

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2017

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

1. Opening of the Annual Session

The 320th session of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Conservative) convened at University of North Carolina at Wilmington in Wilmington, North Carolina, from the thirteenth of Seventh Month to the sixteenth of the same, 2017. Out of our gathering worship, Clerk Nancy Craft read from Joshua 24:15-16.

And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

The people answered, Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods;

2. Visitors

Visiting Friends introduced themselves and were welcomed:

Charles "Chip" Thomas, Jr., Marlborough M.M.,

Rockingham Quarter, Ohio Yearly Meeting

Kim Palmer, Stillwater M.M., Stillwater Quarter, Ohio Yearly Meeting

Marcelle Martin, Swarthmore M.M., Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Mark Wutka, Nashville M.M., Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association

Doyle and Cheryl Wilson, Paullina M.M., Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Rhonda and David Pfaltzgraff-Carlson, Miami M.M., Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

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*Sarah Miller and Nathaniel Corwin, Old Chatham M.M.,
New York Yearly Meeting
Traveling minutes and letters of introduction were read for
Charles “Chip” Thomas, Jr., Kim Palmer, and Marcelle Martin.
Friends approved that the clerk to write endorsements for each
of the minutes and letters received.*

3. Minutes of the Interim Body

*The Minutes of the Interim Body of North Carolina Yearly
Meeting (Conservative) of Fourth Month 22, 2017 were read.
Friends approved that the Interim Body minutes for both Fourth
and Tenth Months be included in annual session minutes.*

Minutes of the Interim Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting
(Conservative)
Tenth Month 22, 2016

The Interim Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting
(Conservative) convened at Friendship Meeting in Greensboro,
North Carolina on the 22th of Tenth Month, 2016. The meeting
gathered following worship and lunch. Out of the silence, the
clerk read from Mark 10, 25-27:

*It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle,
than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.
And they were astonished out of measure, saying among
themselves, Who then can be saved? And Jesus looking
upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with
God: for with God all things are possible.*

Elizabeth Rolfe read an epistle from teen and emerging adult
Friends that was drafted by the group at the end of our yearly
meeting's 2016 session:

*Greetings to Friends of all ages and persuasions.
Teen and Emerging Adult Friends gathered as part of
the North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) on
the campus of Guilford College in Greensboro from
Seventh Month 14-17, 2016.*

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We had Friends from West Grove, Friendship, and Durham monthly meetings, as well as a guest friend. The theme for the gathering this year was "I Love to Feel Where Words Come From." It was a joy for us to gather together, worship together, and play together. In recent years, a Young Friends program has been added to our Yearly Meeting sessions and we have enjoyed being a part of these fun and moving activities. We are thankful for the efforts of all those who work so hard throughout the year to ensure a lively program for all ages. However, as we have grown in our age and faith, we have found ourselves in an in-between place. We desire a deeper experience than the Young Friends program provides, but we do not yet feel ready to fully participate in Yearly Meeting sessions as Adult Friends.

As such, we proposed among ourselves an informal experiment to follow a new plan during the 2016 sessions. This plan included some activities developed for Young Friends as well as some developed for the larger body. Essentially, we created a hybrid schedule that allowed us to participate with both the Young Friends and Adult Friends. In addition, we decided to meet for some time each day, as a separate body, to explore our place in the yearly meeting, to nourish our spiritual growth, and to fellowship together as friends and as Friends. For example, one day included attending business meeting, going roller skating (apart from the Young Friends and Adult Friends), helping with the kids in the Young Friends program, attending the Adult Friends evening session, and having time to ourselves during break periods throughout the day. Our plan for a hybrid schedule was shared with a few Adult Friends during Yearly Meeting but, unfortunately, the informal nature of our plan resulted in the wider body's lack of awareness of our intentions and schedule. Because of this, the Adult Friends program encouraged

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and welcomed our involvement as equally as the Young Friends program did, often causing us to feel pulled in too many directions at once and overburdened with tasks. However, we are grateful and appreciative of how welcoming and encouraging both groups were, and despite the expected hiccups our plan experienced, we do consider our experiment to have been an overall success. We propose to continue in a similar way in future Yearly Meeting sessions, this time adding our small group meetings to the wider sessions agenda and letting potential attenders of all ages know of the existence of this transitional group.

We feel that, in practice, there is a divide between Young Friends and Adult Friends- particularly older Young Friends- that is not easily bridged. We yearn for a more equal relationship between all age groups, or at least a smoother transition from one group to another. To that end, we have created a forum to present and discuss our thoughts, and have formulated a series of suggestions to bring to the planning committees, which we feel may be of benefit to all attending Friends. Bridging this divide and promoting heightened unity among all attending Friends is a goal we will passionately endeavor to reach throughout the year in preparation for Yearly Meeting 2017.

In gratitude, we hold you all in the Light.

The Interim Body approved financial support by drawing upon unbudgeted travel fund reserves for Elizabeth Rolfe to do visitation amongst the young adult and emerging adult Friends in our monthly meetings and to encourage a growing relationship between the yearly meeting and Friends of all ages.

Elizabeth Rolfe spent three weeks in Kenya during June 2016. While this trip was part of a personal journey, the trip was made possible by the connections Elizabeth made in attending the 2016 World Gathering in Peru and her trip to Kenya provided her with an opportunity to engage with the Quaker

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community in Kenya. Greetings are from Ngong Rd Monthly Meeting, Kakamega Yearly Meeting, and Friends Hanningtone Mucherah, Simon Malesi, Nancy Kidiya, and Cornelius Ambiah as well as his entire family. She shared some of the challenges Kenyan Friends are facing as they live with ongoing social justice issues in their country and how they are addressing these challenges through community forums and other work to prevent violence through the efforts of Quaker Peace Initiatives Kenya. Spiritual and emotional support is needed from the wider world of Friends, as well as expertise in peace work and fundraising, and financial contributions. Individuals and monthly meetings are encouraged to explore ways they might support this work and connect with African Friends who might benefit from our support.

Bruce Arnold read a proposed minute on racial justice that he drafted at the beginning of yearly meeting sessions and which has been circulated to monthly meeting clerks prior to this Interim Body meeting. While many Friends were in near sympathy with the underlying intent of the proposed statement, it was not clear that we are in unity with the document as presented. Friends expressed a need to first look inside ourselves – both individually and as a body of Friends – to consider how we are complicit in the injustices in our world and what we are called to do. Several monthly meetings considered the minute and members shared the outcomes of those conversations. There was appreciation for the passion of the statement. Friends see a need for us a body to engage in deeper consideration and actively work within ourselves and our meetings on the issue of racial justice in our present time. An excerpt from a recent statement by Quaker Leadership Scholars students at Guilford College was read:

As Quakers who find the testimony of Equality rooted in the work of equity, we are working to discern our individual and community callings to practice God's work with regard to racism and the violence of systematic oppression....We hope to strengthen our

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spiritual community as we navigate how to best lift up everyone involved in these courageous efforts. We are being called to challenge ourselves as a group and individuals. In this time of intense spiritual work we must be supportive of each other's search for truth, and help each other by sharing in this journey.

Friends are asked to further consider the statement by Bruce Arnold and the questions it raises in their monthly meetings. This is not necessarily a document for us to approve, but is a catalyst for our engaging in a deeper consideration of racial justice in our time and grappling with it as individuals, in our meetings and as a body. Query: What inward spiritual work and outward witness is necessary for us to do to remove the seeds of injustice from ourselves and our meetings?

As registrar from the Hospitality Committee for the 2016 annual sessions, Ray Treadway presented a final report on the yearly meeting session finances.

The yearly meeting held its annual sessions on the campus of Guilford College from Seventh Month 13 through 17, 2016. For these five days and four nights, 98 participants were registered, including 77 adults (including 61 members, six regular attenders, and 10 visitors) and 21 children. The rooms in Mary Hobbs Hall were filled by the weekend and eight rooms in Bryan Hall were required to accommodate those staying on campus. There were 22 commuters who attended for one or more days.

Our income included payments of \$9,116.35 for staying in the dormitory, meals, and day fees and \$2,921.52 in registration fees, in addition to a generous \$2,721.81 in contributions. We spent \$266 for the liability insurance; \$953.88 on program costs; \$298.00 on the activities for the youth program; \$11,944.24 to Guilford College for the use of the dorm, meals, and day fees; and \$1,946.04 to Guilford College for use of the meeting spaces and golf cart. We were able to provide

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\$2,286.80 in assistance to our children and youth, so that their costs were covered, as well as \$541.09 for others who asked for help. In summary, the net income from all sources exceeded all of the expenses by \$100.00.

Deborah Shaw and Judy Reece worked with Guilford College before and during the sessions to ensure smooth operations. Claire Koster and Maureen Burns provided essential help at the registration desk. We are particularly grateful for the assistance of John Garrison, Guilford College Coordinator of Conferences and Events.

Friends approve this report with gratitude.

As interim treasurer, Lloyd Lee Wilson presented an update on the yearly meeting finances.

A number of years ago the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) had regional gatherings. Jamaica Yearly Meeting was included in the southeast region but did not have access to scholarship funds to participate. Our yearly meeting agreed to manage the funds resulting from contributions received for this purpose. Now that the regional structure does not exist within FWCC and those gatherings are no longer held, Friends direct that the interim treasurer send \$571.20, the total amount of the funds held for Jamaican Friends, to the FWCC Section of the Americas (SOA) Office to support Jamaican Friends attending the 2017 Section of Americas meeting.

On behalf of Nominating Committee, Anne Olsen presented several updates to committee and service appointments. Nominating Committee proposed including younger Friends to serve in the role of reading clerk during annual meeting business sessions as a regular practice. Friends clarified that this would not be an appointed role but a way of having more people gain experience participating at the clerk's table during sessions. This is seen as a positive practice and one that young Friends might be invited to take part in and consider in planning their yearly meeting activities. Yearly Meeting representation to Friends

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Committee on National Legislation was clarified. Eric Ginsburg was reappointed as a representative and Bruce Arnold was approved as a new representative. Friends approved adding Darlene Stanley as a member of the yearly meeting Planning Committee.

The Nominating Committee has not been able to locate a Friend to serve as Treasurer. This is an urgent need. One suggestion was to divide the tasks so that the treasurer duties are as simple as possible and a professional be compensated to take on the more challenging bookkeeping requirements. Friends agreed to release Lloyd Lee Wilson from his duties as interim treasurer. Finance Committee is asked to explore a new model, possibly following the practice Durham Meeting currently uses with a hired bookkeeper, and options for the future. Robert Gosney will convene Finance Committee and work on a report for Fourth Month Interim Body. Nancy Craft will handle essential financial matters in the interim as the yearly meeting clerk is already authorized on the bank account.

Lloyd Lee Wilson's travel minute to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) was returned with the following endorsement from their clerk, Deborah Dakin:

We were deeply enriched by the presence of Lloyd Lee at our sessions this year. The witness of God in Lloyd Lee was a blessing to us and we hope he might have felt us witnessing that of God in us to bless him. May the relationships between our two meetings continue to grow, bear fruit, and flourish.

Lloyd Lee spoke on the close connections he and others from our yearly meeting have felt with Friends in Iowa. Lloyd Lee's ministry in partnership with Iowa Friend Deborah Fisch continues. Friends approve that the Broken Vessels link from this ministry be posted on our yearly meeting's web site.

Lloyd Lee also reported on the sound system that he witnessed being successfully used during Iowa's yearly meeting sessions. Friends approve pursuing acquisition of a similar sound system for our yearly meeting. The clerk will follow up on

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details in consultation with a sound professional who is already assisting Virginia Beach Meeting with their new sound system. Further consideration will be given to this matter at Fourth Month interim body so that a sound solution may be available in time for our yearly meeting sessions.

Toby Berla provided a report on behalf of the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee:

The Planning Committee for the 2017 NCYM(C) includes the following Friends: Barbara Gosney, Bruce Arnold, Darlene Stanley, Elizabeth Wintermute, Patty Levering, and Toby Berla. We have also been joined for our meetings by Andrew Wright, representing the Youth Programming committee, and by Elizabeth Rolfe and Ian Grace, representing the Young Adult Friends.

The committee has held two conference calls, on 8/31 and 10/5. Both sessions included silent worship, a time to check in, and deep sharing about where our hearts are led as we pray for guidance in discerning about our Yearly Meeting sessions to be held in Seventh Month of 2017. Although our work will continue in the coming months, we would like to report the following to Interim Body:

- *Friends on the committee are clear to recommend that the theme of the 2017 annual sessions be "Our Life is Love", and that we invite Marcelle Martin to attend as a presenter. We will ask Marcelle whether she would be willing to be our evening speaker on Fifth Day (Thursday), July 13.*
- *We have discussed how we might create interactive experiences that would engage adults of all ages (including young adults) in meaningful conversations and learning opportunities. One idea would be to ask whether Marcelle Martin might be willing to do this each morning during the Bible Study time, using passages from Scripture and her book to stimulate these*

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activities. We plan to ask Marcelle Martin to lead our morning Bible study on Fifth Day, Sixth Day, Seventh Day, and First Day. In her book she discusses Bible passages important to early Friends and important quotations of early Friends. We hope that she will select from those texts, give us some background, and then draw us in interactively.

- *We are also sensing a strong leading to address issues of race and social justice during our annual sessions, and so we are considering inviting a person of color who can speak on those topics. Friends on the Planning Committee lifted up the names of some possible speakers, and will do research to familiarize themselves with the work of these people before our next meetings. In an upcoming committee meeting, we will discern whether we feel led to invite one of them to the 2017 annual sessions.*

- *Friends on the Planning Committee agreed to ask the clerk of Yearly Meeting to publish a tentative agenda for each session of business. This would make it easier for Friends to have a better sense of which sessions they should attend, if they are not able to be at all of them. This is especially important to people who are involved in the programming for youth and young adults.*

- *The Young Adult Friends intend to publish a plan for how they will spend their time at annual sessions, so that it is easier to work together as a whole Meeting. The clerk of the Planning Committee may try to incorporate this information into the main schedule document. We are blessed to have this opportunity to worship and labor together in service to our Yearly Meeting.*

Cheryl Fetterman provided an update from Hospitality Committee. She will report more fully in Fourth Month and will confirm at that time if there are any unanticipated facility rental increases that may influence our yearly meeting budgeting.

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Andrew Wright gave a brief report from the Discipline Revision Committee. The submission draft for Section Six has been circulated. Section Seven has been sent out and is a new section intended as an expansion of the introductory quote in the current discipline's historical sketch portion. Section Eight will be the Queries and is expected to be a lengthy process. The first portion of it will provide an introduction to the Queries. The committee requests a forum time prior to worship at Fourth Month Interim Body.

Appreciation was expressed to Friendship Friends Meeting for providing food and fellowship as our Interim Body hosts for Tenth Month. The meeting closed in worship with intentions to next meet in Fourth Month at Durham Friends Meeting. Nancy Craft, Clerk, and Gwen Gosney Erickson, Recording Clerk

Minutes of the Interim Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Fourth Month 22, 2017

The Interim Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) convened at Durham Meeting in Durham, North Carolina on 22nd of Fourth Month, 2017. The meeting gathered following worship and lunch. After a period of gathering silence, the clerk read from Romans 8:24-27:

For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

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No visitors were present and it was noted that several Friends had sent regrets with their reports to the meeting. Clerk Nancy Craft read the Tenth Month Interim Body Meeting minutes.

In response to the tasks assigned in Tenth Month on behalf of the Finance Committee, Robert Gosney reported that he consulted with the Treasurer of Durham Friends regarding the process they use to handle financial matters through shared collaboration between an appointed treasurer and a hired bookkeeper. He observed that the yearly meeting's financial matters are not as complex as the monthly meeting's so the addition of a bookkeeper would likely complicate rather than simplify the work of the treasurer. He suggested that the job of treasurer could more effectively be made easier by (1) being intentional as a yearly meeting to define what is needed and steps for the treasurer to take when decisions involving finances are made and (2) defining clear expectations regarding the level of accounting and tasks required.

Clerk Nancy Craft stressed the need for a treasurer to be located soon as needed for our yearly meeting to continue good stewardship of our resources. She reported on the financial matters she handled in the interim since First Quarter.

Report of Income and Expenses

2nd Quarter 2016-2017

Income: \$1,500

Expenses: \$1502.10

Second quarter expenses consisted of the cost of printing the 2016 Minute Books (\$520.98), and travel funds for our representative to attend the FCNL Meeting (\$409.92). In addition, the FWCC requested the funds we had been holding for use of Jamaican Friends. The total amount (\$571.20) was forwarded at their request, thereby eliminating this restricted fund.

Report of Income and Expenses

3rd Quarter 2016-2017

Income: none

Expenses: \$2113.74

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Expenses were \$1680.10 for two representatives to the FWCC-SOA Meeting. In addition, checks were written for the funds allocated during the 2016 yearly meeting sessions to the Bolivian Quaker Education and the Guilford College International Quaker Student Financial Assistance Fund. The \$750 to the Bolivian Quaker Education fund was approved with the intent this is the first of a four-year commitment. A check for the remaining Special Projects Fund (\$1,363.74) was forward as allocated to the Guilford College Financial Assistance Fund. So far in Fourth Month, we have received \$1,750 in contributions from the monthly meetings (Wilmington and Davidson).

Friends were asked to consider what the required elements of treasurer are for our yearly meeting and how we then might fill those needs. The yearly meeting has no non-financial assets and is not incorporated so has very little paperwork beyond check writing and the reports to the yearly meeting. While the accounting is simple, the complicating factor for the treasurer has been determining what the intent of the meeting is – or was in the cases of previously established funds – for actions to be handled by the treasurer. The clerk will work closely with Finance Committee to clarify what is needed and to assist so the clerk is not the sole person responsible for financial matters in the interim.

Susan Lees is willing to take on the routine tasks of treasurer by writing checks and reporting on yearly meeting finances. However, she is not able to take on the interpretive elements the treasurer has been expected to handle as a duty in the past. Therefore, there is a need for an active Finance Committee to advise and assist the Treasurer. In order to have a functional group to serve in such as supportive capacity, a Finance Sub-Committee was identified from current members of Finance Committee: Robert Gosney, Bruce Arnold, and Ray Treadway. Susan Lees will convene the Finance Committee as Treasurer with expectation that the other members will support and assist

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in creation of budget and other matters that may arise beyond routine check writing and bookkeeping. Interim Body approves authorizing Susan Lees as Treasurer and for her to coordinate with Clerk Nancy Craft and the bank to be authorized to take on treasurer responsibilities as soon as convenient.

Nancy Craft presented the Nominating Committee report, which recommended David Perry and Lynne Berla as the Financial Review Committee for the coming year. The report was approved. Friends were reminded to consider ways they might serve the yearly meeting as Nominating Committee members will be seeking to complete their annual report between now and yearly meeting sessions.

Darlene Stanley requested support from the yearly meeting for her participation in Broken Vessels Quaker Ministry, a ministry led by Deborah Fisch and Lloyd Lee Wilson which shares the roots of the Quaker tradition with a group of Friends from across the United States. Darlene has also requested funding from her monthly meeting and suggested \$600 as the portion of funding from Yearly Meeting for a one-time scholarship. These funds will be matched by the Broken Vessels program. Friends noted that we have funded others participating in similar ministry programs in the past and mutually benefited from it. Friends approved support in the amount of the suggested \$600 to come from the Internships/Scholarship Fund.

In response to the request in Tenth Month for meetings to consider the minute on racial justice drafted by Bruce Arnold, Barbara Gosney read a minute from Rich Square Monthly Meeting.

In response to a concern from Interim Body regarding racial justice, Friends agreed to send the statement originally drafted by Bill and Brenda Remmes with several edits from the monthly meeting to Interim Body to be considered at their next meeting on Fourth Month 22. In addition, Friends felt that questions on the purpose of the statement and to whom it might be directed should be considered. The statement originally

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drafted by Bill and Brenda Remmes and edited by the Meeting:

During our annual sessions of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), the concern of racial justice continues to haunt us. Our religious community has stood witness to the inhumane and degrading practice of racial discrimination for over two hundred years. We feel move to speak truth to power once again.

We find in our world today that people of color continue to be subjected to conditions of servitude, poverty, and social limitation even when they have been called free citizens of the United States. Examples are numerous: their unprecedented rate of incarceration, the inability to find safe communities to live in and adequately funded education programs for their own personal training and that of their children, a drug culture that has victimized many low-income communities with promises of money and protection and instead brought violence into their neighborhoods as an everyday occurrence. Racial profiling has generated fear and distrust to the point that our law enforcement professionals are no longer trusted to be fair, impartial and non-violent. Unfortunately statistics mirror their anxiety.

We call on people of all races to stand together to acknowledge this threat to our society. Standing together requires that those with the power, money and influence become constantly vigilant to discriminatory practices within their own homes, work places, community, and nation. Not only do we call on all people to become vigilant, we beseech everyone to step out of their comfort zones and admit that when another fellow human being is being treated with injustice of disrespect, those of us who do not step in and challenge the offenders or advocate for fairness within housing, education, job

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*opportunities and social mobility are, ourselves,
promoters of the current status.*

Barbara Gosney, Clerk

*Extract from Rich Square Monthly Meeting Minutes, 4th
Month 9, 2017*

Though no other meetings presented minutes, several reported that consideration has been given and that racial justice is a continuing concern held both by individuals and by the meeting body through committee work. In addition to the racial justice concerns raised by the minute, several meetings are also engaging with justice concerns facing our immigrant communities and support for refugees. Local meetings are addressing racial justice concern at local levels in a variety of ways determined by the opportunities and conditions within their communities. Monthly meetings are encouraged to share any minutes or statements made with the yearly meeting for sharing through the yearly meeting's online presence. Meetings are encouraged to share their work with one another to assist in bringing us together and to facilitate work towards discerning a yearly meeting statement on racial justice. This process may also inform our discipline revision process as we seek to publicly present who we are as a body.

Andrew Wright presented a report from the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee.

*The Planning Committee for the 2017 NCYM(C)
includes the following Friends: Barbara Gosney, Bruce
Arnold, Darlene Stanley, Elizabeth Wintermute, Patty
Levering, and Toby Berla. We have also been joined for
our meetings by Andrew Wright, representing the Youth
Programming committee, and by Elizabeth Rolfe and Ian
Grace, representing Young Adult Friends.*

*Since our last report to Interim Body in 10th Month,
the committee has continued to meet by telephone
conference call nearly every month. We have many
enjoyed our times of gathered worship and discernment*

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together; Spirit is guiding us in hearing the needs of the yearly meeting for its 2017 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 “2017 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 “2017 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 asked Friends in monthly meetings to share their needs for time and space to hold Interest Groups at annual sessions.*

The current set of requests is also attached to this report. Note: there are likely to be additional requests lifted up in the months leading up to the annual sessions.

Friends on the Planning Committee wish to follow up with the clerk of Yearly Meeting about whether it would be possible to publish a tentative agenda for each session of business. This would make it easier for Friends to have a better sense of which sessions they should attend, if they are not able to be at all of them. This is especially important to people who are involved in the programming for youth and young adults. We are blessed to have this opportunity to worship and labor together in service to the yearly meeting.

Toby Berla, Clerk

The proposed yearly meeting sessions theme is “Our Life is Love: Quaker Spiritual Journey.” Marcelle Martin will be leading Bible Study and the Sixth Day evening program. Fifth Day program is a panel discussion on living life in love. Additional information will be distributed to monthly meeting clerks. In recognition of the transitory nature of age, there are

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integrated activities planned for yearly meeting by our Young Adult Friends inclusive of all ages.

Cheryl Fetterman provided an update regarding hospitality plans for yearly meeting sessions. Registration form will be available on the yearly meeting web site shortly. Program schedule and information will also be posted on the website.

Nancy Craft provided information from her consultation with a sound system expert. He recommended that the yearly meeting rent and consider short-term options rather than investing in a sound system at this time.

Appreciation to Durham Friends for providing food and fellowship as our Interim Body hosts for Fourth Month. The meeting closed with intentions to next meet in Tenth Month. Hosts are need for Tenth Month 2017 Fourth Month 2018. Nancy Craft, Clerk, and Gwen Gosney Erickson, Recording Clerk

4. Fall Interim Body Location

Friends approved Davidson Monthly Meeting as the host for the upcoming Fall Interim Body Meeting.

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

Deborah Shaw agreed to draft the Letter to Absent Friends. Kristen Olson-Kennedy and Rebecca Ruhlen offered to draft the Epistle to Friends Everywhere and epistles to Ohio Yearly Meeting and Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative). Melidy Poole agreed to work on the Summary of Exercises, with additional Friends to be named. Friends were asked to consider offering their services to draft the Summary of Exercises.

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

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Epistles from Ohio Yearly Meeting and Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Meeting from their 2016 sessions were read. It was recognized that these are our close cousin yearly meetings within the wider family of Friends and encouragement is given to continuing inter-visitation.

It is a good thing that the heart be established with grace.

Hebrews 13:9

For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17

Dear brothers and sisters of North Carolina Yearly Meeting,

We send loving greetings in the name of Jesus, our Messiah, as we have met the first week of 8th Month 2016 for our 204th annual session in the rolling hills of southeast Ohio, near Barnesville. The Scripture from Hebrews is on our Agenda booklet cover this year.

We give thanks to God that Friend Nancy Craft could again worship with us. We cherish the bonds that connect us together in Jesus and desire that those ties will remain strong. We have also been blessed by a short visit from Mary Comfort Ferrell, staff person at Friends Committee on National Legislation.

In addition to our morning Bible reading, Terry Wallace led Friends in morning sharing on the topic “What Do We Bring From Our LORD to Declare?”

Our evening sessions included a panel discussion on “A Language for the Inward Landscape” by Brian Drayton and William Taber and presentations by Junior Yearly Meeting.

Throughout the week we worshiped, praying that we would conduct our business in our Lord's will. We have been called to truly listen and seek our Lord's wisdom. Matthew 7:8 tells us, “For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.”

As the week progressed we saw a theme developing, that of the Love of God.

We are reminded there is a reservoir of forgiveness and faithfulness.

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Are we drawing on that reservoir? Are our relationships centered on standing before our Lord and being faithful to our Lord?

On Fourth Day afternoon some members of the Peace and Human Relations Committee, along with Mary Comfort Ferrell from FCNL, visited the Junior Yearly Meeting to listen to their concerns regarding peace and human relations issues.

A mission of our yearly meeting is the Walton Home here in Barnesville. The care provided continues to be excellent, as noted by state 75 reviews. In the current day financial environment, we are waiting to move forward on the new south wing.

We learned that significant progress has been made on restoration of the Plummer House, an early Quaker house built in this township.

We pray that the Truth will prosper among both you and us as we progress through the coming months.

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with sacrifices God is well pleased. Hebrews 13:15-16

On behalf of Ohio Yearly Meeting,
Seth Hinshaw, clerk

“Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations wherever you come; that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone; whereby in them you may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you.” ~George Fox

To North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative),

Alive and fresh, we are children of this yearly meeting and we traveled home from places as far away as Montana, South Dakota, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Indiana and Germany to be together during this blessed gathering in Iowa. It

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is striking that geographically we have become a diffuse group but our heartstrings are as strong as they are long. Visiting Friends joined us from Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, North Carolina and New Zealand. The warmth of the weather matched the warmth in our hearts as we converged at Scattergood Friends School and Farm on Seventh Month 26-31, 2016 at the 139th annual session of our yearly meeting.

We are so grateful for the presence of visiting Friend Lloyd Lee Wilson of Friendship Monthly Meeting. He has worshiped with us, shared meals, and attended meetings; his ministry was a witness to God within all of us. We cherished our time with him. Deborah Fisch, Martha Davis and Carole Winkleblack recently traveled to your yearly meeting session and appreciated the deep worship and affection shown to them. Embracing our kinship with you, we too "love to hear where words come from".

We searched for Truth this year through our theme "Be not afraid, for I am with you." In one evening Collection we practiced active-listening in pairs formed by rotating concentric circles of Friends. Imagine "speed-dating" for God. The following evening Greg Elliot, Friends Relations Associate with American Friends Service Committee, and Jeff Kisling from Indianapolis, described how the Quaker Social Change Ministry helps Friends share stories and spiritual exercises, and then work with people closest to problems we hope to solve. Greg reminded us, "Really simple things, right now, really matter." He encouraged us to overcome fear in accepting God's call for us to co-create the Beloved Community. Robin Mohr, Executive Secretary for Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas helped us understand that we are not separate from any other person or concern on Earth; we share one story; and there are things for each one of us to do that are good and important. "God needs us to know about a lot, and work on a few." But how can we trust that we are not avoiding work that is meant for us? A Friend shared, "The practice of staying awake to God in myself is how I know I'm not running

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away.” Stephen Donahoe, Major Gifts Officer at Friends Committee on National Legislation was a joyful presence with us this week; he offered a report on exciting changes made possible at FCNL through the financial support from Friends. In our last Collection, Aaron Fowler and Laura Dungan led us in an evening of joyful, thoughtful, spirit-filled song.

We cannot create the Beloved Community unless we know one another. Are we willing to listen deeply and truly know each other? Can we open ourselves to the transformation available to us through small acts of connection? Are we willing to be changed? The Spirit present in our midst challenged us with these questions, and our hearts were made tender as we took greater risks to connect. Often, it is not apparent how ready we are to reach out, to respond joyfully to the shedding of our masks and the sharing of our true selves. We rediscovered that in sharing the tasks of our faith community our connections are renewed and we are blessed.

We continue our shift from an assumed to a chosen relationship with our beloved Scattergood School and Farm. Miracles happen at the school every day and every school year. We look for ways to bring in youth from around the world and the U.S. who seek a rigorous education in an emotionally supportive, ecologically minded, and spiritually grounded boarding school.

During our State of the Meeting and Query reports we sit together and listen to the voices of our monthly meetings and know our corporate whole a little better; these small meetings express our discernment of Truth. Our Bible study sessions helped us lean into God's Love in order to know that sometimes the things of which we are afraid are much smaller than our fear of them. In our seeking we sometimes forget that God is always with us, just waiting for us to turn and open our hearts. Another moving program was led by our Ministry and Counsel Committee, which built our awareness for tending to the physical and emotional safety of our children and youth.

It is holy to be heard.

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Our Junior Yearly Meeting Friends were a joy to us all week. JYM built and displayed a beautiful birdseed mandala which lifted our spirits. They brought adults into the ceremony of dismantling it in the manner of Tibetan Buddhists. In tossing the birdseed we experience the poignancy of lost beauty and we send out a blessing to all of Creation. May our epistle to you, our Friends, be such a blessing as we sadly close our annual sessions. Know the joy that we know - we are not separate; there is no "away". We shall live in one another still.

In love and Friendship,

Deborah Dakin, clerk

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Our yearly meeting next year will be held 7th Month 25 to Seventh Month 30, 2017 at Scattergood School and Farm near West Branch, Iowa. We warmly welcome you to join us.

7. Reports from the Monthly Meetings

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

Report from Davidson

Clerk: David Perry

Recording Clerk: Jan Blodgett

Treasurer: Barbara Gardiner

Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2017: Patty Levering, Anne Olsen, Kristin Olson-Kennedy, David Perry

Representatives named to Interim Body Meeting: Patty Levering, Anne Olsen, Kristin Olson-Kennedy, David Perry

Davidson Monthly Meeting has nineteen adult members.

We celebrated the transfer of membership of Janice Quinn from Louisville Friends Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky to Davidson Meeting in Eighth Month, 2016.

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

There were no births or deaths to report or new marriages under the care of the meeting.

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The Advices were read in the meeting in Sixth Month, 2017.
One query was answered each time we met with a concern for business.

Report from Durham

Clerk: Toby Berla (beginning Ninth Month 2016)

Assistant Clerks: Cathy & David Bridge (beginning Ninth Month 2016)

Recording Clerk: Diane Wilkinson (beginning Tenth Month 2015)

Treasurer: Carole Aldrich McCleery (beginning Ninth Month 2016)

Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2017 Sessions: Toby Berla, Marguerite Dingman, Andrew Wright, and Kent Wicker.

Representatives to Interim Body: Toby Berla, Marguerite Dingman, Andrew Wright, and Kent Wicker.

Births: The meeting celebrated the birth of a baby to members Emily Stewart and Ryan Nilsen.

Deaths: One Friend, Edith Neece, transitioned from this world. Durham held a memorial meeting for worship in celebration of her life in the meetinghouse on the Fourth day of Third Month, 2017.

Marriages: No marriages were held under the care of the meeting.

Seven new adult members:

- Davida Eidukas (and two children as family members) on 11/13/2016
- Sarah Brittingham on 2/2/2017
- Scott Muir (and one child as a family member) on 2/2/2017
- Heather and John Jackson on 2/2/2017
- Amelia O'Rourke-Owens on 3/12/2017
- Austin Stanion on 3/12/2017
- Three new members transferred from other meetings:
- Liz Baltaro (and two children as family members), from Fresh Pond Meeting in Massachusetts, on 11/13/2016

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- Julie Morse, from Cambridge Monthly Meeting in Massachusetts, on 11/13/2016
- Gary Evans, from the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, on 3/12/2017

One member transferred to another meeting:

- Airlie Rose, to Mount Toby Meeting in Massachusetts, on 11/13/2016

Total membership: 121 adults are members; approximately 300 adults are attenders.

The Advices were not read.

The Queries were answered.

Report from Fayetteville

Clerk: Susan Lees

Recording Clerk: Open

Treasurer: Susan Lees

Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2017: Susan Lees, Melidy Poole and Lynn Newsom

Representatives to named to Interim Body Meeting: Susan Lees and Melidy Poole

Changes in Membership: Fayetteville Friends Meeting has nine adult members and five attenders, three of whom are Quakers elsewhere. We gained no members this year. We lost no members through death or laying down of membership. There were no births of children to report and no new marriages under the care of the meeting.

The Advices were read and the Queries were answered.

Report from Friendship

Monthly Meeting Clerk: Susan Carlyle

Recording Clerk: Lloyd Lee Wilson

Treasurer: Stephen Holland

Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2017: Maureen Burns, Darlene Stanley, Carole Treadway, Ray Treadway, Lloyd Lee Wilson, Susan Wilson

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Representatives named to Interim Body Meeting: Darlene Stanley, Carole Treadway, Ray Treadway
Changes in membership: No births or marriages. Deaths: Darryl Waisner, Patricia Loring, Celia Brown, Priscilla Zuck, Harry Nagel, and John Bowles
New members: Ash-Leigh Brown, and Judy Williams. Betty and Brian Poynton changed from sojourning members to regular members.
Memberships terminated: Terry Austin, Walt Denny, Holly Green, Wenceslas Orizabal, Sarah Sebastian Holeman, Jessica Bailey, Rob Bailey
Total Membership: 93
The Advices were read.
The Queries were answered.

Report from Greenville

Monthly Meeting Clerk: Bruce Arnold
Recording Clerk: Richard Miller
Treasurer: Vacant
Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2017: Bruce Arnold, Richard Miller, Mary Miller, Elizabeth Rolfe
Representatives named to Interim Body Meeting: Bruce Arnold, Richard Miller, Mary Miller, Elizabeth Rolfe
Changes in membership: No births. One death (Bill Baker). No marriages, new members, or transfers. Total membership of 9.
The Advices were read.
The Queries were answered.

Report from Rich Square

Monthly Meeting Clerk: Barbara C. Gosney
Recording Clerk: John G. Parker
Treasurer: Robert E. Gosney
Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2017: Edward Pearce, Robert E. Gosney, Barbara C. Gosney, Judith V. Reece
Representatives named to Interim Body Meeting: Edward Pearce, Robert E. Gosney, Barbara C. Gosney

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Changes in membership: No births, but twin daughters (Annabelle and Juniper) born to member Caren Jones McFall and husband Nathan McFall. No deaths, marriages, or new members. Two members transferred. Total membership is 41 members and 4 regular attenders
The Advices were read.
The Queries were answered.

Report from Virginia Beach

Monthly Meeting Clerk: Jeanne Crawford
Recording Clerk: Joanne Crass
Treasurer: David French
Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2017: Those members who are present.
Representatives named to Interim Body Meeting: Tom Bertrand, Gayle Cameron, Nancy Craft, David French
Changes in membership: No births. One death (A. Robert Smith). No marriages. Two new members (Deborah Reilly and Mary Pelham White). One transfer from our meeting to the Norfolk Worship Group. Total membership is 136.
The Advices were read.
The Queries were answered.

Report from West Grove

Clerk: Charles Ansell
Recording Clerk: Charles Newlin
Treasurer: Janis Ansell
Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2017: Members in attendance.
Changes in Membership: None.
The Queries were answered and the Advices read in the face of meeting.
The Lord is with us.

Report from Wilmington

Monthly Meeting Clerk: Huey Marshall

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Recording Clerk: Teri Butler and Pat Dareneau
Treasurer: David Hensler
Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2017: Cheryl Fetterman
Representatives named to Interim Body Meeting: Cheryl Fetterman and Goldie Walton
Changes in membership: Jane Bushnell born March 6. No deaths. No marriages. New member Cynthia Doran. Total membership is 31.
The Advices were read and the Queries were answered.

8. Welcome from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington

Emily Perry, University of North Carolina at Wilmington Conference Services Assistant and rising junior at the university, welcomed everyone to campus for the week. She updated everyone on current summer renovations and anticipated facility upgrades and expansions. Other groups in residence on campus this week include an AFL-CIO labor gathering, a jazz camp for accomplished middle and high school students, and a martial arts camp, and recently finished hosting a conference of teachers.

9. State of the Society Reports

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

Davidson Monthly Meeting

Although we are a small meeting with not too many people who serve on committees, we appreciate how well we do and how much we do. Our Building and Grounds Committee has taken on having more cleaning and paper products that are environmentally friendly and non-scented for the benefit of our community. It has reorganized our meetinghouse cleaning. We used to do it as individuals; now we do it as a whole community, which makes it fun. The First Day School Committee has managed to provide a program and teachers for our young

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people, even though that stretched the meeting and the committee members.

Peace and Social Concerns has been meeting more regularly. It has involved the meeting in a project with Lily Pad Haven, an agency that serves women who have been victims of human trafficking. It has also prepared information about voting options for elections and information about issues of concern to Friends, providing ways to contact legislators.

Ministry and Counsel works to build community. It has supported individuals who have experienced family losses. Thanks to the gifts of one committee member, it sends birthday cards to people in the meeting. It puts on programs, such as our annual Talent Café, monthly simple lunches, monthly QuakerSpeak videos, and special Christmas events. The committee also invested in our ability to provide hospitality, buying matching dishes and glasses and having plans for more silverware. This means we have enough for special occasions and they are easier to use. While the committee successfully sponsored a program for the Davidson community on what happens after a death, doing adequate publicity is a weakness. Reminded on several occasions that we do not all use the same spiritual language, we continue to wrestle how best to be an inclusive and yet diverse community.

We have yearned to grow in numbers and involvement in our meeting. And in fact this year we have had for us a significant number of new people. We regret the loss for Rich Square while celebrating our gain in having Brandi and Chris Murcko and their daughter Ruby. Their attendance, presence, and energy have offered a real boost. We have been blessed again with involvement of new persons from Davidson College—a new faculty member and several students. One of the students wrote a research paper about our meeting and attended regularly. She graduated from a Friends school and has enjoyed being back with Friends and the gifts meeting for worship gives. There also have been other newcomers—Young Adult Friends and some attenders stirred by this year's election

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results.

Our appreciation for one another has been highlighted in a meeting hike and participating with one member in the celebration of his 70th birthday. This year it was time for significant committee changes, and once again we have been able to have that happen, for which we are grateful.

Durham Monthly Meeting

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. - Luke 6:38

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. - James 1:2-4

Durham Monthly Meeting is in a period of bounteous growth, with many new Friends experiencing the Joy of Spirit in our midst. We celebrated the arrival of six babies, born to members and attenders. We often worship with a full complement of 90-120 souls holding one another in the silence and sharing the messages of love, hope, and challenge coming to them. The First Day School lovingly cares for 40-50 children and youth each First Day; we are blessed to have them in our midst, and we are often inspired by their honest expressions of love and creativity. After several years of discernment, planning, and fundraising, we have nearly completed the build-out of the lower level of our meetinghouse. This will allow us to better house the many activities in our meeting, and to invite more community members to share in that space. It is an exciting time in the life of the meeting.

At the same time, our meeting faces challenges, both inward and outward. We sometimes struggle to fill positions of responsibility in our community, and some Friends feel fatigued

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and spent, perhaps from doing too much labor on behalf of the meeting. Two committees have recommended that the meeting consider hiring paid staff to support important work in the meeting, including coordination and administration of the programs for youth and children, and management of the maintenance of our grounds and facilities. Friends sometimes feel weary when we consider all the needs for spiritual care and support in our community, including the needs of families struggling to care for older folks with growing physical and mental infirmities. At the level of our community, state, nation, and the wider world, Friends in Durham are often struck by the amount of work needed in order to “see what Love can do” to heal a world that seems to be in the throes of disunity and hate. It is a challenging time in the life of the meeting.

These tensions that can arise - between bounty and scarcity; between following our human thoughts and impulses and “letting go and letting God”; between the comfort of unity, love, and connection, and the harsh reality of prejudice and division - these tensions challenge us to continue to honor the testimonies of our Quaker forebears. Can we find it in ourselves to trust one another, to answer that of God in each of us, to love our enemies, to do the work that is required to heal our part of this world?

Following are some of the important minuted decisions of the meeting over the past year:

- Directed the clerk to sign design and construction contracts for the renovation and completion of the meetinghouse, based on a careful process of planning and fundraising.
- Labored with the Care and Support Committee to find ways to lighten and reorganize the work of tending to this large meeting.
- Participated in the clearness process to release the Hillsborough Worship Group, which had been under the care of Durham and Chapel Hill Meetings, so that it could become a separate monthly meeting - Eno Friends

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Meeting of Hillsborough - affiliated with Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting.

- Labored with the Youth Ministries and Children's Ministries Committees to discern how best to support and nurture this important work in our meeting.
- Accepted the recommendation of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee to become a member of Durham CAN (Congregations, Associations, and Neighborhoods), a broad-based, non-profit organization that works to coalesce, train, and organize communities in Durham across religious, racial, ethnic, class, and geographic lines for the public good.
- Supported the proposal of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee to take under its care the Refugee Resettlement Project, and approved the necessary funds to support an expected family.
- Approved a minute on climate change prepared by the EarthCare Witness Committee.
- Recognized the loving work of Friends in hand-crafting a square for the Monument Quilt, as a statement of support for all victims of sexual assault and to celebrate the courage and Spirit of all who have suffered sexual violence.
- Held a two-day workshop for meeting members and attenders by the Durham organization Dismantling Racism Works (dRworks). The workshop was attended by 77 participants (5 youth and 72 adults).

Friends in the meeting continue to reach out to one another in smaller group settings, finding spiritual nourishment in the intimacy such a group can engender. The annual Women's Retreat in the spring and the Men's Retreat in the fall have been much-loved opportunities for sharing spirit and fellowship. Two "Experiment with Light" groups are meeting regularly to explore ways to deepen Quaker worship, using methods devised in 1996 by Quaker and theologian Rex Ambler following his study of early Friends' writings. The annual Meeting Reads forum

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focused on *Just Mercy*, Bryan Stevenson's book about the role of race and poverty in our justice system. We were joined that day by Robert Singagliese, a lawyer in the Office of the Capital Defender in Durham and a former law fellow at the Equal Justice Institute, founded by Bryan Stevenson in Montgomery, Alabama. Several Couple Enrichment groups have been gathering monthly to hold and support each other in working to strengthen their committed long-term relationships. In addition, many Friends find that committee work can be spiritually nourishing.

Our meetings for worship with attention to business have been blessed with 25-30 Friends in attendance most months. We sometimes struggle with the urge to speak from our personal opinions, rather than waiting on God to inform our words. But more often, the gathered body is able to come together in the Unity of the Spirit that pervades all, and to earnestly seek what we are called to do as a community. When Friends release their individual concerns and settle down together into that place of quiet reflection, so many things become possible!

Friends have noted that, even with the large number of folks in attendance, our meetings for worship are often blessed with a deep silence, out of which messages are often spoken by new voices. At times, we are led into surprising places of tenderness by the younger children in our presence during the first 15 minutes of worship. Their songs and murmurs can become our guidance into the later part of worship. We deeply value the time after worship, during which we share joys and sorrows, introductions of new Friends, announcements pertaining to the life of the meeting, and fellowship. The Ministry and Counsel Committee has worked hard to support the spiritual life of the Meeting, including care for Friends with extra needs and educating the community on Quaker faith and practice.

Looking forward to the coming year, our meeting faces many points of discernment regarding how to balance our many leadings with the time and resources we are able to devote to

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them. We find this a very exciting prospect, and we trust in the Spirit to guide us.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting

Fayetteville Friends Meeting is a smaller meeting, usually with four to seven people in attendance. Frequently we've had eight to ten people for worship; perhaps there's quantitative growth on the horizon? We continue to have visitors regularly; we have long accepted our home in this transient community. Life-changes among members, attenders, and our loved ones allow us opportunities to support each other and to shift responsibilities within the meeting. We thank Bob Cooper for his years of being our recording clerk.

Ministry: we are reading and discussing the book *Living Buddha - Living Christ* by Thich Nhat Hanh for our Adult Discussion hour. Anne and Blayne Olsen of Davidson Monthly Meeting led an Adult Discussion class on learning more of George Fox's messages via Margaret Fell. Outside of worship, we've supported Quaker House and other like-minded organizations by sponsoring and by attending events that speak to our missions of peace and social justice: the CROP Hunger Walk, the Moral March in Raleigh and HKonJ People's Assembly, and the Alternatives to Violence Program. We participated in an interfaith Thanksgiving service; and we agreed to help support Friends House in Moscow. Members and attenders are active in other faith communities; our presence in the wider community helps strengthen our bonds within meeting.

Fellowship: Meeting began offering hymn-singing before meeting for worship when resident pianist Lynn Newsom was available. We appreciate her gifts as we sing our way to worship. Meeting connected with Friends through Interim Body Meeting and yearly meeting, Piedmont Friends Fellowship, and Friends General Conference's annual gathering. We've hosted Coastal Friends Gathering three times this past year. We continue to express our gratitude for the work of the Discipline Revision

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Committee. We will miss the Newsoms after they retire and leave Fayetteville; we value the contributions they have given. We look forward to our relationship with Kindra Bradley as she settles in to her new journey with Meeting as Quaker House's new Director.

Growth: Meeting continues to become more welcoming: we have ongoing plans to update our website and to create a scrapbook before our official 35th anniversary in 2018.

Friendship Monthly Meeting

We have found many ways in which to be present with the Spirit during this year. Our meetings for worship on First Days are covered by the Holy Spirit and deeply felt by those present.

There is the feeling that as we have moved forward through the year, there is more calm and deeper quiet times as we seek the sense of the meeting when conducting business. God is shepherding us forward holding us and reminding us to be hopeful and faithful in these times.

We continue with regular Bible Study, Quiet Tuesdays, midweek meeting for worship at Friends Homes Guilford, men's group, the annual welcoming of new Guilford College students and faculty, and a monthly worship sharing opportunity called Deepening the Spiritual Life of the Meeting.

We were blessed to have a weekend visit from Brian Drayton from New England Yearly Meeting who led our fall all-meeting retreat. He also led a forum to help us answer the questions from the meeting about recorded ministry. Our spring retreat was one which opened our minds and hearts to the possibilities sensed by moving among the different rooms and outdoor spaces of our meetinghouse and property. The suggested queries invited us to quietly contemplate while visiting these spaces and write personal responses.

We are planning for the meeting's expansion using our newly acquired properties by approving a site plan for new construction. The new building will contain a larger worship space and will be connected to our present structure. We desire,

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as a meeting, to be more visible to the community, in part, by making the street corner that is now part of our property inviting and welcoming. Our efforts to fund the expansion of our worship space are ongoing with substantial success, but we still need to raise a considerable amount to reach our goal.

Our committees are acting to do the work of the meeting. Our Religious Education Committee is blessed to have the caring assistance of students in Guilford College's Quaker Leadership Scholars Program. We have used our resources to provide scholarships for our young people to go to Quaker schools and summer camps. We have given support to others attending the School of the Spirit, Broken Vessels Quaker Ministries, our yearly meeting annual sessions, and Friends General Conference Annual Gathering.

Recently, we have revisited our way of determining the status of our members and have agreed upon a process for terminating membership of long inactive or lost members. We have revised our bylaws and our articles of incorporation to better reflect Friends' language and ways of conducting meeting business.

These changes both comply with our laws and protect our members. With encouragement from our Finance Committee and the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, we are in the process of transferring some of our resources to a socially responsible Self-Help Credit Union account and away from traditional banks.

In Seventh Month 2016 the Meeting undertook the sponsorship of a refugee family of four from Syria. This has been a joyful experience for many in our community. We created an ad hoc Committee for Refugee Resettlement and they are coordinating the assistance that is provided to the family. We happily celebrated the graduation from Guilford College of Hailey Pyu Pyu Han whose family came as Burmese refugees jointly sponsored in 2007 by New Garden and Friendship Friends meetings. Friendship's members have continued their

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contact with this family as well as with several other formerly supported and sponsored families.

We hosted Interim Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) in the fall and the Friends General Conference Committee for Nurturing Ministries in the spring.

We held a committee clerks' breakfast meeting for the first time in a long while. We now have fifteen or so committees, so there was much to share with each other about our individual committee responsibilities, challenges, and needs.

We are saddened by the passing of six of our members.

We rejoice in welcoming two new members and in the membership transfer to Friendship Friends Meeting of formerly sojourning Friends. All are active participants in our community.

Greenville Monthly Meeting

Greenville Friends have had an active year since the last time North Carolina Yearly Meeting met in 2016.

In October, our beloved Bill Baker passed away after a lengthy period of declining health, including all-too-frequent visits to the hospital. A teacher and life-long activist for social justice, he will be missed by our meeting, by the Greenville Unitarian Universalist fellowship in which he was also active, and in the community at large. A memorial service at the UU fellowship was well attended.

In April, John Heiberg, husband of Brenda Heiberg, a regular attender of the Core Sound Worship Group, passed away after a sudden decline. John came to worship with Core Sound Friends from time to time, and was well-liked by all for his humor and fund of stories of his interesting life. A memorial service was held on the sailboat on which he and Brenda lived and cruised the oceans for many happy years before coming back to earth in Vandemere (Pamlico County).

Greenville Monthly Meeting laid down the recording as elder of Joanne Holden, with gratitude for her many years of service in that role. She has been unable to attend meeting for some time now, although Friends visit with her at home.

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Richard Miller has continued to work with the Interfaith Ministry in Greenville, serving this year as co-chair. They have put on several panel discussions of general interest to the interfaith community, which is comprised not just of Christians but of other faiths in the Greenville area as well.

Meeting for business approved adoption of a minute on racial justice as the official statement of our monthly meeting, and agreed to post it on our Facebook page. Many of our members are active in social justice concerns, and with the current climate in our state and nation, we feel that this is deeply needed.

The Cypress Glen Retirement Community, where we've met for a long time, re-finished the room where we hold meeting for worship. It is a welcome update in furnishings and decoration. During the time they were at work on it, the Millers welcomed us into their home for worship.

In May, we co-hosted a representative from Friends House in Moscow with the Greenville Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Julie Harlow spoke to a small group of Friends and UUs, and reported to us that it was a successful event. We're pleased to be able to have such opportunities, and to have such a cordial relationship with the Greenville UUs.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting

During the past year we in Rich Square Monthly Meeting held at Cedar Grove meetinghouse believe and are thankful that our meeting is viable and faithful despite the very small number of us who live in or near Woodland, NC. Reviewing our minutes and query answers indicates this is the case.

Homecoming at Cedar Grove, our largest event each year was cancelled at the last minute due to Hurricane Matthew. The Cedar Grove Friends Meeting, Incorporated annual board meeting was held during torrential rain on the day before the scheduled homecoming celebration. The majority of board members live at great distances from Woodland. We are thankful those who were traveling, safely returned home that afternoon

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before the area highways were completely impassable. We look forward to 2017 Homecoming the second First Day in Tenth Month.

Throughout the past year our meeting has actively encouraged two members and one local attender who live in Woodland to nurture and support people and concerns in our town. This support is both spiritual community building and financial. In addition to community outreach with the Woodland Children's Community Garden and Little Free Library near the meetinghouse, those of us who live in Woodland are quite active in ecumenical and civic projects and events which offer inclusive participation for local residents across racial and social classes. Members who live farther away also are involved in similar activities where they live. Friends in Salem-Black River Allowed Meeting in South Carolina send financial support to the meeting for Woodland concerns as well as doing similar work where they live. We join neighbors in our localities for celebrations and concerns. When we differ with the exclusionary views expressed by some neighbors on various issues, we try to listen and respond out of love. In Fourth Month our meeting shared a statement on racial justice at interim body as a response to the yearly meeting's concern on that topic.

Our meetings for worship at Cedar Grove usually have five to seven people present except on monthly meeting First Days when more members travel long distances to be present for business, worship and our shared meal. We appreciate the internet which facilitates maintaining more direct and frequent communication with members and attenders locally, in neighboring states and internationally. We are thankful for the faithfulness of far distant members and their families who maintain a prayerful concern for and support of the meeting. During the past year we welcomed a new regular attender and lost two distant members who moved to an assisted-living facility in Greensboro, transferring their membership. We rejoiced with our member Caren Jones McFall and her husband Nathan McFall with the birth of twin daughters in Portland,

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Oregon. Annabelle and Juniper McFall were born Eleventh Month 19, 2016.

Friends at Cedar Grove welcomed Coastal Friends Gathering on Second Month 4 with Friends visiting from Fayetteville, Greenville and Virginia Beach Monthly meetings. During the past year three members of our meeting travelled to Wilmington Meeting and to New Bern and five members travelled to Fayetteville Meeting for Coastal Friends Gatherings. We appreciate the opportunities for worship, fellowship and shared meals at these events. Five members have represented our meeting at interim body meetings.

Our meetinghouse, which was originally built in 1869 with additions of restrooms and two wings nearly 100 years later, is requiring extra maintenance attention. We appreciate the building and grounds maintenance leadership of members Bob Parker who travels 170 miles one way to Woodland at least twice each month and Evans Heath who lives 20 miles away. Both Rich Square Monthly Meeting and our more recently formed Cedar Grove Friends Meeting, Inc. share a commitment to maintain the meetinghouse and make renovations as necessary. Our current concern is to locate and repair the sources of leaks in ceilings, especially when the wind blows during heavy rains. We also are mindful that electrical wiring needs upgrades. We see our meetinghouse not only as a historic building, but as a foundation laid by earlier Friends on which we can build to serve our present and future here in northeastern North Carolina.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting

Within the last two years, the Virginia Beach Friends Meeting (VBFM) members have endeavored to deepen the commitment to grow our faith community. Our Ministers, Elders, and Overseers (MEO) are evaluating ways to recognize the spirituality and sense of the meeting. The members of meeting attend with open minds and hearts, gathering in silent communion that strengthens each of us. Unity continues due to

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our developing transparency within our committees and members. Our meeting has lost one of our oldest members, Robert Smith. We miss his presence, his sense of humor and wisdom.

The meeting's relationship with our school has become even more energized by joint events. Meeting members often attend school events and volunteer as substitute teachers. A group from the school and the meeting attended the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Spring Lobby Weekend for Young Friends in Washington DC on Third Month 18-21. The search for an interim head of school for next year is underway.

Hospitality continues after each First Day meeting, providing a chance to meet visitors and share fellowship. The majority of our membership is aging, requiring the exploration of instillation of an elevator within the near future.

Our Young Friends First Day continues to be active; the leaders have developed a curriculum that allows the rotating teachers to be consistent in their presentation of Quaker education. Our Adult First Day, which meets every third First Day, completed the Pendle Hill pamphlet, *Metaphors of Meaning* by Linda Wilson. At present the Adult First Day leaders are in the process of developing a new curriculum to reanimate Adult First Day for the coming fall.

Improvements to our meetinghouse continue: the meeting room ceiling has been repaired, new lights have been installed and brick pointing has been done to our front steps. These improvements are continued evidence of caring for our beautiful old building.

The Creeds Preparatory Meeting in Munden Point continues to move forward. Every fifth First Day faithful members of the VBFM visit for a shared meeting. The two meetings often partake in a potluck and sing-along after the services and have named the happening as The Humdinger.

Ministers, Elders, and Overseers held one workshop this winter. It was presented by Deborah Shaw, which was well attended by our members. MEO strives to consider the need of

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members that require support, attention, and aid.

Peace and Social Justice (P&SJ) Committee continues to stay active with the FCNL General Committee. Four members attended a Day for All People in Richmond, VA again this year, lobbying for social issues. In order to combat our helplessness after November election, two of P&SJ Committee members created a board that is up in the meeting room, for people to stick Post-it notes on sharing their own personal concerns and the actions they will take. This is to combat the danger in succumbing to our fears and to a feeling of powerlessness.

Communication Committee is working to restructure the website with an eye to supporting the development of a handbook for our own meeting. Work continues on “About Us”, archiving our newsletters. The committee was commended for its excellent work in keeping everyone informed of meeting activities.

Our two prayer groups still meet regularly on Fourth Day morning at 8:30 am and evening at 7:00 pm. They both continue to provide strength and blessing for and to all of us. These groups provide a very intimate sharing.

In view of the long-standing road project by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and how this will affect our physical estate, VBFM continues to work on our strategic plan for growth. The planning stages have been in limbo due VDOT lack of communication.

West Grove Monthly Meeting

We feel a oneness with God and work to dwell in the resulting inner peace. Our call remains to love God with all our heart and our neighbors as ourselves.

Our monthly meeting for business begins after a few minutes of social discourse at the rise of meeting. Consideration of the Queries has been a centering force in our meeting this year. We have not been overburdened with business issues; queries became our central focus. A question here or there in each query

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required us to look at our individual and corporate lives in ways we have not been able to do in the recent past.

A paper read by Bruce Arnold, in the face of interim body in Tenth Month 2016, was referred to Monthly Meeting for consideration. West Grove read the document at meeting and began discussion the following week. We know Friends' history with inequality. Friends have continued to identify, speak to, and walk the talk since the Society's founding. We heard the words in this paper calling us to deeper questioning of our implicit participation in injustice through our failure to act or speak our Truth.

The eleventh query, answered in Eleventh Month 2016, brought us to the conclusion that we are aware of our shortcomings in reverencing God in every individual. How is West Grove living into and working to rectify existing social injustice and racial discrimination? Individually, we strive to do so each in our own way though we realize we are not acting as a meeting body on any efforts toward this end.

Daily events worldwide sharpened our search for a way forward in working on reconciliation and peace locally, nationally and worldwide. The sixth query began our challenge to prayerfully walk the path Christ shares. In anticipation of discussion of the seventh query, friends ask each other to search their hearts in preparation for Seventh Month meeting for business to ready ourselves to consider how we are to let our corporate life speak.

Meeting enjoyed warm and educational discussion about revisions to the Faith and Practice this year. Our sense is the yearly meeting is blessed by a committee of faithful Friends grounded in God's presence and with a deep and respectful knowledge of the Society of Friends history and belief. Thank you, Discipline Revision Committee.

West Grove has a growing number of members and attenders engaged in farming. While this commitment keeps one close to the earth and God it also can make attendance challenging due the demands of farm life. In Eighth Month 2016 meeting enjoyed

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a potluck at Lee and Larry Newlin's Peaceful River Farm to wish Corena Owens farewell as she departed to Warren Wilson College. After a successful freshman year Corena transferred to Meredith College to complete her undergraduate work. She will begin the upcoming school year as a Friends Committee on National Legislation Advocacy Group leader at Meredith and within the surrounding area.

West Grove member Janie Newlin graduated from The Hawbridge School Fifth Month 25 and plans to attend Alamance Community College starting in Eighth Month for their University Transfer program. Her high school activities and recognitions include:

- National Honor Society
- Spanish Honor Society (service projects and Spanish tutor)
- Thespian Honor Society for theater—she was in several plays during her high school years
- Hawbridge Helpers, community service club.
- Alamance County 4-H—active club member, County Council Officer, delegate to 4-H Congress twice
- Volunteer at Burlington Animal Services and Camp Royall

We have been blessed by visitations from Deborah Wallace of Hillsborough Friends Worship Group. As a Quaker House board member Deborah has shared updates of their work.

A letter of introduction from Marlborough Monthly Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting, for Hubert Karreman was read in the face of meeting for business in Fourth Month. Marlborough Friends noted Hue's gift for vocal ministry and committed him to our care. Hue attends meeting with his wife, local farmer Suzanne Nelson. We are richly blessed by their presence.

Ruth Anne Chillardres, a Virginia Beach Friends Meeting member and Alamance County resident, regularly attends meeting for worship, sharing her light and love with us all. She is a yearly meeting American Friends Service Committee member. Friends are thankful for information she shares about

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AFSC. We are also delighted with Bob Childres' presence in meeting.

Lee and Larry Newlin's role as loving grandparents grew this year with the arrival of their third grandchild, Evangeline (Evie). Layered on top of this joyous task, the Newlin's have managed to remain the busiest farmers, local food advocates and practitioners in this part of North Carolina. On occasions when a busy life physically separates us, we know we are together in all that God has created.

The Advices were read in the closing moments of meeting for worship in Fourth Month with each person present sharing in the readings. Our hearts were opened.

We Hold Thee in God's Love – Right here Right now.

Wilmington Monthly Meeting

Wilmington Friends Meeting members and attenders continue to meet in harmony and expectant anticipation of Spirit at ten a.m. every First Day at 202 North 5th Avenue in Wilmington, NC. Our meeting welcomes all members, all attenders and all who search for faith and meaning. Usually we gather in groups of ten to fifteen with fewer or more attending over time.

In our meeting for worship with attention to business we strive to be open not just to each other, but as well to the Spirit within us all. This year we have been led to express our faith in various ways. One attender's leading prompted us to raise funds to supply our local detention facility with 500 copies of *We're All Doing Time*, a book that explores the great expectation of finding peace, acceptance and spiritual expansion in a restricted, controlled environment. Our goal is to expand this project to include a discussion group with inmates who may want to explore the principles expressed in the book with other seekers.

Another member's blessing inspired us to throw a baby shower for a baby who "had it all." Member Daylen Bushnell and her husband, David welcomed their first born, Jane Margot, on March 6, 2017. Naturally we wanted to honor the new family

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with a baby shower, but the new parents-to-be asked that we not host a shower for a baby completely outfitted by first time grandparents and friends. So we threw a baby shower that honored the Bushnell's new baby, but donated the gifts to our local homeless shelter, Good Shepherd, mindful that babies born and young families housed there are in greater need than those of us blessed with caring, financially stable families.

And yet another member encouraged us to participate in our local National Public Radio fundraising campaign by putting together a team of Friends who spent a very enjoyable four hours answering phones, bantering with donors while taking pledges for financial support. After the election in Eleventh Month, we hosted several discussions among ourselves, members of Grandmothers for Peace, and Buddhists with whom we still share worship space, and other interested persons about how to heal, understand and grow from the present divisive and troubled political environment.

Other highlights of this year include our welcoming a contingent of traveling Friends from meetings as far away as Charlotte, Virginia Beach, Durham and Beaufort Friends meetings who visited us in Eleventh Month. Their joyful and faithful presence was a real blessing to our small meeting. We are thankful to all who took the time and considerable trouble to meet with us.

In addition to the birth of Jane Bushnell in Third Month, we were happy to welcome long time attender Cynthia Doran in Second Month as our newest member and though this year.

Aside from our spiritual yearnings, we try to keep pace with the idea of finding ways to be of service and "walking cheerfully" about the world. In this vein, we have contributed a contribute what we can to our community. Friends belong to Grandmothers for Peace, volunteer at Communities in Schools, in Brunswick County Schools, at Good Shepherd Center, on the boards of Friends School of Wilmington and Quaker House, and as a sponsor to Topsail High School Key Club. These efforts bring us much satisfaction in being able to be of service as we

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walk our faith with “boots on.”

While our financial position took a serious hit this year with the need to replace our ailing HVAC system this summer, we look forward to hosting yearly meeting at UNC-Wilmington in Seventh Month and look forward to what we hope will be many years of fellowship, growth and seeking to come.

10. Yearly Meeting Ministry and Oversight Request

Richard Miller brought a minute from Ministry and Oversight requesting yearly meeting endorsement for a travel minute by Friendship Monthly Meeting for Lloyd Lee Wilson's ministry and work with Broken Vessels Quaker Ministries. Friends approved the yearly meeting clerk endorsing Lloyd Lee's minute. Richard also asked for Friends to provide him with informal feedback on the current workings of Ministry and Oversight in light of their recent focus.

11. Travel Minute from Visiting Friends

A travel minute from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) for Doyle and Cheryl Wilson was read. Friends approve the clerk endorsing this minute.

12. Committee to Write the Summary of Exercises

Nathaniel Corwin and Robert Gosney agreed to help draft the Summary of Exercises.

13. Southern State Worship Group

A report from William Geary on the Southern State Worship Group was read.

The 22nd Report of the Southern State Quaker Worship Group to North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative), Sixth Month 24, 2017

Dear Friends,

It has been awhile since I was able to travel to be among you at yearly meeting time. It is my hope that next year- being the

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worship group's 30th anniversary- we may be able to report again in person.

This past year has been a challenge in that our group is largely now Hispanic with men being drawn from many parts of Central and South America. Since we as conveners have very modest skills in translation and at times the men are Spanish only - we have relied more and more the listening to that place where words come from. The group has varied from two or three up to ten and as you would expect from a faith tradition aspect - largely Roman Catholic.

In addition to the men listed in a group letter, two of the men who have come and gone also bear mentioning. Georg, a man from Ecuador, was a very enthusiastic member. The group helped him through a rough time as he tried to reconnect with his estranged mother. Georg was an active participant - prayerful in what he shared and very committed to being part of the broader Quaker community. In fact, he very much has it in mind that he would like to start a Quaker meeting in Ecuador or Colombia. William was a younger man filled with the Spirit and served for a period of time as our translator. We no longer see him for he was transferred to a prerelease program outside our prison.

Our program has also changed in supportive leadership. Roshan Dinshah turned 91 and had to withdraw. We are grateful for his twenty-plus years of service as teacher, convener and counselor. Thomas Etherington from Mullica Hill Meeting joined as a co-convener last summer and has been a most helpful and nurturing presence.

We trust NCYM-C recognizes the importance of our relationship with you. The existence of an outside group who has continually demonstrated personal interest in our men over time is huge! It gives a sense of hope where there is little and a sense of divine grace in the present as we realize that others are holding us in the Light. The abiding ministry to our group by Lloyd Lee, Kristen, Nan and Bob has had great impact on and in the hearts of all.

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I leave you with a few words from a hymn our Hispanic members have taught us. It gives some dimension to their great faith in God and in the works of the inward Christ: "Open the eyes of my heart Lord, open the eyes of my heart. Pour out your power and love as we sing holy, holy, holy....I want to see you." On behalf of the Southern State Quaker Worship Group;
Bill Geary

Kristen Olson-Kennedy shared on the relevance of the ministry happening at Southern State Worship Group as part of our work as Friends. She stressed the importance of reaching and touching of hearts of those who may have very different circumstances and life experiences from our own and supporting the work of those who are searching. Friends are encouraged to write letters in response. Responses in Spanish are especially welcome if there are Friends with those language skills.

14. Friends Emergency Material Assistance Program (FEMAP) Report

Judy Reece reported that FEMAP has now been operating for seven years as a stand-alone organization. It has a long history as an outgrowth from an initiative established decades earlier by the American Friends Service Committee but becoming independent as AFSC programming shifted. Judy shared a report of activities in the past year, including distribution of over 670 kits and a successful tea party fundraiser that raised \$4,600 through ticket sales and a teapot auction. The kits are distributed to a variety of schools, organizations, and initiatives – both in North Carolina and to Haiti through a High Point Friends School project. Friends are encouraged to support through financial donations and through contribution of knitted items and other sewn items.

15. Report on Trust Fund for Travel in the Ministry

David Perry reported on the Trust Funds.

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Beginning Balance	\$4,668.15
Reimbursements for the Year	\$300.00
Additional Receipts for the Year	None
Interest for the Year	\$607.68
Fund Value Seventh Month 1, 2017	\$5,275.83

The trustees authorized one request in the amount of \$300.00 from the “Travel in the Ministry” fund during this fiscal year. Andrew Wright had led a workshop titled “Who Are Conservative Friends” at the 2017 gathering of Friends General Conference at Niagara University in New York. The workshop allowed Friends to explore their own beliefs and commitments. This is the third year that Andrew has led workshops at the gathering. Andrew experienced this as an opportunity to share the understanding of Christ experienced by North Carolina Conservative Friends. We look forward to hearing about how Andrew was used in this ministry.

Although \$300.00 was distributed from the yearly meeting checking account on behalf of the fund, at the time of this report it had not been withdrawn from the fund to reimburse the yearly meeting. This should happen shortly.

The trustees continue to encourage Friends who are led to seek assistance through the Travel in the Ministry trust. In addition, the trustees encourage the yearly meeting to search for other avenues of income to support this important commitment. A brief history and an application are posted on the yearly meeting website.

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

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

16. Virginia Beach Friends School Report

The report received from Friends School of Virginia Beach was read.

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Greetings to everyone from the community of Friends School of Virginia Beach.

As my final year at Friends School of Virginia Beach comes to an end, it has flown by in a blur of happy students, academics, Meetings for Worship, athletic events, art, music and theater presentations, sustainability and Stem projects. On June 10th we ended with a wonderful and very moving graduation.

I feel blessed to have had the honor of working with such a dedicated group of teachers, and the pleasure of my day to day interactions with the students will always be fondly remembered. This is a truly wonderful school.

Our new, inquiry based curriculum has been gradually implemented this year and we are confident that it will enhance the development of those important 21st century skills of critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity in our students.

In the summer of 2016, new faculty computers were purchased to replace the aging ones bought in 2011. The entire Upper School has been using Chromebooks throughout this academic year. We were able to extend the one-to-one Chromebook program through Middle School as well as a two-to-one Chromebook ratio for Fourth and Fifth Grade.

The Quaker Testimonies set us apart as a school and we have continued our commitment to stewardship of the environment. Our latest endeavor involves making buffers from discarded oyster shells and crabpots for a marsh shoreline restoration project. Students now have waders and life jackets and are ready for the next phase of this project which will be the actual reclamation phase in the Lynnhaven inlet!

Our students take pride in their school's Quaker roots and attending the Quaker Youth Leadership Conference each year is considered a great accomplishment among our high school students. This year six students went to Brooklyn Friends for the annual conference.

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We have had significant growth in the performing arts over the past two years. Productions for 2016-2017 were Charlie Brown and Annie. Both performances were very professional.

In the fall of 2016 a consultant was hired to help the school identify its market and to define what people are truly seeking and expecting from Friends School. This initiated a complete revamp of our communication systems with an emphasis on better utilization of social media.

We have strengthened our community outreach partnerships with The Mattaponi Indian Tribe, JCOC and the Families of Autistic children of Tidewater (FACT). FACT shares our campus in the summer for summer camp and uses the gym and classrooms after school to host some of their programs. This summer our Pre-K teacher Sue Nelson retired after 29 years of service to the school. Her dedication to the Mattaponi Indian tribe will be remembered through a community service award named in her honor.

We now have an excellent campus master plan which will start with the construction of a middle school building as soon as the capital is raised. This master planning exercise revitalized the school and we are looking towards the future and the possibility of the first new building with optimism.

While the School Committee engages in an extensive head search, the school will be run by a very able and experienced interim head, Mr. Jack Lewis. He is the former head of Cape Henry Collegiate School.

I wish the members of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting all the very best for the future. Thank you so much for your continued interest in and support of the Friends School of Virginia Beach.

In Peace,

Linda Serrette, Head of School

17. Yearly Meeting Sponsored Bolivian Student

A letter was read from Deysi Kall Gutierrez, a new student sponsored by the yearly meeting through the Bolivian Quaker

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Education Fund. The letter shared examples of activities she accomplished this past year as part of her studies in the psychomotor specialists program at the University Salesiana of Bolivia, some description of her family's circumstances, and her own spiritual journey. The letter also included photographs to accompany the letter's text.

18. Discipline Revision Committee Report (Part 1)

Andrew Wright explained what is now available on the yearly meeting's website from revision work done thus far and the multi-step process the committee is following. There is a link on the yearly meeting website to the most recent version of the Interim Discipline. It includes a contents list detailing where each section is in stages of development and the approval process. A request was made for the committee to develop a draft process on how the approved sections will go through editing for style and consistency so that all have a clear understanding for how the discipline will be finalized once substantive approval is given to each individual section.

The Historical Sketch section was presented for second approval. This section received first approval at the 2016 session and will be brought back again once final discipline editing is completed for third approval. Later in these sessions, a new section proposing the ability to offer a method for the yearly meeting to make small changes with yearly meeting approval without undergoing a full discipline revision. The Historical Sketch was recognized as a sketch rather than a complete explication of our history. Appreciation was expressed to the committees care in drafting this document to inform us and provide others with an introduction to us. While many are ready to approve and there was overall easiness with the document, additional discussion time will be provided before it is brought back so that Friends may reflect further.

The Special Occasions section was presented for second approval. Clarification was requested and a minor change made

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to the portion on oversight committee's reporting of marriages. With that change, the Special Occasions section was approved.

The Policies and Procedures Manual section is a statement on how the manual is maintained and revised. Friends spoke about the usefulness of the extracts for this purpose. It was recognized that we are transitioning from an often oral culture of long time yearly meeting members learning from one another directly to more need for written processes to assist those coming onto committees and taking on roles of responsibility in the yearly meeting. The extracts currently serve as a proto-type and are proving useful to committees. Further discernment will be done in the future for how this might most effectively transition into the Policies and Procedures Manual and be maintained over time. Friends gave second approved the Policies and Procedures Manual section as presented.

19. Finance Committee Request

Last year it was suggested that the yearly meeting's Finance Committee look into the possibility of changing the yearly meeting's accounting period (fiscal year) from July to June to January to December. The Finance Committee discussed this at length and came to unity to recommend to the yearly meeting to switch to a calendar year accounting period. The transition would begin by extending to financial year that began in July 2016 through to December 2017. The twelve month budget ended on Sixth Month 30th so there will be a six month unbudgeted period. Expenditures typically made during that period will be paid by the yearly meeting's treasurer. These expenses would be approximately \$1,300 and include monies for yearly meeting directories, published minutes, and administrative costs (i.e. envelopes, post office box, and web site bills). No additional money is requested as there is currently money in the checking account. The next fiscal review will then include the entire Sixth Month 2016 to Twelfth Month 2017 time period once the transition year is complete. A budget for the 2018 calendar year will be brought for approval at the 2017

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annual with understanding that some adjustments may be needed at the Tenth Month Interim Body Meeting.

The recommended transition plan to change the fiscal to one based on the calendar year was enthusiastically approved. The treasurer is authorized to pay all usual bills and to draw on reserves as needed to meet those needs. The treasurer is also authorized to draw on the temporary restricted travel fund for any \$300 travel advances requested by named representatives to Quaker organizations.

20. Visitors Welcomed

Lynn Newsome, current director of Quaker House of Fayetteville, introduced Kendra Bradley, incoming Quaker House Director.

21. Friends Historical Collection Report

Gwen Gosney Erickson, Librarian and College Archivist, presented a report from the Friends Historical Collection at Guilford College.

Much appreciation and gratitude to NCYM(C) for the increase in budgeted annual support and to Fayetteville Monthly Meeting for their generous donation last academic year.

This summer is one of major change and commemorative celebrations. Recent months focused on shifting all of the rare books, meeting records, manuscripts, and other archival materials maintained in the Friends Historical Collection to set up better spacing for growing collections and to make use of the compact shelving installed for much needed archives expansion last year. Summer activities also included a presentation and small exhibit highlight the fiftieth anniversary of the Friends World Conference at Guilford College – a notable event for Friends in our yearly meeting at the time as they welcomed many visitors to their meetings. The Friends Historical Collection is supporting programming this fall relating to the American Friends Service Committee's centennial.

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Partnership work continues with the Friends Center, especially with initiatives relating to documentation and programming about the Underground Railroad in the area that is now Guilford College. A grant provided funding for trail development in the college's woods and creation of a curriculum for school-age children. Successful applications were submitted to the National Park Service's Network to Freedom program to gain recognition for Guilford College's campus woods and for the New Garden Friends Meeting Cemetery as sites of historical significance.

Major changes are occurring among North Carolina Friends with new relationships and structures developing as North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Friends United Meeting) transforms into a new structure comprised of two associations. The Friends Historical Collection continues to seek partnerships with Friends' meetings and churches, regardless of affiliations, to maintain and preserve records documenting the Society of Friends in the southeastern United States. Many of these relationships evolved from longtime connections over the past century. Efforts are being made to formalize relationships in this time of change to reaffirm past practices.

Friends approved for the yearly meeting clerk to sign a memorandum of understanding with Guilford College to document our prior yearly meeting actions naming the Friends Historical Collection as the yearly meeting's designated repository for records and the relationship between North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and its meetings and Guilford College's Friends Historical Collection to accomplished the work of preserving and maintaining our records.

22. Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Report

Tom Bertrand reminded Friends that there is an FCNL report to meetings from FCNL General Committee Clerk and

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NCYM-C member Eric Ginsberg and FCNL Executive Secretary Diane Randall available at <https://www.fcnl.org/documents/288>. Tom encouraged any Friends not already on the FCNL mailing list to sign up so they may be better informed of this important Quaker work and ways to connect. He reminded Friends of our yearly meeting's representatives to FCNL. As a representative, Tom is currently serving on the FCNL Field Committee and as a visiting Friend. He has been able to attend recent meetings at FCNL to gather with Friends to address pressing issues and concerns. Tom spoke movingly of his participation in a recent twenty-four hour interfaith Faith4Medicaid vigil on Capitol Hill to advocate for healthcare access. He also commended Eric Ginsberg for his committed Spirit-led work clerk of the General Committee and the Executive Committee Board and Diane Randall's leadership as Executive Secretary. He also raised-up the excellent work of FCNL staff as leaders among the faith-based groups dedicated to this bi-partisan work. Eric Ginsberg encouraged Friends to learn more by attending an FCNL interest group session later in these yearly meeting sessions. He also reminded Friends of the importance of engaging in local district work with their elected officials.

23. Letter to Absent Friends

The letter to absent Friends was read, amended, and approved.

Dear Absent Friends,

Greeting to you in the Love and Light of Christ!

As we gather for our 320th annual session you were present in our hearts and through the Spirit. You are precious to our spiritual fellowship and your presence was missed.

With this letter, we send a copy of the Summary of Exercises, Epistle, and Young Friends Epistle so that you may have a sense of our gathered time together.

We pray that way might open for you to be present with us in the coming year as we gather for Interim Body Meetings and

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next summer as we gather for the 2018 sessions at Guilford College, if in accordance with Divine Will.
Blessings and Love,
Nancy Craft, Clerk

24. Visitors Welcomed

Visitors newly among us since the previous day introduced themselves.

Lee Finklea, friend of Friends

Lori Fernald Khamala, member of this yearly meeting but now attending Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting and attending sessions on behalf of the American Friends Service Committee

Erin Schroder, Atlanta Monthly Meeting, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association

25. Discipline Revision Committee Report (Part 2)

The Historical Sketch section was brought forward again with one word change to simplify the sentence relating to the complexity of Friends work with colonization of formerly enslaved persons. It was recognized that this sketch is not a work of history but is an important story of our yearly meeting. The paragraph on our struggle with slavery is an important piece of who we are. It has both historical and continuing relevance, showing Friends struggles to acknowledge not just that there are injustices in our midst but also the direct impact of these injustices on our neighbors as fellow human beings. Friends gave second approved the historical sketch section except for the paragraph dealing with Friends and slavery. This one paragraph will be brought back separately for approval once the discipline review committee has time to consider further in light of insights shared.

The Beginnings Section was presented for review. Rather than a historical sketch, this presents selections from the words of early Friends. Friends gave first approval for this section as presented.

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The Introduction to the Discipline section was presented for review. This section includes an overview of what disciplines have been historically for our yearly meeting and the revisions that have occurred over past centuries. The section closes with a reminder that our discipline is not to serve as a letter of the law but as a guiding document for us in our faith and practice. Concerns were raised regarding the words used and the connotations those words hold both within our yearly meeting and beyond. The use of the term “doctrine” is one that the yearly meeting needs to better understand – both what it means to us and how it is heard by others. These are larger questions that simply vocabulary choices. Work with later sections will allow us to delve more deeply in this ongoing conversation in our understanding of doctrine and its’ meaning and role in our yearly meeting. With this understanding and changing the phrase “Doctrine and Procedures” to “Faith and Practice,” Friends gave first approval to the introduction.

26. Finance Committee and Treasurer’s Report

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Treasurer Susan Lees provided an overview of the 2017 budget, income, and expenditures. The summary report of total yearly meeting assets and liabilities is not available at this time.

		2016- 2017 Budget	2016- 2017 Action	Differ- ence	2018 tenta- tive
INCOME					
	Monthly Meeting Contributions				
	Davidson	750.00	750.00	0.00	750.00
	Durham	3,600.00	3,600.00	0.00	3,600.00
	Fayetteville	500.00	500.00	0.00	600.00

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	Friendship	1,700.00	1,700.00	0.00	1,700.00
	Greenville	350.00	0.00	350.00	350.00
	Rich Square	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
	Virginia Beach	2,700.00	2,700.00	0.00	2,700.00
	West Grove	200.00	400.00	-200.00	200.00
	Wilmington	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
	Monthly Meeting Contributions Total	12,300.00	12,150.00	150.00	12,400.00
	Other Income				
	Individual Contributions – unrestricted	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
	Individual Contributions – Directory	0.00	7.00	7.00	0.00
	Individual Contributions – Journal	0.00	46.00	46.00	0.00
	Nonmember Contributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Bookstore Revenue	0.00	748.74	748.74	0.00
	Prior Year Contribution: check return	0.00	8.00	8.00	0.00
	Interest Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Other Income Total	0.00	1,309.74	1,309.74	0.00

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INCOME TOTAL		\$12,300.00	\$13,459.74	\$1,459.74	\$12,400.00
EXPENSES					
	<i>Administrative Expenses</i>				
	Operating Expenses	300.00	215.08	84.92	300.00
	Website Costs	256.99	0.00	256.99	260.00
	Bookstore Expenses	0.00	51.73	-51.73	55.00
	Publication of YMtg Directory	250.00	246.94	3.06	250.00
	Publication of Minutes	900.00	520.98	379.02	600.00
	Publication of Memorials	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Publication of Journal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<i>Administrative Expenses</i>	1,706.99	1,034.73	672.26	1,465.00
	<i>Donations to Organizations</i>				
	AFSC	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
	Indian Affairs	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
	FCNL	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
	Quaker Earthcare Witness	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
	Quaker House of Fayetteville	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00

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	RSWR	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
	Friends Center at Guilford	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
	Friends Historical Collection at Guilford	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00
	FWCC	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
	Pendle Hill	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
	Guilford College	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
	Carolina Friends School	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
	New Garden Friends School	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
	Friends School of Wilmington	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
	Virginia Beach Friends School	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
	School of the Spirit	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
	<i>Donations to Organizations</i>	5,800.00	5,800.00	0.00	5,800.00
	<i>Other Expenses</i>				
	Internships/Scholarships	1,200.00	600.00	600.00	1,200.00
	Travel (General)	500.00	409.92	90.08	500.00
	FWCC Travel	2,500.00	1,680.10	819.90	2,500.00
	Travel in the Ministry	0.00	300.00	-300.00	0.00

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		<i>Other Expenses Total</i>	4,200.00	2,990.02	1,209.98	4,200.00
		EXPENSES TOTAL	\$11,706.99	\$9,824.75	\$1,882.24	\$11,465.00
		BUDGET SUMMARY				
		<i>Total Income</i>	12,300.00	13,459.74	1,459.74	12,400.00
		<i>Total Expenses</i>	11,706.99	9,824.75	1,882.24	11,465.00
		<i>Net Difference</i>	\$593.01	\$3,634.99		\$935.00

The 2017 budgeted income exceeded the budgeted expenses from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 and the actual income and expenses resulted in a surplus of \$3,634.99. This surplus is from the travel funds and contributions for internships and scholarships. This means that any additional monies to be funded will need to come either from cash reserves or budget adjustments. These led Finance Committee to raise two larger questions:

- *How much does the yearly meeting wish to maintain in cash reserves?*
- *What is our relationship with the organizations we support?*

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting has requested that the yearly meeting increase its support to Virginia Beach Friends School from \$300 to \$1500. Virginia Beach gave several reasons, including:

- *The Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting supports the school financially with over \$10,000 a year, plus members of the Meeting provide many hundreds of unpaid hours serving on the school committee, teaching, fund-raising, etc.*

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- *If Friends education is to continue to be available, it must be supported financially by Friends everywhere. We think that members of our yearly meeting do want to have Friends schools available for our children and others.*
- *A few years ago the yearly meeting reduced financial support for most organizations, but we think the time is right to reverse that decision for the Virginia Beach Friends School.*
- *The school has maintained its accreditation and its strong record of graduating students who are making successful transitions to college education or other useful careers, and is well regarded in our local community.*

The current answer that the Finance Committee has is that we are not ready to make a recommendation to the yearly meeting regarding Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting's request for increased annual support. Individual Friends spoke in support of our commitment to education and are invited to provide additional support, either individually and through our monthly meetings, to Quaker schools and other Quaker organizations listed in the yearly meeting annual budget.

Friends approved the 2018 budget as presented. This budget is for January through December 2018. Some adjustments may need to be made at the Tenth Month Interim Body Meeting, especially as we transition the dates of our fiscal year to match the calendar year. We will also examine the question of our reserves and the levels of support we are able to provide to organizations

Judy Williams of Friendship Friends has asked for \$600 in scholarship money to continue learning with the Deeper Roots of the Broken Vessels Quaker Ministries. Her monthly Meeting also supported her with \$600. Finance Committee has this money in reserve and recommends providing this scholarship assistance to be paid in the 2018 financial year. The yearly meeting approved this funding request.

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Eric Ginsberg offered to investigate how our contribution line currently listed as “Indian Affairs” might best be directed and will share his findings with the yearly meeting and the Finance Committee.

Last year the Finance Committee was tasked with two questions: to determining what level of support is possible in future years to support international Quaker students coming to Guilford College and to consider if there is a need to establish a Special Projects Fund for the future (as this fund was depleted this past year by instruction of the yearly meeting). The Finance Committee was in unity that a Special Projects Fund was not needed. The Finance Committee was in unity that currently there are no funds to support international Quaker students coming to Guilford College.

27. Quaker House Report

Lynn and Steve Newsom presented a report of the impressive work of Quaker House of Fayetteville over the past year.

The Quaker House GI Rights Hotline answers thousands of calls from active duty military, veterans, and their families. The number of calls to the hotline continues to increase. This year our Hotline counselors answered an average of 246 calls per month for a total of 2,948 calls. The counselors most rewarding yet most time consuming work is helping service members obtain conscientious objector status, guiding and providing moral support as they move through regulations, delays and at times deliberate roadblocks of the command structure. They also have been busier than ever helping service members who are being threatened with other-than-honorable discharges. They are being accused of “misconduct” or “personality disorder” when they actually suffer from PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury, Moral Injury, and/or Military Sexual Trauma. We help them prove their medical condition so that they can receive an honorable discharge and their medical benefits. We have helped bring national attention to this problem.

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Quaker House also continues the important work of providing free and confidential counseling and support for the victims of military domestic violence, sexual assault, and moral injury. Our therapist, Joanna, is a valuable support for our GI Rights Hotline counselors. They have been able to refer several suicidal service members to her and know that they will be in good care. The reputation of the program has grown both in the community and on base at Fort Bragg. The service is often the last resort for those in need of help. Funding for the program is tenuous and any and all contributions are appreciated.

We continue to travel to reach out to new audiences providing education and information on moral injury. We presented for a military chaplain's retreat for the officers in the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, the annual Baptist Peace Fellowship conference, the Asheville, NC, VA social workers and many others.

Quaker House facilitates Alternatives to Violence Project training and provides Truth in Recruiting literature and information. In addition, Quaker House provides a warm and welcoming place for people in the community to meet. Mindfulness classes and an AA group meet weekly and musicians perform house concerts frequently.

We help conduct, in partnership with Fayetteville NOW, the Fayetteville-Cumberland Human Relations Commission, the public library, and the Cumberland County Association of Educators, regular public discussions on race relations called "Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity" and "Mirrors of Privilege." One of these series brings together students from Fayetteville State University, a traditionally African-American university and Methodist, a traditionally white university. We were invited to do the program for a high school in Fayetteville that was dealing with racial conflict. We advocate for teaching conflict resolution in the public schools. We spoke to the Cumberland County Schools social workers about the importance of conflict resolution and also recommended the use

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of the Cracking the Code series. Viewing the Cracking the Code DVD is now required for all school principals.

We continue to witness and work against the use of torture and militarized drones. We host educational forums on many subjects that relate to peace and justice issues.

Our relationship with personnel at Fort Bragg continues to grow. Through work with the military chaplains and mental health care professionals, a closer association developed which allows Quaker House to provide information and services on base and personnel at Fort Bragg make referrals to our programs. In addition, we continue to attend and present at the Bragg Region Behavioral Healthcare Collaborative, Community Blueprint (we are now on their Advisory Committee), the Behavioral Health Professionals Association, Greater Fayetteville United, and serve on the board of CARE Domestic Violence Center.

Quaker House took up the issue of the poor mental health care provided for the more than 250,000 incarcerated service members and veterans. This issue was brought to our attention by the tragic case of a service member in Fayetteville who was sentenced to 10-18 years in prison for an offense that was brought on by his severe PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury. We are working with his family and lawyer to help him, and we organized a petition and a vigil calling for “Adequate and Compassionate Mental Health Care for Service Members and Veterans” nationally. A committee was formed with VA and veterans’ groups to advocate for “Veterans’ Dorms” in prison, a program that is being utilized in several States. We will be doing a presentation at the Governor’s Working Group for Service Members and Veterans on July 27. We also provide support for Bowe Bergdahl when he comes to Ft. Bragg for his hearings. His family is very appreciative of our support.

We published two books this year. Help for Moral Injury: Strategies and Interventions was written by Cecilia Yocum, Ph.D. She volunteered to write the book after hearing our moral injury presentation. It is selling nationwide and even as far as

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England. Curt Torell, our board treasurer, wrote Conscientious Objection: Is This for You? Discerning a Claim and Documenting It with Selective Service. It, too, is reaching a wide and appreciative audience.

Quaker House was featured in two QuakerSpeak videos this year. One was an interview with our GI Rights Hotline counselors, Steve Woolford and Lenore Yarger, about their work. In the other, Curt Torell discussed “How to Become a Conscientious Objector.” Both videos brought attention to the work of Quaker House.

We led the November PFF/PFYM retreat, “Quaker House: Helping our Victims of War at Home,” featuring our GI Rights Hotline Counselor and our domestic violence, sexual assault and moral injury counselor. The team shared personal stories of the service members and veterans that Quaker House helped over the years.

Wilmington, NC, Friends School invited us to do a presentation on the ‘History and Mission of Quaker House.’ The kids had many questions for us!

This has been a year of awards for us! In February, we were given an award for our work to help service members and veterans from Mountaire Farms. The Fayetteville/ Cumberland Human Relations Commission presented us an award for “our activities and programs which provide positive human relations and for being actively involved in the problems of the community.” NC Peace Action gave Quaker House their 2016 Peacemaker Award.

We hired a new director, Kindra Bradley, who will begin in September 2017. Kindra, a lawyer, will bring a high level of energy, experience, and commitment to Quaker House. She attends Spring Friends Meeting and the Quaker peace testimony resonates strongly with her. Raised in a military family, she is dedicated to helping the victims of war at home - our service members and veterans – and working to help our world understand that “war is not the answer.”

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We are blessed by the support we receive from NCYM-C corporately and individually. We could not do what we do without your support. Thank you all. However, we lost a major donor last year who contributed as much as 1/6th of our annual budget. We also have realized declines to donations because of retirements and deaths. So please continue to support us as best as you can.

As we look ahead, we see several issues that Kindra Bradley will have to face. Our 50th year anniversary will take place in 2019. We doubt that the founders of Quaker House ever thought that the need for our services would continue for so many years, and in fact grow continuously. We get by with three full time equivalent employees but could easily use more.

Another issue will be women having to register for the Selective Service (aka The Draft). That will most likely become law. The military wants a draft but it continues to be politically unpopular. This was a primary reason we produced our Are You A CO book. Militarism has become the norm in American society. This is indicated by school boards being required/coerced to provide Jr ROTC and college financing dependent on registering for the Selective Service.

There is something sinister happening. The Selective Service has geared up to a peak level. A West Point grad heads it. They have added employees and have modernized their computer system. In our state, all 100 counties have a Reserve center. Even in Africa, we have military facilities in 32 of 54 countries. President Trump currently adding 28,000 new soldiers bringing total Army strength to 1,018,000. We should be asking why?

Friends expressed gratitude to the Newsoms for their dedicated work and their faithful leadership as directors of Quaker House and extended a warm welcome to incoming director Kindra Bradley.

28. Nominating Committee Report

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Anne Olsen presented the Nominating Committee Report. Nominating Committee's recommendation to revise the name of the Minutes Committee to the Minutes Publication Committee to more accurately reflect the full work of the committee was approved and Friends reaffirmed that committee's description. Margie Dingman was recommended and approved to be the Recording Clerk. Gwen Gosney Erickson was recommended and approved to be the clerk. The process for nominating clerk and recording clerk has had a lengthier discernment process in recent years to allow full consideration of the nominees by our monthly meetings. While it is recognized that this process can be useful, it was also noted that both nominees are already well known by our entire yearly meeting and Friends approved not delaying full approval or transition of clerks. Incoming clerks will be in place by Tenth Month Interim Body Meeting.

Annual changes to committee memberships and appointments as representatives to Quaker organizations were presented. Additional appointments are still needed for a representative to Friends World Committee for Consultation and some other positions. It was advised that there is a need to more fully articulate the roles and responsibilities of our appointed representatives to Quaker organizations. It is recognized that there are many important positions and we are a small body of active members. Nominating Committee will continue their work and bring additional names forward to the Tenth Month Interim Body Meeting. With that understanding, the report was approved as presented. (See full report via listing of committees and representatives in Appendix.)

29. American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Report

Lori Fernald Khamala reported on recent changes and work by American Friends Service Committee with a focus on the Greensboro AFSC Area Office of the Carolinas.

Local Staffing Update: The North Carolina Peace and Economic Justice Program has been laid down. The loss of this

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position was a blow to our program and our overall work in North Carolina. Lori Khamala continues as the director of the NC Immigrant Rights Program. However, we now have a nearly-full-time Community Organizer in the Latinx community. (Note: Latinx is used instead of Latino or Latina to be more inclusive of all gender identities.)

Additional AFSC Staffing Updates: We have a new Regional Director of the South Region: Jacob Flowers. He is from Memphis but in the process (right now!) of moving to Atlanta with his family. Ann Lennon, long time AFSC NC staff and current Associate Regional Director, retired in March. Anyango Reggy is the new Associate Regional Director. A new General Secretary of the whole organization has been named and will start in September, Joyce Ajlouny, former head of the Ramallah Friends School.

AFSC Centennial: The national AFSC Waging Peace centennial exhibit will come to Greensboro from August-October 2017 at Guilford College. Save the date September 9, 2017 for a major event and fundraiser, held at the same time as AFSC South Regional retreat in North Carolina! Other Centennial projects include:

- Friends Historical Collection (FHC) companion exhibit: we are partnering with Guilford College FHC to sponsor a sister exhibit about AFSC local history which will be on display at the same time as the national Waging Peace exhibit.
- Immigrant youth art project: we are working with an artist consultant who will be developing peace/justice-focused artwork with immigrant and refugee youth to be displayed simultaneously with the Waging Peace exhibit.
- AFSC story collection project- we have interns and volunteers contacting dozens of people in the area who had some connection with AFSC to document memories and stories through AFSC's new Peace Works site, www.peaceworks.afsc.org. Anyone can submit a story!!

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- There is a First Day School Curriculum from the national office that we can share with local meetings: <https://www.afsc.org/document/afsc-centennial-first-day-school-curriculum>
- NC Immigrant Rights Program Director Lori Khamala attended the Centennial Summit in Philadelphia in April and presented a workshop on SanctuaryEverywhere (see below).
- We are encouraging local meetings to hold forums and fundraisers in honor of AFSC's 100 years!!

#JuanaShouldStay / Congregational Sanctuary: With the guidance of AFSC, Juana Tobar Ortega, has entered Sanctuary at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Greensboro, NC, becoming the first case of congregational sanctuary in the Southeast in recent times. You can learn more about this case at www.afsc.org/juana.

#SanctuaryEverywhere: Originating from the NC office, #SanctuaryEverywhere is a new initiative that is gaining traction nationally within AFSC to respond to the targeting of certain communities by the new presidential administration. There are great resources available at www.afsc.org/SanctuaryEverywhere and also at www.afsc.org/SanctuaryNC. Lori Khamala will be diverting some of her time to help in the national coordination of the Sanctuary Everywhere project.

Communities Against Islamophobia: Our NC office has joined AFSC's national Communities Against Islamophobia project. We will be hiring an intern part time to help coordinate this project locally, which will include local trainings and efforts to change the narrative around Muslims in our country. On Saturday, June 10, our previous intern worked with Muslims for Social Justice to organize a large event responding to an anti-Muslim protest in Raleigh. Nearly 300 people joined in saying "No to Islamophobia"! We have also been supporting a Palestinian family whose husband/father has been detained. Mosa Hamadeesa's daughter has a rare form of cancer being

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treated at Duke Hospital and Mosa was the only breadwinner in the household.

Triad Immigrant Organizing: Our community organizer Andrew Willis Garces, is working to organize and build power among undocumented Latinx communities. So far, they have been conducting Know Your Rights workshops and discussing bullying in schools with immigrant parents in many schools across the county and has even gotten the Guilford County School Board to support holding parent meetings in schools. In addition, we have held multiple Power of Attorney clinics for immigrants to plan to get their affairs in order in case of deportation.

Support for individual cases: We continue to provide limited support for one family in particular that has fled gang violence in Central America. The wife and son were approved for asylum several months ago, but the husband was detained. At court hearing last year, he got the best possible outcome he could have gotten, in part we believe, because of the support we mobilized and the video we produced to support his case, which both the prosecutor and the judge viewed and referenced. His final court hearing is coming up in July. Learn more about the case at: www.tinyurl.com/BringWHome.

NC Legislature: There was a plethora of anti-immigrant bills introduced in the state legislature this year. We were very engaged in lobbying against those and also in supporting measures for tuition equity for undocumented students.

Friends approved the clerk endorsing Lori's travel minute from the American Friends Service Committee.

30. Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Report

Kristin Olson-Kennedy and Elizabeth Rolfe reported on their involvement with and experiences as our representatives to FWCC this past year. Elizabeth shared how peace work and the welcoming of the other through hospitality is an important part of our work as Friends and is supported among Friends through

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FWCC. While large face-to-face gatherings are being reduced, FWCC is encouraging interconnections among the world family of Friends through the establishment of a Traveling Ministers Core with the first cohort going out through visitation this year. FWCC is especially encouraging Young Adult Friends join the next cohort of traveling ministers. Kristin stressed that this program is accessible to our meetings, regardless of size. She also encouraged us to nurture cross-cultural interactions with our diverse Quaker family in North Carolina by jointly hosting FWCC programming opportunities and with inter-visitation to encourage connection.

31. Hospitality Committee Report

Cheryl Fetterman presented a report of the Hospitality Committee. 109 yearly meeting registrations were received with 95 of those staying on campus and 20 young Friends attending. Gratitude was expressed to members beyond Wilmington who took on tasks to assist in hospitality preparations as well members of Wilmington Monthly Meeting who took on a variety of tasks and the multiple volunteer golf cart drivers during yearly meeting sessions. She also provided a preliminary registrar's report and an explanation of what the yearly meeting's registration fee is covering. The yearly meeting authorized Cheryl to grant refunds to those who had to cancel or leave early. Friends expressed appreciation for the hospitality and services Cheryl has provided for these sessions.

32. Answers to the Queries

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

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

Davidson: Our initial response is an overall yes. Members spoke of experiences in various meetings across the country and over years and have found that worship in this meeting is particularly grounded in the practice of silent waiting. There is a sense of that the mutual respect throughout the meeting serves as an encouragement for vocal ministry removing any barriers of judgment. The size of our meeting and willingness to know one another deeply as well as a sense that we appear to have a generous balance between those with deep faith and those seeking faith directions. We did note that although we are blessed with rich vocal ministry, it often comes from a few and that we need to consider ways to assure that we are developing all gifts.

Durham: The general answer to this query is, “Yes.” We are grateful to have some Friends who are moved to speak and we are also grateful for the depth and openness with which Friends listen to the Spirit in the words and in the Silence. Our Meeting is large which poses a particular challenge in maintaining a balance of silence and vocal ministry. Meeting for worship on most First Days includes several people who are in meeting for the first time and many people, in this college community, who have a cerebral approach to life, yet we often experience deep silence and profound ministry from all quarters – recent and long time attenders, young and old. Many people sought us out when

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they needed solace and inspiration because of political turmoil. It is good that our meeting for worship feels like a refuge in difficult times. It is also good that the meeting maintains a deep spiritual focus while welcoming the Christian language of our roots as well as a variety of other spiritual languages. We notice that our meeting space with its large windows allows for a focus on the natural world outside as well on the inner world. Although this seems to mark a change from the design of historic meetinghouses, some find that connecting with the trees deepens their worship. In our meetings for worship there is a sense of grounding, peace, and connection with Spirit and each other. It is also true that some Friends feel unsure about when to speak and how to approach the silence and would welcome more guidance. Sometimes meeting benefits from gentle reminders from Ministry and Counsel and our elders who guide and ground us. We are reminded today that one of the most important things maintaining the welcoming nature of the meeting is that Friends reach out to others and take the time at home to pray for each other and hold each other and the Meeting in the Light.

Fayetteville: We are faithful in worshiping in silent waiting based on an unprogrammed ministry that is shared by all. We feel that especially in times of trouble we are drawn together in a living silence. It was mentioned by one newer attender that she felt the meeting tried to foster openness to the living silence. We find that with or without vocal ministry we usually find ourselves feeling the power of the Spirit among us.

Friendship: As a meeting community, we welcome the opportunity to meet together regularly in open worship. We often receive vocal ministry that is well grounded and meaningful to all who are gathered that morning. In addition, weekly opportunities for contemplative practice on Tuesday afternoons and monthly Deepening the Spiritual Life of the Meeting sessions help to deepen our First Day worship. Coming to meeting with “hearts and minds open and ready to worship...” is

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an ongoing responsibility of each participant. As a community, we can always look for ways to help each other prepare for and appreciate both the silence and the messages that are brought to us.

Greenville: We come to meeting open to the possibility that there may be vocal ministry or silence. When there is silence it does not feel empty. When there is vocal ministry it does not feel forced. The experience of listening and allowing ourselves to be lead in meeting for worship is continuous with the rest of the week and with the entirety of our lives.

Rich Square: Yes, we do continue holding worship based on silent waiting which is free, unprogrammed and shared by all. The living silence feels more present some times than others, but we do feel drawn together by the Light of Christ in our midst. We trust that all who come are seeking to open their hearts and minds to leadings by the Holy Spirit. Our Meeting accepts vocal ministry and prayer as it is offered by those who are led to speak. We have meetings for worship weekly and, at times, also have mid-weekly meetings. We do feel inspiration carried over in our daily lives, and are especially mindful of this when we happen to miss meeting for worship.

Virginia Beach: With respect to these elements of our communal worship, we believe we are in good order. Whether we come with heart and mind open or a heart full and in need of clarity, the gathered silence and the spoken ministry that emerges out of it grounds us and strengthens us in our worldly work.

West Grove: We feel we are clear under the various heads of this query.

Query #2: Are we faithful in our attendance at meetings for worship and are we careful not to disturb the spirit of the

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meeting by our late arrival? Is our behavior therein that of open submission to God in silent communion?

Davidson: Query #2 was not answered by Davidson Friends this year.

Durham: Affirmation was given of how well meeting handles late arrivals; the system seems to work well. Members do seem to make an effort to come on time. And we should remember that by coming and participating we receive the actual benefit of communal worship with other Friends. Concern was raised about being careful not to be disturbed by late arrivals as a corollary to the query. It can be hard to hear the “still small voice” with so much coming and going and stress in the outside world. That after all is our legacy as Quakers, and our tradition, to speak out of the silence. Yet sometimes silence can be an “idol”—the point of silence is not about being quiet but being in open submission to the voice of God. The point is after all to be fully present, not just to show up to check it off as a matter of obligation. Concern was raised that if all came on time, space might be a problem. The query was written when the meeting was very small—if a few Friends showed up late it made it harder for the rest. That, like all our traditions, has changed and may change again.

Fayetteville: We feel we are faithful in our attendance at meetings for worship and don't feel that people who come in late disturb us. We do feel a strong sense of community in the waiting silence.

Friendship: Many of our members and attenders come regularly each First Day morning; while a few come sporadically, we seek ways to reach out to encourage them to come more often. Often several participants arrive before the appointed hour and help to settle the worship as others are coming in. Those few who do come late enter quietly without disturbing the worship. Midweek

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meeting for worship at Friends Homes is another opportunity for worship each week.

We are aware that we may arrive with “busy minds” and need some time to settle into the silence, but often the meeting finds an early deepening in our shared finding of the Spirit. Messages vary in length and depth but almost always come from a genuine sense of what God is calling the speaker to share. Much of our vocal ministry comes from concerns that are deeply felt, often from personal experiences. Messages through songs are valued. From time to time our meetings for worship are held in gathered silence only, but even then the Presence in the Midst is deeply felt. Only occasionally are discordant messages given or a sense of unease experienced.

Greenville: Not answered.

Rich Square:

Virginia Beach: While life’s myriad commitments keep us away at times, the meeting is fully gathered. The silence communion of Friends strengthens each of us. Opening our Meeting to all Friends sometimes makes late arrivals unavoidable, something we accept with love and patience, embracing each new presence.

West Grove: We feel we do try to live into the spirit of this query.

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?

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Davidson: Query #3 was not answered by Davidson Friends this year.

Durham: The thought that we should try to emulate Jesus in our own lives was a radical thought that came relatively late to Christianity. It was thought arrogant to seek to be like the Son of God - and this actually fueled the Inquisition. We find it important to cultivate a forgiving spirit, especially in these times when it seems that disagreeing with someone so often leads to tearing down and criticizing that person's thinking, intelligence and morality. It is a huge and radical act to listen to those we disagree with and still speak the truth without tearing people down. It seems perfect timing to consider this query at the Easter season, as that season brings together the best and the worst: the suffering of Jesus and resulting confusion and pain with the resurrection with its hope and joy. There is so much suffering now of those who are most vulnerable, but at the same time many groups are forming to defend and support and bring hope. It is important to remember that historically we have not always been successful in resolving our differences without conflict: witness the Hicksite and Orthodox split. But it is always important for us to try. Within our meeting, we feel that we do a good job in maintaining love and unity. Things arise and challenge us, but we work our way through. It is important to be proactive as possible conflicts arise, that we might watch for things that might catch flame and manage them to keep flames from engulfing us. It is this proactivity that makes Quaker process work. The query serves as an excellent reminder of the ways we can bring love into the political world, but we must also ask ourselves: How can we practice radical, transformative love when we are annoyed so easily by those we live with? How can we fill the world with love if we allow frustrations to guide us rather than love?

Fayetteville: Members said they came to meeting due to the teachings of Jesus. We try to be open to other's viewpoints and

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learn from them. When differences arise we try to use the Spirit of love and humility to help us in finding unity. We are lucky to have a gifted clerk who is skilled in determining the sense of the meeting.

Friendship: We do strive to maintain unity and while we may not be aware of some instances of discord, there does seem to be generally a forgiving spirit and a lack of destructive criticism. When some disagreements have occurred, those involved have made an effort to reach out to one another, to listen to one another, and to seek to understand differences.

We have a number of new attenders, many of whom are also new to Quakerism. We seek ways to ground them in our faith and practice. Our Queries are read throughout the year, thus reminding us of the Quaker way of life that seeks to follow the teachings of Jesus. We seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and understand that one way to test that that guidance is from the true Source, and not our own ego, is its consistency with the spirit of the Queries, and thus, the teachings of Jesus. The meeting is employing various ways to help us ground ourselves in our faith and practice.

Greenville: Every day we try to spend some time communing with the Divine Guide and often we hear no new advice but only direction to follow the standing orders. In any intimate relationship, and Quaker meeting is one, at times personal differences will lead to irritation. The need for a little patience with each other is just a normal part of human life.

Rich Square: We are prayerfully considerate of Jesus' example and his inspiration in our daily lives. We often find ourselves seeking deeper understanding of Jesus' teachings to guard against destructive criticism of others. Love and unity are constant among us so far as we know.

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Virginia Beach: Avoiding needless criticism of others is challenging in the present political season. Among us here a prior challenge is acknowledging differences that exist, moving outside the comfort of letting sleeping dogs lie. After listening comes working in love and humility toward honest and open life together.

West Grove: We feel we are in Christian unity one with another and do seek for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives.

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: While we understand the need for individuals to support meeting financially, we also see that people have differing resources. We recognize the need for our meeting to balance having enough funds to function and what is possible for people to give. We see that all our gifts, large and small, time and talent, wisdom and knowledge, create and feed who we are. Each of needs to seek ways to contribute; it takes everyone to make our community whole.

Durham: As a meeting we are doing well responding to the commitments we have made. We feel this is a result of our healthy process in reaching unity on those projects which leads people to be supportive. Our participation in the work of the meeting also seems healthy. In some organizations it is often a few who do everything; in our meeting it seems as though nearly everyone does something. Such a spirit of generosity is a natural and spontaneous movement from the heart. It is beautiful to be in a place where generosity is part of the air we breathe, We are grateful that the query acknowledges that time and skills are also gifts we can give and that it is not just about money. We are

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grateful to those who give their presence to our worship and to our business meetings, recognizing that for some this may be an effort. As our meeting has grown and continues to grow, we have created something really large that requires time, attention and money to maintain. Sometimes it is unclear how we shall meet such demands. We are working to find ways to sustain this growth and to share the message of participation to the newcomers who are so important to the process.

Fayetteville: We realize since we have no major expenses it may be easier to answer this query than others. It was mentioned that the meeting seemed to handle their finances well. It is felt our time and talent is given for the benefit of the meeting and others. Answering this query made us realize we need to reexamine our use of people's time and talents.

Friendship: As participants in the meeting, most members assume their rightful shares in the expenses of the meeting. We are also aware of each other's needs and share our own bounty as led. We frequently make the meetinghouse available to outside groups.

We are clear as a meeting that in our committee work and through other commitments, that we consider our time, talents and possessions as given us in trust. This includes our work with a refugee family, the Pathways shelter, and the emergency assistance fund within our meeting.

Greenville: We do our best to help others as we are able. At times we have trouble discerning the difference between a leading and a bright idea. We are human enough to feel disappointment at the lack of any obvious progress, but on the whole what matters is to be faithful in the measure of Light we have been given.

Rich Square: Friends use their time, talents and possessions to address the needs of others. This is evident in the fiscal health of

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the meeting as well as the continuing vitality of work in our community and with each other despite our small numbers.

Virginia Beach: Friends support the work of the meeting with money, time and dedicated service. Our budget commitments reflect our faith in what is to come and our sense of being only stewards of what the present has put in our care.

West Grove: We feel our members do assume their rightful share of the meeting's expenses and endeavor to give of ourselves for the benefit of others.

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?

Davidson: Attendance at meetings for business often reaches 75-80% participation of those at the preceding meeting for worship. This is in part because our numbers are small but is also a reflection of our sense of commitment. While we find examples of humor and patience in our work together that deepens our respect for one another and our ability to listen for guidance, we question the language of humble submission to the Authority of Truth as reflecting more the understandings of an earlier generation. Our sense is that we do seek Divine Guidance but that our description of our listening and letting go of our egos and opinions to find the greater good might better be expressed by contemporary terms.

Durham: We believe that our meetings for worship with attention to business are held in a worshipful manner and are grateful to the clerks who remind us to return to worship when things get rough. We note that our attendance now is probably twice what it was only a few years ago. We sometimes feel,

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however, the absence of significant people who may be affected by our decisions. Some people seem to attend only when there is a piece of business that is important to them or to a committee on which they serve. We understand that First Day at noon may not be convenient for some, but it is hard to find a time that fits all. We are particularly grateful to those whose gift to meeting is regular attendance. Being able to attend meetings for business regularly may be a generational thing. As with service on committees, there are times in our lives when we may be more able to participate. As a community we have trust that when we are unable to attend, those present are mindful of the entire community and its needs. With this trust, perhaps it is less important to be concerned about numbers and instead to focus on maintaining the worshipful spirit and to find joy and gratitude in the power of the Light.

Fayetteville: Fayetteville Friends meet the first First Day of each month for worship with attention to business. Breaking bread together and then gathering for extended silent worship before attending to business strengthens our bonds. We agree that the process of coming into unity is as important as the results. When we come to agreement, as a group we experience a sense of arriving, a palpable sense of motion and connection, and a release from tension, which we recognize as the Authority to act in Truth. Rather than feeling opposing views as a thorn in the side, we endeavor to listen longer with a spirit of peace, in this way we do humbly submit to hear that which might not occur in our individual minds. If we lay a concern aside for a time of contemplation, we are faithful to revisit and reconsider until we hear the Message that brings us peace. Becoming easy with that which was at first difficult we are able to join with the Divine.

Friendship: As we continue the process of planning to build a new meetinghouse, our meetings for business have been infused with a particular sense of purpose and the need to move patiently under the guidance of the Divine. Many faithfully attend

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meetings for business, though others find it difficult to do so, given their work and other commitments. The meetings themselves are held in a deep attention to the spirit, guided by our thoughtful and thorough clerk, who faithfully distributes matters for consideration in a timely manner, provides an inspirational or educational opening at each meeting for business, and guides our decision-making in right order, focusing us on the business at hand and keeping the motion of love first among us.

We have had threshing sessions as a means of providing and allowing for the free discussion of ideas and possible actions, utilizing these also as a way of gauging the leadings our members in the critical decisions we are making. We try to move forward with deliberate efficiency, never rushing decisions when the sense of the meeting is scattered, nor moving too slowly when it is clear that hearts and minds have found unity.

We are blessed by the presence in meeting for business of many well-seasoned Friends, whose familiarity with our Quaker practice both assists us in coming to a spirit-guided sense of the meeting and teaches others the way by their example. We seek way to encourage younger members and attenders to participate in our meeting for business.

Greenville: Meeting for business is held regularly, is well attended, and is conducted in a gentle spirit. A great portion of the time devoted to business is spent on examining our spiritual condition in answering one of the Queries.

Rich Square: There is a conscientious effort to seek the right course of action in all issues brought before us in a spirit of love, understanding and forbearance.

Virginia Beach: Our business meetings have been well ordered, carrying us through a prepared agenda with a good spirit and tone. For some, meeting for business is where we come to know each other best. And the patient search for truth found here

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carries into daily life.

West Grove: As a small meeting, we are not often tested with contentious issues but feel that if they did arise we would face them as the query advises, in humble submission to the Authority of Truth.

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: We reflected on experiences of raising children who do not remain affiliated with Quakers as adults. They may find other churches that fit their current needs but we can also see the ways they have retained Quaker ways in their lives. We can never do all that we wish within families and with the children in our meeting and community but we see evidence of our young adults seeking out meetings in other cities and grappling with moral issues with intelligence and insight. We expressed gratitude for all in meeting who work with children and young adults and who encourage others to do so.

Durham: Friends answered this query with a solid YES. People come to meeting with their children because of the spiritual nurture, and because all are welcome and accepted. And the successful youth programs draw more parents and their youth. The children wind up being well grounded young adults, with practice on their own in discernment. Concern was voiced about needing more volunteers to work with the youth. Sometimes the community follow through is not enough.

Sitting in the silence is truly a gift to our youth which they will carry into the rest of their lives. Sharing our faith and

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practice with others, especially the children, is a gift to them and strengthens our own faith."

Fayetteville: We responded to the query regarding the growth of our children as Quakers. Corporately we have had no children attend meeting regularly in several years. However, members and attenders have had opportunities to interact with and thereby encourage the spiritual growth of children and grandchildren in their own families, as well as with Quaker children in the course of attending Yearly Meeting.

Quaker House offered students from the Black History Club of a local high school to view the documentary, "Cracking the Code." It was agreed that this event touched these students even though they were not in attendance of meeting. It was felt that the documentary encouraged the students to embrace hope over apathy.

Some members expressed that they preferred interacting with youth at yearly meeting rather than attend business sessions. It was also noted that meeting encourages including youth in adult activities to the extent that it is meaningful to them.

Friendship: Our meeting has supported the spiritual development of our children through First Day school and all-meeting activities. In the past year, the Religious Education Committee members have facilitated First Day School lessons that focused on what goes on in Quaker Meeting and what it means to be in community with one another. The lessons discussed why people gather for meeting for worship and what happens in business meeting. We have engaged the children in discussion about respecting each other's individuality, resolving conflict, and learning how to center their thoughts. The activities included making meditation pillows, journals, and games. We continue to seek ways to engage our older youth in the adult First Day activities as their interests mature and their lives become more full with extramural activities.

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We endeavor to show the children they are an important part of our meeting and the wider community through a number of regular activities. On most fifth First Days, the children are responsible for facilitating our meeting for worship, including greeting people as they arrive at the meetinghouse, sitting on the facing bench, closing meeting, and making announcements. The musical talents of young friends were highlighted during our Christmas party. In addition, the children are the leaders in preparing snack bags each month for the children living at Pathways, a local shelter for families transitioning out of homelessness.

Greenville: The query got us to consider if we were attentive to the good arising unexpectedly in children and younger adults and if we encourage the young to take action on their leadings. After some reflection we concluded that we are faithful in this more often than not.

Rich Square: Although we have no children who attend our meeting regularly, there is an ongoing nurturing spirit of service to children in the community and to children when they are with us in spirit and in our presence. We continue to give through our community outreach, giving a scholarship for a student to attend 4-H Summer Camp, contributing to a Quaker booth at the Boy Scout National Jamboree, and seeking to be constantly aware of similar needs.

Virginia Beach: We have a wonderful teaching opportunity to model the process of how one person reaches inside and brings forth their spiritual gifts towards meeting the complex challenges of modern life. When called upon for guidance by the younger generation, it may take courage to discover our own truth to share with them. The school is our largest outreach to children and it does teach our faith and practice. Our meeting continues to maintain educational programs for children of all ages.

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West Grove: Not available.

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: At this, our first meeting for worship after the 2016 presidential election, this query has new resonance for us and we are grateful to have it before us. To an older understanding of war as something that happens between nations, we add a new awareness that wars can happen within a nation and that words have become even more powerful weapons. If we are to do our part to take away occasions for war and work for reconciliation and community, we must be willing to do the hard work that being in community requires. This calls for not just tolerance or ignoring differences but being face to face, listening in love. We hear a call to truly be living in the light and power, to turn to God.

Durham: not answered

Fayetteville: We are faithfully maintaining our testimony against nuclear and all military preparations, the bearing of arms, and all participation in war.

Friendship: Our meeting is deeply engaged in serving victims of war. Many members actively pursue efforts to welcome and integrate refugees from war-torn countries into the wider community. We have held and participated in forums to educate and offer witness to the need to welcome refugees. Some of our activities have involved cultural exchanges with local Muslim communities. Our meeting is sponsoring a Syrian refugee family of four and several of our members also collaborate with another

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meeting and with Guilford College's Every Campus a Refuge program to provide support for other families fleeing war in search of peace, acceptance and understanding. We support Quaker House and Friends Committee on National Legislation through our contributions and our participation in their activities.

At this time, much of our meeting's efforts have focused on ameliorating the effects of war. We need to be more mindful of seeking to be more faithful in explicitly maintaining our testimony against nuclear and all other military preparations, the bearing of arms, and all participation in war.

Greenville: The peace testimony is not an ethical stance that originates in our intellectual selves, but rather an experience that originates deep within and leads us to action to work for the social justice that leads to peace. Greenville Monthly Meeting is not in perfect agreement about the peace testimony, but we are substantially in unity.

Rich Square: In the past months, we have shared experiences in which those among us felt uncomfortable due to socio-political views expressed in our presence that we considered extreme, but that apparently are becoming mainstream. It is contingent upon us to seek inner guidance to represent our points of view in a way that makes clear that we do not agree with positions not in keeping with our core values, while respecting others, so dialogue can be improved rather than stifled. We have been made mindful of a portion of a prayer from St. Francis of Assisi that says, "Grant that I may not so much seek to be understood as to understand." The fact that individuals have shared openly with the Meeting in seeking guidance in this direction, speaks to the understanding that we seek reconciliation among individuals. There seems to be a collective sense of apprehension among us about the mounting nationalistic fervor in the United States and how this may foreshadow the need for us to be more active in taking formal positions against participation in war.

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Virginia Beach: The times challenge us, and we feel especially called, to focus on the work of reconciliation with renewed courage and dedication. This work begins with finding our own inner peace, emerges in face-to-face relationships with other individuals and matures into engagement with the larger community.

West Grove: We are called to be prayerfully searching for guidance in our way forward in the work of reconciliation and peace both locally and otherwise, and looking for guidance as to the right path for us. We feel we should do more to seek guidance to let our lives speak in the work of reconciliation in whatever situation we may find ourselves.

Query #8: Do we observe simplicity and honesty in our manner of living? Are we careful to live within the bounds of our circumstances, punctual in keeping promises, prompt in the payment of debts, and just in all our dealings? Do we choose those activities which will strengthen our physical, mental and spiritual life; and do we avoid those harmful to ourselves and others?

Davidson: This query was heard as offering different challenges. For some, it is how to respond without seeming to boast, for others it evokes reflection on the history behind the wording, and others see in it a call to living more deeply. We now face so many choices that call for careful reflection on all aspects of an activity—what does it bring to individuals and families and what are the costs. How do we learn the art of being in the world but not of it? We find that this query helps us be aware of blessings in our lives, encourages us in our struggle with choosing activities, in seeking moderation rather than suppression and finding healthy ways to engage with our interests. We also see the lessons we have learned about letting go of expectations and worries to be open to what is given us, the blessings of finding that as we get older things get simpler, and being able to be surprised by finding spiritual messages in unexpected places.

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Durham: This query undergirds our meeting. It informs our decisions and guides our witness in the world. A Friend asked, “What is it that we are doing to strengthen ourselves in order that we might live in this manner?” Another Friend noted that we avoid harm to ourselves and others when we attend to our own physical and mental health. While it is not always simple to live within our means, early Friends like John Woolman remind us that the manner in which we live is our witness. Each Friend carries a candle into the windstorm, and the miracle is that the flame remains lit throughout our lives and beyond them.

Fayetteville: We feel there is room for doing better in living this query. We feel we do live within the bounds of our circumstances. We feel like what we watch on television is usually for relaxation, but we could do better in choosing our activities. We feel using honesty is essential to living into this query.

Friendship: Living simply requires ongoing discernment about what separates us from our relationship with God. We honor simplicity and honesty. The meeting has paid its bill promptly and we have been just in our dealings. We have tried to invest our money wisely and are concerned about the social implications of our investments. We encourage and offer activities that are opportunities for strengthening our physical, mental, and spiritual lives.

Greenville: Simplicity is being straight-forward, paying attention to people around us and treating them right. There is an equivalence of time and money. As we make promises and commitments we find ourselves with “time debts.” Life is simpler if we pay off our time debts promptly. Being able to do this requires periodically reviewing and eliminating some of our old commitments so that we can pay proper attention to the ones

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that are vital. Taking proper care of our health is an important part of fulfilling our obligations to others.

Rich Square: As far as we know, we are living within the bounds of our circumstances, punctual in keeping our promises, prompt in the payment of debts, and just in our dealings. We recognize that our view of simplicity is shaped by the larger culture within which we live, a culture that places undue emphasis on material possessions and a style of living that is not sustainable: we search for true simplicity. We trust our members to choose those activities that are beneficial and to avoid those that are harmful.

Virginia Beach: As a meeting our financial dealings are open and payments prompt and within a realistic budget. Our shared life communicates the lessons of simplicity and honesty, and we feel our spiritual life strengthened in the meeting for worship, in working together on committees and in other activities.

West Grove: We feel we do endeavor to observe simplicity in our lives and live according to the various tenets of this query.

Query #9: Are we mindful of Friends testimonies against alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and other harmful drugs; and do we refrain from using them or dealing in them, realizing that abstinence is the clearest witness against overindulgence? Do we seek to avoid all kinds of gambling and places of diversion that tend to be demoralizing? Do we keep in mind how diverse and widespread are the temptations to grow richer at the expense of others? Are we faithful to our testimony against taking oaths?

Davidson: Once again, this query prompted reflections on language and historical context and our understanding and even knowledge of implicit and explicit testimonies against alcohol and drugs. Reflecting on how this query can be seen in the

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context of simple living, we recognized that we are more inclined to acceptance of moderation rather than abstinence as a way of life, yet for some of us there are strong temptations that make abstinence vital. This query also prompted reflections on beliefs about equality and social justice. In particular, the condition of growing richer at the expense of others, raised the concern of recognizing how our many privileges can be a way of enriching ourselves at the cost of others. We are called to take a harder look at our privileges and what work we are doing to ensure others have equality in advantages. In both the simplicity and equality aspects, we see this query as describing practices and values that Quakers have found to be inconsistent with our values and beliefs and a reminder to reflect on how deeply we live out our faith in the small acts of daily life.

Durham: This query may seem older, but it is reminding us of Friends' traditions regarding harmful substances and activities. Directed more to individuals than to us as a corporate body, it reminds us to examine all of the aspects of how we interact with the world and how these may get in the way of our direct relationship with God. It reminds us, too, of the Quaker history of being willing to go against social norms and encourages us to buck norms to follow our leadings. With regard to money, do we ask ourselves how we profit from the stock market or the equity in our homes? In a monetary exchange for goods or services, are the buyer and seller both clear about what is being exchanged and voluntarily a part of the transaction? For those with experience with harmful substances, are they available to help others struggling with indulgence? Do we encourage our children and new attenders to understand the history and meaning of our refusal to take oaths? The query indeed asks us to examine what is behind our simple daily decisions.

Fayetteville: Overindulgence takes many forms. This is much like having no other gods than making our spiritual life a

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priority. Most legal actions show inclusiveness by asking if you swear or affirm in the same sentence.

Friendship: As a meeting we practice abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, and other harmful substances in all meeting activities. Each of us wrestles to discern which personal behaviors compromise our moral and spiritual health and to avoid them. We strive to be mindful of the temptations to grow richer at the expense of others and avoid doing so. We know of no departure from our testimony regarding oaths.

Greenville: not answered this year

Rich Square: We believe we are mindful of Friends testimonies against overindulgence and that we seek to avoid those practices and temptations that are detrimental to ourselves and others. We are conscious of the many temptations in today's society to grow richer financially and in other ways at the expense of others and seek to let our actions demonstrate our commitment to our neighbors.

Virginia Beach: The query is complex and assumes fixed answers to prior questions that might be better left open. The assumption that abstaining from alcohol is an obligatory, for example, no longer lives for some of us. The spirit of the query remains; our faith has meaning when expressed in our lives. Our behavior speaks and it is good to be reminded of this. Not guilt but thoughtfulness about life is the point.

West Grove: This query generated a great deal of discussion, and we feel we are clear under its various headings.

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

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Davidson: As a meeting we are taking steps to extend our stewardship including Building and Grounds intentionally moving to using cleaning and paper products that are more environmentally friendly and seeking out native plants for our grounds in part to limit watering. We also continue to take advantage of ways to bring First Day classes into nature and appreciate that the design of our meetinghouse helps us be aware of nature during worship. We also acknowledge that some of our efforts are trade-offs, those who walk to meeting and otherwise limit car use help balance those who need to drive to attend our gatherings and whose presence is important to us.

Durham: *Durham Friends Meeting 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?*

As we consider how to live sustainably on the earth we are aware that our lives as middle class Quakers often reflect a lifestyle that uses a disproportionate amount of the earth's resources. But as Quakers we are also a part of a prophetic stream that has spoken against many forms of social injustice, and we can choose to be leaders in environmental awareness. Our Earthcare Witness Committee has a variety of programs planned for this year to help us to learn how to live simply that others may simply live. We are struck by the importance of local effort in developing a sustainable life. We are concerned about the coal ash spills in western North Carolina. We hope that the meeting can be active in providing information about the situation. The presence of hog waste lagoons in North Carolina

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that may overflow in heavy rains is another local issue that should attract our attention. The nature of climate change may cause feelings of panic, but it is important to remember the things that do not change such as community and sharing. As we connect in communities to work together, we can find joy as we endeavor to change the future together. We see that the decisions we make to live a sustainable life can be related to the decisions we make to advance racial justice. This is something we hope to explore more in the future. Whatever the future may hold, we would like to be able to look back and say that we appreciated what we had.

Fayetteville: We do try to live in harmony with nature, but feel we can always do better.

Friendship: Friendship Friends do endeavor to live in harmony with nature. Corporately, we recycle and compost, we made a major investment to reduce energy use in the heating and cooling of our building, and we are considering “green” choices for our new building project. But, we frequently use disposable dishes and plasticware for their convenience when more earth-friendly alternatives are available. In our modern world, actually living in harmony with nature is a major challenge. We are embedded in a consumer society. There is much more to learn and more to do. Given what we know about climate change, there is not a lot of time in which to learn it.

Greenville: We recognize as a fundamental truth that nature suffers and we suffer when we allow materialistic desires to occupy too large a place in our lives. Without a clear vision of practical solutions to global problems we find our personal contribution lies in maintaining right relationship to the whole.

Rich Square: We often feel helpless in a world that is dependent on chemical agents, genetic modification, and electronic alternate realities. We know that all life is connected. The

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complexities of the interaction of life in the world is beyond our comprehension, but we know that the expansion of human life on the planet has harmful consequences. We endeavor to minimize the damage to nature in our daily lives. We know silent worship brings us closer to nature and to God. We encourage and educate others in the responsible stewardship of resources; and, to reduce the use of harmful agents in our food, homes, land, and places of worship. We strive to minimize the risk of cataclysmic destruction of life via climate change.

Virginia Beach: Environmental consciousness is one of the core values of our school. As a meeting and as individuals we are committed to reverencing our world. We remind ourselves that extra vigilance is called for in these times as funds are withdrawn from public stewardship at the same time as we become aware of the magnitude of the threats to the well-being of people and to the earth's nonhuman inhabitants.

West Grove: As part of our commitment to good stewardship, we worship in a building which requires minimal fossil fuels, and we are aware of our connectedness with others who do not practice good stewardship and our responsibility to try to be good examples.

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: We believe that we are attempting to reverence that of God in every human being and to rectify existing social injustice and racial discrimination. We see that in the regular contributions we have made to local organizations such as Ada Jenkins, the Davidson Housing Coalition, and our town's Habitat for Humanity. We are also attempting to express care and concern for victims of human trafficking through celebrating

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birthdays of those in care and their children. We appreciate that our building is used for groups that cross racial lines, including an interracial bible study, the Beloved Community group, and marriages that have taken place in our meeting, making our meetinghouse a welcoming place for many. A member of our meeting helps us value the work of FWCC in caring in this way, and we value the support given to those in need in our own meeting. We would like to do more, but it is important for us to accept and value what we do and value its significance.

Durham: We appreciate the opportunity that a query provides to encourage us to live consistently with a question while delving deeper into where we are. Continuing revelation is a critical part of our beliefs, and we are aware that what represents our best efforts of a past time may not be adequate for today. Similarly our best efforts today may be bettered tomorrow. At any moment we can only try to do the best we can and not let wishes for the perfect get in the way of doing good. There are two parts of the query: the needs of the individual and social injustice. We are asked to seek that of God in every individual, which can be a challenge not only when we differ racially or culturally but perhaps even more so when we share different opinions. How much more a challenge it can then be to find reverence. But seeking that of God in another is a way to recognize the omnipresence and omnipotence of God. Socially, working for equality begins with recognizing that of God and continues into providing opportunities for education, advancement and economic opportunities. Our recent retreat on “Undoing Racism” has caused many of us to address how we participate in discrimination whether racial or otherwise. There is a tension between the needs of the individual and social good. How do we walk the path of doing both when we have recently become so divided? How do we find that of God in someone for whom we did not vote and whose policies may scare us? Some may find large ways to act through their jobs or volunteer work; others may find that they can make a difference in a matter of seconds

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by making eye contact, offering a smile or being engaged. During the election and following it, atrocious things were said on both sides, but we must remember that we have a country to rebuild and we must work together to do that. Sometimes to find that of God in others, we must find the basic common good that we do share so that we can stand together on common ground. Our prayer for us as individuals and for us as a meeting is that we may continue to speak truth to power at the same time as we seek that of God in everyone.

Fayetteville: Reverencing that of God in every human being is integral to our faith; we show this individually and corporately. One member attended another faith community's spiritual education class on loving our Islam neighbors; their spiritual leader spoke of "everyone having that Light within." Meeting actively supported a Muslim-and-supporters peace rally on their spiritual land; we were joined by former members and attenders. This is not a creed we recite; Quakers live it. We also financially support organizations working toward eliminating injustices and through attendance at Quaker House sponsored events.

Friendship: God loves every human being equally and we aspire to reverence that of God in all however, we are having a difficult time reverencing those who have opposing political views. We are challenged in the current culture to love as we ought. We will continue to try. Friends are troubled by the many challenges facing our world including war, famine, ethnic and religious conflict, refugees, LGBTQ and racial discrimination, environmental issues, destruction of native lands, and abuse of power by those in positions of authority. We are also troubled by the level of political tensions within our own nation and state. Friendship Meeting attempts to address these issues in many ways.

Our Peace & Social Concerns Committee has held forums on several issues in order to educate and inspire us to action. A special ad hoc committee for refugee resettlement has been

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active in helping a Syrian family, and meeting members have maintained relationships with refugee families that we have resettled in previous years. Gestures of friendship are made to local Muslim communities. Friendship has continued a donation system to supplement the food pantry at First Friends, and after school snack bags are sent to the children at the Pathways transitional shelter. Other Friends organizations such as AFSC and FCNL are supported in the Meeting budget, and other local justice initiatives are given support on occasion. Other Friends are politically active in parallel efforts to eliminate injustice through the political system. There are those among us who give their time to careers or volunteer work based on eliminating injustices, and we strive to support their efforts.

Greenville: Individual members are very active with several community organizations working to foster social justice. Our current focus is on interfaith and interracial work. Greenville Monthly Meeting, though small, has also been active in promoting social justice.

Rich Square: We all long for a world free from social injustices and racial discrimination. Each of us in our varying situations work for the peaceable kingdom through the relations we form, the organizations we support, and the examples we set. We believe we are seeing progress in the Woodland community. We know that true progress only comes by the Spirit of God working in human hearts. We seek to be open to that Spirit, trusting that it can work in anyone.

Virginia Beach: At this time it behooves us to work toward open and public communication both locally and globally among people with diverse opinion. We desire to put more effort into honoring the essence of goodness in every human being.

West Grove: We are keenly aware of our shortcomings in this area and are seeking light to be faithful in what is required of us.

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

Davidson: We are challenged with the query this week to question the depth of our pastoral care knowing of an active Friend's recent surgery and what responses we've made or not made. At same time, a return visit by a former Davidson College student and attendance of another current student on this First Day reflects well on how welcome they have felt here, as does the long attendance of folks who choose not to become members but find a home here. Another concern raised from a message in meeting reflects the possibility that we can care for others beyond our meeting by speaking out about peace. Recent correspondence thanking the meeting for donations and support reflects another aspect of building community. We can name that the culture of visiting has changed in our society and that we miss the connections that can be made through reaching out informally. We seek out new ways to actively create community within our meeting and beyond. Showing up is a necessary part and a particular challenge in our individual and communal life.

Durham: The short answer is yes. Newcomers find the meeting warm and welcoming. Some who have attended other meetings and spiritual gatherings have not always found them as inviting. We are reminded that welcoming involves both greeting newcomers and also working together to create a welcoming deep silence which allows seeing things in clarity in the light. One member recalls how the first time she came to meeting twenty-five years ago, she left without speaking to anyone, and

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someone ran after her to say welcome before she could leave. Recently one member of the Care and Support Committee was concerned about making newcomers feel welcome during our fellowship time, and that was made a priority which seems to have been appreciated. But we are aware that what was more natural when we were a small meeting requires more organization in our now larger meeting. And as welcoming as people find us, we are concerned with the difficulty the meeting is having finding people to serve on our Care and Support and Fellowship Committees which do much of the work to create the welcoming space. One recent member spoke with appreciation that she never felt pressured to join when she was an attender and that gave more meaning to the decision when it was made. We are reminded, however, that we may need to work to articulate in words the “principles and practices” that undergird our spirituality to share with newcomers. Perhaps the final part of the query provides the most challenge for the meeting. While there have been some events such as Friendly Fridays and Friendly Eights that encourage us to gather and visit and to reach out to others beyond our community, we could perhaps do more. Friends do not speak of going to church. Our building is a meetinghouse rather than a church, but when Friends gather in worship, they create a church. This relationship is what matters and the rest of the work follows from that.”

Fayetteville: Meeting is very welcoming to newcomers; we are small enough that perhaps we might be too welcoming. We are eager for new ideas. One recent newcomer felt welcomed and not overwhelmed. Another newcomer felt welcomed and included even when she doesn’t attend as regularly as she would like.

We correspond regularly within and outside our membership, from those in prison to members and attenders absent from worship. Many of us use social media to connect to meeting and the wider world. Meeting reaches out to the interfaith community, most recently in support of our Muslim

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friends. Meeting continually supports and interacts with the wider Friends through Piedmont Friends Fellowship, yearly meeting, and Coastal Friends Gathering. We have been more involved in more areas in the past; there is always room for improvement. For our size, we do right good.

Friendship: Visitors have said that they have sensed that the meeting has a “welcoming heart”. Friendship Meeting hopes to create a welcoming space for newcomers by ensuring that a greeter welcomes everyone as they enter the meetinghouse. The greeter provides a pamphlet about the meeting for those who are attending meeting for the first time. The clerk, Care and Counsel, Worship and Ministry and the Nominating committees try to discern ways to integrate newcomers into the life of the meeting community. Newcomers are invited to take part in planned meeting activities. Attenders are asked if they have an interest in participating in the various committees that ground the vital life of the meeting.

Welcoming, hospitality, and fellowship are the responsibility of all members and attenders of the meeting.

Care and Counsel invites all regular attenders to consider membership. Worship and Ministry is developing the idea of a Quaker Tea inviting frequent attenders and recent new members to learn more about the history of this meeting and its relationship to North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

We are looking for ways to increase the participation of the young adults in the work and life of our meeting. Weekly email updates keep the community aware of opportunities to provide visitation and responsibility for caring. Some of our members are under the weight of this service and their visitation and caring does extend beyond the members of our own meeting.

Greenville: not answered

Rich Square: This query for “outreach” is worded in such a way that it seems easy for us to respond, “yes,” to all heads of this

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query. Considering that only two members are able to be personally active in the geographic area of the meetinghouse, the word “outreach” takes on a different perspective for our Meeting. The meeting keeps in contact monthly or more by email with almost every member and attender. The distant one or two households which do not have email receive phone calls and letters several times a year. We are unable to visit in one another’s homes due to travel distance of members and attenders. We regret that this year Hurricane Matthew prevented us from gathering with many distant members and people in the community for our annual Homecoming at Cedar Grove.

The meeting is quite supportive of outreach in the community done by the two members who are able to be active locally. This support includes financial contributions for local needs and projects. The meeting continues to support the Woodland Children’s Community Garden and Little Free Library on the meetinghouse grounds.

Several members who live at a distance have expressed encouragement for those two members’ involvement in ecumenical activities in Woodland. The meeting contributed money for them to be active in planning and preparing for the first Woodland Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner which involved people of all ages in many local churches preparing and serving a bountiful dinner to senior citizens. Last summer the clerk became conscious of many women in town who seem to feel spiritually isolated. She invited women of local churches to join her for a weekly ecumenical lunch gathering at a local cafe. The group began with one Friend, one Methodist and two members of the Missionary Baptist Church. The weekly gatherings’ focus is getting to know one another and sharing spiritual concerns. The group has grown to include women who were not active in any local faith community. Several from the interracial and economically diverse lunch group have begun participating in an ecumenical Bible study course led by the United Methodist minister. We trust that these activities apply to the question,

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“Does this visitation and caring extend beyond the members of our own meeting?”

Virginia Beach: We are grateful to a small group of heroes of visitation who make extraordinary efforts to visit the ill and isolated. They call all of us to greater effort. We feel our way forward in the subtle work of welcoming newcomers and non-members. Nominating committee has been mindful of younger persons in its search for people to fill committee assignments. While we look back on our efforts with modest satisfaction, we remind ourselves that there is always more to be done.

West Grove: We feel we can answer in the affirmative to the first three sections of this query, and need to work on the last two.

33. Epistles to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), Ohio Yearly Meeting, and to Friends Everywhere

Kristen Olson Kennedy read the epistle to Friends Everywhere and additions to the epistles to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and Ohio Yearly Meeting as drafted during our time together. With appreciation, reflection, and minor edits, the three epistles were approved.

Dear Friends Everywhere -

We gathered at UNC Wilmington, NC on Seventh Month 13-16, 2017 for our 320th Annual Sessions. As we gather we remember our distant Friends with great fondness and love. This year we are gathered under the theme “Our Life is Love: the Quaker Spiritual Journey”, also the title of a book written by Marcelle Martin. Marcelle not only gave the plenary talk on Sixth Day evening, she also led the Bible Study based on the writings in her book. In her book, she outlines the ten different stages of the Quaker spiritual journey. She uses examples from both early Quakers and modern-day Quakers to illustrate the steps.

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On Fifth Day evening, we were grateful to hear from several Friends during a panel discussion on Living our Love. Cynthia Doran spoke of her family's journey into greater faith through her son's incarceration. Morgan Barlow shared about saying "yes" to a leading to undertake Alternatives to Violence Project work with prisoners. Susan Wilson spoke about following God's leading to love in various ways throughout her personal spiritual journey. A time of rich worship-sharing followed the panel discussion.

Our Young Friends always enjoy coming to Wilmington for Yearly Meeting as frequent trips to the beach are part of their program. Each evening the Young Friends helped lead intergenerational activities. On Seventh Day evening, they MC'ed an intergenerational talent show with many jokes, skits, and musical acts. The adults also participated with song and music and the first ever Quaker Lady Speed Knitting Competition. Good fun was had by all.

The financial report is not usually the most spiritually inspiring time during Yearly Meeting. But this year we had put before us information that led many people to speak from the heart and share deeply. It is always amazing the places that God finds to shine a light from our hearts.

The Book of Discipline revision is in its fourth year. The committee has been faithful in its work and the body is grateful for all it has done. The revision work this year moved us to listen deeply to each other and to allow time and space for everyone to sit with the revisions and hear God's voice. We labored with the story of our Quaker ancestors and with language that reflects who we are in this present time. We identified discussions that we will need to have in the future that will allow us the opportunity to look at how we define ourselves. We are richly blessed to have undertaken this work and to have people who are gifted by God to do this work.

We were blessed to hear in-person reports from Quaker House, AFSC, FCNL, and FWCC. Incredibly passionate and productive members of our yearly meeting represent us in all of

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these organizations. Our representatives commented that for a small yearly meeting like ours we have a wide influence in the Quaker world. We are grateful. In particular we were grateful to have Lynn and Steve Newsom from Quaker House come and give their final report to us before their retirement in September. Quaker House has flourished under their direction and we look forward to seeing this continued under the new director, Kindra Bradley.

We hold you in our hearts and pray that you are able to feel the Love that we have for you. May you experience the Love of God with which we have been so richly blessed. Please know that it would warm our hearts if you were able to visit with us next year. We will meet for our 321th session in Greensboro, NC, Seventh Month 12-15, 2018 if in accordance with Divine Will.

On behalf of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative),
Nancy Craft, Clerk

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

We are grateful for the visit from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Friends Sheryl and Doyle Wilson to our annual sessions. We appreciated their presence in our business meetings and in our other activities. We are sorry to report that we will not have any representatives attending your Yearly Meeting.

We are grateful for the visit from Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Friend Kim Palmer and Charles “Chip” Thomas to our annual sessions. We appreciated their presence in our business meetings and in our other activities. Our member Nancy Craft is planning to visit your sessions this year and we look forward to hearing about them when she returns.

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

Mia Grady, Reid Pfalzgraff-Carson, and Michael Lozada read the Young Friends Epistle. Friends expressed appreciation for this epistle and approved including it for distribution with the general yearly meeting epistle.

Dear Friends,

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) (NCYM-C) met at the University of North Carolina Wilmington from July 12th to the 16th. We had a fantastic attendance with about 20 young Friends. Some of our highlights off campus include going to the beach (twice), bowling, and serving at a nearby homeless shelter (The Good Shepherd). Back on campus, we enjoyed playing countless games, going outside (when it wasn't too hot), and going on golf cart joyrides.

Thanks to our incredible turnout, many new friendships were forged, both for those who came not knowing anybody, and for the 'seasoned veterans' of Yearly Meeting. We had two new Friends join us from Cincinnati, Ohio, as well as new Friends from right here in North Carolina. Because of the passage of time, many of our Young Friends have grown physically. It was wonderful to see how much those Friends had grown and matured in such a short time. Along with their physical growth and maturity, came spiritual growth.

One of the driving forces for spiritual growth this year was a Bible Study led by Marcelle Martin, who wrote the book *Our Life is Love*. In every session of Bible study the room was packed with Friends of all ages. Some of the best parts of the Bible Study sessions was how many Young Friends contributed to the discussion in the room, and how they carried on the discussion amongst themselves afterwards.

On the second night, some of the older members of our Young Friends joined in a panel discussion on Friends Living Their Love. The panel discussed many heartfelt stories and

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experiences of living their life with love. The older youth all say they were enthralled and loved being a part of that experience.

On a less serious note, there was a birthday celebration during our time in Wilmington. There was cake, presents, and a big party where all of the Young Friends were invited. Among the countless other fun activities the Youth participated in, some of the most fun were the water balloon fight, a legendary game of Stratego between Bruce (adult) and Bruce (kid), the best doughnuts in the world (Britt's donuts), and playing story games in the car.

The last 24 hours of Yearly Meeting included a spectacular Talent Show hosted and organized by Mia Graddy, Michael Lozada, and Toby Berla. There were about 15 acts, among which were speed-eating of an invisible banana, juggling fruit, and a number of musical acts. One of most entertaining acts was a speed-knitting competition between about 10 of Yearly Meeting's best knitters with color commentary by Toby, Reid, Richard, and Mark. We hope that it was the beginning of a new Yearly Meeting tradition.

In conclusion we had a ton of great experiences, made new friends, created memories, and had an overall fantastic (but hot) week.

In peace,

Michael, Mia, Miriam, Reid, Bing, Ana, Bruce, Liam, Luke, Nate, Imani, Caroline, Purrito (Caroline 2), Janie, Abe, Wyatt, Prakash, Ian, Caleb, Jeffrey, Kerry, and Ian and Jenna (Honorary Members)

35. Summary of Exercises

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

The 320th annual sessions of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) met from Seventh Month 12th through 16th,

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2017 on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Although we had met in Wilmington before, our meeting place, The Teaching Lab, and the residences were new to us. For the most part, we adapted well. Our local Hospitality Committee helped us find our way giving each room a name instead of a number. Our main meeting room was named the “Room for Sharing.” Other meeting and activity rooms also had names – the “Room for Joy,” the “Room for Love,” and the aptly named “Room for Giggles.” Our evening snacks were held in a more intimate atmosphere. Several Friends graciously invited us into their small suite living area. Friends well supplied with snacks spilled out onto the patio and lawn making way for others to get inside to the snacks.

Over 100 gathered during the sessions, including about 20 children and youth, as well as several Young Adult Friends. Visitors to the yearly meeting included Friends from Ohio Yearly Meeting and Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), also Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, and Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association.

Our time together began with worship on Fourth Day afternoon under the care of the Yearly Meeting of Ministry and Oversight. Fourth Day evening the Yearly Meeting of Ministry and Oversight heard reports from the monthly meetings. Clerk Richard Miller encouraged each meeting to report in whatever manner was comfortable for them – whether reading a written report or speaking informally. Reports, along with the responses of those present, brought us closer together as we shared the spiritual conditions of our monthly meetings.

This year’s program theme was “Our Life is Love: the Quaker Spiritual Journey.” We are grateful to Marcelle Martin for her ministry. Her book, *Our Life is Love*, provided the theme for this year’s program. In addition to presenting the Sixth Day evening program, she also led daily Bible study. The Bible study approached the scriptures through the lives and messages of

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early Friends. She brought expressions of authentic life in the Spirit into the heart of our Meeting. These timeless stories and words from Friends of old encouraged us to tell our own stories and confirmed how we are to live into our Testimonies.

Bible study was held this year in the afternoon rather than early morning to allow children and youth to participate. This innovation seemed to be welcomed by Friends of all ages as all participated in the reading and discussion. Afterward, one Friend asked various children if they would like to repeat this in subsequent yearly meetings. The answers were delightfully affirmative!

A Fifth Day evening panel discussion “Living our Love” also explored the theme. Three Friends shared compelling stories from their own lives showing how love, inner knowing, and community with Friends and others have guided them through adversity and formed their faith. Deeply gathered worship followed with other Friends expressing their own experiences of living in love.

The following afternoon an interest group allowed Friends the opportunity to further express and explore how “living their love” manifest in their lives. Friends voiced their experiences of being held in a palpable sense of Divine Presence.

Our business sessions were fruitful. We accomplished the work of the meeting in large measure with grace and good humor.

We heard reports from standing committees and representatives to wider Quaker organizations, and are grateful for their labors. We also heard reports from the staff of several organizations about the work they are doing. The report from Quaker House of Fayetteville included the introduction of Kindra Bradley who will become the new director there in Ninth Month. Friends expressed gratitude to Lynn and Steve Newsom for their five years of service as Quaker House directors, and later in the evening at snack time celebrated their service with cake and ice cream.

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In the monthly meeting's answers to the Queries, which were read in the face of the meeting, we heard faithful answers, new questions, and more urgent challenges. These Query answers, together with the State of the Meeting Reports, not only informed us about our monthly meetings, but also gave an opportunity to share more deeply in the life of all our monthly meetings.

The Discipline Revision Committee presented several sections for discernment to the meeting for business. We considered for first approval texts for the "Introduction" and a "Beginnings" section. For a second approval, we considered the "Historical Sketch," the brief section authorizing a "Policies and Procedures Manual," and the section on "Special Occasions." Friends were attentive to this work of discernment and for the most part approved moving forward in the process. Some hesitations were felt on the "Historical Sketch" and the "Introduction." Friends took care to make a few needed changes or to hold for further consideration some matters on which clarity was not yet reached. The Revision Committee shared a preliminary "Table of Contents" which we welcomed as a sign that we have a revised Discipline in sight. Although we feel the weight of the work still before us, our shared discernment at this yearly meeting encourages us to move forward. Two interest groups held by the Discipline Revision Committee gave us further time for consultation with the committee about the revision process and specific revised sections.

Interest groups convened by the American Friends Service Committee and the Friends Committee on National Legislation were well attended and informative. Both organizations are observing significant milestones in their history with AFSC celebrating 100 years this year and FCNL anticipating its 75th anniversary next year. Each is demonstrating renewed vigor and commitment in the face of ever greater challenges. Their faithfulness to Friends' Testimonies in these times of turmoil and unrest uplifted those hearing the reports.

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This year at North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) a small number of Young Adult Friends created their own program within the meeting. The general structure of their practice was to spend the morning with the youth program and participate in their activities. After lunch, they attended Bible study where all ages were present, and then returned to their own activities. These included going on a hike in Wilmington's Airlie Gardens and going to Wrightsville Beach. After dinner, they enjoyed participating in the panel discussion and other evening events, including snacks hosted by the monthly meetings and playing cards in apartment living rooms. Young Adult Friends encouraged all Friends to participate and attend their activities.

The children and youth enjoyed the usual outings to the beach and local attractions. They also enjoyed being with one another in activities on the campus as well as when joining all Friends. They visited and worked on a service project at Good Shepherd Homeless Shelter of Wilmington. Friends were heard appreciating the presence of the children and youth in Bible study, in the scheduled intergenerational activities, and in the shared times of meals and worship.

Each evening, intergenerational games and the collection provided opportunities to enjoy being together. Our intergenerational activities culminated with a talent show on Seventh Day evening. Oblivious to a strong thunderstorm and driving rain outside, we entertained ourselves with an energetic display of musical, comedic, acrobatic, dramatic, witty and other miscellaneous talents by Friends of all ages. Our children and youth organized the show and provided two very capable hosts to introduce the acts and assault us with a flurry of punning riddles between each act. The show featured a unique athletic contest – speed knitting. With contestants lined up across the front of the room, knitters competed with number 8 knitting needles to complete the most rows while commentators of questionable knowledge offered play by play and color commentary. Have we perhaps witnessed the birth of a new Olympic sport?

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It is hard to convey in words what really happens when over 100 Friends gather over five days sharing their lives and living into the love of God.

The next annual sessions of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) will be held in Seventh Month 2018 at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina, if consistent with Divine Will. Feeling the joy of this yearly meeting now concluding, we enthusiastically say: “come Friends, come.”

36. Minutes of Thanks to the Yearly Meeting Committees and Hosts

Appreciation was expressed for the rich program and opportunities provided through the efforts of the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee and to the Youth Program Planning Committee this year. Appreciation was also given for work of the Hospitality Committee and for Wilmington Friends for the hosting us this week.

37. Minute of Appreciation for Outgoing Clerk and Recording Clerk

Deep appreciation was expressed for the services of our outgoing Clerk Nancy Craft and Recording Clerk Gwen Gosney Erickson.

38. Concluding Minute

We adjourn our yearly meeting sessions purposing to meet Seventh Month 12th through 15th, 2018 at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina, if consistent with Divine will.

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Appendix

Meeting of Ministry and Oversight
7th Month 12th, 2017

The meeting began with a period of waiting worship.

Friends were present from Davidson, Durham, Fayetteville, Friendship, Greenville, Rich Square, Virginia Beach, and West Grove meetings: Kristin Olson-Kennedy, Mary Miller, David Perry, Patty Levering, Anne Olsen, Dave French, Tom Bertrand, Paula Waterman, Bruce Arnold, Bonnie Arnold, Barbara Gosney, Robert Gosney, Nancy Craft, Melidy Poole, Edward Pearce, Bonnie Oulman, Ruth Anne Chillardres, Gayle Cameron, Nancy Nixon, Deborah Shaw, Darlene Stanley, Mark Wutka, Lloyd Lee Wilson, Carole Treadway, Ray Treadway, and Susan Lees. There were visitors from Old Chatham MM of New York YM (Sarah Miller and Nathaniel Corwin); Swarthmore MM of PhiladelphiaYM (Marcelle Martin); and Southern Appalachian YM meetings in Asheville, NC (Peter Buck) Nashville, TN (Mark Wutka.)

Richard Miller, Clerk, provided a preamble regarding the history and function of the Body, summarized as follows: A hundred years ago this body consisted of those named by monthly meetings as ministers, elders and overseers and each meeting had people so named. Then more and more meetings over the years stopped naming ministers, elders and overseers although the functions were still needed and were being carried out in meetings in various ways. Some meetings began to feel alienated from this Body. This was not a good situation.

We have had listening sessions with meetings and discernment sessions as a Body in order to heal the alienation and welcome all who in their monthly meetings are serving in these ways. We gather as a Body to share our experience with each other and help ease each other's burdens.

Formal written reports are no longer required from each meeting. We do want to hear from each meeting in whatever way feels comfortable or useful to them.

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Friends then shared regarding the spiritual condition of the following meetings: Fayetteville, Wilmington, Davidson, Rich Square, Friendship, Durham, Virginia Beach, and Greenville.

Lloyd Lee Wilson gave an update on the joint teaching ministry he has undertaken with Deborah Fisch of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative. This ministry is now structured as a 501c3 organization named Broken Vessels Quaker Ministries. The content is the Deeper Roots Program which this year had 13 participants from all over the country.

The Body recommended that Yearly Meeting endorse a new general travel minute for this and Lloyd Lee's other work outside the bounds of the yearly meeting. Minute approved.

The Body will meet again in Seventh Month of 2018 if consistent with divine will.

Recorded by Marguerite Dingman

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**Ministers and Elders in NCYM-C
2017-2018**

<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
Paula Justice	VIRGINIA BEACH	Nancy Craft Andrew Young Patricia Phalen Young
Lloyd Lee Wilson	WEST GROVE	Dixie Newlin Charles Ansell Janis Ansell
	WILMINGTON	

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North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Yearly Meeting Officers 2017-2018

Clerk

Gwen Gosney Erickson
(Friendship)

Assistant Clerk

Anne Olsen
(Davidson)

Recording Clerk

Marguerite Dingman
(Durham)

Treasurer

Susan Lees
(Fayetteville)

**Clerk of Ministry
& Oversight**

Richard Miller
(Greenville)

**Recording Clerk of
Ministry & Oversight**

Marguerite Dingman
(Durham)

Monthly Meeting Clerks and Treasurers

Davidson

Clerk:

David Perry

Recording Clerk:

Jan Blodgett

Treasurer:

Barbara Gardiner

Durham

Clerk:

Toby Berla

Assistant Clerk:

Cathy and David Bridge

Recording Clerk:

Diane Wilkinson

Treasurer:

Carole Aldrich McCleery

Fayetteville

Clerk:

Susan Lees

Recording Clerk:

Open

Treasurer:

Susan Lees

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Friendship

Clerk: Susan Carlyle
Recording Clerk: Lloyd Lee Wilson
Treasurer: Stephen Holland

Greenville

Clerk: Bruce Arnold
Recording Clerk: Richard Miller
Treasurer: Vacant
M&O Clerk: No committee

Rich Square

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

Virginia Beach

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

West Grove

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

Wilmington

Clerk: Huey Marshall
Recording Clerk: Teri Butler and Pat Darenio
Treasurer: David Hensler

The Interim Body

Davidson: Patty Levering, Anne Olsen, Kristin Olson-Kennedy,
David Perry

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Durham: Toby Berla, Margie Dingman, Kent Wicker, Andrew Wright
Fayetteville: Susan Lees, Melidy Poole
Friendship: Darlene Stanley, Carole Treadway, Ray Treadway
Greenville: Bruce Arnold, Mary Miller, Richard Miller, Elizabeth Rolfe
Rich Square: Barbara C. Gosney, Robert E. Gosney, Edward Pearce
Virginia Beach: Tom Bertrant, Gayle Cameron, Nancy Craft, David French
West Grove: Charles Ansell
Wilmington: Cheryl Fetterman, Goldie Walton
Ex Officio: Gwen Gosney Erickson (clerk), Anne Olsen (assistant clerk), Margie Dingman (recording clerk)

Standing Committees 2017-2018

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

Patty Levering, convener (Davidson Monthly Meeting)
Nancy Craft (Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting)
Gail Austin Curry (Durham Monthly Meeting)
Carole Treadway (Friendship Monthly Meeting)
Susan Wilson (Friendship Monthly Meeting)

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

Susan Lees (Fayetteville Monthly Meeting)
Cheryl Fetterman (Wilmington Monthly Meeting)
Barbara Gosney (Rich Square Monthly Meeting)

Financial Review Committee: *In Fourth Month the Nominating Committee presents two or three names to constitute The*

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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 Monthly Meeting), convener
Lynne Berla (Durham Monthly Meeting)

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

Kent Wicker, convened (Durham Monthly Meeting)
Carol Passmore (Durham Monthly Meeting)
Deborah Shaw (Friendship Monthly Meeting)
Carole Treadway (Friendship Monthly Meeting)
Susan Wilson (Friendship Monthly Meeting)

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

Toby Berla (Durham Monthly Meeting), convener
Richard Miller. (Greenville Monthly Meeting)
Connie Keller (Wilmington Monthly Meeting)
Susan Lees (Fayetteville Monthly Meeting)
Carole Treadway (Friendship Monthly Meeting)

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

Robert E. Gosney (Rich Square Monthly Meeting)
Richard Miller (Greenville Monthly Meeting)
Charles Newlin (West Grove Monthly Meeting)

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2017

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

David Perry (Davidson Monthly Meeting)

Carey Reece (Rich Square Monthly Meeting)

Standing Committees for 2018 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, registrar (Friendship Monthly Meeting)

Judy Reece, assistant to the registrar (Friendship Monthly Meeting)

Deborah Shaw (Friendship Monthly Meeting)

Additional Friends to be named.

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

Toby Berla (Durham Monthly Meeting)

Bruce Arnold (Greenville Monthly Meeting)

Barbara Gosney, convener, (Rich Square Monthly Meeting)

Hannah Hobson (Friendship Monthly Meeting)

Elizabeth Wintermute (Durham Monthly Meeting)

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 Monthly Meeting)

Goldie Walton (Wilmington Monthly Meeting)

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2017

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.*

FHC Librarian Gwen Erickson (Convener, ex officio)

Davidson Jan Blodgett

Durham

Fayetteville

Friendship Claire Koster

Greenville Richard Miller

Rich Square Barbara C. Gosney

Virginia Beach

West Grove n/a

Wilmington Terri Butler

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

Davidson Anne Olsen (Convener)

Durham Toby Berla

Fayetteville

Friendship Carole Treadway

Greenville Richard Miller

Rich Square Edward Pearce

Virginia Beach Nancy Nixon

West Grove Charles Ansell

Wilmington Cheryl Fetterman

Finance Committee: *Composed of the treasurers of each monthly meeting: review and make recommendations for the yearly meeting budget. Yearly meeting treasurer is convener.*

YM Treasurer Susan Lees, (Convener, ex officio)

Davidson David Perry

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2017

Durham	Carole Aldrich McCleery
Fayetteville	Susan Lees
Friendship	Stephen Holland
Greenville	Bruce Arnold
Rich Square	Robert Gosney
Virginia Beach	David French
West Grove	Janis Ansell
Wilmington	David Hensler

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

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
Ex officio: Tommie Gipson, webmaster (Rich Square)	

Special Appointments, 2017-2018

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

Ruth Anne Chlldres	(Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting)
Toby Berla	(Durham Monthly Meeting)

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 Monthly Meeting)
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North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2017

Friends Committee on National Legislation: *Six representatives with 3-year terms to attend annual board meeting in Eleventh Month in Washington, DC, area.*

Eric Ginsburg (West Grove M.M.) term ends 12/2019

Bruce Arnold (Greenville M.M.) term ends 12/2018

Charles Ansell (West Grove M.M.) term ends 12/2018

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

William Jeffries (Durham Monthly Meeting) term ends 12/2020

Peter Klopfer (Durham Monthly Meeting) term ends 12/2020

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.*

Kristen Olsen-Kennedy (Davidson MM) term ends 12/31/2017

Rachel Miller (Greenville MM) term ends 12/31/2018

Emily Stewart (Durham MM) term ends 12/31/2018

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

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.*

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 Monthly Meeting)

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 Monthly Meeting)

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

Carey Reece (Rich Square Monthly Meeting)

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2017

Discipline Revision Committee

Lloyd Lee Wilson	(Friendship Monthly Meeting)
Andrew Wright	(Durham Monthly Meeting)
Deborah Shaw	(Friendship Monthly Meeting)
Patty Levering	(Davidson Monthly Meeting)