

Request of Steve Olszewsky
An Individual
SAYMA Sessions 2024

Please APPROVE the MINUTE presented by SAYMA's Young Adult Friends (YAFs) at SAYMA's Representatives Meeting #152 (6-IV-24):

As Friends, we call for an immediate ceasefire in all of Palestine and ceasing of any and all US support (military, financial, and otherwise) to the Israeli government. As pacifists, we keenly perceive the difference between peace-keeping (which often obstructs true peace in favor of the maintenance of more implicit systems of violence) and peace-making (which centers justice and conflict reconciliation). We perceive that the language used by Friends must be clearer than "conflict" or even "war," when our practical and spiritual witness is that of Occupation and Genocide. We feel that the work to come in the aftermath of the attempted genocide of the Palestinian people must prioritize liberation, and center and lift up the voices of the oppressed.

We look at our Quaker histories of support for Palestinians. We hear our Jewish siblings and Black siblings who have articulated for many decades that collective liberation is a moral, political, spiritual, philosophical, and practical imperative. We uphold this call in America, in Palestine, and in every place that the light of humankind is burning.

The Record from SAYMA's Representative Meeting #152 immediately following this Minute:

“A Friend asked for clarification about the SAYMA process for minute amplification and consideration by the whole body.

“Traditionally, minutes that are developed by monthly meetings are the ones sent to the Peace and Social Concerns Committee for further seasoning.

“This minute, as well as the Earth Justice draft minute, were developed outside the monthly meeting structure. In response to a question from a Friend [*should read Clerk*], Darcy [*should read YAF Representative*] expressed that YAF's goal was to have the minute read within the business meeting.

“Several Friends also noted the role SAYMA can play in bringing it to the attention of monthly meetings.

“Friends expressed interest in having the minute considered for adoption by SAYMA as a whole, and Friends celebrated YAF for “doing what we should have thought to do.”

“A Friend noted that YAF may have been led to adopt a minute within the YAF structure because its processes move more quickly than SAYMA's processes.”

I (Steve) took the YAF Minute to Berea Friends Meeting (BFM) where it was discussed in BFM's only Peace & Social Committee meeting, & BFM's only Discussion-Hour since. I also circulated it on SAYMA's Anti-Racism Listserve, and again by email to the MM Clerks & Reps to SAYMA. I've received feedback about related Minutes of over half our MMs, and SAYMA has related Minutes dating back to 2002, including the Minutes of 2015: #45 through #48.