

2019

Minutes

of the

**North Carolina
Yearly Meeting**

of the

**Religious Society
of Friends**

(Conservative)

The 322nd Session

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

By Adjournments

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

Table of Contents

1. Opening of the Annual Session	1
2. Travel Minutes	1
3. Visitors	1
4. Visitors to Other Yearly Meetings	2
5. Letter from Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends	2
6. Welcome from UNCW	2
7. Traveling Ministry	3
8. Letter from Darlene Stanley about Deeper Roots	3
9. Epistle from Southern State Quaker Worship Group	3
10. Committee to Write Epistles, Etc.	4
11. Minutes of the Interim Body	4
12. Nomination of the Treasurer	35
13. Report of Friends World Committee on Consultation	35
14. Report from the Belize Friends Ministries	38
15. Report from Friends Center at Guilford College	38
16. Report from Virginia Beach Friends School	41
17. Lights for Liberty Vigil	46
18. State of the Meeting Reports	46
19. Epistles and Summary of Exercises	69
20. Report from American Friends Service Committee	69
21. Report on the Quaker Archives at Guilford College	73
22. Ad Hoc Native American Concerns Report	74
23. Consideration of the Poor People's Campaign	74
24. Poor People's Campaign Proposed Minute	76
25. Visitors: Emma Condori Mamani	78
26. Report from FCNL	79
27. Report from Friends Committee on NC Legislation	82
28. Report from Quaker House	82
29. Report from the Discipline Revision Committee	86
30. Davidson Meeting 30th Anniversary	86
31. Letter to Southern States Worship Group	87

32. Report from the Nominating Committee	87
33. Report on the Trust Fund for Travel in the Ministry	87
34. Letter to Absent Friends	88
35. Registrar's Report	89
36. Finance Committee Report	91
37. Treasurer's Report	93
38. Financial Review Committee Report	100
39. Review of Poor People's Campaign Minutes	101
40. Quaker Earthcare Witness Report	103
41. Additional Nominations	103
42. Answers to the Queries	103
43. Endorsement of the Poor People's Campaign	143
44. Epistle to Friends Everywhere	144
45. Young Friends Epistle	147
46. Summary of Exercises	151
47. Concluding Minute	154
Appendix	
Minutes of Ministry and Oversight	155
Ministers and Elders	158
Yearly Meeting Officers	
159	
Interim Body	159
Standing Committees	160
Standing Committees for 2020 Sessions	161
Standing Committees from MM Representatives	162
Special Appointments	164
Photographs from 2019 Sessions	166

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

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

1. Opening of the Annual Session

After a period of waiting worship the clerk opened sessions with a quotation:

Follow steadfastly after all that is pure and lovely and of good report. Be prayerful. Be watchful. Be humble. Let no failure discourage you. When temptation comes, make it an opportunity to gain new strength by standing fast, that you may enter into that life of gladness and victory to which all are called.

~ Ohio Yearly Meeting Book of Discipline, 199

2. Travel Minutes

We received letters or travel minutes the following Friends:

- *Johan Maurer of Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting*
- *Kathleen Wooten and Maille Wooten of Fresh Pond Monthly Meeting in Cambridge MA*
- *Charley Flint and Jeffrey Hitchcock who sojourn at Spring Meeting in North Carolina and are members of Rahway & Plainfield Friends Meeting in New Jersey*
- *Riley Robinson of Friends Committee on National Legislation*

Friends approved the clerk to endorse these documents.

3. Visitors

We also welcomed:

- *Keith Burroughs from Five Rivers Friends Meeting*

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Independent in Conway, South Carolina

- *Nathaniel Cochran and Sarah Miller from Olds Chatham Monthly Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting*
- *Mary Linda McKinney and Mark Wutka, Nashville Friends Meeting*
- *Margaret Dietrich of Greenville, NC who is mother of Friend Mary Miller*
- *Emma Condori-Mamani, Bella Vista Friends Church, Holiness Friends Yearly Meeting, La Paz, Bolivia*

4. Visitors to Other Yearly Meetings

Susan Lees, who attended Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) annual sessions in 2018, read the letter from that Yearly Meeting to us.

Nancy Craft who along with Darlene Stanley attended Ohio Yearly Meeting in 2018 read their letter to us.

5. Letter from Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends

Also read was an open letter from Ohio Yearly Meeting entitled A Christian Call from Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends. This body approved that we respond to Ohio with appreciation for speaking so clearly to the times we live in.

6. Welcome from UNCW

We were welcomed to the UNCW campus by MJ Giamaria from the School of Education. She spoke of the impact of Hurricane Florence which devastated the area in September last year. She shared an inspirational message found on a sticky note as the people of the university worked for its recovery: "Impossible is just an opinion."

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

7. Traveling Ministry

Lloyd Lee Wilson reported on his travels in the ministry in the past year including facilitating the Deeper Roots program with Deborah Fisch and preaching, teaching and spiritual direction within and outside of the Society of Friends.

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

The clerk shared endorsements that had been received of Deborah Shaw's ministry among Friends.

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

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting shared a travel minute for Tom Bertrand to Western Yearly Meeting sessions later this month. Friends approved that the clerk endorse this travel minute.

Susan Lees shared about her experience as a visitor at Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative. She had a lot of fun, learned a lot and she encouraged others to go.

8. Letter from Darlene Stanley about Deeper Roots

A letter was read from Darlene Stanley thanking the Yearly Meeting for supporting her participation in the Deeper Roots program.

9. Epistle from Southern State Quaker Worship Group

Lloyd Lee Wilson read an epistle from Southern State Quaker Worship Group, which is situated in a correctional facility in New Jersey. They expressed the importance to them of their relationship with this yearly meeting and encouraged us to let them know who among us is in need of prayer.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

10. Committee to Write Epistles, Letters, and the Summary of Exercises

David Perry agreed to write the letter to absent Friends.

11. Minutes of the Interim Body

Minutes from 4th month Interim Body were presented.

Friends approved the inclusion of the Interim Body minutes from 10th mo 2018 and 4th mo 2019 in the published minutes.

Minutes of the Interim Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting
(Conservative)
Tenth Month 27th, 2018

On the 27th day of Tenth Month, 2018 the Interim Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) was hosted in Virginia Beach by Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting. The Body convened for business following worship and lunch. Out of the silence the clerk read:

*Let our text then be, all things whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you do ye even so unto them.
Likewise let the true principles of justice be ever exalted in our midst; and let us be desirous to be armed with such a power – and this power is ever present to give us the ability, if we seek it – as will enable us to do our individual part in the work [of] human improvement and thereby be instruments in bringing about a better state of things.*

*Lucretia Mott, Cherry Street Meeting, Philadelphia,
March 31, 1850.*

Friends heard with gratitude the memorial minute of the life of Maureen Burns of Friendship Meeting.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

West Grove Meeting reported that Janis Ansell has been recorded a minister there.

Ray Treadway, from his role as registrar, presented the report of the Hospitality Committee. The report was accepted with gratitude to Ray for his long standing service and expertise. The clerk will coordinate with the Hospitality Committee to explore online payment for registration in 2019.

The yearly meeting held its annual session on the campus of Guilford College from Seventh Month 11 through 15, 2018. For these five days and four nights, 99 participants were registered, including 86 adults (65 members, seven frequent attenders, and 14 visitors) and 13 children. The rooms in Mary Hobbs Hall were filled by the weekend and 13 single rooms in Shore Hall were required to accommodate those staying on campus. There were 37 commuters who attended for one or more days. The evening sessions were well attended, with perhaps as many as 125 persons, including visitors from the community.

A statistical and financial report from the Hospitality Committee is attached. Our reporting is complicated by the need to keep track of income in four categories (dorm or day fees including linens, yearly meeting registration, contributions to the assistance fund, and in kind donations). Also expenses are tracked in five categories (payment to Guilford for dorm and day fees, facilities, program and administrative expenses, youth program expenses, and liability insurance). In addition, we need to report the flow of funds to the yearly meeting treasurer in two categories – the yearly meeting sessions reserve and the yearly meeting youth assistance fund.

The essential information is on the right-hand side of the spreadsheet. There was an excess of \$271.92 for the

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

yearly meeting reserve and an excess of \$2002.35 for the youth assistance fund. We had generous contributions to support our youth, including from three monthly meetings, and two persons who were not able to attend. Moreover, there were fewer children staying in the dormitory than in the past. The Yearly Meeting Sessions Youth Assistance Fund now holds nearly \$8000, and the yearly meeting may wish to consider how these monies might be used during the year to support youth activities.

This year registration for most participants involved a two-step process, starting with a newly devised online form which worked well and allowed the treasurer to receive information electronically. Registrants were then expected to send the payment separately by mail.

Deborah Shaw and Judy Reece worked with Guilford College before and during the sessions to ensure smooth operations. Susan Wilson and Judy Reece provided essential help at the registration desk. We are particularly grateful for the assistance of John Garrison, Guilford College Coordinator of Conferences & Events. On behalf of the Hospitality Committee

Ray Treadway, registrar

		2018 NCYM-C Annual	Sessions	Registration	Report		
		Expenses					
		Dorm&Day	Gulford	Youth	Admin &	Liability	Total
	Income	Fees	Facilities	Program	Program Costs	Insurance	Expenses
Dorm or Day	\$10,565.53	\$10,565.53					\$10,565.53
YM Registration	\$3,775.00	\$560.98	\$1,381.02	\$458.94	\$835.14	\$267.00	\$3,503.08
Contribution/Assistance	\$2,873.60	\$871.25					\$871.25
Inkind	\$100.00				\$100.00		\$100.00
Total	\$17,314.13	\$11,997.76	\$1,381.02	\$458.94	\$935.14	\$267.00	\$15,039.86
A sales tax of \$921.22 will be paid and will be reclaimed.							\$2,274.27
Summary of Attendance	Adults	65	Yearly Meeting				
		7	Regular Visitors				
		14	Visitors				
	Children	13					
	Total	99					
Registered	Unable to attend	4					

A letter from Andrew Wright was read and a proposal from the Youth Program Committee was presented. The Yearly Meeting

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Planning Committee had reviewed and united with the proposal. Friends approved the proposal and committed to fund it at the proposed levels for 2019.

I want to share a few of my thoughts related to the proposal that I have sent for consideration at Interim Body.

First, we have always run the children and youth program as a "seat of our pants" kind of operation where all the ages are together and a few adults do there best to manage all the different ages. This has been good and we have had some great experiences. We have had as many as 20 children and youth, but that gets challenging and pulls parents away from being more active in the business sessions and committees. It also feels like a very full 5 days to the adults leading. Also, the last couple years, when I have had to leave unexpectedly, Friends have jumped in and helped carry things off, but I have felt very conflicted having to leave and it has reminded my how much we depend on just really 3 main leaders (Goldie, Judy and I) to hold it all together.

This type of program leaves us no real room to grow in terms of numbers and it is very difficult to have many younger children that need more support and guidance. I am quite sure that some families have felt our program did not work well for their children.

I have always worked from the feeling that we simply didn't have many more adults who want to be active in leading the children consistently enough over the several days to allow us to break into more than one big group. I have also assumed that we didn't have a lot of resources to pay adults to step in and take a group. I have also assumed that hiring adults to lead our youth program could entail complicated feelings for us, given our understanding that ministry is inspired, not hired.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

*But sometimes as Quakers, our assumptions limit us.
This plan is a way of envisioning new possibilities.*

There are a number of reasons I see to consider such a new approach. Goldie and I plan to continue working with youth for the foreseeable future. (I can't speak for Judy since I haven't discussed this with her.) But, if we stopped, right now, there simply wouldn't be a program.

I mean that we wouldn't be passing any substantial infrastructure on to new leaders. The new leaders would be starting from scratch. This new approach, by breaking the program down into smaller groups, would create the possibility for other Friends in the yearly meeting to carry some of the leadership for smaller groups without having to become the actual leaders of the children during yearly meeting sessions.

Another reason to consider this new approach, as I alluded to above, would be to be more inclusive of families with younger children who may need more structure and support. I think part of this is a moral concern that we make room for different realities and abilities at Christ's table.

Finally, there is the possibility that we would attract a new younger generation of families to yearly meeting. At least at Durham Meeting, there are lots of young families who would be more likely to attend if they could see more clearly what it would be like for them to come with their small children.

The last thing I want to say is that while it may feel like we are "subbing-out" our religious education of children by paying adult leaders for parts of our yearly meeting sessions, I think we can do this quite deliberately and be sure to actually strengthen the Quaker component of our children and youth program. We would want to make sure that this approach creates opportunity for other Friends in the yearly meeting to be

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

involved and also to make sure that we found paid folks who know who we are and what Quakerism is all about.

This proposal is offered to initiate a process of discernment and in trust that the Spirit will lead us in our next steps.

In love, Andrew Wright

Wednesday afternoon through Sunday noon:

Nursery Rm (babies through 3yo)

2 sessions offered daily throughout yearly meeting;

8-11am and 2-5pm; total of 8 - 3 hr sessions;

Requires 2 volunteers to organize ahead of time and to recruit/ hire providers and then support them by checking-in regularly to see what needs they might have.

Also will communicate with parents of babies and toddlers.

2 providers from local area; (8 sessions x 3 hrs x 2 people x \$15/ hr = \$720)

If we had more than 4 babies/ toddlers, then we would probably want to have additional volunteers or paid persons;

Requires its own room with some infrastructure for babies; perhaps a good sized study lounge with carpet could work if parents and other Friends helped to plan ahead for how to stock this room with needed stuff from homes of members and attenders; would need crib; changing table; toys and books;

Wednesday afternoon - Friday noon:

Youth and Children Combined Program (4yo through high school)

4 adults -

Goldie, Judy, and Andrew would lead (no cost); paid children's program leader for later in the week would attend this part as well and help

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

*lead (cost to pay this person is included below)
This is a plan that could work for up to 15 children/
youth for Wed - Friday noon;
Requires its own home base: a good sized study lounge
with carpet and comfy chairs on campus;*

Friday noon through Sunday noon:

Children's Program (roughly includes 4yo through rising 3rd grade)

Friday noon through Sunday noon; this plan could handle maybe 12-14 children from Friday noon through Sunday; main blocks of program would be 8:30-11:30am and 1:30-4:30pm and maybe a smaller group (5-8 children) of older children for a couple hrs in the evenings;

1 lead person to be selected in Dec that should be a Quaker; to plan with committee of volunteers starting in January so agenda can be posted with other invitation materials and to also lead during yearly meeting; to attend all of NCYMC sessions (helping with Wed. evening through Friday morning program; to plan and lead Friday noon through Sunday; (10-15 hrs of prep in Jan and before sessions and 30-35 hrs during sessions = 50 hrs x \$17/ hr = \$850)

2 additional paid helpers to actually lead during weekend with 2-3 volunteers; (2 people x 20 hrs x \$15/ hr = \$600)

Requires its own home base; a good sized study lounge with carpet and comfy chairs on campus.

Youth Program (roughly includes rising 4th grade through high school)

Goldie, Judy, and Andrew would lead (no cost);

Friday noon through Sunday noon;

This is a plan that could work for up to 10 or so youth through the weekend;

Requires its own home base: a good sized study lounge

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

with carpet and comfy chairs on campus;

Budget - Total Budget (details below) = \$3170 plus any additional rent for appropriate spaces

Money to pay for activities

*\$20 per each for those attending Wed - Sunday x
15 children/ youth = \$300*

*\$10 per each for those coming Fri noon - Sunday
x 10 = \$100*

Total budget = \$500 for activities and for materials

*1 person paid to organize and plan children's program -
\$850 (see above)*

*2-3 additional paid helpers for children's program \$600
(see above)*

*2 paid providers for nursery from 9-11 and 3-5 daily
\$720 (see above)*

Van rental \$500

We need physical spaces that really work and I don't know if this will cost yearly meeting more to rent these spaces or if they could be study lounges in the dorms where we are boarding.

Administrative/Support

Create policies (perhaps copied from Durham) for employees -- contract/1099? Hiring/firing/evaluation? May need to ask Nominating Committee to find additional committee members to support this higher level of service and activity in the children and youth program. Some folks who are supporting each group in their planning ahead of time and in carrying-out during sessions.

Evaluation - report to Interim Body in 10th Month on what worked and what didn't.

Budget for 2 successive years - then talk about whether to continue.

Timeline

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

10th month Interim Body:

*General willingness to commit this level of resources (if we are able to register this level of Young Friends participation;
Understanding and ease that we are easy to pay someone to lead and plan the children's program component and pay other adults to help lead/ care for the children;
See if there are a couple adults not already on the planning committee who would volunteer to plan and support the nursery. These Friends would be volunteers who would not need to actually spend much of yearly meeting in the nursery as much as be in communication and support relationship to providers and parents.*

12th month: find a Quaker to hire to plan children's component and to attend all of yearly meeting for a contract of \$850.

1st month: work on plans, write-up documents to share for publicity of plans and begin to share plans with monthly meetings.

2nd and 3rd month: continue to publicize and begin to pull together rough count and names of families who are considering attending;

5th month: registration deadline for families attending with children and youth.

5th and 6th month: recruit and hire additional paid adult leaders and providers based on the number of registered Young Friends in each age group. Also determine what other expenses will be required and pull together a firm budget based on numbers.

Bruce Arnold presented the report of the Planning Committee. Elizabeth Wintermute is clerk. A theme has been chosen: Truth, Power and Life.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

The NCYM-C Planning Committee had our first meeting on October 17, 2018. We began the process of discerning a theme. Truth is a term that is on the minds of many of us. Truth can be uncomfortable and challenging. We discussed the paradox of knowing and not knowing, being authentic to who we are, speaking truth to power and finding truth grounded in our relationship with God. The language of Robert Barclay's Apology was shared. For now, our working theme is, "Truth, Power, and Life".

The committee reached unity about finding a speaker or panel of speakers that could share with us about the experiences of migrant farmworkers in our state. We want to explore organizers experiences of speaking truth to power. We also want to examine the ways in which our lives are bound up with the lives of people who make it possible for us to have things like cheap food and easy restaurant dining. On another night we will be looking for a speaker to focus on the spiritual relationship in which the Truth, Power, and Life are grounded. We want to make sure that the Young Friends have ways to participate in the program through Bible study and other intergenerational activities. We also want to create opportunities for youth and children to lead and teach adults.

We spent time looking at the program for youth and children. We realize that the youth and children's program needs 3 distinct spaces for their program. One space needs to be suitable for children age 0-3. One room should be suitable for children age 4 - third grade and one space for fourth - high school . We are in support of the proposal for the children and youth program that can be found at the link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10gDB6AqAFfPN3f>

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

[9k8nHV4CucsYAyQMrP2-qNOJyIUQs/edit](#)

We will continue to meet the second Fourth Day (Wednesday) evening of each month to plan. We welcome any input from Yearly Meeting members.

Planning Committee Members

Elizabeth Wintermute (Clerk), Bruce Arnold, Toby Berla, Hanna Hobson, Huey Marshall

Youth Planning Committee Members: Logan Graddy, Goldie Walton, Andrew Wright

Susan Lees, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report.

Reporting on 1-1-2018 through 9-30-2018

Yearly Meeting began the year with \$51,126.13 in the Wells Fargo checking account. Per last year's decision, we transferred \$35,000 to a sub-account at Friends Fiduciary for investment, leaving \$16,126.13 in the checking account. Meeting ends this nine-month accounting period with combined funds of \$56,847.42: \$17,376.90 in the checking account, \$34,541.88 in the Friends Fiduciary NCYM2 fund (the new investment fund), and \$4,928.64 in Friends Fiduciary's "Travel in the Ministry" fund (the original Friends Fiduciary fund).

Monthly Meeting donations pledged for 2018 are

\$11,500; so far, we've received \$8,050. Donations to organizations were budgeted at \$5,800; so far \$5,500 has been paid. (Indian Affairs remains unpaid.)

Breaking the monies down a different way: Meeting has

>\$56K (thousand) total, about \$27K is restricted funds. That means that about \$29K is unrestricted money. How

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

can Yearly Meeting be a good steward to its Quaker Community and to the Wider World? A couple things to note, Restricted-funds-wise: Meeting has more than \$5,000 in the General Travel fund available for use, including funds previously marked for FWCC representatives. Meeting has almost \$5,000 in the Trust Fund for Travel in the Ministry. Meeting has more than \$10,000 in reserve for YM Annual Sessions.

Balance Sheet	Bal Jan 1 2018	Expense	Income	Transfer	Bal Sept 30 2018
Location of Funds					
Wells Fargo Checking	\$ 51,126.13	\$ 25,010.40	\$ 25,661.17	-\$ 34,400.00	\$ 17,376.90
Friends Fiduciary Fund Travel	\$ 5,376.16		\$ 152.48	-\$ 600.00	\$ 4,928.64
Friends Fiduciary Fund Balanced	\$ 0.00		-\$ 458.12	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 34,541.88
Total Assets	\$ 56,502.29	\$ 25,010.40	\$ 25,355.53	\$ 0.00	\$ 56,847.42
Activity and Balances of Funds					
Perm Restricted					
Journal Publication Fund	\$ 2,194.90				\$ 2,194.90
Trust Fund for Travel in Ministry	\$ 5,376.16	\$ 600.00	\$ 152.48		\$ 4,928.64
Subtotal	\$ 7,571.06	\$ 600.00	\$ 152.48	\$ 0.00	\$ 7,123.54
Temp Restricted Net Assets					
Discipline Fund	\$ 2,407.00		\$ 9.00		\$ 2,416.00
General Travel Fund	\$ 6,115.74	\$ 500.00			\$ 5,615.74
Special Projects Fund	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 1,650.00			\$ 600.00
YM Sessions Reserve	\$ 4,420.68	\$ 15,138.33	\$ 14,340.53		\$ 3,622.88
YM Sessions Scholarship Fund	\$ 5,791.47	\$ 871.25	\$ 2,873.60		\$ 7,793.82
Subtotal	\$ 20,984.89	\$ 18,159.58	\$ 17,223.13	\$ 0.00	\$ 20,048.44
Unrestricted Net Assets					
General Fund					
Administrative		\$ 150.82			
Donations to Organizations		\$ 5,500.00			
Other Expenses		\$ 600.00			
Subtotal Expenses		\$ 6,250.82			
Contributions from Monthly Mtg			\$ 8,050.00		
Other Income			\$ 388.04		
Subtotal Income			\$ 8,438.04		
Friends Fiduciary Change			-\$ 458.12		
Subtotal General Fund	\$ 27,946.34	\$ 6,250.82	\$ 7,979.92	\$ 0.00	\$ 29,675.44
Total	\$ 56,502.29	\$ 25,010.40	\$ 25,355.53	\$ 0.00	\$ 56,847.42

SL - 10-24-2018

Bruce Arnold presented the Finance Committee Report. The Finance Committee recommends:

- That Friends amend the 2019 budget, adding a new line item of \$3500 to implement the approved recommendations of the Youth Planning Committee.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Friends approved.

- That \$10,000 of the \$30,000 surplus be set aside as a temporary operating reserve. Friends approved.
- That as a general practice, funding requests that do not originate from a monthly meeting or a committee of the Yearly Meeting would go back to monthly meetings to be seasoned, with a decision to be made at the following Yearly Meeting business session (either Interim Body or annual session,) allowing for exceptions as the Spirit speaks in the moment. Friends approved.
- The Finance Committee, after consulting with the monthly meetings regarding zero based budgeting, has discerned in favor of continuing to budget as we have. No action is needed from this body.

A request for a loan was considered from William Penn House. Friends approved the William Penn House request being forwarded to the monthly meetings for them to discern their own response and to offer recommendations regarding Yearly Meeting action. The clerk will also ask William Penn House for further information regarding timing and implementation of this request and will forward this information as soon as possible.

For more than 50 years, William Penn House has been a powerful resource for the Quaker community, providing hospitality, facilitating Quaker social justice education, and supporting peace and justice activism, just five blocks from the U.S. Capitol. The organization is currently in transition and facing serious financial challenges. We request a Friendly loan of \$10,000 or more to ensure that this resource remains in service to Friends and our peace and justice witness.

Our programs supporting citizen-activism and education for peace and justice remain deeply needed in today's environment, and these programs are active and strong. In the past year, more than 1,500 people stayed

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

overnight in our dormitories, including students from 10 Friends' schools and colleges, Friends from around the country working with FCNL, and citizen-activists with grassroots organizations such as United We Dream, AFSC, Citizens' Climate Lobby, and the Center for Popular Democracy. More than 100 young people participated in our service and education programs, which enrich the Quaker and social justice missions of Friends schools and introduce many non-Quaker students to Quaker social testimonies on issues such as human rights, housing justice, food justice, and environmental stewardship.

Over the history of William Penn House, we have worked in partnership with many Quaker organizations, including FGC, FCNL, AFSC, the Friends Council on Education, and numerous yearly, quarterly, and monthly meetings and Friends schools and colleges. These activities have strengthened the Quaker community and enriched the spiritual lives of countless F/friends. In addition, we have shared Quaker community, values, and witness with thousands of non-Quaker guests and program participants, serving as one of the most visible Quaker outreach activities over the years.

The organization currently faces serious financial challenges. As a result of years of deficit spending and a recent extra financial hit from property taxes, we face the risk of closure in the near future. In light of this risk, we are committed to preserving this resource for the Quaker community and are in careful discernment about how best to ensure that WPH's resources continue to serve Quaker witness, education, and outreach into the future.

We are seeking up to \$100,000 in Friendly Loans from individuals and Meetings in the Quaker community to allow us to maintain our programs for the next year,

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

giving us adequate time to discern the future path for the organization. We have begun conversations with several larger Quaker organizations about a potential affiliation or partnership that will preserve the facility and program resources in service to Quaker peace and justice work, but these discussions will take time to develop. Loaned funds will provide a crucial bridge from our current situation to a more sustainable and robust future—without these funds, we will need to close this fall and will not have time to complete a transition process.

The Board has set a deadline of August 2019 to determine the future of our programs. By that point at the latest, we will either have finalized a partnership or merger with a larger organization, found another source of funding that will allow us to remain in operation independently, or we will close the facility. In any case, we would have the funds to repay loans soon after this date.

We propose a 2-year term for these loans. We can offer an interest rate of 3%, but we would gratefully accept offers of a lower interest rate or an interest-free loan. If we do not remain in operation, the value of the WPH property (assessed at \$1.7 million) will be more than adequate to repay these loans at or before the end of this term. These terms are negotiable based on your needs.

Thank you for considering this request and for helping support Quaker activism, education, and outreach.

The body considered whether we are clear to make a donation to the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival at this time. Monthly meetings have considered and reported back regarding this. The yearly meeting is not clear to provide financial support but does support the goals articulated by the

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Poor People's Campaign.

The clerk will report back to monthly meetings with examples of what some of our monthly meetings are doing or considering as ways of directly supporting the work of the Poor People's Campaign, either through personal involvement or financial commitments.

The body approved writing a letter of endorsement of the work of Poor People's Campaign's. The clerk, Mark Moss, Robert Gosney, Tom Bertrand and Melidy Poole will draft the letter to return to next interim body.

Friends expressed gratitude to Virginia Beach Friends for hosting us today. The meeting closed in worship. We hold in our hearts those recovering from recent hurricanes and the violence that affects so many in our country. We intend to next meet at Durham Meeting on Fourth Month 27th, 2019.

Gwen Gosney Erickson, Clerk, and Marguerite Dingman,
Recording Clerk

Minutes of the Interim Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Fourth Month 27th, 2019

On the 27th day of Fourth Month 2019 the Interim Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) was hosted in Durham NC by Durham Monthly Meeting. The Body convened for business following worship and lunch. Out of the silence the clerk read from Margaret Fell, Epistle to Convinced Friends 1656:

Friends, deal plainly with yourselves, and let the eternal light search you, and try you, for the good of your souls; for this will deal plainly with you; it will rip you up, lay you open, and make

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

all manifest that lodgeth in you; the secret subtilty of the enemy of your souls, this searcher and tryer will make manifest. . .consider one another, and provoke one another to love and to good works; not forsaking the assembling of yourselves, but exhorting one another, and so much the more, as you see the day approaching. And dwell in love and unity, in the pure eteral light; there is your fellowship, there is your cleansing and washing. . .And the everlasting God, of light, life and power, keep you all faithful to your own measure; that so the resurrection and the life ye may witness, and the living bread ye may feed on, which, whosoever eateth of, shall never die. (Epistle to convinced Friends, 1656)

The clerk shared an update on William Penn House. Andrei Israel shared that WPH was able to reach their goal for borrowing through the generosity of a handful of individuals and meetings and are now working on a long-term resolution to their situation and have been in talks with other Quaker organizations. In addition, they ask that that NCYMC consider an annual budgetary contribution to support William Penn House's work.

Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting Invitation: Friends approved the clerk to write a letter for Lloyd Lee Wilson to carry with him on his visit with Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting this summer.

Quaker Earthcare Witness Representative Report

Lauri Langham presented a report on her active work as representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness. We are asked to add our prayers and outward witness.

Quaker Earthcare Witness Representative Report to NCYM-C, Interim Body 4/27/19

I have served as the NCYM-C Representative to Quaker Earthcare Witness for a year and a half. I am now serving on the Outreach Committee. We focus on such areas as orienting and

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

supporting new members of QEW, reaching out to Monthly and Yearly Meeting to offer resources, and setting up a speaker's bureau.

QEW holds 4 -day gathering two times a year, called Steering Committee meetings. I have not been able to attend a meeting recently, but I plan to attend in October 2019. Some highlights from the recent biannual QEW Steering Committee which was hosted by Minneapolis Friends Meeting in April are:

- 1) The FCNL working group has been re-vitalized with the goal of working more closely with FCNL staff on environmental and climate change concerns.*

- 2) A new video has been produced introducing QEW to a wider audience. It will soon be available on U Tube.*

- 3) QEW held worship-sharing sessions each morning at the recent 4 Steering Committee sessions, and is re-affirming this practice for all future Conferences as a way of deepening connection to the Spirit.*

Also, I'd like to share that through their mini-grant program, QEW supported the recent commitment of Durham Friends to install a 23-kilowatt solar array on our Early School Building which will meet 95% of our electricity needs on all three buildings. The solar array will be installed the summer of 2019.

I would like to report that the April 2020 Steering Committee Meeting will be hosted by Durham Friends April 23-26, 2020. Durham expects to host approximately 30-35 Friends from all over the country over this 4-day weekend. All Friends are invited to attend the QEW Steering Committee meetings.

Workshops and evening sessions would probably be the most interesting for visitors but everyone is welcome to attend committee meetings also. As QEW Rep, I have been asked to contact each of the Monthly Meetings within the Yearly Meeting to both better communicate the work of QEW as well as ask for consideration of adding a budget line in Monthly Meeting budgets to help support QEW. I will be reaching out to Meetings in the next few weeks. I am mindful of the fact that the Yearly

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Meeting already makes an annual contribution of \$300.00, however if led, it would be wonderful and much appreciated if our Monthly Meetings are able to also make even a modest annual financial contribution.

Although not specifically part of my role as the QEW Rep, but as an effort to build a sense of community of those who are working on environmental issues, Jennie Ratcliff from Durham Meeting and I have started an e-mail list called NCQEN. (North Caroling Quaker Earthcare Network) We have been delighted to welcome Friends from FUM, FGC as well as NC Yearly Meeting Friends. Eighteen Friends have joined the network, coming from nine Monthly Meetings, including five Monthly Meetings in our Yearly Meeting. We are still in our infancy, and our purpose is to share information, hope and faith with each other.

At this moment in history we face many challenges, including the heating up of the atmosphere, species extinction, water shortages, and extreme weather events. We understand in a holistic sense that the earth, animals and people are suffering, especially those people who are vulnerable for economic or racial reasons. The speed at which climate effects are happening is increasing more than was even predicted, and yet also, there is more of a groundswell of acceptance and activity around these issues than there has ever been. AS QEW Representative I feel strong in the spirit to witness to these concerns and I ask that we all consider ways in which we may be led whether they are through prayer, changes in our personal lives or outward activism.

Last, please consider if this is the year that you would like to help organize a Quaker themed environmental or climate change themed workshop or forum at your Meeting. We can tailor make a program based on your interest and needs. One possible program, is for a few of us at Durham Friends to share our step by step process as we discerned and then planned for our solar installation.

Respectfully submitted,

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Lauri Langham

Relations with Native Americans Ad Hoc Committee Report
Eric Ginsburg presented the report (below) of the Ad Hoc Committee on Relations with Native Americans. The committee recommends that funds be set aside to support travel by yearly meeting representatives to events and conferences that offer opportunities for Friends to look, listen, and learn, and report back to the yearly meeting regarding what, if anything, might be right-ordered to do with or on behalf of Native Americans. The committee (consisting of Deborah Shaw, Darlene Stanley, Mary Miller, Mark Moss, Nan Bowles, Eric Ginsburg) also recommends that its work should continue as we seek to learn more about the opportunities that may be open to us, with the intention of reporting back to the yearly meeting as way opens.

Friends accept the report.

Regarding funding, Friends incurring expenses in this committee's work are asked to report them regardless of whether they are asking for reimbursement.

Friends approved that the amount designated in this budget year as donations to Native American organizations be placed under the control of Ad Hoc committee.

Friends considering travel under this concern are asked to consult with the Ad Hoc Committee and, if further funds are required, they may go through existing processes for funding travel.

The committee is asked to report back regarding next steps, including whether a standing committee is needed for ongoing work.

*Report by the Ad Hoc Committee on Native American
Concerns to the Interim Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting*

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

(Conservative) Fourth Month 27, 2019

An ad hoc committee of Friends, including Deborah Shaw, Darlene Stanley, Mary Miller, Nan Bowles, Mark Moss, and Eric Ginsburg met to consider the nature of NCYM(C)'s relationship with Native Americans and recommendations to the yearly meeting for the future. This followed discussions at the 2018 yearly meeting about donations in recent years to several Friends Centers in Indian Country and whether the practice should be continued or altered. For some years, NCYM(C) has donated \$300 annually on a rotating basis to the Kickapoo, Mesquakie, and Mowa Choctaw Friends Centers that have operated under the care of yearly meetings of the Friends United Meeting. In 2017, a donation to the Mesquakie Friends Center was returned to the yearly meeting, raising questions whether the centers were continuing to operate, and this led to a wider discussion of whether our financial contribution was the most appropriate form of support to Native Americans.

In gathering to consider our relationship with Native Americans, Friends recognized that the Religious Society of Friends has had a mixed history, for instance, the first faith community to oppose the Indian Removal Act and President Jackson's efforts to relocate Native Americans away from their ancestral lands on the one hand, and complicity in the suppression of culture and language in the Indian boarding schools on the other. Nonetheless, Friends also acknowledged and honor Native Americans' perspectives and demonstrated respect for the natural world, and feel there is much we can learn from them.

A number of Friends are personally engaged in work and fellowship with Native American communities. Just within the ad hoc committee, we identified relationships among our members with the Saponi, Lumbee, Cherokee, Okaneechi-Saponi, Lakota, and with organizations serving the Native American Community, such as the Native American Rights Fund and the American Indian College Fund. A number of us recalled the rich

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

experience when Okaneechi-Saponi elder John Blackfeather Jeffries and a group of tribal members came to our yearly meeting to share fellowship and personal stories. However, we note that there are strong faith communities across Indian Country and we share a concern that we not inject ourselves indiscriminately into efforts to aid Native Americans, particularly where there has not been a specific request or demonstrated need. One of the members our group shared the following challenge from the Reverend Karyn Carlo:

Before sending funds...or otherwise “helping”... we as white People descended from, and still often playing the role of colonizers need to think! What are our real motives? Do we want to see real justice, or just assuage our guilt over doing nothing? Is this culturally appropriate and welcome partnership, or yet another form of oppressive “charity”. Did any one actually Invite us to do this

I “Native American,” “Indian,” “American Indian,” and “indigenous peoples” are all terms used to refer to the descendants of those living in what is now the United States when the Europeans first arrived. “Indian Country” is the term commonly used to refer collectively to the different designations of lands subject to Native American jurisdiction on their terms, or do we assume we are the experts on what everyone else needs and should do?

Friends noted that there are ongoing efforts within the Native American community itself to build bridges across tribes and to aid one another in various ways. For this reason, the committee felt that we need to engage in further discernment before making concrete recommendations for the yearly meeting to consider for the future.

At this time, we recommend that, rather than continue to send donations to the Friends Centers, funds be set aside to support travel by yearly meeting representatives to events and conferences that offer opportunities for Friends to look, listen, and learn, and report back to the yearly meeting regarding what,

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

if anything, might be right-ordered to do with or on behalf of Native Americans. For instance, the United Tribes of North Carolina, an organization representing the 8 state-recognized tribes in the state, holds its NC Indian Unity Conference in the spring of each year with the goals of increasing awareness of American Indian issues; providing a forum to develop strategies to address challenges faced by American Indians in North Carolina; celebrating the traditional and contemporary history of American Indians in North Carolina; promoting resources and opportunities beneficial to our State's American Indian Population; and reclaiming their heritage. Powows held around the state provide additional opportunities to meet with tribal members and their leaders, build relationships, and learn more about the challenges faced by Native Americans and the opportunities of which we may avail ourselves if there is unity among us.

At this time, the committee feels that its work should continue as we seek to learn more about the opportunities that may be open to us, with the intention of reporting back to the yearly meeting as way opens.

Faithfully submitted, Eric Ginsburg, Convener

Yearly Meeting Consideration of the Poor People's Campaign
Melidy Poole presented a proposed minute (below) regarding the relationship of the yearly meeting to the Poor People's Campaign.

Friends accepted the document as a report rather than a minute. The ad hoc committee is asked to clarify the audience and purpose of the minute as proposed and to separate out parts that may have different audiences. They are asked to offer the draft recommendations to the monthly meetings for them to consider in advance of yearly meeting. This will be on the yearly meeting agenda for discernment of next steps.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Minute on The Poor People's Campaign Proposed Minute for Interim Body 04-27-2019

We as a Yearly Meeting have been offered the opportunity to join with the Poor People's Campaign and participate in their "national call for moral revival." This offer has come by way of the involvement of Friends in our Yearly Meeting who are participants in the Campaign. Some of our monthly meetings are also involved with the Campaign and support the involvement of Friends in it.

As a Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends we carry a history of involvement with such movements as the Poor People's Campaign -- movements for social, political, cultural, and/or religious change. Indeed our Yearly Meeting, although now described as a "religious society," shares in the legacy of the first Friends as a momentous movement of social and political, as well as religious, change. We realize the significance of such movements. As a Religious Society of Friends we not only acknowledge our beginnings in such a movement, but are aware of our subsequent history as shaped by such movements. We as a Yearly Meeting have become who we are in part due to the influence of such movements both within and outside the Society of Friends. Ideal portraits of our past often portray Friends as being "on the right side of history" in political and social change, but we must confess in truth it has not always been so. As human beings we exist in our times, and our times, for better or worse, influence us. In all the tumultuous times of history we as Friends have, it appears, been both faithful and unfaithful in following the leadings of the Spirit. For example, if we were resolute in finally rejecting slave-holding in the Society of Friends, we as a Society were often little different from those around us in accepting former slaves as fellow citizens and human beings. Furthermore, the beliefs and actions of Friends, individually and as a society, were not in unity in regard to slavery, the war

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

over slavery that came, and the unjust social and political conditions which followed emancipation. We must admit that things change us as much as we seek to change things. Our judgments in this regard are not so much judgments of the past as they are examinations of who we are now as North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). The integrity of our present faith and the genuineness of the love we seek to practice require that we diligently seek to discern the truth of our past responses. As Friends in the past have faced very trying times, we now have our attention focused on our times, and we find them very trying for ourselves and our country.

Our history can help us understand and discern what is required of us, although, as the past, it can inform but should not solely determine our future. Our past reminds us of what we were able to accomplish and where we fell short in acting or failing to act. But the past can also remind us to be open and faithful to the leadings of the Spirit. The demands of our time and situation require us to seek the Spirit in the reality of each present moment and in the reality of the future which is now before us.

We are confronted by a host of emerging social, cultural, political, economic, and environmental challenges. The Friends who have brought the Poor People's Campaign to our attention have given us an opportunity to respond to some of the most critical challenges of our time. The accelerating pace of social and technological changes in our time have especially challenged us in our capacity to respond. We are a deliberative people as we in good order seek a sense of the meeting as to how we are being led by the Spirit. The formation of the personal and the corporate conscience takes place at its own pace in discerning a faithful and fitting response. We have not easily reached a sense of the meeting as to how we are to respond to this opportunity to participate in the Poor People's Campaign. Our consideration of it has occasioned an extended period of questioning, reflection, and

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

discernment on the part of the Yearly Meeting.

The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival appears to be a vital, creative, and potentially productive movement for social, political, moral and religious change. We have been encouraged as a Yearly Meeting to respond to this opportunity to engage in a movement which is addressing issues and concerns which have long been those in which we as Friends have expressed our concern and been actively involved. The Campaign has focused on concerns such as systemic racism, poverty and inequality, ecological devastation, and the war economy and militarism. It has approached these concerns not as partisan political issues but from the perspective of a "call for moral revival" and the need to change the distorted "moral narrative" which seems to be a significant underlying structure supporting inequality, injustice, and the denial of human dignity. The Campaign rejects violent means and embraces non-violent direct action for some aspects of the Campaign. We are aware that among the list of "endorsing partners" of the Campaign are the American Friends Service Committee and the Friends Committee on National Legislation, two organizations that we support as a Yearly Meeting.

We have considered as a Yearly Meeting how we may be called to respond to the Campaign and its work. As a Campaign that stresses not movement from above but from below, it seems most appropriate for our Yearly Meeting involvement to be centered in our monthly meetings. As a Yearly Meeting we agree to the following recommendations, commitments, and actions as an initial response :

1. We encourage our monthly meetings, as our primary spiritual communities, to enter into corporate discernment on their involvement in the Campaign and to support individuals in their meetings as they may sense a leading to be involved with the Campaign by considering such actions as:

a. Periodic assessments of the meeting's relationship to the

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Campaign or to the issues and concerns raised by the Campaign.

b. Offering opportunities for testing leadings, including appointing committees for clearness, for individuals involved or considering involvement in the Campaign.

c. Aiding individuals to participate in the Campaign in ways the individual and the meeting find appropriate, such as financial assistance for travel and per diem costs for activities, aiding individuals in other ways to release them for involvement, assisting a group in the meeting to carry on coordinated activities, etc.

2. The Yearly Meeting welcomes reports to the Yearly Meeting in annual sessions and at Interim Body concerning the Campaign and the monthly meetings' involvement in it.

3. The Yearly Meeting will offer financial support for those monthly meetings and individuals involved in the Campaign through requests from monthly meetings.

4. The Yearly Meeting will seek to establish an active ad hoc Yearly Meeting Coordinating Committee to foster the involvement of meetings and individuals in the Campaign by:

a. Acting as a contact on behalf of the Yearly Meeting with monthly meetings and individuals involved with the Campaign,

b. Accepting requests for financial assistance from monthly meetings related to involvement in the Campaign and presenting them as appropriate for Yearly Meeting consideration, and

c. Serving as a resource for monthly meetings seeking clearness in regard to any matters arising from involvement with the Campaign.

d. The Yearly Meeting asks the Nominating and Finance Committees to consider organizational arrangements for the formation of the Committee and report at the coming annual session of Yearly Meeting. If names are available for potential Committee members and a budgeted amount can be amended to our current year's budget for the Committee this year, then

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

the work of the Committee can begin after the coming annual session.

In our own spiritual movement as a Society of Friends we have held to the importance of both the personal spiritual integrity of each individual and the envisioned spiritual community embracing all of Creation. We cannot ignore the risk of loss of these spiritual values in participating in any mass social movement such as the Campaign. Such a movement is not yet the blessed community nor is it immune from social dynamics which may result through the pursuit of desired goals in the loss of respect for the individual conscience. However, we recognize neither are we as a Yearly Meeting what we are seeking to become. We cannot ignore the voice of our neighbors when it reverberates with the concerns to which we ourselves have been called. We wish to act with them, consistent with our own spiritual paths. We pray that we may continue to seek the Light as we enter enter this work of spiritual transformation, that we may see the way as it opens and walk in it.

2019 YM Updates

Elizabeth Wintermute presented the report of the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee (below.)

Friends approved suggested yearly meeting registration fees and use of reserve funds as needed to support youth program and yearly meeting expenses.

NCYM(C) Planning Committee

Report to Interim Body, 4th Month 2019

The Planning Committee for the 2019 NCYM(C) includes the following Friends: Bruce Arnold, Elizabeth Wintermute, Hanna Hobson, Huey Marshall, and Toby Berla. We are joined by Andrew Wright as a representative of the Youth Program Planning Committee. Since our last report to Interim Body in 10th

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Month, the committee has continued to meet by telephone conference call every month. We have enjoyed our times of gathered worship and discernment together; Spirit is guiding us in hearing the needs of the Yearly Meeting for its 2019 annual sessions.

We have several documents to share with Interim Body, with Friends responsible for hospitality, and with the various Monthly Meetings, at this time:

The “2019 Yearly Meeting Invitation” is attached to this report. This document can be distributed to monthly meetings as a way of piquing Friends’ interest in attending annual sessions at Wilmington this year.

The draft “2019 Yearly Meeting Schedule”, also attached to this report, lays out a detailed proposed schedule, based on our discernment and on information we have received from various Friends. The clerk of the Planning Committee asks Friends in monthly meetings to share their needs for time and space to hold Interest Groups at annual sessions. Please share this request with Friends.

We feel blessed to have this opportunity to worship and labor together in service to the Yearly Meeting.

Elizabeth Wintermute, Clerk

Discipline Revision Update

Andrew Wright presented the report of the discipline revision committee.

The Discipline Revision Committee took a break from meeting over the fall of 2018 due to personal and family health issues. In January, we began to feel energy and love moving us to start meeting again and we

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

have met twice in 2019.

*We have shared drafts of 2 sections with monthly meeting liaisons. We sent a new submission draft of **Section 8a: Intro to the Queries** to liaisons and plan to bring this draft to yearly meeting sessions this summer for approval. We have requested an interest group session for 6th day to help prepare for its consideration as an item for business on 7th day.*

*We also sent a proposed draft of **Section 11**, with the new title of **The Gifts of the Spirit in the Life of the Community**, to monthly meeting liaisons. We are asking monthly meetings to consider this draft and to share their responses with us. We do not expect that monthly meetings will all be able to respond soon enough for us to consider this section at yearly meeting.*

Nominating Committee Report

Ann Olsen presented the Nominating Committee report. Friends approved the recommendations.

The following persons have agreed to serve on the Financial Review Committee for Yearly Meeting 2019: David Perry, convener, Lynne Berla. Susan Lees, Ex officio

Susan Lees presented the Treasurer's report.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Balance Sheet	Bal Jan 1 2018	Expense	Income	Transfer	Bal Dec 31 2018
Location of Funds					
Wells Fargo Checking	\$ 51,126.13	\$ 25,642.42	\$ 29,161.17	-\$ 34,400.00	\$ 20,244.88
Friends Fiduciary Fund Travel	\$ 5,376.16		-\$ 280.88	-\$ 600.00	\$ 4,495.28
Friends Fiduciary Fund Balanced	\$ 0.00		-\$ 3,495.10	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 31,504.90
Total Assets	\$ 56,502.29	\$ 25,642.42	\$ 25,385.19	\$ 0.00	\$ 56,245.06
Activity and Balances of Funds					
Perm Restricted					
Journal Publication Fund	\$ 2,194.90				\$ 2,194.90
Trust Fund for Travel in Ministry	\$ 5,376.16	\$ 600.00	-\$ 280.88		\$ 4,495.28
Subtotal	\$ 7,571.06	\$ 600.00	-\$ 280.88	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,690.18
Temp Restricted Net Assets					
Discipline Fund	\$ 2,407.00		\$ 9.00		\$ 2,416.00
General Travel Fund	\$ 6,115.74				\$ 6,115.74
Operating Reserve				\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Special Projects Fund	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 1,650.00			\$ 600.00
YM Sessions Reserve	\$ 4,420.68	\$ 15,138.33	\$ 14,340.53		\$ 3,622.88
YM Sessions Scholarship Fund	\$ 5,791.47	\$ 871.25	\$ 2,873.60		\$ 7,793.82
Subtotal	\$ 20,984.89	\$ 17,659.58	\$ 17,223.13	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 30,548.44
Unrestricted Net Assets					
General Fund					
Administrative		\$ 782.84			
Donations to Organizations		\$ 5,500.00			
Other Expenses		\$ 1,100.00			
Subtotal Expenses		\$ 7,382.84			
Contributions from Monthly Mtg			\$ 11,550.00		
Other Income			\$ 388.04		
Subtotal Income			\$ 11,938.04		
Friends Fiduciary Change			-\$ 3,495.10		
Subtotal General Fund	\$ 27,946.34	\$ 7,382.84	\$ 8,442.94	-\$ 10,000.00	\$ 19,006.44
Total	\$ 56,502.29	\$ 25,642.42	\$ 25,385.19	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 56,245.06

Verical check

SL - 3-20-2019

The narrative report is included below.

Treasurer's Report per March 31, 2019

2018: Meeting began the calendar/fiscal year with \$51,126.13 in the checking account with Wells Fargo and \$5,376.16 in the Travel-in-the-Ministry Fund with Friends Fiduciary, totaling \$56,376.16. Meeting chose to invest \$35,000 in a sub-account at Friends Fiduciary.

After spending money on Yearly Meeting and to our various organizations and other projects, we ended the year with a total of \$56,245.06: \$20,244.88 in our checking account, \$4,495.28 in the Travel-in-the-Ministry fund, and \$31,504.90 in the Investment fund.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

2019: Yearly Meeting ended the First Quarter with a total of \$60,813.86: \$21,534.88 in the checking account with Wells Fargo, \$4,904.70 in the Travel-in-the-Ministry Fund at Friends Fiduciary and \$34,374.28 in the Investment sub-account of the same.

Monthly Meeting donations pledged for 2019 are \$9400, with \$2850 received and deposited. Monies spent were for representative travel reimbursement.

Memorial Minute for Elizabeth Poynton (Friendship)

Friends heard with gratitude the memorial minute of the life of Elizabeth (Betty) Poynton of Friendship Meeting.

We intend to next meet at a location to be determined on 10th Month 26th, 2019.

Gwen Gosney Erickson, Clerk, and Marguerite Dingman,
Recording Clerk

12. Nomination of the Treasurer

Nominating Committee submitted the name of David French of Virginia Beach Meeting to be Treasurer of NCYM-C. Friends approved.

Friends approved adding his name to the Yearly Meeting checking account and Friends Fiduciary as soon as possible.

13. Report of the Friends World Committee on Consultation

The report of the Friends World Committee on Consultation was read.

To North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) July 2019

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7

Dear Friends,

We send you loving greetings from the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) World Office in London – and from Friends across the world. As we rejoice, we send you love and hope for a gathered yearly meeting. May God bless your being together!

At this important time of challenge, we treasure our love of God and our being Quakers! These give us hope when we need it. We know that God loves us and will help us continue to love the world, just as God does.

The Friends World Committee for Consultation celebrates the many ways we come together – for fellowship and worship – sensing the unity of joyful hearts. We come from many different countries and cultures, we speak different languages, and we worship God in different ways. This diversity, even as we speak the shared language of the heart, is indeed our strength.

We share a longing for the healing of all creation. We share a broad and insistent vision for a peaceful world. We share a love of God, with the hope of being made new, again and again. It is this transforming love that helps us see each day with new eyes. It is this deep understanding that overcomes all difference. We are equal in the sight of God. FWCC brings us together and gives us hope: FWCC joins our passions and strengthens the Quaker voice in the world.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

FWCC ensures that Friends are represented at the world level at the Quaker United Nations Offices, the World Council of Churches, and among global Christian Communion.

FWCC is working on several initiatives:

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

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

We hope you are all planning for World Quaker Day October 6, 2019 with the theme: Sustainability: Planting Seeds of Renewal for the World We Love. We also post epistles we receive so that Friends might see how God is moving amongst us. Please send your epistle to database@friendsworldoffice.org.

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

In loving Friendship, Gretchen Castle, General Secretary

Michael Mizenheimer thanked the Yearly Meeting for

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

support for him and Liz Parrish to attend the Section of the Americas meeting in Missouri last March. It was a wonderful time of fellowship among Friends of different backgrounds from North, Central and South America. They look forward to continuing this work.

14. Report from the Belize Friends Ministries

Nikki Holland, of FUM and Director of Belize Friends Ministries presented a report. She described the leadings of the Holy Spirit that led her and her family to become Quakers and now for her to become director of the Belize Friends Ministries, which include a school, church and community center. She requested prayers and financial support.

15. Report from Friends Center at Guilford College

A report by Wess Daniels on Friends Center at Guilford College was read.

Friends Center Report For NCYM(C)

Dear North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative,

I wish I could be with you this week but I trust your work in the Lord will be not only faithful but fruitful. Friends Center has been hard at work transitioning from previous leadership, reshaping our programs and vision, and our overall impact on campus. I have been drawing on the image of a Nurse Log, a old fallen tree in the forest that provides nutrients, shelter, and an established eco-system that gives birth to new life. I see this as a great metaphor for how Friends Center is working to draw on older Quaker traditions and practices in new ways that can revitalize the college. This is important not only for the excellence of our center and programs but because Friends Center at Guilford College is a one-of-a-kind center in the global Quaker world.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Furthermore, by aligning ourselves with the goals of the Guilford EDGE we make sure what we're doing is up-to-date, relevant, and compelling on and off campus, we believe that we can position Friends Center to be strong long into the future.

There are two big pieces we accomplished this past year. First, the retirement of Deborah Shaw and Kate Hood last summer had a huge impact on leadership at Friends Center. Following this, we had an intentional interim year last year that was led by Evelyn Jadin and Aleks Babić, both graduates of Guilford College. Together they were the Co-Directors of the Quaker Leadership Scholars Program. Second, the critical task before us was to transition QLSP into a revised program. This is work that Deborah and I had started the year before her retirement and Aleks and Evelyn were both eager to help successfully implement the new QLSP structure. Without going into all the details, Aleks and Evelyn made a great team, and were very successfully both in terms of helping students transition into new leadership, but bringing about a new program leadership program whose main goal is to “make apprentices of the Quaker tradition.” Following all of this, I asked Evelyn and Aleks if they were interested in staying on at Friends Center after this year and they were both excited by the possibility. I am grateful for their creative, persistent, and hard work last year, and I look forward to having them both on as staff into the future.

There is one other highlight I want you to know about and that is the work we are doing around what has been known as “Campus Ministry.” Friends Center is not only the hub for Quaker Leadership, Studies and Programming, we are also responsible for all ministry that happens on campus. In the last year we have made great progress shifting from a

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

"campus ministry" model to what we are calling a "Multifaith Collaborative" model of Religious/ Spiritual Life. This is largely meant to signal to students that we are committed to nurturing and strengthening all religious expressions on campus. This looks like renovating the Moon Room into a "Multifaith Sacred Space," developing an "Interfaith Leadership council made up of staff, faculty and other "campus affiliates," - creating a wellness focus to spirituality (sponsoring weekly yoga, teaching meditation practices, creating prayer and meditation spaces on campus, etc.), and finally we just learned that we received a grant from the Interfaith Youth Core to create an Intergroup Dialogue program around religious diversity that will include training, curriculum and implementation.

As you can see just from these few things, it has been a very full year. There are many more I'd love to tell you about at another time. Friends, we are so grateful for you individually and as a body. Thank you for the work you are doing in the world. Thank you for the ways in which you support Guilford and Friends Center.

Finally, just a mention to save the date. Fergus Bordewich historian and author of Bound for Canaan: The Underground Railroad and the War for the Soul of America will be at Guilford College speaking at Dana Auditorium on November 2 at 12pm. We would love to see you there! Sincerely,

C. Wess Daniels

William R. Rogers Director of Friends Center and
Quaker Studies at Guilford College

PS - If you would like to see our website that has more information about all these programs please visit:

<http://bit.ly/2J926dA>

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

16. Report from Virginia Beach Friends School

Nancy Craft read the report from Virginia Beach Friends School.

Head of School Report

North Carolina Meeting – June 28, 2019

Overall Summary:

Virginia Beach Friends School has had a transformational 2018-2019 academic year. The School brought on new leadership in Michael Barclay, Head of School, and Galen Hamann, Assistant Head of School for Academic Affairs.

Under Mike and Galen's leadership, the School has found itself renewing and recreating many elements of the overall VBFS program to be more competitive in the Hampton Roads independent school market while at the same time, strengthening and maintaining the School's unique Friends identity.

The School's Friends identity was on full display all academic year. This was especially highlighted on a number of occasions.

- VBFS increased Meeting for Worship time from 15 minutes once a week to 45 minutes. Silent worship with Upper and Middle School students was 30 minutes with a final 15 minutes attended by Early Childhood, PreK, and Lower Elementary students. Before younger students joined the older students, they

experienced a 30-minute Faith and Play Meeting for Worship specific to their age group.

- 5th and 6th grade students were required to take a Quakerism in Action course. And, the School offered an Upper School Comparative Religion class. Both of these classes joined together at the end of the year to visit First Colonial Inn Retirement Facility of Virginia Beach. Students from the 5/6

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

class and the Upper School students, along with adults from Virginia Beach Friends Meeting, presented to residents of First

Colonial Inn about what Quakerism is, what it means to attend a Friends school, and what it is like to be a Quaker.

- VBFS sponsored a showing of The Silent Soldier and the Portrait <https://www.thesilentsoldier.com/>. This was an event co-sponsored, promoted, and attended by members of the Virginia Beach Meeting. Silent Soldier is a movie about John Waller, former VBFS parent, architect of the VB Meeting House and other School buildings, and WWII veteran. The movie was produced and directed by John's daughter, Garland

(VBFS alumni). The film shares John's story of surviving WWII and the moral and ethical dilemma the war caused him to face over the course of his lifetime.

- Drew Smith from Friends Council on Education visited Virginia Beach in May to meet with the VBFS School

Committee and Administration for a one-day strategic retreat.

These elements were all put in place to help build community and increase the School's Friends identity with an end goal of increasing enrollment.

In looking at enrollment specifically, after years of declining enrollment the new VBFS administration has made bold moves to re-solidify the School's academic program guided by Friends Testimonies. The 2018-19 school year starting enrollment, as of July 1, 2018, was 71 students. This was down from three years prior when the pre-K through 12th grade program saw an enrollment high of 200 plus students. The School had a goal of 112 students in the pre-K through 12th grade program for the 2018-19 academic year. Enrollment for the 2018-19 school year reached as high as 118 and ended with 112.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Enrollment goals for the 2018-19 academic year were achieved through a systematic overhauling of all marketing strategies. With a new Admissions and Social Outreach Director, Tamra Andress, the School has had an aggressive social media and advertising campaign across multiple platforms. This, along with a newly implemented website and communications strategies initiated by Kristin Barclay, Director of Advancement and wife of the Head of School, the School has seen growing and consistent admissions interest throughout the year.

However, while Friends has seen continued enrollment growth at its Early Childhood program through 8th grade levels (especially at the Early Childhood ages 3-6 level), so much so the School has elected to re-open its Cottage program for students 2.5-3.5 years of age, enrollment in its Upper School Program (grades 9-12) has continued to decline.

Over the past years, the Upper School program has attracted more and more students with learning and behavioral issues. As it currently stands, the VBFS Upper School program was not designed for students with severe learning and/or behavioral issues. With this in mind and after careful financial analysis weighing the cost of running an Upper School program balanced with poor enrollment, the School Committee, working with the Head of School, made the hard decision to retire the Upper School program after the 2020-21 academic year. Next year,

Friends will carry a full 9th through 12th grade program then in the following year, there will only be 12th graders.

The Class of 2021 will be Friends last graduating class until the School deems enrollment at a later time justifies re-examining the possibility of bringing back the 9th through 12th grade program.

Overall, the decision to retire the VBFS Upper School over the next two years, while sad to the entire VBFS community,

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

was met with acceptance and understanding. Despite this decision, VBFS has seen a doubling in its summer camp registration from last year to this year (primarily with students ages 3-6) and there is renewed parent and overall community enthusiasm to create the strongest pre-K through 8th grade program in Hampton

Roads in the years to come.

Academics:

Academic highlights from 2018-2019

- VBFS hired its first Assistant Head of School for Academic Affairs to oversee all academic happenings at the School
- Mixed age groupings were implemented in the Early Childhood through 8th grade program. Grades 1/2, 3/4, 5/6, and 7/8 were combined to enhance learning and social/emotional opportunities for students.
- Professional Development was implemented across all academic levels with an aim of increasing teacher satisfaction and improving the overall academic experience for all students.
- More experiential learning opportunities were added across the pre-K through 12 curriculum that saw an increase in learning based trips to local Hampton Roads venues from Jamestown to Washington, DC. This will increase next year with trips to NYC and out of the country to Grenada in the West Indies.
- Experiential Learning Centers were created that included a new, state-of-the-art kitchen (fundraised for by parents) and a renovation of the School's greenhouse and gardens to increase hands-on learning at all levels.
- The School was again awarded The Pearl Award by Lynnhaven River Now, a non-profit aimed at preserving the Lynnhaven River and promoting local sustainability, for its own going environmental stewardship.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

- Community Service and outreach was extended on an outgoing basis to Virginia based groups that ranges from VBFS parents and students serving meals to homeless to organizing food drives.

- A new PreK through Upper School buddy program was established that saw the oldest Friends students meeting and working with the youngest Friends students once a week.

Final College Matriculation:

Adonis: University of San Francisco

Harvey: University of Manitoba, Canada

Jack: Rutgers University

Tady: Virginia Tech

Vincent: University of Miami, Florida

Briella: Mary Washington College

Olivia - Full Sail (Florida)

Sharon - University of Central Florida

Donnalyn - Tidewater Community College

Tim - Tidewater Community College

Makayla: Marymount College (New York)

Sophie: Emerson College (Boston)

Accreditation:

VBFS has received written notification from VAIS that it has been returned to full accreditation and VBFS is scheduled for its next visit, a Ten-Year Visit, in Fall of 2022.

Advancement:

As of June, the School has raised \$210,000 up from the \$88,000 the year before.

Buildings and Grounds:

Major, long awaited Capital improvements occurred throughout campus with new signage, updated landscaping, new fencing, and target renovations to enhance the overall school experience and aesthetic to better sell the program to external

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

community members and prospective parents.

Final Thoughts:

VBFS looks forward to terrific 2019-20 academic year with renewed hopes of re-establishing the program as a premiere pre-K through 8th grade academic institution for the families of Hampton Roads. And, the School would love to host members from the North Carolina Yearly Meeting for tours when Friends are in the Hampton Roads area.

17. Lights for Liberty Vigil

In response to a concern brought to her by some Friends from Durham the clerk offered an opportunity to consider participation in the Lights for Liberty vigil to end concentration camps and to support human rights for migrants.

18. State of the Meeting Reports

State of the Meeting reports were read and are included in the minutes below.

Davidson Monthly Meeting

This past year began with no significant changes. We gathered for worship, had shared meals, clean up days, discussions of Quaker Speak videos, opportunities for presentations on peoples' service efforts and spiritual lives, and our annual Talent café. We experienced some changes in our attendance, welcoming several families with children and seeing some occasional attenders drift away. We laid down the membership of two young adults who no longer live in our area and have formed clearness committees for two people considering membership. As with previous years, our attendance remains steady but our membership is not expanding. The same names appear on committee lists from year to year, a dedicated core that needs new voices and hands to share the work. We desire to be welcoming but have not found ways to bring people fully into our community.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

While our meetings for worship have had consistent attendance of 15-20 people and spiritually-grounded vocal ministry, they are lacking in the depth we have experienced in the past. Worship feels serviceable, rather than gathered. In recent months we have experienced a new awareness of divisions and limits in our ability to hear one another. We have spent some months struggling with decisions about the use of our building revealing a split between our desires to be welcoming and desires to witness for social justice.

In this process, despite being well-clerked, our meetings for worship with attention to business have been marked by impatience, dismissive comments, and occasional failures of the spirit of love and forbearance. We recognize that our inability to find unity on a fundamental question is part of our growth as a community. Learning how to go forward and to live into our current unsettled state can bring us to a more mature spirituality and depth but it will not be a simple or quick process. It will require humility, careful listening, and opening to new leadings.

Some spiritual work has been done through a Quakerism 101 series and a meeting retreat but we are aware of a need to face our disunity and seek deeper reliance on the Spirit individually and well as corporately. We are grateful for all who support our meeting through prayers, attendance, committee work, and shared gifts and grateful for the ways Spirit has moved us.

Durham Monthly Meeting

Recently, a Friend who is a woman of color shared a message during Meeting for Worship. This Friend described a conversation she had with her 9-year-old child while driving the car.

“Mom, if there is a part of God in each person, then aren't we all connected?”

“Yes, that sounds right to me.”

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

“Then we must all be part of one family, right?”

“Yes, that is 100% correct!”

On a different day, a Friend shared a message in which he described his discomfort with feeling singled out as a Black man by a white person in meeting who hadn’t taken the time to know him first as an individual. When we treat someone as a “representative” of another group than our own, but fail to acquaint ourselves with their individual story, we may only reinforce the boundaries that separate us.

These anecdotes illustrate one of the many paradoxes that feel present in Durham Friends Meeting. Each person is unique, possessing a combination of features that no-one else has, having an identity that may be unlike that of others. And yet we are all one in the sight of the Creator and we are all joined together in the fabric of life on this planet.

Over the past year, the meeting has labored together, as individuals and as a community, to respond to times when Friends have, unintentionally, made others feel unknown, unwelcome or uncomfortable. We have worked hard to understand the harm that resulted and to use our newfound understanding as an opportunity for transformation. This will allow us to go deeper into who we really are and who we wish to be, and to step closer to becoming a beloved community.

There are many tangible ways we are doing this work. We formed committees on Anti-Racism and Inclusion. Friends on the Anti-Racism Committee discerned together how our meeting will engage deeply in this work, in the context of Quakers across the U.S. who are also grappling with anti-racism in the Religious Society of Friends. We have arranged for a year-long, intensive training in Equity principles. We are holding forums and listening sessions. And we are reading books that help us to pay closer attention to how our own backgrounds and privilege may

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

blind us to the struggles of some in our midst. And there are less visible manifestations as well. We must simply sit with the reality that is in us and among us, and know that we can listen carefully for the Truth waiting to be shared with us. As was written in the first Epistle to the church at Corinth, “For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know, even as also I am known.”

We face other paradoxes as well.

One is the seeming contradiction between abundance and scarcity. The meeting is attended by many people of all ages, yet we often have trouble filling roles within the meeting’s work and business. At the expiration of the term of the current clerking team, the meeting is about to enter a time in which no new clerk, assistant clerk, or recording clerk has been identified. Our Nominating Committee has labored long and hard to fill these roles, so far without success. Our meeting has responded to this challenge by working to create a new model for clerking over the next year: an intergenerational team of Friends with different levels of clerking experience. We have several committees which have expressed the need for more members, but are unable to fill those openings.

In a different area, we are blessed with ample legacy funds donated by Friends who passed away in recent years, but at the same time we may find ourselves coming up short on operating funds at the end of the current fiscal year.

On busy First Days, we often have 100-120 adults and 40-50 youth in attendance; it is a vibrant group, comprised of young and old, families and single individuals, new and seasoned Friends. But it can seem... too busy. And that same fullness and busy-ness is spurring new initiatives to create opportunities for deeper silence and fuller exploration of our spiritual lives: early Meeting for Worship, Experiment with Light, 3-hour silent meditation opportunities, and various other small worship groups

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

are springing up. The meeting also provides many opportunities for Friends to know each other better: a playful intergenerational retreat, busy hands craft group, end of life concerns group, caregivers support group, couple enrichment, baby welcomings, new member potluck, and more. A thousand flowers bloom.

The image of a garden suggests itself. Ours has many green shoots right now, but how are the roots doing? How do we make the necessary choices: what to prune, what to fertilize, what to plant? How do we care for the soil? Should we leave some fallow? A Friend asks folks at the yearly meeting to “pray for us -- a lot of good things are going on but it’s hard right now.”

There is some tension, too, around other questions:

Should we focus on caring for our active faith community or for the wider world? Should we continue to identify ways to do more, or perhaps consider simplifying and focusing on what we can do well?

Perhaps the best we can do is to recognize these inherent tensions and the fact that finding a balance between opposing forces is an ongoing, dynamic process. There is no “correct” answer, no “natural” resting point, no easy resolution to these questions.

I sense that God/Goddess/Divine Spirit is most present and available when we recognize and live into these inherent tensions; when we refuse the easy simplifications; when we try to listen to every voice inside and outside ourselves, including some that seem strange and difficult; when we acknowledge our fears and vulnerabilities, and the ways in which they can drive us apart from one another and from the holy spirit that connects all. At the same time, we may do best to hold all of this lightly. Can we allow ourselves and one another the chance to try some things, to make mistakes, and to receive the Grace that is due to every person? Can we wear the robes of our identities proudly, and respect those of others, and at the same time realize that

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

what seems most foundational today may be discarded tomorrow as each of us becomes new and fresh? Can we embrace that process of Becoming that is inherent in the natural world around us, and which we are all a part of?

--

Here are some highlights from the past year of business meetings:

8th Month 2018 - financing our budget -- encouraging giving by all, and whether we can afford to hire a 75%-time children's coordinator

9th Month 2018 - an experiment with answering the query mid-meeting to allow more Friends to participate in the key business decisions, committing to funding the children's coordinator position at 30 hours/wk, and having faith that Friends will find a way to close the budget gap,

10th Month 2018 - Children's Ministries Committee "statement of support" for families, request for ad hoc committee on inclusion, Grounds and Facilities Committee (GAF) continued to furnish the lower level, GAF requested funding for a part-time paid facilities coordinator, financial management policy updated to reflect legacy fund,

11th Month 2018 - \$12,600 budget surplus from previous fiscal year applied to capital reserve funds, funding additional expense for a paid schedule coordinator which creates a deficit budget

12th Month 2018 - reporting on the completion of the lease update process with Carolina Friends School (CFS), formation of an Anti-Racism Subcommittee under the care of Ministry & Counsel, writing a letter responding to Nia Imani's letter from 9th month, approving \$3600 for solar design, approving a letter

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

to local Jewish congregations and organizations regarding recent anti-Semitic violence

1st Month 2019 - trying new ways of organizing business meeting, forming an ad hoc Solar Financing Committee, approving the new lease agreement with CFS, creating an Inclusion Committee, minuting support for the creation of the Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL), earmarking most remaining excess funds for the lower level renovation to pay the final year of the meetinghouse loans starting in 1st Month 2021.

2nd Month 2019 - approving the solar energy financing plan

3rd Month 2019 - approving the use of \$26,000 in legacy funds for the solar project, creating an ad hoc committee to propose a policy on discrimination and harassment in meeting

4th Month 2019 - approving a detailed plan for the solar construction project, approving hiring The Equity Paradigm to conduct a retreat and training for members of the Anti-Racism and Ministry & Counsel committees in 9th Month 2019, noting difficulty in finding additional members for the committee to consider a policy against discrimination and harassment.

5th Month 2019 - approving spending an additional \$7,000 to engage The Equity Paradigm to conduct a year-long Racial Equity Learning Arc starting in the fall of 2019, approving representatives to FCNCL, laying down the Legacy Fund Working Group, approving the formation of an ad hoc Clerking Transitions Committee to help the meeting plan for a time with no appointed clerking team.

6th Month 2019 - approving the formation of an intergenerational clerking team comprising people with clerking

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

experience and those who do not but may have some leadings in this direction, minuting spiritual and financial support for the Poor People's Campaign along with a detailed response to the draft minute shared by our yearly meeting.

submitted by Toby Berla, clerk

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting

Jesus said: " '...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. ... Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' " Matthew 35-36, 40b, RSV

Fayetteville Friends Monthly Meeting actively embraces the words of Jesus to his disciples, within our Monthly Meeting as we share in each other's joys and concerns; within our greater Friends community in fellowship and growth; and in the local community as we worship together in spirit and in action. The Queries have provided meaningful discussions and deeper spiritual growth.

Meeting supports each other in our individual health concerns. We enjoy the gifts and wisdom of Kindra Bradley and Michelle Downey, recent additions to Meeting. We miss our long-time attender Paula Waterman, who graced us with her presence from November 2014 until March 18, 2019 when she began her final journey. The first two meetings Paula attended were Business Meetings, and yet she returned. She shared her wisdom, stories from her global journeys with other F/friends, and love of foods with Meeting and all who met her. Her memorial service on March 24 joined Fayetteville Friends with Paula's family and friends again with worship and fellowship. We are blessed with her presence for those years and saddened by our loss.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Meeting continues to be well represented in our Yearly Meeting and in Piedmont Friends Fellowship; Fayetteville members are active on several committees. We hosted Coastal Friends Gathering and Piedmont Friends Fellowship Representative Body Meeting. Meeting will be represented at Friends General Conference and through visitation of other Meetings.

Meeting participated in the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, the Church World Service CROP walk, the Interfaith Build for Fayetteville Area Habitat for Humanity, a local advocacy team with Friends Committee on National Legislation, and provided part of a Sunday meal through Seth's Wish to people who are homeless. We hosted an informational meeting on local interest for free legal services for refugees. This United Methodist program is called Justice for Our Neighbors. Meeting and the wider local community assisted travelers passing through Fayetteville, often offering hot meals, snacks, Over-The-Counter medications, outerwear during the cold months, clothes and shoes at times, and always a kind word and hope for the next phase of their journey.

Meeting Friends come away feeling blessed. Meeting continues to participate in these ministries as we are led.

Meeting now has a Facebook page. We began discussion of a scrapbook to tell our story visually. The phrase "in Quaker time" seems appropriate here.

Melidy Poole wrote of Paula Waterman: "Her purpose and intent was to use the gifts in her trust in service of Love and Truth." May we continue this journey for her, for our Meeting, and for the Wider Community.

Friendship Monthly Meeting

This year marked the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of Friendship Friends Meeting. Our celebration of that event was blessed by the presence of several Friends who were instrumental in the birth of that new meeting in 1968.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Our spiritual work since last yearly meeting sessions has largely been that of balancing two interdependent forms of spiritual hospitality: the aspect that seeks to build up the worshipping community and the aspect that seeks to give voice and action to the passion for God's justice across all creation that our shared worship experience creates. We believe, with Divine assistance, we have been successful in maintaining that balance this year.

While the programs and specific activities aimed at strengthening our community of faith named in last year's state of society report continue, our primary attention this year has been on the ongoing project to create a new, larger space for worship, which will also serve to free up existing space for other meeting activities. This effort has been based on two leadings: that there are more people in the Greensboro area who would wish to worship with us if we had the physical ability to accommodate them and made the effort to make them aware of our presence; and that our present meeting community would be deepened and strengthened if our physical facilities were improved.

At every stage, apparently insurmountable obstacles have presented themselves, and at every stage, way has opened for us to proceed. The story of the process itself seems to be an endorsement of our objectives. As the 2019 yearly meeting sessions approach, we are deep in the specific design phase of the building project, and confident that the meeting will be able to proceed through to completion without roadblocks.

At the same time, Friends have been reminded that we cannot allow this building project to push aside our need to give voice and action to the love for all people and all of Creation which our shared worship experience incites and builds up. We believe we have been able to do this also over this past year.

Friendship Friends has continued its practice of personal involvement at the local level with individuals from a wide range of ethnicities, nationalities, and religions as a witness to our faith

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

that all persons are equally loved by God and are therefore equally deserving of our love. Our members continue to support the Syrian family we most recently co-sponsored for immigration, as well as helping a Congolese immigrant relocate when his apartment building was condemned following a fire. We are personally involved with the Greensboro Muslim communities through activities such as a shared Iftar meal. Individual members participate in groups such as the Beloved Community weekly noontime gatherings or the regular Healing Tuesdays witness held downtown.

New initiatives this year include a grant to Student Action with Farmworkers, to help migrant workers recover after Hurricane Florence, and a mini-grant to the Montagnard American Organization (MAO), a group of young Montagnard people who want to conduct a census of the several thousand Montagnards who live in North Carolina. The MAO believes the census data will help them build community among the different tribes, languages, competing churches, and political affiliations that make up the NC Montagnard population. We look forward to hearing their report later this year.

On the national and state level, Friendship members continue to be active in the Poor People's Campaign through activities at our meeting, in Raleigh, and elsewhere across the state. We are looking forward to being part of the new Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation. Individual opportunities for participation at all levels of peace witness and social justice action are publicized by a special sporadic electronic newsletter, "Advocacy Opportunities," which is distributed to everyone on our monthly meeting mailing list.

Two of our members, Deborah Shaw and Lloyd Lee Wilson, have been led to travel in the ministry among Quakers in North America and England this past year, the meeting has

encouraged and nurtured them with travel minutes and anchor committees under the care of the Worship and Ministry committee. We believe their ministry points to the importance of

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

a deeply rooted worship experience and to the witness which inevitably grows from that rootedness.

We have been faithful this year to build a strong foundation for the shared worship experience which gives rise to our public witness, as well as faithful to make our witness public, to be an agent for the Blessed Community that includes not only every person but every part of Creation. God give us strength to continue that effort.

On behalf of Friendship Friends Meeting,
Lloyd Lee Wilson, Clerk

Greenville Friends Meeting

Greenville Friends Meeting has had a remarkable year since we last joined in NCYM(C) annual sessions. For such a small meeting, a lot has happened.

Our meetings have been marked by an increase in active attenders who have added to the richness of our worship and fellowship. We have been deeply gathered in worship. Vocal ministry is infrequent but heartfelt.

In November, we welcomed Bradley Abraham Cheung Miller, son of David Miller and grandson of Richard and Mary Miller, into this world.

Mary Kay Glazer asked for a Care and Accountability Committee to help guide and enrich her ministry, which is primarily as a spiritual director and retreat leader. This committee includes one Friend who is a member of another monthly meeting in NCYM(C). We have met several times to talk about various issues which arise in Mary Kay's ministry.

Our member Liz Parrish felt a call to prepare for ministry at Earlham School of Religion. She has completed one year of her program. We and many others in NCYM(C) have supported her financially and spiritually in her journey.

Our men's group continues to meet monthly. We choose a book or article to read between meetings as a focus for

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

discussion when we get together. We've talked about a wide variety of issues, such as health care, psychology, and racism in housing.

We continue to discuss our concern for being more inclusive of families with children. We looked for a meeting place several years ago which would be more conducive for younger adults, and it may be time to search again.

We grieved as one of our members lost the cognitive capacity to attend Meeting for Worship. One of our members was bringing him as long as he could come, even though his ability to participate was diminished, so he could be with us and his wife could have some time for herself. Sadly, this is no longer possible. As a former treasurer of the Meeting, he was an important part of our fellowship for many years.

Several of our members went through trying situations this year. Mary Miller underwent treatment for cancer which, thankfully, was successful. Bruce and Bonnie Arnold lost the first floor of their house because of flooding from Hurricane Florence. Some members of Durham Friends Meeting contributed generously to what was humorously called "The Recliner Fund."

We continue to act on our concern regarding racism and white supremacy. We attended services as a group at Rev. William Barber's church, Greenleaf Disciples of Christ in Goldsboro. Several of our members and one attender are active in the Pitt County NAACP. We also have had occasions for outreach with the Muslim community in Greenville. We had planned to attend a local black church at their Wednesday night services, but this did not take place. Our member Mark Moss served on an ad hoc committee tasked with planning NCYM(C)'s response to racism. The output of that committee should be up for consideration at annual sessions this year.

With sadness and grace, joy and concern, we thank God that we are in all of this together. In the words of Walt Whitman,

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

“Praised be the fathomless universe for life and joy and for objects and knowledge curious; And for love, sweet love.”

Rich Square Monthly Meeting

This is the report of Rich Square Monthly Meeting which meets for worship and business at the 151 year old Cedar Grove Meetinghouse in Woodland, NC.

Meetings at Cedar Grove are gifted by being small gatherings where members and attenders, who are able to participate regularly, feel a personal closeness. This is evidenced by our greetings and sometimes very lengthy conversations at the rise of each meeting. During the past year, most First Days at Cedar Grove have had between four and ten members and attenders for worship. On Second First Days we have seven to ten in attendance for Rich Square Business Meetings, with a few more attenders coming for worship after attention to business. During much of the past year usually three or four have gathered at Salem Black River Allowed Meeting under the care of Rich Square Monthly Meeting. However, since Second Month two of the members have been involved with health concerns so meetings have been in their home. Another Salem Black River Friend is away for an extended time on sabbatical. Of the 42 members and attenders, only 5 live in Northampton County where the meeting house is located and 3 live in Mayesville, SC where the allowed meeting gathers.

We all are thrilled when many more distant members and local visitors join us for special occasions at Cedar Grove for worship at holiday times and for Homecoming in Tenth Month. Our members live great distances from one another.

Each month the Meeting considers needs in our local community where we see that financial assistance is helpful. During the past year assistance was given to individuals with health problems, “Caregiver Meals” for families with an invalid living in the home, holiday gifts for patients at Cherry Hospital, funds for foster children and families, a full scholarship for a

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

local child to attend 4-H summer camp and a financial contribution plus participation in serving an ecumenical Community Thanksgiving meal which was held at Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church this year.

The Monthly Meeting continues our commitment to make the building and grounds available for local activities and events which will offer opportunities to share Friends' testimonies. Last summer and fall the meeting continued to host the Woodland Children's Community Garden and Little Free Library. During the past year children have not participated in the garden effort and the Little Free Library has experienced vandalism. For these reasons, the garden is offering flowers rather than vegetables this summer. The Little Free Library may be moved to a more central and secure location away from the meeting house to avoid vandalism. Our meeting hosted an ecumenical Thanksgiving worship for people in Woodland on the First Day evening before Thanksgiving. Two nights later, members of the meeting participated in the annual service held by several local African American churches in the area.

Members of our meeting have attended "Poor Peoples Campaign" meetings in Northampton County and in other locations nearer their homes. Members of our meeting in Northampton County and elsewhere deliver Meals on Wheels and on occasion assist people without transportation in rural areas wherever they live. Members of the Meeting look for opportunities to enhance and nurture our rural communities through personal investment, leadership, and work with local organizations.

As reflected this year for our response to Query 7 concerning the Peace Testimony, we do believe we are seeking to "live in that life and power which takes away the occasion of war" through our day to day interactions with people. As we reflected on the query, we noted that during the coming year we intend to reconsider what amounts our meeting contributes to financial organizations which work for peace.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

We in the meeting are especially appreciative of the many hours volunteered for meeting property and grounds maintenance. Rich Square Monthly Meeting works with Cedar Grove Friends Meeting, Inc. to maintain and improve the Meeting House and Lunchroom, the surrounding grounds and Cedar Grove Cemetery. Our members, Robert Parker and Evans Heath have spent innumerable hours during the past year laboring on the property and grounds as well as working with professionals to rewire the Meeting House, replace the HVAC in the library wing, repair leaks and maintain the roof. They continue to study opportunities to enhance the two buildings' functionality and environmental responsibility.

Of our 42 recorded members and 5 regular attenders, two thirds are older than age 60. We have no members who are Young Adult Friends or children. Some of our younger members and attenders do have young adult children or young children, but they live far away and only visit occasionally. For this reason, our involvement with nurturing children, teens and young adults is through family visits and outreach in the communities beyond our meeting.

In Tenth Month Barbara Gosney participated in a Hertford County library program in Winton which shared information about how Rich Square Meeting members worked with the Underground Railroad and helped Northampton and Hertford County African Americans move from northeastern North Carolina to Ohio and Indiana. We are well aware that Rich Square Friends' history from 150-200 years ago does not fulfill the calling for us to faithfully serve during our present time. Our meeting is located in a town and impoverished rural area which are all known as a "Food Desert" with crumbling infrastructure, poor education, many people with disabilities and much alcohol and drug addiction. A local Methodist minister recently said that ministers with young families are unwilling to move their families to Northampton County. The challenge for Rich Square

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Monthly Meeting and Cedar Grove Friends Meeting, Inc. is to faithfully discern how we can use our time, our talents and our Meeting House resources to best serve current and future needs of local people physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. We seek understanding and empathy to know how to speak with our neighbors in these conditions.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting

OUR ADDITIONS: Virginia Beach Friends continue to be blessed by a few new members as our population ages and declines. Nancy A. Delle Femine, Katie Rogers and Rosalie Deer Heart were all welcomed into the meeting with open arms. Nancy shared her religious background having been raised in a New England Congregational church. She was born and raised in Maine. She has a culinary degree as part of her education and we have already been grateful recipients of her culinary delights. Katie Rogers shared that she had had a renewed awakening in her spirit and has found the Virginia Beach Friends of kindred kind. She regularly volunteers for hospitality and welcomes us each First Day with coffee brewing. Rosalie Deer Heart comes from a vast and deep journey and has written several books pertaining to the spiritual journey. She, too, comes from the beautiful state of Maine.

OUR LOSSES: This past year we have lost Bob Clapp, Kristen Hofheimer and Barbara French. Bob Clapp was an active member of our Meeting since 1961. He served as Trustee, Elder, Overseer and Clerk of the Meeting. His activism spread out across many sectors as he was interested in feeding the poor and providing them with affordable housing. He had much to give to other charitable organizations and was the founder of Funeral Consumer Alliance of Tidewater. He reminded us all of how we can help those less fortunate. Kristen was our founder, Louise Wilson's granddaughter. Kristen grew up in Virginia Beach and attended the Friends School. When she received her law degree, she joined her father in the family law business. She had an

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

adventurous nature, generous heart and loved life. Our hearts are heavy as we prepare for Barb French's memorial July 27. Barb was engaged in many aspects of Quaker life. She was born into a family of which the legacy of Quakerism was strong. She had always wanted to leave the world a better place because she was here. Many things she did benefitted children. She and her husband, Dave fostered many children as well as adopted four. She was part of the very beginnings of the Peace Corp. Her spirit was full and her ability to welcome everyone to First Day will be forever missed. We were indeed blessed.

FRIENDS SCHOOL: On June 22, 2018 we welcomed our new head, Michael Barclay, his wife Kristin, and their children along with Galen Hamann as the assistant head and her wife, Jayme and their children to Virginia Beach Friends School. Much has changed in this past year as their talent and hard work have impacted the School for the better. The School report will note all the changes and the vision for the future.

OUR MEETING HOUSE & GARDENS: Our future memorial garden is being reconsidered. We are now in the process of coming up with an alternative way to remember Friends that have passed. How the front entrance is going to look is still unknown as that work by the City of Virginia Beach has yet to start.

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE: Continues to replace and renew our Meeting House. Safety is our main concern as our membership is aging. The stairs are getting safety strips or tracks that are being installed and the carpet on the stairs removed. We are also considering ways to safely transport people to the basement where we hold social gatherings.

COMMUNICATIONS: The committee continues updating our website. They have a more efficient server and the newsletter is full of relevant information and more contributors from our meeting. Our minutes from MFB and various committee reports are regularly posted, as well as scheduled events on our calendar.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Easy to access links provide other relevant information are also available on the website.

PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE: Steve Baggarly of the Norfolk Catholic Worker came to the last committee meeting and discussed the Hampton Roads campaign to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

The committee invited meeting to review and discuss FCNL's foundational document, "The World We Seek". Meeting Friends are involved in personally welcoming refugee families in distress who arrive in Norfolk and Virginia Beach as part of the TITA movement.

PARTICIPATION IN THE REVISION OF THE NCYMC FAITH & PRACTICE: Meeting has responded to all the YM Faith and Practice requests.

Quaker Women hosts a lunch/dinner to further our fellowship and connectedness as often as possible, usually each month.

ADULT FIRST DAY: Takes place on the third first day started in the first month and is from 9:30-10:15 am. We began by discussing *Engaging Scripture: Reading the Bible with Early Friends* by Michael L. Birkel and is considered to be a preparation for worship. We have experienced a good turnout.

Church Woman United: Our member Liana Fleming has been active in this organization and keeps the meeting aware of all the events they have in a calendar year.

Our recording clerk for the past 2 years, Joanne Crass served with grace, accuracy and kindness. Our gratitude was expressed.

Jean Crawford, our presiding clerk of meeting,

West Grove Friends Meeting

Following the tradition of founding members William C. Harwood, Susan Harwood, John Harwood, Nettie Norwood, James M. Newlin, Martha E. Newlin, Mahlon Newlin, Harvey

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Newlin, Nancy G. Newlin, Ira M. Newlin, Roseland Newlin, Burton O. Newlin, Elvira Braxton, Clifford Curl, Florence Mc Bane and Flora Mc Bane, our Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business was held monthly in the West Grove Meetinghouse, usually on the first First Day of each month.

West Grove has been richly blessed during the past year by the presence of visitors on many First Day mornings. Last summer, while interning at Duke Gardens, Tyler Hampton from Detroit's Friends of Jesus Fellowship frequently attended meeting. Katherine N. Hadley, a birth right member of West Grove, retired public school teacher and farm family member, is frequently the connection bringing local and out of the area friends to West Grove for worship and Bible Study. One of Katherine's recent guests, Louise Hobbs, a birthright Friend whose great grandfather was Lewis Lyndon Hobbs, the first president of Guilford College, has been faithfully attending since her first visit. One First Day, Louise brought her brother Richard of Carrboro with her. Darlene Stanley of Friendship Meeting and Louise Hobbs' friend, y.h. Patt of Pittsboro joined us for worship and a community meal recently as our member Hue Karreman narrated a slide show about his recent mission trip to Honduras. We have also been blessed by visitors Marj Marie, Tom Roberts, Brad Jackson, Jeff Hitchcock, Charley Flint and Ruth Anne & Bob Childress. Wayne Bray, grandson of Harvey Newlin, has not allowed a year to pass without visitation to West Grove when he comes to the annual Newlin family reunion. In Second Month, Jeff Ginsburg returned and facilitated a joyful and appreciated brunch at the rise of meeting; our small community found new connections as we shared this meal so lovingly provided.

After attending and participating in monthly meeting for a year or two, and briefly being a sojourning member, this year Hubert Karreman felt clear to transfer his membership from Marlborough Friends Meeting, (Ohio Yearly Meeting) to West Grove. Friends joyfully united in welcoming him as a member.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

First Day's worship begins for many West Grove Friends 30 minutes prior to Meeting for Worship with Bible Study/ Adult 1st Day School. Led by the Holy Spirit, those gathered share in the readings and listen for the Voice of the Holy One in scripture passages. The level of conversation about Spirit's movement in our lives has deepened during the year. It may be that the preparation for worship by these members contributes to the increase in vocal ministry.

Efforts to let our lives speak have led friends to Racial Equity Institute seminars, Repairers of Breach, and the Poor People's Campaign programs and publications. As we seek to be more well informed about the roots of racial injustice continuing to this day, we have also shared amongst ourselves two books, Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race by Debby Irvine and The Third Reconstruction by Reverend Dr. William Barber II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. We have not yet discussed these publications as a community but we have tentative plans to have a brown bag lunch and conversation as Way opens. Meeting continues to contribute financially to the Poor People's campaign. Individual members continue their work in support of Blacks, Native Americans seeking constitutional equity and in helping people from other nations seeking relief from actions common in their countries

Our awareness of the need for all people to participate honestly and earnestly in our democracy has kindled interest and activity in voter registration. Our meeting has not formally shared, as a body making a public statement, our sense that equity and truth telling are central to loving your neighbor as yourself.

Members' support of the meeting keeps West Grove on a prudently modest financial foundation. Building maintenance and annual contributions to area organizations and national and regional Friends organizations are our largest expenditures. Writing a check seems to be our corporate expression of our concerns. Seeking a service project for our geographically

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

dispersed members coupled with concern for all people in need briefly led the meeting to collect and donate non-perishable foods to area food banks. Members and attenders continue to participate in individual civic and faith activities as led by their discernment of the still small voice. West Grove, as a meeting, is not an active participant in Yearly Meeting activities. We have discussed information from the Discipline Review Committee and responded to the sections of the discipline as they are issued for consideration. We feel the committee's effort is well grounded.

After attempting to direct all meeting activities through Meeting for Business, we have activated a Building and Grounds committee. We have also resumed quarterly meetings of the body of Ministry and Oversight. As meeting members are geographically dispersed across several counties, time and personal schedules limit committee activities.

In recognition of the gift of vocal ministry, West Grove Monthly Meeting, after consideration as directed by the Faith and Practice, recorded Janis G. Ansell as an acknowledged minister of the Gospel. Yearly Meeting was informed of West Grove's recording of Janis at Interim Body held at Virginia Beach Friends Meeting.

Eric Ginsburg, Corena Owens, Rebekah Fleming and Charles Ansell attended the Annual Gathering of FCNL in 11th month. After serving FCNL as Clerk and Assistant Clerk, Eric has transitioned off the Board this year but continues to volunteer with FCNL. West Grove appreciates and respects his service over the years to FCNL. Rebekah Fleming has accepted the position as a representative for West Grove from Yearly Meeting to FCNL.

A few years ago, Meeting decided to not purchase liability insurance. Friends agreed to set aside one thousand dollars to help people in need of assistance in lieu of purchasing insurance. We reaffirmed this decision in 2-3-19. On occasion West Grove

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

has discussed non-ambulatory access to the Meeting House. Consideration will be given to providing a non-ambulatory toilet.

In 6th month of this year West Grove submitted 8 years of Monthly Meeting for Business minutes to the Friends Historical Collection at Guilford College. Minutes were printed on acid free paper and bound. An electronic copy was also submitted. A bound copy was placed in the West Grove Meeting File cabinet in the Meeting house.

West Grove is happy to announce that Caroline Newlin of Hawbridge School, Corena Owens of Meredith College, Janie Newlin of Alamance County Community College and Samuel Arnold of William Peace University have completed their course work and graduated from their respective educational institutions. The world will be a better place as they step into work in their life's calling.

Wilmington Friends Meeting

The State of the Society did not change much in this past year. Attendance was up and the new normal found more people at the Meetinghouse of First Days.

The Meeting found a new usefulness to the community by housing a music school at the Meetinghouse on weekdays. It may have had the collateral effect of making the Meetinghouse more visible, as we were also asked by a local 12-step program for use of the building while we are not using it for Meeting.

It was a year of learning how to accommodate desires without the use of many resources. One of our members got married (not under the Care of the Meeting), and we were able to make the member feel welcomed into our group, even though there is only a small membership to have such a big party for such an occasion.

Our group grew by three! We are such a small group that it really makes a big difference when only small numbers are involved, as we can only make the numbers bigger now—they're

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

too small to shrink. We remember our better days, when every First Day brought out 8-10 teens.

We have had discussions of great import, and have had join us persons that are deeply committed to the problems associated with the excessive use of cash bail. Although we see the problem in the flesh, our District Attorney has told the general public and the press that there is no such problem in the area, an

indication of how entrenched the issue really is. We have opened up to discuss the issues with like religions in the city and area, but it seems that if we want an Interfaith Council (or similar), we may have to create it.

We continue to be horrified by the coup d'etat in Wilmington in 1898. The Governor at the time was from nearby Brunswick County, and the deafness that was expressed by the State at the time of the conflagration can only be understood as deliberate. We live in the shadow of this tragedy every day, and the lack of attention that it receives is no mistake.

The recent discussion of the possible removal of the statue of George Davis (Confederate Attorney General) downtown indicates the dilemma. Most that know of the issue are unwilling to be moved to action.

What we have been able to do is to keep open and welcoming Meetings going. We have spent to have the Meetinghouse repaired to ward off the issues with the weather, and still open on time, whether it's cold or hot. We have focused on our members with health issues. They have educated us greatly.

19. Epistles and Summary of Exercises

Kent Wicker and Nancy Craft agreed to work on the general epistle and the epistles to Iowa and Ohio. Kristin Olson-Kennedy, Emily Stewart, and Nathaniel Corwin agreed to facilitate the creation of a Summary of Exercises

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

20. Report from American Friends Service Committee

Toby Berla read the report provided by the American Friends Service Committee South Region.

American Friends Service Committee – South Region 2019 Report NC Yearly Meeting- Conservative

As the American Friends Service Committee has lived into its 101st year of service towards a lasting peace through justice, we have celebrated some amazing resistance to the current social and political environment, while devoting significant time and energy to a deep discernment on the next 100 years of the AFSC.

Our work continues onward with daily actions towards the creation of what Dr. King called the “beloved community” by attempting to create lasting peace through the presence of justice; this is in line with AFSC’s mission. The examples of this work are too numerous to name with any sort of equanimity in a short report such as this one. But the depth and breadth of the current work of the AFSC is personified by looking at the example of our response to the exodus of many migrant caravans moving north towards our southern border.

It’s important first to know that the AFSC has worked in Central America and along the border with Mexico for many decades. Our current programs work in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Chiapas-Mexico, Tijuana-Mexico and San Diego. This history of our on the ground work all along the migrant caravan route, from start to finish, allowed the AFSC to have the trusted relationships and existing partnerships that were necessary to move quickly to respond to the needs of the multiple waves of migrants as the exodus started to build. Then once it was evident that there was a concentration in Tijuana of individuals being denied the ability to seek asylum in the US, AFSC utilized its position as a trusted faith leader in this country

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

and its history of work on the ground to call for a national week of action that would provide people the opportunity to stand with the migrants across the border. The *Love Knows No Borders* mobilization brought more than 400 faith leaders to San Diego to pray that our nation changes direction and begins to welcome those that come to our country seeking refuge from violence. These faith leaders were met by militarized police and over 30 were arrested. This action was amplified by almost 80 solidarity actions across the country this past December. Thousands of individuals across the country were mobilized to take action, and millions more were impacted.

Currently, we are taking that same energy to launch a campaign to shut down the Homestead Child Prison in Florida, where our nation is housing thousands of children who have been separated from their families and locked up for seeking asylum in this country. See www.afsc.org/migrantjustice to see updates from our June action and for further concrete actions to end this violence and oppression.

In addition, our eight programs in the South are working diligently to protect, defend and envision a future where peace is made possible through the presence of justice. In Miami and Greensboro, we continue to accompany immigrants in their struggle for justice and dignity. In West Virginia and Atlanta our economic justice initiatives are organizing from community centers to state capitals to ensure that the economic futures of our most vulnerable communities are protected. While our youth organizing programs in New Orleans, Washington DC, Baltimore, Atlanta, Miami and West Virginia continue their work to nurture future generations of active, educated and empowered leaders through their youth organizing activities.

Specifically in North Carolina, in the last couple of years, we have focused on building up an undocumented-immigrant led group called Siembra NC. **Siembra NC** is a group that struggles to defend immigrant communities from ICE, the police, and abusive employers; advocates for healthy schools free from

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

discrimination; and whose members strive to live with dignity alongside other communities in North Carolina. Siembra NC began as a project of AFSC but this year hopes to become its own independent organization. We are very proud to have helped found this game-changing organization which has set up the most sophisticated ICE alert systems and community safety networks in the state (and beyond!).

This is only a part of current AFSC work in 17 countries and 35 cities across the United States. Every day, courageous individuals are coming together to demonstrate the transformative power of love to overcome violence, discrimination, and oppression. AFSC is honored to partner with communities around the globe in pursuing peace and justice. We hope you enjoy these highlights of our accomplishments from the past year as well as the opportunity to meet some of the constituents, volunteers, partners, staff, and supporters who make our work possible.

We are also excited to report on a new round of direct engagement between AFSC staff and Friends in Yearly Meetings. The AFSC South Region has launched an ongoing Speaking Tour that brings AFSC staff to Friends Meeting for conversations, updates and dialogue about future work. The first phase of this tour included a distinct focus on re-connecting with Friends in North Carolina and South Carolina. We have enjoyed making new connections and rekindling old relationships and look forward to much more future engagement.

We encourage friends to learn more by visiting our website at www.afsc.org or pulling someone from the AFSC aside during this weekend's gathering.

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

- Support the effort to Shut Down the Homestead Child Prison: www.afsc.org/homestead

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

- Learn the different ways to create sanctuary for people in your community with our Sanctuary Everywhere webinars: www.afsc.org/sanctuaryeverywherelive
- Further your self-study through the Changing Systems Changing Ourselves online course: www.afsc.org/cscs
- Read Acting in Faith regularly: www.afsc.org/friends
- Visit our Friends Engage pages with many ways for Quakers to get involved: www.afsc.org/friendsengage

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

Contact Information for the South Region's leadership:
Jacob Flowers, Regional Director jflowers@afsc.org - 404-586-0460

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

21. Report on the Quaker Archives at Guilford College

Gwen Gosney Erickson presented a Report on the Quaker Archives at Guilford.

The Quaker Archives sent a mailing out in early 2019 to all monthly meetings affiliated either historically or present day with yearly meetings and associations that have designated Guilford College as their archives. We received positive responses from a number of meetings, including some who are no longer affiliated with a particular yearly meeting but continuing to connect to the Quaker Archives and include archives support in their meeting budgets. The Quaker Archives appreciates NCYM(C) including us in the annual budget. We also received financial support directly from several monthly meetings that are part of NCYM(C). Meetings are reminded to send both financial support and record deposits directly to the Quaker Archives rather than the general college address or other

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

college units. The support we receive from meetings provides direct funding for care of meeting records.

Record deposits were received in 2018-2019 from the following meetings:

Rich Square MM, minutes 8/2017-6/2018

Durham MM, minutes 8/2017-6/2018

West Grove MM, minutes 6/2011-12/2018

Friendship MM, minutes 8/2017-6/2018

Meetings wishing to see which of their records are already in the archives can consult

<http://library.guilford.edu/quakerrecords>. A link on the left side bar provides a information specific to meetings, both active and historical, affiliated with NCYM(C).

In addition to our work with meeting records, the Quaker Archives continues to serve as a Quaker Studies research center for both scholars and members of the general public. Our work is intentionally shifting to be more inclusive of multiple narratives and acknowledging the complexity of both the college's history and that of the Society of Friends in North Carolina. To that end, the archives is engaged as a lead partner Guilford's recent membership with Universities Studying Slavery, an international group working together to address both historical and contemporary issues dealing with race and inequality in higher education and in university communities as well as the complicated legacies of slavery in modern American society.

22. Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Native American Concerns

The committee is holding the concern in the Light and doing the research as way opens. Various members of the committee are making plans to attend Native American events in order to further this work.

23. Yearly Meeting Consideration of the Poor People's Campaign

Serving on the ad hoc committee are Bob Gosney, Mark Moss, Melidy Poole and Tom Bertrand. Based on feedback from the monthly meetings, the committee has not found unity regarding the Yearly Meeting making a direct contribution to the Poor People's Campaign or creating a minute of support for the Poor People's Campaign.

The committee has done some revision of the draft minute that was circulated to the meetings. The revised portion of the minute, which can stand alone, was read.

Our monthly meetings have encouraged us as a yearly meeting to respond to the opportunity to engage with the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. This movement addresses issues which have long been those in which we as Friends have expressed our concern and been actively involved. The campaign focuses on systemic racism, poverty and inequality, ecological devastation, the war economy and militarism. It approaches these concerns not as partisan political issues but from the perspective of a "call for moral revival" and the need to change the distorted "moral narrative" that attempts to justify inequality, injustice, and the denial of human dignity. The campaign rejects violent means and embraces non-violent direct action.

We have considered as a yearly meeting how we may be called to respond to the campaign and its work. As a campaign that stresses movement not from above but from below, it seems most appropriate for our yearly meeting involvement to be centered in our monthly meetings. Some of our monthly meetings have already formally endorsed the campaign and contributed funds as a meeting. Other meetings have individual members who are actively

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

involved in the campaign and/or closely related work. Our yearly meeting allies with these efforts on the local and individual level and is committed to providing spiritual and financial support to our meetings and individual members in their leadings to engage with this movement.

It includes the following:

1. (see written report for detail) Encourage monthly meetings to be involved in the Poor People's Campaign (or like issues)
2. (see written report for detail) The Yearly Meeting welcomes reports regarding work be done with the Poor Peoples Campaign (or like issues) at the monthly meeting level.
3. The ad hoc committee recommends that the Yearly Meeting a. name a coordinating committee and b. ask the finance committee to establish a line item in the budget. The purpose of establishing the committee now is readiness to act in the event that at least three monthly meetings express the need for such a committee. If the monthly meetings do not express a need the coordinating committee with remain dormant.

Friends approved this minute with the revision that the committee be called a support committee rather than a coordinating committee. Friends consider this as a first step and will continue under discernment regarding further action.

A separate issue is whether the Yearly Meeting itself has unity on endorsing the Poor People's Campaign. The clerk clarified that there are several functions for endorsement:

- a. *Internal endorsement for expressing our position to and for ourselves*
- b. *External endorsement - for the public at large*
- c. *External endorsement to communicate with the Poor People's Campaign about the relationship between the*

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Yearly Meeting and that campaign

This is continuing under discernment at these sessions.

24. Report of Committee on Poor People's Campaign: Proposed Minute

We have considered as a Yearly Meeting how we may be called to respond to the Poor People's Campaign and its work. As a Campaign that stresses not movement from above but from below, it seems most appropriate for our Yearly Meeting involvement to be centered in our monthly meetings. As a Yearly Meeting we agree to the following recommendations, commitments, and actions as an initial response :

1. We encourage our monthly meetings, as our primary spiritual communities, to enter into corporate discernment on their involvement in the Campaign and to support individuals in their meetings as they may sense a leading to be involved with the Campaign by considering such actions as:
 - a. Periodic assessments of the meeting's relationship to the Campaign or to the issues and concerns raised by the Campaign.
 - b. Offering opportunities for testing leadings, including appointing committees for clearness, for individuals involved or considering involvement in the Campaign.
 - c. Aiding individuals to participate in the Campaign in ways the individual and the meeting find appropriate, such as financial assistance for travel and per diem costs for activities, aiding individuals in other ways to release them for involvement, assisting a group in the meeting to carry on coordinated activities, etc.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

2. The Yearly Meeting welcomes reports to the Yearly Meeting in annual sessions and at Interim Body concerning the Campaign and the monthly meetings' involvement in it.
3. The Yearly Meeting will offer ongoing support and assistance for monthly meetings and individuals involved in the Campaign. The Yearly Meeting will establish an active Yearly Meeting Coordinating Committee for this purpose. The Committee will be established at the request of the monthly meetings if and when they inform the Yearly Meeting of the need for it. When at least three monthly meetings indicate they would like to work with such a committee, the Committee would begin to function. The Committee will then work as long as it serves the functions outlined below:
 - a. Acting as a contact on behalf of the Yearly Meeting with monthly meetings and individuals involved with the Campaign,
 - b. Accepting requests for financial assistance from monthly meetings related to involvement in the Campaign and approving the use of funds budgeted for this purpose,
 - c. Serving as a resource for monthly meetings seeking clearness in regard to any matters arising from involvement with the Campaign.
4. Implementation of the Yearly Meeting Coordinating Committee:

If the Yearly Meeting decides to offer support and assistance as detailed above, we will proceed to name a Coordinating Committee, and suggest to the Finance Committee an initial amount for the Committee's work, to be included as arranged by the Finance Committee, in our annual budget. Upon sufficient interest expressed by

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

the monthly meetings to the Yearly Meeting, the Committee then would be prepared to carry out its work.

Query: "What is preventing us, as a Yearly Meeting, from taking action against racism?" At the request of Greenville MM, Friends engaged in worship time on this query.

25. Visitors: Emma Condori Mamani

Emma Condori Mamani from La Paz, Bolivia, Bella Vista Friends Church and Holiness Friends Yearly Meeting introduced herself. They are celebrating 100 years of Quakers in Bolivia. There are 15,000 members and 1000 young adult Friends in her yearly meeting and that is just one of several yearly meetings! She works with children, teens and young adults. They have begun addressing climate change and its effects including water shortage. They started the Quaker Youth Action Project. They have made connections with youth in the United States. She feels that to be a Quaker means to be ready to change, to let old ways go when they are no longer useful, and to let the love of Christ flow through us and our faith community.

Friends approved the clerk to write a letter from our yearly meeting to hers thanking them for her presence with us.

Travel minutes from Johan Maurer and Riley Robinson were read.

26. Report from Friends Committee on National Legislation

Riley Robinson presented the report from Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL).

“When courageous action is required, God calls on ordinary people to accomplish the extraordinary.” Amelia Kagan, FCNL Legislative Director for Domestic Policy, addressing the 2018 FCNL Annual Meeting

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Dear Friends,

As Quakers, our faith and practice convince us to work for the peaceful, just, equitable, and sustainable world we seek. We are ordinary people called to accomplish the extraordinary. Founded in 1943 in Richmond, Indiana, FCNL has been bringing the concerns, experiences, and testimonies of Friends to bear on policy decisions in the nation's capital for over 75 years. This work continues with your support and engagement, and with the ever-present grounding of Spirit.

Friends, in the last year your advocacy and financial contributions have helped ensure food is not taken away from families struggling with hunger, push to end the disastrous Saudi-led war in Yemen, prevent genocide and atrocities across the globe, and reform our criminal justice system.

Setting the Legislative Priorities for the 116th Congress

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

The core question as part of this process is, where is the Spirit leading us? How are Friends called to influence government today? Friends discernment is the foundation for the lobbying priorities that FCNL establishes for each congress. We were heartened to see robust participation by Quakers across the country in this process in 2018 (an increase of 20 % from 2016). The legislative priorities recommended by Friends were approved by FCNL's General Committee on December 1, 2018 and are included in this report.

Prophetic. Persistent. Powerful. Update on Annual Meeting 2018.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

FCNL's Quaker Public Policy Institute and Lobby Day drew 400 people to Washington, DC to lobby to protect SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). Attendees went on 193 lobby visits representing 45 states with 39 different Members of Congress. One third of the participants were first time attenders.

More than 300 people stayed for FCNL's Annual Meeting which celebrated FCNL's 75th Anniversary, affirmed the direction of the Forward Plan as outlined by staff, and conducted the business of the organization. FCNL awarded the Edward R. Snyder Award for National Legislative Leadership in Advancing Disarmament and Building Peace to Rep. Ro Khanna (CA-17) for his steadfast work to prevent war with North Korea, to end U.S. support for the Saudi-led war in Yemen, and to strengthen U.S. diplomacy abroad.

We Get Heard by Listening – The Growth of Advocacy Teams

FCNL's Advocacy Team network is made up of more than 1,500 Quakers and friends from across the country who use their power as constituents to make change in Washington, D.C. Our success comes from our commitment to building relationships with Congress grounded in mutual respect and listening. 2018 brought tremendous growth in this program, as we launched 26 new Advocacy Teams. FCNL currently supports 113 teams around the country, an increase of 30% from just a year ago. In 2019 new Advocacy Teams are forming. To see current locations, visit fcnl.org/advocacyteams.

One of the greatest values in the community-building work done by FCNL's Advocacy Teams is that we are making a conscious decision to stay focused on a single topic for a long time, even when it's out of the headlines. This relationship-based approach to constituent advocacy has a unique value in a noisy time. We find that our steady,

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

focused, and calm approach makes a difference when it comes to influencing policymakers. For members of Congress, meeting with us is a more pleasant experience than being yelled at in a town hall meeting.

The Critical Role of Young Adult Friends

FCNL is committed to growing our lobbying power both here on Capitol Hill and across the country. Central to all that we do is FCNL's recruiting and training of young adults across the country to be advocates for peace, justice, and a sustainable planet. Eighteen Advocacy Corps organizers -- who work part-time in their home congressional districts -- lobbied on police demilitarization in 2018-19. Five summer Interns, 10 full year Program Assistants, and 450+ participants in the 2018 annual Spring Lobby Weekend...young adults are taking the lead — and pressing Congress to pass key legislation.

For more than a decade, Spring Lobby Weekend has been a cornerstone of FCNL's commitment to training new generations of advocates for peace and justice. In March 2019, more than 500 young advocates gathered in Washington, DC to learn, build community, and lobby Congress on the immigration crisis. Visit fcnl.org/youngadults to learn more about these opportunities. In the year ahead, please join Friends in your community, and in Washington DC as we work for a world free of war and the threat of war, a society with equity and justice for all, a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled, and an earth restored.

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

27. Report from Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation

Nancy Haines reported for Friends Committee on North

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Carolina Legislation. On June 22, 2019 the Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL) was formed. It was organized under the care of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM) but does not speak for PFYM, only for itself. Next meeting is October 5th at New Garden Friends in Greensboro and Friends are encouraged to attend. More information can be found at FCNCL.org

28. Report from Quaker House

Kindra Bradley presented the Quaker House report.

Dear North Carolina Yearly Meeting - Conservative Friends,
Thank you for always supporting the work of Quaker House!
The results of your financial support and our efforts together
are significant and life changing.

Counseling/Support to Service Members and Their Families and Education GI Rights Hotline (Worldwide)

Steve and Lenore, our two counselors to the GI Rights Network, each have 18 years of experience taking calls from anywhere service members are stationed in the world. As we continue in unabated war and conflict since 2001, calls to the Hotline have been increasing, including calls for help with discharge as conscientious objectors. In 2018, Steve and Lenore answered an average of 260 calls/month. When they have permission from the service members they help, their moving and courageous stories of moral conviction, often in tragic circumstances, are shared in our newsletters. I have been serving as co-chair to this nationwide network during the past year (and will continue for a second term) and helped organize the conference of the hotline counselors and agency partners in May. Steve and Lenore did an amazing job leading several of the workshops training other counselors.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Moral Injury Counseling (North Carolina)

We continue our one-on-one mental health counseling program at Quaker House with Joanna, a licensed clinical social worker. She works with members of the military, veterans, and their families, and we rely on donations to continue providing this important service free of charge. Working one day a week, Joanna has spent 2,159 hours with clients over the past five years. We receive referrals from the GI Rights Hotline, community organizations, and from Ft. Bragg victim advocates. Quaker House has participated, by invitation, in several mental health and victim advocate summits on Ft. Bragg.

Moral Injury Education (Publications, Presentations, Care, and Advocacy)

Quaker House continues to provide educational presentations on moral injury and insights into methods that help with its healing. On August 3, 2018, Joanna and I spoke about moral injury in the military as the closing plenary speakers at the summer conference of the NC Foundation for Alcohol and Drug Studies. Approximately 250 mental health providers were in attendance.

National and Local Advocacy for a More Peaceful World

Advocacy Team (Federal Level)

In conjunction with Fayetteville Friends Meeting, Quaker House established an Advocacy Team as part of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) network. Quaker House is particularly invested in the national legislative focus for the Advocacy Teams this year which is focused on repealing of the Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF) of 2001 and 2002. The AUMF went into effect after 9/11 and transferred war-making decisions

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

from the debate and vote of Congress to the discretion of the President as part of the unending “War on Terror.” The Team is off to a solid start, and we are particularly pleased that the members include both Quaker Friends and friends from the wider Fayetteville community.

Commission Watch (National Advocacy)

In February 2018, I attended the first public listening session of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service and, since then, have been sharing information about the activities of this Commission. This Commission is preparing to make recommendations to Congress about updating the Selective Service System (and, therefore, the impacts on conscientious objectors and on potential future drafts), encouraging public service, including military service, and possibly implementing a mandatory service requirement for all young adults in the US. In February and April 2019, I attended, and commented during, the hearings in Washington DC. Please see our current newsletter for my report on the Selective Service hearings. The video clip of my remarks during the April hearing is also up on our web site. The official federal register comment period closed in 2018. However, you can still submit unofficial comments through the Commission’s web site at inspire2serve.gov under the “Share Your Thoughts” tab or by emailing info@inspire2serve.gov. You must put Docket No. 05-2018-01 in the subject line of your email.

Conscientious Objection (Education, Worldwide Assistance)

Quaker House continues to conduct workshops geared toward youth, parents, and meetings about understanding conscientious objection. Our book on understanding and discussing conscientious objection continues to sell throughout the United States and England and we send out

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

our PowerPoint slide via email to whomever requests it. As noted at the beginning of this report, our GI Rights Hotline counselors are frequently involved in assisting service members who are seeking discharge from the military as conscientious objectors. On May 22, after 16 long months, they received the joyous news that one of these discharges was finally approved. They had supported this young officer throughout that ordeal.

Quaker House's 50th Anniversary in 2019!

This work began in 1969 when a young soldier named Dean Holland asked for help with his conscientious objector application. We are excited to commemorate this important landmark in our history with a special event in Fayetteville on the afternoon of Saturday, September 21, 2019. You are invited and we hope you can attend. We will have special speakers who received help in the past from Quaker House at critical times in their lives. Fliers are on our table, and please watch for more information regarding distribution of the anniversary videos, both as DVDs and in segments on various social media platforms.

We look forward to continuing to work together towards peace and healing in the coming year!

Kindra Bradley
223 Hillside Ave, Fayetteville, NC 28301 (910) 323-3912
Email: qpr@quaker.org Web Site: quakerhouse.org Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

Our quarterly newsletter has both paper and electronic formats. Let me know if you would like to be on the mailing list for either one, or both!

29. Report from the Discipline Revision Committee

Andrew Wright and Lloyd Lee Wilson presented the report of

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

the Discipline Revision Committee. The committee requested first approval for Section 8a-Queries Part 1. Friends gave first approval with the following provision: That this document would not be brought for 2nd approval until the Practice of the Queries sections have been provided.

30. Davidson Meeting 30th Anniversary

Kristin Olson-Kennedy announced for Davidson Meeting that Davidson is celebrating its 30th anniversary and Friends are invited to a celebration in September.

31. Letter to Southern States Worship Group

Friends approved Nan Bowles to coordinate with the clerk to write a letter to Southern States Worship Group to accompany the general epistle and summary of exercises.

32. Report from the Nominating Committee

Anne Olsen presented the report of the Nominating Committee. The report was approved (see page 160).

Edward Pearce presented an addendum to the report and brought forward the name of Anne Olsen for seasoning regarding service as clerk beginning at the conclusion of the 2020 sessions; Marguerite Dingman has agreed to continue as recording clerk. An assistant clerk is needed and Friends are asked to consider possible leadings in this direction.

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

David Perry presented the report on the Trust Fund for Travel in the Ministry, which was accepted as presented.

Beginning Balance (Market Value) \$4,809.93

Distributions: None

Additional Receipts: \$4,600.00

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Realized Gains/Losses: \$415.07

Ending Balance (Market Value) 6-30-19 \$9,825.00

Lloyd Lee Wilson continues his leadings to travel among Friends. A recent result of his travel and sharing his ministry led to a \$4,500.00 donation to the NCYM(C) Travel in the Ministry Trust Fund from Trinity Episcopal Church of Bloomington, Indiana, to further assist Lloyd Lee and others with this calling.

The trustees continue to encourage applications from Friends who are led to seek assistance through the Travel in the Ministry trust fund. A brief history and an application are posted on the yearly meeting website.

In addition, the trustees encourage the yearly meeting to search for other avenues of income to support this important commitment. Friends are encouraged to make special contributions in support of Travel in the Ministry. Funds continue to be held by the Friends Fiduciary Corporation.

Submitted by.

W. Carey Reece, Jr. and David Perry Trustees

34. Letter to Absent Friends

David Perry read the letter to absent Friends.

Dear Friend,

We send our greetings from Wilmington, where we have been gathered this week for the annual sessions of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). We have been blessed with strong participation, but there is also an absence of several people, including you. We pray that you are aware of the Lord's presence with you in whatever circumstances require you to be elsewhere, that you are being well used by

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Spirit, and that you may be able to attend all or part of these sessions again sometime in the future.

We have felt grounded in the Divine in meetings for worship and consideration of business. We have appreciated hearing the joys and challenges of the local meetings, and have had valuable opportunity to reflect on answers to queries. As you may expect, there have been many opportunities for fellowship among old friends and new ones, and joyful intergenerational times, particularly with the evening snacks. Attached you should find the Summary of Exercises to provide you with greater detail of our experiences this week, which we hope will bring you a greater sense of communion with those of us present physically.

In the Light,

Gwen Gosney Erickson, clerk

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Friends approved the letter for use in reaching out to those who have never come as well as to those whom we miss after having them here before.

35. Registrar's Report

Cheryl Fetterman presented the Registrar's Report for these 2019 Annual Sessions.

122 people registered

2 people determined they could not come.

96 adults and 24 young friends 18 and younger came to YM this year.

Deposits

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

\$18,437.58 has been deposited as of Friday 7/12/2019.

Of that \$1,238.92 is from monthly meetings and Quaker House.

Variances in moneys received and monies owed are mostly in minor amounts (24 cents, \$1.09, for example) and are still being reconciled. Some discrepancies are related to assistance funding. Normally, this registrar emails confirmation of receipt of checks and notes about discrepancies as checks arrive, but this year could not accomplish that. If you need a printed receipt via email please let me know.

Timing

The registration deadline was followed differently this year because people filled out the registration form online by the deadline and mailed checks that trailed in afterward, rather than sending registration and checks to arrive by June 21. I will adjust the deadline accordingly next time.

Parking

UNCW counts Wednesday through Sunday as five days and a small handful of people registering for all of the days paid \$8 instead of \$10 for parking. If this is you please drop off \$2 with your name on it.

The \$58 registration fee covered:

Golf cart rental fees \$ 1734.69

Projector use for 4 days \$ 200.00

Speaker costs \$1,159.00

Honorarium, Travel,

Room, Meals

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

\$3093.69/85 adult registrants + 8% UNCW fee to cover student employee assistance (not optional).

What was not covered

Printing costs

Name tags (to replace lost box of name tags)

Yard signs (10)

Room rental fees to UNCW (\$490 a day for a large room, \$62 a day for the 20 seat room, and \$65 a day for each of the two regular classrooms)

Late registrations

It has become evident that allowing 'after the deadline' registrations has allowed valuable contributions to our sessions and I was glad to be able to coordinate with UNCW to allow several late registrations. I think we should realize that it is normal human behavior to wish we had signed up after plans shift, or after we hear more about the event, and we should attempt to accommodate these last minute registrants at our annual sessions. One person texted to say he was in a Friend's van on the way to YM and asked if I could find a room for him. I did. My thought about the late registration issue now is that when Jesus knocks on the door I will answer and find room at the Inn and we should continue in this custom in the future.

Reported by Cheryl Fetterman, Registrar

36. Finance Committee Report

Bruce Arnold presented the Finance Committee Report. The committee recommended that Yearly Meeting adopt the following statement as policy: "When there is a line item in the budget without specific expenditures identified, then the treasurer will

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

make payments based on guidance from the committee or body with oversight of those activities.” Friends approved.

Friends expressed gratitude to Susan Lees for her service as Treasurer especially noting her service during the complicated period when we were changing our fiscal year.

Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee met on Thursday July 11 and Friday July 12 during NCYM(C)’s annual sessions.

The following items were acted on :

1. Richard Miller from the Travel Support Committee met with us to provide information they had gathered regarding actual costs of travel for our appointed representatives to Quaker organizations. This will assist us in preparing the budget.
2. We talked about adding online payment for Yearly Meeting registration. Online registration has already been implemented. The Finance Committee agrees that online payment would be an additional convenience. We agreed to use PayPal rather than negotiating with credit card companies. PayPal charges 2.9% of the amount paid plus \$0.30 per transaction. We estimate that this will add from \$800 to \$1000 to the cost of Yearly Meeting. It averages out to approximately \$8.00 per person (excluding children.) We haven’t decided whether to add it to the registration fee, or to take it out of the general fund. We placed a line item for this amount in the proposed budget for 2020.
3. We considered the suggestions we’ve been offered regarding replacing our Wells Fargo checking account with an account at another bank. This is because of the egregiously predatory practices of Wells Fargo.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Incoming Treasurer David French and Finance Committee clerk Bruce Arnold will investigate alternatives and report back to the committee when we meet again at Interim Body.

4. We talked about authorization for the Treasurer to write checks for amounts that aren't specifically directed in the budget, such as reimbursement of travel expenses. We propose that the Yearly Meeting adopt the following statement as a policy: "When there is a line item in the budget without specific expenditures identified, then the treasurer will make payments based on guidance from the committee or body with oversight of those activities."
5. We approved a proposed budget for 2020, to be included in the Treasurer's report. We added a line item for the Poor People's Campaign Support Committee in the amount of \$1000 as a placeholder for this new commitment. The YM may amend this amount as desired.
6. We request that the Yearly Meeting pass a minute thanking outgoing Treasurer Susan Lees for her hard work and dedication on behalf of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) during a complicated time of transition in our fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Arnold, clerk

37. Treasurer's Report

Susan Lees presented the Treasurer's Report. Friends accept the report as presented.

The Finance Committee is still investigating options for online payment. The line item amount of \$1000 may be modified

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

in the future. The Poor People's Campaign item may also be revisited.

Operating Budget Jan.-June 2019

North Carolina Yearly Meeting-Conservative			2019 Budget	2019 Actual 6 months	Difference
INCOME					
	Monthly Meeting Contributions				
		Davidson	750.00	750.00	0.00
		Durham	3,600.00	3,600.00	0.00
		Fayetteville	600.00	600.00	0.00
		Friendship	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
		Greenville	400.00	0.00	400.00
		Rich Square	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
		Virginia Beach	350.00	0.00	350.00
		West Grove	200.00	200.00	0.00
		Wilmington	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
		Monthly Meeting Contributions Total	9,400.00	7,650.00	1,750.00
	Other Income				
		Individual Contributions – unrestricted	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Individual Contributions – Directory	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Bookstore Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Other Income Total	0.00	0.00	0.00
		INCOME TOTAL	\$ 9,400.00	\$ 7,650.00	\$ 1,750.00

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

EXPENSES

	Administrative Expenses	2019 Budget	2019 Actual 6 months	Difference
	Admin., Quaker Archives, Guilford	300.00	300.00	0.00
	Bookstore Expenses	55.00	0.00	55.00
	Operating Expenses	300.00	0.00	300.00
	Publication of Journal	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Publication of Memorials	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Publication of Minutes	600.00	604.22	-4.22
	Publication of YMtg Directory	250.00	0.00	250.00
	Website Costs	260.00	0.00	260.00
	Administrative Expenses	1,765.00	904.22	860.78

	EXPENSES, cont.	2019 Budget	2019 Actual 6 months	Difference
	Donations to Organizations			
	American Friends Service Committee	300.00	300.00	0.00
	Carolina Friends School-Durham	300.00	300.00	0.00
	Friends Center at Guilford	300.00	300.00	0.00
	Friends Cmte National Legislation	300.00	300.00	0.00
	Friends Hist. Collection, Guilford	300.00	300.00	0.00
	Friends School of Wilmington	300.00	300.00	0.00
	Friends World Cmte Consultation	300.00	300.00	0.00
	Guilford College	300.00	300.00	0.00
	Indian Affairs	300.00	0.00	300.00
	New Garden Friends School	300.00	300.00	0.00
	Pendle Hill	300.00	300.00	0.00
	Quaker Earthcare Witness	300.00	300.00	0.00

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

		Quaker House of Fayetteville	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
		Right Sharing of World Resources	300.00	300.00	0.00
		School of the Spirit	300.00	300.00	0.00
		Virginia Beach Friends School	300.00	300.00	0.00
		Donations to Organizations	5,500.00	5,200.00	300.00

Other Expenses

		Internships/Scholarships	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
		Travel (General)	3,000.00	1,892.00	1,108.00
		Youth Programs	3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00
		Other Expenses Total	7,700.00	1,892.00	5,808.00
		EXPENSES TOTAL	\$14,965.00	\$7,996.22	\$6,968.78

BUDGET SUMMARY

		Total Income	9,400.00	7,650.00	1,750.00
		Total Expenses	14,965.00	7,996.22	6,968.78
		Net Difference	-\$ 5,565.00	-\$ 346.22	
		NON-BUDGETED FUNDS	Authorized 2019	Expenses 2019	Balance
	P	Bolivian Quaker Education Fund	\$ 750.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
		NON-BUDGETED FUNDS TOTAL	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00

SP Special Projects Fund – 4 year commitment

SL 7/12/2019

NCYMC Report Jan1 thru June 30, 2019

Balance Sheet	Bal Jan 1 2019	Expense	Income	Transfer	Bal June 30 2109
Location of Funds					
Wells Fargo Checking	\$20,244.88	\$10,230.91	\$13,171.22	-\$4,500.00	\$18,685.19
Friends	\$4,495.28	\$0.00	\$729.72	\$4,500.00	\$9,725.00

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Fiduciary Fund-Travel					
Friends Fiduciary Fund-Investment	\$31,504.90	\$0.00	\$4,486.43	\$0.00	\$35,991.33
Total Assets	\$56,245.06	\$10,230.91	\$18,387.37	\$0.00	\$64,401.52

Activity and Balances of Funds					
Perm Restricted					
Journal Publication Fund	\$2,194.90	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,194.90
Trust Fund for Travel in Ministry*	\$4,495.28	\$0.00	\$5,329.72	\$0.00	\$9,825.00
Subtotal	\$6,690.18	\$0.00	\$5,329.72	\$0.00	\$12,019.90
Temp Restricted Net Assets					
Discipline Fund	\$2,416.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,416.00
General Travel Fund	\$6,115.74	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,115.74
Operating Reserve	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,486.43	\$0.00	\$14,486.43
Special Projects Fund	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
YM Sessions Reserve	\$3,622.88	\$2,234.69	\$921.22	\$0.00	\$2,309.41
YM Sessions Scholarship Fund	\$7,793.82	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,793.82
Subtotal	\$31,448.44	\$2,234.69	\$5,407.65	\$0.00	\$34,621.40
Unrestricted Net Assets					
General Fund					
Administrative		\$904.22			

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Donations to Organizations		\$5,200.00			
Other Expenses		\$1,892.00			
Subtotal Expenses		\$7,996.22			
Contributions from Monthly Mtg			\$7,650.00		
Other Income					
Subtotal Income			\$7,650.00		
Subtotal General Fund	\$18,106.44	\$7,996.22	\$7,650.00	\$0.00	\$17,760.22
Total	\$56,245.06	\$10,230.91	\$18,387.37	\$0.00	\$64,401.52

*Income=\$100 (Virginia Beach), \$4500 (Trinity Epis. Church, Bloomington, IN), \$729.72 (Friends Fiduciary increase)

SL 7-12-2019

2020 Tentative Budget

North Carolina Yearly Meeting-Conservative		2019 Budget	2019 Actual 6 months	Tentative 2020 Budget
INCOME				
	<i>Monthly Meeting Contributions</i>			
	Davidson	750.00	750.00	750.00
	Durham	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
	Fayetteville	600.00	600.00	600.00
	Friendship	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
	Greenville	400.00	0.00	400.00
	Rich Square	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
	Virginia Beach	350.00	0.00	350.00
	West Grove	200.00	200.00	200.00
	Wilmington	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
	<i>Monthly Meeting Contributions Total</i>	9,400.00	7,650.00	9,400.00
	<i>Other Income</i>			

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

		Individual Contributions – unrestricted	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Individual Contributions – Directory	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Bookstore Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00
		<i>Other Income Total</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00
		INCOME TOTAL	\$ 9,400.00	\$ 7,650.00	\$ 9,400.00

EXPENSES

		<i>Administrative Expenses</i>			
		Admin., Quaker Archives, Guilford	300.00	300.00	300.00
		Bookstore Expenses	55.00	0.00	55.00
		Operating Expenses	300.00	0.00	300.00
		<i>PayPal</i>			<i>1,000.00</i>
		Publication of Journal	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Publication of Memorials	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Publication of Minutes	600.00	604.22	600.00
		Publication of Directory	250.00	0.00	250.00
		Website Costs	260.00	0.00	260.00
		<i>Administrative Expenses</i>	<i>1,765.00</i>	<i>904.22</i>	<i>2,765.00</i>

EXPENSES, cont.		2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
	<i>Donations to Organizations</i>			
	American Friends Service Committee	300.00	300.00	300.00
	Carolina Friends School-Durham	300.00	300.00	300.00
	Friends Center at Guilford	300.00	300.00	300.00
	Friends Cmte National Legislation	300.00	300.00	300.00

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

		Friends Hist. Collection, Guilford	300.00	300.00	300.00
		Friends School of Wilmington	300.00	300.00	300.00
		Friends World Cmte Consultation	300.00	300.00	300.00
		Guilford College	300.00	300.00	300.00
		Indian Affairs	300.00	0.00	300.00
		New Garden Friends School	300.00	300.00	300.00
		Pendle Hill	300.00	300.00	300.00
		Quaker Earthcare Witness	300.00	300.00	300.00
		Quaker House of Fayetteville	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
		Right Sharing of World Resources	300.00	300.00	300.00
		School of the Spirit	300.00	300.00	300.00
		Virginia Beach Friends School	300.00	300.00	300.00
		<i>Donations to Organizations</i>	5,500.00	5,200.00	5,500.00

Other Expenses

		Internships/Scholarships	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
		<i>Poor People's Cmpgn Support Cmte</i>			<i>0.00</i>
		Travel (General)	3,000.00	1,892.00	3,000.00
		Youth Programs	3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00
		<i>Other Expenses Total</i>	7,700.00	1,892.00	7,700.00
		EXPENSES TOTAL	\$ 14,965.00	\$ 7,996.22	\$15,965.00

BUDGET SUMMARY

		<i>Total Income</i>	<i>9,400.00</i>	<i>7,650.00</i>	<i>9,400.00</i>
		<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>14,965.00</i>	<i>7,996.22</i>	<i>15,965.00</i>
		<i>Net Difference</i>	<i>-\$ 5,565.00</i>	<i>-\$ 346.22</i>	<i>-\$6,565.00</i>
		NON-BUDGETED FUNDS	Authorized 2019	Expenses 2019	Authorized 2020

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

		SP Bolivian Quaker Education Fund	\$ 750.00 \$	0.00 \$	750.00
NON-BUDGETED FUNDS TOTAL			\$ 750.00 \$	0.00 \$	750.00

SP Special Projects Fund – 4 year commitment SL 7/12/2019

38. Financial Review Committee Report

David Perry presented the Financial Review Committee Report.

The Financial Review Committee has reviewed the financial records and accounts of the yearly meeting for the 12 month fiscal year from the beginning of First month 2018 to the end of Twelfth month 2018.

We found that the records are in good order, and that the balance sheet and income/expense records as presented to the yearly meeting by the treasurer are an accurate representation of the financial activities and condition of the yearly meeting.

Submitted by David Perry and Lynne Berla

Seventh Month 13, 2019

39. Review of Poor People's Campaign Minutes

The clerk reviewed minutes approved in these sessions regarding the Poor People's Campaign. The clerk will send to monthly meeting clerks the minute approved and will ask if the meeting wishes the support committee to become active.

The budget line of \$1000 for the 2020 budget year was approved.

Friends appointed an initial committee which, in the event the committee is activated, is asked to refine its description, including number of members and their terms, for use by the

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Nominating Committee in the future.

Currently agreeing to serve are Tom Bertrand and Melidy Poole. Mark Moss is in discernment. Tom Bertrand and Melidy Poole were approved to serve on the Support Committee, if activated.

The clerk extracted from earlier reports and minutes a draft minute regarding the Poor People's Campaign for consideration by this body.

Friends approved this as our internal statement of where we are in this moment, to include in the minutes of these sessions.

NCYM(C) Statement on the Poor People's Campaign,
7/12/2019

Our monthly meetings have encouraged us as a yearly meeting to respond to the opportunity to engage with the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. This movement addresses issues which have long been those in which we as Friends have expressed our concern and been actively involved. The campaign focuses on systemic racism, poverty and inequality, ecological devastation, the war economy and militarism. It approaches these concerns not as partisan political issues but from the perspective of a "call for moral revival" and the need to change the distorted "moral narrative" that attempts to justify inequality, injustice, and the denial of human dignity. The campaign rejects violent means and embraces non-violent direct action. We have considered as a yearly meeting how we may be called to respond to the campaign and its work. As a campaign that stresses movement not from above but from below, it seems most appropriate for our yearly meeting involvement to be centered in our monthly meetings. Some

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

of our monthly meetings have already formally endorsed the campaign and contributed funds as a meeting. Other meetings have individual members who are actively involved in the campaign and/or closely related work. Our yearly meeting allies with these efforts on the local and individual level and is committed to providing spiritual and financial support to our meetings and individual members in their leadings to engage with this movement.

Karen Stewart volunteered to work with others, hopefully to include Bruce Arnold, to produce a concise statement of endorsement to be used publicly if approved.

40. Quaker Earthcare Witness Report

Mary Jo Klingel reported for Quaker Earthcare Witness. She expressed gratitude for the work of our representative, Lauri Langham. Lauri Langham is led, in her capacity as our Quaker Earthcare Witness representative, to begin visiting each monthly meeting. QEW will be meeting in Durham in 4th month 2020.

41. Additional Nominations

May Kay Glaser was approved as a member of the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee.

42. Answers to the Queries

We completed hearing the answers to all of the queries. (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

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

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: Before addressing this query, a regular attender spoke about the intimate quality of the worship experienced in our meeting. Those at meeting for worship with attention to Business affirmed that our meeting often does experience a living silence that inspires deep vocal ministry. One phrase that arises for us is “is this inspiration carried over into our daily lives.” It is also our sense that our worship does carry over into our lives and that the practices of our lives carry over into our worship. We are more aware of distractions and the power of the spaces silence provides in our lives.

Durham: It can be a challenge to balance the pieces of an unprogrammed ministry in a meeting that continues to grow. We are aware that some people find a need for a deeper, more silent meeting for worship than one may find in a larger meeting. At the same time, a larger meeting may intimidate some from giving vocal ministry just because of the number present. We do find, however, that the diversity of those providing ministry is substantial, and we feel we are doing a good job of letting people know they will be heard with respect. As important as encouraging those who have a gift for vocal ministry may be discouraging those who speak too often. We generally maintain a good balance. Coming prepared to meeting for worship means being prepared for silent worship, vocal ministry or prayer but

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

also being prepared to listen with hearts and minds open--especially when others use language with which we may not be comfortable. Most of all, we feel a sense of gratitude for the meeting's faithfulness in holding a free and unprogrammed meeting for worship and the work it does to maintain it---and gratitude that it does work, and powerfully.

Fayetteville: We are faithful to our testimony of silent worship, even if there are only two gathered. "Living Silence"--even though no words are spoken aloud, we feel Spirit and that inspiration carries us forward in our daily lives; it is a "booster shot" to help us through the week ahead. The silence refreshes us. Quaker worship is different from meditation as we still ourselves together to feel the presence of a loving God. As we quiet the bombardment of our culture, we remember "Be still and know that I Am God." God's presence is always there, but stillness allows us to connect with that presence. "Where two or three are gathered, there also am I."

The story of Jesus doodling in the sand while those around him clamored comes to mind: his silence was a powerful statement.

Our society is perhaps afraid of quietude...

We remember our meeting's participation in a community interfaith Thanksgiving service. Clerk told us beforehand that she planned on a brief verbal introduction to Quaker worship and then enough silence to, "make them squirm a little bit." As we entered silence with this diverse congregation, much rustling, murmuring, children's loud whispers....then, as everyone centered down, a palpable presence of Spirit moved across the room. It was a very special moment.

Friendship: We feel that we regularly uphold our testimony for worship which is based on silent waiting. Our behavior

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

shows that some of us are entering into worship in advance, with several gathering in worship before the appointed hour. We do feel that there is a Spirit present, though not all would use the language of Christ to name it. We are open to the vocal ministry of anyone who is led, and we do encourage vocal ministry. A concern was expressed that our practice of joys and concerns may keep some vocal ministry from being expressed during worship. We do have some sense that the inspiration of our meeting together is carried over into our daily lives, recognizing that we are imperfect and that it is an ongoing journey.

Greenville: We faithfully come to meeting for worship open to whatever should arise out of the silence. Sometimes we experience fullness and sometimes we experience little. We support vocal ministry when it arises and appreciate silence when it does not. We react differently but we feel something real is happening.

Rich Square: We trust we do uphold our testimony for worship in the manner of Friends of waiting worship and free ministry shared by all. We feel there is a living silence where we are drawn together by the power of God, and we each search our own experience as to how this inspiration is carried over into our daily lives.

Virginia Beach: While we honor the fact that responses to Queries are both community and individual, we are reminded to consider our Quaker community response. The vocal ministry we have is enriching and powerful and affirms the Spirit among us. We encourage vocal ministry in different ways. We take waiting worship seriously. The silence is a deep, gathered one where the presence of the Light is felt. We continue to work together

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

outside of worship.

West Grove: West Grove Friends are generally clear that we follow this query's guidance and are especially aware of the need to pray for the Meeting.

Wilmington: There was strong support for the idea that we are a gathered Meeting. We recognize that our silent waiting provides a unique access to openings to all those gathered, whether long-time members or those relatively new to Quakerism. Members feel strongly that vocal ministry, though not common in our meeting, speaks to the thoughts and prayers of others. We have a strong sense of the presence of God, and that sharing during Meeting is led by the Spirit, though this may occur during our hour of relative silence or, more commonly, in the time that follows. Post-meeting discussions, less encumbered by the power of discernment, are usually powerful, insightful and inspired by our time spent in silence.

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: In reading this query, we see it as a reminder rather than stricture. We acknowledge that our submission to the Divine often is not what we wish it would be. At the same time, Meeting for Worship is valued because it gives us ongoing opportunities to grow in open submission. Our sense is that we don't experience many distractions, those entering late do so quietly and those in worship hold the quiet, whether or not we are fully centered. We find the gentleness granted those who do

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

arrive late is part of what makes this a welcoming and supportive meeting. This query also offers us the opportunity to look at what the word communion means for us individually and as a community. One definition that was shared is that communion is another expression for a gathered meeting; those gifted times when the sense of Divine presence and connection is deeply present.

Durham: We continue to work on this query, recognizing a tension that has existed in our meeting since at least the 1970s. We are happy to see each other and our worship is deepened when we all attend regularly. In that regard, we would rather see Friends late than miss their presence.

On the other hand, we seek an experience that is still and quiet. This is hard to achieve and can be more challenging when Friends arrive late or are loud in their comings and goings.

We strive to start meeting for worship together at 10 am with one break around 10:15-10:20 for transitioning children and late comers. Some weeks we achieve this more fully than others.

We recognize that we are all different and our needs differ. Some settle in spite of distractions. Some bring reading materials or a drink as a means of helping them participate. As we are all affected by each other's actions, we hope that Friends consider what it is they need to participate and let go of that which is not necessary.

We also acknowledge that we do not worship the silence. We worship, silently, in anticipation of the Spirit's leading. We strive to individually and collectively connect with Spirit and bring forth vocal ministry that is Spirit led.

We will continue to engage with this query and to live in the tension it represents.

Fayetteville: We strive to arrive on time as our

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

responsibility to ourselves and to Meeting, and to welcome potential newcomers. Some of us have worked to improve our consistency in this regard. Perception of time is perhaps a cultural construct, in other cultures it can be more fluid, but we abide here in our American ways.

“We would much rather have you a few minutes late than not at all.” Instead of irritation at a late arrival, we add to our blessings by welcoming all and granting grace and understanding towards whatever circumstances may have caused their delay.

We each spiral in and out of submission to God as we worship, as our human nature wanders from attention and Spirit guides us back. As the wind blew outside today, we realize that no human controls the wind; God’s hand, however, guides and directs our lives.

Friendship: Most are faithful in attendance at meetings for worship and bring a consistent spirit of openness as we enter worship. Meeting settles quickly as many arrive before the appointed hour. We feel the absence of our members who are not in attendance at worship.

Greenville: At present we do not often experience any late arrivals. Several of us regularly arrive a few minutes early for informal conversation before worship. We value the connection we get from these brief conversations. We settle into silence near the appointed hour as lead.

Rich Square: We are faithful in attendance as we are able, recognizing that few members and attenders live close by, some others have to travel a distance to attend meetings. Our meetings are not disturbed by late arrivals.

Virginia Beach: We value silent communion. The trust in

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

ourselves to speak those truths that come to us and our silent communion it is also part of the open submission mentioned in the query. The silent community connects us to one another. We remind ourselves to avoid behaviors that disrupt the silence.

West Grove: This Query was not considered.

Wilmington: Friends recognize that we have a core of faithful members who attend meeting regularly. None expressed dismay about late arrivals, adding that the spirit of the Meeting was not disturbed.

As with last year, the group believes that our silence reflects a willing submission to God and that, though we are still a very quiet Meeting, there is Presence in the silence. Increasingly, members have started personal spiritual reading, which frequently rises to the level of outward ministry during the silence. When this occurs, other members have shared that the message was well-timed for events or burdens in their own lives.

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: The phrase “are love and unity maintained among us” raised reflections about the work that is necessary to maintain and sustain connections. That work includes all our interactions in worship, fellowship, social activities and an awareness of personal responsibility to be actively engaged in

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

meeting activities and taking time to learn about one another. We are grateful for the spiritual grounding that has helped to deal with differences that have arisen and our individual and corporate spiritual short-comings so that we have lived out moments of love, honesty, and humility. We appreciate the time taken reflecting on these queries so that we do not take for granted the discipline required to maintain the depth of our community. We also acknowledge that some words in the query can be trigger words and require wrestling to with them, listening under the words, staying in the conversation, risking sharing our beliefs, and growing in community.

Durham: We are seeking a transparent process about how to proceed when someone is bothered or harmed in meeting. Our current discussions and committees involving race and inclusion make us hopeful that we can find a process for solving and restoring right relationships in our community.

One Friend reminds us that the book of Matthew provides us with information for handling conflict: first, go individually to the person and seek to resolve the difference. Then if unsuccessful, gather two or three more to help. The most important step is the first one which we sometimes skip by conferring with others before communicating with the person with whom we have had a problem. Humility comes when we speak honestly and simply one on one remembering also to listen. Some would turn to an authority, whether it be a boss in the workplace or a historical writing, but we must remember for Quakers, the true authority is truth faith and love.

It can be hard to speak when one is uncomfortable, yet silence is often taken as agreement. We seek to find the way to say, "I don't see it that way" without being judgemental.

We hope that as we work to solve conflicts within our meeting, in a place where we can find love and trust, we can

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

learn skills we can bring to the wider world. And we hope that we can remember that when there are cracks, that is where the Light comes in.

Fayetteville: Meeting did not answer this Query.

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

Greenville: We are mindful that people can maintain peace among themselves in unhealthy ways, and feel we largely avoid doing so within the Monthly Meeting. Healthy unity is something we do not always experience in other settings. We recognize the presence of strong personalities within the meeting which create the potential for discord. But we find that at present this makes us stronger and promotes a deeper unity.

Rich Square: We do feel we seek to live in the Spirit. We are mindful that such seeking requires daily awareness of how we are living in the world so as to respond in the spirit of the teachings of Jesus. At this time, we believe that love and unity are maintained in the Meeting. We recognize that as human beings we do exercise our judgement daily and that we need to keep this from becoming judgmental and destructive. We acknowledge the importance of silence as a practice which helps

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

avoid needless criticism and in which a forgiving spirit may be cultivated. We are reminded of the Psalmist prayer: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord."

Virginia Beach: Our life within this Quaker meeting and the whole Quaker community is deeply steeped in the Quaker tradition of good will toward others. Individuals may become passionate over issues and this query reminds us to be mindful of how we are perceived and it helps us to welcome differences with the goal of understanding.

We aspire to live in relationship with Jesus and that is reflected in the way we listen carefully to all people and to the Divine through waiting worship.

West Grove: We feel we do endeavor to follow the teachings of Jesus and seek the inspiration of His Holy Spirit in our daily lives. And we feel love and unity are maintained among us to a good degree.

Wilmington: The Funeral of John McCain has us thinking about the language we used when we address others. A quote from Senator McCain stressing that it is important to have the ability to apologize, to accept an apology, and to get over it and move along. Negativity will do nothing to improve our lives. Instead our compassion and quiet contemplation must guide us in working towards the things we believe are needed.

As a Meeting, we are a pretty cohesive group and feel that we work and communicate well with each other. Stories were exchanged about difficulties outside of meeting, with neighbors and colleagues. Encouragement was given to those expressing these difficulties on how they might best work towards more

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

amiable relationships. Misunderstandings and miscommunications may lead to disagreement and should be resolved before a permanent rift occurs. Sometimes underlying factors may influence a person's behavior or actions. Care should be taken to consider that these people, in fact, are the most in need of our love and support.

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

Davidson: One experience of the living out of this query comes through our Buildings and Grounds committee. Work that needs to be done gets done, not just as an obligation or practical response but as an expression of faith, of people responding spirituality. Concern was expressed over the phrase "our rightful share" and the possibility external pressure rather than personal reflection, especially given the relative wealth of the area we live in and the fact that not everyone shares in that wealth. We noted that another aspect is to consider not just financial but contributions to the spiritual growth of the meeting. We shared reflections on the phrase "given us in trust," including that it implies something to be nurtured, used mindfully and to be passed on, that the giver is the divine, that what we own or earn is not under our own power but an acknowledgement of our dependence on the communities around us and a call to humility.

We were reminded that the query could also be read for the Meeting calling us to the responsibility to be aware of how Meeting resources are being used and how our meeting is engaged in the wider community. We noted that in our plantings we are mindful of the environment and that we offer the building

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

as a community resource. And that as individuals, we each have power and are accountable for using our talents for the good of the meeting. We contribute to the expenses in sharing our talents and time to keep meeting activities functioning from worship, cleaning, child care – all the ways we build and become community. We took this query further in recognizing that we bring needs as well as possessions – and that those needs can be gifts, our individual needs for help or inabilities call us as a meeting into spiritual accountability and growth.

Durham: Friends celebrate the ways in which we give freely of our time, talents and money. Many people volunteer to keep the Meeting operating and growing. Our recent financial appeal for the solar project also demonstrated our willingness to give.

With respect to major gifts, it is our sense that those gifts may be used for internal and wider community projects, but not for our annual budget. Raising the annual budget amongst ourselves is important to us.

We recognize that giving freely sometimes takes planning. This query reminds us that we are asked to personally grapple with what we can give and that our giving extends into the world. We will continue to strive to give freely that which is entrusted to us.

Fayetteville: We all support Meeting in our own ways, whether that is financial donation or a donation of our time and energy. We always manage to have enough for our expenses to give to others. Without the expense of a meeting house we are able to focus on the needs of others. We do not like to accumulate money, we actively seek where it can be of service to others. The color, the life of our meeting is in the “contingencies” that are in our budget as Spirit leads us throughout the year. We appreciate the time, efforts, and

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

financial offerings of our meeting.

The phrase “given in trust” is perhaps counter cultural. “I have mine, you go get yours.” Our culture tends to identify and take our status from possessions. As Quakers, we realize we don’t need as much and it does not feel like a sacrifice to share with others. Extreme wealth perhaps insures one to seeing the true needs of others. Do we only feel sympathy for those we feel “deserve” sympathy?

Our entire lives are given to us in trust to use wisely...may we do so.

Friendship: As a Meeting, we have met our financial obligations to provide assistance, scholarships, and financial support to organizations we have ties with. Our focus has largely been on fundraising for a new Meeting room, which some feel is a challenge towards giving freely for the needs of others; yet other Friends recognize the building expansion as an important need of our community. Friends actively participate in the continued outreach missions of our Meeting community and give generously of our time and talents.

Greenville: Life in the Spirit is freely giving and freely receiving. Both are equally important. We feel blessed in those moments when we set our egos aside and feel the Spirit at work giving and receiving. We are aware of obstacles that hinder spiritual freedom: fear of not having enough, inattention to the needs of others, and unwillingness to admit our own needs.

Rich Square: All who take part in the Meeting share their time, talents and possessions for the Meeting. These gifts are also shared more widely in our communities, both here in Woodland and in other communities where we live.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Virginia Beach: This query reminds us of our purpose and we trust each other to give our time, talent and possessions; we ponder ways to improve. We reach out to those both within and beyond our Meeting Community. The extension of our giving is reflected in the vibrancy and legacy of the School and all those who it reaches. We are reminded of its central place in our Meeting.

West Grove: This Query was not considered.

Wilmington: We are very fortunate that our Meeting is currently solvent, and that generous contributions as well as the income from the Brooklyn Arts Music Academy has left us with enough funds to provide for ourselves as well as to increase our planned giving. We have cheerfully cooperated in Meeting House Clean ups and share the responsibility of providing food or service during Meeting events.

The very recent experience of Hurricane Florence has left us all with a great sense of gratitude for what we have. Still, we recognize that everything, our homes, the beds we sleep in, the things we surround ourselves with in our daily lives, is not ours forever, but only until it is passed along to someone else, when their needs arise. We have all been busy in our help to our community, assisting with donations of food, funds, physical labor and clothing, to help restore our larger community.

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

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Davidson: We usually have half to two-thirds of those in attendance at Meeting for Worship continue into Business meeting. We feel that we have been living into the spirit of this query especially in recent months as we have addressed a concern around building use. We have shared differing positions and sought to be present to one another as we seek our way. The phrase “humble submission to the Authority of Truth” reminds us that we are listening to more than ourselves, as individuals and as a group, it is within us but also beyond us. We are also very grateful for skilled clerking.

Durham: Durham Friends did not answer Query #5.

Fayetteville: We are regular in our attendance to Meeting for Business. It is part of our Quaker Life, as we feel called to attend to our outreach to the world and to our support of each other. It is a way of extending our faith beyond worship as we live our values corporately and in unity with each other. Because we are a small meeting, we have a high percentage of participation in business meetings; this allows the strength of each of our members to be shared as we work on our involvement as a meeting in outside activities. As a small meeting, we are able to maintain a standard of simplicity in our business meetings. We seek unity under divine guidance and desire humble response to God in our responses.

Friendship: We do our best to hold our meetings for business in a spirit of love and expectation. We have patiently sought Divine guidance as we move forward with plans for our new worship space. We desire that a larger portion of our members and attenders would attend meeting for business, and recognize that those who do attend come faithfully.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Greenville: We have experienced forbearance with each other, humility in seeking the truth, and patience in the sometimes slow search for unity. We must intentionally seek to bring these qualities to business meeting and feel that we have been faithful in these efforts even when it has been difficult.

Rich Square: We believe we are attending to the business of the meeting in a timely and appropriate manner, and that we hold our meetings for business in a spirit of love, understanding, and forbearance. We trust that our approach to business leads us to seek a sense of unity under Divine guidance. We also trust that we act responsibly in our work in the Meeting and the larger community.

Virginia Beach: The words, “humble submission to the Authority of Truth and patient search” are important for us today as both a Meeting and a society. Our experience during Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business varies. We consider, could it be more spiritually based? Could the time be used for more weighty matters? We find we value regular attention to small matters as a faith based gathering; we value this meeting for its spirituality and community.

West Grove: Our members are generally faithful to attend meetings for business when circumstances admit, and we feel we endeavor to be faithful to seek Divine Guidance in our deliberations.

Wilmington: Our Meeting enjoys a relatively high percentage of regular attenders at our monthly Meeting with Attention to Business. We are consistent in maintaining a spirit

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

of love, understanding and forbearance, and believe that we are consistent witnesses to the Authority of Truth. Our consensus is based in our understanding of the history and personality of those at Meeting, which leads to unity. We expect problems but there is always the assumption that all present will listen and that issues will be fully discussed and understood. Once this occurs, we usually find that proceeding is easy.

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

Davidson: Those working with children in our First Day School program were acknowledged as doing good work of cultivating a sense of openness and expectancy through example, exploratory walks in nature near the Meetinghouse and using tools such as a wonder box. We acknowledged that is important to make our meeting a place of safety and welcoming for children, not just for the children but for who we are as a community. We rejoice in the children currently attending meeting and the unfettered way they express love and community. We noted that one high school member has felt comfortable enough to approach several adult friends and ask about their spiritual lives and understanding. For those who have raised children, there is an awareness of how busy their lives are and how important it is to share time in nature and understanding of the world and technologies that surround them now.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Durham: Last year our meeting made a commitment to hire a Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator. We feel that this commitment has borne fruit in a greater sense of cohesiveness to our First Day School program with good religious education themes for all age ranges. As a meeting, perhaps the best thing we offer our children is our patience, the ability to sit in silence with children being children. We delight in a silence punctuated by children and in watching a child who begins as wriggly and noisy learn to see the value of silence.

One of the ways through which our children grow is the growth by their parents. Even those children who do not regularly attend First Day School learn about our morals and ethics as their parents grow in faith and learn. We find it important therefore to support parents in bringing home Quaker values and reinforcing them during the week. The texting group for parents helps, and our library has a good selection of children's books that parents may borrow and read to their children. We are open to finding more ways to support parents.

Finding ways to share the faith and values that guide the practice of Friends may be a challenge for some as we seek the language to explain the underpinnings of our faith. We feel that we should encourage more dialog on this among adults as well as children.

Fayetteville: We do endeavor to cultivate openness and expectancy about life in our children, whether they are still young children or already grown to adulthood.

Friendship: We welcome our children in Meeting for Worship and model the silence for them as a witness to a basic Quaker belief, even as Friends find it difficult to explain to our children exactly what waiting worship is for. We have a

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

dedicated Religious Education committee to help steer them in their religious and spiritual growth, and we try to teach them about Quaker history and values to help them look for those at play in everyday life. We recognize that lessons we offer our children will not always stick, but we seek to lead by example. It is joyful to have our children participate in meeting workdays and other events.

Greenville: Our meeting doesn't have young children and this is a source of sadness for us. We are re-visiting how we may be more welcoming of young adults and young families. We support the young adults in our families who have children in passing along spiritual values. In our contacts with children outside of our families, we are alert to opportunities to share spiritual concerns and encourage them in their own growth toward the Spirit.

Rich Square: We do not have children in the Meeting but we do seek to respond to children outside of the Meeting in a manner consistent with this query.

Virginia Beach: We lay the spiritual seeds in our children and hope they come to fruition in later life. It is telling that they return when they are in town.

School continues to strengthen the Quaker values. We acknowledge that the children help create spiritual growth in the adults of our community.

West Grove: We feel our members and our families live into the spirit of this query.

Wilmington: Do we endeavor by example and precept to

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

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

Our Meeting has been blessed with wonderful children, sometimes in large number, sometimes not. But all children, both in the past and present, have been totally embraced by the entire Meeting. Our children have always been provided with a rich network of love and support, and provided with guidance in to Quaker insight, and the opportunity to form a relationship with God. Historically, members have led First Day Classes and Bible studies for our younger members, and listened to their opinions, considered their very insightful questions and directed their understanding. Through years of patient reading and discussing, young Friends come to know the historical and spiritual basis of Quakerism, while knowing that they are loved and supported. Always.

Meeting also continues to have an active relationship with the Friends School of Wilmington where it is hoped that our outreach can assist their capable staff in cultivating spiritual growth in a school setting.

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

Davidson: We are reminded that if we try to live faithfully

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

and endeavor, the life and power will manifest. We also noted how each of us can have opportunities for reconciliation work on a daily basis, that our faithfulness in small ways is changing our world and ourselves. We also note how far we fall short in our efforts and the gap between intending unconditional love and the love we have to give as well as understanding the distinction between expectations of behavior and loving individuals.

Durham: There are many levels at which we may work to take away the occasion for all war. The way in which we treat family and friends and try to resolve our own conflicts affects the nature of the peace in the world around us as much as the interactions in our local communities and the actions taken in the world at large. The first way in which we work to take away the occasion for war is with our own actions. It is easy to look at wars and feel as though they are beyond our ability to do anything about them. Yet, when we work at reconciliation with individuals in conflict, listening in trust that they are trying to be the best they can be, we find they can say, "Yes, that happened and it is not who I want to be; help me resolve this conflict." We need to find ways to acknowledge that others want to be good and build that kind of trust in our communities and develop it on an even larger scale. We recognize that after a war or any other conflict, people often want to celebrate victory or take retribution. We must work instead on reconciliation so that we do not find ourselves fighting the battle again. We take inspiration from Innocence, forced to be a child soldier in Africa, who did not hate his captors, but came through his experience with joy and love. As we draw towards the seventeenth anniversary of the war in Afghanistan, we worry that the children of today have never lived in a time that the country was not engaged in war. And at the same time, we do not live in a way

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

that feels like war. Will these children grow up taking war for granted? A member who was born a month before Hitler invaded Poland remarked that there have been few periods in her life in which the country was not at war and reminded us of the importance of supporting programs such as the Peace Pipeline which teach children how to listen and engage in peaceful conflict resolution. By supporting such programs at the most basic level, perhaps we can hope for a more peaceful future.

Fayetteville: Does bearing arms relate to carrying a personal weapon? So many people in the United States do carry. Our consumerism choices can influence war--the Seeds of War. Drone wars: those “merely pushing the button” have moral injuries much as those in active combat do as they face the consequences of their actions taken. To target those who don’t know they are under surveillance leaves the person responsible with moral injury—the act of surveillance ends in the destruction of human life. Are we maintaining civil peace as well as global? What does reconciliation between individuals mean in this query? Possibly work such as the Poor People’s Campaign: pursuing racial and economic justice--our meeting will further explore in the future. Sometimes it feels that our country is at war with the disadvantaged among us.

Friendship: Friends wonder if all we do is enough. Some are troubled by the National Anthem played at sporting events and feel called not to stand. Our Young Friends are local leaders in the *March for Our Lives* movement to advocate for better gun control. Our Meeting monetarily supports organizations that work to do away with the occasion of all war, yet we recognize that, at the same time, our individual taxes support the military. A few Friends consciously live so they do not have to, or choose

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

not to, pay federal taxes. We live in a very capitalist, consumer society, which can cause unknown and unmeasured harms through our purchasing decisions. Those harms may be seeds of war. Still we strive to better this world. We feel we cannot be complacent as there is more work to do to bring us all towards peace.

Greenville: Where each of us stands with the peace testimony today is, for each of us, the result of decades of living with it. The experience of living out the testimony gradually deepens our sense of its truth and makes us more aware of our obligations. We are not called upon to seek peace by avoiding confrontation but rather by confronting injustice non-violently.

Rich Square: There have been so many divisions between individuals and groups during recent years. We try to encourage people we encounter to see each other as individuals. Through our actions with individuals and small groups, we feel that we are seeking to live in that life and power. As a whole meeting we do not take actions especially addressing the peace testimony. Individuals in our meeting support Friends' organizations and others seeking peace.

Virginia Beach: Living in Hampton Roads, we are reminded of our military capacity daily. We are committed to the Hampton roads Campaign to Abolish Nuclear weapons. We consider how we can resolve personal conflicts and we can be influential in our local military.

We reflect on how we listen to our leadings and consider if we are truly doing our part in the work of reconciliation between individuals, groups and nations. We are grateful to be part of a

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

group that addresses problems with open hearts and minds. We all work together for our common goal of finding peace.

West Grove: Living without the presence of God is war. We must speak Truth to power to change the violent climate in our country. Peacemaking needs to start in our hearts and continue with help from the Christ Within guiding our words and actions.

Wilmington: This issue, like most queries, can be split into two questions. The micro issue, one's personal belief that love is greater than war was, as usual, the easiest to grapple with. The belief that our words and our actions have consequences, leads us to the understanding that everything we say and everything we do must be full of love and light. *Our part* has taken on new meaning, and there is a feeling that the balance of power has never been more stacked against us. It is daunting to see what battles lie ahead. But as Friends, we believe, and must believe, that each individual's capacity has consequence, and is therefore worthwhile. Friends were united in the belief that they see each day as a new opportunity to bring more peace into the world. The macro issue, which asks us to faithfully maintain our testimony against nuclear and all war, produced the widest array of feelings, and was the hardest to feel strongly supported. Many stated that the military was necessary, and that arms to repel forces that would hurt that which we hold dear, was simply a reality. Others felt more strongly pulled by the query, and felt that this was wrong. As a group, we all know that believing in the possibility of peace is futile, but we were unified in our stance to believe anyway.

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

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

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: It is our practice as a meeting to pay our debts quickly including the building mortgage and in our dealings with groups using our building, particularly Lake Forest Church, we work to be just and fair. Our sense of one another is that as individuals we strive to live simply and honestly. Individuals spoke to ways to we fall short such as well-intentioned overpromising resulting in not being able keep all promises, and other well-intention decisions that resulted in struggles and perhaps necessary learning. We accept that we will make mistakes and hope that as a community we work together in support of the meeting and individuals leading deeper and fuller lives.

Durham: Friends noted that the query seems to be written more as a personal query than one for the meeting at large, yet how we live as individuals does lead to what we each do in Meeting and what we do together as a meeting. Simplicity is a moving target. Today we expect to have electricity, internet and cars yet it wasn't that long ago when none of that even existed. Friends do consider our manner of living and seek to live with integrity, yet always questions remain and that is a good thing. Is carrying a balance on our credit cards truly the prompt payment of debt? What do we consume that is not really necessary? Meeting committees consider such issues seriously, right down to what kind of snacks are simple and healthy enough to serve after meeting for worship. As individuals and as a meeting,

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

though, it is not clear that we have a vision of what “enough” really looks like. It is too easy to be lured into accumulating more and more without a clear vision for its use. This will be an increasing challenge as the meeting’s facilities and finances grow. Here we return to our discipline as individuals to tend to the simplicity, integrity and peacefulness of our own thoughts and inner lives. In this way we can, as individuals and as a meeting, live more and more fully into an affirmative response to this query.

Fayetteville: Simplicity and honesty are a foundation through all the queries and also ties into Buddhism and our interconnectedness with everyone. By living simply, we can avoid the distractions that take us away from spiritual pursuits. There is no virtue in being plain for the sake of plain, in denying ourselves for the sake of denying ourselves. Instead, simplicity should make room in our lives for other things and other people.

Simplicity allows us to be involved: to be part of the life around us, to choose to do a lot with our community, to know people and to enjoy the simple things in life together. Sometimes it takes a disaster to make that happen: waiting for FEMA and other government agencies, and helping each other brings us back to the things that really matter: family and friends.

We do choose activities that strengthen ourselves and help us to feel well. We try to sleep well, exercise and avoid activities which are harmful to others and ourselves. It is important to maintain balance and know our personality--where we are inclined to be not in balance--and watch against being overzealous even when activities are good.

Friendship: Friends may not be able to claim we do all these things, but we always try to be faithful. We are challenged by being just in all our dealings given the complexity of our

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

lives. Justice is an ever-deepening concept, affecting not just business dealings but also daily conversation with others. In our current society there is much temptation to speak ill of people who disagree with us. We strive to keep our words honest and in the spirit of simplicity. We all have needs at some times, and have much to give at some times, and we hope to “pay it forward” as we pay our debts by giving to others who are in need.

Greenville: We are mindful of our responsibility to manage our resources avoiding waste and needless expense. But we are also aware of the burden of necessary expenses like healthcare and education over which we have little control. As individuals we want to be frugal, but we recognize the need for some common effort to work for economic justice.

Rich Square: We generally feel that we are diligent in living simply and honestly and are 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. We are reminded of the necessity to honor all three of the physical, mental, and spiritual practices and to keep them in balance, recognizing the day to day difficulty of accomplishing this.

Virginia Beach: Examining the many portions of this query about manner of living we ask ourselves, are our actions based on our beliefs? Do we act on our faith? We reflect on why oaths are pervasive in ordinary speech. There are no degrees to Truth. We reflect on the unfair structure of our society and work toward equality. This query helps us stay connected to God.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

West Grove: The 8th Query was read and answered tentatively with the expectation that Friends will reconsider our response next month. The current draft of the response follows: The Meeting is a community of individual members who bring what each of us practices daily to the Meeting. West Grove endeavors to avoid actions harmful to others. Weekly Bible study is one activity which strengthens our spiritual life. This year we have begun to gather food for local food banks. We pray way will open for shared meals to resume. The 8th query was again discussed the following month. Meeting united in the following response. As a meeting we feel we can generally answer this query in the affirmative. The meeting is a community of individual members who bring what each of us practices daily to the Meeting. West Grove endeavors to avoid actions harmful to others. Weekly Bible study is one activity which strengthens our spiritual life. We pray Way will open for shared meals to resume.

Wilmington: As individuals, and as a group, we feel a resounding YES! to this query. As individuals, we believe that happiness is not centered in what we own, but in our lives. We believe that we live within our circumstance, are generous with our gifts, just in our dealings and prompt to repay both verbal and financial debts. As a group, we believe that our relationships with the groups that rent space in our Meeting House recognize us as reasonable in our business dealings, and both recognize us as fair and approachable landlords.

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

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

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: Query #9 was not answered by Davidson Friends this year.

Durham: Durham Friends did not answer Query #9.

Fayetteville: If we are frivolous in our use of resources—are we stealing resources from others? Are we making good use of our time, money and energy? Are we growing and striving towards living more mindfully? These are questions we ask ourselves. Living more simply for ourselves and growing our awareness of the needs of others can be a way to keep in mind the temptation to grow richer at the expense of others. Having an excess can distract us; we can simplify our time, possessions and finances to bring greater peace into our lives. At times we may be tempted to use pleasures such as shopping to try and find fulfillment instead of seeking that fulfillment from Spirit. By being conscientious consumers we can provide witness to our faith.

Friendship: We are grateful for the prescience of putting the question of profiting from others before us; we are continually growing into an understanding of how our own privileges affect us. We recognize that in this electronic age, the definition of gambling has become much more complex and gambling is more difficult to avoid. This query doesn't dictate behavior, but instead encourages us to continue to wrestle with the many

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

implications of our involvement with drugs, alcohol, and the many ways that we can profit from others. Our choices as a community affect meeting participants, but also the community at large. We also continue to consider whether abstinence is always the best way to help young people learn how to handle themselves—different forms of witness may be helpful.

Greenville: Greenville Friends did not answer Query #9.

Rich Square: We are mindful of how diverse and widespread the temptations to grow richer at the expense others are. We feel that the various other parts of this query address individual actions for which it is important to be constantly reminded of how our example influences others.

Virginia Beach: As a meeting we meet our obligations. We base our decisions on Quaker principles. Simplicity and Justice are exemplified in our attending to our building and caring for immigrants. As a meeting, community, and nation, we are effected by and concerned about our individual and national debt and we endeavor to be a positive force.

West Grove: We endeavor to live according to the spirit of this query.

Wilmington: This query, which asks us to endeavor to follow the standards of Quakerism, is both easy and difficult to follow. Most of us agree that we avoid casinos, and refrain from gambling. None admitted to buying lottery tickets, recognizing that this system exploits the impoverished. Yet, having a stock portfolio could be recognized as gambling, too, and most of us have retirement funds that put us into this grey area. Avoiding

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

tobacco and harmful drugs is something most of us feel we do. Mindful not to grow rich at the expense of others? Another easy check on the list. Finally, the testimony against alcoholic beverages asks us to realize that abstinence is the clearest witness. Few say that they abstain completely, though all recognize the dangers of excessive alcohol use. In short, this query asks us to be mindful of life and how we live it. Though we fall short the beauty of revisiting this query is that we get a yearly reminder to continue to strive.

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

Davidson: Query #10 was not answered by Davidson Friends this year.

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

This is a beautiful query, and we are grateful to the youth who were inspired to flesh it out and deepen it in 1991. We are struck by the phrase “not giving up”. With global warming, the world has changed over the past 28 years, and we are tempted

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

sometimes to give up. But the youth also grounded their query in the spiritual at both beginning and end: a reminder that we must repeatedly reconsider whether we are living our simplicity as we seek to be good stewards, resisting the urge to accumulate more and heeding the warning that as Americans we use much more than our fair share of the earth's resources. We feel we are currently living up to our commitment to stewardship by making plans for solar power for our buildings this year in order to reduce our use of electricity, but recognize there is much more to do such as finding a way to reduce or eliminate our use of natural gas.

Fayetteville: Using less fossil fuel can sometimes be difficult depending on where one lives and the opportunity to walk/ride bikes. Our "interbeing" with all living things brings our huge responsibility to all living things. Our diet, our waste, our use of resources, can be overwhelming perhaps for us to manage. Just having an awareness and doing what each of us can in our own lives can help us avoid feeling paralyzed and powerless. Each of us can examine our own lives and make small decisions and grow into bigger choices in living. "What can I do?" Doing a few things...if all do such, the effects will be great. We have to make decisions on spending more perhaps for sustainable sources. Can we as Quakers set an example and influence those around us? What can we build together? Working as individuals leads to corporate witness. We cannot afford to be paralyzed by the big picture--we are called to live more simply in our corner of the world. By working together and by being vocal, even small groups can have a large effect. By being open to the voice of God, we can make changes as opportunity arises.

"Live simply so that others may simply live."

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Friendship: As a culture and even among ourselves, we are largely irresponsible with our non-renewable resources and waste in favor of convenience. Even as we make breakthroughs in creative reuses, we still produce and consume much that can be discarded and fills landfills. We have the opportunity in our near future to help design our new meeting room to use less non-renewable resources and conserve energy use and water. Many Friends in our meeting love and nurture natural areas and gardens at our homes, and look forward to being better stewards of the Meeting property as we landscape around our new building. Our Meeting invests with Pax World, which is a socially responsible investment, and has made the choice to move more Meeting funds to the Self Help Credit Union from Wells Fargo.

Greenville: Greenville Friends did not answer Query #10.

Rich Square: Each of us, in our own way, strives to respect and preserve nature. Through the community children's garden, the meeting continues to educate local children as to the importance of living in harmony with nature. Members are diligent in recycling when possible and limiting the use of chemicals and poisons that are harmful to our environment. We are hopeful that standards will remain in place to help preserve our precious resources. As we make improvements in our facilities, we are mindful of making changes that are in accord with current and future energy conservation practices.

Virginia Beach: The meeting continually examines its use of resources. One example of our beliefs in action and living in harmony with nature is the protection of our valuable trees. The

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

issue of environmental protection is of national importance. We act individually, locally and nationally through Friends Committee on National Legislation to protect our environment.

West Grove: This Query was not considered.

Wilmington: As Quakers, we endeavor to live our lives in harmony with nature. We recycle, live simply, reduce wastes and encourage others to do the same. And a ridiculously large percentage of us drive Priuses. We endeavor to educate ourselves, and our children, about global concerns and tailor our actions to reduce our impact on the planet. As a coastal community, we are aware of the consequences of our actions. Rising oceans have ‘relocated’ Front Street in Holden Beach to a road that used to be 3rd Street. Predicted sea level rise has redefined flood zones and increased insurance costs. Whether or not this trend can be reversed cannot be our focus. We have to believe that our efforts will make a difference. We may not be able to solve the problems of the world, but that does not give us permission to not try.

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

Davidson: As a meeting, we hold respecting individuals and their needs as a value and as a practice. Still, we find living out this value is difficult, especially when facing those we are in conflict with or whose actions are in conflict with this value. We see that acknowledging our biases and failings is a first step. We

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

work to make our day to day interactions with others be loving and open. Our actions addressing social injustice tend to be on a small scale, for example, our contributions to Lily Pad Haven, Quaker House, and AFSC. We were reminded of the value of supporting and speaking out for those who are doing more active work.

Durham: As a meeting we have sought to become more aware of racial injustice, and we have found that we are actually being asked to look at ourselves. We all carry personal, cultural and racial histories, and it takes a special kind of clarity of light to look beyond these boundaries. Can we actually say that we reverence that of God in every human being that we meet? It is a tall order. We may have all kinds of justifications or rationalizations for our behaviors. We may feel that we are doing the best we can but fail to realize how much more work there is to do.

And when we make a mistake or a misstep, how do we hold ourselves in a loving accountability for our actions? Accountability and compassion should not be seen as opposite ends of a spectrum. It is not enough to forgive because one's intentions were good, we must also call each other out, to elder in a loving way, so that we may see the impact of our actions and the way we may inadvertently cause harm. For each of us, this can be a personal path of continuing revelation as we learn from our mistakes.

Our goal for our community is to learn to trust. It is not useful to police a set of rules. We need to understand that we all will make mistakes and that we need to be vulnerable in order to learn and grow. We need to learn to listen not just to words, to style and to accents, but to the heart of the person who is speaking. These are not problems we can fix, not work we can

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

ever do adequately, but we can move forward by trusting and showing compassion for ourselves and others.

Fayetteville: From the beginning of Friends, Quakers recognized that we have direct connection with God and that God desires direct communion with us. Friends recognize That of God in each person and that alone is reason to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Given the past few years we have had, it is sometimes difficult to be aware or to accept that the needs of others with views contrary to ours are equal to the needs we ourselves have. Perhaps the Quaker manner of understanding can help us to get there. That of God in ME, That of God in THEE, and the concept of WE are all important. As long as we can keep that connection in mind, it becomes easier to work together to solve racial injustice and to seek equality for all.

One thing we have in common with other religious bodies: reaching out to meet the needs of others--food, shelter. Part of our message is reaching out to others and attending to their specific needs. When we see injustice around us, do we have the courage to speak up? Are we practicing LOVE in situations of conflict? If we are in a position of privilege are we utilizing that privilege to assist others who in a position of less power in that moment? Is it our obligation as Friends to do so?

Friendship: Yes, we do seek to rectify existing social injustice and discrimination, and we seek that of God in everyone. It's also a challenge to reverence that of God in those who appear to have their minds and hearts closed to the good being done in the world. There is a concern that we also need to extend our relationship with God beyond human beings into every living creature. As always, we are seeking and learning. We examine our own shortcomings and limitations, and we seek

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

a path forward for reaching out to our community with concern for the needs of each individual.

Greenville: We wrestle with these issues in our lives, personally and as a Meeting. They can seem overwhelming at times because they are so complex. Answering that of God in everyone may make them uncomfortable, and we can't love our enemies if we don't admit that we have enemies. Sometimes the dichotomy of good versus evil hinders us from seeing that people may be in a permanent state of fight-or-flight due to past experiences. We stand with those who have been oppressed, knowing that in some ways we are ourselves both oppressed and oppressor. We trust that God will lead us towards greater justice, even when we don't see the outcome.

Rich Square: We feel we can answer in the affirmative. However, the query asks in general and when we examine particular situations and circumstances that come to mind, we find we must question ourselves further.

Virginia Beach: We are mindful as individuals, as a group, and as a yearly meeting having a valuable history that we participate in.

This meeting is remarkably in its dedicated to Peace and Social Justice, our largest committee is a group that encourages each other to live this Query by vocation, choice and calling. Daily, we are seeking ways to answer that of God in all we meet; as we walk with forgiveness of self and others.

The prophet Micah asks us to “walk humbly with our God,” meaning to walk hand in hand with Jesus. God is present with us as we greet each other as equals, gathering courage to live as the

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Light teaches us to stand side by side with others, meeting the grief and injustice that we encounter.

We are challenged to reach beyond our local community to rectify injustice for those who are distant and different.

West Grove: We feel we are doing a better job of seeing and answering the Witness for Truth in others and reaching out to others. We acknowledge that we feel challenged to see that of God in each individual and we are seeking ways to respond to issues of discrimination and injustice here and in the world at large.

Wilmington: As individuals, many of our Meeting engage, every day, in working to ensure individuals are provided with basic human needs. Members are involved in education, work at the local food bank, serve on interfaith committees and volunteer to rebuild local homes following Hurricane Florence. Interestingly, this query came on the heels of an after-Meeting discussion about the current state and future direction of our state prison system. Though we have not embarked on any direct actions this year as a group, at least one member continues to maintain active outreach in this area. Her correspondence with inmates has led her to a better understanding and a serious concern with the current state of prisons in NC. She spoke of her concerns that as the state shifts from a state to private run system, the profits will further the emphasis on incarceration rather than reform. The end of this discussion focused us on educating ourselves on this new prison reform, and getting the message out about what is going on.

Query #12: Do we welcome newcomers and non-members to our meetings? Are they encouraged to share in meeting activities

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

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

Davidson: What arises in reading this query is a call to look deeper our implicit attitude as a Meeting in the ways we are open to growth and nurturing both newcomers and the Meeting as a spiritual community. Examples of ways in which our Meeting has encouraged newcomers include changing the time of business meeting to adapt to time needs and calling to check on people. We also have spaces to grow into. We regret our lack of younger members and college students. Those who are here are encouraged to engage more deeply and have found that engagement gives them a sense of responsibility and connection. We hold the concern that we are a small meeting and have not found ways to draw more people in.

Durham: Durham Friends did not answer Query #12.

Fayetteville: We do encourage newcomers and have had guests at both Meeting and at our potluck. We answer questions and provide a welcoming atmosphere. We provide contact to members and visitors alike to make sure connections are being maintained and nurtured. We have an active dialogue between regular attenders via email correspondence to let each other know about health and family concerns and planned attendance at meeting. Attenders to FFM are very active, not just our members.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Friendship: We are aware of the importance of visitation and staying in touch, and Care and Counsel, as well as others beyond the committee, actively keep up with those who may need visitation. We appoint younger Friends to committees. Attenders feel not only welcomed, but helped in their journeys. We encourage visitors to share with us whenever possible, and to continue attending.

Greenville: We are welcoming to visitors and nonmembers who worship with us. We make clear that they should consider membership but do not pressure anyone to join. When we have contact with younger members we encourage participation. As a mostly white congregation we feel that outreach should include more than just an invitation to people of other races to visit us, but should also include efforts by us to visit others in their own spaces. We do not forget to visit those who may feel isolated.

Rich Square: The attendance at Homecoming in Tenth Month and the active participation in meeting for worship by a number of visitors indicates that there is a comfort level among non- members to share in our service and fellowship. There are a growing number of community activities to meet local needs that include our local members. These activities provide a good local outreach platform. The Monthly Meeting has been generous in sharing resources as these needs are identified and brought before the Meeting. Distant members do their share in communicating Friends' beliefs and testimonies where they live. We have realized *younger members* is a relative term. Those that are younger are very active contributors and participants.

Virginia Beach: Newcomers are greeted with genuine

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

friendship. Our evening prayer group is an outreach. We minister to each other and pray for individuals. We also reach out beyond our members to friends and family of our community.

West Grove: This Query was not considered.

Wilmington: Wilmington did not answer Query #12.

43. Endorsement of the Poor People's Campaign

The clerk presented the following statement of endorsement of the Poor People's Campaign to be used publicly if approved:

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) endorses the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. The work of this nonviolent campaign is consonant with long held Quaker values and testimonies of equality, peace, justice, honoring that of God in everyone, and concern for our environment. Our yearly meeting is committed to providing spiritual and financial support to our monthly meetings and individual members in their activities on behalf of the Poor People's Campaign.

Friends approved the statement for public use. The clerk will send the concise statement to the Poor People's Campaign and will post it on the yearly meeting website. Friends also approved that it be appended to our epistles to monthly meeting clerks and yearly meeting representatives the clerk will send this concise statement, the internal statement that was approved earlier in these sessions and the committee report with approved items that apply particularly to monthly meetings.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

44. Epistle to Friends Everywhere

Kent Wicker read the Epistles to Friends Everywhere, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and Ohio Yearly Meeting. Friends approved.

Dear Friends Everywhere,

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

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

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

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

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

of closeness in sharing how the Spirit is moving in our meetings, and our struggles to remain faithful.

After a presentation about the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, we found that while we strongly supported the mission and goals of the campaign, we struggled with whether and how to convey that to the monthly meetings and their members and attenders.

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

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

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

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

On Sixth Day evening we headed across the street to New Garden Friends Meeting to hear Diane Randall, the executive secretary of Friends Committee on National Legislation. She titled her talk “Gracious Calling, Ordered Lives: the faith and practice of Friends in the political maelstrom”, borrowing some phrasing from the Whittier poem. She described the difficulties of working in Washington, that are far from the calm Whittier speaks of, and more like the earthquake, wind, and fire. In describing FCNL’s work, she quoted Edward Burrough’s letter “To the Present Distracted and Broken Nation of England”, saying “And we are not for Names, nor Men, nor Titles of Government, nor are we for this Party, nor against the other, because of its Name and Pretence; but we are for Justice and Mercy, and Truth and Peace, and true Freedom, that these may be exalted in our Nation; and that Goodness, Righteousness, Meekness, Temperance, Peace and Unity with God, and one with another, that these things may abound”. Diane touched on various aspects of FCNL’s work in the areas of peace, Native Americans, mass incarceration, migrants and refugees, and an Earth restored. She noted that the world is hungry for a spiritual life lived both externally and internally. She demonstrated how FCNL’s work proceeds from a spiritual basis and is grounded in a practice of being present with, and listening to, everyone. Her talk left us with a sense of hope for repairing what is broken in our nation.

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

On behalf of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative,

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Gwen Gosney Erickson, clerk

45. Young Friends Epistle

Young Friends presented the Young Friends Epistle. Friends approved sending it out with our other epistles.

On a hot Wednesday in July, the yearly meeting youth gathered at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. They enjoyed a night of bowling, snacks, games, and laughter. The next morning, the 11th of June, the kids ate their first breakfast at the dining hall on campus. Everything from eggs, bacon, potatoes, and muffins, everyone filled their stomachs to prepare for the day. Soon after, they made their way to Wrightsville beach, and had so much fun in the water, that they hardly made it to lunch on time. Afterwards, they sat in on an interesting and informative Bible Study, taught by Rubye Braye in McNeil Auditorium. They then gathered at the pool building to make colorful kites and learn of wind and spirit with Chuck Jones leading the way. The adults then gave the children an approximate hour to enjoy free time around campus. Many spent it with friends or family in the dorms, and other taking much needed naps, playing games, and chatting with friends in the Dorm #2 common room. Five thirty came, and, in groups and individually, made their way to the dining hall once again to eat dinner. Very hungry, many stuffed themselves with Asian chicken, rice and beans, fruit and fries. Then, while half the kids spent time at the pool building, discussing the day and playing games, some of the older children learned to knit. Taught by Mary, Melidy, Judy, and Liz, the older girls of the group were instructed step by step, how to start, fill in, and complete wonderful knitting projects. Many really enjoyed it, and continued to work throughout the trip. Then, around eight forty five, the remaining youth and adults gathered in the Dorm #2 for many, kindly provided snacks, puzzles, and much more knitting. After spending the second night in the dorms, many reported a

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

much needed, slightly delayed, sleep with cozy rooms, and creaky beds.

Friday morning, waking up bright and early, the kids of the meeting devoured another delicious breakfast in the dining hall, and quickly headed to the Good Shepard Homeless Shelter. While there, the kids got a detailed tour of the shelter, and an in depth lesson on how the shelter runs, and the services they provide for families and individuals in need. Splitting into different groups, the younger kids stayed outside to help weed the outside of the shelter, while the rest stayed in the cafeteria to assemble over one hundred and fifty sandwiches for people who couldn't otherwise eat. To conclude the trip, they were asked to empty, refill, and rearrange the flowers to brighten up the cafeteria. Hungry, from a hard morning of work, all of the kids came back and went straight to the dining hall for a filling lunch. From the dining hall to the McNeil Auditorium, they made their way to another bible study with Rubye. This study discusses how we are called to trust God and that God tells us that we will be safe in times of stress. Then, going from McNeil to the pool building once again, they enjoyed another session with Chuck for kites, crafts and more games. The kids were then given over two hours to either relax, play more, or socialize in the apartment common room. After dinner, the youth, accompanied by few adults, came together in the pool building to hear all about the "Bolivian Water Crisis". Emma Condori, who experienced the crisis first hand, gave us a wonderful, detailed presentation on how the crisis began (climate change melting the snow caps), and how the Quaker community in La Paz dealt with this extremity. She told the kids how people in the La Paz community, and even Quaker groups from other countries, came together to save money and spread awareness in order to afford "Biosand Filters". Biosand filters are a system that the community saved up for, and eventually bought that filter the river, well, and mountain water to make it healthy for drinking. Leaving with fulfilled hearts, the kids thanked Emma, and came

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

back to the apartments for final evening snacks, and goodbyes for the night.

Saturday the 13th came, and everyone woke up eager to eat quick in order to head right to the beach. A delightful, half hour car ride took everyone to Kure beach for a morning of saltwater and sun, and with the help of Goldie, six dozen Britt's donuts. At the beach, many kids spotted pink and blue jellyfish, baby sharks, and flew kites, thanks to Chuck. Making it back just in time, if not late, for lunch, everyone filled their empty stomachs with everything from pizza to seasoned grits. Then, while the parents enjoyed some quiet free time, the kids went to the pool house to build the last of the kites and reflect on the weekend so far. Soon after, they headed back for their own free time, incidentally, ending the parents quiet time. While many played Apples to Apples in the common room, other prepared intensely for their talent show performance. Five thirty once again came, and the dining hall called everyone in to fill their empty stomachs with their last dinner. Leaving the dining hall, kids *and* adults nervously walked to the McNeil auditorium for the long anticipated talent show. Seeing everything from skits and songs to guitar performances and juggling, many impressive talents were shown by very brave people that night. Finally, everyone left the auditorium by golf cart, foot, and even scooter, to make their way to the Dorm #2 for the last late night snacks, and concluded with cake, celebrating 50 years of the Quaker House. After a long, tiring day, we retired to our rooms, took much needed showers and crashed into a much delayed sleep.

As the last morning rose, everyone enjoyed their last breakfast at the dining hall, and experienced their last Bible Study with Rubye. To end on a sweet note, this Bible study focused on 1st John 4:1 and Galatians 5:16. The first scripture taught us that sometimes we cannot trust everyone, so it is importance to know who you can trust and that you can always trust God. The latter discussed how if you follow and stick by God, you will be able to resist negative temptation. We learned

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

that these are very important lessons, and that they were a great way to conclude our weekend. Everyone was then give an hour or so to pack up and gather their things to ensure nothing was left behind. Before final worship, many hung out in the common room to color, talk, snack, and clean up. To conclude the morning, the kids all stayed in the apartment to have a closing worship led by Goldie and others to sum up the weekend and give thanks for our opportunities we were given. Eleven o'clock came and we walked and reflected for final worship with everyone. Ending with the closing minute we silently pray and thanks everyone for an amazing weekend and an experience no one will forget.

We'd like to officially conclude with a few minutes to thanks all the wonderful people who made this weekend possible. Starting with Chuck Jones, we thank you for your generous and very appreciated time spent teaching the kids and even adults to make the precious kites that everyone has really enjoyed. Next we thank Emma Condori for sharing your wonderful and inspiring story of the Bolivian Water Crisis and showing us how important community strength is. Thank you to Jacquie Alford for always being there for the little ones when the parents needed a day off. Thank you to Melidy, Judy, Mary, and Liz for so graciously taking time to teach the girls how to knit. We are so excited about our newfound hobby and we thank you for introducing us to it. Special thanks to Andrew Wright for organizing and planning such a wonderful weekend for us kids and adults, and always answering our many questions. Another thank you to Goldie for being everyone's second grandma, and organizing a wonderful beach day with delicious donuts. Also, a big thank you to Genevieve Wilgen for getting us where we need to go, on time, and keeping track of us crazy kids. And there being 23 of us this year, we know it was certainly not easy. Finally thanks to the University of North Carolina Wilmington for hosting us and all the wonderful staff for providing us with food, shelter, and space. It truly has been an amazing weekend

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

and we are so grateful for everyone who made it as special as it was.

46. Summary of Exercises

The Summary of Exercises was read. Friends appreciated hearing the variety of voices in the new format. Friends accepted the Summary as read.

The 322nd session of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) met on the campus of the University of North Carolina Wilmington in the 7th month 2019 from Fourth Day the 10th to First Day the 15th. We were welcomed by the University with an inspirational description of how they came together as a community in the wake of Hurricane Florence.

The following snapshots by members and visitors offer a glimpse of the lived experience at this year's gathering.

Picture this: 6:00am we gather for coffee communion. We shared from the heart how Jazz music and improvisation is like listening to the immediate and perceptible guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Our meeting has been shaken up in a good way by the concern of racial justice. We have had hard conversations, and we won't be the same meeting at the end.

Picture this: a group of Friends sitting in a circle sharing stories. One Friend spoke of a mountain top covered in snow in her childhood in Bolivia. Now the mountain stands gray and bare. Another Friend shared a story of a flooding neighborhood. The Quaker Earthcare Witness interest session provided time for us all to reflect on real life examples of climate change.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Picture me full of joy during a lunchtime chat with Friends about various ways to understand and experience sacraments, particularly baptism and communion in a faithful way. I appreciate that Friends are open and respectful towards the various ways that people encounter God.

The Finance Committee met twice during the session to move along the care of the accounts and to deal with new issues. Should we seek to place our funds in a different bank? We realize that the time has come to facilitate online payments, moving into the 21st century. Yes, there are a few scattered among each monthly meeting who feel the importance and energy of balancing the books and making these decisions.

Picture this: The letter from Southern States Worship Group is read and suddenly I find tears in my eyes as I am introduced to a clutch of baby groundhogs, a flock of laughing gulls, the flight of a hawk above. Through the descriptions in the letter I feel the Creator ministering within the bounds of the Southern States Correctional facility accompanying those humans who are confined there. This reminds me that we are never forsaken no matter where we are.

Picture this: 10 people sitting in the classroom for the interest session on Friends Couple Enrichment experiencing the community-building power of witnessing other couples share their stories of relationship building.

This year I spent more time away from business meeting and more time in service. I enjoy driving the golf carts. The young friends requested a lesson in knitting.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Afterwards they could be spotted in the cafeteria and the dorms with knitting tucked under their arms.

I recall with fondness the in-between times- children wrapping up their kites to head to lunch, teens learning to knit with great enthusiasm, and the Hobson bikers wheeling their way between venues.

Chuck taught us that it worked best to walk towards the knot. That way the problem gets easier to solve.

I think of maneuvering through a horde of tweens in pink and green in the lobby of the dining hall while heading to the “too cool” business meeting. Cold is the open secret that assures wakefulness.

Watching the relatively small mocking bird harass the large red-tailed hawk perched on the edge of Wagner Hall roof, I thought no matter who small we are, our persistent, diligent efforts are important.

The buildings were cold
The weather was hot
The Quakers were bold
Even though I was not
The Spirit took hold
It all hit the spot

Leaving is bittersweet; sadness at parting is balanced by the recharged energy we carry with us to do the work we are called to do. With Divine assistance we look forward to gathering again a year from now.

47. Concluding Minute

We adjourn our yearly meeting sessions purposing to meet

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

7th Month 9th through 12th, 2020 at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina, if consistent with Divine will.

The Interim Body is scheduled to next meet on the 26th of Tenth Month, 2019 at a place to be determined.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Appendix

Meeting of Ministry and Oversight, 7-10-2019

The meeting began with a period of waiting worship.

Friends were present from Davidson, Durham, Friendship, Fayetteville, Rich Square, Greenville, and Virginia Beach monthly meetings: David Perry, Anne Olsen, Nancy Craft, Lloyd Lee Wilson, Karen Stewart, Susan Lees, Carole Treadway, Robert Gosney, Barbara Gosney, Ray Treadway, Michelle Downey, Mary Kay Glazer, Mork Moss, Mary Miller, Kristin Olson-Kennedy, John Schoonover, Edward Pearce, Hanna Passmore Hobson, Bruce Arnold, Judy Williams, David French, Judy Purvis, Marguerite Dingman, Richard Miller.

Visitors present were Emma Condori-Mamani, Holiness Friends Yearly Meeting, Bolivia; Dan Kelly, Keith Burroughs, Five Rivers Friends, Conway, South Carolina; Jeff Hitchcock and Charley Flint, New York YM, sojourning with Spring Friends Meeting, Snow Camp, NC; Johan Maurer, Sierra-Cascades YM; Kathleen Wooten, Maille Wooten, New England YM; Chuck Jones, Chattanooga MM; Mary Linda McKinney, Mark Wutka, Nashville MM, Southern Appalachian YM.

Richard Miller, clerk, reviewed the agenda and spoke of feeling connected with Quakers who have gone on before us.

1. Reports from the Meetings:

Friends shared moving accounts of the life of their meetings. In many of our meetings there are hard conversations happening yet there is a sense that these conversations are good and necessary in order to deepen in faith and become ever more genuine in our love. One meeting has opened a review of the

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

meaning and impacts, some unintended, of recording ministers. Strong feelings are being expressed and the meeting is being challenged to learn to have intense conversations and disagreements while staying connected.

For another meeting the Faith and Practice review process has stirred up questions regarding the function of Ministry and Oversight and the importance of having people overseeing worship and caring for the meeting. They find that the issue of recording and the issue of fulfilling the functions are separate but can get blurred and this can cause confusion and hard feelings.

Another meeting has been confronted with the impact of unconscious racism. After a period of confusion and deep hurt the meeting has committed to serious self examination and training in racial equity.

Difficult conversations and self-examination have also arisen in a meeting over how to live out a commitment to support full equality for LGBTQ people. This arose in the context of building use policy.

There have been hurt feelings and wounded trust for some Friends in the process of addressing all of these concerns, yet the turmoil is a sign that we are alive in the Spirit. The living spirit is moving among us, moving us to speak up for justice, for deep caring in our communities and finding a new depth of faith and trust. There is life in the spiritually grounded activism in our communities. Friends have also experienced peace and depth in spiritual companionship in times of illness, grief and the joys of life. The spirit is at work among us and we sense and are grateful for abundant signs of life and hope.

2. At last yearly meeting sessions we held a gathering about recording spiritual gifts and it was well attended. There appeared to be interest. Today the clerk asked: Should yearly meeting

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Ministry and Oversight pursue the issue, possibly holding a Saturday retreat on the subject?

Discussion:

A Friend suggested a more fundamental question needs to be answered prior to addressing the issue of recording. Commonly we speak of two models of spiritual gifts. One is the individual identity model in which each gift is held by an individual and there is a zero sum. The other is the dual model which recognizes two gifts, that of spiritual nurture and that of the gospel ministry. In our yearly meeting, Friends recognized to have these gifts have developed relationships of support and accountability with each other and come to know each other over time.

In addition to the individual model and the dual model, there is a third option, the abundance model. In this model we see spiritual gifts everywhere in great variety and all are needed for the healing of the world; we do this first through the “beehive” of the meeting and extend outward from there. With this model the question arises, where there is an abundance of gifts can they all be recorded? One idea is to record only public gifts and have no hierarchy or distinction in value between the public and private gifts.

How do we support named ministers and elders as well as those who are not named? The body saw value in small group support but did not reach unity on action to form small groups.

At this Yearly Meeting there is an open interest group planned for ministers and elders, named or not, and variety is encouraged. Topic: What are spiritual gifts, how do we support them.

The Body will meet again in 7th Month 2020 if consistent with divine will.

Recorded by Marguerite Dingman

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Ministers and Elders, 2019-2020

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

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Yearly Meeting Officers, 2019-2020

Clerk Gwen Gosney Erickson (Friendship)

Assistant Clerk Anne Olsen (Davidson)

Recording Clerk Marguerite Dingman (Durham)

Treasurer David French (Virginia Beach)

Clerk of Ministry & Oversight Richard Miller (Greenville)

Recording Clerk of Ministry & Oversight Marguerite
Dingman (Durham)

The Interim Body

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

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Standing Committees, 2019-2020

Book Committee: *Receive books from the bookstore, set up book sale table at YM and collect book money, return unsold books to the bookstore. (Note: Volunteers are always appreciated to help in bookstore set up and take down, and with the operation of the bookstore)*

Nancy Craft (Virginia Beach MM)

Carole Treadway (Friendship MM)

Michelle Downey (Fayetteville MM)

note: additional staffing is encouraged at YM sessions

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

Susan Lees (Fayetteville MM)

Cheryl Fetterman (Wilmington MM)

Barbara Gosney (Rich Square MM)

Michael Lozada (Davidson MM)

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

David Perry (Davidson MM), convener

Lynne Berla (Durham MM)

David French (ex-officio)

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

Deborah Shaw (Friendship MM) co-convener

Susan Wilson (Friendship MM). co-convener

Kent Wicker, (Durham MM).

Carol Passmore (Durham MM)

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Carole Treadway (Friendship MM)
Rachel Miller (Greenville MM)
Jim Fernandes (Friendship MM)

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

Mark Wutka (Nashville Friends Meeting), convener
Hanna Hobson (Friendship MM)

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

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

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

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

Standing Committees for 2020 Annual Sessions Preparations

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

Ray Treadway (Friendship) registrar
Susan Wilson
Judy Reece
Hanna Hobson

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

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

Elizabeth Wintermute (Durham MM) co-convener
Barbara Gosney (Rich Square MM) co-convener
Ariel Reynolds (Durham MM)
Mary Kay Glazer (Greenville MM)

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

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

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

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

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

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Nominating Committee: *Composed of one appointee from each monthly meeting and one ex officio member from Travel Support Committee, prepare nominations for presentation to yearly meeting sessions, or as needed, for clerks, standing committees, and special appointments.*

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

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

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

Web Page Committee: *Recommends content, oversees content and functionality, reviews content for timeliness, promotes use of the web page and monitors appropriate access. They meet at the*

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

call of the convener with email communication used to consult concerning web page content.

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

Special Appointments, 2019-2020

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

Ruth Anne Chillardres (Virginia Beach MM)
Toby Berla (Durham MM)

Coordinators to Work with other Conservative Yearly Meetings: *Maintain contact with and visit other Conservative yearly meetings in Ohio and Iowa during Eighth Month, and promote a presence and understanding of Conservative Friends.*
Andrew Wright (Durham MM)

Friends Committee National Legislation: *Six representatives with 3-year terms to attend annual board meeting, which is typically held in late fall or early winter in Washington, DC, area.*

Eric Ginsburg (West Grove MM) term ends 12/2022
Tom Bertrand (Virginia Beach MM) term ends 12/2020
Peter Klopfer (Durham MM) term ends 12/2020
Rebecca Fleming (West Grove MM) term ends 12/2021
Melidy Poole (Fayetteville MM) term ends 12/2021
Kristin Olson-Kennedy (Davidson MM) term ends 12/2021

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2019

Friends World Committee for Consultation: *Four*

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

Elizabeth Parrish (Greenville MM) term ends. 12/31/2022

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

Quaker Earth Care Witness: *One representative to attend*

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

Lauri Langham (Durham MM)

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

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

Pat Darenau (Wilmington MM)

William Penn House Consultation Committee *Attend the*

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

Eric Ginsburg (West Grove MM)

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

Carey Reece (Rich Square MM)

Discipline Revision Committee

Lloyd Lee Wilson (Friendship MM)

Andrew Wright (Durham MM)

Deborah Shaw (Friendship MM)