11,726 to support the 2011 budget, which retains over \$25,000 in reserves. Any additional revenue generated through assessments and contributions will be applied to the budget before drawing on reserves. .

The Finance Committee will be closely monitoring the budget for the remainder of the fiscal year and ensuring good communication with monthly meetings and individuals. Susan encouraged friends to speak in their local meetings about the needs and value of the yearly meeting.

Susan asked for Friends direction if revenue is not forthcoming to support the projected budget. She offered several alternatives including reducing all internal fund before reducing contributions or reducing budgets across the board. The Finance Committee does not anticipate making any recommendations to reduce staff or reduce SAYF contributions.

Additional ideas were suggested. Ideas included increasing assessments or increasing yearly meeting fees. We were cautioned that raising yearly meeting fees might discourage attendance. A uniform percentage reduction for funds and contributions has the advantage of "sharing the pain." A Friend suggested Friends carefully monitor the expenses they charge to the yearly meeting for participation as representatives to WQOs or in SAYMA committee work. The Finance Committee was encouraged to delay their decisions until our financial situation is clearer. Concern was raised over the prospect of raising assessment costs, given local meeting budget challenges. We were encouraged to get more people involved and reminded of the important connection with the worldwide network of Quakers. (Report and Proposed Budget Attached X)

#### **Sunday, June 13, 2010\***

The session opened with a period of silent worship.

#### **40-41 Roll Call**

The Clerk asked Friends to indicate their presence by monthly meeting and worship group.

Wren Hendrickson (Chapel Hill Meeting), a member of the SAYF Steering Committee, reported that Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting does not belong to any yearly meeting, but they are discussing the possibility of affiliating with SAYMA.

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\* Tim Lamm (Berea) recorded First Day sessions.

\*Since our Yearly Meeting sessions we have learned SAYMA may appoint up to four (4) delegates. Individuals

A Friend raised a concern about whether it is good process for a member or attender of a non-SAYMA meeting to have a position of responsibility in SAYMA and also asked Friends to consider prayerfully how taking Chapel Hill into SAYMA would affect other Friends in the North Carolina piedmont area.

#### **40-42 Site Selection**

Friends approved returning to Warren Wilson in 2012.

The Clerk pointed out that there is some question about the best dates for yearly meeting. Please let the new Clerk know if you have suggestions or constraints.

Friends approved holding Representative Meeting in Atlanta in spring 2011 and in Chattanooga in fall 2011. Dates to be determined in consultation with the Monthly Meetings.

#### **40-43 Nominating Committee**

Sallie Prugh presented the following additional nominations:

40-43-01 On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, we approve Friends to the following positions:

|   |                                  |           |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Assistant Treasurer                             | Allen Robinson (Asheville)       | 2010-2012 |
| Member, Personnel Committee                     | Free Polazzo (Atlanta)           | 2010-2012 |
| Member, Personnel Committee                     | Sue Gerdes (Columbia)            | 2010-2012 |
| Convener, JYM Oversight Committee               | Elizabeth Hudson (Atlanta)       | 2010-2012 |
| Convener, JYM Oversight Committee               | Wendy Satterthwaite (Berea)      | 2010-2012 |
| Co-registrar, Yearly Meeting Planning Committee | Laura Seeger (Chattanooga)       | 2010-2012 |
| Co-registrar, Yearly Meeting Planning Committee | Sallie Prugh (Columbia)          | 2010-2011 |
| Bookstore Manager                               | Chris Berg (Greenville)          | 2010-2012 |
| Web Manager                                     | Hank Fay (Berea)                 | 2010-2012 |
| Clerk, Web Support                              | Samuel Leeman-Munk (Chapel Hill) | 2010-2012 |
| Archivist                                       | Missy Ivey (West Knoxville)      | 2010-2012 |
| AFSC Corporation Alternate                      | Bob Welsh (Swannanoa)            | 2010-2013 |
| FCNL Representative                             | Joe Parko (Crossville)           | 2010-2013 |

These nominations were approved. Positions still open are an Assistant Bookstore Manager, an Ecological Concerns Network co-clerk, and a third representative to FWCC.

Sallie also presented recommendations for the selection of delegates from SAYMA to the FWCC World Gathering in August 2012.

40-43-02: On the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, we approve the following process for identifying SAYMA delegates to the FWCC World Gathering

We do not know the number of delegates we may have at this time.\* Cost for the gathering is \$850. Travel expenses will be approximately \$2000. SAYMA cannot guarantee to pay the entire price for all delegates. Funds are available, but are inadequate to cover the expenses of four people.

Process for selection:

1. Clearness from monthly meeting
2. Letter to Nominating Committee which expresses the individual's interest in making and maintaining connections with Quakers of different traditions from around the world and how the individual might share their experience with the Yearly Meeting and its constituent meetings.
3. The delegates will be chosen by the Nominating Committee. It will be desirable to choose an FWCC rep and a young friend.
4. Individuals chosen should request financial support from their local meetings and explore other ways to finance the trip, so that more delegates by go.
5. The selection will not depend on the individual's ability to pay.

Friends pointed out that we could do some fundraising activities to add to the funds available to send these delegates.

Friends expressed their appreciation to the Nominating Committee for its diligent work.

#### **40-44 Naming Committee**

This year's naming committee consisted of Mary Ann Downey, Barbara Esther, and Free Polazzo.

Mary Ann thanked the out-going members of the Nominating Committee for their service:

Sallie Prugh (clerk) – Columbia

Erika Phelps – W. Knoxville

Carol Ciscel – Memphis

Mark Wutka – Atlanta

Continuing member of the committee will be:

Hank Fay – Berea

Kit Potter – Nashville

Missy Ivie – W. Knoxville

Mary Ann proposed the following new members:

40-44-01 On the recommendation of the Naming Committee, we approve the following Friends for a two year term on the Nominating Committee.

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Dennis Gregg (Crossville) | 2010-2012 |
| David Ciscel (Memphis)    | 2010-2012 |
| Beth Ensign (Atlanta)     | 2010-2012 |
| Joy Gossett (Asheville)   | 2010-2012 |

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\*Since our Yearly Meeting sessions we have learned SAYMA may appoint up to four (4) delegates. Individuals should apply by September 2010. The Nominating Committee must present the names of the selected delegates to the FWCC World Office by December 2010. In January 2011, delegate positions not filled by yearly meetings will be opened to other Friends

#### **40-45 Registrar's Report**

Registrar Linda Trask reported that 215 people attended this yearly gathering:

156 adults (including 10 young adult friends)

12 JYM

47 SAYF

Seven scholarships were awarded by monthly meetings, and 13 yearly meeting scholarships were granted. Gross receipts totaled \$25,700. Additional money collected through donations of dorm key deposits was sufficient to cover the yearly meeting scholarships.

Linda thanked the many Friends who helped make the registration work.

The new clerk of the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, Carol Ciscel, asked Friends to take time to complete the on-line evaluation forms or pick up printed forms before leaving. Such feedback is very helpful to the planning process.

#### **40-46 Ad hoc Committees**

Clerk reminded Friends that the Yearly Meeting has two ad hoc committees whose work is continuing. These are Outreach and Web Site. Ad hoc committees are appointed by the Yearly Meeting Clerk. Anyone interested in helping should contact the clerk.

#### **40-47 Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Epistle**

The Junior Yearly Meeting Epistle was presented. (Attachment E)

The Clerk expressed thanks to our JYM coordinators, Beth Myers and Jonathan Schinhofen, and various volunteers who put time and energy into making JYM successful.

#### **40-48 Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) Report**

Ian Saderholm reported on SAYF activities during the year and at yearly meeting. (See Report SAYF Report Attachment E)

Ian thanked Friends for their support of the SAYF program.

Two young Friends from Atlanta, Alise Trapp and Emily Drabek-Stevens, reported on their visit to Southeastern Yearly Meeting this spring. They were surprised that SEYM was so much smaller than SAYMA and had many fewer teens. They told Friends there about the structure of SAYF and invited their young Friends to attend SAYMA and any retreats in Atlanta.

Members of the SAYF Nurturing Committee and Steering Committee were recognized, and the clerk thanked all involved in the program.

#### **40-49 Young Adult Friends (YAF) Report**

Despite the hardships that none of their clerks or their minutes was present this year, the Young Adult Friends had an enjoyable session. They decided to publish a newsletter to keep YAFs informed and organized. One highlight of the weekend was a communal dinner prepared by YAFs to which other Friends were invited. A worship-sharing session on "What defines our spiritual path?" was open to older adult Friends, though only attended by parents. A new "physical health program" consisted of using war paint to scare their newest members into a cardio-vascular sprint. Free-time activities included working puzzles, visiting with the rest of yearly meeting, and just hanging out together. (Attachment C)

#### **40-50 Yearly Meeting Epistle**

Sharon Annis presented the Epistle.

Questions were raised about the last paragraph in the draft Epistle, which mentioned concerns over defining our geographical boundaries based on the concern raised by one Friend in response to the announcement that Chapel Hill was considering affiliating with SAYMA . Many Friends felt it would be inappropriate to include this paragraph in the Epistle, as it was not reflective of a general theme or discussion at this gathering. Others were concerned that the issue might not be considered at a future date unless it was included in the epistle.

After considerable discussion, Sharon presented an alternative final paragraph that did not include the issue of our boundaries.

40-50-01. On the recommendation of the Epistle Committee, we approve the Epistle as revised.  
(Attachment E)

#### **40-51 Recognition**

The Clerk recognized and thanked those Friends completing terms of service. New appointees begin their terms at the conclusion of this yearly meeting session.

The Clerk voiced our hearty thanks to Warren Wilson College, its staff and students for making our stay here so convenient and enjoyable.

Finally, Clerk thanked Kristi Estes and the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee for their careful and creative work in planning and carrying out this Yearly Meeting gathering.

#### **40-52 Next Meeting**

Yearly meeting 2011 will be at Warren Wilson College either June 8-12 or 16-19, depending on negotiations with the college.

#### **40-53 Closing Worship**

This was followed by an extended period of waiting worship.

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Dennis Gregg, Clerk  
(Archive copy signed)

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Bill Holland, Recording Clerk  
(Archive copy signed)

#### **Attachments:**

- A: Attendance List (print distribution only)
- B: State of the Meeting Reports
- C: Committee & Officers Reports
- D. WQO Representatives' Reports
- E. Epistles
- F Financial Reports
- G Faith and Practice Proposals
- H Census
- I. Nominating Committee Report and Complete Roster of Officers and Committees



## State of the Meeting Reports

- Asheville Friends Meeting
- Athens Friends Meeting
- Atlanta Friends Meeting
- Berea Friends Meeting
- Birmingham Friends Meeting (with Royal Worship Group)
- Brevard Friends Meeting
- Celo Monthly Meeting
- Charleston Friends Meeting
- Chattanooga Friends Meeting
- Columbia Friends Meeting
- Cookeville Monthly Meeting
- Crossville Friends Meeting
- Greenville Monthly Meeting
- Huntsville Area Friends Meeting
- Memphis Friends Meeting
- Nashville Friends Meeting
- Oxford Friends Meeting
- Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting
- West Knoxville Friends Meeting

### Asheville Friends Meeting

Asheville Friends Meeting seems to be in a period of transition within which there are signs of renewed energy and vitality.

Much of this revitalization came about through a process of focused introspection. We realized that we were shrinking, that the number of children in our First Day School program was diminishing, that our adult attendance was getting smaller, and we asked ourselves why. We held several meetings and threshing sessions specifically designed to examine these issues. Once we acknowledged the existence of these challenges, we redesigned our first day schedule to make it more inviting for families to attend Meeting for Worship and other first day activities together. The mere act of examining the issues facing us, on its own, seemed to invigorate the spirit of our meeting.

We realized that the old schedule, though well meant to encourage attendance by families with young children, didn't work as we had hoped. Our new schedule allows for a more compact time better suited for families with young children. We are seeing stabilization in number of children, but best of all, those children find a welcoming and meaningful experience that is both fun and educational in Quaker ways. The depth and quality of insight displayed by our young children is quite remarkable. We have instituted regular intergenerational activities to allow the young children to experience the adult friends in a more personal way.

We now regularly send six to eight SAYF youth to SAYF activities, and expect that number to continue to grow. We are gratified to know that several of these youth come from other faith communities, but find the SAYF experience so rewarding and welcoming that they want to attend these activities with their Quaker friends. We mourned the loss of Gary Briggs, who died on Christmas Eve, and who had been a devoted Friendly Adult Presence for many years. Gary had not only served as a "FAP", but had been deeply involved in committee work as well as key work keeping up with the maintenance requirements of our meetinghouse and grounds and serving in many other capacities. We will sorely miss his spirit and presence among us.

The decline in adult attendance has caused stresses on our Meeting's resources: We are stretched trying to provide personnel for the various committees. For the first time in recent history we have experienced a budget

shortfall. We have made special efforts to reach out to visitors and newcomers. We have a revitalized hospitality committee that has sponsored after-Meeting coffee and snacks so attendees are encouraged to stay and socialize after Meeting for Worship. Best of all, the whole meeting participates in the preparation of the snacks.

Many of us report a deepening sense of closeness to one another. We now offer opportunities to know each other more intimately during our monthly Sandwich Sundays where we are invited to tell about ourselves around themes such as “how I came to Quakerism” or “my volunteer work in the community.”

We have experienced a sense of a deepening worship as well. We have less vocal ministry and deeper silence. Messages are often deeply felt and Spirit-inspired. And, we have a wider variety of people offering vocal ministry. As one attender has put it, “We are a meeting of seekers, and that presents both strengths and challenges.”

Weekly opportunities to share our joys and sorrows as well as weekly reminders are designed to assure that the pastoral care committee does not allow any of us to “fall through the cracks” in times of need. However, even as we rejoice in our deepening sense of community, we are aware of the lack of diversity among us, and our need to find ways to be more inclusive of those who are different.

In addition to our Meeting for Worship on first day, we have a meaningful midweek worship followed by a shared meal of “stone soup.” Some of us who find it difficult to attend First Day worship have found this experience to be a way to share worship and feel connected to the Meeting. A monthly extended Meeting for Worship has also been provided for those who want to explore a longer worship experience. We also offer spiritual enrichment programs on a variety of topics at least twice a month.

In October, we offered a one-day workshop on clerking, led by Mary Ann Downey. We hope that, as more of us gain skills in clerking, this will pay dividends in the future, not only in recruiting clerks, but in enabling all of us to understand and participate in Meetings for Business and committee work. We continue to attempt to find balance between getting tasks accomplished and maintaining a sense of worship in our Meetings for Business.

Finally, we are mindful that our sense of community and caring needs to reach out to the wider Asheville community and, indeed, to the world. We have initiated a policy of regularly collecting food for the MANNA Food Bank and have made a commitment to provide breakfast to the hungry in downtown Asheville on a quarterly basis. Because we are a small Meeting, we have found it helpful to form alliances with like-minded religious groups. We have formed these alliances to support our testimonies against racism and the death penalty, for example.

We are glad now that we spent time in introspection to examine how we might better serve our own Meeting as well as our wider community. This task was sometimes difficult, as self examination usually is, but the rewards were well worth the work required of us. It is always good to ask ourselves the question, “What can we do better than what we are doing now?”

### **Athens Friends Meeting**

In response to SAYMA's request about the state of our Meeting, for Second Hour last Sunday we shared thoughts on that topic. Using SAYMA's state of the Meeting queries, we came up with the responses below. When starting, we tried to respond to individual queries. However, we came to realize that there is quite a bit of overlap in the way our responses addressed all of the different queries. Because of the overlap, we have not placed the responses under particular queries, but under overarching ideas.

Activities our Meeting, or individuals in our Meeting are led to be involved with, that share Quaker values and have a positive affect on our local and world community:

- Our Daily Bread/Sack Suppers
- support Jerusalem Women Speak tour/peace rallies / Women in Black vigils
- AIDS Athens
- Voice for the Homeless (educating groups about Athen's homeless)
- support local organizations: The Ark, Family Connection, Jubilee Partners
- support Quaker organizations
  
- support a family in need at Christmas
- clearness committees as support for members and attenders
- potlucks for fellowship and celebration
- Quaker lunches for fellowship
- 2nd hour discussions such as the movies about immigration and corporations, which lead us to personal actions about those topics
- as a small Meeting, each individual shares their gifts and contributes to the betterment of the Meeting
- from Meeting, people feel:
  - stability in their life
  - more positive
  - able to put/keep things in perspective
  - nurtured
  - able to re-evaluate and re-affirm their direction
  - better able to cope with coworkers that do not share Quaker values
  - able to cope with family members in the military
- Meeting provides support for people to:
  - develop ideas and outlook on life
  - learn new ways and processes
  - provide new foundations for children attending Meeting
  - have a 'guaranteed' time of worship during the week
  - put more emphasis on how we live our life (being led to act on our beliefs)

Current Meeting goal:

Striving for a good Meeting space, one that benefits us and our community; to reach our goal, we are partnering with other groups (non-profit and non-government organizations) that share our values. We are in the midst of securing new space for the Meeting.

## **Atlanta Friends Meeting**

The gifts of our community are many and varied. The spirit continues to move amongst Atlanta Friends Meeting (AFM) to support the ministry of our members, their well-being, and the material stability of the Meeting.

The **Religious Education** committee, led by the Spirit and with the hands of many Friends, started a quiet revolution in our First Day School (FDS) program for young Friends. An average of thirty to fifty young Friends attended FDS each First Day during the year and about ten during the summer weeks. Ten teachers and a new nursery coordinator, Dawanda Pearson, showed extraordinary commitment in nurturing the spiritual lives of the younger members of the community. The theme for the school year, "Living Your Faith, Loving Your Neighbor," let us explore how our lives reflect our values and our love for one another -- through sharing, storytelling, art, sacred stories, song, the revolutionary life of Jesus, and personal action. Green Friends taught a monthly class on the gifts of nature. Young Friends raised money for a Burundi meetinghouse building fund and Heifer International. Middle School Friends hosted a holiday bazaar fundraiser that showcased Meeting artisans and provided a means to reduce consumerism. The Meeting began to use a new approach and structure – Godly Play® and Faith and Play curriculum – with our youngest Friends.

The **Young Friends Support** committee, which oversees the youth programs and activities for the Meeting, conducted a job search to fill the Youth Program Coordinator position. This was a task made especially challenging by the excellent work of the departing coordinator, Laura Norlin, during her tenure in the job. After interviewing and evaluating applicants with a panel of six Meeting members, Aaron Ruscetta, a respected, long-time volunteer with the Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) program, was selected as the new coordinator.

The 2009 **Treasurer's** report indicated that the Meeting ended the year with a surplus of approximately \$270, with both expenses and income about 7% below budget. Contributions to our general fund, though slightly higher than in 2008 (\$112,000 versus \$109,000), were over \$21,000 less than budgeted. However, rental income totaled over \$16,000, twice as much as expected. As usual, a small number of people made the majority of contributions to the general fund (25% of the money contributed was from eight donors). We noted a decline in contributors from 166 in 2008 to 159 in 2009. Contributions to special funds were significantly higher than in 2008 primarily due to the Ferguson Cabin fundraising efforts.

The Meeting wished a fond farewell to our good Friend -- and **Friend in Residence** -- Valerie Barlow, as she left for another job opportunity. While we were sad to see her leave, in December we were happy to greet the new Friend in Residence, John Roberts, who was selected after an extensive search process. At year's end, we looked forward to fully welcoming him into the life of the Meeting in 2010.

The **Social Concerns** committee continued to be active regarding climate change, peace building, racism, and various forms of outreach to the wider community of Atlanta. The committee also felt called to address additional concerns and minister more to people in need, especially during the economic crisis. However, this desire to more actively nurture Friends' peace and justice leadings was difficult to fulfill due to the shortage of committee members and energy necessary to follow all of the ways opened.

The **Green Friends** group felt a strong moving of the Spirit to join with others worldwide in "Climate Action" to stop global warming. Beginning with a March forum about the Transition Towns movement, activity

focused on the approaching Copenhagen Climate talks. A British Friends' Minute on Climate Change was shared with the Meeting and then sent to SAYMA for further consideration. Two spiritually uplifting and well-attended vigils were organized -- one was by the permanent new "EarthCare Not Warfare" banner on the Meetinghouse grounds and the other was a candlelight vigil on Decatur Square in concert with many other community groups.

The Meeting continued its anti-racism work through the **Committee on Undoing Racism in Atlanta Friends Meeting** (CURAFM) and **Our Roles as Individuals in America's Racial History** (ORAIARH). These two groups co-sponsored four anti-racism workshops: Ethnic Identity, Early Experiences of Race, White Privilege, and Whites as Allies against Racism (the first two of which were also presented at SAYMA). Friend in Residence, Valerie Barlow, helped plan and facilitate several of these workshops as part of her ministry. CURAFM and ORAIARH also sponsored a visit to AFM by the authors of *Fit for Freedom, not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice*.

Three families of Burundi Friends enriched the life of our meeting, by participating actively through attendance and vocal ministry at Meeting for Worship, singing in Kirundi and English before meeting, participating in and bringing additional Burundi children to First Day School, attending Bible Study, volunteering in the kitchen, and attending SAYMA. The **Refugee Support Group** assisted them through carpools, ESL tutoring, material assistance, collecting donations for a church building project in Cene Monthly Meeting in Burundi, making contacts to try to bring relatives from a refugee camp to the U.S., and helping sponsor a trip to Mid America Yearly Meeting (Evangelical Friends) on the historic occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of Friends Church in Burundi. We continued to be blessed by the presence of Burundi Friends who, through their strong religious commitment and widening interactions with other F/friends in the meeting, added a new dimension to our spiritual lives.

The **Administration Committee's** work centered on hiring and staff support, long-term visioning, and financial discernment. We approved employee grievance procedures; discussed general principles regarding employee relations, policies and practices; and created a new volunteer position called Personnel Liaison. In the midst of this policy work, the committee facilitated the hiring of three new employees and created a new employee position: nursery coordinator. Much of the committee's work focused on the long-term well-being of the Meeting. Administration spent considerable time analyzing and then approving changes to the Meeting's insurance policy. Our work was particularly informed by financial concerns because contributions were down from 2008; therefore, we decided to replace some, but not all, HVAC units. We did a good amount of work vetting long-term rental agreements, and the office coordinator, Jonah McDonald, brought in many short-term rentals. We recommended that employees receive a 3% cost of living allowance (COLA) pay increase for 2010. Finally, the committee struggled with one internal issue that it was unable to reach clearness on: whether or not to continue with regular readings and discussions on race and prejudice as a way of reflecting on personal racism and the possibility of racism in committee decisions.

The **Ferguson Cabin** committee increased in size and strength, both in members and spiritually, as efforts coalesced to prepare for building a small new cabin with modern bathroom facilities. The cabin property saw much greater use (by more than fifty people) in 2009, as well as growing appreciation of this beautiful, wild land on Lake Burton. Enthusiasm within AFM increased as well, helping achieve most of the sizable fundraising goal. A significant part of the first phase building work was accomplished and will resume in the spring of 2010.

The **Care and Counsel** committee greeted the youngest members of our community in May, welcoming in the newborns from the last year. We also said goodbye to some, with memorial services for Meg McDonough and Ski Helenski, among others. The committee held a luncheon for the elders of our community, both to honor them and to find out what they needed from AFM and what they could offer. The first tangible result of this luncheon was a bench outside the front door of the Meetinghouse to allow elders to greet the community as they arrive to meeting. Other activities included a volunteer appreciation breakfast, a forum on wills to help members make informed late-life decisions, and helping to set up 'friendly eights' groups which enabled members and attenders to get to know one another in small groups. Also, the physical needs of the Meeting were attended to by sending memorial cards, bringing meals, arranging transportation, loaning out the care quilt, and bringing meeting to those who could not attend.

The **Educational Scholarship Fund Committee** awarded \$500 college scholarships for the 2009-2010 school year to seven young people associated with the Meeting.

The **Ministry and Worship** committee continued to seek ways to help everyone feel welcome, accepted, and nurtured. Our Meetings for Worship reflected the diversity of our community of regular participants and the many visitors who joined us. Spoken messages in Meeting for Worship included spiritual, personal, and political ones; we endeavored to receive these messages in the spirit that each may have meaning for some, if not all, who were present. Several opportunities for weekly worship at the Meetinghouse were available, not only on First Days, but also on weekday mornings and Wednesday evenings. In addition to the continuing weekly Bible study group, adult religious education class, and spiritual nurture group, a new Wednesday evening worship with silent and occasionally semi-programmed worship was successfully begun. The committee coordinated clearness committees for membership and marriages. The year brought four new members by application: Christina Repoley, Annamarie Harmon, Heather Barbour, and Harry Lefever, and four transfers in from other meetings: Maia Hallward, Stoph Hallward, Denny Webster, and Jenny Foster. One member transferred out: Ian Simpson. There were two marriages under the care of the Meeting: Hannah MacDermott and Laura Norlin, and Caroline Morris and Mike Aland. Clearness committees arising from spiritual leadings included School of the Spirit and two members' yearly visit to North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Conservative.

Work of the **Advancement** committee was conducted as an adjunct of the Ministry and Worship committee. The Carrollton and Rome, Georgia, worship groups were visited, and phone contact with both was maintained. The committee also handled requests for contact with Friends in other Georgia communities -- Columbus, Macon, and Griffin.

The **Nominating** committee continued to pursue ways to match the gifts and leadings of members and attenders of the Meeting with the needs of the community. Recognizing that people's professions may not be their avocations, the committee sought to help them identify the latter. Most major positions were filled by year's end.

The Meeting continued to support and to hold in the Light the leadings of members, such as Mary Ann Downey and Bill Holland in their traveling ministries work with other Friends meetings.

This indeed is a “blessed and beloved community.” While more hands are always needed for the work of the Meeting, we look forward to 2010 with hopeful hearts so that we can continue to grow in spirit as we reach out to others.

### **Berea Friends Meeting**

This April marks the 40th anniversary of Berea Friends Meeting as a monthly meeting. While that interval is small within the scope of the Religious Society of Friends, we are no longer a young meeting. Only one of those Friends present at the establishment of Berea Friends in 1970 is still active in the meeting.

No longer borrowers or renters of worship space, since 2005 we are meeting house owners. While our meeting house has provided the stability and physical space for us to grow, it also demands a great deal of time and money as we perform the necessary repairs, maintenance, and even the occasional improvement – we recently completed installation of a play structure that we have been planning and saving for for years.

The past year has seen significant demographic shifts. While we have lost a number of active adult members through death or by moving out of Kentucky, the number of teens actively involved in the life of the meeting has jumped substantially. It is now common to have more teenagers than adults in attendance in our worship circle. Our young people are a source of great joy for us and contribute to the meeting in many ways. In April 2009, our young Friends wrote and produced a play which they performed dinner-theater fashion at our meetinghouse, followed by a silent auction of their skills and creativity which raised funds for the meeting.

What this boost in youth participation means for the future of the meeting is unclear, as we know that for the most part, teens do not return to our meeting once they leave for college. None of our active adult members were raised within the meeting.

In the last year, our meeting was saddened at the death of two of its members, both retired Berea College English professors. Founding member Bill Shafer died in September and Harry Robie in December. Bill’s death was sudden and unexpected and his family chose to remember him privately. Harry was with us for the year-long process of living each day to its fullest while dying of cancer, frequently sharing his thoughts and feelings with us with characteristic humor and candor. His memorial meeting put our organizational skills to the test, but we found that Harry’s thorough advance preparation allowed everything to go smoothly.

As a meeting we continue to struggle to find a balance between inward and outward focus. While the meeting does reach out to the larger community through such activities as taking valentines to nursing homes and sending Christmas cookies and cards to the county jail, it is always much easier for us to work on ourselves than with others. Our meeting still awaits a leading which will draw us into significant corporate witness of our Quaker testimonies.

*Charles Wilton, Clerk  
April 2010*

### **Birmingham Friends Meeting**

*Spiritual Health:* In addition to our normal Sunday Morning unprogrammed worship, our spiritual lives are uplifted by the Second Hour discussions and other programs that we held throughout the year. We conducted a video/discussion series of programs called “Beyond Theology”. For our Second Hour Discussions, we finished the book “Hidden Wholeness” by Parker Palmer, had several sessions on the book “Lost Prophet: The

Life and Times of Bayard Rustin” by John D’Emilio. In addition we had several discussions centered around Pendle Hill pamphlets or articles from the Friends Journal. We also continue to have a monthly “Simple Supper” at various Friends homes. These are social gatherings for food and fellowship that help us to get to know each other better. These are open to guests as well as Members/Attendees. We held in the light Connie LaMonte and Bill Seadler who were dealing with health issues.

*Wider Quaker Organizations:* We feel deeply connected to the wider Quaker organizations and provide financial support as a group and as individuals to SAYMA, AFSC, FCNL and the Friends Journal. At the last Yearly Meeting our group hosted one of the Chat and Chew sessions; we also hosted the SAYMA Representative Meeting in March and the SAYMA Ministry & Nurture Committee in October. We always review in detail the proposed revisions to the Faith & Practice Guide and send in our comments to the appropriate contact.

*Financial Health of the Meeting:* Although we don’t have an abundance of savings, we do try to keep enough of a financial cushion for any major issues that may come up regarding our Meeting House. In the last few years the percentage of our expenses that go for the Meeting House has gone from the 80-83% range to the 66-70% range. As our Meeting House expenses have decreased we have been able to spend more on social action and social justice issues. Since we are a religious institution we are not required to pay property tax but we feel obligated to contribute to our community by giving the amount that we would have been taxed to a local school PTA.

*Other Social Justice Issues:* The call to live up to our testimonies is an important theme in our Meeting. Birmingham Friends individually and corporately express their spirituality through service to a variety of local and state organizations regarding issues of poverty and social justice. On three occasions we supplied and served a meal at a local homeless shelter. We are closely aligned with Greater Birmingham Ministries which in addition to providing services to those in need also works to change those systems that contribute to keeping people in poverty. Birmingham Friends Meeting is a member of the Alabama Faith Council (AFC) and one of our members, Kay Smith, was primarily responsible for a statement on Healthcare reform that was adopted by AFC. One Sunday a month our Second Hour is dedicated to social concerns, such as Safe Schools, LGBT issues, Healthcare Reform, ecological, and homelessness concerns.

*Visits from North Carolina Friends Schools:* New Garden Friends School, Greenboro, NC, Arthur Morgan School, Celo, NC and Carolina Friends School, Durham, NC all visited Birmingham in 2009. The students and staff from the Arthur Morgan School and the Carolina Friends School stayed at our Meeting House. Although there were too many from the New Garden Friends School to stay at our Meeting House, they did come and worship with us on one beautiful spring morning. It enriches our lives and the life of our Meeting to have this interaction with these young people from Friends schools.

*Support of the Royal Worship Group (RWG):* We were able to pay for an advertisement in a Blount County Newspaper for RWG. We also embarked on a project to assist RWG in conducting Second Hour discussions. We had members/attendees from our Meeting attend the RWG worship and facilitate Second Hour discussions. We weren’t able to do as much as we would have liked, but we believe that this is a start and we hope to continue providing that support periodically throughout the next year.



*Young Adults:* We miss Kevin Camp, one of our active young adults who always had a relevant vocal message for us. Kevin moved to Washington D.C. and we wish him well.

*Struggles:* One of the issues we struggled with is that of timely attendance to Meeting for Worship. Another issue is that of gender balance, in that we seem to have trouble attracting and maintaining male attendance at our Meeting.

*First Day School:* Our young Friends did several interesting things throughout the year: prepared a skit that they performed for the Meeting about Bayard Rustin, helped in serving at the homeless shelter, studied holidays, and did many other projects.

*Outreach:* We reached out to our local university student population by sponsoring a table at an event at a local college and placed an advertisement in a student publication at another university.

**Royal (Alabama)Worship Group:** Attenders of the Royal (Alabama) Worship Group continue to meet for worship and meditation on Sundays at the home of Daryl Bergquist and Sara Rose. Our meeting time is 10 a.m.. We usually settle in worship by ten minutes after the appointed time, and remain for half an hour afterward discussing plans and activities.

Over the past year, our worship group has become more stable and consistent. Our involvement in and support of each others lives has deepened through frequent shared activities such as berry picking before meeting and a monthly spiritual book club. With great joy we have helped prepare for and welcomed a baby recently born to a couple in the group.

Birmingham Monthly Meeting has nurtured our group by sending Friends to worship with us and to lead programs after worship. They assisted in our purchase of advertisements in the local newspaper.

Regular attenders number 8 adults, a young child, and with anticipation, the new baby. We enjoyed the presence of several visitors throughout the year. An average meeting is with 6 people and 1 dog.

**Brevard Friends Meeting**

|                     |                       |               |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Active Members: 5   | Regular Attenders: 24 | Average: 15   |
| Inactive Members: 2 | Other Contributors: 1 | Sojourners: 1 |

We continue to meet every First Day at College Walk Retirement Center, Brevard, NC, which venue serves us well. We provide financial support for Sharing House, Bread of Life, and the Haven; we have also provided food donations to Bread of Life and Sharing House. Various Friends have long been active in community organizations such as Koinonia,\* Center for Dialogue, Children’s Center,\* Bread of Life,\* World Day of Peace,\* and the Transylvania Animal Alliance Group. (Names followed by an asterisk are explained at the end of this report.) Other Friends are active in international organizations such as the National Peace Foundation and the International Peace and Cooperation Center (justice for Palestinians).

In 2009 we pledged the sum of \$5,000.00 to the Haven, a new organization that will construct and operate a shelter for homeless people in Transylvania County.

The high point of our year was Adult Forum, in which we completed a course in Quakerism 101 using Ben Pink Dandelion's Quakerism: A Very Short Introduction as a text. This course was extremely popular, with attendance varying between 12 and 24 Friends per session. These vigorous discussions covered the meaning of Quaker spirituality, with very rich exchanges of ideas. We also took turns describing our own personal theologies. All of the participants agreed that our spiritual development had been much enhanced.

One important aspect of our Meeting is the level and strength of pastoral care; both members and attenders as a whole take note of each other's well-being and offer assistance when appropriate.

Our meeting is graced with an excellent newsletter, thanks to the tireless efforts of the editor.

This past year we have experienced no marriages and no births, but there was one death. We lost Bob Cox, one of the founding members of the Meeting and a long-time stalwart in sustaining the life of the meeting.

Some of our attenders have experienced poor health of late, which has kept them from regular attendance.

In summary, we continue to feel that our meeting provides a hospitable space and a rich spiritual experience for all members and attenders.

Richard Zelman, Clerk of Meeting

\*Children's Center: Advocate for abused and neglected children

\*Bread of Life: Soup kitchen for the hungry in our community

\*World Day of Peace: United Nations' special day to celebrate "One Day in Peace" on the first day of every new year

\*Koinonia: Mission/Purpose: Koinonia is an ecumenical effort embracing different denominations in Transylvania County. While acknowledging the richness and diversity of the various church traditions, Koinonia seeks to build interfaith understanding and to hear and answer the call to be one body in Christ.

### **Celo Monthly Meeting**

It is interesting how we are being led as a meeting. We built our new meetinghouse out of necessity: the dampness in our old one was aggravating some people's health problems to the point that they were no longer able to attend meeting. Whereas our former meetinghouse was quite modest in size and structure (a winterized goat barn), our new one has been beautifully and consciously crafted and feels quite spacious in comparison to its actual size. However, we've been challenged to provide sufficient heat on cold mornings. We are seeking a way forward.

This physical change is opening up new possibilities for the use of our meetinghouse and, consequently, new challenges for us as a meeting. For example: An attender at our meeting was uplifted by a concert he attended in nearby Asheville, so much so that he spoke of the trio, Free Planet Radio, at our meeting for worship the next day. This led to his coming to meeting for business to ask our meeting to sponsor a performance by the trio in our meetinghouse. However, the meeting could not reach consensus, and our attender started over by seeking a clearness committee. The result was that the concert that he hoped would take place in May 2009 took place in Jan 2010 with the meeting fully supportive of him. The concert which attracted over 100 people brought much

joy into our meetinghouse, and our attender was extremely appreciative of the wisdom and efficacy of Quaker process.

An important concern has been the appropriate use of our meetinghouse other than for meeting for worship, retreats, weddings and memorial services. Our attender understood this and suggested to the trio that their performance be framed in silence. When they agreed without hesitation, there was no doubt that they were a “good fit.” Several days after the performance, two attenders of our meeting who were present at the concert said they felt uneasy about the performance because of the frequent applause and humor from both the trio and audience. They were concerned that the meetinghouse was no longer sacred space. It was explained that Friends do not believe in sacred spaces or times (Christmas has traditionally not been celebrated by Friends), that meetinghouses are built as convenient places to meet. It is the work of Friends to make all places sacred.

Our Ministry and Care clerk resigned as clerk and member of M & C. Jesus Christ had becoming central to her spiritual life and she felt a strong need to be in a Christ centered spiritual community. She now attends Celo Friends the first Sunday of each month and a local Presbyterian church on the others. M & C members met with our former clerk and said how grateful they were for her spiritual presence and leadership and wished her well on her continuing spiritual journey. She expressed her deep gratitude to Celo Friends Meeting for providing her with a spiritual home – a safe and welcoming place in which she felt free to explore and nurture her growing spirituality.

Our meeting was concerned that some messages given during meeting for worship were more intellectual than spirit led and, therefore, disturbed the deep silence.

Our first step in discerning how to solve this problem was to have a worship sharing session at the rise of meeting. From this worship sharing we learned more than we

had anticipated: in addition to the appropriateness of a message, Friends were concerned about judgement from others and how to discern if the message is from God or one’s ego and how to discern if the Divine message is meant for the meeting or oneself. Ministry and Care decided that the Friendly Eights format could best meet these concerns. Meeting informally in people’s home for dinner and discussion would help to develop trust as well as inform. The participants were given reading material and queries ranging from Quakerism as group mysticism to holding in the light those giving vocal ministry. We have made a good beginning, but there still needs to be much follow-up.

It is our practice the 2<sup>nd</sup> First Day of each month to present a query to meeting for worship. Our queries for December and January prompted Friends to ask for copies of them.

*December:* Gospel order is the order established by God, and it exists in every part of creation. It is the harmony and order that transcends the chaos that prevails in the world. How does your life reflect gospel order?

*January:* In the midst of suffering do I look diligently for points of encounter with God? During times of despair do I stay present to the feeling of emptiness and wait for God to fill it with new life? In what ways does my life generate hope for others?

"Celo Friends are thrilled that we have a group of Young Friends going to the SAYF retreats. Our FAP asked Ministry and Care for help. Through Meeting for Business and Young Friends we are planning a fund raiser for transportation to SAYF. M & C will follow Celo Young Friends' adventures and needs." Celo SAYFers will host a retreat in April 2010.

Overall FDS has fewer children. We don't have a regular elementary group it seems, but we continue to have a few preschoolers come each week. We started having Godly Play once a month. The Children listen deeply with silence and wonder to these Quaker based stories. We gathered and delivered non-perishable food to local relief and did craft project to raise money for Heifer International. Our annual Trick or Treat for Unicef brought awareness of needs and a math session for elementary children. We had fun playing kids' soccer on sunny fall afternoons. The challenge was to play inclusively with children in different skill levels. We gained knowledge and awe for the wild flowers in spring and mushrooms in fall. We had a few small service-oriented work mornings to fill in rocks on our drive way. The theme for the Christmas program was inspired by our young Friend's presentation of her experiences helping with Project Salvador.

In the aftermath of the tragic quake in Haiti, four medical practitioners from Celo Meeting have gone to provide medical relief there, from one to two weeks each. The Meeting has provided financial and prayerful support for them. One of these relief workers shared her experiences with FDS. On Easter First Day, the children will raise more money through a sponsored skiprope marathon (2010 skips).

Brian and Florence Yaffe have transferred their membership back to Celo. We welcome them and all that they bring with them. Christine Fletcher and Charlotte Schreiber transferred out, to Portland (Maine)) Friends Meeting and University Friends Meeting (Seattle) respectively.

Lastly, our beloved and faithful caretaker has taken a six-month leave to care for her sister's children in California during her sister's chemotherapy regime. In her absence, we have a team of 6-8 folks doing her tasks, and they can't really cover it all adequately. We realized this yet again as the meetinghouse filled with smoke from a partially-shut damper on a recent First Day. We will bless the day she returns in May.

### **Charleston Friends Meeting**

*How fares Spirit in your Meeting during the last year, answering this question in four categories: Meeting for Worship, Meeting for Business, Committee Work, and Outreach to the Broader Community?*

#### **Meeting for Worship**

During the past year Charleston's Meetings for Worship have been rich in ministry, varied in place and format, and fulfilling in their periods of silent waiting. We have continued practices that we have found spiritually nourishing, including regular monthly reading of queries from Faith and Practice and a set aside period at the end of the hour for sharing joys and concerns and holding people in the Light. We have worship sharing on fifth Sundays instead of unprogrammed worship. We have added occasional hymn singing to our post meeting adult education sessions. We have held Meeting for Worship in a nearby state forest and in an historic African Zion church. A larger number of Friends has been moved to speak out of the silence in our worship.

#### **Meeting for Business**

We hold meetings for business on the first Sunday each month following Meeting for Worship. For a small meeting, we have a lot of business. This is in part because we have few committees and consider most issues and concerns as a committee of the whole, but it also reflects careful and prayerful work.

This year, we were delighted to welcome two long-time attenders into membership, following a particularly joyful clearness process. We oversaw the work of a young released Friend in his service with a local nonprofit organization, using his computer skills to make the group's work more effective.

Periodically, we consider and minute formal communication with wider Friends bodies. This year we have commented on SAYMA's Faith and Practice revisions and responded to the financial needs of Friends Journal. Charleston meeting is in frequent contact with other meetings in West Virginia, though we have been less active in intervisitation than in previous years. This year we organized and hosted the autumn West Virginia Friends Gathering, held at a nearby camp that featured a guest speaker from the Earlham School of Religion.

Budget and finance are areas which allow us to put our faith into action in a small way through committing the meeting's money to causes we support. We contribute regularly to a number of national Friends organizations, support the religious coalition from which we rent meeting space, contribute to local human services, and respond to urgent needs as we are led.

### **Committee work**

For a meeting without an adult religious education committee, we do a lot of it. We determine the program in Meeting for Business, and never lack for a Friend to come forward to lead a session, when a leader is needed. This year we have continued our study of Bringing Religious Education Home and begun the notes from Mark Wutka's SAYMA workshop Experiences of the Light among Early Friends. We've held discussions on topics including global warming, sustainability, death and mourning, Martin Luther King and outreach. An active Bible study group meets approximately every two weeks in Friends homes, and we recently started a book club that meets every two months.

Meeting recognized the gifts of one member by naming a clerk of Ministry and Nurture for the first time. Asking one individual to pay special attention to ministry and bring concerns to Meeting as needed is consistent with Charleston Friends' practice. For a number of years we have conducted Peace and Social Justice activities in a similar fashion, involving the entire meeting with guidance from a Friend with special gifts. Ministry in Meeting for Worship with words and queries, attention to those in need, and Friendly presence at interreligious activities have strengthened the meeting community.

Our work for peace and social justice flows principally from our engagement with the West Virginia Economic Justice Program of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). Friends provide advice to program staff, support program activities, and participate in program projects. This year, the Logan, WV staff led the construction of a home for two disabled women -- The House that Love Built. Charleston Friends volunteered to assist in the project and helped the community celebrate its completion. Charleston Friends serve on AFSC boards and committees, further strengthening the bond between institutional Quaker service and Friends meetings.

Nominations and finance are two functions we carry out as a committee of the whole, led by designated Meeting officers. The co-clerks accept nominations and propose a list to Meeting; carrying the process over for a month allows Friends with special talents to come forward, and gives Friends time to reflect on others who might be asked to serve. The treasurer proposes the budget and reports finances each month. We don't have much money, but we spend it carefully. Last year, three fifths of our expenditures were donations to support concerns in the broader community. Volunteer work of many Friends' hands keeps the administrative cost of operating the meeting to a minimum, allowing this corporate witness. We continue seeking to discern the right use of the endowment accumulated over the years in the form of contributions and donations of property.

### **Outreach to the Broader Community**

In addition to peace and social justice work described above, Charleston Friends reach out to the broader community in several ways, though with limited impact. We have a Web presence with our Web page (<http://charlestonwv.quaker.org/>), linked to SAYMA's site. During the past year, we pooled resources with other meetings in West Virginia to sponsor programs on West Virginia Public Radio. One Friend donated space in a newspaper ad campaign, which carried information on the meeting. We've continued to donate Friends Journal to a local library. We improved our sign's visibility.

We continue to support local social justice organizations and activities. Manna Meal (a soup kitchen operated by a local Episcopal church), meals at a men's shelter and women's shelter, work on the House that Love Built, and contributions to our host organization are examples.

One form of unplanned outreach has been our Bible study and book club groups. We have been delighted when non Friends, hearing about these events, have joined us.

### **How fares the Spirit in Charleston Friends Meeting?**

We are a small community of graying Friends seeking to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God. Through our worship, fellowship, and service, we feel the presence of the Spirit among us more frequently and more deeply.

*Approved at Meeting for Business 2 May 2010*

### **Chattanooga Friends Meeting**

Maturity is a characteristic of individuals, but it also applies to institutions. At the beginning of 2010, Chattanooga Meeting marked twenty-six years in its own meetinghouse, a period during which it has grown, yet remained remarkably centered in God's spirit, not by some happenstance but because its members and attenders regularly return so they will be nurtured within its warm environs.

This year our community has witnessed the growing maturity of our young Friends, many of whom have attended our First Day School all their lives. The older ones have been regular participants in SAYF, have themselves decided to attend worship once a month, and have volunteered to take over getting out our monthly newsletter, all things that redound to our fellowship's benefit and theirs. They have been models for younger children who attend and can look up to them. We all bask in a glow of pride when we see them mature this way.

As a community we have learned to deal with potential sources of conflict, listening to what everyone has to say, holding each other in the Light, and taking care to center our meetings in the Spirit that lessens conflict.

Struggling with our growth in numbers, both in First Day School and the meeting itself, we have been deep in discussion of expanding our meetinghouse. We have not reached a resolution in this process, but, having undertaking surveys of what goals members and attenders seek, we are moving on to major questions of financing so that we can see our way forward together. Maybe by next year. . . .

Growing older does not solve all problems—indeed, old age can be restrictive and even paralyzing—but it allows a perspective that we have learned to value and a long view that offers experiences to evaluate new approaches. We hope to move forward in this fashion.

### **Columbia Friends Meeting**

Columbia Friends Meeting was energized by the involvement of several new families with young children. We noticed that Young Friends are shaping the vision for our meeting. After helping with Food Not Bombs for the first time one new young friend commented that this is “what it’s supposed to be”. Two new attenders committed to serving the meeting, one as treasurer and one as clerk of First Day School. Because of the increased number of Young Friends we have divided our First Day Program into two groups. We find it a challenge to provide programs for the older group which ranges in age from six to 16.

The meeting continues to support Harvest Hope with regular donations of food and personal care items. First Day School went to their site to volunteer and organized a food drive for Souper Bowl of Sharing. One older friend volunteers at Harvest Hope weekly.

The meeting along with Harmony School sponsored and planned a International Peace Day celebration in September. Young Friends made origami cranes, t-shirts and buttons, collected donations for Harvest Hope. On one First Day a month FDS discusses environmental issues including issues raised by Quaker Earthcare Witness. On Earth Day an older friend organized a visit to State House for Young Friends. First Day also participated in the River Sweep on the Congaree in September.

We considered moving our meeting location to the Presbyterian Student Association. At a special called meeting we decided to continue meeting at Harmony School because parents of young friends felt it was safer space for young children. In the process of considering the move, we decided to obtain liability insurance. We continue to consider finding a more permanent home in the community. Even though we seem to be growing, a challenge we face is the relatively small size of our group. We struggle to fill clerk and committee positions. We feel this is important consideration in our searching for property or a building.

To help familiarize our new attenders with wider Quaker organizations, we had a second hour discussion on the Quaker alphabet. One of our Friends is a rep to FWCC and encouraged us to donate to help victims of typhoon in Philippines. Another friend is involved with facilitating Quaker Quest at meeting around the country. As a second hour discussion she shared circle activity with us in which we considered our personal beliefs about Quakerism. Another friend attended Peace Church Conference in Philadelphia in February. In February several friends attended the 20th anniversary gathering of Palmetto Friends Gathering in Myrtle Beach.

One of our college aged friends attended the FCNL planning meeting in Washington as the rep from SAYMA. When he returned he led a second hour discussion on how we can interact with our representatives in congress. He encouraged a leading of another friend to organize a program from FCNL on immigration reform called Breaking Bread, Breaking Barriers. The event was held January 15, 2010 but much planning occurred 2009. 200 people from the Columbia area attended the event.

We do not have a Peace and Social Concerns committee but we have had second hour discussion to consider issues. In the process we sent minute of support of Climate Minute proposed by Britain Yearly Meeting. Also we sent letter to President Obama about the peace process in Middle East.

Four friends visit regularly at Edgefield FCI as part of PVS. Some friends continue to participate in Women in Black protest of the wars at the State House on Wednesday. We held a Hiroshima/Nagasaki Day vigil on August 9 at Rutledge Chapel at USC.

Worship is a very important part of our meeting with 20 to 30 people in attendance. The silence is rich and we wish for more spirit-led vocal ministry. We try to hold our Meetings for Business in a worshipful way. We had several Worship Sharing meetings in the evening so friend who cannot come to morning meetings could participate. On Easter we held meeting for worship outside.

We continue to nurture our sense of community. We held socials during summer including swimming at friends' home and an outing at the lake. One older Friend moved out of state to live with his daughter. We try to stay in touch with him by sending greeting on his birthday and on holidays.

When the finance committee met at the end of the year to prepare the budget, they suggested that we consider our spending as a statement of our beliefs. We budgeted for giving to community organizations and wider Quaker organizations even though we are not sure we will be able to give that amount we allocated. Our treasurer advised us that for several months our spending exceeded our giving. This continues to be a challenge for the meeting.

In summary, as a new member noted the silence of worship gives us opportunity to center and become clear and the second hour programs primes us for social action. Our social time between helps strengthen our sense of community and commitment.

### **Cookeville Monthly Meeting**

It's been a quiet year among Cookeville Quakers. We are in recession, or 'period of rest,' attendance-wise, but feel that quality of experience matters more than numbers at meetings. Our lack of children and young adults is a concern. We have promoted awareness of our meeting with advertisements in the local newspaper and the TTU student newspaper. We have a website and a Facebook presence with our Friends of Peace group. We had a table at the annual TTU President's Picnic, where we handed out origami peace doves and introduced our Meeting. Some of the students we talked to didn't know Quakers still existed, so we had an opportunity to educate them.

As outreach, we try as individuals with meeting support to influence the local public consciousness, often taking activist positions outside community norms. The meeting lends support to counter-recruitment efforts (with Veterans for Peace) at the local high schools. The courthouse peace vigil, which we also supported with Veterans for Peace, is currently on hold pending renewed germination and redefinition. We unsuccessfully attempted to facilitate the release from a California prison of Boyd Hall, son of Hazel Hall (a deceased meeting stalwart).

Many of us bring environmental/sustainability concerns to meeting and find them supported there. We painted a rain barrel for the first Cookeville rain barrel festival in April.

We facilitate meeting inreach by providing a safe and affirming environment for us to be and express ourselves. We welcome everybody and are supportive of those of us stressed in some manner, as with medical issues. During second hour, we are still studying the Gospel of Thomas and often consider big spiritual questions such



as the meaning and importance of belief in God. We try to maintain ecumenical ties, occasionally participating in services at other churches, especially at Christmas. Our annual retreat in September was again well attended and helped bond us as a meeting.

In our spiritual light, we try to remain humble and tolerant, and focus on positive thoughts and energy.

### **Crossville Friends Meeting**

Our small Meeting is struggling to maintain itself. During 2009 we concentrated on outreach activities in an attempt to bring new people into our Meeting. We held two publicly advertised open houses in February and October with no results. We also held two public events that were advertised in our local newspaper. The first event was a showing of the film "Rethink Afghanistan" in November which drew a small audience. The second event was a "Chocolate Extravaganza" in December which drew some 25 people. We have continued our website at [www.crossvillefriends.org](http://www.crossvillefriends.org) in an effort to expand awareness of our Meeting. We have also contributed several columns about our Meeting and Quakerism to the religion section of the Crossville newspaper. During the year we had six visitors to our Meeting for Worship but none have remained. We continue to search for ways to attract new people to our Meeting.

Our Meeting suffered several deaths this year. We lost long-time member Phillip Thomforde on Feb. 23, 2010. Phil was a beloved member of our Meeting and will be greatly missed. We held a memorial service for Phil on Feb. 28, 2010. We also lost Margaret Purchase who has been in a nursing home for several years. We also lost Charlie Lord, a good friend of our Meeting and an occasional attender. We were also saddened by the loss of Susan Stark's mother.

Members of our Meeting continue to be involved in various ministries in our community ranging from environmental education to peace work focusing on Afghanistan and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We continue to have a discussion hour after Meeting for Worship. In 2009 we used readings from Jessamyn West's "Quaker Reader" that helped to increase our understanding of Quaker history and ideas. We continue to hold a potluck dinner after Meeting for Business each month. We held our annual retreat over the Easter weekend at Cumberland Mountain State Park and we hosted a meeting of 30 SAYMA representatives at our Meetinghouse on Sept. 12. Our Meeting is small but we are determined to continue our Quaker witness here in Crossville.

### **Greenville Monthly Meeting**

Greenville Monthly meeting continues to meet at the chapel on the Furman campus weekly with a typical attendance of 5-10. There have not been any births, deaths, or marriages within the meeting; however the loss of loved ones has been keenly felt by certain ones among us.

During 2009 the mid-monthly weekday evening meeting attendance dwindled and discontinued. Friends in Clinton have initiated a small informal worship group once a month. An informal group of men have been having coffee and discussions before weekly worship.

First Day School continues to grow. The group of 6 regularly attending children, ages 4 to 9, now convenes the first and last First Days of each month. Interest grows in wider meeting participation with "helpers" in First Day school from among meeting members. In the summertime, First Day school focused on gathering, creating and sending items to a small Nepalese deaf children's community. In the fall, several of the families were able to go

apple-picking together. The families also stay in regular contact with each other and get together for play-dates when they can.

In February we held a second-hour session with Marcus Bingenheimer and Sujung Kim, two scholars of Buddhism with extensive experience in meditation. Marcus is a professor at a Buddhist college in Taiwan; Sujung is a doctoral candidate in Buddhist studies. The discussion was wide-ranging and thought-provoking.

In the spring, we hosted the SAYMA Ministry and Nurture committee.

Attendance at Palmetto Friends Gathering at Myrtle Beach by many was very strengthening for our meeting—especially for the children.

Financial and spiritual support was given to a Furman student, Jacob Fraher, who is doing extraordinary work with children in the slums of Nairobi. He gave a second-hour talk on his work there. We also continue to focus our financial support to organizations in which meeting members are involved.

Preparations were made to develop and launch a website, in order to facilitate communications among GMM members and attenders, and make GMM more visible and accessible to the local/regional community. This will augment the personal Quaker presence each of us brings to our lives among co-workers, friends, and strangers too.

### **Huntsville Area Friends Meeting**

The Huntsville Area Friends Meeting (HAFM) has provided spiritual community in the manner of Friends over the past year to approximately 10 -15 persons who have been regular attenders/members, plus several other persons who have worshiped with us intermittently. This report includes the remainder of the calendar year 2009 and picks up where our previous State of the Meeting Report ended last year. Future State of the Meeting Reports will reflect full calendar years.

HAFM continued to meet in our room at the Multicultural Center with gratitude for the space but varying degrees of satisfaction with the auditory accompaniment resulting from other congregations that incorporate electrically amplified music and vocal worship in their services which coincide with HAFM's Meeting for Worship. HAFM's use of 'white noise' to offset the sounds of the other churches also added to the level of distraction for some Friends. Friends continued to search for potential meeting sites. While this will be reported in next year's State of the Meeting Report, we are now meeting in a more accommodating place.

To increase the vitality of the meeting, HAFM offered varying second hour topics, worship sharing, and the occasional Meeting for Eating. We continued our study of Marsha Holliday's *Exploring Quakerism: A Study Guide*. The 15 chapters in Holliday's text are being supplemented by other Friends' publications and the "meetings for learning" enriched by the participants' experiences.

Although some regular attenders became more intermittent in their attendance, two new families with children moved to the area and began meeting with us. The resumption of a First Day School in the fall to meet at least once a month was very exciting, and the enthusiasm of the new attenders brought a renewed sense of community with one another. With new ideas, new energy, a permanent recording clerk, new treasurer, and more volunteers to help with the responsibilities of our meeting space, the sense of community and vitality

quicken. Near the end of the year we were rejoined by two dear individuals and their family who have been meeting with us as often as they can, and other visitors began joining us more frequently.

Finding HAFM continues to be problematic for newcomers to the area. To increase our visibility, HAFM developed a website which is maintained by the recording clerk. A committee has been formed to work on content and safe posting practices.

In August, Friends led the Unitarian Universalists' worship service. One of our members was the featured guest speaker. Other Friends shared pertinent readings. Spirit moved very clearly. There was a sense of a gathered meeting with our Unitarian friends.

Friends gathered to build community and enjoy potluck in November, inviting past attendees, partners, spouses, and friends to join us. It was a wonderful time and HAFM experienced the delight and joy that comes from getting to know each other and our families outside of our weekly worship and second hour time together.

Other highlights from our Meeting activities include:

- Participating in SAYMA and wider Friends' gatherings, e.g., Yearly Meeting, representatives' meetings, and meetings of the SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee.
- Outreach by the M&N committee to send cards/phone to members who are ill, experiencing difficult times, or who have been unable to attend meeting on a regular basis.
- Increasing HAFM's ongoing financial support of local charitable organizations to include (1) First Stop, an Interfaith Mission Service program benefiting homeless persons; (2) the Community Free Clinic, a volunteer-staffed chronic and acute care clinic for patients who have no health insurance of any kind; and (3) Crisis Services of North Alabama, a multi-service agency for individuals and families in crisis comprised of seven major programs, including comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence and HelpLine, providing information and referrals to social services, government agencies and volunteer opportunities.
- Continued support of wider Quaker organizations
- Working with the broader community's Interfaith Poverty and Policy Group
- Continuing to learn more about individual and group practices that emphasize healthy Earth-care

*Report developed by Susan Phelan, Clerk, HAFM, May 2010,  
(Presented and approved at the May 2010 meeting for worship with attention to business)*

### **Oxford Friends Meeting**

This has been a third year of adversity for the Oxford Friends Meeting. We have been very grateful for the support of our caring meeting, Memphis Friends Meeting.

We are grateful to those members and attenders who have continued to support the meeting.

**Leadership.** The meeting has continued to have only two offices, clerk and treasurer. The current co-clerks are Cora Jordan and Pam Coe. Pam Coe is treasurer with Cora Jordan as co-signer on the bank account. Because attendance has been so low this year, the work that would normally be carried out by committees has easily been assumed by Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business.

Decline in numbers. Our membership has not increased over the year, and we continue to have sporadic attenders, most of whom attend no more than once or twice a year. A faithful few have continued to be present almost every Sunday, and a member who lives at a considerable distance still manages to attend at least once a month. Grief over the deaths and shock at so many deaths in 2007 continue to inhibit some from attending.

Children's meeting has ceased to function, since only two children have attended over the year and they chose to remain with the silent meeting for worship.

Starkville monthly meeting. Since Starkville preparatory meeting became a monthly meeting in December 2008, we have remained in close contact with them, and Pam Coe has continued to attend the Starkville meeting frequently.

Participation in the community. We remain active in Interfaith Compassion Ministry (ICM), with three volunteers, one of them a member of the ICM board. All the volunteers also support ICM financially. We have continued to support AMOS financially.

Individuals in the meeting have continued to maintain a ministry for a death row inmate at the Mississippi state penitentiary. The meeting as a whole stands firm in opposition to the death penalty.

*Submitted by Pam Coe and Cora Jordan, co-clerks  
March 27, 2010*

### **Memphis Friends Meeting**

Five year old Friend Walker recently said to his parents, "The meeting house feels like our second home." Home...a place where we can be comfortable, where we can be ourselves, where we can prepare ourselves and refresh ourselves to step out into the world to offer our gifts. And sometimes...a burden. But another Friend said it well: We have been in the midst of bounty, and there is stress in dealing with this bounty. At times when the responsibilities seem many and the business mundane, we can look with the eyes of a child, the eyes Jesus would have us look through, and find a perspective that fills us with awe.

We are awed at the gifts the building itself enables and how much it has been used. One Friend reported that someone who just drives by our meeting house told her that she noted our presence as a good thing. Two part-time mental health practices, classes offered by The Memphis School for Servant Leadership, retreats and meetings of our own group and of wider Quaker organizations, Quaker guests and sojourners, and four spiritual nurture groups gently led by Pat Jessup throughout the year have enriched us...gifts flow back and forth in surprising ways. Yard work, repairs and renovations give us informal opportunity to brush shoulders with neighbors walking to and from the local grocery and post office.

The spirit of our meeting has shown brightly in being able to support many individual leadings this year –a Friend's leading to build and fly a giant peace dove in our neighborhood and in a Christmas parade; a Friend's desire to provide a good classroom library to her inner city high school students and to partner with her students in hosting a day of 'traditional games' in their community; a Friend's leading to donate canned goods and financial aid to a neighborhood food pantry; a Friend's concern for low income retirees at a local residence to provide them shopping carts and walkers; a Friend's leading to nourish her gardening enthusiasm by traveling to Philadelphia's gardening mecca via Pendle Hill; a Friend's desire to lead and involve other Friends at this year's Trinity Conference on Building an Ethical Economy; a Friend's request to sojourn in the meeting house

for a few months in which, like a ‘resident Friend,’ he lent his time, talents and counsel. One Friend reminded us that in our daily lives the meeting really does send us out to “do things.” It is a richness that we don’t always capture in our minutes or our newsletters. That we can be nourished together to step out as individuals has great value to us. Another Friend writes that “what the children have brought to us through First Day school - having their own place to grow and create - has been magical to me.”

Care and nurture of each other during illness, injury, and life’s challenges continues to knit us together. We are grateful when we can give and receive good support. There have been some very inspiring moments this year as several members recover from surgeries and as one family copes with great challenges resulting from an accident. Watching their various communities respond to their needs, watching them cope with each change, knowing that they and we had extended community to call on when Patrick and Laura were in Atlanta for rehabilitation, being there for each other during the long haul, we are deeply affected. And community joys!!—to see some old members return, new attenders expressing excitement...to see the meeting room sometimes swell with visitors, to welcome new babies (Darah Moreland and Ansel Kort-Packard), to take a marriage under our care (Shelley Durfee and Willie Chandler), to receive a new member (Terese Buscher)—it does our hearts good.

One Friend has noticed us growing in patience to put things off, to wait, to allow time which feels loving, patient and fruitful. She says we are learning to slow down and that she is coming along in trusting the community to treat ideas with tenderness and to discern process that will result in a better outcome. It is good to be developing this fruit of the Spirit.

*Respectfully submitted by Susan Penn, Recording Clerk  
Approved at Fourth Month Business Meeting  
Seasoned during Second Month Business Meeting and Third Month Meeting for Learning*

### **Nashville Monthly Meeting**

First day Worship has an average of 45 adults and children

**MONTHLY MEETING:** On Third First day we have a semi-programmed Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business attended by 27 or more members and attenders. We begin with worship at 10:00; read the Query for the month at 10:40 and give approximately 20 minutes for worship sharing on the Query. In the remaining hour we deal with concerns and reports by committee clerks. The Meeting agrees that the life of the community has been improved by the increased involvement in the business of our monthly meeting and by our efforts to do business in a more worshipful manner.

**MINISTRY & COUNSEL:** The committee has performed many tasks for nurturing the Spirit of our community as indicated below:

1. Significant time has gone into Clearness and Support committees for members and attendees. Transfer of memberships and wedding clearness added more opportunities to experience growth of our community.
2. The Nominating Committee function is performed in a friendly and timely manner with good discernment of our individual gifts. We continue to seek newer folks to take leadership. Friends are asked to continue their leadings to our discernment efforts, for this to be a meeting-wide process led by M&C.

3. The fall retreat at Bethany Hills Center was well-planned and appreciated by the 32 F/friends that participated. The band for folk dancing was a big hit plus we learned crafts and shared different ways to practice meditation.
4. Our Regional Gathering (04/17/10) about the FGC Quaker Quest Project was led by Gita Larson who was supported and assisted by Rose Marie Cipryk. Fifteen Friends attended.
5. The worship group that meets in Murfreesboro has informed Nashville Friends that they do not want any listing with SAYMA. They will keep their informal contact with our Meeting. The group has only two regular attenders.
6. A new worship group of three families has started this spring in Columbia, TN. Committee members have joined them in worship. They ask to be under the care of Nashville Friends Meeting

**HOUSE & GROUNDS:** Significant resources have been provided to bring our heating and cooling system and windows to a safe and energy-efficient state. The building loans for the Meeting House will be paid off this spring. The next activity is planning for a functional and safe kitchen.

**FINANCE:** The Committee and Treasurer have worked hard to formulate a way for our Monthly Meeting financial report to be presented clearly on one page. The committee prepared the budget for calendar year 2010. This year we distribute our Quaker-Giving for 2009 from the remaining balance at the end of year. Our General Fund accounts started the year with zero balance. There is a contingency fund account that is not zeroed out each year, in case Friends think we are being unduly optimistic.

**PEACE & SOCIAL CONCERNS:** The Monthly Meeting has been supportive of individually-led concerns.

The committee as a whole did not function this year. The Alternative to Violence Project [AVP] is a subcommittee. Members of our Meeting who trained at national meeting have now been leading training sessions in the Nashville community.

**EDUCATION:** High school Young Friends have continued with van trips to SAYF retreats in smaller numbers (3-6) than in former years. Our Children's Program for middle school and primary age Friends is growing again. Their latest project was a fund raiser for Haiti Earthquake recovery. Adult Education programs in Second Hour are focused on Pendel Hill pamphlets, and well attended. We have had an active, year-long Spiritual Foundation Group for the third year in a row. This work has spawned interest in further spiritual study and worship-sharing groups, which are just beginning to form.

Nashville census calculation for 2009 is:

Members: 31 (22 Active)

Attenders: 90

Attenders under 18: 15

Babies born: none

Transfer members: 2, David Myers, Michelle McAtee

Transferred members out: none

Memorial of a member: 1, Betty Johnson

*State of meeting report from the M&C committee Caroline Kiev, Clerk and Dick Houghton, M.M. Clerk*

### **Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting**

Meeting for Worship continues to be our touchstone, with deep and meaningful periods of stillness, which we experience as gathered silence. Verbal ministry often carries the silence further rather than breaking the silence. It is our tradition to devote a significant period following meeting for worship to messages that ‘did not rise to the level of ministry.’ We agree that this period of sharing further deepens our experience of worship. Also influencing our spiritual lives are our Spiritual Friendship Circles, which bring Meeting members and attenders together in groups each month, usually in one another’s homes. An “Experiment with Light” group, which began last year to meet twice a month at the meetinghouse, continues to grow in numbers. A meeting for worship followed by a festive potluck provided an opportunity for worship and fellowship on Christmas Day.

The Meeting continued to discern how to handle conflict. An afternoon retreat in November modeled a Friendly way to approach serious disagreement, and we also explored the concept of ‘positive eldering’ as a way to nurture individuals’ gifts within the meeting. What was significant about the retreat was not that we reached resolutions, but that we spoke the truth and that we saw the need to provide a safe place for expressing conflict and for interacting with one another. We continue to ask where the balance is between nurturing a fully functioning community and maintaining confidentiality when problems arise. We are also intentionally seeking the sense of the meeting around issues of membership and the clearness process, and we are seeking appropriate ways to reach out to once-active members and attenders who have not recently attended.

Our forums after Meeting for Worship have covered a wide range of topics. Quakerism 101 was offered in an experimental format, using email to clarify what topics we will discuss. We have made progress in deepening our understanding of Quaker process and nourishing the spiritual lives of members and attenders. We continue to ask how best to transmit Quaker history and tradition both to long term Friends and attenders.

Meeting for Business thrives on consistently good attendance (20-30). We strive toward the best means to arrive at a sense of the Meeting and on how to deepen the worshipful atmosphere.

The first growing season of our front-yard garden was an aesthetic success and was mildly productive of food. The Building and Grounds committee planned and executed the addition of a deck, which reaches out toward the river and will provide a pleasant place for conversation and meditation in the warm months. It overlooks the planned spot for a memory garden, which we are filling with perennials.

The Archivist has taken on the difficult task of updating and clarifying the Meeting's list of members. He has contacted many Friends whose long absence from the meeting, and in some cases from the region, has left us without a clear idea of their wishes in relation to the meeting. The archives give us a much better idea of our membership roll now that the process is nearly complete. The Meeting is currently engaged in discerning how we designate young Friends in terms of membership. We are working to organize the minutes from our Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business electronically to improve our ability to look up past issues.

Through our Peace and Social Concerns Committee, we partner with Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministry, which we have supported for years by responding to requests for help from Swannanoa Valley residents that come through the Buncombe County 211 emergency call network. Each third First Day, we hold a ‘Lobbying Lunch’ where, after a simple meal of soup and bread we write to our elected representatives on current legislation, often using FCNL alerts as our prompts. Since shifting to a simple meal instead of a full luncheon,

Friends are being urged to contribute money to an organization working to relieve hunger. We continue to work on repealing the death penalty in North Carolina, and we continue to support a local committee seeking peace with justice in the Middle East.

Several of our members were asked to lead discussions on Peace and Justice at an ecumenical Christian youth camp last summer. Last fall we tried to sponsor a Peace Essay contest in Swannanoa Valley schools, but were unable to obtain the school administration's permission. We are considering taking on two new local concerns: how we might help local families harmed by harsh immigration policies, and how we might begin to build a relationship with a local African American congregation. This latter initiative was spurred by Donna McDaniel's forum on her book, *Fit for Freedom Not for Friendship*, which she co-authored with Vanessa Julye.

Our new Transportation and Visitation Committee supports the meeting community by coordinating the logistics of medical needs, including transportation to Asheville, helping older Friends get to Meeting, and visiting older or ill Friends unable to attend Meeting.

Attendance in our First Day School fluctuates between two and ten children, with an age range of 3 to 11. Three teachers collaborate in the teaching, with a focus on the testimonies (SPICE). One of the best moments of our First Day experience comes during the sharing period after worship when the children report on their First Day School activities. The children's presentations invariably bring spontaneous laughter and joy to the adults in the Meeting.

The Library Committee has been processing many books and Pendle Hill pamphlets donated to the Meeting Library. The Pendle Hill pamphlets are now completely organized and catalogued, helping readers become better versed in Quaker history and thought. We are purchasing books that are appropriate for newcomers to Quakerism.

Tony Bing was honored to be invited and to attend the 100-year anniversary of the Ramallah Friends Meetinghouse. Tony is on the Advisory Board of the Friends International Center in Ramallah, and he shared with the Meeting news and photographs of the gathering.

Ministry and Counsel has responded to requests for more silence before Meeting by proposing that we encourage Friends to enter the front door of the meetinghouse in a spirit of worship, using the back entrance into the kitchen for conversation and business before Meeting for Worship. We will continue to ask whether this arrangement is the best way to balance our friendly social interactions with respect for the need for silence before the Meeting for Worship. Ministry and Counsel is seeking ways to be more mindful of absent Friends and of the concerns of present Friends. We are engaged in continual discussions about Ministry and Counsel's workload, and we are considering the formation of a separate committee focused on pastoral care.

The Meeting welcomed several new members last year and has enjoyed the participation of several new attenders. We mourned the loss of David Brooks Arnold, who died suddenly in an accident on December 9. A memorial service was held at the Meetinghouse on December 19 in the midst of deep snow. Although severe weather limited accessibility, those who attended were grateful for the opportunity to be together with David's family and friends at the service for a time of grief, celebration, and healing.



We are mindful of all we have to be grateful for as a meeting. Our children are particularly inspiring to us. Our meetinghouse and grounds give us an opportunity for stewardship, and the beautiful setting serves as inspiration for our members and attenders. Our challenges help us grow in community, and our companionship gives us much delight.

### **West Knoxville Friends Meeting**

We feel the Spirit moving among us. We may be on the verge of new openings and new spiritually enriching experiences. Will we realize these Spiritual openings? Will we take the risk to follow the Spirit? Will we carefully discern as a community the path along which we are led?

### **Our Spiritual journey inward within our meeting community:**

“My experience has been that because we don’t have clergy we are more aware that we need to minister to each other.”

As our meeting ages, we are called to minister not only to each other’s spiritual and emotional needs, but also to our physical needs. As one of our active young Friends moved away, we are called to minister to young Friends among us and challenged to bring more young Friends into our monthly meeting community. We are thankful for our graduates, whom we recognized with gift certificates to FGC and care packages. We are thankful for the young adults who are actively participating in the life of our meeting. We feel the Spirit moving among us as we ebb and flow with age and youth. We joyously took under the care of our meeting a marriage in July.

Through Quaker Quest, we continue to share our spiritual journeys. We nurture each other as we sing together once a month and meet in smaller Friendly 8’s for supper in homes. We care for our meeting house and grounds through work days. We are blessed with a beautiful setting in the woods and the opportunity to host SAYF and others.

The meeting’s committees are the light of the meeting in many ways. We sponsored a workshop on committees last fall to nurture and support our committees.

We continue to struggle with the quality of our worship, individually and corporately. We also struggle with our occasional intolerance of one another and search for guidance to work openly through our differences in a loving, healthy way.

### **Our Spiritual journey outward into the neighborhood and beyond:**

A young adult became inspired to launch an Outreach Committee last summer. This committee has breathed new life into our concept of “outreach,” pushing us into cyberspace and opening up new opportunities. In November, a spontaneous idea emerged for our Meeting to Christmas Carol in the neighborhood. “A concrete example of how Spirit has moved in the community is that we chose to do Christmas Caroling. We may have thought about it before but this year it happened. There is definitely something moving in this community.”

An adjacent church’s excavation and encroachment on our property forced us to face the challenge of resolving the danger to safety and the harm to the woods behind our meeting house. We met for worshipful discernment. We received cooperation from the church administration and were able to reach a resolution. We felt the Spirit leading us as we struggled with this challenge.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee has continued to focus on alternatives to military enlistment. This effort started with one or two Spirit led Friends and has expanded into an inter-faith group, Knoxville Interfaith Committee on Conscience & War. KICCWar educates youth and parents about the truth in military recruitment, alternatives to military enlistment, conscientious objector status, and draft registration. The Knox County School system has sent a letter of introduction for KICCWar to present to high school principals to begin its work in area schools.

Beyond our nation's boundaries, we continue to actively support Compassionate Ministries Uganda and are helping to sponsor a young adult Friend's project there this year.

We have struggled to meet our financial obligations this past year. It seemed that there was no way we could raise the money needed to meet our spending plan as to wider Quaker and non-Quaker organizations. However, the money came. We are thankful.

We are hosting FWCC-SOA, Southeastern Region of Friends World Committee for Consultation of the Americas October 8-9, 2010. We are excited about this opportunity and challenge. We look forward to the enriching experience of getting to know Quakers from other yearly meetings and other Friends' traditions.

We struggle with how to teach "Quakerism" to newcomers and to ourselves. We continue to discern ways to participate as a faith community in activities within the broader community and the world.

## Attachment C: Committee Reports

- Archivist
- Ecological Concerns Network
- Ministry & Nurture Committee
- SAYF
- YAF (Young Adult Friends)

### Archivist

I have been thinning out our Yearly Meeting Archives. They don't have a permanent home right now, but they do have our Yearly Meeting minutes, newsletters and some correspondence. They take up three handy milk crates.

Because the archives need to be mobile I have removed monthly meeting newsletters and minutes that may have accumulated over the years. I am passing those back to the Monthly Meetings just in case they don't have copies in their files. Otherwise they can be recycled. The clerk and newsletter folks probably enjoy keeping up with monthly meeting news, but we will not be collecting or storing them.

Fortunately Guilford College has a wonderful historical collection and will archive Monthly Meeting minutes. I encourage Meetings to use this service if they aren't already doing so. Email them at [archives@guilford.edu](mailto:archives@guilford.edu) for more specific information. Though this is free, I am sure a donation for their service is appreciated. Both Guilford and Swarthmore hold copies of SAYMA's historical records.

I also encourage SAYMA committees that have collected their own minutes over the years to put those in our archives for future reference. We do have Faith and Practice work and Ministry and Nurture minutes from many years.

Hopefully a new archivist will step forward this year. A permanent, secure site for the records – possibly in a local meetinghouse would be wonderful.

*Kristi Estes, archivist*

### Ecological Concerns Network

The Ecological Concerns Network started this past year working on activism as a goal for its members and represented Meetings. The message is simple, get to know your government representatives and introduce yourself so they get to know you. While we often focus on global and national issues, much of what really makes change occurs at the local and State levels. We continue to encourage everyone to continue to get involved, know who to contact before issues arise and the best way to be in touch with them. Let your leaders know where you stand on issues by sending letters to the editor of your local publications. They, or their staff, read these as they take a pulse on the electorate.

In an effort to make communications more efficient throughout SAYMA, ECN continues to try to identify a contact person in each congregation that can funnel information out and receive information from about ecological concerns of these groups. Please try to identify this person in your group and make sure that ECN knows who it is.

An opportunity has arisen to enter into dialogue about the Global Change that is occurring. Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) is mobilizing this in their Consultation on Global Change. They are trying to record the responses to 6 queries that they have developed. They are hoping that this will result from discussion groups that come together to reflect on these:

1. How has global change affected our communities and ourselves?
2. What actions have we taken in response to global change as experienced in our area, to express our responsibilities towards all creation? In what ways have my own activities or those of my community contributed to positive or adverse local and global change?
3. How do changes around us affect our relationship with God? How does my relationship with God affect my responses to the changes around us? What role does faith have in my life and in the life of my community? In what ways do I and my Friends church or meeting community bear witness to our Testimonies in our daily lives?
4. What stories and experiences from past times of catastrophic happenings such as major droughts – perhaps from Scripture, perhaps the record of regional or local events – might inspire us to respond to the changes the world is facing today?
5. How can we bear witness to the abundance God offers us and testify to the world about ways in which justice, compassion, and peace may address significant disruption, stress, and tension?
6. How can we support one another in rekindling our love and respect for God's Creation in such a way that we are messengers of the transforming power of love and hope?

Please let ECN know if your meeting is willing to take up this discussion.

Starting this next year, ECN will enter into a discussion about the role of food, its production, distribution and consumption, and its effects on sustainability.

*Roy Taylor, co-clerk*

### **Ministry & Nurture Committee**

The following persons have served as members of SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee for 2009-2010: Ceal Wutka, Atlanta, Edie Patrick, Asheville, Jane Goldthwait, Celo, Judy Guerry, Huntsville, Kristi Estes, Oxford, Mary Kedl, West Knoxville, Michelle McBrayer, Berea, Nancy Whitt, Birmingham, and Thais Carr, Nashville.

M&N reports the following activities as areas of particular importance during this year:

- Joining with monthly meetings in Birmingham, Memphis, and Celo to experience shared worship and fellowship with Friends in those meetings, and to carry out our meetings, grateful for the hospitality Friends extended to us in their homes and meeting houses.

- Collecting queries from monthly meetings and sending out those queries throughout SAYMA for meetings' reflection and preparation for writing State of the Meeting Reports.
- Reflecting individually and together as a whole Committee on the State of the Meeting Reports, helping us to learn about Spirit at work in the life of meetings and worship groups, and lifting up themes included in those reports. Creating the second State of the Yearly Meeting Report for SAYMA, appreciating Friends' efforts to send their reports in a timely fashion. (Report attached)
- Giving support to Representatives meetings through sustained listening and holding the clerks' table in the Light.
- Seasoning queries for worship-sharing at yearly meeting, convening worship-sharing groups and extended worship sessions, as well as providing other supports during yearly meeting.
- Providing financial and spiritual support for Mark Wutka, Marilyn Sizer, and Thais Carr, and appreciating learning about their spiritual development through School of the Spirit (Mark and Thais) and Earlham School of Religion (Marilyn).
- Supporting Kristi Estes in her leading to join with others, including Mary Ann Downey, to plan retreats to strengthen the spiritual life of meetings within SAYMA.
- Revising the M&N Committee description in the SAYMA Handbook.

With the three monthly meetings named above, SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee has enjoyed intervisitation with 16 monthly meetings and four worship groups since we began having our meetings throughout SAYMA in fall, 2004. We are grateful to be visiting Friends in their home meetings. We welcome opportunities to be with Friends in the year to come.

*Gratefully,  
Judy Guerry, Clerk, SAYMA Ministry and Nurture Committee*

#### SAYMA State of the Yearly Meeting Report 2010

Year after year, one day at a time, we continue to be called to be a people. We gather, we listen, we share, we go out with faith that there is a Light in the world. Living and walking in that Light is our desire. To that end, the local Meetings that make up SAYMA shared with us their State of the Meeting reports. The creation of these reports provided an opportunity to reflect on how the Spirit fared among us and concretely how we as communities worked to be faithful over the last year. As the Yearly Meeting Ministry and Nurture Committee we raise some common threads, concerns, challenges and celebrations from these reports.

Friends are grounded in our community life. We find worship together rich – our touchstone. First days or mid-week, full of vocal ministry or deep in quiet we recognize the Spirit touching our lives. Our meeting spaces are both a blessing and a challenge. They attract seekers and provide opportunities to touch the wider community. For some finding appropriate space that is quiet, visible and inviting is difficult. Some Meetings find their space filled and need elbow-room. Discerning right use and care of our space brings us together. Some Meetings are still “glowing” in their new Meetinghouses while realizing the work we have to make all spaces “sacred.”

Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business are held with different formats and schedules, but Friends share a strong desire to be worshipful in their discernment and also to invite strong involvement. Committee work is often the vital link to caring for members and also to reaching outward through service. Clearness committees are a ministry we provide for each other. Another important spiritual opportunity is through religious education and spiritual sharing in small groups. Spiritual Friendship Circles, Friendly Eights, book

clubs, and Spiritual Foundation groups provide opportunities to share our personal spiritual lives. Adult forums or “second hours” give us a chance to learn about and discuss vital issues and religious questions. Quaker Quest and Quaker 101 help us explore our Quaker roots as well as our own personal understandings of the Spirit. These opportunities are bridges between worship-community and personal-community that help us to grow together in a deeper way.

Young Friends are scarce in some Meetings, but plentiful in the Life they give to a Meeting. First Day School, intergenerational activities, SAYF involvement and how the Young Friends return to share with the whole Meeting their energy and excitement really nourish us. Young Friends give us hope as they share their vision of Meeting as something vital in their lives. Some Meetings provide scholarships and work to maintain contact with college-age Friends. For some Meetings, growth by just a couple of families infuses new vitality and hope. Meeting tasks become lighter and potlucks are more festive. Friends also celebrate in concrete ways our older members. Friends provide transportation, worship opportunities at home, meals and visitation for elderly Members who may not be able to participate fully. We try to hold in community those who are less visible, yet in many cases have served and been a part of our Meetings for many decades.

Caring for each other in times of need often is the proving ground of real community. Personal crisis, end-of-life needs, family transitions, and rare emergencies knit us together as we extend ourselves in love. We celebrate heartily births, marriages and new members.

Friends find a multitude of opportunities for faithful ministry. We strongly support individual concerns and efforts outside of our Meetings and build extensive alliances with other faith and community groups. Many of these address local needs of hunger and physical need. Friends may provide and serve food or promote systemic changes to address poverty, racism, and family violence. Friends work to end the death penalty and also form relationships with prisoners. Meetings have supported individuals in their community service, as well as projects in Kenya, Burundi, El Salvador, and Uganda. Several Friends went to Haiti to provide direct emergency medical service. Some visibly celebrate together Peace Days, and work with FCNL and AFSC to support peace through justice.

Friends have had needs to look inward and examine issues facing us – Why is our Meeting shrinking and what can we do about it? How can we be more diverse and welcoming? How do we handle differences and conflicts openly and tenderly? How do we deepen the quality of our worship, especially vocal ministry? Where do we find the energy and leadership to do the work we’re called to do? How may we engage more Friends to serve on our committees? Meetings have found ways to address some of these questions directly. Though not always finding answers – they have deepened their corporate life by their willingness to work through such challenges. Friends have grown in patience and trust as they seek to walk in the Light together.

*Ministry and Nurture Committee  
June 2010*

The Ministry and Nurture Committee is organizing 3 retreats over the coming year.

Does your Monthly Meetings Ministry and Nurture Committee need some nurture? Do you have new people involved that would benefit from understanding our practice? Or do you have seasoned Friends who would like to share their experiences and would appreciate support? Here’s an opportunity:







## **2. Knoxville, TN**

### **W. Knoxville Meetinghouse**

**February 19-21, 2010**

|                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| # of Nurturing Committee Members | 10 |
| # of Steering Committee Members  | 6  |

We developed our calendar of retreats for the 2009 -2010 year. We looked at incidents that occurred during previous retreats trying to discern what we can learn from those incidents and what changes (if any) needed to be made. We conducted our business meetings and reflected on what is important to us about being a Quaker.

### **YAF (Young Adult Friends)**

SAYMA Business Meeting  
June 11th

Clerked by Casey Webber

Writing Clerk: Rachel Leeman-Munk

Attendees: Samuel Leeman-Munk, Jimmy Malone, Samuel Fisher, Autumn Edwards

Agenda:

Retreats

-how to make them happen.

-scheduling

YAF Worship Sharing

-querie

-leaders

Epistle

World Conference of Friends Presentation

1) Retreats

-Friends agreed that minutes from this and future YAF business meetings will be sent through the facebook YAF group using facebook's mail all option soknowledge of the points discussed can be given to those who did not attend.

-Friends discussed methods of broadcasting information about future retreats in order that they are more likely to be well-attended.

-Sending monthly updates and in the process keeping the YAF facebook page in service.

-Collecting and publishing lists of YAFs in each state/district.

-Sam Leeman-Munk has been made clerk of the pending communications committee designed to improve the communications amongst YAFs regarding retreats. Others are welcome to join. As soon as possible, this committee will be:

-Send a request for YAFs residency information for better organization and planning.

-A name pending YAF newsletter is being started by Casey Webber. He requests that YAFs send jokes and information about their lives to keep others in the YAF community updated. He will be responsible for this for this coming summer, but he will need another or multiple other YAFs to take over during the school year, as he

is beginning his senior year at Earlham as a triple major(!). Email Casey at [cswebber07@earlham.edu](mailto:cswebber07@earlham.edu) if willing to help with this fun responsibility.

-Casey Webber agreed to find a location and help organize a planning committee for the fall retreat. However, he emphasizes that the members of the planning committee must be those in the area where the retreat will take place, so he may not be a member of the actual planning committee.

## 2) YAF Worship Sharing

-Rachel Leeman-Munk will lead the YAF worship sharing. We determined that we would discuss possible queries during dinner. This worship sharing will take place in ANTC, the YAF dorm.

## 3) Epistles

-Friends agreed to discuss epistles during dinner.  
-Samuel Fisher will lead the epistle committee for 2010.

possible queries:

Is your way your own? If so, how? If not, why not?

What do you believe to be the role of guides in your spiritual path?

In order for you to know how to do something, you have to imagine it?

Something to know how to expand your options?

How important is envisioning your destination? And how does this help you figure out your way?

How can we become aware of the unimagined ways that we might take?

How have the paths you have taken influenced the future you want for yourself?

How has your Quaker experience influenced the path your life has taken and the path that is foreseeable for the future?

How has your inner light guided your way?

What is it that you want to be and what is your struggle in becoming that?

How has the inner light helped you on your way and helped you when your way crossed with others?

What is it that you must see in order for you to follow the way your spirit desires?

What is it that you as an individual must see or have seen that allows you to follow the way that the spirit desires?

What did you want to be 10 years ago? Who are you or who will you be in 10 years?

What is your intended way and what do you have yet to see in order to follow it?

What defines your spiritual path?

## 4) World Conference of Friends Presentation

-This group wishes to send a YAF to Kenya.

21-28th August 2012 (Kenya's office registration deadline this December)

We will need to let them know in early August

-Application requires a letter of support from meeting.

-Meeting: \$850 (Room & Board Included)

Transport: \$2000 (from Atlanta to Nairobi)

There is support from yearly meeting to help pay.

Check SAYMA website for details

[www.saltandlight.org](http://www.saltandlight.org)

Casey Webber agreed to add this information to the Newsletter.

-Kenya is Friends United Meeting, traditional Christian. Applicants should be aware of FUM's traditional Christian values.

Note for future meetings: Review putting aside some of our money as a Kenya scholarship.

## **Attachment D: Wider Quaker Organization Reports**

- American Friends Service Committee
- American Friends Service Committee—Southeastern Regional Office
- Friends Committee on National Legislation
- FLGBTQC (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Concerns)
- Friends General Conference
- Friends Peace Teams
- Right Sharing of World Resources
- William Penn House

### **American Friends Service Committee**

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Corporation met in Philadelphia November 6-7, 2009 at the recently-renovated and newly green Friends Center. Because of recession related reductions in AFSC programs, the meeting began in a subdued atmosphere. Many were grieving colleagues who had left AFSC employment and programs that the Service Committee laid down earlier in the year.

### **Business sessions**

Key items of business included a proposal to reduce the size of the AFSC Board (from its current 44 to 25-27 over three years), review of the budget, and a change in the Corporation meeting date from November to March. The most difficult of the business items was the Board size proposal. Some Friends were concerned because the proposal was only specific as to the size, not to the composition of the new Board. There seemed to be fears that non-Quaker ex-officio members would have too much influence, but the general atmosphere of politeness made it hard for a newbie like me to discern exactly what the problem was.

Both SAYMA representatives were in agreement that the Board was too large and that reduction in size, even lower than the number proposed would improve its functioning. I almost felt like shouting “O ye of little faith!” but I could not see how that would be helpful, as satisfying as an outburst might have been at that point.

The insights of rising clerk Paul Lacey, and the steady leadership of new clerk Arlene Kelly eventually resulted in a reasonable outcome: the Board size will be reduced (not as much as some of us would like) and a work group will be appointed to propose the specifics of Board composition.

The budget discussions, while painful, were informative and helped explain just how the AFSC came so abruptly into financial distress last year. The main causes were reliance on long term investments to provide a cushion against short term fluctuations in funding, and a sudden and steep decline in all of AFSC's donations and bequests. This decline appears to have been the result of the impact of the economic crisis on donors collectively, implying that potential donors were in the same boat as the organization: too dependent on an expectation of steady growth in the larger economy. While the Service Committee was not bankrupted by the reversal, it did have to move rapidly to reduce expenditures.

For an organization with total assets exceeding \$200 million in 2007, a loss of approximately 1/3 of its assets over two years through a combination of decline in value and excesses of expenditure over revenue was clearly not sustainable. Many of the remaining assets were committed (e.g., planned giving annuities, staff retirement),

and those available to support operations were devalued and illiquid. Accordingly, over the summer the Board reduced the size of the annual budget by approximately 40%, from \$48 million to \$29 million.

### **Presentations on AFSC programs**

Friday afternoon staff gave brief presentations highlighting the organization's surviving domestic and international programs. The presentations were overlaid with a sense of sadness because of the many staff who had been laid off or who voluntarily left in the summer and fall. In the United States, AFSC's work on behalf of migrants continues, as does its peace education efforts, particularly the Eyes Wide Open campaign and a newer educational project focusing on Afghanistan. Economic justice work, particularly in West Virginia, is another area where the Service Committee is increasing its impact with limited resources through coalition-building and creative communication.

International work goes on, albeit from fewer locations. Helping build bridges between hostile countries (such as North Korea and the United States) is a major agenda as is peace building within fragile nations such as Burundi. Community development as an alternative to violence and private militias is a focus of Latin American programs.

### **Changes in AFSC leadership**

After nine years as Clerk of the AFSC Board, Paul Lacey is retiring. Paul reflected at length on his tenure, which was, as he noted, bookended by the 2001 terrorist attacks and the recent economic meltdown. The emotions of the transition were apparent, for there is both a great deal of accomplishment to look back on as well as the uncertainty and challenges facing the downsized organization. This Friend hopes he will write up his experience for publication, possibly in *Friends Journal*.

Simultaneously, General Secretary Mary Ellen McNish announced that she would be leaving her post in March 2010. Among Mary Ellen's accomplishments are better integration of programs across the organization, consequent to the AFSC's first strategic planning process. She will also be remembered for visiting Iran at a time when the US administration was attempting to drum up support for military action against that country.

The Board has organized a search committee for a new General Secretary. Management of a Quaker nonprofit organization is difficult work; in these times, it is even harder. Friends are encouraged to identify those who might be suitable to undertake this ministry. As soon as a position description and recruitment announcement are available, we'll post them on SAYMA's Listserv.

Friends expressed appreciation to Paul and Mary Ellen for their tireless work on behalf of AFSC and what it stands for.

### **Moving forward**

Although I was not able to stay for the Board meeting on Sunday, there were several items on its agenda that may prove significant in the Service Committee's future growth. These include reports from consultants on fund-raising and external communications. The former proposes a number of steps that would make the AFSC look similar to other private philanthropic organizations. Friends will need to discern whether that is the right direction for the Service Committee, although that has been the drift for a number of years. The major emphasis in both reports is on the need for the AFSC to be clear on its mission and vision. That would not only help in raising money (to the extent necessary), but would also assist in decision making in difficult times.

The consultants' reports contained much that was useful. For example, the communication consultant identified the conflicting roles of neutral convener and partisan advocate. AFSC won praise for informative messaging, but criticism for messages that did not compel. Friends might not agree that having a “compelling” message is necessarily good, as the marketplace is crowded with false, misleading, and/or inflammatory but quite compelling messages these days. Another important point the consultant made was that the greatest threat to clear external communication is poor internal communication. While this seemed obvious, it would have been better to have had specific examples, as well as examples of what the consultant meant when characterizing AFSC’s activities as “random pockets of excellence.”

This Friend’s translation of the consultant’s message is less that communications are deficient, per se, but that the organization’s strategic planning and integration has not yet run to completion. One of the dangers an organization with a broad mission faces is the inability to decide what is *not* in its mission. It’s obviously impossible for the Service Committee to do everything every Friend might wish it to do, or everything its staff believe to be within its mission.

With the reduced resources, the need to identify a new General Secretary, and the practical requirement of focusing on what Friends are called to do in the world, the Board will have a busy year. We should hold the AFSC in the Light.

*Charles Schade  
Charleston, WV*

**American Friends Service Committee Corporation  
Interim Report  
May 26, 2010**

Since the Corporation meeting last November (see Attachment 1), there have been several developments affecting the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). These include the departure of General Secretary Mary Ellen McNish, the search for a new General Secretary, stabilization of the organization’s financial situation, and efforts to deal effectively with being a smaller, more focused entity.

For the present, the AFSC has an interim General Secretary, Dan Seeger, a seasoned Friend with over 30 years experience in the Service Committee’s management. Dan’s priorities for his period of stewardship are (1) sustaining staff morale, (2) affirming and strengthening the legacy of the recent past, (3) setting things to right, (4) fundraising, and (5) projecting AFSC values.

Many Friends were moved to lend spiritual and practical support to the people of Haiti after January’s earthquake. Although the Service Committee does not have a program in Haiti at present, the AFSC has been sending relief assistance through a partner organization, Handicap International, which is well established and respected in the country. AFSC received an enormous outpouring of generosity from about 2,000 donors in the first two days after the earthquake, enabling it to provide urgent relief supplies such as water containers and purification equipment and temporary shelter.

As part of its restructuring, the AFSC has begun planning to reduce the size of its board, as well as the Corporation on which I have served as a representative of SAYMA. I was asked to serve on a working group to

discern the future size and role of the Corporation. The working group is having conversations with yearly meetings as part of this process, gathering insights from Friends around the country through various means. SAYMA requested a workshop format, which I will be offering on Friday.

This fall there will be no Corporation meeting, as the Service Committee is moving that event to early spring for better coordination with the organization's fiscal year.

It has been a privilege to serve SAYMA and the AFSC as a Corporation member.

*Charles Schade  
Charleston, WV*

### **American Friends Service Committee—Southeastern Regional Office**

SERO works on issues related to youth, immigrants, social justice, economic justice, and peace building in ways that are flexible and responsive to changing community needs.

The AFSC office in Atlanta, GA, located at 189 Sams Street, Suite A, Decatur, GA, 30030, is the regional headquarters for the SERO. This office also hosts the Peace Building and Conflict Resolution program.

The Southeast Region includes 8 States, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Currently there are SERO programs with paid staff in 4 of those states, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Louisiana. The Funding for the Louisiana comes from a grant and can only be used in the Gulf Coast and it is currently funded for \$11 Million over the next 3 years.

The Area **Office of the Carolinas**, located in Greensboro, coordinates three main programs: the *NC Immigrant Rights Program*, *Carolinas Peace and Economic Justice Program*, and the *Friends Humanitarian Response Program* (in High Point, NC). These programs each attempt to find alternative solutions to social problems based on the Quaker belief in the worth of every person and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice. The **High Point** office of the American Friends Service Committee runs the *Friends Humanitarian Response Program* (FHRP, formerly EMAP), which provides material assistance to those in need. Much of the support comes from local Friends Meetings that provide the material that is distributed.

**Miami** - The *American Friends Immigrant Services Program's* (AFIS) primary focus is to strengthen understanding and respect among cultures, as well as increase awareness of migration and the rights of immigrants. Our programs aim to provide direct immigration representation and assistance for refugees and immigrants. *Immigration Legal Services*: The Legal Services Program provides legal assistance, consultations, and referrals for clients regarding immigration matters. The program works in collaboration with other legal services clinics to provide the best and most comprehensive legal assistance for immigrants. *Community Advocacy* : A large part of the AFIS program deals with human rights and community organization. The Community Social Advocacy Program works to secure the rights of immigrants in South Florida through advocacy and political action for a positive legal environment. After the granting of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Haitians that are in the country illegally, the Miami office has been working with and advising Haitians in all of south Florida, from Miami, to Fort Myers to Immokolee about their options.

The **New Orleans Peace & Economic Justice Project** works closely with residents of the 7th Ward and the Desire /Florida neighborhood in the 9th Ward to fight for peaceful neighborhoods with economic security. Their

Peace Building & Conflict Resolution Project includes a campaign to counter military recruitment among high school youth, training in community organizing and conflict resolution using a human rights frame, community action and advocacy, and an annual Alternative Jobs Fair. They work with others groups in the city to re-build a peace movement, and also sponsor peace education talks and film screenings. The *Economic Justice Project* partners with other worker rights organizations in the fight for a living wage, including the campaign to pass a 'First Source Policy' at the New Orleans City Council. They are building the fight for food access and food security by assisting in the campaign to reopen Circle Food Store, the only Black owned supermarket in New Orleans, located in the heart of the 7th Ward.

The **Atlanta Peace Building Program** works with local activists, students, schools, veteran groups, and the faith community for truth in military recruitment and to promote non-military post high school options in the region. They seek to educate parents, schools, and young people about what options and alternatives to the military exist. The aim is to change the overall culture of militarism. This work is rooted in the Quaker belief of "that of God in every person" and the AFSC's historical commitment to peace and conscientious objection. They recently worked with the ACLU of Georgia and several Georgia legislators to create legislation that urges the creation of safeguards against abusive, dishonest, and illegal military recruitment practices. Through the Student Career Alternatives Program (SCAP), free career counseling is provided at several Atlanta area High Schools on a monthly basis.

**SERO Contact Information:**

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*Submitted by Peter Furst, SAYMA Representative to SERO*

**Friends Committee on National Legislation**

Your three SAYMA Representatives and appointed members of the General Committee of FCNL attended the annual meeting of FCNL in November 2009. We would like to share with you some of the highlights, and some subsequent developments.

As you know, Executive Secretary Joe Volk is retiring and a search process is nearing completion. Joe has been a strong and inspirational leader through difficult times, and we thank Joe for his service and look forward to meeting a new Executive Secretary this fall.

Two guest speakers at the annual meeting were of particular interest:

Sayyid M. Syeed, representing the Islamic Society of North America, shared the journey of Muslims in America during the last three decades, and described his work building alliances with Christians and Jews. In response to his address, an Epistle was drafted and approved (full Epistle attached), which concludes with the following points:

Accordingly, FCNL:

- Commits to continue seeking out and engaging with American Muslim secular and religious organizations on issues of mutual concern.



- Encourages other Quaker organizations, meetings, churches, and individuals to consider similar bridge-building for fellowship, joint service, and advocacy work as they discern openings.
- Invites Quaker organizations to share their past and evolving experiences and lessons learned with other Quaker organizations, and learn from them and our non-Quaker counterparts.

Joshua DuBois, head of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, spoke of how he and FCNL both work at the intersection of faith and public policy in Washington. He explained that the “real change agents” are the people at the grass roots. Not coincidentally, this was the theme of the meeting: citizens at the local level taking progressive steps of engagement with their members of Congress.

Friends are reminded that all of us in the grass roots need to shoulder a greater role in carrying out FCNL’s lobbying work. The most effective lobbyist is an informed constituent, and FCNL can provide information on both the issues and effective lobbying techniques. So, make a commitment for yourself and your monthly meeting to write those letters, make those phone calls, visit your Member of Congress and develop the long-term relationships that make change happen.

Finally, the financial situation at FCNL continues to be very serious: contributions have actually remained fairly constant and markets have rebounded, but the year-long market downturn has meant that reserves are depleted and the organization continues to operate with a too-small staff, at a time when Congress and the White House are actually capable of hearing what FCNL has to say. In order to rebuild, FCNL has an ambitious goal of raising 9 million dollars over the next three years. Every individual Quaker, every monthly meeting, and SAYMA as a whole can be a part of that. We urge all Friends and Quaker bodies to expand donations to FCNL as much as possible. FCNL cannot do its work without these contributions.

Please see FCNL’s 2009 program report, attached below.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Jane Hiles, Birmingham, njhiles@samford.edu*  
*Kelly Schoolmeester, Columbia, jetgolfer@gmail.com*  
*Charlie Wilton, Berea, cwilton@gmail.com*

**To Friends Everywhere**  
**From the Friends Committee on National Legislation**  
**2009 Program Report**

Our country’s house of democracy is falling down and requires renovation. Many people might just walk away. We at the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) instead ask the question: How is this problem an opportunity for us to practice hope, to see what love can do to mend a broken world?

In 2009 a new administration and Congress took office and presented FCNL and our supporters with opportunities that we had not seen in decades to advance federal policy toward the world we seek. These opportunities were multiplied in part because, in addition to newly elected officials, we also saw a new consensus emerging across party lines to take action to rid the world of nuclear weapons, to work to prevent wars before they broken out, and to address pressing issues such as health care and greenhouse gas pollution.

One year later that early hope has been tempered by the bitter debates and perception of gridlock in Congress. The potential for change still exists, but the dashed hopes for fast action creates a new danger: many may become alienated from lobbying work because change has not come fast enough or has come at the expense of too much compromise. We should exercise the courage of our convictions with persistence. That will pay off.

Only steady lobbying by a strong community on issues they care about will rebuild our house of democracy. FCNL has the passion and the tools to help people engage their peers and policymakers. Working together, we can continue to make that persistent lobbying a reality.

Here is some of what the FCNL community around the United States has done this year. Please also check out our website ([www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org)) for more details.

**Preventing War:** When FCNL began its [Peaceful Prevention of Deadly Conflict \(PPDC\) program](#) in 2002 with the goal of shifting U.S. policy away from military reaction and toward effective prevention of violent conflict, we knew we were beginning a long-term effort. The initial work was often lonely and yielded few tangible results. Today, seven years and hundreds of lobby visits later, FCNL's willingness to invest in an idea before it was popular and our ability to work where others were not has paid off. In part as a result of FCNL's work, policymakers in Congress, the Pentagon, the State Department, and the White House have begun asking for other tools to address war.

**Advancing a World Free of Nuclear Weapons:** In the spring of 2009 Barack Obama became the first U.S. president to declare that the United States will seek peace and security in "a world without nuclear weapons." FCNL has been working since the early 1950s to build congressional support for nuclear disarmament. Our work has helped create a climate where elected officials and opinion leaders can speak out for nuclear nonproliferation. We're hard at work on Senate ratification of a follow-on agreement to the START nuclear weapons reduction treaty and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

**Reminding Congress and the Country that War Is Not the Answer in Afghanistan:** FCNL's experience leading the congressional effort to ban permanent U.S. military bases in Iraq helped persuade Congress to demand a fundamental change in policy. We took a similar approach this year, when FCNL lobbied for a ban on permanent U.S. military bases in Afghanistan. Congress approved this legislation in May 2009. Even as the president escalated the war in Afghanistan in the fall of 2009, FCNL worked with congressional offices to build support for an alternative U.S policy in Afghanistan.

**Acting on Global Warming:** Throughout the year, FCNL built coalitions to improve weak legislation in Congress and worked with senators to advance an alternative bill that would be more effective. In December, bipartisan legislation was introduced that would put a price on carbon emissions, would refund the majority of pollution revenues to consumers, and would not favor one technology or industry over another.

**Constituent Action** Lobbying is never a solo venture, and, most frequently, it is constituent action that makes the difference in successfully persuading members of Congress to agree to a change in federal policy. Collaboration and teamwork made our lobbying successful over and over again in 2009. Thank you for your work around the country in partnership with us here on Capitol Hill.

FCNL provided the tools for tens of thousands of people to lobby Congress and start conversations in their communities about what is necessary for peace. More than 17,000 people contacted their elected officials through our website in 2009, sending nearly 170,000 communications to their elected officials. We distributed more than 120,000 War Is Not the Answer signs and bumper stickers in 2009.

**Prudent Financial Management** The worldwide economic crisis caused many nonprofit organizations in Washington, DC to cut back their operations or shut their doors. These include the advocacy offices of national religious organizations. During 2009 FCNL trimmed and tightened our operations. We cut our expenses from \$4.6 million to \$3.2 million and said goodbye to valued staff. These actions allowed FCNL to remain in solid financial shape throughout this period, but the cuts have come close to the bone. We'll be looking to Friends in the next two years to help us obtain the additional resources necessary to take advantage of the opportunities for change that we see in Washington.

**2010 Legislative Priorities-Setting Process** A unique feature of FCNL is our practice of involving as many Quaker meetings and churches as possible in shaping priorities for our lobbying efforts. The priorities process guides FCNL in focusing its work on particular issues for the next two-year session of Congress. Thank you to all of the Friends meetings and churches that worshipped together to discern priorities for our lobbying work for the 112th Congress (2011-2012). FCNL's General Committee will approve priorities in November at our Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

**Leadership and Change** As he has long planned, Joe Volk will retire from FCNL in March 2011, after 21 years of service as FCNL's Executive Secretary. As this report is being written, an extensive national search is underway. From its beginnings in 1943, FCNL has been blessed with leadership nurtured by our community of faith, the Religious Society of Friends. Our leaders have brought spiritual depth, intellectual power, and centered compassion to our work. FCNL's next executive secretary will lead FCNL at an exciting time when its lobbying and education work can make a real difference. We ask that Friends hold FCNL and our search process in the Light in the months ahead.

*G. Dorsey Green, Clerk  
FCNL General Committee*

## **An Epistle Encouraging Quaker Engagement with American Muslims**

11/14/2009

***This epistle was approved by the FCNL General Committee at Annual Meeting in November, 2009.***

*We have inherited a large house, a great world house in which we have to live together, black and white, Easterner and Westerner, Gentile and Jew, Catholic and Protestant, Moslem and Hindu, a family unduly separated in ideas, culture and interest, who, because we can never again live apart, must learn somehow to live with each other in peace.*

Martin Luther King, Jr., 1964

*We have the power to make the world we seek, but only if we have the courage to make a new beginning, keeping in mind what has been written. The Holy Koran tells us, "O mankind! We have created you male and a female; and we have made you into nations and tribes so that you may know one another." The Talmud tells us: "The whole of the Torah is for the purpose of promoting peace." The Holy Bible tells us, "Blessed are the*

*peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”*  
President Barack Obama, Cairo, June 3, 2009.

Greetings to Friends:

As Quakers we are called to answer that of God in everyone. Our work begins with ourselves and our own country. This work must include our embrace of the “other,” in order to replace tolerance with understanding, respect, and sustained collaboration on issues of mutual concern. Especially since September 11, 2001, American Muslims have been wrongly stereotyped as foreigners, unbelievers, and terrorist-sympathizers.

The Christian roots of Quakerism bring us Jesus’ answer to “Who is my neighbor?” in his parable of the Good Samaritan [Luke 10: 35-37]. Paul heard this message and worked to open the community of believers to the “other,” regardless of ethnicity, status, or gender. [Gal. 3:28]. Many Quakers have extended their hands to the “other” over the centuries.

If we stand together to practice equality and justice, we can enhance our understanding of American Muslims and theirs of us and raise American Muslim visibility in a positive way, which is of special importance to Muslim youth. This would encourage similar efforts by others, help amplify American Muslim voices, and make our education of the public and policy advocacy more effective.

Intercultural teamwork will not just happen. It requires intentional and coordinated programs and policies to extend ourselves as Quakers and as Americans to our American Muslim sisters and brothers. Some Quaker groups have attempted to respond, especially since September 11, 2001, to local calls for support by Muslims. Many Muslim organizations voice readiness to engage with us on education of the public, civil liberties, political participation, meeting human needs, and conflict resolution in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and other parts of the world. FCNL staff have cultivated increased interfaith contacts in its work on civil liberties, nuclear disarmament, immigration, and peaceful prevention of deadly conflict. Together we can build on this good work.

Accordingly, FCNL:

- Commits to continue seeking out and engaging with American Muslim secular and religious organizations on issues of mutual concern.
- Encourages other Quaker organizations, meetings, churches, and individuals to consider similar bridge-building for fellowship, joint service, and advocacy work as they discern openings.
- Invites Quaker organizations to share their past and evolving experiences and lessons learned with other Quaker organizations, and learn from them and our non-Quaker counterparts.

### **FLGBTQC (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer Concerns)**

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns is a North American Quaker faith community that affirms that of God in all people. Gathering twice yearly for worship and play, we draw sustenance from each other and from the Spirit for our work and life in the world. We are learning that radical inclusion and radical love bring further light to Quaker testimony and life.

There are many Friends within SAYMA that identify as FLGBTQC but very few were able in 2009-2010 to join FLGBTQC for the summer and midwinter gatherings. Some of this was due to financial pressures from the

economy, which was also felt during the financial portion of FLGBTQCs business meetings. Members of FLGBTQC expressed great appreciation for the support of SAYMA and meetings within SAYMA for continuing in faithful financial support. This support enables participation by Friends of limited finances and allows for FLGBTQC to have a small fund to support Friends pursuing leadings.

There were many deaths and losses that were keenly felt during the 2010 Midwinter gathering in New York. One of the losses that we all very sad loss to FLGBTQC was the unexpected death of SAYMA member and long-time FLGBTQC organizer and representative, Dr. Gary Allen Briggs. He was responsible for the wonderful 2007 midwinter gathering in North Carolina – the first every held in the southeast – and was going to help organize the upcoming 2011 FLGBTQC midwinter gathering taking place in the southeast again. Many parents spoke of how Gary’s quiet volunteer efforts with the children at summer gathering ensured, year after year, that they could participate in worship.

Cheryl Bridges, a member of Piedmont Friends Fellowship, and vocational counselor at Guilford College, gave the keynote plenary during Midwinter gathering, helping us all ask difficult questions to ourselves regarding vocation, eldering, and how we are called to minister and be ministered unto. There was also a panel discussion with Friends sharing their experiences of trying to live in truth throughout their life’s journeys. Lastly, throughout our time together, there were opportunities for fellowship – the annual talent show/fundraiser with inordinantly expensive homemade granola, board games, sledding, much singing, and other times of fellowship marked our time together. Our business meetings were well attended, and we continue to wrestle as a community our calling with the rest of the Quaker community and the world. Are we to continue to focus on nurturing and building a safe space and loving community with each other, or are we led to advocate, corporately for more radical inclusion within Friends and other wider communities?

*Report by Christina VanRegenmorter – SAYMA Rep to FLGBTQC Midwinter gathering.*

### **Friends General Conference**

Friends General Conference means different things to different people. Some may think of the annual Gathering where over a thousand Friends gather each year to fellowship, learn, celebrate and grow together. This will happen in just a few weeks in Bowling Green, Ohio around the theme of *Accepting Gifts of the Spirit*. Next year the Gathering will be in Iowa – you might want to pencil it in! Some Friends think of the resources like the bookstore or the visiting Friends. Atlanta Monthly Meeting has been taking up *Godly Play* which is a religious education resource from FGC. Or maybe your Meeting has taken advantage of *Quaker Quest* to explore the inner and outer work of Quaker spirituality. Some Friends think of FGC as our denomination. But that’s not what this umbrella organization is. It is an affiliation of Meetings like us and is not an authoritative body. It is an opportunity! A resource! A community!

SAYMA Friends are very active in the work of FGC. Maia Carter Hallward is the Yearly Meeting representative to the Executive Committee. This has been a very full year as FGC works to extensively reorganize all their committee structure. Financial management during lean times has lead to staff reductions and program changes, so this work has been challenging at times. In truth the extensive reorganization began *before* the current crunch, as FGC worked with an eye to good stewardship and sustainability. Maia is also the co-clerk of the Youth Ministries Committee. The Youth Ministries program maintains a QuakerYouth website, supports conferences and seeks to facilitate intergenerational community building amongst Friends. Their support is particularly focused on Friends ages 14-35. Quaker Press of FGC has recently published *Spirit*

*Rising: Young Quaker Voices* which is a collection of writing and visual art of young adult Quakers and is a window to the spiritual riches they offer.

Another of our Yearly Meeting Representatives is Ceal Wutka. As a new member of Central Committee, FGC's governing body, Ceal has found a place to serve on the Ministry and Nurture Committee. Ceal has interest in advancement work too. There are just so many opportunities for interesting service with FGC.

Kristi Estes is currently serving on the Traveling Ministries Committee. One of the efforts of this committee is to offer small regional retreats to support ministry among Friends. Kristi helped to organize and facilitate the first of these retreats in Asheville last Fall. A small group of Friends from SAYMA, NCYM(C) and Piedmont Friends gathered to worship and share with the intention of nurturing gifts and ministry. The committee hopes to model simple gatherings that regions can use to support gifts within their own areas of concern. Traveling Ministries also provides resources and contacts for Meetings who may reach out to FGC for assistance or visits from seasoned Friends.

Besides our official representatives there are also many other volunteers from SAYMA. Stoph Hallward serves as treasurer, Perry Treadwell and Tom Kenworthy work on Development. John Geary is on the committee for Publications and Distribution. Gita Larson is a facilitator for Quaker Quest. Geeta and Bob McGahey are each leading workshops at this year's FGC Gathering. Christina Repoley is on the search committee for FGC's new Executive Director and would love to hear from you about possible candidates. And I guess we can count our Liz Perch who is on Nominating committee. Liz shows up everywhere!

This is only a tidbit of what goes on with FGC. A new Minute of Purpose and Major Goals was adopted this year that reflects the deep spiritual desire to be a part of a vital Spirit-led community. I invite you to look at the website [www.fgcquaker.org](http://www.fgcquaker.org) to see more. I must add that a major campaign – *Stoking the Spiritual Fire of Quakerism*– is continuing and our support is important for this work to thrive. These are not easy financial times for any of the organizations we are involved in. But if you recognize the gift that FGC is to our Society please consider what you might have to offer.

Thank you for allowing us the privilege of being your connection between SAYMA and FGC.

*Kristi Estes, Ceal Wutka, Maia Carter Hallward*

### **Friends Peace Teams**

Friends Peace Teams supports Quakers doing service and witness in the world. We invite Quakers to attend and/or join the Council. The Council is an association of yearly meeting representatives and Friends at-large engaged in Quaker service and witness.

We are the fiscal home of three initiatives—the African Great Lakes Initiative, Peacebuilding en las Americas and the Indonesia Initiative. Activities come under the Council's care by recommendation, consideration and approval of Council members. Several Friends on the Council are deeply involved in Quaker witness that does not come under the Council's care, but benefit from the association of being with others engaged in various forms of Quaker witness.

We celebrate the many Quaker witnesses—people-to-people relationships, exchanges, activism, organizing, Alternatives to Violence, ProNica, Quaker Bolivia Education Link, Friendly Folk Dancers and so forth. Still,

each of these has a specifically defined mission. Friends Peace Teams, on the other hand, is a place where various Quaker witnesses gather and find mutual support.

Funding for our initiatives comes from all over the world. Each initiative does its own fundraising, which goes 100 percent to that particular work. For organizational support, we have an office in St. Louis with a half-time assistant who maintains our legal status, accounting and communications with yearly meetings and donors.

We hope monthly and yearly meetings come to value Friends Peace Teams enough to make a basic contribution to the core budget to this office strong and to release the initiatives to continue to use 100 percent of their fundraising for their particular callings. Meetings, of course, may support any of the particular initiatives in addition to the core, shared office.

Our face-to-face Council meeting meets in the spring somewhere in the U.S. and on monthly conference calls. Please feel free to contact me, your yearly meeting representative and/or the office if you would like to volunteer to get involved.

*Sharon Phelps  
West Knoxville Friends Meeting  
Sharon.phelps@earthlink.net  
865-268-9868*

### **Friends World Committee for Consultation**

The Annual Meeting was held this year at Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center in Reisterstown, Maryland on March 18-21, 2010. The theme of the conference was “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34-35 (NRSV)

Pearlstone is a Jewish center which serves all branches of Judaism and thus adheres to the strictest kosher practices. We learned a great deal about dietary laws, tried hard to follow them and asked many questions. The director of the center said that we were welcome to return because of the care we took in abiding by their requests.

The major issue for the meeting was how the organization can proceed in a way that increases the visibility of FWCC-SOA and allows us to live within our budget. A visioning group suggested that, instead of having a large annual meeting as we have done in the past, we have a shorter meeting which only focuses on the business of the organization. They also suggested that we have local gatherings involving all branches of Quakers with a focus on the 2012 World Gathering’s theme “Being Salt and Light: Friends Living the Kingdom of God in a Broken World,” based on Matthew 5:13-16. There was a threshing session in which we divided into small groups and asked questions and expressed concerns about these recommendations.

After comparing alternative budgets, one based on our past practices and the other on this new idea of smaller annual meetings plus local gatherings leading up to the World Gathering, the representatives easily came to unity on the new plan. The first of the smaller regional gatherings will be in the Southeast Region October 8-10, hosted by SAYMA and West Knoxville Monthly Meeting. There will be invited speakers perhaps from

other countries and from other branches of our Quaker family. Tim Lamm, Berea Monthly Meeting, is the clerk of the Southeast Region and has been instrumental in the planning of this gathering.

The World Office in London has a new initiative called “Mending a Broken World: Friends’ Responses to Global Change.” Its purpose is to: 1) to provide space to hear from Friends we have not heard from; 2) to identify the spiritual grounding for our response to this issue; 3) to discern if there is a distinctive Quaker response and if there is, to articulate it. Samuel Mahaffy from Washington State is the part-time staff working on this issue. (samuel@fwccglobalchange.org).

Besides the business meeting and sharing of information, there were many opportunities to worship in worship sharing groups, in programmed meetings for worship, in singing and in the silence. There were workshops and special interest groups, and young adult friends had some special programming including a trip into Washington, DC. In attendance were representatives from Kenya, Jamaica, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, and Peru, as well as all over the U.S. and Canada.

### **Right Sharing of World Resources**

#### **Background**

Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR) is an independent Quaker organization which provides financial support in the form of grants to women’s self-help groups working with the poorest of the poor (including Quakers) around the world. RSWR just celebrated its 20th year as an independent Quaker organization, and the amount of growth and learning over the past two decades is astounding. Currently, work is focused in South India, Kenya, and Sierra Leone. RSWR has a dual mission of facilitating the sharing of resources among God’s Children and furthering the examination of the lives of the poor, the lives of the rich, and the spiritual meaning of both. RSWR refers to North American donors and advocates as well as the overseas organizations that receive grants as “partners” because “partnership” benefits participants mutually. Friends in the United States offer material resources and testimonies of peace, equality, integrity and simplicity. Project partners abroad offer experience and expertise working in grassroots development, a vision of community and a commitment to working toward a world of peace and justice.

RSWR transfers grants to women’s self-help groups who have organized with the purpose of collective social and economic improvement. The grants that Right Sharing of World Resources facilitate are held collectively by each group and shared among individual group members through revolving micro-loans for individual and group income generating projects. Examples of projects undertaken are animal husbandry, making and selling compost and organic fertilizers, food-processing such as pickle-making, baking, and spice-making, bee-keeping, vegetable vending, compost-making, and brick-making. RSWR has a commitment to furthering environmental stewardship as well as community economic security and self-reliance. As such, projects that rely on non-local markets (i.e. crafts for export), projects that utilize substances that are harmful to the environment (i.e. chemical fertilizers in agriculture), and projects that are harmful to the businesswomen or their community (i.e. cigarette rolling) are not funded. However, the staff of RSWR, through their experience and reputation, has the capacity to advise project partners and connect them with people and resources that can aid in knowledge-sharing and awareness of alternative practices.

RSWR grants are small in scale, and most groups are comprised of 20-60 women who otherwise have no access to capital. Right Sharing grants provide seed money which is recycled within a community. RSWR supplies each project with no more than \$5,000 per year, the idea being to provide just enough capital to 'prime the



pump.' After receiving RSWR funds, organizations and communities are frequently able to obtain local funding. By giving small grants, Right Sharing is able to prime as many pumps as possible with our limited resources.

### **Examples of In-Country Projects**

*Centre for Rural Education and Development (CRED) – India:* In 2002 RSWR funded a project in which 78 loans were made (all have been repaid) to establish 25 businesses. The women's income has been increased by 65%. In the latter part of October 2003, 10 new self-help groups, with a membership of 187, were established in an area near the original project. The current project continues support of the original 78 women's work, provides loans to 50 new women, forms ten more self-help groups, and establishes one enterprise center. To support this expanded business, CRED will establish two "Women's Enterprise Outlets" during the project, one per year. The women's products include wheat flour, ragi malt, wire baskets, rice pockets, spices, soap nut powders, ready-made cloths, butter, ghee, pickles and fruit juice. What is more important is that all of them are now confident and have a clear vision about their future course of action.

*Rafiki Mwema Women's Group – Kenya:* 35 women from Chavakali Yearly Meeting will participate in a 5-year project to establish a tea business. The women can accommodate 500 plants on their land. Once production starts, monthly income will be \$8. From this, \$2 will be paid to the group. At the end of the year each member will receive \$155, of which \$25 will be remitted to the group to operate the project. Each member will then earn \$195 per year and the group will have \$970 to operate an office and provide some staff. In addition, loans will be made to 50 women to start small businesses.

This group had already established itself before learning about RSWR, and their site visitor reported: "...We were touched to learn that despite their financial limitation, they were able to pull their resources together and pay school fees for two girls in secondary school. These girls come from two different families that were unable to raise funds towards school fees. The group has also started a feeding programme for orphaned children."

*Tamaraneh Farmers Development - Sierra Leone:* After completion of the disarmament in late 2001, TFD was organized to alleviate the difficult situation people faced. 80 women members are starting activities like integrated farming, rice, vegetable, cassava, or groundnut production.

A committee of four has been set up to monitor the general activities of the project. There will be a one-month training on income generating activities, two weeks on crop production, one week on vegetable production and one week on leadership. 25% of the total production will go to the members for their own consumption, 25% will be sold, and the remaining 50% will be put into further production.

### **Highlights from 2009**

As with many non-profit organizations, Right Sharing of World Resources saw a decline in donations due to the economic downturn. However, RSWR was able to continue its level of support to its grant making work and see significant developments within its capital campaign.

Highlights from 2009 include:

- \* Total income of \$426,100
- \* Total expense of \$438,350
- \* \$272,945 to directly support grants, training, and support to local organizations
- \* Grants to 51 organizations in south India, Kenya, and Sierra Leone, representing direct support to 750-1,000 women.

- \* In October, 2009 initiated the Kenya field staff program with the engagement of Samson Ababu. The South India field staff program, with Dr. R. Kannan, was begin in July, 2008.
- \* Reached the half-way point of our \$2.3 million capital campaign to move RSWR to a new level of programming.
- \* Moved resources from the support of in-person RSWR presentations to the support of an electronic communications program, to be initiated in July, 2010.

The heart of RSWR is a partnership. On one side of the partnership are Quakers here in the United States, and other persons of faith who seek to live more justly, and who provide capital to help support micro-enterprise projects. On the other side of the partnership are women’s selfhelp groups who, with the guidance of local non-governmental organizations and by their participation in the self-help group, implement the micro-enterprise project.

This is what distinguishes the work of RSWR and some other faith-based groups from many other micro-enterprise groups. The wealth that RSWR redistributes from Americans to the poorest of the poor is a grant of capital. RSWR understands that God calls us to jubilee justice, to wealth redistribution. Our partners who receive the grant are women’s self-help groups who hold and manage the funds in common, making loans to members to implement small-scale, income-generating businesses, and increasing their wealth, their lives, and the well-being of their families.

Right Sharing projects are supported by individuals, monthly meetings and yearly meetings. Contributions are tax-deductible in the USA and may be sent through your own meeting or directly. Right Sharing board members and volunteers are available to speak at Meetings and Gatherings, and there are educational materials and other resources available on the website, rswr.org, or through contacting the Right Sharing office in Earlham, Indiana. Additionally, as Right Sharing of World Resources continues to grow, more volunteers and advocates are needed. If you are so led, please consider service as a board member or volunteer for RSWR, or contact us to find out how you can support the mission of RSWR among your own Meeting communities.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Walker  
Board Member  
Right Sharing of World Resources  
101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond, IN 47374  
rswr@rswr.org  
phone: 765.966.0314*

**William Penn House**

William Penn House is a Quaker lodging and program center on Capitol Hill in Washington DC. It is not a hotel, nor a hostel, but a group of people providing hospitality in the best Quaker tradition. It is what you would hope a Quaker guest house would be. The welcoming staff provides simple bed and breakfast accommodations for visitors to Washington at low cost. Meeting for worship begins each day. And under the inspiring servant leadership of Byron Sandford, William Penn House is also a community that is fully engaged with their street, neighborhood, city, and world. Penn House programs explore and make visible Friends’ testimonies.

Penn House hosts many programs that support peace and reconciliation globally and locally. Since 1986, Washington Quaker Workcamps have created opportunities to experience the transforming power of love

through service. Workcampers address social concerns in concrete ways and build relationships across differences of race, religion, or economic circumstance. In addition to improving their physical environment, they also work on themselves as they address such issues as poverty, nutrition, homelessness, HIV/AIDS, and the Environment.

William Penn House is a Quaker Center that SAYMA should be very proud to support. And it's the best accommodations by far whenever you travel to our nation's capital.

There is an excellent web site, which provides details on all their activities in addition to accepting online reservations: [williampennhouse.org](http://williampennhouse.org).

*Respectfully submitted,  
Charles Wilton*

*SAYMA Representative to Wm Penn House National Consultative Committee  
Contact: 859-985-5787, [cwilton@gmail.com](mailto:cwilton@gmail.com)*

**William Penn House  
A Quaker Center on Capitol Hill  
Annual Report: Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2009**

This fiscal year which ended in June was one of our best. Our occupancy is up, we led more Workcamps, hosted more programs and reached out to more meetings. We said goodbye to good friends and welcomed new ones.

Patricia Newkirk, who has been an incredible force of change, left William Penn House in March to become a farmer and active grandmother. She now lives across the Sound from Seattle. Patricia's energy, creativity and hard work will be missed.

One of the joys of working at William Penn House is the opportunity to share our lives with the incredible young people who serve as interns. These tend to be among the best and brightest and they enrich the staff, our guests and the broader world. From these experiences, we learn and grow together and they are the source of much of our vitality. My goal is that each intern's goals and abilities are engaged and are nurtured while they share their journey with us. From this, the interns are empowered to improve how we operate and they are encouraged to reach out beyond the confines of their jobs to try something new and to push themselves and at the same time the rest of the staff. If they are as enriched as am I then one of my goals is reached.

Hospitality is the key activity here at William Penn House. Each year we have increased our average occupancy and this past year we had 72% of our beds occupied. That represents that our beds were occupied 7800 times during this 12 month period. 52% of our guests register as individuals and 48% are here with groups. During this period we hosted 73 groups. Most groups are from schools, churches or meetings. When that is translated into linens washed, breakfasts served and guests engaged it is even more impressive. We are open year-round except over Thanksgiving and Christmas.

To assist in the bookings we use a booking agent, [Hostelworld.com](http://Hostelworld.com), which has facilitated and improved our service. Individuals predominantly are here to lobby, to advocate and to learn, but many are here as tourists.

Washington, DC is a very welcoming and vibrant city with free museums plus the opportunity to see government in action or inaction.

During this past year, Washington Quaker Workcamps led 515 young people in 31 Workcamps. Workcampers went to New Orleans, the hollows of West Virginia and the streets of Washington. They worked to enable the elderly to age in place; they fed the poor and helped to clean up city parks and rivers. They learned how to build rain gardens and how we each can improve our environment. And they learned about the interactions between poverty and privilege.

Through our programs, our guests learned that Washington, DC has 3rd world poverty and an HIV/AIDS rate that is the highest in the nation. We learned how ones spiritual life is affected by life changing diseases; how Quakers and others share their energies to offer resources to developing nations, especially Kenya.

We shared our leadings to seek universal testing for HIV/AIDS to help to stop this contagion. We seek to engage, to ignite, to inflame each of our guests to seek a better world today not only by simplifying life but by seeking and acting on the simple solutions in a complex world. Potlucks, programs, and workshops both at William Penn House and on the road with Yearly and Monthly Meetings, schools, colleges, churches were all a part of our outreach and activities.

Through our outreach we have visited monthly and yearly meetings throughout the country and have found a commonality among Friends across divides of faith. We seek to transform the dialogue among Friends and to be a vehicle for Friends who seek to share their faith with those who follow a different path. If we Quakers cannot bridge our own differences how can we ask that of others? We have sought to reduce our ecological imprint. The staff shares one vehicle and that is mostly work related. We commute by bus, subway, bicycles and walking. We buy fair trade products. We support local farmers, local coops and try to shop in season. We support neighborhood businesses over chains. We discourage bottled water which in itself is a capricious consumer of fossil fuel.

With support from the District of Columbia Department of Environment, we converted our back yard into a rain garden with the goal to reduce our runoff to zero. In addition we have re-landscaped the property with local vegetation which is drought resistant and attracts native fauna. We will begin to further green our property with a vegetated roof and solar panels.

As we seek to be the embodiment of the Quaker Testimonies of Community, Integrity, Simplicity, Equality and Peace we are challenged to evaluate each of our actions as to how they affect others. Do we enrich and engage others or do we go it alone. Each of our guests is exposed to our choices through our daily living which begins with silent worship.

To be disciples of peace requires us to live each day mindful of others that our daily actions affect our community and our enormous footprint is felt around the world. Until we can reduce our insatiable needs our world and our communities remain at risk. If we seek a better world, a world without war then we each must change, we each must evaluate our needs and how they affect the lives of others. If we only protest but do not make significant changes in how we live our lives we are wasting our time.

Our hope is that everyone who enters our doors leaves with a greater sense of their own impact on the environment wherever they live or visit.

*Byron Sandford*  
*Executive Director*

## Attachment E: Epistles

Greetings to Friends Everywhere

The 40<sup>th</sup> annual session of the Meeting of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association was held sixth month 10-13 2010 at Warren Wilson College in Swannanoa, North Carolina. As 215 Friends of all ages worshiped, learned and played we were able to follow our theme of “Discerning the Way” to renew and deepen our community of Faith.

Our plenary sessions, led by SAYMA Friends, addressed our theme as they shared their stories of discerning clearness for membership, marriage, communal concerns and outreach to the wider Quaker world.

Meetings for Business proceeded with careful discernment and a noticeable reduction in nitpicking. We approved two revised sections of our Faith and Practice, one on Community and the other on Marriage. There was a deep quiet experience of Joy that after many years of wrestling with the issues around marriage the Spirit led to Unity among us.

In a review of our finances and budget we recognized the impact of current economic conditions on our Monthly Meetings. We listened to each other’s concerns and challenged ourselves to respond creatively to a potential loss of revenue. By continuing to explore and discern our options we have faith that way will open to continue and possibly expand yearly meeting projects for our Monthly Meetings and support of Wider Quaker organizations.

Two areas identified from our State of the Meeting reports as concerns were support for increased ministry of all types and Outreach. Ministry and Nurture is exploring ways to provide consultations around Ministry to Monthly Meetings. The ad hoc committee on outreach is focusing on how to help monthly meetings open their doors to invite seekers in.

We are blessed with a vibrant youth program from our active, inquisitive Junior Yearly Meeting to the continuing growth of Young Adult Friends in active service to Friends and the wider world. The gift that pulls these two points together is our Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) program. Our delight continues at the growth of these young people as they experience their spiritual journeys into Quakerism and deepening their identity as Friends.

Even though early Friends felt that dancing and music were distractions from following the Spirit, our Hibbard Thatcher memorial dance and talent show brings all generations together in play and laughter that enlightens our spirits.

The Meeting for remembrance reminds us not only of our shared losses but celebrates these Friends as a way to keep our history alive.

Discerning the way forward is never finished. The Spirit continues to provide Yearly Meeting with jobs to do. We welcome these continuing opportunities.

## **Junior Yearly Meeting**

Greetings from the Junior Yearly Meeting of SAYMA, the yearly meeting deep in the heart of Appalachia. Our group was comprised of ages 2-11, and we had twelve attending. We are Ella, Nevin, Noah, Levi, Sarawilla, Julia, Oscar, Sylvan, David, Ayana, Marissa, and Imani, with Beth and Jonathan coordinating.

We decided to call ourselves the “corn nuts,” a name that came out because two of our members ate corn nuts before attending JYM. So this is also greetings from the JYM corn nuts of 2010.

Our theme was “Building Our Community,” so we spent some time discussing the Quaker testimony of community and what made a good community. There were times during our four days together that we were silly, grumpy, loud, quiet, relaxed or excited. Times that our community was too hot, or too cold. But there were many times that we were just right.

When we thought about our time together, the words we thought of were “fun,” “awesome,” and “great.” We built a fort out of over 50 cardboard boxes and masking tape, and we had lots of fun tearing it down all at once at the end of our time together.

Some of our other favorite things were eating ice cream in the cafeteria, having free-time to hangout, going to the pool and creek, making JYM T-shirts, playing ultimate ping-pong, going on the tree swing, blowing bubbles, playing the outside game “Beckon,” dancing the can-can Noah style, and spraying each other with water spray bottles.

## Attachment F: Financial Reports

### Treasurer's Report

Prepared June 1, 2010

Our 2010 fiscal year budget runs from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010.

This year's Budget is based on a \$60 assessment. Attached please find (1) the budget report and (2) the account balances report as of June 1, 2010.

Issues to report include:

1. The FY2010 budget as approved at the September 2009 Representative Meeting is attached. SAYMA's finances are sound with \$18,514 in the checking account and a total of \$39,830 in the two Self Help Credit Union savings accounts. Total income is \$24,902 and disbursements are \$35,476, resulting in a reduction in reserves planned for the last two years.
2. Income in FY 2010. Assessments received total \$24,452, down significantly from the \$32,735 received by this time last year. Interest rates and income for our two savings accounts continue at lowered rates. SAYMA has received \$50 in individual contributions.
3. Operational Expenses in FY 2010. SAYF has not yet drawn on funds budgeted for their program. A little more than two-thirds of the funds for travel for delegates to WQO's have been expended. A total of \$455 has been used in the work of SAYMA committees. Cost of living raises were not provided to employees at the beginning of FY 2010, because the CPI-U (a measure of inflation) was at zero for 2008. Our employees receive a monthly payment in lieu of a benefit package.
4. Yearly Meeting Projects in FY 2010. All SAYMA contributions to Wider Quaker Organizations budgeted for FY 2010 have been sent. Transfers have been made to SAYMA's Set Aside Budgeted Funds and Accumulated Funds. As shown on the Account Balances Report, \$1000 has been expended from the Spiritual Development Fund.
5. Account Balances Report for FY 2010. SAYMA has net assets of \$37,955 as of the date of this report.
6. SAYF sends regular quarterly reports on their finances to the Treasurer. For the first quarter of FY 2010:
  - a. SAYF had income of \$2,099.00.
  - b. SAYF had expenditures of \$1,407.70.
  - c. As of December 31, SAYF had \$2,142.47 in its checking account and \$123.78 in its YM scholarship account. A total of \$375 had been awarded in SAYF retreat scholarships. The SAYF Coordinator is paid through SAYMA and appears under the personnel costs on the budget report. SAYF has not yet requested funds budgeted for their program this year.

*Treasurer's Address:  
Deanna Nipp-Kientz  
47 N. Maple Ave.  
Cookeville, TN 38501  
aCertainGirl@charter.net*



**SAYMA Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Report**  
**Budget Approved at Representative Meeting September 12, 2009**  
**to cover October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010**  
**Report Prepared June 1, 2010**

|   | Budget<br>FY 2009 | Actual<br>FY 2009  | Budget<br>FY 2010 | Actual<br>FY 2010    |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                           |                   |                    |                   |                      |
| Assessments*                            | \$42,000          | \$45,232.50        | \$42,000          | \$24,452.50          |
| Bank Interest                           | \$900             | \$808.91           | \$700             | \$399.73             |
| Contributions                           | \$3,260           | \$0.00             | \$500             | \$50.00              |
| F&P Sales                               | \$250             | \$0.00             | \$250             |                      |
| Newsletter                              |                   |                    |                   |                      |
| SAYF Receipts                           |                   | \$0.00             |                   |                      |
| YM Total Receipts                       | \$29,000          | \$28,688.06        | \$29,000          |                      |
| YM Receipts                             | \$26,000          | \$23,430.37        | \$26,000          |                      |
| YM Scholarship Donations                | \$1,000           | \$2,979.63         | \$1,000           |                      |
| YM Book Sales                           | \$2,000           | \$2,278.06         | \$2,000           |                      |
| <b>Total Income</b>                     | <b>\$75,410</b>   | <b>\$74,729.47</b> | <b>\$72,450</b>   | <b>\$24,902.23</b>   |
| <b>SAYMA OPERATIONAL EXPENSES</b>       |                   |                    |                   |                      |
| Yearly Meeting                          | \$28,900          | \$29,255.09        | \$29,600          | \$224.39             |
| Yrly Meeting - Facilities               | \$22,000          | \$21,730.93        | \$22,000          |                      |
| Prtng/Mail/Phone/Minutes/Misc           | \$900             | \$2,069.84         | \$1,500           | \$224.39             |
| Junior Yearly Meeting -- JYM            | \$3,000           | \$2,966.17         | \$3,100           | \$0.00               |
| <i>Coordinator</i>                      | \$1,800           | \$1,800.00         | \$1,800           |                      |
| <i>Ass't Coordinator</i>                | \$1,000           | \$1,000.00         | \$1,000           |                      |
| <i>Supplies/Sitters/Misc</i>            | \$200             | \$166.17           | \$300             |                      |
| Scholarship WQO Reps                    | \$1,000           | \$486.87           | \$1,000           |                      |
| YM Bookstore                            | \$2,000           | \$2,001.28         | \$2,000           |                      |
| SAYF Operational Transfers              | \$3,000           | \$2,000.00         | \$3,000           |                      |
| Delegate Expenses                       | \$6,900           | \$5,077.53         | \$6,900           | \$4,587.84           |
| Rep Mtgs                                | \$300             |                    | \$300             |                      |
| Del to WQOs                             | \$6,600           | \$5,077.53         | \$6,600           | \$4,587.84           |
| Committees                              | \$2,000           | \$23.44            | \$2,100           | \$455.34             |
| Ministry and Nurture                    | \$1,200           | \$0.00             | \$1,200           |                      |
| Ecological Concerns                     | \$300             |                    | \$300             |                      |
| Faith and Practice                      | \$400             | \$23.44            | \$400             | \$455.34             |
| Finance Committee                       |                   |                    | \$100             |                      |
| Nominating                              | \$100             |                    | \$100             |                      |
| SAYMA Liability Insurance               | \$700             | \$522.00           | \$700             | \$591.00             |
| SAYMA Personnel                         | \$21,809          | \$21,816.78        | \$21,809          | \$14,970.40          |
| SAYMA Staff Training                    | \$100             |                    | \$100             |                      |
| SAYMA Office Administration             | \$3,500           | \$1,875.41         | \$2,900           | \$1,528.20           |
| Phone, Internet & Office Expenses       |                   | \$545.40           |                   | \$739.09             |
| Postage                                 |                   | \$151.14           |                   | \$35.20              |
| Duplication                             |                   | \$114.75           |                   | \$18.55              |
| Misc. Office & Travel                   |                   | \$1,064.12         |                   | \$735.36             |
| SAYMA Newsletter                        | \$1,300           | \$1,135.94         | \$1,300           | \$995.30             |
| SAYMA Directory                         | \$600             | \$206.43           | \$600             |                      |
| SAYMA Treasurer                         | \$250             | \$506.84           | \$600             | \$324.00             |
| SAYMA F&P                               | \$100             | \$1.90             | \$100             | \$0.00               |
| SAYMA Other Expenses**                  | \$0               |                    | \$0               |                      |
| <b>Total Operational Disbursements</b>  | <b>\$69,159</b>   | <b>\$62,421.36</b> | <b>\$69,709</b>   | <b>\$23,676.47</b>   |
| <b>YEARLY MEETING PROJECTS</b>          |                   |                    |                   |                      |
| Transfers To Funds                      | \$4,800           | \$4,800.00         | \$5,600           | \$5,600.00           |
| Spiritual Development Fund              | \$1,500           | \$1,500.00         | \$1,500           | \$1,500.00           |
| Released Friend Fund                    | \$1,500           | \$1,500.00         | \$1,500           | \$1,500.00           |
| FWCC - 3rd World Delegate               | \$650             | \$650.00           | \$1,325           | \$1,325.00           |
| FWCC World Conference Fund              | \$700             | \$700.00           | \$825             | \$825.00             |
| Youth Enrichment Fund                   | \$250             | \$250.00           | \$250             | \$250.00             |
| Young Adult Friends Scholarships        | \$200             | \$200.00           | \$200             | \$200.00             |
| Contributions Wider Quaker Org          | \$6,000           | \$6,000.00         | \$6,000           | \$6,000.00           |
| AFSC                                    | \$700             | \$700.00           | \$700             | \$700.00             |
| FCNL                                    | \$700             | \$700.00           | \$700             | \$700.00             |
| FGC                                     | \$700             | \$700.00           | \$700             | \$700.00             |
| FWCC                                    | \$700             | \$700.00           | \$700             | \$700.00             |
| <i>Right Sharing of World Resources</i> | \$700             | \$700.00           | \$700             | \$700.00             |
| <i>Quaker House</i>                     | \$700             | \$700.00           | \$700             | \$700.00             |
| <i>Friends for LGBTQ Concerns</i>       | \$200             | \$200.00           | \$200             | \$200.00             |
| <i>Quaker Earthcare Witness</i>         | \$700             | \$700.00           | \$700             | \$700.00             |
| <i>Friends Peace Teams</i>              | \$200             | \$200.00           | \$200             | \$200.00             |
| <i>Wm Penn House</i>                    | \$200             | \$200.00           | \$200             | \$200.00             |
| <i>Friends Journal</i>                  | \$200             | \$200.00           | \$200             | \$200.00             |
| <i>Guilford College Archiving</i>       | \$100             | \$100.00           | \$100             | \$100.00             |
| <i>Rural Southern Voice for Peace</i>   | \$200             | \$200.00           | \$200             | \$200.00             |
| Other                                   |                   | 75                 |                   | \$200.00             |
| <b>Total Projects</b>                   | <b>\$10,800</b>   | <b>\$10,800.00</b> | <b>\$11,600</b>   | <b>\$11,800.00</b>   |
| <b>Total Disbursements</b>              | <b>\$79,959</b>   | <b>\$73,221.36</b> | <b>\$81,309</b>   | <b>\$35,476.47</b>   |
| <b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>                | <b>(\$4,549)</b>  | <b>\$1,508.11</b>  | <b>(\$8,859)</b>  | <b>(\$10,574.24)</b> |

\* based a \$60.00 assessment per member and regular attender

SAYMA Account Balances Report -- Fiscal 2010  
June 1, 2010

|   | 2006<br>9/30/2006 | 2007<br>9/30/2007 | 2008<br>9/30/2008 | 2009<br>9/30/2009 | 2010<br>6/1/2010 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                  |
| <b>Bank Accounts</b>  |                   |                   |                   |                   |                  |
| Checking (Bank of America)  | \$17,299          | \$17,660          | \$15,013          | \$25,658          | \$18,514         |
| Money Market (Self Help)*   | \$16,086          | \$21,978          | \$22,640          | \$23,013          | \$23,174         |
| Savings (Self Help CD)*   | \$5,098           | \$10,386          | \$15,933          | \$16,463          | \$16,656         |
| <b>Total Available Funds</b>  | <b>\$38,483</b>   | <b>\$50,024</b>   | <b>\$53,587</b>   | <b>\$65,134</b>   | <b>\$58,344</b>  |
| <b>Liabilities</b>  |                   |                   |                   |                   |                  |
| <b>Set Aside Budgeted Funds</b>   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                  |
| FWCC Third World Delegate   | \$0               | \$650             | \$1,300           | \$1,950           | \$3,275          |
| FWCC World Conference Fund after 2008<br>(FWCC Triennial Fund through 2008) | \$2,367           | \$1,067           | \$1,767           | \$2,467           | \$3,292          |
| Released Friend   | \$3,150           | \$3,350           | \$4,350           | \$5,850           | \$7,350          |
| Spiritual Development   | \$982             | \$822             | \$327             | \$1,627           | \$2,127          |
| Youth Enrichment Fund   | \$1,895           | \$2,145           | \$2,395           | \$2,645           | \$2,895          |
| Young Adult Friends Scholarship   | \$600             | \$700             | \$800             | \$1,000           | \$1,200          |
| <b>Accumulated Funds</b>  |                   |                   |                   |                   |                  |
| YM Scholarship  | \$663             | \$0               | \$0               | \$0               | \$0              |
| SAYF Scholarship Fund   | \$250             | \$250             | \$250             | \$250             | \$250            |
| <b>Claims against Available Funds</b>                                       | <b>\$9,907</b>    | <b>\$8,984</b>    | <b>\$11,189</b>   | <b>\$15,789</b>   | <b>\$20,389</b>  |
| <b>Net Assets = Assets - Liabilities</b>                                    | <b>\$28,575</b>   | <b>\$41,040</b>   | <b>\$42,398</b>   | <b>\$49,345</b>   | <b>\$37,955</b>  |
| <b>Fund Expenses in Fiscal Year</b>   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                  |
| Spiritual Development Fund -- FWCC El Salvador 5/9/2006                     | (\$100)           |                   |                   |                   |                  |
| FWCC Third World Delegate 7/5/2006  | (\$1,950)         |                   |                   |                   |                  |
| Spiritual Development Fund -- School of the Spirit 3/6/2007                 |                   | (\$500)           |                   |                   |                  |
| FWCC Triennial Fund -- 2007 Meeting 4/25/2007                               |                   | (\$825)           |                   |                   |                  |
| Spiritual Development Fund -- QUIT Conference 5/14/2007                     |                   | (\$160)           |                   |                   |                  |
| YM Scholarship Fund -- YM 2007 Deficit 7/1/2007                             |                   | (\$663)           |                   |                   |                  |
| FWCC Triennial Fund -- 2007 Meeting 7/1/2007                                |                   | (\$1,175)         |                   |                   |                  |
| Spiritual Development Fund -- FGC Consultation 11/7/2007                    |                   |                   | (\$160)           |                   |                  |
| Spiritual Development Fund -- Earlham Scholarship 11/7/2007                 |                   |                   | (\$300)           |                   |                  |
| Spiritual Development Fund -- FGC Consultation 11/7/2007                    |                   |                   | (\$210)           |                   |                  |
| Spiritual Development Fund -- Registration for Philadelphia YM 2/5/2008     |                   |                   | (\$325)           |                   |                  |
| Spiritual Development Fund -- Earlham Scholarship 3/31/2008                 |                   |                   | (\$500)           |                   |                  |
| Spiritual Development Fund -- Earlham Scholarship 8/1/2009                  |                   |                   |                   | (\$200)           |                  |
| Spiritual Development Fund -- School of the Spirit 11/12/2009               |                   |                   |                   |                   | (\$500)          |
| Spiritual Development Fund -- School of the Spirit 11/12/2009               |                   |                   |                   |                   | (\$200)          |
| Spiritual Development Fund -- Earlham Scholarship 1/16/2010                 |                   |                   |                   |                   | (\$300)          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>(\$2,050)</b>  | <b>(\$3,323)</b>  | <b>(\$1,495)</b>  | <b>(\$200)</b>    | <b>(\$1,000)</b> |

\*FY2010 interest reported on the budget page. Totals on this page reflect interest earned also.

## **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee (Susan Phelan, Lee Ann Swarm, Kendall Ivie, Julia Sibley-Jones) has been working closely with the Treasurer (Deanna Nipp-Kientz) to monitor SAYMA's revenues in light of the national economic situation and the reports of decreased donations from a number of wider Quaker organizations (WQO) and other non-profit organizations.

The treasurer confirmed that SAYMA's donations have been declining as well. As of 31 May 2010, contributions to SAYMA from the monthly meetings were down 27 percent from last year, and significantly reduced from a comparison of the last 5 years for the time period 1 October – 31 May.

The committee sent an email inquiry to monthly meetings in Spring 2010 and received feedback from a number of meetings that they were experiencing reduced contributions, and that they projected flat or reduced contributions to SAYMA either this year, next year or both years. Several meetings indicated that their assessment contributions to SAYMA would most likely not change. At least one monthly meeting increased their donation to SAYMA.

The committee recommends a reserve fund of approximately \$25K based on SAYMA's annual budget (without YM figures) to give us 6-month cushion. This amount can be used to fund a year of operating costs without contributions to our donations to our internal accumulating funds and the WQOs. The draft budget presented to YM and included in the YM Minutes adds the goal of \$5,000 in contributions from individuals within SAYMA, and proposes reducing the net assets of no more than approximately \$11,700. Should this much be needed to cover costs in FY 2011, then the available net assets above our "reserve" line will only be approximately \$4,000 for FY 2012. Increases in revenues will decrease the reduction of the net assets needed to currently fund the work of SAYMA. The committee will keep SAYMA updated regularly on our financial situation through the newsletter, representatives' meetings and other vehicles. The committee welcomes suggestions for ways to invite individual contributions from within SAYMA to bolster our declining assessment revenue.

*Prepared by Susan Phelan  
Clerk, Finance Committee*

**Proposed Budget, FY2011**  
**SAYMA Fiscal Year 2011**  
**FY 2011 DRAFT BUDGET**  
**October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011**  
**Presented on June 12, 2010**

Proposed

|                                   | <b>Budget</b>   | Actual      | <b>Budget</b>   | Actual      | <b>Budget</b>   | <b>Budget</b>   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                                   | <b>FY 2007</b>  | FY 2007     | <b>FY 2008</b>  | FY 2008     | <b>FY 2010</b>  | <b>FY 2011</b>  |
| Income                            |                 |             |                 |             |                 |                 |
| Assessments*                      | <b>\$40,000</b> | \$46,905.00 | <b>\$41,200</b> | \$40,850.00 | <b>\$42,000</b> | <b>\$31,700</b> |
| Bank Interest                     | <b>\$300</b>    | \$1,253.30  | <b>\$1,200</b>  | \$1,080.76  | <b>\$700</b>    | <b>\$500</b>    |
| Contributions                     | <b>\$3,300</b>  | \$3,210.00  | <b>\$3,720</b>  | \$149.51    | <b>\$500</b>    | <b>\$5,000</b>  |
| F&P Sales                         | <b>\$250</b>    | \$42.11     | <b>\$0</b>      | \$25.05     | <b>\$250</b>    | <b>\$250</b>    |
| SAYF Receipts                     |                 |             |                 | \$100.00    |                 |                 |
| YM Total Receipts                 | <b>\$29,000</b> | \$30,020.00 | <b>\$29,000</b> | \$31,843.66 | <b>\$29,000</b> | <b>\$29,600</b> |
| YM Receipts                       | <b>\$26,000</b> | \$27,737.50 | <b>\$26,000</b> | \$29,539.14 | <b>\$26,000</b> | <b>\$26,600</b> |
| YM Scholarship Donations**        | <b>\$1,000</b>  | \$0.00      | <b>\$1,000</b>  | \$90.00     | <b>\$1,000</b>  | <b>\$1,000</b>  |
| YM Book Sales                     | <b>\$2,000</b>  | \$2,282.50  | <b>\$2,000</b>  | \$2,214.52  | <b>\$2,000</b>  | <b>\$2,000</b>  |
| Total Income                      | <b>\$72,850</b> | \$81,430.41 | <b>\$75,120</b> | \$74,048.98 | <b>\$72,450</b> | <b>\$67,050</b> |
| <b>SAYMA OPERATIONAL EXPENSES</b> |                 |             |                 |             |                 |                 |
| Yearly Meeting                    | <b>\$26,900</b> | \$32,536.69 | <b>\$26,900</b> | \$30,347.26 | <b>\$29,600</b> | <b>\$29,600</b> |
| Yrly Meeting - Facilities         | <b>\$20,000</b> | \$24,638.87 | <b>\$20,000</b> | \$24,390.78 | <b>\$22,000</b> | <b>\$22,000</b> |
| Prtnng/Mail/Phone/Minutes/Misc    | <b>\$900</b>    | \$2,666.19  | <b>\$900</b>    | \$867.67    | <b>\$1,500</b>  | <b>\$1,500</b>  |
| Junior Yearly Meeting -- JYM      | <b>\$3,000</b>  | \$3,107.27  | <b>\$3,000</b>  | \$3,043.01  | <b>\$3,100</b>  | <b>\$3,100</b>  |
| <i>Coordinator</i>                | <b>\$1,800</b>  | \$1,800.00  | <b>\$1,800</b>  | \$1,800.00  | <b>\$1,800</b>  | <b>\$1,800</b>  |
| <i>Ass't Coordinator</i>          | <b>\$1,000</b>  | \$1,000.00  | <b>\$1,000</b>  | \$1,000.00  | <b>\$1,000</b>  | <b>\$1,000</b>  |
| <i>Supplies/Sitters/Misc</i>      | <b>\$200</b>    | \$307.27    | <b>\$200</b>    | \$243.01    | <b>\$300</b>    | <b>\$300</b>    |
| Scholarship WQO Reps**            | <b>\$1,000</b>  |             | <b>\$1,000</b>  |             | <b>\$1,000</b>  | <b>\$1,000</b>  |
| YM Bookstore                      | <b>\$2,000</b>  | \$2,124.36  | <b>\$2,000</b>  | \$2,045.80  | <b>\$2,000</b>  | <b>\$2,000</b>  |
| SAYF Operational Transfers        | <b>\$3,000</b>  | \$1,000.00  | <b>\$3,000</b>  | \$2,100.00  | <b>\$3,000</b>  | <b>\$2,100</b>  |
| Delegate Expenses                 | <b>\$6,900</b>  | \$2,910.31  | <b>\$6,900</b>  | \$4,400.73  | <b>\$6,900</b>  | <b>\$6,500</b>  |
| Rep Mtgs                          | <b>\$300</b>    | \$50.00     | <b>\$300</b>    |             | <b>\$300</b>    | <b>\$100</b>    |
| Del to WQOs                       | <b>\$6,600</b>  | \$2,860.31  | <b>\$6,600</b>  | \$4,400.73  | <b>\$6,600</b>  | <b>\$6,400</b>  |
| Committees                        | <b>\$1,500</b>  | \$774.64    | <b>\$1,800</b>  | \$1,220.42  | <b>\$2,100</b>  | <b>\$1,550</b>  |
| Ministry and Nurture              | <b>\$700</b>    | \$637.32    | <b>\$1,000</b>  | \$972.17    | <b>\$1,200</b>  | <b>\$1,000</b>  |
| Ecological Concerns               | <b>\$300</b>    |             | <b>\$300</b>    |             | <b>\$300</b>    | <b>\$150</b>    |
| Faith and Practice                | <b>\$400</b>    | \$137.32    | <b>\$400</b>    | \$248.25    | <b>\$400</b>    | <b>\$300</b>    |
| Finance Committee                 |                 |             |                 |             | <b>\$100</b>    | <b>\$50</b>     |
| Nominating                        | <b>\$100</b>    |             | <b>\$100</b>    |             | <b>\$100</b>    | <b>\$50</b>     |
| SAYMA Liability Insurance         | <b>\$700</b>    | \$715.00    | <b>\$700</b>    | \$534.00    | <b>\$700</b>    | <b>\$700</b>    |

|   |                 |             |                 |             |                  |                   |
|---|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| SAYMA Personnel                         | <b>\$20,300</b> | \$20,009.73 | <b>\$20,970</b> | \$20,438.34 | <b>\$21,809</b>  | <b>\$22,376</b>   |
| SAYMA Staff Training                    | <b>\$100</b>    |             | <b>\$100</b>    |             | <b>\$100</b>     | <b>\$0</b>        |
| SAYMA Office Administration             | <b>\$3,500</b>  | \$2,840.53  | <b>\$3,500</b>  | \$3,393.34  | <b>\$2,900</b>   | <b>\$2,400</b>    |
| Phone, Internet & Office Expenses       |                 | \$575.40    |                 | \$775.23    |                  |                   |
| Postage                                 |                 | \$278.23    |                 | \$519.73    |                  |                   |
| Duplication                             |                 | \$343.00    |                 | \$645.15    |                  |                   |
| Misc. Office                            |                 | \$1,643.90  |                 | \$1,453.23  |                  |                   |
| SAYMA Newsletter                        | <b>\$1,300</b>  | \$351.03    | <b>\$1,400</b>  | \$539.41    | <b>\$1,300</b>   | <b>\$1,000</b>    |
| SAYMA Directory                         | <b>\$600</b>    |             | <b>\$500</b>    | \$108.01    | <b>\$600</b>     | <b>\$300</b>      |
| SAYMA Treasurer                         | <b>\$250</b>    | \$271.35    | <b>\$250</b>    | \$72.62     | <b>\$600</b>     | <b>\$550</b>      |
| SAYMA F&P                               | <b>\$100</b>    |             | <b>\$100</b>    |             | <b>\$100</b>     | <b>\$100</b>      |
| SAYMA Other Expenses                    | <b>\$0</b>      |             | <b>\$0</b>      | \$95.00     | <b>\$0</b>       | <b>\$0</b>        |
| Total Operational Disbursements         | <b>\$65,150</b> | \$61,409    | <b>\$66,120</b> | \$63,249    | <b>\$69,709</b>  | <b>\$67,176</b>   |
| YEARLY MEETING PROJECTS                 |                 |             |                 |             |                  |                   |
| Transfers To Funds                      | <b>\$2,400</b>  | \$2,400.00  | <b>\$3,700</b>  | \$3,700.00  | <b>\$5,600</b>   | <b>\$5,600</b>    |
| Spiritual Development Fund              | <b>\$500</b>    | \$500.00    | <b>\$1,000</b>  | \$1,000.00  | <b>\$1,500</b>   | <b>\$1,500</b>    |
| Released Friend Fund                    | <b>\$200</b>    | \$200.00    | <b>\$1,000</b>  | \$1,000.00  | <b>\$1,500</b>   | <b>\$1,500</b>    |
| FWCC - 3rd Wld Del                      | <b>\$650</b>    | \$650.00    | <b>\$650</b>    | \$650.00    | <b>\$1,325</b>   | <b>\$1,325</b>    |
| FWCC World Conference Fund              | <b>\$700</b>    | \$700.00    | <b>\$700</b>    | \$700.00    | <b>\$825</b>     | <b>\$825</b>      |
| Youth Enrichment Fund                   | <b>\$250</b>    | \$250.00    | <b>\$250</b>    | \$250.00    | <b>\$250</b>     | <b>\$250</b>      |
| Young Adult Friends Scholarships        | <b>\$100</b>    | \$100.00    | <b>\$100</b>    | \$100.00    | <b>\$200</b>     | <b>\$200</b>      |
| Contributions Wider Quaker Org          | <b>\$5,300</b>  | \$5,300.00  | <b>\$5,300</b>  | \$5,300.00  | <b>\$6,000</b>   | <b>\$6,000</b>    |
| <i>AFSC</i>                             | <b>\$600</b>    | \$600.00    | <b>\$600</b>    | \$600.00    | <b>\$700</b>     | <b>\$700</b>      |
| <i>FCNL</i>                             | <b>\$600</b>    | \$600.00    | <b>\$600</b>    | \$600.00    | <b>\$700</b>     | <b>\$700</b>      |
| <i>FGC</i>                              | <b>\$600</b>    | \$600.00    | <b>\$600</b>    | \$600.00    | <b>\$700</b>     | <b>\$700</b>      |
| <i>FWCC</i>                             | <b>\$600</b>    | \$600.00    | <b>\$600</b>    | \$600.00    | <b>\$700</b>     | <b>\$700</b>      |
| <i>Right Sharing of World Resources</i> | <b>\$600</b>    | \$600.00    | <b>\$600</b>    | \$600.00    | <b>\$700</b>     | <b>\$700</b>      |
| <i>Quaker House</i>                     | <b>\$600</b>    | \$600.00    | <b>\$600</b>    | \$600.00    | <b>\$700</b>     | <b>\$700</b>      |
| <i>Friends for LGBTQ Concerns</i>       | <b>\$200</b>    | \$200.00    | <b>\$200</b>    | \$200.00    | <b>\$200</b>     | <b>\$200</b>      |
| <i>Quaker Earthcare Witness</i>         | <b>\$600</b>    | \$600.00    | <b>\$600</b>    | \$600.00    | <b>\$700</b>     | <b>\$700</b>      |
| <i>Friends Peace Teams</i>              | <b>\$200</b>    | \$200.00    | <b>\$200</b>    | \$200.00    | <b>\$200</b>     | <b>\$200</b>      |
| <i>Wm Penn House</i>                    | <b>\$200</b>    | \$200.00    | <b>\$200</b>    | \$200.00    | <b>\$200</b>     | <b>\$200</b>      |
| <i>Friends Journal</i>                  | <b>\$200</b>    | \$200.00    | <b>\$200</b>    | \$200.00    | <b>\$200</b>     | <b>\$200</b>      |
| <i>Guilford College Archiving</i>       | <b>\$100</b>    | \$100.00    | <b>\$100</b>    | \$100.00    | <b>\$100</b>     | <b>\$100</b>      |
| <i>Rural Southern Voice for Peace</i>   | <b>\$200</b>    | \$200.00    | <b>\$200</b>    | \$200.00    | <b>\$200</b>     | <b>\$200</b>      |
| Other                                   |                 |             |                 |             |                  |                   |
| Total Projects                          | <b>\$7,700</b>  | \$7,700.00  | <b>\$9,000</b>  | \$9,000.00  | <b>\$11,600</b>  | <b>\$11,600</b>   |
| Total Disbursements                     | <b>\$72,850</b> | \$69,109.28 | <b>\$75,120</b> | \$72,249.13 | <b>\$81,309</b>  | <b>\$78,776</b>   |
|   |                 |             |                 |             |                  |                   |
| Surplus (Deficit)                       | <b>\$0</b>      | \$12,321.13 | <b>\$0</b>      | \$1,799.85  | <b>(\$8,859)</b> | <b>(\$11,726)</b> |

\* based a \$60.00 assessment per member and regular attender

\*\* Not actually counted separately from fees paid to college.

## Attachment G: Faith & Practice Proposals

### Community

*"As many candles, lighted and put in one place, do greatly augment the light, and make it more to shine forth, so when many are gathered together in the same life there is more of the glory of God."* Robert Barclay (1678)

*"When we focus on our oneness and unity in the Love that is God, it's tempting to believe that we will all live happily ever after together, with never an unkind word or misunderstanding, much less legitimate complaints, anger or real nastiness. The challenge of course is to hold up and live out the vision while acknowledging and accepting the reality of our own flawed humanity and that of those we live with."* Patricia Loring, *Listening Spirituality: Corporate Practice Among Friends*, page 37.

[1] Community is one of the important foundations of Quakerism. This testimony arises from our experience that a group worshipping together encounters God. Since the first generation, Friends have had a practice of discernment where unity is the focus, looking not only to individual inspirations but also to the movement of the Spirit in their midst. Friends followed this practice in meetings for worship with a concern for business. It was not the person with the most money, age, or length of history with Friends who made the decisions; it was the group as a whole that discerned the will of God. That sense of the meeting, that Spirit which the worshippers recognized in unity, was the authority.

[2] All Friends are bound together in community by our shared seeking of the Light. Our life together is grounded in the practice of listening deeply to each other and looking truthfully at how we live in the world. It is the task of the meeting community to affirm, inspire, and hold each of us accountable in our faithfulness to God's leadings.

[3] Ministering to each other's spiritual and material needs builds and nurtures community. Both requesting and giving assistance are essential aspects of Friends' life together; taking a warm, personal interest in one another's welfare strengthens the meeting and the individuals alike. Such assistance may take the form of a clearness committee, financial or other material aid, or other appropriate help. Friends also provide spiritual and emotional support by holding in the Light those experiencing special hardship or joy. When we join in service and support, whether in our home communities, in the wider community or in the world, we express our love for God and one another.

[4] Every community experiences difficulties and it is important to avoid the temptation to "sweep them under the rug." Open recognition of and respect for differences, forthright sharing, and sincere corporate reflection strengthen meetings and provide ways to resolve conflicts in a direct and loving manner. Conflicts affecting entire meetings may be addressed through threshing sessions or worship sharing. SAYMA's Ministry and Nurture Committee may be called upon for help. For conflicts between individual Friends, a clearness committee may be helpful. It is Quaker practice to prefer mediation or negotiation to resolve disputes without litigation. Harmony emerges not merely from coming to understanding and resolution but also from the mutual search for the truth conducted in a spirit of tender listening and care. The unity we seek is not sameness of belief, but the oneness of people drawn together in love and concern for each other, grounded in the Spirit.

[5] We want our meetings to be affirming and nurturing, but if we expect that we will always feel safe and comfortable there, we risk becoming unwilling to welcome Friends different from ourselves. The practice of inclusivity challenges each of us in different ways to reach past our limiting assumptions and fears to find the Light in others. When we do so, we find aspects of the Light we did not expect: the diversity of our community may be greater than we can easily accept. It is valuable, even if painful, to admit that we often fail to live up to our aspirations. Our meetings are often homogeneous – socially, politically, racially, spiritually, intellectually,

culturally, and in other respects. The process of inclusion, though it requires adjustments from each of us, gives us all a deeper experience of the Spirit.

[6] Quaker community extends beyond the monthly and yearly meetings. Yearly meeting sessions and committee work, intermeeting visitations, regional gatherings, visiting other monthly and yearly meetings, and participation in Wider Quaker Organizations are all opportunities for Friends to find nurture, spiritual growth and fellowship. The interconnectedness of all life continues to call Friends to be full participants in the universal community. Our understanding of God's love does not stop at the meetinghouse door. Everywhere we go, Friends strive to build the blessed community, which historically has been called the peaceable kingdom. Our testimonies of peace, equality, integrity, simplicity and community mean little unless they are practiced in relation to all.

### **Marriage Among Friends**

[1] Friends have long recognized that some couples are called into a loving, committed relationship: a ministry of caring. With Divine assistance, this commitment may open the way to depend unreserved love, to forgiveness, to trust, to spiritual development and nurture of each other's gifts. Early Friends understood that the joining of two people in this covenant relationship" is the work of the Lord only, and not the priests', or magistrates'; for it is God's ordinance and not man's; and therefore Friends cannot consent that they should join them together: for we marry none; it is the Lord's work, and we are but witnesses."(George Fox, 1669) Likewise, SAYMA meetings follow the general Quaker practice that marriage is a matter between God and the couple, witnessed by the meeting.

[2] In a Quaker marriage, two people commit themselves to a shared life, bringing into being a new family. During a meeting for worship, usually one especially called for the purpose of the marriage, they stand in the presence of God and of friends gathered and declare their intention, with divine assistance, to remain loving and faithful for life.

[3] In Friends tradition, marriage takes place in a community of faith. Quaker marriage involves not only two individuals, but also the entire community. The corporate signing of the marriage certificate testifies to this fact.

[4] In the earliest days of Quakerism, legal marriage was possible only within the Church of England. The social services available were provided only by the established church and were not available to Quakers. In this situation, Friends took care of each other through their monthly and yearly meetings. Since development of the concept of civil marriage, many Friends have been able to rely more on the legal and social protections now provided to people with state-recognized marriages and have assumed less responsibility for their mutual economic support.

[5] From time to time, Friends face the challenge of taking under their care marriages, such as same sex marriages, that are not recognized by the state. Any Monthly Meeting may receive a request to recognize and support a loving, committed relationship, state-recognized or not. Meetings are called to approach and respond to each request in the spirit of tenderness and openness to God's leading.

### **1. Clearness for marriage**

[6] When seeking meeting approval, the couple writes a letter to the meeting stating their intention to marry and their desire to marry under the care of the meeting. If only one, or neither, is a Friend, the meeting will want to

take time to develop a communal bond with the couple before deciding to take the marriage under its care. If the couple maintains membership in different meetings, they will send letters to both meetings, requesting approval from each

[7] In some meetings this letter is brought to the monthly meeting for business, in others to the Ministry and Nurture/Counsel Committee or another designated committee. The appropriate body then appoints a committee for clearness to meet with the couple in a spirit of worship and concern for the proposed marriage. This committee helps the couple affirm their clearness for marriage by examining with them not only their clearness from prior conflicting obligations of any kind but many other aspects of their relationship. These aspects might include potential strengths and weaknesses, hopes and dreams, expectations in roles and work, and relationships to money and children. Discussion about wills and other legal arrangements needed to secure the relationship the couple desires occurs at this stage. Individual meetings may prepare a list of queries for use by their clearness committees for marriage.

[8] The process of clarification is the task of the entire group gathered together. It may deepen the couple's relationship and understanding of each other, or it may reveal problems that must be addressed before the marriage can proceed or that preclude the marriage at that time. The clearness process is complete only when the decision is clear to all. Once clearness is reached, either the clearness committee or the Ministry and Nurture Committee makes a recommendation to the next business meeting. If the meeting agrees to take the marriage under its care, it appoints a wedding planning committee. Proceeding in good Quaker order, and to avoid possible embarrassment and unnecessary expense, couples are advised to refrain from issuing invitations and making reservations until the meeting has agreed to take the marriage under its care.

## **2. Planning for the wedding**

[9] The wedding planning committee, together with the couple, reviews the promises which the couple will exchange, plans to accomplish the wedding with simplicity and reverence, and may help plan the reception.

[10] There is no required formula for the declaration of a Quaker marriage promise. The couple discerns the wording of the promises and reviews the wording with the committee. Similar words, translated from first person to third person, are also stated in the marriage certificate. The following is a traditional example: "In the presence of God and these our friends I take thee \_\_\_\_\_ to be my wife/husband/partner, promising with Divine assistance to be unto thee a loving and faithful wife/husband/partner so long as we both shall live." The couple may be led to alter or add to this wording. The wedding planning committee and the couple designate in advance persons to carry out the following responsibilities: greeting, explaining meeting for worship and Friends' wedding procedures; reading the certificate after the couple signs; closing the meeting; and inviting all those present to sign the certificate as witnesses. If a reception will follow the meeting for worship for marriage, the wedding planning committee may help in arranging and providing for the reception. The wedding and the reception are separate events.

[11] The couple will arrange for preparation of the marriage certificate, well in advance, in a form similar to the following. The wording incorporates the promises that the couple will speak during the wedding as agreed upon with the committee for clearness: Whereas, A.B., of \_\_\_\_\_, child/son/daughter of C.B. and H.B., of \_\_\_\_\_, and D.E., of \_\_\_\_\_, child/son/daughter of F.E. and M.E., of \_\_\_\_\_, having declared their intentions of marriage with each other to \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends held at



\_\_\_\_\_, their proposed marriage was taken under the care of the meeting. Now this is to certify to whom it may concern, that for the accomplishment of their intentions, this \_\_\_\_ day of the \_\_\_\_ month, in the year \_\_\_\_\_, they, A.B. and D.E., appeared in a meeting for worship of the Religious Society of Friends, held at \_\_\_\_\_, A.B. and D.E., taking each other by the hand, did on this solemn occasion declare that they promise with divine assistance to be unto each other loving and faithful wife/husband/partners so long as they both shall live. And moreover they, A.B. and D.E. \*, did, as further confirmation thereof, then and there, to this certificate set their hands.

A.B. \_\_\_\_\_

D.E. \_\_\_\_\_

And we, having been present at the marriage, have as witnesses hereunto set our hands.

Many choose to hand-letter their certificates on parchment or fine paper.

### **3. The wedding itself**

[12] At the time appointed, the meeting for worship for marriage gathers in silence. For the benefit of non-Friends, the person appointed explains the meaning of the worship and the procedure to follow. Out of the silence, as they are moved, the couple will rise and, taking each other by the hand, declare their promises to one another. The couple then signs the marriage certificate, and the appointed Friend reads it aloud. In the period of worship to follow, guests may speak out of the silence as they are moved. After the rise of the meeting, all present are invited to sign the marriage certificate. When there will also be a state-recognized marriage, those papers will be signed separately from the Quaker meeting for worship for marriage.

### **4. State-recognized marriage**

[13] Meetings within SAYMA differ in their approach to state-recognized marriages under their care because we live in states that deny the secular institution of marriage to same-gender couples. From time to time, states change the laws affecting Quaker marriage. Quaker meetings need to stay informed about the current legal status of marriages for all couples within their jurisdictions.

[14] Each meeting decides its own approach to the legal aspects of marriages under their care. Some meetings will help eligible couples complete state-approved forms that give legal status to marriage. In these cases, it is the couple's responsibility to secure the license. The wedding planning committee will arrange to have it signed after the meeting for worship for marriage, and the couple will then file it. Some meetings offer only a Quaker marriage since not all couples are eligible for state-recognized marriage. In these meetings, eligible couples desiring a state-recognized marriage must go before a state-approved official to obtain it. Some meetings may help couples complete state-approved forms even if they are not considered eligible and support those couples in seeking eligibility from the State.

### **5. Nurturing marriage under the care of the Meeting**

[15] The meeting's involvement with the couple begins with the application for marriage under the care of the meeting, and may continue indefinitely. A monthly meeting remains concerned for all the marriages within it

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\* A phrase may be added here when one or both individuals chooses to change names.

and may offer various forms of support to married couples. Friends have found that marriage enrichment retreats and similar supports help foster strong and growing relationships. In some marriages, the couple and its committee for clearness may continue to meet on a mutually agreed timetable to allow airing of joys and concerns that manifest in the marriage.

[16] People go through many changes and difficulties can arise in any relationship. Members of meetings should be sensitive to the health of marriages under their care and express their love and concern. If problems arise and help from the meeting might assist in their resolution, a member of the Ministry and Nurture Committee or the clearness committee for the marriage may initiate an effort to help the couple attain clearness. All couples, including those not married under its care, are encouraged to call on the meeting or a specially appointed clearness committee to help resolve difficulties.

[17] We live in a time when, for some people, individual fulfillment and growth in marriage seem mutually exclusive. The experience and faith of Friends is that marriage can be both stable and creative as well as nurturing and fulfilling.

**Attachment H: Census**  
**January 2009-December 2009**

|   | Asheville  | Athens    | Atlanta    | Berea     | Birmingham | Boone    | Brevard   | Celo       | Charleston | Chattanooga | Columbia  | Cookeville | Crossville | Foxfire  | Greenville | Huntsville | Memphis   | Nashville  | Oxford    | Swannanoa | Knoxville |             |
|---|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|----------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| 1.a. Recorded members   |            |           |            |           |            |          |           |            |            |             |           |            |            |          |            |            |           |            |           |           |           |             |
| Adults  | 38         | 10        | 131        | 53        | 16         |          | 7         | 32         | 3          | 28          | 17        | 3          | 9          | 7        | 6          | 4          | 29        | 53         | 8         | 27        | 53        |             |
| under 18  | 2          | 1         | 0          | 6         | 3          |          |           |            | 0          | 3           | 0         | 0          | 0          |          | 0          |            | 8         | 1          | 2         | 0         | 2         |             |
| <b>Subtotal: Members</b>  | <b>40</b>  | <b>11</b> | <b>131</b> | <b>59</b> | <b>19</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>39</b> | <b>32</b>  | <b>3</b>   | <b>31</b>   | <b>17</b> | <b>3</b>   | <b>9</b>   | <b>7</b> | <b>6</b>   | <b>4</b>   | <b>37</b> | <b>54</b>  | <b>10</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>55</b> |             |
| 1.b. Attenders  |            |           |            |           |            |          |           |            |            |             |           |            |            |          |            |            |           |            |           |           |           |             |
| Members of another SAYMA meeting  | 0          | 0         | 0          | 0         | 0          |          |           | 0          | 0          | 0           | 0         | 2          | 2          |          | 0          |            | 0         | 3          | 0         | 0         | 2         |             |
| Members in another Yearly Meeting   | 0          | 0         |            | 0         | 1          |          | 1         | 4          | 0          | 0           | 0         | 0          | 2          |          | 1          |            | 2         | 7          | 0         | 6         | 0         |             |
| Not members of RSOF   | 0          | 15        | 110        | 15        | 3          |          | 18        | 28         | 11         | 15          | 18        | 3          | 2          |          | 4          | 13         | 17        | 58         | 8         | 24        | 22        |             |
| under 18  | 6          | 2         | 57         | 20        | 2          |          |           | 15         | 0          | 12          | 11        | 0          | 0          |          | 0          |            | 4         | 0          | 0         | 6         | 5         |             |
| Subtotal: Attenders   | 6          | 17        | 167        | 35        | 6          | 0        | 19        | 47         | 11         | 27          | 29        | 5          | 6          | 0        | 5          | 13         | 23        | 68         | 8         | 36        | 29        |             |
| <b>TOTAL: Individuals to report to SAYMA</b>                                | <b>46</b>  | <b>28</b> | <b>298</b> | <b>94</b> | <b>25</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>58</b> | <b>79</b>  | <b>14</b>  | <b>58</b>   | <b>46</b> | <b>6</b>   | <b>13</b>  | <b>7</b> | <b>11</b>  | <b>17</b>  | <b>60</b> | <b>119</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>63</b> | <b>82</b> | <b>1142</b> |
| Adults considered inactive  | 16         | 0         | 26         | n/a       | 1          |          |           | 3          | 0          | 3           | 1         | 0          | 3          |          | 1          |            | 13        | 25         | 0         | 0         | 29        | 121         |
| <b>Report to FWCC (Includes PM/WG attenders; NOT members of other YM's)</b> | <b>46</b>  | <b>28</b> | <b>298</b> | <b>94</b> | <b>25</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>58</b> | <b>79</b>  | <b>14</b>  | <b>58</b>   | <b>46</b> | <b>4</b>   | <b>11</b>  | <b>7</b> | <b>11</b>  | <b>17</b>  | <b>60</b> | <b>116</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>63</b> | <b>80</b> | <b>1133</b> |
| <b>Reported to FWCC last year</b>   | <b>91</b>  | <b>21</b> | <b>159</b> | <b>94</b> | <b>32</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>53</b> | <b>106</b> | <b>14</b>  | <b>38</b>   | <b>39</b> | <b>6</b>   | <b>11</b>  | <b>7</b> | <b>15</b>  | <b>17</b>  | <b>60</b> | <b>116</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>63</b> | <b>93</b> | <b>1053</b> |
| <b>Change</b>   | <b>-45</b> | <b>7</b>  | <b>139</b> | <b>0</b>  | <b>-7</b>  | <b>0</b> | <b>5</b>  | <b>-27</b> | <b>0</b>   | <b>20</b>   | <b>7</b>  | <b>-2</b>  | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b> | <b>-4</b>  | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>   | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>  | <b>13</b> | <b>80</b>   |
| Members who   |            |           |            |           |            |          |           |            |            |             |           |            |            |          |            |            |           |            |           |           |           |             |
| Attend Worship Group under the care of your meeting                         | 4          | 0         | 1          | 0         | 2          |          |           | 0          | n/a        | 2           | 1         | 0          | 0          |          | 0          |            | 0         | 3          | 3         | 0         | 2         |             |
| Attend another SAYMA Worship Group  | 0          | 0         | d/k        | 0         | 0          |          |           | 0          | n/a        | 0           | 1         | 0          | 0          |          | 0          |            | 0         | 0          | 0         | 0         | 0         |             |
| Attend another SAYMA Meeting  | 0          | 0         | d/k        | 0         | 0          |          |           | 0          | n/a        | 0           | 1         | 0          | 0          |          | 0          |            | 0         | 6          | 0         | 2         | 0         |             |
| Attend in another Yearly Meeting  | 0          | 0         | d/k        | 0         | 2          |          |           | 0          | n/a        | 0           | 2         | 0          | 0          |          | 0          |            | 3         | 2          | 0         | 2         | 3         |             |
| Attend in another religious tradition                                       | 0          | 0         | d/k        | 1         | 0          |          |           | 3          | n/a        | 0           | 0         | 0          | 0          |          | 0          |            | 0         | 1          | 0         | 0         | 0         |             |
| Attend rarely/not at all/don't know   | 0          | 0         | 26         | 35        | 5          |          |           |            | n/a        | 8           | 2         | 0          | 1          |          | 1          |            | 0         | 20         | 1         | 0         | 27        |             |

\*Shaded meetings did not provide new data; data from 2008 was used.

|  | <i>Asheville</i> | <i>Athens</i> | <i>Atlanta</i> | <i>Berea</i> | <i>Birmingham</i> | <i>Boone</i> | <i>Brevard</i> | <i>Celo</i> | <i>Charleston</i> | <i>Chattanooga</i> | <i>Columbia</i> | <i>Cookeville</i> | <i>Crossville</i> | <i>Foxfire</i> | <i>Greenville</i> | <i>Huntsville</i> | <i>Memphis</i> | <i>Nashville</i> | <i>Oxford</i> | <i>Swannanoa</i> | <i>Knoxville</i> |    |
|--|------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|----|
| 3. Count of Events   |                  |               |                |              |                   |              |                |             |                   |                    |                 |                   |                   |                |                   |                   |                |                  |               |                  |                  |    |
| a. Marriages/commitment ceremonies of members/attenders under care of meeting    | 1                | 0             | 2              | 0            | 0                 |              |                | 0           | n/a               | 0                  | 0               | 0                 | 0                 |                | 0                 |                   |                |                  |               |                  |                  | 1  |
| b. Marriage/commitment ceremonies of members/attenders NOT under care of meeting | 0                | 1             | d/k            | 1            | 0                 |              |                | 0           | n/a               | 0                  | 0               | 0                 | 0                 |                | 0                 |                   |                |                  |               |                  |                  | 0  |
| c. Marriage/commitment ceremonies under care of meeting, non members/attenders   | 0                | 0             | 0              |              | 0                 |              |                | 0           | n/a               | 0                  | 0               | 0                 |                   |                | 0                 |                   |                |                  |               |                  |                  | 0  |
| d. births/adoptions  | d/k              | 0             | 0              |              | 0                 |              |                | 0           | n/a               | 1                  | 0               | 0                 |                   |                | 0                 |                   |                |                  |               |                  |                  | 0  |
| e. Deaths  | 1                | 0             | 2              |              | 0                 |              |                | 0           | n/a               | 0                  | 0               | 0                 |                   |                | 0                 |                   |                |                  |               |                  |                  | 0  |
| f. transfers in  | 1                | 1             | 4              |              | 0                 |              |                | 4           | n/a               | 1                  | 0               | 0                 |                   |                | 0                 |                   |                |                  |               |                  |                  | 0  |
| g. transfers out/withdrawals   | 2                | 1             | 1              |              | 0                 |              |                | 2           | n/a               | 1                  | 0               | 0                 |                   |                | 0                 |                   |                |                  |               |                  |                  | 1  |
| h. new members   | 1                | 0             | 4              |              | 0                 |              |                | 0           | 2                 | 2                  | 0               | 0                 |                   |                | 1                 |                   |                |                  |               |                  |                  | 0  |
| i. new attenders   | d/k              | 4             | d/c            |              | 5                 |              |                | 7           | n/a               | 3                  | 7               | 0                 |                   |                | 1                 |                   |                |                  |               |                  |                  | 5  |
| j stopped attending  | d/k              | 3             | d/c            |              | 0                 |              |                | 10          | n/a               | 1                  | 1               | 0                 |                   |                | 2                 |                   |                |                  |               |                  |                  | 17 |

\*Shaded meetings did not provide new data; data from 2008 was used.

Attachment H: Census

## Attachment I: Nominating Committee Report and Roster of Officers and Committees

### Nominations for June 2010

New appointees appear in boldface.

Note: All terms are two years in length unless otherwise noted. Terms begin & end after YM each June.

#### Officers:

|                        |                      |              |                   |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| CLERK                  | <b>Tim Lamm</b>      | <b>10—12</b> | <b>Berea</b>      |
| ASSISTANT CLERK        | <b>Dennis Gregg</b>  | <b>10—11</b> | <b>Crossville</b> |
| RECORDING CLERK        | Bill Holland         | 09—11        | Atlanta           |
| TREASURER              | Deanna Nipp-Kientz   | 08—12        | Nash/Cookeville   |
| <b>ASST. TREASURER</b> | <b>Alan Robinson</b> | <b>10-12</b> | <b>Asheville</b>  |

#### Standing Committees

##### Ministry & Nurture Committee:

|                   |                    |              |                   |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| <b>CLERK</b>      | <b>Nancy Whitt</b> | <b>10-12</b> | <b>Birmingham</b> |
| MEMBER            | Kristi Estes       | 09—11        | Oxford            |
| MEMBER            | Jane Goldthwaite   | 09—11        | Celo              |
| MEMBER            | Edie Patrick       | 09—11        | Asheville         |
| MEETING APPOINTEE | Mary Kedl          |              | West Knoxville    |
| MEETING APPOINTEE | Thais Carr         |              | Nashville         |
| MEETING APPOINTEE | Ceal Wutka         |              | Atlanta           |
| MEETING APPOINTEE |                    |              |                   |
| MEETING APPOINTEE |                    |              |                   |
| MEETING APPOINTEE |                    |              |                   |

##### Finance Committee

|           |                    |       |                 |
|-----------|--------------------|-------|-----------------|
| CLERK     | Susan Phelan       | 09—11 | Huntsville      |
| TREASURER | Deanna Nipp-Kientz | 08—12 | Nash/Cookeville |
| MEMBER    | Leann Swarm        | 09—11 | W.Knoxville     |
| MEMBER    | Julia Sibley-Jones | 09—11 | Columbia        |
| MEMBER    | Kendall Ivie       | 09—11 | W. Knoxville    |

##### Personnel Committee

|                        |                                       |              |                   |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| CLERK                  | <b>Dennis Gregg</b>                   | <b>10—11</b> | <b>Crossville</b> |
| MEMBER                 | <b>Free Polazzo</b>                   | <b>10-12</b> | <b>Atlanta</b>    |
| MEMBER                 | <b>Sue Gerdes</b>                     | <b>10-12</b> | <b>Columbia</b>   |
| SUPERVISOR OF AdmAsst  | Tim Lamm                              | 10—12        | Brerea            |
| SUPERVIOSR SAYF AdAsst | <b>SAYF steering com will appoint</b> |              |                   |

##### **SAYF Steering Committee (Usually picked by the monthly meetings)**

|          |                 |       |             |
|----------|-----------------|-------|-------------|
| CO-CLERK | Chuck Jones     | 09—11 | Chattanooga |
| CO-CLERK | Wren Hendrikson | 10-12 | Chapel Hill |
| MEMBER   | Ceal Wutka      | 08—10 | Atlanta     |
| MEMBER   | Mark Wutka      | 08—10 | Atlanta     |
| MEMBER   | Aaron Ruscetta  | 10-12 | Atlanta     |
| MEMBER   |                 |       |             |
| MEMBER   |                 |       |             |
| MEMBER   |                 |       |             |

### **JYM oversight committee**

|                 |                         |              |                |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| <b>CONVENER</b> | <b>Elizabeth Hudson</b> | <b>10—12</b> | <b>Atlanta</b> |
| <b>CONVENER</b> | Wendy Satterthwait      | 09-12        | Berea          |
| <b>MEMBER</b>   | Heidemarie Huber-Feely  | 05—11        | Chattanooga    |
| <b>MEMBER</b>   | Rachel Weir             | 09—11        | Celo           |
| <b>MEMBER</b>   |                         |              |                |

### **Yearly Meeting Planning Committee**

|                        |                     |              |                    |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| <b>CLERK</b>           | <b>Carol Ciscel</b> | 10—11        | <b>Memphis</b>     |
| <b>ADULT PROGRAMS</b>  | John Potter         | 09—11        | Nashville          |
| <b>WORKSHOPS</b>       | Sharon Annis        | 09—11        | W.Knoxville        |
| <b>CO-REGISTRAR</b>    | <b>Laura Seeger</b> | <b>10-12</b> | <b>Chattanooga</b> |
| <b>CO-REGISTRAR</b>    | <b>Sallie Prugh</b> | 09—11        | <b>Columbia</b>    |
| <b>BOOKSTORE</b>       | <b>Chris Berg</b>   | <b>10—12</b> | <b>Greenville</b>  |
| <b>ASST. BOOKSTORE</b> |                     | 10—12        |                    |
| <b>LOCAL ARRANGMNT</b> | Bob Welsh           | 09—11        | Swannanoa          |
| <b>JYM COORDINATOR</b> |                     |              |                    |
| <b>YAF REP</b>         | Judy Scoville       | 09—11        | Nashville          |
| <b>WORSHIP CO-ORD.</b> | Ceal Wutka          | 10—12        | Atlanta            |
| <b>LAYOUT EDITOR</b>   | <b>Carol Ciscel</b> | <b>10—12</b> | <b>Memphis</b>     |

### **Young Adult Friends**

|              |                           |  |                    |
|--------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------|
| <b>CLERK</b> | <b>Samuel Leeman-Munk</b> |  | <b>Chapel Hill</b> |
|--------------|---------------------------|--|--------------------|

### **Nominating Committee** (named by the naming committee at SAYMA)

|               |              |              |              |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>CLERK</b>  |              | <b>10-12</b> |              |
| <b>MEMBER</b> | Hank Fay     | 09—11        | Berea        |
| <b>MEMBER</b> | Kit Potter   | 09—11        | Nashville    |
| <b>MEMBER</b> | Missy Ivie   | 09—11        | W. Knoxville |
| <b>MEMBER</b> | Dennis Gregg | 10—12        | Crossville   |
| <b>MEMBER</b> | David Ciscel | 10—12        | Memphis      |
| <b>MEMBER</b> | Beth Ensign  | 10—12        | Atlanta      |
| <b>MEMBER</b> | Joy Gossett  | 10—12        | Asheville    |

### **Peace & Social Concerns Committee**

|               |                  |       |             |
|---------------|------------------|-------|-------------|
| <b>CLERK</b>  | Steve Livingston | 09—11 | Asheville   |
| <b>MEMBER</b> | Jere Licciacello | 09—11 | Chattanooga |
| <b>MEMBER</b> | Julia Ewen       | 09—11 | Atlanta     |
| <b>MEMBER</b> | Wendell Holland  | 09—11 | Brevard     |

### **Ecological Concerns Network**

|                 |              |              |            |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| <b>CO-CLERK</b> | Shaun Chavis | 09—11        | Birmingham |
| <b>CO-CLERK</b> |              | <b>10-12</b> |            |

### **Southern Appalachian Friend**

|               |                    |       |                |
|---------------|--------------------|-------|----------------|
| <b>EDITOR</b> | Kathleen Mavournin | 09—11 | West Knoxville |
|---------------|--------------------|-------|----------------|

### **Web Support**

|                |                    |              |             |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|
| <b>MANAGER</b> | Hank Fay           | <b>10—12</b> | Berea       |
| <b>CLERK</b>   | Samuel Leeman-Munk | <b>10—12</b> | Chapel Hill |

### **Archivist**

|  |                   |              |                       |
|--|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
|  | <b>Missy Ivie</b> | <b>10—12</b> | <b>West Knoxville</b> |
|--|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------|

## Ad Hoc Committees

### **Faith & Practice Revision**

|        |                    |          |                |
|--------|--------------------|----------|----------------|
| CLERK  | Kathleen Mavournin | Began 09 | Atlanta        |
| MEMBER | Missy Ivie         | Began 01 | West Knoxville |
| MEMBER | Melissa Meyer      | Began 04 | Boone          |
| MEMBER | Barbara Esther     | Began 04 | Ashville       |
| MEMBER | Free Polazzo       | Began 04 | Atlanta        |
| MEMBER | Alan Robinson      | Began 07 | Asheville      |
| MEMBER | Eddie Patrick      | Began 07 | Asheville      |
| MEMBER | Ted Edgerton       | Began 07 | Boone          |

### **Handbook**

|        |              |    |                |
|--------|--------------|----|----------------|
| CLERK  | Sharon Annis | 06 | West Knoxville |
| MEMBER | Missy Ivie   | 02 | West Knoxville |
| MEMBER |              |    |                |

### **Site Selection**

|        |                    |  |                |
|--------|--------------------|--|----------------|
| CLERK  | Errol Hess         |  |                |
| MEMBER | Linda Trask        |  | Nashville      |
| MEMBER | Kathleen Mavournin |  | West Knoxville |
| MEMBER | Ceal Wutka         |  | Atlanta        |

## Representatives to Wider Quaker Organizations

Note: terms for AFSC and SERO are 3 years in length; all others are for 3 years.

|                            |  |  |  |
|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>AFSC</b>                | <b>Charles Schade (2<sup>nd</sup> term)</b><br><b>Free Polazzo (2<sup>nd</sup> term)</b><br><b>Bob Welsh</b> | <b>10—12</b><br><b>10-12</b><br><b>Alternate</b> | <b>Charleston</b><br><b>Atlanta</b><br><b>Swananoa</b>       |
| AFSC/SERO                  | Peter Furst<br><b>Geeta McGahey</b>  | 09—12<br><b>09-11</b>                            | Birmingham<br><b>Celo</b>                                    |
| <b>FCNL</b>                | <b>Joe Parko</b><br>Kelly Schoolmeester (1 <sup>st</sup> term)<br>Jane Hiles                                 | <b>10--13</b><br>09—12<br>10—13                  | <b>Crossville</b><br>Columbia<br>Birmingham                  |
| FGC                        | <b>Gita Larson</b><br>Maia Hallward<br><br><b>Ceal Wutka</b>   | <b>10—13</b><br>09—11<br><br><b>10-13</b>        | <b>Columbia (Asheville)</b><br>Atlanta<br><br><b>Atlanta</b> |
| FLGBTQC                    | Alternate  | 09—11  |  |
| FWCC                       | Tim Lamm (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)<br>Sallie Prugh (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)                                       | 08—11<br>08—11<br><b>10-13</b>                   | Berea<br>Columbia  |
| <b>FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS</b> |  |  |  |
| QEW                        | Roy Taylor<br>David Ciscel   | 09—11<br>09—11                                   | Canton<br>Memphis  |
| QUAKER HOUSE               | Harry Rogers   | 09—11  | Columbia   |
| RSWR                       | Karen Morris   | 09—11  | Atlanta  |
| WM. PENN HOUSE             | Charlie Wilton   | 09—11  | Berea  |