



2013

MINUTES

of the

North Carolina

Yearly Meeting

of the

Religious Society

Of Friends

(Conservative)

The 316<sup>th</sup> Session



**2013**

**Minutes**

**of the**

**North Carolina  
Yearly Meeting**

**of the**

**Religious Society  
of Friends**

**(Conservative)**

**The 316th Session**

**Held at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington  
Wilmington, North Carolina**

**By Adjournments**

**From the Eleventh of Seventh Month  
To the Fourteenth of the Same, Inclusive**



## North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) – 2013

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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 316th session of North Carolina Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Conservative) convened at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, in Wilmington, North Carolina, from the eleventh of Seventh Month to the fourteenth of the same, 2013.*

*The sessions opened with clerk Richard Miller sharing the following passage from Mark 10: 13 - 16:*

*People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.*

*Mark 10: 13 – 16 (New Revised Standard Version)*

**2. Visitors**

*Visiting Friends introduced themselves and were welcomed.*

*Rex Sprouse, Fall Creek Monthly Meeting, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting;*

*William Geary, Mullica Hill Monthly Meeting and Southern State Worship Group, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting;*

*Tom Etherington, Mullica Hill Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting;*

*Andrea Jilovec, Whittier Monthly Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative);*

*Connie McPeak-Green, Cleveland Monthly Meeting, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting;*

*Marty Grundy, Cleveland Monthly Meeting, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting;*

*Ken Randall, Brigflatts Local Meeting, Kendal and Sedbergh Monthly Meeting, Britain Yearly Meeting;*

*Pat Bradbury, Preston Patrick Monthly Meeting, Britain Yearly Meeting;*

*Mark Wutka, Nashville Monthly Meeting, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association.*

*Letters of introduction and travel minutes for Rex Sprouse, William Geary, Tom Etherington, Andrea Jilovec, Connie McPeak-Green, and Marty Grundy were read.*

*A letter was read from Southern State Worship Group expressing their appreciation for letters sent by individuals in North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and the way this correspondence connects our two groups. William Geary and Tom Etherington shared spiritual notes from participants in the Southern States Worship Group. Friends were reminded of opportunities to write notes in return. Friends were thanked for seventeen years of relationship and encouraged to consider ways to continue this connection and explore ways to engage with criminal justice concerns in our own community.*

*Friends approved that the clerk endorse the letters of introduction and minutes of travel.*

### **3. Messages from Absent Friends**

*Louise Wilson sent her blessings and love but was unable to send a letter this year. David Eley and Tommie Gipson both communicated by e-mail that they are unable to be with us this week but are holding us in prayer.*

### **4. Committees to Write Epistles, Letters, and the Summary of Exercises**

*The following Friends volunteered to prepare the following documents: Summary of Exercises –*

*Bob Cooper, Marguerite Dingman, and Rex Sprouse; Letter to Absent Friends – David Perry; Epistle to All Friends Everywhere – David Perry; Epistle to Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative and Epistle to Ohio Yearly Meeting – David Perry.*



## **5. Minutes of the Representative Body**

*The Minutes of the Representative Body of NCYM(C) of Fourth Month 27, 2013 were read. Friends approved that the Representative Body minutes for both Fourth and Tenth Months be included in these minutes.*

### **Minutes of the Representative Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Tenth Month 27, 2012**

The Representative Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) convened at the Virginia Beach Friends meetinghouse in Virginia Beach, Virginia on the 27<sup>th</sup> of Tenth Month, 2012, as the first rain from hurricane Sandy began to fall. Meeting opened with expectant waiting worship, out of which the clerk read from Luke chapter 6, verses 46-48.

The endorsement to the travel minute for Nancy Craft from the clerk of Ohio Yearly Meeting was read.

A travel minute from Croatan Friends Meeting of New Bern, NC, for Bruce Arnold was read, and Friends approved that the clerk endorse the travel minute.

Bonnie Barto, a Unitarian Universalist traveling with Bruce Arnold, and Ken Randall, Brigflatts Local Meeting, Kendal and Sedbergh Monthly Meeting, Britain Yearly Meeting introduced themselves as visitors and were welcomed.

Ray Treadway reported for the Hospitality Committee and provided a summary of the yearly meeting annual session income and expenses. One change was that Guilford College charged us for what we said that we would use, so when Friends cancelled at the last minute the yearly meeting was still charged as the College did not provide refunds. More of the expenses were for facilities than program this year primarily because there were so few children participating this year. Sales tax is not shown as this cost is anticipated to be refunded. Friends approved including the spreadsheet in the minutes, with appreciation.

Richard Miller added that Cheryl Fetterman reported to him that the Hospitality Committee plans for the 2013 annual

sessions in Wilmington, NC, are proceeding as expected at this time.

David Perry reported for the Minutes Committee and the report is included below.

The minutes of the NCYMC 2012 sessions have been prepared, proof-read, and sent to the publisher. This year they were also shipped in time for fall Representative Body, unlike last year when the recording clerk returned home to find them waiting on the doorstep.

The minutes have been posted to the yearly meeting website for reference, with the directory information left out.

200 copies were ordered this year. With purchase of the overrun copies, a total of 210 were available for distribution. The cost of publishing was \$1,016.03, with shipping costs, taxes, and the cost of overrun copies included. With the cost of publishing 100 separate directories at \$187.26, the total costs were \$1,203.29, approximately the same as in 2011.

Comments to the recording clerk regarding the directory being separate and available at annual sessions were positive, and this approach did spread the workload out better for the recording clerk. I recommend that the practice of producing a separate directory from the minutes book be repeated for the foreseeable future.

Submitted by David Neil Perry, Minutes Committee Clerk

Friends expressed appreciation for the minutes book and the way the directory was produced. Friends approved that the practice of producing a separate directory continue.

A report from Carey Reese on the history of the “Travel in the Ministry” Trust Fund was read and Friends approved including the report in the minutes. Friends approved having both the history and the application available on the yearly meeting website.

A brief history indicates that as early as 1911 a committee formed “to look after those traveling amongst us in truths service.”

In 1914 the meeting was informed that “there is a legacy in the estate of Louisa I. Cromwell of \$1200.00, which through the kindness of our late Friend Edwin L. Pearce, has been donated to N.C.Y.M. of Friends (Conservative) for the spread of the Gospel.” The trustees were directed “to hold said fund in trust and use the interest from same in the manner designated by the donor.”

From its inception there have passed many who have served as trustees. The fund has made some growth over the years through individual donations and interest incurred.

Over the years the fund has provided assistance to the following: visiting friends from outside the yearly meeting, travel outside our yearly meeting, travel to the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage, and School of the Spirit.

In keeping with the initial bequest, the trustees welcome request from Friends whose endeavors lead to travel in the ministry in truths service for the spread of the Gospel, and in providing information on the workings of our yearly meeting to those who seek us out. Request may be made for partial support toward the efforts to meet this goal.

Request for assistance can be made by completing the “request for assistance” form and sending to Carey Reece, Clerk at 830 Brett Court, Kernersville, N.C. 27284. The Trustees will review all requests and render a decision in a timely fashion.

W. Carey Reece, Jr., Clerk

Jennifer Ginsburg reported for *the Nominating Committee*, and brought forward the name of Gwen Gosney Erickson for recording clerk. Friends approved the nomination.

The minutes from the Fourth Month, 2012, Representative Body meeting were read.

Barbara Gosney reported that Rich Square Friends feel that it is time for a *revision of the Book of Discipline* process to begin, and to select a portion to consider for revision rather than to undertake considering revising the entire explanation of our faith and practice. Lloyd Lee Wilson reported that West Grove Friends also had a similar sense, and that the process should extend over as much time as necessary. Richard Miller reported

that Greenville Friends had a similar sense, and gave examples of points of concern. One was that references to quarterly meetings no longer apply as quarterly meetings have been laid down, and another was that queries could be worded differently.

The body approved approaching the revision of the Discipline in a way that has us consider revising a small portion at a time. Approval was given for a committee whose primary charge at this time is just to establish the process of revision. This committee is to be limited to actual members of the yearly meeting, and to be kept small for the duration of the current charge. Lloyd Lee Wilson, Andrew Wright, Susan Lees, and David French were proposed and approved. The committee will name its own convener.

Friends approved that annual clerk reports to the yearly meeting should include their total count of membership each year. Friends were cautioned to be clear about how sojourning members are counted. The yearly meeting clerk will include this in the request of items to be brought to annual sessions.

Lloyd Lee Wilson reported on *interest from outside of the yearly meeting*. Per direction at the yearly meeting annual sessions, he contacted Friends who had reached out to our yearly meeting. He read a letter from Friends in Heredia, Costa Rica, included below.

Hello Lloyd:

In our worship group we are happy for the email and send thanks. We are open to take relationship with your yearly meeting. Our reference with Ohio Yearly Meeting is because we feel big respect for them.

We hope have close relationship with North Carolina Yearly Meeting and grow spiritually like conservative Quakers. Stay in contact, please.

In Jesus,  
Mauricio and Kattia Rojas  
Worship Group Conservative Heredia Costa Rica

Lloyd Lee points out that their webpage links to Ohio Yearly Meeting and they appear to have a formal relationship with that body. With our concern for not being seen as infringing on other yearly meetings, Friends desired that contact be continued, but no action should be taken to expand into any stronger formal relationship.

Lloyd Lee reported that Rachel Anne Miller visited the worship group in Becket, MA. He read a letter from the Northampton (MA) Friends Meeting oversight committee for the worship group, under whose care the worship group functions, included below.

Tenth Month, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

Dear Friend:

Northampton Friends appreciate the response of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) to our Friends Caroline Whitbeck's desire for communication and fellowship with NCYMC in relation to the worship group she has felt led to establish in Becket, Massachusetts. This worship group is under the care of Northampton Friends Meeting, which is a member of New England Yearly Meeting.

Northampton Friends were clear to oversee the Becket Worship Group for its meetings for worship this initial year, Seventh to Tenth Months, 2012. The oversight committee for the worship group attended meetings for worship and communicated weekly with Caroline Whitbeck over the summer. That committee met on Ninth Month, 30<sup>th</sup>, to consider the worship group's experience. At the meeting for business held Tenth Month, 14<sup>th</sup>, Northampton Friends approved the recommendation of the worship group oversight committee to extend the Becket Worship Group for a 2013 season (Seventh to Tenth Months).

Northampton Friends understand NCYMC's concerns, and we appreciate the travel of your Friends Rachel Anne Miller to worship in Becket on Ninth Month, 9<sup>th</sup>. While we considered the possibility, Northampton Friends have not

discerned a way forward for joint oversight for the worship group.

We hope that it will be possible to continue the informal relationship of the Becket Worship Group with NCYMC over the coming years as Caroline Whitbeck and David Neelon prepare for their future move from Massachusetts to North Carolina.

In the Light,  
Maureen Flannery and Marcianna Caplis  
For the Becket Worship Group Oversight Committee  
Worship and Ministry Committee  
Northampton Friends Meeting

The body was clear that no formal relationship should be established with the Becket Worship Group because the monthly meeting that has care for them does not feel that this is appropriate. Continued informal correspondence and visitation is felt to be desirable. Lloyd Lee is directed to write to both Northampton Meeting and Becket Worship Group to explain the results of our discernment.

Friends are also again encouraged to visit Croatan Friends in New Bern.

Andrew Wright and Wendy Michener both agreed to be the clerk's *designees to correspond with the Bolivian student* that the yearly meeting is sponsoring this year through the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund.

Friends approved putting information about grants from the Bogert fund for the study or practice of Christian mysticism on the yearly meeting website.

Patty Levering reported for the *Planning Committee*, which selected a theme for 2013 annual sessions: "Maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of Peace." It was noted that this is the last sentence of our advices as well as drawn from Ephesians 4.

Patty also reported that Davidson Friends celebrated worshipping in their new meetinghouse for the first time last week, and encouraged Friends to visit, including for the open

house planned for 11/4/2012. She thanked Friends for their support in all ways, including financial.

The Representative Body thanked Virginia Beach Meeting for its hospitality.

Undertaking no further business, the meeting closed with worship, intending to meet next on Fourth Month 27th, 2013, at Durham Friends Meeting if consistent with Divine Will.

Richard B. Miller, Clerk

David Neil Perry, temporary Recording Clerk

**Minutes of the Representative Body of North Carolina  
Yearly Meeting (Conservative)  
Fourth Month 28, 2013**

The Representative Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) convened at the Durham Friends meetinghouse in Durham, North Carolina on the 27th of Fourth Month, 2013. Meeting opened with expectant waiting worship, out of which the clerk read from Psalm 66 verses 1-3, "Shout joyfully to God, all you on earth; sing of His glorious name; give Him glorious praise."

Our Recording Clerk is unable to attend. Nancy Craft agreed to record the minutes.

Caroline Whitbeck, a member of Northampton Monthly Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting, brought a letter of introduction which was read. She spoke of her meeting and the worship group she began in her home. The clerk will endorse Caroline Whitbeck's letter of introduction.

A report from an email correspondence between Charles Ansell, Clerk of West Grove Monthly Meeting and Paul Kyssel-Steeple, an elder in Berlin Monthly Meeting of Germany Yearly Meeting, expressed a need thirsting for fellowship with conservative Quakers.

In response to a concern brought by West Grove Monthly Meeting, we are open to considering additional options for relationship with NCYM-C besides individual membership through a monthly meeting or group affiliation through the yearly meeting. This body asks that Yearly Meeting of Ministry

and Oversight consider how we may respond to inquiries from distant Friends and to bring back to yearly meeting some guidance on this issue.

#### Report of the Discipline Revision Process Committee

The committee recognized the process has the opportunity to build community through the in-depth discussion of our beliefs. Requested is a liaison from each monthly meeting for a clear line of communication, and five to six persons to be recommended by the Nominating Committee and reported during the yearly meeting sessions. The report was accepted and the recommendations approved.

#### **Discipline Revision Process Committee Report to Representative Body, Fourth Month 2013**

The ad hoc Discipline Revision Process Committee met at Cedar Grove Meetinghouse in Woodland, North Carolina on Second Month 10, 2013. Present were Andrew Wright, David French, Susan Lees, and Lloyd Lee Wilson (convener).

After a period of waiting worship, the committee engaged in a fruitful and wide-ranging discussion of the various roles our Discipline plays in the life of individual members and monthly meetings. Among these roles were used as a guide to standard procedures for the conduct of yearly meeting business, advices for personal and corporate conduct, giving assistance to the ministries of Friends to one another, a resource for Friends outside the yearly meeting, an explanation of our testimonies, practices, historical roots, and why we are considered “Conservative” Friends. The Discipline should make Quakerism easier to understand and to locate us in the wider world of the Religious Society of Friends. To the greatest extent possible, each member of the yearly meeting should be able to answer “yes” to the question, “Can I find myself included in this Discipline?”

The committee makes the following process recommendations for the proposed revision of the yearly meeting Discipline:



- The revision process is an opportunity to get to know one another better inside our own monthly meetings and across the yearly meeting. Accordingly, the process should not be rushed or held to a timetable, but allowed to proceed on its own pace. A yearly meeting whose members understand one another more fully and therefore love one another more deeply is a desired outcome of this process as much as the written document is.
- The suggestion made earlier that the revision should engage one part of the Discipline at a time, rather than the whole document at once, is sound and this committee endorses it. In following the process outlined below, it may happen that several sections are at different places in the pipeline at the same time, but until the very end, decisions on each section will be made independently of all other sections.
- The mechanics of revision will be different depending on how extensive a revision is undertaken. We recommend that the first task of the revision committee undertakes should be to determine whether the yearly meeting wants to hew closely to the outline and style of the current document, or wishes to consider broader changes in content and structure.
- A broad description of the ongoing proceedings of the revision committee should be memorialized and given appropriate public access (perhaps via the yearly meeting web page).
- We do not envision a committee made up of monthly meeting representatives. However, we recommend that a liaison be appointed from each monthly meeting to be responsible to facilitate communications in both directions between the meeting and the committee. Where feasible, this liaison should be a Friend other than the meeting clerk.
- In the revision process, we recommend that the greatest consideration be given to the corporate comments and contributions of monthly meetings, although individuals should be free to communicate their own comments and contributions as led.
- We recommend that the Nominating Committee be charged with bringing forth the names of 5-6 members of the yearly meeting for consideration by the Yearly Meeting, to be appointed without fixed term to a Discipline Revision

Committee. We see the following gifts as important for the members of this committee:

- Listening and understanding others
- Close familiarity with the history of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
- Familiarity with the current Discipline
- Skill with the written word
- Facility with electronic communications and text editing is desirable but not necessary
- Willingness and ability to dedicate the needed time and energy to maintain momentum for the duration of this task
- At least one member should have strong clerking skills

• We recommend the following broad pattern for the revision process.

- The committee proposes language for a section of the Discipline.
- Monthly meetings comment on the committee proposal and suggest improvements.
- This exchange is repeated until the committee feels it has an adequate draft.
- The committee presents the proposed draft of that section to the yearly meeting.
- The yearly meeting gives provisional approval to the section or returns it to the committee for additional work.
- If a section receives provisional approval, the yearly meeting and monthly meetings will “live with” that section for at least one year, using it as appropriate.
- After this interim period, the yearly meeting will either give its second approval or send the section back to the committee for additional work.
- If the yearly meeting gives its second approval to a section, that section is added to the “interim Discipline” and the corresponding old section is removed. During the revision process, the yearly meeting will be operating under a Discipline that is part old and part new, changing each time another section receives second approval.
- This entire process is then repeated for the next section to come under review. (Review of an additional section may begin before the previous section has received second approval, so

there may be two or more sections at various stages of this process at any one time.)

- When all proposed revisions have received a second approval from the yearly meeting, the entire document will be presented for final approval. The new Discipline will be known as the Discipline of the year that the entire document received final approval.

On behalf of the ad hoc committee,  
Lloyd Lee Wilson, convener

### **Discipline Revision Process Summary**

#### **Stage One**

Revision Committee circulates proposal to meetings  
Monthly meetings comment to committee on proposal

#### **Stage Two**

Revision Committee forwards draft to yearly meeting  
Yearly meeting gives provisional approval or  
returns draft to Revision Committee

#### **Stage Three**

Everybody lives with provisional section for a year

#### **Stage Four**

Yearly meeting gives second approval or returns draft to  
Revision Committee

#### **Stage Five**

Everybody uses approved section as part of Interim  
Discipline

#### **Stage Six**

Yearly meeting gives final approval to entire Discipline

Our clerk announced his intention to step down when a new clerk can be named. The Nominating Committee will look to find a nominee for the presiding clerk and report their progress at yearly meeting.

#### **Yearly Meeting Planning Report**

The tentative yearly meeting schedule is posted on the yearly meeting web site. Please check the evening snacks and

contact the Planning Committee if changes are needed. The registration form is also posted on the web site.

A letter from Rich Square Monthly Meeting for Barbara C. Gosney to travel in Ireland was read. The clerk will endorse this letter.

A letter from Friendship Friends Meeting for Deborah Shaw to travel among Friends in the United States and outside the U.S. was read. The Clerk will endorse this letter.

#### Third Quarter Treasurer's Report

##### **Treasurer's Report – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, 2013 North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)**

###### **Income**

Monthly meeting contributions are on target for this fiscal year, with most meetings having already made their contribution. Greenville Friends contributed \$70.00 more than the yearly meeting budgeted, and Virginia Beach Friends have pre-paid part of next fiscal year's contribution. Other income is also on track for this point in the year.

The yearly meeting received one pass-through donation of \$100 for the Trust Fund, which was forwarded to the trustees.

###### **Expense**

All budgeted donations to organizations for this year have been made. Administrative expenses are on track for the year as well. There have been no requests for financial support in the form of internships, scholarships, or travel on behalf of the yearly meeting.

###### **Changes in Fund Balances Year to Date**

The Discipline Fund has received \$63.00 in donations so far this year. The balance is now \$2,200.00. The Discipline Fund is earmarked for paying the expense of reprinting the yearly meeting Discipline.

The FWCC Jamaica Fund has had no activity; the balance is unchanged at \$571.20. This money is held in trust for Jamaican Friends.

The General Travel Fund has had no activity; the balance is \$2,063.40. This fund assists Friends who have travel expenses associated with representing NCYM(C) on committees

and organizations outside the yearly meeting.

The Journal Publication Fund has received \$53.00 in donations and paid \$487.58 to publish the most recent edition of the journal. The balance now stands at \$2,300.20.

The Special Projects Restricted Fund has been charged \$600.00 for the contribution to the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund approved at the 2012 yearly meeting sessions. The Special Projects Fund is disbursed at the discretion of the yearly meeting in session.

The Yearly Meeting Sessions Reserve has been charged \$602.69 to cover the 2012 sessions deficit. Its balance is now \$2,996.78. This reserve fund is the cumulative net surplus of holding yearly meeting sessions over the years.

The Yearly Meeting Scholarship Fund paid out slightly over \$250 more than it received this year, and now has a balance of \$1,048.16. This fund provides financial assistance to pay for children attending yearly meeting sessions and to other Friends needing help to afford coming to yearly meeting sessions.

The Unrestricted Net Assets of the yearly meeting have grown by about \$1,570 so far this year, and now stand at \$18,538.08.

Lloyd Lee Wilson, Treasurer

3/31/2013

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets**

**Checking/Savings**

**Wells Fargo Checking** 37,349.10

**Total Checking/Savings** 37,349.10

**Total Current Assets** 37,349.10

**Other Assets**

**Other Assets**

**Pre-paid Website Expense** 33.98

**Total Other Assets** 33.98

**Total Other Assets** 33.98

**TOTAL**

**ASSETS**

**37,383.08**

<b><u>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</u></b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Prepaid MMtg</b>	
<b>Contributions</b>	1,500.00
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	1,500.00
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	1,500.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	1,500.00
<b>Equity</b>	
<b>Temp. Restricted Net Assets</b>	
<b>Discipline Fund</b>	2,220.00
<b>FWCC Jamaica Fund</b>	571.20
<b>General Travel Fund</b>	2,063.40
<b>Journal Publication Fund</b>	2,300.20
<b>Special Projects Fund</b>	6,163.74
<b>YMtg Sessions Reserve</b>	2,996.78
<b>YMtg Sessions Scholarship</b>	
<b>Fund</b>	1,048.16
<b>Total Temp. Restricted Net Assets</b>	17,363.48
<b>Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	18,538.08
<b>Net Income</b>	-18.48
<b>Total Equity</b>	35,883.08
<b><u>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</u></b>	<b>37,383.08</b>

The Representative Body thanked Durham Meeting for its wonderful hospitality.

Undertaking no further business, the meeting closed with worship, intending to meet next on Tenth Month 28th, 2013, if consistent with Divine Will.

Richard B. Miller, Clerk  
Nancy Craft, Recording Clerk for the day

## **6. Reports from the Monthly Meetings**

*Reports from the monthly meetings were read and are included in the minutes.*

### **Report from Davidson Monthly Meeting**

#### *Monthly Meeting Officers*

Clerk: Jan Blodgett  
Recording Clerk: Kristin Olson-Kennedy and David Perry  
Treasurer: Barbara Gardiner

#### *Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2013 Sessions*

Patty Levering, Kristin Olson-Kennedy, David Perry, Rebecca Ruhlen

#### *Membership, Children and Marriage*

Davidson Friends Meeting has 18 adult members, and one sojourner.

We gained no new members this year by application or transfer.

We lost no members through laying down of membership, transfer or death.

We are pleased to report the birth of James Frederick Elton to attender Molly Elton and her husband, Second Month 16th, 2013.

There were no new marriages under the care of the meeting.

#### *Ministers and Elders*

Davidson Friends Meeting has no newly recorded ministers or elders.

#### *Advices Read*

Advices were not read.

### **Report from Durham Monthly Meeting**

#### *Monthly Meeting Officers*

Clerk: Marguerite Dingman (assistant clerk beginning 9-2013)  
Assistant Clerks: Cathy Bridge and David Bridge (co-clerks beginning 9/2013)

Recording Clerk: Virginia Lee (Jessica Barnhill beginning 9-2013)

Treasurer: Larry Chapman

*Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2013 Sessions*

Marguerite Dingman, Marsha Green, Mike Green, Kent Wicker, Andrew Wright and such others as are able to attend.

*Changes in membership*

3 New Members:

Marsha Green (by transfer from Chapel Hill Meeting)

Mike Green (by transfer from Chapel Hill Meeting)

Tony Reevy

Active members & attenders: 281 directory entries represent 335 Adults in 210 households. 90 adults are full meeting members, 9 additional are adult "Family members".

Inactive members: 30 full members plus 26 "family members" who are now adults

*Births and Deaths*

The meeting celebrated the birth of one baby born to attenders.

Bill Shields, husband of member Mary Shields, died 8th Month 16th, 2012

*Marriages Under the Care of the Meeting*

Kevin Hunter and Elizabeth Kesling (married 11th Month 3rd, 2012)

Nancy Maeder and Amy Anderson (married 5th Month 26th, 2013)

Matthew Dougherty and Joanna Rifkin (married 6th Month 1st, 2013)

Laura Walton and James Croonenberghs (married 6th Month 16th, 2013)

*Support of Ministry*

The meeting currently has Support and Accountability Committees, shepherded by Ministry and Counsel, nurturing the ministries of Andrew Wright, Deborah Wallace, Toby Berla and



Scott Holmes.

*Advices*

The Advices were read on 5-12-2013

**Report from Fayetteville Monthly Meeting**

*Monthly Meeting Officers*

Clerk: Ann Ashford  
Recording Clerk: Robert Cooper  
Treasurer: Susan Lees

*Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2013 Sessions*

Ann Ashford, Robert Cooper, Susan Lees

*Membership, Children and Marriage*

Fayetteville Friends Meeting has 8 adult members and 4 attenders, 3 of whom are Quakers elsewhere.

We gained no new members this year by application or transfer, but lost one member through transfer.

We lost no members through death or laying down of membership.

There were no births of children to report and no new marriages under the care of the meeting.

*Ministers and Elders*

No ministers or elders were recorded this year.

*Advices*

The advices were read on 5/19/2013.

**Report from Friendship Friends Monthly Meeting**

*Monthly Meeting Officers*

Clerk: Sidney Lee Kitchens  
Co-Clerk: Neal Swenson  
Recording Clerk: Hannah Logan Morris  
Treasurer: Ray Treadway

*Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2013 Sessions*

Sidney Lee Kitchens, Judy Reece, Deborah Shaw, Carole Treadway, Ray Treadway

*The changes in our membership rolls were as follows:*

We lost one member to death - Helen Parker passed away on 6th Month, 29th, 2012

One member requested withdrawal of his name from membership - Brian Sebastian in 2nd Month 10th, 2013

Our membership total is now 100 (including 5 sojourners)

*Ministers and Elders*

Friendship Friends Monthly Meeting has no newly recorded ministers or elders.

*Advices Read*

The Advices were read.

**Report from Greenville Monthly Meeting**

*Monthly Meeting Officers*

Clerk:	Mary Miller
Recording Clerk:	Richard Miller
Treasurer:	Mary Miller

*Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2013 Sessions*

Bruce Arnold, Mary Miller, Richard Miller

*Changes in membership*

1 new member by transfer: Bruce Arnold from Croatan Friends in New Bern

1 released from membership: Jeffery Gillen

No deaths to report. No birth memberships recorded.

*Ministers and Elders*

Greenville Monthly Meeting has no newly recorded ministers or elders.

*Clerks Report*

Mary Miller continues to serve as clerk and treasurer. Richard Miller is now recording clerk. Richard Miller, Mary Miller and Bruce Arnold are appointed as representatives to this yearly meeting. The queries have been answered, and the Advices read. There have been no deaths or births recorded. We released Jeffrey Gillen from membership, and welcomed Bruce Arnold into membership with us. We have not recorded any new ministers or elders.

**Report from Rich Square Monthly Meeting**

*Monthly Meeting Officers*

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

*Rich Square Monthly Meeting named representatives to the Representative Body*

Barbara C. Gosney, Robert E. Gosney, Edward Pearce, Judith V. Reece, W. Carey Reece, Jr., and Susan S. Wilson.

*Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2013 Sessions*

Barbara C. Gosney, Robert E. Gosney, Edward Pearce, Judith V. Reece, and W. Carey Reece, Jr.

*Changes in membership*

46 adult members, no children  
Two new members: June S. Parker and Nancy Z. Parker  
One member lost by transfer: Lloyd Lee Wilson to West Grove  
No members' deaths.  
No birth memberships.

*Ministers and Elders*

Rich Square Monthly Meeting has no newly recorded ministers or elders.

*Advices Read*

Rich Square Meeting heard the Advices read on First Month 20, 2013 during meeting for worship.

## **Report from Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting**

### *Monthly Meeting Officers*

Clerk: Patricia Phelan Young  
Recording Clerk: Andrew “Andy” Young  
Treasurer: David French

### *Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2013 Sessions*

Any members from Virginia Beach Meeting attending the Yearly Meeting Sessions are to be considered our representatives.

### *Representatives named to Representative Body Meeting*

Ruth Anne Childress, Nancy Craft, David French, Keith Williamson, Louise B. Wilson

### *Changes in membership*

One transfer in, John Thomas “Tom” Bertrand (5/12/2013) from the Brevard Friends Meeting, Southern Appalachian Yearly meeting and Association.

Four new members, Lewis Richard White (8/11/2012), Walter Roberts “Bob” McIvor (10/14/2012), Louis Stadlin (2/10/2013), and Nicholas Tobias “Toby” Paddock (6/9/2013)

No births or deaths to report.

Total Membership: Active Members 63 plus 1 child member, and 59 Inactive Members.

On Sixth Month, 9, 2013 a preparative meeting under the care of Virginia Beach Friends Meeting, the Creeds Preparative Meeting was approved. This meeting is located in Munden Point, the southern area of Virginia Beach near the inter-coastal waterway.

### *Ministers and Elders*

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting has no newly recorded ministers or elders.

### *Advices Read*

We read the Advices to Meeting in the face of the Meeting during the Sixth Month.

## **Report from West Grove Monthly Meeting**

### *Monthly Meeting Officers*

Clerk: Charles Ansell  
Recording Clerk: Charles Newlin  
Treasurer: Lloyd Lee Wilson

### *Representative to Yearly Meeting 2013 Sessions*

Lloyd Lee Wilson

### *Changes in Membership*

One new member

7 active adult members, 3 active young members and one consistent visitor.

### *Ministers and Elders*

Lloyd Lee Wilson was recorded as a minister of the Gospel.

The Advices were read in the face of meeting by young Friend Janie Newlin.

## **Report from Wilmington Friends Meeting**

Wilmington Friends did not record any births or marriages this year. We did suffer the death of our dear Friend Betsy Johnson on 2<sup>nd</sup> day Tenth Month. The Advices were read the Queries answered. No ministers or elders were recorded this year.

Goldie Walton was named clerk again with Cheryl Fetterman assisting, Daylene Moore was named recording clerk and David Hensler continues to serve as treasurer. We have 31 members and 38 attenders with a consistent weekly attendance of approximately fourteen to eighteen.

Our named representatives to Representative Body are Goldie Walton and Cheryl Fetterman.

### ***7. Report on the Friends Committee on National Legislation***

*William Jefferies reported on the work of the Friends Committee of National Legislation (FCNL). He highlighted the*

*importance of FCNL in key initiatives over past decades and how they work in non-partisan ways to appeal to all for the common good to better promote effective change. He expressed how impressed he has been with the broad spectrum of Friends represented on the FCNL General Board and with attendance at meetings. He noted that the work of FCNL depends upon the financial support of Friends and reminded how contributions might be made.*

#### **8. Schools Report**

*Several Friends schools are located in our meeting communities. Virginia Beach Friends School, formally under the care of Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting, submitted a report that was read:*

##### **Friends School Head of School Report to the North Carolina Yearly Meeting, June 28, 2013**

Dear Friends,

Greetings and best wishes from the faculty and students of Virginia Beach Friends School. It is amazing that another busy and fun-filled year has flown by already.

We did a major upgrade of our Lower School facilities last summer. The teachers were very excited to see their new improved rooms and their students have had a wonderful year in the child-friendly, educationally stimulating rooms. This summer we are starting a year-long restoration of one of our oldest buildings, which housed the Cottage (pre school) program. Our littlest ones will be given a room of their own in the Early School building.

Several faculty members went to the *Educators New to Quakerism Program* at Pendle Hill this year, while six of our Upper School students attended the *Quaker Youth Leadership Program* at Sidwell Friends. The faculty and students' experiences at these programs contributed to a re-energizing of the spiritual life of the school, which we will continue into the new academic year.

The Athletic Program at Friends school continues to blossom. The Upper School Volleyball girls were champions of

their league in the fall and our Upper School Boys basketball team attained second place in their conference.

This year we have continued to encourage environmental stewardship at all levels. Our younger students cultivated a variety of grasses for the Lynnhaven River Now Project and the older students cultivated oysters for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. We have once again earned the Pearl School title. Lower school students have been involved in the *Edible Classroom Program*, growing lots of delicious vegetables to share amongst the community. The school also received a Greenhouse grant and we shall be initiating a vegetable growing project in the fall involving partnerships with our neighbors.

The music department introduced a strings program this year. Our young artists displayed some of their work at Norfolk Airport while our seniors produced a collaborative piece, which will be donated to a local children's hospital.

Despite the economic challenges in the Hampton roads area, Friends School continues to be a nurturing, student centered environment where students are enriched, empowered and feel safe to be themselves. The strong, positive relationships developed between students and their teachers help to foster a life-long love of learning in our young people.

On behalf of the students and staff, please accept our sincere thanks for your continued belief and support of the mission and values of Virginia Beach Friends School.

Regards,

Linda Serrette, Head of School

#### ***9. State of the Society Reports***

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

#### **Davidson Monthly Meeting**

Davidson Friends Meeting found itself immersed in life with a new meetinghouse this past year: The experiences of

construction finishing slowly, moving in and setting up the space, settling in, celebrating with the community, and sharing the space with others. Some of the ways that we have shared the space included hosting a weekly ecumenical centering prayer session, providing space for videotaped interviews for the Town of Davidson, and meetings for the local Green School, the Davidson College chaplain's office, a men's group, an environmental group, and more. The meeting community has used the meetinghouse to hold a prayer vigil for the victims of the Newtown, CT, school shooting, a mid-week evening worship sharing, and our "Hearts and Hands" knitting group. The space has allowed for full display and access to our library, and has been the setting for a meeting retreat, focusing on the spiritual underpinning of business meetings and committee meetings, facilitated by Nancy Fennell of Fort Myers (FL) Monthly Meeting, Southeastern Yearly Meeting. Other activities have included a service project working on a town greenway after our meeting retreat, workdays to maintain our property, having our third annual talent show in the depths of winter, regular game nights and potluck events.

Involvement in the faith community has been stable, with the exciting addition this year of an influx of Davidson College students who attend regularly and wish to engage in the life of the meeting. One of our childcare providers, a student at the college, felt led to lay down that job in order to be able to attend the full meeting for worship. Meeting for worship has been rich, a regular gift, with regular vocal ministry. As a community, we are also caring for each other and the wider body of Friends through continuing care committees for those who are doing work beyond the meeting, including for those with a concern for ministry. We were able to financially support a faithful young attender to go on a mission trip, and were delighted to hear her report back from that transformative



experience. Representatives of the meeting have become more active in local ministerial groups.

We are grateful for the depth of our experiences and care for each other. We look forward to the next twelve months wondering how we might be led to share our experiences of the Divine with others not yet participating in meeting for worship, but are hopeful that our recent experiences and our new physical home will lead to new growth in the Davidson Friends Meeting.

### **Durham Monthly Meeting**

This, our 75th Anniversary year was marked by occasions for celebration and self-reflection. In the fall we held a memorial meeting to remember members and attenders who have been influential in the life of the Meeting. The youth then presented a dramatic time-line of the meeting's history. A meeting-wide retreat was held with the theme of "Looking Forward" in which we shared heartfelt hopes for our community. We welcomed one baby this year and celebrated four weddings, bringing us together in recognition of the love that binds us all.

While our celebration has been joyous, our self-reflection has been deep and, it must be said, uncomfortable - even painful - at times. In 8th Month 2012 our representatives on the board of Carolina Friends School requested that Meeting make a donation to that school's capital campaign. The request was met with diverse and intense responses, which have revealed a need for much deeper listening, understanding and trust among us. Nonetheless, the process has blessed us in many ways. We have grown in our ability to face our differences rather than let them go unspoken and un-examined, and Ministry and Counsel will continue to have this concern at heart. We have been challenged to expand that portion of our budget devoted to giving, and to expand our understanding of what we can do as a Meeting financially. The Finance Committee had begun preparing us for this and will continue to help us increase the intentionality and spiritual integrity of our budgeting process. A heartfelt concern has been expressed for universal access to quality education in our community, and we are exploring how the Meeting might find a role in that. At our 6th Month Meeting

for Worship with Attention to Business we did reach unity on a response to the original donation request. There remains a need for healing the relationships strained as these concerns unfolded, yet there is a sense that we are moving forward as a stronger community as a result of this experience.

All of our activities continued apace and provided meaningful ways for us to join together regardless of differences. Adult Education Committee sponsored a variety of opportunities for members and attenders including a First First Day Q & A for individuals new to Quakerism; Quakerism 101, a series of four evening sessions on the foundations of Quaker history and practice; Fourth First Day Forums addressing both historical Friends witness and the witness and leadings of our own Meeting attenders and members. Also offered were a weekly centering prayer session, a book discussion, a movie night and a new Light Up Your Winter series. The latter was a delightful and well attended combination of fellowship and introduction to new ways of thinking about and doing spiritual practice that could be pursued further by individuals at home. An outgrowth of this was the formation of two groups who gather in support of their ongoing contemplative practice.

Our young people- and the Friends who work with them - continue to inspire us. The youth are involved in Meeting for Worship, First Day school, and activities such as overnights at the meetinghouse, and away trips on their own and retreats with youth from other meetings. Youth leaders have given particular attention this year to the development of guidelines on support for families of young friends with special needs.

We continue our participation in Durham Congregations in Action, which is a significant force in favor of the vulnerable populations in Durham and the broadest organization connecting and coordinating the city's many communities of faith. We support and learn from the witness of one Friend who has become a War Tax Resister and is working through the spiritual and practical complexity of that path. We are grateful for the witness of Friends who have felt led to participate in demonstrations – some even to the point of civil disobedience and arrest – to bring attention to legislative actions threatening voting rights and social, economic and environmental justice in

our state.

We are excited by the development of new opportunities to be involved and helpful in the lives of people in our wider community. We launched four Community in Action Groups in 2012. Each group has a leadership core of 3 to 10 people, and invites the entire meeting to participate in its actions. The groups are focused on responding to and reducing violence and hunger in Durham, addressing immigration issues, and issues related to hydraulic fracturing and its possible effects in our area. These groups partner with groups in the wider community and work on both a policy level and on a personal level. They organize letter writing campaigns, attend public hearings, serve meals at the shelter, tutor children learning English as a second language, and bring meals to the families of people murdered in our city.

Our First Day worship continues to be a blessing, with messages given freely and received in love. For all of this, we are thankful.

### **Fayetteville Monthly Meeting**

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting remains a small but active faith community gathering weekly for silent, unprogrammed worship in the living room of Quaker House. We currently have eight members, four of whom live out-of-town, and several regular attenders, averaging three to six people in attendance each week. We regret that we have no children in our meeting, but we offer support with childcare if we have a visitor with young ones. Our challenge is to remain a fully active meeting without putting undue stress on our few members.

Our meetings for worship are often silent, though we are occasionally blessed with vocal ministry. Yet even when silent, we often feel the movement of Spirit among us.

Our time of worship is followed by an hour of adult discussion except on first First Days, when we have meeting for business. Our adult discussion topics vary, but are usually based on responding to a query or on the reading of a spiritual book. We have recently been reading *How to Believe in God (Whether You Believe in Religion or Not)* by Clark Strand. In the fall, Susan Lees organized a series of classes on end-of-life concerns

entitled “Dying, Death, Disposal, and Disbursement.” These adult day-school discussions have been a rich time to share our experiences and support each other’s spiritual journey.

Meetings for worship with attention to business are attended faithfully with active participation. We are thankfully able to maintain a budget that meets the small needs of our meeting and also provides for outreach to the larger community. We are grateful to our treasurer, Susan Lees, for her careful attention to our financial condition. The potlucks we hold before our business meetings have been a time for relaxing with good food, getting to know each other better, and welcoming any newcomers.

This has been a year of nurturing ill and stressed members of our community. We were drawn together through our concern for faithful attender Barney Bornn during his struggle with terminal cancer. As a group, we held meeting for worship with him at his home in Lumberton. Several of us, especially Susan Lees and Glenna Hicks, continued to have meeting or a social visit with him over a period of months before his death in Third Month. Barney said these visits provided him much comfort. At Barney’s request, our clerk Chuck Fager wrote his Memorial Minute and read it at the Quaker/Baptist celebration of his life held at his home on Third Month 30, 2013. Others of us have struggled with personal illness, care of family members, or other life stressors. We continue to support each other as best we can and hold our meeting in the Light.

With sadness we said goodbye to Chuck Fager and Wendy Michener when Chuck ended his term as Director of Quaker House in December. Both of them made rich contributions to the life of our meeting. Also in December, we welcomed Lynn and Steve Newsom as they became the new Co-Directors of Quaker House and attenders at Fayetteville Meeting. Fayetteville Friends Meeting has truly been blessed since its inception to have the use of Quaker House for our gatherings.

This year we have tried to make our presence better known in the community. Recently, the Newsoms helped us by posting a sign on the house that gives our name and meeting time. Quaker House also co-sponsors an ad for Fayetteville Friends in the religious listings of the local newspaper. In Fifth

Month, the meeting's concern with human trafficking resulted in our having a public lecture at Quaker House on that topic. The timely presentation was made by Veronica Hardy, an Assistant Professor of Social Work at UNC-Pembroke. How we will follow up on this concern has not yet been determined.

A series of community concerts put on by Quaker House has further provided an opportunity to introduce the public to the meeting space of Fayetteville Friends. In addition, Karen Goble, a new attender this year, has been offering a series of week-night classes on Mindfulness Meditation at Quaker House. The course is free and open to the public and has been well-received.

In our commitment to be welcoming, Bob Cooper, recording clerk, has taken the responsibility of making sure that visitors receive a follow-up card or e-mail. When guests are present, we wear nametags, have them sign our register, and offer them Quaker literature.

Although few in number, we continue to participate in the larger Friends community. We send representatives to the NCYM(C) annual meeting and to meetings of the representative body. We also serve on several committees of the yearly meeting. As individuals, we participate in various community peace and social justice groups or service organizations. Bob Cooper has given several talks to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

We end the year with a query: How do we best maintain a Quaker presence in this transient, military community? We want our presence to be known and welcoming to those who may be drawn to Friends worship and testimonies. We pray for divine guidance that we will remain faithful to our Quaker values and continue to grow in love and unity.

### **Friendship Monthly Meeting**

First and above all we are grateful to be able to continue to gather in that Light in which we seek corporately and individually to find our way. This past year two of our committees, Ministry and Worship and Care and Counsel, composed and conducted a survey in which meeting members and attenders were asked what was important to them about

Friendship Meeting and on how we might improve. One of the most common responses indicated the most important part of Friendship Meeting is the meeting for worship. There have been more entirely silent meetings of late but not so many that we are troubled and feel a lack of vocal ministry. Those messages that were shared aloud have felt inspired, heartfelt and we have been, for the most part, appreciative of them. At the rise of meeting our ongoing routine is to go around the room, introduce ourselves, allow folks to make announcements and folks are invited to share, if it seems appropriate to them, messages/afterthoughts that may have been considered during the gathered time but did not rise to the level of vocal ministry. We are large enough in numbers – 25 to 40 or so on a First Day – for this process to take some time but still small enough that it does not take so long as to become tedious.

This past year some dedicated folks who recently moved into Friends Homes West and who were attending Friendship Meeting started a 3<sup>rd</sup> day meeting for worship from 7 to 7:30 p.m. A fabulous idea! Unfortunately the meeting had to be laid down after a few months, at least temporarily, due to all the traveling and time away over the summer of the two host couples. We are hoping it might begin again as way opens. Another mid-week meeting for worship, originally sponsored by Friendship at Friends Homes Guilford, continues to meet, as it has for years, on 4<sup>th</sup> day evening in the Woolman Building's 7<sup>th</sup> floor prayer room from 7:30 until 8 p.m. These meetings provide a golden opportunity to gather with folks who may not be physically able to attend at Friendship on 1<sup>st</sup> day morning but who definitely have very strong spiritual capabilities. Practice makes perfect as the old saying goes and sitting and worshipping with folks who have been practicing centering down for many decades is a precious resource and experience.

This year we experimented with considering the queries in two separate workshops rather than in business meeting, resulting in less lengthy business meetings. We have certainly attempted to continue to conduct the business of the meeting in that manner peculiar to Friends in which common sense, a pinch of humor and primacy of the Spirit prevail. There are usually a dozen to fifteen or more persons attending meeting for business.

Opinions vary on whether this is a fitting number of folks considering the size of the meeting.

Some of the big internal questions we have been attempting to deal with in the past year are common and ongoing within many small unprogrammed Quaker meetings: As we are blessed to have several families with children we sit with the perennial query – What are we going to do about our children’s religious education? How are we serving or even just keeping in touch with our elder members who may not be able to easily attend or attend at all? How are we reaching out to those who may visit among us so as to let them know what we are doing as we sit here in silence together? Is the way we are organized in our committee structure effectively meeting the needs of our own community and thereby the larger community in which we live?

We recognize an overwhelming debt of gratitude to all our members and attenders who have taken it upon themselves individually or within a committee to grapple with and try to help the meeting community address these questions. So often it is a few people who seem to carry so much of the load.

The biggest external issue, perhaps even larger than our perennial shortage of hardy souls available to rake up gum balls, has been what to do about our physical space. This has been an ongoing issue for several years that has intrigued and frustrated a goodly number of those who have dedicated countless hours coming up with various suggestions. In our annual all-meeting (and well attended) retreat, we participated in a facilitated series of sessions of envisioning, drawing and talking about our meeting space and its function. The basic question that, of course, begs so many other questions afterwards is: shall we somehow enlarge and adapt the structure to our perceived needs or attempt to raise money to build a new meetinghouse?

We have seen unusual changes in those who attend our meetings for worship this past year. Nearly ten of our members are in long-term assisted care and are unable to attend on First Day morning. We have been going through a careful process to determine what is meant by an “inactive member” and have contacted nearly thirty persons who might be considered for a change in status, to better reflect their relationships with the

Meeting. On the other hand, six Friends, who have been active in Quaker meetings elsewhere, have moved to Greensboro and are attending regularly. In addition, in the past two months four attenders have asked to be considered for membership and have begun to meet with separate clearness committees. We look forward to increased vitality with these additional persons in our community.

Overall the state of our society is good. We have prospered since our days of meeting in one room (the Moon Room) granted us by Guilford College. We have grown into the house we purchased intentionally close in proximity and in spirit with Guilford College, Friends Homes and New Garden Friends School. Currently we are blessed to be able to consider how we might enlarge our physical space towards increasing and enhancing our spiritual relationship with those communities as well as with the larger community in which we live. Our fervent prayer is that we remain under Divine Guidance and that our journey forward will be in unity with that Spirit which we seek in expectant waiting worship. If so, then surely we shall be in unity one with another in the way forward.

### **Greenville Monthly Meeting**

The past year has been pretty quiet for Greenville Friends. We welcomed Bruce Arnold into membership. His commitment to meeting brings him from New Bern at least twice a month. We have also been welcoming to several new attenders this summer. We have made changes to accommodate the needs of our members and attenders. We now start meeting for worship a little earlier and hold business meetings right after meeting for worship. We have been supportive of each other as we have faced health concerns. We have visited Core Sound Friends several times over the past year though not as often as in the past. Love and unity are maintained among us.

### **Rich Square Monthly Meeting**

One year ago our report ended with “We read in Philippians 2:13, *For it is God who is at work in you, both to will*



*and to work for His good pleasure. We do not know whether new generations will be nurtured by and fly from the nest at Cedar Grove Meetinghouse in Woodland. So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. II Corinthians 4:16."*

Today Rich Square Monthly Meeting lists 46 adult members and no children. Only four of those members now reside within Rich Square Township. During the past year we lost two members and gained two members. In Seventh Month last year, Bruce R. Pulliam died just before yearly meeting sessions. We held his memorial meeting at Cedar Grove in the late afternoon the same day yearly meeting ended in Greensboro. In Tenth Month Lloyd Lee Wilson transferred his membership to West Grove Monthly Meeting in anticipation of his and Susan's relocation to Wings of Dawn Farm in Alamance County. Nancy Z. Parker and June S. Parker joined our meeting in Eleventh and Twelfth Months. Both new members live about 2-3 hours drive from Woodland, but they and their husbands travel to be present with us one or two first days each month.

During the past year active involvement of distant members who grew up in the area and were part of the meeting as children and youth has increased. Several members travel 2-4 hours one way, several times each month to share worship, fellowship and work projects at the meetinghouse in Woodland.

Last Tenth Month a full and covered meeting for worship took place at Cedar Grove Meetinghouse after the monthly meeting for business. A Homecoming dinner celebration in the lunchroom followed worship. We had pictures and displays of events at Cedar Grove during Rich Square Monthly Meeting's 250-year history available in the library and first day school rooms. Distant members actively planned and made contact with Friends and relatives who attended yearly meetings at Cedar Grove during the 1950s - 1970s, before this yearly meeting began holding sessions on college campuses. We welcomed distant members and local people with whom the meeting has had little contact for a number of years. Members and visitors enjoyed the beautiful autumn afternoon visiting on the meeting grounds.

Some of our local and distant members and some former members continue working to set up a corporate structure to manage the property and assets of the meeting. Continuing from last year, increased visits from distant members communicates to local members that they are not alone in carrying on the work of Rich Square Monthly Meeting. Distant Friends provide support through prayers, gifts and travel to Woodland. They free local members to continue their involvement with local concerns, service to our yearly meeting and the wider world of Friends' concerns.

During the past year, the meeting supported local youth activities, participated in local ecumenical events and has begun a Woodland Children's Community Garden project on the meetinghouse grounds. In addition to local activities, Friends in Woodland served on yearly meeting as well as national Friends' committees. Just as the prayers and spiritual support of Friends far and near strengthen our small meeting, we hope to continue our witness as a unique community of faith to spiritually strengthen the lives of people in this rural northeastern North Carolina region.

### **Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting**

VBFM is smaller than some meetings, though larger than others, with more than 75 members on its roster and a weekly attendance of 30-40 each First Day. It has been heartening to note a slow but steady rise of new members and attenders every Sunday and a rise in the number of people attending Meeting for Worship with attention to business. The quality of commitment of new members and attenders requires noting, since they are coming forward to fill vital roles within our community and bringing much joy in the process. We feel responsible for doing our part to uphold the Light and peace others obviously feel in our 58-year-old-meetinghouse. One of the ways we are doing this is through step-by-step repairs and renovations that are much needed. Recently the old brickwork stairs and outside exterior was power washed and the doors and shutters painted by members, in conjunction with a conscientious

Building and Grounds Committee whose members are tackling inside and outside jobs at various “work days” and on their own.

We moved our refreshment and “welcoming” area downstairs after extensive cleaning and painting and this affords more room to chat and visit than our small crowded library offered. (There are plans to reorganize the library in the future.) Under dedicated leadership, our Young Friends First Day meeting space at last has dividers, artwork and a more welcoming child-appropriate setting. In addition, several parent-child luncheons have been held for families and children who attend the program, pictures and descriptions of the youth programs have been added to VBFM website (with the requisite release forms being signed by parents) and plans are underway for neighborhood and Friends School outreach to bring more children into the loving Quaker experience provided by our dedicated leaders.

Adult First Day School continues each Third First Day, and on occasional Fifth First Days. We will soon conclude our study of C.S. Lewis’ “The Great Divorce,” and will begin a comprehensive examination of our “Faith and Practice Book of Discipline,” in conjunction with the other meetings comprising North Carolina Yearly Meeting.

Another great joy to our meeting was the request from VBFM Trustee and longtime member, Houston Shirk and his wife Linda Tingle, (who has applied for membership in our meeting) for permission to form a new preparative Meeting in Munden Point, the extreme southern part of Virginia Beach (right next to the North Carolina line) in a separate building on their property that would be dedicated to that purpose. Meeting agreed to oversee the Creeds Preparative Meeting and has gone forward with several shared Meetings and much encouragement as of this writing.

As for the “life of the Meeting,” Ministers, Elders and Overseers has concluded a series of deep conversations about caretaking duties of MEO members for the overall health of the Meeting, concluding that we need to be better listeners and communicators in explaining and demonstrating our roles to the overall Meeting. To this end, an educational workshop on eldering and a frank examination of that process as nurturing-

versus-censuring was held for MEO members, and as we conclude the business of updating the job descriptions of each committee and meeting servant, MEO now moves into creating a membership brochure for VBFM guests and attenders, as well as defining the guidelines for membership and marriage under the care of the meeting that will be shared with members at the next Meeting for Worship with attention to business for suggestion and approval. MEO is striving to become more sensitive to their responsibilities and will grow in this manner by letting go of the past and focusing on the present.

The Peace and Social Justice Committee continues to support Steady Footsteps, a clinic for head and orthopedic injuries in Viet Nam, started by a member of VBFM. We held our annual Coffeehouse Fundraiser to benefit the non-profit to a capacity crowd. Approximately \$1800 was sent to a grateful founder, Virginia Lockett, who reciprocated by sending back an original painting by one of her patients that will be hung in our Meetinghouse. P&SJ continues to support and participate in the ONE LOVE FESTIVAL, and is making a concerted effort to coordinate letters and calls from members and attenders to local and national politicians, in order to increase participation on critical issues and ensure that a quiet Quaker voice is heard in these increasingly turbulent times.

A letter of transfer was recently received from a Quaker of longstanding, Thomas Bertrand, who married and moved to Virginia Beach. A Friendship committee visited with the couple. Chaplain Tobias Paddock recently became a member of VBFM and is already active with Building and Grounds. Another regular attender is the former clerk of the Richmond, Virginia Friends Meeting, Kathie Garner, who has already added inestimably to our worship family.

VBFM recently joined Quakers around the state by becoming a full-fledged member of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP), a well-respected ecumenical advocacy organization similar to Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), working on Virginia state poverty and social justice issues.

The Communications Committee is to be congratulated both on its daily work of letting members and attenders know

about the many activities of VBFM, and our website presence on the internet that continues to draw interest and new contacts.

The History Committee has begun work in collecting a written and spoken history of VBFM, including an interview with the meeting and school's founder.

We continue to support Virginia Beach Friends School gladly, both financially, and in every possible way. The little school that started under the care of the meeting nearly 60 years ago is coming of age at a time where peaceful resolution and Quaker values have never been more needed. VBFM School Committee members are dedicated, exemplary members of Meeting. We have welcomed having members of the School community join us for worship. Head of School Linda Serrette and VBFS teachers show students every day how to live Quaker principles in a world sorely in need of them.

### **West Grove Monthly Meeting**

“God always hides inside of littleness and seeming insignificance, so only the humble and honest can find him. God appears at the edges, it seems. We do not have to see God if we do not want to. God trusts our desiring and lets us do all the discovering.” (*Richard Rohr*) West Grove Friends Meeting may appear little and seemingly insignificant, yet Friends here have been looking and finding God surrounding us.

The four winds continue to guide us to meeting from homes just a short way down the road to those many miles from Snow Camp. Knowing our opportunity for gathering is hampered by distance, we relish First Day all the more. Gatherings before and after Meeting surround Meeting for Worship. Conversation is full and hearts often drift to the parking lot and sometimes to lunch at the Saxapahaw General Store and or other local restaurants.

“Our” children grow, delighting and amazing us with their participation in Meeting, school and community life. Janie and Caroline Newlin often deliver reports from First Day school at meeting for business. Janie read the Advices in the face of meeting this year. In addition to mastering a full home school schedule, Corena Owens has been immersed in First Day

afternoon Greek Language study which included travel to Greece during the summer of 2012. Brian Owens continued to assist his Grandfather with the family farm while a full time honors community college student. Graduating with the highest GPA in his class this year and with a monetary award to purchase tools, Brian has started down the road to his chosen career with a proficiency in heavy equipment maintenance and repair as well as wonderful life goals. Additional challenges faced Brian and his family soon after graduation when his grandfather, mentor, teacher and friend passed away.

Bible study, based on a lectionary shared by Edward Pearce of Rich Square Monthly Meeting, is the basis for discussion with a wide age range of Friends before Meeting for Worship. Shared meals, though infrequent, offer a meaningful time for our small community to be together. As way and desire prevail an “after meeting” snack provides an additional way for us to touch one other’s lives.

Upon their retirements, Susan and Lloyd Lee Wilson moved to Alamance County’s Wings of Dawn Farm to be partners in the farm’s call to “feed God’s sheep.” Lloyd Lee transferred his membership from Rich Square to West Grove prior to their move. Friends were able to witness his gift for vocal ministry and recorded him as a minister of the Gospel.

Our small meeting has been blessed during the year with visits from Kristin Olson Kennedy, the clerk of the yearly meeting’s body of Ministry and Oversight, Friends from nearby Spring Meeting and others traveling in or through the area.

Members of Meeting have been in correspondence with a Friend from New Zealand and another in Germany who sought information about Conservative Friends. The New Zealand Friend has many questions and Lloyd Lee Wilson has engaged this Friend, not as a representative for NCYM(C) or WGMM, but as a friend. The German Friend queried about becoming a member of NCYM(C); Charles Ansell shared with him the discussion and action of Representative Body on distant membership. In a recent email our German Friend indicated that ill-health had brought about early retirement. Laying aside the pursuit of yearly meeting membership our German Friend

indicated he would spend available time educating his yearly meeting about Conservative Friends.

Soon after the completion of the painting of the meetinghouse, Friends gathered for an interior clean-up/maintenance day. Much was accomplished that day and through the efforts of members who came to serve as they were able. Eric and Jeff Ginsburg repaired the floor and replaced the exterior entrance surrounding the structure, which a young visitor calls the men's composting toilet. An exterior workday is needed to complete upkeep needs.

Palm Beach Friends Meeting requested Lloyd Lee Wilson present the key note address for their annual gathering and lead a weekend workshop on Radical Hospitality. Palm Beach Friends were open and engaging, demonstrating radical hospitality in their hosting of Lloyd Lee and traveling companion, Charles Ansell.

West Grove Friends Meeting founded in 1915 under the care of Rich Square Monthly Meeting will soon enter its 100<sup>th</sup> year. First Day school under the guidance of Dora Owens completed a Power Point presentation about the current state of West Grove to share at yearly meeting and at West Grove's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Now, with the gentle direction Laurie Newlin provides, First Day school participants are undertaking research into the history of the meeting. Caroline and Janie Newlin presented an outline of the search process at Meeting for Business in 6<sup>th</sup> Month. The goal is to share who we are with surrounding meetings and the yearly meeting.

We are small and continue to look for God in all our surroundings.

### **Wilmington Monthly Meeting**

Wilmington Friends Meeting which meets every First day at 202 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Wilmington, North Carolina has enjoyed another year of steady interest, stability and growing unity of spirit. In the past year our weekly attendance has averaged between fourteen to eighteen members and attenders. While these numbers may not seem too impressive, given our history, they speak to us of our tenacious spiritual presence for

those who seek us. We've been pleased to see many visitors, particularly young singles and families with young children. Even for an hour or so it is nice to hear the laughter and cries of children within our walls. Twice we've been asked to provide information about how to conduct marriages in the manner of Friends, and have happily seen Laura Walton, daughter of David and Goldie Walton, married under the care of Durham Friends Meeting.

Just as we were glad to see Laura find a new Friends' home and for Bill and Virginia Ratliff's to find a new spiritual meeting in Asheville, we were happy to accept the membership of Asa Janney upon the release of his membership from Herndon Friends Meeting in Virginia. Our greatest loss this year was our dear Friend Betsy Johnson on 2<sup>nd</sup> day in Tenth Month to a rare brain disease. Her indomitable, cheerful spirit and her unfailing willingness to serve in whatever capacity she was led, will be sorely missed, as will her wisdom as a seasoned Friend. Bob Hopper will be planning and overseeing the installation of a memorial garden in her honor at our meetinghouse.

Though they have been forced to curtail programs and classes due to budget cuts, Voces Latinas has continued to use our meeting space to meet the needs of our Latino community. Two Buddhist groups share our meeting space and we've also been able to offer space for a group working for meaningful gun control laws, a non-profit organization that seeks to help seniors age in place and our local choral society.

Individually our members and attenders serve faithfully in a diverse number of local, state and national organizations. Friends volunteer at the Bellamy Mansion giving guided tours and historical background information and at Good Shepherd Ministries, helping process guests at our local homeless shelter; we maintain a "give and take" food box in our meeting house, donating extra donate food stuffs for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. Some Friends answer questions for beginning gardeners at the New Hanover Arboretum, donate time and resources at our local American Red Cross, participate in Hands on Wilmington, volunteer for Communities in Schools, the International Seaman Center, and in the Wilmington Choral Society. In addition our dedicated knitters continue to knit items



for donation to Brunswick County Schools and New Hanover County Regional Medical Center's neonatal unit. We have generous members who donate pro bono architectural services to the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Southport and serve as an arboriculture consultant to FSW, others who work diligently for Citizens for Sensible Gun Control and a few intrepid souls who participate in Moral Mondays in our capital, trying to give voice to those who seem to have been left behind in our current political landscape.

As a meeting, we have reaffirmed our commitment to and deepened our understanding of each other by exploring the topic of "peace" which was adopted in Second Month as a theme for consideration this year in our twice-monthly discussion sessions. Led and organized by Sandy Hopper, who also serves as the meeting's librarian, these informal talks center on working for "peace as an inner spiritual state," which aims to produce personal serenity and tranquility of the spirit, mind and conscience. Mark Reilly led the first discussion with an overview of what defines peace and ways to achieve peace, followed by Pat Dareneau's presentation on "Facts about Anger." Moving forward we explored thoughtful quotes on principles of personal peace: love, hope, forgiveness, faith unity, courage and justice.

Additionally, we are reconnecting to and rebuilding our ties with Friends School of Wilmington. Several members and attenders are very active volunteers at FSW serving as board members, officers and chairs of Quaker life and other essential school committees. In order to deepen our connection we have resolved to meet as a meeting/school community four times a year alternating between our meeting house and the middle school campus on Peiffer Ave. It has been heartening to reaffirm our connection to FSW and to see more of an active involvement of Friends in the school community.

Our financial picture remains steady. We looked at refinancing the meetinghouse in Tenth and Eleventh Month but decided that the time was not right to rearrange our financial picture. We are solvent, and have been able to make some necessary repairs and to save for the inevitable demands of caring for our property. Looking forward to the day when our mortgage is paid off, we dream of ways we can offer more

assistance for community endeavors in need of space for organizational and meeting needs.

Every day we go about our business with the idea that every deed counts, that every can of food helps, that every kind word uplifts, and that every voice should be heard. Conversely, we are aware that there is much to do, and that we fail every day to do enough to make the difference we want to make. Knowing our limitations but embracing the idea of pressing on even when it may not seem evident that we are effective, is an essential part of the faith that guides us. It is the faith that asks us to simply keep trying and to keep trusting in the Divine guidance that we listen for.

#### ***10. Welcome from Host Institution***

*University of North Carolina at Wilmington Dean of Cameron Business School Larry Clark welcomed the yearly meeting to the campus and expressed his appreciation for our taking the time to be together as a faith community.*

#### ***11. Nominating Committee Report (part one)***

*Nominating Committee convenor Jennifer (Jeff) Ginsburg distributed a working draft for consideration and highlighted remaining vacancies. The Nominating Committee suggested changes to two committees: the laying down of the Earth Ministry Committee and changing the Web Page Committee to have representatives named from each monthly meeting. It was suggested that the Web Page Committee consider a name change as well. A final report will be presented for approval later in sessions.*

#### ***12. Request and Statement from Wilmington Monthly Meeting***

*Cheryl Fetterman brought a request for the yearly meeting to consider the statement Wilmington Monthly Meeting recently approved in support for the joint statement by Episcopal, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, and United Methodist leaders in North Carolina in response to the current actions by the North Carolina General Assembly and the issues addressed by the Moral Mondays protests. The body unites with Wilmington's concern and advises the other monthly meetings to*

*consider the statement and ways each meeting might respond. Friends approved the clerk writing a letter on behalf of the yearly meeting uniting with this concern and sending the letter to appropriate government officials. (See Minute #24 on page 112.)*

### **13. Finance Review Committee Report**

*Susan Lees and Ray Treadway were appointed to review the accounts and have done so for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2012. Ray Treadway presented the report.*

The Financial Review Committee has reviewed the financial records and accounts of the yearly meeting for the fiscal year 2011-12, which ended on Sixth Month 30, 2012. We can formally report that we found that the records are in good order. The balance sheet and also the income and expense records, as presented to the yearly meeting by the treasurer, Lloyd Lee Wilson, are an accurate representation of the financial activities and condition of the yearly meeting.

We commend the treasurer for his careful handling and accounting of the funds of the yearly meeting, for his reporting to the Finance Committee and the officers on a quarterly basis, and for his interim reports at the meetings of the Representative Body.

Ray Treadway  
Susan Lees  
Seventh Month 12, 2013

### **14. Trustee Report**

*David Perry presented the trust fund report for travel in the ministry funds.*

Balance on Hand, 6-30-2012	\$4,717.95
Reimbursements for the year	None
Receipts for the year:	
Interest (Annual)	\$2.37
Donation from Lloyd Lee Wilson	\$100
Balance on Hand, 6/30/2013	\$4,820.32

#### Payments for “Travel in the Ministry”

Although there have been no requests for assistance from the “Travel in the Ministry” fund for the year, the Yearly Meeting needs to continue to search for 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 web site. Funds are presently held in a Wells Fargo Business Performance Savings Account. The trustees are looking into other options to house these funds. Friends are encouraged to make special contributions in support of “Travel in the Ministry.”

Submitted by W. Carey Reece, Jr. and David Perry, Trustees

*He reminded Friends of the process to apply for use of these funds and to encourage awareness of their availability to our meeting members.*

#### **15. Treasurer’s Report**

*Lloyd Lee Wilson presented the Treasurer’s Report.*

#### **Treasurer’s Report – Year-End, 2013**

##### **Income and Expense Report**

##### **Income**

Total income for the 2012-2013 fiscal year was slightly above budget. The yearly meeting received \$128.60 in unbudgeted contributions from individuals, \$75.00 from Salem Creek Friends Meeting, and Greenville Monthly Meeting contributed \$70 more than its budgeted amount.

The yearly meeting received one pass-through donation of \$100 for the Trust Fund, which was forwarded to the trustees.

##### **Yearly Meeting Sessions**

After receipt of the refund of sales tax collected by Guilford College, total income for the 2012 yearly meeting sessions was \$11,590.02, slightly more than total expenses,

which were \$11,527.41. The difference of \$62.61 has been added to the Yearly Meeting Sessions Reserve.

### **Expenses**

All budgeted donations to organizations for this year have been made, including the special donation to the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund. Administrative expenses were slightly below budget due primarily to efficiencies in publishing the minutes. There have been no requests for financial support in the form of internships, scholarships, or travel on behalf of the yearly meeting.

### **Net Income**

Net income for the year, counting all sources and uses, was about \$1,973. The biggest contributor to this amount was the fact none of the \$2,000 budgeted for general travel was used. This money has been set aside for possible use in future years, according to yearly meeting policy.

## **Balance Sheet**

### **Assets**

#### **Checking**

The checking account balance at year-end was \$52,771.39. This amount includes over \$13,000 collected for the 2013 yearly meeting sessions, \$20,000 held in various restricted funds for particular uses, \$2,500 held on behalf of monthly meetings who have paid their contributions to the yearly meeting in advance, and about \$17,000 in unrestricted funds.

### **Current Liabilities**

The yearly meeting has collected about \$13,000 from individuals for registration, room and board, and gifts to the scholarship fund for the 2013 annual sessions. This is a liability because if we do not hold annual sessions for some reason, we would have to pay this money back.

Two monthly meetings have paid all or part of their annual contribution to the yearly meeting in advance. This is a liability because if they suddenly left the yearly meeting or

reduced their contribution amounts, we would have to pay the money back.

### **Changes in Equity**

#### **Restricted Funds**

Overall the restricted funds of the yearly meeting increased slightly over the year to \$20,048.78. More information on each fund is given below.

The **Discipline Fund** received \$83.00 in donations so far this year. This balance is now \$2,240.00. The Discipline Fund is earmarked for paying the expense of reprinting the yearly meeting Discipline.

The **FWCC Jamaica Fund** has had no activity; the balance is unchanged at \$571.20. This money is held in trust for Jamaican Friends.

The **General Travel Fund** has been increased by the \$2,000 from the general fund budget allocated to travel that was unspent this year. The year-end balance is \$4,063.40. This fund assists Friends who have travel expenses associated with representing NCYM-C on committees and organizations outside the yearly meeting.

The **Journal Publication Fund** received \$53.00 in donations and paid \$487.58 to publish the most recent edition of the journal. The balance now stands at \$2,300.20.

The **Special Projects Fund** has been charged \$600.00 for the contribution to the Bolivian Education Fund approved at the 2012 yearly meeting sessions. It has a year-end balance of \$6,163.74. The Special Projects Fund is disbursed at the discretion of the yearly meeting in session.

The **Yearly Meeting Sessions Reserve** increased by \$62.61 this year: the surplus generated by the 2012 yearly meeting sessions. Its balance is now \$3,662.08. This reserve fund is the cumulative net surplus of holding yearly meeting sessions over the years, and is used to cover any deficit incurred by the yearly meeting sessions.

The **Yearly Meeting Scholarship Fund** provided \$255 more in assistance than it received in gifts for the 2012 yearly meeting sessions, and has a year-end balance of \$1,048.16. During the registration period for the 2013 yearly meetings sessions, the Scholarship Fund had a surplus of gifts over commitments of \$622.90, which will increase the fund balance by that amount. This fund provides financial assistance to pay for children attending yearly meeting sessions, and to other Friends needing help to afford coming to yearly meeting sessions.

**Unrestricted Net Assets** of the yearly meeting grew by about \$900, and as of 6/30/2013 stand at \$17,846.39.

Lloyd Lee Wilson, Treasurer  
6/30/2013

**NCYM-C**  
**Income and Expense**  
7/1/2012 through 6/30/2013

	Jul '12 - Jun 13
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
Individual Contributions	
Directory Contributions	6.00
Journal Contributions	53.00
Individual Contributions - Other	69.60
<b>Total Individual Contributions</b>	<b>128.60</b>
<b>Investments</b>	
Interest Earned	3.84
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>3.84</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Revenue</b>	
Monthly Meeting Contributions	14,220.00
NonMember MMtg Contributions	75.00
<b>YMTg Sessions Income</b>	
Book Store Revenue	1,085.42
YMTg Registration Fees	2,027.90
YMTg Room & Board Income	8,344.40
YMTg Scholarship Contributions	132.30
<b>Total YMTg Sessions Income</b>	<b>11,590.02</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>26,017.46</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>26,017.46</b>
<b>Expense</b>	
Donations and Grants	
Donations to Organizations	10,100.00
<b>Total Donations and Grants</b>	<b>10,100.00</b>
<b>Operations</b>	
Postage, Mailing Service	218.58
Website Expenses	256.99
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>475.57</b>
<b>Printing and Copying</b>	
Publication of Directory	187.26
Publication of Journal	487.58
Publication of Memorials	250.00
Publication of Minute Book	1,016.03
<b>Total Printing and Copying</b>	<b>1,940.87</b>
<b>Yearly Meeting Sessions Expense</b>	
Yearly Meeting Program Expense	
Book Store Expenses	845.93
Insurance - Liability	200.00
Youth Program Expense	158.00
Yearly Meeting Program Expense - Other	1,774.87
<b>Total Yearly Meeting Program Expense</b>	<b>2,978.80</b>
Yearly Meeting Room & Board	8,548.61
<b>Total Yearly Meeting Sessions Expense</b>	<b>11,527.41</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>24,043.85</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>1,973.61</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>1,973.61</b>



**NCYM-C**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of 6/30/2013

	<u>Jun 30, 13</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Checking/Savings	
Wells Fargo Checking	52,771.39
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>52,771.39</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	52,771.39
<b>Other Assets</b>	
Other Assets	
Pre-Paid Sessions Program Exp.	346.60
Pre-paid Website Expense	33.98
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<u>380.58</u>
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<u>380.58</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>53,151.97</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Other Current Liabilities	
Pre-paid Sessions Assist. Gifts	1,206.90
Pre-paid Sessions Registrations	3,070.00
Pre-Paid Sessions Room & Board	9,063.90
Prepaid MMtg Contributions	2,500.00
YMtg Scholarship Commitments	-584.00
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>15,256.80</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>15,256.80</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	15,256.80
<b>Equity</b>	
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	
Discipline Fund	2,240.00
FWCC Jamaica Fund	571.20
General Travel Fund	4,063.40
Journal Publication Fund	2,300.20
Special Projects Fund	6,163.74
YMtg Sessions Reserve	3,662.08
YMtg Sessions Scholarship Fund	1,048.16
<b>Total Temp. Restricted Net Assets</b>	<u>20,048.78</u>
Unrestricted Net Assets	15,872.78
Net Income	1,973.61
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>37,895.17</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>53,151.97</u></b>

*The treasurer presented the proposed budget for financial year 2014 on behalf of the Finance Committee.*

	2013 Actual	2013 Budget	2014 Budget
<b>Income</b>	<b>14,427.44</b>	<b>15,250.00</b>	<b>15,447.00</b>
<i>Monthly Meeting Contributions</i>	<i>14,220.00</i>	<i>14,150.00</i>	<i>13,903.00</i>
Davidson	500.00	500.00	200.00
Durham	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
Fayetteville	500.00	500.00	500.00
Friendship	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Greenville	370.00	300.00	353.00
Rich Square	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Virginia Beach	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
West Grove	750.00	750.00	750.00
Wilmington	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
<i>Other Income</i>	<i>207.44</i>	<i>1,100.00</i>	<i>1,544.00</i>
Individual Contributions – unrestricted	69.60	0.00	0.00
Individual Contributions – Directory	6.00	0.00	0.00
Individual Contributions – Journal	53.00	0.00	0.00
Nonmember Contributions	75.00	0.00	0.00
Other Contributions		0.00	0.00
Prior Year Contributions		0.00	0.00
Interest Income	3.84	12.00	0.00
Transfer from Journal Restricted Fund	487.58	488.00	0.00
Transfer from Unrestricted General Reserves			944.00
Transfer from Calvert Restricted Fund	600.00	600.00	600.00
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>12,516.44</b>	<b>16,295.00</b>	<b>15,447.00</b>
<i>Administrative Expenses</i>	<i>2,416.44</i>	<i>2,695.00</i>	<i>1,847.00</i>
Operating Expenses	218.58	300.00	300.00
Website Costs	256.99	257.00	257.00
Publication of YMtG Directory	187.26	190.00	190.00
Publication of Minutes	1,016.03	1,210.00	1,100.00
Publication of Memorials	250.00	250.00	0.00
Publication of <i>Journal</i>	487.58	488.00	0.00
<i>Donations to Organizations</i>	<i>10,100.00</i>	<i>10,100.00</i>	<i>10,100.00</i>
AFSC	700.00	700.00	700.00
Indian Affairs	300.00	300.00	300.00
FCNL	700.00	700.00	700.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	300.00	300.00	300.00
Quaker House of Fayetteville	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
RSWR	300.00	300.00	300.00
Friends Center at Guilford	250.00	250.00	250.00
Friends Historical Collection at Guilford	400.00	400.00	400.00

FWCC	700.00	700.00	700.00
NC Friends Historical Society	250.00	250.00	250.00
Pendle Hill	300.00	300.00	300.00
FAHE	200.00	200.00	200.00
FCOE	200.00	200.00	200.00
Carolina Friends School	850.00	850.00	850.00
Guilford College	600.00	600.00	600.00
New Garden Friends School	850.00	850.00	850.00
School of the Spirit	250.00	250.00	250.00
Virginia Beach Friends School	850.00	850.00	850.00
Bolivian Quaker Education Fund	600.00	600.00	600.00
<i>Other Expenses</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>3,500.00</i>	<i>3,500.00</i>
Internships/Scholarships	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Travel (General)	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
FWCC Travel Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Budget Summary			
Total Sources of Funds			15,447.00
Total Uses of Funds			15,447.00
Net Sources and Uses of Funds			\$0.00

*The Finance Committee proposed running a deficit of \$940, which would be funded from the net unrestricted reserves. The yearly meeting was reminded that a special donation was approved last year to the Bolivian Education Fund and asked if this is a donation to continue. It was also asked if the yearly meeting wishes to reinstate donations to the Wilmington Friends School.*

*There was support for continuing support to the Bolivian Education Fund. It was suggested and approved that funds be designated from special projects fund for this purpose for the next year.*

*The decision on whether or not to reinstate yearly meeting donations to the Wilmington Friends School was deferred. Wilmington Monthly Meeting is asked to consider a recommendation as the local meeting associated with the school and report back.*

*The treasurer can currently disperse up to \$300 to an individual traveling on behalf of the yearly meeting without bringing the request to the yearly meeting. This has been the case since 2010. It was asked if this amount might need to be adjusted.*

*Friends spoke of the need to support members who are traveling on behalf of the yearly meeting and not place the burden on those representatives to request funding. The yearly meeting needs to find a way to make funding accessible to representatives in a way that invites all potential representatives to serve the yearly meeting regardless of their ability to contribute personal funds. The current process does not meet this need.*

*The yearly meeting will begin a practice of appointing a standing support committee to work with those asked to serve as yearly meeting representatives to facilitate adequate funding and other needs the representative may have. The Nominating Committee is asked to bring names forward at Representative Meeting in Tenth Month.*

*The proposed budget was approved as was the recommendation that \$600 be designated for the Bolivian Education Fund from the special project fund.*

#### **16. Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)**

*Barbara Gosney provided a brief overview FWCC's work as an international organization of all Friends. The yearly meeting's four representatives are to the FWCC Section of Americas, which includes yearly meetings in North, Central, and South America. The Jamaica Fund held by our yearly meeting is comprised of funds from meetings in the Southeast Region to support travel of Jamaican Friends to FWCC regional gatherings. Instead of having an annual meeting, FWCC is changing their meeting cycle to hosting a section meeting every other year and having regional meetings in the alternate years. A regional meeting will be held April 11 – 13, 2014 in High Point, North Carolina. Regional meetings are open to all and plans include lower cost hospitality options to facilitate access. "Voices of Friends," formerly known as Wider Quaker Fellowship, was highlighted as a resource. The Quaker Youth Pilgrimage for 2014 will be to Bolivia and Peru, which is the first time the program will be held in South America. Friends are encouraged to share this opportunity with young people in their meetings.*

### **17. Nominating Committee Report (part two)**

*Jennifer (Jeff) Ginsberg presented additions and changes to the proposed Nominating Committee Report. The Earth Ministry Committee is being laid down. Openings remain for representatives to the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) and Friends were asked to take information about this opportunity back the meetings. Nominating Committee will continue work to fill some remaining vacancies for approval at Representative Body in Tenth Month. The Nominating Committee Report was approved. (See full report on page 130.)*

### **18. Appointed Visitors to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and Ohio Yearly Meeting**

*Nancy Craft, Barbara Gosney, and Robert Gosney plan to attend Ohio Yearly Meeting sessions for 2013. Deborah Shaw and Andrew Wright plan to attend Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). Travel minutes from Durham Monthly Meeting for Andrew Wright and from Rich Square Monthly Meeting for Robert E. Gosney and Barbara C. Gosney were read and endorsed by the yearly meeting. The clerk will endorse these travel minutes and write letters for Nancy Craft and Deborah Shaw as our representatives to these yearly meeting sessions.*

### **19. Process for the Revision of the Discipline**

*Lloyd Lee Wilson provided a historical overview of how the yearly meeting has revised the discipline in the past. This will be the fourth time in 110 years that the yearly meeting's discipline has undergone the revision process. This can be a challenging process and Friends were reminded that the traditionalists and the innovators need one another and it is only through this connection and working together that unity will be reached. The yearly meeting has approved a process for revision to facilitate this. Guiding principles include presenting one part at a time to keep the process manageable and there is no timeline for the completion. The greatest weight will be given to requests from monthly meetings rather than individual contributions. Monthly meetings will be connected to the process through appointed liaisons and regular updates via the yearly*

*meeting web page. The discipline will be a work in progress until final approval is given for the entire document. The appointed revision committee expects to serve for the length of time necessary for the sake of continuity. Fuller details of the process are detailed in the report given to Representative Body in Fourth Month, 2013. Appreciation was expressed for the clear process, which sets a good course for this undertaking.*

## **20. 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 Monthly Meeting:** There is a sense of expectancy and warmth in meeting; the ministry being offered reflects this. Our new meeting space has potential for developing a deep living silence, and we offer prayers that we will be able to fill it over and over. Concern was raised that we may need to do more to support those with rising gifts of vocal ministry.

**Durham Monthly Meeting:** Meeting for worship welcomes all members and attenders into the living silence and the Light. In the past couple of years, thanks to the assistance of committees and many Friends, we have deepened our understanding of what a gathered meeting is and, as a result, have had more gathered meetings. Vocal ministry expressed in the language of different faith traditions is well accepted. Still some of us question

whether the phrase “the Light of Christ” in the query diminishes its inclusiveness. The new assisted listening system has enabled more Friends to participate fully in meeting for worship.

**Fayetteville Monthly Meeting:** We do uphold our testimony for worship based on silent waiting for guidance from the Holy Spirit and feel enriched by it. There are times we feel the living silence more than others. We do feel more able to shine the light of Christ in the next week after attending the meeting for worship. We were reminded of the use of quivers (or afterthoughts) after meeting to help encourage more vocal ministry.

**Friendship Monthly Meeting:** The meeting for worship is at the core of the life of Friendship Meeting and is vital for those who participate regularly. We continue faithfully to worship in unprogrammed expectant waiting in which all may share in ministry. Often our silence is deep and there may be only one or two spoken messages or sharing in song. We feel the presence of the Spirit. Most of the time, those who offer vocal ministry are encouraged by others who have heard the messages. The Worship and Ministry Committee sponsors workshops and retreats to enhance the life of the meeting. Once a month there is an opportunity for those who are so led to come together to consider a query or scripture and share in an effort to deepen the life of the meeting. We also hold two half-hour meetings for worship on weekday evenings at the two Friends retirement homes.

**Greenville Monthly Meeting:** Our direct answers to the questions of this query remain affirmative. These questions prompted a discussion of the quality of the silence during meeting for worship, and how we can carry this over into our daily lives. We have found that extending our period of worship by even short amounts of time has a positive effect on everyone. Our vocal ministry has improved, and we continue to be aware of the need to encourage it. There would be a big abyss in our lives without meeting for worship.

**Rich Square Monthly Meeting:** We are clear that our worship is faithfully grounded in silent waiting on the Lord, free and unprogrammed, and shared by all. From the testimony of those who have worshipped with us over the years and our own experience, we sense that our gatherings at Cedar Grove often are a stepping stone into the Eternal Stream of Christ's presence among us.

**Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting:** We clearly feel the living, sacred silence when we gather. Newcomers remark upon it as well. In this space we become true listeners. The power of the silence may keep some from sharing. We might grow by encouraging those with powerful messages shared, after meeting is broken, to share during the silence.

**West Grove Monthly Meeting:** We find that the Lord's presence is often felt among us and visitors have commented on this. We feel we are generally clear under the various heads of this query.

**Wilmington Monthly Meeting:** Yes, Friends faithfully uphold our testimony for worship based on silent waiting, and for a free and unprogrammed ministry that may be shared by all. In recent months, a cohesiveness of message allowed the voice of GOD to unite us, reflecting the spiritual growth of the meeting. Silence and the spiritual aspect of silence are integral parts of our being and centers us for the coming week. Some speak eloquently through their silence, others share insights through vocal ministry, all come to meeting seeking the Light of Christ and the power of God in our midst.

***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 Monthly Meeting:** We see a contrast in the first part of the query, where getting to meeting and being on time is a matter of personal planning and control and the second part is



about letting go of control and being present to God. Making that transition is a challenge. Also we see the meeting settling into a new meeting space with a growing sense of quiet and reverence. Coming to meeting and having time and space to be with God is important to us even when we can't be in meeting every week.

**Durham Monthly Meeting:** We are challenged as a community by our vibrancy. We are very joyful and exuberant in our reunion each week. Friends remind us that we need to cultivate that still, small voice as we enter into Meeting for Worship. Arriving early and settling into the silence deepens our shared worship. Friends shared concern for distracting noise, shuffling and such. We are asked to be mindful of those who are particularly sensitive to distraction. We seek to continually remind and teach ourselves to cultivate a sense of worshipfulness and seriousness as we enter the Meeting for Worship.

**Fayetteville Monthly Meeting:** We are here to open ourselves to the Divine. The image of a stone sinking to the bottom of the bog can guide each of us as we settle in to worship. We are faithful in our attendance at meetings for worship unless we have good reason not to be. If late we are careful not to disturb the meeting. We come together as Children of Light to submit ourselves to the Spirit. An attender mentioned she appreciated the silence she encounters.

**Friendship Monthly Meeting:** Members and attenders are faithful in attendance. Some arrive early, others gather at the appointed worship time. If the occasion of a late arrival occurs, our greeter assists the person in entering the worship space with minimal disturbance. We are reminded of the importance of preparing ourselves for the gathered meeting, coming with the intention of entering into the "eternal stream" the heart of worship, with open submission and communing with God in our midst. The quality of our worship reflects evidence of this open submission and communion.

**Greenville Monthly Meeting:** The meeting is informally

extending the period of worship. Several attenders come well before the appointed hour. Some of us have been arriving late and we are concerned by their unwillingness to be prompt. We answered the second question with a heartfelt, unanimous yes.

**Rich Square Monthly Meeting:** Our meeting is not disturbed by late arrivals. We are thankful for the regular attendance of Friends who live in or near Woodland. We are glad that members who live at a distance are attending more frequently.

**Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting:** We find much joy and acceptance in the fellowship of Friends. We accept and celebrate all who come to Meeting for Worship, whether we share a consistent theological viewpoint or not, and no matter the time of their arrival. This query challenges us to examine the reasons large numbers of our members are not regular attenders. The committee of Ministers, Elders and Overseers has a project to reach out to non-attenders because we long to worship with all who are fellow members and attenders.

**West Grove Monthly Meeting:** We are faithful and as way and desire dictate, timely in our arrival, caring not to disturb the spirit of the meeting. We feel we do gather in a spirit of love and unity.

**Wilmington Monthly Meeting:** Generally, Friends are faithful in our attendance at meetings for worship. Being late is distracting to those who are trying to center, and we should be mindful of each other. Some Friends believe in a consciousness of discipline in which activities such as reading the Bible detract from communal silent worship. Other Friends read their Bible or inspirational book as a means by which to center down and believe that Quakers are patient and loving in their acceptance of all forms of silent worship. Friends occasionally experience gathered meetings resulting from organic, spontaneous vocal ministry building upon shared spiritual messages.

***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 Monthly Meeting:** Not answered.

**Durham Monthly Meeting:** Friends reflected on the challenges, currently and historically, of resolving differences and finding and maintaining love and unity in the face of inevitable human frailties. Friends shared the idea that certain qualities can arise out of direct contact with silence, such as tenderness, peace, inspiration, and forgiveness, and that our differences can disappear. Invitation was offered to search for metaphorical “enemies of the inner light,” to respectfully engage with one another and to recollect ourselves as members of the body of Christ.

**Fayetteville Monthly Meeting:** We do as a meeting and as individuals follow the teachings of Jesus in our daily lives—especially by following our Quaker testimonies, such as loving and forgiving; and try to live in the Spirit. We do try to listen to others when there is disagreement and have understanding in the Spirit of love. This query helps us in trying to avoid destructive criticism or be judgmental. When we do have differences among us, we do try to resolve them with love, honesty and humility.

**Friendship Monthly Meeting:** Our corporate worship is often rich with messages of love, unity, and the teachings of Jesus. Friends regularly voice gratitude for such ministry. The Holy Spirit feels alive in the interactions of this meeting and we try to maintain our awareness of that Spirit outside of meeting as well. We do try to work out any differences in a loving and understanding spirit. In seeking to listen more deeply, interiorly and exteriorly, we have made efforts to know one another at a deeper level which leads us into greater acceptance of where each one of us is in our spiritual journeys. There is a good level of openness toward how we share portions of our life stories and

a sense of trust in the validity of our varied spiritual experiences and expression. We try to stay aware of the continual work of forgiveness that begins with God's grace and is ours to embody. In striving toward this 'condition' we feel we can answer positively to the themes contained in this query.

**Greenville Monthly Meeting:** We work well together as a meeting community. One friend commented that all the criticism we give is needed. Our comments to each other both in business and in informal conversation are often characterized by this sort of gentle humor which we feel is a healthy thing.

**Rich Square Monthly Meeting:** We seek to live in the spirit of Jesus' teachings which brings us opportunities to live and act as Friends in faith. In order to see where we should be moving, we have to be mindful of where we are. We are not aware of differences among us. We trust that we endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting:** Membership in our community is dynamic, with members joining, new people arriving, and some members leaving. We find the goals of trusting and loving each other ever present in our minds as we work and grow together. Trust takes time and attention to flourish. While we face no situations of major conflict right now, we know we need a foundation of trust, forgiveness and love to be a healthy community. Considering this query reminds us that our speech has power. It is well to be reminded that we need not speak every thought, particularly critical thoughts. In meeting and in the larger world we seek and can benefit from the guidance and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to live even more in a spirit of love, honesty and humility in all our interactions.

**West Grove Monthly Meeting:** We feel that love and unity are maintained among us to a good degree and that we cultivate a forgiving spirit if differences do arise. Friends seek to wait daily to cultivate a spirit that seeks to comply with this query and trust we can step back and allow God to work.

**Wilmington Monthly Meeting:** We need to get beyond those things that we disagree about, political or otherwise, and focus on what really matters; the message of Christ. Forgiveness is a profound process that starts from within and benefits the forgiver even more than the forgiven. We acknowledge differences in opinion but seek to focus on what we have in common.

***Query #4:** Do we assume our rightful share of the expenses of the 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 Monthly Meeting:** Not answered.

**Durham Monthly Meeting:** We are grateful for the continued growth of giving in our meeting, and we see this as an extension of our shared unity and love. We rely on each other to discern our rightful share as we strive to each give freely and joyfully of our time, talents and possessions. In this manner, we witness love arising among and beyond us.

**Fayetteville Monthly Meeting:** We feel everyone supports the meeting in some way, as we are able. We do use our individual gifts for the good of the meeting as best we can. We always seem to have our needs met by the gifts given by our members and friends.

**Friendship Monthly Meeting:** The meeting as a whole does regard time, talents and resources as given in trust. As needs are expressed, appropriate responses well up from members and attenders in the meeting. Financial contributions allow the meeting to meet its budget, maintaining good stewardship of our physical space in addition to making modest contributions to the various Quaker organizations and some to assist needs in the local Greensboro community. Committee work is strengthened and enriched by complementary gifts offered by each committee member. Attenders as well as members are encouraged to share, as they are able, what they can of their time, talents, and resources. We do feel a deep sense of gratitude for the blessing

of the Spirit that our community experiences in giving and receiving.

**Greenville Monthly Meeting:** Our meeting has not accumulated possessions and what small expenses there are we share. As individuals we do as much as we can in our larger community. With increasing age comes decreasing strength and energy so we find we cannot do as much as we did in the past. We can however accept this and appreciate our ability to help in the smaller ways we can still can.

**Rich Square Monthly Meeting:** Friends feel that the members of the meeting are assuming their rightful share in meeting's expenses. The meeting is especially appreciative of Friends at a distance who have become more involved with their time, talents, and possessions.

**Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting:** Our members are led to support our meeting with our financial gifts, and we pass these along freely. We marvel as we see our Meeting serving as a conduit for both members and attenders to share their many talents within our group and with the larger community, year after year. Perhaps most dear to us and most precious, our members and attenders come to Meeting with tender and open hearts to share their spirits. That free sharing, that generosity is what creates the soul of this gathering and maintains its essence over time.

**West Grove Monthly Meeting:** Our membership and needs are small making a simple yes an easy but incomplete response to this query. While Friends are aware that we are meeting our obligations, knowing the type and amount of these commitments would inform our response to this query. Considering the query led Friends to express interest in learning more about historic Quaker practices related to "rightful share" in the expenses of one's meeting. Acknowledging our condition, Friends feel that we are clear under the various heads of this query.

**Wilmington Monthly Meeting:** Friends agree that a rightful share is not the same as an equal share, but rather a fair share depending on individual circumstances. Friends should be mindful that everything that we have, including our time and talent, is given to us in trust, and that our resources should be used for the benefit of others. For example, our meetinghouse is open to groups for activities that are in line with Quaker principles.

***Query #5:** Do we regularly attend our meetings for business, and are they held in a spirit of love, understanding, and forbearance? Do we seek the right course of action in humble submission to the Authority of Truth and in the patient search for a sense of unity under Divine guidance?*

**Davidson Monthly Meeting:** Not answered.

**Durham Monthly Meeting:** This query reminds us to examine whether or not we each regularly attend Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. While we strive to create a space where we can hold each other in a spirit of love, understanding, and forbearance, we do not always achieve this. We bring our own hurt as well as our passion, and this can make it challenging to receive each other fully. We are asked to keep ourselves open to one another, withholding judgment and seeking to see the light within the proposals that our brought before us. We are grateful for the skilled guidance of our clerks as we work to sculpt this shared creation.

**Fayetteville Monthly Meeting:** We do follow this query. Some members mentioned the importance of attending business meeting even if unable to attend Meeting for Worship. We are reminded that it is a Meeting for Worship with attention to business, and it is more important to seek the right course of action than to complete the proposed agenda.

**Friendship Monthly Meeting:** We wish we had more members attending our meetings for business. While some members have job or family commitments which sometimes prevent them from

coming, all should be able to attend some time during the year. We need to remind ourselves that a meeting for business is also a meeting for worship, not just a time to consider decisions. Our business meetings are held in a spirit of patient listening. We hope, but can't prove, that love and understanding is always there. Finding the right course of action is our goal, although we are not always successful. When a decision is to be made all choices are considered and unity is diligently sought. The business meeting is the place that our committees can bring concerns for consideration by the membership. We have a yearly schedule for committee reports and each session of the business meeting has a common schedule. Thus there are few surprises for the members. We wish to commend our clerk for sending out the meeting agendas ahead of time.

**Greenville Monthly Meeting:** We do faithfully attend our meetings for business; we do seek the right course of action. We are reminded that sometimes people will come with a fixed idea and find it difficult to listen and change. This in turn poses difficulties for the meeting.

**Rich Square Monthly Meeting:** We have members who regularly attend meetings for business, some of whom make the effort by traveling long distances. We feel encouraged by this commitment to involvement in the business of our Meeting. We do meet in a spirit of love, understanding and forbearance. We seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us to a sense of unity in making decisions.

**Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting:** Surrounded by the spirit of Meeting for Worship, deliberations are held and decisions are made. In our Meeting for Business we use Quaker process, listening and speaking with patience and forbearance. The structure of our Meeting for Business insures efficiency of dispatch as well as concordance with the leadings of the spirit. We appreciate this. Stirring within us as a group is a leading to use our energy and address larger issues in our world. There is a yearning for more creativity and openness to divine inspiration for us as a group. Does this leading come only to individuals, or



can it come to us as we gather in Meeting for Business? Can a group be led in a creative search for fulfillment of larger goals? We are left with a sense that Divine Guidance should be sought about the readiness of our Meeting for Business to receive guidance as a group.

**West Grove Monthly Meeting:** Our meetings for business are generally well attended, and we feel we do seek the guidance of our Heavenly Shepherd in our deliberations on the business which comes before us. We are reminded that while we feel in unity with the query, constant attention is needed to be or remain faithful in our sense.

**Wilmington Monthly Meeting:** A core group of Friends regularly attend our meetings for business. We respectfully practice discernment (letting go of pre-held opinions and listening profoundly to each other's ideas), patiently seek consensus, and have faith that we will eventually arrive at the right course of action.

**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 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 Monthly Meeting:** We acknowledge the difficulties of explaining Quaker worship and recall our own confusion as children in meetings. We also acknowledge that we have opportunities to share and teach outside of First Day school, in informal exchanges and taking time to listen to those children now attending meeting. We try to model being a caring community for our children to leave them with an awareness that it is available to them and one that they can return to throughout their lives. One piece of this is supporting youth to attend FGC Gathering and other Quaker events.

**Durham Monthly Meeting:** This query is beautifully phrased, highlighting our philosophy to teach by example and precept and to provide the space for children to develop as they are led. We are raising up the next generation of elders. The grounded experience that teachers experience with our youth is richly rewarding, and there are spontaneous, unexpected moments when our youth express their gratitude and love for our teachers. Our youth program is held with great care and commitment from many adults. Over the past decade, youth and adult programming has become more closely knitted together, and we are grateful for this evolution. The intergenerational connections are evident, as children readily turn to many adults in meeting for assistance. We joyfully welcome the return of Friends raised in our meeting as we also honor the paths of all of our youth.

**Fayetteville Monthly Meeting:** As a meeting, we have no children attending on a regular basis. As individuals, we do the best we can to provide spiritual nurturing as way opens in our extended families. We do welcome children when they come and make provision for their care.

**Friendship Monthly Meeting:** We are blessed to have quite a few children who attend regularly, several who started as babies, as well as new babies and older preschool and elementary-age children. It is obvious that the child care committee is committed to the spiritual growth of the children, not just their basic care, and this is evident in the way themes have been planned, materials gathered, and meetings held. While the commitment of the committee and others who have helped with childcare is obvious, it has sometimes been hard to find enough Friends who are willing or able to take a turn with our paid caregivers to fill every weekly slot. Those Friends who have helped with the children have shared spiritually enriching activities with them that encourage them to develop their religious insights, and to know God. The children's openness and expectancy about life is evident in the excitement in which our children enter First Day school, listen to, discuss, and act out Bible passages and other spiritual enriching readings, and do projects. The uninhibited and cheerful way the children conduct

themselves during the time they are in meeting makes it clear that the children see Friendship Friends Meeting as a special and fun place to come. Meeting provides a nurturing spiritual community and this is shown to the children when they are smiled at, played with, and spoken to by Friends, as they happily join us for meeting, hospitality, sandwich making, and potlucks. While First Day school is an essential element in our spiritual nurturance of the children, the experiences and interactions in the arms of the community as we go about the life of our community also provide a place for them as a richly fertile place to grow in God's love.

**Greenville Monthly Meeting:** Except for the occasional visit by grandchildren, our meeting has no children at this time. We do all have adult children that give us joy and irritation. Parenting requires a balance, to leave them alone or interfere. There aren't any fixed rules as to the best course of action and we just have to try to sense when the Spirit wants us to push and when we ought to step back and just wait.

**Rich Square Monthly Meeting:** Although we have no children in our meeting, we seek to be open to opportunities with children who may visit our meeting and with children in our larger community. We have had several visits by a family with three children who travel from a distance. The children encourage us by their sense of openness and expectancy and their quiet presence among us during our times of worship. We continue to share support for a local child to attend summer camp and our meeting has initiated a Community Children's Garden as a summer activity for Woodland children.

**Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting:** We have few small children in this meeting currently but we can look at our relationships with our grown children as well. Adult children continue to seek guidance from us throughout their lives, and we try to be present to these relationships. Our school and our First Day school give us opportunities to share our Quaker values with the children under our care as we seek to share our faith. We struggle at times to be consistent in bringing our values together with issues such

as the safety of the children, and we recognize this will be an ongoing challenge for many of us. There is an awareness that we have not fully answered this Query, and we are asked to look deeper within for an understanding of our role in the educating and listening to all the children in our lives. These children benefit from the examples offered by the school teachers, and these lessons often last in the minds of both teachers and students. We are all children of God, and this encourages us to see all our relationships as sacred.

**West Grove Monthly Meeting:** Lost.

**Wilmington Monthly Meeting:** Although there are no children currently attending Meeting, Friends strive to develop relationships with the children in our lives, realizing that a good experience is more important than any particular agenda. There are many opportunities to communicate concepts such as peace and tolerance, caring and concern, inclusiveness, respect. Friends believe that the message is more important than doctrine. In silence, children learn to focus. Quiet is one of the greatest gifts that you can give a child.

***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 Monthly Meeting:** We find this query timely with events in North Korea and Syria and the fears around us. It makes us aware of how difficult it is to find a balance in speaking for the alleviation of fear and reconciliation while not causing another form of violence when calling for non-military solutions and also the balance in respecting personal choices in the light of our own choices. The meeting has written letters, and some of us seek to practice in our daily lives ways of reconciliation in our families, workplaces, and communities. We recognize historical changes and our places in them. We also feel

the call and challenge of living in the Life and Power, developing our spiritual practices and having the courage to speak out when called. We also see a broader question of how the larger Quaker community is addressing peace today.

**Durham Monthly Meeting:** Yes, we endeavor to live in the life and power that takes away the occasion of all war. It is with deep commitment and with love that we walk this path. The peace testimony speaks to the heart of who we are as Quakers. The query reminds us to continually ask ourselves how the meeting can bring a greater witness to the world. This work is ongoing, requiring both personal and communal examination. One friend spoke to the powerful witness of deep interior quiet. Others noted that the threat of violence is increased for those in our community who live in poverty, and that climate change threatens to bring more food insecurity to parts of the world. While we are tempted to feel like we are not doing enough, or that the problems are too large to be solved, we are also aware that we are living into the solutions each day as we walk this path together. We can do more, and the more we work together, the more we will do.

**Fayetteville Monthly Meeting:** As individuals, we actively plant the seeds of peace in ourselves and in our world. Those seeds produce testimony against war and for peace. We are a peaceful group; we come to peaceful resolutions of conflict. We give people praise, not just criticism. The meeting has placed a marker at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum, stating our peace testimony, and showing another way of thinking. We operate by unity in the meeting, and try to practice consensus where we can in the wider community. Individually, we try to be more considerate in our personal and business relationships with others. We are honest and open in our disagreements. If we offend, we seek reconciliation. We individually strive to hold each other up, and be peacemakers in our homes and at work. We shared many stories among ourselves as to how we do this. As a meeting, we financially support other organizations that promote peace.

**Friendship Monthly Meeting:** We live in a time of violence, a time when many people are struggling, often against their own governments. Even in our own country, violence is not uncommon, as evidenced by the recent Connecticut shooting of the school children and some of their teachers. These acts of violence, especially when prolonged as is the war in Afghanistan, clearly illustrate the Quaker belief that “war is not the answer.” Further more we realize that world peace can be achieved when and if we live our own lives in a manner that “does away with the occasion of war.” As a Quaker meeting and as individual Friends we try to support those groups with similar goals (e.g. AFSC, FCNL). Shouldn’t we spend more time exploring ideas of war and helping counter the barrage of violence to which we are exposed? Have our young people been able to think about their own positions on war and violence? In what category would each of them be placed if the military draft was reinstated as some in Congress have proposed? (WWII categories: 1A-eligible to be drafted for the military service; 1AO-eligible to be drafted as noncombatant; 1O- registered with the draft as a conscientious objector; non-registrant).

**Greenville Monthly Meeting:** It is easy to give a qualified yes to this query, perhaps too easy. It is harder and harder to remain apart from what causes war. War pervades our whole society the way slavery pervaded the early American society. This is not our personal fault, but it is a challenge not to participate. Privately it is difficult to live in a community that celebrates military individuals. We feel the peace testimony is a witness and not a philosophy. Intellectualizing about it is generally not productive and can even generate confusion where there ought to be clarity.

**Rich Square Monthly Meeting:** We struggle with being citizens in the most powerful and militarily active country in the world. We do not directly participate in military preparations, but we are aware that our taxes and political participation enable preparations for war.

**Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting:** This query challenges us on many levels, from the very personal to our views on the role of

our nation as a world power. In taking the time to reflect we recognize that many times we take what feels like natural action based on the situation in which we are immersed. Our area is steeped in, surrounded by, a military presence, the idea and machinery of war envelop us. When we see the stark contrast of our Quaker testimony with the huge size of the military in our surrounding area we feel conflicted, as many of us and our neighbors' direct livelihoods are military-dependent. We are challenged again as we review the world situation. The availability of information that shows us the many dangers and conflicts in which our nation might be at risk raises the specter of what to do – when is the use of force a deterrent, or an act of aggression? Our lives are embedded in a culture that includes the reality and likelihood of war. All we do that follows the basic pattern of our American culture, from the food we eat to the things we buy for our modern lifestyle, contributes to the imbalance of resources in the world that creates occasions for war. At the very most personal level, in our hearts, we study and pray and struggle to live in the strength of a power that can take away the occasion for war. In our daily lives, in our dealings with others, we wage peace. Our meeting supports our efforts, and is a refuge for us as we struggle. In our joint effort we make a statement, conflicted though we are.

**West Grove Monthly Meeting:** As a body we work to live into this query. When our elected representatives do not seem to work to this end we need to speak louder. As a member of the dominant society of war advocates we need to work daily to weed out the seeds of war in our lives. What do we do? If we live into all of our testimonies we bear witness to each. This is our strongest message. Hearts open to God allow us to be a living truthful witness.

**Wilmington Monthly Meeting:** Friends are angered and appalled that our society's response to violence is more violence. For example, in the aftermath of the shootings in Newtown, CT, many school districts are calling for armed guards in elementary schools to provide security. Seeking to focus on the area of gun control, Friends generally agree that promoting awareness is

preferable to confrontation, and to this end propose to do the following: (1) take a stand against assault weapons; draft a letter to the Friends Counsel National Legislations (FCNL) to support a ban against assault weapons (devote the 2nd first day in February to further discussion and work on the draft letter), (2) generally raise awareness of the dangers to children of firearms in the home (firearm accidents are one of the greatest killer of children) and to stress the importance of knowing how to keep all children safe when they visit the homes of gun owners, and (3) write letters to the editor against the notion that armed security guards (resource officers) are the answer to school violence.

**Query #8:** *Do we observe simplicity and honesty in our manner of living? Are we careful to live within the bounds of our 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 Monthly Meeting:** We hear in this query a call to live in right relationship with others. We see where we fall short when our desires to help out run our abilities and time and when we find ourselves attached to things that give us pleasure and make life easier. At the same time, we acknowledge there are different ways to live simply and that there is a tension between living within our means and generosity. We value plain speaking as a form of simplicity. As a meeting we are living into our desires and be useful by sharing what we have, participating in town activities creatively within our resources.

**Durham Monthly Meeting:** As a Meeting we seek to observe simplicity and honesty in our manner of living. This query speaks to our desire to make our lives available to others. In this way we will be loving God with all of our hearts and minds and loving others as we love ourselves. As we keep returning to these queries, we continue to look deeper. We seek the simplicity and honesty within our hearts that leads us to question our



assumptions and allows for our lives to be changed. As we let go of our attachments, be they tangible or intangible, we will continue to build the beloved community.

**Fayetteville Monthly Meeting:** As a meeting, we observe simplicity in our meeting place and manner of worship. We are prompt in meeting our financial obligations. As individuals, we endeavor to keep a simple lifestyle, realizing the many temptations to use more and spend more than we need. We are aware of the connection of this query to the Peace Testimony. Greed is a main seed of war. We endeavor to be just and honest in all our dealings and prompt in the payment of debts. Some of us could be more careful in choosing activities that strengthen our physical life. For the most part, we choose wholesome activities.

**Friendship Monthly Meeting:** We strive, as a meeting and individually, to maintain a state where our actions are in harmony with our beliefs. We endeavor to manage our commitments so that we are not unduly stressed. We work to be sure we are not wasteful of spiritual or material resources. We appreciate the need to focus on this query as we consider how to proceed on altering our meetinghouse or building a new one.

**Greenville Monthly Meeting:** We do try to observe simplicity and honesty in our manner of living. Honesty is accompanied by tact where necessary. It is hard to maintain honesty when there is so much dishonesty in the world. As members of large organizations we are expected to go along with official statements that are sometimes obviously untrue. Quietly taking a stand against these untruths in our secular lives is a kind of witness to the truth. We try to choose activities that augment our spiritual lives and avoid what is harmful. We do try to keep our promises and be just in our dealing with others. We avoid those things that are harmful to others. With maturity one comes to value ethics, honesty and simplicity.

**Rich Square Monthly Meeting:** Our intent is clear under all heads of this query. We are aware that we live in a society and

economy, which is apparently structured in many ways against that. We make the best choices we can, knowing that none are perfect opportunities.

**Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting:** Those of us in this meeting, some of us raised with the ideals of this query and others convinced later in life, resonate with the integrity of these questions. In response to them, as a checklist, we can say yes, yes and yes. In some ways this seems quite simple. But this query stirs us in deeper places. When we delve into the many choices we make about the way we live, we realize that our North American lifestyle is highly energy consuming and is not simple or austere. Still using these basics of behavior, can we find joy and true generosity of spirit in the lifestyle the query describes? Regardless of our means, can we find ways to share our gifts, not just monetary, but emotional and spiritual, with others? After asking these questions, we go deeper still: is seeking simplicity also a way to shift the focus of our attention from our relationship with things to our relationship with God, and a way to seek a greater acceptance of and generosity of spirit to ourselves? This query encourages us to seek ways to quiet ourselves to hear the stirrings of the spirit, to help us follow the individual passions of our lives, to grow strong and well, to create the abundance that encourages physical, emotional and spiritual help.

**West Grove Monthly Meeting:** As a meeting we are in unity with this query. By the grace of God we are able to live simply and honestly. We rejoice that our recent attention to the meetinghouse's survival as a structure was accomplished within the bounds of our circumstances. By living the commandment to love God with all our heart and all our mind West Grove abides through joys and struggles.

**Wilmington Monthly Meeting:** The simple answer to all of these questions is "yes;" a mindful answer is that we try our best given that we often have to work with hectic schedules, annoying people and whatever life throws our way. We try to be just, fair, balanced and respectful in our relationships with others

including those who we meet during the course of the day. This includes being upfront and straightforward in our dealings with family members on emotional issues. We don't always make the best choices when it comes to our selection of activities but we try to recognize when we are successful and focus on those areas where we need to improve.

**Query #9:** *Are we mindful of Friends testimonies against alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and other harmful drugs; and do 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 Monthly Meeting:** It was suggested that the query could be rephrased as: What choices and habits of our daily lifestyle are getting in between us and God? The original query doesn't capture all of our modern distractions and addictions, including cell phones being a possible source of separation from those around us. We do focus on positive things as a meeting to build fellowship and to be together, such as sharing talents and gathering together for game nights.

**Durham Monthly Meeting:** We hear the echo of the Advices in this query and we recognize the historical context within which the query arose. Just as we are all connected in this global economy, we all struggle to live in right relation with the world. As a meeting, we are moved to action by suffering, but we struggle to address root causes. We strive to hold each other in love and kindness, modeling the change we want to see in the world. For example, many members regularly drink alcohol in moderation, and yet we all strive to model healthy behavior for others. We are hopeful that the revision of the Faith and Practice will help us articulate this new understanding.

**Fayetteville Monthly Meeting:** Although we believe that abstinence is the clearest witness against overindulgence, some of us occasionally have an alcoholic beverage. None of us use or deal in tobacco or other harmful drugs. We do not gamble except for buying an occasional educational lottery ticket or participating in a game of chance to support a charity. We are very aware of the temptations to grow richer at the expense of others and try to avoid it. We are faithful to the testimony against taking oaths. We strive to be truthful at all times.

**Friendship Monthly Meeting:** We affirm that our corporate witness regarding the use of addictive substances is clear and consistent when we consider our meeting functions. There is no thought of alcohol, tobacco, or any kind of drug use during our corporate gatherings of the meeting as a whole, although there continues to be a wide range of opinion amongst the individuals that make up the meeting regarding what each one thinks is the clearest witness against overindulgence. As far as we know those who worship with us do avoid gambling and other sorts of demoralizing diversion. We do try to keep in mind how our various choices, financial and otherwise, affect others as well as ourselves, for good or ill. We are faithful to the testimony against taking oaths.

**Greenville Monthly Meeting:** This query appears to some as being censorious. We refrain successfully from things that harm, except perhaps food. We want to be nonjudgmental and give patient attention if people struggling with such problems are near us.

**Rich Square Monthly Meeting:** We feel we are clear under the various headings of this query. For each of these headings, there is a positive action, which we seek to embody.

**Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting:** To some among us this query can seem like a list of do's and don'ts. Looking deeper, the many ways to focus our attention and energy as listed in this query all have the potential to cost us our relationship with our true spirit, our light within. We live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century world, as

it is, and individually we engage with others and the physical substances and activities of the world differently, each of us. We find it good to take time to reflect individually on each of our actions, from the way we earn and use wealth, or alcohol, to the choices we make about figures of speech that imply we are not always honest. Applying this query to us as a meeting, we are aware that our actions demonstrate to the larger community our adherence to our testimonies. We show what is important to us by how we focus our attention as a group as well. We are reminded to choose wisely and well those actions that encourage our light within to shine, both individually and as a group.

**West Grove Monthly Meeting:** Friends are mindful of the guidance offered in this query and seek to live in this world without being part of it.

**Wilmington Monthly Meeting:** Individually, we maintain a lifestyle to promote moderation in our own lives. As a meeting it is more feasible for us to practice abstinence as a community. We do practice against overindulgence in all aspects presented in the query. We avoid the temptation and demoralizations presented to us and strive to live simply and honestly. Our faith in our testimony against oaths is a strong indication of our commitment to this query.

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

**Davidson Monthly Meeting:** While acknowledging that we are a part of modern society and do contribute to the loss of resources, we are making choices in our lives to limit our impact. It is also important to add that we are making these choices out of our Faith and our desire to live out the testimonies. In our meetinghouse, our location allows for shared resources of parking lots and playgrounds and efforts were made to make the building have a lower impact.

**Durham Monthly Meeting:** No response.

**Fayetteville Monthly Meeting:** We do endeavor to live in harmony with nature. We feel spiritually connected to the earth and responsible to be good stewards of its resources. For example, we feel a deep resonance with nature when we are camping or walking outdoors. Our lifestyles reflect our increasing awareness that our resources are irreplaceable. We are in the habit of recycling, buying more locally produced food, and driving our cars less, among other things that we do to respect our environment. However, we realize that we could do more and hopefully will grow in our awareness and in our actions.

Note: Friends were reminded of Query 10 in the Suggested Queries for Individual Friends in the Appendix of our Faith and Practice book. It reads, “Are we concerned that man’s increasing power over nature should not be used irresponsibly, but with reverence for life and with a sense of the splendor of God’s continuing creation?”

**Friendship Monthly Meeting:** We are aware that this Query has a spiritual basis implied in the first sentence and its practical application in the second sentence. We desire to live in harmony with nature and have adjusted our manner of living, individually, as we are able. As a meeting, we take small steps in our meetinghouse, which is inadequate for the purpose of conservation and efficiency, such as recycling waste materials and reducing the use of energy with a programmable thermostat and a timer on our water heater. We recognize that we have not yet taken up a public witness for concerns with the environment, climate change, and eco-justice.

**Greenville Monthly Meeting:** We struggle as individuals to be in harmony. Our area has poor public transportation, and biking is dangerous on most roads. One person expressed concern that we consider eating less meat as a way to use less of the world’s resources.

**Rich Square Monthly Meeting:** We do seek to live in harmony with nature. Being aware that we are transient creatures leads us

to desire to leave no damage. We accept this realization on a daily basis as part of faithful living. We give thanks for gifts from nature and try to use them appropriately. We feel discouraged that the prevalent culture shows little appreciation for natural resources other than attempting to claim and control them.

**Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting:** Always more is possible; we are open to ways to improve our care for nature. Harmony is perhaps not the word we should use, there being an element of domination in our intent, as we cultivate and improve. But we cherish the moments of quiet contemplation in which we simply observe. We acknowledge our responsibilities as stewards and the need to be reflective in our drive to tame the wildness. As we work with outer nature we seek also to transform our inner nature to affect what harmony is possible.

**West Grove Monthly Meeting:** West Grove Friends are aware of the world's irreplaceable resources and witness in our Community the degradation of our waters and topsoil. We are mindful to take what steps we can to keep trash from the landfill, to remove junk from the Haw River, to reduce our use of electricity, to maintain our farmland for agricultural purposes and to use local food from local farms.

**Wilmington Monthly Meeting:** Friends realize that Wilmington, NC and the surrounding region is a unique environment. We try to be mindful of the costs to our environment brought on by our everyday activities but act mostly when convenient to do so. We are conscious of nature but we do not really live in harmony with nature. Sustaining the ever growing and aging global population plays a large part in the degradation of environments. Unfortunately the rest of the world also wants the same standard of living that we currently enjoy. Friends do "endeavor" to be careful: we worry, but we must also have hope. Small events do have a ripple effect and everything is connected.

***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 social injustice and racial discrimination in our local communities and in the world at large?*

**Davidson Monthly Meeting:** We are challenged by this query, by seeing both the need to not get caught in the perfect being the enemy of the good and in moving beyond our comfort zones. We need to acknowledge the worth of our daily deeds and to question how often we see that of God and respond to the needs of those who don't think like us or whose needs we are not comfortable with or do not understand. We recognize that we fall short, are challenged, and can then try again.

**Durham Monthly Meeting:** No response.

**Fayetteville Monthly Meeting:** We strongly believe and practice reverencing that of God in every human being with concerns for the needs of individuals. We are seeking as a meeting to rectify social injustice and racial discrimination with the giving of our time and funds.

**Friendship Monthly Meeting:** As a meeting, we endeavor to recognize that of God in everyone. Our quest is to show concern not only for individual needs but also to witness in our efforts to provide material assistance such as offering our meetinghouse space to individuals and groups. We recognize the ongoing need to rectify social injustice everywhere in part by making our meeting house available to outside groups, whose presence educates and informs us on wider issues that are consistent with our own social justice concerns. Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee brings issues to us. Recently the meeting wrote a minute opposing the death penalty to share with the community through the newspaper and to send to the North Carolina governor and our state and federal legislative representatives. A forum also was held that included a film and a panel discussion about the lives and working conditions of local migrant workers.



**Greenville Monthly Meeting:** We do reverence that of God in every person. We seek to rectify existing social injustice and racial discrimination in our local communities. We can do this best by putting boots on the ground. One member has been helping with a youth program at a local Hispanic Pentecostal church. This program brings together children from our Hispanic, Korean, and white communities. Our outreach to the church in the black community ended this winter.

**Rich Square Monthly Meeting:** As far as we know, we all seek to recognize every person as a child of God. With regard to rectifying social injustice and racial discrimination in a more intentional way as a meeting, we are less actively involved than we were 20-30 years ago. Then, we were active doing committee work, taking meeting positions, and making meeting contributions to social justice organizations. We appear to have become less optimistic about such group involvements as the means to accomplish the hoped for outcomes. During the past year we have not sought to come to unity as a meeting about which activities to corporately support. We trust that all our members are mindful of this query, seeking to address injustice and racial discrimination in more personal day to day, face to face situations. We remain hopeful that such personal actions are an example to others and provide some amelioration in situations of injustice. Some of our members are active as individuals in supporting organized efforts at rectifying social injustice and racial discrimination.

**Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting:** The query joins personal reverence to concerns for the world at large. We do a part of the latter. This morning it is the reverence, respect, compassion for individuals, especially the children in our care that moves us to reflection, to gratitude and to new resolve.

**West Grove Monthly Meeting:** We do seek to reverence that of God in every human being and recognize the difficulty of doing so when an individual's behavior is negative or harmful to others. Our young friends spoke of the challenges of living this query at school. One student has joined an anti-bullying club at

her school as a way of rectifying social injustice and discrimination in her school community.

**Wilmington Monthly Meeting:** Friends admire those with the courage to speak out against injustice and encourage others to do the same. Discrimination takes many forms including racial, ethnic, and religious and occurs whenever there are those who are different. We must all try to be respectful of others and treat each individual without preconceived notions of whom or what they are.

***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 this visitation and caring extend beyond the members of our own meeting?*

**Davidson Monthly Meeting:** We recognize that as a small group and one that has deep fellowship, we need to find ways to be welcoming without being overwhelming, especially for those who do not have a Quaker background. It can be hard to have enough time with fellowship to talk with meeting attenders and visitors. With the new building we need to be aware as individuals and as a meeting of how we interact with visitors and to remember to be authentic; to be who we are. We hear that some of the college students do feel welcome and acknowledge that it would be good to know how welcome other visiting students feel. We are aware of people who are interested in attending but are not sure how best to invite them. Is there something we can share in advance that would make people more comfortable with visiting?

**Durham Monthly Meeting:** We try to be welcoming to newcomers and non-members, while recognizing that not everyone feels welcomed at Meeting. We are encouraged by the

level of new memberships, which we believe is an appropriate level for a meeting of our size. We are also gratified by children from Meeting who move away for any number of reasons and then return, either to visit or stay and engage in Meeting as adults. Also more young people have joined committees in recent years. From time to time we visit Friends in need of our care who are not members of the meeting. Not only have these Friends been grateful but so have the larger Quaker bodies such as North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) of which they are members.

**Fayetteville Monthly Meeting:** We do welcome newcomers and non-members who attend our meetings. We do encourage them to share in meeting activities. We have no younger members to include in our activities. We visit, call, send cards or make other contacts with members or attenders when they are ill frequently. Many of us extend our visitations beyond the members and attenders of our meeting.

**Friendship Monthly Meeting:** The meeting as a whole endeavors to welcome newcomers and visitors with a guest book, introductions at the rise of meeting, and greeting visitors personally. We encourage newcomers to attend our forums and retreats and welcome participation in the work of the meeting. We take delight that on the fifth First Day in a month our young children are in charge of our Meeting for Worship. The children stay throughout worship, break meeting and make announcements. We take note of their leadership by speaking to them personally. We are particularly aware of the need to visit and care for each other. This year there have been a number of our families with health and financial needs. Both individually and corporately the meeting has responded to their needs. Financial assistance has been given through meeting funds. Individuals have given hours of personal attention to meet health care and shopping needs and spiritual guidance and fellowship. Others are aware of additional personal needs and are able to respond as the way opens. When particular needs arise for members who live at Friends Homes Retirement Community they are assisted by other members who live at Friends Homes.

We seek to respond to needs outside our community when informed of special situations and have the resources to do so. Our Care and Counsel Committee has worked diligently this year to be in touch with absent members. At the Christmas season a letter was sent to absent members expressing our interest in their wellbeing and giving them news of our activities. Our Care and Counsel committee continues to be mindful of both our nearby members and those who are no longer near us.

**Greenville Monthly Meeting:** We welcome all who attend our meeting. The meeting dog, Summer, greets everyone as they arrive. We could be better at visiting one another between scheduled meetings. Our care and concern reaches out further than the members of our own meeting.

**Rich Square Monthly Meeting:** We so seldom have newcomers to the Meeting that an answer here might be considered hypothetical. We hope we would welcome newcomers and encourage their participation in meeting. We also hope we would ask non-members to consider membership when they are in accord with the principles and practices of Friends. We have a few younger members, all of whom live at such a distance that their participation in meeting is limited. We do need to be more mindful of these younger members and invite their involvement in meeting as opportunities arise. In visitation, as in other meeting activities, we seem not to get as much done as we feel is needed.

**Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting:** Thinking of involving the vibrancy of youth in our Meeting we are grateful for the work of our Young Friends Committee. Many of us have been invited to share talents with young friends. So much more can be done to grow this part of our meeting. A greater commitment of resources and energy would be needed. Prayerful consideration will help us find our way here. This query stirs us personally, bringing to mind specific memories of our own warm welcome, recent or distant, to the VB Friends Meeting. We have a role model in one of our founding members, Louise Wilson, whose link to the spirit has spread among us. More of us than ever are

acting as greeters, and our efforts to join together, through Discovery Dinners, are bearing fruit. Meeting itself helps us connect more cleanly to our deeper selves, and gives us energy to reach out to others. We could grow by sharing more freely all information we each have about who might want visits, and asking with love if time spent together in worship is wanted.

**West Grove Monthly Meeting:** Yes, we do welcome newcomers and non-members who show up at our door. A challenge we face is to know how to be visible and inviting to those who may be seeking yet not aware of us. Our younger Friends are becoming more involved in meeting activities and we value their contributions. As our members and attenders reside in four or five different counties we find it difficult to visit one another frequently and are grateful to have one First Day set aside for fellowship following meeting for worship.

**Wilmington Monthly Meeting:** As a meeting we work to welcome newcomers and non-members/attenders. There is no hesitation to accommodate the needs of newcomers and we are willing to change the pace of our meetings for others. Non-members present at query expressed their comfort and encouragement to return and participate. Young members are thought of and encouraged to accept responsibilities of the meeting. We extend our caring to many beyond the meeting, but we would like to be more mindful of those who may be seen less frequently or who are lonely. We encourage those who are ready to consider membership but we would like to extend our visits to allow for adequate discussion about readiness to join. This query encourages us to resolve to make more visits.

## ***21. Minutes of the Yearly Meeting of Ministers, Elders and Overseers***

*Friends approved including the minutes of the Yearly Meeting of Ministers, Elders and Overseers and query responses with the 2013 yearly meeting minutes.*

**Minutes of the Yearly Meeting of Ministers, Elders, and  
Overseers, Seventh Month 10, 2013  
Campus of University of North Carolina at Wilmington  
Wilmington, North Carolina  
North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)**

Those in attendance of the gathering of Ministry and Oversight were:

Named monthly meeting representatives:

Davidson – \*Patty Levering  
Durham – Kent Wicker  
Fayetteville – \*Bob Cooper  
Friendship – \*Carole Treadway, Ray Treadway  
Greenville – Bruce Arnold, \*Mary Miller, Richard Miller  
Rich Square - \*Barbara Gosney, \*Bob Gosney, \*Edward Pearce  
Virginia Beach – \*Nancy Craft  
Wilmington – Cheryl Fetterman

Others attending:

\*Marguerite Dingman (Durham), Claire Koster (Friendship), Susan Lees (Fayetteville), David Perry (Davidson), Rebecca Ruhlen (Davidson), Lloyd Lee Wilson (West Grove), Andrew Wright (Durham)

*\*Someone willing to participate in a called discernment conference call.*

Visitors:

Bill Geary (Mullica Hill Monthly Meeting, Southern State Worship Group, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting), Tom Etherington (Mullica Hill Monthly Meeting, Southern State Worship Group, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting), Pat Bradbury (Kendal and Sedbergh, Britain Yearly Meeting), Connie McPeak Green (Cleveland, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting), Marty Grundy (Cleveland, Lake Erie Yearly Meeting), Ken Randall (Kendal and Sedbergh, Britain Yearly Meeting), Rex Sprouse (Fall Creek, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting), Mark Wutka (Nashville, SAYMA)

The fragrances of southern pines and crepe myrtles greeted Friends as we gathered in Wilmington, North Carolina for the business session of Ministry and Oversight.

After opening worship clerk read a passage from the bible, Luke 4:38-44

<sup>38</sup> Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. <sup>39</sup> So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

<sup>40</sup> At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. <sup>41</sup> Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.

<sup>42</sup> At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. <sup>43</sup> But he said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." <sup>44</sup> And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Monthly meeting committee reports were read and appreciated. Over the past year, among the monthly meetings, there has been growth, challenges named and faced. The value of simply spending time with one another was lifted up.

The responses to queries 3, 4, and 7 were read.

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?

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?

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?

The tension between waiting and action was expressed within the context of waiting worship and Divine Inspiration. Returning to our center amidst the business of life can help us listen for divine guidance as we find the firm ground upon which we stand.

Claire Koster brought a request for guidance on the ministry she has been given within her monthly meeting. The following people are willing to meet with Claire: Mary Miller, Margie Dingman, and Bob Gosney.

Clerk's Report:

All nine monthly meetings and one of three worship groups have been visited in the last year. The clerk plans to visit each monthly meeting in the upcoming year. She will travel with the queries:

How is each monthly meeting with the concept of recording ministers and elders? Does your monthly meeting use the recording process to nurture the person's gift?

The clerk comes to listen and learn.



Gratitude was expressed to the clerk for taking this action of travel.

The yearly meeting brought forward the questions and concerns on what is the historical purpose of the Ministry and Oversight body, and what has been our traditional historical perspective on this body?

In response to the continuing conversation about who we are as a body, the clerk recommended that a committee be formed to take the notes generated at the Ministry and Oversight meetings to continue the conversation between the body and monthly meetings. Every monthly meeting's Ministry and Oversight (or equivalent committee) will be visited by one committee member to continue the conversation and to add to the notes. The committee will then bring forward a proposed written description of the purpose and function of Ministry and Oversight at the next meeting of Ministry and Oversight during the 2014 yearly meeting sessions. Nancy Craft and Richard Miller have agreed to be on the committee.

The yearly meeting also brought forward concerns on how we may respond to inquiries from distant Friends and requested that the body give the yearly meeting recommendations on this question. A committee of 2-3 people will discuss and practice discernment with these issues and bring the clarity they find back to the body of Ministry and Oversight. Margie Dingman, Bob Gosney and Ray Treadway have agreed to be on this committee.

People acknowledged to the clerk that they were willing to be available in the next year to be called on if necessary to help discern questions that come to the body and or given to Ministry and Oversight by the yearly meeting. Their names are marked by an \* in the list of attendees.

Members of the body of Ministry and Oversight are grateful for the energy and inspiration of the clerk. If for any reason she is not able to carry through the action she has proposed there are

those within this body who will step forth to carry on the work of the clerk.

All those gathered closed with silent worship.

With respect,

Nan Bowles, Recording Clerk  
Kristin Olson-Kennedy, Clerk

**Gathering of Ministry and Oversight  
Fourth Month 27, 2013  
Durham Friends Meeting  
Durham, North Carolina  
North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)**

Those present were:

Barbara Gosney, Robert Gosney, Jessica Barnhill, Ann Ashford, Robert Cooper, Susan Lees, Deborah Shaw, Sidney Lee Kitchens, Andrew Wright, Ruth Anne Chiddres, Nancy Craft, Mary Miller, Richard Miller, David Bridge, Cathy Bridge, Cheryl Fetterman, Kent Wicker, Keith Williamson, Patty Levering, Bruce Arnold, Lloyd Lee Wilson, Kristin Olson-Kennedy (clerk), Nan Bowles (recording clerk).

Friends gathered amidst the energy of new leaves and new emerging life to continue our conversation of “*Who are we as a yearly meeting body of Ministry and Oversight?*”

North Carolina Yearly Meeting events for Ministry and Oversight were announced. “*Stories from our elders; Life stories about growing up in NCYM(C) – the elder perspective*” will be a video shown that was filmed several years ago. We are being given the opportunity to hear from some of our elders what being a conservative Quaker means to them.

An invitation will be sent to monthly meetings for a gathering at yearly meeting for recorded elders and ministers in support of each other.

A second invitation will be sent to all monthly meetings for a yearly meeting gathering for anyone experiencing a ministry or eldering role and those who support them.

After a time of Spirit led conversation, worshipful silence closed our gathering, with the intent of holding our questions and concerns within our hearts until we meet again.

Unminuted comments regarding “*Who we are as a yearly meeting body of Ministry and Oversight?*” are included separately.

Respectfully,

Nan Bowles, Recording Clerk

**Minutes of Ministry and Oversight  
North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)  
Tenth Month 4, 2012**

Friends gathered for a called meeting of Ministry and Oversight in Virginia Beach. Those present were:

Susan Lees, Deborah Shaw, Lloyd Lee Wilson, Edward Pearce, Nancy Craft, Wendy Michener, Mary Miller, Richard Miller, Patty Levering, David Perry, Tobias Paddock, Rebecca Mani, Peggy Rommen, William Hall, Andy Young, Keith Williamson, Pat Phelan, Linda C. Smith, Andrew Wright, Jessica Barnhill, Jeff Ginsburg, Louise Wilson, Kristen Olson-Kennedy: clerk, Nan Bowles: recording clerk.

Vistors: Bruce Arnold, Bonnie Barto Arnold of Croatan Friends in New Bern North Carolina and Ken Randall of Brigflatts Local Meeting, Kendal and Sedbergh Monthly Meeting, Britain Yearly Meeting.

The meeting opened in silent worship. The clerk read a blessing from John O'Donahue.

We are gathered to discuss two questions:

Who are we as conservative Quakers and how do we as a yearly meeting open ourselves to the wider Quaker world? How do we respond to those seeking to know who we are as North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)?

The following minute was read from Kristen Olson Kennedy and Rachel Miller upon their return from the FWCC Sixth World Conference in Kenya (from the minute book of 315<sup>th</sup> session of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) 2012, pp. 61 and 62.)

*19. Interest in Conservative Friends at FWCC Sixth World Conference*

*Kristin Olson-Kennedy and Rachel Miller discussed how the interest in conservative Friends and our ways, expressed at the Sixth World Conference in Kenya this spring, was a call to action. We need to, as a corporate body, discuss ways in which we can give people access to the Divine gifts that we have. We need to avoid hiding our light under a bushel. We need to make ourselves more visible in the world.*

*There are lots of opportunities to visit. Lots of opportunities to minister. Rachel and Kristin gave this concern over to the body to consider, and there was a period of reflection with numerous ideas and concerns given voice.*

*The clerk (Richard Miller) described a sense that North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) is feeling ready to speak less tentatively in discussing faithful life with others. The body charged the Yearly Meeting of Ministry and Oversight (the open body with named representatives) to take on the concern of determining how to be more responsive to those people who are articulating a need to know more about us.*

The clerk read a minute to clarify what we are asking ourselves as to the second query (from the minute book of 315<sup>th</sup> session of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) 2012, p. 122 bottom of page).

*What is the purpose of the yearly meeting Body of Ministry and Oversight ? Out of what grounding does our work grow? What is our center? How do we grow from the place of that Center?*

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) is ready to take on the concern to respond to people wanting to learn more about us. How do we share with the wider world who we are as conservative Friends? How do we make ourselves accessible and responsive to those who are searching?

We can approach this concern through being present with people and those who come to us seeking to learn who we are. As we focus on this concern it is important to keep in our hearts relationships with people among ourselves and with those who come to us to learn about who we are. Let us keep in our hearts that we can speak of the joys within us that we live through our experience of the waiting silence of worship. We can speak of the joys of gathering as a yearly meeting of conservative Friends. We can speak of our joyous relationship with the Divine.

We can sponsor representatives to other yearly meetings as well as sponsor representatives to come to us.

We can come together with the smaller monthly meetings to help one another reach out to the wider communities through gatherings such as Quaker Quest.

Friends agreed to hold a called meeting of the Yearly Meeting of Ministry and Oversight to further this discussion in Fourth Month, 2013.

The gathering closed with a period of worshipful silence.

The recording clerk would like to express gratitude to Jessica Barnhill for stepping in when needed until the recording clerk arrived.

Respectfully,

Nan Bowles, Recording Clerk

### **Report from Davidson Monthly Meeting**

We have read and considered the yearly meeting Queries for Ministry and Oversight and have submitted responses to all queries.

Our meeting's representatives to NCYM(C) Ministry and Oversight are Kristin Olson-Kennedy and Patty Levering. Our representatives at this yearly meeting session will be Kristin and Patty, and others who are able to attend.

We have continued to address the spiritual nurture and adult religious education support of our meeting. We sponsored a meeting retreat led by Nancy Fennell from Ft. Myers, FL, Monthly Meeting, encouraging Friends to engage with the spiritual rootedness of the work we do in the meeting. We have also provided ongoing groups for contemplative practices, worship sharing that particularly addressed needs of some of our college students, and a Hearts and Hands group that gathered to work on needlework projects to serve the community. Pastoral care has been addressed by sending cards, providing social events to build community, and actively engaging with friends facing life challenges.

Patty Levering, clerk

### **Report from Durham Monthly Meeting**

Ministry and Counsel has spent the past year focusing in a variety of ways on ensuring the growth and quality of spiritual life at Durham Friends Meeting. Because our meeting is large, and because almost every aspect of the life of our meeting

affects its spiritual health, we sometimes feel the burden of more work than we as a committee can deal with well. (We are concerned that the same may be true of our sister committee, Care and Support.) We have not recorded answers to all queries this year, but we have sometimes met as a committee more than once a month in order to meet our responsibilities. We have done our best to follow right process and believe that the spiritual life of our meeting is strong, and that our meeting remains open to the leadings of the Divine Spirit among us.

During the past year, ministry and counsel appointed new support and accountability committees for Deborah Wallace (for her war tax resistance) and Toby Berla (for his School of the Spirit participation), and brought to business meeting for its approval a new Minute of Support for Andrew Wright (for his Biblical education work). We have laid down Emily Stewart's Support and Accountability Committee (for her trip to the Friends World Conference). We have organized many clearness committees for new members, for marriages, and for other issues. We have also discussed the parameters for what represents an appropriate issue or query around which to form a clearness committee.

We believe our quality of worship remains high, with messages arising out of waiting worship, and seldom falling into merely secular discussion of personal or political notions. We are concerned, however, to ensure that the Sharing of Joys and Sorrows that follows waiting worship continue in a worshipful spirit. That spirit can be diminished if too much is shared in too haphazard a fashion in such a large meeting as ours, with parents growing anxious as the time to pick up children from First Day school nears.

During the past year, our challenges have mainly come from the rapid growth of our meeting, with many visitors, new attenders and new Friends. One ongoing challenge is to provide basic information on our meeting for both newcomers and long-time attenders. To this end, Ministry and Counsel has produced a single-sheet brochure, "Durham Friends Meeting at a Glance." A more significant challenge is to ensure that all in our community are more fully aware of the ways and testimonies of Friends. Other challenges include the increased burden of such numbers

on our meeting committees and the meeting clerk, and the need to more fully engage newcomers in fuller participation on committees and support of the meeting. Because of this increased burden, an extra member will be added to Ministry and Counsel during the upcoming year.

One of our biggest challenges this year arose from a request by the Durham Friends Meeting Trustees of the Carolina Friends School Board for a donation of \$10,000 over three years to the CFS Capital campaign. Friends could not unite behind all of the recommendations of an ad hoc committee, so Ministry and Counsel initiated a process of discernment which included a focus on budgetary priorities at our Spring Meeting retreat, a workshop on listening by Kristen Olson-Kennedy, listening sessions on Quakerly educational perspectives and a threshing session on the budget request itself. After a mindful process in which we believe all voices were heard in love, Friends reaffirmed their support for CFS, found unity on a response to the budget request, and appointed an ad hoc committee to explore further local opportunities for educational ministries. During the past year, Ministry and Counsel revised our meeting handbook entries on our role, and the role of clearness and support committees. We have also participated in an ad hoc committee that drafted a statement for the upcoming Youth Program Handbook on how to best support the families of children with special physical or behavioral needs in our First Day school and youth programs.

We feel that the number of successful new initiatives in our meeting reflects a strong sense of Friends' Spirit-led commitment to deepening both our faith and our opportunities for living it. These include the new Community in Action Groups, our first Men's Retreat, and the "Quaker Pilgrimage" to England. New opportunities await as meeting nears the end of its mortgage, and the possibility of using some of those funds to make our ground floor space usable.

### **Report from Greenville Monthly Meeting**

Richard Miller, Bruce Arnold and Mary Miller are appointed to this body. Greenville Monthly Meeting has no



formal committee, but the 3 elders travel to meeting together on First Day. During this time we consider the spiritual condition and growth of our meeting. We discuss how best to deal with issues as they arise. For example, one attender, while a true seeker, has no experience of vocal ministry practices and often responds to ministry with conversation. We carefully consider how to tenderly educate her. We also discuss the physical needs of our community, how to listen to and help each other.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Miller, clerk

### **Report from Rich Square Monthly Meeting**

During Fourth and Fifth Months 2013 Ministry and Oversight proposed and the monthly meeting accepted a provisional change in how Ministry and Oversight carries out its responsibilities. The change provides for the appointment of members to assist the ministers, elders, and overseers in the work of Ministry and Oversight. These appointed members would be designated to assist with either ministry and worship or care and counsel responsibilities, and be available to Ministry and Oversight as it meets to consider concerns in either area.

The “Advices to Meeting of Ministry and Oversight” were read at a meeting of Ministry and Oversight. The “Queries for Meeting of Ministry and Oversight” were neither read nor answered at a meeting of Ministry and Oversight.

Lloyd Lee Wilson, a recorded minister in Rich Square Monthly Meeting, has moved to Alamance County and his membership has been transferred to West Grove Monthly Meeting.

No representatives from Rich Square Ministry and Oversight have been named to the 2013 meeting of Yearly Meeting Ministry and Oversight, but some Rich Square Friends expect to attend.

Robert Gosney, Clerk of Ministry and Oversight

### **Report from Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting**

Nancy Craft was named to represent us at the coming annual session of the yearly meeting of Ministry and Oversight. There have been no changes in the names of those serving as ministers and elders in Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting. The queries for the meeting of Ministry and Oversight were considered during this past year and the responses are attached. The Ministry and Oversight Advices were read.

On behalf of the meeting of Ministry and Oversight at Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting,

Paula Justice, Clerk

### **Report from West Grove Monthly Meeting**

Taken from the minutes of the West Grove Meeting of Ministers, Elders, and Overseers (MEO), held Sixth Month 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at which Elders Dixie Newlin, Janis Ansell, and Charles Ansell; Recorded Minister Lloyd Lee Wilson; Les Fleming, Laurie Newlin, Charles Newlin, and Clerk of MEO Eric Ginsburg were present.

Charles Ansell and Janis Ansell were recognized as Elders to the meeting, and Lloyd Lee Wilson was recorded by the meeting as a Minister of the Gospel.

The Advices to Ministry and Oversight were read. The Queries for Ministry and Oversight were also read and answered as reproduced below. The answers were accepted as nearly representing our present condition and the clerk is directed to forward the answers to our approaching yearly meeting. Any member of this meeting who may be able to attend will represent us.

Eric Ginsburg, Clerk

## **Report from Wilmington Monthly Meeting**

Representative named to Yearly Meeting M&O – Cheryl Fetterman

Ministry & Worship members – Cheryl Fetterman, clerk, Connie Keller, Rowena Hensler, Goldie Walton, ex-officio (meeting clerk)

There have been no changes in membership of this group, or in recorded ministers or elders.

The advices were read in October, 2012.

### **Query Responses from Ministry and Oversight Committees to the Annual Sessions of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Body**

**Query #1:** *Are we aware of our duties as ministers, elders, and overseers; and do we conduct ourselves in a manner commensurate with our responsibility?*

**Davidson:** One way to carry out our responsibilities is to encourage others in their spiritual gifts and care for them in general, which we do. We also care a lot about creating prayerfully the space for meeting for worship. We work to make our meeting a safe place to share personally. We want an atmosphere of warmth and welcome and belonging. We care faithfully and seriously about the spiritual aspect of the meeting community.

**Durham:** “Are we aware of our duties as ministers, elders and overseers, and do we conduct ourselves in a manner commensurate with our responsibility?” We reflected on our discomfort and uncertainty with certain terms, but also on the importance of the functions and responsibilities associated with those terms. It is especially important in a large meeting to make clear the ways and testimonies of Friends, and appropriate parameters.

**Friendship:** We hope we conduct ourselves appropriately, but perhaps we should be more deliberate in reviewing our official

and unofficial responsibilities, and examine our role as committees more often. We try to be attentive to and intentional about meeting the needs of the meeting community. We feel our business is often hurried in our limited corporate meeting time, but individual members give of themselves freely to the care of the meeting.

**Virginia Beach:** A deep discussion ensued about the caretaking duties of MEO members for the overall health of the meeting. We need to be better listeners. The sense of our care for one another needs to be articulated and communicated to our members. It is important for us to let both members and attenders know our meeting has a process in place to assist them in times of physical, mental, spiritual and financial need. If they desire more information about Quakerism or need emotional support, we can help. Our Adult First Day school and prayer group (and prayer list) contribute to this. MEO is striving to become more sensitive to our responsibilities and will grow in this manner as we let go of the past and focus on the present.

**West Grove:** We are conscious of our duties, although we would do well to reacquaint ourselves more frequently with what we are charged to do and more frequent gatherings of this body would help to do so. The distractions and trials of the world in which we live do concern us and we are conscious of the many ways in which they can interfere with the important time we need for worshipful reflection. Notwithstanding, the monthly meeting has benefitted from the concern and guidance from members of this body.

**Wilmington:** We endeavor to do our best to continually be aware of and meet the responsibilities we hold.

**Query #2:** *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?*

**Davidson:** We do attend meetings, but it takes a while to let go of the busyness we have just left. Being disciplined about having times of personal retirement matters in our being able to settle in a meeting for worship and for business. This query asks about bringing our families to meetings, and we are aware of having families who are not a part of Quaker meeting.

**Friendship:** Members of our committees attend faithfully as circumstances permit.

**Virginia Beach:** One can attend, but faithfulness comes from allowing more time in our daily lives to practice our roles in nurturing this faith community. We seek increased awareness of the balance between the spiritual and temporal aspects.

**West Grove:** This body is clear under the heads of this query.

**Wilmington:** Individually, we try to attend as many meeting as possible. Sometimes we find family obligations taking precedent over a meeting. We include family when it is appropriate.

**Query #3:** *Do we seek to wait for and to move under Divine inspiration in the exercise of our gifts?*

**Davidson:** Individually we pay attention to what our actions are grounded in, but we may not always do so. There are some gifts of ministry that are exercised with particular intention to be grounded, while others simply happen out of living in trust. As a committee we listen to and move under divine guidance, within our abilities. When we let the grounding slip, we call ourselves on it and attempt to return to the center. We wonder how we communicate with others how we function as a group, attempting to live out this query. How do we make it real to others and encourage others to live this way?

**Durham:** “Do we seek to wait for and to move under Divine inspiration in the exercise of our gifts?” Yes. There is a tension between the two parts of this query – waiting and action – but this reflects the reality of living in the Spirit. It is challenging

sometimes to distinguish between expectant waiting and avoidance; we Quakers can sometimes be overly cautious or conflict-avoidant. We could do more to name the gifts of others.

**Friendship:** We aspire to wait for and move under Divine inspiration in the exercise of our gifts and in our work together, and feel that we can answer positively to this query. Our committee rejoices in the sense of spiritual deepening we have felt recently, and in the opportunity to continue in the growth in Grace, individually and corporately.

**Virginia Beach:** In an increasingly stimulating environment, it becomes more difficult to return to the quiet center before we share our gifts. Inspiration requires an effort to cleanse us from the busyness of this earthly existence. Our eagerness to move forward leads us to mistakenly get ahead of our guide. More time spent together building trust among us, such as weekend or Saturday retreats, or rotating 'prayer partnerships' with different members of MEO might help us to more honestly share concerns about our spiritual welfare. Only then can this kind of spiritual growth be shared with the meeting.

**West Grove:** Yes, we seek to move under Divine guidance and to await such guidance before we move or act. We endeavor to do so through our daily practice and preparations that will open us to the leadings of the Holy Spirit.

**Wilmington:** Yes, we are thoughtful and deliberate in our actions and seek Divine inspiration in the exercise of our gifts.

**Query #4:** *Does our ministry promote the spiritual growth of our members, building it up in the faith that is in Jesus Christ? Are we all kept aware of the basic principles of Friends faith and worship? Do we strive to make our lives blameless before God and man?*

**Davidson:** Rather than providing programming that we think the meeting should have, we have tried to meet the meeting where it is. Our spiritual nurture of those who visit and are new in the

meeting comes in small conversations following meeting for worship. We are feeling greatly gifted by the Davidson College students who are coming to meeting. The silence in worship has been deep and refreshing. Our faithfulness has been exhibited in individual faithfulness to the gifts coming through us for the corporate body.

**Friendship:** In the past year we have had multiple opportunities to prayerfully uphold members of the community as they have struggled with life issues of illness and transition. Spiritual growth has been noted in members of the meeting community, and we are in hope that our prayers for the meeting and those that gather with us in worship contributes to that condition. Members of this committee do attempt to keep the principles of Friends faith and worship in their awareness. We do strive to make our lives blameless before God and those with whom we engage.

**Virginia Beach:** We strive to promote the spiritual growth of our members by leading a process to examine the committee structure and purpose, sharing our traditions in the meeting for worship, and reading the advices. It is the actions of Jesus that inspires us. A concern for the strength of clearness committees for membership and marriage was thoroughly discussed. We still need to better communicate the principles of Friends faith and worship with tenderness and watchfulness.

**West Grove:** Perhaps our monthly meeting members are the better judges of our success in fulfilling the first part of this query, but we do hope that our ministries have helped to build up and sustain Friends' faith. If our lives speak of the love of one another and of Creation that the Scriptures call for, then our lives do become blameless before God and Man.

**Wilmington:** We try to encourage our members to find and grow their faith in God and in each other. We are continually learning and growing. Within Ministry and Worship we are continually helping each other learn more about Quakerism and this yearly meeting. We are unsure that we agree that anyone should lead a

blameless life as this could mean that we should never take on responsibilities. We do not think our focus should be on whether we might be blamed, but should instead be on the welfare of others.

**Query #5:** *Are we in unity one with another and with the Meeting to which we belong?*

**Davidson:** Ministry and Counsel holds up a sense of the Quakerism to which we aspire. We have a shared sense of purpose and care for the meeting, which we are able to express in different opinions, concerns, and approaches. Open to the diversity of needs and preferences of people in the meeting, we lead and guide like shepherds, hoping to encourage people's faith and create awareness of what Quakerism is. With our new meetinghouse we are attracting newcomers. We wonder what impact having more strangers will have on our functioning as a committee and on our meeting. We try to reflect Quakerism as a tree with many branches that is rooted in deep soil, a place and source of Light.

**Durham:** "Are we in unity one with another and with the meeting to which we belong?" We certainly feel no disunity in this committee. We need to remain conscious of not acting as an "insiders" group, but to stay connected to our entire community. Unity can be difficult in a meeting as large and diverse as ours, but we believe that good process can achieve this.

**Friendship:** We feel we are in unity one with another and with the meeting. Kristin Olson-Kennedy was invited to share. She expressed her intention to meet and greet with all the monthly meeting committees of Worship and Ministry, and offer all the invitation for Friends to ask questions that might be difficult in the yearly meeting setting. Kristin shared a bit about the recent meeting of the Yearly Meeting of Ministry and Oversight, which took place at representative body, during which those gathered considered the question of who we are as a body. Kristin also



shared about the question that the yearly meeting asked the Yearly Meeting of Ministry and Oversight to engage with, regarding relationship with geographically distanced inquirers. She will be in touch with yearly meeting members who have received inquiries to gather information for this ongoing consideration. She also shared about the sponsoring of two gatherings at the upcoming annual sessions, one for those whose gifts of ministry and eldering have been recorded in their monthly meetings, and one for those who feel they are called in ministry and those who support Friends called in ministry.

**Virginia Beach:** We feel we have grown deeper in faith and trust, one with another. We are encouraged by what seems to be a deeper meeting for business. This may be evidence of a greater unity with the meeting. We are reminded to seek unity with Spirit.

**West Grove:** Yes, as far as we know, this body is in unity with one another and with the monthly meeting.

**Wilmington:** Yes, we are in unity with the members of the meeting, but remain open to differences.

**Query #6:** *Are we careful not to become involved in the business and activity of everyday life to the impairment of our religious lives and the service to our Meeting?*

**Davidson:** Individually we do spend many hours in meeting activities. But we all struggle to remain grounded in the Spirit because of distractions in everyday life. For many of us going to meeting for worship is an anchor in our lives. Out of this grounding we are able to listen with love and care and not with advice-giving. For some of us being in meeting is not the highest priority but rather *living* as a Quaker is the priority. There is a difference between being distracted by the world and being in the world living faithfully.

**Friendship:** We do sometimes get involved in the circumstances of everyday life to the detriment of our involvement in meeting,

though it may not be a conscious decision. Many members feel their everyday lives are not separate from their religious lives, and all the business and activity is for the same greater purpose. But we could also reflect more on how our daily lives both support and enrich our religious lives, and vice versa. As a community, we are able to help uphold members through the struggles in their everyday lives that may keep them from participating more fully in the life of the meeting. Even so, many of us struggle with caregiver fatigue.

**Virginia Beach:** The pace of modern life tends to interfere with our service to the faith community. When we are ill we may find it difficult to participate. The early Friends' communities were more interconnected. As a body, we seek a stronger connection with the meeting and its business.

**West Grove:** Our lives are busy in many ways and this challenges us to make continuing efforts to seek the roots of our worldly hindrances. Only by such vigilance and through daily practice of our disciplines do we keep the world at bay and nurture our spiritual lives.

**Wilmington:** Sometimes we, as individuals, fall and must brush ourselves off and try again. We try our best to carefully balance the activities of everyday life with our service to the meeting.

**Query #7:** *Do we watch over one another for good? When asked for counsel, do we consider carefully what may be truly needed, being especially attentive to the young and inexperienced?*

**Davidson:** We try the best we can with the knowledge we have to care for one another, but we don't always know and there are people or situations that drop through the cracks. We feel particularly good about our care for Davidson College students who have worshipped with us this year. Sometimes they come to learn about Friends and have questions. We provide a welcoming and open environment that encourages them to feel comfortable to ask their questions. Some of us make a point of speaking to visiting students. Others of us have been thoughtfully present

with students who have attended over time. There is a sense of overall caring in the meeting.

**Friendship:** We all help as much as we are able, given the constraints of our own lives. The community at Friends Homes is a particularly supportive community for those who live there. We are very much involved in caring for some members and attenders of the meeting, but there are others we should give more attention to. In particular, we are aware we need to continue to seek ways to support and nurture new attenders.

**Virginia Beach:** With many new members this year, we've been more focused on the young and inexperienced. Last year's committee workshops and a growing First Day school are evidence of this. What may be truly needed is our experience, as a guideline and not rule-making. Our approach, as the core of the meeting, is to lead by example and to formulate an answer to the perpetual question, "Who are we?"

**West Grove:** Friends are clear under this query and we learn from one another by both work and example.

**Wilmington:** Yes, we watch over one another for good. We are careful to offer counsel in a tender manner minding the young and inexperienced.

## ***22. Report from Quaker House***

*Quaker House co-directors Steve and Lynn Newsom presented their 2013 report.*

Quaker House is a manifestation of the Friends' peace testimony based in Fayetteville, NC, home of Ft. Bragg. Quaker House provides counseling and support to our military service members and their families and advocates for a more peaceful world.

Since becoming the co-directors in December, we set out to establish our presence in the military and civilian community. One goal is to present the house as a warm and welcoming place for people to visit and ask for help and support. *The Fayetteville*

*Observer* started things out for us wonderfully with an article headlined “A Place of Peace.” We host house concerts, community groups and forums with a mixture of people attending from both the civilian and military communities. The Wounded Warriors began a women soldiers’ support group here in July. Our regular classes on Mindfulness attract military personnel.

The GI Rights Hotline offers free, accurate, non-directive information about issues of conscience, discharge, medical, psychological and other regulations. Steve began training as a GI Rights Hotline counselor and we have been referring the calls and emails to our counselors, Steve Woolford and Lenore Yarger. They report an upsurge in calls, especially ones that deal with service members being discharged for “misconduct” when they actually suffer from PTSD or other brain injury. We are aware that our help may prevent soldier suicides.

We held public forums on drones and human trafficking and organized a vigil at the gates of Ft. Bragg to protest the use of militarized drones. These activities drew good publicity.

We continue to visit monthly and yearly meetings and attend conferences in order to introduce ourselves and present the work that Quaker House is doing.

We received an anonymous donation for \$15,000 to begin a domestic violence victims’ support program. With this donation, we hired a therapist who does support groups and individual counseling and works with military and civilian organizations. She has been asked by a chaplain to help counsel couples with whom domestic violence is a threat. We have announcements of our domestic violence support program in the newspaper and many other publications. We were asked to attend a Sexual Assault Prevention training conducted by a Special Operations Brigade at Ft. Bragg in order to assist in the training. We were able to present our GI Rights Hotline information at the same time.

We are updating and redesigning the Sgt. Abe “Truth in Recruiting” materials in order to put them into a booklet form that can be distributed to high schools.

We updated the webpage and keep an active presence on Facebook. Our Facebook page readership increased considerably and continues to grow.

A group of students from Ohio Wesleyan University visited us for their spring break tour. They worked a day on the yard and house and they continue to be in touch. Five Rivers Friends Meeting, South Carolina, also had a work-day at Quaker House on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, helping with yard work, painting and organizing the office.

In September, the Baptist Peace Fellowship will be coming to us for a “Friendship Tour,” a three day tour of our house and Ft. Bragg with guest speakers on issues such as soldier suicides, domestic violence, the use of drones and torture, etc.

We distributed postcards asking the President and in NC, Senator Burr, to seek accountability for torture. We have also distributed postcards asking for the release of John Kiriakou and another asking for a ban on the use of militarized drones.

Lynn has met and talked with Ft. Bragg military mental health professionals about how Quaker House can help, particularly with domestic violence. She was asked to attend a “Spiritual Resiliency” group of the chaplains of Ft. Bragg and they commended us for the work that Quaker House has done and is doing, especially with conscientious objection. They agreed with me that Jesus was a pacifist as Quakers are. They plan to meet at Quaker House in the near future.

### **23. Web Page Committee Report**

*Rebecca Ruhlen presented an update on the activities of the Web Page Committee. The committee was tasked with oversight of the Facebook group and monitoring regarding privacy concerns. The committee was also charged with considering the attractiveness and usability of the yearly meeting’s web site. The committee was fairly inactive this past year so more deliberation and focused effort is needed to accomplish these tasks. It was asked if the yearly meeting was clear about what it wishes to accomplish with the yearly meeting’s Facebook presence and asked for better communication between the yearly meeting and the Web Page Committee about this vision. Information was provided about*

*possible resources. The committee plans to begin discussion regarding a vision for the yearly meeting's social media presence and a revision of the yearly meeting web site in the coming year.*

#### **24. Letter to North Carolina Governor and Legislature**

*As approved earlier in response to a statement by Wilmington Monthly Meeting, the clerk presented the draft letter. Friends approved sending this letter. It will be delivered to government officials in Raleigh the day after the conclusion of our yearly meeting sessions.*

13<sup>th</sup> of Seventh Month, 2013

To Governor Pat McCrory and members of the North Carolina General Assembly:

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) of the Religious Society of Friends unites with the concerns expressed by fellow religious leaders of other North Carolina denominations with regards to recent actions by the North Carolina General Assembly that harm the least among us. Legislative actions have significantly reduced services to the poor and adversely affected basic access to healthcare, education, and opportunities. We are faithful citizens holding forth for democratic processes and legislation that protect, respect, and care for all people.

At our 316<sup>th</sup> annual sessions held this week in Wilmington, we approved a minute of support for Wilmington Friends endorsing the recent joint statement issues by Episcopal, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, and United Methodist leaders. We asked that this information be shared so that each of our meetings might consider the statement and seeks ways to respond in their local communities. Individual members are already active in the Moral Mondays movement and some felt led to be arrested. There may be other ways that our members will be called to respond. We acknowledge that other citizens may differently interpret and apply religious teachings. We do not see this as a political or partisan act but as a faith witness, an expression of our understanding of the biblical teachings and

imperatives: protect the poor, respect the stranger, care for the widows and children, and love our neighbors (Isaiah 10:1-2, Hebrews 13:2, James 1:27, Matthew 22:39, and Galatians 5:14).

We are led to write and act in love based on our understanding that our first citizenship is the Kingdom of God. Given this citizenship, we are faithful citizens holding forth for democratic processes and legislation that protect, respect, and care for the poor, the aging, and children.

*As you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. (Matthew 25:40)*

Richard Miller, Clerk

**25. *Epistles from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and Ohio Yearly Meeting***

*Epistles from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and Ohio Yearly Meeting were read.*

**From Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)**

To Friends in North Carolina Yearly Meeting:

Greetings from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), where Friends from Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wisconsin met for worship, fellowship and play in a spirit of love and tenderness during our 135th annual session on the campus of our beloved Scattergood Friends School and Farm. We appreciated your epistle and reflection on radical hospitality. We join with you in seeking to be a faith community where God's Spirit is alive among us, and where all who attend may find refreshment, and a place at the table in the beloved community. We were delighted to welcome your representative, Andrew Wright. We valued his presence and ministry, as well as Dan Treadway's informal reports on his recent visit at your annual session.

Our theme, Old Stories and New Connections, reminded us of our rich spiritual heritage as Conservative Friends. As we mourn the death of beloved elders of our community, and celebrate the gift of their lives among us, we feel a renewed call

to faithful living, so that our lives, too, may be patterns and examples for the next generations. As part of this challenge, the report from Midyear Meeting and our morning Bible study invited us to open ourselves anew to the teaching of Jesus and the ways Scripture may still speak to Friends today.

Listening to the reading of our queries and selected responses called us into worship and rich sharing. The adage, “Practice what you preach” implies that you talk first and then practice, but we feel this should be reversed so the action comes before the preaching. Addressing our queries is a time of taking inventory of our practices to ensure we live with integrity, so the witness of our testimonies will be authentic. We need to be tender with and support each other as we do our best, however imperfectly, to live our faith and practice with integrity.

As we listened through the many reports from our committees, we remembered Paul’s description of the church as the body of Christ. We are grateful for the gifts and work of all those who serve on our committees and for the care with which they hold our business and community. Each member brings his or her gifts to Christ’s work in healing the brokenness in the world. We especially appreciate the work of the staff at Scattergood Friends School and Farm for hosting our annual session, their commitment to Friends testimonies and their care for the students and one another. They are a precious witness in the world to our testimonies.

Evening programs on the work of FCNL, storytelling, a panel sharing stories of what “living Quaker” has meant to them, our talent show and evening singing filled us with hope, gave us insights for change and offered opportunities to sing and laugh together. During meals together, we relished lively conversation, moments of silent worship, and fresh food from Scattergood Farm. Some of us worked at the farm, tearing down an old shed to make way for produce washing and packing facilities.

Reports from our representative and attenders at the FWCC World Gathering of Friends in Kenya drew us into consideration of how we are called to be salt and light living the kingdom of God in a broken world. We were inspired by stories of the spirit led work of Friends in Kenya and elsewhere in teaching non-violence, and healing and reconciling communities



broken by violence and injustice.

We value these opportunities to better understand and connect with Friends from around our yearly meeting, the U.S. and the world, but we are also aware that travel to such events causes harm to our earth. Protecting God's creation is a call that weighs on us, and we are grateful for the efforts of those who are heeding that call. We pray for guidance in finding creative ways to be faithful.

The presence and activities of our children, young Friends and a baby trying to crawl under the meeting house benches brought smiles, new energy and hope for our future. We also welcomed members of Quaker bodies newly under our care: the Silver River Worship Group in La Plata, Missouri, and Laughing Waters Friends Preparative Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It is with much joy that we return to our home meetings carrying new bound copies of our revised Faith and Practice. We also return with new stories of old friends and with a new commitment to live more fully into the measure of Light that has been given us.

In God's love,  
Deborah Dakin, clerk Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

**From Ohio Yearly Meeting**

To Friends of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative):

*Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. – Philippians 4:8*

To our Friends of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative),

Warm greetings from Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends, gathered at the Stillwater Meeting House, Barnesville, Ohio, in Eighth Month for our two hundredth annual sessions.

As we mark this milestone of two hundred years as a

yearly meeting, our thoughts are drawn often to the past and our history. We began our time together at the Mount Pleasant Meetinghouse, our historic meeting place before schisms divided us. It felt right that we were joined there by several Friends from Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the body we were set off from in 1812, and Evangelical Friends Church – Eastern Region, the Gurneyite body. To mark the anniversary of our founding, we have also published a book of our history, *Historic Atlas of Ohio Yearly Meeting* by Seth Hinshaw.

In these remembrances of our past, we have felt the temptation to become too focused on what and who has come before. But we have experienced God's renewed call to be faithful in this moment, in this time. The living God calls us into righteousness, just as God called to our spiritual ancestors. Even as we mourn the broken relationships and wounds of history, we are encouraged in healing and peacemaking by the stories of Friends who in those past times responded to the admonition of Jesus to be known as His disciples by our love.

Our business has been a time for us to demonstrate this love for each other and for God, as we discern God's will for us as a body. As we collectively submit ourselves to Christ's leading, fellowship over meals, evening ice cream and quiet walks strengthen mutual trust and understanding. This year, all of our evening speakers are members of this yearly meeting, including a group of our young adult Friends, and we give thanks to God that he continues to speak to us through these Friends.

We desire to run this race laid before us with perseverance, that we may be part of God's work in the world as God draws all people to himself. Stepping out in faith and hope, we have felt led to set off a new Quarterly Meeting, something we have not done in one hundred fifty years. This new regional fellowship, Rockingham Quarter, will consist of our three Monthly Meetings east of the Appalachian Mountains. What lies ahead is unknown, but we rely on the promises of Jesus, knowing that he is faithful and just, an ever present help in time of need. We need only to respond to his call with humility and faith, recognizing that God has a plan for us greater than any we could imagine.

We are grateful once again for the prayerful presence of

Nancy Craft at our annual sessions. We desire more visitors from you and that the Lord will prompt more of our members to visit among our brothers and sisters in North Carolina. We are encouraged that our members Lily Rockwell and David Eley felt prompted to attend your sessions this last year. We pray that God will draw us more closely together in our shared love for Christ Jesus.

In his love and peace, Seth Hinshaw, Clerk

***26. Epistles to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and Ohio Yearly Meeting***

*The Epistles to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and Ohio Yearly Meeting were read and approved. They will be sent in electronic and paper form to each yearly meeting.*

To Friends of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative):

*I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love . . . – Ephesians 4:1-3*

We have appreciated the presence of your representative, Andrea Jilovec, at our 316<sup>th</sup> session, held this year on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Maintaining the special connection between our yearly meetings in this way fosters continuing recognition of the shared testimony of the immediacy of the presence of Christ, and the ability to experience unity of the Spirit. It is joyful to hear of the addition of new communities to membership in your yearly meeting.

Our theme for our gathering this year has been “Maintaining the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace.” What we have shared with each other and what our speakers have shared has been a sense that the bond of peace arises from Christ leading us into compassion and love for all our brothers and sisters. Throughout our sessions we have listened deeply to each other as the state of each monthly meeting body was shared, and as our different query responses were revealed. Our responses to

the violence in the world, and to how to maintain a witness to the life and power that takes away occasion of all war, reflected that the unity of Spirit and the bond of peace are present throughout our different experiences while also transcending them.

We have challenged each other to make sure that our practices as a yearly meeting reflect our interest in welcoming Friends of any income level to serve as our representatives. We discerned that we need to ensure that those representatives had all necessary resources available to them without being put in a position where they need to ask for financial resources publicly. This call to compassion included a potentially rich new practice of preparing and supporting those representatives with a dedicated committee.

We are pleased to continue our exchange of listening ears and hearts by sending Deborah Shaw and Andrew Wright as our representatives to your annual session. We leave our gathering refreshed, renewed and reminded of our place in the body of the church. We send our loving greetings and our joy to share the faith, testimony and witness to Christ's transforming power in this world.

On behalf of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative),  
Richard B. Miller, Clerk

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To Friends of Ohio Yearly Meeting:

*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. – Ephesians 4:4-6*

We have shared the fruits of the Gospel here at our 316<sup>th</sup> session, held this year on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Our time together reminds us of the testimony shared with Friends in Ohio of the immediacy of the presence of Christ, and the ability to experience unity of the Spirit. It is joyful to hear of your marking the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary

with worship at Mount Pleasant meetinghouse as well as the setting off of the new Rockingham Quarterly Meeting.

Our theme for our gathering this year has been “Maintaining the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace.” What we have shared with each other and what our speakers have shared has been a sense that the bond of peace arises from Christ leading us into compassion and love for all our brothers and sisters. Throughout our sessions we have listened deeply to each other as the state of each monthly meeting body was shared, and as our different query responses were revealed. Our responses to the violence in the world, and to how to maintain a witness to the life and power that takes away occasion of all war, reflected that the unity of Spirit and the bond of peace are present throughout our different experiences while also transcending them.

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We are pleased to continue our exchange of listening ears and hearts by sending Nancy Craft, Barbara Gosney and Robert Gosney as our representatives to your annual session. We leave our gathering refreshed, renewed and reminded of our place in the body of the church. We send our loving greetings and our joy to share the faith, testimony and witness to Christ’s transforming power in this world.

On behalf of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative),  
Richard B. Miller, Clerk

***27. Epistle to Friends Everywhere***

*The Epistle to Friends Everywhere was read and approved.*

To all Friends everywhere:

Our time together at our 316<sup>th</sup> session created a special container to consider the immediacy of the presence of Christ, and the ability to experience unity of the Spirit. Our theme for our gathering this year has been “Maintaining the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace.” What we have shared with each other and what our speakers have shared has been a sense that the bond of peace arises from Christ leading us into compassion and love for all our brothers and sisters. Throughout our sessions we have listened deeply to each other as the state of each monthly meeting body was shared, and as our different query responses were revealed. Our responses to the violence in the world, and to how to maintain a witness to the life and power that takes away occasion of all war, reflected that the unity of Spirit and the bond of peace are present throughout our different experiences while also transcending them.

We have challenged each other to make sure that our practices as a yearly meeting reflect our interest in welcoming Friends of any income level to serve as our representatives. We discerned that we need to ensure that those representatives had all necessary resources available to them without being put in a position where they need to ask for financial resources publicly. This call to compassion included a potentially rich new practice of preparing and supporting those representatives with a dedicated committee.

We leave refreshed, renewed and reminded of our place in the body of the church. We send our loving greetings and our joy to share the faith, testimony and witness to Christ’s transforming power in this world.

On behalf of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative),  
Richard B. Miller, Clerk

**28. Letter to Absent Friends**

*The Letter to Absent Friends was read and approved.*

Greetings to you from the 316<sup>th</sup> annual sessions of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) at the University of North Carolina in Wilmington. We hope this letter finds you

well in body and in spirit. We have missed your presence among us. We further hope that you may feel able to attend all or part of these sessions again sometime in the future.

We enjoyed the well organized hospitality of Wilmington Friends Meeting who ably arranged the logistics of food, lodging and transportation between buildings on this very beautiful but very large campus.

Please know that our business was conducted in an orderly and spiritual fashion. Our meetings for worship were blessed with deep silences as well as inspired and insightful vocal ministry both of which flowed so pleasantly from that place of living waters.

Enclosed you should find our Summary of Exercises and the Young Friends epistle to Friends everywhere that will provide you with greater detail of our time together.

In the Light,  
Richard B. Miller, Clerk

### **29. *Friends Historical Collection Report***

*Friends Historical Collection Librarian and Archivist Gwen Gosney Erickson reminded Friends that the yearly meeting's archives are maintained in Guilford College's Friends Historical Collection. Monthly meetings are asked to regularly deposit their minutes and permanent records. Appreciation was expressed for the financial support the yearly meeting and several monthly meetings provide to help fund the archives. North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Friends United Meeting) made major budget cuts last year and is not currently providing an annual donation, though several individual meetings do make contributions. NCYM(FUM) does continue to fund the part-time archives assistant position. Gwen highlighted recent research projects and staff activities from the past year.*

### **30. *Report on Guilford College***

*Gwen Gosney Erickson reported that Guilford College's president, Kent Chabotar, has announced his retirement for 2014. A search committee was approved at the most recent Board of Trustees Meeting. Guilford College faculty have*

*expressed a desire that the next president have an understanding of and respect for Quaker values. The search committee membership includes representatives who are members of North Carolina meetings. Those who might know of potential candidates are asked to alert them to this employment opportunity.*

### **31. Hospitality Report**

*There were 106 registered participants for this year's session. Twenty-five of those were children. The \$50 registration fee included at \$20 use fee paid, \$10 towards golf cart transportation, and \$20 to support the children's program. \$3,882 was expended by the yearly meeting to support children's room and board expenses.*

*Appreciation was expressed to Wilmington Friends, and especially Cheryl Fetterman, for their work hosting yearly meetings sessions.*

### **32. Distribution of Epistle to Friends Everywhere**

*It was noted that there is a new association resulting from a division of Indiana Yearly Meeting. It was approved to send the epistle to the New Association of Friends. The yearly meeting will continue to send the epistle to Indiana Yearly Meeting as well.*

### **33. Locations of Future Meetings**

*If consistent with Divine will, yearly meeting will gather at Guilford College 7<sup>th</sup> Month 9 through 13, 2014, Representative Body on the 26<sup>th</sup> of 10<sup>th</sup> Month at Davidson Meeting, and Representative Body on the 26<sup>th</sup> of 4<sup>th</sup> Month. Representative Body in Fourth Month is tentatively scheduled to be at Durham Meeting.*

### **34. Membership to Representative Body**

*The clerk provided information regarding the distinct role of those appointed to the Representative Body and clarified that this is not the same as to named representatives to yearly meeting sessions. Monthly meetings are asked to review the list to insure that it is accurate.*



### **35. Epistles from Other Yearly Meetings**

*Two epistles were selected from those received in the past year from other yearly meetings. Susan Lees read the epistle from the 2013 Central European Gathering that included a list of the Friends from various countries represented at those sessions. Susan also highlighted the support the Yearly Meeting of Central and Southern Africa provides to the Hlekweni Friends Rural Training Centre in Zimbabwe and to Alternatives to Violence Program training.*

### **36. Minute of Appreciation for the Clerk**

*Deep appreciation was expressed for the four years of service provided by Richard Miller as yearly meeting clerk.*

### **37. Youth Report and Epistle**

*The youth epistle describing our young people's activities during yearly meeting sessions was read. Friends approved including the epistle in these minutes and sending it along with our epistles to Friends everywhere.*

14<sup>th</sup> of Seventh Month, 2013

From the Youth of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative):

We started the week with an early trip to the beach. It drizzled while we were out but it was not yet Tropical Storm we expected the next day. That afternoon we got Britt's Donuts which claimed the title of 2<sup>nd</sup> best donuts in the country and it lives up to that expectation. After several wrong tries we found a beautiful hike to the hut of the Hermit of Fort Fisher.

The next day as hinted above. It was too dangerous to venture to the Beach. Instead we practiced our play all morning. That afternoon we went to the Serpentarium which contained enough poison to kill the while coastal plain! This was followed by a less exciting and admittedly boring trolley ride around the city.

Saturday we again worked on the play and then went to the Aquarium of Fort Fisher where we cleaned the Beach. After we got very wet and sandy from the rain, we went back to the Aquarium where we visited for half 'n' hour. That afternoon we went to an Intergenerational Bible Study where we acted out the parable of the vineyard. After that we worked more on the play and had free time till dinner and after dinner we finally performed. It was a success. After the play we did an Alternative to Violence Project (AVP) workshop in which the youth gave deep contributions. Then we had ice cream sundaes.

During the youth free time we made things out of duct tape and cardboard. We also played board games. Olivia and Jalran Burla expressed their love of the fish and jellyfish at the Aquarium. Overall the youth enjoyed the field trips, freedom, and play but dislike the rain, and they felt sort of shadowed out at the Bible study. They were scared to speak out and next time we wish that the adults will help us feel more comfortable in that kind of setting.

Thank you!

*Appreciation was expressed for those who coordinated and provided leadership for the youth program this year.*

### **38. Summary of Exercises**

*The Summary of Exercises was read and approved for inclusion in the minutes and distribution to absent Friends.*

The 316th annual gathering of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) met on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington from Seventh Month 10th to 14th, 2013. We convened in hot weather, which soon gave way to torrential rains that elicited an ecstatic frog chorus in pools across the campus. Indoors, although soggy and chilled in the air-conditioned buildings, spirits were warm and un-dampened as we settled in for worship, business and fellowship.

Having settled into our rooms in International Hall we gathered in Cameron Auditorium for the meeting of Ministry and Oversight where the clerk reported on her visits to all the

monthly meetings and most of the worship groups in the past year. Friends then entered into a discussion around the practice of recording ministers and elders, including whether the process is used to nurture the gifts of the Friends recorded. In order to help support ministry in the yearly meeting Ministry and Oversight scheduled two additional meetings. One was for recorded ministers and elders and one was for others who feel called to ministry and those who support them. There was an expressed appreciation of and need for support and accountability and there is a variety amongst the meetings in regard to the structures in place for meeting these needs. A report will be prepared for Ministry and Oversight bodies at the monthly meetings.

The theme for this year's yearly meeting sessions was Maintaining the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace. Each morning began with a Bible study on this topic, led by Bob Gosney of Rich Square Monthly Meeting using passages from the book of Ephesians. He opened the first day with the famous quote, "Things will only be right when the power of love replaces the love of power." (Jimmy Hendrix) The main theme was "the Gospel of the Church" and the threads were power, purpose, participation and place. Bob made interesting observations on the commonalities between the Book of Ephesians and the Gettysburg Address based on their purpose as public declarations. He lifted up the vital interdependence and unity of the diverse parts of the body.

As is our practice, when business got underway we heard each monthly meeting's State of the Society report and the responses to the queries which the meetings had considered throughout the year. This open sharing with each other of the spiritual condition of our meetings is a treasured part of our annual gathering. We also heard reports from our committees and from organizations we support. Friends approved a letter to be sent to the Governor of North Carolina and other officials expressing our deep concerns over the treatment of the state's most vulnerable citizens, and explaining that this was a spiritual concern of such gravity that some of us had been willing to engage in civil disobedience and be arrested in order to bring attention to the harm being done.

In our first evening plenary we heard from Constance McPeak Green of Cleveland Friends Meeting in a talk entitled "Perfectly Imperfect: Compassion as the Bond of Peace." She referenced Matthew 18 and she cautioned about getting stuck on an idea of God's righteousness as punitive and instead defined God's righteousness as compassion. She spoke with an open, unguarded heart by which Friends were blessed as she shared experiences revealing the power of compassion to break through into a new reality where limitations are transcended and anything is possible.

Our second plenary was presented by Scott Holmes of Durham (NC) Monthly Meeting on the topic "Blessed Are the Angry, But in Your Anger, Do Not Sin." Scott spoke of anger at social injustice, especially anger at the exclusion of any of our fellow human beings. Scott laid out the financial greed underlying the burgeoning prison industry in the US (including its persistent strong racial bias) and spoke of a future in which restorative justice would play a much more significant role in the US. Scott reminded Friends that when a sheep wanders off, it is an adventure to go get that sheep and bring it back.

The theme of justice for the 'least of these' was taken up by the children in a play written and produced entirely by them. In the play intrepid Quakers found inventive ways to help two homeless fellows avoid the harsh enforcement of laws that criminalized poverty. Their presentation was humorous despite its serious message and it was well received by the audience. We were delighted to have 24 children in attendance this year, ranging from age 5 to 18. The children managed to get to the beach before the rains began, and enjoyed other attractions including an aquarium, a serpentarium, and an oceanside park where they hiked and did a service project to benefit both people and sea turtles. We are most grateful to the adults who have devoted their time and energy to making our yearly meeting sessions a welcoming, educational and enjoyable place for young Friends.

On 7th day Ruby Braye of Wilmington Meeting conducted a multi-generational Alternatives to Violence workshop. There was lots of laughter and progressively deeper connections developed through the non-threatening exercises.

All were touched by the sharing of some of the young children who said they were able to overcome their shyness here because they knew they were loved.

Friends of all ages also gathered to enact Bible stories under the direction of Lloyd Lee Wilson of West Grove Monthly Meeting. The enthusiastic participants brought the scripts to life and opened up lively discussion. Enjoying each other in this way is fun, educational and serves to strengthen our community.

As in years past we also had opportunities to learn about a range of topics through interest groups, to write letters in support of participants in the Southern State Worship Group, to peruse the selections in the bookstore set up for the occasion, and to enjoy lively fellowship over meals and in our evening gatherings.

We leave refreshed by our time of worship and fellowship and we are full of gratitude for the opportunity to gather. It is our hope that way will open for those who could not be present this year to join us in gathering next year on Seventh Month 9th to the 13th, 2014 at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina.

### **39. Concluding Minute**

*The yearly meeting adjourned, appreciating the time we have had together as a part of our "Maintaining the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace" as a body. We part intending to meet again, if in keeping with Divine Will, Seventh Month 10, 2014, at Guilford College, Greensboro, North Carolina.*