

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2018

2018

Minutes

of the

**North Carolina
Yearly Meeting**

of the

**Religious Society
of Friends**

(Conservative)

The 321st Session

**Held at Guilford College
Greensboro, North Carolina**

**By Adjournments
From the Twelfth of Seventh Month
to the Fifteenth of the Same, Inclusive**

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Minutes of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Conservative)

1. Opening of the Annual Session

The 321st session of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Conservative) convened at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina, from the twelfth of Seventh Month to the fifteenth of the same, 2018. Out of our gathering worship, Clerk Gwen Gosney Erickson read from Romans 12:9-13:

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 10 love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

2. Visitors

Visiting Friends introduced themselves and were welcomed:

- *Bill Geary, here on behalf of Mullica Hill Meeting (NJ) and Southern State Worship Group. Friends approved endorsing his travel letter.*
- *David Hobson and Rausie Hobson from Rocky River Friends, Western Quarter, Friends Church of North Carolina*
- *Tom Roberts, Noblesville, Indiana, Western Yearly Meeting*
- *Brad Jackson, Noblesville, Indiana, Western Yearly Meeting*
- *Mary Jo Klingel, member of Ft. Lauderdale Monthly Meeting, Florida, Attender at Charlotte Meeting NC and*

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rising clerk of Quaker Earthcare Witness. Friends approved endorsing her travel letter.

- *David Eley, Keystone Monthly Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting*
- *Mark Wutka, Nashville Friends Meeting, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting*
- *Mary Linda McKinney, Nashville Friends Meeting, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting*
- *Sarah Miller and Nathaniel Corwin of Old Chatham Monthly Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting*
- *Andrei Israel, executive director of William Penn House, Adelphi Friends in Maryland*

3. Minutes of the Interim Body

The Minutes of the Interim Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) of Fourth Month 28, 2018 were read. Friends approved that the Interim Body minutes for both Fourth and Tenth Months be included in annual session minutes.

Minutes of the Interim Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting
(Conservative)
Tenth Month 28, 2017

The Interim Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) convened at Davidson Meeting in Davidson, North Carolina on the 28th day of Tenth Month, 2017. The meeting gathered following worship and lunch. Out of the silence the clerk read an excerpt from North Carolina Yearly Meeting Summary of Exercises, 1968.

Vision – Sensitivity – Commitment

Leadings – Faithfulness

Encounter – Involvement – Prayer – Renewal

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These words have opened to us ways in which we can serve God. As we sit together in worship, and as we confront life each day, we are challenged for a deeper connotation of the meaning of these words than they have had before. Now is a special time for our yearly meeting. It is a time of ferment, change and great need. Yet we are surrounded by "so great a cloud of witnesses" offering help to us on the earth plane. We have been told: "Ask and ye shall receive. Seek and ye shall find. Knock and it shall be opened unto you." May our asking be of one accord. May we have eyes that see and ears that hear. We must live out what we believe. If we believe in healing, we must heal. If we believe in peace, we must be peacemakers. Let us leave the eldering to God and realize that Love is the transforming power.

The Nominating Committee report was accepted and Friends approved the nominations.

Nominating Committee Report

Interim Body 10th Month 28, 2017

Hospitality Committee: Miriam Biber-Peterson has been added to the Hospitality Committee for YM sessions. She will serve as "boots on the ground" during the weeks that Deborah Shaw is away.

Documents Committee: We recommend Michael Lozada as a new member of the Documents Committee.

Youth Planning Committee: The Youth Planning Committee requested the addition of Logan Graddy to the committee. Since this was after YM and Logan's service on the committee was needed well before Interim Body, the Nominating Committee had a

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discussion using email. We report that we approved that Logan be added to the committee with final approval by Interim Body.

Earthcare Witness: Lauri Langham, a member in good standing of Durham Meeting, has an interest in the environment and caring for the earth. She was planning to attend the annual meeting of Quaker Earthcare Witness and asked the Nominating Committee for permission to represent NCYM C at this meeting. The YM has not had someone to serve as our representative to QEW for a number of years. Several members on the committee know Lauri for her service to Friends over many years in many roles. She has also attended the School of the Spirit as part of a Spiritual Nurturers class. Lauri funded this trip herself and was not asking for financial assistance. Since the Quaker Earthcare Witness Meeting was held before Interim Body, the Nominating Committee considered this request and gave provisional approval that Laurie represent NCYM C at this meeting. We recommend that Interim Body approve that Lauri be our representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness.

Nominating Committee brings the following items for our information for possible future considerations. This past summer at YM sessions, It was brought to our attention that Representatives to FCNL need to be willing to attend the annual sessions. We note that Bruce Arnold's and Charles Ansell's terms end 12-2018. William Jeffries' term ends 2020. William is no longer able to attend annual sessions and is open to being replaced.

An attender at Durham Meeting, Dylan Buffum, has been very active in that meeting and has been involved

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in FCNL. He will be attending the annual sessions next weekend with the support of Durham Meeting. His name has come to the attention of our committee as a possible future representative. Our committee wishes to recognize his good work in Durham Meeting and encourage him to consider taking steps so that we can nominate him for future openings.

FWCC has three openings coming up 12th Month 2017 and 2018. We are seeking names/volunteers.

Toby Berla presented the report of the Minutes Publishing Committee.

The minute books for 2017 have been published. 90 copies were distributed to monthly meetings and to be given to other Quaker organizations. I would like to find someone who might be able to deliver Wilmington Monthly Meeting their copies, as no-one from the meeting attended Interim Body today.

We are trying maintain continuity in the Publishing process, as the newly reinforced committee finds its way. Friends are asked to continue to submit reports as before. We will work with the new recording clerk to create a workable process for gathering and publishing minutes in the future.

I am grateful to the clerk of yearly meeting and to the other members of the committee for their faithful work to help publish the minutes for yearly meeting.

*Respectfully submitted,
Toby Berla, convener
Minutes Publishing Committee*

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Although there are some imperfections in the minutes as printed (the official copy) and as they appear online, it was felt unnecessary to correct them to perfection. Corrections may be made online if the errors confuse the meaning of the minute.

Friends accepted the Treasurer's Report as presented by Susan Lees. The balance in the Wells Fargo checking account as of 9/30/2016 was \$50,401.62. As of 6/30/2016 it had increased to \$67,075.40. After the expenses of yearly meeting in 7th Month, the balance on 9/30/2017 was \$50,064.63.

David Perry presented the Finance Committee report including three recommendations.

1. Friends approved investing some of our funds in Friends Fiduciary Corporation to increase income rather than keeping it all in the checking account. Friends Fiduciary is described as a socially responsible fund that puts Friends' values into action in the financial arena. Dividends generated will be reinvested, with any increases in value credited to yearly meeting operating funds as income to unrestricted assets. People authorized to make changes to the account are the yearly meeting treasurer, clerk, and others as yearly meeting may recommend.
2. The committee recommends that as we make this transition, we begin with \$15,000 in the checking account with the remainder being invested with Friends Fiduciary. In ongoing practice the checking balance would exceed this at times. This was approved. During the discussion, Friends were informed that we have more money than we need for current obligations and that discernment is needed regarding faithful use of this.

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3. Finance Committee recommends that we amend our budget for 2018 for Virginia Beach Friends School, increasing our contribution from \$300 to \$1200. This was based on a request from Virginia Beach Meeting for increased ongoing support for the school but this recommendation involves this budget year only. Friends approved a one time contribution to the Virginia Beach Friends School of \$900 to be made from the unrestricted reserves. This is to be in addition to the regular \$300 donation already included in the 2018 budget.

Lauri Langham, as representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness, presented a report. Lauri recently spent three days at the Quaker Earthcare Witness annual session. She shared that her spirituality is felt deeply in relationship with the natural world and that she is called to protect and care for the Earth. She shared a sense that Quakers can be in the forefront of environmental action and justice in a spirit-led way. She is exploring her own leadings regarding this and hopes for dialogue with Friends of the yearly meeting regarding her role as our representative. She also informed Friends of Quaker Earthcare Witness' current activities and of current issues in North Carolina.

Barbara Gosney, Bruce Arnold, Hannah Passmore Hobson, and Toby Berla presented the report of the yearly meeting Planning Committee. They have been inspired by the words of John Greenleaf Whittier: *Speak through the earthquake wind and fire, thou still small voice of calm*. They are hoping to have music play a part in the Bible study and want it again to be intergenerational. They are aware that our current cultural situation encourages people to take sides to vie against each other and that Friends, in listening to the still, small voice, can bring a calming presence and witness. They wish also to share

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some of the Josiah Parker Papers as an example of historical witness in this yearly meeting.

Greenville Monthly Meeting submitted the following request:

Greenville Monthly Meeting asks that the yearly meeting take up the question of what it can do to promote racial justice. We are aware of some of the valuable work being done at the local level by all the monthly meetings. We feel it would be helpful for the yearly meeting to examine what is being done and what more can be done to hold this work up as models and examples to provide encouragement to others wishing to do more.

There were heartfelt responses from Friends.

There was a proposal to issue a call to monthly meetings to send representatives to a meeting on this topic on the morning of the next interim body. In particular, we are asked to share what is already being done by monthly meetings, to encourage each other in the work and hopefully to identify steps for moving forward together.

The clerk will circulate Greenville's request to the monthly meetings and communicate with monthly meetings regarding the proposal for a meeting on the topic.

Friends noted the passing of Paula Justice, a recorded minister of Virginia Beach Meeting, whose memorial service is being held at this time.

Appreciation was expressed to Davidson Meeting for providing food and fellowship as our Interim Body hosts today. The meeting closed in worship with the intention to next meet on Fourth Month 28, 2018.

Gwen Gosney Erickson, Clerk
Marguerite Dingman, Recording Clerk

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Minutes of the Interim Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting
(Conservative)
Fourth Month 28th, 2018

On the 28th day of Fourth Month, 2018 the Interim Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) was hosted by Fayetteville Monthly Meeting in facilities graciously opened to us by St. Paul's in the Pines Episcopal Church in Fayetteville, NC. A gathering was held in the morning on the topic of racial justice. Friends shared our experiences and raised queries regarding how we can further our work for racial justice. Interim Body then met following worship and lunch. Out of the silence the clerk read:

*The stillness of the scene -- and this solemn shade are
congenial to my mind -- which seems to require repose.
-- I have come hither seeking it even into Thy wilderness,
Oh! North Carolina....I feel that Thou art here. -- I know
that this is Thy work -- and may it ever praise Thee! But
oh! I also feel a gloom -- ... Oh! Be entreated, Holy
Father! to hasten the work.*

Rowland Greene writing from Rich Square on 6th month
6th, 1832 (MS084, Quaker
Archives, Guilford College)

Anne Olsen presented the Nominating Committee report.

- David Perry, Lynne Berla, and Dora Owens were approved as members of the Financial Review Committee.
- Melidy Poole was approved as our representative to Friends Committee on National Legislation.

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The clerk offered an opportunity to discern specific follow up on the morning's racial justice session. Friends approved a working group to carry the work forward and bring recommendations forward for consideration at yearly meeting sessions this year.

Bruce Arnold, Tom Bertrand, Lloyd Lee Wilson agreed to serve on the working group.

Friends approved someone to travel among our monthly meetings with a leading for racial justice, if a Friend is so led, and approved providing financial support. The necessary expenses for this travel are to be paid out of the unrestricted reserve of the yearly meeting. The working group will work with the traveling Friend to discern the amount of financial support.

Melidy Poole presented the Web Committee report.

There have been changes in the hosting and managing of our web page and data. The web committee is seeking guidance from Friends. Representatives are asked to go back to our meetings and ask what do the monthly meetings need from the yearly meeting website and what we want to say to the world there.

Some queries for monthly meetings to consider are the following:

- Do we keep bare bones or seeking to have something beyond text basics?
- What are the goals of the site?
- Are there features that need to be added for YM functionality?
- Is this something for YM volunteers or for professional hire?
- What are intentions over time (see below) as that will influence future site host selection and how complex a site is developed?

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From discernment regarding the responses, the committee will present recommendations at yearly meeting.

Friends approved that the following statement be added to the NCYM-C website: *We are a welcoming and affirming faith community.*

Friends noted with appreciation the work Mike Arnold, who originally created our web page, and the work of our long term webmaster, Tommy Gipson, who now is stepping down.

Barbara Gosney, presented the report of the yearly meeting Planning Committee. The theme is *Speak through the Earthquake Wind and Fire* and planning is proceeding well.

Ray Treadway presented the report of the Hospitality Committee. The estimated cost for facilities and program is in the neighborhood of \$4300. Because we have significant reserves, Friends support lowering the registration fee if the committee finds that feasible.

Bruce Arnold and Ray Treadway presented the Finance Committee report.

Monthly meetings are asked to consider some matters that the committee will likely bring to yearly meeting for decisions:

1. Stewardship of excess funds. Friends currently have money sitting in a bank account – Friends will consider alternatives such as having lower monthly meeting contributions or making larger expenditures.
2. Possibility of setting the budget to zero every year, to encourage active discernment.

The committee presented the following proposal for considering financial assistance for adults who request it for attending yearly meeting sessions.

An active participant of a monthly meeting of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative needing

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financial assistance to attend yearly meeting sessions should first ask one's monthly meeting for financial assistance. Second, the clerk of the monthly meeting should send a statement of what the monthly meeting has done and forward the request to the registrar with the registration form. The Hospitality Committee will consider the request and decide whether assistance can be offered in response to the request. The cost of any such financial assistance will be covered by registration fees, and if those are insufficient, then from the yearly meeting sessions reserves.

Friends approved.

The Treasurer's Report, as presented by Susan Lees, was accepted with one minor correction.

Friends asked Lloyd Lee Wilson to express our greetings to Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends in Oregon who will be having their first annual sessions this year.

Appreciation was expressed to Fayetteville Meeting for providing food and fellowship as our Interim Body hosts today. The meeting closed in worship with the intention to next meet on Tenth Month 27, 2018.

Gwen Gosney Erickson, Clerk
Marguerite Dingman, Recording Clerk

4. Fall and Spring Interim Body Locations

Friends approved Virginia Beach as the host of the upcoming Fall Interim Body Meeting on 10th Month 27th, 2018, and Durham for Interim Body Meeting on 4th Month 27th, 2019.

5. Committees to Write Epistles, Letters, and the Summary of Exercises

Deborah Shaw offered to draft the Letter to Absent Friends.

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Mark Wutka offered to draft the Epistle to Friends Everywhere, Epistles to Ohio Yearly Meeting and Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

Richard Miller and David Perry offered to draft the Summary of Exercises.

6. Epistles from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and Ohio Yearly Meeting

Epistles from Ohio Yearly Meeting and Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) from their 2017 sessions were read.

Epistle from Ohio Yearly Meeting to North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of
God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.
Psalm 46:4

Dear Brothers and Sisters in North Carolina Yearly Meeting
(Conservative),

Blessings in the name of our Teacher and Guide Christ Jesus. We were again encouraged by the presence of our dear friend Nancy Craft with us this year. Her visits have never failed to deepen the bonds between our yearly meetings. We were also delighted to see Darlene Stanley who is sojourning with Friendship Meeting in North Carolina. We send you greetings from Barnesville, Ohio, a small, rural town just west of the Ohio River and the Appalachian Mountains. The first Friends moved here from more Eastern states very early in the nineteenth century. Some Friends among us trace their families back almost to those first Quaker settlers, some of us have become Friends very recently, and still others somewhere in between. This year, as usual, we have visitors from an ever wider geographic area, coming from neighboring states, California, and as far as Australia. We come for these annual sessions, drawn together

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once again through the gentle love of Jesus Christ. Friends, we were shocked and chagrined to discover recently that for a number of years you have not received in the mail the annual epistles that we have written to you. That lack has been the result of administrative miscommunication and not because of any intention on our part to cease correspondence. We are thankful that Nancy Craft has been able to find our epistles online and present them to you. We hope you will forgive our apparent but unintentional neglect. We have heard this week in vocal ministry that God's hand is stretched out still to every living person. We need not be afraid for we know God to be a living and faithful Father who cares for each individual when we let him and even when we don't. One Friend testified that when he began to worry either about his sense of dwindling personal faith or about his meeting dying out, he heard God's voice saying, "Wait a minute! Your faith is the result of God's infinite faithfulness, no matter what. Your faith is a freely-given gift from God. You do not earn it or create it." We are each given a measure of faith with which we can experience Christ in us, the hope of glory. And with faith in God, we can have hope, even for things not now seen. As we addressed our business agenda this week, we noted a sense of God's healing, both for individual Friends and for us as a gathered meeting. We had revisited a matter of property ownership about which we could not find clearness last year. We still have not found unity, and Friends with differing perspectives have all again suffered disappointment, but we were able this time to speak clearly, briefly, and calmly to each other, to listen deeply and ultimately to wait to be shown God's way forward. Also in our business sessions we have found comfort and peace in being part of a body that is actively at work in many ways and, to our surprise, even in the gentle rhythm of hearing and accepting our various committee reports. We were glad to hear answers to our General Queries from each of our quarterly

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meetings, giving us a sense of the Life within each quarter. We were encouraged in our Meeting of Ministry and Oversight by the report from a few of our members who had been sent out in Christ's love to visit a larger Friends' group, and by a report from one of our members who traveled from his home in California to visit each of our monthly meetings and worship groups in ministry of encouragement. Our evening sessions and morning sharing series have offered opportunity for intellectual stimulation to serve our spiritual growth. Henry Jason, with expertise in Latin and Greek helped us understand the meanings of a number of key words used in the New Testament and by early Friends. Henry taught us with respect to religious authority, "Primus est Spiritus Christi." The Spirit of Christ is primary. Christ's Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible and it is through Christ's inspiration that people can understand it. Henry declared that the purpose of those writings is to point us to that which words cannot express. Jack Smith, working from Carole Spencer's book *Holiness: The Soul of Quakerism*, helped us to a better understanding of the meaning and role of holiness. Jack noted that the Old Testament teaches us that God is holy. The New Testament calls us to live in Christ's love, allowing God's grace and power to enable our obedience to God's leading us step by step into more complete holiness. As we write this letter to you, we are looking forward to David Eley, who plans to share with us some of his spiritual experiences while visiting Jerusalem last fall. As we reflect on our experiences at our yearly meeting this year, we note that in spite of all the troubles we see around us, the promise – the reality – is that God and God's caring love will continue over all.

We are encouraged not to be anxious, but to look to God. Live in God's love so fully that your experience of it opens its peace and power to those other people whose paths cross yours.

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On behalf of Ohio Yearly Meeting, And in Christ's love, Philip
W. Helms, Clerk

Seventh Month 29, 2017

To Friends in North Carolina Yearly Meeting, Conservative:

There is that of God in everyone, but it lies dormant in us like a seed that has been trampled underfoot. As Quakers we try to become nurturers of the seed and not trampers of it. If nurtured, the seed will grow and give us new life. As we seek to follow the promptings of God, we will be called to live our lives in new ways.

Will Taber

We send you warm greetings from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), as we gather at Scattergood Friends School Seventh Month, 25-30 for the 140th annual sessions of our yearly meeting. We have valued our visits to your yearly meeting sessions in the past, and hope to continue that visitation in the future. Our sense of community with you is important for us all.

This week we have explored the theme, "Building Bridges." Peter Clay with guests, Christine Nobiss, Plains Cree-Salteaux of the George Gordon First Nation and founder of Indigenous Iowa, and Donnielle Wanatee Bi-we-ni-wa Thunder & Eagle clan from the Meskwaki Nation, an advocate for Iowa and its people, led a panel on building bridges with Native Americans. Tender listening and respect among the panel speakers allowed us to hear more deeply, to share their respect and care for each other. Decolonization of our minds and consideration of received history were presented to us with authenticity and care for nurturing relationships among us all.

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On Fourth Day we were blessed with a concert and sing-along with Tom Rawson from Orcas Island, Washington. We found our spirits lifted and our hearts energized as we sang our way through the evening. Fifth Day afternoon gave us another opportunity to sing, laugh and open ourselves to the Spirit with Tom. He was a gift for us all.

José Woss of the Friends Committee on National Legislation brightened our days with his warmth, interest in us, and sharing his work with FCNL. He spoke with us about race and mass incarceration on Fifth Day. We much appreciated his invitation to have intimate conversations with one another, sharing experiences of our own racism or how we responded when we have witnessed the hurtful words or actions of another.

Linda Rabben attends Adelphi Friends Meeting in Maryland, is an anthropologist and human rights advocate. She shared her thoughts and experiences with the history of sanctuary and asylum. She encourages Quakers and other faith communities to discern how to respond to the present moment, when many vulnerable people are targets for detention and deportation.

Elizabeth O'Sullivan again led us in Bible study each morning after breakfast. Her approach is fresh, and her passion for her subject engaged and moved us, as she linked our theme of Building Bridges with her knowledge of the Bible.

We greatly appreciated Shirley Scritchfield's pre-meeting consideration of Moving Beyond Silence on First Day morning.

We are especially grateful for the depth and tenderness of our consideration of Scattergood Friends School. We heard the Head's report of the School, the Farm report, the report from the Academic Director, and the report of the School Committee. We stand with the school community in its fullness of heart and recognition of the challenges that lie ahead in increasing the number of students. We are delighted and impressed with the strength of community and education that the school is

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providing. We understand the importance of our own outreach, know that we need to share our knowledge with our communities. We are thankful for Thomas Weber and the entire staff for their good work. We do not take their commitment to the school lightly. Scattergood Friends School gives the yearly meeting purpose and direction.

Our final evening together culminated as always with a talent show planned by the Junior Yearly Meeting and Young Friends. Sharing and laughter brought us to a gathered sense of Light and Love.

We have been singing, visiting, washing dishes, setting tables in the dining room, sweeping floors, serving food, and even doing a little weeding one afternoon in a flower bed. We have found ourselves with open hearts and minds as we have worshiped and learned together. We are grateful that we continue to read and send epistles. We give thanks.

In peace and love,
Deborah Dakin, clerk
On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

7. Visitors to Other Yearly Meetings

Friends approved the endorsement of Nancy Craft's travel letter from Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting for her visit to Ohio Yearly Meeting sessions.

Friends approved that the clerk write a letter for Darlene Stanley's visit to Ohio Yearly Meeting.

Friends approved a letter of introduction be written for Susan Lees' visit to Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative and also approved making funds available.

Friends approved sending a letter of welcome to the new Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting.

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Lloyd Lee Wilson has been traveling under a travel letter from Friendship Monthly Meeting and the yearly meeting. He has traveled to California, continued work on the Deeper Roots program, and traveled among Friends in the Pacific Northwest with Wes Daniels. He shared endorsements expressing gratitude for the depth of renewal and healing experienced.

Friends approved the clerk to endorse his travel minute for the upcoming year.

Deborah Shaw has been active in traveling in the ministry and shared endorsements from West Richmond Friends Meeting, New Association of Friends, from Southern California Quarterly Meeting for her support of Ben Pink Dandelion's ministry there, Woodbrook Quaker Studies Center in England for her teaching and guidance there, and Clithroe Meeting, Lancashire, England.

Friends approved that the clerk endorse her travel minute for the upcoming year.

8. State of the Society Reports

The State of the Society reports from the monthly meetings were shared. The reports are included in the minutes below.

Davidson Monthly Meeting

The Davidson meetings for worship have been deep and meaningful during this past year, with regular vocal ministry that has been powerful and moving at times. We benefited from a meeting workshop this spring facilitated by Evelyn Jadin of Jamestown Monthly Meeting, in which active meeting participants shared the range of spiritual experiences present within the meeting community, and that reactions to different spiritual or religious language could be quite varied.

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Attendance at meetings for worship has been steady with fifteen to twenty-five people present typically, and meetings for worship with attention to business regularly include about a dozen people. Our First Day School participation has been consistent, although the two regulars may prefer that there be more kids. We have had college students coming when they are able, including introducing some of their friends to Quakers. We frequently have visitors who will attend two or three times, and then not return, apparently finding it to not be the right fit. However, others find it to be their home. Our membership has grown again this year with the joyful approval of Mary Walsh as a member. It was remarked that our community has grown slowly, but steadily, along with the crepe myrtles which were planted behind the meetinghouse when we moved in more than five years ago.

We have had the opportunity to host the North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Interim Body in Tenth Month last fall, making good use of our recently acquired plates, dishes, cups and silverware and enjoying the broader fellowship. We continue to lend our space to others in the area, including the Mankind Project and yoga classes. We were pleased to provide space for the Davidson Historical Society to present on an African-American experience of growing up in the area in the mid-twentieth century. There are weekly bible study sessions and contemplative practice sessions that are open to the community. Recently a play written by Frank Levering in the style of historical Quaker letters was performed, bringing still others into our space.

Our faith community has our own activities, including our annual talent show, Christmas party, Christmas play performed by young Friends, monthly QuakerSpeak video viewing and discussion, monthly simple lunches for extended fellowship, and presentations on spiritual journeys by a different individual four

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times per year. This year we also had a special event celebrating with gratitude the presence of longtime participant Bob Cumming, a poet, by having people taking turns to read poems they had selected.

We have worked together in struggling to discern whether to put up a sign in our front window stating “No matter where you are from, we are glad you are our neighbor,” in English, Spanish and Arabic. There were concerns that it was too political, having been created in response to the immigration debate. Other concerns were that it could provoke property damage, or that it was too narrow in its use of languages. The discussion also occurred at the same time as the American Friends Service Committee was placed on a list of organizations banned from entry to Israel because the committee supported the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement in support of Palestinians. This prompted concerns that our nearby neighbor, a Jewish temple, might feel that our meeting did not support them, given the Arabic on the sign and those recent events. After extensive discernment, and reaching out to engage with the rabbi, the sign went up. Through this experience we worked on growing our listening skills, discernment, and care for each other.

One of the items that may grow out of this experience is possible combined community service with the neighboring temple. Although our meeting does continue to contribute to providing birthday gifts to victims of human trafficking and their children who are in a halfway house, most of our service is on an individual level. We had a panel of meeting participants who shared about the work they were doing, which deepened our understanding of one another. The yearly meeting concern about institutional racism resonates for many of us individually, although we find ourselves responding through our personal encounters rather than as a community.

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It has been a year of deepening in Spirit and slight growth in participation for our community. We are grateful for the presence of all of those people in the Davidson Friends community, and we are grateful for the gifts and ministries that arise to affect individuals, the meeting and the wider world. Above all, we are grateful for the covering by the Spirit.

Durham Monthly Meeting



The word cloud above visually summarizes the complete text of our meeting's responses to the Queries since Seventh month 2017.

Writing a verbal report to accompany it has been a tremendous challenge for me this year. I found myself wondering, “How much do I really know about the state of the meeting? I’m just one person, and the meeting is so big!” so I decided that this year I would try to “crowdsource” the report. I

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asked Friends to tell me what rises up for them when they think about the state of Durham Friends Meeting. The following is the result.

When we reflect upon the Durham Friends community the word **‘vibrant’** continues to come to mind. This year was one of **“coming together,”** as we have seen a new generation of Friends step into deeper service in the meeting community. Not only have younger adult Friends stepped forward to serve on committees, but several have served as clerks of those committees.

In First Day School we have seen Spirit move in the way that the children **connect with science and nature**. One teacher notes, “Even though we don’t have enough time to bring them out into nature, we can bring a snake or a frog or an insect into the classroom.” And we have seen the power of names--the way the children light up when they know the names of insects, animals and plants, and the ways you can identify those species.

One of the hallmarks of the year was the discussion in response to the query a few months back when we articulated the sense of inclusiveness that our meeting fosters for those with differing understanding of spiritual matters. That sense that although we use different words, abstractions and formulations, we have faith we are all engaged in the same work. As we stated in that response:

... as a meeting we respect that each person has his or her own “heart language” and that though the terms we use may differ, we speak and worship together. As one Friend said, “Though I may not see Christ in the Light, I believe that those who do are looking at the same Light.”

And when we think about the state of our meeting, the metaphor that comes to mind is "uncharted waters". We ask, “What does it mean to be a large Meeting?” We are venturing into unknown territory. Sometimes we are wistful and we miss

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what we left behind on familiar shores. Mostly, we are excited, hopeful and eager to plot our course.

We are creating systems to help build cohesion and connection within the meeting and making our practices more transparent by writing them down. We are becoming more comfortable with the reality of communities within community. We do not all know each other any longer, but that does not mean that we cannot each be known.

As the recipients of a substantial bequest, we are discerning how to use the money gifted to us and how or if we will create an endowment. We have expanded the number of paid positions in the meeting and we are developing personnel practices as we aspire to have integrity around paid work in the Meeting.

We are aware that we are not meeting the educational and spiritual needs of all who find and join us and are searching for new ways of reaching out. We are challenged to bring seekers into the business of meeting, where they can learn about the Quaker faith by sharing in our corporate discernment.

We worry about people getting lost in the crowd. We wish that everyone could experience the deep sense of belonging that many of us feel. Some may wish we were small again. How can we explore this sense of loss without alienating newer people?

This journey is not without risk and uncertainty, therefore we ask that you hold us in the Light! May we be faithful. May we be humble. May we be open. May we be clear. May we be resourceful. May we be gentle with ourselves and others. May we let love guide us.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting

Fayetteville Friends Monthly Meeting is a smaller meeting, usually five to eight people, who gather weekly in unprogrammed worship in the living room of Quaker House. We continue to have visitors occasionally; perhaps this is our gift to

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this community. We continue to share in and support each others' joys and concerns. We welcome Michelle Downey as a new member and our new recording clerk, and we welcome her son Cameron to our Meeting. We grieve the death of Glenna Hicks, one of our long-time faithful attenders until her health declined a few years ago. We mourn with attender Sophia Barnett the loss of her son Richard, whose life was cut short as a consequence of war. We bade farewell to Lynn and Steve Newsom as they ended their term as Quaker House Co-Directors and moved closer to family. And we rejoice in Kindra Bradley's contributions to Meeting when her position as Quaker House Executive Director doesn't take her elsewhere.

Ministry: we are still reading and discussing the book *Living Buddha-Living Christ* by Thich Nhat Hanh for our Adult Discussion hour. Outside of worship, we support Quaker House and other like-minded organizations by sponsoring and by attending events that speak to our missions of peace and social justice. We raised more than \$800 for the CROP Hunger Walk. We're participating in the summer Interfaith Religious Education and discussions. Members and attenders are active in other faith communities as well; our presence in the wider community helps strengthen our bonds within Meeting.

Fellowship: Meeting connected with Friends through Interim Body Meeting and yearly meeting, Piedmont Friends Fellowship, and Friends General Conference's annual Gathering, and Coastal Friends Gathering when possible. Meeting hosted Interim Body Meeting (IBM) in Fourth Month, a first for us. We honor and respect the meetings who host IBM on a regular basis.

Growth: Meeting supported the clerk in attending a clerking workshop at Pendle Hill; some lessons learned have already been implemented. Meeting has plans to update our website and to create a scrapbook before our official 35th anniversary later this

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year; we have been active in this community for more than a decade prior.

We end this with a question from Glenna: does our life speak? What does it say?

Friend Glenna Hicks, age 79, died June 11, 2018 at her home in Robeson County. Glenna was a faithful attender at Fayetteville Friends Meeting until her health declined a few years ago. She requested that no memorial service be held. She said she would let her life speak. And it did indeed speak. Glenna lived the Quaker values of simplicity, peace, integrity, and service to others. She will be missed by the many people whose lives she touched.

Friendship Monthly Meeting

At Friendship Friends Meeting we seek the presence of God in our midst. We designate a “person of presence” at each monthly meeting for business in the Spirit of worship to hold our proceedings up to the abiding presence of God. We have resumed a former practice of reading a portion of the Advices and of responding to Queries in the face of the meeting each month. This has deepened the spiritual quality of our time together in the conduct of our business.

In our worship the vocal ministry is grounded in the Spirit. There are also times of silent gatherings which are covered by the Divine Presence as well.

We continue with regular bible study, quiet Tuesdays, midweek meeting for worship at Friends Homes Guilford, men’s group, as well as a monthly worship sharing opportunity called Deepening the Spiritual Life of the Meeting. When a month has five First Days, on the fifth one we hold extended meeting for worship for an hour before the regular meeting for worship. And each week at the rise of meeting, a “designated Friend” is available to answer any questions about Quakers or about our

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meeting. Friends approved adding the words “A Welcoming and Affirming Faith Community” to our meeting’s website home page and to review any other public outreach information that is made available.

The Quaker Leadership Scholars Program uses our meetinghouse regularly for their worship during the week and we welcome new Guilford College students and faculty each August with an open house complete with dessert.

We held a committee clerk’s breakfast again this year and experienced an exchange of ideas and the raising of some challenges which are to be considered in the future. The work of the meeting is done by some 15 committees and many committed Friends. Some of the highlights follow.

Our Religious Education Committee seeks intergenerational opportunities for our Young Friends such as taking charge of our meeting for an occasional first day, usually if there is a fifth First Day. They greet people coming in, ask for joys and concerns near the close of meeting for worship, and lead us in our custom of introductions and announcements when worship is over. Our teens are either helping with First Day school or remaining in meeting for worship. They are busy in their outward lives putting their faith into practice with both leadership and participation in social justice issues in our community.

The Finance Committee has transferred most of our money from Wells Fargo Bank to Self Help Credit Union to better align our actions with our beliefs. The Meetinghouse Planning Committee and the New Meetinghouse Fundraising Committees are coordinating efforts. They have decided on a contractor for our new meeting space and we are making significant progress toward raising enough money to receive a matching gift offered to us. We are also looking for and applying for grants to assist with this fundraising.

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We planned our second Quaker Tea event to help provide information about our meeting's history and our practices as Conservative Friends. Although designed for relative newcomers to Quakerism, it provides yet another opportunity for building community among us.

We welcomed a new sojourner to our meeting and were pleased that another long time sojourning member has become a member of FFM.

Peace and Social Concerns Committee looks for ways to engage members and attenders by inviting them to lead or take part in forums. We have had well attended forums about white privilege and another concerning the Poor People's Campaign. We support an Iftar meal during Ramadan at a local mosque and participate with another Muslim community in sharing food and fellowship. The meeting agreed to endorse the Poor People's Campaign and to encourage other meetings and individuals to do the same.

We continue our relationship with Pathways, a transitional shelter for families, providing a monthly supply of after school snack bags for the children there.

Greenville Monthly Meeting

We welcomed two new members into our Meeting. Mark Moss and Mary Kay Glazer transferred to Greenville Friends from the Madison (WI) Monthly Meeting and have been active in our meeting since their arrival. Mary Kay has attended Interim Body once and has been part of the women's group that started meeting last fall. Mark has agreed to fill our long-empty treasurer's position, and has participated in the men's group which also started last fall. Mary Kay is active in spiritual direction. Mark is a professor of dentistry at ECU, and is part of ECU's effort to expand dental services as a public health initiative.

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We mourned the passing of August Dietrich, Jr. (July 8, 1923 – August 29, 2017), father of Mary Miller and grandfather of Rachel Miller.

Long-time attender Tony Schreiber, having retired over a year ago, moved with his wife to Asheville, NC. While we hope and believe that this will be a happy home for them, Tony has been a vital presence in our Meeting for many years and is greatly missed. Every healthy Meeting has its loyal attenders who may never apply for membership; Tony was one of ours.

We agreed to adopt a Welcoming and Affirming statement, with thanks to West Richmond (Richmond, IN) Friends Meeting whose statement we adapted for our use. It reads:

We welcome all who come as religious seekers or as fellow Christians to share in worship with Greenville Friends Meeting, to participate in the activities of our common life together, and to apply for membership. The same standards and expectations for membership will be applied to all persons.

We affirm and welcome all persons whatever their race, religious affiliation, age, socio-economic status, nationality, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, or mental/physical ability. We offer all individuals and families, with or without children, our spiritual and practical support.

In an effort to be clear as to the meaning of "affirming" and "welcoming," we offer the following examples. Members and attenders of Greenville Friends Meeting are welcomed and encouraged to:

- attend and participate fully in meetings for worship*
- take an active part in the life and activities of our meeting*
- contribute their time, talents, spiritual gifts and resources to God through our meeting*
- serve in positions of leadership in our meeting*

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- *test and shape their personal beliefs and daily practices and help others to do the same*
 - *invest themselves in our common efforts to improve and heal the world*
 - *help our meeting to discern God's will in our meetings for business*
 - *we regard same sex couples who are in committed relationships as families*
- We are willing to engage in open discussion on these issues with others, and we respect the Christian beliefs and spiritual integrity of those who may not fully agree with us.*

Greenville Friends Meeting continued to seek Light regarding the great, wounding division within our nation, state and community over injustice to people of color. Knowing that our own efforts as a small meeting are slight, we asked the other monthly meetings within NCYM-C to forward statements of their activities (as individuals or as the Meeting as a whole) to Interim Body, so that we might all be encouraged by each other in this difficult and complex task, and perhaps be inspired with new ideas.

As individuals, we have participated in the quest for social justice in many ways. Several of us are active in groups in which racial justice is addressed. Perhaps most importantly, all of us are alert to how white supremacy comes up in even the most mundane settings, such as work, neighborhood, etc. We make it a point to confront these instances when possible.

Recently, we made decisions leading toward associating our Meeting with the Poor People's Campaign. On June 10th, after the rise of meeting, we viewed a video of Rev. Dr. William Barber talking about the Campaign. On June 17th, we went as a Meeting to Dr. Barber's church, Greenleaf Christian Church, in

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Goldsboro, NC, to worship and fellowship with the membership there.

At our June Meeting for Business, we approved the following minute: “Greenville Monthly Meeting's response to the call for action to promote racial justice is to begin to visit with local black faith communities seeking to forge lasting relationships and be open to action which will arise from them. We will also be open to opportunities to support the Poor People's Campaign as they arise.”

We find that these circumstances, conditions, and activities have strengthened our relationships with each other and with our Guide. We find ourselves situated, not always comfortably, but more deeply within the spirit of Peace and the bond of Unity.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting

We have only five members and attenders living in the immediate area of Cedar Grove Meeting House. Usually three to four are present for First Day Bible Study hour followed by five to seven present for worship most First Days. Our meeting maintains a vitality supported by more distant members. Our attendance doubles on each second First Day when we have monthly business meeting. The annual Homecoming at Cedar Grove with worship and dinner on the grounds held in Tenth Month had approximately forty present. We especially appreciate Homecoming and other occasions when children are with us for worship and fellowship. As stated in our answer to Query 1, “We appreciate worship as a time of sweetness. We feel our waiting worship is our strength as a Friends community. We trust that we do carry over this spirit of worship into our daily lives.”

Because most members live quite a distance apart, our meeting uses very little committee structure. We maintain frequent contact with members and attenders by email

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correspondence two or more times each month. Decisions regarding Ministry and Oversight, social concerns, property maintenance and outreach are made by the monthly meeting as a whole. Two of our members and one attender are able to be active in the Woodland community where our meeting house is located, but more distant members also actively serve their communities near their homes.

The Meeting contributes financially to unanticipated needs in the Woodland area with frequent contributions from our Community Assistance fund. Meeting members also contribute to Woodland Community Outreach which offers programs for health, wellness and community special events to bring everyone in Woodland together with positive experiences. The Meeting continues to allow space for the Woodland Children's Community Garden during the planting and growing seasons. Meeting members keep our Little Free Library beside the Children's Garden stocked with children's books. The Meeting funds a scholarship for a local child to attend 4-H summer camp.

Meeting members appreciate opportunities to worship with other congregations in our communities, seeking to build bridges of trust and mutual affection with our neighbors. Friends in Woodland and at Salem Black River Allowed Meeting work closely with African American groups and with other churches.

We appreciate the assistance of Cedar Grove Friends Meeting, Incorporated and members of our Meeting who work together to oversee necessary upkeep and renovations of the 1869 Cedar Grove Meeting House, cemetery and grounds.

Meeting members at times feel discouraged by expressions of disrespect, hate and fear prevalent in the words and actions of groups and individuals as well as governments at the local, state, national and international level. We sometimes feel hopeless in terms of what actions we can take beyond confronting conversations that are abhorrent. We seek to respectfully express

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our own views. As Friends who live at a distance recently shared, “Our spiritual connection to Friends at Cedar Grove provides sustenance and hope amidst a constant living uneasiness.”

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting

OUR ADDITIONS: As our small but active meeting sees an incremental growth in membership, we are happy to welcome Richard Taylor and Liana Fleming as new members. Richard and his three children have long been attenders at our meetings. We are looking forward to working through the process of another request for membership by Nancy A. Delle Femine. Each letter of request was read to Meeting for Business. We all agreed that these heartfelt requests were beautiful in their ability to define what Quakerism is to them.

OUR LOSSES: Our sadness is the loss of our beloved Paula Justice, Bob Young and Houston Shirk. Each contributed immensely to the spirit of the Meeting and broadened our scope of worship. Paula was our vocal minister who could articulate difficult spiritual concepts and make them meaningful to all. She, like Bob Young, was a published poet. Bob would read his latest poem in meeting, and it would get responses from Friends that seemed to touch the hearts in all of us. A gifted musician, Houston was our arborist in residence and educated us in all things nature. He, as well as Paula had been a presiding clerk of meeting, but in recent years, with his wife Linda, had hosted a preparative meeting in their home in Creeds, south of Virginia Beach. We miss Paula, Bob and Houston dearly.

A MARRIAGE: Richard and DaShaunda Taylor were married under the care of the Meeting on December 30, 2017. It was a wonderful celebration that lifted our spirits. We had not had a wedding in a few years so this made it extra special for us.

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FRIENDS SCHOOL: Last fall we welcomed Jack Lewis who provided guidance to our Friends School as Interim Head while the School Committee did a national search for the next Head of School. This past First Day, June 22, 2018, we welcomed our new head, Michael Barclay, his wife Kristin, and their children in a gala reception after our meeting for worship. Mike Mike's wife, Kristin Barclay, brings a wealth of experience as a marketing and media specialist, to be a volunteer member of their team. Their expertise, knowledge and abilities are only second to their enthusiasm. Our School is excited by what Mike Barclay has proposed for the future. His vision for the near future is full of potential. Our meeting is supporting this vision both financially and spiritually.

OUR MEETING HOUSE & GARDENS: Our future memorial garden is still being held up by the changes that will be occurring soon in our entrance to the Meeting house and the School as the City of Virginia Beach widens the roads in front.

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE has us looking at some of the potential changes and what the landscaping may look like as the construction at the entrance way is about to begin. This committee has been very active in installing new carpeting in the meeting room, upgrading our locks, getting members and attenders participating in clean up days, and making sure that we are happy with the changes. Our own member, Gwynne Wells designed and made the back cushions for our benches. The committee continues to research ways to better access our social room downstairs for those needing assistance because of disabilities.

COMMUNICATIONS: Our Communications Committee has put in innumerable hours updating our website, changing bulk email to a more efficient server, and redesigning the newsletter with relevant information and happenings around the community. They have updated our roster. Our minutes from

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MFB and various committee reports are regularly posted, as well as scheduled events on our calendar. Easy to access links that provide other relevant information are also available on the website. We have a great photo on our website taken on World Quaker Day. Our members helped to make this a fun and well attended event.

PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE: Our Peace and Social Justice Committee continues to be the most attended and the most active in the broader community. Our Meeting was deeply affected by the Charlottesville protest and tragedy. The quote from Clarence Pickett, former executive director of the American Friends Service Committee who attended the dedication of our Meeting House in 1955, was read, and we all felt it was particularly relevant to our times:

“To live in a state of tension which enables us to be at the same time critic and friend of government, to study its workings sufficiently to be able to help religious insight become political action, remains part of our duty and call. And withal and beyond all, to maintain an abiding faith in the power of good to overcome evil, to live in that way of loving service for which we all most deeply yearn: nothing less than this kind of energetic commitment can satisfy the inner sanctuary of the human spirit.”
-- Clarence Pickett, *For More Than Bread* (1953).

Members of the meeting and P & SJ drove to Washington DC June 28-29 to participate in the 23-hour Interfaith Health Care Vigil on the lawn between the Supreme Court and the Capitol. Our concerns for the state of our country has members active and busy. The Friends Council on National Legislation, now celebrating its 75th Anniversary as the oldest faith-based lobby on Capitol Hill, is one of those areas in which P & SJ is particularly invested. FCNL executive director Diane Randall and her family visited our Meeting in this past year, as did FCNL staff member Sarah Kennedy. Tom Bertrand serves on the

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General Committee and Field Committee of FCNL and has travelled to Friends meetings and churches in North and South Carolina, New Hampshire, and Maine representing the national organization as an FCNL Visiting Friend.

In early 2018, the P&SJ Committee led our Meeting through a five-month process of discerning our collective national legislative priorities to recommend to the Friends Committee on National Legislation for the 116th Congress. The top four priorities recommended by our Meeting to FCNL are these: (1) Promote policies that reduce economic inequality and poverty; encourage fair compensation for workers and health care for all; (2) advance equitable criminal justice systems that eliminate mass incarceration and support law-enforcement that is community-oriented and demilitarized; (3) pursue policies that promote and respect the rights, safety, and dignity of all immigrants, refugees, and migrants; (4) Advocate for sustainable solutions to climate disruption and its consequences.

Several members of our meeting and of the P & SJ committee went to Richmond in January to participate in the annual “Day for All People” to lobby at the state capitol as part of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy and continue to be active in local interfaith lobbying of our state and congressional elected officials as participants in the Legislative Collaborative Table of South Hampton Roads.

P & SJ also sponsored a viewing of the documentary, “Straws” provided by the Brock Center in Virginia Beach. This was part of the growing awareness over plastics in our oceans and the need to minimize the use of plastic. We were all educated.

Upon the recommendation of the P&SJ Committee our Meeting also applied to become a Pearl Faith Community of Lynnhaven River NOW. Penny Moulis from the Brock Center/Chesapeake Bay Foundation honored us with a

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permanent poster. We are the 11th faith community to become members actively engaged in waterway clean up with this organization.

The P&SJ Committee also convinced our Meeting to endorse the Hampton Roads campaign to encourage the United States to sign the United Nations Treaty on the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons, already signed by 122 of the world's nations. While several members of the Meeting have participated in organizational meetings of the Poor Peoples Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, our committee continues to deliberate on how our Meeting might best engage with this nation-wide effort to address the economic inequalities in our nation.

Peace & Social Justice Committee also sponsored a Meeting for Eating this Spring to discuss the FCNL priority process and demonstrate the use of the FCNL website. The committee provided the Meeting with its ACT NOW TOOLKIT FOR VIRGINIA BEACH FRIENDS giving us ways to send messages to Senators on Health Care reform, receive Action Alerts from FCNL, record and report abuses of police power on our phones to the local American Civil Liberties Union office, lobby legislators on issues of statewide concerns in Virginia, and "Wage Peace" using social media.

PARTICIPATION IN THE REVISION OF THE NCYMC FAITH & PRACTICE: Our Ad Hoc Committee on the Faith and Practice revision sponsored a successful retreat in April with a large turnout. This opportunity was met with enthusiasm and meaningful dialog and conversation around our core beliefs and faith. Much of what was shared has continued to inspire many. The deep mining of our beliefs is encouraged. The process will be shared at NCYM in a report of the Section 10 - DOCTRINES AND TESTIMONY. We are looking forward to the second part

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of this dynamic process when we are invited to look at the testimonies of our faith. In its meeting on June 23 in preparation for the discussion of Faith & Practice at the upcoming yearly meeting, our Faith & Practice committee began to consider how best to encourage the inclusion of a strong statement of our commitment to racial justice and equality of all persons in the next version of our NCYMC Faith & Practice.

SPIRITUAL RETREATS: New England Friend Brian Drayton, author of *A Language for the Inward Landscape – Spiritual Wisdom from the Quaker Movement*, was scheduled to conduct a retreat convened by our Members, Elders and Overseers Committee for this past March. Because of a winter storm, the retreat had to be rescheduled. We were all disappointed as this retreat promised an opportunity for all of us to have lively and meaningful discussions. Brian Drayton's book, however, has provided us with a great deal of material to ponder in anticipation for the retreat now rescheduled for January of 2019. MEO also had a retreat on "How to make meeting for business" more worshipful. This produced some strong concerns about needing to wait in silence deeply and to remember that our MFB is first about worship and the process of waiting. Quaker Women hosts a monthly lunch/dinner to further our fellowship and connectedness.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL: Because there are currently few children in our Meeting, our Young Friends hold classes only twice a month. We are encouraged recently by a few more children attending, and our hope is that there will be a renewed interest. Our Adult First Day is also going through some changes. It is not known at this time how this important gathering will manifest in the near future. It is actively pursuing possible future themes that may draw interest and increase participation.

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OTHER HAPPENINGS: Our Meeting hosted the Coastal Friends Gathering on the 4th day of Eleventh Month and had a wonderful social full of fellowship and good conversation.

Church Woman United is a racially, theologically and culturally inclusive national ecumenical organization whose mission is to celebrate "Diversity in Unity." Our member Liana Fleming has been active in this organization and keeps the meeting aware of all the events they have in a calendar year.

Jean Crawford, our presiding clerk of meeting, was able to attend Arthur Larabee's clerking workshop at Pendle Hill. This deep exposure to an exceptional Quaker community provided an opportunity to hear from other meetings their hopes, dreams and challenges. They were able to create their own community while participating in this dynamic and loving environment.

West Grove Monthly Meeting

In this our 103rd year as West Grove Friends Meeting, we seek to live in the Spirit that eliminates the occasion for war around the world, in the United States, in our local communities and in our hearts. This work, as in the recent past, is carried out by individuals within the Meeting rather than by the Meeting body as a whole. There is an expressed desire for West Grove to live and work together as a community demonstrating our Quaker commitment to loving God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves. Knowing that our widely separated residences, personal and family commitments will hinder our gathering as a meeting other than on First Days we struggle to identify a way to do this as a community and trust Way will open. The Spirit within is drawing people to Meeting and during the past year we've experienced a growth in Meeting attendance on most First Days. Absent members have returned and we more often have visitors so that 7 or more participants are present for meeting for worship. This growth is a blessing as the

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larger pool of Living Water gives rise to more frequent vocal ministry.

We begin each First Day with Bible Study prior to worship, a practice that “widens our hearts” to receive the Grace available during our worship experience. Responding to Queries, discussing FCNL policy suggestions and considering revisions in the Discipline have also been opportunities through which West Grove Friends have explored the movement of the Living Christ within us individually and corporately. We are grateful for the faithful work of the Discipline Revision Committee and the invitation to participate in the process through consideration of each draft section.

Being a farming community, West Grove Friends know that our work is to prepare the soil which receives the seeds God sows freely in our individual hearts as well as the heart of our gathered faith community. We expect the year ahead to be one of continued growth as we nurture the seeds taking root within.

9. Welcome from Guilford College

Frank Boyd, Vice President of Academic Affairs, welcomed us to Guilford College.

10. Report on Friends Center at Guilford College

Kate Hood, Quaker Outreach Coordinator, presented a report by Wess Daniels regarding Friends Center at Guilford College.

- Due to a series of critical staffing changes, Friends Center is entering an "interim" year of reflection about the key ways we can be most effective on campus.
- We are working on revamping the Quaker Leadership Program to ensure its vibrancy and rigor for the future.

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- We are very excited to have Evelyn Jadin and Aleks Babic will be acting as co-interim coordinators for the program in the coming year.
- Some updates about the URR Tour: Kate and students put together a "first day Sunday school" curriculum for meetings. Other updates about work done on the tour, numbers of people who have taken it, etc.
- Wess and Lloyd Lee Wilson had a very fruitful experience of traveling in the ministry to the Pacific Northwest this past June they met with a number of meetings and individuals, each experience felt as though it was grounded in God's grace and Spirit.
- Friends Center continues to play a leadership role with the Guilford Edge, especially in regards to the "Ethical Leadership" and "Rallying Campus Spirit" initiatives. You will by now see some of the transformations underway and there are many more to come.
- Above all, Wess wants to acknowledge his deepest gratitude for the hard work, patient endurance, and love that Deborah Shaw and Kate Hood have poured into Guilford College during their careers here. It has been a gift to work with these two wonderful Quaker women, to learn from them, and to have Friends Center poised and strong for the future.

11. Report on the Quaker Archives at Guilford College

Gwen Gosney Erickson, Quaker Librarian and College Archivist at Guilford College gave a report on the Quaker Archives at Guilford.

After 28 years, the Friends Historical Collection name is retiring this summer as we rebrand the unit as Quaker Archives.

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We've increasingly noticed that many already refer to us by that name informally, especially as we were known as the "Quaker Room" prior to 1980. We also noted that many are confused about the differences between several very similar organizations that have shared but distinct goals. The name "Quaker Archives" more readily distinguishes us from other campus units and also non-Guilford related organizations. More importantly for this particular time, this name change signals that we are a dynamic learning environment providing opportunities to engage in innovative work and nurturing inclusive contextualizing of history through our rich Quaker primary resources. The archives are not simply a static collection of documents. We hold many stories and continue to grow and adapt as we utilize new technologies and collaborate through arising opportunities.

Historically, a core piece of financial support, including provision of a part-time staff position, has been provided by North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Friends United Meeting). The changing landscape of North Carolina Quakerism is shifting how we work with meeting records as we recommit to longtime relationships and work with a growing number of different groups. The former part-time yearly meeting position is now a part-time temporary college position so we are able to offer the same level of service to all meetings. A new and improved searchable database had been created with updated information regarding the various meeting affiliations and archival records. Most recently, our archives assistant completed a fuller inventory for the NCYM(C) archives and noted areas for further development.

The Quaker Archives appreciates the very generous support of the yearly meeting, as well as that of several monthly meetings and individuals within the yearly meeting. We value this partnership and opportunities to assist those seeking to explore and understand the human experience across time

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through the North Carolina Quaker records and other resources in the archives.

12. Report from Snow Camp Outdoor Theatre

Chuck Fager, President of the Drama Board, presented a report from Snow Camp Outdoor Theatre.

It's been my good fortune to live in North Carolina for sixteen years. I say good fortune because I'm a Quaker, and in this state there is a rich and deep Quaker history and culture, more than 320 years worth.

Many features of Carolina Quaker culture are reassuringly familiar: yearly meetings; meetings; schools, a college.

In addition, Carolina Quaker culture has produced some special, unique landmarks to Friends; life and witness. In particular, there are two which in my experience, are unique. I've traveled widely among American Friends, but have seen nothing to compare with them.

One of these is Quaker House, of which it was my (exhausting) privilege to be director for eleven years. There are many Quaker peace committees; but here is no other peace project like Quaker House, which has carried Carolina's Quaker witness to the gates of one of the largest outposts of the American war machine, and done it with national and international reach, for almost 50 years.

Others will speak more about Quaker House in these sessions. I'm here today to talk about the other unique Quaker landmark, The Snow Camp Outdoor Theatre, in the village of Snow Camp, about halfway between Greensboro and Chapel Hill.

I discovered it in 1987, during an FUM gathering here at Guilford. One evening they put us on schoolhouses and drove out into the wilderness of Alamance County, arriving at an

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amphitheatre in the woods. There we saw the first act of a play called "The Sword of Peace," which was based on the experience of Quakers and others during the American revolution, especially the Battle of Guilford Court House.

At the climax of the first act, an unfortunate character faces hanging for rebelling against British imperial oppression. The noose is placed, the order given, the victim begins to thrash his last --

--And then, it began to rain. (A hazard of outdoor theatre.) I figured that was okay; it was time for intermission anyway.

But when intermission ended, the rain did not; instead it got heavier. And after a half hour's steady downpour, the crew gave up and called off the performance.

It was sixteen years -- sixteen long years -- before I was able to see the rest of "The Sword of Peace." By then it was a new century, with new imperial wars, and I was a North Carolina resident. The play did not lose any force in that long interval.

And it was followed by a companion drama, "Pathway to Freedom," which is (as far as we know) the only ongoing full-length drama about the Underground Railroad, and very likely the only one since they put "Uncle Tom's Cabin" into a traveling show, well over a century ago.

Both plays include Quakers, like Levi Coffin, who have to struggle with conscience and the law and face armed opposition as they bear their witness. And both are not merely exciting, but rooted in solid research into Carolina Quaker history. They make visible in particular the kind of Quakerism that NCYM-C has labored so long to preserve.

Yet both plays are also remarkably timely. Think about it: are issues of government repression no more than dusty history? Is the struggle over slavery and the racism that supported it remembered only in museums? Are Quaker testimonies against war and for an end to racial oppression outdated or obsolete?

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Hardly. In fact, as I watched the plays last summer, I was repeatedly amazed at how relevant, even how urgent they were. Yet they were not written, or rewritten, to be topical. They are both timeless and timely.

The Snow Camp Outdoor theatre was created in the early 1970s by two brothers, James and Bobby Wilson. They did it in Snow Camp because that crossroads in the middle of the “Quaker Belt,” dotted with meetings, some of which have been there for nearly three centuries. Because it’s rural, off the interstates, it’s easy to neglect; but its Quaker character is quite real.

The Wilson brothers had many Quaker connections, but the Drama is organized as a secular non-profit. Yet, its Articles of Incorporation focus on lifting up the Quaker history and witness that has been lived out in that area. In a remarkable display of enterprise and grit, they managed to build an amphitheatre, commission the plays, and begin performances in 1974. 2018 was to be the Drama’s 45th season.

Notice I said “was to be.” The Wilson brothers are no longer with us, and early all the rest of the founding generation is gone. And the transition has been difficult.

I’m not a “theatre person.” But while I was at Quaker House, I admired these plays, both as drama and as continuing Quaker witness/outreach, and resolved to find some way, after I retired, to help out. My one complaint about the project was that when I went, there were too many empty seats, when the amphitheater should have been packed. Maybe I could help with marketing and fundraising -- I had to do that at Quaker House.

Way opened in 2015, when I was invited to join the Snow Camp Drama Board. And I did do some fundraising, which raised some funds; but we needed to raise more, and we worked on ideas for that. But there was continuing turnover in the Board, and last fall, to my surprise, I was elected President. (Yes,

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elected, as President, not clerk; the Drama isn't "Quaker" that way).

And shortly after I took over that slot, we were confronted with a hard fact: the Board disarray had left us without a budget for the new season. One of my first actions as president was the very last thing I wanted to do. But to be a responsible steward, I had to ask the Board to face this deficit and make a hard choice: whether to disband the Drama, or cancel the current season and spend this year rebuilding and renewing our resources, so we could return as soon as possible, hopefully next year.

With much regret, the Board voted (but unanimously; the "sense of the meeting" was clear) to cancel the season, but to keep the Drama going and undertake to rebuild.

So there are, I am very sorry to say, no performances this year of either "The Sword of Peace," or "Pathway to Freedom."

But on the other hand, I am pleased to say that we are not giving up.

And as part of the drive for renewal, and to return to the board next year, I'm bringing a call to this yearly meeting, and the meetings it encompasses. Its a call to consider signing on to preserve this unique landmark of Quaker culture.

In the territory of many other yearly meetings, many dramatic historic episodes are remembered: Mary Dyer in New England; John Woolman in New Jersey; Lucretia Mott in Philadelphia.

Remembered -- but mostly on paper, in books and archives. Where have any of these been brought back to the special kind of life of the stage?

Here, that's where: North Carolina. Many places in North America have plentiful material for historical dramas that could bring our witness to vivid, relevant life on the stage; but at Snow Camp, it actually happened. And it can happen there again.

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While our two main plays are not on stage this summer, we have been busy. On June 16 we joined the Alamance NAACP and an African American Museum project to put on a Juneteenth performance in a newly-renovated space. The show featured two accomplished actors, performing as Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman, and played to a standing room only, diverse audience. We're also developing plans for educational programs for school field trips.

What we need to get back onstage next summer is sponsorship, particularly by those who have interest in Quaker witness and history, as well as others who enjoy good drama. Ongoing theatre programs are seldom profitable enterprises. Ticket sales cover only a part of the annual expenses. Advertising, sponsorships, and donations make up the rest.

We encourage Friends and meetings to consider becoming sponsors of the Snow Camp Outdoor Theatre. Sponsorship can take various forms, financial donations of course, but also work parties to help with repairs and renovation at the site, and group visits to see the shows during the season (group ticket discounts are attractive).

More information is available:

- at our website: www.snowcampoutdoorthatre.com
- by email: info@scot.nc
- by post:
Snow Camp Outdoor Drama
P. O. Box 535
Snow Camp NC 27349

My thanks to the NCYM-C clerks who graciously encouraged me to offer this report on the Snow Camp Drama at your 2018 sessions. I hope to return next year with more promising news, including that of support by the Friends who

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bear the legacy of the history we attempt to portray for other Friends, and for all.

13. Report from Southern State Worship Group

Bill Geery presented a report regarding the Southern State Worship Group describing the conditions in the prison and the significance of the relationship between the participants in the Worship Group and this yearly meeting. An epistle from the Worship Group was shared. Friends were encouraged to continue reaching out to connect with this group through correspondence and even visitation when so led.

Epistle from Southern State Quaker Worship Group
June 26, 2018

Greetings Dear Friends,

First, we thank the many of you who have been in communication with us. Your many cards, poems and warm wishes have touched our hearts and the fact that some have even come to share with us in person is monumental! In truth, it is very important for us to receive the Spirit of God from all Quakers around the world.

Our service is a weekly retreat used to focus and recharge our Spiritual seed which was inside us at birth. Often our gathering focuses on our weekly experiences, problems, needs or messages sent to us. Through understanding the messages or images that our spiritual soul sends us, we become able to determine what it is that God is trying to tell us or show us. Our hour-long meeting streaks by like it was just a few minutes!

The presence of God is felt in the room. Bill Geary is blessed with his gifts of gathering, unity, and speaking, while Tom Etherington's gifts of listening and wisdom augment Bill's. All of which are vital in fueling the fire within. Spiritual growth,

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understanding and preparing a path towards understanding the God seed helps to bring us to the Father upon our release.

Recent notes sent to us by Nan, Charlie and Jan help us to feel remembered and unified to fellow Quakers in the quest. Just knowing that you are there for us helps build our Seed from within. Unity in one God brings us all together. Life here is full of struggles and only a few are true believers. We find that once you allow the God Seed to open your mind, soul and heart you are able to identify the demons that are surrounding you. Daily life for many is a real struggle, but those are usually the ones without faith. We try to reach them and help them find the paths to their God Seed and ignite the Spirit implanted within them.

The true gift of being part of the Quaker family is our gifts being brought forth by silence and listening to the spirit within us and guiding our paths!

We send our thoughts, prayers and God's Love to all of you in knowing that the seed of God planted in your souls will grow as well as ours.

In service to God and each other!

The Southern State Quaker Worship Group
Ronald Gerstmann (Clerk)
Jared Allen
David Musciotto
Bill Geary
Tom Etherington

Friends approved writing an epistle from the yearly meeting to Southern States Worship Group reflecting the long term friendship between them and this yearly meeting.

14. Report from Virginia Beach Friends School

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Nancy Craft presented the Virginia Beach Friends School report.

Our school is continually appreciative of the support from yearly meeting and look forward to living up to our Spirit of Learning reputation.

This report is coming to you from the new clerk of School Committee. We have had a challenging transition from a Former Head of School, an Interim Head of School and have just welcomed a new Head of School, Mike Barclay. After a year-long national search, Mike was chosen to lead the next phase of school refinement and growth. It is with great promise that we enter a new school year with new leadership and optimism for our wonderful school's future.

Mike, along with his wife, Kristin, daughter, Chase (13), and son, Greer (11), are thrilled to be joining Virginia Beach Friends School and its extended community. Mike brings 20 plus years of administrative and teaching experience to his role as VBFS' next Head of School. For the last seven years, Mike has worked at Quest Montessori School in Narragansett, Rhode Island. At Quest, Mike spent three years as Assistant Head of School and the last four as Head of School. During Mike's tenure at Quest, he was instrumental in tripling enrollment over a three year period and in doing so, solidified Quest as a well sought after independent school in Rhode Island. Before Quest, Mike spent six years as the Dean of Students at Moses Brown School in Providence, and prior to Moses Brown, he was part of the founding faculty at Stuart Hall High School, Schools of the Sacred Heart in San Francisco for five years, where he was the school's first admissions director overseeing the school's growth from the first class of 44 students to a fully enrolled student body. He has also worked at New York University as an Associate Admissions Counselor, taught English at Montgomery

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Blair High School in Silver Spring, MD, and worked at Georgetown Preparatory in Bethesda, Maryland. Mike holds a Master of Arts in Teaching from American University in Washington, DC and holds a BA in English and Communications from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA.

Mike Barclay's first hire in strengthening Friends' offering to the Hampton Roads community is our new Assistant Head of School for Academic Affairs, Galen McNemar Hamann. Galen is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Earlham College with a master's in education from St. Joseph's University and a ministerial degree from Harvard Divinity School. She is an experienced hospital chaplain and most recently served as director of Friends Education at Moses Brown. She brings amazingly diverse experience to our School, having studied in Russia, taught with AmeriCorps in Boston and in a high school in El Paso TX, taught middle school languages at Friends Central School in Pennsylvania, developed and facilitated workshops in Spanish on Friends education for teachers in Bolivian Friends Schools, and taught at every grade level at Moses Brown, where she developed courses in Quakerism, Religious Studies, Global Medical Ethics, Racial Justice, and Islam. She has already established a nurturing relationship with our School's faculty and staff.

With an exciting new chapter for Virginia Beach Friends School on the horizon, the school also announces its new branding, refined messaging and website:

<https://www.vbfschool.org/>

Sincerely,

Joanne Young

Clerk of School Committee - Virginia Beach Friends School

15. Report from American Friends Service Committee

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Toby Berla presented a summary report for American Friends Service Committee. The full report follows.

As the American Friends Service Committee moves into its 101st year the organization is embracing both change and resistance. That change has brought **Joyce Ajlouny** to the organization as the AFSC's first Palestinian-American General Secretary. Joyce joined the AFSC at the end of its Centennial year and would love to share her vision for our work at a NYCM-C gathering in the future. In 2017, AFSC worked in **17 countries and 35 U.S. cities**. Every day, courageous individuals are coming together to demonstrate the transformative power of love to overcome violence, discrimination, and oppression. AFSC is honored to partner with communities around the globe in pursuing peace and justice. We hope you enjoy these highlights of our accomplishments from the past year and meeting some of the constituents, volunteers, partners, staff, and supporters who make our work possible. This report focuses mainly on **activities in the U.S. South**, as that is the region in which the NC Immigrant Rights Program in Greensboro is located.

The election of Donald Trump and the further right-wing shift of most state legislatures in the South region has driven much of AFSC's work in the region over the past year. These political changes have resulted in immediate threats to the communities that we work in predominantly: Latinx, African-American and low-income communities. Additionally, the growth and increased visibility of forces of white-nationalism and white-supremacy has been more pronounced in the South region.

In order to protect and defend the rights of the communities that the AFSC is working in, we launched several national initiatives including the **Communities Against Islamophobia**

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campaign and the **Sanctuary Everywhere** project (coordinated by the South's own Lori Khamala). People are pushing back against the rising tide of hateful policies that target immigrants, Muslims, and communities of color—and AFSC is providing them with the tools and training to succeed. Our Sanctuary Everywhere and Communities Against Islamophobia initiatives help everyday people work together to keep each other safe. Through webinars, in-person trainings, and online resources, people are coming together to resist state violence and interrupt acts of hate and fear. The results are impressive. More congregations are now well-equipped to offer sanctuary to those facing deportation, more community members understand how to respond to public harassment, more immigrants and allies know how to exercise their rights, and more schools and municipalities have adopted policies that improve safety for all.

We come to this gathering prepared to support you and your meetings in implementing these strategies as individuals and in our communities. A principal resource we would ask that Friends consider in their local social justice work is the **Quaker Social Change Ministry** (www.afsc.org/qscm). AFSC's Quaker Social Change Ministry (QSCM) serves as a model for congregations and other groups interested in engaging in Spirit-led activism while following the leadership of communities most impacted by injustice. This year, AFSC provided training and resources to more than 125 people in congregations using QSCM tools in their efforts.

Our **eight individual programs in the South** are working diligently to protect, defend and vision a future without oppression with communities in the region. In **Miami** and **Greensboro** we continue to accompany immigrants in their struggle to bring justice to immigrant communities. In **West Virginia** and **Atlanta** our economic justice initiatives are organizing from community centers to state capitals to ensure

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that the economic futures of our most vulnerable communities are protected. And our youth organizing programs in **New Orleans, Washington DC, Baltimore, Atlanta, Miami and West Virginia** continue their work to nurture future generations of active, educated and empowered leaders through their youth organizing activities. We encourage friends to learn more by visiting our website at www.afsc.org or pulling someone from the AFSC aside during this weekend's gathering.

GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA UPDATE – NC IMMIGRANT RIGHTS PROGRAM

Last summer, our office moved into the New Garden Friends Meeting, which has been a wonderful partnership for which we are so grateful!

We also announced a shift in our programming to more intensely focus on local community organizing and leadership development of undocumented immigrants in the NC Triad. This work includes: Developing undocumented leadership by supporting small groups of immigrants meeting to identify their own issues and plan how to address them; Holding direct actions on issues identified by undocumented immigrants; Expanding political education of immigrant communities; Connecting local undocumented leaders to the immigrant rights movement statewide and nationally; Supporting needs of immigrant families facing detention and deportation and organizing public campaigns to stop deportations; and Supporting Sanctuary congregations. We have a Community Organizing coordinator (Andrew Willis Garces) and an Organizing Fellow (Laura Garduño Garcia) who are carrying out this important new work.

AFSC NC has been a leader in congregational sanctuary efforts in the state, leading the launch of three Sanctuary cases and providing support to four others. North Carolina currently

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has six people residing in public Sanctuary, more than any other state in the nation. Learn about their cases at

www.afsc.org/NCsanctuary.

Lori Fernald Khamala continues as the director of the NC Immigrant Rights Program, but has also taken on a new role of Sanctuary Everywhere national coordinator. Sanctuary Everywhere is an AFSC initiative that equips people with tools to increase safety for communities targeted by law enforcement, including Black, Muslim and undocumented communities. We are developing tools for youth and parents to know and defend their rights, holding regular webinars for allies to better understand these issues and gain effective accompaniment skills, and we are also lifting up non-traditional “Sanctuary Spaces” to highlight creative ways that targeted communities are creating safety for and by their own communities. Learn more about this project at www.afsc.org/SanctuaryEverywhere.

RESOURCES & WAYS TO CONNECT

We also invite Friends to join us in utilizing the following resources and opportunities to become active in their meeting and community:

- Please join us at this year's FGC gathering: www.afsc.org/fgc
- Join our Sanctuary Everywhere webinars: www.afsc.org/SanctuaryEverywhereLive
- Utilize Quaker social change ministry for your ongoing social change work: www.afsc.org/qscm
- Read Acting in Faith regularly: www.afsc.org/friends
- Visit our Friends Engage pages with many ways for Quakers to get involved: www.afsc.org/friendsengage

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Thank you for all that you do. The AFSC stands ready to work with you to achieve the needed change in our country and in our world. Please do not hesitate to ask us how you might get further engaged.

CONTACT INFO

South Region Leadership

Jacob Flowers, Regional Director, jflowers@afsc.org - 404-586-0460

Anyango Reggy, Associate Regional Director, areggy@afsc.org - 404-586-0460

North Carolina Contact

Lori Fernald Khamala, NC Immigrant Rights Program Director and Sanctuary Everywhere national coordinator, LKhamala@afsc.org - 919-491-0039 cell

16. Report regarding Native American Friends Centers

Eric Ginsburg presented a report regarding Native American Friends Centers supported by NCYM-C and other potential recipients.

Over the course of 2017-2018, I inquired as to the status of the three Friends Centers to which NCYM(C) provides financial assistance on an annual rotating basis: The Mesquakie Friends Center, under the care of Iowa Yearly Meeting, the Kickapoo Friends Center, partnered with Mid-America Yearly Meeting, and the Mowa Choctaw Friends Center, under the care of NCYM (FUM). Thus far, with one recent exception, I've received no response to phone messages or emailed inquiries and the websites of the centers do not appear to have been updated in several years. One center, the Mesquakie Friends Center may have either been merged with, or converted to, the Mesquakie

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Friends Church, but I am exploring further. The status of the Mowa Choctaw Center is of particular interest, given its association with NCYM (FUM), and it is unclear whether they continue to receive the same level of financial support, if any, from the reconstituted NCYM.

It remains unclear the extent to which these centers serve the physical, social and cultural needs of the tribes they serve, in addition to spiritual ones, and a question in my mind is whether they are truly supporting the tribes' sovereignty and cultural integrity, as opposed to pursuing a more evangelical mission.

A fundamental question for NCYM(C) is what our financial assistance is intended to serve, i.e., is it an expression of our historical relationship with Native Americans, is it intended to promote Quaker-centered Christian values, is it an expression of support for sovereignty and self-determination among Native American tribes?

Based on the lack of a clearly discernible relationship with the above Friends Centers, NCYM(C) may wish to consider other forms of support. I have explored a variety of options and suggest three organizations for consideration, should the YM wish to move away from direct contributions to the Friends Centers. Each of these organizations serves somewhat different needs and all three receive 3- or 4-star ratings by Charity Navigator and gold or platinum ratings by Guidestar. Many other similar organizations exist, but these three stood out to me as exemplary in their evaluations by the two charity rating organizations.

The American Indian College Fund provides tuition assistance and scholarship to Native American students attending one of over a dozen American Indian Colleges, which provide broad college-level education and cultural education as well.

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The Native American Rights Fund provides legal support to tribes to enforce treaty obligations and support tribal sovereignty. In the interest of transparency, Jennifer and I are on NARF's National Support Committee.

The First Nations Development Institute seeks to restore tribal control and culturally compatible stewardship of assets owned by tribes.

A committee was created to continue clarifying the intent of our interactions with Native American peoples and how best to proceed respectfully. The committee purpose is to discern what our desired purpose and goals are in supporting indigenous people and to suggest which organizations support such relationships. Serving on the committee are Eric Ginsburg, Deborah Shaw, Melidy Poole, Mary Miller, Mark Moss. The committee is asked to bring back their recommendations in 10th month.

17. Report from Friends Committee on National Legislation

Eric Ginsburg presented a report for Friends Committee on National Legislation.

2018 Report to Yearly Meetings

Since the early days of the Religious Society of Friends, God's spirit has led Friends to take action in the world. As Friends, our faith and experience convince us to work for the peaceful, just, equitable, and sustainable world we seek. This year we celebrate our 75th anniversary. Founded in 1943 in Richmond, Indiana, FCNL has been bringing the concerns, experiences, and testimonies of Friends to bear on policy decisions in the nation's capital for the past seven decades.

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Setting the Legislative Priorities for the 116th Congress

One of the distinctive features of the Friends Committee on National Legislation is our practice of asking Quakers around the country to help shape our collective work. Every two years, FCNL asks Friends and their meetings, churches, and worship groups all over the country to discern which public policy issues they feel are most pressing for the next Congress.

The core question as part of this process is, where is the spirit leading us? How are Friends called to influence government today? Your discernment is the foundation for the lobbying priorities that FCNL will establish at our annual meeting in November of 2018. This summer, FCNL's Policy Committee will read all the responses and consider a set of priorities to bring to the annual meeting.

Learn. Lobby Lead. Update on Annual Meeting 2017

FCNL's Quaker Public Policy Institute and Lobby Day drew some 450 people to Washington, DC to lobby against huge increases in Pentagon spending. More than 300 of that number stayed for FCNL's Annual Meeting which celebrated the successful conclusion of our World We Seek Capital Campaign, affirmed the direction of the Forward Plan outlined by staff, and showed off the first materials prepared for celebrations of FCNL's 75th Anniversary in 2018.

One of the most exciting moments of the 2017 Annual Meeting was the celebration of the successful conclusion of FCNL's five-year capital campaign and opening of the new Quaker Welcome Center at 205 C Street. On October 5, we held a ribbon cutting event attended by Washington, DC Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, as well as FCNL's Executive and Education Fund Board. In the past few months, we have begun hosting conversations and programs to promote the world we seek. We are excited to offer the Quaker Welcome Center as a

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meeting space where lawmakers and staffers can have quiet conversations and speak across political divisions. FCNL has always been known as a place where people across the political spectrum feel welcome, and the Quaker Welcome Center will help us continue that tradition.

Every aspect of this building's construction minimized environmental impact and furthered the goal of creating a carbon-neutral building. FCNL was honored to be able to open the first LEED certified building on Capitol Hill in 2005, and we're glad to continue our legacy of lobbying for an earth restored with this new Quaker Welcome Center, located next door to our office. The convenient location means that partner organizations working for peace and justice can easily take part in workshops and trainings as part of their lobbying efforts, and we look forward to welcoming FCNL supporters and activists like you before your visits with congressional offices. We invite you to visit the Quaker Welcome Center and enjoy our expanded presence on Capitol Hill.

The Critical Role of Young Adult Friends

As we look to sustain FCNL's persistent and prophetic advocacy for another 75 years, we know how critical it is for young adults to play a central role in both FCNL's advocacy work and its governance. We are glad to report that FCNL's standing committees are stronger because of young adult participation. We are blessed to have these young adults playing leadership roles in the governance of FCNL.

We are also grateful to the 25 yearly meetings that have appointed members to serve on FCNL's General Committee. Thank you for sharing the nurturing gifts of these wise and committed Friends. With their guidance, we seek to remain open to where God's spirit leads us.

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With gratitude for your partnership,
Bridget Moix
Baltimore Yearly Meeting
Clerk, FCNL General Committee

TOGETHER, WE'RE MAKING CHANGE.

2016-2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

FCNL is creating space for bipartisan progress to address climate change, even as the Trump administration works to dismantle environmental protections. We've led the way to bring more than 60 members into the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus, which provides a forum for members to work across the aisle. www.fcnl.org/climate

PROTECTING HEALTH CARE FOR ALL

FCNL's persistent advocacy, in partnership with our faith community colleagues, helped defeat legislation that would have repealed the Affordable Care Act and cut 22 million people off health care. In nearly 300 lobby visits, we shared stories about the importance of affordable health care coverage and Medicaid. We continue to advocate for a community that helps everyone meet their basic needs. www.fcnl.org/healthcare

BUILDING PEACE

FCNL's advocacy is counteracting the Trump administration's push to put military force at the center of U.S. foreign policy. We are building bipartisan support in the House and Senate for the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act, and we are successfully keeping Congress from cutting peacebuilding funding. We continue to press the U.S. to engage diplomatically and to uphold the nuclear deal with Iran. We are also pushing Congress to reconsider its unconditional

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support for military strategies, from ending the U.S. backing of Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen to repealing the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force.

www.fcnl.org/peacebuilding & www.fcnl.org/middleeast

FIXING IMMIGRATION

FCNL is working closely with Republican and Democratic senators on comprehensive legislation to protect Dreamers, undocumented young adults who arrived in the U.S. as children. Both in our own lobbying and that of the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, which we co-chair, FCNL is advocating for reforms to our immigration system and against harmful proposals such as increased deportation, detention, and a military buildup on the U.S.-Mexico border. www.fcnl.org/immigration

PROTECTING MUSLIMS AND REFUGEES

FCNL is at the forefront of opposing the Trump administration's executive orders gutting the refugee resettlement program and barring people from some Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States. We are lobbying for bills to rescind the order, securing congressional support for court challenges to the order, and organizing public demonstrations to support refugees. www.fcnl.org/refugees

REINING IN PENTAGON SPENDING

FCNL's Advocacy Teams – more than 1,300 people across the country – spent all of 2017 building relationships with their congressional delegations, focused on Pentagon spending. Thanks to their work, members of Congress are supporting Pentagon audit legislation and hearing hard questions about Pentagon spending increases. FCNL also continues to focus on blocking spending for nuclear weapons and supporting nonproliferation efforts. www.fcnl.org/pentagon

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ADVOCATING WITH NATIVE AMERICANS

FCNL's persistent advocacy on Native American concerns honors a history of respectful relationships between Quakers and Native peoples. In November, we welcomed our first congressional advocate on Native American policy, Lacina Tangnaqudo Onco, who will lead FCNL's advocacy with Congress as an ally of Native American groups.

www.fcnl.org/native-american

18. Epistle from Friends World Committee for Consultation

The epistle from Friends World Committee for Consultation was read.

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus. ... May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:5, 13

Dear Friends,

We send you loving greetings from the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) World Office in London – and from across the world. We extend our best wishes for a full and gathered yearly meeting. We appreciate the yearly meeting's continuing work of strengthening the Religious Society of Friends at all levels.

With gratitude for the many ways Friends come together, we cherish the fellowship, the sense of belonging, and the unity of Spirit we experience when two or more are gathered in his name.

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May you cherish the love in each other and the great joy of being a Quaker. We bask in God's love and in the unity of the Quaker heart.

We have a broad spectrum of belief and practice across the world, just as we have different languages and cultures. Our diversity is our strength. We share the language of the heart. We share a love of God. We share a longing for the healing of all people and for the Earth. We share a broad and insistent vision for a peaceful world.

When I think about the God that consumes me, I am filled with joy. My whole body smiles. My husband thinks I am evangelical. I have grown up among programmed Friends and spent 30 years among unprogrammed Friends... and I do feel evangelical in that I want to share the **good news!** Quakers around the world are alive and well, feeling the power of the living God, and are changing the world by actively bringing God's loving presence into illumination.

FWCC brings us together and gives us hope: FWCC joins our passion and strengthens the Quaker voice in the world. FWCC ensures that Friends are represented at the world level at the Quaker United Nations Offices, the World Council of Churches, and among global Christian Communion.

FWCC is working on several initiatives:

- Sustaining life on earth as a spiritual imperative, engaging yearly meetings and Young Adult Friends
- Opening dialogue on issues of injustice and privilege, exploring new ways of being together
- Building bridges across the theological spectrum
- Considering stewardship of our resources to support Quaker work
- Strengthening ministry and leadership through the Young Adult Friends Development Fund

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With this greeting, I invite you to engage with FWCC through our website and Facebook. I invite you to give financially to FWCC through your Section. I invite you to support and pray for your Section Secretary. And most importantly, I invite you to engage with other Friends who share your passion for life and love.

FWCC is in the process of updating the book *Friends Around the World* to help Friends connect with yearly meetings and worship groups. We hope you are all planning for **World Quaker Day** October 7, 2018 with the theme: *Crossing Cultures, Sharing Stories*. We also post epistles we receive so that Friends might see how God is moving amongst us. Please send your epistle to database@friendsworldoffice.org.

As we enjoy unity within our diversity, we thank you for your faithful support of our work.

In loving Friendship,
Gretchen Castle, General Secretary

19. Letter from William Penn House

A letter was read from William Penn House introducing Andrei Israel, executive director, who is with us for these yearly meeting sessions. Friends approved the clerk endorsing his travel letter.

20. Report on the Trust Fund for Travel in the Ministry

David Perry presented a report on the Trust Fund for Travel in the Ministry.

Beginning Balance (Market Value)	\$5,275.83
Distributions:	\$900.00
Additional Receipts:	\$0.00
Realized Gains/Losses:	\$434.10

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Ending Balance (Market Value) 6-1-17 \$4,809.93

Payments for "Travel in the Ministry"

The trustees authorized three request in the amount of \$300.00 each from the "Travel in the Ministry" fund during this fiscal year. Andrew Wright will lead a workshop titled "Scripture as Context, Story, and Spirit" at the 2018 Friends General Conference in Toledo, Ohio. The workshop will explore Paul's Letters to the Romans in order to offer participants an opportunity to explore their beliefs and commitments. The workshop will be an opportunity to support Friends who are called to a deeper relationship to the Biblical tradition that they may find in their local meeting. This is the fourth year Andrew has been led to share his ministry and leadings. The yearly meeting looks forward to hearing of his experiences.

Lloyd Lee Wilson and Wess Daniels felt a leading to travel among Friends in the Pacific Northwest. They felt a leading to minister among any Friends there who are open to worshipping with them. Their hope is to be faithful in service to this calling and to extend their fellowship and ministry among Friends who have gone through a challenging period in recent time. The yearly meeting looks forward to hearing of their experiences.

The trustees continue to encourage friends who are led to seek assistance through the Travel in the Ministry trust. In addition the trustees encourage the yearly meeting to search for other avenues of income to support this important commitment.

Friends are encouraged to apply for assistance from the "Travel in the Ministry" fund. A brief history and an application are posted on the yearly meeting website.

Funds continue to be held by the Friends Fiduciary Corporation. Friends are encouraged to make special contributions in support of "Travel in the Ministry".

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Submitted by

W. Carey Reece, Jr. and David Perry - Trustees

21. Discipline Revision Committee

Friends heard the second reading of the section entitled "The Beginnings." Friends approved the section, allowing its inclusion in the Interim Discipline.

Friends heard the second reading of Section 6 – Introduction to the Discipline. Friends approved the section, allowing its inclusion in the Interim Discipline.

Current status of the revision process: Everything that has been presented to yearly meeting has been approved twice. Next year the plan is to present the beginning of the section on Queries and the beginning of the section on Testimonies for first approval.

22. Report from Quaker House

Kindra Bradley, executive director of Quaker House of Fayetteville presented a report on Quaker House.

Thank you for your support in the past year. You have been part of providing free services of healing and help to those bearing the heavy burdens placed upon them by a militarized society and in supporting our efforts to make this a more peaceful world.

Quaker House successfully navigated a transition between directors in September. Many of you know and love Lynn and Steve Newsom. They retired at the end of August and love and miss you. I have stepped into their shoes, buoyed by faith, hope, and knowledge of your support.

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Mission: Counseling/Support to Service Members and Their Families and Education

GI Rights Hotline: Quaker House provides two counselors, Steve and Lenore, each with 17 years of experience, to the Hotline, taking calls from anywhere service members are stationed in the world. As we continue in unabated war and conflict since 2001, calls to the Hotline have been increasing. This year, our two counselors answered an average of 255 calls/month. When our counselors have permission from the service members they help, their moving and courageous stories of moral conviction are shared in our newsletters. These articles can also be found on our web site as blog posts.

Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Moral Injury

Counseling: We continue our one-on-one mental health counseling program at Quaker House with Joanna, a licensed clinical social work therapist. She works with members of the military and their families, and we rely on donations to continue providing this important service free of charge. Working part time, Joanna has spent **1,860 hours with clients** over the past four years. In March of this year, Joanna was recognized as a leader in the community and selected as one of Fayetteville 40 Under 40. We receive referrals from the GI Rights Hotline, community organizations, and from Ft. Bragg victim advocates. Quaker House has participated, by invitation, in several mental health and victim advocate summits on Ft. Bragg.

Moral Injury Education: Quaker House continues to provide educational presentations on moral injury and insights into methods that help with its healing. On August 3, Joanna (Quaker House counselor mentioned in preceding paragraph) and I will be the plenary closing speakers, talking about moral injury, at the

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summer conference of the NC Foundation for Alcohol and Drug studies. Approximately 300 mental health providers are expected to be in attendance.

Bowe Bergdahl: Bowe Bergdahl is the soldier who left his post in Afghanistan in an attempt to report problems he saw in his chain of command. He was immediately captured by a hostile group and tortured for almost five years. After his return to the United States, he was court-martialed and faced the possibility of life in prison. Quaker House was at his sentencing hearings on Ft. Bragg as a presence of compassion for Bowe amid widespread hate and condemnation, as well as to witness and share the proceedings with the rest of the world. Please see the newsletter article and blog posts for more detailed accounts, found on our web site.

Mission: A More Peaceful World

Conscientious Objection Education and Support: Quaker House continues to conduct workshops geared toward youth, parents, and meetings about conscientious objection, and an article written by Board Member, Curt Torell, on the topic was published in the October *Friends Journal*. On March 16, we hosted a play at Guilford College, *This Evil Thing*, that was on tour from England and which portrayed the experiences of WWI conscientious objector. Thank you to those who were able to attend the performance! I also led one of the new “sampler” workshop sessions last week at Friends General Conference, addressing the spiritual connections between the Peace Testimony, conscientious objection, and moral injury.

Peace Advocacy: In February, I attended the first public listening session of the National Commission on Military,

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National, and Public Service. I spoke to that Commission about Quaker House's concerns regarding the Selective Service, any potential draft, the need for a registration option for claiming conscientious objection, and the courage and service of many pacifists. Quaker House encourages everyone to make their thoughts and concerns known during the public comment period (ends September 30, 2018). You can submit your comments through the Commission's web site at www.inspire2serve.gov under the "Share Your Thoughts" tab.

In the past year, I also attended and reported on the public hearings in Raleigh of the North Carolina Commission of Inquiry on Torture (NCCIT) that presented evidence of North Carolina's connection to the CIA torture program after 9/11. In addition, we attended the Johnston County Commissioners meeting in March in support of members of the NCCIT asking the commissioners to pursue an investigation into the involvement of the Johnston County Airport in extraordinary rendition flights. And, in May, I and another board member represented Quaker House at the Poor People's Campaign in Raleigh, North Carolina, during the week on Militarism and the Proliferation of Gun Violence.

Quaker House's 50th Anniversary in 2019! We hope you will join with us in our commemoration activities in the coming year. Thank you for continuing to support this work that began in 1969 when a young soldier named Dean Holland asked for help with his conscientious objector application. Soldiers still ask for our help, and we still continue to work for peace.

23. Report on Quaker Earthcare Witness

Lauri Langham, representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness presented a report on QEW.

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This is my first report since I became a Representative of the yearly meeting to Quaker Earthcare Witness and thank-you for appointing me to this role and the support I feel as a new Representative. I am approaching this work with a strong desire for me as an individual, and we as Quakers to have a meaningful witness, through our groundedness in our spiritual truths or testimonies, and through our outward activities to help alleviate suffering for the planet and for humankind. As a mental health Red Cross disaster volunteer, myself I have seen the human suffering caused by extreme weather events, in Katrina, in Oklahoma and in North Carolina. Our climate has already warmed an average of almost 2 degrees Fahrenheit and is on track to go higher, causing droughts, extreme weather events of all kinds climate refugees, disruption of cultures, water shortages and so many other effects on not only the earth which is our home, but to our human family. Many of these changes are affecting the poorest among us, so that the term eco-justice is now being used.

The QEW witness vision statement declares: “We are called to live in right relationship with all Creation, recognizing that the entire world is interconnected and a manifestation of God. We put these beliefs into practice by striving to be examples, communicating our message, and by providing spiritual and material support to those engaged in the compelling task of transforming our relationship to the planet towards sustainability and justice for the totality of life”.

QEW has been in existence for 30 years, formerly under the name of Friends Committee for Unity with Nature. QEW primarily works within the structure of having 2 part time paid employees, Shelley Tannenbaum, the General Secretary and Hayley Hathaway who in charge of publications and social media. These 2 women are truly a force of nature who are passionate about their vision of a sustainable planet and who

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accomplish a tremendous amount. The bulk of the organization is the 31 yearly meeting Representatives who meet twice a year and work on committees and interest groups throughout the year.

I'd like to mention some of the major focuses of QEW.

QEW is a recognized NGO in the United Nations. This month they are sponsoring Coalition of People of African Descent program at the United Nations, bringing people from all over the world to work on ensuring clean, reliable and affordable water. QEW has a special fundraising effort to help offset the costs of persons traveling from a distance to attend the program.

QEW has a recently updated wonderfully creative and thoughtful Earthcare Curriculum for children, available on the website.

QEW offers "mini" grants to individual meetings for hands on earthcare projects: for example: creating a sustainable garden, a composting project, or supplying low income households with LED lighting. I encourage folks from all meetings to consider applying for these grants. QEW has an on-line and paper newsletter called Befriending Creation. There are copies on the table. Befriending Creation lets us know all kinds of activities by Friends meetings all over the country, from sponsoring a Climate pilgrimage to putting solar panels on their meetinghouses and offering inspiring poetry and art. QEW also participates in national marches and demonstrations of various kinds.

QEW has an appealing and easy to navigate website with all kinds of interesting articles, pictures announcements etc., so I encourage you to poke around if you are interested.

As I understand it, the purpose of the Representative is to share information on what is on the hearts and minds of Quakers in our yearly meeting with QEW, and to bring insights from QEW back to the yearly meeting through such activities as outreach, workshops, education.

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This year so far, I have led two workshops, one at Durham Friends Meeting, where about 25 people attended, and one at Eno River Friends Meeting, where about ½ dozen attended. I am also working with a committee in Durham Meeting to assess the viability of placing a solar array on our Meetinghouse and am more than happy to share our information. Currently in the state of NC nonprofits and private homes will receive a rebate of 30-35% to help cover the cost of a solar array.

As your Rep, I would very much like to help the monthly meetings offer earthcare programs of any kind you might be interested in. I have a program which combines climate change facts with reflections on what our Quaker history, contemporary Quaker writers and our testimonies have to teach us. I can be a resource in helping you plan a workshop locate a great facilitator that meets your needs. I would love to meet members and attenders of meetings who would like to explore having a network of people interested in earthcare matters so that we can support each other in sharing ideas and bringing opportunities to our meetings. I invite anyone who is interested, or who has a suggestion or feedback to talk with me.

As you can see I am in the process of developing the role of Representative. I look forward to growing more in this position. My hope is that a yearly meeting we can have the concern of climate and human disruption be on our hearts and in our minds and in our discussions, and that we can brainstorm and act on creative, hopeful solutions. I hope to bring the inspiration of the great work QEW is doing to our yearly meeting. At the same time, I hope to bring our wisdom and loving support to QEW.

24. Message from Nan Bowles

Nan Bowles expressed gratitude for the love that infuses the universe and upholds us all.

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25. Report from Nominating Committee

Anne Olsen presented the Nominating Committee Report. Approved changes are reflected in the report as published. (See page).

26. Report from Web Committee

Melidy Poole presented an update on the Web Committee, summarizing recent changes in the web server and reminding us that the committee is seeking feedback from monthly meetings regarding needs and priorities.

27. Letter to Absent Friends

Deborah Shaw presented the Letter to Absent Friends which was approved as published herein.

Dear Friends,

We send you heartfelt greetings from the 321st session of North Carolina Yearly Meeting – Conservative, this year being held at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC. The beautiful Guilford campus was busy with several construction projects and peopled with young musicians gathered for the Eastern Music Festival.

We have missed your presence among us and want you to know that you have been held in our thoughts and prayers as we gathered in worshipful deliberation and joyful fellowship in and through the Spirit. We were grateful for the diligent work of the members of the hospitality and program committees, whose efforts made possible the radical hospitality in which we felt embraced.

Please know that our business was conducted in an orderly and Spirit-led fashion. Our meetings for worship were blessed and rich in silence and through vocal ministry. The fellowship we experienced throughout our various activities (meals, interest

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groups, Bible study, early morning “communion in the manner of Friends,” song, knitting and other handcraft) felt immersed in the stream of Living Water.

We hope that the enclosed Summary of Exercises and the Young Friends Epistle will give you a deeper sense of the sweetness of our time together.

In the Light,
Gwen Gosney Erickson, clerk
North Carolina Yearly Meeting - Conservative

28. Treasurer’s Report

Susan Lees presented the Treasurer’s Report. Friends accepted the report as presented.

Treasurer’s Report to Yearly Meeting 2018 Reporting on 1-1-2018 through 6-30-2018

Yearly meeting began the year with \$51,126.13 in the Wells Fargo checking account. As determined at last year’s yearly meeting session, we transferred \$35,000 to a sub-account at Friends Fiduciary for investment.

Meeting ends this six-month accounting period with combined funds of \$70,770.88: \$32,251.02 in the checking account, \$33,709.93 in the Friends Fiduciary NCYM2 fund, and \$4,809.93 in Friends Fiduciary’s “Travel in the Ministry” fund.

Monthly meeting donations pledged for 2018 are \$11,500 (amended downward by \$200 from the budget presented at Interim Body Meeting); so far we’ve received \$7650. Donations to organizations were budgeted at \$5800; so far \$4900 has been

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paid. Meeting also gave Virginia Beach Friends School a one-time contribution of \$900.

29. Finance Committee Report

Bruce Arnold presented the Finance Committee report.

This previously approved 2018 budget will be in effect for six months. Thereafter, a new fiscal year will begin.

Recommendation: that the line item for FWCC travel be eliminated and the funds folded into the existing general travel line. Background: the FWCC triennials, for which those funds were intended, are no longer being held. The general travel fund is intended for travel of our yearly meeting representatives.

The 2018 budget was amended to reclassify two budget accounts as follows: Friends approved the recommendation to eliminate the FWCC travel line and fold the funds into the general travel fund. Friends also approved renaming the general travel fund and calling it "Travel for Yearly Meeting Representatives." This is a permanent change.

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30. Yearly Meeting Budget for 2019

Friends approved the 2019 budget.

NCYM-C Budgets 2018-2019

		2018 Budget	2018 Actual 6 months	2019 budget
INCOME				
Monthly Meeting Contributions				
	Davidson	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
	Durham	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00
	Fayetteville	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
	Friendship	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
	Greenville	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
	Rich Square	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
	Virginia Beach	\$2,700.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
	West Grove	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
	Wilmington	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
	Monthly Meeting Contributions Total	\$11,700.00	\$7,650.00	\$11,550.00
Other Income				
	Individ. Contributions – unrestricted	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Individ. Contributions – Directory	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Individ. Contributions – Journal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Nonmember Contributions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Bookstore Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Prior Year Contribution: check return	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Other Income Total	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	INCOME TOTAL	\$11,700.00	\$7,650.00	\$11,550.00

EXPENSES

Administrative Expenses				
	Operating Expenses	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
	Admin., Quaker Archives, Guilford	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
	Website Costs	\$260.00	\$0.00	\$260.00
	Bookstore Expenses	\$55.00	\$0.00	\$55.00
	Publication of YMtG Directory	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
	Publication of Minutes	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$600.00
	Publication of Memorials	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Publication of Journal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Administrative Expenses	\$1,465.00	\$0.00	\$1,765.00

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NCYM-C Budgets 2018-2019

Donations to Organizations				
	AFSC	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
	Indian Affairs	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
	FCNL	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
	Quaker Earthcare Witness	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
	Quaker House of Fayetteville	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
	RSWR	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
	Friends Center at Guilford	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
	Quaker Archives at Guilford	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$300.00
	FWCC	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
	Pendle Hill	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
	Guilford College	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
	Carolina Friends School	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
	New Garden Friends School	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
	Friends School of Wilmington	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
	Virginia Beach Friends School	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
	School of the Spirit	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
	Donations to Organizations	\$5,800.00	\$4,900.00	\$5,500.00

Other Expenses				
	Internships/Scholarships	\$1,200.00	\$600.00	\$1,200.00
	Travel (YM representatives)	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
	FWCC Travel	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Other Expenses Total	\$4,200.00	\$600.00	\$4,200.00
	EXPENSES TOTAL	\$11,465.00	\$5,500.00	\$11,465.00

BUDGET SUMMARY

	Total Income	\$11,700.00	\$7,650.00	\$11,550.00
	Total Expenses	\$11,465.00	\$5,500.00	\$11,465.00
	Net Difference	\$235.00	\$2,150.00	\$85.00

NON-BUDGETED FUNDS		Authorized 2018	Expenses 2018	Authorized 2019
SP	Bolivian Quaker Education Fund	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
GF	Virginia Beach Friends School	\$900.00	\$900.00	
	NON-BUDGETED FUNDS TOTAL	\$1,650.00	\$900.00	\$750.00

SP Special Projects Fund – 3 year commitment
GF General Fund – one time contribution

Friends are aware of William Penn House's financial need and asked William Penn house to bring forth a proposal at 10th month interim body.

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31. Answers to the Queries

The answers to the Queries from the monthly meetings were read. (As is our custom, although answers are read during several different sessions, for continuity, all answers will be grouped together when included in the minutes.)

Query #1: Do we faithfully uphold our testimony for worship, which is based on silent waiting, and for a free and unprogrammed ministry that may be shared by all? Is there a living silence in which we feel drawn together by the Light of Christ, the power of God in our midst; and is this inspiration carried over into our daily lives? Do we come to meeting with hearts and minds open and ready to worship in silence or in vocal ministry or prayer as the Holy Spirit leads us? Does our Meeting encourage those who may have a gift in the spoken ministry?

Davidson: Query #1 was not answered by Davidson Friends this year.

Durham: We are pleased with what the meeting has done with worship given our size. While some fear that it may be difficult to maintain a covered meeting with a larger number, our meeting manages it. We hope that we work to encourage not only those with a gift for vocal ministry, but also those with a gift for silence. In the tension between the silence and messages, we seek to remember where messages come from and how to share this understanding with new attenders. We are reminded that we must work to carry the inspiration of our worship into our daily activities because, as it is written in the book of James, "Faith without works is dead."

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There were, however, concerns about the language of the query. The phrase “the Light of Christ” seems to ask us to make a statement of faith--one that is not necessarily shared by all members of our community. Such language can be divisive or may put some off. One Friend notes that “the Light of Christ” makes it seem as though the Light belongs to Christ, yet he cherishes the Light that shines from each person in meeting.

We are proud that as a meeting we respect that each person has his or her own “heart language” and that though the terms we use may differ, we speak and worship together. As one Friend said, “Though I may not see Christ in the Light, I believe that those who do are looking at the same Light.”

It is useful to be exposed to a diversity of language among those in meeting. It reminds us that we are asked neither to affirm nor deny any particular set of beliefs and reminds us that another’s set of beliefs is as deep and heartfelt as our own.

Our proper name is the Religious Society of the Friends of the Truth. We remember and respect that we began with George Fox’s message that “there is one even Christ Jesus who can speak to thy condition.” But we are not Finders, but Seekers. This seeking is a lifelong process, because continuing revelation means that there is always something that we do not yet know. Ours is a living moving of the Spirit, not a written doctrine, and we work to live comfortably with knowing and not knowing at the same time.

Fayetteville: With hearts and minds open we faithfully uphold by silently waiting. LIVING SILENCE has meaning.

We come broken and the silence becomes a living silence and what rose up in us as we let the worldly cares fall away, we find spiritual food. We are willing and receptive towards the spoken word but it may or may not occur during our silence. Deep spiritual discussion can follow even if words are not

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spoken during the worship part of Meeting. Part of being a Friend is to live the life daily. In our contact with others we can speak in relation to our faith. During times of turmoil, we can become clearer about inspiration and that Way will be made known. Sometimes our requirement is simply to WAIT upon Spirit. We know God is in us, but do we CHERISH and NURTURE our faith. God does come through when the time is right.

Friendship: We do uphold our testimony for waiting worship, and have a living silence as well as an open vocal ministry that is shared by all and exercised by many. Encouragement is more private. We are reminded of the value of a word of affirmation, as led, to those who have spoken helpfully in worship. We feel we could all feel more free to speak in worship when led. As an oral tradition, we need to tell our story as a people of faith in order to share it.

Greenville: How ready and open we are to listen to the Spirit during worship depends on our preparation in the previous week. We experience a living silence during the time for worship that sustains us through the next week.

Rich Square: We do not have a great deal of spoken ministry but find spoken ministry as given has been well grounded. We appreciate worship as a time of sweetness. We feel our waiting worship is our strength as a Friends community. We trust that we do carry over this spirit of worship into our daily lives.

Virginia Beach: As we join together in the silence of the Light of Christ, we are reminded that often our vocal ministry is important to others. How do we encourage those who have a true

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message? The mystery is that these gifts of the spirit are messages that speak to us which may come from anyone.

West Grove: Our consideration of this query prompted a heartfelt and valuable conversation about how we learn to feel the Presence in the silence. We acknowledge that silent meetings are difficult for young people and those new to this way of worship. We shared some of the practices used by more experienced Friends. We do encourage those with a gift in the spoken ministry. Friends are seekers of God, not seekers of answers. As Rilke states, "... try to love the questions themselves... Live the questions now. Perhaps then someday... you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer."

Wilmington: Query #1 was not answered this year.

Query #2: Are we faithful in our attendance at meetings for worship and are we careful not to disturb the spirit of the meeting by our late arrival? Is our behavior therein that of open submission to God in silent communion?

Davidson: Overall, we can be clear on this query in the sense that we do have a pattern of regular attendance and those entering worship do so respectfully and a culture of acceptance of late arrivals. There are more questions around the concepts of open submission and silent communion. We acknowledged that while each of us have intentions to come open to vocal ministry and deep communion that are not always realized each first day, we have all experienced a shared sense of silent communion at times in this meeting.

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Durham: For many this is a touchstone query. Some ask whether they are acting in “open submission to God” when discerning whether to share a piece of spoken ministry during meeting for worship. We find not all messages we consider rise to this standard. For others open submission to God means open submission to that of God in everyone present. Our meeting is full of life. It is remarkable how in the first 15 minutes of meeting with around 50 children present we are still able to maintain a degree of stillness. We are grateful to the greeters who manage the flow of children, parents and latecomers to minimize the disruptions and set the pacing of our worship. And we are grateful for those who arrive early to establish and maintain a welcoming silence for all. But being open to that of God in everyone includes those who come late and also includes accepting, not merely tolerating any disruptions and embracing the life they represent.

The ability to be accepting of latecomers and other disruptions to our silence is good. Historically Quakers were heavy-handed and stricter about anything that might disturb the silence. Acceptance seems more natural. Some arrive early to meeting to center, finding distractions less bothersome if one is centered. Some find distractions may represent an opportunity to go deeper into the silence as they work to maintain it. Going deeper has been compared to a rock sinking into a bog. When there are distractions, we can try to sink deeper into the bog which can be comforting. While we can all work to minimize the disruptions to our meetings for worship, we can also all work to maintain and deepen the silence as they inevitably occur.

Fayetteville: Arriving late is perhaps not in general seen as a major intrusion at our particular meeting, but an acceptance of allowing people to enter the meeting and those present welcoming them. Mindfulness can begin before Meeting as we

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prepare ourselves and start to set aside the worries and preoccupations of the week prior to entering the meeting house. Instead of our busyness preventing us from attending regularly, it should BE a reason to attend. Regular attendees strive to be here ahead of the hour in order to welcome potential newcomers. Behavior of submission: allowing Spirit to guide us back into centeredness. Outside noises, people entering, or noises within the meeting house can distract, but submission to God allows us to get back to worship. It is human nature to drift in and out of focus. Sounds can be a distraction or can be used as a path back into mindfulness. Our overt behavior suggests submission to God: sitting silently, being open to God, being respectful of quiet and of each other. We each may have individual ways of worship but as a body we observe the silence together. How we each choose to worship (posture, etc) is beside the point—it is our unity of spirit that matters.

Friendship: We are faithful in our attendance at meeting for worship. We are careful both not to disturb and not to be disturbed by the late arrival or early departure of any worshipper. Our behavior in meeting for worship, whether we are engaged in thanksgiving, praise, forgiveness, or intercession, is characterized by an open submission to God in silent communion.

Greenville: Regular attendance at meeting for worship creates a rhythm in our spiritual lives. It is expected that one will experience times when we feel centered as well as times when we feel distracted. The rhythm created by being faithful supports us through these variations.

Rich Square: A number of Friends travel significant distances to be in attendance when possible. This together with the

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faithfulness of Friends in Woodland has kept the Meeting vital. Friends are punctual in their attendance, and we are not aware of any ways in which we are not consistent with the spirit of open submission to God in silent communion.

Virginia Beach: In divine order, the active worshipful silence begins once all are present and settled. We welcome all whenever they arrive. We develop a communion that is all inclusive. We note the difference between meeting for worship and meeting for business.

West Grove: Second Month Meeting for Business Minutes were misplaced. A copy has not been found.

Wilmington: Friends chose to discuss the opening sentence of this query first, and were unified in their belief that the late arrival of friends did not seem to disrupt the spirit of the meeting. All focused on the belief that as friends arrived, we were happy to see our numbers increase. A comparison to the parable of the workers was made: Laborers that showed up at the end of a task earned the same wage as those who had worked the entire 'shift.'

The second portion of this query proved the most fruitful for discussion, beginning with a simple admission that lately our silence has seemed to be an empty silence. Many chimed in their concern that we were lacking a clear vocal ministry as of late, with the silence characterized as deafening. This silence could be the result of reluctance to speak or the inability to settle in meeting. For the former, reluctance to break the silence, self-doubt and shyness were given as possible reasons. Friends were reminded that even Gandhi had to overcome shyness to bring about great change. Also noted, as with this query, once the silence was broken, most felt comfortable contributing. The second problem, settling into silent communion with meeting

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and God seemed the larger hurdle. The daily distractions from the newsfeed and other life events cloud our minds as we arrive to meeting, and are sometimes difficult to sweep away. Friends offered centering and focusing suggestions, and were reminded that that one thing, that one thought that just will not leave, is probably the thing we are being led to consider.

Query #3: Do we follow the teachings of Jesus and seek the inspiration of his Holy Spirit in our daily lives? Are love and unity maintained among us? Do we cultivate a forgiving spirit, and do we avoid and discourage needless and destructive criticism of others? When differences arise, do we endeavor promptly to resolve them in a spirit of love, honesty, and humility?

Davidson: We have experienced that love and unity are easiest to maintain in communities that know and accept us which often include Quaker circles. But it is harder as we move in wider circles--both in measuring our own responses and how those responses are heard. The intent of speaking in love cannot always be heard and it is easy to fall into self-righteousness or superiority. We can only seek to return to a spirit of honesty and humility daily as we struggle with forgiveness and knowing when not just to avoid but to act to discourage destructive criticism.

Durham: Jimmy Carter, asked if he could choose one Bible verse for the Trump administration what it would be, said it would be ,”Love one another.” This seems to be the heart of this query, and we feel our meeting does a good job of loving one another.

Ours is a meeting with broad and wide-ranging sources of spiritual inspiration, and we place Jesus among them. For some

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with a Christ-centered background, it is comforting to have his teachings explicitly mentioned. The Bible speaks of “fruits of the spirit” and this query addresses exactly that. You can tell by how we are relating to each other how rooted we are in the teachings of Christ. We are grateful for the clarity with which the query grounds us in these fruits of the spirit. We find they serve as a road map for building and sustaining community and provide a foundation for a healthy community.

Fayetteville: We can practice during our daily lives what we practice in Meeting. Care must be given to empathetic discussion of others to not degenerate into gossip. Coming to Meeting is grounding and allows us to offer support without unnecessary advice or denigration. Love and unity are easy to maintain if gossip is always avoided. We can harbor anger at ourselves when we fail to speak up and ask others to stop gossip in front of us. We learn from these experiences to do better in the future. We can ask them about themselves to perhaps draw them out of talking about others while offering them compassion. There is That of God in all of us; we send love and understanding as an intentional way of being at Meeting. We strive to uphold our beliefs but that does not make us infallible. We are all individuals but develop unity by remembering we are one in the Spirit; this brings us back. We can disagree and still love each other. We endeavor, we cultivate, we work towards the traits we aspire to, both in Meeting and out in the world. We can receive instruction during worship and silence is that gift to us. Instead of learning about Jesus as separate, as Quakers we believe Spirit is with us always and can be experienced as we seek during Meeting and during our daily lives—remembering that brings us back. We do not see God as separate but as part of each of us. We are faithful to cultivating unity. Mindful silence is always

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appropriate and can help us address differences. The bond of peace: the unity of spirit keeps us together.

Friendship: We do seek the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives, as individuals and as a faith community. We are grateful for the tolerance and generosity of this meeting and feel that love and unity are maintained among us. When differences arise, as is inevitable, we look to provide a safe public space for different views to be expressed and to be heard without defensiveness. We find that openly considering our differences and ways to resolve them is part of our spiritual journey toward wholeness and a deeper unity.

Greenville: We are feeling challenged by this query in several ways. Refraining from voicing criticism of others is less than the ideal of not criticizing them in our thoughts. It is difficult to combine the need to speak truth about injustice without promoting division. It is difficult to forgive where resolution of differences hasn't been achieved and may never be. It's difficult to create a sense of unity within the meeting given strong individual personalities. We can say that we are trying to follow the spirit of Jesus in living up to these challenges.

Rich Square: We believe that we are clear under all of the headings of this query; however, we recognize the depth to which each question goes in asking us to search ourselves, trying to follow the teachings of Jesus, and trusting that we are acting in the spirit of Jesus in the moments of daily life.

Virginia Beach: Unity and forgiveness, as Jesus taught on the Sermon on the Mount, is often rare in the larger discordant community. As Friends, we maintain our focus on the macro issues while living through our love and unity to sustain each

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other. We continue to find a path of Light and to search ourselves.

West Grove: We feel that as individuals we do seek the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives and carry that forward into our weekly meetings for worship.

Wilmington: As Quakers, we are called to listen and to honor the truths of others. By its very nature, this requires humility. Whether it is friends, neighbors or our political leaders, we are called to consider the words and actions of others. As Friends, we endeavor to make every attempt to find common ground as a starting place. Reminding ourselves that the sound bites present in a Facebook post or bumper sticker are but a small part of a person, and through sustained face-to-face interactions, we find these differences dwarfed by the similarities that bind and unite us. Many expressed a concern with some of the current political leaders, fearing that they are not allowing the light to shine through them. By focusing on the good work that is taking place, and letting our representatives know when we approve of their actions, we are being more involved in the decision making in Washington or Raleigh.

The recent severe weather in Houston has shown us that we have an infinite ability to be kind and to help each other out. We recognize that our ability to help others comes from a place of personal safety and strength. When unexpected examples of barbarism or irrational social behavior occur we must realize that it is frequently the result of scarcity and fear. We are charged by our God and our beliefs to care for our neighbors, whether in our home community or in the world at large. Not just in times of emergencies, but always. Every day we are given the opportunity to provide others with a sense of access, a sense of

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peace, a sense of security. Friends recognize that we contain a wealth of ideas, and now is the time to act upon them.

This is a long and complicated query, and though we had fruitful comments and great participation (even our visitors contributed!), we only touched on some of the facets in the original text. Following the notion that we ‘Seek the inspiration of his Holy Spirit,’ we brainstormed a bit about things our Meeting could do in our immediate community: Porch refrigerators with cold water and fruit for those in need, providing diapers and baby supplies to Good Shepherd House, setting up a closet stocked with new socks and underwear that would be accessible to those in our community in need, providing coats and sweaters as the weather grows colder... It is a place to start.

Query #4: Do we assume our rightful share in the expenses of our meeting? Do we regard our time, our talents, and our possessions as given us in trust, and do we use them freely for the needs of others.

Davidson: In terms of meeting expenses, we gratefully acknowledge a big yes. We continually experience that our financial and resource needs are provided for as they arise. People, work, and funds arrive as needed and in turn, we use our building to share our goods with the wider community. We are also grateful that as circumstances of individuals and families change, the meeting can adjust with those ebbs and flows to allow all to contribute as they can. The phrase “given in trust” speaks to our being in relationship. We are reminded of the sacred that permeates all aspects of our lives.

Durham: We are a beloved community that provides a lot of emotional, physical and spiritual support to each other. These

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non-monetary gifts, as well as financial gifts, need continuing recognition and support.

We have managed to meet our expenses for a long time and per report from Finance Committee we are doing a wonderful job today. Thinking more about holding possessions in trust we need to think also about assuming our rightful share in the future of the meeting and the broader community, not just the present, through endowments, estate planning, etc. It is a big challenge, that our money and possessions are all held in trust, not just ten percent, but all of them.

There has been tremendous response through care calendars and survey to meet needs as they came up. This is a real joy, that there are so many people willing to help. Having designated committees to channel efforts in particular areas of need is a valuable part of the Meeting.

Fayetteville: FFM has funds and seeks guidance from Spirit in their usage. We do not even have our own separate building, we are minimalists. Time, talents, and possessions are important, not just monetary donations. Serving on committees is a giving. It is given in trust to us to improve our Meeting, our community and our world. Resources and gifts are “on loan” to us. Corporate effort was displayed by our meeting in preparing to host Interim Body. We support many causes with the budget of our meeting that expresses our various Quaker testimonies. We can examine our links with other Friends and learn more about the work done. Time and talents that we possess are to be shared with others.

Friendship: In this time of increased financial need in and for the meeting, we see that many Friends are stepping forward to share in the expenses of the meeting. We do feel that our time, talents, and possessions are given to us in trust that we will share them freely and for the benefit of all that God loves. Our Joys &

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Concerns and Announcements on each First Day give evidence that we are acting in unity with this trust.

Greenville: We share our resources of time, energy and money both within the meeting and in the community at large. We are faithful to be steady and persevere in service. We remain open to laying down old activities and taking up the new. Either in order to let others have the opportunity to serve or when we feel led in new directions.

Rich Square: Friends contribute sufficient funds to the Meeting Treasury to maintain care of expenses of the Meeting. These are managed wisely and reviewed on a monthly basis. Friends donate meaningful portions of their funds to the larger community's needs and devote their time and talents to sustenance of the Meeting and of their home communities through work days and at other times of the year.

Virginia Beach: This beautiful meetinghouse is a testimony to the generosity and resilience of this meeting. We meet our needs and expenses. We reflect on what we might be able to do to reach out to our community. Currently, the school needs our support as an important part of the mission of our meeting.

West Grove: Our members are generous in supporting the meeting in both spirit and substance, and the activities of individual members are supported by the membership at large.

Wilmington: Query #4 was not answered this year.

Query #5: Do we regularly attend meetings for business and are they held in a spirit of love, understanding and forbearance? Do we seek the right course in humble submission to the Authority of

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Truth and in the patient search for a sense of unity under Divine Guidance?

Davidson: Our meetings for business are fairly well-attended by a consistent core of people; those who do not attend often cannot because of other obligations. Our sense is that we generally conduct our meetings in the spirit of love, understanding and patience with one another, both in comparison to other Quaker meetings and to secular organizational meetings in our experience.

We try to make it clear to all that everyone is welcome at meeting for business, even if it seems hard to convince some Friends that it is not an austere or stern environment. We do try to live up to the ideals in the second part of this query. Mindfulness of proceeding with a slow pace and with openness to both silence and speech are hallmarks of our process in meeting for business.

Durham: This query was met with laughter when read at the rise of meeting for worship this morning. This laughter may reflect the uncomfortable state of our meeting with regard to meeting for worship with attention to business. It is well recognized that the large majority of the meeting rarely, if ever, attends.

Friends reflected on barriers, perceptions, lack of knowledge and the endurance needed to attend long meetings. We wonder if there are changes we could make that would result in a larger percentage of the meeting attending business meeting.

At the same time, we are aware of the rich spaciousness we experience in our meeting for worship with attention to business. When we search patiently together, we can find unity. At times of impasse, we have experienced the miracle of way opening, and we know this to be a central practice of our faith. How do we reconcile this “patient search” with the desire to move faster? It

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is the spaciousness and trust we share that opens way forward. When we try to rush, our process breaks down. So we will continue to take the time needed to discern a more efficient process.

Fayetteville: A patient search equals quiet reflection. When we demonstrate intentional listening to what others are saying, we display authenticity with no rush to respond immediately. By allowing silence after the spoken word we allow time for individual reflection on what has been said. When silence is observed, it becomes the most important part as we allow for the movement of Spirit. When we gather as a group, we allow God to speak. Our small meeting allows for a concise Meeting for Business and we seek answers on those issues that meeting sees as most pressing at that time and then decide corporately whether or not to discuss a matter further at that given time. If we are not in unity, we can let an item “season.” Sometimes new information comes to light during the waiting. As the work is done, Way opens and reveals the path.

Friendship: We are happy to report that attendance at our meetings for business has risen over the past several years. Still, not all Friends attend regularly. We try to hold our meetings in a spirit of love and forbearance, and believe we can say this is often the case. There is a welcoming spirit that invites attendance and participation. We take time to pause and recenter, and are not afraid to hold a decision over for seasoning and more discernment when no unity is apparent. A new practice is the designation of a “person of presence” whose task it is to hold our meetings for business in constant prayer.

Greenville: We meet regularly and faithfully to conduct necessary business in a spirit of accepting each other as we are.

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We get off-topic at times and our discussions can be a little unfocused, but we are searching for truth under divine guidance and in full awareness of our human limitations.

Rich Square: Friends attend meetings for business faithfully as they are able. Love, understanding, and forbearance have been a consistent presence in meetings for worship with attention to business. Several examples of seeking a sense of unity and submitting to the Authority of Truth lead us to believe we are diligent in these regards.

Virginia Beach: Those who work on committees hold the trust of the meeting. Meeting for Business Attenders share the responsibility for seeking unity and the right course of action. meeting for worship with attention to business is a way to live every moment. It changes our lives.

West Grove: We feel we are in good unity with one another and seek Divine guidance in our deliberations. We feel a need to better help newcomers in understanding Quaker practice.

Wilmington: The short answer is 'Yes'. Most who come to Meeting, stay for Business Meeting. We have not had to tackle any large issues recently (ordering books for prisoners, a new AC, a patched roof), and the group is not contentious. Decisions were made after careful consideration of opinions, quotes and facts, without friction or fractioning of the group.

This has not always been the case. Historically, our Meeting has had tough decisions and it has been a long and sometimes tortuous path to a final resolution. We learned, through these rough times, to use and trust the process outlined by Faith and Practice. As Quakers we expect and accept contention. Different opinions teach us to listen openly, and to follow the leadings of

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the Spirit in true humility. True listening lets us learn things about people that we did not already know, which brings us closer together as a group.

Query #6: Do we endeavor by example and precept to cultivate in our children a sense of openness and expectancy about life, and to aid them in their growth in spiritual understanding and moral discernment? Do we share with them the faith that guides the practice of Friends, while encouraging them to develop their religious insights as the Spirit of God may lead them?

Davidson: Although the query focuses on younger members of our community, we are reminded that for many of us our children are now adults but our spiritual relationships persist, that we can continue to mutually cultivate spiritual understanding and discernment. We find the use of the verbs share and encouraging reflects our sense of the importance of being open rather than coercive in guiding our young people. Concerning the children in our meeting, we do what is asked of us in this query and see this reflected in their participation in meeting and how they are living out their lives. We appreciate the emphasis on openness and expectancy in this query and this is important to all of us.

Durham: Query #6 was not answered this year.

Fayetteville: Meeting is concerned about the spiritual welfare of children everywhere. Closer to home, Meeting has one member whose son attends occasionally, and we appreciate his presence when he's here. Individually, members and attenders continue to guide extended family and friends' youth by example.

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Friendship: The meeting community looks with pride on our children. We welcome children to meeting for worship and encourage their presence for any length of time, with the older ones staying to worship the entire time. We have many children who attend First Day School. On fifth Sundays, our young friends lead and close meeting for worship. Friends encourage our children to find their own way and develop their religious insights as the Spirit of God may lead them, which makes us mindful that sometimes our young Friends may be fed by other faith communities.

Greenville: We don't have families with small children and the responsibilities that go with caring for them. Our meeting feels their absence. We would like to be more welcoming to families with children and will take up the issue of our meeting location in the near future.

Rich Square: While we have no children who are members of the Meeting, we seek to serve the children of the community through the Children's Community Garden, the Little Free Library, and by providing a scholarship to Summer Four-H Camp.

Virginia Beach: Our children include the ones who grow up in the meeting as well as the children in the school. Our program for the children is Spirit led. We nourish their openness and expectancy while protecting and caring for them. The experiences and examples we provide have a deep and lasting effect on our children.

West Grove: We are aware of our individual commitments to fulfilling the spirit of this query. Within the wider community we are able to allow our lives to speak as we interact with the

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children we meet. The children of West Grove are now young adults living the faith with which they have been raised.

Wilmington: While there are few young Friends currently attending Meeting, reflection on past experience and on experience with our own children, we feel that growing up in the tradition of Friends is great preparation for the future of an individual. Such experience gives a solid foundation of knowing right from wrong, and learning to seek God in everything. These are values that, once instilled, are present no matter what path a child follows. Many of our children have not formed ties to organized religious groups now that they are no longer living locally. It is believed that the roots established early on, both in what we have taught them and what we have modeled for them, will ensure that their paths will wind back towards a spiritual life. A long discussion ensued about millennials and the general level of anxiety in our country today. While several explanations were offered, the fact remains that this group seems 'lost'. Lowered self-confidence and resilience are by-products of children disillusioned and who have not been encouraged to dream. While parents and teachers have focused on the success of children, the lack of teaching them to fail and try again has robbed them of their ability to solve problems. Caring carelessly is worse than not caring. Teaching children to identify problems, question what they read and know, and to come up with solutions are both taught and modeled to our youngest members. The strength of being raised in a Quaker Meeting lies in our children being exposed to a wide spectrum of adults, each with a different viewpoint and set of experiences. Members of Meeting recognize their obligation for love and support of each young person in our group, providing the structure they need to make decisions on their own. Finally, we were reminded to instill in all children a belief in listening to that inner voice, that of God in

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each of us, to pay attention to that inner wisdom, when choosing a pathway.

Query #7: Do we endeavor to live in the life and power that takes away the occasion of all war, seeking to do our part in the work of reconciliation between individuals, groups, and nations? Do we faithfully maintain our testimony against nuclear and all other military preparations, the bearing of arms, and all participation in war?

Davidson: We find that the first question speaks to our commitment not only to peace but to reconciliation around divisions in our individual lives, country and the world. We appreciate the reminder to be aware of who we follow – the teacher within or voices of the world. We recognize the call to live in the life and power as we work for peace while we struggle with the concept of achieving “all” as an absolute. We are not united in our response to the second question and what constitutes appropriate responses to violent aggression. We do support each other’s commitment to ways to peace and acknowledge that each of us, in our daily lives listening to God, can contribute to change.

Durham: One Friend remarked that for the past twenty years, she has thought that the query’s reference to nuclear weapons was outdated, but now with North Korea, it becomes relevant again. We feel it is important, even if we are not putting our bodies on the line, to support such Quaker organizations as AFSC and FCNL and non-Quaker organizations such as Witness for Peace and Peace Action who are actively involved in peace work. Following the local response to the rumor of white supremacists gathering in Durham, and the response by some to arm themselves in defense, we ask ourselves if there is

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something we can do to reduce the number of weapons locally. We recognize that as individuals we are microcosms of a world that contains violence, and so the ways we deal with anger and conflict in our own lives matter. “Seeking to do the work of reconciliation between individuals” expands the definition of war in a meaningful way, and we recognize the importance of how we deal with conflicts in our daily lives. Moreover, John Woolman’s exhortation to seek not to nourish the seeds of war in our possessions and garments is still timely advice. We are also reminded that in making investment decisions we can avoid corporations involved in supporting war and choose to invest in those companies making ethical contributions. One Friend noted that she has not yet had the courage to resist paying war taxes and wishes there were support for doing so.

Fayetteville: In examining the first part of the Query, Meeting explored “living in the life and power that takes away the occasion of all war” to mean actively promoting cooperation versus mere absence of war. Seeking peace, righteousness, living in the body of Christ and taking a moral/religious stand on peace were offered as examples. Meeting discussed the historical context of early Friends, particularly George Fox, who seemed to be addressing this query to the King of England in 1660 during the English Civil War. The King held political power over lands and people and different factions were vying for control. Meeting discussed present day conflicts involving the culture war (White Supremacy Movement versus Progressivism/Liberalism/Pluralism) as well as conflict in local government (Winston Salem, NC).

In discussing the concept of reconciliation, Meeting agreed that it is an active process fostering peace and unity, both individually and collectively, that requires hearing concerns, finding common ground, and the restoration of friendly relations.

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Fear of loss is an underlying reason for resistance to reconciliation. Holding onto principles in spite of negative outcomes was also seen as resistance to reconciliation.

Meeting discussed how to faithfully maintain testimony against war, and agreed that such testimony is evidenced by what one does as well as what one says. When we consider that wars often begin in the political realm over differences of beliefs, Meeting agreed that (recalling recent protests against White Nationalism), Friends in Charlottesville can teach us about non-violent methods of maintaining such testimony in word and action. Meeting further agreed that it is essential that Quakers abide in the eternal, transcending politics that are transient. Avoiding “us versus them” thinking and abiding in inclusiveness will guide our testimony against war.

Friendship: Individual friends endeavor to live in the life and power that takes away the occasion of all war, and are supported by the meeting. As a meeting, we have supported and participated in actions by the Poor People’s Campaign, which includes opposing militarization as one of its core principles. Part of our work of reconciliation is our participation with the Divan Center and the Islamic Center of the Triad, most recently the Iftar meals during Ramadan. Friends are reminded that our teens and young adults are constantly being recruited by programs such as the ROTC in schools. We actively support Quaker House and have three members on their board.

Greenville: Query #7 was not answered this year.

Rich Square: We struggled with this query, discussing the prevalence of “concealed carry permits” and the surrounding increase of guns and related violence, as a particular example of how we hide ourselves from the larger worldwide increase in

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war and its complementary evil. At the same time, we reminded ourselves of how constantly seeking inner personal peace and a communal peace among us is of service to the larger community. We agreed that we will request any person bearing guns or other weapons attending our meetings for business or worship to leave them locked in their car.

Virginia Beach: Our past commitment is with Friends Council on National Legislation and American Friends Service Committee, who have this as a fundamental testimony. The school advances this as well. We are active members of Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy for state issues. We learn and teach and practice nonviolent conflict resolution. We publish our beliefs in God and we have faith that we will be cared for. Paula Justice and Bob Young guided us. We are called to listen to God's leadings and that of God in everyone, not having a predetermined approach to any question. We are conflicted by living in an economy based on military support and preparation for war. We are, however, always gladdened by seeing in others a similar testimony; for example, in other churches and in the arts.

West Grove: We maintain our profession to peace, but we need to do more in a practical way to promote reconciliation in our communities and beyond.

While discussing this query it was agreed that we have a discussion on this topic at an upcoming meeting for worship.

Wilmington: The meeting did not share a response to this query at annual sessions.

Query #8: Do we observe simplicity and honesty in our manner of living? Are we careful to live within the bounds of our

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circumstances, punctual in keeping promises, prompt in the payment of debts, and just in all our dealings? Do we choose those activities which will strengthen our physical, mental and spiritual life; and do we avoid those harmful to ourselves and others?

Davidson: We acknowledge the value of this query but would add a revision “Do we choose those activities which will strengthen our physical, mental and spiritual life and those giving life joy; and...,” to affirm the joy possible in simplicity. We also reflected on the phrase “within the bounds of our circumstances” recognizing the possibilities that we can too narrowly define those bounds or too rigidly adhere to “rules” more than being in relationship with the Living Spirit and the people around us. We also reflected on the increasing complexity of our times and examples of renewed desire for community to counteract the factors that tend to separation and reaffirmed our commitment to the importance of relationships.

Durham: This query is timely in the life of our meeting as we have become more complex with what we can do with the resources we have. We continue to aspire to do more, but it is truly a question for our meeting of how we can best fulfill our leadings and continue to live within the bounds of our human and financial resources. This is a question we are all encouraged to wrestle with--both as individuals and as a meeting. Some of us may have resources that would permit us to live in less simple ways. Each of us must examine what simplicity means for our own lives: it is not a one-size-fits-all concept. We are cautioned that as we aspire to simplicity and honesty, we not be boxed in by the “shoulds” and “shouldn’ts” of conformity to a standard, for this may blind us to the Light in the situation. And we are

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grateful to be a part of a community that supports us as we try to make decisions to simplify our lives.

Fayetteville: One of the things that happens with evolution is greater complexity. It is easier and easier to lose simplicity. This and that is easy to use, it becomes easy to get caught up with the “things”. Simplicity does not necessarily rule out efficiency. Simplicity does not necessarily mean backwardness. Sometimes simplicity makes things EASIER.

Phones constantly on us is perhaps an intrusion as we have “other people” with us all the time. By setting aside the phone we can focus more on God and our relationship alone with Spirit. Are we allowing other people to impinge on us with constant request for attention? By placing guidelines, by encouraging friends and family to use discretion before texting or calling, by leaving the phone alone, we allow time for other things to be focused on.

Complexity of modern life can allow for making careless promises. We are bombarded with “needing” the latest gadget and keeping up with others. That is counter to Quaker principles. By allowing advertising and consumerism to dictate our lives are we following Quaker principles? By questioning ourselves before making purchases we can evaluate if we are making sound decisions. Sometimes advanced technologies can actually complicate our lives more than is necessary.

Watching things on the news, on computer: what are the consequences to us? Anxiety? Stress? Are we staying balanced? This too shall pass... we will survive, we will get through it. A pacifist is not passive. As a faith are we called to action?

Perhaps by “cocooning” ourselves with like-minded people we have insulated ourselves from others with opposing views. By being honest with our feelings, there can be hope for understanding. Find a way to respect others: we are all God’s

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children. By being mindful of that we can hope for understanding while still taking a stand.

Friendship: As a meeting, we maintain simplicity in our worship and fellowship times together. Friends are generous with healthy food offerings at our gatherings. We are careful to practice promptness in our financial dealings; when there are urgent needs or important dates to be met, we make every effort to comply. As individuals, we continue to wrestle with how best to support one another in simplicity, honesty, and healthy choices, since no definition of any of these fits everyone's needs and circumstances. Maintaining transparency in our dealings with others and eliminating the superfluous in our lives is an ongoing challenge. Since "simplicity" can refer to activities and responsibilities, we also wrestle with how to accomplish the work of the meeting and maintain our meeting house property without overburdening particular Friends. One way is by using sign-up sheets for greeting, mowing, and cleaning, to accomplish these tasks without hiring others to do them for us or concentrating the work in our small committees.

Greenville: Query #8 was not answered this year.

Rich Square: Response for Queries 8 and 9 answering together: We find the Eighth query and Ninth query both difficult to answer in any way other than as individuals. As far as we know we are living in accordance with the concerns expressed in these two Queries. We welcome the reminder that we continually need to strengthen ourselves physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Virginia Beach: Simplicity and equality have been central to Friends since the beginning and have led to progressive actions in the past. Queries serve as a reminder as we ponder and reflect

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on our lives. We effect change in political and social policies to create equality, which is needed before all can live simply. The school is an example of how, as a community, we strengthen the spiritual life of the larger community. As a group, we work toward political action and affect our culture physically, mentally and spiritually. We note the importance of working together in this effort.

West Grove: The 8th Query was not answered as we did not hold Meeting for Business in 8th Month.

Wilmington: As Quakers, many of us are drawn to the faith because of the testimony of simplicity, and find its ideals a calling. Personal reflection, and the focus of this query, calls us to be more concerned with our inner condition than our outward life, and focus more on ensuring that everyone is provided for than owning stuff. Today Meeting focused on what it means to live simply, recognizing that material things can become a burden. Friends acknowledge that downsizing can be both a prayerful activity and a step forward in the mental health of those suffering from depression. It is better not to acquire so many unneeded belongings in the first place, a message that we should be sure to pass along to the next generation. And while the definition of 'too much' and 'enough' may vary from individual to individual, it is clear that that we should refrain from owning items that impact our lives which may keep us from a focus on God. Though setting personal goals for daily activities should be a goal for everyone, it is the weekly communion with others here at Meeting that gives encouragement and provides us with great examples of how to live a simple life.

Query #9: Are we mindful of Friends testimonies against alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and other harmful drugs; and do

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we refrain from using them or dealing in them, realizing that abstinence is the clearest witness against overindulgence? Do we seek to avoid all kinds of gambling and places of diversion that tend to be demoralizing? Do we keep in mind how diverse and widespread are the temptations to grow richer at the expense of others? Are we faithful to our testimony against taking oaths?

Davidson: We reflected on the historical conditions in England that included gambling and drinking between church services and attendance at church could be more social than spiritual and the importance of understanding historical contexts and current contexts. We see this query as a call to live a more spiritual life and find it more compelling than a set of rigid rules of behavior. We also affirm the value of exploring this query annually, as the values of a community ripple outward and provide support for one another. This understanding was deepened in our sharing examples of everyday ways we can act at the expense of others.

We did question whether Is abstinence the clearest witness since so many overindulgences cannot be overtly seen. The moderation of our lives can be a more visible witness.

We shared our discomfort with swearing oaths and our appreciation of the acceptance of affirming in public spaces.

Durham: We see a steady degradation through advertising and in other parts of our culture in the attitudes toward alcohol and gambling. Where once gambling was illegal, for example, people now save up for trips to Las Vegas to gamble for amusement. And we are aware that our education lottery may be a serious temptation for people on an economic edge--with government and society's blessing. We are troubled that the government uses such pastimes to fund social programs that we should all pay for. If I choose not to buy these things, I am not supporting these

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programs in the way I should. We also are aware of the many forms of temptation and indulgence not mentioned in the query. In our society, there are temptations to be entertained by violence and the degradation of others as we view violent sports or pornography. There are many other addictions, such as sugar which can lead to a slow form of suicide through obesity--sad especially in children. We may overindulge in things that we enjoy but which may have an effect on others. The query seems to ask us about our own behaviors and the impact they have on ourselves, but we may also ask, "What is the impact if I see another human being engaged in those behaviors and do nothing?" And this, too, reminds us that while it is important to reach for these goals, it is also important to avoid being judgmental towards people with different propensities for addiction. How do we respond sensitively--not with condemnation--to those who are unable to indulge with restraint? We find that the query is really telling us that how we treat each other--with gentleness and kindness--is what really matters. We are asked if we are doing our best in all the ways that we can. We find we want to move away from a list of temptations to a questioning of what is the essence of our true natures that may lead us to temptation or overindulgence or which can lead us to gentleness and love.

Fayetteville: Fayetteville Friends discussed what is meant by "other harmful drugs." To what extent does this include comforting junk food or abuse of prescription medications? In addition, we discussed the issue of abstinence from alcohol -- how much of it is cultural, how much of it is a concern for how Friends are perceived by others (ie, excessive consumption at a party)? We were in agreement that the most important aspect of this part of the query is to what extent these substances enhance or impair our ability to see that of God in others and in ourselves.

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While abstinence may be the clearest witness against overindulgence, a realistic focus would be on a sensitivity to the effects on our ability to perceive that Light.

Regarding gambling, multiple views were expressed, highlighting the continuum between going out occasionally with friends for a bingo night versus supporting the creation of state-sponsored lotteries which often, in their effect, go counter to the next part of the query, which is the warning against the temptations to grow richer at the expense of others. Most often, those who are least able to afford lottery tickets are the ones who are most enticed by the prize, despite the low odds. Because of our low expenses as a Meeting, we do not need or keep a large continuing balance in reserve. In this way, we live into the meaning of this query. In discussing wider community implications, including the disastrous effects of the privatization of prisons, we felt that being informed and lending our voice to advocacy and by making connections with and having empathy for others we are better able to understand the greater struggles marginalized people face within our society.

We did not discuss oaths due to time constraints other than to observe that with courts now usually allowing people to “swear or affirm,” this is less of an issue.

Friendship: As a corporate body we avoid having alcohol at any meeting sponsored functions and we do not allow the use of tobacco on our property. We believe this is in a spirit of having gatherings which are a safe place for people who may have substance addictions, and is a witness against overindulgence. We recognize the discretion and the right of individuals in the meeting to consume alcohol or use tobacco as they deem appropriate in their private lives. We hope and believe our members avoid places of diversion that tend to be demoralizing. Discerning proper investment instruments, or even appropriate

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financial institutions, is difficult. Nevertheless, we seek to have our financial investments kept by institutions that are, as far as we can tell, morally sound and not prone to speculative practices. We are aware that our culture has diverse and widespread temptations to grow richer at the expense of others. Recognizing we are often complicit in the very practices we would condemn, we are careful to discern what is our best way forward. The taking of oaths is easily avoided since the laws of the land allow us to 'affirm' rather than swear. The practice of a single standard of truth at all times, which underlies our refusal to take oaths, is more challenging. This practice helps us to have our word be a matter of 'yes' or 'no' without swearing in legal situations. We strive to recognize the importance of integrity and its maintenance in daily practice. We seek to avoid complacency and to follow God's leadings more closely in all these areas.

Greenville: Query #9 was not answered this year.

Rich Square: Response for Queries 8 and 9 answering together: We find the Eighth query and Ninth query both difficult to answer in any way other than as individuals. As far as we know we are living in accordance with the concerns expressed in these two Queries. We welcome the reminder that we continually need to strengthen ourselves physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Virginia Beach: As Friends, we are sober and unique in society. These manners of living are based on our testimony of simplicity and our desire to be present and clear in all our dealings with others. As a foundation of our faith, it was important historically and is still relevant today.

West Grove: We feel we are clear under this query.

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Wilmington: Meeting was strong in recognizing that drugs, including alcohol, are a negative influence as they decrease clearness of mind, which interferes with listening to the Spirit. Some spoke of a discomfort with the feeling of being 'altered', which was associated with complicating our simple life and our relationship with God. And while few (if any) of us claim total abstinence, we all have at one time or another, struggled to declare 'how much is okay?' There is also frequently the added complication of living with others whose definition of limit is different from our own. And while abstinence is the clearest witness against overindulgence, it can also lead to being judgmental, which also seems counterproductive. Words like 'overindulgence' and 'places of diversion' harken to engaging in behavior that takes away from our duty to do God's will and 'Growing richer at the expense of others' reminds us of our responsibility to care for others.

Many religions use altered states to be more receptive to continuing revelations. As Quakers, we find that sitting in silence may produce a similar effect. The goal of removing oneself from the routine consciousness of our daily lives can be achieved by the communal silence and expectant waiting that we experience at Meeting. Most respect and practice the Quaker testimony against taking Oaths. The alternative, affirmation of our Truth and integrity, has been shown to elevate conversations and accentuate our beliefs. Many take the opportunity in situations arising in daily events to inform others that an oath is not necessary, since honesty is implicit in all of our interactions.

Query #10: Do we endeavor to live in harmony with nature? Are we careful in our stewardship of the earth's irreplaceable resources?

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Davidson: Our sense is that we are consciously working toward being good stewards. We named involving our children in gardening, creating beautiful spaces around our grounds, caring for trees and plants, using natural cleaning products, and reducing paper and food waste. It is also our sense that this awareness extends into our daily lives in both practical and spiritual intentions.

Durham: *DFM Youth: Revised Query version, 1991: Do we sincerely seek to understand our place in the universe and our purpose here on the earth? Are we willing to make sacrifices and to ask others to join us in changing the things we use and the way we use them in order to preserve life everywhere? Are we willing to persist gently in persuading others, not giving up, but being receptive to others' needs, as we strive to establish lifestyles dedicated to the preservation of all life? Are we open to the strength, the purpose, the joy, the desire within and beyond ourselves as a resource in truly living in and genuinely loving the world?*

This query calls us to be more alive to and aware of nature. Just being outside to appreciate nature and see what will happen is a start. Educating children about nature—learning the names of plants and animals—increases this openness and awareness. Too many young people are losing this connection to the outdoors and the natural world and it is our responsibility to address this challenge. For us as adults this can be an exhausting query. We make choices every day that use resources. The question “is this choice that we making worth the extra cost in resources?” is wearying to answer continually. Especially since so many people do not even ask the question to themselves. The problem seems so overwhelming, there seems little we can do. We should do what little things we can do—we have to start somewhere, like using cloth bags. We also have to support eco-friendly policy

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issues and initiatives that can really make a difference. A Friend with solar panels on his roof reflected on the need to hold the corporations accountable. It is hard to deal with and grasp the bigger question of what our purpose here is. But we are encouraged by what the young people felt needed to be added to the original query as a sign of the need for greater awareness and mindfulness. There is a social justice issue here, we are the ones who are using the resources and causing most of the pollution and can and should adapt. We need to put ourselves in the place of those who must survive on a fraction of what we consume and bring our consumption down to their level. As their addition to the query shows, our children really have to and do take this seriously in a way that older persons were not brought up to.

Fayetteville: Fayetteville Friends discussed the choice of words “irreplaceable resources,” noting the remarkable ability of nature to heal itself once unabated pollution and abuse is curtailed. We also noted that there are often hidden motivations behind the promotion of harmful practices, such as the wholesale switch to plastic shopping bags and consumption of bottled water. We reviewed the advisability of reducing red meat consumption due to the negative environmental impact of its production. We also discussed the choice of the word “stewardship” in this query. To the extent that is used in the manner of “having dominion over,” we find it problematic. However, to the extent that it relates back to the root word “steward,” someone who serves others and, therefore, to our responsibility to serve and care for the Earth, we are more at ease. We appreciate the wording of the related personal query that references acting with a “reverence for life with a sense of the splendor of God’s continuing creation.”

Fayetteville Friends decided that it would be worthwhile to consider joining with larger organizations of faith, interfaith

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and/or Quaker, in order to amplify our voice and actions to advocate for better care of the Earth.

Friendship: Reversing human damage to creation is the single greatest challenge we face at the present time. It is difficult to see how we can overcome it by human means alone. We trust that, if we are faithful in the tasks God gives us to do individually and as a meeting, that the outcome will be in God's loving hands.

In facing this challenge, there can be no division between ourselves and the rest of creation - we are an integral part of all that is. Therefore, considering our impact on creation cannot be an afterthought, but must be part of our initial discernment around any decision.

Living in greater harmony with nature and practicing stewardship that nurtures the health of our planet is an ongoing concern in our community. As a meeting, this concern is expressed in our commitments to reduce our energy use, purchase eco-friendly products, recycle, and compost at shared meals. In planning for our new meeting room and the development of our property, our intention is to minimize our ecological footprint to the best of our ability. In our worship and committee work we seek awareness of the Living Spirit of Christ among us, listening for ways to respond to nature and all of God's living beings through love and caring hearts.

Greenville: Query #10 was read and considered but not answered.

Rich Square: The Meeting has just completed its fifth year of leading the development of a small Community Children's Garden that engages community youth in growing fresh vegetables and plants on the Meetinghouse grounds. This effort

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is especially important because it involves young people in understanding the importance of nature's role in food production and maintaining nutritious diets. There is a recognition of Friends individual and collective commitments to stewardship of the world's resources; however, there is a continuing frustration with the gravity of the challenges that currently face the world.

Virginia Beach: The Peace and Social Justice Committee had a serious discussion and seeks to lift up these concerns as part of our spiritual commitment as a meeting. It is part of our spiritual commitment as a Meeting. It is a prominent concern for us as individuals, as a school and as a Meeting. The quality of our water, air and land is being challenged by outside forces. We are reminded to continue to be active in political realms to maintain these protections. We acknowledge the inspiration of Brian Drayton's writings.

West Grove: We feel our members do make an effort to live in a sustainable manner.

Wilmington: As Quakers, we acknowledge our responsibilities to do the Will of God. A big part of this responsibility is caring for the planet. We all feel that we are conscientious in our activities, but know we can do more. Examples of our own actions were mentioned (not using straws, composting, driving fuel efficient cars, reducing our consumption and repurposing things we already have, eating food from local farmers, maintaining a lawn with nature in mind) while global actions and concerns seem barely touched by these actions (the consumption and burning of the rainforests, loss of 19 species a day (???!!!)). We do what we can, but maintain that we remain 'Divinely Discontented' nevertheless.

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Still, what we can do is to continue to remember that harmony begins with balance. Remember not to take too much. Avoid the cultural pressure to buy or to consume without consideration. Live a simple life. Raise our kids to live within the directives of this Query. And know that a consistent effort can compound into a difference.

Query #11: Do we reverence that of God in every human being with concern for the needs of each individual? Are we seeking to rectify existing social injustice and racial discrimination in our local communities and in the world at large?

Davidson: Query #11 was not answered by Davidson Friends this year.

Durham: Rufus Jones once said, “God won’t do it if we don’t help.” There is no doubt that this meeting is trying to rectify social injustice. Our conversations and sharing in worship reflect our values, and we also “pray with our feet” and act on these values both as individuals and as a community. We are mindful that it is important to find a balance between the two and to remember that what we do should be firmly based on the seeking of the Light of God or our goals will not be met. Friends from our meeting are a visible presence at community events. From this we may hope that we are on the right path. But a better question may be, “Are we doing enough?” or “Are we doing the right things?” We see the challenge of dealing with individuals as individuals with their own unique needs and the need to meet them in their own way. We recognize, too, that racial discrimination is not the only form of discrimination we struggle with. We should not be tempted to think that if it is not racial, it does not matter. We ask ourselves what it means to do all this with reverence. “Not my will be done, but thy will be done.” We

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must remember that we are seekers of the truth, not finders of the truth. And it is in the seeking that we are changed and can be more effective at changing the world and more responsive to others.

Fayetteville: Meeting recognizes that God is in our extended circle of local Friends. In the wider world, we may reflect fear back, rather than transforming that fear to love. The sun and rain fall on the just and unjust alike, recognizing that we each and all are made in God's image. The phrase "love the sinner, but hate the sin," is often misused to divide rather than unite. George Fox reminded us to be an example, so that we can "walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one."

Regarding the second part of the Query, Meeting is more inclined to help the world at large financially, and take a more hands-on approach locally, such as visiting other Faith Communities and gathering toiletries for a local agency. We recognize that there is always room for growth.

Friendship: We do strive to recognize that of God in every individual with care and concern for the needs of each person. This seems more challenging than ever in these times of religious, cultural, and political polarization. We pray for greater ability to live into the promise of this query: the vision of a world where all individuals and groups can recognize the divine Seed throughout creation. The work of rectifying injustice is constantly changing; we dedicate ourselves individually and corporately to these efforts.

Greenville: Query #11 was not answered this year.

Rich Square: We all struggle with this query in our current environment where so much seems to be going in a negative,

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rather than a positive direction. The Meeting supports local involvement with the larger community in ways consistent with this query. Much of the local involvement is with churches in the area as well as the local community improvement organization, Woodland Community Outreach. We are aware that members and attenders living outside the Woodland area are involved in the concerns of this query where they live.

Virginia Beach: This query reminds us that action begins within by listening and being led. Our school and Meeting have a long history of promoting justice. Our social structures often contribute to injustice. Although we often struggle, respecting that of God in everyone is at the heart of our actions both within and beyond our community.

West Grove: We feel we do reverence that of God in every person and as a meeting we are wrestling with how to be in this world but not be of it, and let our lives speak in manifesting the Kingdom.

Wilmington: The meeting did not share a response to this query at annual sessions.

Query #12: Do we welcome newcomers and non-members to our meetings? Are they encouraged to share in meeting activities and to consider membership when they are in agreement with the principles and practices of Friends? Are our younger members appointed to committees and encouraged to share in other responsibilities of the meeting? Do we visit one another frequently, remembering those who may be lonely? Does the visitation and caring extend beyond the members of our own meeting?

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Davidson: Query #12 was not answered by Davidson Friends this year.

Durham: Yes, our meeting seems to do a good job at welcoming newcomers and including them in the life of our meeting. One Friend notes that we have continued to grow at the rate of ten to fifteen new attenders at meeting for worship each year for many years. We are pleased that some of our younger attenders are now not only serving on committees but also clerking them. Our Care and Support Committee which contains several newer Friends is seeking ways in which we can be even more welcoming.

One relatively new attender said that he never felt discouraged from participating in the life of Durham Meeting—only at the yearly meeting level did he find conditions on who could do what. Another newer Friend said that while never feeling discouraged to participate, she is not sure that she was actively encouraged. We might do better at showing how things are done and bringing people along.

Our meeting is a vibrant community and we are pleased that so many have felt welcomed. As our meeting continues to grow, if it continues, we face challenges. We are concerned, given our size, about how we can keep track of people's needs, especially as people age and have increasing needs. We need more reliable ways to keep in touch. At the same time we are cautioned that when someone stops attending, though they may be in need, they may also have just moved on. One Friend expressed that it may be harder to maintain the depth of spirituality in a larger group, and we are aware that our meeting space is already quite full. Continued growth could challenge us to accommodate the larger numbers.

We are pleased with the vibrancy of our junior meeting. We are raising a group of young people who can run their own

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business meeting and plan their own activities; the next generation is promising. However, we are concerned that we could build stronger connections between the adults and young people of our meeting.

Fayetteville: As part of the “Southern culture”... and by that nature perhaps as Southerners we are in general welcoming. Sometimes we also as individuals need to ask questions when in a new environment. As a very small Meeting we do notice newcomers and ask them questions and welcome them. As a participant in the silence, we are all confronted with being part of being present and a piece of the whole and contributing to the worship. We as individuals cannot escape the silence: we are each active participants of the silence. The new president of Guilford College is deaf and discussed on QuakerSpeak how this is her way of worship and others now joined her in that silence. Are we being willful or willing?

Friendship: We feel this query asks about deep hospitality. It is our sense that we’ve been blessed by Friends who have done the inner spiritual work needed to be truly open and welcoming to others. Over the years these Friends have been an example to all of us, passing the practice of deep hospitality from one to another across the generations. Love is the first motion, and we rejoice to see love acted out among ourselves and toward newcomers and outsiders. We can always do better, and wonder about the amount of visitation being done outside our meeting community. Overall, we feel clear under the topics of this query.

Greenville: Query #12 was not answered this year.

Rich Square: We feel we are continuing to seek opportunities for outreach in all the areas considered in this query. We are

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aware of the few opportunities to welcome new attenders, but this also heightens our awareness of the value of these opportunities. We feel we let people know that we are open to interactions both within the Meeting and beyond the Meeting. E-mail contact remains a primary way of keeping communications within the Meeting.

Virginia Beach: Our Quaker worship is powerful and inclusive. Members and others have found deep trust, caring, encouragement and have felt welcomed. We are reminded to visit those who may be lonely or grieving.

West Grove: We feel we are very welcoming to visitors and feel we are in harmony with the spirit of this query.

Wilmington: From any perspective it is apparent that our Meeting is growing older. Membership fluctuates as visitors return, become better integrated into Meeting life, then move or just move on. Our core membership is small, and the age of members ranges from 2 months to well past 60. Still, it is a relatively consistent group of dedicated people that routinely attends. We are not a proselytizing group, but making visitors feel welcome once they are here does not seem to be a problem. Visitors DO attend, and many come back. Explanatory fliers describing silent worship or the tenets of Quakerism are neatly stacked next to the guest book in the front entrance hall. Friends recognize that we do a less-than-perfect job of speaking directly with curious folks that drop in to experience a Meeting. Some suggestions were made about how to ensure that someone is present each week who takes personal responsibility for this, but no resolution was made. Long-term attenders are made to feel welcome, and though they know that their membership would be welcome, there is not an organized effort to speed up the process.

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One long-term attender, who was introduced to Quaker worship through her son's attendance at a Quaker school, became a member this year, though others have not.

Because of our Meeting's small size, younger members of Meeting, in fact ALL members of Meeting are encouraged to take part in Meeting events and to serve on committees. We do visit members who are ill, or have had surgery or, more recently, had a baby. Food is taken and support is offered. Invitations are extended to single members of Meeting to join in family meals at holiday times.

Considerable time for this Query was spent discussing our association with the Friend's School of Wilmington. Several in Meeting serve on the board there, but the general feeling is that our once-strong bond with this group is gone. It was the overwhelming attitude that we would like to see it reestablished. Suggestions of bi-annual pot lucks or feeding the staff in the first/last weeks of classes were discussed, and the group resolved that a member (okay, Marla) would approach the school's director to ask what type of support they would most like.

32. Financial Review Committee Report

David Perry presented the report of the Financial Review Committee which was accepted.

The Financial Review Committee has reviewed the financial records and accounts of the yearly meeting for the extended 18 month fiscal year from the beginning of 7th month 2016 to the end of 12th month 2017. We found that the records are in good order, and that the balance sheet and income/expense records as presented to the yearly meeting by the treasurer are an accurate representation of the financial activities and condition of the yearly meeting.

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We thank Susan Lees for her work as treasurer through this challenging transition period between treasurers and the move to the calendar year as the yearly meeting's fiscal year.

David Perry and Lynne Berla

33. Poor People's Campaign

Lloyd Lee Wilson, was asked to address the body to provide information on the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call to Moral Revival, in which he has a role. This campaign seeks to redress poverty, racism, the war economy, and ecological devastation and sees these as interrelated. The strategy is to change the moral narrative of our nation. The new narrative draws on the moral authority from two sources: our nation's values, as expressed in such documents as the Constitution, and the core values of our faith traditions.

Friends responded at length.

Those at our yearly meeting sessions clearly feel called to support the mission and goals of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call to Moral Revival. The yearly meeting is in discernment regarding what steps and direct actions to take. We encourage both individual members and our monthly meetings to discern how they may participate in the Poor People's Campaign and other work for racial justice. Monthly meetings are asked to report in advance of 10th mo Interim Body regarding what they are doing as monthly meetings and what actions they feel might be taken corporately by the YM. In 10th mo the Interim Body will engage in discernment regarding any actions in support of the goals of the Poor People's Campaign. These actions may include financial support of organizations involved in this work. We recognize that this work is ongoing and may last beyond our lifetimes.

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34. Southern State Worship Group

Friends approved the epistle to Southern State Worship Group.

7th Month 15, 2018

Dear Friends of Southern State Worship Group,

We are gathered together on the campus of Guilford College for our annual sessions, and we have heard your beautiful epistle read to us. It fills us with joy to hear how the Spirit is moving among you.

Our theme this year is “Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire”, and as we hear both how harsh your living conditions are, and also how your community is living in the Spirit of God, we find you are wonderful examples of speaking through the earthquake, wind, and fire.

Although our theme comes from a poem by Quaker poet John Greenleaf Whittier, it also connects to 1 Kings 19:11-12, where God appears to Elijah at Mount Horeb, and God is not in the wind, or in the earthquake, or in the fire, but afterwards in the still, small voice. We read in your epistle that you hear that still, small voice and are not only being changed by it, but are helping others to hear it as well.

Our clerk opened our sessions with this passage from Romans 12:9-13, which we leave with you, along with our gratitude to you for your faithfulness, and to God for sustaining all of us and bringing us together through letters and occasional visits.

Let love be genuine,

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hate what is evil,
hold fast to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection;
outdo one another in showing honor.
Do not lag in zeal,
be ardent in spirit,
serve the Lord.
Rejoice in hope,
be patient in suffering,
persevere in prayer.
Contribute to the needs of the saints;
extend hospitality to strangers.

On behalf of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative,
Gwen Gosney Erickson, clerk

35. Hospitality Committee Report

Ray Treadway presented the hospitality report. The report was accepted with appreciation.

Preliminary Hospitality and Registration Report of the
2018 Annual Sessions of North Carolina Yearly Meeting
Conservative

Seventh Month 14, 2018

The yearly meeting held its annual sessions on the campus of Guilford College from Seventh Month 11 through 15, 2018. For these five days and four nights, 102 participants were registered, including 89 adults (67 members, seven frequent attenders, and 15 visitors) and 13 children. The rooms in Mary Hobbs Hall were filled by the weekend and 13 single rooms in Shore Hall were required to accommodate those staying on campus. There

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were 37 commuters who attended for one or more days. The evening sessions were well attended, with perhaps as many as 125 persons, including visitors from the community.

Our income included payments of more than \$12,000 for staying in the dormitory, meals, and day fees and nearly \$3700 in registration fees. Almost \$2800 was contributed to the yearly-meeting youth assistance fund while nearly \$1000 of used to cover the usual costs of all attenders under 18 years old.

This year registration for most participants involved a two-step process, starting with an online form which worked well followed the sending of the payment separately by mail.

We are grateful for the assistance of John Garrison, Guilford College Coordinator of Conferences & Events. Deborah Shaw and Judy Reece worked with Guilford College before and during the sessions to ensure smooth operations. Susan Wilson and Judy Reece were a great help at the registration table.

On behalf of the Hospitality Committee
Ray Treadway, registrar.

Appreciation was expressed for those who planned and prepared our program and to all who contributed to our physical comfort and spiritual care. We are grateful to Guilford college for accommodating us and for those who prepare and clean the spaces we use and lovingly prepare such fresh and nutritious food.

36. Epistle to Friends Everywhere

Epistles as prepared by Mark Wutka, Kent Wicker and Mark Moss were read. Friends approved.

Dear Friends Everywhere,

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We gathered at Guilford College on Seventh Month 12-15, 2018, for our 321st Annual Sessions, remembering with love and gratitude our distant Friends. We were blessed with many newcomers and visiting Friends. Our theme this year was “Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire” - a line from John Greenleaf Whittier’s poem “The Brewing of Soma” that also references the passage in 1 Kings 19 about the “still, small voice”.

Our clerk opened the business sessions with Romans 12:9-13 that starts with “Let love be genuine,” and we experienced this love throughout our time together.

Our theme was also evident during the bible study led by David Hobson of Rocky River Meeting (FCNC). The bible study explored scripture through hymns, including “Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”, which incorporates the words of the Whittier poem. We found that singing helped engage us in different ways, and our young Friends chose a number of favorite hymns for us.

During our annual sessions, each monthly meeting reads their responses to each of our 12 Queries. This year, we started with query 11 - “Do we reverence that of God in every human being with concern for the needs of each individual? Are we seeking to rectify existing social injustice and racial discrimination in our local communities and in the world at large?” We set aside extra time for reflection after the reading of these query responses as we feel the times call for particular attention to these issues. We find a deep sense of closeness in sharing how the Spirit is moving in our meetings, and our struggles to remain faithful.

After a presentation about the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, we found that while we strongly supported the mission and goals of the campaign, we

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struggled with whether and how to convey that to the monthly meetings and their members and attenders.

On Fifth Day evening we enjoyed a dramatic reading of letters and journal entries written by North Carolina Friends during challenging times. It was helpful to look back at our history through first-hand accounts, and to see how the yearly meeting handled difficult issues in the past. It also helped us see that we sometimes made mistakes, such as supporting efforts to send freed slaves to Africa, which resulted in unanticipated suffering. The program also reminded us of the deep ties between North Carolina Friends and those in Ohio and Indiana.

We have been engaged for several years in revising our discipline. This year we turned our attention to the Queries. We find that examining our practices in light of both the past and the present gives us new openings. Because the process has been deliberate and Spirit-filled, it is bearing good fruit.

During our time together we held numerous interest groups and heard from representatives from several Quaker organizations. Kendra Bradley, who has been the director of Quaker House for the past year, spoke passionately about the work being done there. Andrei Israel shared about the work of William Penn House in Washington. Lauri Langham reported for Quaker Earthcare Witness on the work of caring for and restoring our planet. Bill Geary expressed gratitude from the Southern State Prison Worship Group for the yearly meeting's continued support and encouraged us to write to the prisoners, as the ministry of letter writing is so important to prisoners.

On Sixth Day evening we headed across the street to New Garden Friends Meeting to hear Diane Randall, the executive secretary of Friends Committee on National Legislation. She titled her talk "Gracious Calling, Ordered Lives: the faith and practice of Friends in the political maelstrom", borrowing some phrasing from the Whittier poem. She described the difficulties

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of working in Washington, that are far from the calm Whittier speaks of, and more like the earthquake, wind, and fire. In describing FCNL's work, she quoted Edward Burrough's letter "To the Present Distracted and Broken Nation of England", saying "And we are not for Names, nor Men, nor Titles of Government, nor are we for this Party, nor against the other, because of its Name and Pretence; but we are for Justice and Mercy, and Truth and Peace, and true Freedom, that these may be exalted in our Nation; and that Goodness, Righteousness, Meekness, Temperance, Peace and Unity with God, and one with another, that these things may abound". Diane touched on various aspects of FCNL's work in the areas of peace, Native Americans, mass incarceration, migrants and refugees, and an Earth restored. She noted that the world is hungry for a spiritual life lived both externally and internally. She demonstrated how FCNL's work proceeds from a spiritual basis and is grounded in a practice of being present with, and listening to, everyone. Her talk left us with a sense of hope for repairing what is broken in our nation.

Diane Randall asked us, "Can we see the Spirit moving among us?" In our patient processes of working together, in our times of study together, and in our socializing together, we have seen and felt the Spirit at work, and are deeply grateful. We meet for our 322nd session in Wilmington, NC, on Seventh Month 11, 2019, if consistent with Divine Will.

On behalf of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative,
Gwen Gosney Erickson, clerk

The epistle to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) added the following between the first and second paragraphs:

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We were pleased to hear your epistle read to us, and missed the presence of visitors from Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative this year. We have been enriched by visitors from your yearly meeting in the previous years and hope way will open again soon for more visits. Susan Lees, a member of our Fayetteville, meeting plans to visit your sessions this year and we look forward to hearing about them when she returns.

The epistle to Ohio Yearly Meeting added the following between the first and second paragraphs:

We are grateful to again have David Eley from Ohio Yearly Meeting at our annual sessions, as he brings the tender, faithful spirit of your yearly meeting to us. He reminds us that visitation among Friends is essential to our well-being. Our members Nancy Kraft (Virginia Beach Meeting) and Darlene Stanley (Friendship Meeting) plan to visit your sessions this year, and we look forward to hearing about them when they return. Be assured that we have been able to read your epistles to us from your minute book, so we have not missed out on hearing from you.

An introduction to accompany the general epistle was approved to be sent to Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting.

We are grateful to hear Lloyd Lee Wilson's report of his visit to your yearly meeting, and we welcome the opportunity to be in fellowship with you.

37. North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Young Friends Epistle

The Youth Epistle was presented by Mia Graddy. Friends approved including this epistle with our Epistle to Friends Everywhere.

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The 2018 yearly meeting was one of the best yearly meetings Junior Meeting has had. We enjoyed many exciting activities. Including going to the pool and bowling. We also went on several nature walks with Brad, we learned about many trees and leaves as well as civil rights. One of the highlights of our time was going to the Elsewhere Museum. An abstract art museum that uses only recycled materials from the museum. We were lucky to have a really informative and engaging guide Gee, who explained the really interesting history and present use of the museum. We had a fun time making Ice cream and doing a puzzle. Some of us enjoyed knitting as well under the guidance of Marry, Judy and Kristen.

Along with great activities we had some great adults to help us out this week. Including Brad and Judy who accompanied us on many of our activities. We also would to thank Goldie and Andrew. Sadly, Andrew had to leave early this year because his of his wife's health issues, we ask you all to hold her in the light. Emma Stanion helped after Andrew left, many other adults steeped in: it really helped create a community environment. The children really appreciated the adult involvement and helping make the best experience it could be. Last night we had a lot of fun at the talent show we had many fun acts including dancing, music, and juggling. Special thanks to Toby for being our MC.

The 13 children who attended yearly meeting this year really appreciated and enjoyed the fellowship and will never forget the love of our faith community this year.

38. Summary of Exercises

David Perry read the Summary of Exercises, which was approved for inclusion in the minutes and distribution to absent Friends.

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The 321st annual gathering of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative), met on the campus of Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina in Seventh Month 2018, from Fourth Day the 11th to First Day the 15th. We arrived to find a number of construction projects underway across the campus, making changes to what for many is a very familiar space. We engaged with each other in the course of meetings for worship, addressing business, times of contemplation, eating and play. We found familiar relationships and practices while also constructing new relationships and receiving new guidance.

Our sessions were attended by a number of visitors from beyond our yearly meeting, including from Georgia, Indiana, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and other communities in North Carolina. We were grateful for the fullness of participation of these visitors and the added richness they brought to our gathering. We also welcomed new participants from our own monthly meetings with joy.

On the first afternoon we began with grounding worship, and continued in the evening with a gathering of the body that cares for the ministry and nurture of monthly meetings. That body shared mostly informal reports among the monthly meetings regarding how meetings are being cared for by those taking that responsibility.

At 6:00 AM each morning Friends gathered for coffee and spiritual conversation with Lloyd Lee Wilson in the lobby of Hobbs Hall. These gatherings were so well attended this year that we ran out of chairs.

Bible study this year was led by David Hobson of Rocky River Friends Meeting, exploring biblical passages in song. This was an intergenerational experience when the youth participated in the singing and in the selection of the songs.

A concern had arisen in Interim Body about our need to address social injustice. In response to this felt need we began

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our business sessions by sharing each monthly meetings response to the eleventh query which challenges us to consider these issues. In our final regular business session on Seventh Day we wrestled to discern how our yearly meeting, our monthly meetings, and individuals should actively and urgently respond to inequities. The focus was to recommend uniting with the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival for those who can.

Other sharing during business sessions included reading state of the meeting reports and the remainder of the query responses from each of the monthly meetings. The body shared reflections upon hearing query responses, which as always was a time of depth of Spirit.

In the course of business we heard reports from Virginia Beach Friends School, AFSC, FCNL, the Travel in the Ministry Trust Fund, and other groups. We have lost contact with some of the organizations dedicated to Native Americans that we have supported in the past. Eric Ginsburg has looked into this and reported back on what he had found. He challenged us to consider our intention with regard to supporting Native Americans and presented some alternative actions that we will explore.

We heard a report from Bill Geary on the Southern State Worship Group in New Jersey, including an invitation to write messages to the participants in that prison community, as well as an epistle from that group. In response, Friends were led to write an epistle specifically for this worship group, recognizing the deep and long-term friendship between the two communities.

We also received a report from the Discipline Review committee and gave second approval to two more sections for the revised explanation of our faith and practice.

In interest groups, the Discipline Review committee received feedback on the introduction to Queries with a need for some

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new changes, and also got people to brainstorm about possible queries. Other interest groups included: AFSC describing the local “Siembra NC” program focused on caring for undocumented immigrants, particularly Latinx immigrants, by strengthening leadership, engagement with surrounding community, and resisting deportations through mutual support; William Penn House presentation; Quaker Earthcare Witness; and Quaker House of Fayetteville. For the past few years those named by their monthly meetings as ministers or elders have met together to share stories and experiences. This year the meeting was opened up to any interested Friend. Twenty-four Friends showed up and they found the time for sharing too short.

Evening presentations included some terrific experiences. Barbara Gosney developed a presentation and acted as narrator while 14 other friends gave dramatic (and some not so dramatic) readings of historic letters and journal entries written by Friends in North Carolina during challenging times of slavery. We also heard from Diane Randall, Executive Secretary of Friends Committee on National Legislation, a talk held in the meeting room of New Garden Meeting across the street, sharing the experience with others beyond our yearly meeting. The youth program organized a talent show for Saturday night, which was a fun experience for participants and the audience. This was preceded by a time of worship reflecting about how the theme and organization of the yearly meeting sessions had impacted those participating. Every night ended with snacks and fellowship, enjoyed by all.

In addition to organizing the talent show, the youth got to experience time together and fun with outdoor games, a visit to the Elsewhere museum, bowling, ice cream making, swimming, and jigsaw puzzle assembly. The “adults” got to encounter their lively presence throughout the sessions and were grateful. We left the campus inspired by the experience, each other, and the

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Light, and look forward to gathering again in a year, if consistent with Divine Will.

39. Concluding Minute

We adjourn our yearly meeting sessions purposing to meet 7th Month 11th through 14th, 2019 at University of North Carolina, in Wilmington, North Carolina, if consistent with Divine will.

The Interim Body is scheduled to next meet at Virginia Beach Friends on the 27th of Tenth Month, 2018.

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Appendix

Meeting of Ministry and Oversight

7th Month 11th, 2018

The meeting began with a period of waiting worship.

Friends were present from Davidson, Durham, West Grove, Rich Square, Friendship, Greenville, Virginia Beach, and Fayetteville Monthly meetings: Bruce Arnold, Bonnie Arnold, Mike Arnold, Edward Pearce, Francis Coyle, Mary Miller, Kristin Olson-Kennedy, Anne Olsen David Perry, Lloyd Lee Wilson, Deborah L. Shaw, Darlene Stanley, Barbara Gosney, Robert Gosney, David French, Gayle Cameron, Carole Treadway, Ray Treadway, Michael Misenheimer, Liz Parrish Rolfe, Nancy Craft, Michelle Downey, Susan Lees, Marguerite Dingman, and Richard Miller.

Visitors present were Sarah Miller and Nathaniel Corwin from Old Chatham MM, New York Yearly Meeting; Mark Wutka and Mary Linda McKinney Nashville MM, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting; David Eley from Keystone Fellowship MM, Ohio Yearly Meeting; and Tom Roberts and Brad Jackson from Noblesville, Indiana MM, Western Yearly Meeting; and Dan Kelly

Richard Miller, clerk, reviewed the agenda.

Reports from the meetings:

Robert Gosney gave an informal report on behalf of Rich Square. The meeting has about 15 or 16 people present for monthly meeting. Ministers, Elders and Overseers do not have regular meetings. They conduct relevant business, including consideration of the Queries, mainly in the Monthly Business Meeting. "Worship is at the center of everything we do and holds us together as a Meeting."

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David Perry reported for Davidson. Patty Levering has stepped down from clerking Ministry and Counsel and the body is finding challenges and blessings as they adjust to the change. They find it nurturing to hear from each other about their own lives in preparation for considering the needs of the meeting. Query #2 and its response were read:

Do we attend regularly all meetings for ministers, elders, and overseers? Are we faithful in attending all other meetings for worship and business, taking our families with us when appropriate?

The clerk also read the query as rewritten last year: “What do we see as the work of ministry and counsel? What would faithful performance of our work, individually and corporately, look like? Are we being faithful? Does it matter if we attend meeting for worship or our committee meetings?”

We considered both forms of the query in forming our answers. In general we felt that in our work we are faithful to be aware of and tend to the needs of our meeting. We are faithful in attending all meetings. In addition, we have oversight of much of the daily work of the meeting such as arranging for simple lunch once a month and Quaker Speak videos with discussion of the topics presented. We see this work as essential to nurturing a sense of community among Davidson members and attenders.

Nancy Craft and Gayle Cameron reported for Virginia Beach. The meeting lost its only recorded minister, Paula Justice. Ministry and Oversight had a retreat and considered how they were caring for the spiritual life of the community. This year there was much attention to the spiritual needs of Friends who were ill and dying. They decided not to read the Advices because it was felt that they were prescriptive in tone and may offend rather than challenge. Adult First Day School is not flourishing and they ask to hear experiences of other meetings.

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Susan Lees reported for Fayetteville: We do not have recorded ministers, elders and overseers. The meeting is growing and the new energy feels good. We are learning and growing together.

Darlene Stanley and Carole Treadway reported for Friendship: The responsibilities are carried by two committees, Worship & Ministry and Care & Counsel. We read the Advices at monthly meeting. For the last several months we have had someone intentionally holding business meeting in the light and this has helped that meeting feel more grounded. We have two ministers who have support committees. Care and Counsel has been faithfully caring for people and the meeting community.

There is a monthly gathering for deepening the spiritual life of the Meeting in which there is worship sharing on given topics. There is also a gathering called "silent Tuesday" in which people eat and worship together and engage in other contemplative practices.

Mary Miller reported for Greenville: A new couple is coming, bringing energy and added depth to the meeting. There is a men's group that has become important to those who come. We are small yet stronger spiritually than we have been in a long time.

Margie Dingman reported for Durham. Care and Support is busy and effective in caring for those in need in the meeting. Our worship on First Days is fulfilling and settled.

Mike Arnold reported from West Grove. They no longer have committees. The meeting is more vibrant than it has been in a while and has some new attenders. We have about 12 people on First Days.

Friends were asked to hold Cheryl Fetterman's family in the light as her father has just entered hospice care.

Barbara Gosney presented us with a query: Are we as a yearly meeting supporting our monthly meetings in the area of

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care and nurture, for instance, how to support people in preparing for death? Reliance on an informal apprenticeship model within the meetings is no longer sufficient.

Since some reports are now given orally and not submitted in written form, the clerk raised the question of if and how the reports should be published. Friends approved publishing the summaries as found in these minutes and also publishing written reports that have been submitted.

Report: Coastal Friends Gathering has been meeting approximately quarterly with the goal of reducing isolation and building relationships, especially among Friends from very small meetings. It has been refreshing and is a great time of bonding. Greenville, Fayetteville, Virginia Beach, Rich Square and Wilmington usually participate. Others are encouraged to take part as well. A traveling minister, Chuck Schobert, met with us and discussed Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC.) The next meeting is 9th mo 15th at Greenville.

Friends approved Margie Dingman to continue as recording clerk and Richard Miller to continue as clerk.

The Body will meet again in 7th month, 2019 if consistent with divine will.

Recorded by Marguerite Dingman

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Ministers and Elders in NCYM-C 2018-2019

<i>MINISTERS</i>	<i>MEETING</i>	<i>ELDERS</i>
	DAVIDSON	
Nancy Maeder (recorded by Iowa Yearly Meeting)	DURHAM	Cheri Junk Martha Klopfer Peter Klopfer
	FAYETTEVILLE	
O. Theodor Benfey (by Philadelphia YM) Deborah Shaw	FRIENDSHIP	
Bruce Arnold	GREENVILLE	Richard Miller Mary Miller
Robert E. Gosney	RICH SQUARE	Joseph P. Brown Edward Pearce
Paula Justice	VIRGINIA BEACH	Nancy Craft Andrew Young Patricia Phalen Young
Lloyd Lee Wilson	WEST GROVE	Dixie Newlin Charles Ansell Janis Ansell
	WILMINGTON	

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North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Yearly Meeting Officers 2018-2019

Clerk

Gwen Gosney Erickson
(Friendship)

Assistant Clerk

Anne Olsen
(Davidson)

Recording Clerk

Marguerite Dingman
(Durham)

Treasurer

Susan Lees
(Fayetteville)

**Clerk of Ministry
& Oversight**

Richard Miller
(Greenville)

**Recording Clerk of
Ministry & Oversight**

Marguerite Dingman
(Durham)

Monthly Meeting Clerks and Treasurers

Davidson

Clerk:

David Perry

Recording Clerk:

Jan Blodgett

Treasurer:

Barbara Gardiner

Durham

Co-Clerks:

Toby Berla

Assistant Clerk:

Jessica Barnhill

Recording Clerk:

Diane Wilkinson

Treasurers:

Carole Aldrich McCleery, Larry
Chapman and John Pilgrim

Fayetteville

Clerk:

Susan Lees

Recording Clerk:

Michelle Downey

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Treasurer: Susan Lees

Friendship

Clerk: Lloyd Lee Wilson
Recording Clerk: Hannah Logan Morris
Treasurer: Stephen Holland

Greenville

Clerk: Bruce Arnold
Recording Clerk: Richard Miller
Treasurer: Mark Moss

Rich Square

Clerk: Barbara C. Gosney
Recording Clerk: John G. Parker
Treasurer: Robert E. Gosney

Virginia Beach

Clerk: Jeanne Crawford
Recording Clerk: Joanne Crass
Treasurer: David French

West Grove

Clerk: Charles Ansell
Recording Clerk: Charles Newlin
Treasurer: Janis Ansell

Wilmington

Clerk: Huey Marshall
Recording Clerk: Teri Butler
Treasurer: David Hensler

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The Interim Body

Davidson: Patty Levering, Anne Olsen, Kristin Olson-Kennedy,
David Perry
Durham: Toby Berla, Margie Dingman, Kent Wicker,
Andrew Wright
Fayetteville: Susan Lees, Melidy Poole
Friendship: Ray Treadway, Lloyd Lee Wilson, Maureen Burns,
Darlene Stanley
Greenville: Bruce Arnold, Mary Miller, Richard Miller
Rich Square: Barbara C. Gosney, Robert E. Gosney,
Edward Pearce
Virginia Beach: Nancy Craft, David French
West Grove: Charles Ansell
Wilmington: Huey Marshall
Ex Officio: Gwen Gosney Erickson (clerk), Anne Olsen
(assistant clerk), Margie Dingman (recording clerk)

Standing Committees 2018-2019

Book Committee: *Receive books from the bookstore, set up book sale table at YM and collect book money, return unsold books to the bookstore. (Note: Volunteers are always appreciated to help in bookstore set up and take down, and with the operation of the bookstore)*
Patty Levering, convener (Davidson MM)
Nancy Craft (Virginia Beach MM)
Gail Austin Curry (Durham MM)
Carole Treadway (Friendship MM)
Susan Wilson (Friendship MM)

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Documents Committee: *Read all incoming epistles and select some to read aloud at YM sessions.*

Susan Lees (Fayetteville MM)
Cheryl Fetterman (Wilmington MM)
Barbara Gosney (Rich Square MM)
Michael Lozada (Davidson MM)

Financial Review Committee: *In Fourth Month the Nominating Committee presents two or three names to constitute The Financial Review Committee for approval by the Interim Body. This committee, with the assistance of the yearly meeting treasurer, annually reviews financial records of the yearly meeting.*

David Perry (Davidson MM), convener
Lynne Berla (Durham MM)
Dora Owens (West Grove MM)

Journal Editorial Committee: *Plan, publish and distribute the occasional "Journal of North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative)."*

Deborah Shaw (Friendship MM) co-convener
Susan Wilson (Friendship MM). co-convener
Kent Wicker, (Durham MM).
Carol Passmore (Durham MM)
Carole Treadway (Friendship MM)
Rachel Miller (Greenville MM)
Jim Fernandes (Friendship MM)

Minutes Publication Committee: *Prepare the minutes of yearly meeting sessions for publication, including gathering written reports, formatting, and proofreading.*

Toby Berla (Durham MM), convener
Richard Miller. (Greenville MM)

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Connie Keller (Wilmington MM)
Susan Lees (Fayetteville MM)
Carole Treadway (Friendship MM)

Travel Support Committee: *To contact yearly meeting officers and those appointed or are considering whether to serve as North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) representatives to outside organizations to facilitate adequate funding and other needs the representatives may have.*

Richard Miller (Greenville MM)
Charles Newlin (West Grove MM)
Kristen Olson-Kennedy (Davidson)

Trustees of Trust Funds: *Trustees for the fund for travel in the ministry.*

David Perry (Davidson MM)
Carey Reece (Rich Square MM)

Standing Committees for 2019 Annual Sessions Preparations

Hospitality Committee: *Plan accommodations for yearly meeting sessions, coordinate with the host facility, assist with accommodation problems during yearly meeting sessions.*

Cheryl Fetterman (Wilmington Monthly Meeting) registrar
Additional Friends to be named as needed.

Yearly Meeting Planning Committee: *Plan the yearly meeting program.*

Toby Berla (Durham MM)
Bruce Arnold (Greenville MM)
Hanna Hobson (Friendship MM)

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Elizabeth Wintermute (Durham MM)
Huey Marshall (Wilmington MM)

Youth Program Planning Committee: *Plan and coordinate yearly meeting activities for babies through teen-agers. (Note: Volunteers are always appreciated to assist the children and teenagers as they are involved in the planned activities.)*

Andrew Wright (Durham MM)
Goldie Walton (Wilmington MM)
Logan Graddy (Durham MM)

Standing Committees composed of Monthly Meeting Representatives as reported to the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee

Records Committee: *Oversee the preservation of yearly meeting and monthly meeting records in the Friends Historical Collection at the Guilford College Library.*

Quaker Librarian	Gwen Erickson (Convener, ex officio)
Davidson	Jan Blodgett
Durham	Andrew Edmonds
Fayetteville	Michelle Downey
Friendship	Claire Koster
Greenville	Richard Miller
Rich Square	Barbara C. Gosney
Virginia Beach	Nancy Craft
West Grove	n/a
Wilmington	Terri Butler

Nominating Committee: *Composed of one appointee from each monthly meeting and one ex officio member from Travel Support Committee, prepare nominations for presentation to yearly*

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meeting sessions, or as needed, for clerks, standing committees, and special appointments.

Davidson	Anne Olsen (Convenor)
Durham	Toby Berla
Fayetteville	Michelle Downey
Friendship	Carole Treadway
Greenville	Richard Miller
Rich Square	Edward Pearce
Virginia Beach	Nancy Nixon
West Grove	Charles Ansell
Wilmington	Cheryl Fetterman
ex officio	Richard Miller

Finance Committee: *Composed of the treasurers of monthly meetings or an alternate designee appointed by each monthly meeting; review and make recommendations for the yearly meeting budget. Yearly meeting treasurer is ex officio.*

YM Treasurer	Susan Lees, (ex officio)
Davidson	David Perry
Durham	Carole McCleery
Fayetteville	Susan Lees
Friendship	Stephen Holland
Greenville	Bruce Arnold (convener)
Rich Square	Robert Gosney
Virginia Beach	David French
West Grove	Janis Ansell
Wilmington	David Hensler

Web Page Committee: *Recommends content, oversees content and functionality, reviews content for timeliness, promotes use of the web page and monitors appropriate access. They meet at the call of the convener with email communication used to consult concerning web page content.*

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Davidson	Anne Olsen
Durham	Scott Holmes
Fayetteville	Melidy Poole (convener)
Friendship	
Greenville	Rachel Miller
Rich Square	Barbara Gosney
Virginia Beach	Nancy Craft
West Grove	Corena Owens
Wilmington	Connie Keller

Special Appointments

AFSC Corporation: *Representatives to attend the annual board meeting in Eleventh Month (up to 4 representatives)*

Ruth Anne Chillardres (Virginia Beach MM)

Toby Berla (Durham MM)

Coordinators to Work with other Conservative Yearly

Meetings: *Maintain contact with and visit other Conservative yearly meetings in Ohio and Iowa during Eighth Month, and promote a presence and understanding of Conservative Friends.*

Andrew Wright (Durham MM)

Friends Committee on National Legislation: *Six*

representatives with 3-year terms to attend annual board meeting, which is typically held in late fall or early winter in Washington, DC, area.

Eric Ginsburg (West Grove MM) term ends 12/2019

Tom Bertrand (Virginia Beach MM) term ends 12/2020

Peter Klopfer (Durham MM) term ends 12/2020

Rebecca Fleming (West Grove MM) term ends 12/2021

Melidy Poole (Fayetteville MM) term ends 12/2021

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Kristin Olson-Kennedy (Friendship MM) term ends 12/2021

Friends World Committee for Consultation: *Four*

representatives with 3-year terms to represent yearly meeting at annual meetings and serve on national and regional committees.

Elizabeth Rolfe (Greenville MM) term ends 12/31/2019

Michael Misenheimer (Durham MM) term ends 12/31/2021

Quaker Earth Care Witness: *One representative to attend*

annual meeting in Tenth Month and serve as a liaison between Quaker Earth Care and the yearly meeting.

Lauri Langham (Durham MM)

Quaker House, Fayetteville, Board of Directors: *Represent*

yearly meeting on the board, which meets approximately every 45 days, on a Seventh Day, for a few hours.

Pat Darenau (Wilmington MM)

William Penn House Consultation Committee *Attend the*

annual meeting in Eleventh Month, receive updates, and share information with yearly meeting, including coordination of a staff visit or display at yearly meeting sessions.

Eric Ginsburg (West Grove MM)

Guilford College Board of Trustees Observer *Observe board and board committee meetings, and report to yearly meeting.*

Carey Reece (Rich Square MM)

Discipline Revision Committee

Lloyd Lee Wilson (Friendship MM)

Andrew Wright (Durham MM)

Deborah Shaw (Friendship MM)

Patty Levering (Davidson MM)

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Friends Organizations and Schools

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) www.afsc.org

1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 215-241-7000

South Region Office (AFSC)

92 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30303 404-586-0460

Area Office of the Carolinas

Lori Fernald Khamala, Program Director

801 New Garden Rd.

Greensboro, NC 27410

Office Phone: 336-854-0633

LKhamala@afsc.org

Carolina Friends School www.cfsnc.org

4809 Friends School Road, Durham, NC 27705 919-383-6602

Friends Association for Higher Education

www.quakerfahe.com

1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 215-241-7116

Friends Committee on National Legislation www.fcnl.org

245 2nd Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002 202-547-6000

Friends Council on Education www.friendscouncil.org

1507 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 215-241-7245

Friends General Conference www.fgcquaker.org

1216 Arch Street, 2-B, Philadelphia, PA 19107 215-561-1700

Friends School of Wilmington www.fsow.org

350 Peiffer Avenue, Wilmington, NC 28409

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Friends World Committee for Consultation

World Office www.fwccworld.org

173 Euston Road, London NW1 2AX England

Section of the Americas www.fwccamericas.org

1506 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 215-241-7250

Guilford College www.guilford.edu

5800 West Friendly Avenue, Greensboro, NC 27410

Friends Center 336-316-2445

Quaker Archives 336-316-2264

<http://library.guilford.edu/archives> ; archives@guilford.edu

New Garden Friends School www.ngfs.org

1128 New Garden Road, Greensboro, NC 27410

336-299-0964

North Carolina Friends Disaster Service

<http://quaker.org/legacy/friendsdisasterservice/>

c/o NCYM-FUM, 4811 Hilltop Road, Greensboro, NC 27407

336-292-6957 or 800-371-8896

ncfriends@ncym-fum.org

North Carolina Friends Historical Society www.ncfhs.org

P.O. Box 8502, Greensboro, NC 27419-0502 336-419-0502

Pendle Hill Center for Study and Contemplation

www.pendlehill.org

338 Plush Mill Road, Wallingford, PA 19086 610-566-4514

Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting www.piedmontfriendsfellowship.org

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2018

Quaker House of Fayetteville www.quakerhouse.org

223 Hillside Avenue, Fayetteville, NC 28305 910-323-3912
qpr@quaker.org

Southern State Worship Group

c/o William Geary, 628A West Drive, West Cape May, NJ
08204; 609-898-8892; wwgeary3@juno.com

Virginia Beach Friends School www.vbfschool.org

1537 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23451 757-428-7534

A Wider Fellowship of Conservative Friends

www.ohioyearlymeeting.org/programs/wider-fellowship-of-conservative-friends

c/o Nancy Hawkins, 409 South Walnut Street, Ravenna, OH
44266; nanquaker@aol.com

For other information on Quaker organizations – please check
www.quakerinfo.org

Listing of Meetings

DAVIDSON FRIENDS MEETING

Clerk: David Perry

PO Box 1646, Davidson, NC 28036
704-895-8404

quaker.org/legacy/davidson/

DavidsonQuaker@yahoo.com

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2018

Meeting for worship (with First Day school) is held at 10:00 a.m.
on First Days at 625 South Street, Davidson, NC 28036.

DURHAM FRIENDS MEETING

Clerk: Toby Berla

404 Alexander Avenue, Durham, NC 27705

984-377-4492 (**new number**)

www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/durham-friends-meeting

nc.durham.friends.meeting@gmail.com

Meets for worship First Day, 10:00 A.M.

Meeting for business, 11:45 A.M., second First Day

First Day school, 10:00 A.M.

FAYETTEVILLE FRIENDS MEETING

Clerk: Susan Lees

223 Hillside Ave., Fayetteville, NC 28301

Telephone: 910-323-3912

www.ncymc.org/fayetteville

Meets for Worship, First Day, 2:00 P.M.

Adult and children's education classes 3:00 P.M.

Meeting for business, first First Day of month, 3:00 P.M.

"Potluck" prior to worship first First Day of month, 1:00 P.M.

FRIENDSHIP MONTHLY MEETING

Clerk: Lloyd Lee Wilson

1103 New Garden Road

Greensboro, N C 27410-3205

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2018

Mailing Address

PO Box 8652, Greensboro, NC 27419-0652

336-854-5155

www.friendshipmeeting.org

Meeting for worship: First Day, 10:30 a.m.
Youth Meeting and child care provided
Mid-week worship: Fourth Day, 7:30 p.m.
Mid-week worship takes place on the 7th floor of
Woolman Hall, Friends Homes, Guilford,
925 New Garden Road, Greensboro

GREENVILLE MONTHLY MEETING

Clerk: Bruce Arnold

203 D Hickory Street

Greenville, NC 27858

Telephone 252-758-6789

Adult First Day: 8:30 A.M.

Worship: 9:00 A.M.

RICH SQUARE MONTHLY MEETING

Clerk: Barbara Gosney

Cedar Grove Meetinghouse

303 W. Main St., PO Box 482

Woodland, NC 27897

Telephone: 252-587-2571

brbrgsny@yahoo.com

www.ncymc.org/richsquare

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2018

Meets for worship: First Day, 11:00 A.M.
Meets for business: (usually) second First Day, 9:45 A.M.
Discussion and Bible study all other First Days, 10:00 A.M.
Mid-week worship and children's activities most Third Days,
7:00 P.M.

VIRGINIA BEACH MONTHLY MEETING

Clerk: Nancy Nixon
1537 Laskin Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23451
757-428-9515
www.vbfriends.org

Meets for worship First Day, 10:30 A.M.
Meeting for business, 8.30 A.M., second First Day
First Day school, 9:00 A.M. each third First Day.

WEST GROVE FRIENDS MEETING

Clerk: Charles Ansell
Meetinghouse: 4106 Greenhill Road, Snow Camp, NC 27349
Mailing address: 4117 West Greensboro-Chapel Hill Rd.,
Liberty, NC 27298
757-675-3777
westgrove.clerk@ncymc.org or westgrove.contact@ncymc.org

Meeting for worship First Day, 10:00 AM
Shared Meal, 3rd First Day of 3rd, 6th, 9th, and 12th months, 11 am
Meeting for business, first First Day of month, 11:00 A.M.

WILMINGTON FRIENDS MEETING

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2018

Clerk: Huey Marshall

202 N. 5th Avenue

Wilmington, NC 28401

wilmingtonquakersnc@gmail.com

www.wilmingtonquakersnc.org

Meeting for worship: 11:00 A.M. First Day

First Day school for adults and children: 10:00 A.M.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2018

Gwen Gosney Erickson, Clerk
North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
P.O. Box 4591
Greensboro, NC 27404
ncymc.clerks@gmail.com

**The 322nd Session of the
North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
will be held at University of North Carolina -
Wilmington
Wilmington, North Carolina
Seventh Month 11 - 14, 2019**

www.ncymc.org