

2008

MINUTES

of the

North Carolina

Yearly Meeting

of the

Religious Society

Of Friends

(Conservative)

The 311th Session

2008

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**North Carolina
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(Conservative)

The 311th Session

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

**By Adjournments
From the Ninth of Seventh Month
To the Thirteenth of the Same, Inclusive**

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

1. Welcome

Greetings and welcome to our 311th session of North Carolina Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Conservative) held at Guilford College, Greensboro from the ninth of Seventh Month to the thirteenth of the same, 2008.

2. Opportunity with our children

Friends were given the opportunity to spend time with the children of our yearly meeting.

3. Letter from Louise Wilson

A letter from Louise Wilson was read conveying greetings to those gathered and prayers for our sessions, expressing our unity through the bonds of God's love. Friends were reminded of our opportunity to reach out to Friends unable to be with us through sending them the Epistle to Absent Friends and a copy of the Summary of Exercises.

4. Visitors (Part One)

Visiting Friends were introduced and welcomed and travel minutes and letters of introduction were read.

David Eley, Friend of our yearly meeting, Austin Christian Friends Group, Keystone Fellowship in Pennsylvania, Ohio Yearly Meeting

Kristi Estes, Memphis Friends Meeting, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association

Bill Geary, attending our yearly meeting since 1996, of Mullica Hill Friends Meeting and Southern State Worship Group, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Sharon Frame (invited to attend through School of the Spirit participants of our yearly meeting) Gwynedd Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and serving as the Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, visitor to our yearly meeting

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Alice Wald, Columbia, S.C., Friends Meeting

*Ceal and Mark Wutka, Atlanta Friends Meeting,
Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association*

*Sheryl Sutton and Stan Sanders, Bear Creek Friends
Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)*

*Elaine Emily, Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting,
Pacific Yearly Meeting*

*Liz Oppenheimer, Twin Cities Friends Meeting, St. Paul,
Minnesota, and attending Laughing Waters Friends Worship
Group, Minneapolis, Minnesota, unaffiliated*

*Carl Magruder, Grass Valley Monthly Meeting, Pacific
Yearly Meeting*

*Christine Keefe-Perry, traveling in the ministry in
support of Carl Magruder, Rochester Monthly Meeting of
Farmington-Scipio Region, New York Yearly Meeting*

*Callid Keefe-Perry, charged to carry an epistle to our
session from the Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting,
Rochester Monthly Meeting of Farmington-Scipio Region, New
York Yearly Meeting*

*Rhonda Lanning, Jason Child, Eve, Violet, Leland and
Oliver Child-Lanning, members of Tallahassee Friends Meeting,
Southeastern Yearly Meeting, attending Durham Friends
Meeting*

*Susan Campbell, her children Paulina and Celeste,
Davidson Friends Meeting (unaffiliated)*

Beryl Shoemaker, Brook Shoemaker

*Patty Levering, Davidson Friends Meeting
(unaffiliated), sharing that their meeting's Ministry and Counsel
is hoping to come to their body with a recommendation that the
meeting join NCYM-C*

David Perry, Davidson Friends Meeting (unaffiliated)

Peter Buck, Asheville Friends Meeting, SAYMA

Robert and Rosa Cumming, Davidson Friends Meeting

*Emily Stewart, Durham Friends Meeting Member, Staff
for Friends General Conference Youth Ministries Program*

*Friends approved that the clerk would respond to the
minutes of travel.*

*A prayer of gratitude was expressed for the presence of
our visitors.*

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5. Epistle to NCYM-C from Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting.

An epistle to NCYM-C from the Gathered Friends of Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting was read, inviting us to resume a long dormant relationship with them through intervisitation and written communications. Friends were in unity with the clerk opening the possibility of someone feeling led to prepare a particular response to this epistle which follows below, as we do for Ohio and Iowa Yearly Meetings. The epistle follows:

And the Lord God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and keep it.

--Genesis Chapter 2 Verse 15.

Friends of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative),

We write to share of our journey, how Truth is prospering among us, and in hopes of rekindling the ember of a relationship between us that has now long lain cooling.

To our best knowledge, the published minutes of your Yearly Meeting start in 1904. In 1907, three short years after the inception of the Meeting, we found the first reference to New York Friends in the minutes. Each of these Friends was from the area we would now refer to as Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting. Freelove Pyle, Jesse and Edith Otis, and recorded minister Persis E. Hallock all attended 1907's Sessions of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative), each having ties to Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting. Of particular interest is the fact that the Otis family is still present in our Regional, and active in Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting. In addition, the 1907 minutes of NCYM(C) record that epistles were prepared "for Canada, New England, Western, Iowa, and Kansas Yearly Meetings. Also one for Fritchley General Meeting, England, and one for Scipio Quarterly Meeting, N.Y." With the exception of Fritchley General Meeting, which functioned somewhat as England's Conservative Yearly Meeting, Scipio was the sole Quarter to receive a direct epistle.

This speaks to the historical ties between our regions, and the connections held between bodies of faithful Friends. In the years that followed, there continued to be a strong connection

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between Scipio Quarter and NCYM(C). According to NCYM(C) minutes, for a decade after 1907 there was always at least one member of Scipio Quarter in attendance at Yearly Meeting sessions. And the connection was not merely in the form of epistles. In 1909, Mary Wilbur Hazard, also of Poplar Ridge, married Thomas Copeland of Woodland, NC and eventually moved to join the NCYM(C) community. For years there were letters and travelers between our regions, and yet today there is very little connection.

In considering these connections we discovered, in a beautifully poetic way, that the focus of your 2008 Yearly Meeting Sessions is on Earth Care, an echo of our Spring 2008 Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting theme of “Earth Friendly Faith and Practice.” During that Gathering we became clear to reinstate epistolical contact with you and share some of our condition. It is in the Light of that realization that we offer the following to you:

Our Spring Gathering had a record breaking attendance and the information presented generated energy and excitement. Feeling the loving Spirit amongst us, we gathered together with angst and concern about the state of the earth, feeling powerless in the face of vast changes, yet with the hope we can learn together, teach others and our efforts will make a difference.

In small groups, Friends addressed with grace and appreciation where we are in the spirit of this age in our world, celebrating our young children’s responses to earth care, while noticing that in our culture much of young people’s activity is disconnected from the natural world. We feel disturbed that the media in our culture are such a powerful force, overwhelming and exploitive, leaving us dismembered, bloated and diminished.

This Spring Gathering we continued walking along the path to further deepen and raise our collective awareness, with the hope of significantly improving our stewardship skills. The feeling of excitement generated when our community gathers together to learn and show by personal example, teaches each of us. Sharing personal experience, both spiritual and practical, deepens us so that together, corporately and individually, we may be better stewards of our soul and spirit, our selves, our families, our communities and our earth.

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Having extended these greetings, acknowledgement of our shared history, and some news of the State of our Region we wonder if Friends of this Yearly Meeting might share with us how Spirit has been at work among you. To be heard and to hear are powerful means of connecting, and in these times all faithful connections are precious.

In gratitude,
The Gathered Friends of Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting

6. Epistle from Ohio Yearly Meeting

An epistle from Ohio Yearly Meeting was read and follows:

Eighth Month 18, 2007

To Friends of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative):

Dear Friends,

"Jesus saith unto her: 'Said not I to thee, that, if thou wouldst believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God? . . ."

We are pleased to have Nancy Craft with us again as she has so often been in years past, recalling to us treasured ties of shared faith and practice. We ask her to convey our love and greetings to you.

We have gathered once again for the refreshment of spirit that the Lord pours out upon us so abundantly as we seek Him together in precious times of worship and fellowship.

We are having a deepening assurance that God is calling us to changes. The changes that may need to take place leave some feeling like we approach shaky ground while others look forward to a special refreshing. In our committee work, we find that a very few workers are carrying the major load of our Yearly Meeting. In one committee meeting this week a vision was given of the present structure of our Yearly Meeting as a large square, heavy building sagging under its own weight. A stream flowed nearby and lying across this stream were unsteady stepping stones. Across the stream was a beautiful meadow with lush tufts here and there that did the work of maintaining God's meadow.

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We are being asked if we are ready to step out on those unsteady stepping stones in trust of our dear Lord and have us come into His fresh provision and calling with new vision. There is a deep longing for restructure and asking Father God what He would have done under the umbrella of Ohio Yearly Meeting in the immediate year ahead. Most long for more times of teaching, worship, fellowship, and reaching out to others. Times of sharing what God is doing in our lives, now, would be faith building and encouraging as we continue to seek and walk with our Lord on a daily basis. It seems good that this new vision is expanding our Yearly Meeting borders to include many from around the world.

It is exciting to see how the Lord is working in the lives of our young people. One young prayer-warrior was noted as she walked the aisles of the meetinghouse, praying for the Lord's presence and that His will might be accomplished in our sessions and beyond. Later in the week we will be hearing about a mission trip in which some of our young people took part. After much seeking the will of the Lord for their mission trip, their desire to minister in Alaska was realized. Several of our meetings helped make this trip possible with much prayer and financial support.

We have had reports of great blessings as Christian Education Camp took place once again in Sixth Month on the campus of Olney Friends School. The leaders for this Christian Camp, as well as those who faithfully serve our youth during Yearly Meeting, are such treasures to our hearts, and we ask the Lord to bless them in this mission to the next generation.

Dear Friends, we are living in a time of God's favor, and it is time we proclaim "FAVOR" over every aspect of our individual lives and the life of our meetings. We pray that God will minister blessings to your every need, and that as we share in the future we may know of his faithful work among you. Let us pray for and look toward, with excitement and longing, His return.

In the love of Christ,
Seth B. Hinshaw, clerk

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7. Epistle from Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative

An epistle from Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative was read and follows:

Greetings from the 130th annual session of Friends in Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

We are blessed to be meeting on Scattergood Friends School campus in the midst of a beautiful rural Iowa countryside. The lush green fields which surround us make us aware of the many riches which we are so fortunate to be able to enjoy. This feeling of richness also makes us more aware of those who are not so fortunate--those who do not live in a safe or peaceful place; who do not have enough to eat to sustain life; who are overcome because they lack adequate health care. We are all striving to be guided by that Inner Light of Christ to bring harmony and compassion amongst us, to be caring and helpful to one another, and to live our belief that "there is that of God" in every person.

Our theme for this session has been "sustaining ourselves" and many of our interest groups, speakers and activities were directed in that area of concern. Over the past years we have been working on the revision of our book of Faith and Practice. This year we approved revision of the section entitled "Living our Faith", which states that "Friends are called to make wise and efficient use of the world's resources, mindful that actions taken to meet our present needs and wants affect the quality of life on earth. All humans share a responsibility to consider the impact of our decisions on future generations of all forms of life."

We read the epistle from your Yearly Meeting with interest and appreciation. The exchange of epistles and interchange of members help us to strengthen and continue the ties with our own brothers and sisters in North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). We are pleased that Marshall Massey of our Omaha Monthly Meeting was able to be present at your yearly meeting this summer.

Let us continue to build on our common practices of faith as we explore together what it means to be a Conservative Friend. We pray for continued guidance, strength, and joy as we prepare for and practice being God's Hands on earth for another

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year. In Friendship and on behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Deborah Fisch, clerk

8. Yearly Meeting Audit Committee

The following Friends were appointed to serve as a yearly meeting audit committee: David Eley, Tommie Gipson.

9. Committees to write Epistles, Letters, and the Summary of Exercises

The following Friends volunteered to prepare the following documents: Les Fleming, Stan Sanders, and Tejan Muata – the Summary of Exercises; Robert and Barbara Gosney – Letter to Absent Friends; David Perry – Epistle to All Friends Everywhere; Tommie Gipson – Letter to Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative; Charles Ansell – Letter to Ohio Yearly Meeting; Lloyd Lee Wilson – Letter to Farmington-Scipio Regional Gathering of Friends.

10. Reports from the Monthly Meetings

Reports from the following monthly meetings were read and accepted:

Report from Durham Monthly Meeting

Please accept the following members of Durham Monthly Meeting named as representatives to North Carolina Yearly Meeting sessions this year: Marguerite Dingman, Bill O'Connor, Debbie Parker, Jennie Ratcliffe, Karen Stewart, and Anne Micheaux Akwari.

We have 76 members, 305 adult attenders, and 20 family members in 190 households. Five children are of friends who are members of other meetings. There are 120 non-family-member children and children of attenders, with 450 total active members and attenders. Among distant friends, there are 58 full and family adult members, 30 correspondents, and 62 total households.

We welcomed the following as new members of our meeting: Jenny Edmonds (8/12/2007), Caroline Dyer-Gunn (12/09/2007), Lory Mills (2/10/2008), Mary Shields (3/09/2008).

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The following children were welcomed as family members: Robinson York Edmonds (8/21/2007), Zoe Tigest Lindsey-Mills (8/14/1998), Tsehaye Zufan Lindsey-Mills (4/20/2000.)

Babies were welcomed by the meeting with certificates in calligraphy by Daryl Junk: Robinson York Edmonds, family member and son of Jenny and Andrew Edmonds, Eve Sophia Child-Lanning (3/5/2007) to Rhonda Lanning and Jason Child (members of Tallahassee Monthly Meeting,) and Anna Catherine Bailey (2 /21/2008) to Melike Warrick and Matt Bailey.

We released Gary Briggs to Asheville Friends Meeting.

We mourned the passing on July 15, 2007 of Hale Stevenson. The memorial meeting was held on July 21, 2007.

Four traveling letters were issued. The first was for 19 members of Youth Meeting and six adults who visited Philadelphia. The second was for the Dugan/St. Clair family for intercontinental living during 2008-2009. The third was for Jo Anne and Bill Jeffries' travel through the U.S. The fourth was for Cesanne Berry for her travels in Great Britain.

The queries were read and answered during monthly meetings for worship with attention to business. Anne Micheaux Akwari serves as clerk, Terry Graedon as assistant clerk, Marguerite Dingman as recording clerk, and Joyce Frederick as Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Micheaux Akwari, Clerk

Report from Fayetteville Monthly Meeting

Our clerk is Chuck Fager. Our recording clerks are Wendy Michener and Ann Ashford. Our treasurer is Susan Lees. Fayetteville Monthly Meeting will be represented at 2008 yearly meeting by Susan Lees, Chuck Fager, Wendy Michener, and Ann Ashford.

The Queries have been read and answered. The Advices have been read.

No ministers or elders have been recorded.

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There were no new births or marriages recorded. One of our out-of-town members, Lynda Cooper Hyde and husband Jeff greeted their second son, Joshua Robert Hyde, into the world on 7-30-2007.

We welcome regular attender Barney Bornn into our Meeting.

Report from Friendship Monthly Meeting

Clerk, David MacInnes; Co-Clerk, Sidney Lee Kitchens; Treasurer, Ray Treadway; Assistant Treasurer, George White Recording Clerk, Martha Lang; Membership/Statistic Recorder, Claire Koster; Assistant Membership Recorder, Richard Phillips.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FRIENDSHIP FRIENDS MEETING INCORPORATED: President, David MacInnes; Vice President, Sidney Lee Kitchens; Treasurer, Ray Treadway; Secretary, Martha Lang; Directors: Betty Austin, Mary Ellen Chijioke, David Brown, Priscilla Zuck.

Nominating Committee of NC Yearly Meeting-Conservative (NCYM-C), Nan Bowles.

Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Friends General Conference, David Bailey.

Quaker House Board, Fayetteville, North Carolina, Rebecca Valla and Meg Zulick.

Meeting's contact with F.C.N.L., Marilyn White.

Meeting's Representative on NCYM-C Records Committee, Claire Koster.

Report from Greenville Monthly Meeting

Richard Miller serves as clerk, Mary Miller serves as Treasurer. Richard Miller, Mary Miller, Jennifer Breuer and Jeff Gillen are appointed as representatives to this yearly meeting. Greenville welcomed a new baby, Leah, born to Jennifer Breuer and her husband Adam Henning in May. There are no deaths or marriages to report. Seven new attenders have been coming to meeting for worship with some regularity but none have asked for membership as yet.

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The Advices have been read. We had discussion of two of the Queries this year but no corporate answers have been composed.

Richard Miller, Clerk

Report from Rich Square Monthly Meeting

Friends agreed that the officers continue to serve the monthly meeting in their current capacities: Barbara Gosney – clerk, Susan Wilson – recording clerk, Walter Brown III – treasurer, Robert Gosney – assistant treasurer.

Trustees: W. Carey Reece, Jr., John G. Parker and Walter J. Brown, III.

Ministers: Robert E. Gosney and Lloyd Lee Wilson

Elders: Joseph P. Brown, Elizabeth G. Parker, Edward Pearce, Bruce R. Pulliam

We recorded no new ministers or elders during the past year.

Meeting named the following Friends to serve as representatives to the Yearly Meeting in Seventh Month: Lloyd Lee Wilson, Susan Wilson, Edward Pearce, Robert Gosney, Barbara Gosney, and, if able, Tommie Gipson.

The meeting has recorded no new members during the past year. We have one faithful new attender who has moved to Scotland Neck. Emily Teipe currently is a member of Whiteleaf Friends Worship Group in Whittier, California.

Our birthright member, Wade Brown, has married, joined a church with his wife and requested to be removed from membership. He requested to be listed as a “Friend of the Meeting”. The meeting approved his request

We note the passing of faithful attender, Henry Talmadge Pulliam on Seventh Month 18, 2007. He was the brother of Bruce R. Pulliam, an elder in our meeting.

The Advices were read in the face of meeting on the first First Day this year, as is our custom.

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Report from West Grove Monthly Meeting

The queries have been read and answered, and the Advices have been read. The clerk is directed to forward the query answers to our approaching yearly meeting. To represent us therein we appoint Les and Rebekah Fleming and such others as are able to attend.

No ministers or elders recorded during the year.

Taken from the minutes,
Jennifer Ginsburg, Clerk

Report from Wilmington Monthly Meeting

The following Friends will represent us at this yearly meeting sessions: Cheryl Fetterman, Betsy Johnson, and Rubye Braye.

We have no births, deaths, or marriages to report.

We have no new members, and one member, Sam Rose, who requested a release of membership.

We have not named any ministers or elders.

The Advices were read in First Month 2008.

All twelve Queries were read and answered, although two answers are missing from our responses forwarded to yearly meeting.

11. Minutes of the Representative Body

The minutes of the Representative Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Tenth Month 20, 2007 and those of Fourth Month 26, 2008 were read. Friends approve that these minutes be included in the 2008 yearly meeting minute book.

The Representative Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative convened at Durham meetinghouse at 1:30 on 20th of Tenth Month, 2007.

1. Appointment of Recording Clerk for the Day

In the absence of the recording clerk Friends approved that Carole Treadway serve in that capacity for the day.

2. Report of Ad Hoc Committee

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The ad hoc committee on the relationship of the yearly meeting with the Friends School of Wilmington presented a minute as follows:

Minute on Whether Wilmington Friends Meeting can provide spiritual guidance to Friends School of Wilmington.

Having established Friends School of Wilmington through the hard work and commitment of members of this Meeting, Wilmington Friends Meeting has a deep interest in and commitment to Friends School of Wilmington and a desire to maintain a relationship with Friends School of Wilmington. The members of Wilmington Friends Meeting can participate in the life of Friends School of Wilmington as moved to do so, but at this time, as a corporate body, Wilmington Friends Meeting cannot serve to provide spiritual guidance to Friends School of Wilmington.

The minute was approved. Financial contributions to the school will be delayed until further report from Wilmington Monthly Meeting at representative body meeting in Fourth Month, 2008 concerning the meeting's relationship with the school.

3. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was reviewed and a written summary and explanation were read.

The report was accepted and is as follows:

Two monthly meetings, namely Greenville and West Grove, have sent their annual contributions to the yearly meeting for the current budget year and West Grove sent 100 more than was budgeted. We also received contributions from several individuals and from Davidson Friends Meeting amounting to 525.00. Expenses so far have been as expected, with 108.40 paid out for operating expenses (post box rental and postage) and 952.62 for publishing the Minutes. We sent a special contribution of 1000 to Quaker House of Fayetteville for its capital campaign, 1500 to two members of the yearly meeting as scholarships for attending the School of the Spirit, and 1000 to Laura Walton to help with the expenses of her internship with Casa de los Amigos. We have not yet been able to send any

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money to the several organizations which we hope to be able to support. Expenses have exceeded receipts by nearly 3000.

The accounting for receipts and expenses of the yearly meeting sessions at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington this summer has been completed. The yearly meeting took in 11,221.53 for dormitory, fees, and meals; 1803.06 for NCYMC registration fees; and 1267.28 from individual contributions for assistance. UNCW charged us 12,363.90. In order to cover the additional expenses, some of which were expected, we used 1142.37 from the contributions for assistance. In addition, we spent 1013.50 for program-related expenses including golf carts, 574.20 for travel and other expenses for the speaker and two panel members, and 163.00 for liability insurance. Eighty dollars from the two Geneva Brown funds were used for expenses for the youth program. Overall, receipts exceeded expenses by 177.27. We also made a profit of 130.49 on book sales.

The yearly meeting received one additional contribution to the hearing-assistance device fund to pay off that fund. I am aware of two issues concerning the budget which are pending additional discussion by the yearly meeting, namely continued support to Friends School of Wilmington and additional purchases of hearing-assistance devices. We may also want to consider the modest but steady increase of income to the fund for disciplines as purchases of our Faith and Practice are made and to the assistance fund as contributions exceed what is used for assistance each summer. Both of these funds now have balances over 2000. Do we need to put that much money aside?

Payments from the remaining six Monthly Meetings are expected later this year or early next year.

Submitted by

Ray Treadway, Treasurer

The questions in the report concerning the Discipline and Assistance funds were referred to the Finance Committee which is asked to report in Fourth Month, keeping in mind that the Assistance Fund is being well used.

Charlie Ansell was asked to investigate the cost of additional hearing devices as well as an additional microphone to

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assist users in hearing all speakers. He was asked to report at the representative body in Fourth Month.

4. Program Committee Report

Karen Stewart reported that the Program Committee for yearly meeting 2008 has selected as the theme, the Loving Care of Creation.

5. Letter of Gratitude from Nan Bowles

A letter from Nan Bowles expressing her gratitude for the yearly meeting's financial and spiritual support for her participation in the Spiritual Nurturer program of the School of the Spirit Ministry was read.

6. Quaker Earthcare Committee

Alice Wald and Nan Bowles reported that they sent information to Quaker Earthcare Witness concerning the yearly meeting's creation of an earth care committee.

Richard Miller reported for the committee that the committee requests that the Journal of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative devote the next issue to the subject of care for the earth. (The Journal committee reported that this topic had been selected at its meeting held during lunch.)

The Earthcare Committee will communicate ideas and information via a discussion area on Tommie Gipson's Conservative Friends web site.

The Committee encouraged intervisitation and communication among meetings concerning what meetings are doing with regard to earth care.

The committee intends to carry a positive attitude into its work, listening to stories of how Friends are caring for and loving creation rather than dictating or advising actions for meetings to take.

In response to the report Nan Bowles read the following quotation from George Fox:

“Something is drawing you. See to it. Take heed of the Earth. Keep atop that which will cumber the mind. Dwell in Love and Peace one with another.”

7. Travel Minute for Deborah Shaw

The meeting approved endorsing the travel minute for Deborah Shaw renewed and approved by Friendship Monthly Meeting.

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8. Annual Report from Friends Historical Collection

The annual reported of the Friends Historical Collection prepared by Gwen Erickson, which was deferred from the annual sessions of the yearly meeting, was read and accepted.

9. Minute of Rich Square Monthly Meeting

Rich Square has minuted its discernment that yearly meeting not be hosted by Rich Square Friends in 2009. The clerk was asked to communicate with Wilmington Friends about the possibility of hosting the annual sessions in that year instead of 2010.

A minute of appreciation for Rich Square's many years of hosting yearly meeting will be prepared to present in Fourth Month representative body meeting.

10. Meeting of Representatives of Religious Bodies with President Akmadinejad of Iran.

Charlie Ansell reported on a gathering of representatives of several religious bodies at the Tillman Chapel of the United Nations with President Akmadinejad of Iran during his recent visit to the United States. The meeting was organized by the Mennonite Central Committee. Charlie was asked to attend for Friends Committee on National Legislation. He reported that the occasion was marked by a prayerful openness to dialog and by evidence of God's activity in all things. Charlie encouraged Friends to visit FCNL's web site.

The report will be posted on the yearly meeting web site.

11. Report of Minutes Committee

Claire Koster read a report for the Minutes Committee which was accepted and is as follows:

Friends expressed appreciation for the timely, efficient, and cost effective work of the committee.

12. Report of Lloyd Lee Wilson Concerning His Ministry.

Lloyd Lee Wilson reported that he was unable to lead a meeting retreat in Bloomington Friends Meeting (Indiana) for which the yearly meeting endorsed a certificate for him. He explained that the nature of the event was changed such that he no longer felt clear to carry out the ministry.

13. Thank you to Durham Friends Meeting: Durham Friends were thanked for hosting representative body meeting.

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14. Conclusion

The meeting concluded with worship, intending to reconvene on Fourth Month 26, 2008 at Friendship Meeting if consistent with Divine Will.

Sidney Lee Kitchens, clerk

Carole Treadway, recording clerk for the day

Minutes of the Representative Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative Fourth Month 26, 2008

The Representative Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative convened at Friendship meetinghouse at 1:30pm on the 26th of Fourth Month, 2008.

The clerk greeted Friends with appreciation for their attendance. Gratitude was also expressed for the delicious meal prepared by Friendship Friends with contributions from many others in the yearly meeting.

The minutes of Representative Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative Tenth Month 20, 2007 were read.
Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was reviewed and a written summary and explanation were read. The report was accepted and is as follows: "Treasurer's Report for the Fourth Month, 2008, Meeting of the Representative Body"

On the income side five of the monthly meetings have sent their annual contributions to the Yearly Meeting for the current budget year and one has sent a partial amount. Currently we are short 4700 of the amount budgeted to be received from monthly meetings. The yearly meeting has received generous contributions, totaling 1275, to the Yearly Meeting from several individuals and a special contribution from Davidson Friends Meeting.

On the expense side, printing of the Minutes was 50 less than the budget. We have been able to send donations to 14 of the 18 Friends' organizations that we support, including an extra 1000 to the Capital Campaign for Quaker House. We have also supported two persons to attend the School of the Spirit, one person for an internship with Casa de los Amigos, one person to

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travel to Costa Rico, and two persons for travel as official representatives to Quaker organizations from the yearly meeting. We have not yet sent our contributions of 850 each to the Friends Schools which we support, and funds will be needed to support additional travel in the coming two months.

Currently we are running a deficit of nearly 225 in the general fund for the fiscal year, which ends on Sixth Month 30, 2008.

The yearly meeting agreed to handle the financial transactions of the Southeast Regional gathering of Friends World Committee, a gathering which took place in Jamaica during the first week of 2008. Almost 10,000 were transferred in and out the yearly meeting checking account.

We currently have almost 13,000 in the general fund, nearly 2000 in the discipline fund, and slightly less than 2100 in the assistance fund for persons attending yearly meeting sessions.

Submitted by Ray Treadway, Treasurer

The issue of the fund for disciplines will be addressed at the yearly meeting sessions.

The treasurer's report was accepted.

Youth Planning:

Cheryl Fetterman asked for Friends to let her know soon if they were available to help with the youth during yearly meeting sessions, also that the monthly meetings give her some idea of the numbers of youth they expect to attend yearly meeting sessions.

Program Committee

Margie Dingman reported that the committee had fruitful work on this day and will be firming up the registration form so it will be available soon on the website. The general theme of the sessions will center around returning home to creation. Carl Magruder will be speaking on Sixth Day evening. John Blackfeather Jeffries and his daughter, Yvette, from the Okenechie tribe will share on Seventh Day evening. Many activities for our youth have been planned.

The program committee noted that the Friends United Meeting (FUM) Triennial will be taking place in High Point, NC, at the same time as our yearly meeting sessions. Landrum

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Bolling will be speaking on Fifth Day evening and it was noted that the Triennial doesn't schedule First Day worship, thus leaving Triennial attenders the joy of worshipping with local Friends. Friends were in unity with sending an invitation to Friends gathered at the FUM Triennial to worship with us on First Day morning. Friends felt easy with the planning committee exploring options on our behalf with regard to visitation at Triennial sessions.

Travel Minute

The endorsement to Deborah Shaw's travel minute was read, regarding her travel to the Friends General Conference Traveling Ministries Program Consultation for Friends with emerging gifts of Gospel ministry, where her prayerful presence was greatly appreciated.

Listening Devices

Further investigation is needed and so this matter will be deferred until yearly meeting sessions.

Friends World Committee for Consultation / Section of the Americas (FWCC/SoA)

Nancy Craft gave a brief report of the recent FWCC/SoA annual meeting held in Morgantown, Indiana. A fuller report will be shared at yearly meeting sessions. The next Southeast Regional Gathering will take place in the fall of 2009. The next annual SoA meeting will be held in Portland, Oregon with the following meeting tentatively scheduled to be held in Honduras.

Ray Treadway noted the presence of two Cuban Friends at this past meeting for the first time that he could remember. He shared that visas for Peruvian Friends had been denied and so they were unable to attend.

Our FWCC reps were asked to investigate the possibility of donating frequent flyer miles to Friends with limited finances from other countries.

It was announced that Ray Treadway is the new clerk of FWCC/SoA.

Report from Wilmington Friends Meeting:

The clerk received word from Wilmington Friends meeting clerk, Jeanne Rose, that the meeting approved that they were willing to host yearly meeting sessions in 2009, specific

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dates in Seventh Month to be set in consultation with the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Relationship between Wilmington Friends Meeting and Friends School of Wilmington

With regard to the meeting's relationship with Friends School of Wilmington, Wilmington Friends are still in unity with their original minute that they are not in relationship with the school.

The clerk asked for guidance as to whether the question of the yearly meeting's financial support of Friends School of Wilmington should remain on the agenda. Through heartfelt sharing it was recognized that the issue is larger than the relationship at Wilmington or simple financial support of an institution – it is the challenge of maintaining a relationship of spiritual integrity between monthly meetings and the Friends schools under their care. The yearly meeting has a role to play in that discernment. Friends approved that the yearly meeting appoint an ad hoc committee to explore how monthly meetings and Friends schools might support one another in a mutually healthy way. The committee is charged with educating itself, gathering information and exploring how the yearly meeting can be supportive in working with the monthly meetings and the schools.

Nancy Craft indicated willingness to serve. Mary Miller offered to host any ad hoc meetings in Greenville. The clerk was given authority to gather names for the ad hoc committee and to make decisions to facilitate its work.

National Quaker Week presentation

Susan Leeds shared about Britain Yearly Meeting's National Quaker week activities including open houses, garden parties, t-shirt designs, advertisements on the Underground, blogs, etc. The clerk will disseminate this information to monthly meeting clerks toward further discernment at yearly meeting.

Ad Hoc Committee on Indian Affairs:

Nan Bowles reported for the committee: The committee has discussed the possibility of persons from the monthly meetings visiting at some of the Centers, the possibility of a letter writing table where friends could read information and

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respond by letter. The committee is exploring ways to be supportive of local—North Carolina tribes—whether recognized or not by the state and federal governments. In particular the committee wishes to explore working with NCYM FUM at the MOWA Coctaw Center in Alabama.

Earthcare Committee Report:

Nan Bowles reported for the Earthcare Committee. The report follows:

Richard Miller and Nan Bowles Co-clerks

North Carolina Earthcare Committee gathered 26th of Fourth Month 2008 at Friendship Meeting in Greensboro, North Carolina to discuss plans for yearling meeting in Seventh Month 2008 at Guilford College.

Those present were Richard Miller, Jennie Ratcliffe, Janet Nagel, and Bill O'Conner.

1. Janet Nagel will arrange for a compost bucket for evening snacks during Yearly Meeting and for someone to take the compost home with them. She will also arrange for recycling bins in Hobbes Hall for Yearly Meeting attendees.

2. Richard Miller and Dora Owens will organize an interactive intergenerational display about steps people have taken and more they can do to reduce negative impacts on the biosphere.

3. Nan Bowles and Jennie Ratcliffe will collaborate on expressing personal inward spiritual connections to the biosphere through pictorial art and the written word, and will invite additional offerings from others.

Minute of Appreciation to Rich Square Monthly Meeting:

A minute of appreciation was expressed to Rich Square Monthly Meeting for the longstanding material and spiritual hospitality it's members have extended to the Yearly Meeting , in hosting yearly meeting annual sessions, representative body meetings, and other gatherings for the nourishment of the body.

Concluding Minute

Representative Body concluded noting the presence of over thirty-five Friends representing all eight monthly meetings and visitors from Davidson Friends Meeting, Atlanta Friends Meeting and Quakers Uniting in Publications (QUIP).

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Undertaking no further business, meeting closed purposing to meet on Tenth Month 25th, 2008, if consistent with Divine Will.

Sidney Lee Kitchens, Clerk
Deborah Shaw, Recording Clerk

12. Southern State Worship Group

Bill Geary was welcomed and he shared with us about the ministry of Southern State Worship Group which has been ongoing since 1987. As they begin their 22nd year of worship in the fall they continue to appreciate and feel strengthened by our prayers and communications to them.

There is a new opportunity for Friends in the Drug Rehabilitation program, called the Blue Roof Inn. As prison life has constricted in response to increased violence in the system, this program offers space for more of a religious conversation being held in a raw and tense context.

The group letter from Southern States Worship Group follows:

Dear Friends,

Our current challenge is to live faithfully in the Light. It's not about yesterday or tomorrow for worry lowers the quality of life-especially in the here and now. It is sufficient that we concentrate on the joy of the moment. It's not the destination...it's about the journey. We thank God for the now and to be living life in His hand. We put our future on Him and thus we remain strong in Him and not in ourselves.

Some of us have been incarcerated for many years and we affirm that it has been the best thing to have happened to us. For being here, we have become different people. We have come to have compassion on others and we now know there is such a thing as hope. We are here to live fully in the service to others.

Everyone and everything has a purpose. The test is to show love in the dark places. We affirm that the Light of Christ flows from and that Christ is in us. Be not conformed to the world but be transformed by the Light of Christ.

Life has changed for us. Since we put our lives in His hands- we listen to different music, we read different books and

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we keep very different company. It's important to us that our beliefs and our actions coincide. We need to be loving even when it is hard to be. When it is stressful to be. It is important to realize that joy not shared is cut in half and pain not shared is doubled. So---we need to share the joy and also the pain we experience in love and in life. Inside we feel a new spirit and we are especially eager to share this with loved ones-especially our children. We stand ready to share our faith when given the opportunity.

We value the continuing and sustaining relationship between our worship group and the yearly meeting.

Yours in Christ's light,
Dennis, Jimmy, Michael and Bill

Through the writings of the men and the excerpts from our own writing to the men, we are reminded of the amazing gift of God's consoling healing transforming presence in all our lives – freely given and always available.

“There is a people waiting to be gathered – waiting in your local jails and prisons. Search your hearts to see if you are called to prison ministry. It is always a blessing to be in God's presence when hearts are being transformed.”

Ann Ashford notes the opportunity for prison ministry through the Prisoner Visitation and Support Program, which provides training for visiting with prison populations.

The meeting adjourned, purposing to meet Fifth Day afternoon at 1:00 p.m.

Fifth Day Afternoon The Tenth of Seventh Month

The meeting convened near the appointed hour.

13. Quaker House

Chuck Fager reported on the activities of Quaker House of Fayetteville, NC, for the past year. The capital campaign goal for renovations of Quaker House was met. That work is close to being finished and has been moving according to budget

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and timeframe. Because of the economy and calls on people's funds, for the first time since Chuck has been director, Quaker House did not make its budget. From January through May, Quaker House has spent 25,000 more than has come in. Some pledges toward the renovation may still be coming in, but contingency plans are being looked at to adjust to less income.

A significant portion of the Quaker House budget goes to the staff salaries, director, office assistant and two hotline counselors. Chuck expressed gratitude for the support of the yearly meeting toward the ministry of Quaker House.

Currently the following four program emphases are being undertaken, the first three of which have been traditional for almost forty years.

- *Working with soldiers who want to get out of the military for conscience sake. Hotline calls peaked near 10,000 last year and this year are still at high levels*
- *Peace Actions: while there were not as many public actions taken this past year, work continues in public witness to help raise awareness of the varieties of human costs of war and military service.*
- *Truth in recruiting: materials are available and all being used throughout the country.*
- *The new program responds to the increased awareness that much of the US torture infrastructure in place in this country is located in eastern North Carolina. Quaker House is carrying a concern that the acceptance of and move toward this system of evil becomes a significant destructive force in our own civil structure and our country's influence and impact on the world.*

Quaker House continues to testify to and manifest the Friends' Peace Testimony and maintains an important witness in Fayetteville, providing a place for people to meet. Chuck expressed his appreciation for the work of the Quaker House board, their dedication and energy.

Quaker House of Fayetteville is preparing for its 40th anniversary next year. A book project is in progress, describing the history and activities of Quaker House of Fayetteville, NC.

14. Young Adult Friends Conference “Living as Friends, Listening Within”

Emily Stewart reported on the young adult Friends conference, “Living as Friends, Listening Within” held in Richmond, Indiana, Fifth Month 23-26, 2008. She brought us into the context of the gathering of 104 young adult Friends and five elders from all branches of Quakerism coming together to share about living obediently in the Spirit. Emily spoke of her work with the conference planning committee, also made up of Friends from all the branches, of their working through misconceptions and stereotypes that each carried about the others which were only laid down when the committee could come together for a face-to-face meeting.

The power of the Lord over all was felt and experienced throughout the gathering. Healing love was present in abundance. Friends both lived into and carried home the questions of “Why can’t Friends get along with each other?” and “What are you waiting for?”

The conference epistle follows:

Dear Friends Everywhere,

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.” -

Romans 12:2 NRSV

In worship, in small groups, in conversation, we have been transformed. Friends affirmed their love for one another again and again. The act of coming together physically was a first step to enacting loving unity. We are hungry for connection and growth in grace with one another, and the healing of our divisions. We heard sermons and joined voices in song. Friends had opportunities to experience and participate in unfamiliar forms of worship. We felt the support of seasoned Friends who provided pastoral care and the many Friends that held the gathering in prayer.

Formal small groups gathered every day for checking in and more personal discussion of the challenges and joys of the conference. Small informal groups treasured free time where we found the space to address other concerns. These informal

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discussions created a foundation for the depth at which we arrived in worship. Earlham School of Religion professors, students, and alumni led workshops, while conference participants held interest groups on various topics. On Sunday, participants could choose between programmed (First Friends), semi-programmed (West Richmond) or unprogrammed (Clear Creek) worship in the community.

In Spirit-led worship we found that Friends spoke to the necessity of continuing in conversations about our similarities and differences. Friends were asked before the conference to consider the cultural norms of others present, and whether certain choices may impact our ability to find common ground. We began exploring scripture together in workshops, Bible study and programmed worship. This invited new challenges and opportunities to engage with texts important to the experience of Friends. We were reminded by Mark Walker that living in unity as a Religious Society of Friends will make us more effective in our work in the world. The discernment of corporate and individual leadings is one of the obligations we have to one another as a Society. We hear the need to acknowledge diverse leadings, such as Gospel, traveling, vocal, and eldering ministries. Recording these gifts is one way of making individuals and meetings accountable to leadings.

Friends heard a call to find ways to share the good news that has been revealed to us at this gathering. We strive to carry this light with us when we return to our home meetings and churches. We have invited one another to our respective yearly gatherings and to explore ways of opening our spiritual homes. May we share with the world the light and love that was a presence at this gathering.

In peace,
The YAF Conference Participants

(This conference was sponsored by PYM, FGC, FUM, Earlham School Of Religion and the Newlin Center for Quaker Thought and Practice.)

*The meeting adjourned, purposing to meet Sixth Day morning at
9:00 a.m.*

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Sixth Day Morning The Eleventh of Seventh Month

The meeting convened near the appointed hour.

15. Visitors (Part Two)

Visiting Friends were introduced and welcomed.

Scott King, Chattahoochee Friends Worship Group, affiliate member of Rockingham County Friends Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting

16. Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs

Nan Bowles reported on the 139th annual gathering of the Associate Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs (ACFIA). The report follows:

2008 Report to North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative
139th Annual Gathering of the Associated Committee of Friends
on Indian Affairs / Held at Kickapoo Friends Center in McCloud
Oklahoma

Picture yourself standing under big, open Oklahoma blue skies. See the round rolling hills covered by hardwood forests and open pasturelands. Fields adorned with round hay bales. Yellow grasses lit by setting sunlight against dark purple grey skies welcome us to the Kickapoo Friends Center in the land of red earth. Open skies, rolling hills. There is rhythm of life here. Friday morning, the 139th gathering of the Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs opens with prayer and music led by the Pastor, Brad Wood and members of the Kickapoo center.

Joyce Hollingsworth, as acting Presiding Clerk welcomed the General Assembly by reading a message from John Key the Presiding Clerk who wasn't able to be with us. "Even though the mantle of leadership and responsibility is being passed we can still help fulfill the original vision to partner with our Native American brothers and sisters for Jesus Christ. The Centers still need financial support, prayers and encouragement, as well as helping hands and feet." There was

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than some discussion what message the committee wanted us to bring back to our Yearly Meetings and Monthly Meetings. That message reads as follows:

“The operation and oversight of the Choctaw Friends Center (in Alabama) and Mesquaukie Friends Center (in Iowa) is under the leadership of North Carolina and Iowa Yearly Meeting respectively. Transfer of Kickapoo Friends Center to Mid-America Yearly Meeting will be completed no later than July 1, 2008. The continued support of all Yearly Meetings to the Centers is critical to allow them to continue to function under their new leadership. Financial support for Choctaw and Mesquakie should be sent to their respective Yearly Meetings. Financial support for Kickapoo should be sent to Kickapoo Friends Center. ACFIA will continue their support not for profit status for an indefinite period of time to handle any matters that may arise. A mailing address for ACFIA will be maintained to receive any correspondence. Any funds that ACFIA receives that are designated to specific Centers will be distributed appropriately to those centers, with any undesignated funds being equally divided among the three centers.”

Later in the day we gathered again to hear the new directors of the Mowa-Choctaw Centers, Corey and Jennifer York give a background on their recent move to the center. From David Nagle, pastor of Hominy Friends Meeting, we heard an update on the work there. He shared how there are buildings owned by the Hominy Friends that are set aside for education and religious purposes under the care of ACFIA and may be used should the committee choose to broaden their work to become a center for American Indian Concerns. Many members of Hominy Meeting are members of the Osage Nation. Hominy Friends recently celebrated their 100th year celebration, when traditional Osage games and dancing were held. They also had a fundraiser for the Meeting by sponsoring a Wild Onion Dinner where they served wild Onions and eggs, the traditional way they are eaten, plus hominy, ham and fry bread. Wild Onions are also a special food of the Cherokee people.

This gathering was different this year, in that it was held in one of the American Indian communities. It was wonderful to get to know some of the members and have faces and names to

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go with the Kickapoo center. It no longer is just a place our yearly meeting gives money to. I stayed with my friend Lahoma Burd, a member of the Kickapoo Nation, who I had met at the first Committee gathering I went to in Sophia, North Carolina. Her elder siblings spoke Kickapoo but had trouble, being ostracized when they went off to public school. When she came around, Lahoma's father didn't want her to have the same bad experience in school so she was not taught her native language. She is now working on learning it. Lahoma was responsible for some of the food the Center offered the general assembly so I spent time helping her with that and helping out in the kitchen. This was a beautiful opening to get to know some of the Kickapoo Center people. One couple was Candy and Jim Klumpp. I learned that Jim is working on translating the Bible into Kickapoo but finding the Kickapoo people aren't always open to sharing their language. Another member I met was a Kickapoo elder by the name of Leon. He was soft spoken but radiated a gentle strength.

There was shared time getting to know members of the Kickapoo community, learning about the Kickapoo people as a tribe. The name means "Stands here and there", in reference to their migration patterns. There are three recognized Kickapoo tribes in the United States, one in Kansas, and one in Oklahoma and one in Texas. Lahoma tells me that the Kickapoo are known as the most traditional of the American Indians. Originally they came from the Wisconsin area and ended up in Oklahoma during the Removal. One faction of the Kickapoo, at some point in their history, wanted to have nothing to do with the US government. So they moved to Nacimiento, Mexico and are still there today living in traditional round houses. Armin Sieglar was a missionary at the Kickapoo Center. He was well liked and accepted into the community. He visited the Mexican Nacimiento community in 1956 and was given permission to film. We watched the movie clips of that visit showing their traditional round houses. The cattle and horses are free ranging. When the Kickapoo people there want to go hunting they go out and capture a horse and ride off into pine-oak forests of the high desert mountains of the Sierra Madres. The nearby cattle sometimes eat their houses, made out of cattails, so they put up

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barbed wired fence to keep cattle from eating their homes. Communications and visitations back and forth between the people in Mexico and Oklahoma is still maintained today.

Friday evening we gathered to hear members of the community share their stories about how God was moving in their lives. Music was woven into the evening played by Gabriel and Michael Bell, twins in their twenties who have grown up in the Kickapoo Friends community. They extended an open invitation to the gathering members if they wanted to share any music or testimonies. I felt lead to share a few songs on the lap harp and share a story from my recent trip to the Cherokee communities of Oklahoma.

As the leadership of the centers has now been turned over to the three existing centers, there was no official business to discuss but we did hear the directors' reports. From the Choctaw Center in Alabama, we learned that the property is surrounded by a white picket fence. People have learned that inside the fence, at the Friends Center, is a safe place to be. Corey and Jennifer York, the directors wait for members of the community to make requests for help by encouraging them to fill out request forms. It is their attempt to help others without offending the people of the community. They are also encouraging others to help out with groups that come to visit so the people feel like they are being helpful and useful to others.

Linda Sawyers, from Hopewell Monthly meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting FUM, expressed interest in our yearly meetings collaborating together for work trips to Alabama. They are making a commitment to travel to the center once a year. From the Kickapoo Center where we gathered we heard from Brad and Christine Wood. They do a lot of work with the children in the community. Some of the kids speak Kickapoo as their first language and Christine tutors them in school. A lot of the kids have no parents in their homes or are in foster care. One of the teachings they share with the kids is to look at one another on the inside. Christine shared how important and enlightening it was for the children to see and experience God moving in Love through the lives of visitors that come to help out. For them to know the expression of God's Love is not just something

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the preacher said, but something that comes through these other people from far away.

One young Kickapoo woman shared her struggle with the issue of being Christian and being Indian. In her home no others wanted to follow the Christian way so she felt as “other.” At the same time she deeply felt her Kickapoo heritage. This created turmoil within her and she was finding this difficult. As she prayed what came through to her from God was, “I made you who you are. Worship me through the Kickapoo ways, ceremonies dances and the Christian way.” She was able to find resolution within her but knows others struggle with this issue.

From Iowa, Victor and Brenda White we heard about the heavy snow loads last winter. They also shared photos of the deer and eagles that live near by the center. They are introducing prayer into the lives of the children that come to them. The Mesquakie people came to Iowa from the Great Lakes regions and are unique in that they were able to buy their tribal lands, which today consist of 8,000 acres. They were recently given some buffalo. Their society is a patrilineal society. If the woman marries outside the nation she loses all tribal benefits and has to move away. In the past year Victor was sent an invitation to travel in the ministry to Kenya, establishing relations between Kenyans and the Mesquakie Nation. They are also reaching out the neighboring tribe, the Winnebago Nation, across the state border in Nebraska.

It is my observation that representatives from the unprogrammed traditions, whether Liberal or Conservative were in the vast minority. One of the women on the Associated Committee said they had tried in vain to have other types of Yearly Meetings from New England and Baltimore attend the gatherings. The committee wants and encourages all persuasions of Friends to support the Centers. If we want the people of the centers, especially the children to be aware of Conservative Friends and know we exist and who we are about, it feels to me that being a presence is important. As I move between the Associated committee and this yearly meeting as our representative, I hold within my heart John Woolman’s words.

“Love was the first motion, and thence a concern arose to spend some time with the Indians, that I might feel and understand

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their life and the spirit they live in, if haply I might receive some instruction from them, or they might be in any degree helped forward by my following the leadings of truth among them.”

Your faithful representative,

Nan Bowles

Friends were in unity that the history and purpose statement of ACFIA be included in the minutes. The statement follows:

Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs / 139th Session / Kickapoo Friends Center / McCloud, Oklahoma

Fourth Day of Fourth Month 2008

History and Purpose Statement

“The Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs (ACFIA) has its roots in Quaker history as far back as the seventeenth century. William Penn’s landing with the Indians is well known. Other persons have also followed the call to understand Native Americans, to give and receive spiritual teachings, to assist them in their struggles to adjust to an encroaching culture.

It is apparently this record which led President U.S. Grant to state to the United States Congress:

“The Society of Friends is well known as having succeeded in living in peace with the Indians in the early settlement of Pennsylvania, while their white neighbors in other sections of the country were constantly embroiled. They are also known for their opposition to all strife, violence, and war, and are generally noted for their strict integrity and fair dealing.”

On behalf of President Grant the following proclamation was issued on February 15, 1869:

Headquarters Army of the United States

Washington, D.C. February 15, 1869

Sir:

General Grant, the President elect, desirous of inaugurating some policy to protect the Indians in their just rights and enforce integrity in the administration of their affairs, as well as to improve their general condition, and appreciating fully the friendship and interest which your society has ever

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maintained in their behalf, directs me to request that you will send him a list of names, members of your Society, whom your Society will endorse as suitable persons for Indian agents.

Also, to assure you that any attempt which may or can be made by your society for the improvement, education, and Christianization of the Indians under such agencies will receive from him, as President, all the encouragement and protection which the laws of the United States will warrant him.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
E.S. Parker / Brev.Brig.Gen., U.S.A. and A.D.C.

E.S. Parker was an Indian, a Seneca of the Tonawanda band in New York. He was later Commissioner of Indian Affairs for a short time under President Grant.

The year 1867, was almost a crisis year because of the increase of massacres and bloodshed and the despair of the military leaders themselves of subduing Indians by military might. That autumn, at a Friends conference on Indian Concerns held in Baltimore, representatives of six Yearly Meetings offered their services without compensation for anything the government might require of them. At the same time a joint committee of Iowa, Western Indiana, and Ohio Yearly Meetings on Indian Concerns was formed. Cooperating with the other committee in presenting in 1869, an appeal to the president. Philadelphia Friends were also concerned and sent a committee to visit the president-elect.

Out of this conference and recently aired suggestions that Friends be involved came the request of the President-elect. The conference with the President-elect took place on January 25, 1869. The letter from Brigadier General E.S. Parker followed on February 15.

Those who had waited on the President-elect were a truly representative body. Aware of the enormous responsibility being laid on them they formed The Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs. The organization was born in June, 1869 at Damascus, Ohio. It was made up of representatives from New England, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Ohio, Indiana, Western, Iowa and North Carolina Yearly meeting.

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Statement of Purpose of the Committee:

To bear testimony to the Christian faith, principles and teachings by word and deed. To advocate integrity in all phases of the administration of Indian affairs. To encourage all Indians to value their heritage. To assist those with whom we work to build a strong sense of community and personal responsibility.

Appreciation was expressed for Nan's efforts and intervisitation on our yearly meeting's behalf. We are grateful to be better informed. Friends were in unity that Nan be empowered by this yearly meeting to visit other yearly meetings as our representative with this report, as she is led by the Spirit.

17. Ad hoc Committee on Indian Affairs

Eric Ginsberg reported on the activities of the yearly meeting ad hoc committee on Indian Affairs. The report follows:

Members: Eric Ginsberg (convener), Nan Bowles, Ruth Anne Childress, David Eley, Janis Ansell

Background: In a more optimistic update of the report given at Yearly Meeting 2007, Nan Bowles is happy to report that the Associated Committee for Indian Affairs will not be laid down but it is shifting its intentions & restructuring the way it operates. She continues to communicate with them and participated in the ACFIA gathering April 3-5 in Oklahoma.

The ad hoc committee has agreed that NCYM(C) has a long-standing relationship through financial contributions with the ACFIA centers and it seems right-ordered that we build upon and foster that relationship in light of the general sense of the Meeting to authorize this committee to explore issues and opportunities for outreach to Native American communities. Through David Eley's experience, gleaned from past visits to Friends Centers in Indian Country, is that the Centers & Meetings would be anxious to have those willing to come and share Christian faith in the way that they understand it. Nan Bowles has been identifying contacts at OYM and communicating with David Nagle, Pastor of Hominy Friends meeting in order to coordinate outreach.

General recommendations: The committee recommends that in light of our support of the ACFIA centers, we should begin with some kind of support for them. This should include exploring

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opportunities for work projects and other direct contacts with the Centers.

The committee has also discussed the need to craft a long-range vision concerning the relationship between NCYM(C) and Native American communities, including the purposes of these relationships. It was also noted, however, that if there is a true vision for the Yearly Meeting, we won't have to search for it.

Because of the degree to which Native America is affected by direct legislation, both positive and negative, the committee identified the desirability of more direct interaction with FCNL's Indian program to express the views of the Yearly Meeting concerning relevant legislation. This committee can be a source of information to our FCNL YM representatives, one of whom is also a member of the committee

Specific suggestions: The committee recommends sponsored work projects at Friends Centers in Indian Country that could involve our youth. While the Hominy Center in Oklahoma has historically been one of the most active and stable centers, the MOWA-Choctaw center in Alabama is geographically closer and since it is under the care of NCYM (FUM), supporting it would also allow us to collaborate with NCYM (FUM) and perhaps forge stronger relationships with NCYM (FUM).

The committee agreed that the Meeting should explore more local assistance and strengthening relationships with local tribes that may have similar needs. In NC, this includes the Eastern Cherokee, the Lumbee (who have obtained no recognition by state or federal governments, but for whom a bill granting federal recognition is currently in the Congress), Tuscarora (members of the Haudenosaunee, or Iroquois Confederacy) and Occaneechi-Saponi (who lack federal recognition but have state recognition). In addition, Virginia has Mattaponi and Pamunkey tribes, unrecognized by the federal government. Friends noted that Richmond Friends Meeting may be working with one of the VA tribes.

Plans for Yearly Meeting: In addition to presenting and discussing the above suggestions and recommendations, the committee agreed that it would be a useful source of support to Friends Centers in Indian County to encourage letter writing at

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the Yearly Meeting as we do with the Friends Southern State Worship Group (Bill Geary's organization) prison letters. We hope to provide reports from each Center's directors and ask friends to reply.

Between now and Yearly Meeting, the committee intends to communicate with the Friends Centers and local tribes to identify and discuss how and to what extent NCYM(C) may provide necessary and useful assistance.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Ginsburg, Convener

Friends were in unity with the committee discerning a long-range vision and statement defining our yearly meeting's desire of relationship with Native American communities, recognizing that the committee is looking for discernment from the monthly meeting with regard to this statement. The ad hoc committee will communicate to the monthly meetings about this opportunity for discernment. Friends were in unity with the committee bringing a recommendation regarding our collaborative work with North Carolina Yearly Meeting – FUM at the MOWA-Choctaw Center in Alabama to Tenth Month Representative Body.

Gratitude was expressed for the work of the committee. Concern was expressed that we listen deeply to how we might answer to our long forgotten neighbors.

18. Friends School of Wilmington

Ethan Williamson shared a report of Friends School of Wilmington. The report follows:

2007-2008 Friends School of Wilmington Annual School Report to North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative

Greetings to all Friends of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative from the staff and Board of Friends School of Wilmington! This past year a major portion of our energies were consumed in completing our first small capital campaign and adding 4,000 square feet of classroom space and a new traffic loop to our Peiffer Campus. The project fell considerably behind schedule due primarily to a city sewer

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moratorium and thus we occupied the buildings on Friday, March 14th, 2008, the day after receiving our Certificate of Occupancy. The students, teachers and parents were very pleased to have space to accommodate our 205 students without crowding. It is also wonderful to have Art and Music rooms on our Peiffer Campus.

Rather than reciting facts and statistics in our report this year, we wanted to give readers a glimpse of a student's transformational experience at Friends School of Wilmington in his own words. Thus, I include an essay written last fall by a 2008 graduate reflecting on the Quaker principle of mindfulness. This essay brought tears to my eyes in its honesty, self-reflection, and evidence of growth within our school community which is "dedicated to academic excellence and educating children in the Quaker traditions of simplicity, equality, service, and harmony."

September 29th, 2007

This I Believe: You should always cultivate mindfulness

In our busy days it is easy to get desensitized and become robot-like in doing, but not experiencing. Going to school and not remembering what you have learned, just making your life about going from point A to point B are familiar examples of this. Cultivating mindfulness is developing awareness of what you are doing. By doing so, your senses are not dulled by the sameness of life. Lois Lowery showed the impact of desensitization in "The Giver". The people's lives were planned out and there was no room for individual thought. That wouldn't be the world I want to live in; I enjoy making my own decisions even if they're sometimes wrong.

Everyone should take part in cultivating mindfulness. For me to do this I had to first know myself. At first I had the misconception that cultivating mindfulness took too much time and meant going to a mountain and meditating for years. I eventually realized that that was one way to cultivate mindfulness, but not the only way.

To be mindful you need be aware of what you are doing and act on that awareness. For me, learning how to cultivate mindfulness meant taking time to look and listen. 'Reading the room' was an important part of the process. Studying facial

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expressions and body language helped me to know what to say and do. Recognizing when someone was mad or having a bad day without them telling me was when I knew that I was reading the room. This was something I had a hard time doing, which made it hard for me to talk to people without disagreements.

The ability to read the room is a valuable skill to getting along with others. It was hard to do, but I am glad I did it.

In a study done in a retirement home, a group of senior citizens were given a plant to care for. The participants made decisions of what to do based on the condition of the plant. This was cultivating mindfulness and those who participated took part in more activities in the center and lived longer than others in the same retirement home. Making simple decisions gave the participants more enjoyment of their life. In the same way I believe that mindfulness is part of my mental growth and the expansion of my wealth of knowledge.

By being mindful my efforts to accomplish goals have become more focused, and I've been able to accomplish them better and faster. I try to cultivate mindfulness every chance I get because I know it will lead to a more enjoyable life and longer life.

By cultivating mindfulness my life has become happier and my efforts in my life have become more focused. It has opened the door to my happiness.

Written by student Ian Grace

It is a great privilege to help children thrive and grow within the fertile soil of Quaker values. The wisdom “out of the mouths of babes” never ceases to inspire.

Ethan D. Williamson, Head of School

Further details about the school: Members of the school worship together, respond to various queries as a community, share together about their faith and experience of the Divine. Friends School of Wilmington is in relationship with Friends Council on Education through membership and is in the accreditation process.

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19. Virginia Beach Friends School

A report from Virginia Beach Friends School was read and follows:

The 2007-2008 Virginia Beach Friends School year began with an opening enrollment of 197 and increased to a high of 212 students, which represented a slight decrease from the previous year. Though we were a bit smaller, our Quaker and minority student enrollment grew to 5.6% and 18% respectively. Our percentage of students who received financial aid was stable with 26% receiving assistance that represented 12% of tuition revenue.

The school did see a decline in the number (2) of faculty who were defined as minority by FCE, but this remains at the forefront of hiring concerns. The School Committee continued to be forward thinking and had a significant year in terms of the long-range stability of the school. As of this writing, School Committee has eleven members and is 77% Quaker (the highest percentage in a decade) with one person of color.

The 2007-2008 school year included a five-year reaccreditation visit from the Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS.) The subsequent VAIS visiting team report listed several commendations for the school including:

- Virginia Beach Friends School is blessed with a dedicated, professional faculty and staff who frequently serve in multiple capacities that exceed traditional expectation.
- The Head of School demonstrates an inspiring dedication to Virginia Beach Friends School, serving as Dean of Students, Facilities Manager, and Director of Development while also leading the day to day management of the school.
- Virginia Beach Friends School enjoys an educational philosophy that encourages volunteer and parental involvement both in the classroom and behind the scenes, thereby creating a lower adult/student ratio, more individual attention for students, a more welcoming facility, and a broader, more inclusive community.
- The curriculum committees encourage cross-division discussions, group planning, and resource sharing, and serve as

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an avenue to ensure continuity and progression of instruction across grade levels and among divisions.

□ Community service is not only a requirement of the student body, but more importantly, is an accepted and embraced way of life at Virginia Beach Friends School, with students willingly giving of their time and talents to the area needy as well as to each other.

While the School Committee, faculty and I were pleased that the visiting committee recognized the hard work of the school employees and our wonderful programs, the school failed some standards for reaccreditation that, if not corrected, would have jeopardized our membership in the Association. The school failed the following standards:

□ The library/learning center is so staffed as to provide for the program of the school and the needs of the students and the professional staff.

□ The governing body has developed and approved a clearly stated long-range plan and a process, which ensures a review of the plan on a regular basis.

□ The governing body is organized in such a way as to be independent of any special interest group.

There was unity among the School Committee that maintaining our status as an accredited school with the VAIS was critical to the school's long-term viability and focused its efforts on remedying the failed standards as well as other, less critical, concerns cited by the visiting team. The library staffing concern was solved through a shifting of staff and the school hosted a gathering of individuals from the faculty, Meeting, parents and friends of the school to begin to create a shared long-term vision for the school. That gathering served as the catalyst for the School Committee decision to begin the process of searching for a more suitable location and selling the school's property. The last standard was failed because the by-laws of the school stated that "51% of the School Committee be members of Virginia Beach Friends Meeting" and, as such, the VAIS membership committee did not believe the school was "independent of any special interest group." A change in the composition of the School Committee required approval from the Virginia Beach Friends Meeting and I am please to report

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that the Meeting approved a School Committee proposal to change the requirement from 51% members of VBFM to 20% members of the Religious Society of Friends. This change did not alter our membership with the FCE.

As a result of the work of the administration and School Committee I received a letter from the Executive Director of the VAIS informing me that the school has been granted full accreditation status and believe the following paragraph from that letter speaks to our accomplishments.

Truly, Virginia Beach Friends School has undergone many significant changes during the 2007-2008 school year. We are particularly impressed with the changes in governance and by-laws of the School and, in turn, with the development of a new long-range plan. We also extend our congratulations on the many administrative changes you have implemented to enhance the library, service personnel, and transportation concerns. In addition, we are very pleased with the sincerity with which the school is approaching fund-raising issues and other matters related to the long-term financial sustainability of Virginia Beach Friends School.

The 2007-08 school year was a great success for our students, faculty and School Committee alike and we would like to take this opportunity to thank North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) for its continued support.

Sincerely,
Jonathan K. Alden, Head of School

A conversation followed which ranged over many issues, many of which it is hoped will be labored with by the ad hoc committee.

The meeting adjourned, purposing to meet at 1:00 p.m.

Sixth Day Afternoon The Eleventh of Seventh Month

The meeting convened near the appointed hour.

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20. Answers to the Queries

The answers to the Queries from the monthly meetings were read. (Note: Query answers were read in several sessions of yearly meeting. For continuity reasons, all answers are printed together.)

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?*

Durham Monthly Meeting: From an historical perspective, maintaining free and unprogrammed worship, as we do, is of major importance. In 1904 it led our yearly meeting to separate from other Quakers who did not maintain this form of worship.

The query asks if there is a living silence. Ours is a boisterous, sound-filled silence; very alive when the children are present. Yet we maintain a stillness that draws people in. Ours is not a static silence, but full of life. Friends do express the value of this in preparing and supporting us for faithfulness in our daily lives.

Our experiment regarding when children join the worship is an example of our meeting's commitment to the quality of worship and the value of meaningfully including all ages.

It is hard for just the few people present in Business Meeting to answer this question fully, and perhaps a forum or other method of discerning the experience of the wider meeting would be helpful.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: We uphold our testimony for worship based on silent waiting and for an unprogrammed ministry to be shared by all. We do feel the living silence, the power of God in our midst; sometimes it is experienced more

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strongly than at others. This inspiration nurtures us in our daily lives. We come to meeting with hearts and minds ready to worship. We encourage spoken ministry by letting the speaker know when it has been helpful. We are careful not to speak unless we feel led by Spirit. However, we know it is our responsibility to be open to leadings to speak.

Friendship Monthly Meeting: In general, our meeting feels that we are doing well in this area. Our vocal ministry nurtures us deeply as does our silent ministry. In our consideration of this query, Friends noted that the ability to have a settled, gathered meeting for worship that is divinely guided is heavily dependent on individual spiritual preparation outside of meeting through regular spiritual discipline and inquiry. In meeting for worship, we find there are three forms of ministry: vocal ministry, silent ministry and the ministry of holding the space of the meeting itself. We questioned how to discern gifts in vocal ministry and how to best support Friends who offer vocal ministry. Friends noted that silent ministry is essential to our meeting, especially in a world that is increasingly hectic, noisy and chaotic. Friends noted the importance of the ministry of holding the space of the meeting, a practice of centering not only ourselves individually but being concerned for and nurturing the overall spiritual connectedness of the meeting for worship. Some members asked whether our meeting for worship would be enriched by a more mindful following of this practice.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: We feel clear to answer “Yes” to this query. Friends sense that we are strongly blessed with a living silence. We are drawn together by and open to the Presence in our midst in our worship. At times Friends are led to offer vocal ministry or prayer.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: We do uphold our testimony for silent worship and unprogrammed ministry. We encourage those with a gift for spoken ministry. The rest of this query points each of us inward. Each of us must know for himself or herself what these words mean. All of us here today do feel drawn by a living silence. There is a spirit holding us together. And this spirit carries over into daily life, making it fuller.

West Grove Monthly Meeting: West Grove Friends considered and answered this query, but the recorded answer was lost.

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Wilmington Monthly Meeting: We uphold our testimony for a free and unprogrammed ministry. The goal of our worship is for a living silence which can inspire our daily lives; sometimes it is achieved and sometimes it is not. We generally come to meeting with hearts and minds open. Despite the relative silence of our meeting, spoken ministry is encouraged when it occurs.

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

Durham Monthly Meeting: Reading the query at the end of Meeting for Worship is important so that people do think about it even if they are unable to come to Business Meeting. It is important for Friends to be mindful of keeping interruptions of Meeting for Worship to a minimum. We are also aware that the experience of those waiting together in the front hall is also spirit-led and is part of our Meeting for Worship.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: We are faithful in our attendance at meetings for worship. We try not to disturb the spirit of the meeting if we arrive late. Sometimes it takes us a while to quiet our minds, yet we do patiently submit to God in silent communion.

Friendship Monthly Meeting: Our core attenders come to meeting regularly, often coming early. Those few who do come late enter carefully. However, we are aware that while we may arrive bodily on time, often we arrive late mentally and spiritually with “busy thoughts” and in this frame of mind we may interfere with the communal settling into a deep worship. Arriving for meeting early really means that we come with hearts and minds prepared. Messages often come from individual searching. In sensing the close of worship, the clerk tries to discern when the meeting no longer seems to be gathered.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: Those who are physically and geographically able do attend meeting faithfully. Meetings are not disturbed by late arrivals. As far as can be known, our condition is one of humble submission to God in silent

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communion. We are grateful for those who are with us in the Spirit though unable to worship with us at Cedar Grove.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: There is room for improvement when it comes to arriving promptly. We wonder how to draw in the many members and attenders who are irregular in their attendance at Meeting for Worship. But beyond attendance and tardiness, there is a spirit of unity that infuses our silent communion.

West Grove Monthly Meeting: West Grove Friends considered and answered this query, but the recorded answer was lost.

Wilmington Monthly Meeting: The meeting considered this query but was unable to retrieve it electronically.

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?*

Durham Monthly Meeting: This query speaks to the essence of being a Quaker: standing firmly on principles while listening to others and dealing with love, respect and honor in every transaction. In this meeting we do seek the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives and in the life of the meeting. We recognize that violence is a continuum that begins with disregarding others, using sarcasm, criticism and negative speech. We instead seek, and largely succeed, to see that of God in each other and to treat each other with love. Quaker process supports us in this and it is good to be reminded that clearness committees, Ministry and Counsel, and Care and Support are there to help us when needed.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: Regular attendance at meeting reminds us to follow the teachings of Jesus and guides us throughout the week. Love helps us maintain unity. We work to cultivate a forgiving spirit and to resolve our differences as they arise.

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Friendship Monthly Meeting: Friends recognize that love and unity flow from all of us attempting to follow the teachings of Jesus, in our daily lives as individuals and in our corporate life. We seek not to eliminate all differences but to listen to each other in the spirit of love, seeking a deeper unity where differences are recognized and respected. As a meeting, we feel that we are improving in our ability to listen and to maintain a fruitful dialog. This process can yield a true “sense of the meeting.”

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: Christ Jesus, the Teacher, is at the core of our meeting. We do seek the inspiration of His Holy Spirit with the intent to act accordingly. As humans, we admit to falling short. We maintain love and unity in our meeting. The meeting does work to cultivate a loving and forgiving spirit. Differences are infrequent. When there are differences, they are resolved with love, honesty and humility.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: Inspired by the teachings of Jesus, we endeavor to maintain love and unity among us. Feeling our way forward, avoiding destructive criticism, cultivating a spirit of forgiveness and striving to live in love and humility, we find our sense of the Holy Spirit mysteriously deepening.

West Grove Monthly Meeting: Within the Meeting we feel we do respond to conflict tenderly and with love. It is in the larger world that this is more difficult. We acknowledge sometimes yielding to the temptation to behave in ways that may be unhelpful, but we do endeavor to be faithful to the teachings of Jesus and our own inner leadings from the Light

Wilmington Monthly Meeting: The meeting considered this query but was unable to retrieve it electronically.

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 to us in trust, and do we use them freely for the needs of others?

Durham Monthly Meeting: Friends find this to be a challenging query and appreciate being challenged to look deeply within and discern more fully what we have been given in trust and how we are using it. We would love to see a greater

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turn-out for work days and not see the chronic financial crunch at the end of the year. This is spiritual question – one of determining where our security lies and letting faith guide us. Each person is responsible for determining their rightful share of meeting expenses as well as the other needs of this world.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: We do assume our rightful share in the expenses of our Meeting. Our members and attenders have many skills and talents that we use freely in the meeting and in the larger community.

Friendship Monthly Meeting: We feel we respond generously as a meeting to the needs of others outside our meeting, giving monetarily and of ourselves. We are concerned, however, that our meetinghouse and grounds need more of our time and attention. We hope that making the needs better known, as well as doing a better job of reminding Friends of workdays and other opportunities to contribute to the stewardship of the meeting, will bring about stronger participation. The treasurer's year-end report provides helpful information to assist us as individuals to discern our rightful share of meeting expenses.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: It appears that all our expenses are met. As far as is known, we do assume our rightful share. We believe we use our time, talents, and possessions freely for the needs of others, recognizing that we have been given them in trust.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: While there is not always enough money to support an ambitious budget, we have many members and attenders who offer freely of their time and talents and this has continued to grow over the years. It is thought that when people become active in meeting their offerings often flow from that. Inactive members both here, and at a distance, often fail to take the opportunity to support the Meeting. However, generosity of spirit is not about the amount given but what is in the heart.

West Grove Monthly Meeting: West Grove Friends considered and answered this query, but the recorded answer was lost

Wilmington Monthly Meeting: How much to give to Meeting for expenses is left to the individual conscience. We can, and do, give our talents, time and money in many meaningful, impactful ways such as serving meals at the Good Shepherd

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House and working with the Hispanic community. We must be mindful of the needs of Meeting and offer our talents and money as need arises. Our presence at Meeting is a gift itself. Involvement in the life of our Meeting is an important gift of commitment. Giving should be a point of personal satisfaction and fulfillment.

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

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: We have very good attendance at our meetings for business. They are held in a spirit of love and understanding. We seek Divine Guidance and wait for unity before taking action.

Friendship Monthly Meeting: This meeting has done well in keeping a sizeable core group of members who regularly attend business meeting. It is also felt that there is a waiting upon that which is both within and without us and that we do strive to stay in that deeper place as we conduct our business. While we are grateful for the contribution of those who regularly attend Meeting for business, the question was raised of how we do about inviting and encouraging more Friends to attend. The issues of forbearance and the work of committees were also addressed. We recognize that Friends' other commitments and constraints in their lives may limit their service to meeting and appreciate that contributions that Friends do make to the life of the meeting. While our committees could at times do better, generally, they work well together and within the larger meeting community.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: We regularly attend our meetings for business as far as possible. Some members who did attend are now living at a distance and are unable to be present. We have not had timely meetings of ministry and oversight this year. We sense there is love and unity in our meetings for business. It seems there is an understanding of and respect for one another, and for why we are here and what we are about.

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When we are in this spirit, we avoid needless frictions, and instead of seeking our own wills, are concerned to seek the Divine will.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: Attendance at Meeting for Business is fairly constant with a core of regulars. Submission sometimes proves difficult as our own agendas get in the way. Sometimes expectations about what someone will say prevents actual listening. Our practice in listening to the message rather than the messenger and to seeking unity in the spirit rather than in the group is not perfect.

West Grove Monthly Meeting: West Grove Friends considered and answered this query, but the recorded answer was lost.

Wilmington Monthly Meeting: Attendance at business meetings is good when compared to the attendance at other activities which begin at 10:00am. We admit we are sometimes weak in the spirit of love, understanding, and forbearance which in turn contributes to our lack of spiritual depth in our conduct of business. We are aware of the qualities which contribute to a deep sense of worship while conducting business, and some days are able to practice them better than others. We will continue to endeavor to deepen our spiritual practices at all our meetings.

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?*

Durham Monthly Meeting: Yes! We do a great deal to cultivate in our children openness and expectancy about life and to aid in their spiritual growth. Recently there is increased communication between adults and youth in the meeting and a feeling of hopefulness for the cooperation that is developing. Youth participation in Friends General Conference has helped to inspire these developments. The Young Adults Panel at Yearly Meeting raised consciousness of the need for adult Friends to more freely share their spiritual experiences and beliefs for the

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consideration of younger Friends. Friends are thankful for our vibrant youth and for the adults who give so much to them.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: Fayetteville Friends Meeting members have no children who attend regularly.

Friendship Monthly Meeting: In recent years we have been blessed with a number of very young children attending meeting. The meeting has done a good job participating in the care of these children and warmly enjoys their presence at meeting. It has been wonderful watching these children as they are nurtured by the silence. As they approach school age we hope we can help them grow especially with spiritual training and Quaker values. We need to plan ahead now for the future education of our children.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: Friends agreed to the following response: Although we do not have children in our monthly meeting, we do have opportunity to be with children in the Yearly Meeting setting. We have over the years been present to these children both in programmed settings and as quiet examples of the practices of Friends and of faithfulness to god in all things.

Our idea of ‘who is a child’ moves outside the meeting walls.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: Does our example and our precept center around waiting: waiting to experience more than the I and the me? Everything we say and everything we do is teaching one another who we are. Those who wait to hear the great voice exemplify openness and expectancy about life.

West Grove Monthly Meeting: West Grove Friends considered and answered this query, but the recorded answer was lost.

Wilmington Monthly Meeting: We do not routinely have children participating in meeting activities, making it difficult for us to respond to this query. We can have very little impact on children we infrequently see. We note that there are seven or more children whose families are listed as members of our meeting who we rarely see. We have often considered what to do about the absence of children, and will continue to be open to ideas.

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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?*

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: We draw on the power of Christ to live in a manner that takes away the occasion of all war. We view peace as a spiritual orientation to all of life. We recognize that conflict brings us the challenge to engage lovingly with those with whom we disagree. Creating a peaceful community is essential to maintaining our testimony against war.

Friendship Monthly Meeting: The short answer to this query is a resounding yes! As Friends, our manner of life/living should be such that we walk peaceably with all people. When disagreements arise between us, we, as best we can, work to bring about resolution and reconciliation. Through participation with and through larger organizations of Friends, we participate in efforts to have conflict resolution over war, etc. We strive, as best we can, seeking to eliminate nuclear weaponry and militaristic endeavors. Realizing that there are people who hunt game as a food source, we do respect the right of such person's to bear arms in this non-human being life threatening manner. Lastly, we abhor war and all that it entails. As opportunity arises, we strive to share the folly of war and seek to show a better way and seek to have others follow the path of peace that we ourselves walk.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: As far as is known, none of us are directly involved with military preparations and the bearing of arms. We embrace the peace testimony even though it contradicts the values of the much of the world. We recognize that we are placed in this culture and try to hold up another model to others, different from the military industrial complex.

Rich Square Friends have embraced the reality of the encounter with Christ which guides us to live in that life and power which takes away the occasion of all war. We seek to support or initiate occasions which bring people and groups together. We recognize that reconciliation is impossible until we

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have found a way to talk with others about what is true. We do a good job telling people we love them. We don't do a good job telling people we disagree with them.

Friends are aware of and embrace this testimony as integral to our life of faith and we are committed to the effort to be faithful. We are only partially successful in the struggle, but we are committed to continue.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: Yes! We endeavor to live in the life and power that takes away the occasion of all war, working with love toward reconciliation between individuals and between groups.

There is always more to be done. Each of us is aware of the many ways that our individual actions contribute to the culture of war. Our location offers us special chances to work for peace and against the spirit of war.

The present conditions call for strengthening our testimony. We will endeavor to support those individuals who are led to answer this call and to work toward an ever more adequate corporate response, realizing the special strength we gain in community.

West Grove Monthly Meeting: Continued concerns about taxes were voiced, but we conceded that there was no likely resolution for this. Members are active in their support of Friends' peace testimony as between countries and communities, but we recognize that this query also calls for reconciliation of conflict between individuals, and this is an area that needs more attention. This is something that we recognize we are speaking to as we sought unity on our welcoming statement for West Grove's web site.

Wilmington Monthly Meeting: We feel an overwhelming sense of powerless when reflecting upon our work in reconciliation. Our votes seemingly have no impact, and our interactions between individuals feel ineffective. We feel at a loss when trying to offer an alternative to violence. When considering the potential outcomes of peaceful alternatives, our faith seems inadequate.

We were urged to believe that peaceful methods can be stronger than violence, as in India led by Gandhi. We were reminded that organizations working for peace can be found in the midst of violence in the Middle East. On a personal level, we can take

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‘the long hallway’ to a difficult encounter, making the time to reconnect to the God within and calling upon the strength of the inner light.

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?*

Durham Monthly Meeting: Historically, the emphasis of this query was on personal integrity. The Quaker reputation for trustworthiness is based upon this. Each of us must be honest with ourselves regarding our honesty in our dealings with others. The word simplicity can mean “heart led”; that is, responding to internal leading rather than the many external pulls of our lives. Simplicity and honesty are connected. One of the reasons we lose integrity and honesty is that we lose simplicity. The way we acquire material things is often not “simple”, but part of a complex web of relationships. We are led to examine those relationships and hold them to a high standard of integrity.

When we live in faith we know that we live in a world of abundance. There is enough for everyone. When we live in that knowledge, we overcome fear and we live with the simplicity and integrity that lead to peace.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: We understand the importance of observing simplicity and honesty in our manner of living. Leading a simple, honest life helps us to stay focused on our spiritual lives and to consider the needs of others. Our history together and our life experiences have taught us to value and protect our simple life. Thus, we choose those activities which strengthen our physical, mental, and spiritual lives.

Friendship Monthly Meeting: There is general agreement that corporately we observe simplicity, honesty and responsibility in all our dealings. Individually we often find ourselves burdened by the struggle to do no harm while living in a society that does great harm. In particular there is concern for how to make right

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choices in the many media offerings available, and especially how to in how to guide our children in their choices of entertainment.

In our consideration of this query, we have come to recognize it as the general part of a larger one, with the particulars presented in Query 9. We find it helpful to answer both in the context of the whole.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: Friends agreed to the following response: We believe we do relatively well in living in accordance with the various questions posed. We feel that in our daily lives we use our possessions to engage in daily activities consistent with this query.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: Living in to this query is perhaps a more complex task for us than it was for its framers. Simple daily choices in the grocery store can implicate us in injustice, exploitation and addiction. We grow more mindful of the many ways we might transgress the spirit of this query.

West Grove Monthly Meeting: While we are generally clear on this query, we are also aware that we must remain diligent in avoiding the myriad of cultural diversions that we are confronted by. We find that when we observe this tendency in our lives and consciously redirect our time and energy, we are immediately rewarded by having more time to mindfully live.

Wilmington Monthly Meeting: We heard from the epistle of James reminding us to control our tongues and always to speak simply and honestly. Most Quakers strive for simplicity and attempt to limit the desire for wanting things. Our desire for material things lessens as we increase in knowledge of where true happiness is derived. Television has the potential to be demoralizing and an unhealthy use of our time, but can also be healthy if viewed with a conscious awareness of its affects. In general, knowing that we can always do better, we are satisfied with our progress in our manner of living.

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*

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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?

Durham Monthly Meeting: This query calls us to integrity and honesty. It makes us uncomfortable. It challenges us. Friends do not abstain absolutely from alcohol, or from drugs of other kinds, including prescription drugs that can be either helpful or harmful. Many Friends are involved in the stock market and other activities that could be seen as forms of gambling. Our discomfort must be taken seriously and perhaps turned into a more positive questioning about living in ways that affirm life and right relationship with others. We do need to examine the harm that comes from gratifying wants and needs without regard to the effect on others, such as those who produce the goods, those who are deprived of substance by our excess, and those who may be tempted to pursue harmful behaviors. This query is about being mindful and having integrity in all aspects of our lives. It asks us to strive for increased awareness and loving relationship. The discomfort it causes is a gift and an invitation. Friends welcome further opportunities to discuss with each other the issues raised by this query and to move toward integrity as individuals and as a community.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: As a meeting we are mindful of the testimonies regarding drinking and gambling. We are aware that we possess great wealth by virtue of being Americans and that we are part of a culture that implicates us in exploiting other countries regardless of our individual desires. The witness against taking oaths is still troublesome because there is a general lack of secular acknowledgement of the issue. Each time the occasion arises, we must object to taking an oath and ask to affirm.

Friendship Monthly Meeting: Our corporate witness regarding the use of addictive substances is clear and consistent when we consider our meeting functions. There is no thought of alcohol, tobacco, or any kind of drug use during any corporate gatherings of the meeting as a whole. While there is a wide range of opinion amongst the individuals that make up the meeting

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regarding what each one thinks would be the clearest witness against overindulgence, the corporate witness seen in the activity of our meeting is not in question. In our lengthy discussion around the first sentence of this query we acknowledged that for some portion of the population there is not the possibility of moderation with regard to addictive substances and gambling. We wondered how we might speak to the condition of those so affected.

As far as we know, none of the members of our meeting are involved in gambling and the meeting does not involve itself in gambling, nor do our members frequent places of demoralizing diversion. While it was noted that the lottery is a state institutionalized form of gambling that preys on the poor, our meeting is not taking any responsive action to that concern at this time.

We recognized that any of us who have financial investments are potentially gaining at the expense of others, and that our very society is based upon the need for the poor to exist and for us to make money off their labor. As a meeting we set aside some portion of our contributions and time to addressing these societal conditions. The meeting's financial investments are in socially responsible funds. Individually and corporately we do try to be mindful of the temptations to grow rich at the expense of others and – when we become aware of our participation in such activities – do what we can to correct our actions.

We are faithful to the testimony against taking oaths.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: This query keeps us aware of behaviors which interfere with our relationship to the Divine and to others, and by which we misuse the gift of our bodies and minds. We strive to live our lives in such a way as to give outward testimony to that inward relationship with the Divine. In general, we find that we can make a positive response to the matters of this query.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: In the life of the Meeting we are made mindful of these ideals and encouraged to advance in our pursuit of them.

West Grove Monthly Meeting: Friends are indeed mindful of these testimonies. We note that the 'pledge of allegiance'

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represents an oath of particular concern to us, having elements of idolatry (to the flag), demand for obedience in the face of policies and actions that are questionable or simply wrong, and a diversion that is demoralizing, in that demands that we give greater weight to the laws and policies of Man than to the Laws of God.

Wilmington Monthly Meeting: A lively discussion followed the reading of query nine. Abstinence was recognized as the surest testimony. While moderation is usually acceptable, excess remains a threat. Television was cited as a demoralizing diversion. Gambling was addressed as a societal issue, but not a personal issue for those present.

The swearing of oaths was examined in some detail. The fact that those present are rarely, if ever, called upon to swear oaths required some attention. The biblical basis for this testimony was cited, and the historical Friends stance on this issue was also discussed. Friends agreed that by placing emphasis on adherence to this testimony as a commitment to Truth, made this relevant to all aspects of what we do.

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

Durham Monthly Meeting: Our reliance on fossil fuels has an extremely destructive impact on the environment and is a seed for war. Members of Meeting individually and as a whole are very mindful how we use our resources. This query presents us with a reminder of the tough compromises we make. We are on a continuum of responses and can be even more extreme in our mindfulness and sense of urgency. We are glad we have an Earth Care committee addressing this. With oil at over \$100 a barrel, this query isn't as abstract as it used to be. People die needlessly because of overuse of coal and lumber, not just because of pollution and the appropriation of land and roads, but also due to the lack of enforcement of regulations. That which cannot be sustained must evolve or disappear. Our sense of urgency is a hopeful evolution. But switching from fossil to bio fuels can have its destructive consequences too. We need to

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examine and explore this issue with our Quaker values of integrity, simplicity, and concern for justice. A simpler life is hard to extract from our relationships with the world, but is a spiritual condition aided by less material dependencies.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: Over the years our society has lost much of its understanding of our interdependence with nature. Our meeting is trying to reconnect with nature through more awareness and education. We are making increased personal efforts to conserve our resources. This year's drought has brought home to us the fact that our resources are not without limit. Some of us fear that we are beginning to reap dire consequences from our culture's poor stewardship of the planet. In spite of the seriousness of the situation, we continue our efforts and maintain hope.

Friendship Monthly Meeting: Friends expressed a new sense of urgency concerning our individual and corporate responsibility for and stewardship of the environment. We have been faithful in operating at the margins of this query but have failed to engage ourselves at its center. Individually and corporately, we are not doing enough to reduce the footprint we are leaving behind regarding use of natural resources.

We find the courage needed to overcome hopelessness by seeking the source of hope and focusing on what is possible. Our renewed sense of urgency about our responsibility for caring for the earth has led us to undertake a monthly forum to further consider our response and to share ideas and information on a regular basis.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: We are thankful for Friends who give us examples of ways to live in harmony with nature by bicycling, using solar and other alternative power sources, and who live with dietary discipline. We do not see a way to live in complete harmony with nature as the society and economy are structured. We all consistently examine our lives seeking to live in greater harmony with our creator and all creation. The importance of this matter is so great that even our smallest steps are significant.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: It is hard to have harmony where the mode of operation is control. Letting go of the need to control will precede true harmony. Meeting hosted Quaker Earth

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Care Witness recently as an expression of its commitment to good stewardship.

West Grove Monthly Meeting: We are aware on simpler levels of where we fall short as we endeavor to act with care toward the earth. We also recognize our limitations are real within a society that does not honor our concerns, but we still know we could do more and wonder why we don't. It may be that action does not flourish when we only react in anger or angst to concerns. However when we increase our attention to that which nurtures our joy and wonder at what God has created for us, we may take more actions as acts of love and thanks. There is also concern for those people who do not have the opportunity to interact with nature, for they will neither know the joy, nor develop the concerns for what is needed to protect, our natural resources. In this way we are thankful the children in this meeting have many opportunities to interact with the natural world around them. Perhaps we need to be as the children of our meeting and increase our own interactions with the natural world around us.

Wilmington Monthly Meeting: Though Friends acknowledge that matters of convenience often dictate our living in harmony with nature, it is still a goal that we strive for and one that, as we grow in greater consciousness, will hopefully be more attainable. Practices Friends mentioned as ways to live in harmony with our environment included recycling, using green products, reducing dependence on fossil fuels, conserving energy, living simply so as to reduce waste, observing energy holidays and unplugging ourselves from mindless activities that not only waste the earth's resources but our personal ones as well. Much can be done to improve our relationship with our physical world that involves an increased awareness and attunement to our spiritual world.

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 communities and in the world at large?*

Durham Monthly Meeting: The people of Durham Friends Meeting, as individuals and as a meeting, put time and resources into rectifying social injustice and racial discrimination. Even

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so, we must be vigilant not to overlook the radical significance of our belief in that of God in every person. To base our actions in this belief leads us to a stance of deep listening and solidarity with suffering people. It leads us to unite, not to divide people into categories of good and bad.

In recent years many have been discouraged and confused about how to influence our society and the world in a positive direction. This query is a reminder of our responsibility to stand for justice. It calls us to recognize our passivity and avoidance of this responsibility.

We are living in a community which is impacted by social, economic and racial division. In recent weeks Friends sense the spirit leading us to be fuller participants in our local community and we feel energized and hopeful in our work.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: As a meeting and as individuals we do reverence that of God in every human being, caring for their needs materially and spiritually as we are able. We are concerned with the needs of individuals both within the meeting and beyond. Through our financial contributions, our meeting is seeking to rectify existing social injustices. Many members of the meeting are active in organizations that work to end racism and promote social justice in other ways.

Friendship Monthly Meeting: Friends struggled with the perception that the language of the query is outdated in its description of specific forms of discrimination. We affirm the first sentence of the query; we do reverence that of God in every individual and work to address issues of social injustice and discrimination in all its forms. While we, as individuals, feel that we strive to be open to each person we encounter as a precious being of God, we acknowledge there is more that we could do in our corporate witness. Currently, in our corporate witness we support the work of others through monetary and/or direct service in other organizations.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: We do reverence that of God in every human being, seeking to be mindful of the needs of each individual. Individual members of the meeting accept opportunities as they arise to address social injustice and racial discrimination. We are aware that our region has achieved greater integration on the public level in recent years, but we

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recognize that we still have significant racial and economic problems.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: It is easier to answer the second part of the Query with a simple "yes," than it is the first. We are discomforted when we see individuals in need, and often are unsure of how to respond. Yet we work to live into the Spirit and discern God's will in living out this Query.

West Grove Monthly Meeting: We are aware of social injustices on a large scale and must sometimes remind ourselves when we are in situations of conflict with individuals that those same social injustices that affect groups may well be profoundly affecting an individual. This is a query of both corporate and individual responsibility. We come to the meeting to garner spiritual strength and we have an obligation to take that out into the larger world to try and heal those wrongs that we see. We may not do that corporately, but we do try and do it on an individual basis

Wilmington Monthly Meeting: We have done several activities to demonstrate our concern for social justice and the needs of other people. We periodically help serve food at the homeless shelter, provide a building for Latino social services, and members volunteer for other non-profit organizations. In the process of serving people, we encounter people who challenge us to look for that of God in them. The meeting experienced an opportunity on a recent First day to help a stranger who came to meeting with overwhelming needs. We responded with sympathetic listening, and one member offered her the personal assistance the stranger needed to move forward. Our meeting has a long history of people regularly in attendance who need our help and patience. We respond as we are able, but have room to grow.

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

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visitation and caring extend beyond the members of our own Meeting?

Durham Monthly Meeting: We used to answer this query by saying that we should be doing better, which may still be true, but we have been pleased to notice many newcomers attending and staying and taking part in the life of the meeting. We do reach out collectively and individually to members who are facing trials. We need to continue to be attentive to people's needs. We tend to not be assertive in our friendliness but might do more to encourage and appreciate people who are not shy about making others feel welcome and at home here.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: We do welcome newcomers and non-members. We encourage them to share fully in the life of the meeting and to consider membership when they feel ready. We do not have any younger members. Our meeting is small, allowing us to keep in touch with each other easily.

Friendship Monthly Meeting: It is felt that friends in this Meeting welcome newcomers and non-members to our Meeting. One Friend spoke of being uplifted by emails and contacts received. We do endeavor to include younger members in our committees.

It was suggested that in trying to improve incorporation of new/younger members, we need to recognize not only illness but also reaching out to our new parents.

We agree that it is harder for us with our present lifestyle and many pulls on our time, to reach out. We have diverse interests in meeting, Guilford College, Friends Homes and New Garden Friends School, which makes it difficult for us to concentrate just in our own circle. We recognize our corporate responsibility for outreach to those in need.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: Our meeting is welcoming to newcomers and non-members. There are many ways of expressing welcome, such as a prepared meetinghouse and a prepared people. On the other hand, we recognize that some of our practices seem unusual to others and may inhibit them from coming to our door. We recognize our need to interpret ourselves better to non-Friends. Friends acknowledged that we have not done enough visitation. Friends expressed the desire

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and intent to set aside the time and make the effort to do more in the coming year.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: Last month the meeting held a potluck to which we had invited the school community. Only a few of us attended. Are we paying attention to what we undertake and following through? We see few children in the meeting. Are we doing something that discourages families from attending? The fruits of fellowship and caring cannot be tied on to the tree. We must look inward to the root, to the Christ within, as the source of these fruits.

West Grove Monthly Meeting: We do feel that we welcome and cherish all those who visit our meeting. We know that we should make time to visit both absent friends and also other meetings that, like West Grove, are small and benefit from visitors. Our children do participate in all appropriate activities such as work days and Yearly Meeting, but our meeting is small and committees are few. As appropriate by age, the children participate in all aspects of Meeting life, and in many ways our children have enhanced our meeting as a whole. As First Day School has grown to fill the needs of our children, we too have grown.

Wilmington Monthly Meeting: Yes, we welcome newcomers and non-members to our meeting. They are encouraged to share in meeting activities, but we often do not inquire as to their knowledge of Quaker practices and principles, and rarely ask them to consider membership. Currently, and over the past year, we have few young adults (college-age) attending and so do not have the opportunity to invite them to share in the responsibilities of meeting. We visit one another infrequently, and few of us remember those who may be lonely. We are aware we could do better with outreach.

21. Laura Walton's Internship at Casa de los Amigos in Mexico City

A letter from Casa de los Amigos in Mexico City regarding Laura Walton's internship was read. The letter acknowledged with thanks the support that Laura received from the yearly meeting and Wilmington Friends Meeting. Laura's

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presence at worship at the Casa was enriching and grounding for those gathered. The letter follows:

Dear Friends,

Muchos saludos de la Casa de los Amigos. My name is Nick Wright, and I live and work here. I am writing regarding Laura Walton's time at the Casa as a volunteer. Laura is a member of North Carolina Yearly Meeting and received financial and spiritual support from both the yearly meeting and Wilmington Monthly Meeting, to help support her trip to Mexico and her living costs in Mexico City while volunteering.

The Casa de los Amigos is a Center for Peace and International Understanding in Mexico City. The Casa was established as a nonprofit organization in 1956 by the Quaker community in Mexico, and its work continues to be rooted in Quaker values. Through its programs, volunteers, community space, and social and cultural activities, the Casa promotes peace with justice, fosters understanding between groups and individuals, and supports the human dignity of every person.

Laura arrived at the Casa in August and worked for eight months, leaving in the first week of May of this year. It would not be possible to describe here all that she accomplished in this time, however I would like let Friends know a few things about her time here.

Laura worked in the Casa's Hospitality Program, receiving groups and individuals from all over the world and helping to create a Friendly atmosphere of nonviolence and social justice for all who are here. The Casa provides lodging for refugees and migrants, and she formed important relationships with many of these guests, including one Salvadoran refugee family of four with whom Laura became very close and helped immeasurably. While she was here, Laura ran the Casa's Economic Justice program, strengthening the program and our relationships with the small Mexican producers that we support and the other partner organizations in our economic solidarity network. She passed the program off to an incoming volunteer before she left. She wrote articles for our newsletter, trained new Casa volunteers, cooked breakfast for the guests, and in all ways integrated herself with this organization, community and social mission.

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I am also a member of Mexico City Friends Meeting, and Laura's presence at Worship enriched the life of the Meeting. Just before she left the Casa, she also participated in the Second Meeting of Unprogrammed Quakers in Latin America.

Laura was at the Casa during a difficult period of transition from one executive director to another. During that time, her presence, abilities and leadership were essential, and it is hard to imagine how we would have done it without her. She was also here in the Casa while our daughter Agnita was born, and provided a source of love, assistance and childcare advice for eight months and we will always think of her as part of our family. I am also convinced that Laura had an important and formative experience here and that she is a better person for having given so much of herself at the Casa.

When Laura left she had become so essential to the Casa and so well loved that we felt unkeeled and uncertain of what to do without this key member of our Casa family and community.

We at the Casa would like to express our deepest thanks to North Carolina Yearly Meeting and Wilmington Monthly Meeting from our heart of hearts, for helping to facilitate the service of young Friends at the Casa de los Amigos, and for sending us such an impressive person. We hope that you continue to encourage and enable all your members to follow her lead. Please let us know in what ways we can help North Carolina Friends continue this much appreciated work.

En paz y amistad, Nick Wright

22. A Minute of Concern for Iran

Bill Jeffries brought a concern to the meeting regarding the demonization by the U.S. of Iran, citing the similar demonization which led to our countries was on Iraq. Bill share his concern that our government, our people, ourselves be set upon a path of reconciliation, of reaching across boundaries and divisions.

Friends were in unity with an ad hoc committee being formed to prepare a minute regarding this concern, as led by the Spirit. Bill Jeffries, Eric Ginsberg, and Margie Dingman felt led

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to prepare this minute and, if in accordance with Divine Will, bring it to this body within these sessions.

23. Peace Conference sponsored by Historic Peace Churches

A letter was read from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting with an invitation that our yearly meeting send one delegate to a peace conference entitled “Heeding God’s Call” to be held First Month 13-17, 2009. The conference intends to gather 300 delegates from the historic peace churches and 300 delegates from other denominations. Rubye Braye felt led to go and expressed her willingness to go as our yearly meeting delegate. Friends were in unity with Rubye serving as our delegate for this conference.

24. Letter from Britain Yearly Meeting’s Meeting for Sufferings

A letter was read from Britain Yearly Meeting’s Meeting for Sufferings.

25. Friends Historical Collection

Gwendolyn Gosney Erickson, Friends Historical Collection and Guilford College archivist, shared highlights from the collection’s annual report. The report follows:

This past year was notable for the growing number of collaborative projects, both with different traditional constituent groups as well as reaching new audiences. The newest initiative is our participation in a collaborative grant with UNC-G this coming year for a “Civil Rights Greensboro” digitization project. The grant provides a paid internship for a Guilford student to work in the Friends Historical Collection and also to receive training at UNC-G’s digitization lab. Items from our collections will be scanned and included in an online database of primary sources on Greensboro civil rights and race relations from 1945 to 1980.

Friends Historical Collection staff, along with Alumni Relations staff and alumnae, are assisting with planning for a celebration of Mary Hobbs Hall to be held in April 2009. Initial discussions began in 2007. The event will include opportunities

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for oral histories for the archives, activities relating to the dorm's history, and presentations about Mary Mendenhall Hobbs, as a key leader in both women's education and Quakerism.

The Friends Historical Collection partnered with the Guilford County Schools to plan a two-day Teaching American History workshop for local high school teachers in early November to increase use of local primary sources in the classroom. 25 teachers representing 18 different high schools received tours of the Friends Historical Collection and a presentation and assignment activity using documents from the collection. A second session is being planned for next April.

The four major U.S. Quaker archives (Swarthmore, Haverford, Earlham, and Guilford) are working with a consultant to explore potential commercial digitization projects from our collections. All agree that the primary purpose of this endeavor is to improve access to collections. Preliminary conversations are occurring with several potential vendors.

Following an application and review process, the National Park Service designated the Friends Historical Collection as a research facility "making a significant contribution to the understanding of the Underground Railroad in American history" and as meeting "the requirements for inclusion in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom." It is hoped that this is a first step in a larger process to designate the Guilford College campus as a recognized site.

Other projects in process included digitizing correspondence from North Carolina Yearly Meeting's Meeting for Suffering, a rich resource which documents official Quaker anti-slavery work and connections to the wider world of Friends in the first third of the nineteenth century.

New materials continue to be added. Notable acquisitions include the William Van Hoy, Jr. Papers which document his experiences as a conscientious objector in during the 1940s and his activism in the areas of race relations, peace, and cross-cultural understanding, and, most recently, Chuck Fagers' papers. As always, a reminder to meetings to deposit minutes and other permanent records in the Friends Historical Collection.

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For additional information, see <http://www.guilford.edu/fhc>. A redesigned web page was launched last fall and additional items are added regularly. Please e-mail archives@guilford.edu if you have additional questions.

Submitted by Gwen Gosney Erickson, Friends Historical Collection Librarian and Archivist

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Deposits,
July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008
Friendship Monthly Meeting Minutes, 8/2005 – 8/2007, 12/2007.
Rich Square Monthly Meeting Minutes, 8/2005 – 6/2007.
NCYM (C) Meeting Newsletters received in 2007 – 2008:
Friendship and Virginia Beach

Appreciation was expressed for the work of the Quaker archivists in keeping our history alive and available to us.

26. Elaine Emily Reports on Time with Australian Friends

Elaine Emily shared with us the following reflections from her time amongst Australian Friends.

Sacred communications for the community – God’s sip – practiced mostly by women – so then was denigrated into the term of gossip. Elaine shared about a recent visit to Australian Friends of whom there are 1,000. She had the opportunity to visit at their yearly meeting at which there were 350 present. A current issue within Australian Friends is having the form and position of elder without clarity of what that means. Throughout one day at the yearly meeting Elaine Emily was given the opportunity to share about the elder function. Elaine’s travel to Australia came from the Margaret Fell Fund from Friends General Conference. This is a new fund which supports people traveling in the ministry, who travel without particular concern, other than practicing the presence of God with others. The Fund requires the recipient to carry a travel minute and Elaine’s meeting, Strawberry Creek, took the request seriously and spent at least eighty person hours laboring over it. In their preparations they searched the web to know what they were talking about and found information from the Conservative Yearly Meetings.

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It is important for the Religious Society of Friends to rediscover what eldering means today. Elaine lifts up and affirms the base of knowledge and practice of eldering that she knows is alive and well here in our yearly meeting and expresses her gratitude for it, while encouraging us to share more widely and boldly what we know and experience of the gift of eldering. Elaine was thanked for her faithfulness and encouragement.

The meeting adjourned, intending to meet Seventh Day morning at 9:00 a.m.

Seventh Day Morning The Twelfth of Seventh Month

The meeting convened near the appointed hour.

27. Report from Laura Walton

A letter from Laura Walton reporting on her experience at the Casa de los Amigos, Mexico City, was read. The letter follows:

To try to summarize my time at the Casa de los Amigos, sitting in a busy Internet cafe in Guatemala with a few hours before class, seems almost irreverent or disrespectful to my experience and life there. My time at the Casa deserves a novel or a poem or a prayer; it deserves a labor of love and time and extensive revision. And even with these measures, any written word would fall short of conveying the essence of my experience there. But I will write the best I can from the life I find myself in now, a life that I hope will give testimony in itself to my time at the Casa and maybe speak in a way my written word cannot.

The Casa is a whirlwind of activity, crazy at times, but full of love and friendship and family. I cannot begin to innumerate the things I learned and did in my nine months there. I answered phones and took reservations. I participated in meetings with a Mexican fair trade cooperative. I handed out towels and cooked breakfast. I visited a refugee family and offered an open ear to their hardships. I held a fresh born baby and watched her grow before my eyes. I painted and read and meditated and worked there, among an amazing group of people who will always be a kind of family to me. I was inspired and challenged every day to seek Peace in myself, to seek the Light

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in every member of my community, to find Silence in my hectic day and to read Poetry in the face of stress. The Casa is an unlikely and tricky spiritual community to describe, in part because of the way it can get bogged down in the mundane and every day tasks of running a guest house for forty people. We were at times under-staffed, over-worked and up to our ears in crazy guests, maintenance problems, staff changes and the like. It was no spiritual monastery, no simple haven of Quaker tranquility, and only because of that did it offer me so much in the way of spiritual growth. Finding Calm, Harmony and Simplicity in the middle of so much activity became my challenge. My life said: Look for Light in the guest who wants a new towel at midnight and comes knocking on your bedroom door to ask. Find Harmony with your co-workers when you cover another extra shift. Open yourself to Forgiveness when you sleep through your alarm clock. Support your Community when all you need is an hour alone. Assert your Integrity when you have to leave the front desk because you have diarrhea. Again. Seek God in the everyday, everyday.

Living at the Casa re-connected me with Quakerism in these and many other ways. Simply living under the title "Quaker Community" was a constant reminder to walk in my faith, a task that was made easier by the examples I saw in my community. I lived in my Meeting House, my library was filled with Quaker texts, and my friends were Friends. I gained a newfound awe in my faith when guests who thought Quakers were just the "people who make oatmeal" started reading George Fox and attending Meeting after asking me questions about Friends. And now? I'm traveling in the most conscious and active way I can -- holding informal interviews with deported Guatemalans in indigenous mountaintop villages, visiting autonomous Mayan communities in Southern Mexico, meeting with art activists and human rights observers in Oaxaca, perfecting my Spanish and chatting with the ladies in the market.

While to some it may not seem like a logical next step, or an officially "Productive" use of my time, I see it differently in so many ways. I am finding an education outside of the University, work outside of a paycheck and homes outside of a house. I am finding Simplicity in living out of a backpack,

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reading in parks and eating beans three times a day. I am seeking Truth and Light in new corners of the world and trying to learn from the people I have met here. My experiences will be invaluable in the face of the growing Central American population in North Carolina and I look forward to continuing my connection with Latin America through my work when I return. But for the time being, I will continue to walk cheerfully over the world.

Laura Walton

28. Visitors (Part three)

The following visiting Friends were introduced and welcomed: Jim Fine, representing the Friends Committee on National Legislation; John Benson, Stillwater Monthly Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting.

29. Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

Hanna Passmore Hobson reported on the FWCC triennial which took place in Dublin, Ireland, in Eighth Month, 2007. She reflected that over fourteen years ago she had participated in the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage.

308 Friends, 41 countries – a diverse and wonderful group. Musical sharing from Ireland, Africa and Latin America was appreciated, as were the opportunities to meet so many Friends from Africa. Because of the recent World Gathering of Young Friends Hanna was pleased that she was not the youngest by far participant of the gathering.

Finding the Prophetic Voice in Our Time. Seven keynote addresses spoke to this all in very different ways. These talks were immediately available online for Friends around the world. Other themes of the week included working groups on AIDS and concern for the environment, which was shared across the whole economic and theological diversity of Friends represented.

Many natural disasters occurred around the world during the week, gathering Friends even more deeply together in prayer and concern, particularly with regard to those Friends present who didn't know if their families or meetings were safe.

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Hanna gathered audio recording from Friends around the world, sharing about their own Quaker faith and practice, toward sharing with Hanna's Quaker studies students at New Garden Friends School. Friends that Hanna met were interested to learn more about Conservative Friends.

The decision was made that there not be a triennial in 2010, instead planning toward a world gathering in Kenya in 2012.

Ray Treadway shared that FWCC is on the web, which provides an immediate way of getting a sense of the worldwide condition of Friends.

Sharon Frame, our FWCC visitor, shared her gratitude for the support of her visitation and the work of FWCC. The gift and ministry of face-to-face meetings cannot be duplicated and we are encouraged to participate in it.

30. Audit Committee Report

The auditors appointed by the yearly meeting on the tenth of Seventh Month, 2008, have reviewed the financial records of the treasurer, Ray Treadway, for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and found them in good order. Admiration was expressed for the clarity found in the treasurer's record and a minute of appreciation was approved for the ministry of Ray Treadway's careful attention to yearly meeting finances. The report of the Audit Committee was approved.

31. Treasurer's Report

Ray Treadway gave the treasurer's report which was accepted and follows:

All of the eight Monthly Meetings were able to meet the budgeted amounts for the Yearly Meeting during the 2007-2008 budget year. In addition, several individuals sent generous contributions to the general fund of the Yearly Meeting, amounting to 1425. This income allowed the Yearly Meeting to send all of the donations to organizations as approved in our budget and to pay all of the administrative expenses for the year. Friends School at Wilmington was removed from the budget for this fiscal year. We partly supported two persons for participation in the School of the Spirit, one person for an

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internship with Casa de los Amigos, one person for travel to Costa Rico, and five persons for travel as representatives to annual meetings of Quaker organizations from the Yearly Meeting (Friends World Committee-three representatives, Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs, and Quakers United in Publishing). The cost of publishing the 2007 Minutes was under the budgeted amount of 1000. Receipts to the general fund exceed expenditures by around 1700.

Currently we have more than 2000 in the fund to reprint the Faith and Practice, when necessary, and more than 2000 are in the assistance fund, which is used to support attendance at the yearly meeting sessions in Seventh Month. At the end of the fiscal year (6/30/08) there were 14,775.17 in the general fund and 20,153.42 in all funds. The full report follows.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative	Treasurer's 2007-2008 BUDGET	Report 7/1/2007 to 6/30/2008		
		Amount rcd/spnt	Amount remaining	Prop Budget 2008-09
INCOME				
MONTHLY MEETINGS				
Durham	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00
Fayetteville	300.00	500.00	200.00	500.00
Friendship	3,500.00	3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00
Greenville	230.00	230.00	0.00	325.00
Rich Square	2,200.00	2,200.00	0.00	2,200.00
Virginia Beach	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
West Grove	650.00	750.00	100.00	750.00
<u>Wilmington</u>	<u>800.00</u>	800.00	0.00	800.00
<hr/>				
<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>14,180.00</u>	<u>14,480.00</u>	<u>300.00</u>	<u>14,575.00</u>
<hr/>				
OTHER				
Individual contributions	1,400.00	1,425.00	25.00	1,400.00
Interest Checking	10.00	7.27	(2.73)	10.00
Interest Calvert Fund	200.00	226.38	26.38	200.00

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Sales Tax Refund		0.00	0.00	
<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>1,610.00</u>	<u>1,658.65</u>	<u>48.65</u>	<u>1,610.00</u>
<u>GENERAL FUND INCOME</u>	<u>15,790.00</u>	<u>16,138.65</u>	<u>348.65</u>	<u>16,185.00</u>
Transfer to Other Funds		0.00	0.00	
Total Net Income	15,790.00	16,138.65	348.65	16,185.00
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES				-
Administrative expenses				
Operating Expenses	200.00	213.50	(13.50)	335.00
Committee Expenses	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Website Costs	300.00	270.90	29.10	300.00
Publications – Minutes 2007	<u>1,000.00</u>	952.62	47.38	<u>1,200.00</u>
<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>1,600.00</u>	<u>1,437.02</u>	<u>162.98</u>	<u>1,935.00</u>
<u>DONATIONS TO ORGANIZATIONS</u>			Remaining	
Am. Friends Service Comm.	700.00	700.00	0.00	700.00
Assoc. Comm. Of Friends, Ind. Affairs	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
Carolina Friends School	850.00	850.00	0.00	850.00
Friends Assoc. Higher Educ.	200.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
Friends Center of Guilford College	250.00	250.00	0.00	250.00
Friends Comm. National Legislation	700.00	700.00	0.00	700.00
Friends Council on Education	200.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
Friends Historical Col at Guilford College	400.00	400.00	0.00	400.00
Friends World Committee for Consultation	700.00	700.00	0.00	700.00
Guilford College	600.00	600.00	0.00	600.00

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N. C. Friends Historical Society	250.00	250.00	0.00	250.00
New Garden Friends School	850.00	850.00	0.00	850.00
Pendle Hill	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
Quaker House of Fayetteville	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Right Sharing of World Resources	300.00	300.00	0.00	300.00
Virginia Beach Friends School	850.00	850.00	0.00	850.00
<u>Wilmington Friends School</u>	<u>850.00</u>	0.00	850.00	<u>0.00</u>
<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>10,600.00</u>	<u>9,750.00</u>	<u>850.00</u>	<u>9,750.00</u>
<u>Total General Fund Expenses</u>	<u>12,200.00</u>	<u>11,187.02</u>	<u>1,012.98</u>	<u>11,685.00</u>
OTHER EXPENSES				
School of the Spirit Scholarship	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	
Internship	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Travel	1,000.00	750.00	250.00	2,500.00
Transfer to Trust Fund		0.00	0.00	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDED	<u>15,700.00</u>	<u>14,437.02</u>	<u>1,262.98</u>	<u>16,185.00</u>
RECEIPTS OVER EXPENDITURES	90.00	1,701.63		0.00

	Income	Expenditures	Difference
Yearly Meeting 2007 Summary:			
Net receipts – Dorm, meals, fees	11,221.53		
Registration	1,803.06		
Contributions	1,267.28		
Used for Assistance		UNCW out-UNCW in	To Assist Fund 124.91

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Total receipts	14,291.87	
Expenditures-Speakers		574.20
Youth Program		0.00
Childcare Liability		163.00
Insurance Program		1,013.50
& Supplies		
Paid to host (UNC-Wilmington))		12,363.90
Total Expenditures		14,114.60 To Gen Fund

Receipts in excess of expenditures	177.27	52.36
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Pendle Hill Book Summary: 1,509.93

2007

Receipts		
Expenses incl shipping	1,379.44	To Gen Fund
Receipts in excess of expenditures	130.49	130.49

<u>Summary of Funds</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Changes</u>	<u>Begin Bal.</u>	<u>End Bal.</u>
General	16,321.50	14,437.02	1,884.48	12,890.69	14,775.17
Geneva	0.00	22.17	(22.17)	592.31	570.14
Brown-General					
Geneva	0.00	57.83	(57.83)	57.83	0.00
Brown-Teenage					
Disciplines	86.00	0.00	86.00	1,915.00	2,001.00
Travel	111.00	411.00	(300.00)	663.40	363.40
Journal	0.00	0.00	0.00	352.13	352.13
Assistance Fund	124.91	0.00	124.91	1,966.67	2,091.58
Memorial Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hearing Assistance Device Fund	287.00	0.00	287.00	(287.00)	0.00
Total All Funds – 2007-08	16,930.41	14,928.02	2,002.39	18,151.03	20,153.42
Yearly Meeting 2008	12,275.82	235.58	12,040.24	0.00	12,040.24

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FWCC SE Regional Gathering	9,939.46	9,939.46	0.00	0.00	0.00
Overall Totals	39,145.69	25,103.06	14,042.63	18,151.03	32,193.66

Location of
Funds:

Calvert Fund (6/30/08)					6,647.67
Wachovia Checking (6/30/08)					25,545.99
Total All Funds					32,193.66

32. Finance Committee Report

Convener Ray Treadway presented the report of the Finance Committee, noting that Greenville, West Grove, and Fayetteville Monthly Meetings have increased their annual donations, with the rest of the meeting's maintaining last year's level of donations.

The committee recommends that the Quaker House donation remain at 2,000 for the coming year.

There is a concern to provide more support for Friends feeling called to travel in the ministry as representatives to Quaker organizations, or to engage in internship opportunities, particularly young Friends, and so the amounts for those lines have been increased with the hope for increasing the amount given for each trip.

This report was approved with gratitude and appreciation.

33. Carl Magruder's Message on the Yearly Meeting Website

Friends approved that a sound recording of Carl Magruder's message shared on Sixth Day evening (7/11/2008) be posted on the yearly meeting website. Appreciation was expressed to Charlie Ansell for providing the technology to make this possible. Appreciation was also expressed for Carl's willingness to have his remarks shared online.

The meeting adjourned, purposing to reconvene at 1:00 p.m.

**Seventh Day Afternoon
The Twelfth of Seventh Month**

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The meeting convened near the appointed hour.

34. Young Friends Report

Fifteen young Friends in attendance at yearly meeting presented a poster thanking Friends for helping with their activities. The young Friends introduced themselves and told where they were from. Appreciation was expressed for their presence among us.

35. Young Friends of West Grove Meeting

Brian and Corena Owens, and Janie and Caroline Newlin of West Grove Meeting are all involved in the scouting program. The first requirement of scouts is to serve God. The three girls have completed their “That of God” program and received their badges here in our sessions. Brian is involved in “The Spirit of Truth” program which he has yet to complete.

They shared booklets they have produced as part of this requirement called “Our Book of Friends’ Faith” to be shared with the monthly meetings. Both the “That of God” and “The Spirit of Truth” programs were developed by the Friends Committee on Scouting.

36. Documents Committee

The Documents Committee shared about communications received by our yearly meeting in the past year. The committee recommends that we send our epistle out to all yearly meetings and to three non-yearly meeting Quaker organizations; American Friends Service Committee, Friends Council on Legislation, and the Friends World Committee for Consultation. Their report follows:

The yearly meeting received thirteen Yearly Meeting Epistles – six from the meetings in the United States and seven from outside the United States. Also received were epistles from the American Friends Service Committee and Friends World Committee for Consultation.

This committee recommends our epistle be sent to all yearly meetings. If we want to be known, let’s let others know who we are.

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Themes gleaned from the epistles – a flavor of topics:

Renewing the Spirit
The Seeds of Change
Finding the Prophetic Voice for Our Time
Quaker Testimonies: With Spirit into Action
Call to Compassion
Stewardship: Our earth, Our Mind, and Our Soul
Growing Our Faith to Transform the World
Lord, Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary

Quotes from the epistles:

We carry in our souls the world we want it to be.

Our calling is to foster the Divine in all we meet, to say “yes” in a world that frequently says “no.”

We are living in a time that all of our being called to much more risky witness.

Consider how much of our time and resources we devote to peace now, distinguishing “making” peace and “being” peace.

Only a radical trust in God’s hand will enable us to address the many problems of transforming the world. We are often called a “peace” church...but we cannot talk peace unless we practice it totally among ourselves.

Our spiritual work is to listen and learn and love with undefended openness, to find together how to love deeply enough to hear challenges and hard truths and to obey the Divine Will.

Let the love Christ flow into us and through us to others that they too may know Christ.

Trust God’s promise: *“In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.” 2 Corinthians 6:2a*

37. Calendar and Sites of Representative Body Meetings

Friends approved that Tenth Month Representative Body Meeting will be held at Rich Square Friends Meeting, Tenth Month 25, 2008.

Friends approved that Fourth Month Representative Body Meeting will be held at Durham Friends Meeting, Fourth Month 25, 2009.

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38. Yearly Meeting Dates for 2009

Friends approved that the clerk work with Cheryl Fetterman regarding the dates for the 2009 yearly meeting session to be held at the University of North Carolina – Wilmington (UNC-W), to see if there is any chance that the dates might be shifted to a week later.

While our yearly meeting traditionally meets during the week following the week that contains the “fourth of July” and hence the Friends General Conference (FGC) annual gathering – this may present a more serious conflict in the coming year as the Gathering will be held at Blacksburg, VA, and the gathering co-clerks are members of our yearly meeting, and a higher than usual number of yearly meeting Friends may be involved in the Gathering.

A visiting Friend from out of state shared that the current schedule made it easier for her to attend both the FGC Gathering and our yearly meeting sessions.

Exploration of dates for our yearly meeting sessions in relation to other standing Friend’s events will go forward with a report at Tenth Month Representative Body meeting. Monthly meetings are asked to consider the possible date shift and report to Tenth Month Representative Body any concerns that they are aware of.

39. Yearly Meeting Site for 2010

Yearly meeting sessions in 2010 will be held at Guilford College in Greensboro, NC.

40. State of the Society Reports

The State of the Society Reports of seven of the monthly meetings were shared out of the expectant waiting worship.

The reports follow:

Durham Monthly Meeting

Durham Monthly Meeting offers two meetings for worship on first days and has a small mid-week worship and discussion on fourth days. First Day School which meets for ages 3-6, Grades 1-3, middle school, and high school groups.

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Infants may stay with a caregiver during meeting for worship. Younger children have a singing Sunday once monthly. High schoolers conduct Junior Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business monthly.

Other avenues for worship include twice monthly New Testament Study. Worship is supplemented by ample, varied offerings through Adult Education Committee and Youth programs. An example is a 2007 first day program for 6-12 graders about losing someone close to one titled, “What to Say When You Don’t Know What to Say.” The adult education program includes monthly forums, Quakerism 101, and monthly Quaker Q & A, informal education regarding Quaker faith and practice for newcomers.

Terry Graedon concluded two years of service as clerk and now serves as assistant clerk and convener of the Nominating Committee. The meeting is grateful for her service.

We celebrate our graduating high school seniors: Aubrey Clark-Brown, Nora Hannapel, Sam Miron, Austin Stanion, and Britomarte Strickler.

Hale Stevenson, a faithful friend died on July 15, 2007. He was a presence at DMM since 1977. A memorial meeting for worship was held on July 21, 2007.

Many committees and individuals followed leadings that deepened our experience as a whole. The meeting endorsed NCYM(C) minute on torture, disseminating it to local and national news outlets and endorsing it with FCNL. An EarthCare Witness committee formed under the auspices of Peace and Social Concerns Committee and subsequently became an independent committee. It has both youth and adult members. This committee sponsored “Footprints of Light,” a two-day retreat with reflective gatherings, local service projects, and children’s activities on ecological, environmental, and social issues.

Our Adult Education and “this little light” committees together worked on assessing our capabilities and improving availability of child care so that parents could attend Quaker education events. “This little light” is a new group of very young children and their parents.

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Friends attended several peace vigils against the Iraq War. Through Peace and Social Concerns committee, DMM co-sponsored “Candidate Conversations on Peace,” in which local political candidates were invited for a discussion on peace that was open to the surrounding communities.

During 2007-2008, violence continued to tear at our city and, in several instances, closely touched the Durham Monthly Meeting community. Many friends felt led to assess ways in which DMM might act. As an outgrowth of a retreat sponsored by our Long Range Visioning Committee, “Feeding Bodies and Spirits” mini-retreat, the meeting convened an Ad Hoc Committee on Peacebuilding under the auspices of Peace and Social Concerns. This committee began by examining violence and peacebuilding efforts in Durham. Two Help Increase the Peace training sessions were created for June 2008.

Ministry and Counsel Committee conducted a month-long experiment directed at assessing the effect on worship of having children enter a gathered meeting 15 minutes before the rise instead of our custom of having them for the first 15 minutes. While we were in unity to retain our historic custom, the experiment deepened our consideration of our worship experience. It provided opportunities for discussion, including a meal and discussion at the conclusion of the experiment.

We continue to grow. In 2007, we reported 208 adult attenders and members. This year, we have 305. Our Nominating Committee filled 133 committee positions. Many committees offer opportunities for newcomers to integrate into the meeting community. We seek ways to maintain the closeness of our community and acquaint newcomers to our testimonies and practices. Friendly Eights, a family film evening, Durham Friends Meeting Reads program, meetings of committee conveners, a youth spaghetti dinner fundraiser for beneficial causes, and other events grounded in the spirit help draw us together. Ministry and Counsel Committee plans monthly potluck suppers with queries to maintain our closeness and deepen our communion around core Quaker values beginning in July 2008. Our Communication Committee issues articles by friends about leadings, testimonies, and historic figures in our monthly newsletter. This is a regular and

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important source of information for those new to meeting, renewal for long-time attenders, and contact for those who cannot attend meeting regularly. In addition to a baby welcoming and Friendly Eights, our Care and Support committee had a new member breakfast.

Our budget growth was substantial with the addition of the new meetinghouse. In 2007, we were challenged to meet our budget but did by year's end. During the year, Finance Committee worked diligently to pose queries that helped the meeting to meaningfully address whether our budget expressed our testimonies. The Committee encouraged discernment in development of the 2008 budget. We are cautiously pleased that thus far in 2008, our income is steadier than in past years when income was more year-end loaded.

Many friends are involved in wider Quaker organizations. Austin Stanion will be co-clerk of youth meeting for 2008 FGC. Karen McKinnon is co-convenor of 2009 FGC Annual Gathering Committee. DMM provided some assistance with hospitality when Raleigh Monthly Meeting hosted that committee in May 2008. Thirteen members of meeting attended the 2007 FGC Gathering and returned to DMM with programs and with enthusiasm. The youth, in particular, examined their own decision-making regarding spirituality and membership in DMM, their participation in the work of the meeting, and their desires regarding dialog with meeting adults on religion and their spiritual journeys. We worked to assess and enhance youth involvement in standing committees, having representatives attend a number of standing committees to acquaint them with youth meeting activities. DMM provided facilities for meetings of the FGC Religious Education Committee (January 2008), FGC Representative Body (October 2008), and the School of the Spirit Nurturers Class (October 2008). Several DMM members and attenders participated in these meetings.

Stewardship of our community and our facilities included many committees and projects. Our Buildings Committee conscientiously maintained and improved our facilities. They had several workdays where additional friends joined with the committee to tackle repairs and improvements. Rain barrels were installed during the 2007-2008 drought to

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catch building run-off. An ad hoc committee has developed architectural and fundraising plans for upgrading accessibility and facilities in the kitchen of our historic meetinghouse. Our grounds committee is maintaining plantings and activity areas in our outdoors. Each DMM committee reviewed its description in our Handbook and submitted changes to the Nominating Committee for reconciliation. Our Handbook will be updated to reflect changed committee names, duties, descriptions and several new committees.

We issued four traveling letters. The first was dated October 23, 2007 for 19 family members and attenders, grades 6 to 12, and six adult friends who accompanied them. These friends visited Philadelphia for three days, including worship at Central Philadelphia Monthly Meeting, which endorsed the letter and returned warm greetings. The second was dated May 31, 2008 for the Dugan/St. Clair family who intend to travel through Asia, New Zealand and other areas for one year beginning August 2008. The third was issued on June 14, 2008 to Jo Anne and Bill Jeffries who will travel in the U.S. in the second half of the year. The fourth, dated June 16, 2008 was for Cesanne Berry for travel through Great Britain.

In the Light, Anne Micheaux Akwari, clerk

Friendship Monthly Meeting

We began our year as usual by participating with Friends Center and New Garden Meeting in a progressive dinner welcoming new and old Quakers at Guilford College. Attendance at our Meetings for Worship this year has been healthy, sometimes crowded. The Meeting sees a lot of visitors from the College – students and their families – as well as our faithful college students for whom we serve as their meeting away from home. There is also a good core of attendees at the Meeting for Worship with attention to Business. We welcomed new members with several events such as a pancake breakfast. There also have been some financial and other needs of our members which have been met by the meeting. We appreciate the good work of our Hospitality Committee which has been very active, with both the weekly and monthly activities of the

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Meeting and with helping host visiting Friend's groups such as the FWCC executive committee.

The meeting now has a significant number of young children (more coming) and our religious education efforts included the use of a childcare person, Clare Hyre, and volunteers from the meeting to assist her during Meeting for Worship.

The threat of being forced from our meetinghouse is no longer over us. The Ad Hoc committee has changed its name to the Long Range Planning Committee. Its focus has been changed from trying to find a place to build a new meetinghouse to working on long range financial and building planning to meet present and future needs.

We've enjoyed monthly game nights, gathering to play games together and get to know each other more. The Meeting sponsored a Christmas celebration with Friends Homes on Christmas Eve that was well attended. We can report increased use of our library along with a monthly book reading group.

In the area of spiritual growth we have held several all meeting events and two worship groups were formed. In the fall Lloyd Lee Wilson led us in a retreat which has had significant spiritual impact on the Meeting this year. In the spring the Worship and Ministry committee sponsored an All Meeting Retreat at the Meetinghouse which was well attended. School of the Spirit alumni support groups were formed to help those members who participated in the school find ways to bring their gifts back to the Meeting. In the spring two "Experiment with Light" groups were formed and they reported back to the Meeting on their experiences.

In the area of outreach the Meeting supports a number of Quaker institutions and their work both financially and with members' time. We also have shared the support of an immigrant family from Burma with New Garden Friends and First Friends Meetings. Locally we have participated in a number of cooperative activities with other meetings such as a Peace Walk and visiting speakers. In conjunction with Greensboro's Bicentennial celebrations we participated in a pew exchange with St Paul's Presbyterian Church.

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The severe drought we faced last year sparked an interest in learning what we could do to help with saving water. A forum was held and future efforts are planned. We look forward to facing the challenges of the coming year with God's guidance.

Dave MacInnes, Clerk

Greenville Monthly Meeting

Greenville Meeting continued to grow this past year with the addition of seven new attenders. For the first time in many years Greenville Meeting welcomed a new baby. Leah was born to Jennifer Breuer and her husband Adam Henning in May and has attended her first meeting for worship. If attendance continues to increase we may have to look for a larger space in the coming year. One member, Loretta Kopleman, has decided to move to the Washington DC area to pursue a new phase in her career and to be closer to her family. We will miss Loretta and Arthur, but are happy for them.

This year we have had the joyful challenge of rebuilding the Meeting with an influx of Friends of widely varied backgrounds. Some have had little or no prior experience of Friends while another comes to us from the FUM meeting in Goldsboro after much experience of FGC Meetings in the Northeast and another from Kenya, where another very different sort of Quakerism flourishes. Spiritual life consists of our personal relationships with each other and with God, so this is where the real work of meeting takes place. In reality a meeting consists of these relationships and there cannot be a sense of meeting until there is a meeting. Our diverse backgrounds indicate that our first priority as a meeting needs to be building those relationships. We have responded to this in two ways. One is to continue and expand the custom of having dinner at the Millers on Tuesday evenings for Friends and friends of Friends. At times this year this has expanded to sitting twenty-five guests on a Tuesday night. The other activity of meeting building has been a much smaller breakfast after Meeting for worship. On a normal First Day we will have eight at worship and five or six for breakfast at one of the local restaurants. This informal work of creating and deepening personal relationships among us has to

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done before we can move on to having regular meetings for business or answering Queries. We continue to patiently work towards these goals.

As a meeting we have participated with other groups in peace vigils. We are involved in social action and service to others mostly as individuals and not very much as a meeting. Individual members deliver meals on wheels, serve as poll workers during elections, bring pets to regularly visit with Alzheimer patients, and serve as mentors to teens in the community.

Richard Miller, Clerk

Rich Square Monthly Meeting

The past year has been one of treading water in Rich Square Monthly Meeting. We have worked to come to terms with our diminishing numbers in all aspects of meeting life while seeking to discern where there might be a renewed putting forth of the Holy Spirit that would lead to a renewal and regrowth of our meeting community. The meeting has taken care to be a responsible steward of our physical resources, so that there will be a suitable place prepared for that renewal, whenever it might come, and we have watched over one another for good, helping when needed, sharing our burdens and times of grief while celebrating our joys together. What has been less clear to us, individually and collectively, is how we should invite people in the communities around us to share in the Life which is so dear to those who gather in waiting worship each First Day in this truly blessed old meeting house.

The quality of our spiritual life, in worship and in meeting for business, has not suffered from our loss in numbers. First Day and mid-week worship are both intimate and deep, marked by a profound silence and vocal ministry that is inspired and inspirational. Committee activity in the monthly meeting has declined, largely because a meeting of our size no longer needs to divide into smaller groups to consider most items of business.

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Meeting finances are not an issue in spite of our small numbers, thanks to the generosity and foresight of earlier generations of Friends in Rich Square Meeting. We have the money available to keep the meetinghouse, lunchroom, grounds and cemetery in good repair, and have been careful to make the repairs necessary to good stewardship. The meeting has been careful to be a good environmental steward, for example by replacing an aged conventional tank hot water heater with an on-demand system that is more appropriate for our use of the lunchroom and promises to reduce energy use substantially.

Most of the active members of Rich Square Monthly Meeting are Friends who moved here to be part of a very special meeting community with a rich Quaker heritage. What we have not yet seen clearly is how we can share this treasure so that others are led to join us, either from a distance or from among our neighbors here in Woodland and nearby. What invitation can we mount that is right for the times and the audience we seek to reach, and also within the capacity of this small and aging meeting community? We continue to seek God's guidance for the answer to this question. We would welcome your prayers for support, and your presence at meeting for worship on any First Day.

West Grove Monthly Meeting

West Grove continues to have between six and eight adults attending worship on a typical First Day, plus four children. Our small numbers and our location on the outskirts of several important population centers remind us of the difficulties of being faithful Friends in a society that does not share many of our values. We are challenged to remember that our weekly gatherings are not just a retreat from our busy and demanding lives. We find that our worship does sustain and nourish us, and we are especially blessed by the presence of visitors from other meetings. We have also enjoyed visits from seekers over the past year, though none have remained as attenders. Attenders Les and Rebekah Fleming joined the meeting as members last fall.

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This past year has been important for reaffirming the ties that bind us together. As we have identified, aired, and discussed concerns, we have been reminded that the process of discernment and resolution has a strengthening, not a divisive, effect. Through our readings and discussions we have found greater unity in matters of faith and practice than might have been possible otherwise.

Members of the meeting have been active in service or outreach, for the meeting itself, for the wider body of Friends, and for the benefit of others in the true spirit of Friends' service. These include such efforts as representing the Yearly Meeting on the board of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, on the board of Quaker House of Fayetteville, work with the Autism Society of North Carolina, with scouting organizations and with wildlife conservation and animal husbandry. Laurie Newlin has created a website for the meeting which includes a history of West Grove. Dora Owens, Jennifer Ginsburg, and Laurie Newlin have all been involved in the organization and teaching of First Day School. First Day School has grown not in numbers of children but in activities and this as given much back to the Meeting as a whole. We completed a simple display for the Meeting House of our disciplines using the acronym SPICES (simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and service) and the children completed an activity for scouting merit badges for religion entitled 'That of God.' The completed work was made into a book that will preserve the products of this endeavor. Copies of this will be made available to other meetings. The past year has seen a growing concern with the materials and resources for both First Day School and Discussion, sometimes held after Meeting for Worship. Recent adult religious discussion has included readings from the Gospel of John and from the writings of historical Friends. Friends feel that we could do better in our attention to these studies, and in finding additional works that speak to our condition. Dora Owens returned from her trip to Pendle Hill with a variety of books for consideration by the meeting. We are somewhat limited in our efforts by the distance that many members live from the meetinghouse, making a regular meeting on another day of the week impractical.

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Several important decisions have been reached concerning the meetinghouse itself. The meetinghouse well pump was replaced in anticipation of building a fellowship hall on the property. However, those plans have been postponed indefinitely due to a lack of resources. It was decided that the preservation of the meetinghouse itself was a more important goal, given that a number of problems with the house are in need of attention. The most significant of these is a sagging foundation, and a meeting with a local contractor was held to determine the best course of action. The building will need to be incrementally raised on one side, and some new supports will be needed underneath. However, the meetinghouse—like the meeting itself—is still structurally sound in its 94th year of existence. Brian Owens has proposed that a covered wheelchair access and porch be added to the meetinghouse, to be built in fulfillment of the requirements for an Eagle Scout project. The initial drawings have been reviewed, and a request for more a detailed drawing has been approved. Concerns about maintaining the appearance of the meetinghouse have been addressed. The project would be completed at no cost to the meeting.

Another important decision reached by the meeting this year was to include clarifying and welcoming statements on the newly-developed website, drawn from our discernment as a meeting and from a historical tract of importance to West Grove which expresses our understanding of the Quaker path as one of inward obedience to Christ. Friends visiting our site (<http://westgrovefriendsnc.org/default.aspx>) will find on our home page the following words:

“WG is an open and affirming meeting and we do welcome all who wish to worship respectfully with us in the traditional manner of conservative friends.”

"True Quakerism, or the Friends' way of life, is a life dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ through obedience to His voice and light in the heart, and this, without any reservation whatsoever. The only way to attain the consciousness of presence of God is to obey His Spiritual leading. The real Friend knows the voice of God, and feels conscious of the guidance of the Holy Spirit."

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As we continue to gather in worship each First Day, we do hold absent Friends in our hearts and thoughts, and they remain an important part of the legacy of West Grove that we embrace. We continue to grow in understanding our place in the unbroken chain of the history of West Grove Friends, as well as our calling to be Friends, and we pray that we will continue to be faithful to our leadings.

Wilmington Friends Monthly Meeting

The best words to describe our monthly meeting over the past year are calm and quiet. We note that our attendance is small, that our meetings for worship are quiet, and that children are infrequently in our midst. We speak with our many visitors at the conclusion of meeting, are grateful for spoken ministry when it occurs, and have planned activities for children in the event any should be present. We also offered an introduction to Quakerism class to the community, which was attended by nine people new to the meeting.

We are making efforts to grow in fellowship. For the small group of adults who attend the 10:00 hour prior to meeting for worship, we began a new book called *Lives that Speak*. It is a collection of short stories about 20th century Quakers which does not require regular attendance to join in the discussion. We played with our Quakenbush outdoor toys twice; at a picnic in the fall and another picnic in the spring. Lawn bowling is the favorite game and generates excitement in the young and old. Over the past year we had an occasional pot-luck. We had fun and worked hard hosting our first yearly meeting.

We have reached out to our Quaker community and beyond. In addition to nine of our members participating in yearly meeting last summer, three women from our meeting attended the 'Paint and Pray' event at Rich Square meeting in Fourth Month. Some faithful Friends from our meeting go to the local homeless shelter one night a month to help prepare and serve supper. Our young adult member, Laura Walton, recently completed nine months working at Casa de Los Amigos in Mexico. Another member is active in the Alternatives to

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Violence program. Two members devote a significant amount of their time and talents to the free medical clinic in Wilmington.

A good portion of our business at monthly meeting is making decisions about the care of the building. We have drainage issues in our parking lot, the back door was replaced, graffiti on the outside wall had to be removed, and most recently, we decided to replace the toilets with low water flow toilets. Our building is well used during the week by the many people who participate in programs organized by Voces Latinas; in addition, the local Buddhist group uses it some First day afternoons.

More significant business was our minute stating that meeting cannot serve to provide spiritual guidance to Friends School of Wilmington. Meeting laid down any corporate responsibility toward the school and is at peace with the decision.

To sum-up the state of our meeting: while working as individuals and corporately in various ways to listen to God in us, we quietly care for meeting and our building. We have faith that if we remain focused on God, all will be right with our meeting.

41. Report and Minute of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Concern for Iran

Eric Ginsberg reported on the work of this committee. The report follows:

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Concern for Iran

Those serving on this committee, which was formed on 7 -11-2008, were Bill Jeffries, Margie Dingman, Eric Ginsburg. The committee has prepared a minute and recommends that, subject to the leading of the spirit and approval of the Yearly Meeting, it be widely disseminated to convey as effectively as possible the concerns of this meeting. We recommend that it be sent to the following recipients:

-The President of the United states, the Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, National Security Advisor, Speaker of the House, Senate Majority Leader, North Carolina's and Virginia's senators and representatives, the Senate Foreign Relations

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Committee, the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the presidential candidates.

-The monthly meetings of NCYM-C

-Friends General Conference and its yearly meetings, Friends United Meeting, and other yearly meetings as led.

-The American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, and other Quaker organizations as led

-Friends Journal and other Quaker publications as led

-the wire services and principle NC newspapers and radio and TV outlets, including news departments and editors of “religion pages.”

Minute of the Ad Hoc Committee on Concern for Iran

We of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), gathered at Guilford College on 7/9-13, 2008, do at this time reaffirm our belief and experience in living in the light and power that takes away the occasion of all war. We urge Congressional members and candidates, and the President and presidential candidates to pursue dialogue and negotiations in order to achieve peaceful settlements to threatening situations with the nation of Iran. We do further encourage Friends and others of all persuasions to do the same on a people-to-people basis.

Provocative acts by Iran do not justify further provocative acts by the United States or others. We are now witnessing the repetition of certain events which led up to the war with Iraq and other armed conflicts, leading us to believe that plans for armed hostile action against Iran are in preparation. The events in question include:

Unilateral and unconditional demands that we know cannot be met;

Statements demonizing the Iranian government to engender hatred and fear;

Alarmist pronouncements intended to disturb and frighten United States citizens into believing that war is justified, necessary, and inevitable; and

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Threats in the form of congressional resolutions, such as H. Con. Res. 362, which would authorize an act of war through a blockade of Iran by land, sea and air.

In opposing H. Con Res. 362, we note that this resolution would have the effect of putting Congress on record as supporting, even encouraging, hostile action by the President. The inspections called for by the resolution could not be carried out except by the use of force, as voluntary compliance by Iranian vessels may not reasonably be expected. It is very likely that incidents like the January 2008 speedboat incident would occur with increasing frequency and would eventually provoke an armed response that could trigger further violent conflict.

In all likelihood, actions such as the above would have the effect of precluding further diplomacy between the opposing nations, further adding to the likelihood of open warfare. Threatened actions will further aggravate, rather than alleviate, the already untenable situation we face with the world's oil supply, further contributing to destabilization of world economies. The more we instill fear and distrust, the greater are Iran's incentives to pursue nuclear weapons.

Multilateral shows of force and military strength do not prevent wars, but too often initiate them. For over 50 years the Iranian people have been given reason to distrust the United States and its allies by virtue of our interference with Iran's internal governance. They have shown that they are capable of mounting a spirited defense of their territory. These truths not being in question, it serves no constructive purpose to further inflame tensions in the Middle East through coercive acts against Iran. We believe that the differences among Iran, Israel, the United States and other allied nations can only be addressed through constructive and non-threatening conversation.

For the reasons stated herein, we do request that all provocative actions toward Iran be immediately ceased and efforts to begin constructive multilateral negotiations be commenced in good faith by all parties.

Friends were reminded that in addition to sending out this minute, the work of peace building in our various communities must be ongoing, as well as the sharing of our

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experience and knowing that God's love is present for all humanity.

The committee was thanked for its work on our behalf on this minute.

Friends approved the minute and were in unity with it being disseminated as the committee recommended.

42. Epistle to All Friends Everywhere

Friends approved the Epistle to All Friends Everywhere, which follows:

Epistle to all Friends everywhere

Loving greetings to Friends everywhere from the 311th annual gathering of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). We met this year in Greensboro, North Carolina, on the campus of Guilford College, a space that provided us with room for quiet reflection and sharing amidst the occasional sounds of the orchestral musicians also present for an intensive music camp. This campus felt like home for many of us, and it also meant that we all passed beneath and appreciated the large and plentiful trees here. This led many to truly feel like they were “Coming Home to Creation,” the theme of our gathering this year.

In our Bible study each morning Jennie Ratcliffe of Durham Meeting led us in exploring how we understand our relationship with the wider natural world when we read the Bible. On Sixth Day evening we heard from Carl Magruder of Grass Valley (California) Monthly Meeting who encouraged us to listen carefully to the Spirit and live out of that Spirit when considering the current ecological crisis we face. On Seventh Day evening Vivette Jeffries, Fire Carrier of the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, welcomed us to the land and she and her father Elder John Blackfeather Jeffries shared the oral history of their people and individuals shared their own oral history.

This brought forth stories of great pain and separation due to oppression, racism and abuse, creating a space for healing. Vivette stated that as we heal, so does Creation, because we are all part of Creation.

The Friends United Meeting Triennial was held near Greensboro at the same time as our gathering, and some of us

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took the opportunity on Fifth Day evening to go hear Landrum Bolling speak to them. Landrum Bolling spoke of peace as a part of a life of devotion and included concern about believing that there are motions towards war with Iran. Resonating with this concern, and believing that Friends must live in the life and power that takes away occasion for all war, the Yearly Meeting was led to approve a minute in opposition of provocative actions by the United States towards Iran and encouraging dialogue and negotiations. Friends within the Yearly Meeting and beyond are encouraged to build on this minute with additional outreach to elected representatives and others seeking peaceful resolutions to disagreements with Iran. The minute can be found on the Yearly Meeting website (www.ncymc.org).

Our attendance has grown again this year, with 125 people present at various points during our sessions. We were blessed with many visitors, including Friends from California, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and other meetings within North Carolina. Of those in attendance, 15 were young people of ages ranging from ten months to seventeen years. These young Friends once again benefited from thoughtful planning and had activities that included rollerskating (quickly becoming a tradition), visiting a waterpark and a bog garden. They spent time at the environmental studies branch of the Greensboro Library, created walking sticks, and did other art and craft projects. They also joined the adults in hearing about the Underground Railroad for escaped slaves, Nan Bowles' talk on her visit with the Cherokee and the storytelling with the Jeffries.

As is our practice, we were brought closer together as a body through the practice of sharing local Meeting responses to our queries in our business sessions, through sharing full and powerful ministry in response to that practice, through hearing reports of the state of two Friends schools with historic ties to our Yearly Meeting, and through hearing letters and reports of the lived faith of our young adult Friends and our representatives to various gatherings.

We will gather again at the University of North Carolina – Wilmington in Seventh Month, 2009, if it is in keeping with

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Divine Will. We send you our prayers that all creation may be made whole with that life and light from Christ.

On behalf of the yearly meeting,
Sidney Lee Kitchens, clerk

43. Letter to Absent Friends

Friends approved the Letter to Absent Friends, which will be sent with a copy of the Summary of Exercises. The letter follows:

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Guilford College campus in Greensboro, North Carolina, where we gathered for the 311th session of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). We appreciated the efforts of this year's planning, youth program, and hospitality committees in preparing for our time together. The fruits of their efforts were enjoyed by all, including a large number of visitors and children this year, as well as some newer members of our monthly meetings. "Coming Home to Creation" was the theme that we have explored and celebrated during our time together.

We are sending with this letter a copy of our "Summary of Exercises" to describe to you some of what we have experienced during this yearly meeting. We know that no words can adequately express the richness of our time together. Whether attending to business, sharing in worship or Bible study, walking about the campus, or participating with one another in times of planned activity and informal opportunities, we found ourselves at times in a fuller communion with one another and with the Creation to which we belong. It seemed to happen that we were most certainly drawn into the very Presence in which we all are present and in which we all move and have our being.

Though you have been physically absent during this time, we feel your presence as a member of this community and a participant in this communion. Our prayer for us all is that God may strengthen us through the Spirit, that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith, and being rooted and grounded in love, we may know the love of Christ and be filled with all the fullness of God.

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On behalf of the Yearly Meeting,
Sidney Lee Kitchens, Clerk

44. Epistle to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Friends approved the following epistle to Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative:

To our brothers and sisters in Christ in Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative,

Greetings from the 311th annual session of Conservative Friends in North Carolina. The ties between our yearly meetings were strengthened by the presence of Cheryl Sutton and Stan Sanders. We have felt nurtured by springs of Living Water, as we considered the theme "Coming Home to Creation" on the lovely Guilford campus in Seventh Month. From our morning Bible studies to the plenary by Carl Magruder we have been reminded of the heavy imbalance in our relationship to creation.

We struggle to listen to, and to obey, the Lord's call - as individuals and in our meetings. We are reminded of the witness of our daily lives and the need to examine our choices for any harm we may be causing.

We know we are not alone in this struggle. We are encouraged by the bonds that tie our two yearly meetings together, both historically and in the present. We also know Christ is with us and as the Psalm says: "For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light." Psalm 36:9

We pray God's love will enfold Iowa Friends and may we all be found faithful to the call we hear. May we all heed the words of the apostle when he says in II Thessalonians 3:5, "And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patient waiting for Christ."

In His tender love,
Sidney Lee Kitchens,
Clerk, North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

45. Epistle to Ohio Yearly Meeting

Friends approved the following epistle to Ohio Yearly Meeting:

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Dear Friends,

We send you greetings from our large gathering of Friends attending the 311th annual session of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative held on the glorious tree-filled campus of Guilford College, Greensboro, NC. The prayer of an absent Friend, expressed in her letter to us, was answered as our hearts were indeed joined in praise and gratitude on this journey of “Coming Home to Creation.”

We were blessed with the presence of visiting Friends David Eley, Scott King and John Benson from Ohio Yearly Meeting.

Like the deepening assurance spoken of in your epistle to us that God is calling Ohio Friends to change, we know, if we truly seek a homecoming with the Earth, that change is necessary. Our present habitation of this biosphere is not working for the rich, the poor, or the earth. The beginnings of the change needed are growing within our Yearly Meeting.

We have been awakened to a call of respect for self and fellowship with Creation in morning Bible study, business sessions and plenary presentations by Carl Magruder and also Elder John Blackfeather Jeffries and his daughter Vivette Jeffries of the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation. We hear the message that we have not carefully attended to our neighbors or mother Earth. Our carelessness has brought us to the edge of life on this planet. There is no option but to lay aside our destructive life patterns as we work to live into the Truth of a right relationship with Creator.

During the past year, Friends in NCYM-C have been blessed through increasing ministry within and around our Yearly Meeting and a desire to minister more broadly. Time for teaching, worship, fellowship and reaching out to others has been reported at this gathering. Yearly Meeting women have gathered together to nurture the Spirit within; Friends have introduced the wider community to Conservative Friends; George Fox’s writings, coordinated with scripture, have been presented in workshops; those who travel in the ministry have gathered for rest and sharing; and workshops speaking to spiritual awareness have been held in monthly meetings.

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Our monthly meetings are experiencing growth or are actively seeking ways to reach out to their surrounding communities. Through the blessing of the many children in attendance there is a freshness and spontaneity in our gathering this year. Reports of the faithfulness of young adult Friends attending FWCC's triennial and the Young Adult Friends Conference held at Earlham offer hope for the future of a Peculiar People.

While there is much to encourage us, much has also been revealed that calls for our continued faithfulness. Rational minds might say that what is required of us in the days ahead will overwhelm us, yet we leave this Yearly Meeting session in the belief that the Earth and all who dwell thereon are the testament to God's creation. Our purpose and capacity for wonder, love and awe of the Lord is our hope. We pray Ohio and North Carolina Friends can build on this hope.

“Our Father in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven ” Matthew 6: 9-10

In Christ's Love,
Sidney Lee Kitchens, Clerk

46. Epistle to Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting

Friends approved the following epistle to the Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting:

... it would go a great way to caution and direct People in their Use of the World, that they were better studied and known in the Creation of it. For how could Man find the Confidence to abuse it, while they should see the Great Creator stare them in the Face, in all and every part thereof? Their Ignorance makes them insensible, and that Insensibility hardy in misusing this noble Creation, that has the Stamp and Voice of a Deity every where, and in every Thing to the Observing.

--William Penn, Some Fruits of Solitude, Part I

Dear Friends in Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting:

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It is a joy to receive your epistle, reminding us of the century-old correspondence between this body and Scipio Quarterly Meeting, and of other spiritual and familial ties, long fallow, which have connected us to Friends in your region in past years. Certainly we have much to gain by nurturing that previous relationship of which you write into new flame, bringing both warmth and light.

Our hearts have been tendered during these sessions toward a fresh sense of the suffering of creation, weighed down and torn asunder by the ill-considered activities of humankind. The urgency of our need for radical change has been impressed on us – as well as the clear truth that nothing less than radical change can prevent the entire planet from reaping the harvest of our human misdeeds.

It is past time for humankind to move away from a sense of dominion over creation, or even stewardship over creation, and toward an acknowledgement that all of creation is our neighbor, worthy of our love as God's own beloved, and of our saving mercy as our neighbor in need. Only by changing the paradigm of our connection to all of creation can we hope to assume our proper role in God's great Gospel Order for creation.

We choose to live in hope despite impending environmental disaster because our experience with the divine has taught us of God's love and God's power to change hearts and lives. If we live in the Truth as we speak the Truth to others, we can be the leaven that helps change humankind, and thereby all of creation. Then we will, like George Fox, come into a new creation in which the earth is not simply restored but made more whole than ever, and where everything gives forth a new smell.

We greet you all as fellow laborers in this great work, and look forward to days to come when we may gather together face to face.

On behalf of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative),
Sidney Kitchens, Clerk

Friends were invited to gather with Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting in Syracuse, NY, on the 20th of Ninth Month, 2008, and again during the third week of Fifth Month in 2009.

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47. Nominating Committee Report

Robert E. Gosney reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. The report was approved and appears in the appendices.

48. Hospitality Committee Report

Ray Treadway reported for the committee on the attendance of 110 adults and fifteen children, which is an increase from last year.

The accounting should come out to the good as the registration fees had been calculated on 100 attendees. Ray expressed appreciation for Gwen Gosney Erickson's work as liaison with the college.

49. Minutes of the Yearly Meeting of Ministers, Elders, and Overseers

Friends approved that the minutes of the Yearly Meeting of Ministers, Elders, and Overseers be included in the Yearly Meeting Minutes.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting of
Ministry and Oversight
311th Yearly Meeting

At the Yearly Meeting of Ministry and Oversight of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) of the Religious Society of Friends, held at Guilford College, Greensboro, North Carolina on Seventh Month ninth, 2008.

After a period of waiting worship the clerk opened business with a welcome and the following scripture:

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other. John 15:15-17 NIV

The following visitors to the meeting were welcomed:

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Callid Keefe-Perry, Rochester Monthly Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting; Christina Keefe-Perry, Rochester Monthly Meeting, New York Yearly Meeting; Kristi Estes, Memphis Monthly Meeting, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting & Association; Cheryl Sutton, Bear Creek Monthly Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative; Stanley Sanders, Bear Creek Monthly Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative; Carl Magruder, Grass Valley Monthly Meeting, Pacific Yearly Meeting; Patricia Loring, Bethesda Monthly Meeting, Baltimore Yearly Meeting; Elaine Emily, Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting, Pacific Yearly Meeting.

A letter of loving encouragement from Louise Wilson was read, noting her regret of being absent from this gathering.

The following Friends were present for the meeting of Ministry and Oversight:

Anne Akwari, Durham; Eric Ginsburg, West Grove; Nancy Craft, Virginia Beach; Darryl Waisner, Friendship; Mary Miller, Richard Miller, Greenville; Friends from Rich Square are here – though not specifically appointed: Lloyd Lee Wilson, Susan Wilson, Barbara Gosney, Robert Gosney.

Rich Square, Wilmington, Virginia Beach, Greenville, and Friendship Meetings shared reports from their monthly meetings to this body. These reports were read. Friends were delighted to hear of growing numbers attending Greenville. We were saddened to learn of the death of Kay Glidden of Wilmington Friends Meeting. Responses to the queries were submitted by Friendship, Wilmington, and Virginia Beach.

The clerk asked that Friends prayerfully consider if this body should organize a gathering at Tenth Month Representative Body. A desire was expressed to continue the practice of providing this opportunity, trusting that the topic and resources would be revealed.

The Advices were read.

Friends' experiences of ministry:

Tommie Gipson shared about leading a workshop at Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) on Conservative and Convergent Friends. He also mentioned that there was an online forum on Conservative Quakerism.

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Mark Wutka has been engaged for some time on working with Fox's epistles and the Quaker Bible Index – which work led him to offer a workshop at Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) on Fox's use of the Bible, with a particular emphasis for Friends unfamiliar with or averse to the Bible. Forty-six people, five of whom were teens, attended and the offering was well received. Mark has indexed Joseph Hoag's journal and published the index, making it available to Friends for just the cost of the printing.

Mary Miller shared that Rachel Miller was working with Quakers Uniting in Publications (QUIP) – noting particularly that a call was out for written contributions from young adult Friends.

Lloyd Lee Wilson shared at an upper level religion class about Quakers and social reform, focusing on the spiritual compulsion to address social ills. He also presented at the Chowan Interdisciplinary Symposium the theological issues supporting environmental concern through a Quaker lens.

Patty Levering expressed appreciation to Lloyd Lee and Susan Wilson for their presence and ministry at Davidson. Their presence and sharing helped remove some of the incorrect notions some at Davidson held about this yearly meeting. Appreciation was also expressed to Claire Koster for her experienced help as Davidson moves toward becoming a monthly meeting.

Charlie Ansell shared about his coming to understand Friends as leaven as God gathers people together. A gathering in Woodland for worship and refreshment was provided for Friends traveling in the ministry.

Nan Bowles shared Beaufort Worship Group's appreciation of Richard and Mary Miller's frequent visitation.

The "Paint and Pray" weekend gathered twelve women from the Yearly Meeting to paint the inside of Rich Square's lunchroom, and experience prayer, laughter, and chocolate. This gathering grew out of two separate leadings that grew together. Friends rejoiced at hearing the fruit of faithfulness in these stories.

Nancy Craft shared that some from Virginia Beach are visiting Northern Neck Worship Group on a monthly basis.

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Mark Wutka shared that Atlanta Friends Meeting had a retreat in Fourth Month led by Deborah Shaw which was greatly appreciated and has enlivened the spiritual relationships between members of the meeting.

Mary Ellen Chijioke reported that there is a small but indigenously organized unprogrammed Religious Society of Friends in Nigeria, with 3-4 worship groups scattered across the country. The group is held together by three major activities: a public witness against the death penalty, together with prison visitation, an annual gathering at Easter time, and a newsletter (available in the Friends Historical Collection). Mary Ellen has tried to give such support as she can through such means as sending classics of Quaker literature, providing subscriptions to Pendle Hill pamphlets and Friends Journal, and sending occasional small donations towards the cost of the newsletter. She looks forward to becoming a part of this group after her retirement, a group which contradicts all the stereotypes about who is and who is not drawn to the Quaker message of a Christianity accessible to all, discovered through expectant waiting and open ministry, and lived in faithful witness.

Friends expressed delight in David Martin's presence among us. David shared the following: When the storms come – keep the fires lit. Christ is available today, just as he was when he walked the earth. The world is starved for Truth and Integrity and we're just the folk that can share that.

Austin Wattles spoke of Chattahoochie Meeting – split from Atlanta Monthly Meeting – sincere in trying to follow Christ Jesus, engaged with the Bible, seeking guidance from seasoned Friends.

Deborah Shaw shared about the Young Adult Friends Gathering “Living as Friends: Listening Within” held in Richmond, Indiana in Fifth Month. She spoke of the privilege of serving the gathering as a member of a pastoral care team and the delight she felt in witnessing so many young adult Friends sharing about their experiences of living authentically in God's power and their desire to strengthen deepen and multiply those experiences.

Carl Magruder shared that as they traveled south to join us; they found themselves in Lynchburg and, as cyber Quakers,

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discovered and then met with Rockingham Friends Meeting, and so bring to our body loving greetings from Jack and Susan Smith.

Charlie Ansell noted that Friends travel because they must. At times Friends are led to certain locations; at times we must call Friends. David Eley likely has the frequent Quaker travel miles award.

Leadership of the body

Clerk Charlie Ansell shared that he felt that he should step down after four years of service. Deborah Shaw, who felt led to take on the role of recording clerk for this session, would be glad for another to take on this role for the coming year. Richard Miller shared that he felt open to serving in either position. The clerk asked the clerk of the yearly meeting to leave a space on Seventh Day for this to be brought forward. Janis Ansell's name was brought forward for discernment as to whether or not she felt clear to be clerk of this body. Janis said she would consider this prayerfully.

Gratitude was expressed for the service that Charlie Ansell has given the Yearly Meeting of Ministry and Oversight through his Spirit-led clerking.

Callid Keefe-Perry carries an epistle from Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting and would be glad to share with Friends about the long-standing relationship between Friends in that area of New York and our yearly meeting. Callid also has been under a concern around the practice of opportunities and would be grateful if Friends had words or thoughts that they wanted to share with him.

Sid Kitchens shared a concern that we remain in a state of attentive obedience to the Holy Spirit so that our discernment for our leadership and in our decision making reflect the testimony of equality, that we strive to let nothing prevent us from hearing the full Gospel message, however, whoever, wherever it comes.

Bill Geary noted that he is not usually with us on Fourth Day evening because he is usually with the Southern State Worship Group. At this very moment we are with those men in the bonds of worship. The men know of us through the letters we've sent to them. Please hold in the Light James Hyson,

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Dennis Bachman, Michael Dunlop for they are in the stream with us. Also Paul Harvey, whereabouts unknown except to God, and Patrick O'Neill, who is now in another facility. Bill gives thanks for our ministry to these men and to David Martin whose encouragement first brought him here.

The Living Presence has been felt among us – lifting our hearts in joy. God invites us to lay our burdens down and take refreshment – resting in the promise that our strength will be renewed and that we are never without that dear companion, never without the Light and Love of Christ.

We are left with two queries brought by Patty Levering. What is this yearly meeting – is it the people who are gathered here now? Or is it something bigger?

Is there a body in the yearly meeting that is called on to give a 'spiritual state of the yearly meeting?' To be aware of hungering, thirsting, needs within the yearly meeting? To prepare food/nourishment in response? Are these questions that the yearly meeting needs to sit with? Are there already answers?

Our time of gathering closed with worshipful silence.

50. Approval of clerks for the Yearly Meeting of Ministers, Elders, and Overseers

Friends approved that Janis Ansell serve as the clerk of the Yearly Meeting of Ministers, Elders and Overseers.

Friends approved that Richard Miller serve as recording clerk of the Yearly Meeting of Ministers, Elders and Overseers.

51. Minute of Appreciation

Friends expressed their gratitude for the service of the clerks and of every person's faithful service these past few days, bringing forth fruit in their several places and forming the Blessed Community. We are indeed blessed to have been present at this place and time.

52. Concluding Minute

As we met for our 311th session at Guilford College, we were grateful to have the presence of loving visitors amongst us, sharing with us our sense of being gathered in the loving

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embrace of the Creator and the creation. We have concluded our business for yearly meeting sessions 2008. We propose to meet again, if God is willing, at UNC-Wilmington, in Seventh Month, 2009.

53. Thoughts from a Visiting Friend

Visiting Friend Callid Keefe-Perry was given the following words to share with us as our sessions came to a close. Friends approved that these words be place in the minutes.

For the Friends of North Carolina Yearly Meeting
(Conservative) 12 Seventh Month 2008

Hold

Look Friend, there, thrusting proudly
into the twilight are several silos,
industrial grey-green and full of grain.
Note too, how the last rays of the day
catch on their sides and seams.

I imagine the sun wants in, running
once-nimble fingers across stitches
in the steel, hoping to find a place,
in their height to loose the hold,
spilling light in and seed out.

And here...

...here we rest in a field,
surrounded by sweet grasses
and the hum of things living.

Here the light nearly sings, offering
each song with a bold sincerity, skipping
among tussocks, touching each tassel,

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and pausing to whisper honeyed-words
into the face of the falling night.

In the morning the silos will yet stand,
unchanged by the newness of the day.

And we...

...we can rise from the earth,
having slept until woken by the fierce
clamor of things growing near.

Callid Keefe-Perry
Rochester Monthly Meeting

54. *Young Friends Epistle to All Friends Everywhere*

Young Friends read their Epistle to All Friends Everywhere after meeting for worship on First Day. Their epistle was approved and follows:

Dear F/friends of the world:

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) met on the campus of Guilford College from July 9-13th, 2008. The age range of the Young Friends was from 16 months to 17 years.

The teen's week started with planning for the Young Friends to visit the Greensboro Bog Garden which we led them through a few days later. We then spent our "free-time" sorting garbage into trash, recycling, and compostable. Our adventure ended with finding – by asking both the info-guy and the kitchen staff – that the campus was starting to compost. It was a good, eventful day.

We spent all of one day at the Wet'n'Wild Emerald Pointe Waterpark, a favorite activity of most of the Young Friends. The teens then spent the evening in a talk by Carol Magruder about creation and what we, the "hairless monkeys" are doing to our planet. The next day we created custom hoops and spent the afternoon "hooping." Native American and Friends' storytelling about healing creation and the hurts we have inflicted on each other ended the day. Lots of time was taken for playing, especially with our new "Floppy Flyers."

When we asked the Young Friends about their experiences, they responded:

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“I liked going to the water park and decorating the staffs. And I like the food here.” Corena Owens

“I liked making walking sticks. It was interesting that we got to learn the Native American sign thing-a-ma-bobs.” Oliver Child-Laning

“I had a ton of fun at the water park. I loved playing in the water. And the meals were delicious.” Brook Shoemaker

“I had fun at the water park and I also liked listening to people tell their stories because it was cool to hear a lot of different stories.” Celeste Campbell

“I enjoyed all of it, especially the ice-cream.” Caroline Newlin

“I like to play with my friends.” Janie Newlin

“I went to the water park and I went roller-skating.” Leland Child-Laning

“I liked the roller-skating and I liked the water park and I’m going to like making hula-hoops.” Violet Child-Laning

“I liked the water park and doing the walking sticks.” Beryl Shoemaker

We have learned a lot this year about caring for creation. We had tons of fun and can’t wait until next Yearly Meeting.

Paulina Campbell, Brian Owens (the teens)

55. Summary of Exercises

The summary of exercises was read First Day morning after meeting for worship and was approved by Friends. The summary is as follows:

Under the title “Coming Home to Creation,” the 311th gathering of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) took place at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina. Enjoying near-perfect weather, we felt a sincere gladness in the lush green environment of the campus. Recent rains brought hopeful signs of recovery from an extended drought.

Our hearts and minds have turned again and again to themes of relationship: our relationship with God, with one another, with other Friends, with other peoples, and with the Creation.

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We received visitors from Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting (NYYM), Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative), Pacific Yearly Meeting, AFSC, and FWCC, as well as individuals from many other Monthly Meetings. Hope was warmly expressed for renewing the historical inter-visitation with Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting.

Jennie Ratcliffe led us in morning Bible Studies, exploring such inquiries as: Whose earth is it anyway? If we live in harmony with God and the earth, are we promised sufficiency? What is our relationship and responsibility to the wider world? Pondering these questions, we explored the meaning and guidance of many Bible scriptures, which define our responsibility to the Creation, earth, and its environs; and, at the same time, chastise us with our powerlessness in the face of our Creator's understanding. We are called to Faith in God, that by that trust our daily needs are met, as in Psalm 37:3 "Trust in the Lord, and do good: so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed." On the morning of the Seventh Day, we were left with two queries: How do we come into right relationship with the Earth? What can we do as Friends to help heal the planet? We are reminded again of the necessity of being in right relationship to God, and to try to love things on the terms with which they are offered.

Bill Geary gave a report on his continued ministry in prisons. He gave touching accounts of how inmates' lives have been changed by this program of individual ministry. Several incarcerated men wrote letters expressing how they have developed personal relationship with God. "We've become different people, keep different company." Bill concluded with a question to the membership: "See if there isn't a prison ministry in your life."

Emily Stewart brought much richness as she shared the success of the Young-Adult Friends Conference in Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana. She noted how coming together in one place was helpful in overcoming stereotypes and misconceptions, as they bridged the gap between programmed and un-programmed Friends. We were moved by Rebecca Sullivan's candidness as she shared her struggle as a young Quaker, raising the question, "Where are our 20 and 30-year olds

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among un-programmed Friends in particular?” This question was immediately supported by Ceal Wutka, who reminded us to nurture our young Friends.

Our Young Friends (children) were very much engaged in recreation as well as insightfulness. They wrote an epistle to Young Friends everywhere. They were active participants in scripture discussions, sharing their heartfelt thoughts and concerns. They enjoyed socializing, and campus activities including a bog tour prepared by the older Young Friends, and going to the water park in the warm weather. Adult volunteers also entertained our young Friends with story telling. We shared intergenerational singing and hooping.

We are proud of our Young Friends abroad and are moved by report of the experiences of Laura Walton, who is working and learning at the Casa de los Amigos, in Mexico City.

This year’s readings of the queries and responses struck us as exceptionally deep, with a sense of urgency and an emphasis on truth, integrity and hope.

Members of Ministry and Oversight shared their experiences of ministry, seeking the Divine Spirit among Friends and others.

A number of us traveled to the Friends United Meeting Triennial in nearby High Point, to hear Landrum Bolling, former President of Earlham College, and Betty Carter Peace Lecturer. He urged us to feel a divine calling to witness for peace, a calling that is universal, not only among the “peace churches.” He gave many moving examples from his vast experience. We were recognized and warmly welcomed by the FUM Friends.

We continue to be opposed to the War in Iraq and the current run-up “drum-beat” that is being repeated as an emotional preparation for a potential war in Iran. Friends approved a minute to be widely distributed, emphasizing that we stand spiritually grounded in our opposition to war and the causes of war, and urge Friends, government officials, and all people to move toward negotiation and reconciliation with Iran instead of the present course of provocation and demonization. We recognized that approving a minute is not sufficient, and that timely action grounded in the Spirit, both corporate and individual, is called for.

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Nan Bowles gave a moving report on the annual gathering of the Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs at the Kickapoo Center, in Oklahoma. Their language, culture, and relationship to the Earth are vital, and we intend to continue our solidarity with them. We encouraged Nan to carry her message to other Quaker groups (New England Yearly Meeting and Baltimore Yearly Meeting).

The ministry of Friend Carl Magruder, our Plenary Speaker, was deeply felt among us. It is clear to us there is a crisis in the biosphere, one that challenges our prophetic faith. In Carl's words, "The spiritual life of the Society (of Friends) won't tolerate our shying away." We hold on to the hope that by living out of the Truth, our faith might reveal a new way of being in the creation. Friends noted that our Earth-Care Witness is intricately linked to our social concerns.

On the evening of Seventh Day, we were welcomed to the land by Vivette Jeffries-Logan, Fire Carrier, and John Blackfeather Jeffries, Elder, and some of their family from the Oconeechee Band of the Saponi. John explained to us some of the history of the Oconeechee; how during colonial times they were driven from their Roanoke River settlement, finally coming to the Hillsborough area to settle where their tribal land is today. They reminded us that we are part of Creation; we are not, and can not be separate. We heard of the importance of listening to the Old Ones, how it was easier to do when a deep coat of snow lay over the land in silence. John told us he felt a kinship to the Quakers when he learned that we, too, wait in silence. Several of the family shared their experiences of discovering and honoring their heritage, and some Friends shared their histories as well.

We returned to our lives and our monthly meetings seeking transformation, prepared to live in the spirit of Christ and in hope. We are challenged by nothing less than the critical need to create a thriving relationship with the Creation. Our faith requires us to envision a new world. It has to come from Love. We have been invited to meet the change, a world transformed, as Carl Magruder suggests, like a chrysalis to a butterfly.

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“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many are one body: so also is Christ.

That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it.

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.” (1 Corinthians 12:12, 25-27)

Appendix

Ministers and Elders in NCYM-C 2008

<u>MINISTERS</u>	<u>MEETING</u>	<u>ELDERS</u>
	DURHAM	
Nancy Maeder (recorded by Iowa Y.M.)		Cheri Junk Martha Klopfer Peter Klopfer
	FAYETTEVILLE	
None		None
	FRIENDSHIP	
O. Theodor Benfey (recorded by Philadelphia Y.M.) Deborah Shaw		None
	GREENVILLE	
None		Richard Miller Mary Miller
	RICH SQUARE	
Robert E. Gosney Lloyd Lee Wilson		Joseph P. Brown Elizabeth G. Parker

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Edward Pearce
Bruce R. Pulliam

VIRGINIA BEACH

Louise Wilson
Paula Justice

Charles Ansell
Nancy Craft

WEST GROVE

None

Dixie Newlin

WILMINGTON

None

None

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) – 2008 Yearly Meeting Officers 2008-2009

Clerk

Sidney Lee Kitchens
(Friendship)
1009 W McGee St
Greensboro, NC 27403
(336) 207-0981
clerk@ncymc.org
sidneyleek@hotmail.com

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Clerk of Ministry & Oversight

Janis Ansell

Recording Clerk of Ministry & Oversight

Deborah L Shaw

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) – 2008

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janrmwc67@verizon.net

(Friendship)
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Greensboro, NC 27403
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deborahlshaw@hotmail.com

Monthly Meeting Clerks and Treasurers

CLERK	RECORDING CLERK	TREASURER
	DURHAM	
Anne Akwari	Marguerite Dingman	Joyce Frederick
	FAYETTEVILLE	
Chuck Fager	Wendy Michener Ann Ashford	Susan Lees
	FRIENDSHIP	
Dave MacInnes	Martha Lang	Ray Treadway
	GREENVILLE	
Richard Miller	_____	Mary Miller
	RICH SQUARE	
Barbara Gosney	Susan S Wilson	Walter J. Brown III
	VIRGINIA BEACH	
Wes Cheney	Patrick Goold	Ruth Anne Childress
	WEST GROVE	
Jennifer Ginsberg	_____	Dora Owens
	WILMINGTON	
Jeanne Rose	Mike Glancy	Amy Lamb

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The Representative Body

Charles Ansell	Janis Ansell	Ann Ashford
David H. Brown, Jr	Joseph P Brown	Mae Brown
Robert Cooper	Nancy Craft	Marguerite Dingman
Jennifer Ginsberg	Gwen G Erickson	Les Fleming
Cheryl Fetterman	Barbara Gosney	Robert Gosney
Sidney Lee Kitchens	Claire Koster	Mary Miller
Richard Miller	Dixie Newlin	William O'Conner
Elizabeth G Parker	Robert Passmore	Bruce Pulliam
Jeanne Rose	Deborah L. Shaw	Carole Treadway
Ray Treadway	Goldie Walton	Louise B. Wilson
Lloyd Lee Wilson		

Standing Committees

2008-2009

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)*

Carole Treadway, convener (Friendship Monthly Meeting)
Nancy Craft (Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting)

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

Edward Pearce (Rich Square Monthly Meeting)
Cheryl Fetterman (Wilmington Monthly Meeting)

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

Carole Treadway, convener (Friendship Monthly Meeting)

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Deborah Shaw	(Friendship Monthly Meeting)
Lloyd Lee Wilson	(Rich Square Monthly Meeting)
Carol Passmore	(Durham Monthly Meeting)
Kent Wicker	(Durham Monthly Meeting)
Janis Ansell	(Rich Square Monthly Meeting)

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

Claire Koster, convener	(Friendship Monthly Meeting)
Carole Treadway	(Friendship Monthly Meeting)
Deborah Shaw, ex-officio	(Friendship Monthly Meeting)
Bob Cooper	(Fayetteville Monthly Meeting)
Darryl Waisner	(Friendship Monthly Meeting)
Susan Lees	(Fayetteville Monthly Meeting)

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

Walter G. Brown, III	(Rich Square Monthly Meeting)
John G. Parker	(Rich Square Monthly Meeting)
Carey Reece	(Rich Square Monthly Meeting)

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.*

Barbara Gosney, convener	(Rich Square Monthly Meeting)
Nancy Craft	(Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting)
Tommie Gipson	(Rich Square Monthly Meeting)

Standing Committees for Annual Sessions Planning and Registration

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

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Cheryl Fetterman, Registrar (Wilmington Monthly Meeting)
Gwen G. Erickson (Friendship Monthly Meeting)

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

Jeanne Rose (Wilmington Monthly Meeting)
Marguerite Dingman (Durham Monthly Meeting)
Jennifer Ginsburg (West Grove Monthly Meeting)
Craig Fox (Friendship Monthly Meeting)

Youth Program 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.)*

Goldie Walton (Wilmington Monthly Meeting)
Cheryl Fetterman (Wilmington Monthly Meeting)
Bill O'Connor (Durham Monthly Meeting)

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

Records Committee: *Oversee the preservation of YM and MM records in the Friends Historical Collection at the Guilford College Library.*

Gwen Erickson, convener (Friendship) and (ex officio as Friends Historical Collection librarian)
Durham Bill O'Conner
Fayetteville Ann Ashford
Friendship Claire Koster
Greenville Mary Miller
Rich Square Bruce Pulliam
Virginia Beach Nancy Craft
West Grove Eric Ginsburg
Wilmington Betsey Johnson

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.*

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Durham	William O'Conner
Fayetteville	Ann Ashford
Friendship	Nan Bowles
Greenville	Richard Miller
Rich Square	Robert Gosney, (convener)
Virginia Beach	Charles Ansell
West Grove	Jennifer Ginsburg
Wilmington	Betsey Johnson

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

Friendship	Ray Treadway (YM treasurer/Convener)
Durham	Joyce Frederick
Fayetteville	Susan Lees
Greenville	Mary Miller
Rich Square	Walter Brown III
Virginia Beach	Ruth Childres
West Grove	Dora Owens
Wilmington	Sam Rose

Special Appointments 2008-2009

Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs: *A representative to attend the annual meeting and serve as liaison between the Committee and the yearly meeting.*

Nan Bowles (Friendship Monthly Meeting)

AFSC Corporation: *Three representatives to attend the annual board meeting in Eleventh Month.*

Ruth Childres (Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting)
Rebecca Mani (Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting)
(One additional representative is needed)

AFSC Southeastern Regional Executive Committee: *Representation on this regional committee and the Middle Atlantic regional committee are the in process of being determined as to whether we appoint representatives or send names of nominees to these committees, and*

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clarification should be available at Tenth Month, 2007 Representative Body meeting.

Martha Klopfer (Durham Monthly Meeting)
Peter Klopfer (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.

Charles Ansell (Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting)

Friends Center Steering Committee : *Share the Conservative Friends experience with the committee at three two-hour meetings per year in Greensboro.*

(A potential nominee is to be considered at Tenth Month, 2008 Representative Body)

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

Michael Glancy (Wilmington Monthly Meeting) term ends 12/2007
William Jeffries (Durham Monthly Meeting) term ends 12/2008
Talmadge Neece (Durham Monthly Meeting) term ends 12/2008
Eric Ginsburg (West Grove Monthly Meeting) term ends 12/2010
Michael Glancy (Wilmington Monthly Meeting) term ends 12/2010
Charles Ansell (Rich Square Monthly Meeting) term ends 12/2011
Joe Graedon (Durham Monthly Meeting) term ends 12/2011

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.*

Cheryl Fetterman (Wilmington Monthly Meeting)

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.*

Nancy Craft (Virginia Beach) term ending 12/31/2007
Ray Treadway (Friendship) term ending 12/31/2008

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Barbara Gosney (Rich Square) term ending 12/31/2010
(A potential nominee is to be considered at Tenth Month 2008
Representative Body Meeting)

Quaker House, Fayetteville, Board of Overseers: *Represent Yearly Meeting on the Board, which meets approximately every 45 days, on a Seventh Day, for a few hours.*

Eric Ginsburg (West Grove Monthly Meeting)

William Penn House Consultation Committee *Attend the Annual Meeting in Eleventh Month, receive updates, and share information with Yearly Meeting, including coordination a staff visit or display at yearly meeting sessions.*

Bruce Pulliam (Rich Square Monthly Meeting)
(An additional representative is needed to attend Committee meetings, which occur in Eleventh Month)

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

David Bailey (Friendship Monthly Meeting)

Friends Schools and Organizations

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 215.241.7000

Southeastern Regional Office (AFSC)
92 Piedmont Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30303 404.586.0460

Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs
Chuck Townsend, P.O. Box 2326, Richmond, IN 47375

Carolina Friends School
4809 Friends School Road, Durham, NC 27705 919.383.6602
www.cfsn.org

Friends Association for Higher Education
1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 215.241.7116
www.earlham.edu/~fahe/

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) – 2008

Friends Committee on National Legislation

245 2nd Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002 202.547.6000

Friends Council on Education

1507 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 215.241.7245

Friends General Conference

1216 Arch Street, 2-B, Philadelphia, PA 19107 215.561.1700

Friends School of Wilmington

350 Peiffer Avenue, Wilmington, NC 28409

Friends World Committee for Consultation, World Office

173 Euston Road, London NW1 2AX England

011.44.20.7663.1199 fax: 011.44.20.7663.1189

Section of the Americas

1506 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 215.241.7250

Guilford College

5800 West Friendly Avenue, Greensboro, NC 27410 336.316.2000

Friends Center 336.316.2445

New Garden Friends School

1128 New Garden Road, Greensboro, NC 27410 336.299.0964

North Carolina Friends Disaster Service

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

336-292-6957 or 1-800-371-8896

nfriends@ncym-fum.org

North Carolina Friends Historical Society

P.O. Box 8502, Greensboro, NC 27419-0502 336.419.0502

Pendle Hill Center for Study and Contemplation

338 Plush Mill Road, Wallingford, PA 19086 610.566.4514

Piedmont Friends Fellowship

David Bailey, 1712 Lakemont Drive, Greensboro, NC 27410

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) – 2008

336.854.1225

Quaker House of Fayetteville

223 Hillside Avenue, Fayetteville, NC 28305 910.323.3912

quakrhse@foto.infi.net

Virginia Beach Friends School

1537 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23451 757.428.7534

A Wider Fellowship of Conservative Friends

c/o Nancy Hawkins, 409 South Walnut Street, Ravenna, OH 44266

nanquaker@aol.com

For other information on Quaker organizations – please check

<http://www.quakerinfo.com/>

Personal Notes

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**The 312th Session of the
North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
Will be held at UNC-W
Wilmington, North Carolina
Seventh Month 8-12, 2008
NCYMC.ORG**