

2009

MINUTES

of the

North Carolina

Yearly Meeting

of the

Religious Society

Of Friends

(Conservative)

The 312th Session

2009

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The 312th Session

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

**By Adjournments
From the Eighth of Seventh Month
To the Twelfth of the Same, Inclusive**

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) – 2009

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

1. Welcome

Welcome to the 312th session of North Carolina Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Conservative), held at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington, in Wilmington, North Carolina, from the eighth of Seventh Month to the twelfth of the same, 2009.

The sessions began in open worship out of which clerk Sidney Lee Kitchens shared the following:

“Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.” Isaiah 55:1 KJV

“Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.” Romans 12:15

We have gathered together to conduct our worship and our business - we pray in Spirit and in Truth – let us be gentle with ourselves.

2. Visitors (Part one)

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

Cealia Wutka, Atlanta Friends Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA), noting this being her fifth year in attendance at our annual sessions and representative body meetings, and that she considers NCYM(C) a spiritual home away from home.

Mark Wutka, Atlanta Friends Meeting, SAYMA

Cathy Gardner, Penn Valley Monthly Meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative, attending Oxford Friends Meeting in Mississippi while working in Memphis, Tennessee, attending our sessions as a representative of Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative.

Pat Bradbury, Preston Patrick Monthly Meeting, Britain Yearly Meeting

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Ken Randall, Brigflatts Monthly Meeting, Britain Yearly Meeting

Alice Wald, Columbia Friens Meeting, SAYMA, noting that she considers NCYM(C) her spiritual home

David Eley, Friend of our yearly meeting, member of Keystone Friends Fellowship (Ohio Yearly Meeting) in Pennsylvania, of Austin, Texas

Bill Geary, Mullica Hill Friends Meeting and Southern States Worship Group, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, noting this as his fourteenth year in attendance at our sessions

Meg Zulick, Salem Worship Group, Winston-Salem, North Carolina (under the care of Friendship Friends Meeting, NCYM-C)

Friends approved that the clerk would respond to the minutes of travel and the letters of introduction.

3. Welcome on behalf of the University of North Carolina-Wilmington

Dr. Woody Hall welcomed us on behalf of the University of North Carolina – Wilmington (UNC-W). The predecessor of UNC-W, Wilmington College, was established in 1946, so this fall marks its sixty-third year in existence. This institution is highly ranked and nationally known as a place where quality education is available to many. We were warmly welcomed and encouraged to feel at home on this beautiful campus. Friends approved that the clerk would write a thank you note to Woody Hall for his welcome of us to UNC-W.

4. 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, Joyce Frederick, Scott Holmes, William O'Connor, Kent Wicker, and Anne Micheaux Akwari.

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We have 87 members, 334 adult attenders, in 208 households. Among distant friends, there are 57 full and family adult members, 24 correspondents, and 59 total households.

We welcomed the following as new members of our meeting: Glaeshia O'Rourke, November 9, 2008; Cesanne Berry, James Tignor, and Laura Tignor, January 11, 2009; and Julia Knerr, June 14, 2009. We welcomed the following transfer members to our meeting: Aleka Leydon and Ed Leydon from Solebury Meeting, September 14, 2009 and James Williams from Multnomah Monthly Meeting, April 19, 2009.

Babies were welcomed by the meeting on June 7, 2009, with certificates in calligraphy by Daryl Junk. Walker Lee Ardyson was born May 7, 2008; Mikaela Cadence Burton was born January 19, 2008, Kerry Liam Hobson was born September 12, 2008, Liam Magee Miller was born August 24, 2008, and Liam Anders Wilgen was born July 15, 2008.

Bibles were presented to rising eighth graders.

We endorsed a letter of sojourn and released back to Wellesley Monthly Meeting Friends Nancy and David Haines.

We mourned the passing on June 1, 2009 of Calhoun Doty Geiger. The memorial meeting was held on June 27, 2007.

The queries were read and answered during monthly meetings for worship with attention to business. Ministry and Counsel reviewed the Queries for Ministry and Oversight during their monthly meetings. Anne Micheaux Akwari serves as clerk, Marguerite Dingman as recording clerk, and Joyce Frederick as Treasurer. In 2009-2010, Joe Graedon will be clerk and Marguerite Dingman and Joyce Frederick will continue as recording clerk and treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Micheaux Akwari, Clerk

Report from Fayetteville Monthly Meeting

Rebecca Mani, clerk; Paula Justice, recording clerk;
Ruth Anne Childress, treasurer)

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Report from Friendship Monthly Meeting

Clerk, David MacInnes; Co-Clerk, Sidney Lee Kitchens;
Treasurer, Ray Treadway; Assistant Treasurer, George White;
Recording Clerk, Benji Hebner; Membership/Statistics Recorder
Claire Koster; Assistant Membership Recorder, Bonnie Parsons
NCYM-C Representatives: Nan Bowles, Sandy Bowles,
Claire Koster, Deborah Shaw, Sid Kitchens, Carole Treadway,
Ray Treadway

Report from Greenville Monthly Meeting

Richard Miller serves as clerk. Joanne Holden serves as recording clerk. Mary Miller serves as Treasurer. Richard Miller and Mary Miller are appointed as representatives to this yearly meeting. The Advices have been read. The queries have been answered

Two regular attenders have been accepted into membership: Joanne Holden and Jeffery Gillen. Attendance remains stable with some attenders leaving and some new attenders joining us. Regular attender Jennifer Breuer will be missed as she and her family moved to Alabama so that her husband could accept a new job. There are no deaths or marriages to report.

Report from Rich Square Monthly Meeting

Monthly Meeting Officers

Clerk: Barbara C. Gosney
Recording Clerk: Susan S. Wilson
Treasurer: Robert E. Gosney
Clerk of Ministry and Oversight: Robert E. Gosney

Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2009

Charles Ansell	Lloyd Lee Wilson
Susan Wilson	Janis Ansell
Robert Gosney	Barbara Gosney

Changes in membership

No births, no deaths
2 new members: Charles Ansell and Janis Ansell
2 members resigned: Thomas F. Feamster and Betty Feamster

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Ministers and Elders

Charles Ansell recorded elder in this meeting on first month 11, 2009

All other ministers and elders continue as last year

Advices Read

The Advices were read in our meeting for worship on first day, first month 4, 2009.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting

Clerks for the coming year.

Clerk – Rebecca Mani

Recording Clerk – Paula Justice

Treasurer – Ruth Anne Childres

In fifth month 10, the Meeting recorded Patricia Phalen Young as an Elder.

The Queries were answered and the responses are attached.

The Advices were read.

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, Dora Owens, and such others as are able to attend.

No ministers or elders recorded during the year. To the body of Ministers, Elders and Overseers, Laurie Newlin has been added and Gerald Newlin has been removed.

Taken from the minutes, Jennifer Ginsburg, Clerk

Report from Wilmington Monthly Meeting

The following Friends will represent us at this yearly meeting sessions: Charlotte Fetterman and Jeanne Rose.

We have one death and one birth to report.

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Member Horace Kay Glidden died just before yearly meeting last year, on Sixth month 24, 2008.

Attender Amy Lamb had a baby, Hugh Douglas Julian Lamb, on Ninth month 9, 2008.

We have no new members.

We have not named any ministers or elders.

The Advices were read.

All twelve queries were read and answered.

Cheryl Fetterman will serve as clerk this year. Goldie Walton continues as recorder, and Sam Rose continues as treasurer.

5. Epistle from Ohio Yearly Meeting

To the Friends of

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) 2008

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said to you.” **John 14:26**

Dear Friends,

When Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative) gathered for its 196th session in Stillwater Meetinghouse at Barnesville, we were blessed with comfortable days and cooler nights as we undertook our business under care of the Holy Spirit. Our times of worship have been gifted with inspired, illuminating ministry. Some gathered in small groups in the morning for Bible reading, prayer, or sharing on the topic of charity before group worship and business. Following a meeting of clerks to consider how monthly meetings might answer the queries more succinctly, we were able to conclude our consideration of the queries in one session. We continue to ponder ways in which we may maintain our traditional forms and procedures to do the Lord’s will in our geographically widely dispersed faith community.

We welcome Nancy Craft among us once again, for we treasure our shared fellowship. On Fourth Day afternoon, we were reminded of the many bonds of affection between our meetings during the reading of a proposed memorial for

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seasoned Friends, Jesse and Clara Starbuck. Jesse was a member of the North Carolina Concerns Committee nearly thirty years ago. Out of that committee's work, the Lord fostered the Wider Fellowship of Conservative Friends, many of whom gathered in Sixth Month at Stillwater. They witnessed the power of the Holy Spirit working among them as they worshiped, prayed, and enjoyed their fellowship in the Lord.

Evenings were spent experiencing programs of ministry and information. Third Day evening a panel of OYM members explained how the Lord has worked in their lives, with many in the audience contributing their experiences as well. Jackie Speicher addressed the topic, "The Transforming Power of Simplicity," on Fourth Day. She gave us much to think about as we departed Barnesville. On Fifth Day evening, Thomas Swain spoke about "My Call to Labor for Peace."

Our Christian Education Camp this year in Sixth Month was smaller than usual, but the adult leaders spoke about the power of God ministering through the high school and college counselors. The campers explored the theme of being transformed in Christ's image while enjoying Bible reading, crafts, swimming, the annual campfire at the lake, and a nature walk through the Plummer woods and a tour of the house. We are thankful that the Lord has continued to bless our ministry at the Walton Home, whose staff continues providing quality health care for older citizens.

The Friends Center continues to provide insights into Conservative Quakerism. Three weekend events are planned for the coming year as well as the third structured sojourn to explore the relationship between religion and life with their OYM host families. "Answering God's Call for Simplicity" will be led by Jackie Speicher in Eleventh Month, Brian Drayton's "Speaking about Christ Among Liberal Friends" will occur in Third Month 2009, and in Fourth Month Deborah Haines will consider "Journeys with Robert Barclay."

We experienced a week of joyful worship with others of like mind. Friends were reminded that we should live each day the old Quaker aphorism, "Let your life speak," a quite apt aphorism in a world where there are many who do not know the power of a life lived in Christ Jesus.

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

6. *Epistle from Iowa Yearly Meeting*

An epistle from Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) was read and follows:

To Friends of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
8/02/2008

Greetings from the Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative), meeting on the campus of Scattergood Friends School in our 131st annual session. In our daily meetings for worship followed by attention to business, we listened reverently and patiently as reports were read aloud of people who are attempting to follow the leadings of the Spirit, and to do God's work in the world. We heard with special attention the epistle from North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). One Friend spoke, "We are reminded that we are an extended family of faith." We are gladdened to hear reports from your yearly meeting from our members Cheryl Sutton and Stan Sanders, and we welcome the presence at our yearly meeting of Susan Lees, a member of Fayetteville Monthly Meeting.

Scattergood School is a sanctuary of peace and tranquility, but it sits between the Iowa and Cedar Rivers. We were especially mindful this year of our proximity to the human suffering caused by the flooding of those rivers, and the trauma of those who have lost homes and businesses, and suffer from the destruction of public and philanthropic institutions, especially in Cedar Rapids. We were also mindful of the needless suffering inflicted on the immigrant community in nearby Postville by the federal police forces who have incarcerated hundreds of wage-earners and left hundreds more of their dependents in desperate poverty.

We struggle to discern the leadings of the Spirit in the face of natural and human catastrophes, remembering the words of Jesus, "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matthew 25:40) How do we address suffering on our doorstep, as well as suffering in communities far away? We heard a powerful presentation from Theoneste Bizimana from Rwanda Yearly Meeting, the coordinator HROC (Healing and Rebuilding Our

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Communities). In the midst of our own crises, we have much to learn about the healing and rebuilding of communities, whether they be in Postville, Cedar Rapids, or our home communities and meetings.

On behalf of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) and with Christ's love,
Deborah Fisch, clerk

7. Minutes of the Representative Body

The Minutes of the Representative Body of NCYM(C) tenth Month 25, 2008 and those of Fourth Month 25, 2009 were read. Friends approved that these minutes be included in the 2009 yearly meeting minute book.

Minutes of the Representative Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative Tenth Month 2008

The Representative Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting conservative convened at Rich Square Monthly Meeting in Woodland North Carolina on the 25th of Tenth Month, 2008. Clerk for the Day, Robert Gosney, read from Ephesians to open the meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was read. The body asks that representatives report back to their monthly meetings the facts about the surpluses we have had over the past few years in the fund to support attendance at Yearly Meeting sessions and to ask the monthly meetings to consider whether part of this surplus should be used to support travel in the ministry or some other related purpose.

Nominating Committee report was read. Friends approved naming Dora Owens as interim Treasurer and Craig Fox as our appointee to Friends Center Steering Committee at Guilford College. Friends also approved beginning the process of consideration of Richard Miller for the position of Clerk.

Youth Planning Committee reported that plans for Yearly Meeting sessions are moving well ahead. A letter will be sent to young adult Friends asking them to please consider attending Yearly Meeting sessions and reminding them that funds are available to help pay for attendance at our sessions.

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Friends expressed gratitude to Cheryl Fetterman for her skillful and energetic leadership of the Youth Planning Committee for the past several years.

Program Committee reported on the program with Yearly Meeting planning. Brent Bill, noted Quaker author of Sacred Compasses, has accepted an invitation to speak at Yearly Meeting sessions. The chosen theme will be: following spiritual discernment.

Cheryl Fetterman reported for the Hospitality Committee and asked for advice about housing arrangements. Friends expressed a desire to have all Friends housed in the same dorm if possible. Friends are reminded that early registration for Yearly Meeting would make the work of Hospitality Committee easier.

Earthcare Committee reported that the committee has remained active since Yearly Meeting sessions. They meet in Greenville on the fourth First Day of most months. A written report is produced and distributed to the monthly meetings and they unite in supporting each other in their personal witness to care for the earth and everything on it.

Janice Ansell and Nan Bowles reported on their experiences in the School of the Spirit program. They shared stories of powerful and beautiful experiences of personal transformation and encouraged other Friends to explore this program and other ways of deepening our ability to listen to the Inner Teacher who resides within each of us.

Representative Body concluded on this cool and rainy afternoon purposing to meet on the 25th of Fourth Month, 2009 if consistent with the Divine Will.

Recording Clerk for the Day,
Richard Miller

Minutes of the Representative Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative Fourth Month 2009

At a meeting of the Representative Body of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative of the Religious Society of Friends, hosted by Durham Friends Meeting in Durham, North Carolina on Fourth Month 25, 2009.

The meeting opened with expectant waiting worship.

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Special thanks were expressed to Durham Friends for hosting us in this beautiful space and for feeding us.

The minutes of Tenth Month 25, 2008 were read.

Treasurer's Report

Dora Owens, interim treasurer, made the following report: At present approximately two thirds of the general fund income has been turned in and approximately one half of our donations have been paid out. Generous contributions from individual Friends have come in. The treasurer asked representatives to go back to their meetings and engage with the Monthly Meetings regarding the Yearly Meeting budget, reviewing their levels of contributions to the Yearly Meeting, as well as reviewing what expenditures the Yearly Meeting is currently committed to.

Program Committee

Jeanne Rose reported for the Program Committee which has selected the theme "Which Way Now?" which will focus on spiritual discernment. Quaker author Brent Bill of Indiana will speak on Sixth Day evening. The yearly meeting will cover Brent Bill's transportation costs and all other yearly meeting fees. Fifth Day evening will feature a panel discussion on Convergent Friends and the Emergent Church Movement. Seventh Day evening will be devoted to an intergenerational performance which will be organized by Jeff Ginsberg and Ethan Williamson. Scott Holmes of Durham Meeting will lead the Bible study with the theme of The Bible as Compass.

Hospitality Committee

Cheryl Fetterman reported for the Hospitality Committee. General visitor information about Wilmington is available for Friends to take home to their meetings. Electric golf carts will be available for our use this year. We will be in the same dorm and many of the same meeting rooms have been reserved. Projected costs were gone over, noting slight increases on room and board from our stay two years ago. The registration fee will be \$48.00. Total cost of attending Yearly Meeting will be \$244.08. Friends reaffirmed the commitment to having our children (under eighteen years of age) come without cost. Friends were easy with the Hospitality Committee and the treasurer working further on the financial details.

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Youth Program Committee

Cheryl Fetterman reported on the work of the Youth Program Committee. A rough draft of the program has already been shared electronically and Friends are encouraged to see where they might sign up to help with our youth program. For the following year at Guilford, Cheryl asks for two to three Friends to volunteer to take up the local, on the ground, details of those sessions.

Visitors Welcomed

The following visitors were welcomed:

Ceal and Mark Wutka, Atlanta Friends Meeting; Patty Levering, Davidson Friends Meeting – a letter of introduction was read for Patty Levering. Friends approved that the clerk would respond to this letter.

Davidson Friends Meeting

A letter from Davidson Friends Meeting was read and follows:

Third Month 10, 2009

Dear Friends,

At a recent meeting for Worship with Attention to Business the Davidson Friends Meeting found Unity to request membership in the North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative. Our journey to this place has taken over five years of listening to each other and the Spirit as it has been revealed to us. While those of us in the meeting who have been part of yearly meetings or wider connections of Friends value what is available in a yearly meeting, others, without those experiences began the journey with skepticism. We have been content to await the Spirit's movement among us in order that moving forward could be accomplished in this Unity.

If our request is granted we look forward to involving ourselves in the Yearly Meeting and are also prepared to accept responsibility to the Yearly Meeting.

Please accept our gratitude for welcoming some of us to your meetings over the past few years. Your hospitality has allowed us to become comfortable among you.

In Peace and Love, Paul Hultberg, clerk, Davidson Friends Meeting.

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The letter was received with great joy and the following Friends volunteered to serve on a committee to meet with Davidson Friends Meeting in accordance with our Faith and Practice: Bob Cooper, Carole Treadway, Claire Koster, Nancy Craft, Lloyd Lee Wilson, Sue Tideman, Marguerite Dingman. Bob Cooper agreed to serve as clerk of this committee. Beaufort Worship Group (Pamlico Sound Friends Worship Group)

Nan Bowles read a letter from the Pamlico Sound Friends Worship Group which follows:
Report from Pamlico Sound Friends Worship Group/ Beaufort Worship Group:

Representative Body / Durham Monthly Meeting / 25 Fourth Month 2009

The Pamlico Sound Friends Worship Group would like to report that we have decided to explore community building amongst ourselves, and found clarity on holding monthly Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business. We came to unity on requesting to be under the care of Greenville Monthly Meeting and the clerk for next month is working on drafting a letter to them.

The group also felt unity in offering a report to North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative to let you all know what we are up to and to ask that if any of you are so led to please hold us all in Love and Prayer as we explore and listen together.

Respectfully, One Pamlico Sound Friends Representative, Nan Bowles

Through three years of visitation with Pamlico Sound Friends Richard Miler of Greenville Friends Meeting, reports his sense of rightly ordered process and a movement under the Spirit. Friends approved that the clerk respond to Pamlico's letter with joy and in affirmation that they continue in this process with Greenville Friends Meeting.

Friends noted with great appreciation Richard Miller's faithfulness in visitation to and nurture of Pamlico Sound Friends Worship Group. Additionally we commend Richard and the Miler family for their faithfulness for holding worship in Greenville.

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School of the Spirit

Susan Wilson of Rich Square Friends Meeting spoke regarding the School of the Spirit ministry and the program and spiritual retreats which it facilitates. She noted that among yearly meeting membership there is a significant number of School of the Spirit alumnae and staff. She brings forth the proposition that the finance committee of NCYMC consider adding the School of the Spirit Ministry to that list of Quaker organizations with whom we are spiritually aligned and materially support. Friends approved that the finance committee should take this under consideration.

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Proposal

Barbara Gosney brought forward a proposal regarding the Southeastern Region of FWCC Section of the Americas (SoA) which includes Jamaica Yearly Meeting. Hosting of this region's annual gathering is shared among the six yearly meetings included in SoA, but the financial condition of Friends in Jamaica makes it difficult for them to attend on any regular basis. While there are funds set to help Latin American Friends with travel to FWCC gatherings, there is no such fund for Jamaican Friends. At the last Southeastern Regional Gathering there was a suggestion that our yearly meeting create a restricted fund to hold assistance funds for Jamaican Friends until dispersed by FWCC SoA.

Friends approved that such a restricted fund be established.

Quaker Archives Digital Collaboration Project

A letter from Gwendolyn Gosney Erickson was read requesting that NCYM-C consider having its recorded minutes transferred into digital form as a means of preservation and offering greater access to researchers and genealogists. Records not currently publically available would not be included in the project. Friends approved the following minute:

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) grants permission for key records groups in their archives to be included in digitization efforts entered into by the Friends Historical Collection of Guilford College.

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Earth Care Committee Report

Nan Bowles reported that the committee met this morning and agreed to continue to send out messages as they are led. Friends approved that these messages be sent out to representatives of the Yearly Meeting in addition to the clerks of the Monthly Meetings. Part of the committee's meeting today was spent in a meeting for worship with attention to the earth and Friends are encouraged to gather together in this worshipful attention as often as they are led.

NCYM-C Journal

Carole Treadway reported for the NCYM-C Journal Editorial Committee. She reported on the last issue, Caring for Creation, with is number five of our occasional journal.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Ministers, Elders, & Overseers

Janis Ansell shared that there will be a meeting of the Yearly Meeting of Ministers, Elders, and Overseers at the rise of this meeting.

Report on the 2008 Minutes

Deborah Shaw reported on the status of the 2008 Minutes – apologizing for the delay in getting the printed copies out to the membership.

Appreciation was expressed to the thirty plus Friends that gathered for our business today – representing all of our monthly meetings and visitors from other Friends meetings and worship groups.

Undertaking no further business, meeting closed purposing to meet Tenth Month 24, 2009, if consistent with Divine Will.

Deborah Shaw, recording clerk

8. Yearly Meeting Audit Committee

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

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

The following Friends volunteered to prepare the following documents: Summary of Exercises – Andrew Wright,

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Richard Miller, Dora Owens; Letter to Absent Friends – Nancy Craft; Epistle to All Friends Everywhere – Bob Gosney, Mark Wutka; Epistle to Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative and the Epistle to Ohio Yearly Meeting – Nan Bowles, Sandy Bowles; Epistle to Farmington-Scipio Regional Gathering – Lloyd Lee Wilson.

10. Southern State Worship Group

Bill Geary was welcomed and he shared with us about the ongoing ministry of Southern State Worship Group, which meets in a correctional facility in Delmont, New Jersey, and is in its twenty-second year of worship.

Prayer, mindfulness, and communication are the words that Bill shared with us as he invited us to be in letter-writing relationship with the inmates, as well as meet with them in the Spirit of Worship on Fourth Day evenings as they gather. Bill let us know that our yearly meeting's relationship with the members of Southern State Worship Group has a greater impact than just that relationship, an impact that escapes the prison walls and affects others through the power of the Christ Spirit.

Bill shared with us particulars about the men currently worshipping at Southern State Worship Group, describing something of their condition and had Friends read some individual letters from the men.

The group letter from Southern States Worship Group follows:

Dear Friends at NCYM-C,

As we gather the Wednesday evening before your meeting, we are aware that in Jeremiah it says that God knows us before we are born and as we meet in the quiet – we feel strongly that God's gift is, indeed, life itself. We need to constantly be working our way back to the Father. The question we keep in front of us is: what have you done with your life – God's great gift?

To be incarcerated is to have daily struggles. For some of us, this is our first time. Some have come fresh from experiencing some of life's tribulations – especially the losing of loved ones. But through this process, we have gotten to really know God and his wisdom and to more fully understand

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his word. We are more in touch with our spirit. We look forward to these quiet gatherings. We are all happier now that we are now doing God's work. We look forward to being able to make a positive witness out of this experience – to be able to help others, to be good fathers to our children, and to being a new man in God's kingdom. The end result may be the best!

When we arrive here many of us were full of fears. We were greeted, however, with much kindness and generosity by inmates already here. It is our task to go and do likewise. We actively befriend new inmates and find that many are surprisingly open. Often these new friends are from worlds unlike our own. For instance, one of our group is a farmer with an Italian background, having lived his life in a rural area. Now he is part of a world with most coming from our cities and representing many ethnic groups

We are clear that we are here because of bad choices that we have made. We must pay our debt. We are humbled knowing that others have it worse...we do have air conditioning and TV. We do not have physical freedom; but that does not mean that in a real sense we are not free. Outside, we were prisoners of selfishness. In God's Light, we are more free in here than we were on the outside. Understanding God is true freedom. If at times we feel a sense of 'poor me,' it is that moment that we know that something more needs to happen. More inward work may be required.

In many ways, we have found an oasis within these walls. We often watch the moon...reconnecting with it... it's such a thing of incredible beauty. Our Quaker gathering is special time – a gentle time for those who yearn for Spirit. Even though we walk in times of extreme tension, we can be with others gently. We find peace in reading, drawing, and prayer. We are quiet on the inside, more patient, and more tolerant. Some of us have learned to like the quiet time in our gathering.

Life is school for the soul. We try to be in the now. Either we fully live in the present moment or we suffer. We choose to appreciate life – to marvel at hummingbirds at the feeder and the sunflowers grown nearby. We do miss the trees and the change of the seasons they bring. Think of us when you walk through a forest – especially in the spring and fall. Also,

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think of us when life is not as sweet as it might be. Know that at that moment we will be holding you in our prayers.

In God's Peace, Jim, Roshan, Philip, Bill, Stuart, Ismael, and Joseph

The spiritual depth, growth and gratitude, insights and openness to the Spirit evidenced by these men blesses, inspires and challenges us to examine our own lives to see how we are imprisoned variously, and how we might challenge ourselves to reach out to these men. We are grateful to God to be witnesses to the ministry that Bill Geary faithfully attends to.

Friends approved that this body should write an epistle responding to the Southern State Worship Group's letter to us. Sid Kitchens, Scott Holmes and Les Fleming agreed to write this letter.

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

Fifth day afternoon / The ninth of seventh month

The meeting convened near the appointed hour.

11. 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?*

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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 do uphold our testimony for silent, unprogrammed worship. We feel drawn together and nourished by the Spirit of Light that is in us all. We endeavor to continue this connection in our daily lives. When we prepare our hearts and minds in advance for meeting for worship, we find it beneficial. But we have room for growth in this area. We welcome vocal ministry when it is given

Friendship Monthly Meeting: Friends find the silence at Friendship open and worshipful. The stillness in this meeting has an intensity and depth in which, at times, some sense our unity and community in the Love of God. The silence itself speaks and is the message. We cherish the occasional meetings that are totally silent; and we find, on the whole, a good balance between silence and vocal ministry.

The practice of encouraging afterthoughts at the rise of meeting is helpful nourishment of our sense of ourselves as community. It also seems to have led to more careful discernment of appropriate ministry, as well as increasing the depth of our ministry. We have a good range of types of vocal ministry; and are open to the variety, particularly cherishing prayer. We are not; however, always clear about appropriate ways to encourage ministry.

We feel less able to speak of how we prepare ourselves for worship and how we carry the inspiration received in worship

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into our daily lives. We may carry these questions in our hearts individually and perhaps consider some or all communally in the coming year.

We are reminded that members with hearing impairments are not always able to hear the ministry. A suggestion was made that a F/friend make notes for such Friends.

Greenville Monthly Meeting: We believe that we are faithful in upholding our testimony for worship but that there is work to be done in preparing ourselves for meeting and opening ourselves up to the living silence. We are dedicated to being more attentive to leadings toward vocal ministry and to continuing the work of carrying the meeting into our daily lives.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: We believe we have a true experience of worship based on silent waiting in a free and unprogrammed ministry shared by all. We seek to come to meeting with hearts and minds open, recognizing that there are times this is more challenging than others. Because we are able to live into the truth expressed in the first three questions of this query, we feel we can answer that we do encourage gifts in spoken ministry.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: We are faithful in getting here and in the conduct of our meetings in silent waiting. We are called to deepen our awareness of the life within the silence, the power of God in our midst.

West Grove Monthly Meeting: As a meeting there is a feeling that this is one of the easier queries, as we are comfortable in our unprogrammed ministries' tradition which encourages discernment, spiritual discipline, and responsibility. We know that the challenge is to continue to carry into our daily lives the Spirit that we feel in Meeting. We are gladdened by the growth of spoken ministry, which has enriched the Meeting as a whole and also given increased confidence to those of us feeling the nudge from the Devine to speak. It was observed that it was nice to have the children come in from First Day School for the consideration of the query.

Wilmington Monthly Meeting: Meeting members agree that over the years we have faithfully upheld the tradition of meeting in silent, unprogrammed worship. It was noted that discernment

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of a living silence is sometimes a reflection of members individual perceptions or preparedness for worship. For some, the living silence is carried over into daily lives, but often the challenge for others to live in that power is a struggle. Despite struggles to sustain a sense of spiritual centerness in our daily lives, Friends expressed finding comfort in silence and a sense of direction and focus in regularly attending meeting for worship. Friends suggested meeting at mid-week and committing to a daily devotional time as ways to deepen the connection between meeting for worship and day-to-day consciousness of the divine.

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: Friends express a commitment to deepen our experience of the silence by preparing ourselves spiritually. Friends do this in a variety of ways including daily prayer and beginning to settle in prior to arrival on First Days. The unprogrammed form of worship, without a designated preacher, is much appreciated. It leads to openings for the Truth to be expressed in unique ways through each individual who speaks, as well as inwardly through those who do not speak.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: Provisional response: Some of us are frequently called to travel on weekends, which cuts into the regularity of our attendance. However, meeting for worship is a cherished time.

Friendship Monthly Meeting: Our overall feeling is very positive in our corporate answer of this query. We believe we are doing a good job arriving on time and that the tone of our messages does indicate an open submission to God present in our silent communion. We have found it helpful to have Greeters at the door who provide a welcoming presence as folks come in and who are able to assist latecomers to enter and settle in more quickly.

We had some discussion on what constitutes an interruption and we feel that interruptions, for the most part, are only a bother if they are accepted as such. At this time we

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believe our community has a graceful way of accepting what could be seen as an interruption.

We feel that the phrase “open submission to God” points to an intangible corporate possibility that rests upon the individual’s daily spiritual walk as well as the work we do together in our committee meetings and in our meetings for worship with a concern for business.

Greenville Monthly Meeting: We are faithful in our attendance at meeting and we do not feel that the occasional late arrival is disruptive to the meeting’s spirit.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: Those of us present to answer the query are faithful in our attendance at meeting for worship. Not all members are regular attenders. Consideration of this query reminds us that we have unmet responsibilities to members who do not attend. We feel a commitment to address the disconnection of some members from meeting. Those who do attend faithfully, consistently come in open submission to God in silent communion.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: Meeting united in a single word response: Yes.

West Grove Monthly Meeting: We feel that we are faithful in attendance to meetings and are struck that there is a perceptible difference in the depth of the meeting at times. We do not know what makes for that difference, but attending to the quiet may well play a significant role. Our children do well in meeting, but may need occasional reminder, as do we all, about respectful silence. We recognize that individual responsibility for being ready for meeting will not only prepare our own inner quietness but also shows consideration to the meeting as a whole. These two things are necessary first steps in our submission to God.

Wilmington Monthly Meeting: The number of Friends (five) present for this query speaks to the heart of this question; however, our small number of faithful Friends has sustained our meeting over the years. Our meeting does, at times, have late arrivals, but their arrival is not a disruptive influence on the spirit of our meeting for worship. We strive for openness and communion with the spirit of God within meeting for worship and are challenged to know how this is accomplished. Submission to the openness of communion with God implies a

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submission to a higher authority and requires a humility that is the heart of faith and the source of true tolerance.

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: It seems particularly characteristic of Quakers to associate following the teachings of Jesus so closely with maintaining love and unity among us. How we live with each other reflects our relationship with the teachings of Jesus.

This query prods us to be bold in addressing differences directly, in a spirit of love, honesty and humility, and not to fear the conflicts that separate us on a superficial level. This meeting does let love guide us and bring the Holy Spirit into very difficult situations, holding people in the Light of Christ. This holding of differences and pain is more important than resolution of specific differences. Unity in the Spirit is much larger and much deeper than uniformity of opinion. In dealing tenderly with one another we progress toward realization of our deeper unity.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: We follow the teachings of Jesus as best we understand them. We cultivate a forgiving spirit and resolve our differences with love and humility. Some Friends who more Universalist are uncomfortable with the wording of the first sentence of this query, but they agree with the spirit of it. These Friends felt that the word “His” before “Spirit” should be changed to “the”.

Friendship Monthly Meeting: We found it difficult to respond to this part of the query with words - "Do we follow the teachings of Jesus and seek the inspiration of His Holy Spirit"? We find we can only say that in our lives, we hope to come closer to fulfilling the spirit of this query. Since listening is part of the teachings of Jesus, we can say that this meeting seeks to

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listen, not only to one another, but also to the Holy Spirit moving among us. We reflect that in many small matters we do well in resolving issues promptly and in a spirit of Love. In larger matters, we note we are less able to resolve differences with honesty and humility. We are aware of the need to guard against spiritual deafness which can arise and impede listening to and following the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We understand discerning the guidance of the Holy Spirit in difficult matters often includes time for seasoning and it has been our experience that way will open, with patience and faith.

Greenville Monthly Meeting: Although we do strive to follow the teachings of Jesus in our daily life, we are aware that it would behoove us to spend more time reading his words in order to more closely follow his example. We believe that a particular strength of our meeting is the spirit of love and unity among us. What differences we do have are easily resolved in the spirit of love and honesty.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: As a community we are committed to being able to answer yes to all the points of this query. We have work to do and we are working at it, to the best of our ability.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: Meeting united in the following response: Historically our answer has been “yes.” But not so now. A light needs to be kindled. Differences have been left unresolved too long. Healing has begun but we need to face what has become of our love. We have seen our process serve us well in the past. The work of the clerk in sustaining the meeting sets a great example. The times call for recommitment to the truth that has brought us together.

West Grove Monthly Meeting: We do feel that when differences arise, they are handled with tender care. When reading the recorded teachings of Jesus we often find that we fall far short in our daily actions. It takes time to do this, but we are reminded that the Advices instruct us to read from the Bible daily and if this is done, those daily reminders are what will help us the most in finding the inspiration to follow those teachings.

Wilmington Monthly Meeting: Friends acknowledge ‘endeavoring’ to follow the teachings of Jesus but with the awareness that knowing how to do so is elusive and often a

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moment-to-moment struggle. Friends are careful in how they invoke the name of Jesus in a secular world. The first task in following the model of Jesus' life is how to honor the Spirit without sounding/being judgmental, disrespectful of others and/or self-righteous. Cultivating a quiet diligence, seeking to understand others, and striving to know what is right become the greatest challenges. When our idea of what is 'right' conflicts directly with another's idea of right is a dilemma with which we all too often grapple. At times in our rush to have peace, we avoid conflict rather than resolve it. We need to work to support both sides in conflict so that real peace and unity can be attained.

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

Durham Friends Meeting: Durham Friends did not consider this query in this past year.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: Meeting is having its needs met. Members do contribute to expenses as able to and as abilities allow . Some feel they could do more. Members feel using funds is a trust and they are used when we can for the needs of others. Members are also contributing their talents efficiently as the needs arise.

Friendship Monthly Meeting: In the ebb and flow in the life of the Meeting, we seem to be going through a "low" period. Financial support over the past year has been adequate, but money contributions have been down in recent months. Most of the active members do give financially. This year we have seen that the work of Meeting committees has for the most part been taken by the same persons as in previous years. We've encouraged our nominating committee to begin moving our younger members into leadership roles in the Meeting, in spite of the demands of their busy lives. Those who are serving are giving to the best of their abilities and of the availability of time in their busy lives. Whenever there is a need, whether financial,

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programmatic, or helping others who require assistance, members and attenders do come through. We have a community to hold us, but only if we share our knowing of the need for help for ourselves and for others.

Greenville Monthly Meeting: Although our Monthly Meeting expenses are minimal, we each are conscious of the need to offer support when needed. Following each other's examples, we strive to be stewards of our talents and blessings and give freely of them.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: As a meeting, we are trying to be clear that we assume our rightful share in the meeting's expenses. We need to better understand our expenses and income to know what we have available to use for the needs of others and to discern as a meeting which expenses are necessary and which witness to our faith. Only with God's help, can we use our time, our talents, and our possessions freely for the needs of others.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: In all things be thankful. With approximately half our income going to the support of other organizations, our budget shows that Meeting as a whole contributes to the needs of others. Each of us must examine him or herself as to whether a rightful share of expenses is assumed.

West Grove Monthly Meeting: We feel that we do assume our rightful share of expenses of our Meeting. Over the last year we have undertaken several improvements and maintenance projects, which include the leveling of the Meeting house, and we are now looking at an improved heating system. These projects required both our time and financial resources and these became available as way opened. However, time constraints continue to challenge us and we are now paying to have the grounds maintained by others. This makes the first half of this query a satisfying one to review. It is the second half that gives us some pause; while we feel we are generous with our possessions, we note that sometimes in dealing with the outside world we could do better. This seems to be a continuing challenge for many of our answers to the queries and we wonder why that is. A renewed attention to the Advices may be instructive.

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Wilmington Monthly Meeting: We discussed the reasons we give to meeting and the various talents and time that we offer. We prefer to think that our giving is done out of joy and generosity, rather than trying to achieve our ‘rightful share’.

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?*

Durham Monthly Meeting: Supporting the Meeting through attendance at Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is an expectation of membership. We struggle with this, as Friends tend to support Meeting more heartily in other ways, which are also extremely valuable. There is a lot of work done in preparation for business meeting, and this is noted and appreciated. The preparation of written reports for business meeting makes the process smoother and more productive than it otherwise would be. Those who do attend Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business feel much rewarded. Some say it is one of their favorite parts of Meeting. Being here is far different from reading about it. We experience together the living process of discernment and the awe and appreciation of what Friends are accomplishing in Durham Friends Meeting. This can be important in feeling connected to Meeting. One Friend says, and others concur, “Coming to business meeting makes me a better Quaker and deepens my commitment to this spiritual path.” Taking part in business meeting requires the discipline of attendance and the patience to let the Quaker process unfold. Although we don’t always get it right, we recognize the call to perfection in our dealings with each other. There is something generous, elegant, and tender in our process. It is a wonderful way that we treat each other. There is a gift of Spirit that comes from holding each other tenderly and working through the process. It is a blessing. Those who attend Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business are encouraged to share the satisfaction they feel at being participants in this

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worshipful process.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: Meetings for Business are well attended. In this meeting they are held in a spirit of love, understanding, and forbearance. We seek to do the right thing in a sense of worship as we search for unity.

Friendship Monthly Meeting: Friends noted that there is a core of members and attenders who do attend meeting for business faithfully. There was a sense of frustration expressed that attendance is not higher on a regular basis. The First Day that this query was considered fell on a holiday and interest was expressed in rescheduling future business meetings so as to allow families to engage in holiday activity without affecting their attendance. Concern was also expressed about how our Meeting might respond to cultural pressures and changing conditions of family life in the face of traditional Friends' practice of not observing holidays. One Friend voiced being discouraged by the non-attendance of Friends who had previously been faithful participants in business meeting and it was suggested that Care and Counsel may consider making contact with these Friends. Concern was also expressed that we have several members active in committee work but not regularly attending meeting for business. Patience with the Quaker business process was named as one issue impacting Friends' involvement and there were a number of those present who echoed this concern. Friends noted that persistence and forbearance were qualities often in evidence as Friendship conducts business.

Greenville Monthly Meeting: Now that we are finally holding regular business meetings, we find we are clear under the various heads of this query.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: Most of the Friends who attend meetings for worship also regularly attend meetings for business. As to the manner in which we conduct business, we believe we can answer in the affirmative. We are aware that when we become too focused on routine matters, such as meeting house maintenance, that we might fail to recognize what other matters the Lord is lifting up for our attention.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: With so few present it is difficult to answer yes for the meeting as a whole. For those of

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us here today, however, we do experience the spirit of love, understanding and forbearance. We need more in our community to take part in this vital part of our meeting, especially in these momentous times. For now we can only hope that those friends who are not with us regularly make a conscious decision about this and do so trusting those who ARE here to decide our affairs.

West Grove Monthly Meeting: We feel that concerned Friends do regularly attend Meeting for Business and that business is carried out in a worshipful manner. There certainly have been times when we may have begun to act more quickly than true discernment would dictate, but we also find that when this occurs, we generally are led to revisit the issue and do so in a healthy and loving manner.

Wilmington Monthly Meeting: Our monthly meeting for worship with attention to business is well attended by some meeting members who feel a responsibility to conduct the meeting's business. On occasion meetings become too business-like, which detracts from a sense of worshipfulness. We strive to seek the right course of action, but doing so under Divine Guidance in the spirit of love, forbearance and understanding remains challenging. Eye rolling, audible sighs, people leaving, and acts and words of impatience are unfortunately also present at times. There is opportunity for growth in this area as we are asked to conduct business openly and in search of unity.

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: We see this meeting as the most blessed of meetings because we have so many children attending. This is also an awesome responsibility. We are putting our hearts into this and trying very hard to meet the needs of our youth. There is an amazing commitment on the part of youth

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leaders and young Friends to providing support for youth. There are so many wonderful children and youth who are choosing to participate in Junior Meeting and the youth program! How the young people treat each other with care and tenderness is a manifestation of their sound spiritual growth. Recent letters of conscientious objectors are another manifestation of Spirit expressing itself through our young people. The meeting expresses joy and gratitude for these blessings. The meeting closed with a period of silent worship.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: We have no children in meeting. One member presently has children she works with, and some of us work with our grandchildren. As the summer of 2009 approached, one attender reported the expected arrival of a child late in the year, to which we look forward with great anticipation.

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.

Greenville Monthly Meeting: Although at the moment we have no regularly attending children, we recognize the importance of welcoming children into our meeting and being prepared to offer them an understanding of Quakerism.

Most of us have adult children who have chosen various paths, not necessarily those of Friends. We feel that our children are doing well and we are supportive of their choices. After thoughtful consideration, we were in unity with the thought expressed in the Advices: “For although we recognize the children of our members as objects of our care and partakers of the outward privileges of Christian fellowship, we would earnestly remind all that such recognition cannot constitute them members of the Lord’s spiritual Israel. Nothing can effect this but the power of the Holy Spirit.”

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Rich Square Monthly Meeting: We have no children in our meeting at this time. We do miss the gifts of children being present with us. Our grown children give evidence that we have helped them develop their religious insights as the Spirit of God has led them. We are aware that there are children in our larger community who need spiritual nurture and guidance. We are unclear as a meeting how we are to reach out to these children.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: The Meeting welcomes children and has a planned First Day Program for them. Lacking children in regular attendance, its success is limited. The Quaker Studies program in Friends School, which Meeting supports and staffs, is a successful outreach to the school community and through it the larger community. We ask ourselves how we might nurture and expand on this work.

West Grove Monthly Meeting: While we understand that we must keep alive in ourselves the sense of openness and expectancy, this is often difficult as the balance between worldly concerns and that of God is so very difficult. However, this query asks us to specifically focus on what the children need. In focusing on their needs we will actually find it easier to keep that sense of openness in ourselves. It is like rings in a pond where pebbles are tossed. We get from our children as we give as in all things. While we may think that our teachings are not being fully heard by our children we find, sometimes in surprising ways, how much the children are absorbing. Caroline Newlin recently voiced her objection in class to pledging allegiance to the flag, feeling the flag should not take a place in front of God. While we struggle with challenges if we continue to remember that is it in the Light of Christ we will find our center.

Wilmington Monthly Meeting: We were reminded that children are hungry for sustenance. We reflected upon the opportunities we have for teaching children at meeting, school, home, and in our extended families. In our discussion an emerging theme was the fine balancing act between preparing children for adulthood and allowing them a carefree childhood. We all have witnessed children who react negatively to a strict religious upbringing. We would like to trust that the faith journey of our children will have a positive outcome. In that effort, we hope to grow their moral understanding and

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discernment by teaching them about our own religious center; we might include Bible instruction, discussion of continuous revelation, teaching universal principles, and the example of our own lives. We must trust that if we teach them the way as children, it will not leave them as they grow older.

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?*

Durham Monthly Meeting: This meeting demonstrates in many ways its commitment to the peace testimony. We have established a committee to support conscientious objectors among our young Friends and we continue to actively support the mission of Quaker House. There is increasing awareness of the connections between environmental justice, racial justice, economic justice and peace. There is fruitful cooperation between the various committees working on these issues. Through the HIP Program (Help Increase the Peace) the meeting has an increased commitment the reduction of violence in our local community. Friends are also attending vigils honoring the lives of those who have been murdered in Durham. There is a broadening and deepening of the work of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee which feeds the committee members, the meeting community and the community at large.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: We felt we could answer in a positive way about this query. None of us are tax resisters. We support Quaker House and donate funds that work for this testament of Friends. We are also active in local and national organizations that support this testimony of Friends with their efforts.

Friendship Monthly Meeting: This query was not considered in this cycle.

Greenville Monthly Meeting: Peacemaking can start as one neighbor talking to another and can extrapolate to one country talking to another. With this as a precept, we strive to make

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peace in our lives and our communities. We respect the individual's right to follow his/her conscious as led by the divine.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: We endeavor to live in that life and power mentioned in the query. When we consider the phrase “and all participation in war”, we think of how pervasive are the corporate and public connections to preparation for war. Some of our taxes and benefits from the national economy are related to military preparations. These connections make it difficult to maintain our testimony, although we continue to try.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: Through the work of our Peace and Social Justice Committee and others in the Meeting, we maintain the testimony of Friends against all participation in war and we endeavor to live an outwardly peaceful life. There is a question whether we do enough to distance ourselves from the war machine around us. The jets are still flying. There is a question whether we embrace and support other peace-seekers in the area. And there is a question how well we are reconciled to one another within our Quaker community. Each Friend must ask about his or her own state of devotion to the work of reconciliation and spiritual unity. Are we open to the Spirit's leading?

West Grove Monthly Meeting: Friends are generally clear on this query, but that does not lessen our grief over the want and despair, and our feelings of helplessness on a global level and within our own smaller communities. We know that as the economy continues to spiral down, the increase in human suffering weighs heavily on our minds. However, we can take some comfort in knowing that as individuals both within the meeting, and as we go out into the greater community, we do endeavor to work toward reconciliation and find that living in a simple manner is the best testimony for both peace in the community and right sharing of resources on a global level. We have scheduled 5th month as a time to plan corporate giving for our meeting as a way to strengthen our meeting and to try in our small way to help those that are suffering. We continue to regret that we have no control over our tax dollars going to support various wars.

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Wilmington Monthly Meeting: Members report varying degrees of adherence to and comfort with the peace testimony. Some Friends feel that in their lives they consistently and actively work toward promoting peace through participation in peace witnessing, writing to their congressmen and congresswomen, and advocating for the abolition of the death penalty and preparations for war. Other Friends embrace the ideal of peace but admit that if presented with threats to their loved ones they would most likely react in anger and violence.

Peace does not mean being victimized or dismissed. Peace can be strong as illustrated in the lives of such men as Ghandi and Martin Luther King. The challenge lies in becoming strong enough spiritually to see beyond the easy but short lived benefits of brute force. Talking with those with whom we disagree, praying for peace and believing in peace are all things we can do to promote a peaceful world.

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: When we think of simplicity in physical terms – where we set the thermostat or how often we ride a bike instead of driving – we find ourselves on a continuum of simplicity. Some Friends experience this as a continuum of guilt about what we are not doing, and we also must guard against a sense of superiority about what we are doing. Yet simplicity is not a competition, but a spiritual discipline. Do we feel closer in our relationship to Spirit as we simplify our lives? Do we feel closer in our relationship to Earth and all its inhabitants? Are we expanded and uplifted by our efforts? Simplicity involves ordering distractions in our lives – both things and activities – to make space for spiritual growth. We can say “Yes,” we are prompt in our payments and just in our dealings as a meeting. In being honest in our dealings and not

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living beyond our means, we have something to offer as a witness in this economic crisis. Many people are being pressed unwillingly to adjust their lifestyles and we can offer up simplicity as a positive way of life. The meeting closed with a period of silent worship.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: Both corporately and individually we live simply and honestly, realizing that there is room for growth. We live with integrity in our dealings with others. Our meeting chooses activities that strengthen our mental and spiritual life. We generally avoid harmful activities.

Friendship Monthly Meeting: We believe the Meeting is prompt in the payment of our debts and deliberate in care of the building and grounds, thanks largely to the diligence of our Treasurer and House and Grounds committee. We are aware that we face challenges to our testimony of simplicity in this society where there is a tendency to live beyond one's needs, especially with easy availability of credit cards, and to use more than one's share of the earth's resources. How do we live within our means right now while honoring the needs of all members of our community? How can we live within the needs and resources of our earth right now? Friends also noted that walking lightly upon the earth may move beyond traditional definitions of simplicity and into complex solutions to make our impact on the world as simple as possible.

Greenville Monthly Meeting: We find that attendance to simplicity helps to bring peace to our lives. This peace allows more time for reflection and we strive to protect that while admitting that it is extremely difficult to live in our culture and remain untouched by its demands and temptations.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: We feel we can answer positively under all headings of this query. Our challenge as individuals and as a meeting is to focus on our relationship to others. What is it that we do not recognize that we are being called to do to be just in all our dealings? We feel that we are clear in terms of what we have done. We wonder what we may have left undone.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: We respond to the query both as individuals and as part of a global community. We have seen members of our community struggling during the current

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financial turmoil, and we are called to support them in a variety of manners, including through our Sufferings Committee and local food banks. As a meeting we have striven diligently to live within the bounds of our circumstances in matters of property and real estate and we foresee the need for continued diligence and faithfulness. We trust in the divine to answer questions of “What if...?”

West Grove Monthly Meeting: The part of this query that caught our focus today was that of honesty and the need to examine being honest with ourselves in order to make decisions about our manner of living consistent with our beliefs. Simplicity must first be considered; today we see many overt displays of “simplicity” that require significant wealth to obtain. Quaker simplicity is seen as that of being single-minded in our endeavors, sensitive to the needs of others and humble in our ways. We know that in all of these things we could improve, but we will continue to strive to make each decision as best we can, accepting our imperfections.

Wilmington Monthly Meeting: For the most part, Friends feel they take care to carry out promises promptly, to live in simplicity and to treat others fairly. Some struggle with day to day punctuality while others are careful to maintain timeliness in all areas of life. Circumstances in difficult economic times prevent some from being prompt in the paying of obligations, but it is also recognized that it is a struggle to maintain strict financial faithfulness in a secular world that sometimes encourages excess and then punishes the failures that result from such excesses.

Friends are grateful for and humbled by the expectation that they strive to follow a life that encourages the pursuit of simplicity and healthy lifestyle choices.

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

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expense of others? Are we faithful to our testimony against taking oaths?

Durham Monthly Meeting: Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs are markers for larger concerns in the society. There are myriad temptations to take part in demoralizing activities and grow rich at the expense of others and the planet itself. Computer games and use of email are some of the new forms addiction can take. Recent events have highlighted that the stock market can present a temptation every bit as damaging as illegal forms of gambling. As a meeting we maintain our commitment not to have alcohol and drugs here in our meeting spaces regardless of whether we choose to use them in our private lives. This is a way of demonstrating that these substances are not necessary for the enjoyment of social activities, and an effort to avoid placing temptation in people's way. Our youth program does a great job in teaching values and in providing wholesome activities that help distract youth from the myriad temptations to less healthy activity. Having a strong spiritual community helps all of us stand together to consider and resist marketing and societal influences that would tempt us to compromise our integrity.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: Provisional response: We do not appear to be heavy users of either alcohol, illegal drugs or tobacco. There is little evidence of gambling. Some of us have had occasion to make affirmation in judicial proceedings.

Friendship Monthly Meeting: Friends noted that the overall themes of the eighth and ninth queries are interrelated and that our discussion of the ninth Query is in many ways a continuation of our discussion of the eighth. Do we go gently with the earth and humanity? Are we truthful? Do we practice mercy with those who owe us money or have debts due to poverty and other financial pressures? How do we live in a way that allows our witness to speak for us in everyday life? One Friend noted that the words of the prophet Micah connect well to the Query. "He hath showed thee, oh Man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of thee but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." (Micah 6:8) To walk humbly with our God means living in simplicity and integrity to the best of

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our ability, repaying our own debts and living the example of our faith. Living humbly means abstaining from substances if we find that they inhibit our spiritual lives.

Greenville Monthly Meeting: We are mindful of these Friends' testimonies. We avoid gambling, demoralizing diversions and are very aware of how strong the societal temptations towards material acquisitions can be. We are faithful in our testimony against taking oaths.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: Friends in our meeting generally are careful that our manner of living does not distract us from the life of the Spirit. We are aware that our manner of living is an outward testimony to others as well as a touchstone of our inward life. As we considered this query this year, the sentence questioning "places of diversion" and demoralizing influences claimed our attention. We recognize that social and cultural changes will continue to challenge us daily in wisely discerning our manner of living.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: "We have taken steps, initiating recycling and raising environmental issues with the city. We endeavor to make our gatherings worthy of the resources it takes, including Friends' time, to bring us all together."

West Grove Monthly Meeting: The ninth query was read and considered. We were reminded that the basis of this query is rooted in the Scriptural injunction: "Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds" (Rom. 12:2)

Wilmington Monthly Meeting: Friends agree that we generally avoid overindulgence in the use of alcoholic beverages, but total abstinence is a rarer commitment. Diversions such as excessive internet use, video games, and television shows that promote violence and sexual exploitation are seen as too readily available and acceptable in our society and care should be taken to balance these pursuits with more wholesome activities. Participation in gambling events and the taking of oaths are not experiences that we struggle with. Friends are encouraged to note that many people, especially our youth, are turning from mindless diversions to embrace choices that reflect closer attention to

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sustainable lifestyles and a connectedness with each other and the earth we share.

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: Though we don't usually think of them this way, our children and those that care for them are wonderful natural resources. In American Indian culture it is important to be grateful and express your gratitude to even the objects of nature. Friendship Monthly Meeting came up with a list of ways to reduce our ecological footprint. This query evokes our simplicity testimony. There are many little ways we can reduce our use of resources so that others have more. It isn't so much out of ignorance that we don't do more. There is a constant struggle to arrive at the right balance. We will always be burning fuel and using resources and can always make more improvements. The hard economic times we now face can make us more aware of our resources and more mindful of the finite place we as individuals and as society fit into nature. Living in harmony with nature isn't just negative, but involves spending more time outside enjoying the woods and water and sun.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: Provisional response: For many, a sense of crisis about the perils facing the natural world is growing. We are not clear how we can address this adequately; but we remain mindful and concerned.

Friendship Monthly Meeting: The preservation of creation is our most urgent issue at present. It is a spiritual issue more than an economic or political issue. When we lose our sense of stewardship we worship the creature rather than the creator. Since this query was approved [in 1983] we have begun to see ourselves as part of creation rather than apart from it. We must try what love can do not only with other people, but with the whole of creation.

Greenville Monthly Meeting: We each are making efforts to reconcile our use of nature's resources and endeavor to encourage others in their small and large efforts at stewardship.

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Rich Square Monthly Meeting: The meeting has adequately attended to heating, air conditioning and water heating with appropriate technology. We understand these improvements in energy use are not enough. We are aware that we maintain a larger space than we currently need for most occasions. We may be able to better maintain our grounds in ways consistent with the query.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: The response was a simple yes.

West Grove Monthly Meeting: We are aware, especially after the 2008 Yearly Meeting, of the importance of this query, but are often confounded in how difficult it is to make changes that truly matter. The meeting has become more aware of these issues, and has this year purchased more efficient heaters for the meeting house and has converted to the almost exclusive use of reusable materials for shared meals. Our society often worships material gain and the pursuit of wealth gives us the illusion that we can have something for nothing. Balance is then lost and more effort and resources are needed to regain what is thought of as equilibrium. This troubles us greatly. We continue to await further guidance from Holy Spirit.

Wilmington Monthly Meeting: Friends strive to live mindfully on our planet. Our installation of an energy efficient heat pump and low flow toilets along with our effort to recycle paper and batteries, to economize on energy usage and reduce our use of disposable products are collective steps we take to conserve our resources. Individually Friends drive fuel efficient cars, hang out laundry, buy local produce and cut back on fuel consumption in efforts to live as responsible consumers. Still there is much more we can do - driving and consuming less, recycling more, building green and refraining from excessive or frivolous consumption of resources are areas that can be improved upon. It is exciting to see the new ideas, products, inventions and consciousnesses that inspire us all everyday to live more sustainably.

Query # 11. *Do we reverence that of God in every human being with concern for the needs of each individual? Are we seeking to*

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

Durham Monthly Meeting: It is striking how much of our Meeting business today has been relevant to this query. We have thoughtfully considered many major issues, reached agreements, and appreciated the work of many people and committees. As Friends we believe in letting our lives speak. How we deal with racial discrimination is a challenge. So are our efforts to move outside our comfort zones and reach out to those affected by violence in our local community. We appreciate and celebrate the ties we form with other concerned people. And when we are tempted to give up and be cynical, we are grateful to others who listen here in Meeting and those at Carolina Friends School who work for social justice.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: Provisional response: Amid our very busy lives, we still devote measurable energy to promoting equality and justice in our society.

Friendship Monthly Meeting: The depth of vocal ministry in our worship in response to this query indicates the meeting's spiritual commitment to rectifying social injustice. Our actions outside of meeting also reflect this commitment. At the meeting level we have addressed the financial and spiritual care of Friends in need. At a local and state level we have donated money, volunteer hours and material relief to social and racial justice causes. At a national and international level we have provided fiscal support to Friends organizations devoted to addressing these concerns. While we have donated our time and resources to causes of racial and social equality, concern was also expressed about our integrity around this issue. Who holds us accountable? Do we examine our motivation in doing good works and are we honest about the places where we may be resistant to the leadings of spirit? While George Fox noted that walking cheerfully over the earth answering that of God in everyone is a profound possibility for all, he also asserted that this could only happen after prayerful self examination and self improvement. How do we balance these in the space of our meeting community?

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Greenville Monthly Meeting: By keeping faithful to our belief that there is that of God in every person, we find it naturally leads us to work towards alleviating injustice wherever we observe it.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: Our desire is to answer that of God in everyone. We seek ways to move beyond the fear of people we do not know. As a result of our discussion of this Query, we have set aside time as a gathered body to consider in what ways the meeting is to be present and active in our faith community and in the larger community surrounding us. We are working to get to know our neighbors so that we can be truly helpful to them.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: Through the activities of our Peace and Social Justice Committee we support reconciliation in Palestine and in Viet Nam. We actively promote changes in government policies such as health care and defense spending.

West Grove Monthly Meeting: We recognize that we are called on to seek that of God in all peoples and that discrimination and injustice take many forms besides those of racial and social injustice. In teaching our children to reverence that of God in all individuals, we see how difficult it can be when people act with cruelty to others, and we are also reminded of the importance of seeking that of God in ourselves. 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 admit we could do better in our effort to rectify injustices. Some of us are fortunate to be employed in work that involves injustice. Some others of us might look to the numerous volunteer organizations in our community to participate in their missions. Volunteer organizations are often more effective than government organizations in rectifying social injustice. We were reminded

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that change can happen in increments as an outcome of our individual actions.

It is a challenge to reverence that of God in every interaction with other people. Sometimes we are not even successful with it at meeting on First day. If we first remember to turn to God within us, we might be better able to meet all people with love and understanding.

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

Durham Monthly Meeting: We seem to be doing fairly well, as far as we know, in welcoming people who come to us. Greeters are helpful in personalizing our welcome to all who come, and we regularly follow up with new attenders. A new friend reports feeling welcome to learn and become more involved, yet not feeling pressured. Durham Meeting offers a rich welcome, reaching out and asking, “Who are you and what do you bring?” Saying in many ways, “Your presence enriches us.” We are blessed with a wonderful group of young people. There is an active youth program and we appreciate the ministry undertaken by the young people and their outreach to the community. We continue to explore how to integrate young people more fully into the work of the meeting. We need to continue to educate young and old and talk about our traditions, making known that the membership process is open to those who are led.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting: Provisional response: We do welcome newcomers, and there have been several visitors/inquirers who have come among us in the past year. We hope some of the may become regular attenders.

Friendship Monthly Meeting: There was a general sense among Friends that while the queries reflect good intentions, as a

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body we often fall short in actually carrying out actions to address the queries. It was stated that one former attender reported feeling “unattended to” because he had been present at meeting for two months without receiving any direct invitations to visit Friends in their homes. However, other recent attenders spoke of being warmly welcomed. It was observed that generally speaking those attending for the first or second time are approached by meeting members during the social time. A suggestion was made to that Friends again be encouraged and reminded of the need to reach out to attenders, particularly when they return for a second time. It was reported that the Committee on Care and Counsel has continued to be diligent in efforts to contact those members and attenders no longer in regular attendance. The suggestion was offered that perhaps the committee could delegate some of the efforts to make contact to others in the meeting. Those present noted that while members and attenders living in Friends Homes receive regular outreach from many in the meeting and there is a network of assistance available there others, elsewhere in Greensboro, may be falling through the cracks.

Greenville Monthly Meeting: We answer in the affirmative for each of these questions and as our meeting grows we are working towards increasing our outreach efforts.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: We feel we are welcoming to newcomers and non-members. This year we have gained two new members and two distant members moved to the area. We have had three evening events to encourage local people to learn more about our Meeting and The Society of Friends. As a result, we have had some additional visitors. We note that sometimes our meetings may become temporary spiritual “halfway houses” for some in times of transition, but who move on to find another spiritual home. We ask ourselves whether we adequately communicate to newcomers the quality of our faith and practice which could draw them toward a stronger relationship with us including membership. In order for our lives to speak to one another, we have to spend time in each other’s presence. Spending time together helps us grow in spiritual community. We seek to demonstrate the reality of living in the unity of the

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Spirit, rather than speaking of it as an abstract idea. We feel a need to do more visiting.

Everyone is encouraged to share in Meeting activities. We regret that our younger members live too far from the meeting to take an active role in committees and sharing the responsibilities of the meeting. We appreciate their involvement as they are able.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: We work at the basic task of living in to reverence for the Seed in each member and attender and in dealing among ourselves with mutual respect and openness.

West Grove Monthly Meeting: We feel generally clear on this query, but yet again this year note that it is in visitation we fall short. This is in part because we are a small meeting whose members live in four counties with significant distances between us. What this query asks is, “does this meeting have a sense of community,” and in many ways we do. However, we also fell we fall short in reaching out to those in need. We know that if we are in need, the meeting may not always be the place we go first to seek help. This does not in itself indicate a problem, but increased visitation would likely increase our awareness that West Grove is also a place to seek support. Until we make a genuine commitment to change this, we can expect progress to continue, but to be slow.

Wilmington Monthly Meeting: We try to be welcoming and inviting without pressure. We were read an appropriate scripture and were led to reflect on how welcoming we are as a Christian community. We are supportive and caring of meeting members and attenders despite our small size. We do not have many children at this time, but when we did, they were involved with meeting on various levels. Meeting members and attenders are also involved in the community to a large extent.

12. Friends School of Wilmington

Ethan Williamson, head of Friends School of Wilmington, shared a report of the school. Over the past year Friends School of Wilmington was involved with the process of membership assessment (MAP) with the Friends Council on Education. This process is to assess the quality of Quaker

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practice, witness, and presence at the member schools. As a part of this process a standing committee of the board was developed. This Quaker Life Committee is charged with monitoring the school and is comprised of school staff, students, board members and Quakers from the wider community. A set of queries supplied by Friends Council on Education was widely circulated and responses were compiled in a report, which is available for Friends to view.

During the process Friends School of Wilmington found that they were engaged in the practice of Friends in significant ways, but less practiced in articulating the contexts and reasons for the practice.

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

Sixth Day Morning The Tenth of Seventh Month

The meeting convened near the appointed hour.

13. Friends Historical Collection

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

The North Carolina Yearly Meeting Archives are gradually entering a new technological era. This past year the database, which has previously been only available internally, was converted into MySQL for full searchability via the Web. Meeting members and researchers can easily locate which monthly meeting records are held in the Friends Historical Collection. Searches can be done either by meeting name or by location (county and/or state). Meetings are encouraged to consult this resource to make sure their information is correct and to confirm that their meeting is depositing permanent records on a timely basis. The Friends Historical Collection is also exploring forms of outreach through a blog (<http://blogs.guilford.edu/fhc/>), a Facebook page, and other new tools for sharing information beyond our physical location.

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Friends Historical Collection Librarian Gwen Gosney Erickson continued to collaborate with her colleagues at Earlham, Haverford, and Swarthmore Colleges to consider options for making our historic Quaker records available online. Negotiations are still in process with vendors. Both North Carolina Yearly Meeting (FUM) and North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) formally approved inclusion of their older meeting records at their Spring representatives meetings.

Staff directed much time and energy to supporting a reunion of former residents of Mary Hobbs Hall – the residence hall where NCYM (C) attendees reside when meeting at Guilford. Twenty women, many of whom are Friends, were interviewed as part of a new Hobbs Hall Oral History project. The larger celebrations also included programming about the life and legacy of Mary Mendenhall Hobbs, an influential proponent of women's education and a key Quaker leader both in North Carolina and in the early development of what is now Friends United Meeting.

The other major project was identifying, digitizing, and describing materials for inclusion in CivilRightsGreensboro, a collaborative project with several local universities to provide digital access to primary sources relating to the history of civil rights in Greensboro from 1945 to 1980. The official public launch will be in February 2010 but some materials will be available for research as early as August 2009.

Materials from the archives were shared with Guilford County school teachers participating in a Teaching American History workshop session on Influenza in 1918. Several teachers commented that strong Quaker community and faith were important elements contributing to survival during the epidemic. Lloyd Lee Wilson's master's thesis on the history of NCYM (C) was added and a researcher made use of rich correspondence from Howard Thurman which was donated by Louise Wilson several years ago. As always, a variety of researchers from North Carolina and beyond were assisted in their research using Quaker records to explore genealogical connections, historical trends, and community history.

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

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July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

Meeting Name	Deposit
Friendship	Ministry and Counsel Minutes, 8/2005-6/2007 Care and Counsel Minutes, 8/2008-7/2009
Rich Square	Monthly Meeting Minutes, 8/2007 – 6/2008; 7/2008-6/2009
Virginia Beach	Ministry and Counsel Minutes, 7/27/2004 – 10/30/2007
NCYM (C) Meeting Newsletters received in 2008 – 2009: Friendship and Virginia Beach	

14. Visitors (Part two)

*The following Friend was introduced and welcomed:
Erin Schroeder, Chattahoochee Friends Worship Group.*

*The meeting adjourned, purposing to meet Sixth Day
Afternoon at 1:30 p.m.*

Sixth Day Afternoon The Tenth of Seventh Month

The meeting convened near the appointed hour.

15. Query Responses from Virginia Beach Friends Meeting.

*Friends approved that the query responses from
Virginia Beach Friend Meeting be included in the printed
minutes, with a note that Friends wished these responses to be
included, even though the responses were not read in annual
sessions.*

16. Davidson Friends Meeting

*A report prepared by the committee named at Fourth
Month Representative Body to meet with Davidson Friends
regarding their request for membership in North Carolina
Yearly Meeting (Conservative) was read and follows:*

The committee was set up at the Fourth Month 25 2009
NCYMC Representative Meeting to have representatives from
NCYMC travel to Davidson to visit with the Meeting there,
which had requested membership in the Yearly Meeting. Friends
put on the committee were Lloyd Lee Wilson from Rich Square,

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Carole Treadway and Claire Koster from Friendship, Nancy Craft from Virginia Beach, Susan Tideman and Marguerite Dingham from Durham, and Robert Cooper from Fayetteville (meetings). Robert agreed to be convener.

At this meeting, Robert met with Patty Levering, who suggested the next business meeting of Davidson Friends Meeting was a good time for a visit from the committee. This was to be the Fifth Month 31 2009. She further reflected that the next time meeting for business was to take place was unknown.

The committee met mostly through email communication, and it was determined that three to four members could attend at the suggested time. Some members unable to attend did not wish the trip time to be changed because of their absence. Some members were concerned with the low number. A suggestion to substitute Robert and Barbara Gosney for Lloyd Lee Wilson was made and emails gave no indication of any problem with this happening. A count of five who said they could go gained consensus.

Lloyd Lee Wilson (accompanied by his spouse Susan), and Carole Treadway (accompanied by her spouse Ray) visited Davidson Meeting on Fifth Month 24 2009, since they were unable to attend the next week.

Claire Koster, Sue Tideman, Marguerite Dingham and Robert Cooper visited on Fifth Month 31 2009, along with Darryl Waisner, who came with Claire.

Nancy Craft was unable to attend, but met with Robert when visiting Fayetteville Meeting on Sixth Day 14 2009.

The consensus of this group of NCYMC Friends is that Davidson be joyfully accepted as a member meeting of NCYMC.

Submitted-Robert Cooper

Friends having a clear sense that discernment over this matter has taken place in good Quaker order over several years amongst both Davidson Friends and Friends of the Yearly Meeting, the recommendation of the committee to accept Davidson Friends Meeting into membership was joyfully approved.

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Friends approved that the clerk write a letter of welcome to Davidson Friends Meeting, on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.

17. Quaker House

Director Chuck Fager reported on the ministry and work of Quaker House of Fayetteville. Chuck addressed the issue of Quaker House's stability in the face of the current economic situation. Because of careful nurture of donors who give what they are able, Quaker House is maintaining stability, with great appreciation for continued support from a strong base of donors.

"Yes to the Troops, No to the Wars," a history of Quaker House written on the occasion of its 40th anniversary, has been published and is available in the yearly meeting bookstore.

Chuck notes that the "Peace Movement" has all but disappeared and despite the new administration, many parts of the war machine remain in place with no hint that this will change. After a first shift in US torture policy – there has been no further moves, which is very disappointing. Chuck challenged us to keep the torture industry issued before us as it is not going away.

In 2008 the number of calls to the GI Hotline went down; in 2009 the number of calls has dropped further, which is puzzling, but may be due to the economic situation and the shift of the locations of the war from Iraq to Afghanistan and Pakistan. Chuck offers us the opportunity to put Matthew 25:36 to practice by visiting Cliff Cornell, who is incarcerated at Camp LeJeune. Friends interested in visiting Cliff Cornell should contact Chuck so he can create a schedule of visitation.

Truth in recruiting work is ongoing in North Carolina. Recruiting pressures are on the increase with horrific consequences.

Chuck expressed his appreciation of the support that this yearly meeting has given Quaker House. Chuck let us know that he is planning to retire in Eleventh Month, 2012, and so asks us to keep an eye out for a replacement.

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18. Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas (SOA)

Ray Treadway, clerk of FWCC – SOA, made a report about recent activities and future plans of FWCC. The organization is recognized by the world as representative of worldwide Quakers, as much as that is possible. FWCC sponsors such services as the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), in New York and Geneva and the Wider Quaker Fellowship. The SOA annual meeting took place in Oregon, next year's meeting will be Third Month, 18-21, 2010, in the Baltimore area; all are welcome to attend. Friends are advised that the next Quaker Youth Pilgrimage (QYP) for 16-18 year olds will be Seventh Month 18 – Eighth Month 15, 2010 in the Northwestern area of the United States. The next world conference will bring 1000 Quaker from all over the world in 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya, with a theme of "Being Salt and Light: Friends Living the Kingdom of God in a Broken World." NCYM(C) will need to begin to think about how we can support our representatives who will travel to this gathering.

The Asia-West Pacific region has brought the concern of global change and warming to the World Level of FWCC. In discernment around identifying the particular Quaker piece of responding to this crisis, the following came forward: What Friends have to offer may be in the area of spiritual grounding, embodying a way of peace which grows out of God's love rather than from the fear which scarcity will engender. Nancy Craft, Barbara Gosney and Ray Treadway are the current FWCC representative from our yearly meeting.

FWCC has been affected by the current financial situation and has had to cut a staff position. Friends are encouraged to continue supporting FWCC financially, as they are led.

19. Visitors (Part Three)

Brent Bill from Indiana Yearly Meeting was welcomed.

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

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*Seventh Day Morning
The Eleventh of Seventh Month*

The meeting convened near the appointed hour.

20. Quaker Volunteer Service Consultation

Janis and Charles Ansell shared about their participation in the Quaker Volunteer Service Consultation and about their own leading to serve the least of these, in and from Northampton County, North Carolina. The Consultation Epistle and their report follow:

*Big Wind, Spirit's breath
The gathered body hears, ruah
Whispering—change comes*

From the Quaker Volunteer Service Consultation
Pendle Hill, Wallingford, PA
12th to 15th of Second Month 2009

To Friends Everywhere:

... and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6: 8)

We came together, led by our young adult Friends calling us to live the Truth of the prophet Micah's words. The thirty-six participants, facilitators, elders and one very young Friend invited to this consultation, co-sponsored by Friends General Conference Youth Ministries Committee and Pendle Hill Quaker Retreat Center, came sharing a common purpose—to live into the possibility that through the volunteer projects to which we are connected individually the unique gifts of Quakerism can and will be made visible in the world.

The young adult Friends who carried these concerns individually and collectively for some years faithfully created a space for Spirit-led discernment for all of us as we considered our inspiration, our hopes and our challenges. With the assistance of the gathering committee's attentive and intentional preparation, we experienced expectant listening, support,

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accountability, love and ministry between and among us. Three elders grounded our four days of meetings for worship with attention to Quaker Volunteer Service.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1st Corinthians 12: 4-7)

Friends of many ages came together in response to a call from our young adult Friends, each as an individual pool of Light, isolated in our communities and projects. Through sharing joyfully our gifts of song, play, laughter, conversation and worship we allowed the Love of Christ to connect our individual pools of Light into a blessed, illuminated, loving community. Out of both large and small group sharing we came to know and name the truth of our condition in the following ways:

- We hunger to reclaim the power and vitality of our faith.
- We seek to be authentically Quaker and to let our lives honestly preach the Truth of our faith and practice.
- We heard the Spirit behind the spoken words saying, “Christ is Sufficient.”
- We realize the necessity of being faithful to yield to the work that is given us, no matter how small.
- We value the transformational service opportunities of our diverse projects and acknowledge that the transformation is the work of the Spirit and not of the project.
- We trust the experience of those who know that the fruits of our labors may come in a form and at a time over which we have neither control nor knowledge.
- We ask: Are Friends able both individually and collectively to expand sufficiently to embrace all which God offers us to place on our table?
- We celebrate the deep grounding and dynamic energy experienced through the Youth gathering here and across the Religious Society of Friends, calling us to our roots.
- We deeply understand the critical importance to the Religious Society of Friends now and in the future of these

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volunteer service projects specifically for Quakers which allow us to live honestly our faith through our service.

- We dwell in the possibility that the relationships made during this Consultation will not only enable our current projects to succeed but will also encourage our diverse visions to become reality.
- We unite in desire and a need for a national network of communication to connect Quaker Volunteer Service projects and struggle to know how to move forward and be open to continuing dialogue.
- We are mindful that those gathered here for this Consultation do not represent the fullness of the Religious Society of Friends and desire to reach across all branches of the Religious Society of Friends, beginning conversations and extending invitations to future consultations in whatever way they are realized.

The Spirit fed us through wind and song and in so many other ways during our time together. We came to know experientially the Truth of David's words in *Psalms 32: 8*:

I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;

I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

During our evening session on Seventh Day, the Lord's eye was upon us and we were both instructed and counseled as messages arose out of deep worship calling us to account and lifting up the responsibility we carry to continue what has begun over these days together. We were cautioned not to allow confusion and discomfort to distract us from the Light. We leave here knowing the intertwining of our lives as we accompany one another in Spirit until we are together again as an expanded body.

On First Day morning we entered a process of witness and accountability one to another as we publically named and claimed our gifts, our conflicts, our commitments to God and to this body of Friends. Tenderly, we listened with the ears of our hearts as the baptismal power of Spirit flowed, gently anointing us with the balm of Gilead.

This epistle attempts to capture the words spoken during this consultation. The True and Necessary Epistle that will go

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forth is the one written on the hearts of each of the participants. It is the experience of this Living Epistle we carry out into the world, informing our work as we move forward in a way that is open to Spirit continuing to move in and through us—right here, right now.

On behalf of the body gathered,
Christina Repoley , Emma M. Churchman, Kristina Keefe-Perry,
Zachary Moon, Conveners for Quaker Volunteer Service
Consultation

21. Finance Committee Report

Treasurer Dora Owens shared the Finance Committee Report which follows:

The Finance Committee of North Carolina Yearly Meeting met for Business on Seventh Month, Ninth Day of 2009. Representatives from Durham, Friendship, Greenville, Rich Square, Virginia Beach, West Grove, and Wilmington Meetings were in attendance. The meeting opened with a period of silent waiting.

The state of the current economy was a factor in much of the discussion. Some meetings feel unable to continue their support at past levels, although most felt clear to continue. The economy was also a factor in considering the amounts to budget for the many worthy organizations the Yearly Meeting supports. Friends were clear that this was not a year to reduce general support, even though it may mean we show a budget deficit. The Yearly Meeting is in an adequate cash position to cover the expected deficit at this time.

There was a request to add the School of the Spirit to our list of budgeted donations. A number of our members have been blessed by their experiences at the School of the Spirit, and more are currently being led to participate. Our local and yearly meetings benefit greatly from the experiences of the participants in this program. Friends were clear that the Yearly Meeting should express our appreciation for the work of this program in a tangible form through adding a line item in our budget for them. This will be in addition to scholarships and travel assistance available to individual participants.

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In recent months, an issue involving tax liability arose. Although the Yearly Meeting, classified as an Association of Churches, is not required to file for exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service, there are issues involving state and local revenue departments for which we must occasionally provide physical proof of our status; this was the case recently. The current issue with the North Carolina Department of Revenue has been resolved, but it is likely such an issue will surface again in the future. The Finance Committee recommends that the Yearly Meeting investigate incorporation as a way to clarify our status for the relevant agencies.

Two requests for assistance were received. Cheryl Fetterman has requested travel assistance to attend the Quaker Earthcare Witness steering committee meeting in the Fall as our representative. Marguerite Dingman has requested assistance to attend the School of the Spirit. We rejoice that these Friends feel led to serve and grow in the Spirit through their work. Both requests were approved, and will be drawn from the Travel Assistance and Scholarship funds, respectively.

Respectfully recorded, Dora Owens, Interim Treasurer

Friends were easy with the Finance Committee beginning the process of investigating the pros and cons of the yearly meeting filing for non-profit status and the possibility of incorporation. The committee is asked to bring a report to the Fourth Month Representative Body meeting. Friends approved the report.

22. Treasurer's Report

Dora Owens gave the treasurer's report which follows:

Account	Budgeted 2008	Actual 2008	% of Total Receipts	2008 Variance	2009 Budget
General Fund Income					
Monthly Meeting Contributions					
Davidson		100.00	1%	100.00	900.00
Durham	3,500.00	3,500.00	24%		3,500.00
Fayetteville	500.00	500.00	3%		500.00
Friendship	3,500.00	3,500.00	24%		3,000.00
Greenville	325.00	325.00	2%		200.00
Rich Square	2,200.00	2,200.00	15%		2,200.00
Virginia Beach	3,000.00	1,500.00	10%	(1,500.00)	3,000.00

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West Grove	750.00	750.00	5%		750.00
Wilmington	800.00	800.00	6%		400.00
Subtotal	14,575.00	13,175.00	91%	1,400.00	14,450.00
Other Income					
Individual Contributions	1,400.00	13,175.00	8%	(269.00)	1,000.00
Inventory Sales (Net of COGS)		117.68	1%	117.68	
Account	Budgeted 2008	Actual 2008	% of Total Receipts	2008 Variance	2009 Budget
Interest Calvert Fund	200.00	101.33	1%	(98.67)	100.00
Interest checkng	10.00	9.93	0%	0.07	10.00
Subtotal	1,610.00	1,359.00	9%	250.06	1,110.00
Total Receipts	16,185.00	14,534.94	100.00%	(1,650.06)	15,560.00
General Fund Expenses					
Operating Expenses	335.00	157.46	1%	(177.54)	1,200.00
Committee Expenses	100.00		0%	(100.00)	
Website Costs	300.00	240.00	2%	(60.00)	300.00
Publication of Minutes	1,200.00	1,069.00	7%	(130.10)	1,200.00
Subtotal	1,935.00	1,467.36	10%	(467.64)	2,700.00
Donations to Organizations					
Administrative Expenses					
AFSC	700.00	700.00	5%		700.00
Assoc Comm of Friends Indian Affairs	300.00	300.00	2%		300.00
FCNL	700.00	700.00	5%		700.00
Quaker Earth Care Witness	300.00	300.00	2%		300.00
Quaker House of Fayetteville	2,000.00	2,000.00	14%		1,500.00
Right Sharing of World Resources	300.00	300.00	2%		300.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>4,300.00</i>	<i>4,300.00</i>	<i>30%</i>		<i>3,800.00</i>

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<u>Account</u>	<u>Budgeted 2008</u>	<u>Actual 2008</u>	<u>% of Total Receipts</u>	<u>2008 Variance</u>	<u>2009 Budget</u>
<i>Quaker History and Support:</i>					
Friends Ctr- Guilford College	250.00	250.00	2%		250.00
Friends Historical Collection (Guilford Coll)	400.00	400.00	3%		400.00
FWCC	700.00	700.00	5%		700.00
NC Friends Historical Society	250.00	250.00	2%		250.00
Pendle Hill	<u>300.00</u>	<u>300.00</u>	<u>2%</u>		<u>300.00</u>
<i>Subtotal</i>	1,900.00	1,900.00	13%		1,900.00
<i>Education</i>					
Friends Assoc Higher Ed.	200.00	200.00	1%		200.00
Friends Council on Education	200.00	200.00	1%		200.00
Carolina Friends School	850.00	850.00	6%		850.00
Guilford College	600.00	600.00	5%		600.00
New Garden Friends School	850.00	850.00	6%		850.00
Virginia Beach Friends School	850.00	850.00	6%		850.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	3,550.00	3,550.00	24%		3,550.00
<i>Total Contributions to Organizations</i>					
	9,750.00	9,750.00	67%		9,750.00
<i>Other Expenses</i>					
Internships / Scholarships	2,000.00		0%	(2,000.00)	2,500.00
Travel	2,500.00	300.00	2%	(2,200.00)	2,000.00
Transfer to Trust Fund	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Subtotal</i>	4,500.00	300.00	2%	(4,200.00)	4,500.00
Total General Fund Expenses					
	16,185.00	11,517.36	79%	(4,667.64)	16,450.00

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Receipts over Expenditures					
	--	3,017.58	21%	3,017.58	(890.00)

<u>Changes of Funds in Checking Account</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>Change</u>
General Operating Fund	8,127.50	10,080.31	1,952.81
Yearly Meeting 08 Reserve	12,040.24	(760.20)	(12,800.44)
Yearly Meeting 09 Reserve	-	13,154.40	13,154.40
Youth Activities	570.14	498.44	(71.70)
Journal Fund	352.13	119.71	(232.42)
Disciplines	2,001.00	2,031.00	30.00
Travel	363.40	363.40	-
YM Assistance Fund	2,091.58	3,945.16	1,853.58
Memorial Funds	-	-	-
Hearing Assistance Device Fund	-	-	-
Jamaica Fund -- FWCC	-	-	-
Total	<u>25,545.99</u>	<u>29,432.22</u>	<u>3,886.23</u>

<u>Account Balances</u>			
Wachovia Checking	25,545.99	29,432.22	3,886.23
Calvert Fund	<u>6,647.67</u>	<u>6,749.00</u>	<u>101.33</u>
Total	<u>32,193.66</u>	<u>36,181.22</u>	<u>3,987.56</u>

<u>Statement of Changes In Cash Position:</u>	<u>Checking</u>	<u>Calvert Fund</u>
<i>Beginning Balance</i>	25,545.99	6,647.67
<i>Add:</i>		
Deposits for 07/01/08- 06/30/09	<u>28,860.98</u>	<u>101.33</u>
<i>Total Monies Available</i>	54,406.97	6,749.00
 <i>Less:</i>		
Expenditures 07/01/08 - 06/30/09	<u>24,974.75</u>	<u>-</u>
 Ending Balance	<u>29,432.22</u>	<u>6,749.00</u>

Notes:
 ** 760.20 Sales Tax Refund from 2008 Yearly Meeting is pending.

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-- 1,500.00 received, but not deposited until
07/03/2009

Friends approved the report and the proposed 2009-2010 budget, except for the School of the Spirit line which was held over for discernment. Appreciation was expressed to the treasurer and the finance committee for their faithful work.

23. Yearly Meeting Trust Fund Report

The Yearly Meeting Trust Fund Report was given and follows:

July 2009

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Yearly Meeting Trust Fund Report – Travel in the Ministry

Balance on Hand 7-1-2007

4606.36

Reimbursements for the Year

None

Receipts for the Year:

Contributions – 6-2009 (Robert Cooper)

100.00

Interest (Annual)

4.53

Balance on Hand (6-30-2008)

4710.89

Payments for “Travel in the Ministry”. Although there have been no payments for “Travel in the Ministry” for the year, the Yearly Meeting needs to continue to search for other avenues of income to support this important commitment.

Funds are presently held in a Business High Performance Money Market with Wachovia Bank.

Friends are encouraged to make special contributions in support of “Travel in the Ministry”.

Submitted by.

W. Carey Reece, Jr. Trustee

Walter J. Brown III Trustee

John Parker Trustee

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Friends accepted the report with appreciation, and with it, the reminder that this fund is available to support travel in the ministry, as well as its availability for donations.

24. Audit Committee Report

The auditors appointed by the Yearly Meeting on the ninth of Seventh Month, 2009, David Eley and Charles Ansell, have reviewed the financial records of the treasurer, Dora Owens, for the 2008-2009 fiscal year and found them in good order.

25. Earth Care Committee

The committee reports feeling alive and connected, please with their growth together as a committee since they began two years ago.

26. Epistle to Southern State Worship Group

Friends approved the Epistle to Southern State Worship Group, which follows:

Dear Jim, Roshan, Philip, Bill Stuart, Ismael and Joseph:

It is with inspired joy and great humility that we reply to the letter you sent to our gathering at Yearly Meeting. Your letter shares in the truth related in Paul's letter to the Romans (8:38-39) that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Your words leapt off the page, alive with the Spirit, hurling through bars, cells, walls, chained linked fences, barbed wire, across many miles into our hearts. We are deeply moved by your thoughts and insights, and are thankful that your community of faith has seen fit to share yourselves with us. We feel moved, as a gathered community of Friends, to reply to your sweet and tender sentiments.

The theme of our gathering is "which way now?" We are worshiping in silence together, praying, studying the

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scripture, and enjoying each other's company. We are near the ocean, and can smell the faint odor of salt from the ocean breeze. The air is heavy with water and salt. We have had some warm summer drizzle. Some of us have used umbrellas, others have walked with the warm rain upon our face. Somehow, experiencing the fresh smell of ocean air and the warm rain is more vibrant and poignant as we hold you in our thoughts and prayers. You are with us now, and we are holding you in the warm and wet summer breeze of God's love.

Your letters speak directly to the questions we are asking ourselves as we gather. How do we know which way to go, how do we choose one way or the other, unless we endeavor to understand God more fully or better discern God's purpose for us at this time. We are often demoralized, distracted, and get mired in self importance or pity; and so it is important to remember – as you say – to "try to be in the now," and "fully live in the present." We share your hunger and craving for the "quiet gatherings," and are continually inspired by the "kindness and generosity" of those around us. We aspire, along with you, to "make a positive witness out of this experience – to be able to help others." We love to hear about your diversity, that you share your time with people of "worlds unlike your own." Our group, unfortunately, is homogenous by comparison: we are all mainly white middle class folks. We yearn for the diversity of experience and perspectives that you describe, and this makes us treasure our relation with you even more. We believe that it is only by connecting across great differences that we can more fully understand, experience and spread God's love. We share your belief that "life is school for the soul," and we thank you for the lesson in faith, hope and love. Your concerns are near our hearts. We find that many difficulties in this life are borne more easily when they are shared, and so we are holding you in our prayers.

*In peace and love,
From the gathered body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting
(Conservative)
Signed: Sidney Lee kitchens / Clerk*

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

Seventh Day Afternoon The Eleventh of Seventh Month

The meeting convened near the appointed hour.

27. State of the Society Reports

The State of the Society Reports of seven of the monthly meetings were shared out of worship. The reports follow:

Durham Monthly Meeting

Durham Monthly Meeting offers two meetings for worship on first days, including a small early worship and has a small mid-week worship and discussion on fourth days. First Day School which meets for ages 3-5, Grades 1-3, and 4-5, 6-8, and high school groups. Infants may stay with a caregiver during meeting for worship. Younger children have a singing Sunday once monthly. Middle and high school students conduct Junior Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business monthly.

Other avenues for worship include occasional New Testament Study, an active Adult Education program, Youth programs and fundraisers, and a monthly Quaker Q & A which is informal education for newcomers regarding Quaker faith and practice.

We celebrate our graduating high school seniors: Ben Ratzloff and Jared Wicker.

We mourn the loss of Calhoun Doty Geiger who departed this life on June 1, 2009. A memorial meeting for worship was held on June 27, 2009 at Carolina Friends School.

Many committees and individuals followed leadings that deepened our experience as a whole. While we have consistently adhered to Quaker principles in our management of our finances and property, our Finance Committee and Treasurer brought increased discipline and clarity to our financial information and decision-making. Our Care and Support

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Committee improved meeting-wide involvement in support to meeting members transiting life passages.

Peace and Social Concerns took under its care leadings for greater involvement in the Durham community. These leadings included prison ministry and work against violence and in support of victims of violence. Peace and Social concerns advocated with political representatives and in the media on peace between Palestinians and Israelis. A letter was published in a local paper. This letter expressed our leading to care for same-sex marriages and objected to existing legislation and a proposed state constitutional amendment against same-sex marriage.

Our EarthCare committee led a weekend retreat including a local foods dinner, movie, and discussions. This active committee also led a series of classes on voluntary simplicity and weatherized a house in an adopted Durham neighborhood. They provide monthly education in our newsletter.

We instituted a meeting of committee clerks, numbering approximately 25, in order to enhance communication in our growing meeting. Because we found this helpful, we decided to hold the meeting three times each year. We continue to seek other ways to maintain the closeness of our community and acquaint newcomers to our testimonies and practices. We hold Friendly Eights, Durham Friends Meeting Reads program, and various lunches and dinners for fellowship and fundraising.

Nancy and David Haines, sojourners from Wellesley Monthly Meeting, conducted a two-day retreat titled, “Clerking Basics for Clerks, Convenors, and the Rest of Us,” on March 20 and 21, under the care of Ministry and Counsel Committee. They participated in many ways in the life of the Meeting. We endorsed their letter of sojourn and they returned to Wellesley in May 2009.

Many friends are involved in wider Quaker organizations. Austin Stanion was co-clerk of youth meeting for 2008 FGC. Karen McKinnon was co-convenor of 2009 FGC Annual Gathering Committee. John Hunter convened the 2009 FGC Annual Gathering Committee Workshop Committee.

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David Stewart co-convened the Evening Program Committee of the Planning Committee for the 2009 Gathering.

In the light, Anne Micheaux Akwari, clerk

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting continues to worship together faithfully as a small community of Seekers. Our worship consists of silent waiting occasionally enriched by vocal ministry. Our Meeting for Worship at 5:00 pm on First Days is followed by an adult discussion hour at 6:00 pm. On first First Days we hold Meeting for Business followed by a potluck meal. Our attendance averages three to six adults, and sometimes a few more; there are no children in the meeting. This year we welcomed two new attendees to Fayetteville Friends, Chris McCallum and Jill Lashmett.

This past year we were gratified that two of our members Bob Cooper's health improved sufficiently that he was able to attend meeting again regularly. Another dear Friend, Glenna Hicks, continues to be rare in attendance, due to both health concerns and work commitments. We did visit her home for meeting on one First Day.

We continue to be concerned over the welfare of past attendees Jeremy Hinzman, Nga Nguyen, and their children. When Jeremy decided in 2003 as a matter of conscience not to return to military service in Iraq, the family fled to Canada. Jeremy has been denied immigration status there and is awaiting the outcome of an appeal. We stay in periodic touch with the family to express our concern and be ready to aid them if they are returned to Fort Bragg.

Our First Day discussions have been varied, sometimes centering on a query or on a member's welfare. We have spent several First Days discussing environmental concerns. We have also been exploring Quaker origins and convictions through the book, "A Very Short Introduction to Quakerism," by a British Quaker scholar who goes by the name Pink Dandelion. The readings in this book have evoked numerous rich and probing discussions, which are likely to continue.

Since the beginning of this year, the meeting has been under the weight of the issue of homelessness and the harsh

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treatment of even one-time sex offenders who have served their sentences. These matters are embodied for us in the person of Curtis Stobie, a homeless man who has become known to us over the past few years. Curtis is a frequent churchgoer, and is of good reputation among us. Curtis was arrested last Eighth Month and held in jail until late Third Month of this year, without trial, essentially for being homeless.

The Meeting joined some of his other church friends in raising 300 for his bail, and then members of the Meeting accompanied him to court hearings, where in late May, the charges were ultimately dismissed. This was good news, but Curtis remains without regular employment or a regular home, and we are chagrined that we are unable to do more to assist him in becoming more self-sufficient. In these months we have also learned much about the deplorable treatment of persons in his condition, however peaceable and inoffensive their conduct and conversation may be. We wish we were able to do more to change these conditions.

Members of the meeting remain active in various social concerns, including Fayetteville Peace with Justice and the Quaker Initiative to End Torture. The meeting contributes through financial gifts and/or volunteerism to PFADP, Contact Crisis Line, Fayetteville Urban Ministry, and PVS prison ministry, as well as to various Quaker organizations.

During the past year some of our members visited other Quaker meetings and organizations.

At times we feel discouraged by the small size of our meeting. We believe our lack of growth is partly due to being in a military community, in close proximity to Fort Bragg. Yet we also believe there are people in the Fayetteville area who might be interested in Friends if they knew about us. Being small, however, does have an advantage. It encourages us to be faithful to the meeting and to each other. We pray for Divine Guidance to continue in unity our search for Truth.

Friendship Monthly Meeting

Our year has been filled with the sounds of children's running feet, new faces both young and old, the smells of food brought in for potlucks and our nonphysical but vital spiritual concerns.

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Meeting membership has dropped by five. Although we have welcomed new members and transfers; we've seen several beloved members depart. There were moving memorial services for Louise Harris and DeWitt Barnett. We also saw Mary Ellen and Mark Chijioke move back to Nigeria after Mary Ellen's retirement from the Guilford College library.

It has been another year full of Meeting events. We welcomed the new and old Guilford College Quakers in a progressive dinner where Friendship provided desert. It was once again crowded and our singing was especially tuneful this year because of the number of college choir members who attended. Attendance at Meeting for Worship ranges from not full to very full, depending on what is happening at the college or what holiday it is. Our new members often attend Meeting for Worship with attention to business, although attendance of some seasoned members could be better. We continue to welcome new members and are careful to include them in the life of the Meeting including service on committees. Each of their clearness committees is asked to meet again with them a year later to assess their spiritual journey and needs. The meetinghouse fills with noise and merriment at our monthly game nights which attract many, from the old to the very young. Our Christmas Eve worship at Friends Homes Guilford this year was especially well attended as was our New Year's Eve party. We continue to work at building community in the Meeting with hosting special events. These include work days run by our House and Grounds Committee, potluck meals run by our Hospitality Committee, singing before some Meetings for Worship and on the fifth First Day of the month those who wish can come early for an extra special longer time of worship. On Sixth Month we enjoyed dinner circles where members got to know each other better and learned a little of each person's spiritual journey. Our ties to absent members have been strengthened through our beautifully produced monthly newsletter – the Friendship Times - and our web pages. Our out of town members are included in the life of the Meeting through emails and inviting them to the All Meeting Retreat. Our Long Range Planning Committee has been discussing how the Meeting is planning to meet future needs and what steps we need to take to get there.

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In the area of outreach both the Meeting and its individual members continue to serve both locally and beyond. We continue to help support several immigrant families. There was an Angel tree at Christmas for two families from the Congo and we continue to help with a Burmese family. Sandwiches continue to be made each a month for the local homeless shelter and some have gotten good at making the sandwiches quickly. Our forums help us learn about areas of outreach we need to be addressing. Our members and the meetinghouse have provided hospitality for a number of groups this year. The Young Friends at Guilford College often use our facilities for potluck meals and worship. We also hosted groups from FWCC and the Friends General Conference Youth Ministries Committee. Needs among our membership are joyfully met, whether it is cooking for someone just out of the hospital, repairing a kitchen, helping with tuition at a local Friends School or just being there.

The Salem Worship Group (formerly known as the Winston-Salem Worship group, which is under our care, is discerning ways to move beyond their status as a worship group. They have become very active both in service to their community and in holding monthly meetings for business with a Clerk, Recording Clerk and Treasurer. They also have found a very nice meeting place where they feel very much at home. Members of our Worship and Ministry Committee have been encouraging them through visits and are now included in our Committee meetings.

In the area of spiritual growth the Meeting has been led by its Care and Counsel and Worship and Ministries Committees. The two met in the fall for a valuable retreat at the mountain house of David and Mae Brown. The All Meeting Retreat in Second Month began with our member Nan Bowles presenting a wonderful slide show called “Scattering the Seeds”. The next day we used part of Pat Loring’s book Listening Spirituality Vol II to examine the spiritual formation of our members and to plan for future efforts in religious education for both children and adults. A number of our members and attenders speak in Meeting for Worship and our time then remains precious to everyone. We look forward to another fruitful year.

Greenville Monthly Meeting

The work of rebuilding Greenville Meeting proceeded this year. Last year we faced the challenge of rebuilding the Meeting with an influx of Friends of widely varied backgrounds. Spiritual life is personal so building a community out of a variety of individuals requires getting to know each other. We continued to place an emphasis on being together outside of meeting for worship for informal conversation. Our success at laying a foundation is evidenced in several ways. We now meet in new larger quarters. We have moved out of Bill Baker's living room and into a large sunny meeting room with windows facing an expanse of lawn leading down to the wooded area where deer and rabbits sometimes wander out during meetings for worship. Secondly, we now meet once a month for discussion of various spiritual topics ranging from Quakerism 101 to the Gospel of John. Thirdly, we have resumed regular business meetings including the answering of the queries. And lastly, two attenders have asked for and been welcomed into membership.

On the other hand we face the stresses of the economy have lead to some attenders being forced to move. Jennifer Breuer and her family, moved to Alabama as her husband's career required relocating.. Jennifer has been a vital part of meeting for the past couple of years and will be greatly missed. But we feel confident Jennifer will have much to contribute to the small unprogrammed meeting in Alabama to which she is going. We also lost another valued attender, Jim Cleary, when he had to move back to find work in New York City. However, this is partly balanced by having two new attenders worship with us as well as having one attender, who we thought would move away at the end of the year, change her plans and decide to stay in Greenville for another two years.

As a meeting we are still too small to engage in much corporate action but as individuals we are very much involved in a variety of forms of service to the larger community of Greenville and Pitt County.

Richard Miller, Clerk

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Rich Square Monthly Meeting

Throughout the past year we have endeavored to faithfully continue as a vital meeting while experiencing changes. Our monthly meeting continues to worship at Cedar Grove Meetinghouse in Woodland, North Carolina and as Salem-Black River Allowed Meeting in Mayesville, South Carolina. We have a small membership in both localities. At present only five members have a Woodland address, and two members plus one attender have the Mayesville address. Some members and/or attenders in both locations travel thirty miles or more one way to regularly meet with us. Eight to twelve Friends and attenders were present most first days at Cedar Grove during the past year. Four to eight Friends and attenders were present at Salem-Black River. After the first of this year our active attender, Emily Teipe, needed to return to permanently stay in California. We have members who live too far away to travel to meeting, but maintain regular contact. They hold us in the Light of the Holy Spirit as we hold them.

Early last fall our meeting welcomed into membership Charles and Janis Ansell from Virginia Beach Friends Meeting. The Anells look toward making their retirement home and future work for a sustainable community in the Woodland area. Two members, Thomas and Betty Feamster, moved back to North Carolina from Florida to settle in Woodland at the end of last summer. This significantly increased the number of Friends participating in the meeting's regular activities. The meeting approved three mid-week evening events in tenth month to make the community more aware of Friends in Northampton County. Lloyd Lee Wilson offered three sessions titled "Quakers: A Different Kind of Church". Attendance by people not associated with the meeting was sparse, but the few who attended felt better informed. The meeting benefited from the time together. At the end of tenth month we hosted the yearly meeting Representative Body. The meeting hosted the Woodland community Thanksgiving worship gathering. A photo of the meetinghouse was featured as "Neighborhood Church of the Week" in our local newspaper in first month. The meeting was mentioned in an article about eastern North Carolina Friends in the spring issue of Down East magazine.

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During the winter, our mid-week meetings and first day discussions became more focused on why and how we, and Friends in general, practice our faith. Sometimes the discussions became threshing sessions. By fourth month, Thomas and Betty Feamster informed us that they came to realize their membership in The Society of Friends was not right for their personal spiritual paths. They remain our friendly neighbors who sometimes worship with us, but are no longer members of the meeting.

The meeting continues as a responsible steward for resources left by our predecessors. We carefully maintain the meeting house property and cemetery. Prudently managing funds for the building, grounds and cemetery left by our forebears, we are careful to use those funds only in ways intended by the benefactors. We continue to seek ways for using our own time, talents and possessions for the needs of others... and all to the glory of God.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting

This has been a very busy year for Virginia Beach Friends.

The communication committee was able to create a web site and email process for the meeting and we are now able to communicate via email and electronic newsletters.

Also new this past year, Louise Wilson is giving monthly 2 minute “book Reviews” to promote the many books and highlight “new” books in our library, many of which she donated to the meeting.

We moved adult first day school time from before worship to after worship. This seems to be better for us. We also experimented with having the business sessions after worship instead of before worship, but choose to keep the business sessions before worship on First Days.

We routinely support the community by renting to various groups including some AA groups. The Norfolk Catholic Workers have continued their annual weekend gathering on the meeting and school property. The meeting is active in local Peace groups with opportunities to travel to Washington DC for rallies. Local festivals, the Fair Trade

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Festival and Peace Festival are supported with donations and active participations by our members and attenders. In addition, through a faith based social justice organization, Empower Hampton Roads to which we belong, offers opportunities to improve our community and participate in national rallies in Washington DC focusing on jobs, housing, transportation and health care reform.

While gained two members we were deeply saddened by the transfer of membership of Charles and Janis Ansell to Rich Square Monthly Meeting. We wish them well in their new spiritual home.

Ministry and Oversight coordinated a Discovery Dinner Program and hosted a worship sharing gathering on “Gratitude” The Northern Neck Worship Group visited our meeting. A new elder was recorded, Patricia Phelan Young. A minute to participate spiritually and work with the school was written.

We ended the year fiscally with a 1,500 of expenses over income.

Our Trustees began reviewing and organizing all the meeting’s legal documents in light of the many legal issues coming up this year. A new local church made a formal offer on the meeting property as well as the school property. The offer was later retracted but the church remains very much interested in the property. Many issues were raised and a special called meeting was held of a variety of topics from the legal relationship between the school and meeting to everything from our address, mail service, access issues, insurance, rental agreement, signage, and the question of whether the meeting should incorporate. These questions took time to answer satisfactorily and the meeting hired a lawyer to review some legal documents. As a result, the meeting was able to clarify the relationship with the school while our newer members and attenders helped the meeting with the perspective of new ideas and concepts and learn some of our meeting history. The meeting purchased “Directors and Officers” insurance and a decision to not incorporate, for now, was made.

A new issue continues as the local sanitation district is planning to place a 42 inch sewer piper across the middle of the meeting property. It will be directly in front of the entrance to

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the school. After discussions with the sanitation district officials, the Meeting was unable to obtain in writing the statements necessary to protect our property and school and a lawyer has been engaged to address this topic legally. While the project was to take place this summer, it has been delayed and is not likely to impact the meeting and school until next year. The school met with a former member of meeting who had recently been on the city planning commission to give his impression of some of the property issues.

The School began the search for a new Head of School involving the Meeting, students, parents, faculty/staff, and larger community in the process with gatherings and written and oral surveys, etc. Representatives from each group participated on the Search Committee and Edward Hollinger was chosen to Head the school.

The school has reported many issues this year, from the offer to purchase the school property, to the continued discussion on the needs of the school and future planning for up to 20 or more years. The school hired a title lawyer to review and clarify the school property. The school reported to meeting several issues relating to the Meeting as well as the school property. Some issues are still in process. The school presented a minute that it will be looking for new property and would like for the meeting to work with them on this new journey. The school has a commitment to sustainable campus and has been looking at green buildings for the future.

The school revised the Statement of Philosophy and is working on updated the Mission Statement through the Spiritual Life Committee of the school (including two representatives from meeting). This committee hosted Max Carter who presented a workshop on Quaker Education for the school, with meeting invited. The school established a property Task Force with trustees and others from meeting to participate. The Peace and Social Justice Day, “One River Many Wells” was a great success and raised money for wells in the Sudan.

The year has been very full and challenging year. Meeting is working to meet it obligations while keeping our spiritual life and relationship with God first.

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West Grove Monthly Meeting

This past year West Grove Friends have enjoyed relative stability in our meetings for worship, which belies the many changes that have occurred among the families counted among our members. We have grown in our membership, welcoming Dora Owens as a new member of the meeting, and we have been blessed by the regular attendance of Lawrence and Bobbie Newlin, newly arrived from Greensboro to the West Grove area, as well as by the increased attendance of Elizabeth Perry and Mary Michael, and by the occasional visits by Craig Fox and Steve Hayes from Friendship Friends Meeting in Greensboro.

Our members continue to be active in many forms of service outside of the meeting, and we sometimes find ourselves pulled in several directions at once. We do find, however, that the rewards of these works generally outweigh their burdens and so we continue to struggle to find balance as we go forth. Several of our members, too, are finding themselves drawn by the need for a deeper understanding of their faith and we anticipate that their journeys will enrich the meeting as a whole. Jeff Ginsburg plans to attend the School of the Spirit, beginning in the fall of 2009.

While West Grove Friends have come together in support of worthy causes when led to do so, it seemed right-ordered to us that we should seek more affirmatively to plan charitable giving and so for the first time, we have prepared a budget that looks beyond our normal expected expenses and consciously looks to what we can do collectively to make a difference in the world today. Affirming the call to “think globally, act locally,” we have looked to charitable works in the local area, recognizing that while there is important work to be done across the globe, great need exists nearby.

In our care of the Meeting House, we have chosen to emphasize simplicity and stewardship. We have elected not to proceed with plans for a fellowship hall at this time, devoting our attention instead to renovations and repairs to the existing Meeting House, a venerable structure of traditional design built around 1915. We have leveled the foundation and repaired the original sash-hung windows so they can be opened in the heat of the summer, and we have replaced our old inefficient gas heaters

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with high efficiency pilotless units. To be sure, we have retained the outhouses, but visitors will find them more inviting now, with a new coat of light paint inside and running water. While there is still more work to be done, we are well-pleased with the results thus far.

The spiritual and intellectual growth of our children has become more apparent this year as we observe and are enriched by their questions and application in daily life of the lessons learned in First Day School. They often remind us of many simple but great Truths that guide us in our daily lives, and it is a pleasure to rediscover the wonders of nature and the world around us through their eyes. It is a pleasure, too, to see our youth mature and take on progressively greater roles in the life of the meeting. Caroline Newlin continues enthusiastically to embrace recycling and remains enthralled with each new discovery in her natural world. Janie Newlin inspires us all with her efforts and progress to overcome the challenges she faces with Asperger's Syndrome and it is pleasing to see how she often demonstrates skills in her education that are well beyond her years. Brian Owens has shown remarkable growth and maturity this past year, volunteering often to help out around the Meeting House, and we do appreciate the deliberate thought that goes into many of his ideas and contributions to the maintenance of the structure. We have been impressed, too, by the accomplishments of Corena Owens both in her service through her Girl Scout Troop and in her schooling. She seems to thrive on learning and inspires the others in First Day School to do the same.

This past year we have explored aspects of Friends faith and practice in order to better understand and appreciate their place in our worship. In particular, there has been much discussion of the role of Scriptures in our discussions and worship, and this has at times caused no small amount of concern among our membership. What we have come to recognize is that each of us comes to Meeting for Worship from a different place spiritually and that the Scriptures play a different role for each of us in our worship. Similarly, in acknowledging the different paths that historical Friends have taken that have led to tensions and schisms among Friends, we

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do seek to avoid the labels that identify Friends with one path or another, seeking instead to remain Friends and to worship in the conservative tradition, embracing the continuing revelations of the Living Christ, honoring the Scriptures for the teachings they provide, and taking to heart the call to seek that of God in every individual.

We seek a place of unity and comfort in our worship at West Grove, but find truth in the admonition to "Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable," and so we wait upon the Lord for continued guidance. Just as it has been said that there is no such thing as "finished work," we realize that there may be no such thing as a "completed journey," and so we continually endeavor to find harmony and fulfillment together in our worship.

Wilmington Monthly Meeting

We have been enriched in the past year by the regular attendance of several Friends new to meeting. They bring a depth of Quaker experience that has helped us to see our meeting in a new light. We are open to new ways of seeing ourselves, and hopeful that meeting will grow in spirit as well as numbers.

Unfortunately, as happens in life, we lost some old Friends while gaining new ones since we last reported to yearly meeting. Our dear Friend Kay Glidden died in sixth month 2008, and the spouse of our distant member Teri Quakenbush died unexpectedly in 10/2008. We are happy that our childcare worker, Mary Hammond got married in eighth month, but she moved away shortly thereafter. Amy Lamb delivered us a new baby, Hugh Douglas Julian Lamb on 9/9/2008.

We continue to consider our financial obligations and the cost of caring for our meetinghouse. We have not repaired the rotting windows, or firmly decided what to do about the space in front of the meetinghouse that is so attractive to homeless people. We did manage to obtain a grant from Quaker EarthCare Witness to install new low-flow toilets in both the bathrooms, which will save on water use and lower the bill, and have hopefully made a small improvement to the gutters that should help with the parking-lot drainage problem.

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In business not related to the building, Ministry and Worship Committee wrote policy and procedures for committees for clearness, membership, and marriage. Other than that, we have made no progress on matters of the spirit. We wonder about the reason for our small attendance and we are concerned about our mostly silent worship, but it feels as though we have a hit a wall blocking our progress forward. Over the years we have made efforts to address attendance, ministry, and long-standing conflict; we feel there is room for progress in those matters. We are tired by our efforts and lack of improvement in the spirit of our meeting.

We may be more effective in our efforts outside of meeting. We are a small group, acting as individuals in organizations we feel passionate about. Some of us serve meals at the homeless shelter, several people volunteer at the free health clinic, a few participate in activities at the Friends School of Wilmington, and others serve on boards of community organizations.

A few Friends are loyal about attending all meeting activities; the 10:00 hour, meeting for worship, and meeting for business. The same Friends are loyal about participating in fellowship activities, such as pot-luck and picnics, and beach lunches, which are planned in an effort to bring old Friends to meeting. We remain loyal because we care for meeting. It is time to use that love to channel the tension in our meeting toward positive action, so that Wilmington Friends Meeting can grow in spirit.

Friends approved that the State of Society Report from Virginia Beach Friends Meeting will be included in the minutes if it is received, with the notation that it had not been read in the face of the meeting.

28. Young Friends Report

The youth of our yearly meeting reported on their various activities: beach, bowling, storytelling with Nan (moles and worms), kayaking, sailing, eating, singing, epistle writing within the Quaker tradition, aquarium visit, service project, and preparing for the Seventh Day evening presentation. Older

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Friends were able to see the product of one activity: newspaper articles that young Friends wrote about themselves, including goals, favorite things, drawings of themselves, and their hopes and dreams. Friends expressed appreciation of the report of young Friends and deep gratitude for the presence of our hopes and dreams, these dear young Friends.

The report was delivered by the following: Brooks Shoemaker, Beryl Shoemaker, Paulina Campbell, Celeste Campbell, Micah Barnhill-Wright, Janie Newlin, Caroline Newlin, Oliver Child-Laning, Corena Owens, and Brian Owens.

29. Nominating Committee

Robert E. Gosney reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. The report was approved and appears in the appendices. Friends expressed appreciation for the work of the committee.

Friends approved that the Earth Care Committee be listed as one of the Yearly Meeting Standing Committees, and asks that the Nominating Committee to bring forward names for that committee to Tenth Month Representative Body. The Nominating Committee is also asked to review the position of Assistant Clerk and come back to the body with a recommendation about whether that position be continued.

30. 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,

Love and greetings from the 312th session of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative as we meet on the campus of the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. Upon arriving, we were blessed with the presence of Wilmington Friends who encouraged us to enjoy Wilmington, the campus, as well as the Yearly Meeting.

Each day additional friends joined us for a total of over 100 adult and children, including two Friends from as far away

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as England. We fellowshiped in prayer, worship, song, business and Bible study around the theme “Which Way Now?” Bible Study helped to ground the basis of our belief as we lived out our beliefs throughout the week. Between the formal sessions and programs, we walked, bicycled, or rode the golf carts from the dorm to the cafeteria and meeting rooms in the sunshine and occasional rain.

Absent Friends were deeply missed and were fondly remembered for their ministry and fellowship. We have attached the Summary of Exercises to bring you closer to the events, blessing and love that was evidenced this week.

31. Virginia Beach Friends School

A report from Virginia Beach Friends School was read, noting highlights from the 2008-2009 school year. The report follows:

This year is a period of transition as the school announced that Jon Alden, the Head for the past six years would be leaving after this year. The School Committee appointed a search committee for a national search and last Twelfth Month hired Mr. Edward Hollinger to start in Seventh month as the new head. This school year has been one of stress and excitement as the administration changed. Farewells to Jon and Megan Alden and their family, including their four children who have grown up in the school began this spring with events to wish them well as they move to South Carolina. At the same time, the meeting and school community is gradually getting to know Ed with brief visits to Virginia Beach from Greensboro where he was finishing his year as the Head of the Upper School at New Garden Friends School. As of this week the transition occurred when Ed officially became the Head of the school the first day of Seventh month. He will be spending the summer stepping into his new position and getting acquainted with the community, staff and faculty during the summer camps and while preparing for the beginning of school Ninth month 1.

The school has spent much time in the past two years in visioning what the school could become in 20 or more years. As a result, the school is beginning the process of looking for a new campus with more space to grow. The current site is bounded with apartments on two sides and the interstate on a third side.

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The fourth side of the school is the Meeting property. While the combined property of the Meeting and school is over 10 acres, the school will be looking for at least 20 acres to plan for future growth. While the school will remain small, there is a need for more space to expand programs and attract new students from a larger area in Hampton Roads.

There is much new excitement and enthusiasm at the school and everyone is looking forward to a promising year with our new Head.

Lisa Wynkoop, Clerk of Virginia Beach Friends School

32. Epistle to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Friends approved the following Epistle to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Dear Friends in Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative,

We are grateful for this opportunity to send you, our brothers and sisters in Christ, loving greetings. We delight in thinking of you gathering for your annual sessions at Scattergood Friends School amidst the fields of green corn, prairie flowers, and open skies.

We send our warm greetings from the campus of the University of North Carolina in Wilmington where we are graced by the scent of long-leaf pines and warm ocean breezes.

We have experienced the common ties that bind us together coming alive as your epistle to us was read during our sessions and we very much appreciated the presence of your member Cathy Gardner among us.

Our annual sessions opened with worship under the care of our ministers, elders, and overseers, followed by responses to queries specific to that body. It was a time of an emerging sense of deep tenderness, honest wrestling with difficult issues, a clear sense of God's Love and sharing of burdens.

The tenderness of listening and gathering carried through into later sessions when we were gifted with responses to the general queries from our Faith and Practice from each monthly meeting. We find the discipline of responding to queries served to both give us a sense of the health and well

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being of the yearly meeting body and a sense of the workings of the Holy Spirit among us.

During this time where, to all outward appearances, Quakers are losing members, we have been blessed by a request from the Davidson Monthly Meeting in Davidson, North Carolina, to join our yearly meeting. This request was joyfully approved.

We are reminded of the importance of being patterns in the world as we witness to Quaker faith and practice with our children. They have blessed our annual gathering with their joyful noises, and radiating Love. We find they help us connect to one another and the Divine through play and celebration of our time together.

Throughout the sessions we find ourselves hearing a renewed call to awareness of the depth of spiritual direction that Quakers offer the world.

In Divine Love,
Sidney Lee Kitchens, clerk
North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

33. Epistle to Ohio Yearly Meeting

Friends approved the following Epistle to Ohio Yearly Meeting.

Dear Friends in Ohio Yearly Meeting,

We are grateful for this opportunity to send to you, our brothers and sisters in Christ, loving greetings. We delight in picturing you gathering in Barnesville, Ohio, amidst the beautiful light of the firefly's evening dance.

We send our greeting from the campus of the University of North Carolina in Wilmington, where we are graced by the scent of the long-leaf pines and warm ocean breezes.

We experienced the common ties that bind us together come alive as your epistle to us was read during our sessions, and as your member, David Eley, moved among us.

Our annual sessions opened with worship under the care of our Yearly Meeting of Ministers, Elders, and Overseers, followed by responses to queries specific for that body. It was a time of an emerging sense of deep tenderness, honest wrestling with difficult issues, a clear sense of God's Love and sharing of burdens.

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This tenderness of listening and gathering carried through into later sessions as we were gifted with responses to the more general queries of our Faith and Practice from each monthly meeting. We find the discipline of responding to queries serves to both give us a sense of the health and well-being of the body of our yearly meeting, and a sense of the workings of the Holy Spirit among us.

During this time when, to all outward appearances, Quakers are losing members, we have been blessed by a request from the Davidson Monthly Meeting in Davidson, North Carolina, to join our yearly meeting. This request was joyfully approved.

We are reminded of the importance of being patterns in the world as we witness Quaker faith and practice with our children. They have blessed our annual gathering with their joyful noises and radiating love. We find they help us connect to one another and the Divine through play and celebration of our time together.

Throughout the sessions we find ourselves hearing a renewed Call to awareness of the depth of spiritual direction that Quakers offer the world.

In Divine Love,

Sidney Lee Kitchens, clerk

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34. Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

Bill Jeffries and Eric Ginsburg reported briefly on the activities of the Friends Committee on National Legislation. Over one third of the staff has had to be laid off and so FCNL is counting more on volunteer assistance. Numbers of contributors and amounts of contributions are up despite the economic downturn. While the monetary value of donations are up, this does not offset the loss of income from the endowment due to the economy. The focus areas that FCNL has upheld are still maintained, but some programs within those areas have been cut, and the remaining programs are often being staffed by interns. Friends should alert young adult Friends that more internships are now available.

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35. Minutes of Concern to be Re-sent to Governmental Bodies

Friends approved that this body would send the NCYM(C) 2007 Minute Opposing the Use of Torture and the NCYM(C) 2008 Minute of Concern for Iran (with slight revisions) to the North Carolina delegation and the current sitting president of the United States.

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

Friends approved that the minutes of the Yearly Meeting of Ministers, Elders and Overseers and query responses be included in the 2009 yearly meeting minutes.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Ministry and Oversight 312th Yearly Meeting

At the Yearly Meeting of Ministry and Oversight of the NCYM-C of the Religious Society of Friends held at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington on Seventh Month 8, 2009. After a period of waiting worship the clerk opened with a reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

Representatives from the monthly meetings were recognized.

Durham: Andrew Wright, Jo Anne Jeffries, Bill Jeffries

Fayetteville: Chuck Fager

Friendship: Carole Treadway, Ray Treadway, Deborah Shaw, Sidney Lee Kitchens, Claire Koster, Nan Bowles (also representing Beaufort Worship Group/Pamlico Friends Preparative Meeting)

Greenville: Mary Miller, Richard Miller

Rich Square: Barbara Gosney, Robert Gosney, Susan Wilson, Lloyd Lee Wilson, Charles Ansell, Janis Ansell

Virginia Beach: Nancy Craft, Louise Wilson, Ruth Anne Childress

West Grove: Eric Ginsberg, Les Fleming

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Wilmington: Jeanne Rose

Davidson: Patricia Levering, David Perry

The following visitors were welcomed: Mark Wukta, Atlanta MM, Sayma; Ceal Wukta, Atlanta MM, Sayma; Peter Buck, Asheville MM, Sayma; Alice Wald, Columbia MM, Sayma; David Eley, Keystone Fellowship, Ohio YM

Minutes from Seventh Month 2008 were read. Friends corrected some minor errors and omissions. Minutes from 4th Month were read. Reports from Greenville, Rich Square, Virginia Beach, West Grove and Wilmington were read. Charles Ansell was named elder in Rich Square MM on First Month 11, 2009. Patricia Phelan Young was named elder in Virginia Beach MM on Fifth Month 10, 2009.

Answers to the “Queries for Meeting of Ministry and Oversight” were read by representatives of Friendship, Greenville, Rich Square, Virginia Beach and West Grove. The body entered into a period of silent worship after hearing the answers read.

The Advices were read and the body settled back into silent worship.

Out of the silence emerged a sense that maintaining love and unity among members of our particular monthly meetings was indeed work that some are called to do and that it is important and often difficult work. Simply reading the queries makes us conscious of these duties and having to report to this body on how well we have performed them makes us better. It also provides an opportunity for those who are facing special problems at the local meeting to ask for and receive help from others in YM.

The clerk asked Friends to reflect on the questions that were raised at the 7th month 2008 meeting of this body:

1. What is this Yearly Meeting? Is it the people who are gathered here now or is it something bigger?
2. 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 the yearly meeting needs to sit with? Are there already answers?

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Friends approved that we go forward with consideration of these queries about the nature and purpose of this body. The clerk is asked to continue to discuss this with Friends to get clarity about the details of how this might be done in 10th Month or as way opens.

The body approved that the minutes of this meeting and from 4th Month be published in the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting along with the reports and answers to the queries forwarded by the Monthly Meetings.

This gathering concluded with a period of silent worship purposing to meet again in 10th Month if consistent with the Divine Will.

Richard Miller, Recording Clerk for NCYM Ministry and Oversight

Greenville Friends Meeting report to Ministers, Elders and Overseers Seventh Month, 2009

Representatives to Ministers and Elders Yearly Meeting
Richard Miller and Mary Miller are appointed representatives.

We are truly blessed to see a growing strength and grace in our meeting. Our location for meeting for worship has changed. We now meet in a lovely sun room overlooking lawns and woods in the Cypress Glen Retirement Community. Our membership continues to shift, as work and family cause several members and attenders to leave. While we miss their presence, we know that their time was fruitful. We have welcomed two new persons to the meeting community.

Our discussions over coffee on First Day, and during our reading group have deepened. We are learning more about each other, and though there are differences in our personal beliefs we are in unity in seeking stronger connections with the Divine. This strengthening of the meeting has allowed us to resume regular business meetings since January. Regular business Meetings are helping familiarize members with Quaker traditions and process.

Meeting has agreed to a request to take Pamlico Friends worship group under our care as a Preparative Meeting. During the Spring, Richard Miller had to temporarily suspend his

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monthly visits to them in order to fulfill an obligation to visit all the monthly meetings in our Yearly Meeting. These visits will resume soon with other Friends agreeing to share in the work.

As members age and require assistance to attend meeting we are providing the necessary care in a loving and respectful fashion.

Report for 2008-2009 from the Meeting of Ministry and Oversight of Rich Square Monthly Meeting to the annual session of the Meeting of Ministry and Oversight of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) on the 8th of 7th Month, 2009

The following representatives to the Yearly Meeting Ministry and Oversight annual session were appointed: Charles Ansell, Lloyd Lee Wilson, Barbara Gosney, Robert Gosney.

On First Month 11, 2009 Charles Ansell was named elder in Rich Square Monthly Meeting. There have been no other changes in the names of those serving as ministers and elders in Rich Square Monthly Meeting.

The Advices and Queries for the Meeting of Ministry and Oversight were read during the year and Queries One, Two, Three, and Five were answered. Attached are the answers to the four queries which were answered.

On behalf of the Meeting, Robert Gosney, Clerk

2009 Report of the Meeting of Ministry and Oversight of the Virginia Beach Friends Meeting

1. We have read the Ministry and Oversight Advices.
2. The responses to the queries are attached.
3. We recorded Patricia Phelan Young as an Elder on 5/10/2009
4. In response to the clerk's request of Fourth Month, the following is offered. It was noted that this Meeting has recently been struggling with balancing our spiritual growth with business concerns, and we would find it beneficial to hear from Yearly Meeting's M&O committee how other Meetings have successfully met those challenges.

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5. Representatives to the Yearly Meeting Ministry and Oversight Meeting are Nancy Craft and others who are able to attend.

Nancy Craft, Clerk

West Grove Monthly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) Report of the Meeting of Ministers, Elders, and Overseers Seventh Month, 2009

Taken from the minutes of the West Grove Meeting of Ministers, Elders, and Overseers held Sixth Month 10th, 2009, at which Elder Dixie Newlin and Overseers Charles and Laurie Newlin, and Clerk of Ministers, Elders, and Overseers Eric Ginsburg were present.

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

Eric Ginsburg, Clerk

Wilmington Friends , Ministry and Worship Committee Report to NCYMC Ministry and Oversight Committee

Our small three member committee met several times throughout the year. Time was spent sharing concerns for Friends and thoughtfully considering issues as they arose. We did not answer queries this year. Completion of a rather daunting project, however, was accomplished as we researched and crafted procedures for marriage, membership, and general clearness committees.

We have not named any ministers, elders, or overseers during the year.

Responses to the “Queries for Meeting of Ministry and Oversight” from the North Carolina Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice (p35) *Absence of response indicates query was not considered in this cycle or was not submitted*

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

Friendship Monthly Meeting: We continue from the previous year to have a concern with the role of elder and are also feeling our way to better understanding the role of the overseer. We are aware of our duties and have tried to meet them as best we can. We understand our responsibilities are part of an ongoing process, one that takes us deep into the Inward Life. A fuller discussion of the roles of our two committees--Worship and Ministry (ministers and elders) and Care and Counsel (overseers)--helped us learn that the two committees need to meet together more often, perhaps even be merged into one committee. While our Worship and Ministry Committee has been functioning well, our Care and Counsel Committee members feel that the underlying spiritual aspects of oversight have been neglected. That committee would like to regain the spiritual basis it formerly had before the split into two committees for ministering to our members' needs. Both committees agreed to a joint meeting in 6th month to address this issue and to decide what to do next year.

Greenville Monthly Meeting: The guidance we share with our meeting bears fruit. Our members are assuming responsibility for the business of the meeting and to each other. Individuals are stepping forward to assume the necessary activities of the meeting.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting: We are aware of our duties as ministers, elders and overseers. We recognize that we are all responsible for pastoral care in the meeting, but feel in our present condition the need to discern additional people in meeting with gifts in this area so they might be named as overseers. We seek, with divine assistance, to conduct ourselves in a manner commensurate with our responsibilities.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting: Our members have been low in attendance for the past couple of months. We are hopeful our group will have full participation this fall. Being a part of this body is more than being at each meeting. Reading the section in

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the Faith and Practice relating to this body before our next meeting is a way to reacquaint us with our responsibilities. Is there life in the role we have in this meeting? Being faithful to the call of God is inherent in our willingness to serve as we are called. Growing into our duties is an action of faith that always continues. We have a responsibility to be attentive to our calling and to the spiritual life of the meeting.

West Grove Monthly Meeting: We have discussed the duties of the Overseers and are generally aware of our responsibilities. We recognize that there is more that we could do to see to the spiritual life of the Meeting and we do endeavor to conduct ourselves in a manner as befits our obligations.

Query 2. Do we attend regularly all meetings for ministers, elders and overseers? Are we faithful in attending all other meetings for worship and business, taking our families with us when appropriate?

Friendship Monthly Meeting

A joint committee retreat was held this fall and led to good things this year for the Meeting. A bonus was the valuable conversations that took place between members while riding up to the retreat. Except for absences due to illnesses, attendance at our committee meetings has been good. There has been some lack of faithfulness in attending meetings for worship with attention to business.

Greenville Monthly Meeting.

Our commitment has not wavered; we attend our meetings for worship and other activities regularly. We do not have regularly scheduled meetings for ministry and oversight but frequently informally discuss the spiritual and material needs of our members.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting.

Most of us attend our meetings regularly and are faithful in attending other meetings for worship and business as we are able. We recognize we need to communicate with those members of this body who may be absent.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting.

We strive to be faithful. We have changed the date and time of M&O and this seem to be working better.

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West Grove Monthly Meeting. This body has not met regularly this year, as in many previous years, but we have had several called meetings of Ministers, Elders, and Overseers this year to consider and to provide counsel to the Meeting and its members on several matters. We have endeavored to ensure that at least some of our number attend meetings of NCYM(C) Ministers, Elders, and Overseers in conjunction with Representative Body Meetings and we have included our families whenever it is appropriate to do so. We have considered the currently appointed Overseers, removing Gerald Newlin and adding Laurie Newlin, and agreeing to inquire of absent members their intentions regarding the Meeting.

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

Friendship Monthly Meeting.

The query serves as a helpful reminder to us, individually and as a committee, always to return to the source so as not to outrun our measure. The depth of the opening worship at our committee meetings helps as we search for divine guidance. We also return to the silence when we need to recenter.

Greenville Monthly Meeting.

We do wait for Divine Inspiration in the exercise of our gifts. We try to lead primarily by example and less often by verbal explanation when that seems appropriate.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting.

We feel we seek to wait for and move under Divine inspiration in the exercise of our gifts. We are mindful of the need to be attentive in our waiting so that we may truly exercise our gifts.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting.

We waited long on several items before we were able to finally move forward last month. As we get to know each other better, discernment comes more clearly, leading to growth and change. We can affirm each other better and quicker. Still, some of our gifts as ministers, elders, and overseers are not yet known among us. We not only know the good qualities, but we can see faults, leaving opportunity for division among us. A community grounded in Spirit helps guard against these temptations.

West Grove Monthly Meeting.

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We do indeed wait for Divine guidance, perhaps too long sometimes, in the exercise of our gifts. Both as individuals and as a body, we do not rush to act in the absence of Divine inspiration, but seek clarity before action.

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

Friendship Monthly Meeting.

Worship and Ministry continues to seek ways to nurture the spiritual life of the meeting and its members. A series of dinners is being planned for small groups of members and attenders for the purpose of sharing our spiritual journeys.

An all meeting retreat was held in Second Month for a time of sharing. Nan Bowles presented her slide show, “Scattering the Seeds” with her narration. A meeting was held at Friends Homes West on a Sixth Day evening and more may be held as way opens.

Our midweek meeting as Friends Homes Guilford continues to be held.

Greenville Monthly Meeting.

It is our hope that we promote the spiritual growth of our meeting family. We are encouraged by regular attendance at meeting for worship and the monthly discussion group. We are attentive to the inclusion of the basic principles of Friends as situations require. We do strive to live blameless lives.

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting.

We are attempting to engage our members and attenders with new offerings and programs. We are currently working to focus ourselves in the present, trying to move beyond the struggles of the past.

West Grove Monthly Meeting.

We have carefully and prayerfully considered this query, as concerns have arisen this past year over whether we are in true unity that West Grove is indeed a Christ-centered meeting, and we have considered and discussed the place that the Bible and its

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Scriptures hold within our Meetings for Worship. We take to heart the guidance given in the Advices contained in our Book of Discipline that we be diligent in our private perusal of the Holy Scriptures, and that we make a point of reading them in our families. We also acknowledge that our corporate worship should not be confined by what is found in the Scriptures and that it should be under the care of the living Christ, for whose voice we strive to listen and to be led by. In the end, this body is in unity that West Grove remains a Christ-centered meeting and we seek to move under His guidance in all things. We feel that on the few occasions where spoken ministry is received, it does promote the spiritual growth of our members, building it up in the faith that is in Jesus Christ. We recognize that among some of our members there is a growing gift for ministry and that as a body, our responsibility is to tenderly guide and nurture this gift.

Query 5. Are we in unity with one another and the meeting to which we belong?

Friendship Monthly Meeting.

We try. We sometimes misunderstand each other. It is much easier to be in unity with one another when we know each other better. Spending time together and enjoying each other's company builds the capacity to talk about difficult issues. We believe that more worship sharing groups would foster unity. We struggle to remember that unity does not mean unanimity and true unity means being able to disagree with love and respect.

Greenville Monthly Meeting.

We are in unity with one another, and with our meeting.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting.

Love and unity are maintained among us, and it is a blessing of the Lord that it is so.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting.

Unity does not mean total agreement with one another. It's important to us that the Meeting be a safe place to express our fears and expectations without being labeled as "in conflict." We seek unity as a body with the Holy Spirit. We gain extra insight from our willingness to listen. If we come with hearts and

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minds open to the Spirit, clinging to no set agenda, we can leave feeling easy that, as a group, we've been led forward.

West Grove Monthly Meeting.

We recognize that silence does not always equal unity and we encourage Friends to more openly give voice to their concerns, that they be held in the Light and be respectfully considered. This is not always a comfortable thing to do, for we do not seek to create disunity, but we acknowledge that it is important that cares and concerns be aired and addressed if unity is to be truly maintained among us.

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

Friendship Monthly Meeting.

Since we can find more things we think we have to do endlessly, we continue to seek to learn what has to be set aside in order to be of service to our Meeting. We need to nurture our inward life so that we can be effectively engaged in activities outside the Meeting. It is not what we do at Meeting, but what we do with our lives when we leave Meeting that is important. It is also possible to become so involved in the business of the Meeting that we lose the spiritual focus.

Greenville Monthly Meeting.

The need to earn a living does not take up so much of our time as to interfere with our religious lives and duties. However, as our parents grow older and require more care this poses a challenge

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting Response.

Whatever we do, the basis of our belief is with us. The pressure of business issues can sometimes cause tension in our spiritual life. We must guard to be faithful to the Spirit.

West Grove Monthly Meeting.

We are mindful that the ways in which work is conducted in modern life are not always conducive to the nurture of our religious lives and mindfulness to the leadings of the Holy Spirit. We recognize in ourselves a tendency sometimes to take on too many responsibilities and that this can impair our attention to our

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own spiritual needs, as well as to the spiritual needs of the Meeting.

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

Friendship Monthly Meeting. We are committed to discovering what it means to watch over one another for good. We use the clearness committee process to try to meet the needs of individual members. We are careful to appoint strong clearness committees that can address the specific issues raised. Members are quick to respond when needs are made known and feel free to share deeply personal issues with trusted Friends. The clearness process shows care for the young and inexperienced and can curb impulsiveness. Although we have a small number of youth, we welcome them and seek opportunities to be present for them as they grow. We do have a large presence of college students and have an important mutual ministry to each other. We note that the meeting is particularly strong in addressing the health and financial needs of individual members. We would like to develop the capacity to respond more effectively and see Care and Counsel as organizing the response of the whole meeting to the needs of the individual member.

Greenville Monthly Meeting.

We have earnestly attempted to watch over one another for good. Relationships are growing within the meeting that share in the oversight of one another. Counsel is gently offered as need arises.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting.

When we experience trials, we learn what we truly believe. The challenges we face give us the opportunity to grow. God is our help in the good times as well as in times of trouble. As we are able to see opportunities, we can be helpful to each other. We are called to be open to each other. As we step outside ourselves, we are able to do God's will, and as we reach out, we are also looking within ourselves.

West Grove Monthly Meeting

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We believe that we do watch over one another for good and have had several recent experiences in which to reflect on the counsel we provide. We feel that we have been careful in these instances to speak to what was needed, rather than what was asked for.

37. Calendar and Sites of representative Body Meetings

Friends approved that Tenth Month Representative Body will be held at Rich Square Monthly Meeting on the fourth weekend of the Tenth Month, 2009.

Friends approved that Fourth Month Representative Body will be held at West Grove Monthly Meeting on the fourth weekend of Fourth Month, 2010.

38. Yearly Meeting dates for 2010

Yearly Meeting sessions in 2010 will be held Seventh Month 14-18, 2010, at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina.

39. Minute of Appreciation for Outgoing Clerk, Sidney Lee Kitchens

We minute our deep appreciation for the four years of faithful service of our clerk, Sidney Lee Kitchens. He has guided our business sessions with the planning of the agenda, through the consideration of routine matters, and in finding the sense of the meeting on difficult decisions with care, good humor, and prayerfulness. He has also clerked the meetings of the Representative Body which has met twice a year in several locations, and has attended meetings and workshops on behalf of the Yearly Meeting. He has helped prepare the Yearly Meeting Minutes and shepherded its inaugural and subsequent publications via the Internet, with considerable savings in expense to the Yearly Meeting. Let us not forget the hundreds of emails he has received, letters read and answered, epistles mailed, and communications sent to our elected officials.

We thank Sid for all that he has done in guiding our Yearly Meeting over these past four years.

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40. Minute of Appreciation for Outgoing Recording Clerk, Deborah L. Shaw

We minute our abiding appreciation for five years of faithful service of our recording clerk, Deborah Shaw, as she completes her time in this position. We have been blessed by her skill and tenderness and accuracy in crafting the wording of our minutes, as she has recorded the reports given, the deliberations undertaken, and the decisions made during our business sessions. We marvel at her ability to write each minute so beautifully in the face of the meeting. She has also served the Yearly Meeting in taking the minutes for the sessions of the Representative Body over the same five years. We recognize with appreciation all the work that she has done after the business sessions have concluded, in preparing the Minutes for publication, not only for writing the record of our business, but also for assembling reports, arranging all the other documents and appendices, and overseeing the proofing of the final document.

We thank Deborah for all the work she has done on behalf of the Yearly Meeting.

41. Concluding Minute

As we met for our 312th session at UNC-Wilmington, we were grateful to have the presence of the loving, living Christ amongst us as we engaged in business, fellowship and discernment around our way forward. We have concluded our business for yearly meeting sessions 2009. We propose to meet again, if God is willing, at Guilford College in Seventh Month, 2010.

42. Epistle to All Friends Everywhere

Friends approved the Epistle to All Friends Everywhere, which was read before meeting for worship on First Day. The Epistle follows:

Dear Friends Everywhere,

Greetings from North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)! This 2009 session has gathered on the

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University of North Carolina campus at Wilmington where we have strolled the brick walkways, enjoying fragrant breezes beneath long leaf pines, blooming crape myrtle and bay bushes. Valuing this precious opportunity of being here together, we have explored through a variety of ways who we are and what we are called to be and to do. We are mindful of those who are not here with us – those in our yearly meeting, those in the wider world of Friends, and those in the world who particularly need our attention and care. We feel it is important to reach out and share with one another how God is present and active in our lives. We welcome hearing from you as you have occasion to reach out to us.

The theme of our gathering this year, “Which Way Now?”, has been addressed in multiple ways during our time together. Our Bible study offered the Bible as a compass. Our study of particular scriptural passages demonstrated the aptness of this image. A panel discussion by four Friends on “Convergent Friends in the Emergent Church Movement” reported on examples of how people of faith are sharing the work of the Spirit in new ways. One evening Brent Bill, author of Sacred Compass, offered us avenues of discernment toward finding our way in a world where we can know the presence of a loving God. In the discussion following his talk, we reflected how we express joy within our spiritual tradition. Less directly focused on the theme, but no less involved with it, were our meetings for worship, and meetings for worship with attention to business. We shared our conditions with one another as we listened to query answers and state of society reports from our monthly meetings. We informally met, intentionally and by chance, with one another in spiritual conversations that reflected the theme. We are being called to reach out to others in ways that mutually affirm everyone’s experience of God.

We enthusiastically welcomed Davidson Monthly Meeting into our yearly meeting. This was the culmination of a period of sustained visitation and careful deliberation. Davidson Meeting had become a well established independent meeting before requesting membership in our yearly meeting. We learned that Greenville Monthly Meeting has agreed for Pamlico

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Worship Group in Beaufort, NC to come under their care as they move toward becoming a meeting.

Our yearly meeting of ministry and oversight provided opportunities for learning about how the gifts of care, counsel, guidance and ministry are exercised in our meetings. On three consecutive afternoons we considered oversight, then ministry, and finally eldering. Each afternoon a group of experienced Friends shared responses to relevant queries.

We were blessed with a sweet and lively group of children and young people. They enjoyed a well planned program of activities including trips to the beach, boating, skating, bowling, writing an epistle and preparing a skit for our final evening. The performance of their skit on the history of the Society of Friends delighted us with their good natured humor, cooperation and joy. These young Friends presented us with a hopeful sign for “which way now”.

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

43. Summary of Exercises

Friends approved the Summary of Exercises, which was read before meeting for worship on First Day. The Summary of Exercises follows:

The 312th Gathering of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) met on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. It has been surprisingly cool for a North Carolina Seventh Month. Since the residence hall, the dining room and the meeting rooms are separated from each other by some distance there has been much zipping to and fro on the golf carts, bicycles and Mary Miller’s adult sized tricycle.

The Gathering opened with worship on Fourth Day where in the silence was a feeling of quiet confidence and a sense of rightness that we were here. Fourth Day evening saw the Yearly Meeting of Ministers, Elders and Overseers. After hearing reports and answers to queries from those responsible for ministry and counsel in the various monthly meetings the body settled into a period of silent worship. Out of the silence emerged a sense that maintaining love and unity among us and promoting

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the spiritual growth of our members is indeed work that some are specially called to do and that this body serves an important role in assisting in that work.

We were blessed by the presence of visiting Friends from many places including Michigan, Iowa, Ohio, South Carolina, Georgia, Texas, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and the North of England.

Bill Geary reported on new spiritual growth evident in his prison ministry this past year. In addition to moving letters from individual inmates, this year we also received for the first time a letter from the group as a whole. The yearly meeting recognized that this represented a new sense of unity within that worship group and was clear to respond to that letter with an epistle of our own.

The answers to the queries were read over a period of two days. This year for the first time in several years every monthly meeting answered queries, although the answers from Virginia Beach were not received in time to be read in the face of meeting. The answers showed that monthly meetings are honestly seeking to reveal the truth about their spiritual condition.

Fifth Day evening brought a panel discussion of Convergent Friends and the Emerging Church. Friends were curious to hear about these developments about which they knew little. The emergent church movement finds inspiration in Quaker practices and tradition. They are suspicious of hierarchies, favor small groups, reject the political conservatism of the Protestant churches from which they spring, are sensitive to social justice issues and seek a simpler more inclusive theology. Convergent Friends are interested in creatively combining elements from all branches of Quakerism and have an interest in the emerging church movement. Friends were interested to learn about these new developments.

Scott Holmes led Bible study each morning with the theme of Bible as sacred compass. The sessions were wide ranging and lively with many Friends contributing their spiritual perspectives and offering Bible stories to illustrate the many themes discussed including: aspirations, hearing and listening to God, pitfalls and distractions, community and several kinds of

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suffering. Scott's enthusiasm and openness drew many responses from the audience on every day of the Bible study.

The youth program has been growing over the past few years and continued to grow this year. More than twenty young Friends ranging in age from infancy to high school roller skated, went bowling, went kayaking and sailing, visited the beach and the aquarium. Besides fun they worked hard as well. The group composed a Youth Epistle that considers what it means to be a Quaker youth. Since they tackled serious issues and used real Quaker process the work took two hours.

On successive afternoons Friends were invited to interest sessions on oversight, ministry and eldering. A presentation technique known as "fishbowl" was employed; for example, on the first afternoon Friends experienced in oversight sat in a circle in the middle of the room and shared experiences and reflections on serving their monthly meetings in this capacity. Friends learned much about the traditional practice of these gifts and their service to the meeting.

Sixth Day evening keynote speaker, Brent Bill from Indiana spoke to us on the theme of "Discerning Which Way Now." He talked about his range of experiences of Friends' traditions beginning with his youth with Evangelical Friends through his current experience with an unprogrammed worship group which includes people from widely ranging religious backgrounds. He shared with us his metaphor of the Holy Spirit as Sacred Compass pointing us always towards God which we can use at any point in our lives no matter what our spiritual position.

We heard state of society reports from seven of the monthly meetings. There is an ebb and flow in the life of our monthly meetings over time which reveals itself in these reports. We can see new growth in our yearly meeting as we welcomed Davidson Friends to our body as a member meeting during one of our business sessions, and the Pamlico Sound Friends Worship Group has become a preparative meeting under the care of Greenville. West Grove and Greenville are doing better after having experienced difficulties in previous years. On the other hand Wilmington is suffering. Friends were urgently reminded

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of the good that can be accomplished by personal visits to meetings that need help.

We were surprised to find controversy arising from a fairly routine treasurer's report. A concern was raised about a proposed contribution to the School of the Spirit and the ensuing discussion revealed that Friends were not ready to make a decision at this time

Seventh Day evening was devoted to a program written by Maya Wright and presented by the young Friends in which they gave an encapsulated history of American Quakerism including all our splits, ranging from Hicksite/Orthodox, the Gurneyites, Wilburites, Evangelicals, Conservatives, and Beanites. They moved on to the convergences including FUM, EFI, FGC, Conservative and Independent branches of American Quakerism. They concluded by reminding us that we are the next step in a living tradition.

“Finally, dear Friends, take heed to yourselves, and to all the flock amongst whom you have been called to labor. Be faithful, be patient, be in earnest to fulfill your appointed service that when the chief shepherd shall appear you may receive the crown of glory that fadeth not away.” --from the Advices to Meeting of Ministry and Oversight

44. 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 accepted with gratitude and follows:

Dear F(f)riends around the world:

We know we're special. But what does that mean? We're Quaker kids, but who are we?

We are thoughtful. We think about others. We want to consciously be aware of others' thoughts and feelings. We know that we have power. As long we can say what we think, we can cause change.

We are caring and giving to all. We are willing to help others in need. But we wonder: could being caring make us selfish? Sometimes we help others because we know their smile of thanks will reward us, make us feel good. But it's still helpful,

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and everyone gains from the experience. And we really do care. Most kids do, if they are asked. Most have tried to help someone or rescued an animal, like the lizard Corena relocated from our sailboat to the island. We care for each other, and we care for our planet.

We are peaceful. We don't condone violence or war. Everyone's happiness is more important. We don't want people to have to worry about loved ones in conflict. Everyone has the right to enjoy life. We are willing to confront things, and ask hard questions in order to avoid more violence. When we get to know someone, often we find that we are more alike than different, and as friends, we are able to respect any differences. If kids can do it, why can't the world? For that matter, if we're in a war over oil, why can't we just ask for it? Oh, right-money! But, as Brian pointed out, we could make our engines more efficient, use less oil ... conserving our energies-both oils and peoples.

We react differently to popular culture. The thing about pop culture is that it seems people are only interested in it because their friends are. We wonder: if you have to look exactly like everyone else wants you to so that your friends will like you, are they real friends? Not for us, but that choice takes guts. We trust in ourselves, and in the fact that our real friends will continue to like us, no matter what we look like. If we don't care about other people's opinions all the time, and are ourselves, then our confidence gains us respect. For us:(weird' is a kind of compliment. We guess you could call us peculiar. Sometimes, we see a really violent video game. We normally try to stay away; they repel us. It's not real people, but these games give kids ideas. Why should even pretending to kill people ever be fun? But this influence is all around us, in video games, movies, television, and music. Can pop culture feed into real life? Are we being trained to be violent from an early age? Again these are the questions we ask every day.

We are comfortable being ourselves. We don't try to hide anything, but we have so many different sides, our friends might not know them all. We are the most ourselves with our families. Even though we act differently outside our homes, we try to

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carry our identity throughout. We often have similar interests to everyone else, but we can go about them in our own unique way.

We have support, ranging from our families to the Quaker community at large. We have chances to connect with other kids who dare to be different, both inside Quaker gatherings and out. We are comfortable doing new things, stretching our horizons and challenging our beliefs. We accept each other as we all learn. This week we have kayaked, boogie-boarded, sailed, roller skated, bowled, and had fun together.

Right now, this is who we are. We continue to grow and change with time, as we form our own opinions and shape ourselves, finding our places in this ever-changing world.

Peace out, peeps!!

The Teen and Young Friends:

As Written By: Beryl Shoemaker, Brian Owens, Celeste Campbell, Corena Owens, Gigi Williamson, Micah Barnhill-Wright, Paulina Campbell

Friends requested that the Young Friends consider allowing their Epistle to be included with the Minutes of Concern that are to be sent to elected officials. Young Friends approved that their Epistle be included.

Appendix

Ministers and Elders in NCYM-C 2009

<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 Edward Pearce Bruce R. Pulliam Charles Ansell
	VIRGINIA BEACH	
Louise Wilson Paula Justice Craft		Patricia Phalen Young Nancy
	WEST GROVE	
None		Dixie Newlin
	WILMINGTON	

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None

None

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Yearly Meeting Officers 2009-2010**

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Monthly Meeting Clerks and Treasurers

CLERK	RECORDING CLERK	TREASURER
Jan Blodgett	DAVIDSON	
	DURHAM	
Joe Graedon	Marguerite Dingman	Joyce Frederick
	FAYETTEVILLE	
Chuck Fager	Wendy Michener	Susan Lees
	Ann Ashford	
	FRIENDSHIP	
Dave MacInnes	Benji Hebner	Ray Treadway
	GREENVILLE	
Richard Miller	Joanne Holden	Mary Miller
	RICH SQUARE	
Barbara C Gosney	Susan S Wilson	Robert E Gosney
	VIRGINIA BEACH	
Rebecca Mani	Paula Justice	Ruth Anne Childress
	WEST GROVE	
Jennifer Ginsberg	_____	Dora Owens
	WILMINGTON	
Cheryl Fetterman	Goldie Walton	Sam Rose

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

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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	Susan Wilson	Suzanne Cooper-Guasco,
Patty Levering	Anne Olsen	Kristin Olson-Kennedy
David Perry		

Standing Committees

2009-2010

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)
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)
Joyce Frederick	(Durham 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)
David Perry, ex-officio	(Davidson Monthly Meeting)

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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.*

Ray Treadway, Registrar (Friendship Monthly Meeting)
Gwen G. Erickson (Friendship Monthly Meeting)

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

Robert Gosney (Convener) (Rich Square Monthly Meeting)
Jennifer Ginsburg (West Grove Monthly Meeting)
Sidney Lee Kitchens (Friendship Monthly Meeting)
Kristin Olson-Kennedy (Davidson Monthly Meeting)
Susan Wilson (Rich Square 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.)*

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William O'Connor (Convener) (Durham Monthly Meeting)
Cheryl Fetterman (Wilmington Monthly Meeting)
Keith Williamson (Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting)
Ethan Williamson (Wilmington Monthly Meeting)
(A youth representative is being sought for this committee)

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)

Davidson	Suzanne Cooper-Guasco
Durham	Bill O'Conner
Fayetteville	Robert Cooper
Friendship	Claire Koster
Greenville	Joanne Holden
Rich Square	Bruce Pulliam
Virginia Beach	Nancy Craft
West Grove	Les Fleming
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.*

Davidson	Anne Olsen
Durham	William O'Conner
Fayetteville	Ann Ashford
Friendship	Sandy Bowles
Greenville	Richard Miller
Rich Square	Barbara Gosney, (convener)
Virginia Beach	Ruth Anne Childres
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.*

Davidson	David Perry
Durham	Joyce Frederick

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Fayetteville	Susan Lees
Friendship	Ray Treadway
Greenville	Mary Miller
Rich Square	Robert Gosney
Virginia Beach	Ruth Ann Chillardres
West Grove	Dora Owens (Convener)
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 Chillardres	(Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting)
Rebecca Mani	(Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting)
Minerva Glidden	(Wilmington Monthly Meeting)

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 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.*

Susan Lees (Fayetteville Monthly Meeting)

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) – 2009

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, 2009 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 12/2010
William Jeffries (Durham Monthly Meeting) term ends 12/2011
Caroline Dyer-Gunn (Durham Monthly Meeting) term ends 12/2012
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

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 12/31/2011
Barbara Gosney (Rich Square) term ending 12/31/2010
(Two additional representatives are needed)

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)

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) – 2009

Eric Ginsberg (West Grove Monthly Meeting)

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/

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

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North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) – 2009

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
nefriends@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
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

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) – 2009

nanquaker@aol.com

For other information on Quaker organizations – please check
<http://www.quakerinfo.com/>

Sidney Lee Kitchens, Clerk
North Carolina Yearly Meeting (*Conservative*)
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Greensboro, NC 27404
336.273.2199
clerk@ncymc.org

**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**