

**Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association
Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina
45th Annual Meeting, June 11 – 14, 2015**

Thursday, June 11, 2015

45-01 Opening Worship

We gathered for the 45th annual gathering of Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association with an extended period of waiting worship.

45-02 Welcome/Reading (Attachment A: Readings)

Larry Ingle (Chattanooga), Clerk of SAYMA, spoke at the rise of opening worship to welcome Friends. He spoke of the changing nature of Friends, including the separation and reforming of yearly meetings (recently Indiana and North Carolina Meeting). The Clerk spoke to the far-flung nature of Friends, and of the connection SAYMA Friends have with Friends world-wide who are meeting as we meet. The Epistle from the Piedmont Friends Meeting reflects change and new direction, and as that reflection, was selected and read by the Clerk as the opening reading.

45-03 Introductions/Roll Call (Attachment B: Attendance)

The roll call of Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups was held. Friends were asked to stand or signal when the names of their meetings or worship groups were called.

Guests were invited to introduce themselves, and included:

Michael Birkel

Doug Bennett, Durham Friends Meeting (Maine)

Linda Miller, Charleston SC Friends

Shannon Palmer, New Haven Friends Meeting and FCNL

Val Liveoak, Friends Peace Teams

Robb Yurisko, North Columbus Friends Meeting and FCG visitor

45-04 Agenda Review

The Clerk welcomed Friends, and reminded them that this is the first Yearly Meeting he will clerk, also noting that he is one of the oldest clerks in decades. The Clerk reminded Friends that for God's will to achieve our goal, we must listen to what the Spirit is telling us, and telling us through other speakers, and to remember that we are a Yearly Meeting, not a committee of the whole. We must not all attempt to address every issue that comes up. Friends can consider being heard if a Friend has spoken their mind earlier. This process can help with conducting the business and reaching unity.

45-04-01 On the recommendation of the Clerk, we approve the proposed agenda.

45-05 Epistle Committee

The Clerk reminded Friends that historically, Yearly Meetings only sent epistles to official meetings. SAYMA receive epistles from Friends United Meeting, but evangelical Yearly Meetings today do not send their epistles to us. SAYMA recognizes Friends from all Yearly Meetings. The epistle is

the traditional way of telling other Yearly Meetings what we are doing. The Clerk called for Friends led to serve on the 2015 Epistle Committee.

45-05-01 We approve Hank Fay (Berea), Wood Bouldin (Greenbrier Worship Group/Charleston), and Barbara Esther (Asheville) to serve on the Epistle Committee.

45-06 Naming Committee

The Clerk explained that the Naming Committee's role is to name the new members to the Nominating Committee.

45-06-01 We approve Errol Hess (Greenville/Athens), Chris Berg (Isolated Friend) and Judy Guerry (Huntsville) to serve.

45-07 Administrative Assistant's Report (Attachment C: Administrative Assistant's Report and 2014 Census)

Liz Dykes (Savannah), SAYMA Administrative Assistant, noted her marriage on March 28 and her last name change to Dykes. Friends are asked to remind Monthly Meeting Treasurers of SAYMA's new mailing address: 106 Wax Myrtle Court, Savannah, GA 31419.

To date, seven Monthly Meetings have not returned updated rosters or corrections to the draft 2015-16 SAYMA Directory. The Administrative Assistant noted that after 2 years without update or contact, the directory information for silent meetings and worship groups will not be listed in the printed directory, but will remain in the electronic edition. She asked Friends to consider the value of a printed directory. Is there another method that can be used?

Friends are reminded that the SAYMA phone hours are limited as detailed in the appended report. Advance notice of the Administrative Assistant's absences are sent to the SAYMA Bulletin list serve and the Positions of Responsibility email list.

There are modest increase in numbers to report from the 2014 SAYMA Census (attached) as reported. Boone and Columbia did not provide updated census data this year, and Foxfire has not provided confirmation or changes to their data since 2011.

Liz clarified that assessment payments or other payments coming into SAYMA are sent to her. Requests for money coming out of SAYMA are sent to Charles Schade (Charleston), SAYMA Treasurer.

Liz informed Friends that the Administrative Assistant will serve as Recording Registrar for next year's gathering.

After the Administrative Assistant's report, the Clerk expressed his concerned that the directory may be dying by attrition, and asked Friends to consider this.

Free Polazzo (Atlanta) noted that errors occur in any database. Well over half of the meetings did respond, and the number of individual Friends with entries has increased. The directory works unless an error is detected. One process for updating could be for Friends to notify the Administrative Assistant when errors are detected while using the Directory.

Carol Nickle spoke to the importance of the directory for anyone working with Friends throughout SAYMA.

Julia Ewen (Atlanta) asked about relationship between the census and the assessments. Liz noted that the assessments and the census are not connected.

45-08 Treasurer's Report (Attachment D: Treasurer's Report)

Charles Schade (Charleston), Treasurer, thanked Friends for opportunity to serve. The full written report, tables and associated documentation are contained in the attachment.

The Treasurer reported that to date SAYMA is having a successful year. He reviewed that Assessments are currently set at \$60 per member or regular attender per year. It is up to each Monthly Meeting to determine who those individuals are. Comparing the Budget versus actual is misleading at this time of year because of the finances of Yearly Meeting. All Wider Quaker Organization (WQO) set-aside obligations have been paid. He noted that there will probably be a deficit at the end of the year. Travel for SAYMA representatives has increased with more representatives and more expensive trips. The cost of printing has also increased. Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) is the second largest item in the budget following Yearly Meeting. SAYF gets additional support from several Monthly Meetings, including Durham, NC. A review of the SAYF finances shows a well-managed program serving a large number of children. The Treasurer expressed gratitude for the many hands and hearts involved with SAYF.

The Treasurer noted that the estimated budget balance is due to planned reduction in reserves and slower receipt of assessments. The Finance Committee recommends reserves at least half of the operational costs.

Young Adult Friends have assumed responsibility of the YAF fund.

The Treasurer provided a trend chart which shows that SAYMA is spending more money each year. Operational expenses increase about \$1K each year. This is not unexpected.

The income has been flat since 2007. The recent surplus is now reducing and likely to remain so. It is safe to continue to do so, but the Finance Committee remains alert.

Spending money doing God's work is the reason for having money. Remain solvent, but don't regret money well-spent.

In summary, the Treasurer noted that SAYMA's finances are doing well with a healthy balance sheet. Long-term expenses and balances are a concern.

Errol Hess (Greenville/Athens) said the Finance Committee did a survey about a decade ago, and noted the average assessment across the Yearly Meetings then was \$80. He asked if SAYMA has considered increasing our assessment. David Ciscel (Memphis), Finance Committee Clerk, responded that the assessment level is adequate for now. Costs have been slowly rising and contributions have not. Several meetings have not yet contributed in FY 2015: Asheville, Boone Brevard, Cookeville, Crossville Foxfire and Huntsville. He noted that if contributions levels aren't resolved, the budget will be reduced significantly for FY 2016.

45-08-01 MINUTE Carol Ciscel (Memphis) suggested a commendation to Charles Schade for the clearest most concise, and beautifully presented treasurer's report. Friends approved.

45-09 Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) (Attachment E: Wider Quaker Organization Reports)

Shannon Palmer, speaking to Friends on behalf of FCNL, lives in Washington DC, and holds membership in New Haven Friends Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting. Her written statement is included as an attachment.

FCNL is the lobbying organization on Capitol Hill working to bring the Quaker testimonies and the deep knowing that there that of God in all people to members of Congress, into legislation and thus into our everyday lives.

Lobbying efforts this past year included diplomacy with Iran, climate change, and the militarization of law enforcement by providing military equipment to local police.

Shannon reported that over 25 Friends from SAYMA states came to Washington DC to lobby about negotiations with Iran and climate change, and through these efforts, are developing relationships with their representatives. She spoke of the importance of our input to FCNL through our presence on the general committee, by sending SAYMA representatives to FCNL, and by providing our input to the legislative priorities process that shapes what FCNL lobbies for. She also encouraged Friends to use FCNL and their website as resources for up-to-date information on issues, congressional voting, and ways Friends can take action.

Friends are invited to join Shannon for lunch tomorrow at the FCNL table. She will be here all weekend to interact and ask questions.

45-10 Friends General Conference (FGC) (Attachment E)

Robb Yurisko serves on Central Committee of Friends General Conference, and reminds Friends that FGC is our service body. The Central Committee is comprised of representatives from all Yearly Meetings and constituent meetings.

The FGC Gathering will take place July 5-11, 2015, at Western Carolina University, Cullowee, NC. The Gathering for Friends of Color and Their Families takes place November 6-8, 2015 in Clarkson, MI, near Detroit. FGC sponsors a group discount, home hospitality and a hospitality room for Quakers attending The White Privilege Conference 2016 (date to be announced).

Robb highlighted a few of the FGC programs and projects available online or by request including the New Meetings Project which nurtures and supports new Worship Groups and those wanting to start Worship Groups; Grow our Meetings Workshops offering tools and resources for inreach, outreach, and integrating seekers; and Traveling Ministries Visits from seasoned Friends leading workshops. A Spiritual Deepening program is being developed and will be piloted later this year.

A detailed list of FGC Programs and events is appended to these minutes. Robb will be here all weekend to answer questions and provide more information about FGC and the programs and projects it offers.

45-11 Personnel Committee Report (Attachment F: Committee Reports)

Carol Nickle (West Knoxville), Clerk of the Personnel Committee, presented two recommendations from the committee for approval regarding a cost of living adjustment for SAYMA's two employees to be determined using Social Security's Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), and automatic reimbursement to the Administrative Assistant for internet and telephone costs used for SAYMA work. The second recommendation is based on a percentage of bandwidth used, is an allowable cost, and automating the reimbursement will save paperwork and processing time.

45-11-01 MINUTE. Cost of living adjustment for SAYMA's employees, Liz Dykes and Jonah McDonald, to begin October 1, 2015. Friends approved.

45-11-02 MINUTE. Automatic reimbursement to Liz Dykes for the portion of her internet and telephone cost used for SAYMA work, and increase the monthly reimbursement from \$30.00 to \$40.00. Friends approved.

45-12 Web Manager's Report (Attachment G: Web Manager's Report)

Charlie Wilton (Berea), Web Manager, has been working with the online directory listings, and asks for information from the following:
Big Stone Gap, Boone, Brevard, Crossville, Greenville, Sewanee, Swannanoa Valley and West Knoxville.

All meetings are asked to review the online directory information and provide corrections or additions to web@sayma.org .

Additional information about directory options is included in the appended report that was omitted from the Spring Representative Meeting and will be included in these minutes.

The updated web site is in need of photographs. Photos can be emailed to: Web@sayma.org .

Carol Nickle (West Knoxville) asked for a minute of thanks for the outstanding work Charles has done on the website.

45-12-01 MINUTE. Friends commend Charlie Wilton for his outstanding work in updating, enhancing and increasing the capacity of the SAYMA website. Friends approved.

45-13 Peace & Social Concerns Committee (Attachment F: Committee Reports)

Bob Welsh (Swannanoa Valley) reported that this is his second year as clerk of the Peace & Social Concerns (PSSC) committee and that the committee had a very eventful year as described in the appended report.

The initiative by PSSC member Florence Yaffee (Celo) to engage with Deborah First (New York Yearly Meeting) to discuss her experiences with peacemaking in Palestine-Israel led to a session of interested friends from 6 different meetings with Deborah with the goal to help the group draft a minute on the Israel-Palestine situation. Since then, PSSC received five Minutes from four Monthly Meetings addressing the Israel – Palestine situation.

PSSC will meet over Yearly Meeting to work with the individual Minutes to present a combined Minute for SAYMA consideration on Saturday.

A Minute from New York Yearly Meeting was received calling for the release of Native American leader Leonard Peltier who has been in prison for many years. Two Monthly Meetings have sent their own minutes to Yearly Meeting calling for his release, and PCSS will combine those and bring on Friday.

In closing Bob noted that the charge from the SAYMA Handbook calls for PSSC to meet twice a year, and he asked an unanswered question of who decides the content for those meetings.

45-14 Handbook Committee

Carol Ciscel, Clerk of the Handbook Committee, announced that the committee will be meeting to sort out the problem of how to get information from the Minutes into the Handbook. There were no other actions or issues to report at this time.

45-15 Outreach Committee

Hank Fay (Berea), Clerk of the Outreach Committee, reported the committee met just prior to the Annual Meeting to establish goals for the coming year. They identified the following three goals:

1. To engage additional members in the Outreach Committee, seeking a critical mass needed to support each other in our efforts.
2. To contact Monthly Meetings on a monthly basis with a piece of information related to Outreach, asking that the information be forwarded to a committee or person in the Meeting having a concern for Outreach.
3. Work with the web master to establish an Outreach page with a list of resources available to Meetings with regard to Outreach.

Bob Welsh asked for the basic definition of Outreach, and Hank responded that the purpose is to help people find a basis for leading their lives in Spirit.

Thais Carr (Nashville) noted that portions of the FGC proceedings are sometimes streamed online and this is a valuable Outreach resource.

Errol Hess noted that for him the most powerful Outreach tool that Friends have today is the QuakerSpeak Video series from Friends Journal.

45-16 Faith and Practice Revision Committee (Attachment F: Committee Reports)

Free Polazzo, Clerk of the Faith and Practice Revision Committee, presented the report which is appended to these minutes. He noted that all the queries will be revised before any are sent to Monthly Meetings for review because of the inter-relationship of many of the queries. The present queries in Faith and Practice were not written by a group, but by a former clerk individually. No additional revisions are expected by the committee until 2016 at the earliest.

Free explained that the process as described in Faith and Practice Guide (page 5) is that the committee sends minute revisions from the committee to the Monthly Meetings for review and minuted revisions are sent back to the committee who combine the revisions to present at Yearly Meeting for approval.

The Guide is a way to share our practice in the world. Friends are encouraged not to wait for the committee to send recommendations but to bring and discuss their leadings in the Monthly Meetings for minuting there in anticipation of receiving the committee's work.

Friday, June 12, 2015

45-17 Opening Worship

The Yearly Meeting business session resumed from a worshipful period of silent expectant waiting.

45-18 Welcome/Reading (Attachment A: Readings)

The Clerk, Larry Ingle, welcomed Friends and guests to the second session of the business meeting of this Yearly Meeting. He explained that today's reading is a supplement to an Epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting. The reading, "A statement on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict made by Quakers in Britain at Yearly Meeting in Bath, 8 August 2014," is partisan in nature, and the Clerk believes transparent as well. The Clerk noted that Meetings do not hold power over Friends, and one Yearly Meeting has no more power over others than another. The Clerk elected this reading for the "first among equals" standing of Britain Yearly Meeting, and noted that this statement has received world-wide press attention.

45-19 Introductions/Roll Call

The roll call of Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups was held. Friends were asked to stand or signal when the names of their meetings or worship groups were called. The guests introducing themselves were:

Brent Bill, FGC and West Newton Friends Church
Lynn Newsom, Quaker House

45-20 Friends Peace Teams (Attachment E: Wider Quaker Organization Reports)

Val Liveoak, Friends Peace Teams, informed Friends that SAYMA has now a representative to Friends Peace Teams, Adrienne Weir (Asheville).

Val read the Friends Peace Team report presented in April to South Central Meeting, providing updates as applicable today for SAYMA. The revised report for SAYMA is appended to these minutes. The report covers the Friends Peace Team major programs, including The African Great Lakes Initiative, Peacebuilding *en las Américas*, and the Asia/West Pacific Initiative, as well many and varied activities world-wide.

The Friends Peace Team website is being updated and will be completed within the month. Val will be available at lunch today, and will be speaking in Asheville Friends Meeting on Sunday at 5:00 p.m.

Adrienne attended the Friends Peace Teams Annual Meeting this year and recommends SAYMA's continued support of FPT.

45-21 Quaker House (Attachment E: Wider Quaker Organization Reports)

Lynn Newsom, Co-Director of Quaker House, presented a detailed report on the many and varied activities of Quaker House, an organization that has been working for peace and GI rights for 45 years. The report is appended to these minutes. She expressed her gratitude to Wood Bouldin, the first Quaker House director. Services and assistance provided by Quaker House address a wide range of issues including moral injury, domestic violence, torture, suicide, and obtaining discharge with medical benefits, and conscientious objection.

Lynn announced that Diane Butler (Columbia) and Arnold Karr (Columbia) are starting an Alternatives To Violence program in Columbia. She reminded Friends that Quaker House directors are happy to visit Monthly Meetings at any time, so please contact them if your meeting would like to schedule a visit.

The Drones Quilt Project is on display in Jensen Hall, and materials to make blocks for the quilt are at the Quaker House table in Gladfelter downstairs. Friends are encouraged to create blocks which will be added to the quilt as it moves forward.

45-22 Peace and Social Concerns Committee – continued

Bob Welsh, Clerk, presented the PSCC-combined minute for SAYMA derived from the Berea and Asheville Minutes, which calls for the release of Leonard Peltier through an Executive Order from President Barack Obama granting clemency.

Geeta McGahey (Celo), expressed appreciation for the Minute, but is concerned that contacting U.S. Senators who have no power might be counter productive. She would unite for Monthly Meetings to contact the President and Attorney General directly.

R.D. Flowers (Chattanooga), clarified that the minute as written calls for communication to the President and Attorney General.

Charles Schade (Charleston) questioned if Friends were to focus on this particular case given that so many others are imprisoned similarly, would it suffer the same fate of the well-intentioned Minute on immigration that did not spark much movement in Monthly Meetings or subsequent action in other Minutes or by individuals. His concern is not about the worthiness of the effort, but the problem is bigger than one individual, and he wonders if SAYMA should take this one without taking the broader action for so many others with prolonged and wrong imprisonment.

Bob Welsh suggested that passing this Minute could be the beginning of the PSCC's work in this area.

Turtle Kientz (Cookeville) referred Friends to the book, *Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee: An American History of the American West*, by Dee Brown, 1971.

Arnold Karr (Columbia) noted that helping one victim of injustice is a start for him, like returning one starfish to the ocean.

Adrienne Weir (Asheville) expressed her concern about incarceration of immigrants at the border, and suggests there is plenty of work for PCSS and SAYMA Friends on this issue.

The Clerk asked Friends to readdress the proposed Minute being considered. Jack Willis (Nashville) suggested looking at this Minute as an Indian issue rather than simply an injustice issue, and that this perspective could help define our audience for the Minute.

Charlie Wilton (Berea) and PCSS, and member of Berea, is agreeable to the Friendly change to remove the language related to U.S. Senators and Representatives. The Minute was amended to read as shown below.

45-22-01 MINUTE:

Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association of Friends (Quakers) joins New York Yearly Meeting of Friends and many other organizations and individuals in calling for the immediate release from prison of American Indian leader Leonard Peltier. Leonard Peltier, who has been in prison for more than 36 years, is 67 years old and in ill health. We ask that he be allowed to rejoin his family and live his last days in peace.

Because the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), who have been calling for his release for more than a decade, are urging President Obama to grant clemency to Leonard Peltier, we urge the following actions to implement this minute:

1. we ask our Peace and Social Concerns Committee to write and send a letter to both the President and Attorney General Loretta Lynch, with copies to NCAI, the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, and *Indian Country Today*, urging the President to grant executive clemency immediately;
2. we ask Meeting and individual Friends to do the same.

Friends approved.

PCSS will draft the letters to the President and Attorney General for Larry's signature.

The Minutes received from Berea and Asheville, from which the SAYMA Minute was derived, are appended to these minutes.

45-23 Finance Committee (Attachment M: Draft Budget)

David Ciscel, Finance Committee Clerk, presented the first introduction to the 2016 budget. The current budget was approved in the Fall Representative Meeting. The budget is \$91K, up from \$89K last year. Next year's deficit could be as large as \$10-11K, but there are plenty of funds to address the planned deficit this year and next year. David said that running a large deficit 2 years in a row is unwise, and as a first address, Monthly Meetings are asked to review their assessment implementations. Assessments of \$39-42K have been received, and assessments of \$45-50K are needed to make the budget work in the future without reduction in the reserves.

David discussed various line items of the budget that are fixed and flexible. Salaries are a fixed expense. Yearly Meeting is approximately half of the budget, and usually covers its expenses. Balancing the budget by using the reserve money has been adequate now for several years, but is ultimately not sustainable.

Other areas of expenses include delegates to WQO. This is important assistance, but is an area of potential cost cutting for an overall budget reduction of \$5K.

David discussed the Yearly Meeting Funds, and the importance of these funds to doing SAYMA's work, though FWCC's international travel may need to be reduced.

Recommendations for contributions to Wider Quaker Organizations should be made from the SAYMA Representatives to those WQOs on an annual basis. Representatives who have not done so for this year should contact the Finance Committee immediate.

SAYMA is an assessments-driven organization, and operating costs rise.

Folami Adams (Atlanta) asked if Meetings are not giving enough, or if the formula needs to be revised. David discussed the self-identification method by Meetings for calculating assessments, and the to-date (May 31) shortfall or non-contribution from 6 meetings (Asheville, Boone, Brevard, Cookeville, Crossville, Foxfire and Huntsville). The Finance Committee has not communicated with these Meetings about the lack of contribution. Assessments are projected to come in at or lower than last year. The noncontributing meetings are a smaller part of the shortfall than the overall ratio of number of Friends/regular attenders and the revenues received.

Sharon Annis (West Knoxville), Clerk, Ministry & Nurture, noted that some of the Meetings are very, very small. Other Meetings compute a percentage of contribution or a fixed issue rather than an assessment based on the census.

Geeta McGahey (Celo) asked if Meetings can send extra money without changing the Meeting's commitment for assessment, and if individual Friends can help communicate the importance of the work of WQOs if they are not the named Representative to those WQOs.

Meetings and individual Friends are welcome to make additional donations to SAYMA. These contributions should be mailed to Liz Dykes, Administrative Assistant.

Quarterly assessment contributions by Monthly Meetings will provide a smoother cash flow and less stress for the Treasurer.

Dennis Gregg (Crossville) spoke from his experience that assessments generally come in. However a 25% shortfall is significant, and the questions are how "aggressively" should SAYMA ask for meetings to evaluate their assessment processes, and how accurately the census reflects the members who actually attend meeting and are not out of area but kept on "the books."

LeeAnn Swarm (West Knoxville) suggested that Friends who are deeply connected to SAYMA can make individual donations, and that the invitation and/or reminder do so would be helpful.

R.D. Flowers asked about the Miscellaneous category in the budget. Charles Schade, Treasurer, explained that it covers several categories of expenses, including office supplies, adult volunteers for the SAYF program, and the Administrative Assistant's travel to committees and other meetings to do the business of SAYMA. These items can be added as specific line items if needed.

Errol Hess spoke from his experience as a fundraiser that the most successful campaigns come from personal relationships - individuals asking individuals. The Finance Committee will discuss this at the next meeting.

The issue will be continued tomorrow.

45-24 Nominating Committee (Attachment H: Nominating Committee Report)

Jane Goldthwait (Celo) and Pam Beziat (Nashville) presented the nominations to date for SAYMA officers and committees, noting first that the positions of Assistant Clerk and Recording Clerk are needed.

Carol Nickle (West Knoxville) spoke to the enrichment of Friends, especially new Friends, in participating on committees. She also said that there is so much support to those serving as Assistant Clerk or Recording Clerk, and to look deeply for leadings in these positions. Larry Ingle spoke favorably to the support he experienced in the Clerk's position. The following nominations presented today will be approved at the Saturday session.

Ministry & Nurture Committee:

Jonathan Schinhofen (Lexington/Berea) 15-17

Personnel Committee:

Barbara Esther (Asheville) 15-17

Missy Ivie (West Knoxville) 15-17

SAYF Steering Committee:

Mary Linda McKinney (Nashville) 15-17

Aaron Ruscetta (Atlanta) 15-17

Jennifer Chapman (Durham) 15-17

Yearly Meeting Planning Committee:

Carol Nickle (West Knoxville) Clerk 15-16

Hank Fay (Berea) Adult Programs 15-16

Liz Dykes (Savannah/Administrative Assistant) will serve as Recording Registrar 15-16

Bob Welsh (Swannanoa Valley) Local Arrangements 15-16

Arnold Karr (Columbia) Worship Coordinator 15-16

Carol Ciscel (Memphis) Layout Editor 15-16

Needed: Workshop Coordinator and Co-registrar

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

Elbon Kirkpatrick (Birmingham) 15-17

Steve Olszewsky (Berea) 15-17

Earthcare Action Network

Lisa Rose (Swannanoa Valley) Clerk, 15-17

Pat Johnson (Asheville) 15-17

Bob McGahey (Celo) 15-17

Web Support

Charlie Wilton (Berea) 15-17

The Outreach Committee is in need of new members.

Representatives to Wider Quaker Organizations

FGC

Sharon Annis (West Knoxville) 15-18
Another is needed

FWCC

Kelsey McNichols (Atlanta) 15-18

Friends Peace Team

Adrienne Weir (Asheville) 15-18

45-25 SAYMA Earthcare Action Network (Attachment F: Committee Reports)

Lisa Rose (Swannanoa Valley), Clerk of Earthcare Action Network, reported that the committee spent a lot of time establishing infrastructure, and now has a Google group for communicating, a new page on the SAYMA website, and a Facebook page. Details are provided in the appended report. She noted that Quaker Earthcare Witness can provide Earthcare recommendations now for all Friends at home, in neighborhoods, nationally and internationally. Resources and information are available on the Earthcare Action Network (<http://sayma.org/earthcare/>) and QEW (<http://www.quakerearthcare.org/>) websites.

Continued clarification of the committee's vision will take place during Yearly Meeting.

45-26 Closing Worship

Friends closed with worship and memories of Phil Neal, a SAYMA original member and member of Swannanoa Valley Friends, who died June 10.

Saturday, June 13

45-27 Opening Worship

The Yearly Meeting business session resumed from a worshipful period of silent expectant waiting.

45-28 Welcome/Reading (Attachment A: Readings)

The Clerk welcomed Friends and read the Epistle from Western Yearly Meeting that gathered in Plainfield, Indiana from July 17-20, 2014.

45-29 Introductions/Roll Call

The roll call of Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups was held. Friends were asked to stand or signal when the names of their meetings or worship groups were called. The guests introducing themselves were:

Brent Bill, West Newton Friends Church and FGC
Lynn Newsom, Quaker House
Jana Norlin (Grand Rapids)

45-30 Agenda Review

The Clerk reviewed and revised the agenda to include business remaining from Friday's agenda, and read Letter of Introduction for J. Brent Bill from West Newton Friends Church, A Quaker Meeting, Indianapolis IN.

45-31 Finance Committee - continued

David Ciscel, Clerk of the Finance Committee, presented the draft budget for the second reading.

He called Friends' attention to Columns f and g, reducing \$92K to \$85K in response to budgeting a \$5K deficit, rather than the previous \$12K+ planned deficit.

Between now and September, the Finance Committee hopes to receive additional revenue so as to keep the current \$5K planned deficit.

Small cuts have been proposed in the Delegate Expenses, SAYMA Committee Expenses, and Miscellaneous Office line items. The greater adjustments are proposed to Yearly Meeting Projects to designated funds, reducing the contribution to these by half. Reductions to WQOs have been reduced by 2/3.

Hank Fay (Berea) asked about the amount of assessment and what the number would be needed to fund the budget fully.

David responded that the Finance Committee feels strongly that an increase in assessments is not recommended at this time. Charles Schade, Treasurer, noted the ambiguity in the language of members and "active attenders" and there is not a definition or space for that in the census. This makes it impossible to estimate accurately what the assessment total might be. Seven hundred members and 700 attenders are currently reported in the census. Using an estimated number of 1000 potential individual assessments, the assessment of \$60 should cover the expenses adequately.

LeeAnn Swarm, Finance Committee, stated that the Finance Committee would examine individual contributions as an option for bringing more revenue in. David stated that the responsibility is with Monthly Meetings to examine their assessment calculation and contribute accordingly.

Rebecca Sullivan (Atlanta) spoke to the importance of supporting travel to the WQOs to participate in the work of those organizations, and noted that FLGBTQC is an active organization.

The Clerk stated that not every representative to WQOs is bringing reports back to SAYMA. They have a responsibility to report to SAYMA if they are using SAYMA funds to attend WQO meetings.

45-32 Nominating Committee – continued

Jane Goldthwait presented the committee's new nominations.

Assistant Clerk – Jon Saderholm (Berea) 15-18

Yearly Meeting Planning Committee

Annie Black (Cookeville) Workshop Coordinator 15-16

Lissa West (Cookeville) Co-Registrar 15-16
Karen Wise (Charleston) Co-Registrar 15-17
Arnold Karr (Columbia) Worship Coordinator 15-16
Chris Berg (Isolated Friend) Bookstore 15-16
Pam Beziat (Nashville) Assistant Bookstore 15-16

Outreach Committee

Amiee Allen (Chattanooga) 15-17
Kathleen Mavournin (West Knoxville) 15-17

AFSC

LeeAnn Swarm (West Knoxville) 15-18

Susan Murty (Swannanoa Valley) 15-18

FCNL

Larry Osborne (West Knoxville) 15-18

FCG

Rebecca Sullivan (Atlanta) 15-18

Friends Peace Team

Jack Willis (Nashville) 15-18

45-30-01 MINUTE: Friends approved the nominations presented by the Nominating Committee during the Friday and Saturday sessions.

The committee reminded Friends that SAYMA's FWCC Representatives need to be a member of a Monthly Meeting unless they are under the age of 35. If under the age of 35 and not a member of a Monthly Meeting, the Representative should be active within SAYMA.

45-33 Ministry & Nurture (Attachment I: State of the Meeting Reports)

Sharon Annis, Clerk of the M&N Committee, reminded Friends of one of M&N's basic functions is to support Meetings with Worship Groups under their care.

M&N supports Monthly Meetings that have specific concerns, and can serve as a Clearness Committee for specific issues. M&N helps coordinate workshops locally and regionally. The committee also administers the Spiritual Nurturing & Released Friends fund.

Friends are encouraged to look both to Faith and Practice and the SAYMA Handbook to understand the charge of the M&N committee.

M&N is comprised of four Friends who are appointed to serve on the committee, and each Monthly Meeting is requested to appoint at least one person to serve.

Traveling to support smaller meetings must include at least two people on a continuing basis to serve as mentors. Friends are strongly requested to bring the message back to Monthly Meetings that service from SAYMA M&N must be supported by them with the appointment of their additional members to the committee.

Individuals requesting support from the 2 funds need meeting support from their monthly meetings, and

The Released Friends fund currently has a balance of \$9K. Released Friends are those released from the responsibility to work in order to travel in their ministry. As John Woolman's family was supported during his ministry, SAYMA is the support for Friends today.

45-34 SAYF Steering Committee (Attachment J: SAYF Steering Committee Report)

The Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) report prepared by Jonah McDonald was read to Friends by Susan Phelan (Huntsville) Recording Clerk. The report is appended to these minutes.

The report provides details about the 6 retreats averaging 40 Young Friends that were held during the last year. SAYF is seeking more adult participation in the program.

45-35 Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) (Attachment E: Wider Quaker Organization Reports)

Geeta McGahey (Celo), one of SAYMA's Representatives to FWCC, presented the report and reiterated the responsibility of Representatives to report back to the Yearly Meeting.

Geeta invited Friends to investigate a new website, "Voices of Friends," a website for individuals looking for a new religious community who don't know they are called "Quakers." The link is: www.voicesoffriends.org

Based on the earlier discussion of the 2015-16 budget from the Treasurer and Finance Committee, Geeta expressed concern that FWCC funding had been cut, and invited Friends to support the fund individually with donations earmarked for this purpose to the Treasurer. Charles Schade, Treasurer, assured Friends the budget has NOT been cut, and that there are no provisions through SAYMA at this time for targeted donations.

The book *Traditional Quaker Christianity*, edited by: Wallace, Smith, Smith & Berk, was recommended as part of the movement from Convergent Friends to bring conservative and liberal Quakers back together.

Sallie Prugh (Columbia) spoke of her experience of being a representative at FWCC as one of the most amazing things SAYMA has done for her. The experience was so moving spiritually, and connected her to feeling a part of a wider group. Sallie supports SAYMA continuing the financial support of Friends serving as Representatives to FWCC and other WQOs.

45-36 American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

Lee Ann Swarm (West Knoxville) one of SAYMA's AFSC Representatives, gave an overview of the work being done by AFSC and her experience that it is grounded in Quaker workshop and practices. She encourage Friends to explore AFSC's many programs and projects on the AFSC website (www.afsc.org), and introduced the AFSC people present: John Adams (Atlanta), who serves on the board; Kamal Franklin, director of the South Region, and Doug Bennett on AFSC's Friends Relations committee. Newsletters from the South region are available. SAYMA has other Friends on the Board as well, and Friends encouraged to explore our many relationship and activities with AFSC.

Carol Nickle mentioned that there is not often enough time to hear from WQO Friends in the business sessions, but notebooks containing reports from the Representatives are available downstairs and on the back table in Gladfelder.

45-37 Peace & Social Concerns – continued

Bob Welsh, Clerk of PSSC expressed the difficult nature of the work, and read the proposed Minute aloud. (See **Attachment F: Committee Reports**)

Julia Ewen (Atlanta) thanked those who have worked on the minute, and is not able to unite with the two-state solution.

Chip Poston (Celo) acknowledged the hard work of the committee and supports the minute, and suggested wording that mirrors a UN resolution that does not speak specifically to the two-state solution.

Robin Josephs (Swannanoa Valley) stated she did not believe the root cause of the suffering is Israel's "occupation," but won't stand in the way.

Arnold Karr (Columbia) said that the root cause of the conflict is not on one side, but the root cause of the continued suffering is contributed to the Israeli occupation.

Kathleen Mavournin (West Knoxville) stated that if the occupation were ended tomorrow the root causes of the suffering would continue.

Geeta McGahey (Celo) agreed with about the root cause, and suggested the wording: "We believe that inordinate suffering in the region is caused by Israel's occupation of the West Bank and ..."

Charles Schade (Charleston) reflected upon thoughts from Friends in his Meeting and his own. He appreciated the improvement this Minute proposes over previous versions, but has a more general concern that the minute is one-sided, and does not emphasize the positive things that Friends have done in the past. Most of the queries are directed negatively, "let's punish" rather than "let's affirm." He has great difficulty uniting with the idea of punishing people to peace.

Hank Fay (Berea) unites with the improvement in tone and direction, and has a problem with the issue of boycott during the consideration of the minute in Berea. If we are successful in the boycott we will be putting Palestinians out of work. There are no other alternatives; we will be ruining some persons' lives. There is harm on both sides. He also feels there is an element of fudging, avoiding, and that we should be very clear about what we support and what we don't.

Bob repeated that the Minute proposes queries, not proposed actions. Queries do justice and honor to individual differences. Queries last longer than actions. We are not asking friends to unite behind actions.

Free Polazzo (Atlanta) thanked the committee for wrestling with the spirit on this issue and spoke to his family's history in the concentration camps, and the need for forgiveness. He concluded that Friends need to be peacemakers not try to solve the problem.

Matt Riley hopes to hear more from Chip Poston, a seasoned traveller. The Clerk wants to hear first from others who haven't spoken.

Paul Laudeman (West Knoxville) agrees with Geeta's change of THE root case, respects the committee's work, and supports the query-based approach. He stated that Friends' process in this room and our meetings to take action and make the statement is the work we are doing. Will this work stop the occupation and violence? No, but notifying others of the situation that needs to change is important.

A Friend rose to speak and stood in silence.

R. D. Flowers (Chattanooga) is member of PSCC and agrees with Geeta's change as a Friendly amendment. He agreed with Free that you cannot do justice if you cannot say that injustice is being done when it is identified. We can do nothing towards anything in the world if we have to be correct in our own lives before addressing other wrongs. We do need to speak.

Charlie Wilton (Berea) appreciates Free's notice of Christian Europeans and their bigotries and does not want to stand outside telling Israel and Palestine what to do. There are people on the ground, Jews, Arabs and some Christians, working together for peace. What are they calling for? Friends can stand in solidarity with those people and their solutions, which are to boycott and sanction.

Sallie Prugh (Columbia) said that in the minute from Swannanoa Valley, there is a list of organizations in Israel working for peace in the region, however there is not a list of organizations in the West Bank or Gaza identified. She calls attention to the Quaker School in Ramallah, and suggests that the list be included with more research on those in the West Bank and Gaza working for peace. She feels that the second query, supporting organizations and initiatives in the area, is the Quaker way to address this, rather than blaming.

Steve Olshewsky (Berea) notes that there are 4 different well-seasoned meetings calling for boycott, divestments, sanctions (BDS). Yearly Meetings nationally and internationally, are joining the BDS movement. These queries only suggest that SAYMA does.

Nancy Olsen (West Knoxville) noted that a positive approach would be for Palestinians and Israelis to also look for the light as we are.

The Clerk called for silence.

He spoke from the silence that has been moved by this meeting. He thinks Friends have different definitions: some want us to be prophets, some want to get the history right. There is NO right history. His sense of the meeting is that Friends are not united. Are we open to the spirit? He does not sense we want to approve this minute. He does not know the next step.

Bert Skellie (Atlanta) is not as sure as the Clerk that we are unable to approve the Minute with the change that was proposed. He has heard people willing to stand aside. Is there a call to have friends clearly stand in opposition.

Errol Hess. The committee has heard the concerns and could present a revised minute at some point.

Carol Ciscel (Memphis) stands against the minute.

Sylvia Hurdle (Nashville) is not clear on why we are not in unity.

The Clerk believes the lack of unity results from different approaches and definitions. He asked Friends to grapple with this in the Monthly Meetings.

Sunday, June 14, 2015

45-38 Opening Worship

The Yearly Meeting business session resumed from a worshipful period of silent expectant waiting.

45-39 Welcome/Reading (Attachment A: Readings)

The Clerk, Larry Ingle, welcomed Friends and guests to the final business session, and read the Epistle of the 86th General Session of the Yearly Meeting of Quaker Friends in Cuba.

45-40 Nominating Committee - continued

Jane Goldthwait announced that the position of Recording Clerk has not yet been filled. Friends are encouraged to contact Pam Beziat with recommendations or to volunteer.

The following nomination was recommended.

Assistant Treasurer

Roger Wise (Charleston) 2015-17

45-40-01 MINUTE: Friends approved the nomination presented by the Nominating Committee.

45-41 Report from Naming Committee

Chris Berg (Isolated Friend) Clerk of the Naming Committee presented the committee's recommendations for Nominating Committee as minuted.

45-41-01 MINUTE. Nancy Olsen (West Knoxville) and Bert Skellie (Atlanta) were named to the Nominating Committee serving 2015-17. Friends approved. Jane Goldthwait will continue on the Nominating Committee (15-16)

45-42 Yearly Meeting Epistle (Attachment K: Epistles)

Hank Fay presented the epistle which was written by Hank, Barbara Esther (Ashville) and Wood Bouldin (Greenbrier Valley Friends Worship Group).

45-41-01 MINUTE: The epistle of the 2015 Yearly Meeting was APPROVED WITH Friendly SUGGESTIONS.

The approved Epistle is appended to these minutes.

45-43 Representative Meetings

The Fall Representative Meeting will be on September 12, and hosted by Atlanta Friends.

The Spring Representative Meeting in March 2016 will be hosted by West Knoxville Friends, with the specific date to be set.

45-44 SAYMA Fundraising Effort

Larry Ingle, Clerk, appointed an Ad Hoc Committee of Errol Hess and Lee Ann Swarm to explore additional fundraising efforts between now and September to fully fund the proposed draft budget without cuts. The following Friends agreed to serve as liaisons to their Monthly Meetings.

- Atlanta - Bert Skellie
- Chattanooga – Bill Reynolds
- Memphis – Glenn Altoff
- Boone -Judy and John Geary
- Swannanoa Valley - Bob and Ann Welsh
- Nashville - Jack Willis
- Huntsville - Judy Guerry
- Birmingham - Mark Gooch
- Celo – Bob McGahey
- Cookeville - Annie Black
- Columbia – Arnold Karr
- Asheville – Barbara Esther

The issue was raised that Operational funds need to come from operations. Fund-raising for operational funds can result in a crisis-response. When a special project is needed, then the donation committee can solicit for that particular need.

45-45 Registrar’s Report (Attachment L: Registrar’s Report)

Laura Seeger (Chattanooga) Registrar, thanked Friends for their patience and kindness. The co-registrars for next year are Lissa West and Karen Wise. She asked Friends to contact the registrar if they are unable to attend at the last minute so that Friends will not continue to expect you and worry at your absence.

The final account for 2015 is shown below. A report comparing Yearly Meeting statistics from 2011 to 2015 is appended to these minutes.

2015	2014
219 attenders	240
159 adults	163
11 YAF	11
38 SAYF	54
11 JYM (including 5 infants)	10
38 First time attenders	63

Cancelations/no shows 3
Scholarship fund donations (not including key deposits) \$1365

45-46 Site Selection: 2016, 2017

Warren Wilson College approved dates for the second week in June 2016, and Friends approved to ask Warren Wilson College for dates in 2017. Friends are reminded to contact the Clerk with other possibilities on the West side of the mountain.

45-47 SAYMA Retrospective

The Clerk has been thinking about the possibility of gathering the memories of the Friends who have come to SAYMA for so many years. Sadly Phil Neal is gone, but others like Bob Barris (Celo) Lou Evans (Crossville) Marian Fuson (Nashville), Hector Black (Cookeville) are with us. Robin Wells (Asheville) was appointed to receive requests for additional names of those who might be interviewed.

45-48 Peace and Social Concerns Committee – continued

Steve Olszewsky brought copies of the new draft minute from PSSC to return to Monthly Meetings for consideration. Bob Welsh, Clerk of PSSC, felt they were close to bringing a suitable revised minute, and was reminded by the Clerk that to do things in haste is not the wisest course.

Diane Butler (Columbia) expressed her gratitude for the warm welcome she has received at SAYMA, and her sadness that a Minute about queries for the Israeli-Palestine situation had not been approved. The Clerk responded that the problem with this particular meeting is that we are bound by the clock. That is the reality. If we are going to follow the Quaker process that the Clerk respects, we've got to hear what people have to say. Gods' will is revealed to us by what we hear people say. We can't do that quickly and instantly. The Clerk had no way of knowing how much time was available for a discussion on Israel Palestine, and agreed to relook at the Minute.

Bob Welsh explained that the committee's revisions to the proposed minute removed the original introductory language and added new language to introduce the logic of the first query by referencing the SAYMA 2002 Minute. The minute was read aloud to the body and reaffirmed.

Minute of concern regarding Israel and Palestine (2002)

After a period of worship, Friends found themselves in unity with the following minute:

We, the members of the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association of the Religious Society of Friends, are deeply concerned by events in Palestine and Israel. The Middle East is being dragged to the brink of war by the acts of extremists on all sides. As Friends, we grieve the bloodshed and suffering. We fear the legacy of violence which seems likely to result. We pray for the strength to resist taking sides in this conflict, and to remain focused on being peacemakers. We understand that neither we, nor our government, nor, indeed, the leaders in this conflict, are able to see this situation as clearly as we would wish, or to control it completely, and we hope for patience and compassion on every side until resolution becomes possible. We reject terrorism in all its forms, especially the killing and maiming of people on both sides. We strongly oppose the destruction of the social and economic infrastructure of the Palestinian Territory, the confiscation of Palestinian land and property, the extreme curtailment of freedom of movement for all Palestinians, and the denial of such fundamental human rights as food and medical care to noncombatants.

As Quakers, we believe that there is that of God in all people. We cherish the peoples

of Israel and Palestine and the lands in which they live. We believe that violence does nothing but create more violence and will never allow the people of this region to live next to each other in peace and the fullness of human joy. We acknowledge that centuries of conflict, oppression, discrimination, poverty and segregation have led to this violence. Both sides of the conflict as well as many outside interests have caused or increased the violence. With such a weighty history, stopping the fighting and creating peace will be a long and arduous task, but it is imperative that we find ways to do so.

We call upon our government to use all its influence to seek:

- An immediate end to all violence and assassinations,
- An immediate cessation of all settlement activity,
- An end to the occupation,
- A return to permanent status negotiations leading to two states living side by side based on the June 4, 1967 borders, with mutually agreed-upon land swaps.

Even in the current climate of mistrust and mutual hostility, we believe that the above goals can be reached in the near future, ending the occupation and the conflict.

We implore our United States government to take a different kind of role in the region: to take the lead in providing international protection for the people in the region, to encourage dialogue, to stop our support of the Israeli occupation and to put pressure on the Israeli government to return land to the Palestinians. We ask our government to take the lead as a signatory of a treaty creating a Middle Eastern and Mediterranean Zone Free of all Weapons of Mass Destruction, including nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

Beyond the political responses that we as individuals may choose to make, as Quakers, we will continue to hold all of the people in the area in the Light. We will find ways to support the Quaker Meeting in Ramallah and Ramallah Friends School and all individuals and groups in the region who are seeking peaceful solutions. We will talk with our Jewish, Muslim and Christian friends, relatives and neighbors about this crisis and about our belief that there is a peaceful solution, which, although difficult to achieve, will be better than violence. We will search for "ways that open" which will help lead the world to a time of peace.

Larry Ingle, Clerk, read the proposed PSCC minute, and Friends reflected in silence on both Minutes.

Chip Posten (Celo) said he can unite with this Minute, and has the clear sense that a list of specific actions related to boycott, divest and sanction (BDS) should be adopted by SAYMA. He read a partial list of national, international Yearly Meetings, SAYMA Monthly Meetings, and Wider Quaker Organizations, that have done so already.

Sharon Smith (Asheville) will stand aside on this Minute, and feels it is the height of hubris for America to address the Israeli-Palestinian situation while we live in a state of occupation in our own country.

Beth Myers (Berea) feels the work of Spirit opened again when Friends today heard the 2002 minute. There will always be more work for the meeting to do, but after hearing the emotion and power behind the 2002 Minute, she would like to see this Minute approved to continue our work on this issue.

Charles Schade (Charleston) has two concerns about the Minute. First, it is unnecessary since it is a process that the PCSS can use and to connect with Monthly Meetings about the issue. The second issue is that if we adopt this Minute now, as in 2002, Spirit moves in the moment, but then goes no further.

Steve Livingston (Asheville) adds that this particular minute does reference SAYMA supporting the PSCC. Who is SAYMA? This Minute is the Monthly Meetings, and us. He challenges and coerces us to carry these queries back and take this charge back to the meetings with action and responsibility. He commends the PCSS for their hard work.

The Clerk said he would recognize one more Friend on the matter. Sara Rose (Birmingham) spoke to her experience with Daryl Bergquist attending North Carolina Yearly Meeting and seeing the example of the Yearly Meetings querying Monthly Meetings each time they meet.

The Clerk said Yearly Meeting can ask Monthly Meetings what they have done, but the Monthly Meetings are charged with the action under the revised Minute. The Clerk surveyed the full body of Friends and announced to general relief and acclaim that the sense of the meeting was that Friends approve the proposed revised minute on the Israeli-Palestinian situation.”

45-48-01 MINUTE:

As Friends with a long history of concern and connection with the Middle East, we are deeply saddened and distressed by the continued enmity and distrust between Israelis and Palestinians, and by the ongoing suffering in the region.

Recalling our 2002 Minute calling for an end to the Occupation, and responding to seasoned leading this year of several of our Monthly Meetings, the Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) addresses the following Queries to all SAYMA Friends and Monthly Meetings:

1. How are you as a Friend, and how are you as a Monthly Meeting, engaged in efforts to end the Occupation, and thus secure basic human rights for everyone in Palestine-Israel?
2. Are you aware of, and have you found ways to support, initiatives in Israel-Palestine that are bringing Israelis and Palestinians together, building trust, and overcoming enmity, thus laying the groundwork for lasting peace between these peoples?
3. How are you led to respond to the action of many Friend in SAYMA, as well as in other Yearly Meeting, including:
 - Avoiding purchase of products made in Israeli settlements in occupied territories;
 - Communicating concerns to corporations which facilitate the Occupation;
 - Asking Congress to suspend aid to Israel while the Occupation continues;
 - Asking Israel to help rebuild Gaza, and end the Occupation?

As Friends live with these Queries, and live their way into authentic responses, they are asked to communicate with each other and with SAYMA's Peace and Social Concerns Committee, so that we may all become resources to one another in this difficult, many-faceted peace-and justice-making endeavor.

Friends approved the minute as written.

45-49 Young Adult Friends (YAF) Epistle (Attachment K: Epistles)

Autumn Traynham (Berea), Acting YAF Clerk read the YAF Epistle. The full Epistle is appended to these minutes.

Despite an unusually low number of Young Adult Friends present at Yearly Meeting and a relatively small number of Friends at the YAF-led worship sharing, the experience has been spiritually rewarding.

SAYF graduation was conducted by a single YAF who welcomed the three graduates. Spirit moved under the stars with snacks.

Autumn will be the YAF representative on the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee.

45-50 SAYF Epistle (Attachment J: SAYF Steering Committee Report)

Guthrie Armstrong (Atlanta) read the SAYF Report prepared Jonah McDonald to Friends. Ten teens graduated from SAYF last year, and three graduated this year. He reminded Friends that SAYF is always seeking FANS (Friendly Adult Nurturers) to participate in the SAYF program.

Carol Nickle thanked SAYF for their report, and the FANs for working with SAYF, our future.

45-51 Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) Epistle

JYM had 6 children this year. Over the course of Yearly Meeting, the children made backpacks and honey butter from scratch, and played and painted. They saw Pigs cows and sheep, and crafted every day. They practiced for the skit, and made pictures of what is theirs to do in the world. The children got very rained on, got soaked, and made forts inside and out. The created mandalas while Richard Allen played piano for them. They played outside, blew bubbles, crocheted, participated in intergenerational activities, some got wet during spray bottle play, and some went to the dance.

45-52 Minute of Thanks

Friends are again grateful for our time together in the familiar and beautiful setting of Warren Wilson College, and for its accessibility thanks to Bob Welsh and helpers. Friends are thankful for the physical space and those who have made it what it is. We are grateful for the friendliness of the young people, the delicious and often local food, the arrangements committee who accommodated for table space for the Wider Quaker Organizations, which serve as our wider connection to the world. We thank the Clerk and Recording Clerk, and express our appreciation for all who have served. Friends are grateful to those who are leaving posts of responsibility, especially Carol Ciscel for her years of service as Clerk of Yearly Meeting Planning Committee, and Laura Seeger for her years of service as onsite registrar.

45-53 Closing Worship

Closing worship included heart-felt messages and spirit-filled silence.

Respectfully submitted

Larry Ingle
Clerk
(Archive copies signed)

Susan Phelan
Recording Clerk

Attachments

- A: Readings
- B: Attendance (printed copies only)
- C: Administrative Assistant's Report and 2014 Census
- D: Treasurer's Report
- E: Wider Quaker Organization Reports
- F: Committee Reports
- G: Web Manager's Report
- H: Nominating Committee Report
- I: State of the Meeting Reports
- J: SAYF Steering Committee Report
- K: Epistles
- L: Registrar's Report
- M: Draft Budget

Attachment A: Readings

2015 Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting Epistle

From the First Annual Session Third Month, Fourteenth Day 2015

Greetings to Friends Everywhere,

In a spirit of joy and anticipation, and after years of discernment Piedmont Friends Fellowship was led to take under its care the formation of a new yearly meeting. Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM) emerged as a result of this nurture and we held our first Annual Session on Saturday afternoon, March 14th, 2015. PFYM intends to act as a 21st century yearly meeting well-grounded in Quaker tradition and history.

The yearly meeting intends to continue and build upon Piedmont Friends Fellowship's 47-year tradition of loving and inclusive fellowship. PFYM seeks to be a loving community of Friends in the Piedmont area and adjacent areas of North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina, guided by spirit, and deepening our experience of Quaker worship, faith, and practice. The new yearly meeting seeks to strengthen our service and witness to the world through broadened connections with wider Quaker organizations.

Piedmont Friends Fellowship held its spring retreat and annual meeting on March 13-15, 2015. Ninety-two adult Friends and twenty young Friends from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia gathered under budding maple trees and worshipped in the historic New Garden Friends Meetinghouse in Greensboro, NC. Friends greeted each other with excitement and joy, and enjoyed unity in both worship and fellowship.

Within this loving context on the afternoon of March 14, Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting convened its first Annual Session with 76 Friends in attendance. Five North Carolina monthly meetings, a Virginia monthly meeting and a South Carolina worship group minuted their affiliation with the new Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting: Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Fancy Gap (VA), New Garden, Raleigh, and Salem Creek Friends Meetings, and Upstate (SC) Worship Group. Friends then proceeded to establish basic elements of the new yearly meeting through approval of recommendations from the Piedmont Friends Fellowship Yearly Meeting Formation Committee and the Interim Body of Representatives from affiliating meetings—groups that had been working jointly on these recommendations for two years.

First to be approved were The Vision Statement and Core Elements, intended to clarify the guiding principles of the new yearly meeting. The last sentence of the Vision Statement reads, "Our primary goals are to nurture monthly meetings and worship groups by supporting spiritual growth and to witness to our collective truth in the wider world." The Core Elements include inward experience of the spirit leading us to loving ways; Quaker practices of discernment, continuing revelation and outward expression of truth in our lives; inclusiveness and welcoming a diversity of individuals and families into our meetings; strengthening our monthly meetings and worship groups; holding to a simple and sufficient structure in the yearly meeting; and demonstrating transparency and openness in all of our actions. A copy of the Vision and Core Elements document is appended to this epistle.

Next PFYM approved a document which will serve as a guide to the relationship between Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting and Piedmont Friends Fellowship. The two entities will act in Friendly partnership, with the Fellowship developing programming (including youth programming),

planning semi-annual workshops and retreats, maintaining a joint website, and handling finances. The Yearly Meeting will turn to the work of nurturing service to monthly meetings and strengthening service and witness in the world. Membership in the Yearly Meeting will require that the monthly meeting or worship group also begin or maintain active membership in the Fellowship.

The final basic elements put in place by the new yearly meeting were approval of a beginning Policy and Procedures Handbook and approval of Friends to serve in the three positions provided in that Handbook: Presiding Clerk, Assisting Clerk, and Recording Clerk. The Handbook also provides for an Interim Meeting of representatives from affiliating meetings and worship groups, which will meet quarterly to do the work of the yearly meeting between annual sessions.

The PFF/YM weekend retreat was rich with activity before and after the yearly meeting annual session. Friends participated in a sharing of our spiritual stories, led by Mary Kay Glazer from Friends General Conference (FGC) traveling ministries. We met in pairs and small groups to answer a variety of queries around our spiritual experiences. One of the highlights of the entire weekend was the storytelling exercise on the history of Piedmont Friends Fellowship and creation of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, by way of two or three sentence contributions from over twenty different Friends who rose and spoke out of the silence.

We heard from Lynn and Steve Newsom, directors of Quaker House, which was born in 1969 from the efforts and discernment of Piedmont Friends Fellowship and continues to be a strong witness for peace and healing among military personnel. We also heard about the important work of the American Friends Service Committee in our area from AFSC Friend Lori Fernald Khamala, and the supportive services of FGC from visiting Friend, Eric Evans. Young Friends were treated to a campus tour of nearby Guilford College. Later, some of us participated in a musical drumming session and evening bonfire. Inspired by the yearly meeting annual session, some 18 Friends met to establish a yearly meeting ad hoc working group around local peace and social concerns activities in our various communities.

Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, in partnership with Piedmont Friends Fellowship, will continue our inward search for spiritual growth and outward witness and service to the world with much joyful unity.

Marian Beane
Presiding clerk

A statement on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict made by Quakers in Britain at Yearly Meeting in Bath, 8 August 2014

At this time of sombre anniversaries, as we observe the centenary of the outbreak of World War I and the anniversaries of nuclear bombs dropped on the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki we find our Quaker testimonies to peace and equality again compel us to speak out.

The hostilities in Gaza are the latest eruption of the deep and long-running conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. Root causes of this conflict, including the structural violence of occupation, must be addressed. Such violence damages all the people of the region. The present time, with its faltering ceasefires and talks, is a time of both crisis and opportunity.

From our long-standing Quaker experience of working on this issue in Palestine, Israel and Britain, and from listening to the testimony of Quakers in Ramallah, we are convinced that the UK Government has a real role to play. A starting place would be for the UK to recognise Palestine as

a nation state on the same basis as it recognises Israel. We note that 134 states have already recognised the State of Palestine. The UK Government should also play its part in creating a real opportunity for peace by drawing groups such as Hamas into the political process and thus away from violent resistance to the occupation. We have seen around the world how those once labelled as terrorists can come to be recognised for their statesmanship. It is our view that freeing elected Palestinian leaders now held as political prisoners would help Palestine to develop as a flourishing economic, political and civil society.

The international community remains complicit in the conflict for as long as it fails to make full use of the mechanisms provided by international law, to hold all parties to account for their actions. Under international law, at all times, all parties should distinguish between civilians and combatants, though as Quakers we place equal value on every human life. The Israeli Government's ongoing blockade of Gaza and its apparent collective punishment of the people must end, as must indiscriminate fire by all sides.

Amid the present crisis, we are reminded that the people of the West Bank, living under Israeli occupation face restrictions on movement; loss of land and water; demolitions; the continuing building of settlements; detention without trial and violence by settlers and the Israeli military. Such suffering often sows seeds of future violence.

The anniversary of World War I reminds us how easily militarised societies can slide into armed conflict and become blind to the alternatives to war. At such times, the international community has a responsibility to avoid fuelling the conflict. We join others in asking for a comprehensive arms embargo on Israel, Hamas and armed Palestinian groups. Quakers in Britain ask the UK Government to take a lead on this by halting arms exports to Israel.

As we, among other Nobel Peace Laureates, have said, 'The conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis will only be resolved when Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territory is ended and the inherent equality, worth, and dignity of all is realised'. Peacebuilding is a long and demanding path to take, but an essential one.

Quakers in Britain feel called to act alongside others to address the roots of violence. We continue to uphold Quakers in the region and those working nonviolently for peace and human rights within Israel and Palestine. Quakers will continue to challenge anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, as we oppose all forms of prejudice. We long for – and will work for – a time when the deep fear experienced on all sides is replaced by security and a just peace.

Signed on behalf of
Britain Yearly Meeting
Chris Skidmore, Clerk

Epistle of Western Yearly Meeting
July 20, 2014

To Friends Everywhere:

Western Yearly Meeting gathered in Plainfield, Indiana July 17-20, 2014 to examine Luke 12:42: "Who then is the faithful manager?" This, our 157th Annual Session, was centered on the general theme of stewardship. Using the statement of John Woolman, "To turn all we possess into the channel of universal love becomes the business of our lives," participants examined and considered stewardship in many forms, not just financial.

Eden Grace, our devotional speaker, pointed out the accountability for right usage of all resources available, not just money. Stressing the privilege of stewardship, the need to seek God first rather than material wealth, and the need to understand social inequalities as a guide for responsible allocation of resources, Friends were invited to examine their corporate and individual lives to consider the need for changes.

Continuing the theme through Quaker Lecture, Noval D. Reece examined the need to apply the principles of stewardship to help us evolve from “Private Quakers” working on self-centered issues into “Public Quakers” working to create an environment where a meeting’s resources are used to uplift, support and reach out to those both within AND without the meeting.

Workshops were conducted which further expanded the concept of stewardship. From the consideration of goals, reaching out to young adults, sharing of food, equipping leaders and workers, ecological issues, ethical choices, public policy, property, finance, and practical “how to” discussions, Friends were encouraged to look beyond the traditional view of monetary stewardship.

Building on last year’s theme of giftedness, this year’s theme of stewardship allowed groups and individuals to “rightly share” their resources through times of worship, times of business, and times of contemplation. As we continue in the coming year to become ever more faithful stewards, we ask for your prayer that we can, in fact, “turn all we possess in the channel of universal love.”

In Christian Love,

Dale Graves, Presiding Clerk
Elizabeth Ann Carter, Recording Clerk
Sarah Lookabill, Assistant to the Clerks

Epistle of the 86th General Sessions of the Yearly Meeting of Quaker Friends in Cuba

Dear Friends in all the world:

May you feel the love and the peace which can only be attained in the unity of the Spirit, felt when the God of all, who is over all, gathers us to this meeting of brothers and sisters in Gibara, the “White Town” of Cuba, with the conviction that we are united by “One and the same God, one and the same light,” which was the theme which guided us during all our meeting.

In the midst of our diversity we are called to work hand in hand for the growth of the truth which frees, nourishes, and strengthens our faith. It is founded in the fact of seeing the face of God portrayed in each human being we love.

Times of study, preaching, reflection, worship, and business were all focused on the search for clarity to build up our churches, conserving what distinguishes as Cuban Quakers, which give us much joy.

Among the reasons for rejoicing were the appointment of a new pastor in our yearly meeting, Julian Alfonso Martinez, the recognition of gifts in ministry of Lucia Fernandez Quintana, and also the opportunities for service given to brother Ramon Gonzalez-Longoria Escalona as Clerk for the Friends World Committee and to sister Kenya Casanova Sales as a member of the Executive Committee of FWCC Section of the Americas. We give thanks to God for all this.

Another cause for joy is the opening and work of the Cuban Quaker Institute of Peace (ICCP) as a center for study and a fount of wisdom, which offers us the tools needed for the transformation of conflicts, for the creation of a culture of peace in the midst of our social context , and about the basis of the Quaker spirit. We thank both the Cuban teachers and those from abroad for their time and their knowledge.

In our assembly we feel the absence of representatives from other yearly meetings, with whom we have traditionally shared experiences.

In our day, the Yearly Meeting of Quakers Friends in Cuba feel ourselves committed to be “salt and light” in the midst of this broken world.

In Love and Truth,
Yearly Meeting of Quaker Friends in Cuba

Attachment B: Attenders
(printed copies only)

Attachment C: Administrative Assistant's Report and 2014 Census

For just about the first time since I came to work for SAYMA nine years ago, this is my only paying job. I am spending a lot of time quilting, though.

1. Address (and name)

I was married March 28 and changed my last name to Dykes. We have closed the SAYMA post office box (as of February.) SAYMA's mailing address is 106 Wax Myrtle Court, Savannah, GA 31419

2. Directory

A draft of the 2015-2016 directory will be available near the registration table/reading table in lower Gladfelter. Please check your entries and make corrections as needed. SEVEN meetings did not return updated rosters. Meetings that also did not up date their directory listings last year will not be included in print copies of the directory.

3. Office Hours

The SAYMA phone number is a google voice number that rings to my cell phone. It is set up to go straight to voicemail between 6 pm and 8 am (eastern time) weekdays and all weekend. While I *may* pick up voicemail and return calls in the evening or on weekends, I may also wait until the next weekday. Similarly, I pick up email outside of normal office hours, but may choose not to respond at night or on a weekend. When I am going to be away from the phone/email for several days, I send a message to the SAYMA Bulletin list serve as well as the Positions of Responsibility email list.

4. Other duties

A complete a possible census is attached to this report.

I coordinate applications for Friends working with JYM, monitor the list serves, answer routine emails, forward requested materials to Friends, solicit and distribute State of the Meeting reports, and coordinate hospitality requests for rep meeting with the host meeting. I have assisted several committees with conference calls. I deposit all checks that come in. I submit an expense report to the treasurer each month, including all receipts for debit card purchases.

In service,

Liz Dykes

SAYMA Census 2014--Reported June 2015

	Ashville	Asheville	Atlanta	Berea	Birmingham	Blooms	Brevard	Cato	Charleston	Chattanooga	Columbia	Cookville	Crossville	Fairfax	Greenville	Huntsville	Memphis	Nashville	Oxford	Swannanoa	Knorrville
1.a. Recorded members																					
Adults	71	0	168	39	14	0	6	49	31	31	17	5	6	7	8	3	43	67	10	40	53
under 18	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	3	1
Subtotal: Members	71	0	168	43	16	0	6	51	31	31	17	5	6	7	8	3	50	68	10	43	54
1.b. Attenders																					
Members of another SAYMA meeting	0	1	d/c	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
Members in another Yearly Meeting	1	0	d/c	4	3	0	0	5	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	12	0	10	4
Not members of RSOF	23	24	118	8	12	1	0	20	8	11	29	5	4	2	2	14	25	62	4	48	14
under 18	20	6	45	12	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	6	4	29	0	19	5
Subtotal: Attenders	44	31	161	24	15	3	0	29	9	14	32	5	4	2	6	22	30	103	4	78	23
TOTAL: Individuals to report to SAYMA	115	31	329	67	31	3	6	80	40	45	49	10	10	9	14	25	80	171	14	121	77
Adults considered inactive	13	7	31	0	2	0	2	18	d/c	7	3	0	0	4	4	0	26	4	7	17	26
Report to FWCC (includes PM/WG attenders; NOT members of other YM's)	114	30	329	63	31	1	6	75	39	42	48	10	10	9	12	23	79	159	14	110	73
Reported to FWCC last year	82	46	342	85	54	1	6	75	25	48	48	10	9	9	19	17	80	110	11	50	89
Change	32	-16	-13	-22	-23	0	0	0	14	-6	0	0	1	0	-7	6	-1	49	3	60	-16
Members who																					
Attend your meeting	45	n/a	d/c	21	12		5	21	21	18	12	5	6	3	4	3	17	43	3	22	22
Attend Worship Group under the care of your meeti	0	n/a	d/c	0	0		0	0	10	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	0
Attend another SAYMA Worship Group	0	n/a	d/c	0	0		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	d/k	d/k	0	0	0
Attend another SAYMA Meeting	1	n/a	d/c	0	0		0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	1
Attend in another Yearly Meeting	2	n/a	d/c	10	0		0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	d/k	2	5	0
Attend in another religious tradison	d/k	n/a	d/c	0	0		0	7	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	d/k	1	2	0
Attend rarely/not at all/don't know	10	n/a	d/c	8	0		0	21	0	5	0	0	0	3	3	0	10	21	4	20	26

PLEASE NOTE: light shaded meetings did not provide new data--2013 data was used. Dark shaded meetings have not provided data since 2011 or earlier

SAYMA Census 2014--Reported June 2015

	Asherville	Athens	Atlanta	Berea	Birmingham	Boone	Brevard	Celo	Charleston	Chattanooga	Columbia	Cookeville	Crossville	Fairfire	Greenville	Huntsville	Memphis	Nashville	Oxford	Swannanoa	Knoxville
2. Count of Events																					
a. Marriages/commitment ceremonies of members/attenders under care of meeting	1	0	2	n/a	n/a	0	0	1	0	0	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	1	0	0	1
b. Marriage/commitment ceremonies of members/attenders NOT under care of meeting	0	1	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	1	0	0	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	2	0	0	1
c. Marriage/commitment ceremonies under care of meeting, non members/attenders	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	0	0
d. births/adoptions	2	1	8	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	0	0	1	0
e. Deaths	1	0	1	n/a	1	2	0	1	0	1	0	n/a	0	0	0	n/a	0	0	0	1	0
f. transfers in	11	0	1	n/a	n/a	0	2	1	2	0	0	n/a	2	0	0	n/a	0	1	0	2	1
g. transfers out/withdrawals	1	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	n/a	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
h. new members	1	1	2	n/a	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	n/a	0	0	0	n/a	0	4	0	1	1
i. new attenders	d/c	6	d/c	5	4	0	2	16	7	7	6	1	2	4	1	2	3	26	2	9	d/k
j. stopped attending	d/c	11	d/c	1	d/c	d/k	2	9	3	1	0	n/a	0	3	0	0	8	20	1	0	d/k
3. Active Meeting Participation																					
Under 12 years old	14	2	20	5	2			4	0	0	6	0	0	0	2	5	7	26	0	9	4
12-18 years old	6	3	25	6	0			5	0	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	2	1
Young adults 19-35 years old	d/c	12	25	2	3			8	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	4	22	2	1	5

*Meeting does not distinguish between members and attenders

PLEASE NOTE: light shaded meetings did not provide new data--2013 data was used. Dark shaded meetings have not provided data since 2011 or earlier

Attachment D: Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's 2015 Yearly Meeting Report
Prepared May 30, 2015

This report consists of a summary of income and expenses to date for our current fiscal year, a balance sheet, and observations on historical patterns and trends. Our 2015 fiscal year budget runs from October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015.

1. The Budget vs. Actual report is Attachment 1. It shows SAYMA's budget as approved at Representative Meeting 133, with expenditures to date. Total expenses excluding yearly meeting and carried over amounts currently exceed revenue by \$14,394; if assessments are paid at the expected level, this deficit-to-date will be reduced to about \$8,000 by year's end.
2. Receipts from assessments are approximately as budgeted. We are about 2/3 of the way through the fiscal year and have received 62% of expected assessments, about \$4,000 less than this time last year. Details of assessments received to date are in Attachment 2. We have received assessments this fiscal year from 14 of our 21 monthly meetings to date.
3. We have paid all yearly meeting project expenses including contributions to wider Quaker organizations and transfers to set-aside funds. SAYF has received its full allocation. Committees are still spending relatively little, but generally more than last year.

Delegate expenses have been considerably greater than expected. More delegates have requested reimbursement this year, and we had several delegates making international trips, a situation not known to us when budgeting. Printing expenses for yearly meeting materials and Southern Appalachian Friend have been higher than expected.

4. SAYF's financial report through 5/19/2015 shows a financially sound program, with modest expenses. SAYF will receive about \$16,800 in direct and in-kind SAYMA support this year, and raise an additional \$7,000 in donations and retreat fees. SAYMA pays the administrative assistant, liability insurance, and background screening costs as in-kind support. In addition, there are contributions from meetings and substantial investments of volunteer time. In particular, Chapel Hill and Durham Young Friends (and adult volunteers) are an important part of the SAYF community. These Meetings are not a part of SAYMA, but they have contributed funds, adult volunteers, and wonderful young people to SAYF.

SAYF has had six retreats to date during the fiscal year, with two more plus a Steering and Nurturing Committee retreat planned before September 30. An average of 40 young Friends attended each retreat; 90 have attended one or more retreats this year. Nearly all SAYF expenditures have supported retreats. Facility rental (\$1,800) and groceries (\$2,921) are the major costs. Total expenses to date, exclusive of staff salaries and background checks, have been \$5,851; income has been \$6,640, most of which is retreat fees (\$6,250).

5. SAYMA's current balance sheet is Attachment 3. The overall total line represent net worth of \$29,811, which is about \$12,500 less than this time last year owing to expected withdrawals from reserves and slower assessment payments. SAYMA's budgeted operational expenses exclusive of yearly meeting are \$39,977 this year. The Finance Committee believes that SAYMA needs reserves of *at least half* that amount or \$19,989. SAYMA's effective reserves at the start of the fiscal year were \$41,536. The FY 2015 budget reflects planned withdrawals from reserves of

\$6,802, and we currently anticipate actual withdrawals of approximately that amount this year. SAYMA can safely continue such withdrawals for only two more years after FY 2015.

6. Year to date activity in the set-aside funds is Attachment 4. Each set-aside fund has a minuted purpose and a designated individual or group to authorize withdrawals. SAYMA contributed the balance in the Third World Delegate Fund to the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) this year (\$3,550) according to our practice of making such contributions the year prior to the FWCC World Conference. After including budgeted contributions, there was a net decline in total set-aside fund balances of \$1,110. Current fund balances are shown in Attachment 3.

7. Explanation of expenses. About half of SAYMA's total expenditures are for yearly meeting. Yearly meeting registration and accommodation fees pay for it. The remainder of the budget covers ongoing operations and projects, which meeting assessments support. Projects are contributions to wider Quaker organizations and set-aside funds. The largest portion of operational and project expenses are for core functions, which include support for SAYMA's committees, Southern Appalachian Friend, reimbursements for delegate travel, and operation of SAYMA's administrative office. The Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) program receives about 1/3 of our operational and project budget. Projects comprise the remainder of the budget.

8. Trends in income and expenses. Expenses for the current fiscal year are projected based on current and anticipated expenditures. SAYMA's assessment revenues have stabilized, though they are not yet at levels seen prior to 2009. Operational expenses have increased an average of \$1,046 per annum, owing to generally higher costs of goods and services and the addition of new expenses such as liability insurance and background checks for volunteers who work with children and adolescents. The deficit in operational funding continues to trend higher (also by approximately \$1,000 per annum, masked by large annual fluctuations). Although SAYMA has budgeted modest withdrawals from reserves for the past three years, this is the first year we anticipate an actual reduction in reserves.

Treasurer contact information and financial procedures

Accounts payable

Individual Friends, meetings, and committees with requests for payment for budgeted expenses should send the request with appropriate documentation to Charles Schade (Treasurer@SAYMA.org). E-mail is preferred with documentation in electronic form. Friends may also submit expenses via postal mail to 4100 Virginia Ave. SE, Charleston, WV 25304.

Accounts receivable

Meetings should send assessment payments to SAYMA's administrative assistant Liz Dykes at 106 Wax Myrtle Court, Savannah, GA 31419. Other payments to SAYMA should be sent to Liz for deposit to SAYMA's account..

SAYMA Budget vs. Actual Report 10/1/2014 through 5/27/2015

Budget Item	Budget FY 2015	Actual FY 2015	Percent of Budget
INCOME	\$ 89,067.50	\$ 50,970.42	57.2%
Withdrawals from reserves	\$ 8,867.50	\$ 2,065.00	23.3%
Prior year carried forward	\$ 2,065.00	\$ 2,065.00	100.0%
Reduction in reserves	\$ 6,802.50	\$ -	0.0%
Assessments	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 24,487.50	61.2%
Bank Interest	\$ 200.00	\$ 97.52	48.8%
Contributions	\$ -	\$ -	
Publication Sales	\$ -	\$ -	
YM Total Receipts	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 24,320.40	60.8%
YM Receipts	\$ -	\$ 24,320.40	
YM Scholarship Donations	\$ -	\$ -	
YM Bookstore Sales Income	\$ -	\$ -	
EXPENSES	\$ 89,067.50	\$ 50,970.42	57.2%
SAYMA OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	\$ 79,977.50	\$ 30,591.37	38.2%
Yearly Meeting	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 1,642.47	4.1%
Facilities and Services	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 200.00	0.6%
Prntg/Mail/Phone/Minutes/Misc	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,294.88	129.5%
Junior Yearly Meeting -- JYM	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 147.59	3.7%
Coordinator	\$ -	\$ -	
Ass't Coordinator	\$ -	\$ -	
Supplies/Sitters/Misc	\$ -	\$ 147.59	
Scholarship WQO Reps	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	0.0%
YM Bookstore	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	0.0%
SAYF Operational Transfers	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	100.0%
Delegate Expenses	\$ 4,100.00	\$ 5,381.30	131.3%
Rep Mtgs	\$ 100.00	\$ -	0.0%
Del to WQOs	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,119.44	128.0%
Committees	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 142.15	11.8%
Ministry and Nurture Committee	\$ 600.00	\$ -	0.0%
SAYMA Earthcare Action Network	\$ -	\$ -	
Faith and Practice Revision Committee	\$ 600.00	\$ 90.15	15.0%
Finance Committee	\$ -	\$ -	
Nominating Committee	\$ -	\$ 52.00	
Peace & Social Concerns Committee	\$ -	\$ -	
Outreach Committee	\$ -	\$ -	
SAYMA Liability Insurance	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,412.00	94.1%
SAYMA Personnel	\$ 25,967.50	\$ 18,018.07	69.4%
SAYMA Staff Training	\$ -	\$ -	
SAYMA Office Administration	\$ 3,410.00	\$ 1,363.61	40.0%
Phone, Internet & Office Expenses	\$ 360.00	\$ 270.00	75.0%
Postage	\$ 300.00	\$ 49.00	16.3%
Duplication	\$ 250.00	\$ 39.75	15.9%
Misc. Office	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,004.86	40.2%
SAYMA Newsletter	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 408.01	34.0%
SAYMA Directory	\$ 100.00	\$ -	0.0%
SAYMA Treasurer	\$ 50.00	\$ 106.47	212.9%
SAYMA F&P	\$ -	\$ 117.29	
SAYMA Website Hosting Service	\$ 200.00	\$ -	0.0%
SAYMA Other Expenses	\$ 250.00	\$ -	0.0%
YEARLY MEETING PROJECTS	\$ 9,090.00	\$ 9,090.00	100.0%
Transfers To Funds	\$ 2,440.00	\$ 2,440.00	100.0%
Spiritual Development Fund	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	100.0%

SAYMA Budget vs. Actual Report 10/1/2014 through 5/27/2015

Budget Item	Budget FY 2015	Actual FY 2015	Percent of Budget
Released Friend Fund	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	100.0%
FWCC - 3rd Wid Del	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	100.0%
FWCC World Conference Fund	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	100.0%
Youth Enrichment Fund	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	100.0%
Young Adult Friends Scholarships	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00	100.0%
Contributions Wider Quaker Org	\$ 6,650.00	\$ 6,650.00	100.0%
AFSC	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	100.0%
FCNL	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	100.0%
FGC	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	100.0%
FWCC	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	100.0%
Right Sharing of World Resources	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	100.0%
Quaker House	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	100.0%
Friends for LGBTQ Concerns	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	100.0%
Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	100.0%
Friends Peace Teams	\$ -	\$ -	
Wm Penn House	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	100.0%
Friends Journal	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	100.0%
Guilford College Archiving	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	100.0%
Rural Southern Voice for Peace	\$ -	\$ -	
Bolivian Quaker Education Fund	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	100.0%
Other	\$ -	\$ -	
Surplus	\$ -	\$ 11,289.05	
Transfer to Reserves	\$ -		
Carry Forward to Next Year	\$ -		

Income and expense except for Yearly Meeting

OPERATIONAL INCOME	\$	24,585.02
OPERATIONAL and PROJECT EXPENSES	\$	38,038.90
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	\$	(13,453.88)

Attachment 2

SAYMA-Assessments Received Current Year - Year To Date*

10/1/2014 through 5/30/2015 Using SAYMA-FiscalYear

Assessments	Amount
Asheville	-
Athens	257.50
Atlanta	7,650.00
Berea	1,320.00
Birmingham	2,000.00
Boone	-
Brevard	-
Celo	720.00
Charleston	1,200.00
Chattanooga	640.00
Columbia	1,250.00
Cookeville	-
Crossville	-
Foxfire	-
Greenville	270.00
Huntsville	-
Memphis	1,080.00
Nashville	3,600.00
Oxford	150.00
Swannanoa Valley	1,800.00
West Knoxville	2,550.00
TOTAL Assessments	24,487.50

*Note: does not include assessments received that have not cleared

Attachment 3

SAYMA Balance Sheet - As of 5/30/2015

Assets	
Checking	\$38,497
Self-Help Money Market	\$36,498
TOTAL Assets	\$74,995
Liabilities	
FWCC Third World Delegate Fund	\$0
FWCC World Conference Fund	\$3,702
Released Friend Fund	\$9,600
Spiritual Development Fund	\$3,877
Young Adult Friends Scholarships Fund	\$1,469
Youth Enrichment Fund	\$2,696
Subtotal set-aside funds	\$21,344
Obligated funds for Yearly Meeting	\$23,840
TOTAL Liabilities	\$45,184
Balance	\$29,811

Attachment 4

SAYMA Multi-Year Funds Spending FY - Year To Date

10/1/2014 through 5/30/2015

Date	Account	Description	Memo	Amount
BALANCE 9/30/2014				22,454.00
10/01/2014	FWCC Third World Delegate Fund	Annual Contribution	RM 133	250.00
10/01/2014	FWCC World Conference Fund	Annual Contribution	RM 133	1,000.00
10/01/2014	Released Friend Fund	Annual Contribution	RM 133	600.00
10/01/2014	Spiritual Development Fund	Annual Contribution	RM 133	300.00
10/01/2014	Young Adult Friends Scholarships Fund	Annual Contribution	RM 133	40.00
10/01/2014	Youth Enrichment Fund	Annual Contribution	RM 133	250.00
03/31/2015	FWCC Third World Delegate Fund	Friends World Committee Bill Pay	Contribution to support 2016 delegate	(3,550.00)
BALANCE 5/30/2015				21,344.00
EXPENSES				(3,550.00)
CONTRIBUTIONS				2,440.00
NET INCREASE (DECREASE)				(1,110.00)

Attachment E: Wider Quaker Organization Reports

- Friends Committee on National Legislation
- Friends General Conference
- Friends Peace Teams
- Friends World Committee on Consultation
- Quaker House
- William Penn House

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Good afternoon Friends,

Thank you, truly, for welcoming me into your annual sessions, opening all of us who are visiting into your worship, your business. And thank you to Jane and Charlie, who are your FCNL SAYMA reps and have made my coming here so easy and wonderful. My name is Shannon palmer and I'm visiting from Washington DC where I work with the Friends Committee on National Legislation. Though I often worship with Friends Meeting of Washington, my membership is at New Haven Friends Meeting, Of New England Yearly Meeting.

I'm here to speak for a few minutes on behalf of FCNL, which many of you know is the lobbying organization on Capitol Hill working to bring the Quaker testimonies of peace, simplicity, community integrity, equality and the deep knowing that there is that of god in all people—to our Members of congress, and into legislation, and thus into our everyday lives.

I want to preface this report by saying that I have only been at FCNL for a year, and I was terrified to go. This didn't stem from cynicism about government (which many of us have), though I had a touch of that too. It came from a fear that I didn't know enough, that I couldn't think fast enough, and couldn't remember all the facts, and didn't have enough fancy business clothes. What I have been reminded of at FCNL is that all of this doesn't matter when you're approaching people with a deep knowing in your heart of what is just, and the confidence to say why it matters to you. As Friends, we are part of an incredible community around the country working for peace—in all the ways that peace manifests. The religious society of Friends, since it's beginning, have found the confidence to carry a message of truth and has had the the conviction to say "I know there is another way"

I have seen that there is another way. Another way to find peace in the middle east, another way to police our cities, another way to rehabilitate our neighborhoods.

This past year, FCNL has seen these **other ways** being tried, and has seen them succeed—even through the congressional gridlock that we hear so much about on the news.

- In November, over 400 Quakers from around the country, some who had never lobbied, some who deeply experienced, some who were 12, some who were 85—came to Washington DC to lobby with Quakers on diplomacy with Iran. It's pretty amazing to be in a room with some 400 Quakers planning how we are going to change the world. FCNL has been working on this issue for over a decade and this year we saw the fruits of this labor when the US and Iran reached a diplomatic breakthrough. The Quaker voice, it's steadiness, and kindness—made a difference.

- In March over 280 young adult friends came to lobby on climate change. Friends were able to cut through traditional partisan rhetoric and connect with Members of Congress on our moral obligation to our children, and our children's children, and how their faith may call them to act. T
 - These lobbying efforts played a significant role in getting Republican representative Chris Gibson from New York (R-NY) to plan to introduce a resolution affirming the science of climate change and committing to a legislative solution—something we have not seen before. The Quaker voice, made a difference.
- Last month, President Obama issued an executive order to ban the federal government from sending types of military equipment to our local police departments. This order mirrors the bill we've been lobbying on for the past year, the Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act. A huge success for friends.

Each of these successes that we've had in working towards the world we seek could not have happened without the network of Friends around the country: those of you who help to set our legislative priorities in individual Quaker meetings, those of you who lobby in district, or come to DC to our lobby days, those of you who write a simple letter and stick it in the mail, or an email, or a letter to the editor, or by financially supporting us, or those of you who pray and hold us in the light, that we all may find a way to heal and find peace.

Those of you who live in SAYMA states know how important your members of Congress are, holding leadership roles like Bob Corker as the chair of foreign relations committee, Richard Burr on the select committee on Intelligence, or Mitch McConnell as majority leader.

And Friends from SAYMA states have been active in using their voices collectively, to push for congressional change. Over 25 Friends from SAYMA states came all the way to DC to lobby their members of Congress about negotiations Iran and climate change this year. In February, a group of Friends from Birmingham Friends Meeting, led by Jane Hiles—visited Representative Gary Palmer in Alabama to lobby him on the Authorization for the Use of Military Force, the blank check for war that the US government is using to justify wars. These Friends are developing a relationship with the district staffer at Palmer's office—finding the things that they have a common vision on, the places where their views align, and finding the human beings in one another.

SO

It is really important to have your input on our legislative priorities process—the document that tells our Hill lobbyists what they will work on—what things matter to Friends.

It is really important to have your presence on our general committee, to have SAYMA representatives be appointed each year.

And it's really important that you feel you can use us as a resource. Our website gives information on every member of Congress, how they voted, what positions they take. Up-to-date information on each issue area, and ways you can take action.

Lastly I will say that Jane Hiles, Charlie Wilton, and Christopher Eaton will be holding a workshop on climate change, lobbying, and telling your story called "speaking Green to Power" which will take place on Saturday at 1:15. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about what lobbying really means if you're not sure (as I too wasn't sure 1 year ago), or a great place to learn about current climate change legislation in Congress.

Mother Teresa reminds us that “God has no hands but these”.

For some of us, our hands are moved into action by scripture, by the parables teaching us where to place our hands and feet next to live faithfully and with goodness.

For some of us our hands are moved by mentors we’ve had, our parents, our older Friends that we’ve watched. For some of us our hands are moved by things we’ve read, or watched, or witnessed.

My hands and heart are moved into action with FCNL because I know there is another way to achieve peace other than violence. I see the power of Friends coming together with a single ask, and connecting to that of god in another person. Thank you for your support of the work FCNL is doing, and for being the work of FCNL around the country.

--Shannon Palmer

Friends General Conference

Dear SAYMA,

It has been a very full year this year for Friends General Conference, and I have been honored to serve as one of SAYMA’s representatives on FGC (with Mark Wutka, Larry Ingle, and others). I hope that many of you will be able to go to the FGC Gathering this coming July when it comes to SAYMA for its first Gathering in many years in North Carolina. There will be many thoughtful speakers, including Parker Palmer, Carrie Newcomer, and Tieraona Low Dog, MD. There are already over 1250 registered attendees to the 2015 Gathering – as many as attended last year. J

Friends of Color are invited to join the FGC Ministry on Racism in a pre-gathering retreat for Friends of Color and their families. For Friends of Color who can’t attend gathering, there will also be a retreat for Friends of Color and their families in Clarkston, MI on Nov 6-9 later this year.

FGC has many different programs and ministries. One of the newest ones, the FGC New Meetings Project, has resulted in the birth of around over 17 new Meetings – from Virginia to Texas. If there are any Friends feeling led to consider starting a new Meeting, expert consultation is available from FGC New Meetings project staff person Brent Bill.

The Quaker Cloud project of FGC has brought more of a web presence to over 100 different Quaker Meetings – including quite a few in SAYMA (like my very own Nashville Monthly Meeting). If you don’t have a website that is easy to use and pops up quickly when searched for, you might want to consider looking at your Meeting joining the Quaker Cloud. Also, there are some features on the Quaker Cloud (like the minute manager) that are very helpful to Meetings and not in typical website platforms.

For my entire tenure serving in leadership with FGC Central Committee and Executive Committee, there has been quite a bit of discernment in process regarding QuakerBooks. Due to the advent of Amazon.com and ebooks, there has been huge disruption to the publishing and bookstore industry, and FGC’s QuakerBooks has been hugely affected as Quakers have followed the rest of Americans in choosing cheaper ways to buy books. FGC has responded by trying to have a more efficient and streamlined offering, and this year FGC Quaker Books has moved locations to a spot at Pendle Hill (a Quaker retreat center outside of Philadelphia). Their new hours are Monday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:30-4:30pm and Saturday from 10-5pm. Their new address is 338

Plush Mill Rd, Wallingford, PA 19086, and the Phone: 1-800-966-4556. Friends can order books from quakerbooks.org, by calling, or by walking in! If the ministry of QuakerBooks is important to you, please consider showing that financially through purchasing books from it.

One of the FGC ministries that is newest and is dearest to my heart is its Spiritual Deepening program. This is being piloted this year. Friends wishing to provide feedback for this program should check out fgcquaker.org/deepeningfeedback.

For most of 2014 I was completing my term as Assistant Recording Clerk of FGC, and I transitioned into a new role of Assistant Presiding Clerk after Central Committee. Due to new family responsibilities that limit my travel, I had to step down from that position in April of 2015. I wish SAYMA leadership and the nominating committee much success in choosing a representative to FGC in the future. Serving FGC as a board member (an especially serving as Clerk of the Evaluation Working Group and on the Organizational Discernment working group) has been incredibly valuable experience for me.

Many blessings to you all in your journeys,

Christina VanRegenmorter

Chart of FGC Programs for Yearly Meeting Reps to Central Committee, Volunteer & Staff Visitors to YM Annual Sessions

for 2015 Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions

FGC Program/ Project	Brief Description	Date (IF APL)	Staff person
FGC Committee for Nurturing Ministries – CNM			
<i>Couple Enrichment (CE)</i>	Leader couples provide weekend workshops & retreats for committed couples to help nurture their relationships and hone good communication skills.	By Request	Eric Evans CoupleEnrichment@FGCQuaker.org 215-561-1700, ext 3245
<i>Couple Enrichment Leaders Training</i>	The leadership training is designed to help couples learn and practice leadership skills for couple enrichment events. At the 2015 FGC Gathering in Cullowhee, NC, and includes pre-Gathering retreat starting Friday, 7/3. http://www.fgcquaker.org/events/fgc-ce-training-2015	7/3-11/15 Western Carolina Univ., NC	Eric Evans CoupleEnrichment@FGCQuaker.org
<i>Faith & Play™</i>	A Montessori-inspired resource, helps children find words & images for expressing their spiritual experiences. Joint project of FGC & PhLYM.	By Request	Deborah Fisch deborahf@fgcquaker.org
<i>Sparkling Still</i>	A curriculum for children ages three to eight that incorporates older traditional methods with newer teaching tools such as used in Faith & Play™.	Order Online	Available at QuakerBooks: www.quakerbooks.org
<i>New Meetings Project (NMP)</i>	Nurtures & supports new worship groups & answers inquiries from Friends who wish to start a new worship group or meeting. NMP has developed a wide range of resources & support for new groups, including mentoring teams of seasoned Friends who walk alongside a newly developing group for up to 2 years.	By Request	Brent Bill brentb@fgcquaker.org 317-242-9269 http://www.fgcquaker.org/services/new-meetings-project

FGC Program/ Project	Brief Description	Date (IF APL)	Staff person
FGC Committee for Nurturing Ministries – CNM			
<i>Quaker Meetings Power Tools</i>	On-line resources that are in-depth explorations/ explanations of a wide variety of topics useful to Friends' meetings, large, small, new and old.	Online	https://www.fgcquaker.org/resources/quaker-meetings-power-tools-online-tools-0
<i>QuakerQuest</i>	Offers meetings a model of outreach that invites seekers to learn about the Quaker way by listening to the faith stories of Quakers, sharing their own, and experiencing the power of Quaker worship. Meetings often come to know each other on a deeper level & become more welcoming to all.	By Request	Rachel Ernst Stahlhut quakerquest@fgcquaker.org www.fgcquaker.org/quakerquest
<i>Grow Our Meetings Workshop</i>	A new workshop offering meetings tools and resources for Growing Our Spirits (in-reach), Growing Our Presence (outreach), and Growing our Quaker Community (integrating seekers).	TBA	Rachel Ernst Stahlhut rachels@fgcquaker.org QuakerQuest@fgcquaker.org
<i>Ministry on Racism Program</i>	Provides opportunities for Friends to explore and address racism within the Religious Society of Friends and also supports Friends of Color through our programs.	By Request	Vanessa Julye VanessaJ@FGCquaker.org
<i>Pre-Gathering Retreat for Friends of Color</i>	Friends of Color and multiracial families are invited to a retreat immediately prior to the FGC Gathering. This retreat for Gathering attendees only brings Friends together to create a multigenerational community as a resource for the Gathering and beyond.	7/3-5/15 Western Carolina Univ., NC	Vanessa Julye VanessaJ@FGCquaker.org https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/programs-and-events/pre-gathering/poc-retreat
<i>Gathering for Friends of Color and Their Families</i>	These annual regional fall retreats are an opportunity for Friends of Color and their immediate family members to come together to build an incredible multigenerational community.	11/6-8/15 Clarkston MI, near Detroit.	Vanessa Julye VanessaJ@FGCquaker.org
<i>White Privilege Conference, 2016 (WPC17)</i>	FGC sponsors a group discount, home hospitality and a hospitality room for Quakers to attend the White Privilege Conference.	TBA	Vanessa Julye VanessaJ@FGCquaker.org

FGC Program/ Project	Brief Description	Date (IF APL)	Staff person
FGC Committee for Nurturing Ministries – CNM			
<i>Build it! A Toolkit for Nurturing Intergenerational Spiritual Community</i>	This FGC publication nurtures intergenerational spiritual community among all ages. It's a practical and fun tool kit that includes resources, activities, games, advice, and the skit, "A Short History of Quakerism in 10 Easy Points."	Online through the Quaker Books	Vanessa Julye VanessaJ@FGCquaker.org Order online at www.quakerbooks.org
<i>Spiritual Deepening</i>	FGC is in the process of developing a Spiritual Deepening Program designed to allow newcomers, individual Friends and meetings to explore how Quaker spiritual practice can transform lives and take them deeper in the life of the Spirit. This program will be piloted in 2015.	Coming Soon!!!!	Christen Clougherty spiritualdeepening@fgcquaker.org
<i>Traveling Ministries Visits</i>	FGC assists meetings by providing seasoned Friends who can lead workshops, retreats, help meetings address areas of concern and provide nurturing opportunities.	By Request	Deborah Fisch & Eric Evans TravelingMinistries@FGCquaker.org
<i>Traveling in the Ministry</i>	FGC works with seasoned Friends who, with clearness and support from their meetings, seek opportunities to travel in the ministry.	By Request	Deborah Fisch & Eric Evans TravelingMinistries@FGCquaker.org
Publications & Distribution			
<i>QuakerBooks of FGC (Bookstore)</i>	QuakerBooks sells books published by FGC and other Quaker publishers, as well as many adult & children's books on spirituality & Friends' concerns.	Online	Bookstore Staff bookstore@fgcquaker.org Order online at www.quakerbooks.org
<i>QuakerPress & QuakerBridge Media</i>	FGC publishes print & digital books, pamphlets, and occasionally other resources for & about Quakers & relating to the goals of FGC.	Online and by Request	Deborah Fisch deborahf@fgcquaker.org https://www.fgcquaker.org/serve/publishing-fgc
<i>QuakerPress</i>	Bayard Rustin: The Invisible Activist - a new biography for ages 10 and up. Illustrated with over sixty photos, this book is the product of a unique collaboration between three authors: Bayard's partner of ten years, a professor of religious studies, and a children's book author.	Online	Order online at www.quakerbooks.org

FGC Program/ Project	Brief Description	Date (IF APL)	Staff person
FGC Gathering			
<i>The Gathering</i>	The Gathering is packed with programs & events, from morning workshops to public evening plenaries, and programs for children, teens & young adults. Taste the vibrancy and the variety that is available by immersing yourself in this community of Friends for a week. <i>Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC</i>	7/5-11/15	The Gathering Staff: gathering@fgcquaker.org 215-561-1700, ext 2 http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering
<i>Pre-FGC Gathering Event: Adult Young Friends Retreat</i>	This optional event will focus on what it means to be an AYP in our meetings and our communities, as well as exploring the structure and function of the AYP community at Gathering. More Info: Debra Lenik AYP Retreat clerk https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/gatheringcontact	7/4/2015 Western Carolina Univ., NC	The Gathering Staff: gathering@fgcquaker.org 215-561-1700, ext 2 http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering
<i>Pre-FGC Gathering Event: Quakers & Business Conference</i>	The second meeting of the Quakers and Business Group is open to all Quakers who have a heart and mind for business, and who are interested or are already applying Quaker principles to their work and life. https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering/programs-and-events/pre-gathering/quakers-and-business	7/3-5/15 Western Carolina Univ., NC	The Gathering Staff: gathering@fgcquaker.org 215-561-1700, ext 2 http://www.fgcquaker.org/gathering
FGC Communications			
<i>Quaker Cloud</i>	A web toolkit supporting Quaker community and process via hosting meeting websites, meeting minutes, directories etc. https://www.fgcquaker.org/services/quaker-cloud	By Request	Erin Mullaney ErinM@FGCQuaker.org
FGC Development			
<i>FGC Stewardship Services</i>	Provides workshops on socially responsible investing, and financial, retirement & estate planning to Quaker meetings. Complimentary financial & philanthropic consultation and retirement assessments for Friends are provided by Everence.	By Request	Larry Jalowicz 215-588-4203 LarryJ@fgcquaker.org www.fgcquaker.org/stewardship

Friends Peace Teams

After more than 20 years of providing nurturing care for Friends engaged in grassroots peace work in communities riddled with severe violence around the world, we are pleased to report that we continue to abide by our Quaker beliefs, to live into our values, and to use the very peace tools we offer in all our workshops to govern the organization in the manner of Friends. We are working on increasing publicity and our outreach to Friends communities, on enhancing our communications to share news of our work more widely, on bolstering our infrastructure without increasing “non-program” expenses, and on seeking and welcoming new members to the FPT Council, our governing body. We are especially pleased to welcome Kirsten Mandala from Portland OR as our new communications specialist to work on our websites and opportunities via social media. Adrienne Weir is the SAYMA representative to Friends Peace Teams.

The major happening with the African Great Lakes Initiative of Friends Peace Teams (AGLI) this past year has been great interest from other larger organizations in using the Healing and Rebuilding Our Communities (HROC) program in other settings. Catholic Relief Services in the Central African Republic (CAR) invited two AVLI HROC delegations to introduce the program there. They were so pleased with the program that they hired our HROC-Burundi program manager, Florence Ntakutimana, full time to put the HROC program in CAR on a firm footing. Then

the Church of the Brethren in Northern Nigeria where Boko Haram is creating chaos, sent four people to our August HROC International Training in Rwanda and then three more for the February Training. The Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) (which is four times the size of AFSC) has taken up the program with the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria, while a MCC volunteer has received a nice grant from MCC to introduce and expand the program in eastern Congo. In Kenya great progress has been made in reconciliation on Mt Elgon after the conflict there and the introduction of AVP in the Kakuma Refugee camp. HROC-Burundi has received a number of grants towards making the upcoming Burundi elections to be peaceful. After 12 years, AVP in Rwanda has finally received permission to do AVP in their prisons and 10 workshops have been done so far. David Zarembka visited SAYMA monthly meetings in April. Most recently, we have been working hard to prevent or reduce election related violence in Burundi.

Peacebuilding *en las Américas* (PLA) supports Alternatives to Violence Project and Community Based Trauma Healing workshops with nine programs: five in Colombia; two in Honduras; and one each in Guatemala and El Salvador. The programs reach many young people, and people who have been or are resisting becoming forcibly displaced by violence, domestic abuse victims, and the large numbers of people struggling to survive in an atmosphere of insecurity and violence caused by criminal and drug gangs, and political instability. In Honduras the group in La Ceiba have trained the first inmate AVP facilitators who will work alongside Mennonite and other volunteers to live more nonviolently inside the El Porvenir National Prison. The three Central American programs are working with AVP International to do pilot workshops with personnel from Plan International a huge international child sponsorship program—if these workshops become integrated in Plan’s work, it could extend AVP to 68 countries. (Other pilots are being held in Nigeria and Rwanda.) Colombian programs now include AVP work with a congregation of Franciscan nuns who work throughout the country. PLA has hired a Communications Editor to help us develop web and print materials for information and outreach.

The Asia/West Pacific Initiative (AWP) has been very active with grassroots peacebuilding in Indonesia (Aceh), Nepal, Philippines, Palestine and Israel, and South Korea. Mew and active Friends in Australia have been supportive with energy and generous with resources. There is a powerful new video created about the power of visiting (Silaturahmi) and the value of being a listening presence in communities struggling with decades of common violence. Nadine Hoover visited Quaker AVPers in South Korea and served on a team for a trauma healing workshop that was well received. Nick Rozard’s work on inexpensive, locally produced water filters is going well. An invitation to exhibit the artwork from ***The Power of Goodness***, a book of 25 stories of nonviolence and reconciliation around the world, was sent to selected prominent museums worldwide inviting them to schedule a premier exhibition of this children's artwork from Chechnya, Russia, Europe and North America. Joe Di Garbo and Nadine will support Miriam Abu Turk in Hebron and her team in apprentice facilitating the AVP Trauma Healing Workshop in Ramallah. A team of AVP facilitators have just returned from Palestine where they worked with Israeli and Palestinians on AVP and Trauma Awareness.

[A team was in Kathmandu, Nepal during the first earthquake, and stayed a few extra days assessing with local partners what we could do to help. We decided to take relief supplies to some remote village that were not getting other assistance and to plan on doing Trauma Healing work when the communities enter the rebuilding period, typically around 90 days after the disaster. A special relief fund is accepting donations to support this work.]

Val Liveoak

Friends World Committee on Consultation

Your three reps are enthusiastically in support of the work of FWCC. We have had the chance to become deeply interconnected with Friends across the Americas at the Section meetings and to labor and discern together at the quarterly consultation. For me, my faith has deepened. I have a new appreciation of Friends from other branches and the life-affirming and healing power of Christ in people's lives. I have learned to listen for the experience behind the words. I have heard a message that was given to me to speak in English then delivered by Pablo in Spanish as a different wording of the same divine message. There are unfolding opportunities for Friends who have different theologies and practice to labor together to keep Quakerism both connected to its roots and alive and vibrant. Our work together will bring the Kabarak Call to a troubled world. Matt and Michael too are both engaged and energized for this work.

I would have loved to continue as SAYMA representative to FWCC for another term, but when I read that the FWCC World Plenary Meeting, "Living the Transformation", would have "...a primary focus on youth", I felt led to try to find an active young adult friend to take the position. Friends at the plenary "will consider: developing leadership and a living ministry to strengthen the Religious Society of Friends; encouraging membership and religious formation to strengthen our worshipping communities: addressing governance and meeting requirements for FWCC; and furthering the Kabarak Call for Peace and Eco-Justice and considering how we contribute to a peaceful and sustainable life on Earth.". The subtheme is "Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God (Romans 8:19)". Our representatives will urge us on return to consider what it means to be a member of the worldwide Religious Society of Friends and to discover how we are called to transformation in our lives and for the world. Hopefully they will have ideas for transforming attenders at our meetings into members of the Quaker community.

I hope that just as after the Kabarak conference, we had a plenary devoted to the topic, we will also have ample opportunity to consider what the representatives bring back from Peru. I am pleased the September Representatives Meeting authorized the three delegates allotted by FWCC. Michael Galovic and Matt Riley are making plans to go. Kelsey McNicholas is between jobs and wants "so much to go, ... [but has] to clear that with a future job first.

We propose new changes to the descriptions in the Handbook for the usage of the World Conference Fund and Third World Delegate Fund.

"The Third World Delegate Fund is money that SAYMA contributes to FWCC Section of the Americas to assist Friends from poorer parts of the Quaker community to attend FWCC programs such as Section Meetings and World Conferences or International Representative Meetings. Currently, Section Meetings occur every two years and World Conferences or IRMs every four years. Historically, the amount of money contributed in this way has been approximately equal to the cost of sending one SAYMA delegate to the targeted FWCC meetings. The money in the Third World Delegate Fund should be sent to FWCC Section of the Americas the year prior to each meeting. The FWCC representatives will send a request to the treasurer no later than the September Rep meeting, expecting costs for the section meetings to be half the cost of the World meeting."

"The World Conference Fund is used to send SAYMA delegates to the FWCC World Conference of Quakers or International Representatives Meeting, formerly known as the Triennial but now occurring every four years. SAYMA will pay the registration fees of the delegates and reasonable travel costs from this fund. The number of delegates sent will depend on factors including the number of delegates FWCC allows SAYMA to send, the availability of interested Friends, and the

amount of money in the fund. The number sent will be determined by Representatives Meeting for each particular world conference. In determining the number of reps, consideration should be given to such factors as the environmental impact of travel, available funding, the individual rep's roles within FWCC, and the frequency that each rep has been financially supported in that role."

SAYMA had excellent representation at the Section Meeting in Mexico, "Friends Woven Together in God's Love," attended by representatives from thirty-one yearly meetings across five branches of Quakerism and twelve countries. Tim Lamm was there on the Nominations Committee, Michael Galovic SAYMA Rep on the publications Committee, Matt Riley, assisting with thank-you notes to donors to the travel fund, Geeta McGahey, on-coming finance Committee member, Judy Lumb up from Belize, and Carol Lamm, who remained positive and cheerful even in light of a broken arm the first day.

The most important business at the Section Meeting was the 2020 Strategic Plan. The Visitation Program will be the central focus of work of the Section of the Americas. It will primarily serve to organize a corps of Spanish and English-speaking (but not necessarily bilingual) Friends, particularly FWCC reps and volunteers, to send throughout the Section as traveling ministers (Friends who are recognized by their local church, monthly meeting or yearly meeting and called to travel in ministry among Friends, regardless of age, gender, education, occupation, or status as "recorded ministers."). They will cross Yearly Meeting lines and other divisions among Friends.

The most contentious part of the response to the Strategic Plan was the laying down of Wider Quaker Fellowship and how that will happen. It is unclear who is notifying meetings and subscribers about the demise of the pamphlets. Celo has not received any communication. The Connections Program is charged with writing, finding and posting needed resources. The new website "Voices of Friends" www.voicesoffriends.org will provide to seekers an entry point to understanding Quakerism today in all its diversity and information about meeting locations.

The most important work was practicing listening to each other and allowing a variety of ministries to penetrate and transform us. Home groups of 8 or so with a translator who is also a participant allowed many insights and leadings from a few bible verses. We looked at different translations of Colossians 2:1-3, over four meetings. By the end of our six hours together labels and modes of worship didn't matter. We were woven together and gathered by God's Love. If only we could share similar experiences in our communities with others of differing practices and beliefs, we truly could live God's Kingdom.

Respectfully submitted,

Geeta Jyothi McGahey, Celo Friends Meeting, SAYMA Representative

Quaker House

"A Place of Peace in a Military City"

Quaker House, a manifestation of the Friends' Peace Testimony, is based in Fayetteville, NC, home of Fort Bragg, one of the largest United States military bases. Founded in 1969 to support draftees who opposed the Vietnam War, Quaker House has for over 45 years provided counseling and support to service members who are questioning their role in the military; worked to educate them, their families and the public about military issues; and advocate for a more peaceful world. Today, under Directors Steve and Lynn Newsom, the Quaker House mission continues to grow.

Counseling Soldiers and Veterans: We worked with many soldiers, veterans and their families in need of help. One soldier became a regular attendee of Fayetteville Friends Meeting and our Mindfulness Classes. Our GI Rights Hotline Counselors, Steve Woolford and Lenore Yarger, counseled 2,659 service members during the year. Each of these calls involves hundreds of hours in response and support, often helping prevent a suicide.

Alternatives to Violence Project Training: We conducted four trainings with a total of 26 different participants in one or more of the workshops. Participants were military, VA, civilian social workers, counselors, a military chaplain, Quakers, and teachers. One of our graduates is starting an AVP program in South Carolina. The NC Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and the Licensed Professional Counselors Association of NC provided contact hour credits for these.

Connecting with the Military: We belong to five organizations that bring together military mental health professionals and civilians to help our service members and veterans. Because of these connections, we are invited on base for and to give various programs: domestic violence, traumatic brain injury, sexual assault, moral injury and chaplains' meetings. We hold weekly Mindfulness classes, which are helpful for victims of PTSD and moral injury. We host house concerts, music jams, and educational forums regularly to raise our profile in the community and attract service members to Quaker House. We have received excellent publicity in the press as a result of these activities: full color, whole page articles, as well as TV and radio interviews.

Quaker House Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in the Military Program: Joanna, our Domestic Violence coordinator, provided domestic violence and sexual assault therapy to over 30 victims, family of victims, and perpetrators. At the request of a military chaplain, she now also counsels victims of moral injury. She gave presentations on domestic violence to several organizations. Referrals to Joanna come frequently from Victim's Advocates at Ft. Bragg. Human Rights Watch lawyers visited us to interview some of our clients about the retaliations suffered by sexual assault victims who report their abuse. We were thanked for our help in the acknowledgements of their report: *Embattled: Retaliation against Sexual Assault Survivors in the US Military*. Lynn serves on the Board of the city CARE Center for Domestic Violence.

Moral Injury: A service member can suffer moral injury if he or she must participate in, or witness, a morally unconscionable situation, i.e. war. It is a wound to the soul, leading to shame and grief. The recognition of moral injury opens conversations with the military and chaplains about the morality of war and the need for Conscientious Objection. We gave presentations in North Carolina and Florida as well as at conferences and retreats we attended throughout the country this year. Military and VA chaplains and mental health professionals attended these programs. After each presentation, we often comfort veterans and/or their families who know that they suffer from moral injury.

Torture: We continue to work with North Carolina Stop Torture Now to educate the public about the United States' and North Carolina's role in the use of torture. North Carolina Stop Torture Now is credited with playing a major role in convincing Senator Burr to vote to release the Torture Report. We continue to press for accountability and full disclosure of the contents.

The Drone Quilt Project: We displayed the Drone Quilt Project at Quaker House and several conferences and provided information and materials for making blocks to create new quilts. Each block is a memorial to an innocent victim of a drone strike.

Conscientious Objection Education: We began doing workshops and presentations on Conscientious Objection to provide information for our youth to help them discern whether or not they are pacifists and, if so, how to document it in case the draft is reinstated. We developed this also to help Meetings understand how to help their young people develop and document their beliefs.

Lynn and Steve Newsom, Co-Directors

Quaker House, 223 Hillside Ave., Fayetteville, NC, 28301, qpr@quaker.org, www.quakerhouse.org

William Penn House

National Consultative Committee

November 19-20, 2014

Wednesday, November 19

NOON We started out by travelling to the Southeast White House for a Luncheon with the local Clergy and other leaders in the local Spiritual Community. The Southeast White House calls itself "a house on the hill or all people." The hill, in this case, is Randall Heights in southeast DC, east of the Anacostia River. It is a community and fellowship center that provides weekly prayer breakfasts, semi-monthly fellowship lunches, after school programs for local youth, parent support programs and other community supports in one of the underserved areas of DC.

2:00 to 5:30 - We returned to the William Penn House to hear about the William Penn Quaker Workcamps The WorkCamps are often Youth from Privledged Background who have a Academic Service Requirement who will work with members of an underserved community with projects to improve that community. It was reported that within 4 days of the Work Camp - the mindset of the participants changes and it becomes more about working together versus social boundries. The Main focus seems to be on community gardens . Community gardens not only make nutritious foods more readily available, but help provide healthy water filtration to the watershed. In addition, maintaining community gardens is a social event that helps build community relations. Activities will not be limited to gardening, and may include riverbank cleanup, picnics, and fellowship breakfasts.

6:30 to 7:30 was Supper where we were be joined a Guest Speaker was a Ms. Janie Boyd - an outspoken elderly black woman who does gleaning for her community.

The Late President presented this civil rights activist for her work in nutrition. She stood up for black neighborhood grocery stores who were receiving expired meats from white neighborhood grocery stores. She testified before Congress in 1971 around the issue.

There was also a local attorney who runs a Community Breakfast at one of the local Churches for mostly homeless folks.

Thursday, November 20

We opted to have breakfast at the Community Breakfast. This is an example of what William Penn calls "Radical Hospitality." I was talking to a Gentleman and we were comparing Quaker Spirituality to 12 Step Spirituality. 12 Step Groups are Recovery Groups like Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous. Ad Infintum. I mentioned being an Alcoholic in Recovery for several years. He mentioned being sober for 10 days and talked about his struggles. He was



also helping to set up the breakfast. I assured him that one of the best ways to expedite recovery is service work.

The Breakfast itself was not conventions. Gleaning is not just done in the fields. The Gentleman who runs the Breakfast gleans the local restaurants and utilizes whatever is donated. Chicken on a stick, Mozzarella slices, Ad Infinitum.

Several Friends were involved with FCNL in addition to National Consultative Committee. There was discussion on how we can become a meaningful resource for yearly and monthly meetings. and what we can take from the National Consultative Committee to bring to our own groups.

In my own Quaker Meeting in Greenbrier County- We are a very small group. We do donate to the local Food Bank. We have put together a petition for Clean Water and issues that West Virginia has with our water system being compromised. The woman who introduced me to the Quaker Meeting has started Oakhurst Outreach, a Transitional House for women in Recovery. One of our members is on the board for Oakhurst Outreach. I travelled to Washington D.C. in January to take a class in Grant Writing. My goal is to be able to find money and write grants for worthy causes.

Southeast White House

The social makeup is generally people from African-American urban churches and people from Evangelical/Protestant churches. William Penn House staff and interns have been attending the fellowship lunches for the past 4 years, have prepared these lunches a few times, and have taken Workcamp groups there to be a part of the service aspect of the organization. We have found it to be an enriching and nourishing time – and a great opportunity to be a part of a very diverse group while doing some good Quaker outreach. William Penn House likes to talk about "Radical Hospitality"; The Southeast White House is an example of what we aspire for – truly welcoming all, speaking our truth while honoring others. Attending their lunch is an opportunity for NCC to experience this as well

Prepared by Bonnie Issacs

Attachment F: Committee Reports

- Faith & Practice Revision
- JYM Oversight
- Newsletter Editor
- Peace & Social Concerns
- Personnel
- SAYMA Earthcare Action Network

Faith & Practice Revision

1. The members of the committee are:

Beth Meyers	Berea, KY
Edie Patrick	Asheville, NC
Free Polazzo	Atlanta, GA
Missy Ivie	West Knoxville, TN
Thais Carr	Nashville, TN

2. The committee has met twice since last yearly meeting - once in the Fall and once in the Winter at the West Knoxville's Meeting house. We have enjoyed and appreciated the meeting's hospitality and even marveled at the view out the back windows when the snow covered the grounds.
3. Beth Myers was approved as recording clerk at our Winter2014 meeting.
4. The committee agreed to revise the entire Queries section of the Guide before sending any revisions to the Monthly and Preparative Meetings for review. This is in recognition of the inter-relationship of many of the queries. This will also allow the revision committee to review earlier leadings for changes in the light of all the change that followed.
5. There are no revisions ready to present to Yearly Meeting in 2015 and we do not expect to have anything to report to SAYMA's Monthly and Preparative Meetings until after Yearly Meeting 2016 at the earliest.
6. Please hold the committee in the Light as we do our work.

Submitted by:
Free Polazzo, Clerk

JYM Oversight Committee

JYM oversight committee began this year with one returning member and two new members. We added an additional member at the fall representative meeting.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the JYM coordinator for 2015 had to resign. Our greatest work was finding the person who felt led to take on our JYM program. We met by conference call and email. We hired Mary Jahntz of Atlanta Friends Meeting to coordinate JYM for two years.

The committee also conducted reference checks for new volunteers and JYM staff.

This committee would benefit greatly from meeting in person at SAYMA representative meetings. It would also be beneficial if new members were apprised of what the work of the committee is and what the responsibilities are before they join. It has been difficult to even get email responses from some committee members which made it nearly impossible to actually complete any tasks that this committee was charged with.

Rose Black, Convenor

Newsletter Editor

There were three newsletters produced since the last yearly meeting: fall, winter, and early spring (I think. I am not completely sure I did three last year). A request for submissions for a late spring issue received exactly one submission, so I did not attempt to produce a spring newsletter. From past experience, I know that attempting a summer newsletter is usually not successful. My term as editor is ending, and, though I am willing to continue on in the job, I also think it is a good thing to let others have the opportunity to serve, so I am happy to pass the job on to a new editor if one steps forward.

In the Light,

Beth Ensign, Atlanta MM

Peace & Social Concerns

This has been an eventful year for the Committee, thanks mainly to the initiative taken by Florence Yaffe of Celo Meeting, a committee member. Florence invited a Friend from New York Yearly Meeting, Deborah First, to come and meet with SAYMA Friends in the Asheville area to discuss peacemaking in Israel-Palestine. Deborah, who has a lengthy history of working and travelling in the Middle East, came in February and met for a day-long session with Friends representing six of our Monthly Meetings. Out of that session came a first draft of a minute of concern, and, as Friends know, the result is that at this Yearly Meeting we have minutes from four of our Monthly Meetings on how we might work for justice and peace in the Israel-Palestine situation.

Proposed Minute

As Friends with a long history of concern and connection with the Middle East, we are deeply saddened and distressed by the continued enmity and distrust between Israelis and Palestinians. Unless the root causes of this conflict are addressed, it will continue. While neither party is blameless in this conflict, we continue to believe the root cause of ongoing suffering in the region is Israel's military occupation of the East Bank and East Jerusalem, which deprives Palestinians of their dignity, their security and the most basic of human rights.

We affirm the right of Palestinians to live in peace and freedom in a legitimate state with internationally recognized boundaries. We affirm the right of Israelis to live in peace and freedom in a legitimate state with internationally recognized boundaries. We support and encourage nonviolent efforts to bring pressure to bear on all parties to work toward realization of these ends.

Responding to seasoned leadings express in Minutes from several of our Monthly Meetings, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association addresses three queries to all SYAMA Friends and Monthly Meetings.

1. *How are you as a Friend, and how are you as a Monthly Meeting, engaged in efforts to end the Occupation, and thus secure basic human rights for everyone in Palestine-Israel?*
2. *Are you aware of, and have you found ways to support, initiatives in Israel-Palestine that are bringing Israelis and Palestinians together, building trust, and overcoming enmity, thus laying the groundwork for lasting peace between these peoples?*
3. *Are you led to join many Friend in SAYMA, and in many other Yearly Meeting, in taking one or more of the following actions:*
 - *Avoiding purchase of products made in Israeli settlements in occupied territories;*
 - *Communicating concerns to corporations which facilitate the Occupation;*
 - *Asking your representatives in Congress to suspend U.S. aid to Israel until the Occupation is ended;*
 - *Asking the government of Israel to play an active role in the rebuilding of Gaza, and end the Occupation?*

As Friends live with these Queries, and live their way into authentic responses, we ask that they share their experience with each other and with SAYMA's Peace and Social Concerns Committee, so that we may all become resources to one another in this difficult, many-faceted peace-and justice-making endeavor.

In the spring we received from New York Yearly Meeting a minute calling for the release of Native American leader Leonard Peltier, who has been in prison for many years and is now old and in ill health. Two of our Monthly Meetings took up this minute, approved it and have sent their own minutes to Yearly Meeting calling for his release from prison. Peace and Social Concerns Committee has prepared a Leonard Peltier minute for consideration at this year's sessions.

At Yearly Meeting this year and following it, the Committee must wrestle with the question of when and in what kind of setting the Committee should meet during the year. In the past year we have met only by email, with very modest results. SAYMA's charge to the Committee, recorded in our Handbook, says that "The committee is to convene gatherings of concerned Friends twice a year to follow up on minutes and concerns." Fulfilling this charge will present a real challenge to the committee and hopefully an opportunity for its role in our Yearly Meeting to grow in importance.

Bob Welsh, Clerk, June 2015

THE TWO MINUTES RECEIVED BY PCSS FROM MONTHLY MEETINGS:

BEREA Friends Meeting (Quakers) joins New York Yearly Meeting in calling on the release from prison of Leonard Peltier in accordance with the plan drawn up by the National Congress of American Indians.

This Minute is to be forwarded to the president of the United States, and to our Senators and Congressional Representatives.

Additionally, BFM's clerk will write to Leonard Peltier personally to inform him of our action and support, as well as: The National Council of American Indians, which formulated the plan for his release; the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, and *Indian Country Today*.

Individual members of Berea Friends Meeting are also encouraged to express individual support for the release of Leonard Peltier as they are led.

Friends are encouraged to publish this Minute broadly.

ASHEVILLE Minute

“In unity with New York Yearly Meeting, Asheville Friends Meeting calls for the release from prison of Leonard Peltier in accordance with the plan drawn up by the National Congress of American Indians. Leonard Peltier is elderly and in ill health. We ask that he be allowed to rejoin his family and live his last days in peace.”

SAYMA Earthcare Action Network

The original mission of our group was to awaken passion around climate change as the issue of the time. Now more than 10 years later, the issue has become even more urgent. There are some among us who feel it is also now appropriate to add to our mission the work of facing the impact of what is happening and preparing to give support and healing to those adversely affected by the changes currently taking place.

Since Yearly Meeting last summer, our committee has met by conference call approximately every month. We've done a lot to improve our systems for communicating with each other and inviting other SAYMA Friends into this important work:

We have a **Google Group** that is available to whomever is interested in joining the conversation and perhaps getting involved in the work that the SAYMA Earthcare group will be doing. The list is used to send newsletters, event listings, articles, etc. Anyone who is interested can get on the list via a link on the SAYMA web site.

Facebook page. This is one more place that people can find us. It's a place for conversation and sharing-everyone is able to contribute freely to the discussion, share and comment on links of interest to SAYMA friends concerned about Earthcare.

We have a **new page on the SAYMA web site.** It can be accessed by clicking on the “Earthcare” tab from the home page. Items of current interest and inspiration are on the home page. There is also a calendar where we share upcoming events, a stories tab where we are posting stories of what's going on in SAYMA related to Earthcare, and a Resources tab where there's a list of suggested reading and other resources. If you have suggested content for our web page, please send it to earthcare@sayma.org.

Monthly Meeting Contacts. We have a subgroup of the Google group composed of Earthcare contacts for each of the Monthly Meetings. These are the people who have agreed to pass information along to their Meetings. We hope they will also pass information back to the Earthcare Action Network. It's fine if there is more than one contact person per Meeting. Most of the Monthly Meeting contacts have already been identified, but we are still looking for representatives from a few Meetings.

Retreat: This spring we held a retreat at the West Knoxville Meeting house. 12 people attended from Asheville, Canton/Atlanta, Celo, and Swannanoa Valley. There was also a member of the South Eastern Yearly Meeting in attendance. We did the good work of connecting with each other and our feelings about the challenges our planet is facing, then moved into the beginnings of a brainstorming process for how we want to move forward.

The process of clarifying our vision and goals will continue at this yearly meeting and we hope to emerge with a strategy for the rest of 2015 and into the future.

Current membership in this committee is as follows:

CLERK Lisa Rose 13-15 Swannanoa (NC) (willing to continue)
MEMBER Pat Johnson 13-15 Asheville (NC) (willing to continue)
MEMBER Kathy Johnson 13-15 Atlanta (GA) (uncertain about continuing)
MEMBER Roy Taylor 14-16 Atlanta (GA)
MEMBER Bob McGahey 13-15 Celo (NC) (willing to continue)
MEMBER Kendall Ivie West. Knoxville (NC)

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Rose June 2015

Personnel

The Personnel Committee met by conference call on May 20, 2015. Present were Missy Ivie, Tobin Brogunier, Mari Ohta, Larry Ingle, and Carol Nickle. The meeting began with silent centering. After consideration of the agenda items, the committee makes the following recommendations:

1. Cost of living adjustment for SAYMA's employees, Liz Dykes and Jonah McDonald to begin October 1, 2015.
2. Automatic reimbursement to Liz Dykes for the portion of her internet and telephone cost used for SAYMA work, and increase the monthly reimbursement from \$30.00 to \$40.00.

The meeting closed with a short period of silence.

Submitted by Carol Nickle, clerk of personnel committee

Attachment G: Web Manager's Report

I have been trying to update the online meeting/worship group directory data, and have come up short for the following:

Boone
Brevard
Columbia
Crossville
Greenville
Sewanee
West Knoxville

If someone from those communities could contact me to confirm information and provide a contact email on the website, I would appreciate it. A forwarding email address of the form "yourmeeting@sayma.org" can be established if you don't want personal information online.

Also, I am still in need of **photographs** of your monthly meeting/worship group or SAYMA summer gatherings or SAYMA committees, or anything else quakerly for the website. Just email jpeg's to me.

Committee clerks, please let me know if you would like space on sayma.org to help publish news and information on whatever work you are doing.

Finally, I solicit input from Friends on the following: about half of SAYMA's constituent meetings and worship groups have Facebook pages. Would Friends be in favor of or opposed to a SAYMA Facebook page or group? Clearly some Friends like using Facebook, but perhaps not all. Please let me know your thoughts.

Comments or questions welcomed.

Charlie Wilton
SAYMA web manager
web@sayma.org

Attachment H: Nominating Committee Report

New (and new terms) appointees in 2015 appear in boldface. Blank lines indicate appointments needed.

Note: All terms are two years – WQOs are three years. Terms begin & end after YM each June.

Officers

CLERK	Larry Ingle	14-16	Chattanooga (TN)
ASSISTANT CLERK	Jon Saderholm	15-16	Berea
RECORDING CLERK			
TREASURER	Charles Schade	14-16	Charleston (WV)
ASST. TREASURER	Roger Wise	15-17	Charleston (WV)

Standing Committees

Ministry & Nurture Committee

Co-CLERK	Laura Seeger	15-17	Chattanooga
Co-Clerk	Thais Carr	14-16	Nashville (TN)
MEMBER	Christine Sears	14-16	Huntsville (AL)
MEMBER	Jonathan Schinhofen	15-17	Lexington (KY)
MEETING APPOINTEE	Mary Kedl		West Knoxville
MEETING APPOINTEE	Carolyn Noyes		Atlanta
MEETING APPOINTEE	Kim Saderholm		Berea
MEETING APPOINTEE	Edie Patrick		Asheville
MEETING APPOINTEE	Robin Josephs		Swannanoa
MEETING APPOINTEE			

Finance Committee

CLERK	David Ciscel	14-16	Memphis (TN)
MEMBER	Lee Ann Swarm	14-16	West Knoxville (TN)
MEMBER	Kendall Ivie	14-16	W. Knoxville (TN)
MEMBER	Wood Bouldin	14-16	Greenbrier WG (WV)
Ex officio	Roger Wise		Charleston (WV)
Ex officio	Charles Schade – Treasurer		Charleston (WV)

Personnel Committee

CLERK	Jon Saderholm	15-16	Bera
MEMBER	Missy Ivie	15-17	West Knoxville (TN)
MEMBER	Tobin Brogunier Russell	14-16	Athens (GA)
MEMBER	Barbara Esther	15-17	Asheville
SUPERVISOR OF Adm. Asst.	Larry Ingle		Chattanooga
SUPERVIOSR SAYF Adm. Asst.	Wren Hendrickson/Mari Ohta		Chapel Hill/Celo

SAYF STEERING COMMITTEE

CO-CLERK	Wren Hendrickson	14-16	Chapel Hill (NC)
CO-CLERK	Mari Ohta	14-16	Celo (NC)
MEMBER	Mary Linda McKinney	15-17	Nashville (TN)
MEMBER	Aaron Ruscetta	15-17	Atlanta
MEMBER	Jennifer Chapman	15-17	Durham
MEMBER	Adrienne Weir	14-16	Asheville (NC)
MEMBER	Mark Wutka	14-16	Nashville (TN)
MEMBER	Jonathan Schinhofen	14-16	Lexington (KY)
ex officio	Jonah McDonald		Atlanta (GA)

JYM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

CONVENER	Jennifer Dickie	15-17	Atlanta
MEMBER	Marcie Thaxter	14-16	Asheville (NC)
MEMBER	Beth Ensign	15-17	Atlanta (GA)
MEMBER	Karen Wise	14-16	Charleston (WV)
MEMBER	Paul Laudeman	15-17	Knoxville
JYM Coordinators	Mary Janhtz	15-16	Atlanta (GA)

YEARLY MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE

CLERK	Carol Nickle	15-16	West Knoxville
ADULT PROGRAMS	Hank Fay	15-16	Berea (KY)
WORKSHOPS	Annie Black	15-17	Cookeville
CO-REGISTRAR	Karen Wise	15-17	Charleston (WV)
CO-RESGISTRAR	Lissa West	15-16	Cookeville (TN)
RECORDING REGISTRAR	Liz Dykes	15-16	Admin Asst [Savannah]
BOOKSTORE	Chris Berg	15-16	Greenville (SC)
ASST. BOOKSTORE	Pam Beziat	15-16	Nashville
LOCAL ARRANGMNT	Bob Welsh	15-16	Swannanoa (NC)
JYM COORDINATOR	Mary Janhtz	15-16	Atlanta
YAF REP			
WORSHIP CO-ORD.	Arnold Karr	15-16	Columbia (SC)
LAYOUT EDITOR	Carol Ciscel	15-16	Nashville (TN)
SAYF Coordinator	Wren Hendrickson	14-16	Chapel Hill (NC)

Young Adult Friends

CLERK	Samuel Leeman-Munk		Chapel Hill (NC)
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Nominating Committee (named by the Naming Committee at SAYMA YM)

Co-CLERK	Jane Goldthwait	15-16	Celo (NC)
Co-CLERK	Beth Myers	14-16	Lexington (KY) [OVYM]
MEMBER	Anne Welsh	14-16	Swannanoa (NC)
MEMBER	Mark Gooch	14-16	Birmingham (AL)
MEMBER	Bert Skellie	15-17	Atlanta
MEMBER	Nancy Olsen	15-17	West Knoxville
MEMBER			

Peace & Social Concerns Committee

CLERK	Bob Welsh	14-16	Swannanoa (NC)
MEMBER	Florence Yaffe	14-16	Celo (NC)
MEMBER	Patti Hughes	14-16	Asheville (NC)
MEMBER	RD Flowers	14-16	Chattanooga (TN)
MEMBER	Arnold Karr	14-16	Columbia (SC)
MEMBER	Elbon Kirkpatrick	15-17	Birmingham
MEMBER	Steve Olshewsky	15-17	Berea
MEMBER			

Earthcare Action Network

CLERK	Lisa Rose	15-17	Swannanoa (NC)
MEMBER	Kendall Ivie	14-16	West Knoxville (TN)
MEMBER	Pat Johnson	15-17	Asheville (NC)
MEMBER	Roy Taylor	14-16	Atlanta (GA)
MEMBER	Bob McGahey	15-17	Celo (NC)
MEMBER			

Southern Appalachian Friend

EDITOR	Beth Ensign	15-16	Atlanta (GA)
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Web Support

WEB MANAGER	Charlie Wilton	15-17	Berea (KY)
MEMBER	Robyn Josephs	14-16	Swannanoa (NC)
CLERK	Steve Livingston	14-16	Asheville (NC)
MEMBER	Sig Christensen	14-16	West Knoxville

Outreach

CLERK	Hank Fay	14-16	Berea (KY)
MEMBER	Roger Wise	14-16	Charleston (WV)
MEMBER	Aimee Allen	15-17	Chattanooga
MEMBER	Kathleen Mavournin	15-17	West Knoxville
YAF MEMBER			

Operational Handbook

CLERK	Carol Ciscel	15-17	Memphis (TN)
ARCHIVIST	Missy Ivie	14-16	West Knoxville (TN)
MEMBER	Kendall Ivie	14-16	W. Knoxville (TN)
MEMBER	Charlie Wilton	14-16	Berea (KY)

Ad Hoc Committee

Faith & Practice Revision

CLERK	Free Polazzo	Began 01	Atlanta
MEMBER	Missy Ivie	Began 01	West Knoxville
MEMBER	Edie Patrick	Began 07	Asheville
MEMBER	Beth Myers	Began 14	Lexington (OVYM)
MEMBER	Thais Carr	Began 12	Nashville

Representatives to Wider Quaker Organizations

AFSC Corporation	Arnold Karr	13-16	Columbia (SC)
	Lee Ann Swarm	15-18	West Knoxville (TN)
	Susan Murty	15-18	Swannanoa Valley
FCNL	Charlie Wilton	15-18	Berea (KY)
	Jane Hiles	13-16	Birmingham (AL)
	Larry Osbourne	15-18	West Knoxville
FGC	Sharon Annis	15-18	West Knoxville
	Rebecca Sullivan	15-18	Atlanta
FLGBTQC	Susan Phelan	13-16	Huntsville (AL)
FWCC	Kelsey McNichols	15-18	Atlanta
	Michael Galovic	13-16	Swannanoa Valley
	Matt Riley	14-17	Celo
FRIENDS PEACE TEAMS	Adrienne Weir	15-18	Asheville (NC)
	Jack Willis	15-18	Nashville
QEW	Lisa Rose	13-16	Swannanoa (NC)
QUAKER HOUSE	Anne Welsh	14-17	Swannanoa (NC))
RSWR	Pat Williams, Co-Rep	14-17	Atlanta (GA)
	Steve Olshewsky Co-Rep	14-17	Berea (KY)
WM. PENN HOUSE	Bonnie Isaacs	14-17	Lewisburg WG (VW)

Attachment I: State of the Meeting Reports

- Asheville Friends Meeting
- Athens Friends Meeting
- Atlanta Friends Meeting
- Berea Friends Meeting
- Brevard Friends Meeting
- Celo Friends Meeting
- Charleston Friends Meeting
- Chattanooga Friends Meeting
- Columbia Friends Meeting
- Cookeville Friends Meeting
- Crossville Friends Meeting
- Greenville Friends Meeting
- Huntsville Friends Meeting
- Memphis Friends Meeting
- Nashville Friends Meeting
- Oxford Friends Meeting
- Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting
- West Knoxville Friends Meeting

Asheville Friends Meeting

At Asheville Friends Meeting (AFM), Spirit fares well among us in Meeting for Worship.

We are grateful for a sense of movement of Spirit. Friends enter Meeting quietly, with respect for the worship of others. As usual, broad participation often produced meaningful messages interspersed with contemplative silence. Participants opened their hearts to others' needs.

With better attendance this year, we had variety in maturity level, from new seekers to the very well-seasoned. We are glad for the infants and young children present, and we appreciate their spoken ministry. First Day School provides additional opportunities for children and youth.

With limited human resources, Meeting offers few worship opportunities for those who serve, such as First Day School and child care workers. Another challenge: some messages run too long, and eldering may sometimes be needed. And there is some disagreement regarding the difference in spoken ministry between partisan statements of political position and Friends' expressions of their own personal political realities. Preparing this report has revealed the need for discussion on true spiritual leading for spoken ministry.

Spirit fares well among us in regard to Committee work and Meeting for Business. Our Co-Clerks, both full-time professionals and mothers of young children, had agreed mid-2013 to serve for one year, then see if Way remained open to continue. They served ably for that time, but found that they could not renew this commitment. Recognizing the value of shared work, AFM again chose Co-Clerks to take up Meeting responsibilities. And Spirit keeps moving.

Many members and regular attenders participate in Meetings for Business. And many of them also carry out Committee responsibilities. For the most part, Friends are appreciative and enthusiastic regarding the roles of self and others in the business of the Meeting, and we forgive ourselves and others when we are less effective in fulfilling our intentions.

AFM conducted several meaningful second-hour spiritual enrichment groups to delve into Quaker thought and action. There is a hunger for learning more about Quaker process, and about the forms, structure, and traditions that undergird Quaker practice.

Suggestions for Meetings for Business include the need to start sooner, and, in order to honor the needs of children and older adults, to complete business sooner. One concern: not everyone receives timely minutes and notices. Our Committees are small; more members would lighten the

workload of all. It has been suggested that Committees should meet at least once a month to facilitate the seasoning of issues and thus enable shorter Business Meetings.

AFM's finances are in good order. A credit union and a computerized accounting system continue to assure the safety of and accountability for the Meeting's resources.

Spirit fares well among us with regard to building the Blessed Quaker Community. In 2014, the number of adult members and regular attenders was approximately 68, with visitors at almost every meeting. (This is a total number, not average attendance.) One member who had moved away, transferred out of our Meeting, and we welcomed five families (16 people) into our Meeting. We were blessed with the birth of two children. There was a rebirth of Youngish Adult Friends, with some members coming from nearby campuses.

Food, fellowship, and singing, all a part of our culture, contribute to our spiritual well-being, and these experiences have been enriched this year. We sing for nearly half an hour before each Meeting. Sandwich Sunday continues to offer a full meal monthly, with more relaxed time to interact socially. Lighter fare is served between first and second hours on other First Days.

Second-hour spiritual activities always enrich our community. Intergenerational activities included Secret Pals, youth barbeque at the end of school year, interviews of elders by the youth, and participation by all ages in such non-traditionally Quaker (but culturally-relevant) activities as an Easter-egg hunt and the Christmas pageant.

Other activities include the teens' fellowship with the wider SAYF community, and occasional dinners/movie nights by Youngish Adult Friends. At least one Spiritual Friendship Group has been active for years; it is suggested that other such groups be formed. More ideas for future activities include a yearly Meeting-wide retreat, more worship-sharing, and more social activities such as hiking/canoeing trips and re-establishing the Orphan's Thanksgiving dinner.

We provide child-care for our small Friends. While infants, and young children are very welcome in Meeting, other space for babies is limited; it has been suggested that baby gates be installed so that space be used more effectively, and that more parental input be sought.

Formal nametags help Friends' learn each other's names. When newcomers are introduced, they are welcomed immediately by the group, and again at rise of Meeting by individuals. Copies of *Friends Journal* and other literature are displayed, and the library is always readily available. It is suggested that the lobby be updated, the sign-in book be more prominently displayed, and a system be implemented to more easily identify personal needs.

Spirit fares well among us in regard to witness and outreach to the broader community. AFM's only "official" witness/outreach is a website and Facebook presence. However, we occasionally advertise, which helps to support *Friend's Journal* and local non-profit organizations. When other organizations request our help, we often find ourselves among Friends within the wider community. In many ways our personal lives serve witness to the Quaker testimonies.

In conjunction with the Unitarian Universalist congregation and Homeward Bound, AFM developed a Hope-to-Home Team to assist a woman, who, after eight years of homelessness is now stable. She is thinking about becoming a member of the Society of Friends. We participate in the Manna Food Bank, the Crop Walk, and a quarterly breakfast (as part of a larger program) at Pritchard Park to feed the homeless. Through the Meetinghouse rental policy, we serve the Ethical Humanist Society, the Center for Participatory Change, and a weekly meditation group, among others. We gave money for one of our members (with the Peace Corps in Swaziland) to build and equip a

In the local community, we participated in Athens' annual Human Rights Festival, MLK day service events, and rallies supporting equality. We also donated to local organizations such as the Nancy Travis Children's Project (provides affordable childcare for people in need), Family Connection (strengthening k-12 education and communities in Athens), the Economic Justice Coalition's Christmas Project, and provided food baskets for Casa de Amistad's social service outreach. In the broader community, we continued to support groups such as the Center for Development in Central America by hosting them for an annual fundraising event and investing in their micro-enterprise loan fund. We also donated money to Jubilee Partners, a group that helps refugees transition to life in the U.S. Additionally, we are members of the Charter for Compassion organization, which is working to raise the world's consciousness and attitude about using compassion for when making decisions.

The spirit seemed to fair well in Meetings for Business. People described the feeling of Meetings for Business as having a "spirit of cooperation" and a "spirit of respect" where all individuals were working toward Meeting goals (not individual agendas). We were happy to be able to engage in a number of activities even though much of our energy was devoted to finding and testing potential new Meeting space throughout the year.

As a small Meeting, averaging about ten attending each week, vocal ministry during Meeting for Worship was not abundant. A number of individuals have mentioned how much they cherish the silence and its enrichment of their spirit. Whether having silence or vocal ministry during Meeting for Worship to inspire us, our second hour discussions were vibrant. It was during these second hour worship sharing and discussion times that we were able to share and learn from each others' experiences – the heart of Quaker process. In this regard, our search continues.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Lang
Clerk, Athens Religious Society of Friends

Atlanta Friends Meeting

This year we sought a deepening of our spiritual life together. Our meetings for worship are opportunities to live together in the spirit and to receive vocal ministry. Periods of holding in the Light continue to provide a rich opportunity to hear and hold the many challenges facing members and those to whom we are connected in love.

In 2014, our meeting greeted eight new babies, including a set of triplets. We took two marriages under our care. We mourned the passing of one member and held three memorial services. We welcomed five new, transferring or sojourning members. Our number of attendees averaged from 100-120 each week.

We are encouraged that Friends are finding occasions during the week to gather in small groups. There are two active Spiritual Nurture Groups, including a Circle of Trust, a Bible Discussion group, two mid-week worship groups, a Young Adult Friends group, a monthly dinner for newcomers and the Adult First Day class. These small groups help us to "know each other in that which is eternal" and provide connections that deepen our corporate worship. In the Adult First Day class members and attenders are provided an hour to share their spiritual journeys and challenges in depth. We find preparing, delivering and receiving these accounts to be rich and intimate experiences. In second month Quaker healer John Calvi led a retreat around the theme of "A Day of Rest and Renewal." Clearness committees continue to flourish in our community and we

provide education on their use and spiritual nature. AFM is now in its third year of supporting Quaker Voluntary Service Atlanta and there are currently five QVS Volunteers serving in Atlanta.

We are a large meeting and a theologically diverse one. In the last year, we explored through a forum the way different Friends root their spiritual story. We are challenged and quickened by these exchanges. Learning more from one another provides opportunities to move from abstract head knowledge to the sure heart knowledge that unifies and strengthens us.

We experienced great richness in the last year as leading for new ministries bubbled up in our community. We continue to experiment with processes and practices to support and recognize these ministries more formally so that they may deepen in faithfulness. A number of friends meet regularly with anchoring committees to support their ministries. In the past year we recognized and supported Friends leadings to ministries of music, photography, and Quaker interfaith chaplaincy. We continue to encourage Friends to listen carefully for prompting to take up ministries and to lay them down as the Spirit leads.

We are blessed by the many children in our meeting. We continue to seek ways for our community to support children and their parents. There is sometimes a separation felt between adults and children, and we seek ways to actively cherish each member of the community. In 11th month we held our second semi-programmed worship with attention to Welcoming Children. Members of meeting signed prepared certificates for 17 individual children witnessing our promises to cherish and nurture the children of our meeting.

The Care & Counsel Committee began the year with a half-day retreat where they set priorities for the year. As a result, several practices are in place to support those priorities. C&C continues to have a Point Person for each month to receive requests for assistance from the Meeting community. The volunteer sign up sheet was redesigned to encourage more Friends to serve in the life of the Meeting. The visitor sign-in was redesigned to make it easier to provide follow up information. To allow for a wider participation of Holding in the Light the names of those Held in the Light in Meeting for Worship may be included in the newsletter, providing the inclusion is completely voluntary and the privacy of the person involved is protected. A wheelchair was donated to assist attenders who might have difficulty getting from the parking lot to the meetinghouse. A subcommittee of Care and Counsel presented information throughout the year in forums under the theme Conscious Aging/Mindful Dying. C&C, with Ministry & Worship committee helped to arrange three memorial services.

The Administration Committee, made up of a dedicated group of Friends representing other committees, continued to focus on Meetinghouse building & grounds maintenance and repair. The major playground renovation project was finally completed, after unexpected delays. The building sprinkler system repairs were a continuing source of frustration, but essential repairs were made. A new project, renovation and maintenance of the library, was begun with the help of members of the Meeting. Administration strives to act with the intention that the day-to-day maintenance of our space is a Spiritual journey. We work to develop procedures for our facilities and our community that will not limit the Spirit with cold, closed policies. When the committee feels ready to move forward with projects, we seek patience – both within the committee and from members of the Meeting – so that all voices can be heard and considered. In all of our work, we hope our energy helps make a better life for the Atlanta Friends Meeting.

AFM continues to be challenged to find enough Friends who feel led to serve in the many roles we have created to meet the needs of the Meeting. We added a part-time bookkeeper to our staff due to the increasing demands of that position. Nominating Committee is trying to meet on a regular

basis and make the inquiries needed, in between our meetings. We are also updating the spreadsheet that lists all positions and terms of those serving.

Living our testimony of equality is an important spiritual concern that compels us to address racism in ourselves, our communities, and in society, especially in the criminal justice system. Quakers for Racial Equality (QRE) has been the main group doing anti-racism work in AFM, but many individuals in Meeting also share this leading. QRA has offered a weekly literature table, a monthly Listening Ear for concerns about racism, queries related to personal racism, and workshops on "Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity". At Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) and at AFM, QRE members showed film segments of "Cracking the Codes" and facilitated small group sharing about bias, privilege, and institutional racism. We continue our efforts to make AFM a more welcoming spiritual home for all and to track the racial diversity of attendance at Meeting for Worship. In addition, two QRA members took facilitator training and participated in the YWCA, "It's Time to Talk about Race" circle dialogs.

AFM participants have also been engaged in addressing racism in our neighborhoods, in Decatur, and the wider Atlanta area by supporting AFM members affected by an incident of Klan leafleting, by working with the Decatur Community Coalition to end racial profiling in Decatur, and by joining four other Decatur congregations in the Oakhurst March to protest racial profiling and police violence everywhere. AFM folks also participated in other vigils and marches in Atlanta to affirm that "Black Lives Matter". QRE and the Prison Reform Group have supported workshops on the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), an approach that has been successfully used with both prisoners and youth. Five Atlanta Friends met the requirements to be apprentice AVP trainers. QRE members have also been very active with the End New Jim Crow Action Group, a racially and religiously diverse group that focuses on action in education, legislation, and re-entry. Listening to the leadership of formerly incarcerated people and recognizing how structural racism perpetuates inequality have been important lessons from this work. As we strive for racial equality in our personal lives, communities, and society, we appreciate the witness of Friends, both here and physically distant, who challenge us to follow our spiritual leadings to step up for racial justice.

The work of the religious education committee is inspired and guided by our First Day schoolteachers, doorkeepers, and the children we teach. From this deep well of the Spirit we approach this year's Old Testament curriculum. We find that we are called to teach the scripture, as Barclay says, "by the inward testimony of the spirit," knowing that we follow the Spirit as our guide to all Truth. In our work we strive to teach children how to listen for God's voice, guiding our youngest members to the inward teacher with thoughtful wondering through our Godly Play curriculum. We endeavor to honor each child's voice and empower young people to know that divine inspiration is available to us all, thereby allowing us, at any age, to access the deeper meaning in scripture by finding our inward guide. Thus springs our 2014-2015 First Day School theme--*Making meaning of scripture: finding our inward teacher.*

This year we adjusted our classrooms from six, including the nursery to five. We knew going into the year that we would not have enough lower elementary children to fill out a full class so we adjusted our classrooms to reflect our current age distribution. On any given First Day we can expect 5-8 lower grades children (3 years to 1st grade), 4-7 middle grades children (2nd to 4th grades), 4-6 upper grades children (5th -7th grades), and 15-20 high school children (8th-12th grade). We have 14 Friends who teach First Day School on a rotating basis and 6-8 Friends who volunteer as doorkeepers weekly.

It is very important to note something that is vital to the strength of our community, but rarely mentioned. That is the countless acts of kindness and support between Friends that occur every day, but remain hidden from the larger view. Simply put, we are there for each other.

Atlanta Friends Meeting aspires to be a welcoming spiritual home for all and there is a deep desire to faithfully discern a spirit-led path toward making this an ever-increasing reality. We have made progress along this path as evidenced by our active, engaged and supportive community.

Respectfully submitted,
Nan O'Connor, Clerk

Berea Friends Meeting

Berea Friends Meeting continues to be a spiritually healthy and dynamic community of seekers. We regularly welcome between five and seven children, between five and seven teens, and between fifteen and twenty adults at Meeting for Worship. We have frequent First Hour discussion sessions that are well attended and which provide fertile soil in preparation for Worship. Visitors frequently join us. The participation of new regular attenders in all aspects of meeting life invigorates and energizes us.

While our spiritual focus continues to be primarily inward, we have begun to take more outward steps. We are beginning to take concrete steps to discern the nature of our role within our local community so we can better participate with it. Several of us continue to support the broader Quaker community through participation on standing committees of the Yearly Meeting and as representatives to national and global Quaker organizations. Our teens continue to be nourished by participation in the Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) program.

Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee continues to organize letter writing at our monthly potlucks, and is experiencing success building relationships with our local, state, and national elected officials. In line with this, the committee continued our work with the Quaker Committee on Kentucky Legislation (QCKL). Following the panel discussion we hosted last spring entitled "Not in our Names: Victims' Families Speak Out Against the Death Penalty," we were asked by our local state representative to provide professional development about the death penalty to her so she would be better able to support its abolition. We continued our work on this front by connecting with our local Kentuckians for the Commonwealth chapter to organize monthly meetings, and by welcoming Kirk Bloodsworth who spoke about his experience as the first person sentenced to death who was later exonerated through DNA evidence.

While our budget has stabilized, we continue to struggle to realize a budget that can support wider Quaker organizations. While these are temporal matters, they impact our spiritual lives and continue to present spiritual challenges for us. We have continued to make significant headway on our large projects by contracting an architect to provide design suggestions for a major renovation of our Meetinghouse including an elevator to making the second floor accessible to all.

We continue to value many long-cherished aspects of our meeting: the opportunity to worship regularly in a space where mind and body can be still, a home where we can experience our Quaker identity, a safe and welcoming community committed to listening, discerning, and seeking unity, and our vibrant youth program which models problem solving and respect for self and others. We actively nurture a community that provides gentle correction and guidance.

We walk together on a journey illumined by The Light, striving to support and nurture each other on that path. We work to share the value of spiritual listening with those both inside and outside the community, and to serve as examples of what we believe by living what we believe.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Saderholm
Clerk, Berea Friends Meeting

Brevard Friends Meeting

Members 6-Regular Attenders 12- Average Attendance 7

As in past years, Brevard Friends Meeting continues to hold Meeting for Worship on every First Day in the Activities Room of College Walk Retirement Community, in Brevard, North Carolina. Meeting for Worship gathers in a spacious carpeted area of the room where attenders sit in arm chairs arranged in a circle. Adult Forum meets in the entry space of the same room, where tables and chairs accommodate a sizeable group. There is a convenient, well supplied kitchen and dining area available for our monthly Potluck, and other times when we serve refreshments. Modern storage cabinets line a wall of the room for safe keeping of Friends literature and meeting supplies.

Although we are no longer young, we remain actively involved in volunteer work in our communities. A list of volunteer work is as follows:

Hendersonville High School Math Tutor
AARP Tax Return Preparation
Literacy Council Buncombe County
Volunteer Fire Fighter Balsam Grove, NC
Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Association
El Centro Latin Center Tutor English
Rise & Shine Afterschool Program Tutor
Brevard Children's Center
Bread of Life Soup Kitchen
Schenk Job Corps Brevard
Brevard Chapter NAACP

Brevard Friends Monthly Potluck continues to be an important communal occasion in the life of our religious community. Breaking bread in creative fellowship with our spiritual family renews and strengthens our dedication to one another and to our faith. We are blessed with excellent cooks who adorn our buffet with delicious dishes which are always gratefully received by those in attendance.

Adult Forum is an important spiritual and intellectual focus of our Meeting. Sources for discussion frequently include a variety of Pendle Hill pamphlets, which always attract a large attendance.

The Meeting newsletter has been revived under the able editorship of a relatively new attender to our Meeting. Attenders frequently express gratitude that she has returned the newsletter to active circulation.

Our Second Annual Christmas Carol Sing was a great success. Everyone had a lovely time singing traditional carols, accompanied on piano by one of our regular attenders, a former church organist.

Socializing with our friends and devouring delicious refreshments made the occasion highly memorable.

This year we welcomed one of our regular attenders to membership in Meeting. We were pleased to assist her progress in becoming educated about Quakerism and in making the transition.

Quaker Bakers is always a high point on our Meeting's social calendar after the rise of Worship, on a Fifth Sunday, or when no other Meetings are scheduled. Attenders provide an array of delicious offerings for all in attendance. Much socializing and good cheer is a part of this event, the same as it always does when our Meeting has an opportunity to be together and consume delicious snacks and refreshments.

In 2014 our Meeting attenders suffered a number of medical problems in their lives and in the lives of family members. Among those illnesses three are listed below. The daughter of a longtime member, a minister of our Meeting, suffered a serious fall and sustained neurological injuries, and was hospitalized and in recovery for an extended period. One of our newer members suffered a serious illness requiring major surgery, which after a long recovery, and absence from Meeting, she returned to Meeting fully restored. A longtime member and pillar of our Meeting suffered a fainting spell during the silence of a Meeting for Worship, for which only the quick response of other attenders on either side prevented her from sliding from her chair to the floor. EMS transported her to the ER where she regained consciousness. Since that time she has not returned to Meeting.

Pastoral Care has taken on a renewed importance under the circumstances of numerous illnesses and incapacitations among our attenders. Other attenders have, as always, been exemplary in demonstrating their concern for one another, in offering assistance, and holding the suffering person in the light. In summary, our Meeting continues to be a deep spiritual reservoir from which all members and attenders find refreshment and renewal. There were no marriages, no births and no deaths in Brevard Friends Meeting throughout the past year.

Celo Friends Meeting

It has been a year of growth and learning at Celo Friends Meeting. We have added one new member and welcomed another member returning from years away, but the impression on First Day, and in participation in Meeting for Business, is of much more growth than that. We have many regular attenders with strong attachment and commitment to our Meeting. Many of these are of a younger generation, which gives comfort to the elders of the Meeting.

An important catalyst for growth is our continued practice of potluck lunch after Meeting each First Day. This "Meeting for Eating" is a simple idea that gives us a chance to gather, share food and conversation. In good weather we eat outside on picnic tables. This practice enhances friendships and adds to the strength of our Meeting.

An active adult religious education committee has also contributed to the feeling of growth and active participation in our Meeting. Several Friendly Eights groups have been organized with a suggested topic of our testimonies. Two panel discussion style forums have been held. They have been well attended and fruitful. The topics, suggested in part by the question brought by a younger attender, were "What do we do in Meeting for Worship?" and "How do I know I am led to speak in Meeting for Worship?" Holding these forums in the hour before regular worship has resulted in strong participation and deepened the quality of worship.

We encourage new Friends to participate in wider Quaker functions by providing scholarship to gatherings such as SAYMA and FGC.

We continue to have a strong program for our children and youth, thanks largely to the tireless efforts of one Friend. The regular weekly program is punctuated and enhanced by seasonal events that draw in many families from our wider community. We enjoyed performance of the Christmas play "*Amahl and the Night Visitors*". We held a baby blessing where we celebrated 24 babies that have blessed us with their birth in our community in the past few years. The First Day School group enjoys raising money through meals and other fundraisers to support causes they feel strongly about. There is a large youth group which participates in SAYF events and is active locally. While this group rarely participates in worship on First Day they strongly identify with the Meeting and with Friends in general. They helped host a very successful SAYF retreat in Celo in March. We have appointed a committee to consider a Child Protection Policy. They have studied the policy adopted by SAYMA and proposed an adaptation that meets the particular needs and structure of Celo Meeting. They are also considering ways to educate children about abuse and how to empower them if such an incident should occur.

Celo does not have a standing committee for Peace and Social Concerns, but we continue to be very active by supporting the leadings of individual Friends in their social ministry both locally and globally. We are instrumental in the continuation of Feed-a-Child, a local interdenominational effort to reduce food insecurity among children in the public schools. We support the work of RSVP Listening Project in its local project on food insecurity, and with a dialogue in Statesboro, GA on relations between the city's black community and the local sheriff and police. Friends volunteer locally with Habitat for Humanity, Centro de Enlace and in the local schools. Many in our Meeting were instrumental in establishing a local chapter of the NAACP and have supported their efforts locally and statewide through the Moral Monday movement. Two members were present at the People's Climate March in NYC. One member facilitated a retreat in West Knoxville for the newly reorganized SAYMA Earthcare Action Network. Friends marched and held vigil at the annual School of The Americas action. A Samburu or "Nurturing Knowledge" committee continues to be active and collaborates regularly with Kenyan Friends. Currently seven Kenyan girls receive financial support, which allows them to pursue secondary education. Our Kenyan partners are actively pursuing peace initiatives with hostile neighbors. This work is being done in coordination with the African Great Lakes Initiative. A group of Friends is working to share information on the situation in Palestine-Israel and is bringing a proposal for a minute on that concern. Two Celo Friends represented SAYMA at the FWCC gathering in Mexico.

An active committee for Ministry and Care has tried to keep abreast of the needs of the Meeting. Many Friends were shaken by the sudden death of a young man in our community last summer. While he was not active in the Meeting he had grown up with us and was close to many. We have worked to support his widow and family. We continue to be active in death education, pre-planning and care of our cemetery. Our annual observance of "Day of the Dead" is always meaningful. We are looking at adding "home funerals" to our options for after death care. We strive to keep connected to elders in our Meeting who are home bound. Two Friends share the effort to bring one elder to worship once each month. Another elder couple receives monthly visits for in-home worship "Parlor Meetings". We continue to reach out to the Hispanic community in our county. We have made contact with a Spanish speaking Episcopal congregation. We provide interpretation for a Mexican family when they attend worship. We provided a travelling minute for two Friends who visited Quakers in Cuba.

The Arthur Morgan School, a junior high boarding school in our community, has acknowledged its deep Quaker heritage and been recognized as a Friends school by the Friends Council on

Education. We look forward to continuing to provide spiritual support for the staff and students of the school.

While we continue to appreciate our buildings, and acknowledge the effort that went into creating them, we recognize that they are no longer new. We have re-energized an active Buildings and Grounds Committee and are working to prioritize needs. We had to replace a furnace, unexpectedly, which caused us to draw on our reserve funds. We will probably have to increase our maintenance budget in the future as we anticipate further needs. Otherwise our finances are stable, and we have begun to replenish the reserve fund that was spent on the new furnace.

A discussion has begun in our Meeting about whether we are a community church. In many ways we seem to serve this function in our community. Many of our neighbors identify with Celo Friends Meeting even though they rarely attend. We are the spiritual home they turn to in times of crisis and celebration. The question for some is whether this role is compatible with being a Friends Meeting. Can we be true to our Quaker principles and still serve the wider community who may not be as familiar with Friends? We look forward to fruitful discussion and discernment as we take up this question.

Another question we have begun to ask and may pursue further is, what does it mean to be a member of Celo Friends Meeting? We feel like we have an active, vibrant and growing Meeting, yet we have only added two members to our rolls this year. Does this say something about our attenders, our Meeting, or the way we define membership? Again we look forward to discernment on this issue.

Compiled and composed from the input of many Friends.

Respectfully submitted,

Gib Barrus
Co-Clerk

Charleston Friends Meeting

How does the Spirit fare among you?

In Meeting for Worship?

Our meeting is small, and often quiet. It is a time when gathered Friends listen for and hear God's still, small voice. Sometimes there is vocal ministry that speaks directly to those present. Sometimes ministry flows out of the joy of being together in God's presence and alive in His creation. More Friends have been moved to speak lately than in prior years. Perhaps our ongoing Worship Sharing has made it easier for Friends to know when they are called to speak out of the silence. A set time at the end of worship for sharing joys and sorrows allows Friends to hold in the Light those who need prayer and comfort, and to rejoice and give thanks for blessings we constantly receive.

In Meeting for Business and committee work?

We have committee clerks, but no fixed committee membership. Each standing committee is a committee of the whole, guided by its clerk and responsible to the meeting. Our standing committees are nominating, ministry, newsletter, and peace and social justice. Adult education is

part of ministry, which also includes worship sharing. Three appointed trustees occasionally meet to make recommendations about meeting property and finances. We discuss outreach a lot, but haven't yet created a standing committee. Occasional ad hoc committees form for special occasions. We value the occasional intervisitation with Greenbrier Valley Friends Worship Group (under our care); we had a memorable meeting and potluck with them in March. In the summer, a clearness committee of Charleston and Greenbrier Valley Friends responded to an application for membership with enthusiasm, affirmation, and joy.

Meetings for Business are well attended. Having co-clerks and a seasoned recording clerk helps us attend to business thoughtfully and prayerfully, discern unity, and summarize decisions succinctly. Outreach, hospitality, charitable donations, wider Quaker affairs, peace and social justice, and planning meeting projects are some of the concerns Friends brought to Meeting for Business this year. Outreach probably had the greatest number of potentially significant decisions, including changing our telephone service, getting permission to have a permanent sign where we meet, encouraging Friends to start a Quaker blog, and updating our meeting brochure.

In building the blessed community within the Meeting?

We have a rich diversity of planned activities that strengthen our community. In months with a fifth Sunday we have worship sharing instead of silent worship on that day. This year's themes have included expectations in Meeting for worship, living in the Light, limitations, and labor. In addition to its direct value in bringing us closer to one another, worship sharing may also help Friends learn when the Spirit is urging them to speak in meeting for worship. Our adult discussions have focused on John Woolman's journal and essays. We are ever humbled by that Friend's example of loving and persistent ministry. Biweekly Bible study read about half of I Maccabees and began reading Luke. A book group has read an eclectic mix of secular fiction and non-fiction, from Harriet Beecher Stowe to James Webb. Potlucks and fellowship help us get to know one another and welcome occasional visitors.

One side effect of planned activities is the unplanned activities and warm friendships that have blossomed among us and among family members and friends of Friends. We take great joy in welcoming a parent to meeting, in remembering and celebrating our children's accomplishments, and in each others' grandchildren.

In witness and outreach to the broader community?

We've had an amazing year of outreach, for our size. We have revised our meeting brochure, a lengthy, but rewarding process. We changed our telephone service to a less expensive (free!) system that offers more rapid notification and response to inquiries. We arranged for a permanent sign at the site of our Meeting for Worship (soon to be installed). After trying newspaper ads with no success, several Friends decided to create a Quaker blog (<http://reaching4light.blogspot.com/>). It has been successful in attracting readership; whether we gain visitors as a result remains to be seen. Like other journaling projects, it is valuable to its authors as a discipline and a means towards spiritual growth.

Charleston participates in a small array of social projects. We actively engage with American Friends Service Committee work in the state, which is quite visible due to the engagement of program staff with the broader community. One Friend noted that people she meets are most likely to mention the AFSC's state program director as a local representative of Friends if she tells them that she is a Quaker. One Charleston member clerks the local AFSC program committee; another serves on the southern region board. We also support the projects financially. Several

years ago, we decided that we were unlikely to need to acquire a meeting house, so we undertook a conscious reduction of endowment funds through scheduled charitable gifts (still in progress). We also prepare and serve a special meal each year at local men's and women's shelters.

Meeting has been blessed through its involvement in wider Quaker organizations. We hosted a group of students from Arthur Morgan School as they studied the impact of coal mining on West Virginia. Members of Charleston and Greenbrier Valley are active in SAYMA, attending yearly meeting and serving in positions of responsibility. We have an annual West Virginia Friends Gathering that brings Quakers from all over the state for a weekend of worship and fellowship. This year's theme, "Being good ancestors," struck a responsive chord, as most of us are older Friends. Two of our members participated in the FCNL lobbying weekend, returning with renewed commitment to working for Friendly policy change: "I'm just a citizen from a small state of no special significance. But when you participate as one of hundreds of like-minded citizens, you do become significant."

Approved at Meeting for Business 3/1/2015

Chattanooga Friends Meeting

We have found that reflection at the end of every year for Chattanooga Meeting is one of ups and downs, hints of progress, and areas of disappointment, a mixed assortment of developments. This past year has been no different.

The center of our meeting remains our weekly meeting for worship. Close to ten Friends are there nearly every week, with an additional five or six attending more or less regularly, and often one or two visitors. Those present regularly clearly have sensed a divine presence that bring us close to the center of our being and unites us. The depth reached in such meetings is palpable though it sometimes seems absent in others. Hence our meeting was shocked and saddened when a regular attender for a year who asked penetrating questions and took a role in our common discussions, including committee meetings, announced that she had not found God in our worship and would be leaving. We have learned from the experience and wish her well.

Our monthly meetings have become a bit shorter and more united, but that has not meant that we neglected important matters: we approved vision and mission statements after much hard work by a specially formed committee. We met our budget and were able to make the contributions we had planned. Our meetinghouse has not gotten any younger, but this year at least it has not been a major drain on our budget, but we are setting aside money for a replacement roof. Parking space is sometimes at a premium.

Unfortunately, the number of children attending has dropped to zero, meaning that we are not getting younger either and have failed to attract young parents to replace ourselves, not an encouraging demographic sign. Nevertheless we have designated teachers available should visitors arrive with hoped-for children. Adult religious education, including compelling accounts of individuals' spiritual journeys, has been valued at one second hour a month, and a meeting for silent worship is held monthly on a weeknight.

Our outreach was improved immensely in the past year, with newly developed folders and handout information. Our social media presence have become more stable, up-to-date, and appealing to folk who are seeking us out. In fact, casual conversation with visitors reveals that almost all have encountered us in this fashion. In this sense we can hardly be viewed as old-fashioned Quakers.

In spite of our improved outreach, we do remain somewhat traditional in our lack of sustained efforts to make Quaker approaches known in the wider community. Our attendance consists of almost all white, well-educated, financially comfortable people. Nothing intrinsically wrong with that, true enough, for such folk as ourselves need a religious home too. The reality tends to belie our pretensions to be inclusive and desire to foreshadow what we surely still hope to become—a beloved and relevant community. That challenge remains before us.

Approved, Chattanooga Meeting for Business, 8 March 2015

Columbia Friends Meeting

In 2014, the spirit led us to focus on three general areas: support of our members and attenders, outreach to the greater community, and improvement of our grounds and building to make our Meeting House more welcoming and accessible. We welcomed a new member and the birth of a child and three grandchildren in our midst while also mourning the loss of a long-time Friend who had served the meeting in many capacities including the position of clerk. This Friend was the first Quaker to be interred in the cemetery at the Meeting House, fulfilling a deeply held desire.

The spirit led us in several ways to support the spiritual development of our Meeting. Those leading First Day School met and planned a more coordinated set of classes for our young friends focusing on Friends' testimonies and Bible stories. In addition, our young friends continued to help with preparing food for the homeless once a month. We invited extended families, neighbors, and friends to attend our first First Day Picnic at a local riverfront park. Representatives of our Meeting also visited the Aiken Worship Group several times during the year to support that smaller group. Second hour programs included information on mass incarceration, introduction to the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), and testimonies using the SAYMA Faith and Practice as our guide.

The spirit also led us to support more socially conscious investments including redirecting half of our Building Fund monies to two Friends Fiduciary Funds. We also established an *ad hoc* committee to develop policies and guidelines for use of the Meeting House by "outside" groups.

The spirit led us in several important areas of outreach this year. In August, we again sponsored the annual Hiroshima Vigil, and we also hosted a "Hiroshima: Never Forget" art exhibit at a local arts center as part of The city of Columbia's First Thursdays on Main Street event. This last event attracted many non-Friends and created a much wider awareness of Columbia Friends. We hosted a public screening of the video *Broken on All Sides: Race, Mass Incarceration and New Visions for Criminal Justice in the US* with more than 30 members of the greater Columbia area in attendance. Friends participated in the Climate March, the Interfaith March Against Gun Violence, an international Peace Day event, and the continuing weekly Women in Black vigil. We created a banner for our Meeting to carry at such events. In December, we offered the first of a series of three AVP training sessions with twenty persons participating in the three-day workshop. Friends provided five meals for the participants. We have made plans for the second and third three-day workshops early in 2015. We continued to collect food for Harvest Hope Food Bank, and several friends continued a prison ministry.

In wider outreach, we hosted the Palmetto Friends Gathering in the spring and sponsored members' attendance at various regional and national gatherings. A Friend attended SAYMA, Quaker Springs, and the People of Color retreat prior to attending Friends General Conference annual gathering. As a result, this Friend now clerks the AFSC's Telephone Steering Committee on Mass Incarceration. In November two Friends attended the FCNL's Quaker Public Policy Institute/Lobby Day and annual meeting in Washington, DC.

Two other outreach projects saw improvements to our Meeting House grounds. We began developing a labyrinth, which the entire Columbia community may use, and, thanks to the generous donation of several friends, we installed a vehicle charging station for use by Friends as well as the greater community. Since our Meeting House lies half a mile from a major interstate, we hope that information about the charging station will bring greater awareness of our Meeting House while encouraging alternative energy. A sign on the charging station will encourage users to enjoy a period of contemplation at the labyrinth while their vehicle charges.

In addition to the charging station and the labyrinth, we beautified and softened the entrance to the Meeting House with a parking lot island, installing an irrigation system and native plants supported by a grant from Columbia Green. In the Meeting House itself, we converted an unused space into a new ADA-compliant bathroom with a shower; the bathroom will therefore allow overnight guests to use our space. We also improved our first day school room by refinishing floors, installing new cabinets, and giving the room a fresh coat of paint. We continued to develop our garden and installed rainwater barrels. We compost waste from our gatherings and encourage Friends to bring compostable material to add to the compost pile.

We spent much time during the year seeking the spirit's guidance in the use of a possible donation of property several miles from the Meeting House. We collaborated with several agencies, particularly Columbia Housing Authority, with the idea of developing an affordable housing community. When the donor found that a contract with a realtor prevented such a donation, the donor instead made a donation of \$6,000 to the Meeting House with the hope that we could use those funds for needs within our community. We used a portion of those funds to support the first series of AVP workshops and continue to seek the spirit's guidance on the wisest use of the remainder of those funds.

The overall financial health of the Meeting is good, with strong reserves, including money set aside for future major maintenance to the Meeting House. The wisdom and generosity of Columbia Friends over the years preceding the acquisition of the Meeting House is striking.

Finally, at the end of the year, we joyously received a Friend's generous donation of the land adjoining the Meeting House and affirmed the Friend's desire that it remain an open space, always keeping in mind sustainable practices in all of its structures or planting as the Meeting uses it.

Cookeville Friends Meeting

Only individuals can assess whether the spirit is reaching them. The mark of a spirit-led meeting is the merging of internal, individual spirit leadings into external action. Using that measure, the meeting had a reasonably spirit-led year.

Several of us visited the Duck River Electric Membership Co-operative to learn about their pilot solar generation program. Subsequently, we wrote letters to the Upper Cumberland Electric Membership Co-op (which supplies electricity to many of us), urging the board to take advantage of TVA and TDEC incentive money available for various solar and alternative power generation options. One of our attenders and another friend went to the UCEMC annual meeting and made a presentation to the board. So far, our spirit has not affected them, but we hope we have planted seeds that will germinate.

Our third annual Deanna Nipp-Kientz Memorial Peace Project contest was expanded for 2014. In addition to essays, we asked for and received entries in other creative media. We also encouraged

wider community involvement and will expand even more this year. The awards ceremony was well-attended and the winning entry was a beautiful sculpture of a young man wearing a hoodie.

We also feel supported by Meeting in our various individual leadings such as prison visitation, making local high school students aware of alternatives to the military, collecting coats and food for the underserved in our community, attending a rally for the expansion of TennCare, participating in the local gay pride day and in the second annual ecumenical picnic in Cookeville.

Many of us attended a Peace and Justice rally at the courthouse square aimed at solidarity between the races. The subsequent evening meal at First Presbyterian Church provided an opportunity for direct communication and was enjoyed by all who participated.

The meeting adopted a section of road and picked up trash along it all year only to find the same section had also been adopted by another organization. We are currently looking for a new section to clean.

Our annual retreat in February was fun and attracted attenders we rarely see otherwise. The retreat venue we have used for many years will no longer be available, however, and we have not identified a suitable substitute.

The meeting has had little success attracting or retaining new attender/members. Young people are especially rare. Some of us are dealing with health, financial, transportation, or hearing difficulties. We continue to help and support each other as much as we are able.

There are usually 7-12 of us on any given 1st Day. Vocal ministry is rare, yet we still find strength and inspiration in our worship together.

Crossville Friends Meeting

What a year this has been. From our personal lives to the upheavals across our country and world politically, militarily, economically, and weather events, it has been one challenge after another in short succession. Death, illness, injury, displacement, family responsibilities, the rigors of staying true to one's principles and convictions under fire in the work place, of responding to hardships greater than our own, these, and more have tested our mettle. Our numbers have continued to dwindle, though a hardy hardcore band of tender F/friends meet with a resolve to continue our little meeting, praying for guidance as to what it should be, if it should be, and while we are in unity that it is important in our lives, and we cherish our connections to each other and the wider Quaker community, we sometimes chafe under the limitations that such a small meeting presents. We have been blessed with new attenders from the Mennonite "world" and they delight and enrich our times together. Outreach right now, is almost impossible, as we know not what we have to offer, with any kind of stability. In our daily lives we endeavor to abide by the timeless principles which this religious tradition calls us to live by and articulate, most precious being the experiential conviction that there is immediate and ever-available access to an eternal well of Love, Light, Grace, Wisdom and Mercy which we call by many names, and in this ever-changing existence it is our one sure foundation. Without this limitless creative Source we would surely be adrift on the stormy waters of life, with no guide, no anchor, no hope. "Be here now, eyes wide open, listen and receive what you need." When we come together, there is such sweet sharing, caring, comfort and hilarity at times that reminds us that we are so not alone in our convictions, our journey, our perspective on life. A significant change for us has been the decision to lay down our Meetinghouse and move to a smaller space centrally located in Crossville at 405 West 4th Street. On Easter weekend the meeting held our traditional annual retreat and met at a cabin in

Cumberland Mountain State Park. This overnight venue promoted a more detailed opportunity for discourse and interchange of ideas than was possible during our regular weekly meetings. One of our members, Toby Rogers, went to Nepal and as part of the visit found a school which had lost its funding for school lunches. Our meeting responded by raising funds for lunches for the rest of the school year. Additionally, the Meeting responded to the Nepalese earthquake disaster by creating a relief fund. Approximately \$2,000 was raised in efforts spearheaded by Judy Arnold Rogers. And so we pray our way forward, trying to discern what our little band here can do, might do, given that this meeting has a significant and meaningful history for Friends in this part of the country, and may have an important future, the shape of which we do not yet know. We love to have visitors and encourage Friends near and far to join us, letting us know in advance if possible so we can make an event to welcome you.

Greenville Friends Meeting

We have continued to grow in the life of the Spirit during the past year. We have had a number of visitors, many of whom have found us through our new website via the Quaker Cloud. Nevertheless, we continue to discern a need to attract additional attenders/members to our Meeting, given its relatively small size (we have 6-8 weekly attenders).

GMM's Activities

Some of us are active with the Palmetto Friends Gathering (PFG), some with SAYMA, some with FGC. That means that each of us has some type of connection to the larger Quaker community.

As noted above, GMM representatives continue to attend programs organized by the Palmetto Friends Gathering (PFG) and SAYMA. We appreciate the work of two of our group who have been co-clerks of PFG for the past two years. They have served us well.

Three adults and two children attended the annual PFG meeting in Columbia, South Carolina in March, and one of the children had the lead role in the "Mystery Quaker" video produced by the young people.

We look forward to having representatives from the Meeting attend Friends General Conference in Cullowhee, North Carolina this summer. One of our group is an active member of the committee preparing for that meeting.

We are grateful for the gracious support and hospitality that are provided to us by the Chaplin's Office at Furman University.

GMM's Giving Opportunities

One of our members is a representative on the Board of Directors of the Greenville Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (a local group focusing on the needs of homeless families that we regularly support with our donations). We also continue to support Quaker House (located in Fayetteville, North Carolina) and made an initial contribution for the upkeep the Bush River Quaker Cemetery in Newberry, South Carolina.

Among charitable contributions this year the Meeting made donations to two local schools to help with travel expenses for field trips to Washington, D.C. We also provided donations to several other local charities. We remain eager to identify other giving opportunities as they present themselves.

GMM's Fellowship

GMM continues to rejoice in mutual fellowship. We enjoy socializing after Meeting. We have a potluck lunch after Meeting on the first Sunday of each month.

We pray for opportunities to serve God and our community, and to continue to find joy in the Light and among ourselves.

Huntsville Area Friends Meeting

HAFM has felt Spirit in our Meeting for Worship and built blessed community within our meeting in the following ways:

- In Friendly Bible Study, which is convened once a month. One Second Hour a month is given over to FBS, and we regularly talk about how we get so much more out of reading 4 verses and reflecting on how they speak to each of us than any of us thought possible.
- Rich second hours convened by different participants. Two members shared their Spiritual Stories. We also focused on areas of member interest; for example, meeting for worship with attention to business, community building, and intergenerational activities (including a picnic at a local park and storytelling workshop).
- Educating ourselves on international matters concerning Friends, especially Palestinian-Israeli relations. HAFM watched a documentary and then had a second hour with Dr. Anis Salib to learn more as we worked to discern our leading regarding the Swannanoa minute.
- A springtime retreat providing spiritual development and fellowship
- Members reached swift unity to donate to Rose of Sharon on behalf of homeless individuals last December, during a very cold snap. Members also made donations of clothing.
- Friends looked for opportunities to connect and socialize outside of Meeting. Many attended a community ice skating events for families. Other members participated in the Liz Hurley Breast Cancer 5K on the Friendly Feet team (for the fourth year).

Connecting with other Friends

- Huntsville Area Friends hosted the March 2014 SAYMA Representatives Meeting, providing opportunities for us to extend home hospitality to Friends from other states. This new exposure to SAYMA activities and interactions with new Friends encouraged several Huntsville Friends to attend the SAYMA Yearly Meeting for the first time.
- Five HAFM members attended the 2014 SAYMA Yearly Meeting. Four served SAYMA while there: one as Recording Clerk; one on the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee; one on the Epistle Committee; and one was added to SAYMA Ministry and Nurture.
- HAFM felt called to a greater knowledge of Quaker communities and activities, and thus approved a new position: FCNL & AFSC Liaison. The Liaison keeps HAFM updated about wider Quaker initiatives.

Outreach

- Through social media, including an updated website and newly convened Social Media Committee. One Friend added a Young Friend's page and blog to our website while another regularly updates the HAFM facebook page.
- One Friend connected with Huntsville's Compassionate Community initiative, and two Friends spoke about Quakers for the International Services Council.
- Several members took part in the Rocket City Gay Pride table, including children, in terms of planning, applying for, and manning the table during the event.
- Another member lobbied Sen. Shelby in Washington with FCNL, asking Shelby to reject additional sanctions in favor of diplomatic solutions with Iran.

Interest in Earthcare: Splash for Trash Flint River Clean Up and one member traveled to New York City to participate in the People's Climate March, of which Quaker Earthcare Witness was a sponsor). This member serves as Green Coalition chair, and chaired the environmental fall film festival. Other members attended this environmental film festival

Memphis Friends Meeting

Paulette Meier, composer of Timeless Quaker Wisdom in Plainsong, sang George Fox's words to us on CD: "For the measure's within, and the light of God is within, and the pearl is within you, though hidden." In community, we reflected on our last year together, and discerned that nurture may be the pearl at the heart of this year. It is at the center of much committee work, but it also glimmers in more subtle ways.

Friendships are deepening in Memphis Friends Meeting. They are like waves rolling in and out, steady but also changing. Tai chi and yoga classes offered by Friends are important to a growing number in our community. Our Friends in the arts have expressed appreciation of support in their endeavors. One Friend was happy to note that he is spending more time with straight friends who know he is gay. Another Friend, between homes, welcomed 101 nights of sojourning in the meeting house as a way to get to know not only our building and our people, but also our work and ministry. One of our families has friends who faced the sudden loss of a young child; they were pulled under the wing of the meeting almost unbeknownst to the rest of us as they were invited to sit in the quiet of meeting for worship.

We have noticed a great deal of intergenerational encouragement this year, going in all directions. Older Friends are mentoring young people in various ways, and younger Friends and those in the middle are looking out for our elder folks. One new older Friend said had it not been for the encouragement of two young adult Friends, she might not have kept coming back. Our clerk found herself giving support to a wide variety of young adult Friends this year, something somewhat new for her. Our children explore the meeting garden for a few minutes each week under the direction of a Friend, a subtle spiritual dimension of First Day School. A 10-year-old Friend came to Meeting for Business one morning to deliver his letter requesting associate membership, which was heartily approved.

We welcome a regular flow of visitors to Meeting for Worship. There seem to be more voices lifting up in worship. Times when no one speaks at all seem just right, too. Meeting for

Learning has provided an unusually rich variety of guests and topics for us to ponder and discuss this year. A newer Friend was excited about how much she learned about Quaker process in some of these sessions. A good number of Friends clerked, attended, and otherwise participated. Friends note the quiet transition on committees, with more Friends participating for the first time — the fruit of the Nominating Committee's intentional work to be inclusive, to nurture people's spiritual gifts, and to foster a view of laboring together on committees as a vital part of the spiritual life of the meeting. Continuing Quaker education is a concern shared across committees.

The support of Memphis Friends Meeting was sought from outside the meeting more often this year. The Memphis Zen Community began using our meetinghouse weekly and Pax Christi began meeting here monthly. A young man living in Memphis who was accepted into Quaker Voluntary Service reached out to us for support, reconnecting us to a wider Quaker organization that began in our own yearly meeting. Rhodes College Art Gallery invited several spiritual practice groups to participate in an exhibit, "No Fate But What We Make," gathering work focused on spiritual experience by a diverse group of artists. We held a meeting for worship in the gallery space that felt like a very special type of outreach. These are a few examples of heeding the call to wider community.

The meeting community was touched by the death of a non-Quaker friend, Butch Lawrie, who had lived as a quadriplegic for several decades after a diving accident in his twenties. When a member of our meeting began to work as his live-in caregiver several years ago, we were surprised at how many other Friends knew him, too. A memorial service Quaker style honored not only Butch's life but also celebrated the overlapping lives of his family and his caregiver's family and the meeting family that all became a community in service together. Joanne Rhodes and Kelly Askins celebrated their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary at the meeting house this summer. One Friend said it was like tossing the doors of our meeting house open to others in a very joyful way.

Friends feel that the small things we do have ripple effects. With a somewhat larger core of people, Friends concerns involve different small groups of people that are fluid and change, yet knit us together as a community. Friends have been grateful for our community's support of their activism. The whole Meeting supports Friendly causes through its budget. But in addition, Friends with leadings are often supported by the rest of community. These leadings range from food and garden projects to support of an Iraqi student at a local college to workers rights, gay rights, and reproductive rights. Projects that have touched the spirits of a large portion of the local Quaker community are the United Methodist Neighborhood Center Food Bank, the Tennessee Equality Project, and the protests that followed the troubles in Ferguson, MO. One Friend spoke for many when she said that spiritual support in the form of light and silence helps her heal from the intensities of this work, and helps her go back out there. We continue to hold concerns in the Light for hospitality, outreach, and race relations; these subjects sit on our hearts as we wait for leadings about how to turn thought into action.

Friends agree that meeting is a place to trust others and a place to unplug, a place to not think too much of ourselves as Quakers, yet be Quakers enough to make a difference. Our meeting is precious to us, like a pearl: in ways that are obvious; in ways that are hidden, yet known; and in ways yet to be revealed.

Seasoned in Meeting for Learning and February 2015 Business Meeting
Approved at March 2015 Business Meeting

Nashville Friends Meeting

Nashville Friends Meeting continued to thrive in 2014. We welcomed new members Kate Wingate, Kelly Brown and daughter Devin Brown, and Mary Jo Hazlett, as well as the transfer of Susan Davidson-Davis' membership from Inland Valley Monthly Meeting (California). We celebrated the marriage of Clair Sayles and Kevin Barry, and bid a fond farewell to Caroline and Gary Kiev as they left for Virginia.

In our Meetings for Worship we feel we all are seeking the light together. Our experience of Spirit comes through everyone who shares, regardless of the state they are in. Whether worship is silent or vocal, if we are present and generally questioning ourselves and our actions, we are in the light. Waiting for the divine is a shared responsibility. We have consciously worked this year to grow community understanding of how to be sensitive to the leadings of Spirit.

Our Meetings for Worship have been nurturing and deep, whether the meeting is completely silent or there is vocal ministry. We still struggle to make the Meeting for Worship more accessible to people with hearing loss.

We continue to hold Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business as our regular worship, with a long period of deep, open worship that leads into the business meeting. We find it well-attended, although our children's program is feeling some strain keeping the children occupied for the length of the business meeting. In August we adopted the old Quaker tradition of answering a query as a body. We consider a query as it pertains to the meeting as a whole, and craft the responses during the business meeting into a minute that reflects the sense of the meeting. It has been a rich form of community reflection and we have incorporated parts of some of our query responses into this report. When conducting business, we strive not to rush decisions or to ignore minority views. We remain a work in progress. Sometimes we are too direct, or not direct enough, but our meeting has unity in the goal of worshipful conduct for business.

Our meeting cares for people in many different ways. Sometimes this is practical, and sometimes this is spiritual. We hold a Meeting for Healing every quarter. We have awareness during Clearness committees that it is important to be present in the Light in a spirit of acceptance. We encourage those in need of help to ask, and endeavor to discern when to reach out. We are not perfect, and sometimes people fall off the radar. When at our best, we approach each other from a place of tenderness and love while being honest and forgiving.

Our Hospitality and Special Events Committee was quite busy this year. In February we hosted the Friends General Conference Executive Committee, providing hospitality for the 35 attendees. Then in March we held our yearly Regional Gathering around the theme "Music in Spirit: Upbuilding Community". In April, we assisted Music City Friends Church in hosting a day-long workshop with Colin Saxton, General Secretary of Friends United Meeting, at our meetinghouse. In September we held our yearly retreat at Montgomery Bell State Park, where approximately 50 people attended.

Our Children's program continues to thrive with three separate age groups - littles (birth-4), middles (4-9), and youth (9 and older). In anticipation of more young Friends participating in the SAYF (Southern Appalachian Young Friends) program, we formed a SAYF Coordinator Support Committee to provide support and accountability for our SAYF Coordinator. In August we sent a participant to the Playing in the Light workshop at Pendle Hill, and two representatives to the first Quaker Religious Education Coalition meeting at Pendle Hill that same weekend. Our library

committee has been looking for other media in addition to print, and is looking to greatly expand our resources for children.

We have done much work on our property this year. In March we completed the purchase of Quaker Cottage - a house across the street from the meetinghouse. This was the culmination of years of listening to one another, envisioning our future and our hopes for building a relationship with the surrounding community. We have made numerous improvements to the meetinghouse and are working on expanding our nursery area.

Our Adult Education program has been blessed with the problem of not having enough time slots to accommodate all the people who want to present. After much discussion, the meeting decided to combine the time slots with the bimonthly pre-meeting worship sharing and our Adult Ed "second hour", to offer a mix of worship sharing and workshops before and after meeting. We held a Quakerism 101 series earlier in the year and we continue to consider ways to teach the Quaker path within our community. We also held a book discussion group that began by reading Lloyd Lee Wilson's "Essays on the Quaker Vision of Gospel Order". It has been a deep, enriching activity that has filled a need we didn't realize we had.

Our Social Concerns committee has organized meeting participation in the HERO program for the Metro Nashville Public Schools, a tutoring program for preschool through 12th grade. We also continue to maintain a community food pantry, and we collect items for the Room at the Inn shelter program. We had some organizational struggles in the second half of the year, trying to find a clerk for the committee and although individuals continued to support these programs, we feel that the meeting as a whole wasn't fully engaged in these concerns.

Several members continue to be involved in the Alternatives to Violence Project. In January and September they facilitated AVP workshops in Atlanta.

During the past year, through genuine concentration we have worked to discern and understand the roots of the Religious Society of Friends. We have looked at our fruits to make sure there is a connection between the roots and the fruits. We have done our best to support our community through Support and Care Committees.

There has been a revival of creativity when caring for our children and a strong sense of spirit as we care for the practical needs of our meeting. We continue to grow in our ability to listen to one another and to be able to know when something needs to go back to a committee before a decision is made. This has resulted in Meetings for Business being more centered.

While it is easy to shy away from the obligation and responsibility of helping others, we continue to look beyond the walls of our Meeting House to the greater Nashville community and the world with the hopes of providing the perspective that comes from Friends' experience. We continue to remind ourselves that we volunteer to do things out of a sense of Spirit-led compassion and love.

Oxford Friends Meeting

The Oxford meeting remains a very, very small meeting. Two attenders who discovered our meeting in 2013 are still with us, although one has been so ill she is not currently attending. Two new attenders have joined us during 2014, a young couple working for Teach for America in Mississippi. They have not only lowered our average age substantially, but they have brought visiting family and friends to meeting, to our enrichment. We have a core group of 6-7 members

and faithful attenders. We continue the practice of ending each meeting with a group hug. We are a tight, happy little band.

We continue to have the good fortune to meet at the Powerhouse community arts center. It is a comfortable and welcoming environment that provides the feel of a church. We appreciate the generosity of the Powerhouse who provides its space to the meeting without charge.

Leadership: during 2014 there was no change in the meeting's officers. Our new treasurer has been conscientious in spite of a very heavy work schedule.

Starkville Monthly Meeting: We continue to correspond with the Starkville Meeting via email although we have not visited them in the last year.

Participation in the community: Toward the end of 2014 our meeting was approached by the local Unitarian-Universalist Church to help them with an ongoing study of a variety of religious traditions. They plan to devote a Sunday service in March 2015 to the Quakers. Since Quakers and Unitarian-Universalists share many concerns, we hope the relationship will continue beyond that service.

We have remained active in Interfaith Compassion Ministry (ICM), with one volunteer, who is also a member of the ICM Board of Directors. A number of our members and attenders support ICM financially through the meeting. One of our faithful attenders travels a great deal for her business. When she travels she collects all of the toiletries provided by the hotels and regularly brings in a sack of toiletries to donate to the ICM. The ICM is very grateful for these small, but expensive, items that they use in backpacks for the homeless.

An individual member has continued to maintain a ministry for a death row inmate at the Mississippi State Penitentiary. The meeting as a whole stands in opposition to the death penalty. The individual member who has maintained the ministry has done so for approximately six years and will invite the meeting's individual members and attenders to join her in maintaining the ministry as the inmate's appeal continues.

Submitted by Pam Coe, clerk

Swannanoa Valley Friends Meeting

MEETING FOR WORSHIP

Our Meeting continues to mature in many ways. Meeting for worship is fulfilling in both the silence and in the vocal ministry. Frequently, our silence deepens for our entire first hour. After-thoughts are often numerous. There is concern that we hold the silence both at the beginning of meeting and at the transition time from worship when we wait for the children to come back from First Day. We are aware that quite a few worshippers cannot hear messages and it is suggested that we consider having amplification in the Meeting Room. We have welcomed three new members, two by transfer and one by letter of request, and said goodbye to several members who felt called to move on. We continue to have many who are newcomers worshipping with us. Our space continues to be adequate but often full.

Midweek Meeting is small but continues with a faithful following and is special for those who attend.

"Experiment with Light" just opened to new Friends, as it does about every other year.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

We have had a peaceful and productive year. Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is a powerful part of our spiritual and religious life.

COMMITTEES

Members and attenders are well represented on our committees. Committee process, including the taking and archiving of minutes, is improving. The clerks met with committees once this year to discuss needs, questions and process. We agreed to repeat this annually.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

First Day School continues to be rich and satisfying. Each First Day the younger children share their ministry with us at the end of Meeting for Worship. Our two or three pre-teen meet monthly with a special teacher for discussion of Quaker testimonies and life questions.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We appreciate this committee for keeping our committee rosters full. Nominating also posted term limits for all who serve, making commitments more clear.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

We are grateful for this committee's work to improve insulation, replace carpets, and improve safety of walkways and lighting. New chairs are much appreciated as are the window coverings. There is now a way to communicate work requests in writing to this committee immediately on a clipboard.

GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Our surroundings are in continual improvement and contribute to our spiritual growth, thanks to the dedicated members of this committee. Work on the flood plain mitigation continues.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE

This committee has done much re-organizing and weeding of our book collection. They will institute a 'staff picks' board at the entrance of the Meetinghouse to encourage more use of this resource.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

About 10% of our Meeting's annual budget goes to help local people in need. In the area of peace, focus continues to be on the Israel/Palestine situation. We carried our minute on Palestine to SAYMA, which produced a rich discussion, but unity has not yet been found. We are investigating sources of 'green power'.

ADULT EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL NURTURE COMMITTEE: arranges weekly one-hour forums and other occasional opportunities for learning and growing together. Much effort and planning resulted in a November weekend retreat, led by Friends from New England Yearly Meeting. It was well attended, deepening our connections and understanding of one another's experiences of worship.

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL

Our handbook is complete and on-line. Quaker education was planned and promoted so it can start in early 2015 with a four-week session followed by monthly sessions for the balance of the year, thus addressing a need recorded last year.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Our finances are well cared for. We have lost half of our income associated with use of the space by others but reduced spending and consistent contributions kept us in the black. However, we recognized the need to be vigilant in coming years. We supported a young adult person's experience at Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) lobbying workshop, a younger one's Camp Celo experience and an adult's attendance at a conference on Pastoral Care and Counseling.

WIDER QUAKER WORLD

Our wider Quaker connections have grown to include SAYMA Earthcare Action Network and Quaker House. We are and have been connected with our yearly Meeting, SAYMA, and Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) but need persons to connect us with Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). We donate to many organizations but need more awareness of every organization to which we contribute in order to be more consciously connected to what we support.

MEETING COMMUNITY

The meeting community continues to be strengthened by Spiritual Friendship Circles, movie nights and other events. We are reaching out to a local church by alerting them of our events. New attenders have expressed feeling welcomed although one suggests that our website is less inviting than our actual meeting. Communication has improved through publishing meeting announcements on our listserv weekly, but we are still lacking a calendar that can be easily checked. We hope to address this in the coming year.

CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER

We care for one another more often as our members age. We held one marriage renewal after same-sex marriage became legal in the State of North Carolina. We had one memorial service. We welcomed three newborn children and endorsed the pastoral ministry of two members.

West Knoxville Friends Meeting

"To everything there is a season..."

Our meeting is blessed by the movement of Spirit among us and by bonds of love that hold us together and guide us through our struggles. Friends have willingly entered into complex areas and opened ourselves up to Spirit when we sensed we were losing our way. As a result, we believe that nearly every member and attender has been nurtured and challenged by WKFM during the past year.

We see a natural ebb and flow in the life of our meeting, much like the coming and going of the seasons. For our Meeting, 2014 could be compared to the earliest part of a year. Just as winter sometimes resists the onset of warming sunlight, an occasional chill passed through our midst. There were days when we failed to listen to each other, tried to apply purely rational solutions to spiritual situations, or talked too loudly to hear that still, small voice. But just as often, there was a warm and growing love spreading amongst us. That love helped us lay down some difficult feelings and strengthen our emerging and enduring bonds.

How does the Spirit fare among you?

As is perhaps the current plight of many Friends, we have found ourselves situated between two forms of silence. One is the silence of expectantly waiting on and experiencing the living Spirit. The other is a less welcome silence; one brought by a recent reports of appallingly violent reports of

war and terrorism. The very things which the recently-ended 20th Century promised to resolve still stubbornly persist. The need for secure income, family, homes, nations, and environment are left unsatisfied for many. Friends who would speak fearlessly against wrong seem at a loss for what to say at present.

In Meeting for Worship?

Vocal ministry remained clear and present in our meetings. In addition, Ministry and Nurture called attention to other gifts of ministry. Increasing time and discussion has been paid to nurturing less-vocal Friend or attender whose spiritual gifts come forth through their silence during worship.

In Meeting for Business and committee work?

In the immediate aftermath of a particularly tense group decision, we gained valuable insight from an article by the SAYMA clerk. The clerk had asked Friends to consider whether participation styles learned in worldly organizations could be creeping into—and undermining—traditional Quaker group process. The suggestions were kind, clear, and concise, allowing enough light in to dispel much of our spiritual dimness.

Committees remain great in number but small in group sizes. This has led to a steadiness in the life of the meeting, but in some instances led to lapsed energy and focus. Ministry and Nurture has devoted increasing time and energy to clearing and maintaining paths through which spirit is invited to enter the meeting.

In building the blessed community within the Meeting?

We took Erica and Ken's marriage under the care of Meeting, followed by a particularly special wedding. Another wedding of non-Friends was hosted on our Meeting House grounds. We marked with sadness the passing of Don Newton last year, and of others who had been essential to the founding and growth of our Meeting. We also held a memorial service for a very close family member.

In witness and outreach to the broader community?

The Meeting is taking up discussion and/or participation in several key initiatives. WKFM may join TIPL, an interfaith group through seeking to influence private and public policy and behavior regarding energy production. Many members are in accord with the group's direction of sustainability, conservation, and social justice. Another is Family Promise, an active and well-organized program that gives shelter and stability to homeless families, in cooperation with other religious groups. For the 15th year, we continue to support Compassionate Ministries Uganda. In selecting our heating and air system, we carefully considered the environmental factors.

Attachment J: SAYF Steering Committee Report

Southern Appalachian Young Friends (SAYF) held 6 retreats during the past year. We have averaged 40 Young Friends (YF) per retreat with 76 different teens coming to at least one retreat during the past year. Some Young Friends attended all 6 retreats and others attended only one. Details of each retreat are summarized below. Most retreats were hosted at Meetinghouses, but we also gathered once at the Arthur Morgan School and once at Camp Ridge Haven. Asheville and Atlanta Meetings were very gracious to host us twice. We are deeply appreciative to Friends for allowing us to use their facilities.

Though we planned to hold two joint Nurturing and Steering Committee retreats, inclement weather forced us to cancel our meeting in February. The Steering Committee completed much of our spring business via email and during the March and April retreats.

Though more than 10 teens graduated from SAYF last June, our community has been as strong as ever, with new leaders emerging at each retreat. We are seeking more adult participation in the program, particularly Steering Committee members from Berea and Chattanooga. In 2016, we are excited to hold a retreat at the Nashville Friends Meeting for the first time in years.

SAYF Retreats:

1. Asheville Meetinghouse Retreat September 19-21, 2014

Theme: *Finding Balance*

of YFs: 36

of full-time FANs:* 7

(*Friendly Adult Nurturers)

Activities included: White water rafting!

2. Atlanta Meetinghouse Retreat October 17-19, 2014

Theme: *Identity: The facets of who we are*

of YFs: 24

of full-time FANs: 7

Activities included: Mask-making, halloween parade

3. Asheville Meetinghouse Retreat November 14-16, 2014

Theme: *The Hero Within*

of YFs: 38

of full-time FANs: 8

Activities included: Creating our super hero identities, and a visit to the lake

4. Atlanta Meetinghouse Retreat January 16-18, 2015

Theme: *Bringing Light to Others*

of YFs: 50

of FANs: 9

Activities included: Clothes drive service project, talent show

5. Arthur Morgan School (Celo) Retreat **March 20-22, 2015**

Theme: *Rejuvenation. Nature Recharge*

of YFs: 56

of full time FANs: 10

Activities included: Hiking, outdoor activities, bonfire, and a field trip to Mt. Mitchell

6. Camp Ridge Haven Retreat **April 17-19, 2015**

Theme: *Come Together*

of YFs: 36

of full time FANs: 9

Activities included: ropes course, games, table tennis, hiking, outdoor activities

Nurturing/Steering Committees Retreats

1. Atlanta Meetinghouse **August 22-24, 2014**

of Nurturing Committee Members: 15

of Steering Committee Members: 7

2. Swannanoa Meetinghouse **February 20-22, 2015**

Canceled due to weather

Attachment K: Epistles

To Friends Everywhere, from Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association meeting at Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina, June 11 -14, 2015.

Our theme of “What Is Mine To Do,” echoing the life and example of John Woolman, was woven into our plenary sessions, workshops, business sessions, and worship sharing. Our first plenary session, presented by Michael Birkel of Earlham College, challenged us through explication of three sentences from Woolman’s journal to distill or purify our experience of the inward spirit, so that we might become more aware of the condition of others.

We were tested in the steadfastness of concern for the condition of others when budget matters and a proposed minute on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict came to the floor. We labored mightily on these issues, taking into account leadings and concerns from many perspectives. In other business, we minuted our appreciation of the tender care provided to the state of our finances and to our website by the Treasurer and Web Site Manager, respectively.

Our second Plenary session featured four SAYMA members who have graduated from the School of the Spirit, and in doing so have given a great gift to SAYMA and their monthly meetings. The rise of mysticism in modern-day Quakers was highlighted in a very well-attended workshop by Michael Birkel on writings of Rufus Jones. These writings touched on how an awareness of, and relationship with, that which is beyond direct knowing, that which we commonly call Spirit, leads us to concern and action for others. A workshop on the writings and life of Lucretia Mott, as well as special work taken with the issue of continuing racism embedded in the structure of society, deepened our understanding of work that remains.

Friends noted the vibrancy and poignancy of the offered workshops, as well as the abundance of worship opportunities. Other delights were the first-ever appearance of triplets at Yearly Meeting, as well as the first-ever golf-cart driver wearing chain mail.

We were blessed by the presence of representatives from Wider Quaker Organization members from Friends General Conference, American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Quaker Voluntary Service, Earlham School of Religion, Friends Peace Teams, and Quaker House. The Drone Quilt project from Quaker House drew appreciation and participation.

Our Saturday afternoon Talent show and the Saturday evening folk/contra dance, as well as the daily after-dinner singing on the Gladfelter patio, flowed with spirit-driven community. This abundance of the visible expression of Spirit amongst us included a remarkable depth of sharing during Worship Sharing, framed by queries derived from Woolman’s writings.

Young Adult Friends Epistle

This year, we had an unusually low number of Young Adult Friends present. The official YAF clerk was unable to make it to SAYMA this year due to business reasons and the official acting clerk turned out, at the last minute, to be unable to come as well, so I, the most senior YAF present, was placed in charge. Of the two business meetings that were scheduled, only one of them took place. With the small group, we were able to quickly move through the few items we had to discuss.

- First, we decided on a query for the YAF-led worship sharing that took place Saturday evening after dinner. We ultimately decided on the question, “How do you know when something is or is not yours to do, and how do you spiritually nourish yourself in either

case?” When the worship sharing itself occurred, there was a relatively small number of people in attendance, but it was still a spiritually rewarding one nonetheless.

- The last item that we discussed was the graduation of SAYFers into the community of Young Adult Friends. For the first time in recent memory, the entire event was handled by just one YAF, Autumn Traynham. It was a small and relaxed welcome, where we enjoyed some snacks under the stars and discussed life. Despite the one-woman welcome committee, the graduates appeared to enjoy their welcome into YAFdom.
- Last but not least, during dinner on Saturday, I, Autumn Traynham, volunteered to be the YAF representative to the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee.

This concludes the YAF epistle. Thank you Friends.

Submitted by Autumn Traynham

Attachment L: Registrar's Report

Category	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Registered	222	246	275	224	228
Cancelations	3	6	16	5	4
NET	219	240	259	219	224
JYM	11	10	18	13	15
SAYF	38	54	52	38	47
YAF	10	11	14	15	6
First Time attenders	38	63	89	40	48
Scholarship Fund Donations	\$1365	\$1299	\$1341	\$903	\$971
Late Fees	\$1020	\$540	\$420	\$840	\$530
Scholarships granted	\$774	\$785	\$1688	\$616	
Fee waivers (Staff, FAPs, guests)	\$3315	\$2853	\$2415	\$2512	

Attachment M: Draft Budget

Requested and First Reading Budget FY 2015

Budget Category	FY 2014		FY 2015		FY 2016	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Projected	Request	First Rd
INCOME	84,525	86,923	89,067	88,743	93,922	84,972
Withdrawals from reserves	7,575	5,169	8,867	9,915	13,922	4,972
Prior year carried forward	5,169	5,169	2,065	2,065	-	-
Reduction in reserves	2,406	-	6,802	7,850	13,922	4,972
Assessments	40,000	42,528	40,000	38,688	40,000	40,000
Bank Interest	250	188	200	140		
Contributions	500	500				
Publication Sales	200	147				
YM Total Receipts	36,000	38,392	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
YM Receipts	33,000	35,734		37,000	37,000	37,000
YM Scholarship Donations	1,000	1,676		1,500	1,500	1,500
YM Bookstore Sales Income	2,000	1,426		1,500	1,500	1,500
EXPENSES	84,525	86,923	89,067	88,743	93,922	84,972
SAYMA Operational Expenses	75,310	75,643	79,977	79,803	81,072	79,772
Yearly Meeting	36,000	37,248	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Facilities and Services	25,000	31,754	32,000	32,000	32,500	32,500
Prtng/Mail/Phone/Minutes/Misc	4,000	1,313	1,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Junior Yearly Meeting -- JYM	4,000	2,800	4,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Coordinator	-	1,400		2,800	1,400	1,400
Ass't Coordinator	-	1,400			1,400	1,400
Supplies/Sitters/Misc	-	-		200	200	200
Scholarship WQO Reps	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
YM Bookstore	2,000	1,381	2,000	2,000	1,500	1,500
SAYF Operational Transfers	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Delegate Expenses	3,600	4,187	4,100	6,100	5,400	5,000
Committee Travel				100	300	400
Rep Mtgs	100	-	100		100	100
Del to WQOs	3,500	3,987	4,000	6,000	5,000	4,500
Committees	1,500	48	1,200	264	1,800	1,100
Ministry and Nurture Committee	1,000	-	600		600	400
SAYMA Earthcare Action Network	-	-			500	500
Faith and Practice Revision Committee	-	-	600	212	600	100
Finance Committee	-	-				
Nominating Committee	-	48	-	52	100	100
Peace & Social Concerns Committee	500	-	-			
Outreach Committee	-	-	-			
SAYMA Liability Insurance	1,400	1,109	1,500	1,412	1,500	1,500
SAYMA Personnel	25,590	25,749	25,967	26,194	26,402	26,402
SAYMA Staff Training	-	-				
SAYMA Office Administration	3,100	3,852	3,560	2,710	3,730	3,530
Phone, Internet & Office Expenses	-	384	360	360	480	480
Postage	-	242	300	100	200	200
Duplication	-	191	250	100	200	200
Guilford College Archiving		100	150	150	150	150
Misc. Office	-	2,935	2,500	2,000	2,700	2,500
SAYMA Newsletter	750	941	1,200	800		
SAYMA Directory	150	100	100	100	150	150
SAYMA Treasurer	200	-	50	106	50	50
SAYMA F&P	200	67		117		
SAYMA Website Hosting Service	120	171	200		40	40
SAYMA Other Expenses	800	272	250			
Yearly Meeting Projects	9,215	9,215	9,090	8,940	12,850	5,200
Transfers To Funds	2,915	2,915	2,440	2,440	4,800	2,400

Requested and First Reading Budget FY 2015

Spiritual Development Fund	300	300	300	300	300	200
Released Friend Fund	300	300	600	600	600	400
FWCC - 3rd Wid Del	1,325	1,325	250	250	1,000	800
FWCC World Conference Fund	700	700	1,000	1,000	2,900	1,000
Youth Enrichment Fund	250	250	250	250		
Young Adult Friends Scholarships	40	40	40	40		
Contributions Wider Quaker Org	6,200	6,200	6,500	6,500	8,050	2,800
AFSC	700	700	700	700	700	200
FCNL	700	700	1,000	1,000	1,000	200
FGC	700	700	700	700	700	200
FWCC	700	700	700	700	700	200
Right Sharing of World Resources	700	700	700	700	800	200
Quaker House	700	700	700	700	700	300
Friends for LGBTQ Concerns	200	200	100	100		
Quaker Earthcare Witness	800	800	800	800	800	200
Friends Peace Teams	200	200			900	200
Wm Penn House	200	200	200	200	200	200
Friends Journal	200	200	300	300		200
Rural Southern Voice for Peace	200	200				
Bolivian Quaker Education Fund	200	200	600	600	750	200
Quaker Voluntary Service					800	300
Samburu Education Project						200
Other		-				
Surplus		2,065	-	-	-	-
Transfer to Reserves						
Carry Forward to Next Year		2,065	-	-	-	-