

**Minutes of the Representative Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
Fourth Month 23, 2011**

The Representative Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) convened at West Grove meetinghouse near Snow Camp, North Carolina on the 23rd of Fourth Month, 2011. Meeting opened with expectant waiting worship, out of which the clerk read Isaiah chapter 40, verses 28-32.

Mark Wutka of Atlanta Friends Meeting, SAYMA, Atlanta, GA, introduced himself as a visitor and he was welcomed, in the sense of being welcomed home.

The minutes from the Tenth Month, 2010, Representative Body Meeting were read.

The clerk checked on the success of distributing the agenda via email, with mixed results. Barbara Gosney asked on behalf of the webpage committee that each monthly meeting ensure that the yearly meeting is aware of the most current contact information for each meeting.

The clerk also made the body aware that there was an inquiry into procedures for becoming part of the yearly meeting, and although there has been no further response to his follow up information, his recollection is that this inquiry was made by Salem Meeting in Winston-Salem.

The clerk asked for guidance on how to respond to groups that feel a kinship with our yearly meeting but which are not within easy traveling distance. There is a sense that true faith community requires face-to-face contact. Of concern were the questions, "Should we be reaching out at all?" and, "What kind of relationship should we seek to maintain with these individuals or groups that contact us?"

The sense of the meeting was that when groups (including existing monthly meetings) or individuals inquire, the yearly meeting clerk is to welcome them, especially to visit; To come and be with us. The clerk should do this as requests come in, and is to emphasize being with us in our true form, and then see if they still want to be with us after knowing us.

The sense was reaffirmed that individual membership is for the discernment of monthly meetings not the yearly meeting.

The sense was that requests for affiliation with North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) from monthly meetings affiliated with other yearly meeting require special tact in proceeding with discernment, but we are open to exploring. It was reiterated that this exploration requires extended interaction and being led by the Spirit as to the rightness of this relationship.

The body approved directing the website committee to develop statements providing information that would be useful for inquiring individuals or groups and bring those back to the yearly meeting for approval. This communication is to include making it clear that the door is open.

Janis Ansell reported for the *representative body of the Yearly Meeting of Ministry and Oversight*. Friends approved that the report be included in the minutes.

On Eleventh Month 20, 2010, our yearly meeting's Ministry and Oversight representatives met in a called session at West Grove Meetinghouse to consider the query, "How can we, as a body of ministers, elders and overseers of the yearly meeting, serve to nurture our monthly meetings?"

Those present united in the importance of visitation within the monthly meetings as a form of nurture both to the meetings visited and also to the visitors. To facilitate this action, the Clerk agreed to receive requests for visitation from monthly meetings and to relay this information to the named representatives to the body of Ministers, Elders and Overseers.

To date, the Clerk has received two requests for visitation which led to five Friends visiting Wilmington Friends Meeting on 1st Month 30, 2011 and seven Friends visiting Davidson Meeting on Fourth Month 17, 2011.

In addition, some Friends have informed the Clerk of their independent travel to Wilmington and Core Sound.

Janis Ansell
Clerk, Yearly Meeting Ministry and Oversight

Patty Levering reported for the *Yearly Meeting Planning Committee*. Friends approved that the report be included in the minutes.

The theme of this summer's yearly meeting sessions will be "Living the Faith: Becoming the Beloved Community."

The Bible study will be led by Andrew Wright of Durham Friends Meeting, currently a student in the Access program of Earlham School of Religion. He has a leading to teach Bible and we wanted to encourage his leading. He will speak to us on the theme of the yearly meeting sessions, drawing from New Testament scriptures.

The evening programs will begin on Thursday with a panel presentation on Living the Faith. Panel members are Karen Stewart of Durham Friends, Ray Treadway of Friendship Meeting, and Charlie and Janis of West Grove. The panel will talk about their faith, their involvement with Quakers, and how that has impacted the choices in their lives. The panel presentation is intended to encourage sharing from others at yearly meeting.

On Friday night we will have Evelyn Jadin, currently a student at Earlham School of Religion, formerly a QLSP student at Guilford. She was on the editorial board (with our own Rachel Miller) that produced the collection of writings by young Quakers called *Spirit Rising*. To give us a sense of our connection with this young adult Friend and to open us to the message she will be bringing us, a portion of her piece in *Spirit Rising* was read.

On Saturday night we will have an intergenerational experience, something suited for all ages and physical abilities, called InterPlay. InterPlay is a creative, active way to unlock the wisdom of the body and build community. Our leaders will be Peter Buck and Joy Anna

Hodges of Asheville, who use InterPlay to help connect us with the wisdom of our faith. It is very unthreatening, easy, and fun.

The committee hopes these programs will enrich our business meetings, teach us, challenge us, and deepen us as a beloved community.

The committee has one request. In order to release Andrew Wright to give the Bible study, we need someone to volunteer to be a substitute parent for his daughter Miriam on Thursday and Friday mornings until his wife Jessica is able to arrive.

On behalf of the *Hospitality Committee*, Patty shared that the program for yearly meeting has been developed. In addition, Wilmington Meeting has developed a list of volunteer opportunities that need to be filled, and it was agreed that the list and program will be distributed via email, particularly to the monthly meetings. Friends also approved that the schedule should be placed on the yearly meeting website. Patty especially mentioned the intergenerational bible study which will shift the business sessions, which Friends approved. Patty also emphasized that one cannot register late at UNCW. Please be sure to register well in advance. Room fees have remained the same, while food costs have risen slightly.

The *Finance Committee Report* (for the quarter ended 3/31/2011) was presented by Dora Owens, and Friends approved that the report be included in the minutes.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) is in good financial position at the end of the third quarter of the 2010-11 fiscal year. As of the end of Third Month, 2011, 54% of contributions from monthly meetings have been received and 76% of budgeted contributions to organizations have been made. Regarding other income, interest is still well below projected amounts; however, generous individual contributions have more than offset the deficiency in this category. The yearly meeting has enough money available to meet expected outlays for the coming quarter. Publication and website costs are in line with the budget, and operating expenses are well below budgeted amounts. One disbursement from the Scholarship allowance has been made thus far, and there have been no requests for travel reimbursement for the fiscal year to date. The planned transfer to a special fund for FWCC expenses has been made; this does not change the total cash balance of the checking account, but does reserve these funds for the upcoming event.

As concerns the various Fund balances, the most notable change is the establishment of the FWCC Conference Fund. The refund of the sales tax paid to Guilford College for the 2010 Gathering has been applied for, but has not yet been received. The remaining yearly meeting Reserve will be held for the 2011 Gathering. The yearly meeting Assistance Fund and the Youth Activities Fund are now entirely depleted; Friends may contribute to these Restricted Funds as they feel led. Total Assets are \$26,723.94 as of 03/31/2011. Below is a detail of the balances in each fund:

<i>Changes of Funds in Checking Account</i>	<i>Beginning Balance</i>	<i>Ending Balance</i>	<i>Change</i>
General Operating Fund	\$ 10,518.68	\$ 11,787.07	\$ 1,268.39
Yearly Meeting 10 Reserve	\$ 13,342.19	\$ (799.91)	\$ (14,142.10)
Yearly Meeting 11 Reserve	\$ -	\$ 4,053.05	\$ 4,053.05
Youth Activities	\$ 282.50	\$ -	\$ (282.50)
Journal Fund	\$ 134.09	\$ 134.09	\$ -
Disciplines	\$ 2,152.00	\$ 2,152.00	\$ -
Travel	\$ 63.40	\$ 63.40	\$ -
YM Assistance Fund	\$ 474.14	\$ -	\$ (474.14)
Memorial Funds	\$ -		\$ -
Hearing Assistance Device Fund	\$ -		\$ -
FWCC Conference Fund	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Jamaica Fund -- FWCC	\$ 1,921.20	\$ 571.20	\$ (1,350.00)
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$ 28,888.20</i>	<i>\$ 19,960.90</i>	<i>\$ (8,927.30)</i>

The Treasurer requests the Representative Body to consider the following items and provide instruction:

There is a considerable balance in the yearly meeting Reserve. We request that a portion of these funds be transferred to the yearly meeting Assistance Fund and the Youth Activities Fund.

We ask the yearly meeting Planning Committee for a tentative budget for the Gathering.

Respectfully submitted,
Dora Owens, Treasurer

Based on the Treasurer's report, Friends discerned that children will continue to have the costs of attending yearly meeting annual sessions paid for by the yearly meeting. This year, the costs are to be taken out of the yearly meeting General Reserve fund as well as any additional contributions for assistance. The Finance Committee is charged with including a specific line item in the budget to address these costs in the future. The Planning committee is asked to discern whether and how any portion of the children's fees in the future should be paid for by families.

Jennifer Ginsburg presented a report for the Nominating Committee. She shared that there are various openings to be filled and they are expected to be addressed at annual sessions.

Les Fleming spoke about the "year of peace" activities coordinated by the Jamestown Monthly Meeting (NCYM-FUM). The workshops were well received and well attended and there is consideration of doing a similar event again. In addition, Jamestown Friends and a Jamestown peace group are considering doing a listening project regarding the peace testimony among Friends. They would like the involvement of both programmed and unprogrammed traditions, and particularly hope to understand the support that our yearly meeting generally has for the peace testimony. Friends are asked to give additional consideration to supporting this work, although it was unclear what the vision is for our role in the process given that there does not appear to be

disunity with the testimony within our community. Les hopes to bring more information to annual sessions.

Ray Treadway reported that he attempted to revise the description of our yearly meeting as provided by Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) in the publication *Friends Around the World* (2008 edition), but this change did not get incorporated in the 2010 edition. Friends approved that Ray should continue to attempt to get this revised by FWCC, and trusted in his ability to describe the community accurately.

Barbara Gosney reported on behalf of the FWCC representatives charged with *determining the three Yearly Meeting delegates to the FWCC Sixth World Gathering*, scheduled for Fourth Month 17-25, 2012, in Nakuru, Kenya. Friends approved that the report be included in the minutes.

Last summer, while meeting in session, the yearly meeting tasked our members appointed to the Friends World Committee for Consultation to devise a process and select three delegates from our yearly meeting to attend the “Salt and Light Conference” in Kenya in 2012. The members named to the committee were Barbara Gosney (convener), Ray Treadway, Nancy Craft and Sidney Lee Kitchens.

During seventh and eighth months we contacted meetings and individuals to inform those interested about this opportunity. Seven interested people contacted the committee. This response indicated to the yearly meeting clerk and the this committee that we do, indeed, have candidates for our allotted three delegates. The committee asked those interested to submit, by tenth month 18, a written narrative describing their interest in the conference and addressing the following criteria:

- 1) Is familiar with and sympathetic with the goals and mission of FWCC.
- 2) Is a member of a monthly meeting of NCYM(C).
- 3) Is active in his or her monthly meeting.
- 4) Has attended sessions of NCYM(C) in the past and will most likely continue to be active in the yearly meeting in the future.
- 5) Expects to come back from the World Conference and share with the yearly meeting his or her experiences and perceptions of the many differences and similarities among Friends.
- 6) Indicates an interest in the wider body of Friends.

After the committee received and read all responses, we used a scale based on the criteria to rank the seven candidates’ strengths to serve as FWCC delegates from our yearly meeting. By eleventh month we saw more than three strong candidates, but knew we could name only three. Our committee held a concern that we should be able to name a replacement if some unforeseen event prevented one of the three named delegates from attending. We contacted the FWCC World Office to inquire whether we could name an alternate delegate. Their response was that they could accept only three delegate names. If the need for a replacement should arise, we would have to consult the World Office at that time.

The three delegates we selected who have set aside their time to attend the conference next spring are Deborah Shaw of Friendship Meeting, Kristin Olson-Kennedy of Davidson Meeting and Emily Stewart of Durham Meeting. We had no male applicants.

Last summer the yearly meeting anticipated a cost of \$2000-\$3000 per delegate. Registration fee for each US delegate to attend is posted as £550, or \$900. Our delegates received a request from the World Office that they pay one third the registration fee this spring. We must reimburse the delegates for what they have paid toward registration so far. We must set aside the remainder of the funds for their full registration and airfare assistance to be available no later than twelfth month of this year. Our committee thanks the yearly meeting for supporting this endeavor.

The Clerk thanked West Grove Meeting for hosting Representative Body.

Undertaking no further business, the meeting closed with worship, intending to meet next on Tenth Month 22nd, 2011, if consistent with Divine Will.

Richard B. Miller, Clerk
David Neil Perry, Recording Clerk